

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AT THE BJE

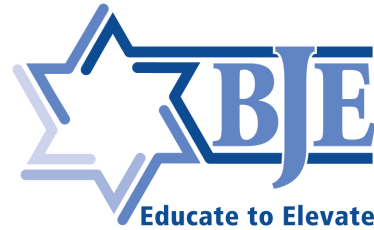
The Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Phoenix (BJE) is in the forefront of providing Holocaust Education to the Jewish and non-Jewish community across the state of Arizona.

Through the Carolyn Nathan Educators' Conference on the Holocaust, and the Teen Holocaust Forum, the BJE hosts hundreds of public, private and charter school teachers and students from across the state each year, for workshops in the area of Holocaust Education.

The BJE works tirelessly with the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association and the Generations After to sponsor activities during the week following Yom HaShoah (the Holocaust Day of Remembrance), including a day-long reading of names of those who perished, but whose memory lives on.

In addition, our Phoenix High School of Jewish Studies (Hebrew High) class on the Holocaust is required study for each of our graduates.

We thank the Bronkesh Family for endowing this prize.



The Bureau of Jewish Education is funded in part by the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix, enhancing the quality of Jewish education for Jews of all ages and denominations, affiliated and unaffiliated through adult learning, family life education, Hebrew High, a Jewish Community Library, professional services for Jewish educators and community outreach.

BUREAU OF JEWISH EDUCATION
Center for Lifelong Jewish Learning
Pluralistic, Non-denominational,
Egalitarian – with respect for all

The BJE is supported by the
Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix



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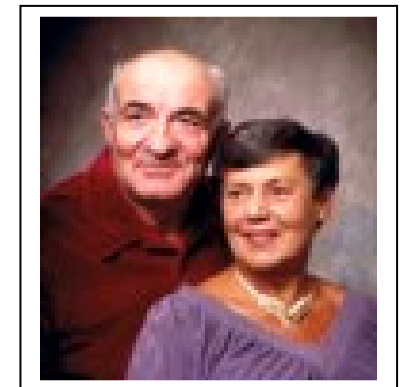


**The Bureau of Jewish Education
is proud to sponsor –**

***The Bronia and Sam
Bronkesh***

Jewish Spirit Prize

***Honoring physical and spiritual
resistance during the
Holocaust***



**Open to high school students in
the Greater Phoenix area**

ESSAY GUIDELINES

Essays will be judged on how well the student explores the use of lessons from and reactions to the Holocaust to make a better world. Works should demonstrate both in-depth learning about the Holocaust and personal reflections.

Essays may include: personal interviews with survivors or liberators, research on the life and actions of the partisans and/or righteous gentiles, how one advocates today to prevent present day genocides, and reflections on how the Holocaust impacted the student's own life.

Maximum word count: 1200 words

PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE: \$500.00

SECOND PRIZE: \$300.00

THIRD PRIZE: \$100.00

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JANUARY 31, 2019

Winning essay will be read at our community's annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration in April. Every student who submits an essay will be recognized and receive a certificate of participation.

By submitting an essay, applicants certify that their essays are original, authored solely by themselves.

Essays should be sent to:
myras@bjephoenix.org

Suggested Reading

Need help getting started?

Books and website related to the resistance are readily available at your public library, the BJE library, or at Amazon.com

Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust by Doreen Rappaport

Defiance by Nechama Tec

The Wall by John Hersey

The Avengers by Rich Cohen

The Brigade: An Epic Story of Vengeance, Salvation, and WWII by Howard Blum

Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project by Jack Mayer

If It's Not Impossible--: The Life of Sir Nicholas Winton by Barbara Winton

In Search of Sugihara: The Elusive Japanese Diplomat Who Risked his Life to Rescue 10,000 Jews From the Holocaust by Hillel Levine

Raoul Wallenberg: The Heroic Life and Mysterious Disappearance of the Man Who Saved Thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Holocaust by Ingrid Carlberg

Explore: <http://www.jewishpartisans.org/>
Approximately 30,000 Jews throughout Eastern and Western Europe - many of them teens - fought back during the Holocaust as Jewish partisans.

ABOUT BRONIA & SAM BRONKESH

Bronia Cimmerman was born in Sarny, Poland in 1921. After high school, she went to Warsaw to continue her education. While home on summer break in 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Sarny was bombed and within days, the Russian army came to Sarny. Overnight the town became part of the Soviet Union.

In June 1941 Germany invaded and the Nazi army marched toward Sarny. Her father stayed, but Bronia with her mother and sister fled deeper into the Soviet Union. Bronia's determination to live was evident throughout WWII as she continued her education in the Soviet Union. Back in Sarny, the Jewish ghetto was liquidated and Bronia's father and grandparents were among the 14,000 murdered there. With no Jews left alive in Sarny, the three Cimmerman women decided to go to America. Their first stop was Lublin, Poland. There, in a homeless shelter, Bronia met Sam Bronkesh.

Sam was from Ryki, a small town in southwest Poland. Sam had been a slave laborer at a nearby munitions factory and his three brothers were in another camp. Before all the Jews from Ryki were sent to the Sobibor death camp, Sam managed to escape. He stole a truck, bribed a guard, and broke out his brothers from the camp. For the next two years, they fought with a group of 40 Partisans, living in the area's vast woods. Emerging from the forest, Sam went to Lublin, which was the temporary Polish capitol. Recuperating from shrapnel wounds, he met and married Bronia in late 1945. Bronia, Sam and their new baby (born in a Displaced Persons camp in Germany) boarded a ship in June 1947 for the last leg of a long journey to America.

From their experiences emanates the Jewish spirit of survival against all odds.