



City of Lathrop

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Art from the Heart

How Three Teen Prodigies Will Turn Heads in Lathrop This Summer

Lathrop, CA, April 28, 2010 – Last year, 15-year-old Haniyeh Semsarilar turned 250 signatures into a dream come true.

“When I started collecting the signatures from kids, I had no idea that it would turn into this,” said the Lathrop High junior, now 17. “My petition was what led me to where I am now.”

Her petition, inspired by Lathrop’s perennial Mayor’s Art Show, was the spark that drove Semsarilar to join forces with the Lathrop Youth Advisory Commission. The “YAC” is a group of 13-19 year-olds commissioned by the City Council to plan, oversee, and fund youth events.

Last year’s 1st annual Teen Art Show saw a wide range of entries and received financial backing from several local businesses, including Mountain Mike’s Pizza, Lathrop SaveMart, and developer Susan Dell’Osso in Lathrop.

This year, Semsarilar is serving as Chair of the YAC’s Art Show Subcommittee, which has been in the planning phases for the 2010 show for several months now. Joining her on the committee are Justin Swofford, who has served as YAC President since 2007, and Emilio Perez, a relatively new face with the YAC who has volunteered with the city for several years now.

The Lathrop YAC will present the 2010 Teen Art Show on Friday, May 28, from 6-9 p.m. The reception will highlight works by artists aged 13-19, and will include food and entertainment. Art will be collected on Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15 at the City

Council chambers. It will be available for public viewing at City Hall for the next two weeks until the Art Show reception on the 28th.

Winners for 1st place (\$50), 2nd place (\$25), and 3rd place (\$15) in each category will be judged by local art aficionado Joyce Gatto, who created what is now the Mayor's Art Show in Lathrop years ago. Also awarded will be certificates for Best in Show, YAC Choice, Sponsor-donated awards, and "Honei's Choice" (an awarded presented personally by Haniyeh Semsarilar).

Categories accepted include watercolors, oils and acrylics, pastels, photography, black and white (ink, pencil, charcoal), mixed media, and miscellaneous.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Haniyeh Semsarilar, Justin Swofford, or Emilio Perez, please follow the information at the top of the release.

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