



Chapman University and The 1939 Society

**22nd Annual Holocaust  
Art & Writing Contest**

# Sharing Strength

## Sustaining Humanity

Registration date

**November 13, 2020**

Entry postmark date

**February 1, 2021**

Digital submission due date

**February 3, 2021**

Awards Ceremony

**March 12, 2021**

"Don't lose hope...let there be camaraderie among you...

Help each other. That is the only way to survive."


— ELIE WIESEL, *NIGHT*



**CHAPMAN  
UNIVERSITY**

Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education  
Stern Chair in Holocaust Education  
Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust  
Memorial Library





# Your school is invited to participate in the 22nd Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest.

*Participating schools may submit a total of three entries (one entry per student) in any combination of the following categories: art, film, poetry, or prose.*



Students will be eligible to win a **first-prize** award of \$400 in each category. Educators and schools will also be eligible to win a first prize of \$200 each. First-place student winners in the United States, their parents/guardians, and teachers will be invited to participate in an expense-paid study trip June 20-24, 2021, to visit the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, the Museum of Tolerance, the Japanese American National Museum, and other sites in Los Angeles, as well as to meet with members of The 1939 Society, a community of Holocaust survivors, descendants, and friends. This year's winning

participants will be joined by those from the 2020 contest. Funding permitting, this invitation will also be extended to first-place students living outside of the United States. In addition, first-place student entries will be posted on Chapman University's contest website. **Please note that the study trip will not occur if Covid-19 restrictions on travel and social distancing are still in place.**

Students awarded **second prize** in each category will receive \$200 and their sponsoring educator and school will receive \$100 each.



# Inspiration

"It was a world of ice," writes Elie Wiesel, as he reflected on his experiences during the Holocaust. He goes on to say: "Only those who were *connected* with another person... had a chance to survive." In Auschwitz and Buchenwald, the teenaged Elie survived only because he was connected, principally to his father, but also, over time, to other prisoners. On Elie's first night in Auschwitz, the prisoner in charge of his barracks gave the new arrivals lifesaving advice: "Don't lose hope...let there be camaraderie among you...Help each other. That is the only way to survive." Elie experienced the truth of those words over and over again. Connectedness gave strength and strength sustained connectedness.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our lives in ways we could never have imagined only a few months ago. Our challenges are very different from those faced by people during the Holocaust, but we too are experiencing fear, separation, and, in some cases, the loss of people we love. We are realizing that we are strengthened through our connectedness to those around us. Technology enables many of us to stay connected, but we have also learned that a virtual connection is a poor substitute

for an in-person one. We miss the warmth we experience when we are together: talking over a meal, sharing a hug, or engaging in shared activities. Fostering truly meaningful connectedness through technology is harder than we expected.

As we listen now to the testimonies of those who endured the Holocaust, we may do so with a new sense of awe at how they found the strength to sustain connectedness. We may feel something of that same awe as we think of the first responders who have put their lives at risk to help others during this health crisis. Connectedness seems to be at the very core of what makes us human, what gives us strength, and contributes to making us our best selves. When we sustain connectedness, we are creating a world very different from the cruel, cold world—the "world of ice"—experienced by Wiesel and so many others. Through sharing strength we sustain humanity.

**We hope that these words will inspire you and your school to participate in the 22nd Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest.**





# Prompt

## 1. Select and view one full-length survivor or rescuer testimony from any of the following:

- Chapman University's Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website, featuring video testimonies from the collection of the USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education at [Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies](http://Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies)
- The 1939 Society website at [the1939society.org](http://the1939society.org)
- South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at [scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php](http://scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php)
- USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education's YouTube channel at [Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation](https://www.youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation) ("Full-Length Testimonies" playlists only)

\* Lists of testimonies that are one to two hours in length are available on the contest website.

## 2. As you listen to the survivor's or rescuer's testimony, and as you reflect on the stories they tell, write down a specific word, phrase, or sentence that speaks to the inner strength of this individual and the role of connectedness in sustaining strength.

## 3. As the person now entrusted with this individual's memory, through your creativity in art, poetry, prose, or film, explore this word, phrase, or sentence as central to the survivor's or rescuer's story, your understanding of the Holocaust, and your own search for inner and shared strength during the Covid-19 pandemic.

*If an Internet connection is not available, students may view these testimonies in the Sala and Aron Samuelli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact Jessica Mylymuk, Associate Director, at (714) 628-7377 regarding access to video testimony and scheduling a visit.*

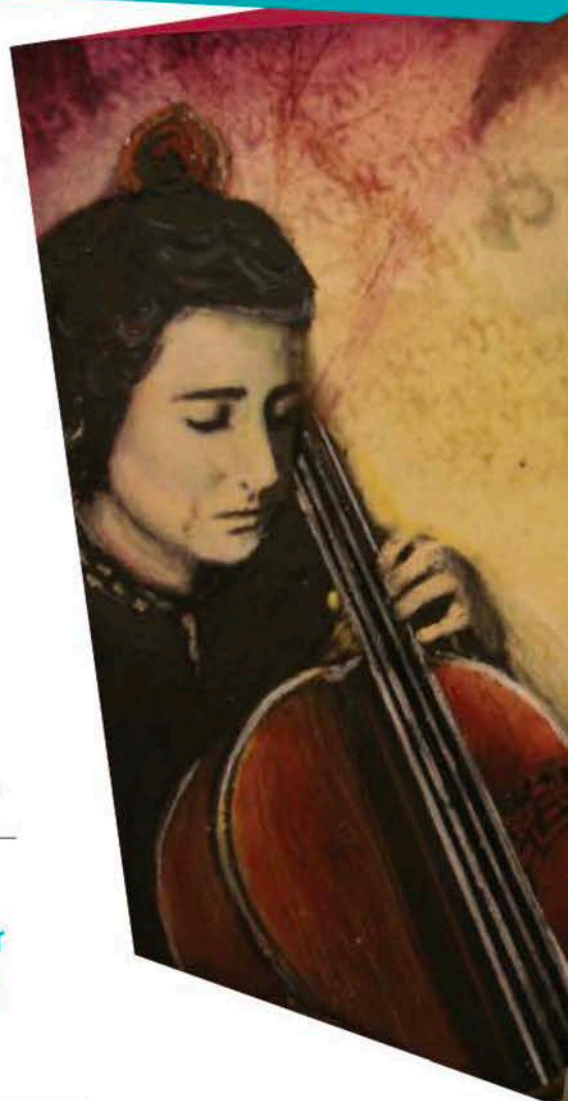
### The 1939 Society

The 1939 Society is an organization of Holocaust survivors, descendants, and friends. It takes its name from the year that Germany invaded Poland, changing forever the lives of those who would join together in Los Angeles in 1952 to form the Society.

The 1939 Society has available on its website nearly 100 full-length oral testimonies. Some of these oral histories were recorded in the early 1980s at the University of California, Los Angeles; others were recorded in the mid-1990s in Orange County by the Anti-Defamation League.

### USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education

USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education has an archive of more than 50,000 videotaped testimonies from Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. The USC Shoah Foundation is part of the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California.





# Criteria

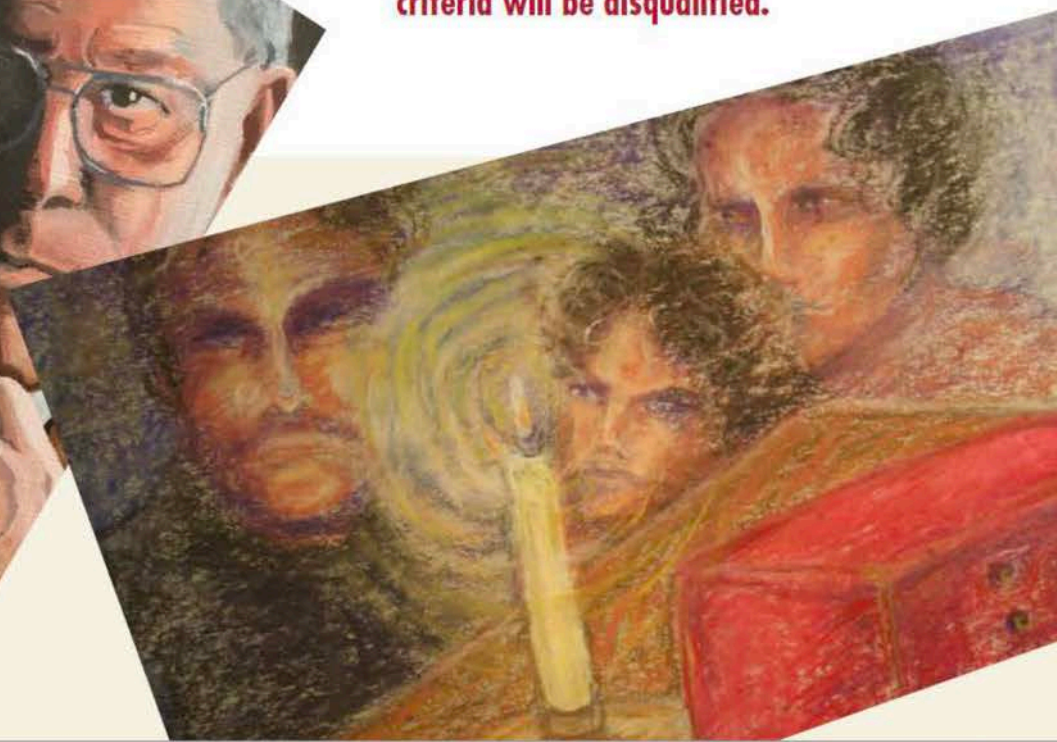
Please see the resource guide or visit [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](http://Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest) for specific criteria, including word limits (prose) and line limits (poetry), rubrics for the various categories, and other supporting information.

## General Criteria – All Categories

- 1 Entries must be submitted with a cover sheet (available at [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](http://Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest)).
- 2 Entries must reflect genuine engagement with the survivor's or rescuer's testimony in its historical context and constitute a thoughtful and creative response.
- 3 Entries must be based on the survivor's or rescuer's testimony available from one of the following sources:
  - The 1939 Society website at [the1939society.org](http://the1939society.org)
  - Chapman University's Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website featuring video testimonies from the collection of the USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education at [Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies](http://Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies)
  - South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at [scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php](http://scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php)
  - USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education's YouTube channel at [Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation](http://Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation) ("Full-Length Testimonies" playlists only)

By request, students may receive approval to use full-length testimonies from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Oral History Collection.

**Entries that do not follow the criteria will be disqualified.**





# School Participation and Prizes

Participating schools will receive 5 seats (availability permitting) at the awards ceremony on March 12, 2021 at Chapman University. **Please note that the ceremony may be virtual if Covid-19 restrictions are still in place. Awarding of prizes may also be altered.**

Every student representative in attendance will receive a copy of *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures*.

Prizes will be distributed at the awards ceremony. Students **must** be in attendance (either in person or virtually) to be eligible for first and second place prizes. Exceptions must be approved in advance.

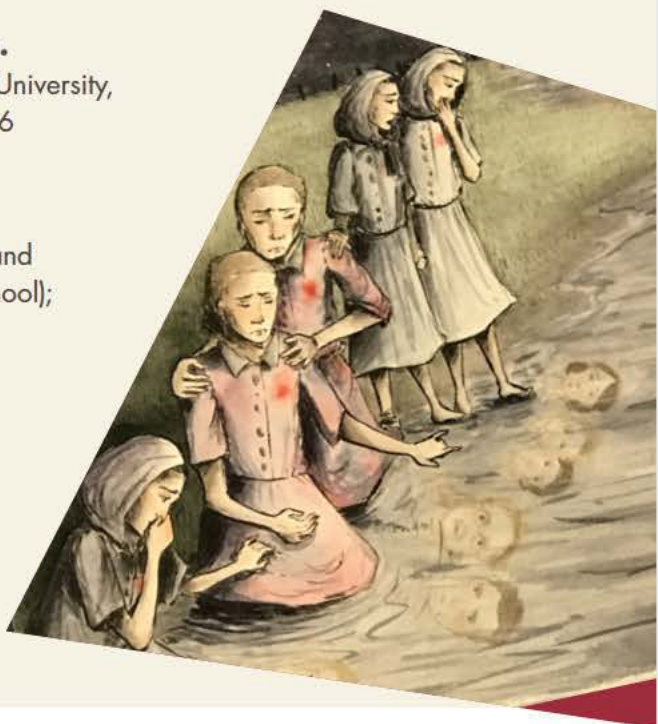
Three student representatives from each school, their teacher, and/or principal (depending on seat availability) are invited to the awards ceremony:

**Friday, March 12, 2021 at 11 a.m.**

Chapman Auditorium, Memorial Hall, Chapman University,  
One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866

## The highlights of the event will include:

- The announcement of the winning art, film, prose, and poetry entries (one middle school and one high school);
- The presentation of the first-place art, film, prose, and poetry entries;
- A reception to honor our guests;
- The opportunity to meet and talk with Holocaust survivors, many of whose video testimonies are posted on The 1939 Society and USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education's websites.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest

Please return reply card or register electronically at [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](http://Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest) by November 13, 2020.

- ☐ **Yes, we plan to submit a maximum of three entries from our school for the Holocaust Art & Writing Contest to be postmarked by February 1, 2021, or submitted digitally by February 3, 2021.**

The teacher and principal listed below plan to escort our school's representatives to the awards ceremony or to participate via Skype on March 12, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Chapman University (*Please Print*)

Principal's name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's name \_\_\_\_\_

School name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's school telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's email address \_\_\_\_\_

School district \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's name \_\_\_\_\_





# Submissions

Your school's three entries may be submitted beginning December 1, 2020, and **must be postmarked by February 1, 2021, or digitally submitted by February 3, 2021**. Prose and poetry entries may be mailed or submitted electronically to [cioffi@chapman.edu](mailto:cioffi@chapman.edu). Artwork must be mailed to:

**Ms. Jessica MyLymuk**

Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education  
Chapman University  
One University Drive  
Orange, CA 92866

All entries become the property of the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University. Artists are encouraged to retain a color copy of their work since the original may not be returned. The Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library shall own all the rights to the entries, including copyrights, and may display and publish the entries in whole or in part.

We encourage educators to consult [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](http://Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest) for rubrics and other information.



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Holocaust Museum LA  
Orange County Department of Education  
South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

### **In collaboration with**

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Museum of Tolerance  
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