



Clockwise from top left: Holocaust survivors Vered Kater (2022), Rabbi Arthur Schneier (2021), Ella Blumenthal (1938), Pinchas Gutter (2021), Vered Kater (age 4), Ella Blumenthal (2022). Credits: Ricardo Wolokita, Nathan Beriro, Courtesy of Ella Blumenthal, Nathan Beriro, Courtesy of Vered Kater, Sean O'Sullivan.

2022 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION  
IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

# Memory, Dignity and Justice

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Programme

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THURSDAY, 27 JANUARY 2022

11:00 A.M. EST

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## COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

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**Ms. Melissa FLEMING**

Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications  
HOST

**Mr. António GUTERRES**

United Nations Secretary-General

**H.E. Mr. Abdulla SHAHID**

President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

**H.E. Mr. Gilad ERDAN**

Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

**H.E. Ms. Linda THOMAS-GREENFIELD**

Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations

**Mr. Pinchas ZUKERMAN, violinist, and Mr. Shai WOSNER, pianist**

*Berceuse Sfaradite* (Sephardic Lullaby) by Paul Ben-Haim (1897–1984)

**Dr. Petra GELBART**

Granddaughter of Romani Holocaust survivors  
Helena “Margita” Nová and Antonín “Ruda” Hránek

**Mr. Elisha WIESEL**

Son of Holocaust survivors Marion and Elie Wiesel

**Professor John K. ROTH**

Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at  
Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## **HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS REFLECT**

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**Ms. Ella BLUMENTHAL**

**Mr. Pinchas GUTTER**

**Rabbi Arthur SCHNEIER**

**Ms. Vered KATER**

## **“IN THEIR NAMES”**

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**Ms. Alice Wairimu NDERITU**

**Ms. Fumiko ISHIOKA**

**Mr. Paul SALMONS**

**Ms. Borso TALL**

**Ms. Tali NATES**

## **RECITATION OF MEMORIAL PRAYERS**

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**Rabbi Arthur SCHNEIER**  
**Park East Synagogue, New York**  
*Kaddish*

**Cantor Daniel MENDELSON**  
**Congregation Kol Ami, White Plains, New York**  
*El Maleh Rachamim*



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**Ms. Ella Blumenthal** was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1921 to a large and extended family. In October 1940 she was deported to the Warsaw Ghetto. She survived the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943. The Nazis deported Ms. Blumenthal, her father and her niece Roma to Majdanek death camp. Ms. Blumenthal's father was beaten on arrival and never seen again by Ms. Blumenthal. Ms. Blumenthal and Roma survived Majdanek. They were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German concentration and death camp (1941-1945), and later to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where they remained until liberation. Of the 27 members of her immediate family, only Ms. Blumenthal and Roma survived the Holocaust. After the war, Ms. Blumenthal managed to get to Paris and then to Tel Aviv, before moving to South Africa. She lives in Cape Town and has four children, eleven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.



© Nathan Beriro

**Dr. Petra Gelbart** is a Romani educator and board-certified music therapist. She is the granddaughter of Helena "Margita" Nová and Antonín "Ruda" Hránek, Romani Holocaust survivors. Dr. Gelbart's family introduced her to Romani music and language during her youth in the former Czechoslovakia. She holds a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from Harvard University and is currently an Adjunct Professor at Fordham University. Dr. Gelbart is involved with several Romani organizations, as well as with foster families raising Romani children.



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**Mr. Pinchas Gutter** was born in Łódź, Poland in 1932. He was seven when the Second World War began. Mr. Gutter, his twin sister, and his mother, fled disguised as Christians to their aunt in Warsaw. His father followed. The family were incarcerated in the Warsaw Ghetto for three and a half years. When the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began in April 1943, the family hid in a bunker for three weeks before the Nazis discovered them and deported them to Majdanek death camp. The Nazis murdered Mr. Gutter's father, mother and twin sister on arrival. The Nazis selected Mr. Gutter for slave labour. He survived Majdanek, five other concentration camps including Buchenwald, and a death march from Germany to Czechoslovakia, where he was liberated in 1945 by Soviet troops. He was 13 years old. Under the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, Mr. Gutter was taken to England with other child Holocaust survivors to rehabilitate. Mr. Gutter is married to Dorothy, and their family now spans three generations.



© Antony Tran

**Ms. Fumiko Ishioka** is the director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Center. In 2000 she rented a suitcase from the Auschwitz Museum to display throughout Japan as a way to convey the story of the Holocaust to other children. The suitcase had a name, a birth date and the German word "Waisenkind" meaning orphan. Ms. Ishioka began researching the life of the owner of the suitcase, Hana Brady, and eventually found her surviving brother in Canada. The story was turned into a book *Hana's Suitcase*, and a documentary *Inside Hana's Suitcase*. Hana's suitcase has been traveling to more than 1,200 schools to this day.



© Ricardo Wolokita

**Ms. Vered Kater** was born in 1943 in Eindhoven, Nazi-occupied Netherlands. Her earliest years were spent in hiding. The Nazis forced her family to hide to survive, but the family was unable to hide together. Fortunately, Ms. Kater's father worked in the Philips factory. Mr. Frits Philips found a hiding place for all his Jewish employees. Ms. Kater was taken in by Joop and Joke Kuiper and spent her first three years living as their only child. They risked their lives to conceal Ms. Kater's Jewish identity and shield her from the Nazis and the horrors of the Holocaust. After the war, Ms. Kater decided to become a nurse to help people and has built a legacy as a health worker, traveling to developing countries to administer aid to people in need. She often shares in-depth accounts of her story of survival. In 2019 Ms. Kater delivered her testimony during the annual Holocaust observance organized by the United Nations Information Centre in Yangon, Myanmar.



© Nathan Johnson

**Cantor Daniel Mendelson** serves as Cantor of Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains, New York. As the son of two distinguished Westchester cantors, he was introduced to Jewish music and opera from a young age. Since 2018, Cantor Mendelson has become a regular national anthem performer at Citi Field and Madison Square Garden. After serving Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David in Rockville Centre, New York for eight years, he became the Cantor of Congregation Kol Ami, where he now serves. Recently, his own musical setting was selected in a nationwide contest to compose a melody for the official Jewish prayer for the United States Armed Forces. This Song of Service has been offered at congregations around the country. He lives in Westchester with his wife, Cantor Amanda Kleinman, and their three children.



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**Ms. Tali Nates** is the Founder and Director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre and Chair of the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation. Ms. Nates has lectured internationally on Holocaust education, genocide prevention, reconciliation and human rights. She is one of the founders of "Holocaust Survivors Services" and "Rwanda Genocide Survivors Services" in Johannesburg. Ms. Nates was born to a family of Holocaust survivors, and her father and uncle were saved by Oskar Schindler.



© UN Photo Manuel Elías

**Ms. Alice Wairimu Nderitu** is the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Ms. Nderitu is a recognized voice in the field of peacebuilding and violence prevention, having led as mediator and senior adviser in reconciliation processes. She served as Commissioner of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission in Kenya, as well as Founding Member and co-Chair of the Uwiano Platform for Peace, a prevention agency linking early warning to early response. She was also one of the founders of Community Voices for Peace and Pluralism, a network of African women professionals preventing, transforming and solving violent, ethnic, racial and religious conflicts worldwide. Widely published, she is the recipient of awards recognizing her commitment to peaceful conflict transformation throughout Africa and her innovative approach to mediation.



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**Professor John K. Roth** is the Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and the Founding Director of the Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights (now the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights) at Claremont McKenna College. He is an eminent Holocaust Studies scholar and highly prolific author, and has authored and edited more than fifty books, including, most recently, *The Failures of Ethics: Confronting the Holocaust, Genocide, and Other Mass Atrocities*; *Sources of Holocaust Insight: Learning and Teaching about the Genocide* and *Advancing Holocaust Studies*. Professor Roth has earned several fellowships and awards for his commitment to teaching. Named the 1988 U.S. National Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Professor Roth has also received the Holocaust Educational Foundation’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Holocaust Studies and Research.



© Musealia

**Mr. Paul Salmons** is an independent curator, education consultant and educator specializing in difficult histories. He co-curated Musealia’s international award-winning exhibition “Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away” and served as chief curator of “Seeing Auschwitz”, an exhibition produced for the United Nations. Mr. Salmons helped create the original Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in London. He co-founded the Centre for Holocaust Education at University College London and was part of United Kingdom’s delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.



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**Rabbi Arthur Schneier** was born in Vienna, Austria in 1930. As an eight-year-old, he witnessed the burning of his Synagogue during the November Pogrom (Kristallnacht). His grandparents and family perished in Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German concentration and death camp (1941-1945). He was rescued by Swiss Consul Carl Lutz and the International Red Cross in Budapest. Liberated in 1945, he arrived in the United States in 1947. Senior Rabbi of Park East Synagogue since 1962, he is the Founder and President of the interfaith Appeal of Conscience Foundation to advance religious freedom and human rights. Rabbi Schneier received international recognition for promoting peace, inter-religious cooperation, and for fighting hatred. He was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal by President Clinton and knighted by Pope Francis. Rabbi Schneier received the Légion d’honneur and high honours from twelve countries. Ordained by Yeshiva University, he has received twelve honorary degrees. Rabbi Schneier is the former United States Alternate Representative to the United Nations and member of the High-level Group of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. He is married to Elisabeth Nordmann Schneier.



**Ms. Borso Tall** is a journalist and *The Washington Post’s* news assistant in West Africa. She holds a MSc in Human Rights and a MA in American and Caribbean Studies. Ms. Tall is the recipient of several international scholarships including the 2016 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. In 2017, she joined the Chevening network as a scholar appointed at the University of Glasgow. In 2019, the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre granted her a scholarship to participate in a History, Memory and Representation study tour of Poland and Germany. In 2021, Ms. Tall earned an International Women’s Media Foundation fellowship for her reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic and global health.



**Mr. Elisha Wiesel** is the only child of Holocaust survivors Marion and Elie Wiesel. Mr. Wiesel speaks and writes of his father's values including memory, tolerance and human dignity. Mr. Wiesel also continues his father's legacy by standing up for persecuted communities. Professionally, Mr. Wiesel is an entrepreneur, having previously been a partner at Goldman Sachs where he worked for 25 years.



**Mr. Shai Wosner** is a pianist. In addition to his work as a solo recitalist and chamber musician, he has performed with major orchestras across the United States. He is a recipient of Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant, and a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award. Mr. Wosner is resident artist of Peoples' Symphony Concerts from 2020 to 2023, and in 2022 he curates and launches a new annual festival at Bard College, where he is on the piano faculty.



**Mr. Pinchas Zukerman** is one of today's most sought after and versatile musicians – violin and viola soloist, conductor, and chamber musician. With a celebrated six-decade career, Mr. Zukerman is renowned as a devoted teacher and champion of young musicians. Mr. Zukerman serves as the long-time chair of the Pinchas Zukerman Performance Program at the Manhattan School of Music and was recently named Artistic & Principal Education Partner with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He is also a two-time Grammy® winner (with 21 nominations) and recipient of the National Medal of Arts.

**Disclaimer:** *The inclusion of opinions expressed by participants in this memorial ceremony does not imply endorsement by the United Nations.*