**2018 Holocaust Creative Arts and Writing Competition**

**Resources for “Family and the Holocaust”**

*A message from the competition organizer, Sandra Brett*

I feel personally connected to this year’s theme, “Family and the Holocaust.”  My parents, both Holocaust survivors, would often recollect memories of happy childhoods as well as the unspeakable tragedy of the ghettos and concentration camps.

My father mourned the loss of his father, sisters, nieces and nephews, all of whom were immediately murdered when the Germans entered Lithuania in 1941. Dad escaped his hometown and survived with the support of cousins.  Later in the war, Jewish partisans became his family.  My mother’s family stayed together until the liquidation of the Pabianice ghetto in 1942.  Mom would recount her final separation from her mother and younger siblings in heartbreaking detail.  She credited her father with her survival in the Lodz ghetto, and mourned the death of her sister shortly after liberation.

The catchphrase “Never Again” sounds rather naive when we discuss Holocaust education in the midst of today’s tragedies. Perhaps recognition of the importance of family can help us to repair and meet the challenges of our fractured world.

**Resources:**

<http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/resource_center/item.asp?gate=2-41>

\*Great letters, diaries, and testimonies

“The Jewish Family was the central source of support to which people turned during the Holocaust. Under Nazi rule Jewish life was unequivocally damaged due to painful social, economic and political segregation and eventually death. The need to protect the family was an overriding concern and aim, and by doing so, many found a source of consolation.”

<http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/education/newsletter/19/main_article.asp>

### “Family Gave Them Strength”

“Evidence reveals that some fragments of families remained intact, in ghettos, and in labor and extermination camps, and those who didn’t have family members, created their own alternative families.”

<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/family-during-holocaust>

Family during the Holocaust

“The Holocaust dealt a mortal blow to the family and to Jewish life in general. Nevertheless, some sources indicate that, apart from the crisis and breakdown, there was also considerable strength in family ties so long as normal life could be maintained.”

# <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10006127>

# Hidden Children: Quest for Family.

“When the war ended in 1945, the surviving remnant of Europe's Jews immediately began the difficult and painful search for family members”