

1st Place: Sarah Brewster

Pequannock Township High School (Pequannock, NJ)

Threads of Our Heritage

The deep purple threads interweave
Until there exists a connection between
A cloth of violet, elegantly plain
And one of lavender hue, where shimmering silver interlaces the butterflies that reign

With a crisp white ink on the violet sea
Like a single cloud drifting across the night sky
I pen the word "Shabbat" delicately
Knowing that in the beauty of the glowing candles, it will see many pairs of eyes

The scalloped edges, an elegant design
The red threading of words that they said were a crime
The delicate cloth in an innocent white
Yet they destroyed your innocence in the shrouded night

Your sisters' hearts interlaced into each thread
Almost beating, almost glowing, almost deep crimson red
Your mother, your father, L'Dor Vador
The men say the blessings, though the women make the bread we so adore

Though the time between us spans seven decades
And our homes are oceans away
We are connected until time's closing hour
By the threads of our heritage