

Press Release

**For immediate release
January 24, 2018**

Woman's Club of Pewaukee and
Pewaukee Area Arts Council



Helen Farnsworth Mears Art Competition 7th and 8th Graders in Waukesha County

Helen Farnsworth Mears was born in Oshkosh in 1872, died of starvation in New York in 1916, and is honored each year by the Womans' Clubs of Wisconsin through the Helen Farnsworth Mears art contest for 7th and 8th grade students.

Helen was a self-taught sculptress. Her nine foot marble sculpture called "Genius of Wisconsin", commissioned for the 1893 Columbia Exposition now stands in the Wisconsin State Capitol. The Milwaukee Woman's Club gave Ms. Mears a \$500 grant to study in New York and perfect her talent following the Exposition. Her decline followed an unfortunate rejection of a nearly complete sculpture she assumed was under commission.

Student winners receive awards, ribbons and admiration by peers, parents and the public. All art entries are on display through March 19 at the Pewaukee Library, 210 Main St. The public is welcome to view and enjoy at any time that the library is open, and to attend an artist reception on Saturday, February 24 from 10 am to 1 pm. The winners will be given their awards at a gathering that will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, at the Pewaukee Area Arts Council general meeting, at the Pewaukee Library. Seventh and eighth grade students from schools in Waukesha County are welcome to participate through their local Woman's Club, or by contacting the Pewaukee Woman's Club, Sue Goldstone, 262-696-4338, svetrovsky@gmail.com.

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