

Agawam Cultural Council Awards Grants to High School Students



(Left to right) Shirley Culski, ACC grant committee member; Shannon Stephens and Jeen-Hye Kim grant recipients; Shirley Kibbee, ACC grant for the Arts chair and Jay Berger, grant committee member.

The Agawam Cultural Council is pleased to announce the awarding of two One-Thousand Dollar Grants to local High School students interested in pursuing arts-related careers.

The first award recognizes Ms. Shannon Stephens for her stellar achievements in Concert, Band, and Academic studies, as well as her dedication to making musicianship her life goal.

The one thousand dollars awarded by the

Council will help pay for her recent purchase of a bassoon.

The bassoon is a most difficult instrument to play and individuals who master this instrument are highly valued by most symphonic music groups. Shannon lives with her family in Feeding Hills and is a junior at Agawam High.

The second award went to Ms. Jeen-Hye Kim. Her award of one thousand dollars recognizes her superlative work in the graphic

and illustrative arts. York City. Her grant will be used towards paying for a summer pre-college program at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Not only do her sketches and portraits appear quite professional, displaying an uncanny innate talent, but her long-term goal of a successful career in Graphic Arts/Animation for the Motion Picture industry seems a certainty, as anyone who views her work would agree. Ms. Kim is a sophomore at Agawam High, having recently emigrated to our community from her native South Korea. She lives with her brother and parents in Agawam.

The Agawam Cultural Council is privileged to participate in some small way in the realization of the dreams of these two talented young members of our community. We believe many such aspirations deserve to be nurtured and encouraged by those in our community capable of doing so. In this way we assure the generational continuity of the creative spirit so important to an enlightened society.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.