



For more information: contact@albanytula.org

Or contact PR Committee Chair, Sonja Stark at 518.256.0967

Bethlehem Senior wins ATA Multimedia Contest

PRESS RELEASE



Benjamin Goldberg

April 12, 2021 – (Albany, NY) A Bethlehem Central High School senior is the big winner in this year's Multimedia contest. Benjamin Goldberg's essay about the importance of sports in fostering international relationships was selected by the judges as the best overall entry from a total of 54 entries sent by students from across the Capital Region. This was our highest number of entries since we started the annual contest nearly 20 years ago. A total of ten local high schools and two colleges participated.

This year's topic: "How Could Relationships Among International Communities be Useful in Responding to Global Crises?"

Goldberg wrote about his love of sports, specifically soccer, and cited how the game is like a roadmap that fosters connections between communities of different nationalities, many now ready to respond global crises. As he wrote in his entry; "The strategy,

tactics, and statistics of the game itself lead me on a fascinating exploration about issues in other cultures via the World Cup and FIFA. From favelas in Brazil (2014), to LGBT discrimination in Russia (2018), to human rights abuses in Qatar (2022), to ongoing corruption worldwide."

He concludes, "Shared membership in the global community as citizen diplomats strengthens collective empathy and communication, allowing for a more seamless, cohesive, and unified response to global crises."

Benjamin Goldberg wins the \$1,000 first prize.

Sharing the \$750 second prize are Guilderland High School sophomores Maxine Alpart and Elizabeth Liu. They submitted a video montage that ran for a little under three minutes outlining the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the world and in particular on personal



Maxine Alpart

relationships. They asked the question, "What do we do next?" to students and adults who answered in 12 different languages. A shared message of unity-through-technology was the common thread. Expressions included "Keep celebrating the important moments," and "Help protect the people you love."



Mirzad Glavic

Sharing the \$500 third prize is another pair of Guilderland High sophomores Mirzad Glavic and Haley Gebauer.

Their entry was a collage of photos of people around the world and the impact of COVID-19 on direct person-to-person contact. Their project reads, "We collected photos from friends and family from across over 20 nations from around the world to commemorate all the relationships fostered both overseas and domestically during the pandemic." They conclude that those relationships can be used in the future to help us "through whatever the world throws at us next."

In addition, the Albany-Tula Alliance awarded four additional \$100 prizes for projects receiving honorable mention.

Our congratulations to all the prize winners! Thanks to the students who submitted a record number of entries and the cooperation of teachers and staff who encouraged students to participate.

To watch interviews conducted via ZOOM with each student visit the ATA YouTube Channel: [youtube.com/AlbanyTula](https://www.youtube.com/AlbanyTula)

For more details, please visit: www.albanytula.org/contest

The Albany-Tula Alliance is a grassroots, not-for-profit volunteer organization composed of citizens of Albany and the surrounding Capital Region of New York State. Partnering with citizens of Tula, Russia, we have come together to provide mutual support and inspiration and to carry on a long-term program dedicated to the growth and well-being of both communities.

-END -



Elizabeth Liu



Haley Gebauer