The Holocaust Memorial Center (HMC) in Farmington Hills hosted an award ceremony May 17 for the second annual Kappy Family Anne Frank Art & Writing Competition.

The competition is presented with support from the Kappy family. Garry Kappy was born in Opatow, Poland. He was imprisoned in different labor camps when he was 15 years old and survived the horrors of the Buchenwald and Auschwitz concentration camps. While Kappy recognizes the importance of memorializing Holocaust victims, he felt it was crucial to find a way to engage and educate young adults to combat hatred and help prevent future genocides. This inspiration led to the competition.

The award ceremony was attended by student winners, their families and teachers as well as the Kappy family and HMC leadership and staff. For many of the students, this was their first time meeting a Holocaust survivor and was a truly humbling experience.

This year’s theme was “The Power of Hope.” The competition, open to students in grades 9-12 in Oakland and Macomb counties, drew submissions from more than two dozen high schools as well as homeschooled students who created written and artistic responses to a quote by Anne Frank: “Where there’s hope, there’s life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again.”

The winning art and writing submissions are on display at the HMC through Aug. 24.
Kappy family: Ira, Ilse, Garry, Barbara and Irvin.

Irvin and Garry Kappy with Hannah Wise, a Roeper student who placed third in fiction writing

Stoney Creek student Melissa Schamanek with her photograph that took first place