

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council Announces 1987 Winners Of National Writing Contest

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Harvey M. Meyerhoff, Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, presented the First Prize in the Council's 1987 National Writing Contest to Susan North, a senior at Villa Maria Academy in Malvern, Pennsylvania. North was given a free trip to Washington, D.C., where the award was made recently.

The contest, sponsored by the Council each year, encourages students to learn about the Holocaust and to reflect on its lessons for modern society. This year approximately 1,000 students nationwide submitted fiction, nonfiction, poetry or dramatic essays that considered the question, "What Are the Lessons of the Holocaust for Americans?"

Chairman Meyerhoff, who presented the award to North, commented that her winning poem, "Holocaust Choir," is "deeply personal and filled with emotional pain. Still, it offers hope that what can be learned from the Holocaust is how to ensure that such events will never be repeated."

Final entries were judged by a 14-member panel of scholars, teachers and writers.

Coordinator of the contest, Isaiah Kuperstein, Director of Education at the Council, said that "Our productive effort to reach the schools of America is reflected in these entries. Each of the students established a personal relationship to

the Holocaust."

Second Place in the contest was awarded to Katherine Anne Patrick, a senior at Monmouth Regional High School, Tinton Falls, New Jersey for her essay, "Tran's Letter." Third Prize went to Tracy Cox of Hume-Fogg Academic High School, Nashville, Tennessee for her essay, "Lessons of the Holocaust." Honorable Mentions were given to Gregg Bruckno of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for his poem, "Whispers in the Wind"; Carolyn Brotschul of Pottstown, Pennsylvania for her essay, "The Legacy of Millions"; Caroline Ganters of Flushing, New York; and Hope Feld of Bronx, New York.

First prize in the contest was a trip to Washington, D.C. for the award presentation and a set of books about the Holocaust. The second prize winner received an original work of art and a set of books. All winners and their teachers received a certificate of honor along with the set of books on the Holocaust. Susan North's teacher is Sister J. Eleanor Mayer.

Holocaust Choir By Susan North

I: An Anne Frank

I hide from the SS
Constantly running
From place to place --
Afraid,
Trying to create an immunity
From danger,
Pain and hurt.
The end of the war

So far away like a fairy tale
Told to children,
A never-never love
That may not be.

II: A Hitler

What are the whispers I hear,
The horrors I fear?
My ideas put into action.
As a boy, transformed
Into an Anti-Semite in Vienna,
Feeding my fears and obsessions
On swastikas and salutes
Symbols of racial purity,
The admonition of my God
To create anew,
A Master race.
I created gas chambers overflowing
With innocence.

III: A Jewish Man In Camp

I came unknowing,
Working my fingers to the bone
With little food to create energy,
To communicate strength;
Confiscation of property,
Denial of dignity,
Watching showers of death slowly
Happening across the horizon,
Trying to survive
In powerlessness,
Evolving a strategy of defiance

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