

Former Lab scientist shares memoirs of life in World War II Germany

By Tatjana K. Rosev

Jorg Jansen, author of *And New Life Blossoms From The Ruins*, will share his memories of growing up in World War II Germany in a talk at 5 p.m. April 30 at the Bradbury Science Museum.

Following his talk, Jansen will sign copies of the book in the Otowi Station Bookstore and Science Museum Shop.

Jansen will discuss how, as a young child, he experienced World War II, the decade of turmoil following the collapse of Hitler's Third Reich, and the early years of the German Federal Republic (West Germany).

Jansen was born in Mülheim, Germany in 1930. To escape wartime aerial bombardments, he and his family relocated from his still-intact hometown to Waldenburg in Silesia, a region situated in parts of present-day Poland, the Czech Republic, and eastern parts of Germany. After escaping from the Soviet army, Jansen found his way back to his hometown only to find that much of it had been destroyed by bombs.

“Only very gradually did the hope for a better future begin to replace the despair of mere survival,” he said. The Marshall Plan was largely responsible for turning hope into reality, Jansen said, adding that he wrote the book to remind his family and friends that war knows no mercy.

“In its blindness, war destroys the lives of civilians and soldiers alike,” he said.

Jansen studied electrical engineering in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) and taught in Aachen; Loughborough, England; and Santiago, Chile. He came to the United States in 1960 to further his knowledge of solid-state and other advanced technologies. In 1975, he joined the Laboratory, where he headed the Laser Fusion project “Antares,” the Laser Isotope Separation project “Phoenix,” and the Strategic Defense (Star Wars) project “GTA.” Now retired, he lives in Los Alamos with his wife Brigit.

The Bradbury Science Museum is located at 15th Street and Central Avenue in downtown Los Alamos. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. Admission is free.

For more information, call the museum at 7-4444 or go to the [museum's Web site](#).

The Bradbury Science Museum is part of the Community Programs Office (CPO).