



CITATION

William Zimpfer

***For the Year 2018 Louis E. Yavner Teaching Award
for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching the Holocaust
and Other Violations of Human Rights***

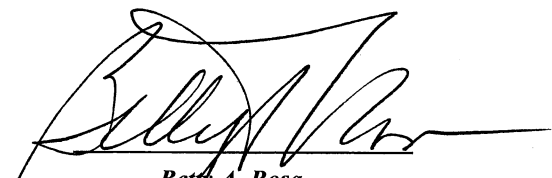
William Zimpfer, as a veteran teacher you have demonstrated commitment to teaching about the Holocaust and history which extends beyond your community. In your efforts to make history more meaningful to your students, you have transformed your school community into a historic site for generations to come as a symbol of tolerance and peace. Your work in securing the Anne Frank tree and creating an organization that honors her legacy has made the Southern Cayuga Central School District a landmark of social justice.

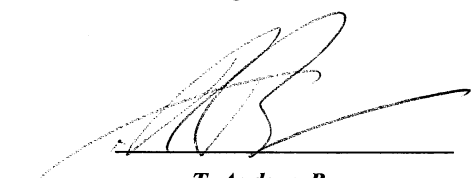
We applaud your commitment to combat the horrible consequences of racism, hatred and discrimination. It is evident that the Anne Frank Center Sapling Project made a wise decision in entrusting you with this significant piece of living history. Every day your students gaze upon this tree and realize the power of hope and love even in midst of horrific tragedy. The Southern Cayuga Anne Frank Tree Project is an asset to your community bringing in the arts, social justice activists, authors, conducting food drives and funding field trips.

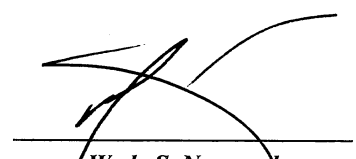
The testimony of Monica Groth, a former student who is now a sophomore in college, sums up the impact of your teaching.

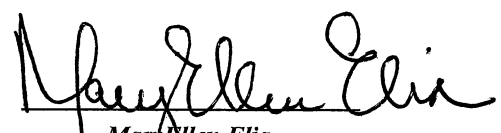
"What was termed systemic evil was explained, analyzed and recognized in an eighth grade classroom. Mr. Zimpfer explained that a Nazi chain of command was established and its members dehumanized. To this day I specifically remember the content of his words when exposing the testimony of a Nazi general at the Nuremberg trials. Mr. Zimpfer said, "When asked by the court why he had followed orders and if he ever felt guilty for doing so, the officer replied, 'I brought my quota in on time. I delivered it where I was told to'" ...Even though his quota was of human beings and he was sending them to the gas chambers to die. It was from Mr. Zimpfer in eighth grade that I first learned how systemic evil can morph the mind of millions into being ignorant of their roles as murderers and villains- how it may convince the links in a chain of command that their consciences are functionless, their choices powerless and their actions mere gears in a machine. This is a frightening area of study which continued to interest me in later years."

Therefore, on May 8, 2018, it is with special pride and with great respect that the Board of Regents honors you, William Zimpfer, as the 2018 recipient of the Louis E. Yavner Teaching Award for educating others about the Holocaust and other violations of human rights.


Betty A. Rosa
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