

## Torch Award Submission: TA11-086

- Full Title of Entry (80 char max): **Essay Contest for Yom HaShoah Memorialization**
- Entry Category (You can select up to 2, although you will only win in one):
  - Men's Club Shabbat     Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle     Israel / Masorti     Hebrew Literacy / Ritual Literacy
  - Hearing Men's Voices     Men's Health     Youth Programming     Programs for Young Men (21-40)
  - World Wide Wrap     Shomrei Ha'aretz     Club Administration     Non-FJMC Program
  - Best Overall Programming\* [\*Best Overall Programming is not on the basis of a single program, but your club's entire year. A single program submitted in this category will be re-categorized.]
  - I'm not sure, so please select for our club's submission.
- Contact Person: **Mike Brodsky**
- Email address for Contact Person: **brodsky126@yahoo.com**
- Club number & Club name: [#\_] **Men's Club of Congregation Beth Shalom Clearwater, Florida 'Amen' #1328**  
[Is it a Men's Club or a Brotherhood? Please specify]
- Number of club members: **90**
- Synagogue name, city and state: **Congregation Beth Shalom Clearwater, Florida**
- Club President name (at time of entry): **Blake Lenett**
- Club President name (at time of convention): **Blake Lenett**
- Person preparing entry: **John Hopengarten**
- Email address of person preparing: **john@westchasegrp.com**

**Part II. Summary Information ( 2 – 3 sentences): With an effort to spread the issues of the Holocaust throughout the community, school children from the area were invited to submit written essays based on different annual topics dealing with the Holocaust. A panel of judges awarded prizes for each school level (elementary, middle and high school) entry. Awards were presented at the Yom Hashoah annual event. Our men's club has sponsored this event for the last two years.**

**Part III. By submitting this document, I certify, on behalf of the club, that this submission has not been submitted by our club for a Torch Award in a previous year.**

### Part IV. Entry Documentation

[Include your entry information in one document or provide one referenced document. If there is substantial documentation which you're providing so other clubs can do the program, but is NOT essential to understanding what the program was or how it was accomplished, please identify such information as 'Appendix' so that Judge does not have to review the material. If you're going to provide electronic copies of pictures, please use a graphic program to reduce the size of the individual photos, and realize that the judges don't know who the people are in the photos, so use such photos sparingly. As the submission documents are distributed to the judges electronically, please convert any written portion into an electronic file. If you need assistance in this, ask prior to submitting.]

**TA-0001**

## **Holocaust Essay Contest**

For the last two years, the Men's Club at Congregation Beth Shalom of Clearwater, Florida (Amen) has sponsored the Holocaust Essay Contest. Students from grades 4 – 12 are asked to put into words the meaning of the Holocaust either through essays, poems or multi-media. Their words can be from experiences told to them by relatives and acquaintances or from their own feelings of the event as learned in school programs or at exhibits.

The contest is open to all students from the school grades above and although it has become a program at the local Jewish Day School, it can be expanded to other religious and non-religious schools.

Each child submits original works to a panel of judges which awards based on content, originality and sensitivity. Each winner has an opportunity to read his/her work during the award ceremony.

The purpose of the contest is to inspire young minds into the horrors that can befall a people if tyranny is left unchecked. Tolerance and understanding is best taught to the youth so that as they mature they have better view of the world as it exists and what the future may hold.

Each year a different subject, regarding the Holocaust, sets the tone of the program. Students have a number of weeks to prepare and submit. These are individual works and not team endeavors.

We believe that this program should be promoted by the FJMC due to its involvement in two other programs; the Holocaust/Yellow Candle Project and the Youth Programming. What better way to unify Jews and non Jews alike in the expression of words regarding a dark time in world history.

Attached please find flyers from the event. Copies of the awarded essays are available upon request.

Please consider the value of this program to the FJMC internationally and to the students that participate.

Respectfully yours,

John Hopengarten



In observance of Yom Hashoah, The CBS Men's Club presents...

**CBS**

# A Contest for 4th-12th grade students Written Essay, Poetry, or Multi-Media on the theme: "The Holocaust Happened"



In light of recent events in the world and the statements of those who deny the Holocaust, our youth should be clear on the indisputable evidence of the occurrence of the Holocaust. Our Holocaust survivors are getting older. There are fewer each day to chronicle the memories. We must never forget. We cannot forget. Who will be here to tell their story?

All 4th—12th graders are invited to enter. All entries due no later than April 1, 2009.



For more information on this program or any of our CBS programs and activities, please contact Tami Wolf, CBS Program Coordinator, at the synagogue, (727) 531-1418 or email [cbstami@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cbstami@tampabay.rr.com) and visit our website [www.mycbsfamily.org](http://www.mycbsfamily.org)

**A-Men  
CBS  
Men's  
Club**  
Mike White,  
President  
Mike Brodsky,  
Contest  
Chairman

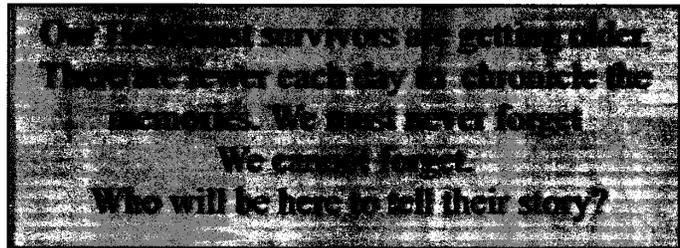
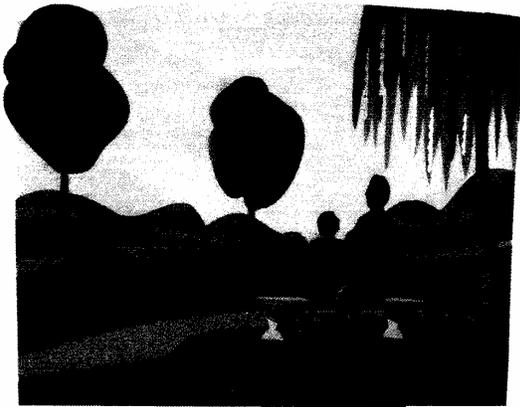
The contest will be judged in three age categories; Elementary, 4th & 5th grade; Middle School, 6th-8th grade; High School, 9th-12th grade. First and second place winners in each age group will be announced in the CBS newsletter, The Kol. The work will be displayed on the CBS website and the students will be given the opportunity to present their work at a Shabbat service. All entrants will receive a certificate of participation. Second place winners will receive a JNF Certificate of a Tree planted in the Holocaust Children's Memorial Forest in Israel, in their honor. First place winners in each age group will receive a Mazel Tov Israel Bond. Contest begins on Wednesday, February 11th and entries will be accepted through April 1st. Winners will be notified on April 17th. All decisions of the judges are final. Each entry should include a cover page which includes the students' name, age, grade, school, home phone number, parents' email address and title of the entry. Entries should be sent, by mail, FAX or email, or delivered to Congregation Beth Shalom 1325 S. Belcher Rd. Clearwater, FL 33764. For further information call the synagogue office, (727) 531-1418 phone, or (727) 531-0798 FAX, or email [cbstami@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cbstami@tampabay.rr.com). Congregation Beth Shalom and The A-Men are not responsible for damages to the entry incurred in transit or while on the synagogue's property or if the entry is not received properly.



The CBS Men's Club sponsors and presents...

CBS

The 2nd Annual Communitywide  
Holocaust Memorial writing Contest  
for 4th-12th grade students  
Essays, Letters, Poems or Plays on the theme:  
"We Will Not Forget"



All 4th—12th graders  
are invited to enter.  
All entries are due no  
later than March 18, 2010.



For more information on this program  
or any of our CBS programs and  
activities, please contact Tami Wolf,  
CBS Religious School Director,  
(727) 531-1418 or email  
cbstami@tampabay.rr.com Visit our  
website at [www.mycbfamily.org](http://www.mycbfamily.org)

The contest will be judged in three age categories;  
Elementary, 4th & 5th grade; Middle School, 6th-8th  
grade; High School, 9th-12th grade. First and second  
place winners in each age group will be announced by  
April 2, 2010. All entrants will receive a certificate of  
participation. First place winners in each age group will  
receive a Mazel Tov Israel Bond. Second place winners  
will receive a JNF Certificate of a Tree planted in the  
Holocaust Children's Memorial Forest in Israel, in their  
honor. Contest begins on Monday November 9th,  
*Kristallnacht*. Entries will be accepted through March 18.  
Winners will be notified on April 2, 2010. Winners will  
be asked to participate in the community wide Yom  
HaShoah Observance on April 11, 2010. All decisions of  
the judges are final. Each entry should include a cover  
page which includes the student's name, age, grade,  
school, home phone number, parents' email address and  
title of the entry. Entries should be sent by mail, FAX or  
email, or delivered to Congregation Beth Shalom,  
1325 S. Belcher Rd. Clearwater, FL 33764  
For further information call the synagogue office,  
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email [cbstami@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cbstami@tampabay.rr.com).

Congregation Beth Shalom and The A-Men are not responsible for damages to the

(2)(d) The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event nor approving or endorsing the  
views of the organization sponsoring the activity.

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try.

**Question 6: How did your parents meet?**

My great grandfather and great grandmother were introduced by a cousin who also survived. They got married after one week.

**Question 7: How do you honor their memory?**

How my Bubby honors their memory is by telling me stories about them. My grandmother is named after her sister Rita. She thinks about them every moment. We have a memorial candle that we light on Jewish Holidays and other special dates. My bubby lights the candles and says kaddish.

After my interview, my bubby was crying and she hugged me for a very long time. My bubby showed me a very old picture of some of her family members who did not survive. After this interview, I can see how painful the Holocaust was. We all must make sure it doesn't happen again.

Many thanks are due to Mike Brodsky and the A-Men of Congregation Beth Shalom for chairing and sponsoring this contest.

Thank you to our judges who read over 75 entries and had the difficult job of choosing just two winners in each age division. We could not do this contest without you.

Thank you to all the students who wrote so beautifully.

Thank you to The Pinellas County Jewish Day School, Mrs. Sembler, and the teachers there who encouraged the students to enter the contest and who added this as a writing assignment in their curriculum, Mrs. Levine, Mrs. Kohan, Mrs. Joslyn and more. We applaud your involvement and thank you for instilling these Jewish values in our children and molding them into proud and knowledgeable Jews who will become the leaders in our community.

TBW

**Yom HaShoah 5770**

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**  
Kane's Furniture Hall

April 11, 2010 / 27 Nisan 5770 2:00pm

**The 2nd Annual Communitywide  
Holocaust Memorial Writing Contest  
Essays, Poems, Letters and Stories  
"We Will Not Forget"**

**The program today includes the award  
ceremony for the young authors of the  
winning entries in the  
communitywide  
Holocaust Memorial Writing Contest  
sponsored by the  
A-Men of Congregation Beth Shalom.**