Presented by Chapman University and The 1939 Society

## From Discovery to Action: Making Meaning from Memory



Friday, March 6, 2015

#### **Sponsored by**

The Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapman University

The 1939 Society, an Organization of Holocaust Survivors, Descendants and Friends

The Samueli Foundation

Yossie and Dana Hollander

#### In partnership with

Anti-Defamation League

Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orange

College of Educational Studies, Chapman University

Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation, Inc.

**Orange County Department of Education** 

USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education

Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapman University

#### With generous support from

Publications International, Ltd.



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

Music by the Orange County Klezmers

**WELCOME** | James Doti

President, Chapman University

**INTRODUCTIONS** 

**Marilyn Harran** 

Stern Chair in Holocaust Education and Director,

Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education,

Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapman University

**SPECIAL GREETINGS** 

PARTICIPANTS, MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

**Dr. Kimberly White-Smith** 

Associate Dean of Educator Development,

The Donna Ford Attallah Educator Development Academy,

College of Educational Studies, Chapman University

PARTICIPANTS, HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

**Patrick Fuery** 

Dean, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences,

**Chapman University** 

FROM ESCAPING TO PRECLUDING GENOCIDE

**Jack Pariser** 

Holocaust survivor







The 17th Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016 • 11 A.M.



Announcement of Middle School Division Winners, Writing Category

First and Second Prize Reading of First Prize

Announcement of High School Division Winners, Writing Category

> First and Second Prize Reading of First Prize

Announcement of Middle School Division Winners, Art Category

> First and Second Prize Reading of First Prize

Announcement of High School Division Winners, Art Category

First and Second Prize Reading of First Prize

Announcement of Middle School Division Winners, Film Category

First and Second Prize Reading of First Prize Statement

Congratulations

Closing Thoughts

#### **Heather Rhein**

Assistant Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League

#### **Mary Robinson Hendra**

Associate Program Director for Los Angeles and Organizational Innovation, Facing History and Ourselves

#### **Katrina Gaudier**

Operations Administrator, Samueli Foundation

#### Jenna Leventhal

IWitness Manager, USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education

#### **William Elperin**

President, The 1939 Society

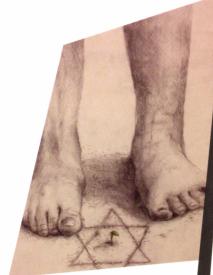
James Doti

Marilyn Harran

Distribution of certificates and prizes to student representatives and teachers in the lobby of Memorial Hall and reception in the tent located outside of Memorial Hall in the Bert Williams Mall will follow the awards ceremony.

Non-finalist artworks will be available for pick-up in lobby of Memorial Hall.

School classes are invited to attend a screening of the documentaries Testimony of Triumph and A Child on Schindler's List in Memorial Auditorium.









## The Holocaust Art & Writing Contest

was launched in 1999 as a partnership between the Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education at Chapman University and The "1939" Club, now The 1939 Society, an Organization of Holocaust Survivors, Descendants and Friends.

Each year, the contest has grown, now reaching more than 200 public, private, and parochial schools. This growth would not have been possible without the extraordinary support of the Samueli Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of Dana and Yossie Hollander, we are able to offer first-place students and their teachers an expense-paid study trip to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites in Washington, D.C.

A special word of appreciation must go to Louis Weber and Publications International for their sixteen years of support and the nearly 5,000 copies of *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Word and Pictures* they have donated. Thanks to Publications International, each student representative has the opportunity to have his or her book signed by the Holocaust survivors attending the awards ceremony and reception. With these signatures, each book becomes a unique testimony to the memories created on this very special day in which witnesses to the Holocaust meet their witnesses to the future.

We invite you to attend

## An Evening of Holocaust Remembrance

Thursday, April 16, 2015 • 7 p.m. Memorial Hall

The 70th Anniversary of Liberation
A Tribute in Words and Music
LIGHTING OF CANDLES OF REMEMBRANCE

A Collaborative Program by
The Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education,
Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Theatre, and
Hall-Musco Conservatory, College of Performing Arts

TICKETS REQUIRED. Request free tickets beginning March 16 at *chapman.edu/holocaustremembrance* 

**REGISTERED SCHOOLS** 











We encourage our guests 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**

#### **ALISO VIEJO**

Aliso Viejo Christian School St. Mary's School

#### **ANAHEIM**

Acaciawood College
Preparatory Academy
Betsy Ross Elementary School
Dr. Jonas E. Salk Elementary School
Fairmont Private Schools
Melbourne A. Gauer
Elementary School
St. Catherine's Academy
St. Justin Martyr Parish School

#### **ANAHEIM HILLS**

Trinity Lutheran Christian School

#### **BANNING**

Nicolet Middle School

#### **BREA**

Brea Junior High School St. Angela Merici Parish 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 Oxford Academy St. Irenaeus Parish School

#### **FULLERTON**

Ladera Vista Junior High School

#### **GARDEN GROVE**

James Irvine Intermediate School John A. Murdy Elementary School St. Columban School Walton Intermediate School

#### **HUNTINGTON BEACH**

Mesa View Middle School Spring View Middle School St. Bonaventure School Stacey Middle School Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic School Talbert Middle School

#### **INDIO**

Desert Ridge Academy

#### **IRVINE**

Lakeside Middle School Plaza Vista Middle School South Lake Middle School Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School

#### **LA HABRA**

Our Lady of Guadalupe School Washington Middle School

#### **LA MESA**

Altus Charter School: San Diego

#### **LAGUNA BEACH**

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School Thurston Middle School

#### **LAGUNA NIGUEL**

St. Anne School

#### **LAKEWOOD**

Hoover Middle School

#### **LONG BEACH**

Cubberley K-8 School Hughes Middle School John Muir Academy St. Barnabas Parish School Stanford Middle School

#### **LOS ALAMITOS**

St. Hedwig School

#### **LOS ANGELES**

Los Angeles Academy Middle School St. Agnes Parish School

#### **LYNWOOD**

Lynwood Middle School

#### MENIFEE

Ethan A. Chase Middle School

#### **MERCED**

Providence Christian School

#### **MISSION VIEJO**

Los Alisos Intermediate School

#### **MORENO VALLEY**

Vista Heights Middle School

#### **ORANGE**

Holy Family Cathedral School La Purisima Catholic School McPherson Magnet School Portola Middle School St. Norbert Catholic School Yorba Middle School

#### **PERRIS**

Lakeside Middle School

#### **PLACENTIA**

Kraemer Middle School St. Joseph Catholic School Tuffree Middle School Valadez Middle School Academy

#### **RANCHO PALOS VERDES**

St. John Fisher School

#### **RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA**

Serra Catholic School St. John's Episcopal School

#### **SAN CLEMENTE**

Our Lady of Fatima Parish School

#### **SAN DIEGO**

Chabad Hebrew Academy George Washington Carver Elementary

#### **SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**

Mission Basilica School St. Margaret's Episcopal School

#### **SANTA ANA**

Fitz Intermediate School
MacArthur Fundamental
Intermediate School
Orange County Educational
Arts Academy
Orange County School of the Arts
School of Our Lady
St. Anne Parish School

#### **SOUTH GATE**

Hollydale Elementary School Southeast Middle School

#### **STANTON**

Robert M. Pyles Elementary School

#### **TEMPLE HILLS**

Thurgood Marshall Middle School

#### **TUSTIN**

Pioneer Middle School Red Hill Lutheran School St. Cecilia School

#### **VICTORVILLE**

Cobalt Institute of Math and Science

#### **VISTA**

St. Francis of Assisi School

#### **WALNUT**

South Pointe Middle School

#### **WESTMINSTER**

**Blessed Sacrament School** 

#### **YORBA LINDA**

Bernardo Yorba Middle School Calvary Chapel Academy St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Travis Ranch School Yorba Linda Middle School

#### **BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**

Luis Muñoz Marin School

#### HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Hamden Middle School

#### **WILMINGTON, DELAWARE**

St. John the Beloved School

#### **COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA**

St. Hugh Catholic School

#### **CUMMING, GEORGIA**

Kelly Mill Elementary School

#### **SWANSEA, ILLINOIS**

Wolf Branch Middle School

#### **BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA**

Lora Batchelor Middle School

#### INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Christ the King Catholic School

#### **NEWBURGH, INDIANA**

Castle North Middle School

#### LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Jefferson County Traditional Middle School

#### **BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

Roland Park Elementary/ Middle School

#### **IJAMSVILLE, MARYLAND**

Urbana Middle School

#### LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jonas Clarke Middle School

#### KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Alta Vista Charter Middle School

#### LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

R.O. Gibson Middle School

#### **ASTORIA, NEW YORK**

The Young Women's Leadership School Of Astoria

#### **BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**

The Urban Assembly Academy of Arts & Letters

#### **NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA**

St. Paul Catholic School

#### ST. HELENS, OREGON

St. Helens Middle School

#### POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Pottsgrove Middle School

#### **BURLESON, TEXAS**

Nick Kerr Middle School

#### **SHANGHAI, CHINA**

Shanghai American School



#### **REGISTERED HIGH SCHOOLS**

#### **ANAHEIM**

Acaciawood College Preparatory Academy Canyon High School Esperanza High School Loara High School Western High School Servite High School

#### **BALDWIN PARK**

Sierra Vista High School

#### **BREA**

Brea Olinda High School

#### **BURBANK**

Providence High School

#### **CAMARILLO**

Adolfo Camarillo High School

#### **COSTA MESA**

Early College High School

#### **FREMONT**

Mission San Jose High School

#### **FRESNO**

Central High School West

#### **FULLERTON**

Sunny Hills High School

#### **GLENDALE**

Glendale High School

#### **HAWTHORNE**

Hawthorne Math & Science Academy

#### **HESPERIA**

**Shadow Ridge Learning Center** 

#### INDIC

Shadow Hills High School

#### **IRVINE**

Arnold O. Beckman High School Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School University High School Woodbridge High School

#### **LAKEWOOD**

Buena Vista High School

#### **LONG BEACH**

Millikan High School

#### **LOS ANGELES**

Esteban E. Torres High School LAUSD/USC Cinematic Arts and Engineering Magnet School Yeshiva Ohr Elchonon Chabad YULA Boys High School

#### **MERCED**

Providence Christian School

#### **MISSION VIEJO**

Trabuco Hills High School

#### **MORENO VALLEY**

Moreno Valley High School

#### **ORANGE**

Orange High School

#### **PLACENTIA**

El Dorado High School Valencia High School

#### **RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA**

Santa Margarita Catholic High School

#### **ROMOLAND**

Heritage High School

#### **ROWLAND HEIGHTS**

**Rowland High School** 

#### **SAN DIEGO**

Chabad Hebrew Academy St. Augustine High School

#### **SAN JACINTO**

Mountain View High School

#### **SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO**

JSerra Catholic School

#### **SANTA ANA**

Mater Dei High School Orange County School of the Arts The Academy Charter High School

#### **SELMA**

Heartland High School

#### **SOUTH LAKE TAHOE**

South Tahoe High School

#### **THERMAL**

La Familia High School

#### **TUSTIN**

**Tustin High School** 

#### **VICTORVILLE**

Cobalt Institute of Math and Science

#### YORBA LINDA

La Entrada High School Yorba Linda High School

#### **DENVER, COLORADO**

Denver Center for International Studies at Montbello

#### **BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Metropolitan Learning Center

#### **ROYAL PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

Royal Palm Beach Community High School

#### ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Atlanta Jewish Academy

#### KAILUA, HAWAII

Le Jardin Academy

#### **ANKENY, IOWA**

Ankeny Centennial High School

#### **BISMARCK, ILLINOIS**

Bismarck-Henning High School

#### **CUMBERLAND, MAINE**

**Greely High School** 

#### **BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS**

Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School

#### **IONIA, MICHIGAN**

Ionia High School

#### **SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN**

Akiva Hebrew Day School

#### **KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

St. Pius X High School

#### **PLEASANTVILLE, NEW JERSEY**

Pleasantville High School

#### **RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY**

Rahway High School

#### **TEANECK, NEW JERSEY**

Torah Academy of Bergen County

#### **VINELAND, NEW JERSEY**

Vineland High School South

#### **ALAMOGORDO, NEW MEXICO**

Alamogordo High School

#### **ASTORIA, NEW YORK**

The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

#### **BRONX, NEW YORK**

**Ethical Culture Fieldston School** 

#### **GREAT NECK, NEW YORK**

North Shore Hebrew Academy High School

#### **OSWEGO, NEW YORK**

Oswego High School

#### **CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Myers Park High School Vance High School

#### JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA

Middle College GTCC Jamestown

#### **RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Raleigh Charter High School

#### **BELLBROOK, OHIO**

**Greene County Educational Center** 

#### **OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

Classen School of Advanced Studies

#### **BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA**

Bethlehem Catholic High School

#### **COLUMBIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

Columbia High School

#### PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Central High School

#### **WEST GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Avon Grove Charter School Technical College High School

#### **DALLAS, TEXAS**

**Ursuline Academy** 

#### **ELKHART, TEXAS**

Elkhart High School

#### **SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

San Antonio School for Inquiry & Creativity

#### **KOSICE, SLOVAKIA**

Gymnázium sv. Edity Steinovej Košice

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

We are grateful to Chapman University Enrollment Services for the Chapman University t-shirts for the finalists in this year's contest.



#### **Contest Judges**

**SHANNON ANNARELLA,** Screenwriting Major, Dodge College of Film and Media Arts and University Honors Minor, Chapman University; First Place Poetry, Middle School Division, 2009

SHERRY BARD, Training Specialist, Echoes and Reflections, Anti-Defamation League

**DEBORAH BATISTE,** Project Director, Echoes and Reflections, Anti-Defamation League

JEFF BROUWER, Director of Creative Services, Strategic Marketing & Communications, Chapman University

PENNY BRYAN, Professor, College of Educational Studies, Chapman University

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

HEIDI COHEN, Rabbi, Temple Beth Sholom

GREGORY DHUYVETTER, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orange

WILLIAM ELPERIN, Los Angeles Attorney-at-Law; President, The 1939 Society

KATRINA GAUDIER, Operations Administrator, Samueli Foundation

LISA GRAJWESKI, Executive Editor, JLife Magazine

NATALIE WEINSTEIN GOLD, Psychotherapist; Child Survivor; Member of The 1939 Society; Benefactor

**PORTER HAHN,** Business Administration Major, Argyros School of Business & Economics, Chapman University; First Place Poetry, High School Division, 2010

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

MARY ROBINSON HENDRA, Associate Program Director for Los Angeles and Organizational Innovation, Facing History and Ourselves DANA HOLLANDER, Benefactor; Community Volunteer; Sponsor of "Echoes and Reflections" Holocaust Education Program KANANI HOOPAI, Art History Major, Chapman University, 2007

FR. JERRY HORAN, Vicar for Faith Formation, Diocese of Orange

**EILEEN JANKOWSKI,** Assistant Professor of English, Department of English, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Director, Fellowships and Scholar Programs, Chapman University

**JEFF KOERBER,** Research Associate, Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and History Department, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapman University

JENNA LEVENTHAL, IWitness Manager, USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education

JACK PARISER, Founder and Activist for Precluding Genocide Project; Child Survivor; Member of The 1939 Society

MARIANNE PETERSEN, Retired Teacher, Orange High School

KARIN POLACHECK, Educational Consultant; former President, Board of Education, Long Beach Unified School District

**HEATHER SCHLOSSNAGLE,** Producer, Panther Productions, Chapman University

ROB VICARIO, History/Social Science Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education

#### **National Honorary Judge**

ELIE WIESEL, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Distinguished Presidential Fellow, Chapman University

#### **Honorary Judges**

MARIE KAUFMAN, Child Survivor; President, Child Survivors of the Holocaust, Los Angeles

MILA PAGE, Founding Member, The "1939" Club, now The 1939 Society; Member of Schindler's "List"

**SALLY ROISMAN,** Award-winning Artist; Member of The 1939 Society

**SALLY SCHWARTZ,** Benefactor, The Jerry and Sally Schwartz Holocaust and Tolerance Education Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Orange County



"After considerable discussion that night, I was selected to be the last with no one to push me out. I had the greatest probability to succeed. I was the smallest and most agile and therefore most likely to stand the cot against the wall like a lean-to ladder, run up the incline, extend my arm through the hole and have my dad pull me through."

hanks to his parents' ingenuity, the help of righteous gentiles, and sheer luck, Jack Pariser survived the Holocaust without ever seeing the inside of a concentration camp.

Born on December 14, 1929, Jack and his older sister, Rose, lived in Jodlowa, Poland, a small town south of Krakow. His father Abraham sold wholesale lumber and his mother Sarah sold fabric.

Following Germany's invasion of Poland in September 1939, life for Jodlowa's Jews changed. At first, the SS were content with terrorizing the town's Jews. On one occasion, Jack's grandfather was beaten unconscious when he refused to walk on the sacred Torah. He died shortly after.

In early August 1942, Jack's mother was tipped off by a Polish policeman that the Germans were planning to murder the town's Jews the next morning. His parents spread the word and then fled. Their quick action saved them. The gunshots the family heard the next day attested that the slaughter was now a reality.

After months in the forest, as winter approached, Abraham appealed to one of his Christian workers, Andrej Porembski, for shelter. Knowing he risked death for hiding them, Porembski agreed. The Parisers spent months in a barn and in a bunker under the woodshed floor. The space was so small that they could only lie on their sides and when one person wanted to turn, everyone had to do so. To pass the long hours, Jack learned crafts, including re-knitting his sweater into intricate patterns.

In December 1942, Abraham moved the family to another hiding place where their host subsequently betrayed them. The Polish police arrested the family and threw them into a jail cell. Their jailers laughingly debated whether a table knife or a pen knife—given them to cut bread—would be of less use in helping them escape. They settled on the pen knife. But they underestimated Abe's ingenuity and Sarah's tenacity. Working during the night, Abe made a hole under the barred window high on the wall. But one of the four would have to go last—reaching the hole without aid. Agonizing over their decision, they agreed Jack had the best chance and that if he failed, three lives saved were better than none. Fortunately, Jack succeeded; all the family escaped. When they reached the forest and stopped to cut off a bit of bread, the knife broke, but it had saved their lives.

The Parisers again stayed with the Porembskis from January 1943 to December 1944 when they went to another family, the Swieczeks, righteous gentiles who had aided them throughout the war and who now hid them in the barn, under the very noses of the Germans. The family's years in hiding ended on January 16, 1945.

The Parisers immigrated to the United States in 1949. Jack married, and he and his wife Leah moved to California. Jack retired as chief scientist at Hughes Aircraft in 1987—an extraordinary life of achievement made possible by his parents' tenacious ingenuity, a small pen knife, and the courageous action of righteous gentiles.





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