

MEDIA ALERT!

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World Affairs Council of Harrisburg Announces Winners of 2017 International Poetry and Storytelling Competition

HARRISBURG, Pa – Yi Lin, a student at Cumberland Valley High School won the first-place award in the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg's 2017 International Poetry and Storytelling Competition for High School Students.

Lin won for her poem entitled, "We Are Humans."

The annual competition was held on MLK day at Temple University Harrisburg in Strawberry Square. Sponsors of the event included Temple University Harrisburg, The Arts for All Partnership of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities and the PA Council on the Arts.

The second-place prize went to Rachel Wonder, also a student at Cumberland Valley High School, for her entry entitled "Peace by Peace."

Emily Hellwig, a student at Susquehannock High School, won third place for her entry entitled, "Train of Thought."

Other finalists included Isaiah Washington, a student at South Western High School in Hanover, PA who offered a powerful rendition of his original poem, "I Have a Dream;" Tiera Woodford, a student at Capital Area School for the Arts, for "Flowers Need Peace to Grow;" Yu Na Choi, a student at Cumberland Valley, for her poem, "Peace;" Jared Ross, a student at the Milton Hershey School for his poem "Welcome to America," and Erin O'Malley, of York who is studying abroad in Germany, for her poem "December 19th."

"The overarching message that I am conveying in my poem is the idea that love is the solution to practically everything," Lin stated. "My poem emphasizes the importance of spreading love and that despite the differences we all share, at the core of our lives, we all value similar things no matter where we come from. We are all humans. And through love and acceptance, our world can live in peace."

Rachel Wonder, second-place finalist, aimed to highlight violence in the media in her poem "Peace by Peace." "In my own experience," Wonder recalled, "I have noticed the desensitization of violence and dehumanization in both the media and our society. I wanted to raise awareness and have people question the environment around them through my work."

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