



# AJJ SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*The Art Jones Scholarship Fund honors Art Jones, a Hampton Bays and Hamilton College alumnus who lost his life in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.*

*The Fund is intended to keep Art's memory alive by awarding scholarships and supporting community initiatives in his name.*



Dear Friend,

On behalf of the board of directors and the entire Jones family, I want to thank you for your gracious and continuing support of the AJJ Scholarship Fund. What began as a way for friends and family to remember Art has, 19 years later, become an institution that has given more than \$250,000 in scholarships and donations to worthy community initiatives.

The AJJ Scholarship Fund is the largest consistent benefactor to graduating seniors at Hampton Bays High School. Our goal is to be a “game changer” for scholarship recipients and in 2020, we were again able to achieve that goal of providing substantial financial support to worthy kids and causes that no doubt would have been important to Art.

2020 will be remembered as a year of tremendous challenge as we faced COVID-19 around the world. Stories of struggle, locally and globally, tested our spirits. Through it all, we were reminded that the way through the pandemic struggles are the same as the core value of the AJJ Scholarship Fund - as a community, sticking together and supporting one another. Despite these unprecedented challenges, 2020 has been one of our most financially successful years. What a testament to Art - in the toughest of times, the Fund was empowered to do more for communities in need and for students.

In 2017, the Board of Directors prioritized ensuring the sustainability of the Fund into the future. Our Investment Committee has established an investment portfolio that is managed and guided by professionals, with the goal of long-term sustainability at the forefront of our decision-making. It is a remarkable testament to the impact of Art’s life on others that the Board is in the position to protect his legacy for many years to come.

We continue to develop *Friends of Art*, an outreach arm of the Board and we will launch a *Junior Board* in 2021, ensuring the next generation of the AJJ community has a pathway to grow their involvement in the work.

**Please save the date and join us for our annual golf outing on Monday, October 25 at The Vineyards in Riverhead.** Stay connected to us on Facebook, Instagram and the web. Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with the AJJ Scholarship Fund.

With all good wishes for your health and happiness,

Scott Jones  
President

## Impacting Students' Lives

Since 2002, the AJJ Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$245,000 to deserving students and community initiatives. The criteria for the 2020 selection season included:

- ~Service and extra-curricular involvement;
- ~Academic success; honor roll status;
- ~Athletic involvement as a Varsity athlete;
- ~Completion of an essay at school;
- ~A personal interview;
- ~Financial need, as applicable;

Thanks to a matching grant from the MCJ Amelior Foundation, the AJJ Scholarship Fund awarded \$16,000 in scholarships to two outstanding seniors from Hampton Bays.

### The Class of 2020 Awardees



Lily Candelaria  
New York University



Mia Mielenhausen  
University at Albany

AJJ Scholarship Alumni	
2019	Gavin Grismer (University of Buffalo) Sarah Fassino (University of Rhode Island) Sean Noonan (Penn State University) Riley Tupper (University of Central Florida)
2018	Sydney Caldwell (University of Vermont) Aly Martinez (Loyola Marymount) Isabella Romano (SUNY Binghamton)
2017	Jennifer Alvarez (Buffalo State) Joshua Aube (University of Tampa) Michael Del Rey (George Washington) Alexandra Macholz (Penn State Univ.) Amelia Salvatore (Loyola Marymount)
2016	Alexis Fotopoulos (Adelphi University) Tim Frost (Stony Brook University)
2015	Josh Karl (Suffolk Community) Alex Maitland-Ward (Pace University)
2014	Christian Ruiz (SUNY Geneseo) Trish Liotta (Mount Ida College)
2013	Sampson George (Syracuse University) Aubrey Rogers (St. Leo University)
2012	Dylan George (SUNY Albany) Deborah Assis (SUNY Oneonta)
2011	Pawel Golyski (Brown University) August Theilberg (SUNY Albany)
2010	Ryan Walker (SUNY Cortland) Maraya Ferreira (SUNY Cortland)
2009	Davi Assis (Penn State University) Marissa Raimo (NOVA Southeastern)
2008	Myles Liebel (University of Tampa) Kate Von Knoblauch (SUNY Plattsburgh)
2007	Andrew Raimo (Long Island University) Tara Fallo (SUNY Cortland)
2006	Ricky Martel (Penn State University) Simone Lang (SUNY Binghamton)
2005	Brian Liotta (University of Tampa) Maria Bartley (Long Island University)
2004	Michael Herzog (Rollins College) Katie Muehle (Quinnipiac University)
2003	Michael Morgan (Fordham University) Rebecca Krantz (Fairleigh Dickinson)
2002	Jarrad Walsh (Salisbury University) Elizabeth Hughes (SUNY Geneseo)

## Serving the Community During COVID-19

The AJJ Scholarship Fund is committed to the communities that were so important to Art.

Art's father-in-law, Eugene Francolini, passed away in December. Eugene's generosity and willingness to quietly help others was matched by his passion for life and thirst for knowledge and experiences. Gene's family established the Eugene Francolini Memorial Golf Initiative to continue his legacy of supporting the community he loved so much. The Initiative aided the Hampton Bays High School Golf Program this year with branded Baymen outdoor gear and will operate under the direction of the AJJ Scholarship Fund; it will be a lasting legacy of Gene's charitable nature and enduring passion for the game.



The Fund continues its support of the Hampton Bays Lions' Club. The Lions Club supports the homeless, the Salvation Army, vision-impaired individuals and scholarships, among other important causes. *To learn more about the Lions Club, please visit [www.hamptonbayslions.com](http://www.hamptonbayslions.com).*

The Community Food Pantry at St. Rosalie's Church played a critical role in supporting the community during COVID-19. The Pantry experienced a 300% increase in the number of clients it served at the height of the pandemic. *To support the Hampton Bays Community Food Pantry or to refer a client, please call them at (631) 728-9249.*



As COVID-19 took hold in New York, PPE for essential workers became scarce, as global supply chains were strained. The Fund donated 3,000 N-95 masks to Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center, the Hampton Bays Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Southampton Town Police and Phelps Memorial and White Plains Hospital in Westchester, in support of their efforts on the front line to care for others.

In June, three Southampton High School students created a virtual 5k run for the community in response to the challenges of 2020. The race was intended to bring communities together in solidarity to overcome the challenges, stress and conflict of 2020. Proceeds from the 5k created a scholarship for a graduating senior at Southampton as a way to, "pay it forward."



In partnership with Island Harvest Food Bank, the school district ran a twice weekly food distribution during the height of COVID-19. As the challenges knew no boundaries, individuals who once donated to fundraisers found themselves in line. Our support of the Hampton Bays Education Foundation "plugged the holes" in the distribution events, as they were composed of what the food bank could provide at the time.

## Finances That Support Today & Plan for Tomorrow

The 2020 program year experienced considerable growth in both gifts and investments, as well as a positive programmatic impact. The Board of Directors continued its focus on long-term financial and sustainability planning. The Fund retains the counsel and support of Hampton Bays-based CPAs Jones, Little & Co. for the purposes of accounting and federal tax filing requirements. Glenn Halsey, CFP, CRPC of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management is the Board's designated wealth advisor.

### January 1, 2020

<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 27,935</b>
<b>Balanced Investment Portfolio</b>	<b>\$185,738</b>

### 2020 Program Highlights

#### A Year of Activity - Fundraising and Gift Drives<sup>^</sup>

5th Annual Cocktail Party  
September 11 Memorial Gift Drive  
Eugene Francolini Memorial Golf Initiative<sup>^^</sup>  
"Giving Tuesday" Holiday Gift Campaign

#### A Year of Giving - Supporting the Community and Students

Scholarship Awards	\$16,000
COVID-19 PPE Supplies	\$ 4,625
COVID-19 Food Pantry Support	\$ 5,000
COVID-19 Island Harvest Support	\$ 1,000
Southampton Run for Unity	\$ 500
Hampton Bays Lions Club	\$ 750
Administration/Operating	\$ 3,711

### December 31, 2020

<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 86,975</b>
<b>Balanced Investment Portfolio</b>	<b>\$209,890</b>

**Annual Growth to the Fund** **38.9%**

<sup>^</sup>The AJJ Scholarship Fund thanks the many who have impacted our efforts this year through generous support.

<sup>^^</sup>The Fund made a donation to the Hampton Bays Varsity Golf Team for uniform jackets in March 2021.

<sup>^^^</sup>AJJ Scholarship Fund's Administrative Expenses include website management, Directors & Officers Liability Insurance, taxes, investment management, New York State administrative fees.

## Board of Directors

Scott Jones, President (2023)  
Thomas Crowley, Treasurer (2022)  
Lars Clemensen, Secretary (2021)  
Cheryl Babinski (2021)  
Ellen Graney Dare (2022)  
Phil Domenico (2022)  
Carol Francolini (2021)  
Michael Gilfillan (2021)  
Robert Long (2023)  
Tom Maloney (2021)  
Doug Matz (2022)  
Kim Stengel (2023)  
William Wright (2021)

The AJJ Scholarship Fund is an incorporated 501(c)3 non-profit. The Board meets quarterly to manage finances, conduct the scholarship award process, and plan the Fund's annual events. Directors serve three-year terms. The AJJ Scholarship Fund is registered with the NYS Office of the Attorney General Charities Bureau and the Internal Revenue Service.



## AJJ Scholarship Fund, Inc.

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