

PEACE POSTER CONTEST 2006



Lions judging the posters from four Lincoln County schools.



PEACE POSTER CONTEST 2006

Lions art winner

Jason Nevarez, an 11-year-old student at White Mountain Intermediate School, has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club.

Nevarez's poster was among more than 350,000 entries sub-

mitted worldwide in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International is sponsoring the program to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

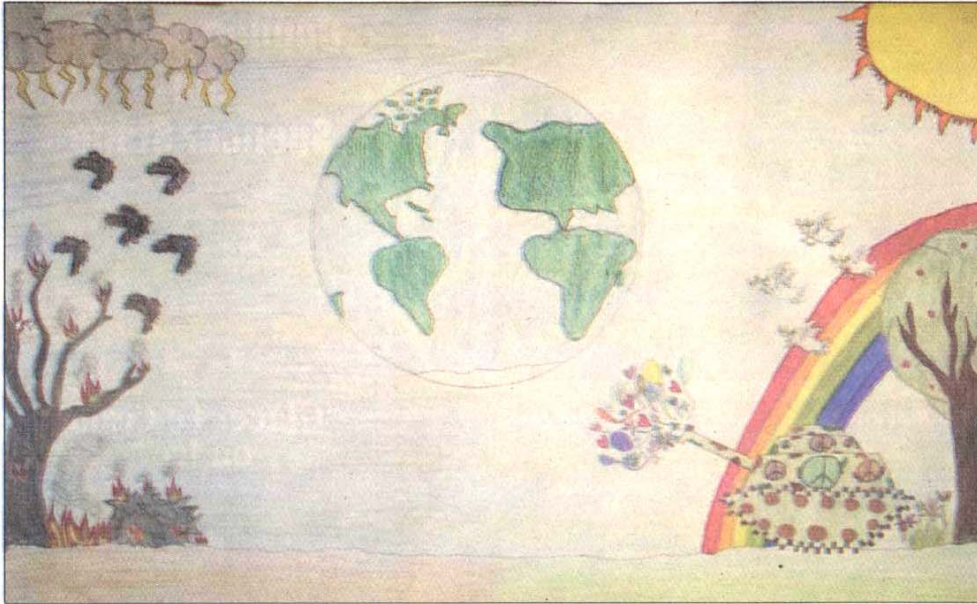
"Peace Overcomes Bad Things," the 11-year-old son of Victor and Yadera Nevarez from Ruidoso said. The poster was selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club for its originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme, "Celebrate Peace." The judging was held at Cree Meadows Country Club.

Runners-up finishing second and third place, respectively were Melissa Mota of White Mountain Intermediate School and Tamerah Shanta of Ruidoso Middle School. Art teachers providing guidance and encouragement are Debbie Wenzel, White Mountain Intermediate School, and Megan Raborn at Ruidoso Middle School. Also participating were students from Mescalero Apache Elementary School.

Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club President Gary Henry said he was impressed by the expression and creativity of the students at White Mountain Intermediate School. "It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I'm so proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions."

Nevarez's poster will advance through the district, multiple district and international levels of competition if he is to be declared the international grand prize winner.

PEACE POSTER CONTEST 2006



PHOTOS COURTESY DEBORAH WENZEL

"Celebrate Peace" poster competition winner, Jason Nevarez, is shown at right. The stirring poster he created reveals the in-depth process guided by art teacher Deborah Wenzel. As first-place winner, Jason goes on to the next regional level of the competition, to be judged in Las Cruces.

"Celebrate Peace"

Deborah Wenzel, who is an artist and teacher of art at Sierra Vista Primary and White Mountain Intermediate School, is very excited to share some of the process (and the results) of guiding students through creating artwork with a theme. Two of her students, Jason Nevarez and Melissa Mota, were winners in the recent Lion's Club poster contest.

"About 5 weeks ago, we began with some brainstorming as a class about the poster theme. This year's theme is "Celebrate Peace." We discussed all the

visual images that came to mind for each word, i.e. "celebrate"...confetti, balloons, party, dancing, etc. For "peace" we came up with the dove, peace symbol, tranquil landscape, children playing, etc. We also talked about people throughout history famous for promoting peace: Ghandi, Jesus, Martin Luther King, Jr., Chief Joseph and Mother Teresa. We discussed what peace would be (as well as what it is not) in our school, nation and in the world.

"Students had to come up with small sketches of their poster concept. I served

as their 'art director' or 'creative director,' as in a professional design studio or advertising agency. They had to come up with their own ideas and I approved or disapproved whether they were ready to move on to the actual poster.

"This was probably the most difficult stage, coming up with a visual concept for the theme. Art is bottom line 'visual communication' and the poster contest rules didn't allow any text, just a visual image to communicate the message."

When asked about Nevarez and Mota, Deborah said she has had the privilege of working with both of them for two years. "Jason Nevarez is not only a gifted student in all of his academic work, but he is also just a great kid. He always goes above and beyond on all of the art projects I've thrown at him.

"Melissa Mota is a quiet, sweet young lady who continually surprises me with her extraordinary creativity and perseverance. She gave up several of her recess times in order to work on this poster. In fact, all of my 6th grade students spent hours and hours working on the project and several of them came in during recess in order to work on it. (For a 6th grader, this represents a supreme

sacrifice!).

"The Lion's club representative, who informed me that we had won at the local level, let me know they had a hard time choosing the winners, because the entries were so good. As first place winner, Jason goes on to the next regional level of the competition, to be judged in Las Cruces.

"This peace poster contest has proven to be one of the most meaningful projects that I've done with students. Something like 350,000 young people, ages 11-13, from 60 different countries, enter this poster contest each year. For the last four years that I've taught at White Mountain Intermediate, we've participated. It's a timely and powerful lesson. It challenges young people to do soul-searching about some important, deeper concepts, achieve creative self-expression and work hard at completing an artwork to the best of their ability.

"The local Lion's Club, and, in particular, Tom Pugh, who has given so much of his time over the years to make this happen, are to be commended for their commitment to our children."

We commend Deborah Wenzel for the same.

PEACE POSTER CONTEST 2003



PHOTOS BY SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

Clockwise from above: Alex Levinson's poster won first place locally and will go to the national Peace Poster Contest of the Lions Club International; sixth-grader Cody Scott's still life in watercolor and ink; Lawrence Shaffer's Peace Poster, tempura; Jessica Lacy's Peace Poster, tempura and oil pastel.

PEACE POSTER CONTEST 2004

Lions select peace poster winner

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

For the third year, the Ruidoso Noon Lions asked local students from 11 to 13 years of age to create posters as part of the 2004-2005 Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

This year, 29 children from Ruidoso Middle School, Ruidoso Intermediate, Corona Middle, Capitan and Mescalero submitted posters illustrating the theme of "Give Peace a Chance."

Thomas Pugh, chairman of the local event, said students selected a medium to draw, paint or sketch their interpretation of the theme. Posters are judged on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme.

The local winner is Lindsey Power, 11, from Ruidoso Intermediate School, where she is taught art by Debra Wenzel. Second place went to Jaliette Sicard, 12, from Ruidoso Middle School, whose teacher is Megan Raybourn.

Gabriel Begay, 12, and Devon Ryen, 13, also from

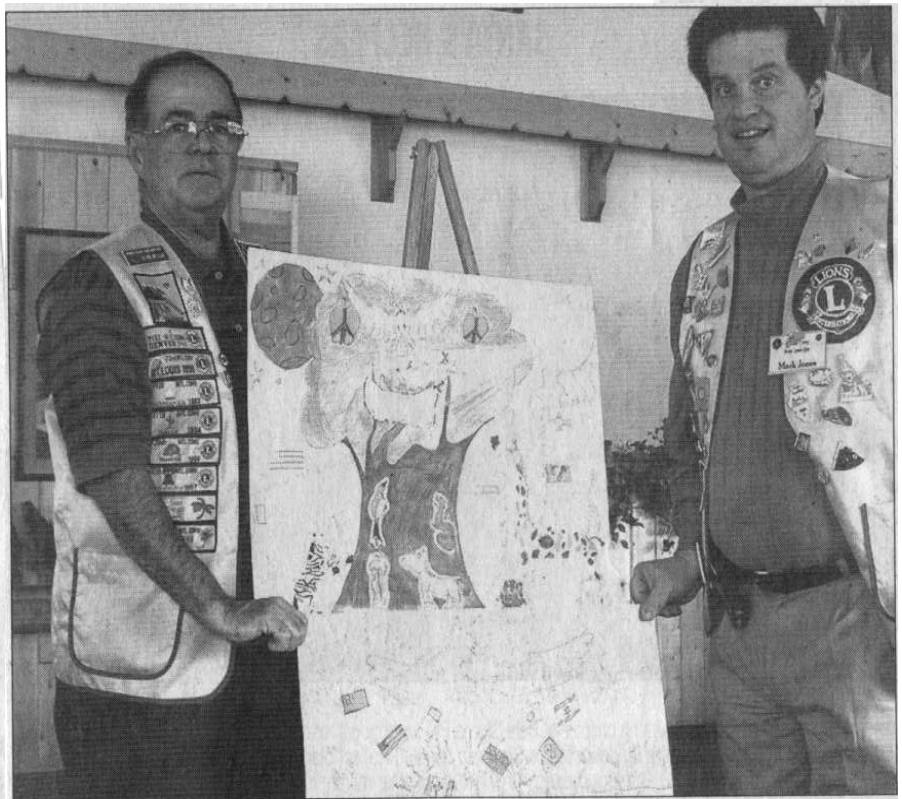
Ruidoso Middle School received third and fourth.

"Last year there were 350,000 entries (worldwide)," Pugh said, "It's open to every child (in that age group) in the world."

Power's poster next will go to the district level of judging. The district covers everything south

of Interstate 40 and includes 74 Lions clubs. The winner there heads to Oakbrook, Ill., for the worldwide judging, Pugh said.

At the international level, a group of judges from the art, peace, youth, education and media communities select one grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners.



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Mark Jones, right, president of the Ruidoso Noon Lions, and Thomas Pugh, Peace Poster chairman, show off this year's local winner on the easel and the second-place pick below.