

Student ‘Race Unity Art/Poetry Contest’ Underway

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Springfield, IL....April 9, 2007-- A student Race Unity Art and Poetry Contest with \$1,050 in prize money is underway and open to school children grades 3-12. In addition to the \$1050 in student prizes, one lucky school will win \$500 as part of the contest.

This is the third consecutive year for the Race Unity art/poetry contest, which is funded through a generous contribution by Regions Bank. A total of 18 students will win cash prizes of up to \$100. Organizers say the contest is designed to have youth start thinking about and, hopefully, acting upon what it takes to have a racially unified community. More information on the contest, including a flyer with entry form, is available at www.springfieldbahai.org

The 18 winning art and poetry entries will be announced at the 10th annual Race Unity Rally, which will be held at 2 p.m.Sunday, June 3 in the State Capitol rotunda. This year’s rally will include live music, Springfield India Association dancers, prayers, and remarks from keynote speaker Robert Moore, a retired U.S. Marshall and former chief of the Jackson, Mississippi Police Department. Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin has been invited to address the gathering.

Immediately following the event, refreshments will be served at the Capitol Visitors Center located west of the Stratton building. If it rains, the refreshments will be served at the Springfield Baha’i Center, corner of 8th and Allen

The rally and art/poetry contest are sponsored by Regions Bank, Illinois Times, Frontiers International Club of Springfield, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, the Greater Springfield Baha’i community, Spirit Matters Writing Group, Pax Christi, and the Grassroots Interfaith Team.

“Building unity, amity and empathy is what the children’s art contest and race unity rally are all about,” said Nancy Flood, chairman of the organizing group. “It is our hope that these efforts will result in many new friendships, and a broadened, more global perspective of humanity.”

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