



The Oldest Kiwanis Club in Queens

Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven

We meet 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Avenue Diner in Woodhaven

Richmond Hill Woodhaven Kiwanis Club To Award 29th Annual Scholarships on June 20

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2012

RICHMOND HILL, New York — Five high school graduates will receive college scholarships from the Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill Woodhaven at the 29th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner to be held Wednesday, June 20, 7 p.m., at Manor's Oktoberfest Restaurant, 73-11 Yellowstone Boulevard, Forest Hills. 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. Three 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 \$175,975 in scholarships to assist 131 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 Sonya Abadali, daughter of Salahaldin Ali and Deopatti Abadali of Richmond Hill; and to Kevin Singh, son of Naresh and Suochma Singh of Kew Gardens. Ms. Abadali will graduate from Townsend Harris High School and Mr. Singh, from John Bowne High School.

The \$600 Joseph V. Iaricci Kiwanis Awards will be presented to Jason Herde, son of John Herde and Vashti Persad of Richmond Hill; Kathleen Miklus, daughter of Stephen and Wendy Miklus of Wellesley, Mass.; and Elizabeth Pooran, daughter of Michael and Jennifer Pooran of South Ozone Park. Both Mr. Herde and Ms. Pooran will graduate from Richmond Hill High School where each has been active in the School's Key Club. Ms. Miklus will graduate from the Montrose School in Medfield, Mass.; she is the granddaughter of Thomas J. Adams, Jr., long-time member of the Kiwanis Club of Richmond Hill-Kew-Forest and an attorney in Richmond Hill.

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 five 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.

Sonya Abadali will graduate from the Townsend Harris High School with an academic average of 96.21%. She plans to attend Brown University or Johns Hopkins University to major in neuroscience and international relations. In high school, she has served as a student government Senator, a 3-year member of Arista and its president in her junior year, secretary of Amnesty International for two years, a tutor in French and in Latin, and a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team. She volunteered with the Parks Department, working in Kissena Park to develop data on patrons recycling habits and build an effective recycling program. She also helped at the Shri Devi Mandir Hindu temple and with the SEVA Foundation to serve food and coordinate community and charity events.

Kevin Singh will graduate 3rd in his class at the John Bowne High School with a grade average of 100.1%. He

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plans to attend City College of the City University of New York to prepare for a career as an optometrist. He was the first NYC high school student to take part in a Geological Society of America Conference. He is first place winner at the New York Science & Engineering Fair. His other activities in high school included being a mentor to underclassmen, Secretary of Arista Honor Society, a member of the Yearbook staff and the graphic designed for the John Bowne High School and its various publications. He also volunteered as Office Administrator for Doshi Diagnostics, a radiology lab.

Jason Herde will graduate from Richmond Hill High School with a 93.7% average. He plans to attend Pace University, preparing to become a cardiologist. In high school, he was an active 4-year member of the Key Club, president of the Student Assembly, a math peer tutor and a member of the Arista Honor Society. He was a member of the Borough Student Advisory Council, worked with the Department of Immigration for the Mayor's Office, and helped in two blood drives at Holy Child Jesus Church.

Kathleen Miklus, who graduates from the Montrose School in Medfield, Mass., with a GPA of 3.85 (on a 4.0 scale), will attend Bowdoin College in Maine. She was editor of both the school yearbook and the school newspaper, captain of the speech team and a member of the drama productions. She is a member of the National Honor Society and received departmental awards in English and in History, as well as a medal in the National Spanish Exam. She taught English as a Second Language in the Framingham ESL Program and volunteered at the Wellesley Free Library.

Elizabeth Pooran will graduate from Richmond Hill High School with a 93.75% academic average and plans to enroll at Pace University. She was an active member of the Key Club, serving as its President her senior year. A member of Arista Honor Society, she served both as its Junior President and as Society President her senior year. She was lead tutor and outlook coordinator of Math Tutoring, and a member of the Girls Outdoor Track Team.

At the Awards dinner on June 20, Jasson Carcache (2011), Qainst Shah (2011), Anisha Gill (2010), Todd Hirsch (2010), Kristen Lasak (2009), and Quechau Thai (2009) will each receive the annual installment on the \$2,500 Kiwanis Scholarships which were first awarded in the years indicated. Both Mr. Carcache and Ms. Shah are graduates of Richmond Hill High School and students at Queens College. Ms. Gill graduated from Richmond Hill High School and is enrolled at the University of Rochester. Mr. Hirsch is a graduate of the High School of American Studies at Lehman College and a student at Columbia University. Ms. Lasak graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School and is a student at University of Notre Dame. Ms. Thai, a student at the Sterns School of Business at New York University, is a graduate of Townsend Harris High School.

Lauren Behette, Kaelyn Haggerty and Rahat Shah will each receive the second installment of the \$600 Kiwanis Scholarships which were awarded in 2011. Ms. Behette, a graduate of Somerville (NJ) High School, is a student at Marist College planning to major in criminal justice or psychology. Ms. Haggerty graduated from the Bethlehem (NY) Central High School and is enrolled at Alfred University to study fine arts. Ms. Shah graduated from Richmond Hill High School and is a student at St. John's University prepared to become a cardiovascular surgeon.

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 and members of the Richmond Hill Woodhaven Kiwanis Club: President Antoine McCoy, Vice President Barbara Hoffman, Secretary Joan DeCamp, Joseph Epstein, David Quintana, Paul Rudolph, and Paul Vasiliadis.

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For more information, call 718-847-6764