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## Holocaust art, essay contest winners honored

By **Amanda Nalley** • Democrat Staff Writer •  
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To fully understand Jarrod Luca's art, one must look through the eyes of a child experiencing the Holocaust.

Luca, 14, won first place in the middle school art division of the 2011 Holocaust Essay and Art Contest for his work — a box with the face of a child on the front of it, holes where eyes should be. Inside the box were words and images of what a child enduring the Holocaust must have thought about, including family, guards, words of comfort and of fear.

Sunday, 23 students in the art division and 12 students in the essay division were honored for their work focused on the Holocaust and this year's theme, "Through the eyes of a child: Remembering the Children of the Holocaust."

"It makes you want to help more with things like bullying," said first-place middle school essay winner Alana Waldrop, 14. Waldrop's essay focused on an anonymous girl who wrote in her journal about her experience in Poland's Lodz Ghetto. "She was so hungry, she stole from her family. I could never imagine being so hungry I'd need to steal a piece of bread or a noodle."

"This really goes beyond what is in the classroom. It reaches out to the community," said Waldrop's teacher at Ft. Braden School, Nikki Allen.

"Students remind us how far we have come and how far we have to go," said State Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee, who spoke at the event.

The annual competition is hosted by the Holocaust Education Resource Council, a group promoting Holocaust education, understanding and tolerance. It works through programs such as annual teacher training workshops, the creation of the Tallahassee Democrat Newspapers in Education Holocaust Inserts, and a resource website — [holocaustresources.org](http://holocaustresources.org) — for teachers, students and the community.

This is the fifth year the group has hosted the essay

contest and the third year for the art competition. The group had three times the submissions this year from across the Big Bend with 180 in the essay competition and 150 in the art.

"As long as there are teachers teaching this, and there are children learning about this, we will never forget," said Heather Kufert, Temple Israel program director, about why the competition is important, especially at a time when the population of Holocaust survivors is getting smaller.

The art will be shown at First Friday from 6 to 10 p. m. June 3 at Divine Union in Railroad Square.

Visit [holocaustresources.org](http://holocaustresources.org) to learn more or to read the winning essays.

### Holocaust Art, Essay Contest Winners

Holocaust Art Contest Winners 2011

Elementary School

First place: Grace Lengacher, Florida State University School

Second place: Charitha Moparthy, FSUS

Third place: Carter Abshire, Cornerstone Learning Community

Honorable Mention: Maxwell Metcalf, FSUS

Middle School

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First place: Jarrod Luca, Raa Middle School

High School

Second place: Ella Kiwala, CLC

First Place: Alyssa Fontela, Maclay, Ms. Linda Davey

Third place: Reyna Arana Orihuela, Raa Middle School

Second Place: Saba Iqbal, Maclay, Ms. Linda Davey

Honorable Mention

Third Place: Bari Maurey, Maclay, Ms. Linda Davey

Mariah Feezel, Montford Middle; Daliah Bernier, Deerlake Middle; Karis DeGannes, Raa Middle; Casey Winner, Raa Middle; Asia Lanier, Raa Middle

Honorable Mention: Blake Bonts, Wakulla, Ms. Teresa Murphy

High School

First place: Jennifer Gibson, FSUS

Second place: Marie Rooks, John Paul II Catholic

Third place: Catherine O'Leary, John Paul II Catholic

Honorable Mention: Dante Reed, Godby High School

Judges Choice: Edwyn Brown, Godby; Shelbi Jefferson, Godby; Taylor Keese, Godby; Ronnie Nicholson, Raa; Christina Notman, John Paul II; Jordan Bickett, JP II

Holocaust Essay Contest Winners 2011

Elementary School

First Place: Drew Schaefer, FSUS, Mrs. Eileen Lerner

Second Place: Gabriel Springer, FSUS, Mrs. Danielle Page

Third Place: (tie) Peninah Kimelman, Cornerstone Learning Community, Ms. Annmarie Small; Jacob Brock, FSUS, Mrs. Eileen Lerner

Middle School

First Place: Alana Waldrop, Fort Braden School, Ms. Nikki Allen

Second Place: Sophia Elzie, Raa Middle, Ms. Lynne Harris

Third Place: Madeline Leaman, Raa Middle, Ms. Lynne Harris

Honorable Mention: Ailee Sickler, Raa Middle, Ms. Lynne Harris

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