

Dear laureate, Dr Barbara Mooyart-Doubleday, members of the Mooyart-Doubleday family and friends, Chief Rabbi Jacobs, Mr Ruben Vis, secretary general of the NIK (the organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands, my dear friend Mary Dupuy, diplomatic representatives of the US, Swedish, Israeli and Argentinean Embassies, distinguished guests

First, my thanks go to Mr. Leopold and his staff at the Anne Frank House for hosting this event. A special greeting to Mary Dupuy, niece of Raoul Wallenberg and honorary member of our Foundation who came to Amsterdam to honor us with her presence.

It's a great honor for me to stand here today, together with all of you, representing the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation in a ceremony in tribute to Dr. Barbara Mooyaart-Doubleday.

I would like to convey the personal greetings of our Chairman, Mr. Eduardo Eurnekian, and our founder, Mr. Baruj Tenenbaum, who, unfortunately, could not come to Amsterdam to attend this moving ceremony.

For those who don't know much about the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, let me briefly tell you that we are a global-reach NGO, based in New York, with offices also in Jerusalem, Berlin and Buenos Aires. Our main mission is to research, preserve and spread around the courageous legacies of Raoul Wallenberg and his likes. Our main focus is educational, aiming at the younger generations for them to know that even in the darkest period of mankind, there were brave people who didn't stand idly by and reached out to the victims of the most cruel and systematic persecution and extermination scheme known in human history.

We are very proud to have a magnificent list of Honorary Members, who give us moral support and encouragement. Amongst them are more than 300 heads of state, Nobel prize laureates and distinguished personalities from all walks of life and creeds, including Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who joined the ranks of our Foundation when he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires and nowadays is better known as Pope Francis.

At the same time that we highlight the courageous legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, the hero, we don't forget that he was also a victim. After

having saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews in only 6 months, he was imprisoned by the Soviet forces that liberated Budapest, never to be seen again.

Mr. Eurnekian and Mr. Tenenbaum met last year, coinciding with Wallenberg's 100th birthday, with the UN Sec General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and announced a 500,000 euros reward for scientifically-verifiable information which could shed light on the fate and whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg and his driver (Vilmos Langfelder, who was also abducted with him).

I am overwhelmed with emotion, feeling the great privilege we all have today of celebrating the outstanding life and achievements of a remarkable lady, whose masterful translation of Anne Frank's diary has made it so accessible and famous throughout the world.

To be sure, Anne Frank wrote her poignant diary but thanks to Dr. Mooyaart-Doubleday, the diary became widely known as one of the most important testimonies of the Holocaust. One of our distinguished members, President Shimon Peres, visited Anne Frank's house last September and spoke about the relevance of her diary even today.

When back in 1951, Dr. Mooyaart-Doubleday was approached by a London publisher who asked her to provide a sample translation, she had to compete with four other translators, who unlike her, were accomplished professionals. Anne's father, Otto Frank, got a copy of her sample translation and was mesmerized by its linguistic mastery and deep understanding of the author's innermost emotions. Undoubtedly, Dr. Mooyaart-Doubledays' privileged upbringing and education, coupled with her unique sensitivity and imagination and her nearness in age to Anne, gave her a clear advantage.

But Dr. Mooyaart-Doubleday did not rely on her natural skills only. After all, she is a very thorough person. Before starting her translation, she visited Anne Frank's house on several occasions, from March to June 1951, and conducted many interviews with Otto Frank in order to plunge herself into Anne's life and be in a position to reenact her riveting story. By the way, from this moment on, Barbara and Otto established a long-standing friendship which lasted till Otto's last day.

During her translation work, using her vivid imagination, Barbara succeeded in living through Anne's ordeal, immersing herself into her persecuted existence.

Anne Frank's diary was originally published in Dutch in 1947, with little success. Only 8,000 copies were sold. Barbara's English translation was first published in London, in 1952, without ample repercussion, but its subsequent publication in New York launched the diary straight into the best-seller list, a position which it still holds today, more than 60 years later.

This is how Anne Frank's diary has become one of the great cultural assets in history.

Dr. Mooyaart-Doubleday has led a prolific life, having translated numerous works, including the biography of the Dutch artist, van Megeren and major books such as Lawrence Graver's – "An obsession with Anne Frank", just to name a few.

She has also given numerous interviews and lectures, as well as Radio and TV appearances.

Such series of interviews to Carol Anne Lee resulted in two books by the latter, "Anne Frank Stories" and "The hidden life of Otto Frank".

Barbara did not go unrecognized. She received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the John Hofstra University (an academic venue where she gave many lectures) and back in July 2010, Her Majesty, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, awarded her the Knighthood in the Order of Orange Nassau for her life-time services to her adoptive country, specifically in recognition of Dr Mooyaart-Doubleday's contribution to the Dutch history, its literature and the preservation of the memories of the Shoah.

It is worth mentioning one more remarkable biographical fact: One of Barbara's grandchildren (who honors us with his presence, today), was named "Raoul", after Raoul Wallenberg. This symbolic gesture is another proof of the special spirit of the family she leads.

Distinguished guests, the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation deals with rescuers, saviors, such as the great Swedish hero, Raoul

Wallenberg, and many more women and men, from all nationalities, walks of life, religious convictions, who reached-out to the victims of the Shoah.

To us, Dr. Barbara Mooyart-Doubleday is a rescuer, for she made a unique contribution to save from oblivion, to keep alive, the amazing testimony of a young and sensitive adolescent who experienced the horrors of racism and persecution.

Her work, gave an enormous impetus to the teachings of the Holocaust, both of its horrors and its saviors.

This is why, the Special Awards Committee of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, has unanimously resolved to bestow the Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal to Dr. Barbara Mooyart-Doubleday.

Ladies and gentleman, it is with great pleasure and honor that I call Dr. Barbara Mooyart-Doubleday to come to the stage to receive the "Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal" as token of our great admiration and gratitude for her lifetime achievements. Mary, please come forward and let us present the medal to our distinguished laureate.