Memorial Ceremony

Wednesday, 11 April 2012 | 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
ECOSOC Chamber | UN Headquarters, New York

Candle lighting

Video message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Remarks by:

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly
H.E. Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General
H.E. Ambassador Susan E. Rice, Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN
H.E. Ambassador Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou, Permanent Representative of Benin to the UN, representing the Chair of the African Union
H.E. Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the UN

Mr. Carl Wilkens, Director of World Outside My Shoes, former head of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International in Rwanda

Reading of excerpts from “Book of Life”

Letters from orphans, widows and imprisoned genocidaires – compiled by Odile Gakire Katese, directed by Ludovica Villar Hauser:

• Mr. Edward C. Luck, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect
• Ms. Nancee Oku Bright, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict
• Ms. Richarda Abrams, Mr. Abraham Ampka, Mr. Brian Richardson, Ms. Shaun Bennet Wilson, actors

Music by Moise Mutangana

Carl Wilkens

is the former head of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International in Rwanda. In 1994, he chose to remain in the country after the genocide began. He is currently the director of World Outside My Shoes, an education non-profit organization he founded with his wife Teresa. www.worldoutsidemyshoes.org

Odile Gakire Katese

is the former deputy director of the Centre for Arts and Drama of the National University of Rwanda. She is the artistic director of Ingoma Nshya (Women Initiatives in Butare) and founder of Rwanda Professional Dreamers, which initiates, promotes and supports innovative and creative artistic work in Rwanda.

Her Book of Life is a collection of 100 letters from orphans, widows and imprisoned genocidaires to the dead. It aims to build a bridge between death and life, the past and the future, despair and hope. For the 20th commemoration of the genocide, Odile plans to publish letters from 100 countries. www.professionaldreamers.rw

Moise Mutangana

is a founding member of Ikobe Muzik Group. He has toured in the Netherlands and participated in Sundance East Africa and a Sundance Institute / Theatre Lab exchange programme in New York. He is currently working on the music album Mumataha, a collection of 20 songs for the 20th commemoration of the Rwanda genocide.
United Nations
Annual Commemoration
of the Rwanda Genocide
11 April 2012

Richarda Abrams is a graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and Steinhardt School of Education. She is a member of The Actors Studio, LPTW, and NY Women in Film & Television, and has performed at The Acting Co., Cherry Lane, Crossroads Theatre, Kennedy Center, La MaMa, The Public Theater, 2nd Stage and Multi Stages.

Abraham Ampka is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He has appeared in The Boring Life of Jacqueline for HBO, The Unmarrying Project at Purple Repertory, Law and Order: Criminal Intent, Law and Order: SVU, and All My Children.

Brian Richardson has worked with Trinidad Tent Theatre, Pulse Ensemble Theatre, Harlem Summer Shakespeare, Metropolitan Playhouse, Theaterworks USA, Bristol Riverside Theater, and Barter Theater. He presently tours in the one-man show, W.E.B. Du Bois: A Man For All Times.

Shaun Bennet Wilson has worked as an actress and producer with Gideon Productions, Resonance Ensemble, The Drilling Company, Abingdon Theatre, Emerging Artists Theatre, and HB Playwrights Foundation. She is a member of the League of Professional Theater Women and the Directors Guild of America.

Ludovica Villar Hauser is a director and dramaturg whose career highlights include Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night (West End); Gregory Murphy's The Countess (Off-Broadway and West End); Rona Munro's Bold Girls (29th St. Rep.); Otho Espin's Duet (NY premiere); Philip Ridley's Leaves of Glass (North American premiere).

She serves on the Board of the League of Professional Theater Women (LPTW) whose mission is to promote visibility and increase opportunities for women in the theatre. In 2011, the League presented its first Rosamond Gilder/Martha Coigney International Award to Odile Gakire Katese. www.theatrewomen.org

Organized by the UN Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations
For more information on the Outreach Programme on the Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations, visit www.un.org/preventgenocide/rwanda