




24th Annual Holocaust
Art & Writing Contest

Chapman University and
The 1939 Society



THE STRENGTH OF
LOVE
AND THE WILL TO
SURVIVE

Entry postmark date • February 1, 2023

Digital submission due date • February 3, 2023

Awards Ceremony • March 10, 2023

*"At the very last moment
my mother reached into the pile of rags
on the shelf where she slept and pulled out a
walnut-size piece of dry bread. It was all in
the world my mother had to give me,
the best she could do."*

LEON LEYSON

The Boy on the Wooden Box



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

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Orange County Department of Education
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Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education
Stern Chair in Holocaust Education
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We hope that these words will inspire you and
your school to participate in the

24th 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 19-23, 2023, to visit the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, 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 U.S. winning participants will be joined by 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 is contingent on whether COVID-19 restrictions and protocols are being observed.**

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

Inspiration

All too often the images of the Holocaust we carry in our minds are those created by the perpetrators. We see people humiliated, starved, and beaten, dressed in rags or tawdry striped uniforms, robbed of their humanity. If our study of the Holocaust ends there, we see the Nazis' victims the way they wanted us to see them, deprived of their identities and individuality.

But when we listen to a survivor testimony or read a survivor memoir, we come to see those targeted as individuals. We meet them as people who gave and received love and for whom the memory of those they loved was a source of extraordinary strength. Love nourished the soul and inspired hope.

Viktor Frankl endured the camps by thinking constantly of his wife and even conversing with her in his mind. Those conversations and the memory of her love enabled his mind to escape to another place and time. As he wrote in his memoir *Man's Search for Meaning*, "nothing could touch the strength of my love, my thoughts, and the image of my beloved."

After she was separated from her family, young Gerda Weissmann secretly carried in her boots photographs of her beloved parents and brother, Arthur. On the death march, when it seemed she did not have the strength to take another step, she said to herself: "I had to hope. I had to go on to the end. If Papa, Mama, and Arthur survive, they will wait for me, hoping and praying. I must not disappoint them."

Love empowered a boy named Leon Leyson to search for his mother in the Plaszow concentration camp, daring to venture into a part of the camp where males were prohibited. As Leon wrote in his memoir, *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, "I knew I would be severely punished if I were discovered. Yet the danger was worth it if I could find my mother." Well aware of the peril, Leon's mother sent her beloved son away almost as soon as she saw him, but not before giving him a precious and tangible symbol of her love: "At the very last moment she reached into the pile of rags on the shelf where she slept and pulled out a walnut-size piece of dry bread. It was all in the world my mother had to give me, the best she could do. I'm sure it was the only food she had."

Viktor Frankl wrote: "[The person] who has a why to live for can bear with almost any how." For those targeted in the Holocaust, even when they had no idea of *how* they could survive, love—as both memory and hope—became the *why*. Love overcame despair and proved stronger than hate, inspiring people to find a way to survive against seemingly impossible odds.

"At the very last moment my mother reached into the pile of rags on the shelf where she slept and pulled out a walnut-size piece of dry bread. It was all in the world my mother had to give me, the best she could do."

LEON LEYSON

The Boy on the Wooden Box



Prompt

1. Select and view one full-length survivor 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](https://www.chapman.edu/contest-testimonies)
 - South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php
 - The 1939 Society website at the1939society.org
 - USC Shoah Foundation—The Institute for Visual History and Education’s YouTube channel at [Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation](https://www.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, choose a specific word, phrase, or sentence that references a memory of love from before the Holocaust or an experience of love during the Holocaust that became a source of strength in the struggle to survive. **Please note the timestamp 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 a life that is shaped by and shares love.

If an Internet connection is not available, students may view these testimonies in the Sala and Aron Samueli 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.

We encourage teachers to consult [Chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest](https://www.chapman.edu/holocaust-arts-contest) for rubrics and other information.

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 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

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 educator guide or visit 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).
- 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 a survivor's testimony available from one of the following sources:
 - The 1939 Society website at 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
 - South Carolina Council on the Holocaust website at scholocaustcouncil.org/survivor.php
 - USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education's YouTube channel at Youtube.com/uscshoahfoundation ("Full-Length Testimonies" playlists only)

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 10, 2023 at Chapman University. **Please note that the ceremony may be virtual if required by COVID-19 health and safety restrictions. Awarding of prizes may also be altered.**

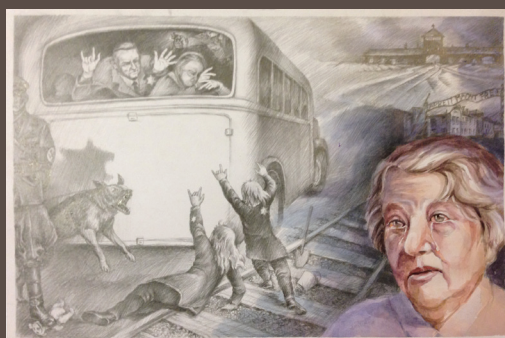
Each school in attendance will receive one copy of *The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures*.

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 10, 2023, 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.

24th Annual Holocaust Art & Writing Contest

Please return reply card
or register online at
[Chapman.edu/
holocaust-arts-contest](http://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, 2023 or submitted digitally by February 3, 2023.**

The teacher and principal listed below plan to escort our school’s representatives to the Awards Ceremony or to participate virtually on March 10, 2023 at 11:00 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, 2022 and **must be postmarked by February 1, 2023 or digitally submitted by February 3, 2023**. 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

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
for rubrics and other information.

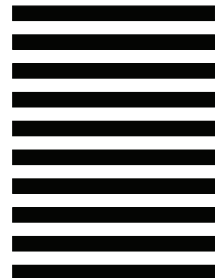


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