

Lakeside Students Reflect on the Holocaust

Lakeside Middle School would like to take this opportunity to recognize students who participated in this year's Holocaust Art & Writing contest. These students volunteered their time to learn more about the tragedy and triumphs that occurred during this horrific period of history.

While several students worked hard to create artwork, poetry and essays, three students stood out in their effort and understanding of this topic. These three students represented Lakeside Middle School at Chapman University last March.

In the category of poetry, Elizabeth Sengoba represented Lakeside with her poem titled, A Saved Memory from the Eyes of a Survivor. Joanne Koong's powerful essay was also entered into the contest. And Shin-Young Park's artwork was a grand prize, first place winner in the overall middle school artwork division.

"The Game of Life" Response to Samuel Michaels

By Joanne Koong

People say that right before you die your whole life flashes before your eyes. But what must that be like for someone whose life has been so terribly wrecked by something called the Holocaust?

Before I learned about the Holocaust and watched your testimony, I've always despised history. I thought it was a pure waste of time and was never going to affect

me at all. But after watching a grown man cry, I realized what a huge impact the Holocaust had on everyone and how we can learn from history because life is like photography; you use the negatives to develop.

Ever since I was a small kid, everyone always told me actions spoke louder than words. I would nod my head and eagerly agree, but until that fateful day whereupon I listened to every syllable that came out of your mouth in that testimony, Mr. Samuel Michaels, I never understood the truth behind those words. But because of you, I now understand it takes more courage to do something and take a stand rather than just complain.

While your testimonial was loading, I wasn't really expecting it to change my view of life after I watched it. I had no idea about all the hardships you had to endure or all

the risks you had to take just for things I carelessly waste every day. If I could erase history, I would erase the Holocaust because the myriad people slaughtered so ruthlessly did not deserve to die.

After I watched the full hour and 23 minutes, I felt a bit pathetic. I never experienced the hatred that drove the Nazis to extinguish all Jews from existence, but I probably used the world hate more than any Jew, even though I had no idea how strong a word that could possibly be. When you talked about how you had to sneak out of the gates surrounding your ghetto just to obtain food, a sense of ashamedness inundated me, forcing me to think of all the food I had ever wasted. I realize that if you had been caught sneaking in and out, the price you would have paid would have been your life. If I had



been a Jew during the Holocaust, I don't think I would have the courage and determination to live through all the things you did.

One of my all time favorite game is chess. Half the reason is because I'm in control and I love feeling powerful, and the other half is because every single piece is important. Even the pawn, which many people think are useless. But when the pawn reaches the end of the board, it can transform into a queen. And with a queen, you can win the game.

Just like Holocaust survivors, without them, the game would be lost.

A Saved Memory from the Eyes of a Survivor

By Elizabeth Sengoba

The first memories of any child are warm
The ones that make you tingly inside, and bring a smile to your face
They include family, friends and other loved ones
But unfortunately some memories were horrific and unforgettable for Jews

Mistreatment, disrespect, and utter hatred were exposed by the Nazis
The Nazis were people who didn't show the love for all no matter what race
They wanted to be one of a kind
They wanted their perfect "one" and Jews weren't it

For Gertrude Goetz memories as a child were normal, but not for long
Gertrude was separated from others and sent to be with Jews only

Forced to be only with her kind and live under the eye of Adolf Hitler
Memories as a child were starting to become unusual and unpredictable

Memories of loved ones being arrested due to their race

Memories of friends dying because they tried standing up for what they believed in
Memories of not being able to live in the same place
Memories of fear



With memories like that, it breaks you down emotionally
However for some they could find memories to help keep hope alive

One memory of many that touched me
After long hardships, many were rescued from their torches and could restart life

Having hope for the day that they would be rescued

Living to be rescued

It was a miracle for many

Most importantly it was chance to rebuild and be thankful for what they had and cherish it

Be thankful for friends and family

Be thankful for your home

A tragedy happened and in the end you work to make sure this never happens

And preserve the memories, the good ones and cherish and keep them for years to come