



505 Fifth Avenue, Ste. 901
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 243-3576

Roosevelt Sophomore Wins Inaugural Robert Mannheimer Civil Liberties Essay Prize

by R. Ben Stone, Executive Director
4/15/2008

Roosevelt Sophomore Wins Inaugural
Robert Mannheimer Civil Liberties Essay Prize

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 15, 2008

Contact: 515/243-3988 x 11

(DES MOINES) — The ACLU of Iowa recently awarded the Robert Mannheimer Civil Liberties Essay Prize to Caroline Weeks of Des Moines, a sophomore at Roosevelt High School and Central Academy. The prize, worth \$500, is the first awarded in honor of Des Moines attorney Robert Mannheimer, of Des Moines, who passed away in 2007 at the age of 84.

Ms. Weeks received the prize on Saturday, April 12th at the ACLU of Iowa's annual dinner in Iowa City, where she read her essay, entitled: "A Reflection on my History Lessons: The Rights of Young People Then and Now."

"We could not have asked for a more impressive recipient in our first year," said Ben Stone, executive director of the ACLU-IA. "Caroline's essay captures the real essence and urgency of civil liberties, something Robert's family, especially his wife Joan, feels is important," he added.

Ms. Weeks is on the TRHS honor roll and a recipient of an Academic Letter. In addition to her academic achievements, Caroline is a violist and plays in several ensembles including the Roosevelt Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Quartet, as well as the Iowa Youth Symphony and Youth Chamber Group. She was recently selected as a member of the Iowa All-State Orchestra and the ISU Honors Orchestra. She is also involved in drama and foreign language, and has an active interest in politics and has volunteered for several campaigns and precinct work for the Iowa Caucuses. Two of Ms. Week's favorite classes have been American Government, taught by the late Paul Mann, and World Civilizations, with history teacher Michael Schaffer. While she's considering a future that blends music and science, she has not ruled out a career in the field of law.

Caroline is the daughter of Paul and Theresa Weeks and sister to Emily Rose Weeks.

Applicants had to be a freshman, sophomore or junior in the Des Moines Public Schools and submit a 500-word essay describing what the Rights of *Young People* means to them. In addition to the financial award, the prize-winner also becomes a card-carrying member of the ACLU, and has his or her essay published in the ACLU of Iowa's newsletter, *The Defender*.