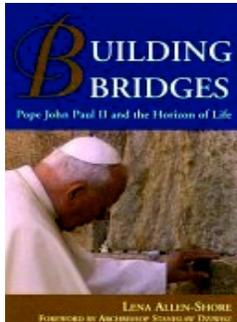
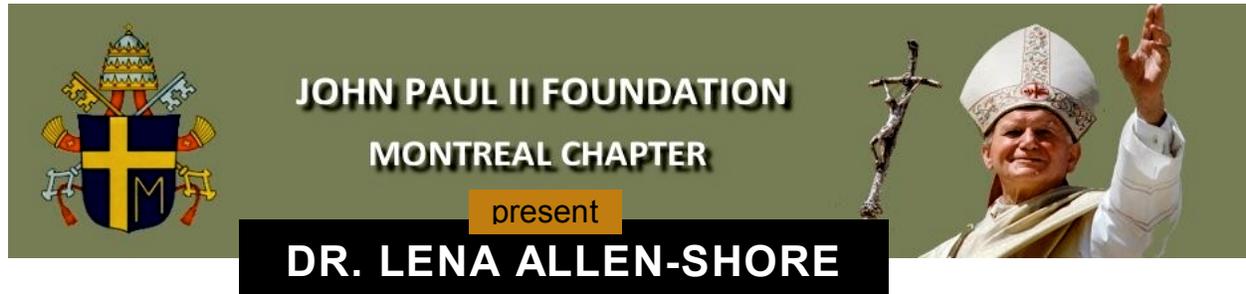


**Consulate General  
of the Republic of Poland  
in Montreal**

*The Polish-Jewish  
Heritage Foundation  
of Canada in Montreal*



**BUILDING BRIDGES**  
*Story of unique friendship between  
Pope John Paul II and a Jewish  
woman from Poland.*

Calling herself "just a little woman who dreams about a better world" she combines her knowledge of life with the art of communication. What sets her apart is that she shared her dreams with the Pope.

In 1978, just after Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope, Dr. Allen-Shore wrote a letter urging him to use his position to make a difference. To her great surprise, he wrote back thanking her, and the correspondence continued. They finally met in the Vatican in 1996. Since this time Lena was a frequent in the Vatican often invited with her sons, and grandchildren.

In 2000, he invited her to his historic visit to Jerusalem, where he broke new ground in Catholic-Jewish relations, and in 2002, to Assisi, when the Pope and other leaders of world religions prayed for peace. In 2000, he invited her to his historic visit to Jerusalem, where he broke new ground in Catholic-Jewish relations, and in 2002, to Assisi, when the Pope and other leaders of world religions prayed for peace.

Her book Building Bridges combines an account of Pope John Paul II's life, exploring his dramatic and poetic writings and the influences on his life of his Polish childhood and World War II experiences, with an account of her own life, including her experiences growing up in Poland and her Jewish family's narrow escapes from Nazi death camps – aided in part by sympathetic Christians and false Catholic certificates. The book also includes excerpts of the pope's poetry and several poems Allen-Shore has written reflecting on the pope's life.

After reading the book in 2003, the pope wrote to Allen-Shore;  
*"Thank you for seeing deep into my thoughts and understanding the intentions guiding my actions."*

Cardinal Keeler of Philadelphia said the book's title, Building Bridges, refers not only to Pope John Paul II's efforts to build bridges between people of different faiths and cultures. It also describes Lena's lifework.

Dr. Lena Allen-Shore is a philosopher, poet, writer and educator. She has authored 15 books, composed over a hundred songs as well as writing a cantata, performed in Poland, for the anniversary celebrating the liberation of Auschwitz.

After teaching teachers for 33 years she was awarded the Doctor Honoris Causa degree from Gratz College in May 2013.

Dr. Allen-Shore, is the founder of the Lena Allen-Shore Center for Human Potential located in Philadelphia.



[www.lenaallenshore.com](http://www.lenaallenshore.com)

**OCTOBER 17, 2013** **7:00 PM**  
**CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**MONTREAL 1500 PINE AVENUE WEST**  
**FREE ADMISSION**