

Rothman Hosts 2008 Congressional Art Competition

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Contact: Kimberly Allen, (202) 226-8364; (202) 420-1524 [cell]

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Pictured (L-R): Maria Arevalo, student at Saddle Brook High School, Third Place; Rep. Rothman; Barbara Yang, student at Bergen County Academies, Second Place; and Elizabeth Carp, student at Bergen County Academies, First Place.

(Englewood, NJ)-On April 28th, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) hosted the 2008 Congressional Art Competition at the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood, NJ. He applauded more than 50 young artists from the 9th Congressional District who participated this year and announced the winners as follows-First Place: Elizabeth Carp of Leonia, a student at Bergen County Academies; Second Place: Barbara Yang of Leonia, a student at Bergen County Academies; Third Place: Maria Arevalo of Saddle Brook High. The Honorable Mentions were: Alie Joyce, Brianna Galvin, and Corrine DiBridida of Saddle Brook High, and Angela Wang of New Milford and Elsa Levvitsky of East Rutherford, both students at Bergen County Academies.

"I am proud to recognize the artistic excellence of each of you here tonight. This competition is a great opportunity to showcase your talent. It also provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge the teachers and parents who make arts education programs in Northern New Jersey possible. I am inspired and encouraged by the high level of artistic expression in the images you have created. Your artistic work is a great contribution to our community," said Rep. Rothman.

Emphasizing the importance of continued arts education, Rothman added, "Young people who participate in arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, three times more likely to be elected to class office, and four times more likely to participate in a math and science fair."

Three locally recognized artists were selected to judge this year's competition. Lidaenies Macrina Ferro, originally of Cuba, is an illustrator whose works are currently exhibited at Ridgewood Art Institute in Ridgewood. A life-long Bergen County resident, Cheryl Parisi works as an art educator at Nellie K. Parker School in Hackensack, and Barbara Yeterian, whose "Genocide Series" was recently selected for exhibition by the Rockefeller Foundation, reviewed the students' work as well.

Rep. Rothman looks forward to welcoming the First Place winner, Elizabeth Carp, to the nation's capital in June, when Members of Congress will honor their district art competition winners from around the country in a special ceremony. Ms. Carp has been awarded three round-trip plane tickets to enable her and two family members to attend this event, courtesy of Southwest Airlines. Ms. Carp's artwork will be on display in the U.S. Capitol for one year. All other pieces can be viewed at the Bergen Community College Ciarco Learning Center in Hackensack, NJ.

A long-time supporter of arts education, Rep. Rothman has hosted the annual Congressional Art Competition every year since his election to Congress in 1996. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.

For more information, please visit <http://www.house.gov/house/ArtGuidelines.shtml> .

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