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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz Honors
Holocaust Contest Winners at the Jewish Children's Museum**

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz spent Tuesday afternoon at the Jewish Children's Museum in Brooklyn honoring the ten finalists of the annual Holocaust Memorial Scholarship Contest. The contest is a project of the Brooklyn Jewish Heritage Committee and includes students from all of Brooklyn's public high schools.

Committee chairperson Judy Shapiro says the contest, in which students write poetry, essays and plays, is a tribute to the Holocaust's survivors and a way of educating today's students of the dangers of intolerance and prejudice. Students of Brooklyn's public high schools participated in the contest and ten finalists were selected by the committee.

In his remarks to the students Markowitz emphasized Brooklyn's unique connection to the Holocaust as home to 40% of the city's survivors and 20% of the country's. He noted the troubling times we live in, calling terrorist leaders "Hitlers reborn" and saying that the gathered students were "our future. We put our hopes in you. Your small acts today can positively impact a generation."

He further noted the Borough's strong diversity saying "If there is a religion practiced, I'll betcha all you got it's practiced in Brooklyn!" He said the diverse origins of the contest winners – China, Armenia, the Dominican Republic and Poland among others – was "proof that world peace *can* happen."

Shapiro said the event was appropriately held in the Jewish Children's Museum which is a symbol of universal acceptance and tolerance. She praised Devorah Halberstam who's son Ari was killed by terrorists on the Brooklyn Bridge 12 years ago for turning a hideous tragedy "into making a worthwhile and constructive" contribution to society.

The contest coincided with international observance of Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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