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DIRECT EDGE

neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS, HOLOCAUST CONTEST BUILDS EMPATHY ACROSS GENERATIONS

Chapman University's Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, which has welcomed some 150,000 middle school and high school participants from Orange County, across the country and around the world, celebrated its 25th anniversary in March.

As part of the program, participating students are asked to watch testimonies recorded by Holocaust survivors or rescuers and respond through their own creative work – essays, poems, visual artwork and film. Representatives from each school, along with their teachers, attend the awards ceremony and reception where students and survivors meet. Winners also participate in a four-day summer study trip to the Holocaust Museum LA, the Japanese American National Museum and other sites in Los Angeles. They also meet with members of The 1939 Society, a community of Holocaust survivors, descendants and friends.

"We have always sought in diverse ways to build a connection between students and the survivor," says Marilyn Harran, who is the founding director of Chapman's Rodgers Center for Holocaust History.

The opportunity to engage with survivors as individuals and not just statistics is the first step in building empathy, and showing students that Jewish lives are not so different.

"There are so many different people who are touched by this contest," says Abigail Stephens '26, a Chapman history major whose poem won first prize when she was a student at Canyon High School in Anaheim, Calif. This year, she served as a contest judge.

For Stephens, the highlight of the whole experience is the opportunity to interact with Holocaust survivors and educators, and to see them as people who have built fully-rounded lives post-tragedy.



Natalie Beisner, a first place winner in 2006, meets her survivor, Silvia Grohs-Martin, after reading her poem, "Zoete Eeuwige Hoop (Sweet Hope Eternal)", on stage.

This generation of students will be the last to meet a Holocaust Survivor in person — a fact pointed out by William Elperin, president of The 1939 Society, when he first proposed the contest to Harran 25 years ago.

"The contest spreads awareness of survivors' stories, teaches us the lessons of the Holocaust and creates links between survivors and future generations," Elperin said. "We now must all work harder to teach and learn the lessons of the Holocaust, so it never happens again."

Visit chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest to learn more and see this year's award-winning entries.

FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR CHAPMAN, SAY UNIVERSITY LEADERS AT STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

Chapman University is continuing its transformational trajectory towards becoming one of the elite academic institutions in the country, campus leaders said during the annual State of the University address on Feb. 9.

"It's always one of the highlights of the year for me to walk on this stage," said Chapman President Daniele C. Struppa as he began his address at the Musco Center for the Arts. Struppa described the university's ongoing evolution from a regional teaching institution into a national institution renowned for both teaching and research.

"The momentum will take us to become one of the very top institutions in the country," he said.

The presentation showcased many of the efforts across campus to advance the university's strategic goals, including hiring and developing germinal faculty, programs to improve student retention and graduation rates, progress towards becoming a Hispanic-Serving Institution and new leadership across colleges, schools and departments.

Matt Parlow, executive vice president and chief advancement officer, joined President Struppa to announce a major gift from Board



The new Doy B. Henley School of Management was announced at State of the University Feb. 9 at Musco Center for the Arts.

of Trustees Chairman Emeritus Doy Henley, which will establish the Doy B. Henley School of Management within Argyros College of Business and Economics.

"Chapman is what it is today because of Doy Henley and his incredible leadership on the Board of Trustees," said President Struppa. "With his great success in the business community and as a board leader, it's fitting that the school of management will bear his name."

Did You Know?

Chapman will mark the end of the 2023-24 academic year from May 17 through the 19. All families and students will be advised to use university parking lots and structures during commencement ceremonies and move out. We will do everything possible to minimize disruptions.

On May 17, a short pyrotechnic display will be held at the conclusion of the University Commencement Ceremony for approximately three minutes between 9:15 and 9:30 p.m. As always, you are more than welcome to join us in the Aitken Arts Plaza for this celebration of our graduating seniors.

Need to report a concern?

- Contact Chapman University's Office of Community Relations at **(714) 289-2097** or email neighbors@chapman.edu.
- To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at **(714) 744-7444**.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for these engaging events at Chapman.

There are many terrific Chapman University in-person and virtual events, and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few. Find more at the university's online events calendar, events.chapman.edu. Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at tickets.chapman.edu.

Kishi Bashi

April 27, 7:30 p.m.
Musco Center for the Arts

An internationally revered violinist, singer-songwriter and artist-activist, Kishi Bashi has recorded and toured the world with a diverse range of artists, including Regina Spektor, Sondre Lerche and the indie rock band Of Montreal. His Japanese-American heritage plays a central role in his music as he grapples with the complex histories and realities of the immigrant experience. Tickets start at \$25.

Casting a Wider Net: How the Casting of a Film or TV Show can Impact the World

May 2, 11:30 p.m., Beckman Hall 404 – George Bush Conference Center

Town & Gown's Lunch at the Forum presents Russel Boast, Chapman's head of casting who offers one of the only university credited classes in the country, demystifying his profession and giving his students an opportunity to learn the craft. "Casting directors... are perfectly positioned to challenge stereotypes perpetuated by the entertainment industry for centuries, while also securing the best actor for a role," says Boast. Join him to learn about his craft and how it affects how we view our world. Tickets start at \$53.

An Evening of Holocaust Remembrance

May 2, 7 p.m.
Wallace All-Faiths Chapel

Chapman's annual Evening of Holocaust Remembrance draws between 800 to 1,000 people from throughout the community to an occasion of remembrance and reflection. During the gathering, survivors, often accompanied by first prize recipients in the Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, light six candles in remembrance of the millions who perished. The event is free.



One University Drive
Orange, California 92866
1270-12700

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NeighborsofChapman.com

EXPLORE THE STORY OF CALIFORNIA THROUGH ART AT THE HILBERT MUSEUM – NOW OPEN!

The spaciouly reimagined new home of one of the world's largest collections of California narrative art officially opened to the public in February.

The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University, founded and funded through the ongoing generosity of art patrons and philanthropists Mark and Janet Hilbert, has undergone an ambitious three-year project to expand from 7,000 to 22,000 sq. ft. on the same site it has occupied in Orange since opening in 2016.

"The Hilbert Collection is unique in that it is one of the few to specialize in narrative art – or art that tells a story, which in our case is focused on California. Because of this, we wanted a museum building that embraces the visitor and entices them to explore the history and culture of the Golden State as seen through the painters, illustrators, animators and other artists who have long been drawn here," said Museum Director Mary Platt.

The new two-building venue offers 26 galleries for rotating displays of the more than 5,000 oils, watercolors and drawings depicting everyday California life in the growing Hilbert Collection. The museum also has a café, research library and community room for lectures, classes and events. An outdoor courtyard creates a new gateway to Old Towne Orange.

To learn more and make a reservation, visit hilbertmuseum.org.



The museum features a restored 1950s mosaic by Millard Sheets, "The Pleasures Along the Beach," originally created for the Home Savings building in Santa Monica, Calif.

More inside!