

# SALA AND ARON SAMUELI HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

Presented by Chapman University and The 1939 Society

**27**  
YEARS

Holding  
 on to  
 Hope

AWARDS CEREMONY | Friday, March 13, 2026



**Rodgers Center for  
Holocaust Education**

## SPONSORED BY

Chapman University  
The 1939 Society  
The Samueli Foundation  
The Irving and Nancy Chase Endowment  
for Holocaust Education  
Yossie and Dana Hollander

## WITH SUPPORT FROM

USC Shoah Foundation –  
The Institute for Visual History  
and Education  
The Jerry and Sally Schwartz  
Endowment for Holocaust Education  
The Liner Family Foundation

## WITH GRATITUDE TO

Sandy Fainberg  
The Liner Family Foundation  
for their support in loving memory of  
George Hershey, Holocaust survivor, and  
beloved father and grandfather.

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Catholic Schools,  
Diocese of Orange  
David Labkovski Project  
Echoes & Reflections  
Facing History and Ourselves  
Holocaust Museum LA  
Orange County Department  
of Education  
South Carolina Council  
on the Holocaust

## IN COLLABORATION WITH

Museum of Tolerance  
United States Holocaust  
Memorial Museum  
Wilkinson College of Arts,  
Humanities, and Social Sciences,  
Chapman University

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Forum for Dialogue, Poland  
Johannesburg Holocaust and  
Genocide Centre, South Africa  
Toronto Holocaust Museum, Canada

“  
*Anyone who listens to a witness becomes a witness.  
So those who hear us must continue to bear witness for us.  
... At a certain point in time, they will do it for all of us.*  
”

**ELIE WIESEL**

## SALA AND ARON SAMUELI HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Holocaust Art & Writing Contest, now the Sala and Aron Samuelli Holocaust Art & Writing Contest. Launched in 1999 as a partnership between the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education at Chapman University and The “1939” Club, now The 1939 Society, a division of Holocaust Museum Los Angeles, the contest has grown from a few local schools to become a national, and increasingly, an international competition. This year the contest includes more than 200 registered schools and thousands of students.

This growth would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of the Chapman University administration; The 1939 Society; and our various benefactors, especially the Samuelli Foundation and Dana and Yossie Hollander.

The idea for this contest originated with the president of The 1939 Society, William Elperin. During the first years of the contest, at the awards ceremony, we were blessed with the presence of nearly a hundred members of The “1939” Club. This year, as we mark our 27th anniversary, very few who are witnesses to the Holocaust are still physically able to be with us, although many are viewing the live feed of our program. In spite of their physical absence, the spirit of all those who have taught, mentored, and inspired us over the last two and a half decades is very much present—their memories and their voices now live within over 165,000 students who have participated in 27 years of the contest.

# Holding on to Hope



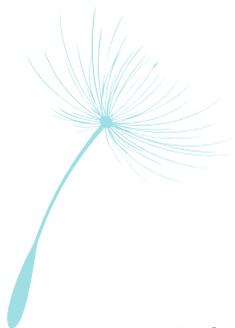
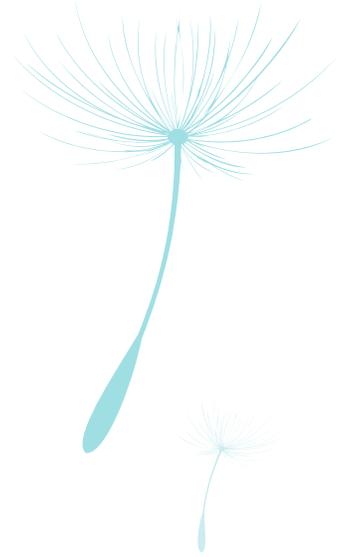
We extend our appreciation to Sodexo for their generous contribution to the reception following the Awards Ceremony.

# AUTOGRAPHS



Messages from Survivors  
and Their Families

Friday, March 13, 2026



Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Art & Writing Contest



Chapman University and The 1939 Society

**CONGRATULATE ALL PARTICIPANTS**

in the Sala and Aron Samuelli  
Holocaust Art & Writing Contest

Holding on to Hope

# SALA AND ARON SAMUELI HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

Music by the Orange County Klezmers

## WELCOME

**MATTHEW J. PARLOW**

President, Chapman University

## INTRODUCTIONS

**STEFAN CRISTIAN IONESCU**

Interim Director, Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education,  
Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences,  
Chapman University

## SPECIAL GREETINGS

**WILLIAM ELPERIN**

President, The 1939 Society



## CARRIED BY HOPE: MY GRANDPARENTS' STORIES OF SURVIVAL

**CATIE CHASE**

Young Alumni Program Manager  
Sage Hill School

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AWARD OF RECOGNITION

**STEFAN CRISTIAN IONESCU**

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL FINALISTS AND WINNERS

### Prose Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Prose

**CAMERON CASTANEDA**  
Manager, Academic Content & Instructional Support,  
Orange County Department of Education

### Poetry Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Poem

**DENISE VALADEZ**  
Associate Superintendent of Curriculum,  
Spirituality, & Accreditation  
Diocese of Orange Department of Catholic Schools

### Art Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Statement

**SCOTT BRASWELL**  
Senior Director, Jewish Life  
Samueli Foundation

### Film Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Statement  
Screening of First Prize Film

**JENNIFER KEENE**  
Dean, Wilkinson College of Arts,  
Humanities, and Social Sciences

*Distribution of certificates and prizes to student representatives and teachers will follow the awards ceremony in the lobby of Memorial Hall. Reception in the Attallah Piazza.*

*Non-finalist artworks will be returned in each school's prize bag.*

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL FINALISTS AND WINNERS

### Prose Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Prose

**CAMERON CASTANEDA**

### Poetry Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Poem

**DENISE VALADEZ**

### Art Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Statement

**SCOTT BRASWELL**

### Film Category

**FIRST AND SECOND PRIZE**  
Reading of First Prize Statement  
Screening of First Prize Film

**JENNIFER KEENE**

## CONGRATULATIONS

MATTHEW J. PARLOW

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

STEFAN CRISTIAN IONESCU

## SAVE THE DATE

Sala and Aron Samueli  
Holocaust Art & Writing Contest

## AWARDS CEREMONY

Friday, March 19, 2027

Holding on to Hope



We encourage all our visitors today to visit the exhibit:

## Holocaust Survivors: The Indestructible Spirit

on the Second and Fourth Floors  
of the Leatherby Libraries.



---

Photography by Bill Aron.

Summaries by Dr. Marilyn Harran  
with research assistance from  
Chapman University students.



This exhibit is made possible by a generous gift from Irving and Nancy Chase in honor of Sol (Z"l) and Fay Chase (Z"l).

# REGISTERED MIDDLE SCHOOLS - NATIONAL

## ARIZONA

### Cibecue

Dishchii'bihoh  
Community School

### Florence

Florence Elementary School

## CALIFORNIA

### Agoura Hills

Lindero Canyon Middle School

### Aliso Viejo

Aliso Viejo Middle School  
Journey School

### Anaheim

Acaciawood Preparatory  
Academy

Dale Junior High School  
James Guinn Elementary

### Beverly Hills

Good Shepherd Catholic School

### Brea

Brea Junior High School  
St. Angela Parish School

### Buena Park

Saint Pius V Catholic School

### Corona del Mar

Harbor Day School

### Costa Mesa

Mariners Christian School  
St. Joachim Catholic School  
St. John the Baptist  
Catholic School

### Cypress

Lexington Junior High School  
Saint Irenaeus School

### Fountain Valley

Vista View Middle School

### Fullerton

Beechwood School  
Blue Ribbon Academy  
D. Russell Parks  
Junior High School  
Ladera Vista Jr. High School  
of the Arts  
Young Scholars Fullerton

### Garden Grove

Christ Cathedral Academy  
Izaak Walton Intermediate  
Lake Intermediate



### Huntington Beach

Isaac L. Sowers Middle School  
Marine View Middle School  
Mesa View Middle School  
Saints Simon & Jude  
Catholic School  
Stacey Middle School  
Talbert Middle School

### Irvine

Lakeside Middle School  
Orchard Hills School  
Tarbut V'Torah Community  
Day School  
Venado Middle School

### La Cañada

La Cañada 7/8 School

### La Habra

Washington Middle School

### La Palma

Walker Junior High School

### Laguna Niguel

St. Anne School

### Lakewood

Herbert Hoover Middle School

### Mission Viejo

La Paz Intermediate School

### Moreno Valley

Vista Heights Middle School

### Newark

Zenith Preparatory Academy

### Orange

Holy Family Catholic School  
La Purisima Catholic School  
Santiago Charter Middle School

### Placentia

Buena Vista Virtual Academy  
Kraemer Middle School  
Parkview School  
Tuffree Middle School  
Valadez Middle School Academy

### Rancho Santa Margarita

St. John's Episcopal School  
St. Junipero Serra Catholic School

### San Clemente

Our Lady of Fatima  
Shorecliffs Middle School  
Vista del Mar School

### San Juan Capistrano

St. Margaret's Episcopal School

### San Marcos

Calvary Preparatory Academy

### Spring Valley

Spring Valley Academy

### Stanton

Robert M. Pyles STEM Academy

### Tustin

Pioneer Middle School  
St. Cecilia Catholic School

### Whittier

Rancho Starbuck Middle School

### Yorba Linda

Orange County School  
of Computer Sciences  
Saint Francis of Assisi School  
Travis Ranch Middle School  
Yorba Linda Middle School

## COLORADO

### Fort Collins

Compass Community  
Collaborative School

### Highlands Ranch

Ranch View Middle School

Holding on to Hope

## REGISTERED MIDDLE SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)



### CONNECTICUT

**Stratford**  
St. Mark School

### FLORIDA

**Delray Beach**  
Plumosa School of the Arts

**Maitland**  
King of Kings Lutheran School

### HAWAII

**‘Aiea**  
‘Aiea Intermediate School

### ILLINOIS

**Champaign**  
Jefferson Middle School  
Next Generation School

**Winnetka**  
Carleton Washburne School

### IOWA

**Rock Rapids**  
Ignite Christian Academy

### KANSAS

**Gardner**  
Wheatridge Middle School

**Wichita**  
Mayberry Middle School

### LOUISIANA

**Belle Chasse**  
Belle Chasse Academy

### MAINE

**Minot**  
Bruce Whittier Middle School  
Minot Consolidated School

**Poland**  
Poland Community School

### MARYLAND

**Gaithersburg**  
Shady Grove Middle School

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Brookline**  
St. Mary of the Assumption

### MICHIGAN

**Rochester Hills**  
Avondale GATE Magnet School

### MISSISSIPPI

**Houston**  
Houston Alternative School

### NEVADA

**Las Vegas**  
The Meadows School

### NEW JERSEY

**Jersey City**  
James F. Murray, PS #38

### NEW YORK

**Bronx**  
MS 390

### OHIO

**Cleveland**  
Birchwood School of Hawken

### PENNSYLVANIA

**Robesonia**  
Conrad Weiser Middle School

**Wexford**  
Marshall Middle School

### SOUTH CAROLINA

**Anderson**  
Southwood Academy of the Arts

**Beaufort**  
Bridges Preparatory School

**Greenville**  
St. Joseph's Catholic School

**Inman**  
T. E. Mabry Middle School

### TEXAS

**Pearland**  
George A. Thompson  
Intermediate School

### UTAH

**Draper**  
American Preparatory  
Academy

### VIRGINIA

**Richmond**  
The Steward School

### VERMONT

**Proctor**  
Proctor Junior/Senior  
High School

**Vergennes**  
Vergennes Union Middle School

### WASHINGTON

**Olympia**  
NOVA Middle School

### WISCONSIN

**Kenosha**  
Beit Sefer Beth Hillel

# REGISTERED HIGH SCHOOLS - NATIONAL



## ARIZONA

### Cibecue

Dishchii'bihoh  
Community School

## CALIFORNIA

### Anaheim

AcaciaWood Preparatory  
Academy  
Cambridge Virtual Academy  
Canyon High School  
Esperanza High School  
Fairmont Preparatory Academy

### Banning

Banning High School

### Brea

Brea Olinda High School  
Brea Canyon High School

### Buena Park

Buena Park High School

### Corona

Santiago High School

### Costa Mesa

Early College High School

### Danville

The Athenian School

### Diamond Bar

Diamond Bar High School

### Fullerton

Fullerton Union High School  
Rosary Academy  
Sunny Hills High School  
Young Scholars Fullerton

### Hawthorne

Hawthorne Math and  
Science Academy

### Huntington Beach

Ocean View High School

### Irvine

Arnold O. Beckman  
High School  
Crean Lutheran High School  
Northwood High School  
Tarbut V'Torah Community  
Day School  
University High School

### La Cañada

La Cañada High School

### Las Flores

Tesoro High School

### Long Beach

Long Beach Polytechnic  
High School

### Los Angeles

Shalhevet High School

### Mission Viejo

Trabuco Hills High School

### Moreno Valley

Canyon Springs High School

### Orange

El Modena High School  
Orange High School

### Placentia

Buena Vista Virtual Academy  
El Camino Real High School  
El Dorado High School  
Parkview School  
Valencia High School

### Riverside

Riverside Virtual School

### San Diego

High Tech High Mesa

### San Gabriel

Gabrielino High School

### San Juan Capistrano

JSerra Catholic High School  
St. Margaret's Episcopal School

### San Marcos

Calvary Preparatory Academy

### Santa Ana

Foothill High School  
Orange County School  
of the Arts

### Yorba Linda

Yorba Linda High School

## COLORADO

### Colorado Springs

Vista Ridge High School

### Pueblo

Pueblo County High School

## CONNECTICUT

### Wallingford

Lyman Hall High School

## FLORIDA

### Davie

David Posnack Jewish Day School

### Orlando

Bishop Moore Catholic  
High School

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

The Westminster Schools

### Columbus

Columbus High School

### Macon

Mount de Sales Academy

## HAWAII

### Honolulu

Kaimuki Christian School

### Kailua

Le Jardin Academy

## ILLINOIS

### Deerfield

Rochelle Zell Jewish High School

### Sullivan

Sullivan High School

## INDIANA

### Valparaiso

Valparaiso High School

## IOWA

### Rock Rapids

Ignite Christian Academ

## LOUISIANA

### Shreveport

Loyola College Prep

## MARYLAND

### Poolesville

Poolesville High School

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Lexington

Lexington High School

### Springfield

Springfield Commonwealth  
Academy

### Townsend

North Middlesex Regional  
High School

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

Renaissance High School

### Madison Heights

Madison High School

## MISSISSIPPI

### Houston

Houston Alternative School

## MONTANA

### Harlowton

Harlowton High School

## NEVADA

### Las Vegas

Valley High School

## NEW JERSEY

### Cape May Court House

Cape May County Technical  
High School

### Moorestown

Moorestown High School

### Woodbridge

Woodbridge Magnet School



## REGISTERED HIGH SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)



### NEW YORK

#### Brooklyn

St. Edmund Preparatory  
High School

#### Great Neck

North Shore Hebrew Academy  
High School

#### Jericho

Jericho High School

#### New York

Townsend Harris High School

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Carrboro

Carrboro High School

#### Fairmont

Fairmont High School

#### Smithfield

Johnston County Public  
Schools Career and Technical  
Leadership Academy

#### Spring Lake

Overhills High School

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Altoona

Altoona Area High School

#### West Chester

Westtown School

### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### Bluffton

Cross Schools

#### Charleston

Bishop England High School

#### Greenville

St. Joseph's Catholic School

#### Richburg

Lewisville High School

#### Winnsboro

Fairfield Central High School

### TENNESSEE

#### Kingston

Roane County High School

#### Memphis

Central High School

### TEXAS

#### Colleyville

Prescott Homeschool Academy

#### Pasadena

Pasadena Memorial High School

#### San Antonio

Fox Tech High School

### UTAH

#### Draper

American Preparatory Academy

### VERMONT

#### Proctor

Proctor Junior/Senior  
High School

### VIRGINIA

#### Bristol

John S. Battle High School

## REGISTERED MIDDLE SCHOOLS – INTERNATIONAL

### POLAND

#### Bielsko-Biała

Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących  
im. Armii Krajowej

#### Grybów

Kazimierz Wielki Primary School No. 1

#### Tuszyn

Władysław Jagiełło Primary School no 1

#### Zbąszyń

Szkoła Podstawowa  
im. Arkadego Fiedlera

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Johannesburg

King David Linksfield School  
Yeshiva College of South Africa

## REGISTERED HIGH SCHOOLS – INTERNATIONAL

### CANADA

#### Ontario

St. Basil-The-Great College School

### NORTH MACEDONIA

#### Strumica

SOUD “Dimitar Vlahov“

### PHILIPPINES

#### Laguna

Cuyab Integrated National High School

### POLAND

#### Bielsko-Biała

Akademickie Dwujęzyczne Liceum Oxford  
Secondary School  
Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących im. Armii  
Krajowej

#### Piotrków Trybunalski

IV Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Generała  
Stefana Roweckiego-Grota

#### Warsaw

XI Liceum Ogólnokształcące im.  
Mikołaja Reja

### ROMANIA

#### Bistrita

Liceul de Muzica Tudor Jarda

#### Braşov

Dr. Ioan Meşotă National College

#### Bucharest

Colegiul National Sfântul Sava

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### Johannesburg

King David High School  
Linksfield  
Yeshiva College of South Africa



## CONTEST JUDGES

**THELMA ANSELM**, Retired Teacher,  
St. Columban Catholic School

**SHERRY BARD**, Senior Training  
Specialist, Echoes & Reflections,  
Anti-Defamation League; Education  
Consultant, Rodgers Center for  
Holocaust Education, Chapman  
University

**HEATHER BREEN**, Assistant Director,  
Visual Content, Strategic Marketing  
and Communications, Chapman  
University

**CAMERON CASTANEDA**, Manager,  
Academic Content & Instructional  
Support, Education Services, Orange  
County Department of Education

**NANCY CHASE**, Community Volunteer;  
Co-Benefactor, “The Indestructible  
Spirit” photography and memoir  
project

**WILLIAM ELPERIN**,  
President, The 1939 Society

**NATALIE FIGUEROA**,  
Chapman University, '18;  
English Major and Self-designed  
Holocaust Studies Major; Program  
and Events Manager, Or Initiative  
and Presidential Studies,  
Chapman University.

**MATTHEW FRIEDMAN**, Regional  
Director of Orange County/Long  
Beach Anti-Defamation League

**BARBARA GARD**, Retired Teacher,  
Trabuco Hills High School

**JENNIFER GOSS**, Project Manager,  
Echoes & Reflections

**DEBORAH GRANGER**, Retired  
Administrator, Newport Mesa  
Unified School District; Retired  
Educational Consultant



**MARILYN HARRAN**, Stern Chair  
in Holocaust Education and  
Director, Rodgers Center for  
Holocaust Education; Professor  
of Religious Studies and History,  
Chapman University

**STEFAN C. IONESCU**, Interim Director,  
Rodgers Center for Holocaust  
Education; Associate Professor,  
History Department, Wilkinson  
College of Arts, Humanities, and  
Social Sciences, Chapman University

**CLAUDINE JAENICHEN**, Professor  
of Design, Department of Art,  
Wilkinson College of Arts,  
Humanities, and Social Sciences,  
Chapman University

**BARBARA JAFFE**, English Professor  
Emeritus; UCLA Fellow,  
Department  
of Education; author; Museum of  
Tolerance docent

**CASSI KAIL**, Director of Jewish Life and  
University Chaplain, Fish Interfaith  
Center, Chapman University

**MARIANNE PETERSEN**,  
Retired Teacher, Orange  
High School

**TOVA ROTLEVY-COHEN**,  
Sculptor & Holocaust Survivor

**LUKE SCHAMBER**,  
Chapman University, '26, History  
Major, Wilkinson College of Arts,  
Humanities, and Social Sciences

**EVA SELSKI**, Health educator;  
second generation

**ABIGAIL STEPHENS**,  
Chapman University, '26; History  
Major, Wilkinson College of Arts,  
Humanities, and Social Sciences

**SHARLENE TARTAGLINI**,  
Retired Teacher, James Irvine  
Intermediate School, Garden Grove  
Unified School District

**DENISE VALADEZ**, Assistant  
Superintendent of Curriculum,  
Spirituality and Accreditation for  
Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orange

**IVY MONTOYA VIADO**,  
Graphic Designer



Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education | Stern Chair in Holocaust Education  
Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library  
Co-sponsored by the Fish Interfaith Center

# An Evening of Holocaust Remembrance

Memorial Hall | Chapman University  
April 14, 2026 | 7 p.m.

Screening of Award-Winning Documentary  
***Among Neighbors***

Conversation following the screening with

**Yoav Potash**

Producer, Writer and Director of *Among Neighbors*



“Combining magical realism and evocative hand-drawn animation with revelatory interviews and verité footage, *Among Neighbors* examines the story of a small, rural town where Jews and Polish Catholics lived side by side for centuries before World War II. The film brings the Polish response to the Holocaust to life through the last living eyewitnesses, revealing both love and betrayal...”

[amongneighbors.com](http://amongneighbors.com)

Image courtesy of 8 Above



## Musical Tribute and Lighting of Candles of Remembrance

**Cantor Chayim Frenkel**

Kehillat Israel  
Reconstructionist Congregation,  
Pacific Palisades

Accompanied by David Kamenir

For additional event and  
parking information, call (714) 628-7377  
or email [RodgersCenter@chapman.edu](mailto:RodgersCenter@chapman.edu).

**Admission Free.**

An informal reception will follow the event.



CHAPMAN  
UNIVERSITY

**Rodgers Center for  
Holocaust Education**

**(714) 628-7377**

**RodgersCenter@chapman.edu  
Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest**