



CALL FOR ENTRIES

13th Annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest

YOM HASHOAH: SUNDAY, May 5, 2019

This Essay Contest is a tribute to Israel “Izzy” Arbeiter, a Holocaust survivor and lifelong rights activist who lost several family members in the Holocaust. He is a past president of the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to write a 400-800 word essay on the following topic. Essays will be judged on originality, knowledge, style, and depth. Each year, JCRC receives hundreds of essays from schools across Greater Boston.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reports a 57% increase of incidents of hatred such as anti-Semitism, racism, and prejudice (intolerance of others unlike themselves) in the last 2 years. This is the largest increase since the ADL began tracking these incidents in 1979. You can read more about this in a *New York Times* article here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/27/us/anti-semitism-adl-report.html>

There is no greater example of what atrocities can come from anti-Semitism, racism, and prejudice than the Holocaust. You can listen to voices of Holocaust survivors by clicking on the links below. These survivors or others may have also visited your school. By listening to a survivor, you become a witness to history and to their story:

Samuel Bak, Weston, MA

<https://www.pbs.org/video/holocaust-survival-tale-sam-cgyj3k/>

Rena Finder, Framingham, MA

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/video/rena-finder-krakow-start-world-war-ii>

Israel Arbeiter, Newton, MA

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4676279/israel-arbeiter>

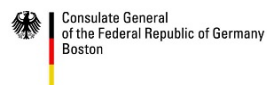
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1H0MeFyG9bs>

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: MARCH 25, 2019

Essay contest winners will receive educational scholarships, a trip to the Holocaust Memorial in DC, and be awarded at Greater Boston’s Jewish Community Commemoration of Yom HaShoah. Please submit essays in word documents along with name, address, phone number, email, birthday, teacher, grade, and school to Ellen Kaye, Event Consultant at ekaye@jrcrboston.org. Essay finalists will be notified by April 15.

In partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Facing History and Ourselves, the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston, the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, and many generous donors.

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jrcrboston.org | facebook.com/BostonJCRC | [@BostonJCRC](https://twitter.com/BostonJCRC)



“To listen to a witness is to become a witness.”

—Elie Wiesel

Holocaust Survivor, teacher, author, and Nobel Peace Prize winner

- What responsibilities do you have as a “witness” when you listen to a survivor or see an act of hatred today?
- What do you think it means to be a witness?
- How might studying the history of the Holocaust and listening to a survivor (in person or video) make you a witness?
- Think about examples from your own experience, your community, or in the world.