

## SECOND PLACE HIGH SCHOOL ART

### *Panis Vitae*

Alexia-Irulan Mandache, Grade 10  
Saint Sava National College, Bucharest, Romania  
Teacher: Denis Radu  
Survivor Testimony: Fela Gipsman



“Panis Vitae” (Bread of life) captures Fela Gipsman’s memoirs—truly food for thought. Driven away from her family, Fela lost contact with not only her loved ones, but with the world she knew. That world was later shattered by the Holocaust. In the forced labor camp, bread became a source of hope. While her parents managed to send her two pieces of toast, dry bread, once in a while, a Czech woman periodically provided her with sandwiches as well as with news of the war.” Motivated to never allow her past joyous self to fade away, as years went by, she enhanced her beauty with a mesmerizing smile, a statement of strength.

