

NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL

WORLD AIDS DAY CEREMONY & AWARD PRESENTATION

Fact Sheet

WHAT: World AIDS Day Ceremony and Award Presentation

WHEN: Wednesday, December 1, 2004
11:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Program from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

WHERE: National AIDS Memorial
Corner of Bowling Green Drive & Middle Drive East
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

WHY: December 1 is World AIDS Day, the one day each year that the world sets aside to honor all the people whose lives have been touched by AIDS. "The Importance of Remembering," is the theme for this year's observance. The keynote address will be delivered by Judith Light, actor and national AIDS activist. The National AIDS Memorial will also present an award to this year's recipient of the Annual Grove Award for HIV/AIDS Community Service.

It is a day of reflection and appreciation of those who have died, those who are fighting to survive, the caregivers, and those who are finding new treatments and cures. World AIDS Day is also an opportunity for those who grieve with loss to find hope, remembrance and renewal.

WHO: Keynote Speaker – Judith Light, AIDS Activist and Actor
Jazz recording artist, Spencer Day
Rabbi Camille Shira Angel from the Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Ayse Manyas Kenmore, National AIDS Memorial director
San Francisco School for the Arts Choir

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FROM: NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL GROVE

November 18, 2004

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All Materials Posted at:
www.aidsmemorial.org

**“THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING” THEME OF ANNUAL
WORLD AIDS DAY OBSERVANCE AT THE NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL**

Actor/AIDS Activist Judith Light to Deliver Keynote Address

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- “The Importance of Remembering” will be the theme of the 11th annual observance of World AIDS Day at the National AIDS Memorial on Wednesday, December 1, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. This year, the Memorial’s observance will focus on remembering the 550,000 Americans who have died over the last twenty-four years of the AIDS epidemic. Actor and AIDS activist, Judith Light, will deliver this year’s keynote address at the Memorial.

“The National AIDS Memorial is committed to making sure our country remembers the nearly 550,000 Americans who have died of this terrible disease,” said Judith Light. “Over one million Americans are living with HIV, another 40,000 per year are contracting it and 16,000 die annually -- over 50 percent of those are Black Americans. Forgetting about this tragedy condemns us to many more friends and family members dying.”

In keeping with the broader United Nations theme of “Women and AIDS,” the program will feature two other women who are at the forefront in the fight against AIDS, in addition to Judith Light. They include Rabbi Camille Shira Angel from the Congregation Sha’ar Zahav in San Francisco; and Ayse Manyas Kenmore, longtime National AIDS Memorial board member and generous benefactor to numerous HIV/AIDS service organizations.

“The Memorial is filled with so much natural beauty; it is truly a serene place to remember those we have lost. Yet, this observance represents our resolve to not forget the unrelenting spread of a disease that continues to impact every segment of our society and how we must redouble our efforts to eliminate it. AIDS is now the most horrific epidemic in human history,” said Light.

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The National AIDS Memorial recently launched a national design competition to possibly create a memorial feature in the seven-acre site in Golden Gate Park to remember the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have died from AIDS. “World AIDS Day, coupled with the national design competition, will further focus our country's attention on the toll AIDS has taken,” she added. “The competition will identify an artistic component to the Memorial’s award-winning landscape that will deepen, both visually and spiritually, the visitor’s experience of this important environment.”

Judith Light first came to the Grove as the featured speaker at the 1998 World AIDS Day Observance, but her involvement in the struggle against AIDS, and the discrimination it carries began long before that. She was also recently named co-chair of the honorary committee of the National AIDS Memorial design competition currently underway.

Also featured at this year’s World AIDS Day Observance will be the presentation of the National AIDS Memorial Grove Award for HIV/AIDS Community Service, as well as performances by members of the San Francisco School of the Arts. There will be a special appearance by jazz recording artist, Spencer Day.

This year’s observance is free and will be held, rain or shine, under a tent in The Meadow at the center of the Memorial. The National AIDS Memorial is located in Golden Gate Park at the intersection of Bowling Green and Middle Drive East. For detailed directions, or for more information about the World AIDS Day observance and the National AIDS Memorial, please call 415/750-8340 or visit its website at www.aidsmemorial.org.

The National AIDS Memorial is a seven-acre dell in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, a living tribute to all whose lives have been touched by AIDS where people gather to heal, hope, and remember. Passage of the National AIDS Memorial Grove Act in 1996 bestowed national significance upon the Memorial, that began as a grassroots effort by local residents searching for a positive way to express grief in a community devastated by AIDS. The Grove is the only federally designated National AIDS Memorial in the United States.

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NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL

Fact Sheet

Leadership: Margarita Gandía Board Co-chair
Ken Ruebush Board Co-chair

Staff: Wendi Deetz Office Manager

Year Founded: 1989

Administrative Offices: 856 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
415/750-8340; 415/750-0214 fax
www.aidsmemorial.org

Location: Bowling Green & Middle Drive East (near the tennis courts), Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA

Organization Profile: The National AIDS Memorial was conceived in 1989 by a small group of San Franciscans who had lost loved ones to AIDS. Development of the Memorial began in 1991. The site was designated a national memorial by act of Congress in 1996.

Located in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, the memorial is a seven-acre wooded basin historically known as de Laveaga Dell. Stone and wood gathering areas of the memorial include: Main Portal, South Portal, West Portal, Dogwood Crescent, Circle of Friends, Fern Grotto, Meadow Overlook, Pine Crescent, Redwood Circle, and The Belvedere.

The Memorial has won numerous AIDS Awareness and civic beautification awards, the most recent being the 1999 Rudy Bruner National Urban Excellence Silver Medal Award.

The memorial is regarded as a "perfect example of private-public partnership"; its board secured a 99-year renewable agreement with the City of San Francisco through the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department to maintain the Memorial in perpetuity.

The heart of the memorial is exemplified on the monthly "Workdays" when as many as 200 volunteers gather to weed, plant and remember their loved ones who have died of AIDS.

The National AIDS Memorial is a project of the Tides Center, a non-profit corporation dedicated to social service and stewardship of the natural environment.

2005 Workdays: Third Saturday of every month; lunch provided; March-October.

Community Services: Public and private memorial services and other ceremonies; Dedication spaces remain available; monthly volunteer Workdays; opportunities for corporate and organizational Workdays; Annual World AIDS Day Observance-December 1; Annual HIV/AIDS Community Service Award.

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NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL

WORLD AIDS DAY

Judith Light

Keynote Speaker

Judith Light captivated audiences worldwide with her portrayal of Angela Bower on the ABC-TV hit comedy series "Who's the Boss". This year Judith is also seen on television with a recurring character on the highly rated NBC series "Law & Order: SVU".

This past spring, Judith was seen on stage in Los Angeles, starring as the acerbic Joanne in Steven Sondheim's "Company".

In the spring of 2001 Judith, opened in Washington, DC at The Shakespeare Theater portraying the title character in the Henrik Ibsen classic "Hedda Gabler". In 2000 she also took to the stage at the Union Square Theater, starring as the brilliant and uncompromising "Dr. Vivian Bearing" in the critically acclaimed and Pulitzer Prize winning Off-Broadway play WIT. Originally directed by Derek Anson Jones, "WIT" is a heartbreaking and at times very funny play about how 'Dr. Bearing' copes with ovarian cancer, and how it transforms her and her views of life. A university professor who has always treasured her independence and lack of personal connections, 'Dr. Bearing' is forced to change her stance when she undergoes radical chemotherapy.

Judith performed in New York until January 2000 and then toured with WIT nationwide, in such cities as Boston, Washington (at the Kennedy Center), and San Francisco. For her outstanding performance Judith received the Helen Hayes Award in Washington, DC, as well as the Elliot Norton Award in Boston.

Judith has proven her versatility as a performer in the numerous films for television in which she has starred. She has also recently taken on the challenge of co-producing as well as starring in several of her television projects. Her most recent film for television was "Carriers" for CBS-TV. In it, she starred as a military doctor searching for the key to a deadly virus threatening the population.

In 1997, Judith starred in the highly rated "Too Close to Home" for CBS-TV co-starring Rick Schroeder. In this production, she played an obsessive mother whose love for her own son forces her to commit heinous crimes.

In 1996, Judith appeared in "A Step Toward Tomorrow" for CBS-TV. Judith starred as the mother of a child with a spinal cord injury in this touching and heartfelt drama. Christopher Reeve played a minor role in the production. Other projects in 1996 included a psychological thriller "Murder At My Door" for FOX-TV and "A Husband, A Wife, and A Lover," for CBS-TV. The latter drama recounted the difficult choices a woman faces as she reconciles her duty as a wife and mother with her own needs in the face of tragedy.

In April 1995, Judith starred with Jack Wagner and Tracey Gold in the sexual thriller "The Lady Killer" for CBS-TV. In October 1994, Judith starred with Stacey Keach in "Against Their Will: Women In Prison" for ABC-TV. In this drama, Judith portrayed Alice Needham, a woman who fights for justice against the state prison system.

In January 1994, Judith portrayed Barbara Noel in "Betrayal of Trust," the powerful, fact-based drama about the ultimate betrayal between doctor and patient. "Betrayal of Trust" co-starred Judd Hirsch.

In 1993, Judith starred with Peter Strauss in the CBS-TV movie "Men Don't Tell." The tele-film, which dealt with the issue of husband abuse, pulled in a number one rating for the night and landed in the top ten for the week.

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Judith Light
Biography
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Judith starred in the ABC-TV movie "Wife, Mother, Murderer," which aired in November, 1991. Based on a true story, the movie depicts a small town Alabama woman who, to some, was charming and caring, but to her family was cunning, manipulative and capable of murder. Judith portrayed the three separate identities of the main character, and was able to showcase her acting talents.

In 1990, Judith portrayed a defense attorney in the ABC-TV movie "In Defense of a Married Man," co-starring with Michael Ontkcan. In 1989, she appeared in "My Boyfriend's Back" for NBC-TV. In this project, Judith portrayed a singer in a bowling alley lounge and she performed all of her own singing numbers. Jill Eikenberry and Sandy Duncan co-starred.

Also in 1989, Judith starred in "The Ryan White Story" for ABC-TV with Lukas Haas and George C. Scott. In this landmark production that introduced many Americans to the horror of AIDS, Judith portrayed the mother of teenage AIDS victim Ryan White. Touched and inspired by this poignant story, Judith began working with several AIDS charities, and today is one of Hollywood's most active figures in this cause. Earlier in 1989, Judith starred with Jimmy Smits in NBC-TV's "Dangerous Affection."

Judith Light was born and raised in Trenton, New Jersey. Her parents nurtured her interest in acting throughout her childhood and supported her decision to study in a summer program at Carnegie-Mellon University between her junior and senior years of high school. This experience prompted her to enroll in that institution where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

During college Judith spent a summer on tour with the USO playing Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls," in a program organized by Charles Haid ("Hill Street Blues") and Ward Baker (director of "The Fantastiks").

Judith spent the next five years with Milwaukee and Seattle repertory companies. In 1975, she moved to New York and made her Broadway debut in Ibsen's "A Doll's House," with Liv Ullman. This role was followed by a series of Broadway and off-Broadway productions that included roles in "A Streetcar Named Desire," "As You like It," and "Richard III."

In 1977, at the height of what she describes as her "frustrating period," Judith was called to understudy on the daytime serial, "One Life to Live." She then landed the role of Karen Wolek and played that part for five years. While on "One Life to Live," Judith won two Emmys, two Soapy Awards and a Soap Opera Hall of Fame Award. Indeed, one of her performances, "Karen Wolek on the Stand," was so powerful and is remembered so vividly, that to this day it is used as a model in acting classes throughout the nation. Additionally, it was recently honored as being one of TV Guide's "100 Most Memorable Moments on Television."

In late 1982, Judith left the soap and landed memorable episodic roles on "St. Elsewhere" and "Family Ties." During the summer of 1983, she was selected to play the part of high-powered advertising executive Angela Bower on the newly created series for ABC-TV, "Who's the Boss?"

The role of Angela Bower endeared Judith to audiences the world over. Lasting eight seasons, the show remains a hit in syndication both here and abroad.

Today Judith keeps very busy balancing her acting and producing with her ongoing support in the fight against AIDS. She volunteers her time to organizations such as Project Angel Food, Heart Strings and The NAMES Project. Judith is the first heterosexual to sit on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Services Center. The center recently named its library after her.

Judith lives in Los Angeles with her husband, actor Robert Desiderio, whom she met while appearing on "One Life to Live."

NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL

WORLD AIDS DAY

Speaker Biographies

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (CSZ) since August, 2000. She is highly regarded as an inspiring teacher, both on the *bimah* and in the classroom. CSZ is blessed to enjoy both her warmth and passion for Jewish learning and living.

Rabbi Angel has written on themes integrating Judaism and Liberal ethics. Her published works include an award-winning curriculum, "*Intimate Connections: Integrating Human Love with God's Love*," integrating LGBT issues into Jewish Religious School education.

She currently serves on the boards of the J: San Francisco's Jewish Weekly; Openhouse: Senior Community Living with Pride; and the Union of Reform Judaism's Department of Jewish Family Concerns.

Ayse Manyas Kenmore

Director, National AIDS Memorial

Ayse Manyas Kenmore has been dedicated to the fight against HIV/AIDS for more than two decades. In the mid 1980's she was a pioneer board member of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Since then she has served on the boards of the National AIDS Memorial, Continuum, DIFFA, and HRC, among others.

She has hosted countless fundraisers for virtually every type of HIV/AIDS organization and has been one of the most generous and consistent philanthropists in San Francisco and nationally.

The Honorable Ayse Manyas Kenmore has been twice confirmed by the U.S. Senate for service on the National Museum Services Board. We are proud to have her as a friend and fellow San Franciscan.

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Invitation to Cover

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL – WORLD AIDS DAY OBSERVANCE

Contact: Gary Pike, APR
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Public Service Announcement

**OBSERVE WORLD AIDS DAY AT
THE NATIONAL AIDS MEMORIAL**

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

(30 sec)

Observe World AIDS Day at the National AIDS Memorial in Golden Gate Park at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 1st rain or shine. “The Importance of Remembering” is this year’s theme for those who have been touched by AIDS at the 11th annual World AIDS Day. Actor and AIDS activist Judith Light will deliver the keynote address and jazz recording artist, Spencer Day will provide music. For more information, call 415-750-8340 or visit the website at www.aidsmemorial.org.

(15 sec)

Join the National AIDS Memorial in observing World AIDS Day for a program on “The Importance of Remembering” at noon on Wednesday, December 1st rain or shine. For more information, call 415-750-8340 or go to www.aidsmemorial.org.

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Calendar Announcement

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Ayse Manyas Kenmore, National AIDS Memorial director.
Community Service Award Recipient
- EVENT CONTACT:** Wendi Deetz
Office Manager
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