



31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL FEDERAL INTER-AGENCY HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

# STORIES OF COURAGE



**Ruth** (right) with mother Bertha and brother Ari.



**Allan** (right) with mother Maria and brother Andy.

Featuring Holocaust Survivors **RUTH COHEN** and **ALLAN HALL**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE | BURNS AUDITORIUM

MAY 8, 2024

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Program  
May 8, 2024**

**Program**

**WELCOME**

Brant Levine, Chair  
Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Committee

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS**

United States Armed Forces Color Guard

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Carla Dirlikov Canales | Jennifer Chang (viola)

**SPECIAL REMARKS FROM FEDERAL AGENCY LEADERSHIP**

Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Justice

**REMARKS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Ellen Germain, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues  
U.S. Department of State

Sarah Morgenthau, Special Representative for Business and Commercial Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

**STORIES OF COURAGE**

Ruth Cohen, Holocaust Survivor

Allan Hall, Holocaust Survivor

Ellen Germain, Moderator

**CLOSING REMARKS AND CANDLE LIGHTING**

Deborah Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism

Stuart Eizenstat, Special Advisor on Holocaust Issues  
U.S. Department of State

Wendy Doernberg, Chair Emeritus  
Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Committee



The Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Program started at the Department of Education in 1994. Our mission is to educate federal employees, students, and the public about the Holocaust. We do so through the stories of survivors, who show what can happen if prejudice, hate, and intolerance against any individual or group of people go unchallenged.

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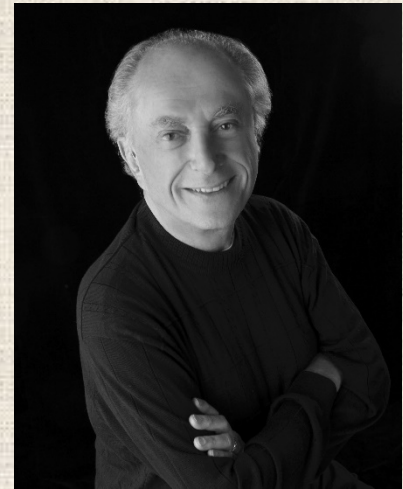
Ruth Cohen was born in Czechoslovakia. In March 1944, the Nazis invaded, and Ruth and her family were forced from their home and into a designated ghetto. The following month, they were sent to Auschwitz. Ruth and her sister Teresa were able to stay together, but her mother, brother, and cousins were sent to the gas chambers and her father was selected for labor. Ruth and her sister were imprisoned in several concentration camps and were liberated together in 1945.

Ruth and her sister made their way back to their hometown where they reunited with their father. The family immigrated to the United States in 1948 and settled in New York City. Ruth now lives in North Bethesda, Maryland and volunteers for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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Allan Hall was born in Krakow, Poland in 1935. To escape the Nazis, the family walked over 200 miles to the city of Lviv, and then fled to Warsaw. Allan and his mother spent two years hiding in the closet of an office rented by Allan's father. During the Warsaw Uprising in 1944, the family crawled, under sniper fire, to a bomb shelter where Allan's mother gave birth to a baby boy, Andrew. For months, eleven-year-old Allan carried his then two-year old baby brother across Europe, trying to get to safety. Allan's father escaped from a Soviet prison and the family reunited in Austria.

In 1947, Allan, his brother, and his parents emigrated to the United States. Allan lost his uncle, two aunts, his grandparents, and his mother's entire family to the Nazis. He regularly gives presentations about his experience to remind people of the relevance of the Holocaust and to resist injustice whenever it occurs. He published a memoir, which he distributes electronically at no cost, called "Hiding in Plain Sight."



## PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Administrative Office of United States Courts  
Customs and Border Protection  
Defense Intelligence Agency  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Commerce  
Department of Defense Education Activity  
Department of Education  
Department of Energy  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Department of Justice  
Department of State  
Department of the Treasury  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Communications Commission  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Federal Highway Administration  
Federal Railroad Administration  
Government Accountability Office  
Internal Revenue Service  
International Trade Administration  
International Trade Commission  
Merit Systems Protection Board  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
National Endowment for the Arts  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
National Institutes of Health  
National Labor Relations Board  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Office of Personnel Management  
Office of Special Counsel  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
U.S. Agency for Global Media  
U.S. Agency for International Development

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Chair: Brant Levine, Department of Justice  
Vice Chair: Deborah Guido-O'Grady, Department of State  
Vice Chair: Tracy Perilli, Department of State  
Secretary: Margarita Meléndez-Gotay, Department of Education  
Chair Emeritus: Wendy Doernberg, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

★ Please visit our webpage, [HolocaustRemembrance.org](https://www.holocaustremembrance.org), to learn more about the Committee's work and to view additional resources on the Holocaust. ★