

Yom Ha'Shoah V'Hagvurah

Annual Holocaust Commemoration

Sunday, April 27, 2025



in partnership with



Find
Your Place
at the



Bender JCC
of Greater Washington

WELCOME

Josh Bender

CEO, Bender JCC of Greater
Washington

Ronald A. Paul, MD

Co-Chair, JCRC Holocaust Committee,
JCRC Past President

D'VAR TORAH

Rabbi Scott Perlo

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist
Congregation, Bethesda, MD

MEMORIAL TO LOST COMMUNITIES

“Projections of Life: Jewish Life Before
World War II”

*(Steven Spielberg Film and Video
Archive, United States Holocaust
Memorial Museum)*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Prayer: Andante Moderato, an excerpt
from Ernest Bloch's *From Jewish Life*
Performed by violinist **Carl Tretter**

*Program attendees are
encouraged to experience
several related exhibits on
display at Bender today:*

UNTO EVERY PERSON

A recital of names of those lost
in the Shoah, screening in the
lobby.



KINDERTRANSPORT MEMORY QUILTS

The Kindertransport Quilts are folk art pieces where multiple artists created individual squares, each reflecting their perspective on the Kindertransport experience: pictures of the past, fears and nightmares, memorials to lost family. The Kindertransport was a rescue effort that brought thousands of Jewish children from Nazi-occupied territories to safety in Britain between 1938 and 1939.

PORTRAITS OF LIFE

With its unforgettable images of Holocaust survivors, “Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County” depicts a rich tapestry of lives lived in Montgomery County, their stories, lessons, and legacy without idealized overtones.



CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

Introduced by **Ira Bartfield** and **Al Bloomfield**,
JCRC Holocaust Committee Co-Chairs

FIRST CANDLE | *Zinoviy Sigalov*

Mr. Sigalov was born in Smolensk, Russia, USSR in 1939. In June 1941, when the Nazis invaded, he along with his mother, grandmother and younger brother fled to Irbit in the Ural mountains. His father had already been drafted into the Soviet army.

After the war, Mr. Sigalov returned to Smolensk with his family. His father had fought in combat and was severely wounded, but was lucky to come home.

Mr. Sigalov worked as an infectious disease pediatrician and taught infectious disease to medical students. In 1966, he married his lovely wife Genrietta. The couple has a daughter and a son, and this year they will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary.

In 2000, Mr. Sigalov and his wife emigrated to the United States and settled in Northern Virginia. Even though they did not know English and had very limited resources, they were determined to start a new life and to be with their children and grandchildren.

SECOND CANDLE | *Suzanne Mayer Tarica*

Suzanne Mayer Tarica's family came from a little village called Bollendorf in Germany near the Luxembourg border. Her father lost two sisters, one brother and their spouses and children in the Holocaust. She and her parents survived the war and emigrated to France. In homage to the memory of those killed, Suzanne offers her testimony as a survivor at the Holocaust Museum.

THIRD CANDLE | *Pauline Steinhorn*

Pauline Steinhorn is the daughter of concentration camp survivor Harriet Steinhorn-Roth. Harriet was born in Poland and was imprisoned in slave labor and concentration camps beginning when she was 13 years old. She was liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp three days after her 16th birthday. After immigrating to the U.S. and starting a family, Harriet earned her college degree in Holocaust Studies. She was a respected Holocaust educator and speaker.

Pauline worked as a documentary filmmaker and writer and is completing a book about her mother and grandmother, both survivors. Pauline treasures the lessons her mother taught her about standing up to hate and fighting prejudice.

FOURTH CANDLE | *Stephen Silberstein*

Stephen Silberstein lives in Herndon, VA with his wife of 42 years, Carol. They have two children, David (Leah) and Sara, and two grandchildren, Noah and Laney. They are members of Congregation Beth Emeth in Herndon.

Stephen's father, Michael, survived the Holocaust and returned to Auschwitz three times with his son before he passed away in 2022 at the age of 92. Stephen is a volunteer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

FIFTH CANDLE | *Amy Haddad*

Amy Haddad grew up living about one mile away from her grandparents. She was fortunate to hear them tell their stories to many audiences, as well as to visit their hometowns in Poland and Germany. Professionally, Amy has more than 20 years of experience working on federal policy, both in government and for nonprofits. Most recently, she joined the staff of Living Links, the first nationwide organization created to empower grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. She is a graduate of Emory University and currently lives in Rockville, MD with her husband and two children.

SIXTH CANDLE

Eliav Benjamin

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Israel to the United States

Sawsan Hasson

Minister of Public Diplomacy, Embassy of Israel



ANNUAL RECONFIRMATION OF THE LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST

The first World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors took place in Israel in 1981. Many Holocaust survivors in our local region participated and helped organize a second gathering in Washington, D.C. shortly thereafter. The oaths below were authored and read by Elie Wiesel (ז"ל) at the Kotel. This pledge - and those he wrote for children and grandchildren of Survivors - have become part of our shared Jewish legacy, deeply woven into the rituals of this commemoration and a reminder of our responsibility of Zachor, remembrance, throughout the year.

Rachel Goldfarb Recites the Pledge

Rachel (Rae) Mutterperl Goldfarb was born in Dokszyce, Poland, in 1930. During the German occupation, Rae and her family were forced to live in a ghetto. They escaped during a roundup and went into hiding with Gentiles. After her brother was denounced and killed, Rae and her mother fled to another ghetto and then joined a group of partisan fighters with whom they remained until liberation in 1944.

Survivors are invited to rise if able and recite this pledge with Rachel:

WE TAKE THIS OATH! We take it in the shadows of flames, whose tongues scar the soul of our people; we vow in the name of our dead parents and children; we vow with our sadness hidden, our faith renewed; we vow we shall never let the sacred memory of our perished six million brethren be forgotten or erased. We saw them hungry, in fear, we saw them in the loneliness of night, we saw them at the threshold of death, true to their faith. We received their silence in silence, we merged their tears with ours, we are the remaining witnesses: of deportations, executions, mass graves, death camps, mute prayers, hidden souls and cries of revolt. The young, the old, the rich and the poor. The ghetto fighters, the partisans, the scholars and the messianic dreamers, the tradesmen and businessmen, the Chassidim and Misnagdim. Like a cloud we saw them vanish.

WE TAKE THIS OATH! Vision becomes word, to be handed down from father to son,

from mother to daughter, handed down from generation to generation.

Zachor. Remember what the Nazi murderers and their accomplices did to our Jewish people. Remember them with rage and contempt.

Remember what an indifferent world did to us and to itself. We also must remember the good deeds of the righteous gentiles.

In 1981 we took this oath in Israel near the Kotel. There we handed down a legacy to our children in the shadows of the flames of six symbolic candles. Tonight, at this assembly, we reaffirm our oath in the shadows of the flames of these six yahrzeit candles honoring the memory of our six million, acheinu b'nai Yisrael, our Jewish brethren.

WE TAKE THIS OATH! Our memory will become words. Words of history of the Holocaust to be handed down from generation to generation, midor ledor. Unsere K'doshim mir velen eich keinmol nit fargesen.

Susan Kent Avjian recites the **PLEDGE OF ACCEPTANCE**

Susan Kent Avjian is the child of two Holocaust Survivors, Roman Kent and Hannah nee Starkman Kent. Both arrived in the United States as orphans. She had been privileged to accompany and assist her father throughout the world, working with the Claims Conference, International Auschwitz Foundation and Council, American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, USHMM Council, Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, and more. She has a lifetime of volunteering and holding positions in PTAs, USAFA Parents' Group, NAMI and GenAfterDC. She is a retired Physical Therapist who currently devotes her time to GenAfter DC Program Committee, JSSA Holocaust Survivor visitation, Warrior Canine Connection, Holocaust storytelling and her family.

All second generation (children of) Holocaust survivors are invited to stand as they are able and recite together:

We, who are your sons and daughters, belong to a generation in which every attempt was made for us to never exist. We, who represent your victory and your triumph over evil of unthinkable dimensions, accept the responsibility to preserve and protect the legacy of the Holocaust.

We pledge to commemorate.

We pledge to educate.

We pledge to forever remember.

We pledge to you, our mothers and fathers, who suffered in ways which words cannot describe, that our commitment is an everlasting commitment for this generation and for every generation to come.

We dedicate this pledge to our beloved grandmothers and grandfathers, who never lived to see us.

We pledge to:

Always remember who we are, where we came from, and also the traumas our grandparents endured and survived;

Educate people of other ethnic, religious, and cultural groups about our grandparents' experiences;

Commit to use lessons of the Holocaust to support justice, tolerance, peace, kindness, and compassion; and

Accept Survivors' memories and to pass them on to future generations.

PLEDGE OF CONTINUATION

Accepted by **Laura B. Bakst**

Laura B. Bakst is the proud granddaughter of two Holocaust survivors, David and Paula Bakst, and is named after a third, Batya Feder. Laura spent years researching her family history and interviewing survivors in writing *The Shoemaker's Son*, a book documenting her family's survival and resistance stories. By day, she practices law—a career choice heavily influenced by her grandparents' experiences—and frequently volunteers in public schools as a speaker about antisemitism and the Holocaust.

All third generation (grandchildren) of Holocaust survivors are invited to stand as they are able and recite together with Laura:

We, who are your grandchildren, will carry on the Survivors' legacy to prove to ourselves and to others that we can carry on your victory, as well as to memorialize those loved ones who perished in the Holocaust.

We pledge to:

Always remember who we are, where we came from, and also the traumas our grandparents endured and survived;

Educate people of other ethnic, religious, and cultural groups about our grandparents' experiences;

Commit to use lessons of the Holocaust to support justice, tolerance, peace, kindness, and compassion; and

Accept Survivors' memories and to pass them on to future generations.

REMEMBRANCE PLEDGE

Accepted by Great Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors who are leaders in **JCRC's Student to Student Program: Nitzhan Epstein and Yael Siesser**

Recognizing the rise of antisemitism and other forms of hate across the United States and the world, and remembering those who were murdered in the Holocaust.

Believing that the spread of bias and prejudice can be stopped and fought, emphasizing that a unique opportunity now exists to reverse this pattern - I pledge to work to fight hate, bias, violence and discrimination.

I commit to using the lessons of the Holocaust to support justice, tolerance, peace, kindness and compassion.

I COMMIT TO LIVING A PROUD JEWISH LIFE, IN THE MEMORY OF THE SIX MILLION WHO DID NOT HAVE THAT CHANCE, AND TO PRESERVE OUR COLLECTIVE JEWISH FUTURE.

EL MALEH RACHAMIM

Rabbi George Billinson, Congregation Adat Reyim

אל מלא רחמים שוכן במרומים, המצא מנוחה נכונה על כנפי השכינה, במעלות קדושים וטהורים כזוהר הרקיע מזהירים את כל הנשמות של ששת מיליוני היהודים, חללי השואה, שנהרגו, שנשפטו, שנשרפו וסנקפו על קדוש השם, בידי המרצחים הגרמנים ועוזריהם משאר העמים. לכן בעל הרחמים יסתירם בסתר כנפיו לעולמים, ויצרור בצרור החיים את נשמותיהם, הי הוא נחלתם, בגן עדן תהא מנוחתם, ויעמדו לגורלם לקץ הימין, ואמר אמן

El maleh rachamim shochen bameromim, hamtzey menuchah nechonah al kanfey hashechinah, bema'alot kedoshim utehorim kezohar harakiya mazhirim et kol haneshmot shel sheshet milyoneh hayehudim, chalileh ha'Shoah ba'Eropa, shenehergu, shenish'chetu, shenisrefu, veshanisfu al kidush haShem, b'yadey hameratzchim hanatzi'im ve'ozrethem. Lachen Ba'al harachamim yastirem b'seter k'nafav le'olamim, v'yitzror bitzror hachayim et nishmotehem. 'Adonai hu nachalatam, b'Gan Eden t'hey menuchatam, vey'a'mdu legoralam l'ketz hayamim, v'nomar amen.

God full of mercy Who dwells high, grant proper rest under the wings of the Divine Presence, in the great heights of the holy and pure who, like the brilliance of the heavens, shine to all the souls of the six million Jews slain in the European Holocaust who were killed, and slaughtered, and burned, and destroyed in sanctification of God's name, at the hands of the Nazi murderers and their assistants. Therefore may the God of mercy shelter them in the shelter of God's wings for eternity, and bind their souls in the bond of life. The Almighty is their inheritance; may the Garden of Eden be their resting place and may they stand for their destiny in the end of days.

AND LET US SAY, AMEN.





KEYNOTE | RETIRED COLONEL FRANK COHN

*Introduced by **Ellen Blalock**, Co-Chair,
JCRC Holocaust Committee*

Frank Cohn is a Holocaust Survivor as well as a Liberator. He was born as an only child, in 1925, in Breslau, Germany (now Wroclaw, Poland). In 1938, at age 13, he along with his parents, escaped from Nazi Germany with Visitor Visas. Kristallnacht occurred just ten days after their arrival in New York. Thereafter, President

Roosevelt issued an Executive Order precluding any forced return of in-country's refugees to Nazi Germany; they were thus saved.

One month after Frank's 18th birthday, in September 1943, he was drafted into the US Army. A few weeks into Basic Training, he was sworn in as a US Citizen. In September 1944, he was shipped overseas and served as an Intelligence Agent during the Battle of the Bulge, the Rheinland and Central Europe campaigns, entering six major German cities as they were captured and subsequently served one year in the Army of Occupation. At discharge from active duty in the rank of Staff Sergeant, in May 1946, Frank stayed in the Army Reserve and was offered a Regular Army Commission from ROTC, as he graduated from CCNY with a BSS in Psychology and Education. He served in the military for a total of 35 years. While in the Army, he attained a Master's Degree in Police Administration from Michigan State University in 1963. After Army Retirement in 1978, in the rank of Colonel, he worked for the Administration of the University of Maryland for another 14 years. After a second retirement in 1992, he became a volunteer and served in a number of civic positions, such as Co-Chair, Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Associations and as Transportation Commissioner, Mount Vernon District.

In 1948, one year before College graduation, he married his wife Paula (Pauline Brimberg) and was happily married for 72 years, until Paula died in 2021. They had one daughter, now named Laura Cohn Piscitelli, who lives with her husband in Fort Myers, Florida, but frequently visits him in his retirement home in Virginia.

During the Holocaust, the family lost 11 close relatives killed in Concentration Camps, while surviving family members escaped into eight countries, with final destinations in Israel, Australia and the United States. Currently, Frank serves on the Speaker Bureau of the Holocaust Memorial Museum and lectures on the Holocaust, talking about his escape from Nazi Germany, his service during World War II and the Occupation, keeping faith with the motto: "Never Again!"



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Ani Ma'amin - "I Believe" - is based on Maimonides' 13 Articles of Jewish Faith in God and in the coming of the Messiah. It was sung by Jews on their way to their deaths in the camps and is frequently sung today in memory of those who were killed.

Sung by the **Berman Hebrew Academy** *Matanotes*.

HOLOCAUST MOURNERS' KADDISH

Led by **Rabbi George Billinson**

Yitgadal

יִתְגַּדֵּל

Auschwitz-Birkenau-Buna, Baranovka, Bergen-Belsen

V'yitkadash

וְיִתְקַדֵּשׁ

Belzec, Bialystok, Babi Yar

Sh'mei raba

שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא

Bochnia, Bogdanovka, Buchenwald

B'alma di-v'ra chirutei

בְּעֶלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְּרֵעוּתֵיהּ

Chelmno, Cracow, Dachau

V'yamlich malchutei

וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵיהּ

Dakovo, Danica, Dora

B'chayeichon uvyomeichon

בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן

Dumanovka, Ebensee, Edineti, Flossenburg

Uvchayei d'chol beit yisrael

וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל

Gross-Rosen, Gunskirchen, Gurs

Ba'agala uvizman kariv

בְּעֶגְלָא וּבְזִמָּן קָרִיב

Herzogenbusch, lasi, Jadovno, Kaiserwald

V'im'ru: "amen."

וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach

יְהִי שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ

L'alam ul'almei almay.

לְעָלָם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַי

יְתַבְּרַךְ וַיִּשְׁתַּבַּח

Kamenets-Podolskiy, Kishiniev, Kovno, Klooga

וַיִּתְּפֹאֲר וַיִּתְּרוּמָם

Lodz, Lubin, Lublin, Lvov, Lyons

וַיִּתְנַשֵּׂא וַיִּתְּהַדָּר

Majdanek, Mauthausen, Minsk, Natzweiler-Struthof, Neuengamme

!!תעלה !!תהלל

Ohrdruf, Plashov, Papenburg, Ponary

שְׁמָה דְקַדְשָׁא. בְּרִיךְ הוּא

Prague, Radom, Ravensbruck, Rehmsdorf, Riga

לעלא

Sachensburg, Sachsenhausen, San Sabba, Shauliai

מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא

Skarżysko-Kamienna, Sobibor

תְּשַׁבַּחְתָּא וְנַחֲמַתָּא

Theresienstadt, Transnistria, Treblinka, Vaivara

דאמירן בעלמא

Vilna, Warsaw, Zemun, Zhitomir

וְאָמְרוּ אֲמֵן

יְהִי אֱלֹהִים שֶׁלֹּמָה רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים
עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל

וַאֲמָרוּ אֵלָיו

עושה שלום בְּמִרוּמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה
שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵינוּ. וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲמֵן

HYMN OF THE PARTISANS

(Zog Nit Keyn Mol)

Lyrics by Hirsch Glik, Vilnius Ghetto, 1943 | Music composed by Aleksey Surkov with lyrics later set to the music by Dmitri & Daniel Pokrass

Led by **Rabbi Scott Perlo**

*Zog nit keyn mol az du geyst dem letstn veg, Khotsh himlen blayene farshteln
bloye teg. Kumen vet nokh undzer oysgebenkte sho -S'vet a poyk ton undzer trot
- mir zaynen do!*

*Never say this is the final road for you, Though leadened skies may cover over
days of blue, As the hour that we longed for is so near, Our steps beat out the
message - we are here!*

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Ron Halber, Chief Executive Officer, JCRC of Greater Washington

HATIKVAH

Led by *Matanotes*

Kol od ba'le'vav p'nima	כל עוד בלבב פְּנִימָה
Nefesh yehudi ho'miyah.	נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
U'lefa-atei mizrach kadimah,	וְלִפְאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קְדִימָה
Ayin le'Tziyyon tzofiyah.	עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה
Od lo avda tikva-teinu,	עוד לא אבדה תקוותנו
Ha'tikvah bat sh'not al-payim	התקווה בת שנות אלפים
Lih-yot am chofshi b'ar-tzeinu	להיות עם חפשי בארצנו
Eretz Tziyyon v'Yerushalayim.	אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וְיְרוּשָׁלַיִם

As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart, with eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion, then our hope-the two-thousand-year-old hope-will not be lost: to be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem.



JCRC'S HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION AND ALL-YEAR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

DOR L'DOR - CONNECTING OUR YOUTH WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

JCRC, in collaboration with synagogues throughout Greater Washington, offers intimate opportunities for our Jewish students to hear from and speak with Holocaust survivors and their descendants during the Yom HaShoah period.

HOLOCAUST SPEAKERS BUREAU

Each year, the JCRC arranges for Holocaust survivors and their descendants to speak to over 12,000 students, educators and others at regional schools, civic groups, government agencies and houses of worship.

MAGGID: GENERATIONS OF THE SHOAH

As time passes and awareness about the Shoah continues to dwindle, especially among young people, the JCRC's Maggid initiative trains the children of survivors (2Gs) to carry on their parents' legacies by sharing their families' Shoah narratives with new generations of students. 59 2Gs have completed the program and are speaking all over Greater Washington as part of our Holocaust Speakers Bureau.

STUDENT TO STUDENT

This anti-bias, anti-bigotry program trains Jewish teens to talk about Judaism to their non-Jewish peers, including how to talk about the Holocaust and their own families' connections to the Shoah. Student to Student reaches more than 3000 students each year.



“UNTO EVERY PERSON THERE IS A NAME”

The Chesapeake Bay Region of B’nai B’rith, in conjunction with Yad Vashem-The World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, sponsors “Unto Every Person There is a Name.” This public name reading commemorates children and adults who perished in the Holocaust, restoring some dignity to those who were stripped of their identities and robbed of their lives. Each year at this time, we remember the six million individuals lost to the Jewish people by reading as many of their names as possible.

With thanks to Deborah Adler at JSSA for her assistance.

Special thanks to our student volunteer readers from Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, Geshar Jewish Day School, Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy and Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School and to the many state and local elected officials from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia who also participated.

JCRC mourns the loss earlier this year of Jeremy Kay, longtime Holocaust Committee member, and is grateful for his annual efforts toward this project.

THE YELLOW CANDLE PROJECT

Each year, the JCRC of Greater Washington and the Seaboard Region of the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs partner to distribute special Yom Ha’Shoah yahrtzeit candles throughout our community. We are pleased to collaborate with Leisure World, Bender JCC, Edlavitch DCJCC, Pozez JCC, and 3GDC. Many thanks to all of these organizations, and to Bob Watts for coordinating this project on behalf of FJMC.





HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ORGANIZATIONS

Holocaust Survivors - The Last Generation

The Holocaust Survivors - The Last Generation is a friendship group of people with similar Holocaust histories as children. The group was formed about 35 years ago when survivors, in general, began to speak of their experiences. It is part of the World Federation of Child Survivors whose Annual Conference is attended by some group members.

One Thousand Children

One Thousand Children refers to approximately 1400 children who escaped to the US (1934-45). They came by themselves, unaccompanied, despite hindrance and delay of the US Government, leaving their parents behind in Europe. Most of those parents were ultimately murdered by the Nazis.

www.onethousandchildren.yivo.org

The Generations After

We are a gathering place for survivors, child survivors, children and grandchildren of the Shoah in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area. Join us for programs on topics of interest, social gatherings, educational projects and social action. We are a multigenerational family that continues the legacy and memory of those impacted by the Shoah.

www.genafterdc.com

Kindertransport Association

Kindertransport refers to the nearly 10,000 Holocaust Survivor Children who were rescued by the British government, which waived its immigration laws, in 1938/1939.

www.kinderstransport.org

3GDC

As grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, 3GDC constitutes a living memorial that preserves and honors the legacy of our grandparents through education, advocacy and community building.

Contact AJ Siegel, engage@3gdc.org, or www.3gdc.org

PROGRAM ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE JCRC OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Board President, **Bob Budoff**; Chief Executive Officer, **Ron Halber**; Chief Operating Officer, **Guila Franklin Siegel**; Program Associate for the Dr. Stuart Lessans Israel Action Center, **Charlotte Barrios**; Assistant Director of Education Programs and Services, **Mandy Book**; Director of Communications and Marketing, **Alan Brody**; Director of DC Government and Community Relations, **Rachel Feinstein**; Director of Virginia Government and Community Relations, **Vicki Fishman**; Office Manager/Program Associate, **Nirma Medrano**; Director of Maryland Government and Community Relations, **Deborah Miller**; Controller, **Tanya Nguyen**; Director, Dr. Stuart Lessans Israel Action Center, **Adam Odesser**; Director, Intergroup Relations/ Rabbi in Residence, **Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky**; Operations Manager and Executive Assistant, **Lisa Silverman**; JCRC Intern, **Maddie Stoller**; Director of Education Programs and Services, **Sara Winkelman**.

HOLOCAUST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Albert Bloomfield, Dr. Ronald A. Paul, Ellen Blalock and Ira Bartfield, Co-Chairs. Deborah Adler, Barbara Brenman, Diane Castiglione, Jonina Duker, Sharon Freundel, Judy Frumkin, Susan Banes Harris, Dena Hirsh, Roy Isenberg, Claude Kacser, Louise Lawrence-Israels, Connie Liss, Bob Lubran, Manny Mandel, Lisa Mandel-Trupp, Olimpia Nowicka Sulla, Halina Peabody, Barry Perlis, Gary Reiner, Fred Shapiro, Michael Siegel, AJ Siegel, Jacob Tenenbaum, Marsha Tishler, Zachary Trupp, Bob Watts, Ilana Weltman, Adam Zimmerman.

THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge our organizational partners for this year's Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration: Congregation Adat Reyim, Springfield, VA and Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, MD. Special thanks to Bender JCC of Greater Washington, and especially to Marcie Blackman and Maytal Regev for their contributions and logistical expertise.

We also thank JSSA, and Deborah Adler and Liza Uchitel, for their work in support of this commemoration.

We extend our sincere thanks to Sharon Freundel and Tobi Bassin, our Maggid: Generations of the Shoah facilitators, whose dedication has strengthened and enhanced our 2Gs' abilities to share personal family stories and educate the next generation. We also welcome and thank new facilitators Asher Gendelman and Nikki Korsen.

Many thanks to The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (JFGW) for its support of the JCRC.

Special Thanks to our production team: Dillon Meyer, Director/Editor, *DFM Media*; Rebecca Draznin/Ben Harris, *Advance Concepts, Inc.*; Da Vinci Florist and Lighting; Shira Feen; Carl Tretter; Berman Hebrew Academy *Matanotes*; Kyle Duarte, *Kyle Duarte Sign Language and Captioning Services*

DONORS

*We thank the following donors who have provided generous support for our 2025
Yom Ha'Shoah Commemoration (list as of April 21, 2025)*

GUARDIAN

Carol and Gary Berman

The Anita Epstein Holocaust Commemoration and Education Fund

The Harris Family Foundation/Toni and Ronald A. Paul, MD

Joyce and Robert Johnson

PARTNERS

Ellen and Dan Blalock | *In Memory of Jeremy Kay*

Johanna Arenaza and Alex Brill

Garden of Remembrance (Gan Zikaron) Memorial Park

Marilyn and Gary Wind

CARETAKERS

Agudas Achim Congregation

Alpa Epsilon Pi Foundation

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

Howard Hogan | *In Memory of Molly Horowitz*

Jill and Sam Kastner | *In Memory of Holocaust Survivors Leon and Sonia Kastner*

Temple Rodef Shalom

Temple Sinai

SUPPORTERS

Cookie Hymer Blitz & Nelson Blitz

In Memory of Rose & David Blitz

B'nai Israel Congregation

Shelley and Joseph Brodecki

Sheila and Bob Budoff

Philip J. Levine

Congregation Olam Tikvah

Julia Salpeter

In loving memory of my parents

Irma and Jeno Illes

Suzanne and Josh Schonfeld

Marla & Bruce Schulman

Rebecca Silver

Gail and David Weiss

Temple Beth Ami

jssa HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR PROGRAM

JSSA is the only nonprofit organization in the Washington metropolitan area designated by international funding sources to deliver critical safety net services to the men and women in our community who survived the Holocaust.

JSSA's Holocaust Survivor Program helps 317 vulnerable Holocaust survivors remain independent, safe, and comfortable by providing:

- Ongoing care management
- Homemaker and personal care assistance
- Financial assistance for food, escorted transportation, medications, medical equipment and minor home modifications
- Pro bono dental, eyeglasses, advance care planning, and hearing aid program

Claims Conference money alone has never been sufficient to fully sustain our Holocaust Survivor Program. The Jewish Federation of North America, The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and a variety of other sources have generously supported our program since its inception more than 30 years ago. We are grateful for financial contributions that allow us to continue caring for this aging population and help to restore their dignity and pride.

For more information about JSSA's Holocaust Survivor Program, please visit JSSA.org.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

JSSA has a 98% success rate keeping survivor clients in their homes and out of institutions

Nearly 99% of JSSA's Holocaust survivor clients require moderate or full assistance with activities of daily living

93% of our survivor caseload came to the U.S. from the former Soviet Union

77% of our caseload is at or below 200% of the federal poverty line

Average survivor client age is 89 years old

The oldest survivor in our program is 104 years old



The Center on Holocaust Survivor Care
Institute on Aging and Trauma



