

Eva Paddock - Bio - 2020

Eva Paddock was born in Czechoslovakia in 1935. Her mother Sonia (born Ziv) was a physician (an emigre from Soviet Latvia) and her father Rudolf Fleischmann worked as a newspaper editor and political activist.

In July 1939 Eva and her sister Milena were sent to safety in England on the last Kindertransport train to leave Prague. The Czech kindertransports were masterminded and organized by Nicholas Winton, a young British banker.

When they arrived in Britain, Eva and her sister were taken into foster care by a warm and loving English family Radcliffe. Eva is one of the very few fortunate children whose parents both escaped the Nazi invasion. The family was reunited in the north of England in 1940.

Eva grew up in Britain and married an English architect, Jim Paddock, in 1955. They came to live in Cambridge MA in 1965. She has had multiple careers in education, teaching at all levels from early childhood to graduate school and serving as a school principal for ten years.

Upon retirement Eva went back to school and retrained as a mental health worker. She then worked part-time as a group therapist in a community based day-treatment center for another nine years. Her clients were adults of all ages suffering from long-term and persistent mental illness.

In 2009 Eva participated in The Winton train Project : Inspiration for Goodness. Twenty two of the original Kindertransport children, their children and grandchildren travelled by steam train from Prague to London, re-tracing the route they had taken in 1939. They were met, once again, at Liverpool Street Station by Nicholas Winton. Sir Nicholas Winton was then 100th years old. The purpose of the project created in his honor was not only to honor the man whose actions had saved the lives of 680 children, but also to inspire young people of today to perform individual “acts of goodness” in their own worlds – as he had done in 1939. Nicky, as he was known to all his Kindertransport “children” died in 2015.

Eva was widowed in 2016. She and Jim have three children and three grandchildren.

Eva currently serves on the boards of the Cambridge Council on Aging and the Boston Group of the World Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants. She is a volunteer at the Cambridge Senior Center and supports Holocaust education as a speaker in local schools.