



The Oldest Kiwanis Club in Queens

# Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven

We meet 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Avenue Diner in Woodhaven

## Richmond Hill Woodhaven Kiwanis Club Sets 34th Annual Scholarship Awards Presentation June 28

For Immediate Release

May 12, 2017

RICHMOND HILL, New York — Four high school graduates will receive college scholarships from the Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven at the 34th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner to be held Wednesday, June 28, 6:45 p.m., at the Avenue Diner, 91-06 Jamaica Avenue, Woodhaven. The Richmond Hill Woodhaven Club awards the Mary Quaid and Joseph V. Iaricci Memorial Kiwanis Scholarships annually based on both academic achievement and service to the school and community. The Club makes two awards, each for \$2,500, to residents of the Richmond Hill, Woodhaven, Kew Gardens, Forest Hills area served by the local Kiwanis Club. Additional awards – each for \$600 – are awarded to qualified Kiwanis-related students who are members of the Key Club at Richmond Hill High School, a Kiwanis youth organization sponsored by the Richmond Hill Woodhaven Club, to a child or grandchild of a member of any other Kiwanis Club in the Queens West Division, and to a relative of a current or former member of the Richmond Hill Woodhaven Kiwanis Club. Since 1984, the Kiwanis Club has awarded \$208,775 in scholarships to assist 154 students with their college education.

The Mary Quaid Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$2,500 each to two area students. The awards will be made this year to Annamaria Leal, daughter of Oscar and Ieda Leal of Woodhaven, and to Fanny Fernandez, daughter of Fernando and Fanny Fernandez of Woodhaven. Ms. Leal will graduate from St. Francis Preparatory High School, and Ms. Fernandez, from Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School.

The \$600 Joseph V. Iaricci Kiwanis Awards will be presented to Irene Colodner, daughter of Neal and Mari Colodner of Bothell, Washington, and to Jonathan Walls, son of David Walls and Judith Zink of Richmond Hill. Ms. Colodner will graduate from Bothell High School and is the granddaughter of Sylvia L. Sharman, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Queens Boulevard. Mr. Walls graduates from Archbishop Molloy High School and is the grandson of the late Charles Zink, a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven.

Kiwanis International is a community service organization with clubs in more than 8,000 local communities around the world and in every area of the United States. It is the world's largest sponsor of youth organizations with high school Key Clubs, college Circle K Clubs, and Builders Clubs at the junior high school level. The Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven has served its community since 1927 and is the oldest Kiwanis Club in Queens, continuing the work of its two predecessor Kiwanis Clubs of Richmond Hill-Kew-Forest and of Woodhaven. Its membership includes local business and professional leaders who meet bi-weekly at the Avenue Diner in Woodhaven.

The Club's community service outreach, in addition to the awarding of annual Scholarships, includes sponsorship of the Key Club at Richmond Hill High School. The Club has also supported many organizations serving the local community, including the Boys and Girls Club of South Queens, Disabled Boy Scouts, Emergency Food Service of the Queens Federation of Churches, Queens Kiwanis Sports Association, Kamp Kiwanis, Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Richmond Hill Senior Center, Special Education Programs at P.S. 90, among others.

All four scholarship winners distinguished themselves in service to their school and home communities and have received many honors, including membership in Arista, the National Honor Society, or other similar recognitions.

Annamaria Leal will graduate from St. Francis Preparatory High School with a 93.36% average. She plans to enroll in St. Francis College to begin work that will lead to a Ph.D. in Psychology. In high school, Ms. Leal has been active in myriad activities including the Care for Creation Club, Franciscan Youth Movement, Spanish Club, Peer Counselor, and the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Team. She has also participated in the School's Swim Team, both Indoor and Outdoor Track Teams, and Cross Country Team. She has been nominated for the National Society of High School Scholars and the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists.

Fanny Fernandez will graduate from Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School with an 89.1% average. She

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plans to attend the College of Saint Rose to prepare for a career in forensic science, either in lab or law enforcement work. She has been a member of the Varsity Swim Team all four years and is certified in CPR, first aid, and as a lifeguard. She served as assistant volleyball coach for the CYO at St. Mary Gate of Heaven Roman Catholic Church, Ozone Park, where she also was an altar server for five years.

Irene Colodher will graduate from Bothell High School in Bothell, Washington, with a 3.43 grade average on a 4.0 scale. She plans to enroll at Western Washington University to prepare for a career in law or political science. Her high school activities include membership in the Key Club, Amnesty International Club, and as vice president of the Japanese Club. Beginning study of the Japanese language in the 9th grade, she has volunteered as a Japanese language tutor and been elected to the Japanese National Honor Society. She has also volunteered two years with the Seattle Children's Festival.

Jonathan Walls graduates from Archbishop Molloy High School and plans to continue his education at Adelphi University in the STEP program which would enable his earning both bachelor and masters degrees in five years in English and Theology. His goal is to return to Archbishop Molloy High School as a teacher in both subjects. In high school he has been captain of the Track and Field Team a Retreat Leader in the School's Retreat Program, and a teacher's aid in CCD, a religious instruction program. He is a deputy chief in the Columbian Squires, a program of the Knights of Columbus. In addition to several awards in various track and field events, he received the Art and Design Outstanding Achievement Graduation Award.

At the Awards dinner on June 28, Simran Bahl (2016), Raveena Beharry (2016), Kylie Chow (2015), Raveena Jain (2015), Madalena Grabos, (2014), and Christine Singh (2014) will each receive the annual installment on the \$2,500 Kiwanis Scholarships which were first awarded in the years indicated. Ms. Bahl graduated from the St. Francis Preparatory High School and is enrolled in St. John's University. Raveena Beharry, a graduate of Christ the King High School also attends St. John's University. Ms. Chow graduated from The Mary Louis Academy and is a student at Villanova University. Ms. Grabos graduated from Townsend Harris High School and is a student at Binghamton University. Ms. Singh is a graduate of the Forest Hills High School and attends Rochester Institute of Technology.

Maria Aliberti, Taramattie Doohnauth, and Nicholas Wunsch will each receive the second installment of the \$600 Kiwanis Scholarships which were awarded in 2016. Ms. Aliberti graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School and is a student at Fordham University. Ms. Doohnauth is a graduate from the Richmond Hill High School and is enrolled at Baruch College of the City University. Mr. Wunsch graduated from the Regis High School in Manhattan and attends St. John's University.

The Rev. N. J. L'Heureux, Jr., Executive Director of the Queens Federation of Churches, chairs the Kiwanis Club's Scholarship Committee. Other members of the Committee include officers of the Richmond Hill Woodhaven Kiwanis Club: President Kate Ann Brennan, Secretary Joan DeCamp, Past President Antoine McCoy and Priscilla Levine.

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*For more information, call 718-847-6764x3*