



## CALL FOR ENTRIES

# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest

YOM HASHOAH: SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

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.

November 9, 2018 will mark the 80th anniversary of a series of violent attacks against Jews spread across Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. Known as Kristallnacht, or “the night of broken glass,” it was the most open and violent attack on Jews by the Nazi regime up until that time. The aftermath was devastating: between 1,500 and 3,000 Jews were killed; 30,000 were sent to concentration camps; over 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed; and synagogues across Germany were burned down. Despite the widespread outrage, Kristallnacht was not enough to make the rest of the world act to head off disaster - marking the beginning of the Holocaust.

This summer, our own Boston community was outraged when there were two different acts of vandalism at the New England Holocaust Memorial, resulting in two shattered glass panels. In the words of a local student: *“This memorial was damaged this past summer by a negligent teen. The tragedy struck the hearts of many who hold dear the meaning of the memorial. Hate has been flooding our nation and we haven’t been responding quite enough.”*

Remembering Kristallnacht then gives us the opportunity to reflect on the power of individuals, groups, and nations not just in an historical context, but in the present moment.

- Talk about what an individual might do today, alone or as a part of a group, to combat the growing tide of racism, prejudice and antisemitism.
- Think of a time when you or someone you know faced prejudice or bullying. What did you do about it? What did you learn from the experience?

## DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: APRIL 25, 2018

Essay contest winners will be awarded at Greater Boston’s Jewish Community Commemoration of Yom HaShoah. Please submit essay in word document along with name, address, phone number, email, birthday, teacher, grade and school to Ellen Kaye, Event Consultant at [ekaye.events@gmail.com](mailto:ekaye.events@gmail.com). Essay finalists will be notified by May 18.

To learn more about this summer's incidents, visit <http://bit.ly/2fG114o>

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.