

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

Memories Matter Stories of the Holocaust

Presented by
Chapman University
and The "1939" Club

We invite you to participate in the Thirteenth Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, presented by Chapman University and The "1939" Club, an Organization of Holocaust Survivors and Descendants. 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.

ENTRY DUE DATE

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

AWARDS CEREMONY

Friday, March 2, 2012

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.



“To stand up for what you believe in rather than becoming entrenched in submission and limited by apathy is to have honor and courage.”

— Andrey Finegersh, 2003

Lisa Cho, 2011

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 June 24–28, 2012, 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 2, 2012, 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’s websites

Background

“The only thing more painful than being an active forgetter is to be an inert rememberer.”

—Jonathan Safran Foer, *Everything Is Illuminated*, p. 260

Author Jonathan Safran Foer knows that memory matters. From his grandmother, a Holocaust survivor, he heard stories that propelled him upon an extraordinary quest joining past and present. That journey became the award-winning novel *Everything Is Illuminated*.

Like Jonathan, when we truly listen to the story of a Holocaust survivor, we demonstrate that memory matters. When we engage with a specific memory that speaks to us as individuals, we become active “rememberers.”

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel has said that while the experience of the Holocaust cannot be shared, the memory can. Although the Holocaust occurred many decades ago, through memory the past is powerfully present to those who are survivors and witnesses. They invite us to join with them in a dialogue of memory and to give their memories a place of meaning in our lives. When we choose to do this, we, too, become witnesses. We become partners with the survivors in assuring that memory will not be locked away in “the cold storage of history” (Jean Améry).

This year’s Holocaust Art and Writing Contest begins as you listen to a survivor’s story and reflect upon a specific memory. Your essay, poem, or work of art will emerge from your personal dialogue with memory. It will “re-present” the meaning you have made from this memory. It will witness both to the survivor’s memory and to yours as active “rememberers.”



Christina Trinh, 2009

Prompt

The “1939” Club is an Organization of Holocaust Survivors and Descendants. 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 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.

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education has an archive of more than 50,000 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 website at www.1939club.com
 - The USC Shoah Foundation Institute YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation (in the “Full-Length Testimonies” playlist)
 - The Echoes and Reflections: Full Visual Histories website, which contains testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation Institute at <http://tc.usc.edu/vhiechoes>
- **Choose a specific memory within the survivor’s story** that speaks to you and with which you want to engage in an active dialogue of memory.
- **Create a work** that “re-presents” the meaning you have made through your engagement with Holocaust memory, work that witnesses to both the survivor and you as active “rememberers.”

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, assistant director, Rodgers Center, at (714) 628-7377 regarding access to video testimony and scheduling a visit.

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

Criteria

Art

- Must be submitted with cover sheet (available at 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 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.

Submissions

Your school's three entries may be submitted beginning December 5, 2011, and **must be postmarked by February 1, 2012**. Prose and poetry entries may be mailed or **submitted electronically** to cioffi@chapman.edu.

Artwork must be mailed to:

Ms. Jessica MyLymuk
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 2, 2012, 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
- additional prizes to schools, school representatives and finalists in attendance at awards ceremony

All entries become the property of the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial 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.



Bailey Smith, 2010

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- ☐ **Yes, we plan to submit a maximum of three entries from our school for the Holocaust Art and Writing Contest by Wednesday, February 1, 2012.**

Please return reply card or register electronically at www.chapman.edu/holocausteducation by **Monday, October 24, 2011.**

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

The teacher and principal listed below plan to escort our school's finalists to the Awards Ceremony on March 2, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at Chapman University (Please Print)

Principal's name _____

Teacher's name _____

Teacher's telephone _____

Teacher's email address _____

Superintendent's name _____

School Board president's name _____

School name _____

School district _____

Street address _____

City _____ Zip _____



Cheryl Smith, 2009

*“Hope is never lost ...
People only misplace it ...
Heroes are those who bring
it back to us ... I know of one
who chose to sing when she was
told to be silent, who danced
so that others would not fall;
a woman – and angel –
Head nearly bald, body long
broken, with the devil’s calling
card etched upon her arm
‘Silvie, you were never more
beautiful than you are in
this moment ... This is your
crowning glory.’”*

– Natalie Beisner, 2006

Sponsored by

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Education, Wilkinson College of
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The “1939” Club

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Chapman University

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Visual History and Education

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Katy Brannigan, 2011



Tracy Nguyen, 2008

*“But in the midst of a torn and darkened chapter in history, there was light.
 Though hatred reigned as dictator, some chose to love mankind.
 At a time when communities of people were destroyed, they built up.
 When hopes were shattered, they made miracles.
 When the conscience was put to rest, they awakened it into life.
 Their stories and words reached out to my indifferent soul,
 and I did hear them. ...
 I awoke to consciousness to make a difference for
 He who saves one life, saves the world entire
 I opened up the book of time, a blank page lay before me
 Remembering the destruction of hate, I began my chapter with love.”*

— Elaine Inoue, 2003



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

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

“When we think of memory, we think of past instances which have some kind of importance associated with them. When we think of spaces, we generally associate the term with an area, thing, or device that has not yet been filled to its capacity.

What about spaces of memory? A space of memory is a memory, either original or handed down, that has made a home for itself in one’s being. It has essentially trapped itself and refuses to move on.

For Holocaust survivors, recalling these types of memories is emotionally and physically exhausting. Choosing to confront something many others would rather suppress, Holocaust survivors share their memories in the hope that they are preventing history from repeating itself.”

— Jennifer Parra, 2011



Kimmi Kraus, 2006



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