

# THE WORLD AGAINST GENOCIDE



SCOTT THUMAN  
WUSA-FRANCIS NEWS  
MODERATOR



DR. MIRIAM K. KASZENOFF  
C210/OSLOVWA



DR. ROUBEN ADALIAN  
ARMENA



MARGIT MEISSNER  
AUSTRIA

**APRIL 30, 2015**  
**11:00AM-1:00PM**  
**LINCOLN THEATRE**

1215 U STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC - U STREET/CARDOZO METRO

www.holocaustremembrance.org • Resources: Acknowledgment: @energyprogram@hhs.usda.gov • Designer: Maya A. Rodriguez

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### And All Participants.

[www.holocaustremembrance.org](http://www.holocaustremembrance.org)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 3, 2015

I send solemn greetings to all those attending the Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Program.

As we reflect on our human history, there is a shadow cast over an era of intolerance when millions of innocent men, women, and children lost their lives because of what they believed, where they were from, or who they loved. The Holocaust left a void on our planet we will never be able to fill, and we must tell our next generation about the barbaric acts that took place so nothing like it happens ever again.

In the darkness of this tragic past, we find light in the resilience and bravery of the survivors and those who risked their own lives to save others. Their stories are testaments to the strength of the human spirit, and they inspire our never-ending work to encourage acceptance where there is hatred and pursue peace in an imperfect world.

As we commemorate the Days of Remembrance and reflect on the losses of those taken from us too soon, let us also remember their lives—how they loved, and hoped, and dreamed. May we carry forward their courage and renew our resolve to root out prejudice and forge a more peaceful, inclusive future for all.



## 2015 FEDERAL INTER-AGENCY HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

### AGENDA

#### Historical Photography and Short Film

Anthony Fowler

#### Master of Ceremonies

Scott Thuman WJLA/ABC7

#### Color Guard

The Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard

#### National Anthem

Dr. Amy K. Kwon — Soprano

#### Message from The US President Barack Obama

Matt Nosanchuk

#### Candle Lighting Ceremony

Matt Bogoshian

Scott Thuman, Lynne Williams, Margit Meissner, Dr. Rouben Adalian,  
Dr. Miriam K. Kassenoff, Dr. Zina B. Sutch, Matt Nosanchuk

#### Ani Ma'amin (I Believe)

Dr. Amy K. Kwon and Jeff Knishkow

#### Panelist Discussion

Moderator: Scott Thuman

Panelists: Dr. Rouben Adalian, Margit Meissner, Dr. Miriam K. Kassenoff

#### Closing Remarks

Scott Thuman

#### Musical Postlude: Serenade

Dr. Amy K. Kwon

### Moderator



**SCOTT THUMAN**  
Anchor WJLA-TV/ ABC7

Scott Thuman is the Emmy-award winning, Senior Political Reporter covering the White House and Capitol Hill for ABC7 News and News Channel 8. He is the only local television broadcaster to land exclusive and successive interviews with President Obama during the 2012 campaign.

His coverage of the primaries, caucuses, conventions and debates garnered international attention and earned ABC7 the prestigious Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism.

Aside from politics, over the years he's filed reports from Iraq, Cuba, Haiti, and Europe on the wars on terror. He began his work at WJLA in 2005 and before that reported for WFTV in Orlando and First Coast News in Jacksonville.

### Message from POTUS



**MATT NOSANCHUK**  
Director Outreach on the National Security Council, The White House

Matt Nosanchuk is Director for Outreach on the National Security Council. Among his other responsibilities, he serves as the liaison to the American Jewish community, International issues, and is part of the NSC's Strategic Communications and Global Engagement team.

In 2013, Matt received the American Bar Association's inaugural Stonewall Award in recognition for his professional contributions to advancing LGBT civil rights and the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his work on the Defense of Marriage Act litigation.

In 2012, he became the Associate General Counsel for Legal Counsel at the Department of Homeland Security, leading a division of the Office of General Counsel responsible for significant litigation, civil rights, privacy, strategic oversight and legislation.

### Ceremony Speaker



**MATT BOGOSHIAN**  
Senior Policy Counsel, U.S. EPA, OCSPP

Matt Bogoshian is the U.S. EPA's Senior Policy Counsel at the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. Matt provides policy analysis and shapes the implementation of initiatives that prevent pollution and promote sustainability.

He works with the White House and other federal agencies in leading the Economy, Energy and Environment (E3) and the White House Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative.

He served as U.S. EPA's Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance; California EPA's Deputy Secretary for Law Enforcement and Counsel, he was an officer and trial attorney in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. Currently, he is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and is the grandson of the Armenian survivors.

### Survivor Panelist



**DR. MIRIAM K. KASSENOFF**  
Czechoslovakia

Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff, Slovakian Jewish Holocaust Survivor. She fled Nazi Europe in 1941 with her family when she was a small child.

She studied at Yad Vashem, the International Center for Holocaust Studies in Israel, and is a graduate of the prestigious international Vladka Meed Teachers Program.

Currently she is the Director of the Holocaust Teachers Institute at the University of Miami where she also serves as adjunct professor/lecturer. She is also the Education Specialist for Holocaust Studies for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.



**DR. ROUBEN ADALIAN**  
Armenia

Dr. Rouben P. Adalian is Director of the Armenian National Institute (ANI) in Washington, DC.

He is the editor of *The Armenian Genocide in the U.S. Archives 1915-1918* and its accompanying *Guide*, and associate editor of the *Encyclopedia of Genocide*.

He is also the author of *Historical Dictionary of Armenia* and has contributed to *Genocide in Our Time; Studies in Comparative Genocide; America and the Armenian Genocide; and Centuries of Genocide: Critical Essays and Eyewitness Accounts*.

He is the grandson of the Armenian survivors who lost family members, homes, and businesses.



**MARGIT MEISSNER**  
Austria

Margit Meissner, was born in Austria and raised in Prague, Czechoslovakia. When Hitler annexed Austria in 1938, Margit, at age 16, was sent to Paris to be out of harm's way.

When France capitulated, Meissner fled Paris on a bicycle to avoid the German troops. She miraculously reunited with her mother in France, and they both, fled on foot across the French-Spanish border, only to be jailed by the Spaniards. Eventually, they made it to the United States.

She was employed by the U.S. Army of Occupation. She held many positions and lived in many countries until her retirement in 1992. She has been a volunteer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



## Soprano



**Amy K. Kwon, Ph.D.**

Amy Keesun Kwon, Ph.D., Soprano, received her Master's and Doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of America. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory. She appeared as a Soprano soloist for Susie Kim Memorial Concert, the Millennium Stage Concert 'Songs of the Forgotten War' at the Kennedy Center. She made her New York debut with Gateway Classical Music Society.

## Ani Ma'amin's Reading



**Jeff Knishkowsky**

Jeff Knishkowsky serves as the Senior Counsel in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. He has served in the Federal government for 20 years, mostly with the Department of Agriculture. His areas of specialty are civil rights and conflict resolution. He has also worked at the Department of Justice, with an especially meaningful tenure hearing cases for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. In his spare time, Jeff sings in a local Jewish *acappella* quintet.

## Candle Lighting Ceremony's Participants



**Scott Thuman**  
Anchor WJLA-TV/ ABC7



**Matt Nosanchuk**  
Director Outreach on the  
National Security Council,  
The White House



**Dr. Zina B. Sutch**  
U.S. Department of  
Agriculture



**Dr. Miriam K. Kassenoff**  
Czechoslovakia



**Dr. Rouben Adalian**  
Armenia



**Margit Meissner**  
Austria



**Lynn Williams**  
U.S. Holocaust Memorial  
Museum

## Candle Lighting Music

### **Ani Ma'amin**

**מאמין אני  
(I Believe)**

*Ani Ma'amin is the song perhaps most frequently associated with the Holocaust. It was based on the twelfth of Maimonides' Thirteen Principles of Faith, it is believed that Ani Ma'amin's composer was a well-known Warsaw composer and singer who sang the song on a cattle car while he and other Jews were riding to their deaths at the Treblinka death camp. Ever since, Ani Ma'amin became known as a song of hope and has regularly been incorporated into ceremonies commemorating the Holocaust.*

*Words by Jeff Knishkowsky*

*Hebrew:*

*Ani ma'amin b'emuna sh'leimah  
B'viat hamashiach,  
V'af al pi sh'yitmameah,  
im kol zeh achakeh lo  
B'chol yom sheyavo.*

*English:*

*I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the  
Messiah, and, though he tarry, I will wait daily  
for his coming.*

## Musical Postlude

### **Ständchen**

**(Serenade)**

*Austrian composer Franz Schubert composed his Serenade for voice and piano shortly before his death in 1828.*

*Translated by Nicole A. Poltash*

*My songs beckon softly  
through the night to you;  
In the silent grove below,  
Come to me, beloved!*

*Whispering, slender treetops rustle  
in the moonlight;  
Fear not the traitor's  
hostile eavesdropping, darling.*

*Do you hear the nightingales call?  
Alas! They beckon you,  
with the sound of sweet lamentations  
they beckon you for me.*

*They understand the heart's yearning,  
know love's sorrow,  
Move with their silver tones,  
every tender heart.*

*Let your heart [breast] also stir,  
Beloved, hear me!  
Trembling I await you!  
Come, delight me!*

## Planning Committee Chairs

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