Good people, with kindness in their hearts, helped Jews during World War II.

That's what "Hiding in the Open" is all about, according to Morgan Kowalewski who plays Helka in Gothenburg High School's one-act production.

"Even though the bad outshone the good, there was still hope and kindness," Morgan said.

The story is from Sabina Zimering's memoir, adapted into a drama by Kira Obolensky, and tells the true story of two Jewish sisters.

Morgan's sister, Amanda Kowalewski, is also her sister (Sabina) in the play.

The sisters are from Poland and assume false Catholic identities. They work in a Nazi hotel in Germany where they live in constant fear of having their identities revealed. Along the way, the sisters experience human kindness despite horrific atrocities.

For both Kowalewskis, portraying the sisters as they should be is the biggest challenge.

"So people believe it's actually the character," Amanda said. "It's hard to portray it realistically."

The Kowalewskis, and the rest of the cast, hope people see the production because "we shouldn't forget" the Holocaust, Amanda said.

'HIDING IN THE OPEN' CAST
(in order of appearance)

Sabina—Amanda Kowalewski
Mother—Rachel Rice
Father—Cody Cooper
Holka—Morgan Kowalewski
Natek—Hayden Hubbard
Neighbor 1—Shaylee Scott
Danka—Carlin Daharsh
Mrs. Justyna—Amanda Larson
Neighbor 2/American Soldier—Dylan France
Employment Officer—Drake Brand
Herr Uhlmann/Uncle Sam—Roman Schmidt
Anya—Abbie Mazour
Frank—Gage Taylor
Mrs. Haas—Bailey Gibbens
Gestapo—Preston Franzen
Fraulein—Alayna Collins
Frau Wittner—Betsy Potter
Irma—Madison Costello
Joseph—Rhett Lindholm
Waiter—Archer Jensen
Herr Czerny—Brett Mann
Anthropologist—Drake Langley
German Soldier—Zach Wolf
Chorus:
Elsie—Courtney Brown
Herman—Drake Brand
Rose—Kayla Treviño
Esther—Carlie Stevens
Martha—Kyann Leviner
August—Dylan France
Carl—Gage Taylor
Christian—Hayden Hubbard
Paul—Archer Jensen
Ruth—Rebecca Miller
Mabel—McKinley Harm
Wilhelmina—Alayna Collins
Edith—Ashley Wilkerson
Molly—Mallory McCoy
Caroline—Shelby Mannel
Elizabeth—Jessica Habe
Nazis/Crew—Zach Wolf, Garett James, Tyler Block, Dylan Folkers, Archer Jensen, Connor Schwanz, Trenton Long
Lights—Roy Slack

"We must remember it because not very many people who lived it are still alive," she explained. "Their stories help portray and keep the memory that it actually happened."

Maddy Costello, who plays Irma—a mean German who works in the hotel—said the production honors the people who were Jewish and in the war.

Morgan added that the play is educational and shows another side of the Holocaust and that good people existed during that time.

One-act director Lori Long said it's a good portrayal of Thanksgiving.

"It's about hope and forgiveness and all of the people who brought light to and nurtured those girls' lives," Long said. "The girls had a future and were not faceless sisters who disappeared."

In fact, she said the sisters immigrated to the United States after the war, noting that Sabina is still alive and living in Minnesota.

Long said the drama is very episodic in structure and the first of that type students have performed since "The Triangle Factory Fire Project" six years ago.

[illegible] performing arts center at [illegible] be announced.