

The Women's College Club of Princeton Newsletter

June 2020

President's Message

As our 2019 - 2020 year is ending I am happy to report that Doris Ju is out of the hospital and quarantining in the Westin Hotel at Forrestal Village. What a bizarre opening for a President's Message but so important. Covid-19 changed everything for the Club except the most important thing...our efforts to support qualified young women from Princeton High School and the three independent schools in Princeton with their first-year college experiences. Under the leadership of Elaine Rafferty 19 students were interviewed, 11 chosen to receive awards, and they introduced themselves to the board on June 2nd. Elaine Rafferty, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, outdid herself and introduced many of the winners to the Board on June 2nd where we had the opportunity to learn about them and their plans for an uncertain future. In the midst of a global pandemic we managed to fulfill our mission and do it with grace, humor and great enthusiasm.

I am so proud to be associated with these dedicated women ...Lynda Woods Cleary who kept us vital financially; Marlene Gordon who kept us on track financially; Nora Ananos who produced vibrant and inspiring pictures of these young women; Lorraine Haucke who managed to keep our cancelled benefit from being a loss; Bonnie Larson made our newsletter almost sexy and added new categories of interest and made it easy to read; program chairs Janet Reiche and Barbara Johnson who are already planning Zoom programs for next year; Helen Ju who has recorded everything online so we can keep abreast of what's happening even if we cannot be there; Beverly Kestenis who has taken Zoom minutes at the last minute and still wears her Publicity hat; Fay Austin who has an inspiring view of how we can celebrate the women who have gone before us; Nancy Lifland who tracked out membership to 91; and Connie Loukatos and Carol Stokes whose new perspectives have added so much to our board meetings, such as suggestions for more imaginative fundraising and simpler and more concise recordkeeping. And special thanks and affection for Gay Culin and Carol Stawski for covering for me and taking minutes. I want to thank again and celebrate the fabulous leadership, humor, imagination and follow through of Elaine Rafferty's efforts along with her committee for our scholarship award winners. They were tireless and composed. How good is that.

It's a new world order of sorts out there and we are headed straight for it thanks to these wonderful women. So please pay your dues and make a contribution to the Women's College Club's scholarship fund as we enter a truly new time and are needed by our community more than ever.

Kathy Hutchins

Executive Board 2020-2021

President	Kathleen Hutchins
Vice-President	Connie Loukatos
Secretary	Beverly Kestenis
Treasurer	Marlene Gordon
Committee Chairs	
Benefit/Fund Raiser	Lorraine Haucke
Endowment	Lynda Woods Cleary
Historian	Fay Austin
Hospitality	Lorraine Haucke
Members-at-large	Jan Stout, Carol Stokes
Membership	Alyce Conlon
Newsletter	Bonnie Larson
Photography	Nora Ananos
Program	Janet Reiche, Barbara Johnson
Publicity	Beverly Kestenis
Scholarship	Elaine Rafferty
Trips	Kathleen Hutchins
Website	Helen Ju

BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be August 4 at 10 AM on Zoom.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Scholarship Committee, Elaine Rafferty, Alyce Conlon, Marilyn Shtier and Sandy Stein, met via a Zoom meeting on Thursday, May 14th to select the finalists from the 19 applicants. At that time, additional funds from the Operating account were found that brought the total funding available to \$26,000. After much discussion, the Committee completed the selection process which awarded scholarships to 11 recipients.

The Committee then discussed how we would honor the winners. Nora Ananos, the Club's official photographer, offered to create a collage of the pictures of winners and the donors in a way to capture the excitement and importance of what we do. Kathy will be inviting the scholarship recipients to the June board meeting to introduce them and to say a few words. And lastly, we have invited the young ladies to have their pictures taken in front of their school sign with the donors.

Attached to this newsletter are the bios of the winners which were prepared by Alyce Colon and Marilyn Shteir.

BOOK GROUP

Once the Plainsboro library reopens again, I will contact you to pick up the books to deliver them back to the library. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Larson, bonniejarson63@comcast.net or 609-655-2663.

LUNCHING OUT GROUP

The lunching out group has cancelled lunches due to the virus. When it is safe for all of us to go out again, I will send a notice to everyone regarding a location and date.

Bonnie Larson

2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Hillier Prize awarded to Jacqueline Rose Drozd from The Hun School

Sometimes life influences us in surprising ways. Artistic skills can develop from either fantasy or reality. How we live also leads us to different outcomes. Jacqueline's summers with an extended family in Nebraska showed her a rural life in America, teaching her the value of their company and also humor. She also learned to understand the needy in our society. That contrasted with her experienced in Philadelphia and Princeton, places rich with museums and artistic city life. These experiences gave her the basis to express herself in art in various media as shown in the photographs of her work. She is interested in a future in the arts

and demonstrates artistic talent. We feel she is a wonderful candidate for the Hillier Prize.

Peterson Book Award presented to Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz from Princeton High School

For some students high school is a time of difficulty, making adjustments in living and learning. For others like Raisa, it is a time of impressive accomplishment. Aside from her love of reading and writing for school, she has found time to become an activist for change. Raisa writes for informing the public about what is happening in society. One teacher wrote that as a writer you have a "reader's grace and keep your focus tight and clear". She was also an editor of The Tower, the school newspaper, and said "that it was a helpful way for me to figure out what information to report to other students."

Ramona Segrest Peyton Award presented to Makala Gayden from Princeton High School

Ramona Segrest Peyton was an outstanding former member of the Women's College Club of Princeton. A scholarship in her honor is being given to Makayla Gayden who is graduating from Princeton Day School.

Makayla's teachers and college counselor noted that she is a diligent worker. She displayed curiosity and contributed to class discussions. She put forth great effort when completing her assignments, especially her work on South Africa. In her personal essay, Makayla spoke about how she learned from the challenges she faced.

Makayla not only excelled academically, she also had an outstanding list of activities both at Princeton Day School and in the community. She was a DuBois Scholar which involved a five-week residential program at Princeton University, focusing on race relations and leadership. She delivered workshops on diversity, hosted exchange students from Taiwan and China, helping them with English. Makayla has been a student ambassador, counselor-in-training during summer months, and she won two awards in a scholastic competition. She participated in Varsity Fencing, filmed a dance concert and helped the tech crew with school plays. Makayla plans on attending Colgate University.

The Marjory White Memorial Scholarship presented to Kathleen McCoy from The Hun School

Marjory White was an outstanding member of the Women's College Club of Princeton. A scholarship in

her name is intended for a young woman who plans to study the sciences or pre-med and who demonstrates a positive attitude and a generous spirit. We are proud that this year's recipient is Kathleen McCoy.

Kathleen's teachers and counselor remarked about her effective effort with her assignments. During class discussions it was evident that she was confident in her abilities. She chose to study anatomy and physiology to prepare for her goal of becoming a doctor.

Kathleen took many Advanced Placement Classes and succeeded in all of them. She achieved high honors every semester at The Hun School of Princeton. In addition to her strong academic record, she had an impressive list of activities, taking on projects which benefit others. She has put time into the Ashley Lauren Foundation where she was the volunteer coordinator with the purpose of raising money for children with cancer, and was a member of the Medical Club. In addition, she has been an Altar Server and a Catholic Education Teacher. She participated in Step Dancing and the Varsity Rowing team. She was co-editor of the Hun School Literary Magazine, tour guide at the school and an open house panelist. She also worked at Jenkinson's Aquarium during the summer.

Kathleen plans to attend the University of Michigan.

Molly Updike Award presented to Emma Bryan from Princeton High School

It is rare to encounter a high school student who aspires to be a "comfort to people". Emma Bryan is one. She wants to help other people. Her interest in medicine led her to study at the Rutgers Cancer Institute and also take college level introduction to Biology while a student in high school. Her Biology teacher states "she has a natural curiosity and showed an interest in dissection of animals. Emma also deeply cares about animal rights and their well-being. She "never wants to stop learning".

Luna Kaiser Memorial Scholarship presented to Erica Oake from Princeton High School

The Women's College Club of Princeton is pleased to award the Luna Kayser Memorial Scholarship to Erica Oake, a graduating student from Princeton High School. Erica's teachers stated that Erica is inquisitive and attentive in class. She demonstrated intellectual promise and has a strong work ethic.

She displayed leadership qualities and is always willing to assist others. In her personal essay, Erica mentioned that she persevered and gained a positive attitude when challenged academically or athletically.

Erica chose a rigorous academic program, taking Advanced Placement classes and achieved excellent grades. She was accomplished in many activities at school. She was one of a small group to be selected as a Peer Leader, was a member of the Modern Pentathlon Youth, Junior and Senior National Teachers. She was on Varsity teams Cross Country, Swimming, Winter Track, Spring Track and Fencing, and also belonged to the Equestrian Pony Club. She volunteered at Pettoranello Gardens. She worked on Princeton High School's 101 Fund which raises money for scholarships for Princeton High School graduates.

Erica plan to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Women's College Club of Princeton Scholarship presented to Nora Flamer from Stuart Country Day School.

The Women's College Club of Princeton Scholarships are awarded to young women with high academic standing, qualities of leadership and character and who are accomplished in extracurricular activities.

Each of us comes from different backgrounds and have to learn how to adapt and relate to people who are not the same as us. Nora has used her extraordinary singing talents to do this. It seems she has sung all of her life, at school, church and professionally, to perform and reach other people's lives. One of her teachers stated that "I know she will be famous one day." She is also academically excellent. "Bright, insightful and courageous, Nora is a pleasure to have in class."

The Women's College Club of Princeton Scholarship presented to Kathryn Lytkowski from Princeton Day School.

Kathryn's teachers and counselor stated that she is an excellent student who is focused and open-minded. She is intellectually curious and expresses her ideas well. Her performances in dance and school plays were remarkable and she demonstrated her talents in photography. She boosted the morale of those around her and brought energy and humor

to class discussions. She is highly creative and described herself as an activist.

Kathryn has taken a rigorous academic course, achieving excellent grades. She initiated a project involving 2020 presidential candidates' views on mass incarceration and published the information on a website.

Kathryn worked as a camp counselor fifty-five hours a week during summer vacations. She was the Editor of the Arts Section of the school magazine. She acted in school plays and also was assistant director for the play "Little House of Horrors". Kathryn has taken dance for fourteen years and was a PDS dance team leader, organizing extracurricular performances and fundraising. She was co-head of the Gay, Lesbian or Whatever group and supported LGBTQ+ students through difficult times. She was a writing center mentor, assisting under-achieving classmates with writing assignments. Kathryn plans to attend American University.

The Women's College Club of Princeton Scholarship presented to Valerie Cerna from Princeton Day School

Valerie's teachers and counselor stated that Valerie exhibits leadership skills, and a strong work ethic. She is always willing to help younger students. She is involved in community activities and gives back to the school. She has a wonderful personality and a great sense of humor.

Valerie has taken a rigorous academic program and has excelled in her classes. She facilitated valuable small discussions, and displayed strong writing skills while taking on challenging topics.

Valerie's participation in school and community activities was outstanding. She was co-head of Spanish Club's planned fundraising activities for Puerto Rico hurricane relief. She was staff writer and associate editor for the school newspaper. In the community she volunteered for the Study Buddy program, and was a mentor at the admissions office. Valerie also worked twenty hours a week at Futta Bowls.

Valerie plans to attend Dickinson College.

The Women's College Club of Princeton Scholarship presented to Ahzaria Silas from Princeton Day School

Ahzaria has not relaxed in high school. One counselor states that she is passionate about learning and has a wonderful sense of collaboration with her peers both academically and socially. Through her own experiences, she has learned to respect each person's racial diversity. Her experiences have been many and have followed her interests. She has danced at the 92nd Street Y in New York City, worked on climate control for the state of New Jersey, led a Diversity Conference, participated in the Rider University Stem Program, worked with the Mercer County Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as the Black Latino Student Union. There have been others. She is a young activist and a very strong student.

The Women's College Club of Princeton Scholarship presented to Isabella Potocny from Princeton High School

Isabella is one of those determined high school graduates who knows what she plans to do in the future. She took a class in Forensics at Princeton High School and decided she wanted to become a Crime Behavioral Analyst in law enforcement. She will be attending the University of Tampa. In her letter of recommendation, her teachers were impressed with her passion and achievement. She sets high goals for herself and wants to know more about what she is studying.

Isabella has also participated in a church program for the underprivileged in Maine, assisting them in home improvement. In addition, she managed the boys' soccer team and participated in the girls' soccer team.

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Jacqueline Drozd
 The Hun School

Isabella Potocny
 Princeton High School

Abzaria Silas
 Princeton Day School

Emma Bryan
 Princeton High School

Kathleen McCoy
 The Hun School

Nora Flamer
 The Stuart School

The Women's College Club of Princeton Scholarship 2020 Winners

Erica Oake
 Princeton High School

Valerie Cernis
 Princeton Day School

Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz
 Princeton High School

Makayla Gayden
 Princeton Day School

Kaitlyn Lykowska
 Princeton Day School

The Women's College Club of Princeton • Scholarship 2020 Donors

"The Florence Hillier Memorial Scholarship" awarded by Robert Hillier to Jacqueline Drozd (The Hun School)

"The Majory White Memorial Scholarship" awarded by Laura Marks to Kathleen McCoy (The Hun School)

"The Ramona Segrest Peyton Scholarship" awarded by Murray Peyton to Makayla Gayden (Princeton Day School)

