



The Oldest Kiwanis Club in Queens

Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven

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

Richmond Hill Woodhaven Kiwanis Club Sets 35th Annual Scholarship Awards Presentation May 30

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2018

RICHMOND HILL, New York — Four high school graduates will receive college scholarships from the Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven at the 35th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner to be held Wednesday, May 30, 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 – 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 \$214,975 in scholarships to assist 158 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 Kimberly Collazo, daughter of Ferdinand and Maureen Collazo of Richmond Hill; and to Benjamin Siciliano, son of Bradley Siciliano and Laura Evangelista of Forest Hills. Ms. Collazo will graduate from Francis Lewis High School. Mr. Siciliano will graduate from Regis High School.

The \$600 Joseph V. Iaricci Kiwanis Awards will be presented to Alessandro Drudi, son of Roberto and Adele Biandi Drudi of New Hyde Park; and to Andrew Zink, son of Maria and Charles Zink III of North Bellmore. Mr. Drudi will graduate from New Hyde Park Memorial High School and is the granddaughter of Lou DiRico, a member of the Glendale Kiwanis Club. Mr. Zink will graduate from the Mephram High School in North Bellmore and is the grandson of Charles Zink, a long-time member of the Richmond Hill Woodhaven Kiwanis Club.

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.

Kimberly Collazo will graduate from the Francis Lewis High School with a 94.3% average. She plans to attend LIM College to prepare for a career in cosmetics marketing. In high school, she has been a member of the school's

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SING!, secretary of the LGBTQ Gay/Straight Alliance, and a section leader of the Concert Choir. She is a member of the ARISTA honor society.

Benjamin Siciliano graduates from Regis High School 3.92 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). He plans to attend Williams College to prepare for a career in international relations and public service. He has a passion to improve the lot of the world's refugees. In high school, he was an Orator for the Speech and Debate Team, officer of the Diversity Club, a Varsity Player for Ultimate Frisbee, a Spanish peer tutor, and a member of the Heritage Club. He is a member of the Order of the OWL (highest year end honor roll), National Merit Commendation Student, recognized as a National Hispanic Scholar and received awards in the Spanish National Exam. He has volunteered as a mentor in the REACH program and as a teaching assistant at St. Ann's School in Harlem.

Alessandro Drudi will graduate from the New Hyde Park Memorial High School with a 97.21% average. He plans to attend SUNY at Stony Brook and looks forward to a career in engineering, working on new technologies to benefit the world. His high school activities include the Robotics Club, Mathletes, and the Italian Club. He has been recognized by the National Junior Honor Society and as an AP Scholar with Honor and has volunteered with the American Diabetics Association and worked summers as a lifeguard.

Andrew Zink graduates from the North Bellmore High School with a 95.06% average. He will attend SUNY at Stony Brook with plans to become a doctor. He has been active in Boy Scouts where he has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, in volleyball, tennis and track as well as working with Athletes Helping Athletes. He has been recognized with membership in the Science Honor Society and the National Honor Society.

At the Awards dinner on May 30, Annamaria Leal (2017), Fanny Fernandez (2017), Simran Bahl (2016), Raveena Beharry (2016), Kylie Chow (2015), and Raveena Jain (2015) will each receive the annual installment on the \$2,500 Kiwanis Scholarships which were first awarded in the years indicated.

Ms. Leal graduated from St. Francis Preparatory High School and attends St. Francis College. Ms. Fernandez is a graduate of Monsignor McClancy Memorial High School and is a student at the College of Saint Rose. 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. Jain, a graduate of Kew-Forest High School, is a student at Northeastern University.

Irene Colodher and Jonathan Walls will each receive the second installment of the \$600 Kiwanis Scholarships which were awarded in 2016.

Ms. Colodher is a graduate of the Bothell High School in Bothell, Washington, and a student at Western Washington University. Mr. Walls graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School and is enrolled at Adelphi 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: Secretary Joan DeCamp, Past President Antoine McCoy and Andrew Combs.

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For more information, call 718-847-6764x3