

HOLODOMOR *HOT OFF THE PRESS*

Black Sunflowers

16 April 2025

7pm EDT / 5pm MDT / 4pm PDT

A free author reading & interview open to all

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



Fitzhenry & Whiteside

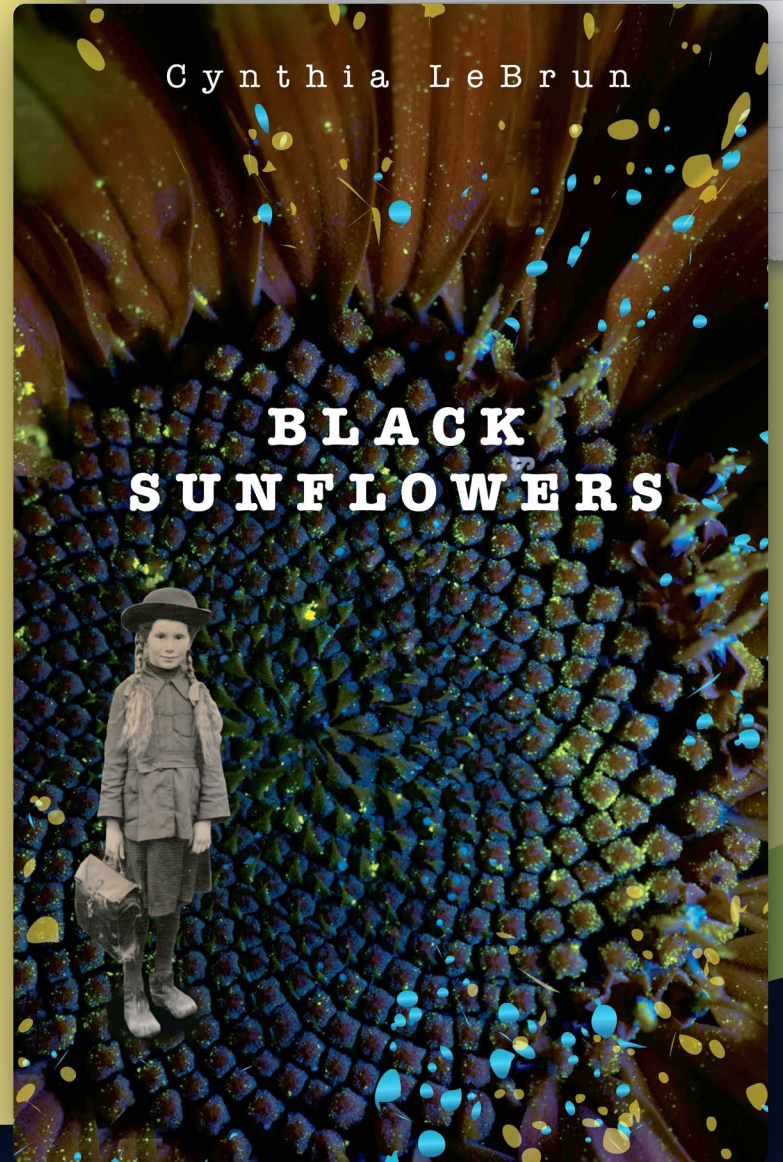
“A significant moment in Ukrainian history brought to light in an accessible, moving, and personal way.”

- Kirkus Reviews

Join HREC Education's invited host **Mateusz Świetlicki** with author **Cynthia LeBrun** reading from her historical fiction *Black Sunflowers* (2024, 496 pages), winner of the International Petersen Literary Emerging Writers Award. A heartfelt exploration of one family's survival during the Holodomor and of courage, love, and the enduring spirit of the Ukrainian people under Stalin, it draws from personal testimonies and extensive historical research.

“And as the 20th century recedes from us, it's stories like this one that can put a human face on what would otherwise be a pile of grim statistics.”

- Ryan Frawley, reviewer



Cynthia LeBrun

Cynthia LeBrun is a retired schoolteacher with 30 years of teaching in the Campbell River area, growing up in Kelowna and based currently in Prince George, BC. Her deeply moving story is inspired by the vivid memories of her mother-in-law who grew up in Soviet occupied Ukraine. It is her first novel, which she began writing 20 years ago.



Mateusz Świetlicki

Mateusz Świetlicki is an associate professor at the University of Wrocław's Institute of English Studies (Poland) and director of the Center for Young People's Literature and Culture. His most recent books are *Next-Generation Memory* and *Ukrainian Canadian Children's Historical Fiction: The Seeds of Memory* (Routledge, 2023) and *Fieldwork in Ukrainian Children's Literature* (co-edited with Anastasia Ulanowicz - Routledge, 2025).



◀ **SCAN HERE**

For more information or to register for this webinar

www.education.holodomor.ca



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