

# SIXTH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST ART AND WRITING CONTEST

## *To Change Our World: Legacy of Liberation*

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

Each school is invited to submit a total of three entries, consisting of essay(s) and/or poem(s) and/or works of art for the first and second prizes in the middle school and high school competitions. 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.

School representatives in attendance at the awards ceremony will receive certificates and a copy of *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures*, a unique one-volume history of the Holocaust. Additional prizes will be awarded to schools and school representatives in attendance at the awards ceremony.

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 11, 2005 at 12 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium at Chapman University, One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866.** The highlights of the event will include:

- the reading of the two winning essays (one middle school and one high school)
- 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. These art works will become part of the collection of the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University
- a reception to honor our guests
- the opportunity to meet and talk with Holocaust survivors

### Background for Art and Writing Prompt

In the spring of 1945, the war in Europe entered its final phase. As the Allied forces moved into territory once held by Germany, they encountered horrific evidence of Nazi genocide. In concentration and death camps, in slave labor camps and on death marches, they discovered mountains of bodies and emaciated survivors barely clinging to life. An unbelievable act of genocide became an unimaginable reality. Only later would it be called the Holocaust.

The photo on the poster is of the concentration camp Dachau,



established by the Nazis in March 1933, less than two months after Adolf Hitler became Germany's chancellor. On April 29, 1945, the camp, then numbering some 60,000 prisoners, was liberated by the Seventh Army of the United States armed forces. No one knows exactly how many people died during the years the camp operated.

This photograph captures the prisoners' joy at liberation. The survivors and

the soldiers who freed them were forever changed by their experiences. Many vowed to tell their stories so that the world would remember and learn. For sixty years they have been the voices of the millions who perished. Through their witness they have sought to shape a world where all human beings are respected and where all children are loved and protected.

In his 1986 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, world-renowned author Elie Wiesel, who survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald, spoke explicitly of the connection between past and present and of the special responsibility which he and other survivors feel to heal our world. Professor Wiesel said:

"As long as one child is hungry, our lives are filled with anguish and shame. What all these victims need above all is to know that they are not alone; that we are not forgetting them, that when their voices are stifled we shall lend them ours, that while their freedom depends on ours, the quality of our freedom depends on theirs. . . . Our lives no longer belong to us alone; they belong to all those who need us desperately."

The witness to humanity initiated by the survivors and their liberators sixty years ago must now continue through your voice and actions.

### Art and Writing Prompt

So you can better understand the experiences behind this photograph, read the account of a Holocaust witness or liberator.

So you can better understand the words of Elie Wiesel, research a specific situation where your voice and actions can contribute to furthering humanity and healing our world.

In the tradition of survivors, such as our Awards Ceremony speaker Gerda Weissmann Klein, and drawing upon your research on the Holocaust and on a specific situation today, explore how you will contribute to the legacy of liberation.

(over)

## Research Suggestions

---

The following websites may be useful in your Holocaust research:

<http://www.kleinfoundation.org>  
<http://www.ushmm.org>  
<http://www.holocaustchronicle.org>  
<http://www.motlc.wiesenthal.com>  
<http://www.vhf.org>  
<http://www.yadvashem.org>  
<http://www.facinghistory.org>  
<http://www.splcenter.org>  
<http://www.adl.org>  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/>  
<http://www.amnesty.org>

Teachers may especially wish to consult:

<http://www.kleinfoundation.org>  
<http://www.facinghistory.org>  
<http://www.holocaust-trc.org>  
<http://www.adl.org>

## Art and Writing Contest Criteria

---

### General Criteria

Entries must include a cover sheet with student name, grade, school; and teacher name, telephone number, and if available, email address. Entries themselves should not include or refer to the name of the student or the school.

Entries must include a separate sheet with the following: title of the entry; title of work by Holocaust witness or liberator; research source for current event, and a statement of no more than 100 words summarizing the sources the student consulted.

All entries become the property of the Sala and Aron Samuel Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University. All artists are encouraged to retain a color copy of their work since the original will become the property of the Samueli Library.

Your school's winning essay(s)/poem(s)/artwork must be post-marked by February 11, 2005 and mailed to:

Dr. Marilyn Harran  
Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education  
Chapman University  
One University Drive  
Orange, CA 92866

### Essay/PoetryCriteria

Essay/poem must be typed or word processed.

Essay must be no more than 750 words in length. Word count must be noted.

Poem must be no more than 30 lines. Line count must be included at end.

Essay/poem must demonstrate knowledge of the Holocaust, a specific situation in the world today, and correct conventions of writing.

## Art Criteria

Artwork may include photography, computer generated images, or may be in charcoal, pencil, watercolors or oils.

Entries must be unframed and not matted.

Entries may only be two-dimensional and must not exceed 12" by 18".

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

---

Please visit our web site:

<http://www.chapman.edu/holocausteducation>  
for additional resources.

You may also contact: Jessica Cioffi at (714) 628-7377 / [cioffi@chapman.edu](mailto:cioffi@chapman.edu) or Dr. Marilyn Harran at (714) 628-7377 / [harran@chapman.edu](mailto:harran@chapman.edu).

Each participating school will receive:

- 5 seats (availability permitting) at the awards ceremony on Friday, March 11, 2005 at Chapman University
- an opportunity for each entry in essay, poetry and art contest to win the first prize of \$500 and the second prize of \$250
- 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