

32nd Annual Federal Interagency Holocaust Remembrance Program

Courage Cannot Be Silenced

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

Livestreamed at HolocaustRemembrance.org and Justice.gov/live

The 32nd Annual Federal Interagency Holocaust Remembrance Program will be broadcast live from the U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. EDT. To view the livestream and learn more about the program, please visit HolocaustRemembrance.org. In-person attendance is by invitation only.

The theme for this year's program is *Courage Cannot Be Silenced*, and the featured speaker is Holocaust survivor **Eugene Bergman**. The Program will be moderated by **Ellen Germain**, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues at the U.S. Department of State. The Program will also feature remarks from **Harmeet Dhillon**, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and music from cellist **John Kaboff**. This year's program coincides with both Jewish American Heritage Month and the 80th anniversary of U.S. troops liberating Nazi concentration camps. Sign-language interpretation will be provided, and requests for reasonable accommodation may be submitted to wendy.doernberg@eeoc.gov.

The Federal Interagency Holocaust Remembrance Program started at the Department of Education in 1994, and the organizing committee now includes representatives from dozens of federal agencies. The Program combats antisemitism by educating federal employees, students, and the public about the Holocaust. Emphasizing the courageous stories of survivors, the Program shows what can happen if prejudice, hate, and intolerance go unchallenged.

The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored murder of six million Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II. It was part of the “Final Solution” – the Nazi plan to annihilate more than nine million Jews in Europe. The Nazis murdered millions of others as well. In 1980, Congress expressed its intent that Holocaust remembrance should be observed throughout the United States each year.

Eugene Bergman was born in Poznan, Poland. He was nine years old when the war started in 1939. His experience through World War II and the Holocaust is documented in his book: *Survival Artist: A Memoir of the Holocaust*. As a child, he was struck deaf by the butt of a German soldier's rifle while playing in the street with other children. Though traumatic, disabling, and life-threatening, this vicious attack would ultimately save his life several times. His story continues with vivid accounts of his family's narrow escapes to (and from) the Lodz, Warsaw, and Czestochowa ghettos. He also shares his account of surviving the Holocaust in the movie *Memories of the Warsaw Ghetto*, available on YouTube.

After immigrating to the United States, he earned his B.A. at Gallaudet University, received his M.A. from Georgetown University, and obtained his Ph.D. from George Washington University. Dr. Bergman lives in North Bethesda, Maryland with his family.