

Local Students Earn Honors by Taking a Stand in History at the National History Day® Contest

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Eight students from Rosa International Middle School in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, recently competed in the National History Day Contest, held at the University of Maryland, College Park in the Washington, D.C. area, June 11-15. Four of Cherry Hill's young historians, Samuel Bitman, Shayna Herzfeld, Asha Mohapatra and Gabrielle O'Brien, were awarded 2nd Place, the Silver Medal for their Junior Group Documentary on a local Camden County hero, Josiah DuBois.

The 2017 theme for the contest was Taking a Stand in History. Samuel Bitman, Shayna Herzfeld, Asha Mohapatra and Gabrielle O'Brien joined more than half a million students globally who completed projects in one of five categories: documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Samuel Bitman, Shayna Herzfeld, Asha Mohapatra and Gabrielle O'Brien created a documentary titled The Statement that Revealed the Truth: Josiah DuBois, an American Holocaust Hero.

After completing a project, students compete in a series of contests beginning at the local level. The top students in all 50 states, D.C., U.S. territories and international schools are given the opportunity to attend the National Contest.

"The work students put into these projects is astounding," said NHD Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "To make it to the National Contest is a remarkable achievement. Less than 1% of all projects make it to this level. It requires a superb level of research and critical thinking skills. I am confident we will continue to see great things from all of these students because the skills learned through competing in NHD help prepare students for success in college and career."

More than 300 historians and education professionals evaluate the students' work at the national competition. \$150,000 in scholarships were awarded at the national awards ceremony and more than 100 students took home cash prizes between \$250 and \$1,000 for superior work in a particular category of judging.

About National History Day: NHD is a non-profit education organization in College Park, MD. Established in 1974, NHD offers year-long academic programs that engage over half a million middle- and high-school students around the world annually in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. These research-based projects are entered into contests at the local and affiliate levels, where the top student projects have the opportunity to advance to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. NHD also seeks to improve the quality of history education by providing professional development opportunities and curriculum materials for educators. NHD is sponsored in part by, HISTORY®, Jostens, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Park Service, Southwest Airlines, the Joe Weider Foundation, and the WEM 2000 Foundation of the Dorsey & Whitney Foundation. For more information, visit nhd.org.