



The 2016 Annual Youth Holocaust & Genocide Awareness Competition Announces Co-Winners!

An award ceremony took place at NJ DOE on June 20 to announce the co-winners of the Sixth Annual Youth Holocaust and Genocide Awareness Competition. This is a statewide competition sponsored by Kidsbridge, the NJ State Commission on Holocaust Education and the Axelrod Foundation.

Co-winners Elias Stevens and Allison Vandal received gift cards and goodie bags. Said Executive Director, Lynne Azarchi, *"We've never had two winners before. It was difficult for the judges to choose between the haunting words in Elias' poem and Allison's selfless deeds as described by her teacher. Both students deserved to be winners, so that's what we did."*

About Elias Stevens

Elias is a 7th grader attending Northstar Academy in Newark, NJ. He wrote an original poem entitled *"Burn"* which expressed his thoughts on Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

About Allison Vandal

Allison is an 8th grader attending Readington Middle School in Whitehouse Station, NJ. She was nominated by her teacher, Emily Bengels for her wish to educate others about bullying and the Holocaust – as well as to spread her message of "kindness for all." Her efforts included writing anti-bullying plays and composing poems addressing the Holocaust and the mistreatment of others. Allison has other projects in the pipeline, and aims to "use the arts to improve the world."



Photo caption (L to R): Lynne Azarchi, Executive Director/Kidsbridge; Emily Bengels, nominator and teacher at Readington MS; Allison Vandal, co-winner; Elias Stevens, co-winner; nominator and teacher Matthew Bergman from Northstar Academy and Larry Glaser, Executive Director of NJ Holocaust Commission.