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8th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest Awards, March 9

ORANGE, Calif. Students from more than 60 Southern California high schools and middle schools will visit Chapman University for the 8th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Awards Ceremony at 11 a.m. Friday, March 9 in the university's Memorial Hall. The students from public, private and parochial schools throughout Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties submitted essays, poems and artworks to the contest, which were judged by a panel of Holocaust survivors, local businesspeople, professionals, organization leaders and Chapman faculty and students. This year's theme is Voices from Yesterday, Letters for Tomorrow. The award winners will be announced at the ceremony. A number of Orange County mayors and other public officials are expected to attend the event.

For the first time in the award ceremonies history, the event's National Honorary Judge is Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor, bestselling author and international human rights advocate, who dedicated Chapman University's Sala and Aron Samuelsi Holocaust Memorial Library in April 2005. We are deeply honored that Professor Wiesel, who receives so many requests, has agreed to be an honorary judge, said Dr. Marilyn Harran, Stern Chair in Holocaust Education and director of Chapman’s Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education. The letter he wrote the participating students, a copy of which each student will receive, is absolutely beautiful and makes explicit the link between those who experienced the Holocaust and those who will be their witnesses to the future. As Professor Wiesel wrote, My faith in the future is inspired by young people like you.

Guest speakers at the awards ceremony will be Leon Weinstein, 96, who fought in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and is today a retired businessman, and Felicia Haberfeld, 95, a retired librarian and a founding member of The 1939 Club, a Los Angeles-based Holocaust survivor organization. Both Mr. Weinstein and Mrs. Haberfeld exemplify the ideals of courage, integrity and humanity, said Dr. Harran.

Following the ceremony, students will have the opportunity to meet with the more than 50 Holocaust survivors who will be in attendance. For the eighth consecutive year, Publications International has donated copies of the hardcover book The Holocaust Chronicle, which will be given to each student participant.

A high point of the day is when students meet with the survivors and have them sign their books, said Dr. Harran. There are not many occasions when so many Holocaust survivors are together in one place and able to meet with nearly 200 school representatives one on one. Most of the survivors are now elderly, and therefore an event like this takes on even greater meaning. It’s an important day for the survivors, as they pass along their knowledge and experiences to the next generation, and for the students, who have the opportunity to be inspired by the living witnesses to the history they have been studying.
Chapman’s Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education presents the contest and award ceremony in partnership with The 1939 Club (a Los Angeles-based Holocaust survivor organization), The Samueli Foundation, Dana and Yossie Hollander, the Orange County Department of Education and the Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orange. The Anti-Defamation League of Orange County/Long Beach and Facing History and Ourselves are also supporters of the contest.

For more information, the public can call (714) 628-7377 or visit chapman.edu/holocausteducation.

EDITORS: Attached is a list of the schools participating in this years Holocaust Art and Writing Contest.

Brea Junior High School Brea
Canyon Hills High School Anaheim Hills
Corona del Mar High School Newport Beach
Crescent Intermediate School Anaheim
Downey High School Downey
El Toro High School Lake Forest
Fairmont Private School Santa Ana
Fulton Middle School Fountain Valley
Harbor Day School Corona del Mar
Holy Family Cathedral School Orange
Katella High School Anaheim
Kraemer Middle School Placentia
Ladera Vista Junior High School Fullerton
Lakeside Middle School Irvine
MacArthur Fundamental Intermediate School Santa Ana
Mater Dei High School Santa Ana
McPherson Magnet School Orange
Oak Middle School Los Alamitos
Oasis High School Fallbrook
Orange High School Orange
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School San Clemente
Our Lady of Guadalupe School La Habra
Polaris High School Anaheim
Portola Middle School Orange
Prince of Peace Lutheran School Anaheim
Ralston Intermediate School Moreno Valley
Rancho Verde High School Moreno Valley
Rosary High School Fullerton
Saddleback Valley Christian High School San Juan Capistrano
Saint Francis of Assisi School Yorba Linda
Samuel Talbert Middle School Huntington Beach
Santa Margarita Catholic High School Rancho Santa Margarita
Santa Monica High School Santa Monica
Schweitzer School Anaheim
Serra Catholic School Rancho Santa Margarita
Serrano Intermediate School Lake Forest
Servite High School Anaheim
Shorecliffs Middle School San Clemente
South Lake Middle School Irvine
St. Angela Merici School Brea
St. Anne School Laguna Niguel
St. Barbara School Santa Ana
St. Cecilia School Tustin
St. Columban School Garden Grove
St. Francis of Assisi School Vista
St. John's Episcopal School Rancho Santa Margarita
St. Joseph School Placentia
St. Paul's Lutheran School Garden Grove
Stacey/Clegg Middle School Huntington Beach
Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School Irvine
Tesoro High School Los Flores
Thurston Middle School Laguna Beach
Trabuco Hills High School Mission Viejo
Trinity Lutheran Christian School Anaheim Hills
Troy High School Fullerton
Tuffree Middle School Placentia
Upland High School Upland
Valencia High School Placentia
Villa Park High School Villa Park
Vista View Middle School Fountain Valley
Woodbridge High School Irvine