

Chapman University News

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Seventh Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest Awards Ceremony Will Bring Students from 70 Southern California Schools to Chapman University Friday, March 10, 2006 at 11 a.m.

*Guest Speakers Will Be Holocaust Survivor Dr. Samuel Goetz
and the U.S. Soldier Who Liberated Him, Robert Persinger*

ORANGE, Calif. – Students from 70 Southern California high schools and middle schools will visit Chapman University for the **Seventh Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Awards Ceremony** at 11 a.m. Friday, March 10 in the university's Memorial Hall. The students – from public, private and parochial schools throughout Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties – previously submitted essays, poems and artworks to the contest, which was judged by a panel of Holocaust survivors, local businesspeople, professionals, organization leaders and Chapman faculty and students. The award winners will be announced at the ceremony.

Guest speakers at the awards ceremony will be Holocaust survivor Dr. Samuel Goetz and the American soldier who liberated him from the Ebensee concentration camp at the end of World War II, Robert Persinger. Music will be provided by the Orange County Klezmers, who will begin performing at 10 a.m.

Following the ceremony, students will have the opportunity to meet with the more than 75 Holocaust survivors who will be in attendance. For the seventh consecutive year, Publications International has donated more than 2,000 copies of the hardcover book *The Holocaust Chronicle*, which will be given to each student. A high point of the day is when students meet with the survivors and have them sign their books.

“There are not many occasions when this many Holocaust survivors are together in one place and meeting with so many students one on one,” says Dr. Marilyn Harran, Stern Chair in Holocaust Education and director of Chapman University's Rodgers

Center for Holocaust Education, which is presenting the contest and awards ceremony in partnership with The “1939” Club, a Holocaust survivor organization. “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 chance to meet and be inspired by the living witnesses to the history which they have been studying.”

The event is co-sponsored by The “1939” Club (one of the largest Holocaust survivor organizations in the U.S., based in Los Angeles), the Samueli Foundation and Dana and Yossie Hollander. The contest is presented in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education and the Catholic Schools, Diocese of Orange.

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

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