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Chapman University Welcomes Orange High School to A Conversation with Elie Wiesel



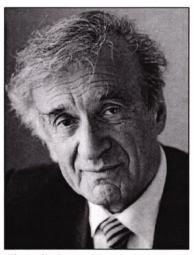


Photo by Sergey Bermeniev

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 Chapman Auditorium • Memorial Hall



Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel was born in the town of Sighet in Transylvania. He was fifteen years old when he and his family were deported to Auschwitz, where his mother and younger sister perished. Wiesel and his father were later taken to Buchenwald, where his father died before the camp was liberated in April 1945.

After the war, Wiesel became a journalist and writer in Paris. During an interview with the French writer François Mauriac, Wiesel became convinced that he should no longer remain silent about what he had witnessed as a prisoner in the Nazi death camps; and he subsequently wrote *Night*, an austere and deeply moving account of his experience during the Holocaust. Since its publication in 1956 in Yiddish and in 1958 in French, Night has been translated into over thirty languages. In 2006, Farrar, Straus and Giroux published a new English-language edition of Night featuring a new translation by Marion Wiesel; the book was then named by Oprah Winfrey as a selection for "Oprah's Book Club."

Mr. Wiesel is an active spokesman for peace and human rights all over the world. He has worked on behalf of Soviet Jews and also the State of Israel, and has helped the relatives of "the Disappeared" in Argentina. He has spoken out for victims in Rwanda and Ethiopia, for the Cambodian Boat People, against apartheid in South Africa, in support of peace and human rights in Central America and Kosovo, and, more recently, on behalf of those suffering and at risk in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Wiesel's efforts have earned him the United States Congressional Gold Medal (1985) and the Medal of Liberty Award (1986); the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1992); the rank of Grand-Croix in the French Legion of Honor (2001); an honorary Knighthood of the British Empire awarded by Her Majesty, the Queen (2006); and, in 1986, the Nobel Peace Prize. He was selected for inclusion as one of fifty great Americans in the 50th anniversary edition of Who's Who in America.

Soon after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Marion and Elie Wiesel established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Its mission, rooted in the memory of the Holocaust, is to combat indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs that promote acceptance, understanding, and equality.

Since 1976, he has been the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University where also he holds the title of University Professor. In 2002, Boston University created The Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies in his honor.

On April 11, 2005, Elie Wiesel visited Chapman University to dedicate the Sala and Aron Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library. On that day, the 60th anniversary of his liberation from the Buchenwald concentration camp, Chapman University presented Elie Wiesel with an honorary doctorate of humane letters. He returned to campus in April 2010 for the 10th anniversary of the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education. Shortly thereafter, he accepted a five-year appointment to spend one week at Chapman University each spring as Distinguished Presidential Fellow.

(Excerpted from The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity website)

Program

Welcome

Professor Jan Osborn

Introduction

Principal Ernie Gonzalez

Conversation with Elie Wiesel via live-feed

Conclusion

President James L. Doti

"Words can sometimes, in moments of grace, attain the quality of deeds."

"The opposite of love is not hate; it's indifference."

"A human being is defined by his or her capacity for thankfulness."

"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim."

Elie Wiesel