

Report to the Lincoln School Committee from the Lincoln Scholarship Committee

June 3, 2021

Important Changes for the Lincoln Scholarship Committee this year

- **New Membership:** After 17 years of service on the Lincoln Scholarship Committee, **Nancy Marshall** has stepped down, effective at the end of this past winter. Her expertise and leadership are greatly missed. Joining Carolyn Dwyer and me on the Committee in Nancy's place is **Aldis Russell**, a Lincoln resident with two children in the Lincoln Schools. Aldis is an attorney with the Social Security Administration who is already bringing a valuable set of skills and knowledge base to the Committee. She is the Board of Selects representative to the LSC.
- **New Scholarship:** This year, for the first time, Lincoln is offering the **Harriet Backus Todd Scholarship**, which is a scholarship of \$5000 renewable for a second year. It constitutes a portion of the bequest left to the Town of Lincoln by longtime resident, Harriet Todd. The purpose of this named scholarship is to encourage students pursuing studies and/or training, post-secondary school, consistent with Harriet Todd's lifetime of devotion to public service and volunteerism demonstrating both commitment and integrity to a broad range of civic concerns. The Harriet Todd scholarship is our first scholarship that is open to students who are not resident of Lincoln, but who have who attended Lincoln Schools grades 5-8 and are graduating from LSRHS or Minuteman Technical School. This year the scholarship recipient is **Dillon Burke** who demonstrates an extraordinary sense of community spirit and leadership. Next year we shall add a second Todd Scholarship student and from then on there will be a new and a continuing student each year.

Procedures

Our busy season runs from January through June. Early in January we inform seniors of the availability of awards and scholarships, including a letter written to seniors and their families and sent to their homes. We also review the application form and make it available online by February 1. During February we write and arrange for the printing of an appeal letter to be sent to all households in Lincoln. We assemble those for mailing by the first week in March. Contributions generally begin arriving by mid to late March. Applications are due mid-April, and interviews normally take place the last week in April.

For all of us this year, the sudden arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic last March of 2020 changed normal forms of social behavior, including the interactions of the Lincoln Scholarship Committee whose members. With the help of Michael Dolan, Director of Information Technology at Town Hall, we held our meetings online via Zoom, notifying the Lincoln community publicly, as is required, in case anyone wished to attend. We also conducted the interviews for awards and scholarships online both this year and last year. This worked surprisingly well, and except for a few frozen moments and communicative pets, we were satisfied with the ease of managing the interviews virtually. We agreed, however, that we definitely preferred to meet the students in person.

For 2021 we had a delightful, highly qualified if small pool of applicants from a small class. Since the awards and scholarships have just been announced, I am able to give the names in this report.

Awards

- **Fanny Campbell Award** for academic achievement: This award given in recognition of overall scholastic excellence as well as superior achievement in a particular discipline or area of interest. Each student applicant must submit an essay. This year there were no applicants for this honor. There were several extraordinary students with exemplary records competing for this award. This year the award went to **Charlize Liu**, a student with a 3.9 GPA and a number of AP courses on her transcript.
- **Sumner Smith Community Service Award** recognizes a deserving high school student for contributing in a significant manner to some community need. Again, this there were several applicants who were exceptionally well qualified and full engaged in a variety of ways in service contributions to the school and the broader community. This year the award went to **Daria Trosteanetchi** for work as founder and leader in the student Mindfulness Club, her participation in Russian Theater at the Russian Cultural Center, /editor of The Forum, the school newspaper, a youth peer leader, and a tutor in math and science for kids age 5-12, a riding teacher for children at the Matlock Farm, and a co-organizer of a kids' talent show fundraiser for organizations addressing children's needs.

Ogden Codman Scholarships

The **Codman Scholarship Committee** is comprised of two Codman representatives, Susan Taylor and Ken Mitchell, with a member from the Lincoln Scholarship Committee rotating

onto the Codman Scholarship Committee each year. This year, however, all five of us participate in both the interviews, and the selection of the Codman Scholars.

- **Ogden Codman Scholarship \$5000 for each of four years** is awarded to a Lincoln resident student who has demonstrated a high level of academic achievement, and who has manifested strong leadership qualities among his/her peers both in the broad array of activities that are offered at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and community service within the Town of Lincoln at large. This scholarship was awarded to **Achla Gandhi**.
- **Codman Opportunity Scholarship \$2,500 for each of four years** The award is given to students bound for a two or four-year college, vocational school or other post-secondary study or training program. Student potential and commitment to success in a specific field or trade are all important factors. This scholarship was awarded to **Daria Trosteanetchi**.

Lincoln Community Scholarships

The Lincoln Scholarship Committee offers several scholarships that are needs-based and dependent, in part, on the community's response to the annual appeal letter and the number of applicants. These scholarships are generally in the \$3000 to \$4000 range for one year only. There were three recipients of Community Scholarship awards this year: **Achla Gandhi, Daria Trosteanetchi, and Emma Petraglia**.

Contributions to Funds

To date, Lincoln community members have contributed over \$8410.00 to the Lincoln Scholarship Fund for the 2021 appeal. The appeal letter was mailed early in March. Contributions will continue to come in throughout the year. We have 62 contributions to date, roughly 50% more contributions than last year at this time, and a dollar figure that is 60% higher. Generally, contributions are in the \$50 to \$100 range. So far this year, there have been several in the \$200 to \$500 category, one of \$1000 and several of \$25.00. Cognizant of the economy and COVID related stresses, the Lincoln community has responded with sensitivity to the financial challenges of educating our young people.

Areas for future change

- Despite outreach by email to students enrolled in the METCO program who were eligible for the Harriet Todd Scholarship, we did not receive any applications from that group. We hope to do a more effective job of publicizing it this year working with the METCO coordinator at LS and with Frances Zingale, Administrative Assistant to the Principal.
- Improving publicity for the scholarships, such as announcing them in The Lincoln Squirrel, Lincoln Talks, and publicizing the recipients in these and other ways.
- Increasing the number of households responding to the appeal letter. Currently the number of contributing households seem to be increasing, but we shall not know for sure until the end of the calendar year. Over the long term, we hope to find creative ways to increase the numbers of households willing to provide financial support for scholarships for Lincoln's students.

Submitted by: Barbara Slayter

Lincoln School Committee Representative on the LSC

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