



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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25th Anniversary of the City of Akron Holocaust Arts & Writing Contest

Akron, Ohio (December 11, 2012) - City of Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic and Michael Derr, Chairman of the City of Akron Holocaust Commemoration Committee, are pleased to announce the 25th Anniversary of the Arts & Writing Contest, an arts and writing based competition for residents of Akron and Summit County in grades 6-12. This year's Contest theme is **Remembering Holocaust Survivors and Their Stories**.

From its inception in 1989 over 10,000 students from Akron and Summit County have studied the Holocaust and submitted art, writing or multi media entries in response to a variety of themes.

“The contest offers a unique opportunity for teachers and students alike to gain valuable insight into one of history’s most important lessons,” noted Derr. Derr,

Marketing Events Supervisor for the Akron Summit County Public Library, is the twelfth chairperson of this committee.

Committee members expressed strong support for encouraging students to study the stories as told by survivors, since survivors numbers are dwindling and personal accounts are few. Many of these stories can be found on our webpage, www.akronohio.gov/holocaust2/, and clicking on **Resources**.

For the 25th consecutive year, the City of Akron is honored to commemorate the events surrounding the Holocaust. In doing so, City leaders hope to foster awareness and meaningful reflection of the lessons of the Holocaust.

Mayor Plusquellic noted that, “for twenty-five years this contest has provided thousands of students the opportunity to learn the lessons of the Holocaust, while expressing themselves through art and writing. Through this year’s contest, we are encouraging teachers and students (through their entries) to educate the community about the Holocaust while focusing on survivors.”

Mayor Plusquellic has provided support, encouragement to area students and teachers and many hours of City Hall staff members’ time to support this contest.

Plusquellic also recognizes the importance of this contest as “it is up to us and future generations to recount the stories that we have been told, so that this tragedy is never repeated.”

Students can enter in middle school [grades 6-8] or high school [grades 9-12] divisions using art, writing or multi media presentations. Entries are due: January 25, 2013 by 6:00 PM.

For complete contest entry information, guidelines, applications, resources and details on prizes visit the website at www.akronohio.gov/holocaust2/. In addition to contest rules the site features all winning entries from the 2004-2012 contests.

The website has a new feature for teachers under the Directory. Additional resources are available at the Akron Summit County Public Library, and there are now Time Lines and Teacher Guides.

All prizes will be awarded at the annual City of Akron Holocaust Commemoration to be held April 9, 2013.

Donations to the City of Akron Holocaust Memorial Trust Fund support all aspects of the contest and commemoration including, providing money for materials for school libraries and the first place winner's trip to Washington D.C. To make a donation, please contact Billy Soule, Assistant to the Mayor for Community Relations, The City of Akron at (330) 375-2660.

For more information, contact Billy Soule, Assistant to the Mayor for Community Relations, at info.Holocaust@akronohio.gov or (330)-375-2660.

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