

MACOMB DAILY EDUCATION

Sterling Heights students among winners of Kappy Family Anne Frank Art & Writing Competition

6/11/18



Irvin Kappy, left, and his father, Garry Kappy pose with Abdullah Swain, a senior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights, whose drawing earned him second place in the annual Kappy Family Anne Frank Art & Writing Competition hosted by the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus.

The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus announced the winners of the second annual Kappy Family Anne Frank Art & Writing Competition and three students from Sterling Heights were among this year's winners.

Open to Oakland and Macomb County students in grades nine through 12, the competition included three art categories: drawing, painting and photography, as well as three writing categories: poetry, fiction and non-fiction. Winners were honored on May 17 during a ceremony at the museum attended by family, friends, educators, competition judges and HMCZFC staff. At the conclusion of the award ceremony, a display of the winning art and writing submissions was unveiled.



Student honorees from Stoney Creek High School included Lydia Aguirre, left front, Olivia Barone and Annabel Philp along with Rochester High students Paolo Barraza. In the back row, left to right are Stoney Creek High School students Sofia Mellado, Melissa Schamanek, Nick Daniel, Keya Chinnam and their teacher Diane Heath.

The theme for this year's competition was "The Power of Hope." Students were invited to create a written or artistic response to a quote by Anne Frank, "Where there's hope, there's life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again."

"I found it incredibly meaningful to see how Anne Frank's story inspired students from such diverse backgrounds and experiences," said Dr. Irvin Kappy, Garry's son. "It was wonderful meeting the honorees and seeing their artistic creativity in response to this year's theme."

The competition is presented with support from the Kappy family. Garry Kappy is the last surviving member of his family. He was born in Opatow, Poland, and was imprisoned in different labor camps when he was 15 years old. He survived the horrors of the Buchenwald and Auschwitz concentration camps. While Kappy recognizes the importance of memorializing the victims of the Holocaust, he felt it was crucial to educate and help prevent future genocides. It was this inspiration that led to the Kappy Family Anne Frank Art & Writing Competition.

"On behalf of the Kappy family, the judging committee and everyone at the Holocaust Memorial Center, I want to applaud the students for their thoughtful writing and art submissions," said Aliza Tick, Education Associate, Holocaust Memorial Center. "We invite the community to visit the museum and take the time to view the winning art, stories and poems from area students. It is illuminating and inspiring to see how teenagers, who are the same age that Anne Frank was when she wrote her diary, express the lessons they have learned about the Holocaust."

Macomb County's winners included:

- Drawing category, 2nd place: Abdullah Swain, senior, Adlai E. Stevenson High School
- Drawing category, honorable mention: Justin Hakim, Adlai E. Stevenson High School
- Painting category, honorable mention: Racquel Williams, Adlai E. Stevenson High School

Other winners by school district, include:

Beverly Hills Schools

- Photography category, 3rd place: Chloe Kiriluk, sophomore, Detroit Country Day School
- Non-Fiction category, honorable mention: Bianca Desai, Detroit Country Day School

Birmingham Schools

- Fiction category, 3rd place: Hannah Wise, freshman, Roeper School
- Poetry category, 1st place: Ella Appleyard, sophomore, Wylie E. Groves High School

Bloomfield Hills Schools

- Fiction category, 1st place: Margaret Kase, freshman, Marian High School
- Fiction category, honorable mention: Adi Siegmann, Bloomfield Hills High School

Farmington Schools

- Non-Fiction category, 2nd place: Jessica Dillon, junior, Mercy High School
- Poetry, 3rd place: Reese Faunt, sophomore, Mercy High School
- Fiction category, honorable mention: Vaishnavi Vemuri, North Farmington High School
- Poetry category, honorable mention: Brooklynne Bates, Mercy High School
- Poetry category, honorable mention: Juliette Quenioux, North Farmington High School
- Photography category, honorable mention: Morgan Lowe, Mercy High School
- Painting category, honorable mention: Andrea Ouellette, Harrison High School

Homeschooled

- Drawing category, honorable mention: Jacquelyn Vescio, homeschooled

Rochester Community Schools

- Drawing category, 1st place: Paolo Barraza, senior, Rochester High School
- Drawing category, 3rd place: Lydia Aguirre, senior, Stoney Creek High School
- Photography category, 1st place: Melissa Schamanek, senior, Stoney Creek High School
- Photography category, 2nd place: Keya Chinnam, junior, Stoney Creek High School
- Painting category, 1st place: Nick Daniel, senior, Stoney Creek High School
- Painting category, 2nd place: Annabel Philp, senior, Stoney Creek High School
- Painting category, 3rd place: Olivia Barone, senior, Stoney Creek High School
- Drawing category, honorable mention: Jiahui Du, Stoney Creek High School
- Drawing category, honorable mention: Cole Eller, Stoney Creek High School
- Photography category, honorable mention: Tabitha Balmus, Stoney Creek High School
- Photography category, honorable mention: Maria Perez Cuellar, Rochester High School
- Photography category, honorable mention: Jeein Shim, Stoney Creek High School
- Painting category, honorable mention: Jingxin Cao, Stoney Creek High School
- Painting category, honorable mention: Sofia Mellado, Stoney Creek High School

Troy Schools

- Poetry, 2nd place: Shanmin Sultana, senior, International Academy East
- Poetry category, honorable mention: Nudar Shabil, International Academy East

Walled Lake Schools

- Non-Fiction category, 1st place: Joshua Agius, junior, Walled Lake Northern High School
- Non-Fiction category, 3rd place: Anastacia Gusikhin, junior, Walled Lake Northern High School
- Fiction category, honorable mention: Ashley Thornell, Walled Lake Northern High School
- Non-Fiction category, honorable mention: Kalyn Fuelling, Walled Lake Northern High School
- Non-Fiction category, honorable mention: Areeba Maysun, Walled Lake Northern High School

West Bloomfield Schools

- Fiction category, 2nd place: Ari Levi, senior, Mesivta of West Bloomfield
- Fiction category, honorable mention: Shlomo Levi, Mesivta of West Bloomfield
- Poetry category, honorable mention: Daniel Forta, Mesivta of West Bloomfield
- Non-Fiction category, honorable mention: Eden Gilan, Frankel Jewish Academy

First place winners were awarded \$250, second place winners received \$125 and \$75 was awarded to third place winners. In addition, the teachers and schools of first place winners in each category received a \$200 Amazon gift card.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is home to one of the saplings from the chestnut tree that grew outside of Anne Frank's hiding place. During nearly two years in hiding, her exposure to the outside world was limited to what she could see outside her window. "From my favorite spot on the floor, I look up at the blue sky and the bare chestnut tree, on whose branches little raindrops shine, appearing like silver," she wrote in 1944. "When I looked outside right into the depth of nature and God, then I was happy, really happy."

The sapling spent three years in quarantine before being planted on-site at the museum during a dedication ceremony in 2013 at the Viola and Garry Kappy Anne Frank Tree Exhibit and Garden.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is at 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. For more information call, 248-553-2400.

-- Gina Joseph, The Macomb Daily Staff