



The "1939" Club E-Mail Newsletter

January 1, 2006 Volume 2, Number 1

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William Elperin

President

Michael Bazylar

Vice President

Susan Golant

Vice President & Secretary

Sam Rubinfeld

Vice President

Steve Hitter

Vice President

Ann Rubinfeld

Recording Secretary

Mike Zelon

Treasurer

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2005

Dr. Goetz Reunited with His American Liberator



Cantor Walfish, William Elperin, Dr. Sam Goetz and Bob Persinger

After 60 long years, Dr. Sam Goetz, former president of the Club and its current education chair, was reunited with his American Liberator, Bob Persinger, at The "1939" Club's 53rd Anniversary on October 30, 2005, at the Beverly Hills Hotel before a capacity crowd of survivors, dignitaries and students. Dr. Goetz described the scene of that fateful liberation day on May 6, 1945:

"I stood in silence, watching the crowds of emaciated humans surrounding the American GI. They kissed his hands and touched his uniform as if touching a saint. Each wanted to make sure the man was real, and this was neither an illusion nor a dream created by their anxious minds."

Mr. Persinger described that day as follows:

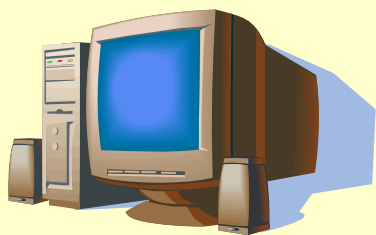
"As we approached the camp, you could see swarms of prisoners dressed in their prison garments which were mostly rags, standing behind the barbed wire fences. We stopped at the gates. I remember at that time I reached down from the turret of my tank and took a rifle from the guard and broke it over the gun barrel of the tank. There was a tremendous roar from the prisoners when this happened."

Former platoon sergeant of F Company, 3rd Squadron, Robert Persinger lives with his wife, Arlene, in Loves Park, Illinois, outside of Chicago.

"I swore never to remain silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides."

Elie Wiesel

Websites of interest



[Jews in America](#)

[Forward Newspaper](#)

[Holocaust Chronicle](#)

[Claims Conference](#)

[Jewish Federation](#)

[Survivors of the Shoah](#)

[The Righteous](#)

[Yad Vashem](#)

[USHMM](#)



Mr. Persinger addresses the audience



Celebrating with members



Chapman students raise him on chair



Learning the Horah



Ellen and Lewis Krinsky from Houston, Texas



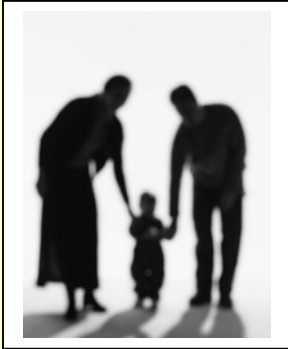
Prof. Isa Aron, Prof. David Myers, Bill Elperin and Bill Aron



Abram and Sally Friedman



Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Teichner



Visit Child
Survivor's
[Web Site](#)

The Holocaust Art and Writing Contest

This year's winners:

Marissa Moonilal
Mater Dei High

Irina Dykhne
Univeristy High (L.A.)

Mathew Adam White
University High (L.A.)

Monique Becker
Lakeside Middle

Gabriella Duva
St. Anne School

Kim Ngai
Fulton Middle School

[VIEW ENTRIES](#)

General Meeting and Election Set for January 25, 2006

The annual general meeting and election for The "1939" Club has been set for Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 7 PM at Congregation Beth Israel. The slate of officers is as follows:

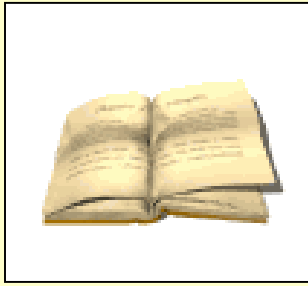
President -	William Elperin
Vice President-	Prof. Michael Bazylar
Vice President & Corresponding Secty -	Susan Golant
Vice President-	Sam Rubinfeld
Vice President-	Steve Hitter
Treasurer-	Mike Zelon
Financial Secty-	Rosemary Elperin
Recording Secty-	Ann Rubinfeld

Club President Issues Statement on Mel Gibson

In response to news reports that Mel Gibson plans to produce a film on the Holocaust, Club President, William Elperin, issued the following statement:

I think it's great that Mel Gibson wants to make a film about Jews during the Holocaust and that he recognizes the importance of remembrance and witness. His involvement will insure a large ready-made audience to view a movie about the Holocaust and perhaps encourage those who view it to learn more. However, great care must be exercised to deal with the subject matter accurately and honestly. It must be made clear that the Van Beek story is far from typical. Although we need to remember and honor the righteous Christians who risked their lives to save Jews, it must be emphasized that they were a small minority. The Holocaust occurred not only because of the perpetrators, but because of the vast number of people who remained silent bystanders. Most Jewish families who were even lucky enough to attempt to survive in hiding were, like Anne Frank's family, ultimately betrayed or their hiding places discovered. Few Jews in the Netherlands survived the Holocaust; most, like Anne Frank, as well as her mother and sister, died in the concentration and death camps.

The Club has 50 full length Survivor interviews posted on its web site. We are featuring Schindler List Survivors Leopold Page, Z'I and Mila Page.



Yiskor Bikker

Holocaust Memorial
Books

Now on line

The New York Public Library in partnership with the National Yiddish Book Center has digitized Yiskor Bikker. They are available on line and many have been translated into English.

**Yiskor Books
Click Here**



**Holocaust/Jewish
Studies Programs**

- [CSUN](#)
- [UCLA](#)
- [Chapman](#)
- [USC](#)
- [Claremont](#)

Judge Edward Korman to be Guest of Honor



*The "1939" Club
cordially invites you to celebrate our
53rd Installation
Sunday, February 26, 2006
12 O'clock Noon
The Beverly Hills Hotel
Reservations: (310) 276-5101
Dietary Laws Observed*

In 2004 Edward R. Korman, a member of the Brooklyn College Class of 1963, was the presiding judge in a landmark case brought by Holocaust survivors against Swiss banks who profited from the confiscated property of European Jews. His work on this case, which he describes as a "once-in-a-lifetime case for a judge," gave him the opportunity to play a critical role in addressing one of great injustices of the twentieth century. This historic class-action lawsuit brought about a \$1.25 billion settlement to survivors and relatives, and gave stark evidence about how the Nazi regime persecuted not only Jews, but Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies, gays, disabled people, and others. "A comparison of needy survivors is by definition an odious process," he wrote in one decision in the case. "All individuals who survived the Holocaust bear scars, and all merit relief."

Judge Korman, 63, grew up in East New York and went to school in Flatbush. After earning a degree in political science at Brooklyn College he attended Brooklyn Law School and graduated in 1966. In public service and in private practice, he has earned a reputation for independence and integrity. He was the U.S. Attorney in Brooklyn from 1978 to 1982 and in 1985, after several years in private practice, President Ronald Reagan appointed Korman a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. In 1989, he ordered the extradition of a member of the Abu Nidal Organization to Israel to stand trial for a terrorist attack on a bus traveling between the West Bank and Tel Aviv. In 1996, he found that the New York State Republican Party's presidential primary election access rules imposed an unconstitutional burden on the right to vote and ordered that the Republican Party put Steve Forbes and other candidates on the Republican primary presidential ballot statewide.

Save the Date



Friday
March 10, 2006

7th Annual
Art & Writing
Contest
Award Ceremony

**Chapman
University**

**11 AM
Memorial
Auditorium**

Moments of Decision:
Perpetrators,
Witnesses, Rescuers

Create an essay, poem
or work of art that
connects the historical
moment of decision you
have researched and
your own moment of
decision. In your work,
capture how these
moments "illuminate or
darken" life.

"It is the story of Jewish suffering, in large part. But it's the story of how non-Jews could perpetrate the Holocaust, and how the majority of people could see what was unfolding as tyranny took over their country and be silent about it."

The Orange County Register quoting Professor Marilyn J. Harran.

Read entire feature article [CLICK HERE](#)

UCLA EVENTS

Monday, January 23, 2006 • 314 Royce Hall • 7:30 pm

"Primo Levi and the Germans:

Is Forgiveness Possible After the Holocaust?"

The "1939" Club Distinguished Lecture in Holocaust Studies

Alvin Rosenfeld

(Indiana)

Cosponsored by the UCLA Center for European and Eurasian Studies

Wednesday, February 15, 2006 • 314 Royce Hall • 7:30 pm

"Origins of the Final Solution:

Revisiting the Fateful Months of September/October 1941"

The "1939" Club Distinguished Lecture in Holocaust Studies

Christopher Browning

(UNC, Chapel Hill)

Cosponsored by the UCLA Center for European and Eurasian Studies

Pre-registration is required.

Please RSVP to cjs@humnet.ucla.edu

Donate Your Books



Donate your books relating to the Holocaust to the Sala and Aron Samuelli Holocaust Memorial Library and dedicate them to family members who perished in the Holocaust.

Call (310) 491-7802

Become a Member

You don't have to be a Survivor; you don't even have to be Jewish!

[Membership Form](#)
[Click Here](#)



Joseph Aleksander



Curt Lowens



Hilda & Harry Eisen

Marta Lightner



These photograph portraits of Survivors were taken by Bill Aron for the *Holocaust Survivors: The Indestructible Spirit* project and made possible by a generous gift from Chapman University donors Irv and Nancy Chase in honor of Sol and Fay Chase, Holocaust Survivors.