

30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FEDERAL INTER-AGENCY  
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

# *Rays of Hope*



PHOTO OF RUMBACH STREET SYNAGOGUE (BUDAPEST, HUNGARY)

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*Tuesday*  
**18** APRIL  
2023

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM EDT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
GREAT HALL

Washington, D.C.



THE FEDERAL INTER-AGENCY HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM STARTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN 1994. COMPRISED OF DOZENS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES, ITS MISSION IS TO EDUCATE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS, AND THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST 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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## Peter Gorog

was born in Budapest in 1941. His father aspired to be a lawyer but could not attend law school because he was Jewish. Instead, Peter's father was conscripted into a forced labor battalion in the Hungarian armed service, where he later died. His mother supported the family with her hat-making business until German forces invaded Hungary in March, 1944. They were forced to find refuge with a family friend until a neighbor denounced them. After being arrested and jailed, Peter's mother escaped and they moved into an apartment building, protected by the Swiss embassy. In October 1944, the Hungarian government began a reign of terror against the Jews in Budapest. Peter and his mother moved to the Budapest ghetto and spent most of their time in the basement during frequent air raids. After weeks of fierce fighting, the Budapest ghetto was liberated by the Soviet Army in January 1945.

Peter grew up in Communist Hungary and participated in the design of the first Hungarian-made computer. He defected to the United States in 1980 and spent his career working for the federal government as a contractor, including at the Department of Justice, where he supported the FBI's Image Restoration Project. Peter also worked at the Department of Defense, the Nation Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, where he worked on the James Webb Space Telescope.

## Emmanuel (Manny) Mandel

was born in 1936 and grew up in Hungary. His father was one of the four chief cantors in Budapest at the Rumbach Street Synagogue. The impact of the Holocaust came later in the war years, through unexpected deportation to Bergen-Belsen and family separation. In 1945, Manny and his mother immigrated to Palestine, where they were reunited with Manny's father. They then moved to the United States, settling in Philadelphia, where Manny attended the University of Pennsylvania. He was a practicing psychotherapist in Maryland until his retirement in 2014.

# **Program**

## Welcome

- Wendy Doernberg, Chair, Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Committee, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

## Presentation of Colors

- United States Armed Forces Color Guard

## National Anthem

- Anupa Iyer Geevarghese, Chief of Staff, Office of Disability Employment Policy, Department of Labor

## Introduction

- Brant Levine, Vice Chair, Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Committee, Department of Justice

## Remarks from the Department of Justice

- Merrick Garland, United States Attorney General
- Kristen Clarke, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division

## Introduction of Speakers

- Eli Rosenbaum, Counselor for War Crimes Accountability, Department of Justice

## Discussion

- Speaker: Peter Gorog, Holocaust Survivor
- Speaker: Manny Mandel, Holocaust Survivor
- Moderator: Eli Rosenbaum, Counselor for War Crimes Accountability, Department of Justice

## Remarks from the Department of Homeland Security

- Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security

## Closing Remarks and Candle Lighting

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



# *Sincere Thanks*

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts	Department of the Interior
Agency for Global Media	Internal Revenue Service
Department of Agriculture	International Trade Commission
Department of the Army	Department of Justice
Department of Commerce	Department of Labor
Customs and Border Protection	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Department of Defense Education Activity	National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities
Department of Education	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Department of Energy	National Labor Relations Board
Environmental Protection Agency	Office of Personnel Management
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	Office of Special Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Patent and Trademark Office
Federal Communications Commission	Smithsonian Institution
Federal Labor Relations Authority	Department of State
Government Accountability Office	Department of Transportation
Department of Health and Human Services	Department of the Treasury
Department of Homeland Security	Department of Veteran Affairs
Department of Housing and Urban Development	

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## **Federal Inter-Agency Holocaust Remembrance Committee Leadership**

Chair: Wendy Doernberg (EEOC)

Vice Chair: Isabel Kaufman (DOJ)

Vice Chair: Brant Levine (DOJ)

Secretary: Joanne Wiesman (IRS)

Sub-Committee Chairs: Karen Crump-Wilson (NLRB), Margarita Meléndez (Dept. of Ed), and Tracy Klein (FBI)