



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TEXAS HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE COMMISSION ANNOUNCES
2021 FRIENDS OF THGC STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS**

AUSTIN, TEXAS – The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2021 Friends of THGC Student Contests in Poetry & Visual Arts. Winners were contacted by Cheyanne Perkins, THGC Director of Programs, and their names and entries were published on the [THGC website](#) on July 28, 2021.

This year's contest theme was *Sites of Memory* and was open to Texas students enrolled in 6th-12th grades. The contest charged students with choosing a place/event in Holocaust or genocide history to research. They could select an event that happened during the Holocaust or during the Armenian genocide, Cambodian genocide, Rwandan/Burundian genocide, Bosnian genocide, Darfur genocide, or Iraqi/Syrian genocide. Students then created a memorial in the form of an original poem, drawing, or 3-D model that they imagined could be placed at the chosen location to commemorate the event that occurred there.

Unlike previous contests, this year students were allowed to either work alone or with a fellow Texan in the same grade level. In addition, students were required to submit a video in which they explained how the memorial they created serves to commemorate the event/place they researched. Students who chose to submit an original poem also had to send a video with the poem being recited.

Over 110 students from all parts of Texas submitted entries by April 30th, as specified in the contest guidelines. 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

Angel of Auschwitz by Ana, 11th
Category: Holocaust
Sharyland High School
Mission, TX

High School Visual Arts Winner

The Pomegranate Tree by Ani, 9th
Category: Genocide
Highland Park High School
Dallas, TX

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Middle School Poetry Winner

Remember the Rwandan Genocide by Hailey, 8th
Category: Genocide
Nolan Middle School
Harker Heights, TX

Middle School Poetry Winner

Blood, by Kallie, 6th
Category: Holocaust
Leo Adams Middle School
Haslet, TX

Middle School Visual Arts Winner

Only Five by Sophia, 8th
Category: Holocaust
Sycamore Springs Middle School
Austin, TX

The THGC would also like to recognize the students whose entries earned honorable mention:

Middle School Visual Arts

Let Us Remember the Genocide against the Tutsi by Avery, 8th
Category: Genocide
Leo Adams Middle School
Haslet, TX

Middle School Visual Arts

Remember All Who Were Affected by the Rwandan Genocide by Vimed, 8th
Category: Genocide
Leo Adams Middle School
Haslet, TX

The annual Friends of THGC Student Contests in Poetry & Visual Arts are generously funded by the [Friends of Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission](#) 501(c)3 non-profit. The Friends of 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. If sharing this news on social media, please tag the THGC on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter @TxHGC.