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## Theodore Wilson III

is a ninth grader at The Arts Academy in Lorain. He is a straight-A student with two black belts in Karate. He is an avid soccer player, an Eagle Scout and a published poet. Theodore dreams of becoming a professional soccer player and participating in the 2012 Olympics, but he'd also like to be an engineer/inventor or writer.

Since God laid the foundation of the earth we have been trying to attain peace. But hate has stopped us. Hate is not innate. It is always caused by greed, hurt or ignorance. Elie Wiesel in his book *Night* explains how being hated and hurt by the Nazis simply because of his religion, led to an undying flame of hate and anger towards them, burning in his heart. This flame not only drove him to stay alive, but also engulfed his faith, hopes and dreams forever.

There have been many human horrors fueled by hate even before the Holocaust. The infamous Middle Passage is an example. The slave trade was started by greed. Africans were enslaved and treated like animals. Sadly, even when slavery was abolished in 1865 by President Abraham Lincoln the flame of hate would burn in the hearts of whites and blacks for another century. Secondly, is the Trail of Tears. In 1831 President Andrew Jackson forced thousands of Cherokee Indians from their homes in order to expand the United States. Thirdly would be the Japanese internment camps during WWII. Though they were not like the concentration camps of Hitler's Europe, Japanese-Americans suffered because of our own country's hate towards Japan.

But the nightmare of the Holocaust stands alone. Jews, Gypsies, Poles, Russians, homosexuals and others were gassed because of hate and silence. It is the greatest example in modern history of what hate can do when as Edmund Burke and Martin Luther King, Jr. said, people do nothing.

The opposite can happen when people do do something. For example, William Wilberforce spoke out against slavery in England. He helped end the British Slave Trade even before it ended in America. When people speak out, hate can be stopped. Booker T. Washington, Sir Winston Churchill, Gandhi, Ralph Bunche and Robert Kennedy are great examples of guys who stood up and spoke out against hate too. These leaders were the planks in the bridge of humanity over the shark-infested waters of hate.

I would like to help build the Maltz Museum's bridge. For my Eagle Scout Service Project I built a social bridge over generational waters between those in their teenage years and those in their twilight years. I learned from building my bridge to Golden Acres. Throughout history, the shark attacks often happen when people are unaware. When the Arts Academy came to visit the Museum, your docents taught me a lot. I think that your auditorium could be used to bring teenagers together. Schools could come to the museum to perform one-act plays, which are in some way focused on discrimination and speaking out against it. I believe that my school would be willing to be the first to perform, seeing that we have just recently finished doing one about Anne Frank. At the end, we could have a sort of Maltz Awards of one-act plays to recognize the best ones. We could have a debate, speech and poetry series too. Your stage becomes a platform to speak out. As Rabbi Joachim Prinz put it, "The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem, is silence."