



Harrisburg AAUW Awards Prize for Outstanding Research in Women's History

Addison Barnes and Reagan Fox, seventh grade students at St. Margaret Mary's School in Harrisburg, have won the prize for Outstanding Research in Women's History, presented by the American Association of University Women-Harrisburg Branch's 2021 at the National History Day in Pennsylvania Region 8 competition. Each student received a certificate and a cash prize. The award was announced at the Region 8 National History Day virtual awards ceremony, streamed live from Messiah University, the contest's region sponsor.

The students' exhibit, "I Have Nothing to Say: Odette Hallows," tells the story of a British spy during World War II. After several successful missions Hallows was captured by the Nazis, tortured, and detained in the Ravensbruck Concentration Camp. Despite this treatment, Hallows never gave up any classified information. Addison's and Reagan's topic worked well for the 2021 contest theme, "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." Hallows' refusal to communicate helped the Allied war effort.

Addison and Reagan found inspiration in Hallows' story. As Addison commented, "Odette Hallows didn't think of herself as a hero. She believed that she was just 'an ordinary woman.' But I believe that Hallows was truly an extraordinary woman who did extraordinary things." Reagan added, "She encouraged many females by her amazing strength and courage. Hallows remained strong in difficult situations, which inspire me to do the same."

Harrisburg-AAUW members Susan Rimby, Susan Schreckengaust, and Christine Zuzack comprised the AAUW judging team. The judges appreciated the students' extensive research, clear communication, and attractive display. In the words of Ms. Zuzack, "The [students'] write-up provided a good overview of Hallows' recruitment and work, as well as her treatment at the hands of the Nazis. It made me interested in learning more about this amazing woman." The award winners each received a certificate and \$125.00 in prize money.

National History Day is a year-long academic program focused on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for students in grades 6-12. Region 8 competitors come from counties in south-central Pennsylvania. Regional award winners compete at a statewide

conference which will be hosted by the University of Scranton on May 7-9, 2021. State-wide winners compete at a national competition at the University of Maryland in June. This year all NHD competitions are being held virtually.

Harrisburg-AAUW is affiliated with the national organization, the American Association of University Women. AAUW advocates and works for educational equity and economic security for all women. The Harrisburg-AAUW Branch offers monthly programs from September through May on a variety of topics that are open to the public. Harrisburg-AAUW also supports the Betty W. Sullivan Memorial Library at the Greater Harrisburg YWCA and awards four college scholarships annually. Learn more about Harrisburg-AAUW at <https://harrisburg-pa.aauw.net/>