



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TEXAS HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES  
2019 STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS**

**AUSTIN, TX, May 9** – The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Student Contest.

The winners were contacted by our Program Coordinator Cheyanne Perkins and the names of winners were announced on the THGC website and social media platforms on April 30, 2019.

The THGC's Student contest was open to students grades 6-12 and sought to recognize students who translated the experience of survivors of the Holocaust or modern genocides artistically into poetry or visual art pieces. This year's theme was Texas Survivors.

These are survivors of the Holocaust and modern genocides recognized by the United States; these genocides include those in Cambodia, Rwanda, the Balkans, Darfur, Armenia and the Middle East (Syria and Iraq), have attempted to convey their experiences to others, especially the younger generations that represent the future. By engaging survivors' personal testimonies, Texas students can assume the role of witness and use their knowledge to improve the world in which we live.

The winners for the high school categories in poetry and visual arts received \$500 and the winners for the middle school categories will be \$250. The winners are as follows:

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## **High School**

### **Holocaust Poetry**

“Pots and Pans” by Leann Lopez  
Survivor: Rosa Blum  
Jimmy Carter Early College High School  
La Joya, TX

### **Holocaust Visual Arts**

“Unsensible Pain” by Ali Askari  
Survivor: Rosa Blum  
Pflugerville High School  
Pflugerville, TX

### **Genocide Poetry**

“Rwanda Genocide” by Miguel  
Survivor: Gilbert Tuhabonye  
Sharyland High School  
Mission, Texas

### **Genocide Visual Arts**

“Into the Slaughter” by Maya Carrizalez  
Survivor: Mirzeta Colic  
Jimmy Carter Early College High School  
Lay Joya, TX

## **Middle School**

### **Holocaust Poetry**

“Entwine Mankind with Words of Mrs.  
Burstein” by Madhalasa Iyer  
Survivor: Hannah Burstein  
Rice Middle School  
Plano, TX

### **Holocaust Visual Arts**

“We Are Not All What We Seem” by Katia  
Rodriguez  
Survivor: Walter Kase  
Pin Oak Middle School  
Bellaire, TX

### **Genocide Poetry**

“Waiting to Die” by Ani Maldjian  
Survivor: Valentine Iribagiza  
Highland Park Middle School  
Dallas, TX

### **Genocide Visual Arts**

“Smoke of Fear” by Helen Fiske  
Survivor: Gilbert Tuhabonye  
Hill Country Middle School  
Austin, TX

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission consists of an administrative team that is based out of Austin, Texas, along with fifteen government-appointed commissioners from around the State of Texas. During the quarterly meeting, the public will have the opportunity to understand the different ventures the THGC is currently focusing on and provide any commentary about what their community might find useful.

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*The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission is a state agency that was established to bring awareness of the Holocaust and other genocides to Texas students, educators, and the general public by ensuring availability of resources, and in doing so, imbue in individuals a sense of responsibility to uphold human value and inspire citizens in the prevention of future atrocities.*

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If you would like more information about this contest and the winners, please contact Veronica Ramirez at 512.463.0783 or [veronica.ramirez@thgc.texas.gov](mailto:veronica.ramirez@thgc.texas.gov). Please feel free to visit our website [thgc.texas.gov](http://thgc.texas.gov) to learn more about the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and its mission.