

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest  
Chapman University and The 1939 Society

Turning Memory to Strength  
Living with

# Courage, RESILIENCE AND HOPE

Entry postmark date

**February 1, 2022**

Digital submission due date

**February 3, 2022**

Awards Ceremony

**March 11, 2022**

*"We had gone from years of imprisonment to freedom.  
I felt confused, weak, and ecstatic all at once."*

— LEON LEYSON, *THE BOY ON THE WOODEN BOX*



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

Your school is invited to  
participate in the

# 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST.

Participating schools may submit a total of three entries  
(one entry per student) in any combination of the following categories:  
art, film, poetry, or prose.

Students will be eligible to win a **first prize** award of \$400 in each category. Educators and schools will also be eligible to win a first prize of \$200 each. First-place student winners in the United States, their parents/guardians, and teachers will be invited to participate in an expense-paid study trip June 20-24, 2022, to visit the Holocaust Museum LA, the Museum of Tolerance, the Japanese American National Museum, and other sites in Los Angeles, as well as to meet with members of The 1939 Society, a community of Holocaust survivors, descendants, and friends. Funding permitting, this year's winning participants

will be joined by those from the 2020 and 2021 contests, including first-place students living outside of the United States. In addition, first-place student entries will be posted on Chapman University's contest website. **Please note that the study trip will not occur if COVID-19 restrictions on travel and social distancing are still in place.**

Students awarded second prize in each category will receive \$200 and their sponsoring educator and school will receive \$100 each.



# INSPIRATION

For those who endured the Holocaust, the prospect of an Allied victory and war's end sometimes seemed so distant as to be almost unimaginable. Each day was a struggle to maintain hope in the ever-changing circumstances of their lives.

When liberation finally came, those who had managed to survive experienced a tidal wave of conflicting emotions. Leon Leyson, the youngest person on Oskar Schindler's famous 'List,' recounted: "After the soldier left, the gates swung open. I was in shock. We all were. We had gone from years of imprisonment to freedom. I felt confused, weak, and ecstatic all at once." Leon was not yet sixteen years old.

Liberation did not magically return survivors to their pre-war lives. Many discovered they were unwanted by their former homelands. Others found themselves in camps far distant from their homes with no way to return. And yet others knew their homes had been destroyed by war and that their families were missing or murdered. Relief organizations and governments faced an unprecedented humanitarian crisis as they sought to respond to the hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need. Their efforts to provide even the most basic requirements of food, shelter, and medical attention floundered at first.

For those who had survived, simply finding clothes to replace their detested prisoner uniforms or filthy rags was often impossible. The physical challenges

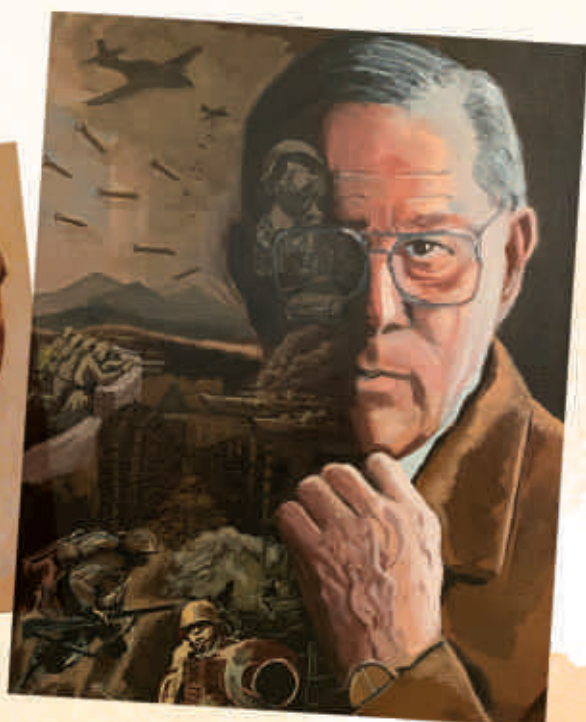
they faced were more than matched by the mental and emotional ones of coming to terms with the loss of so many people they loved. As a nurse was taking her clothes to be burned, Gerda Weissmann could think only of rescuing the photos of her parents and brother she had kept hidden in her boot. They were the only tangible link to her beloved family.

After liberation, survivors also began to realize how deeply they had been affected by what they had experienced. When Elie Wiesel looked in a mirror for the first time, he was stunned by what he saw: "From the depths of the mirror, a corpse was contemplating me. The look in his eyes as he gazed at me has never left me."

Young survivors like Leon, Gerda, and Elie had to rediscover who they had been before the war,

who they were now, and who they wanted to become. They frequently had to do so while learning a new language and catching up on lost years of education. They wrestled with the question of how they could remember those they had lost without living in the past. How could they make memory a source of strength rather than a burden? They had survived; now they must *live*. To do so would require the resilience to begin again and a determination to honor the dead by living life with courage and hope.

**We hope that these words will inspire you and your school to participate in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest.**



# PROMPT

1. Select and view one full-length survivor or rescuer testimony from any of the following:

- Chapman University's Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website, featuring video testimonies from the collection of the USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education at [Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies](http://Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies)
- South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at [scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php](http://scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php)
- The 1939 Society website at [the1939society.org](http://the1939society.org)
- USC Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual History and Education's YouTube channel at [Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation](http://Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation) ("Full-Length Testimonies" playlists [only](#))

\* Lists of testimonies that are one to two hours in length are available on the contest website.



2. As you listen to the survivor's testimony and reflect on the stories they tell, write down a specific word, phrase, or sentence that references a memory of their experience during the Holocaust that was a source of courage, resilience, or hope for that person as they sought to engage in life after the war and/or liberation. **Please note the timecode from the video testimony where the specific word, phrase, or sentence occurs.**

3. As the person now entrusted with this individual's memory, through your creativity in art, poetry, prose, or film, explore this word, phrase, or sentence as central to the survivor's story, your knowledge of the Holocaust, and your own understanding of what it means to live life with courage, resilience, and hope.

*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, Associate Director, at (714) 628-7377 regarding access to video testimony and scheduling a visit.*

## The 1939 Society

The 1939 Society is an organization of Holocaust survivors, descendants, and friends. It takes its name from the year that Germany invaded Poland, changing forever the lives of those who would join together in Los Angeles in 1952 to form the Society.

The 1939 Society 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.

## South Carolina Council on the Holocaust

The South Carolina Council on the Holocaust hosts 37 testimonies of Holocaust survivors on its website, which were recorded in the 1990s together with SCE-TV. The website also includes a brief summary of each testimony and a written transcript.

## USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education

The Institute for Visual History and Education has an archive of more than 55,000 videotaped testimonies from Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. The USC Shoah Foundation is part of the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California.



# CRITERIA

Please see the resource guide or visit [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](http://Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest) for specific criteria, including word limits (prose) and line limits (poetry), rubrics for the various categories, and other supporting information.

## General Criteria – All Categories

- 1 Regardless of delivery method (digital or hard copy), all entrants must complete the online submission form (available at [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](http://Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest)).
- 2 Entries must reflect genuine engagement with the survivor's testimony in its historical context and constitute a thoughtful and creative response.
- 3 Entries must be based on the survivor's testimony available from one of the following sources:
  - The 1939 Society website at [the1939society.org](http://the1939society.org)
  - Chapman University's Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website featuring video testimonies from the collection of the USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education at [Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies](http://Chapman.edu/contest-testimonies)
  - South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at [scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php](http://scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php)
  - USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education's YouTube channel at [Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation](http://Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation) ("Full-Length Testimonies" playlists only)

By request, students may receive approval to use full-length testimonies from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Oral History Collection.



**Entries that do not follow the criteria will be disqualified.**



# SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AND PRIZES

CDC, state, and local health regulations permitting, participating schools will receive 5 seats (depending on availability and safe distancing) at the awards ceremony on March 11, 2022 at Chapman University. **Please note that the ceremony may be virtual if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place. Awarding of prizes may also be altered.**

Every student representative in attendance will receive a copy of *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures*.

Prizes will be distributed at the awards ceremony. Students **must** be in attendance (either in person or virtually) to be eligible for first and second place prizes. Exceptions must be approved in advance.

Three student representatives from each school, their teacher, and/or principal (depending on seat availability) are invited to the awards ceremony:

**Friday, March 11, 2022, 11 a.m.**

**Chapman Auditorium, Memorial Hall,  
Chapman University, One University Drive,  
Orange, CA 92866**

## The highlights of the event will include:

- The announcement of the winning art, film, prose, and poetry entries (one middle school and one high school);
- The presentation of the first-place art, film, prose, and poetry entries;
- 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 Society and USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education’s websites.



## 23RD ANNUAL HOLOCAUST ART & WRITING CONTEST

Please return reply card or register electronically at **Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest**.

- Yes, we plan to submit a maximum of three entries from our school for the Holocaust Art & Writing Contest to be postmarked by February 1, 2022 or submitted digitally by February 3, 2022.**

The teacher and principal listed below plan to escort our school’s representatives to the Awards Ceremony or to participate virtually on March 11, 2022 at 11 a.m. at Chapman University *(Please Print)*

Principal’s name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s name \_\_\_\_\_

School name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s school telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s email address \_\_\_\_\_

School district \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent’s name \_\_\_\_\_

# SUBMISSIONS

Your school's three entries may be submitted beginning December 1, 2021 and **must be postmarked by February 1, 2022 or digitally submitted by February 3, 2022.** Entries may be mailed or submitted digitally using the online submission form found on the Holocaust Art & Writing Contest website.

**Jessica MyLymuk**

Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education  
Chapman University  
One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866

Top-placing artworks submitted digitally may be required to provide the original hard copy artwork. All entries become the property of the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University. 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.

**We encourage educators to consult  
[Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](http://Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest) for  
rubrics and other information.**



One University Drive  
Orange, California 92866

3740-37400



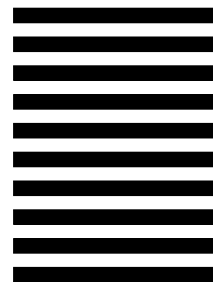
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Ms. Jessica MyLymuk  
Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education  
Chapman University  
One University Drive  
Orange, CA 92866



### **Sponsored by**

Chapman University  
The 1939 Society  
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Yossie and Dana Hollander



### **With support from**

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



### **In partnership with**

Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orange  
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Holocaust Museum Los Angeles  
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  
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