



PRESS RELEASE

City of Akron 166 S. High Street Akron, Ohio 44308
(330)-375-2345 Fax:(330)- 375-2468
Web: www.akronohio.gov

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie York, Director of Communications
syork@akronohio.gov or 330-375-2345 (w) / 330-289-1467 (c)

Akron's 26th Holocaust Commemoration

For the 26th consecutive year, the City of Akron will commemorate the events surrounding the Holocaust and World War II at the Akron-Summit County Public Library. The community is invited to the 2012 City of Akron Holocaust Commemoration on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the downtown library, 60 S. High St., Akron. The event is free and open to the public.

The student awards ceremony for winners of the 24th annual City of Akron Holocaust Arts and Writing Contest, the educational element of the project, begins at 11:30 a.m. The commemoration ceremony follows at 12 noon.

The theme for this year's commemoration and Arts & Writing Contest is **Children of the Holocaust 1933-1945.**

“We are delighted to have Leo Silberman, a child survivor, who was born in Poland, as our featured speaker at this year’s commemoration,” committee chairman Dan Markowitz said. “Our committee feels very strongly that as long as there are survivors willing and able to speak, it is vital that we have them at the commemoration to bring eyewitness testimony.”

Mr. Silberman survived several forced labor and concentration camps. A successful Cleveland businessman, he is President of Kol Israel Foundation, a Holocaust survivors’ organization founded in 1959 and a board member at the MALTZ Museum of Jewish Heritage.

The commemoration event will highlight the artistic contributions of young people in the area and feature a memorial candle lighting ceremony with the contest’s first place winners.

Over 200 students in grades 6-12 from Akron and Summit County have submitted entries to the contest in one of three disciplines: visual art, multimedia or writing. Students were encouraged to study the historical events of the Holocaust and reflect upon how children were affected by the horrific events that took place.

“It is vitally important to teach our children about the history surrounding the Holocaust, and I would like to thank all the students, teachers and parents for their involvement,” says Mayor Don Plusquellic, who has sponsored the contest since coming into office in 1987. “These children entered this contest to bring awareness to this tragic time in history, and I am so proud of them for their efforts. Our children are making sure

that the mistakes of the past are never forgotten and never repeated.”

Contest jurors who are professional artists, writers, educators or experts on the Holocaust have chosen the award-winning works that will be published in the annual book distributed throughout the area. The website at www.ci.akron.oh.us/holocaust2/ features all winning entries from the 2004-2011 contests, with 2012 winning entries to be added after the commemoration.

An exhibit featuring award winning art works from the contest will be held at the Main Library April 5 – May 4, 2012.

A grant of \$150 will be awarded to the schools of the first place winners to acquire books and media for their libraries. First place winning students and their teachers will be invited to go to Washington D.C. to tour the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and national monuments.

Donations to the City of Akron Holocaust Memorial Trust Fund provide money for materials for school libraries, the first place winners’ trip to Washington D.C. and all other expenses of this project. To make a donation, please contact Billy Soule, Assistant to the Mayor for Community Relations, The City of Akron at (330) 375-2345.