

Virtual COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION of YOM HASHOAH

AT A CROSSROADS: PRESERVING THE TRUTH

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022 | 2:00PM



CALL FOR ENTRIES

16th Annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest

This Essay Contest is a tribute to Israel “Izzy” Arbeiter z”l, who survived the Holocaust against all odds and lost most of his family who were murdered by the Nazis. He was a past president of the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston. Izzy Arbeiter passed away recently. His essay contest will continue to be a part of his incredible legacy. 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.

At a Crossroads: Preserving the Truth

We live in a time when “disinformation” is spread freely and widely, especially through the internet. There are many who distort facts concerning the Holocaust. Holocaust survivors have fought these distortions by preserving the truth of their lived experiences through memoir, testimony, poetry, and art.

- How do these stories personalize and humanize the history of the Holocaust and help preserve the truth of what really happened?
- How do they affect how you see your personal role as a witness to history as seen through the eyes of the survivors, as well as your responsibility to preserve the truth for future generations?
- What must young people do to combat antisemitism and other forms of bigotry in order to bring about a more just and inclusive democratic society?

To help you process your thoughts, please see the next page of flyer for video resources and articles.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: February 28th, 2022

Essay contest winners will have the opportunity to virtually interview a local Holocaust survivor and be featured in our virtual Community Holocaust Commemoration program on Sunday, May 1st, 2022.

Winners are also invited to attend a trip to the Holocaust Memorial in Washington DC (pending COVID restrictions and recommendations).

Please submit essay along with name, address, phone number, email, birthday, teacher, grade, and school to Emily Reichman, ereichman@jcrCBoston.org. Essay finalists will be notified by March 14th and filming for the virtual program will take between March 21st-25th.

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, and many generous donors.

RESOURCES

16th Annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest

Resources:

Historical Context for the Holocaust (note: some disturbing graphic images)

- [Facing History Scholar Reflections: The Holocaust](#)
- [Step By Step: Phases of the Holocaust](#)

Survivor Israel Arbeiter:

- [Video: A Promise to My Father](#)

Survivor and Artist Samuel Bak

- [Illuminations: The Art of Samuel Bak](#)

Survivor and Poet Sonia Weitz

- [Testimony and biography of Sonia Weitz](#)
- [Survivor Sonia Weitz's Poetry](#)

Survivor Rena Finder

- [Testimony and biography of Rena Finder](#)

USC Shoah Foundation

- [Holocaust Testimony Collection](#)

The Importance of Remembering

- [Survivors and Memory](#)
- [The Holocaust as a Call to Conscience](#)

Fighting Bigotry and Hatred

- [Not in Our Town - Billings, Montana](#)

