

News Release

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**ILENE
SHAPIRO**
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



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County of Summit Joins Annual Akron-Summit Holocaust Commemoration and Awards Ceremony

On Tuesday, April 30, 2019, County of Summit Executive Ilene Shapiro joined distinguished guests, contest participants and Summit County residents at the 33rd Akron-Summit Holocaust Commemoration and 30th Arts and Writing Awards Ceremony, held at the Akron-Summit County Main Library. The event took place in conjunction with Days of Remembrance, the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. Observances and remembrance activities will occur nationwide between Sunday, April 28, and Sunday, May 5.

“Each year, we remember the victims of the Holocaust, as well as the survivors and the liberators, and continue the never-ending work to promote human dignity and repress hate,” said Executive Shapiro. “This commemoration and contest are a testament to Summit County’s commitment to be a welcoming community for all people. I am immensely proud of the work submitted by each contest participant and encourage all to view the pieces while they are on display at the library.”

The theme for the commemoration and contest was Lessons of the Holocaust: Opposing Hatred and Discrimination “It Started With Words”. The contest, open to students in grades 6-12 living in Summit County, featured three categories for entry: visual art, writing and spoken word. The visual art first place winners are Gavin McKenna, grade 6, Hudson Middle School, Isabelle Hahn, grade 10, Archbishop Hoban High School and Amela Vang, grade 12, Springfield High School. The writing first place winners are Cathleen Kershner, grade 7, Holy Family School-Stow and Deviana Lal, grade 12, St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. The spoken word first place winner is Adyson Erzurum, grade 8, Hudson Middle School. The local first place winners and their teachers received an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. to visit the United States Holocaust Museum and other historical sites. The winning visual art and writing pieces will be on display at the Akron-Summit County Main Library until May 9.

George Kronenberg, a Holocaust survivor, joined the commemoration and delivered an account of his experience as a Kinder transport child. Kronenberg and his twin sister lived through Kristallnacht, a Nazi attack on German Jewish neighborhoods, before they were sent to England

for safety. He and his sister were never reunited with their parents, who were killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Kronenberg's account of his experience is one of few remaining sources capable of providing a full and personal recollection of the Holocaust's devastation.

For the full list of contest winners, please visit <https://www2.akronohio.gov/Holocaust/Default/Winners>.



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