First Prize Poetry, High School Division

69-9-27
Porter Hahn, 10th Grade
J Serra Catholic High School, San Juan Capistrano
Teacher: Barbara Sickler
Survivor Testimony: Fred Diament

People
Listening blindly with deluded vengeance,
Until their consciences died in flames
Like the synagogue, burnt down, and left to ruin.
People
Purposefully
Plundering, burning breaking.
As we shivered upstairs,
I wish I had known.

Murderers
Herding cattle into cars,
Until each was on its way
Like birds in a cage, kept every day, every day.
Mercilessly
Whipping, trampling, beating.
As I lay in the snow,
I wish I had known.

Animals
Erasing any dignity,
Until deprived of identity
Like flowers, dried out, and withered.
Animals
Analytically
Demoralizing, degrading, destroying.
As I was stamped with that number,
I wish I had known.

And I sit here today
Mourning, reliving, and wondering
How never again, happened, again.