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TEXAS HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2020 STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2020 Student Contests in Poetry & Visual Arts. Winners were contacted by Cheyanne Perkins, Director of Programs, and their names and entries were published on the [THGC website](#) on April 27, 2020.

This year's contest theme was *Using Words to Bear Witness* and was open to Texas students enrolled in 6th-12th grades. Students were charged with reviewing 28 quotations from various survivors, rescuers, liberators, scholars, and activists who have presented testimonies or analysis of the Holocaust and/or genocides in the Ottoman Empire, Cambodia, Rwanda/Burundi, the Balkans, Sudan, Syria, and Iraq. Upon selecting one quotation, each student contestant generated an original piece of visual artwork or poem as a reflection of the selected quotation.

Over 180 students from all corners of Texas submitted entries by February 28th, as specified in the contest guidelines. Due to the THGC's desire to highlight only the very best in student performance, this year's contest, unlike previous ones, was comprised of only four awards, which raised the stakes even higher for students who entered. This year, middle and high school categories would see two winners each, one for visual arts and one for poetry.

Each high school winner will receive \$500, and each middle school winner will receive \$250.

The following students earned the highest scores in their category of entry:

High School Poetry Winner

A Stuffed Bear by Rebekah, 10th
Testimony from Charlotte Delbo
Jimmy Carter Early College High School
La Joya, TX

High School Visual Arts Winner

A Childhood Erased by Clarisse, 12th
Testimony from Charlotte Delbo
Los Fresnos High School
Los Fresnos, TX

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Middle School Poetry Winner

Forgotten Past by Matthew, 7th
Testimony from Charlotte Delbo
Pin Oak Middle School
Bellaire, TX

Middle School Visual Arts Winner

The Only Pure Thing Left by Josiah, 8th
Testimony from Charlotte Delbo
Roy J. Smith Middle School
Killeen, TX

The THGC would also like to recognize the students whose entries earned the second-highest scores:

High School Poetry Runner Up

Dreadful Moments of Remembrance
by Abigail, 11th
Testimony from Leakhena Sears
Sharyland High School
Mission, TX

High School Visual Arts Runner Up

Hope by Paula, 10th
Testimony from Ambassador Sichan Siv
Jimmy Carter Early College High School
La Joya, TX

Middle School Poetry Runner Up

Sacrifice by Ani, 8th
Testimony from Leakhena Sears
Highland Park Middle School
Dallas, TX

Middle School Visual Arts Runner Up

Moral Denial by Elizabeth, 8th
Testimony from Soghomon Tehlirian
Leo Adams Middle School
Haslet, TX

The annual THGC Student Contests in Poetry & Visual Arts are generously funded by the [Friends of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission](#) 501(c)3 non-profit. The Friends of the THGC, along with THGC staff and commissioners, congratulate the prize recipients and thank all students who participated in this year's contest. Their important work helps support the important mission of Holocaust and genocide awareness.

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission is a state commission 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.

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If you would like more information about this contest and the winners, please contact Christian Acevedo at 512.463.7998 or christian.acevedo@thgc.texas.gov. Please feel free to visit our website <https://thgc.texas.gov/> to learn more about the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and its mission.