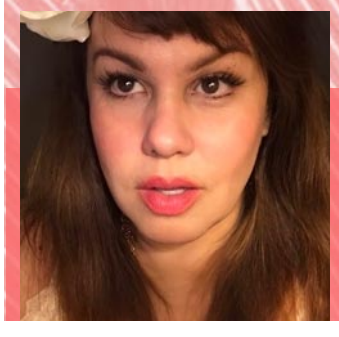
# Esther Wigotski

Linda Ravenswood

Esther Wigotski was the sister of Henry Kress. & Henry Kress & his wife Mary Kress were survivors of the Holocaust capital H. Esther Wigotski was a handsome woman in her 50s when I knew her. She had hair the women of the 1970s wore from their time in other decades. Choked curls & blonde. & dirty blonde & folded & oiled & draped on the face. Lipstick done in that kind of coral pink the 1970s brewed. The kind of colour you'd find on food & sauce & ladies restrooms. The kind of colour that came from inside the radio. Cough syrup & ballet ribbons. A colour that makes a girl say *I love pink pink is my colour*. The kind of pink that trails with you ever after. Esther Wigotski came to events & shabbats & dinners & weddings. She wore strappy-back high-heeled sandals on dark / nude pantyhose & knee length diaphanous skirts with ruffle hems. She had brown knuckles & clacking rings. She had money & a new Dodge. Her husband was rotund & grey with starched long collared shirts but Esther Wigotski had been a Capo in the camps so even though people smiled as they passed her tea, when she lowered her eyes they whispered *bitch*.

California girl watches all the Jews of Los Angeles knowing she is on the outside looking in. Knowing she is no blood relation. Knowing she is listening, some of them keep her out. Some of them draw her close / Aunt Judy & Uncle Paul Skopitski squire her around Palo Alto gardens all the trees they planted with their bare hands & 5 dollars in their pocket *when first we came to United States we brought the plum tree it was the size of a house cat look now & here my kumquat we never had in Poland look now it's berries go above the roof sometimes in wind I hear fruit dancing on the shingles & know there is a G-d*





Linda Ravenswood (BFA, MA, PhD abd) is a native Angeleno and 7th generation educator. She's winner of The Yefe Nof Award (2019), first finalist for The International Beverly Prize, three times nominated for The Pushcart Prize, and was short listed for poet laureate of WeHo, Los Angeles, & El Segundo an aggregate 5 times (Bridesmaid Forever!) Linda is a frequent collaborator with The Poetry Society of New York, Melrose Poetry Bureau, The Feminist Centre for Creative Work, and LARB. Find her at LACMA, Hauser Wirth Gallery, and Medicine For Nightmares this summer. Linda is also founding editor of The Los Angeles Press. theLosAngelespress.com Recent books include rock waves / sloe drags (forthcoming from Eyewear London, Black Spring Press Group, 2022) The Stan Poems (Pedestrian Press, 2022), Tlacuilx (ed. Hinchas Press, 2021) The George Perry Floyd Jr. Poetry Anthology (ed. The Los Angeles Press, 2022) XLA Poets (ed. Hinchas Press, 2021) Watch for Linda and Jennifer Lewis (Red Light Lit) on a book tour of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Joshua Tree, Austin, NYC -- and maybe your town in winter 22!! Contact jennifer@redlightlit.com for booking.