

Special Presentation, May 21, 2019

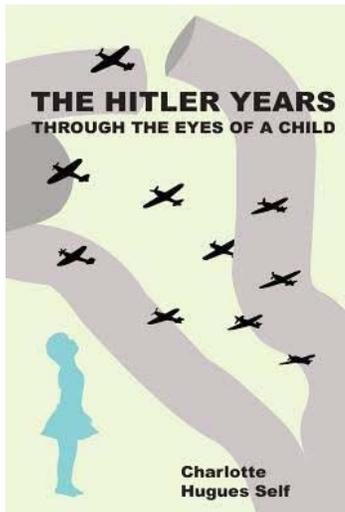
The Hitler Years Through the Eyes of a Child

Tuesday, May 21
4:00 p.m.

Thomas Auditorium BRCC Campus

*This presentation is
free and open to the
public.

Come - and bring your
neighbors. Young people
7th grade and above will
also be welcome.



THE HITLER YEARS Through the Eyes of a Child

From the Prologue: *I close my eyes awaiting the inner peace and serenity for which I came as I meditate and reflect at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin; and then there it is again, the nightmare of my childhood which has haunted me my whole, long life.*

Without warning or invitation, I once again hear the goose stepping of those black, polished Nazi boots and the raucous, brawling voices singing about the Vaterland and how they are going to put the whole world at their feet. There are endless rows of men dressed in black and khaki brown, pounding and making those awful, discordant noises that I can still feel after all these years.

And then, just as I cannot stand it any longer and I am ready to run out of the church, the mighty church bells begin to ring, loud and powerful and the whole building is filled and vibrating with their magnificent sound, overcoming the ugly memory with a strength and peace.....and the nightmares of 80 years, along with the horror and the fear, drift away and become a memory....

Charlotte Hugues Self's childhood was spent in Germany during the years when Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party rose to power and sought to rule the world. The legacy of this Hendersonville resident is a vivid autobiography that captures her remarkable life during those tumultuous years: *The Hitler Years through the Eyes of a Child* was published in August 2016.

Charlotte's mother, Anne Marie Hugues M.D., who was a dedicated member of the Social Democratic Party, became a supporter of the resistance movement. After the pogrom against the Jews - on November 9, 1938, Kristall Nacht (Crystal Night) - Charlotte, who was then twelve, began to help her mother in her underground work, at first by answering the phone during the night, and later by delivering messages and medications on her bicycle to 'patients' in town. During the war years of 1943 and 1944 she became a courier for the resistance and delivered secret papers to Vienna.

After first escaping to England, where she trained as a medical technician with research in microbiology, and then moving to Canada, where she worked as a lab technician. In 1953 Charlotte relocated to California. In 1976, she received her Master of Science degree in Immunology and Laboratory Management from California State University at Long Beach. She headed the Newborn Screening Program of the California State Health Department for the Los Angeles area until she retired at 74.

Today, at 92, Charlotte is thankful for a rich life in spite of her unusual childhood.

Join us to hear this incredible woman tell us about her unique experiences under three different military occupations, first by the Americans, then by the British and lastly by the Soviets, and how she finally escaped to the West.

