

“Unsung Heroes”



At the awards ceremony for the Congressional Art Competition, left to right: City Council member Wayne Powell, MBUSD Superintendent Beverly Rohrer, Hyun Jung Park (1st place), Camille Go-Luntao (3rd place), Faith Jin (2nd place) and Congresswoman Jane Harman.

By Tina Steck

Representative Jane Harman came to the Manhattan Beach Creative Arts Center on May 16 to announce the winners of the annual Congressional Art Competition. The competition was open to amateur artists residing within the 36th Congressional District who are currently attending high school. This year's theme was “unsung heroes,” and contestants were encouraged to be as creative as possible in depicting the importance of this essential theme to their world.

“You are all winners,” Rep. Harman said generally to all the students who submitted artwork to the competition. “Just your ability to place a piece of artwork here in this competition and have the support of your teachers and parents makes you winners.”

Harman continued, “I love the art competition. I come here every single year to show off the talent of the District. She also noted with relief that she was not one of the arts judges making “the enormously difficult choices” to determine the top three winners. Harman thanked the corporate donors,

including Continental Development Corporation, Southwest Airlines, Chevron and Mattel, and acknowledged the support of curator Megumi Sando of the Creative Arts Center and director Chris Wolf of the Torrance Cultural Arts Center Foundation.

Hyun Jung Park, a junior at West High School in Torrance, won the top prize for her acrylic painting called *Hero to Hero*. Park's first place prize included three round trip tickets, donated by Southwest Airlines, to Washington, D.C. to attend the June 24 unveiling of her painting,

which will be on display in the underground walking tunnel that connects the Cannon House Office Building to the U.S. Capitol building. Park's painting will be on display for one year alongside the artwork of the winners from the other congressional districts across the country.

Second place was awarded to Faith Jin, a senior at South High School in Torrance who is going to the Pasadena Arts School, for her mixed media piece called *Pollinators*. Camille Go-Luntao, a senior at Mary Star of the Sea High School in San Pedro who plans to attend U.C. Riverside in the fall, won third place for her watercolor called *Unsung Heroes*. The top three finishers received a cash prize and an awards certificate.

The eight-term congresswoman warmly congratulated the three winners and invited them and their families to the podium so that photographs could be taken and hugs exchanged. Harman encouraged the three young women to continue to nurture their artistic talents and inspire others with their artwork, and praised the infectious “smiles,

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City Offers Summer Fun in the Sun

By Evan Ortega

Classes are filling up fast for dozens of summer programs offered by the Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department. The City has designed classes for kids, teens, adults, seniors and even toddlers, ranging from beach volleyball and hockey to kayak touring and outdoor grilling.

Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman said some summer classes are traditional favorites of residents and have been around for decades. He said others have been developed through suggestions from residents and brainstorming sessions at the Parks and Recreation department. “We love getting feedback from the public,” Leyman said. “Most of the creative programs we come up with work. And when some of the ones don't, we try something else, so it's trial and error.”

Leyman said sports like kickball, basketball and soccer have become increasingly popular during the summer, including the Sunset Basketball League for kids. He said soccer camps led by instructors from Brit-West are a community favorite. “They have great coaches, great skills, and the kids always enjoy it,” Lehman noted.

The soccer team Chivas USA has partnered with the City to give away a piece of Chivas merchandize and a Chivas game ticket to kids who register. “They've been very supportive of our programs,” Leyman said.

There will also be a “Manhattan Beach Night” on July 11 against the Los Angeles Galaxy. “It's great,” Leyman said. “They invite our mayor to speak at the program and the kids can stay after to get autographs from the players.”

Don Braunecker, a physical education teacher at Mira Costa High School, teaches sports including basketball, kickball and

volleyball for the City. “The Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department offers diverse programs for both children and adults here,” he said. “The City has [been] and continues to be very interested in sports.”

Braunecker has been the director of the Sunset Summer League for eight years. He said the camp has always been popular, but that enrollment increases when the Lakers or Sparks are doing well. “It's a lot smaller than a regular basketball league,” Braunecker said. “Since it's summertime, it's probably those that have a little more interest in basketball.”

When the City first offered kickball for adults four years ago, the sport was only offered once a week. Now it's offered four nights a week with five teams playing every night. “The teams that have played for a few years are a little more competitive,” Braunecker said.

Braunecker added that kickball is also probably popular because the games are relatively short. He said it's common for a game to last about 45 to 55 minutes. “They're pretty quick,” he said. “I believe it's becoming more and more popular because it's a recreation program that can bring a lot of pleasure and a little bit of exercise to all levels of fitness.”

Recreation Supervisor Deborah Hom said although the classes are intended to pay for themselves, the City tries to offer them at affordable prices. “I think that we provide high quality programs for a reasonable price in comparison to our surrounding cities,” she said. “There's a break-even philosophy. It's revenue generated, whereas we're not looking to make a profit, but its enough to pay for quality programs.”

Hom said more programs are led by

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