

HAYC Resident Earns Honorable Mention

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We recently learned one of our Vittoria Square residents was awarded Honorable Mention in the National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) poster contest. Speaking on behalf of the Housing Authority of Yamhill County, project leader Bruce Sahagian talked with Winifred LeVeris about her winning poster. Among friends, "Wini" is how she is known.

HAYC: Congratulations Wini! This marked the first time an Oregonian ever reached the finals in the NAHMA contest. You were recognized from a field of nearly 5,000 entries.

Wini: Thank you. I was truly surprised when my poster was awarded Honorable Mention...but happy! I just love art.

HAYC: What can you tell us about your artistic background or training?

Wini: I've been painting since I was a child. I had a couple of art classes in high school, but no other lessons. These days I like to use acrylic paints. I paint rocks on almost a daily basis with flowers, birds, animals, or beach scenes...and a message on the back. When they're done, I give them away to people just for fun.

HAYC: Looking at the colorful variety of images in your poster, it's clear you put a great deal of effort into this project. Can you explain why you chose these people, places and objects?

Wini: I loved the contest theme "Join the Dance of Life." I thought about it for a couple of days and started with a heart in the middle with the theme written across it. We cannot have life without our hearts. This is part of my religious beliefs. Everything comes from our hearts; from evil to good. I believe we should keep faith and love in our hearts. In the poster, a woman plays the violin and there are ballet slippers...evoking music and dance. The elderly couple asleep on the beach expresses serenity. There are birds, butterflies, and fish. All the creatures are shown living in harmony in the sky, on land, and in the water.

HAYC: It takes courage to venture into the realm of artistic self-expression. By your efforts, you set an example for others. Can you tell us what inspires you in art and other areas of life?

Wini: I love creating art work and my religious faith brings me inspiration, truth and life. I'm looking forward to the next poster contest!

HAYC: Thank you Wini for sharing your thoughts. We look forward to your continued success in future events!

