



*Sweet Earth Flying Press*  
*508 Tawny Oaks Place*  
*El Paso, TX 79912*  
*915-845-7356*  
[www.sweetearthflyingpress.com](http://www.sweetearthflyingpress.com)

**Sōndra Banfield Dailey, M.A.T., M.B.A.**  
**Publisher**  
[sdailey@sweetearthflyingpress.com](mailto:sdailey@sweetearthflyingpress.com)

**Maceo Crenshaw Dailey, Jr., Ph.D**  
**Editor**  
[mdailey@sweetearthflyingpress.com](mailto:mdailey@sweetearthflyingpress.com)

**About the Author of**  
***Burning Horses:***  
***A Hungarian Life Turned Upside Down***

Agatha (Aggie) Hoff was born in pre-World War II Budapest to parents who provided a comfortable life for her and her older sister, Livia. Hoff's mother – raised Catholic by parents who converted from Judaism and married to a gentile – was considered Jewish by the pro-Nazi regime during World War II. Increasingly oppressive anti-Jewish laws forced Hoff's family to endure the most dangerous and demoralizing conditions as they continually fled the soldiers who would have tortured Agatha's mother or deported her to a death camp.

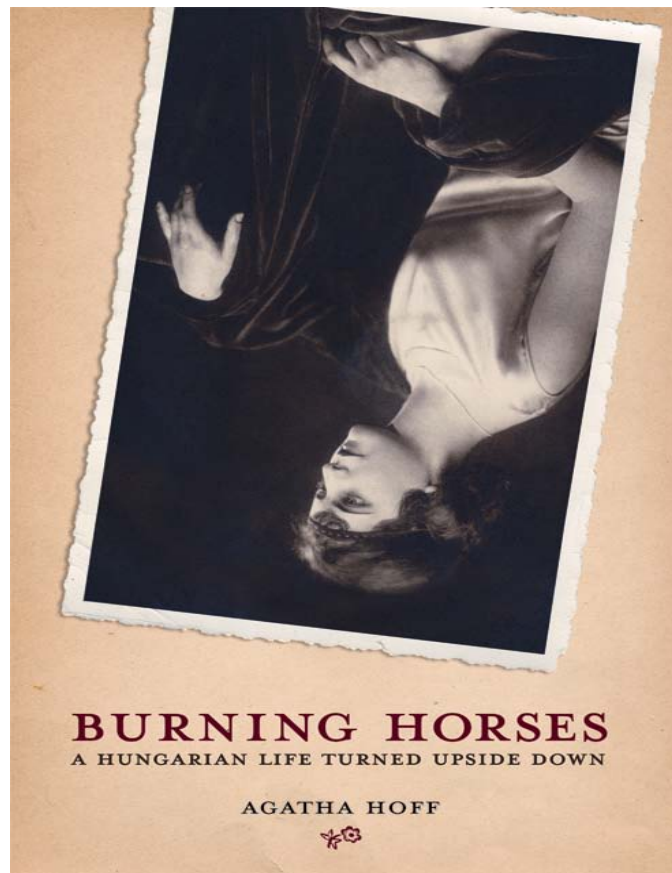
The family was eventually able to flee war-torn Hungary and settle in San Francisco, where Agatha graduated from the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Menlo Park. Agatha majored in political science at Seattle University, married and raised four children. She received a law degree from San Francisco Law School and became an attorney and court commissioner.



**Agatha Hoff**  
Photo by Ben Janken

Since 1998, Mrs. Hoff has written a regular column, “Tales from the Bench,” for the *San Francisco Attorney*, a quarterly publication of the San Francisco Bar Association. Now retired from the legal profession, she spends time writing, meeting with her writing group and her favorite pastime, long distance biking.

Over the years, Hoff recorded some of her mother’s anecdotes about life in Hungary before, during and after World War II. Hoff noted that some of the more traumatic events that she remembered from her childhood were left out of her mother’s stories and notes. In **Burning Horses: A Hungarian Life Turned Upside Down**, Hoff combines her memories with her mother’s observations to write her mother’s Holocaust survival story as if her mother were telling it. It is Aggie Hoff’s tribute to her mother whose story exemplifies the indomitable human spirit that survives the worst horrors of war.



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