

SUBMISSIONS

Your school's three entries may be submitted beginning December 7, 2009 and **must be postmarked by February 3, 2010**. Prose and poetry entries may be mailed or **submitted electronically** to cioffi@chapman.edu. Art work must be mailed to:

Ms. Jessica Cioffi
Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education
Chapman University
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866

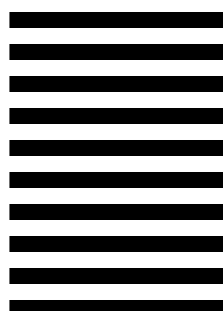
Each participating school will receive:

- 5 seats (availability permitting) at the awards ceremony on Friday, March 5, 2010 at Chapman University
- a copy of *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures* for every student representative in attendance
- certificates for the three student representatives from each school
- the opportunity to meet and talk with members of The "1939" Club, a Holocaust survivor organization
- additional prizes to schools, school representatives and finalists in attendance at awards ceremony

All entries become the property of the Sala and Aron Samueli Library at Chapman University. All 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.



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Ms. Jessica Cioffi
Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education
Chapman University
One University Drive
Orange, CA 92866



11TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST ART AND WRITING CONTEST

Memory and Meaning

We invite you to participate in the 11th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, presented by Chapman University and The "1939" Club, one of the largest and most active Holocaust survivor organizations in the United States.

This contest is supported by a grant from the Samueli Foundation and a gift from Yossie and Dana Hollander. Please examine the contest information that follows to learn more about this significant student learning experience. We hope you will involve as many of your students as possible.

Each school is invited to submit the work of three students, a total of three entries, consisting of either prose, poetry, works of art or a combination thereof. These school representatives will be eligible to win the first prize of \$500 and the second prize of \$250 in each category in the middle and high school competitions. **The first prize recipient in each category, the recipient's parent/guardian, and recipient's teacher are invited to participate in an expense-paid study trip on June 27 – July 1, 2010, to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites in Washington, D.C. Students must be in attendance at the awards ceremony to be eligible for these prizes.**

First and second prize winners will receive their cash prizes at the ceremony. Prizes to schools, school representatives, and finalists will be distributed at the reception following the awards ceremony. All school representatives in attendance will receive certificates and a copy of *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures*, a unique one-volume history of the Holocaust.

The three student representatives from each school, with their teacher and/or principal (depending on seat availability), are invited to the awards ceremony on **Friday, March 5, 2010 at 11 a.m. in Chapman Auditorium, Memorial Hall at Chapman University, One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866**. The highlights of the event will include:

- the announcement of the winners of the prose contest and the reading of the two winning prose entries (one middle school and one high school)
- the announcement of the winners of the poetry contest and the reading of the two winning poems (one middle school and one high school)
- the announcement of the winning works of art and their display during the reception (one middle school and one high school)
- 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" Club and USC Shoah Foundation Institute Web sites

BACKGROUND

Only after liberation and the end of the war in Europe did those who survived the Holocaust learn how much they had lost. Many survivors discovered that their families, homes, and friends were gone. Memories of loved ones and of shared moments had given hope during the Holocaust. Now these same memories became both a torment and a comfort as survivors realized that memories were all that was left. Memory now became legacy. Survivors became the guardians of this legacy, the protectors of memory.

Survivors pondered how memory could remain at the core of their lives without becoming a road block to living fully in the present. They challenged themselves to remember the past and those they had lost by creating a more just and compassionate future. Kurt Klein, whose parents were killed in Auschwitz, wrote about memory in a letter to his fiancée, Gerda Weissmann, who survived slave labor and a death march only to learn that she had lost her parents and brother. Kurt wrote, “Only by making something of ourselves can we show our reverence for those who left such a vast void in our lives. It is up to us, the survivors, to give expression to the beauty of being, thereby underscoring the heritage of goodness they have left in us.”

Joined to these memories were memories that had left deep scars, the memories of what the survivors had experienced during the Holocaust years. Painful as it was to remember, it seemed even worse to try to forget. As Elie Wiesel said in a speech at Yad Vashem, survivors refuse “to bury ... memories in silence.”

Sometimes memory became tangible. An object could speak of life before the Holocaust. It could convey the memory of personal presence. It could bring forth a memory of moments shared. For Leopold Szneer, a *tallit* (prayer shawl) connected him through memory to his father. For Cantor Szneer, the *tallit* is much more than simple cloth and thread; it is a witness to his father's faith and goodness.

For Otto Frank, a small journal, its pages filled with the handwriting of his daughter who died in Bergen-Belsen, became a priceless treasure. It witnessed to a girl who was becoming a woman. Adventurous and fun loving, Anne Frank refused to give up hope or become pessimistic about humanity even when the walls of the attic where she was hiding began to close around her, separating her from the future she deserved to have. By publishing Anne's diary, her father, Otto Frank, shared the memory of Anne Frank with the world.

In many different ways, through writing and oral testimony, through art, through films and documentaries, survivors have shared their memories of the Holocaust and of times before and after. They continue to believe in what their memories *can* mean to us, if we so choose. As Elie Wiesel said in his Nobel Peace Prize address on December 10, 1986: “And now the boy is turning to me. ‘Tell me, he asks, what have you done with my future, what have you done with your life?’ And I tell him that I have tried. That I have tried to keep memory alive, that I have tried to fight those who would forget. Because if we forget, we are guilty, we are accomplices.”

PROMPT

The “1939” Club is one of the largest and most active Holocaust survivor organizations in the United States. It takes its name from the year that Germany invaded Poland, changing forever the lives of those who would later join together in Los Angeles to form the Club in 1952.

The “1939” Club has available on its Web site 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.

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education has an archive of nearly 52,000 videotaped testimonies from Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. The Shoah Foundation Institute is part of the College of Letters, Arts & Sciences at the University of Southern California.

View and listen to at least **one full-length video testimony** of a **survivor** from any of the following:

- The “1939” Club Web site at <http://www.1939club.com>
- The USC Shoah Foundation Institute YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation> (in the “Full-Length Testimonies” playlist)
- The Echoes and Reflections: Full Visual Histories Web site, which contains testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation Institute, at <http://www.tc.usc.edu/vhiechoes>

Think about the memories this survivor recounts of his/her experiences before and/or during the Holocaust.

Choose one memory that speaks to you and to which you personally connect.

Reflect on how this specific memory represents a larger idea.

Share in prose, poetry, or art your understanding of the relationship between this memory and its meaning.

If an internet connection is not available, students may view these interviews in the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact Jessica Cioffi, Holocaust Education Coordinator, at (714) 628-7377 regarding access to video testimony and scheduling a visit.

We encourage teachers to consult <http://www.chapman.edu/holocausteducation/> for lesson plans and other information.

CRITERIA

Art

Must be submitted with cover sheet (available at <http://www.chapman.edu/holocausteducation/>).

Must **not** be matted or framed.

May only be two-dimensional and must not exceed 12” by 18”.

Must include fixatives so that works will not smudge or be altered by handling.

Must include an artist's statement: title of the work, name of the survivor to whose testimony this work is a response, and a statement of how this work addresses the prompt. Statement must **not** include student or school name and must not exceed **100 words**. Entries that include such references will be disqualified.

May include photography, computer generated images, or may be in charcoal, pencil, watercolors, acrylics or oils. Please note that all images, whether computer, artist or photo generated, are considered property of the original artist. Renderings of another's work will be disqualified.

Entries must reflect genuine engagement with the survivor's testimony in its historical context and constitute a thoughtful and creative response.

Prose/Poetry

Must be submitted with cover sheet (available at <http://www.chapman.edu/holocausteducation/>).

Must be typed or word processed and must **not** include reference to student or school name. Entries that include such references will be disqualified.

Prose entries must be no more than **500 words** in length. Word count **must** be noted.

Poems must be no more than **30 lines**. Line count **must** be included.

Entries must reflect genuine engagement with the survivor's testimony in its historical context and constitute a thoughtful and creative response.



Please return reply card or register electronically at <http://www.chapman.edu/holocausteducation/> BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009

11TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST ART AND WRITING CONTEST

☐ Yes, we plan to submit a maximum of three entries from our school for the Holocaust Art and Writing Contest by **Wednesday, February 3, 2010**.

The teacher and principal listed below plan to escort our school's finalists to the Awards Ceremony on **Friday, March 5, 2010 at 11 a.m.** at Chapman University.

Please print principal's name		Please print teacher's name	
Teacher's email address		Teacher's telephone	
School name		School district	
Street address		City	Zip
Superintendent's name		School Board president's name	

☐ I plan to attend the Art and Writing Contest Teacher's Workshop on Thursday, September 24 at 4 p.m.

For more information regarding continuing education credits, please contact at cioffi@chapman.edu or (714) 628-7377.