

# Art of the Marathon

By Kathleen Culler, Metrowest Daily News Correspondent

Budding artist Stephen Auslander smiles each time he remembers that his work is headed for permanent display in the Marathon Run Museum in Marathon, Greece.

As a participant in this year's Boston Marathon Art and Design Competition, the ten year-old Hopkinton resident drew the sculpture of Stylianos Kyriakides, Greek winner of the 1946 Boston Marathon, whose victory brought attention to horrific post-World War II conditions in Greece.

The New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. commissioned Mico Kaufman to create the "Spirit of the Marathon" sculpture. The sculpture, now under the stewardship of the Hopkinton Athletic Association, is installed at the one-mile mark on the Boston Marathon course, and Auslander often has passed it while riding in his mother's minivan.

Fascinated by the glint of the late afternoon sun on the statue, Auslander focused on the figures depicted on top of the statue's high mountain. "It just seemed as if they were standing looking down on the marathon, looking down on all the runners passing underneath," he said.

Now in its fourth year, the competition, sponsored by the Hopkinton Athletic Association, draws entries from more than 500 children in grades K- 12, from Hopkinton and Ashland.

"Each year the quality of the art work gets better," said Tim Kilduff, president of the Hopkinton Athletic Association, noting that Auslander's drawing was unique because it brought together the key historic elements of marathoning, Hopkinton's twin city relationship with Marathon, Greece, and the Boston Marathon.

Kilduff said that Auslander's choice to draw the statue was especially significant because Kyriakides' son, Dimitris, recently returned to Hopkinton for a second visit. He traveled with Spyridon Zagaris, mayor of Marathon, Greece, to deliver the Flame of the Marathon Run, lit from the eternal flame which was first ignited in 2007, at the Tomb of the Athenians. The site is the burial location of soldiers who died at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC.



photos/design/kathleen culler

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