

COMMUNITY SERVICE

UD-Lansdowne Rotary Club honors top graduates

Students from B&P, Upper Darby, Penn Wood, Delco Tech

By PEG DeGrassa

pdegrassa@delcotimesnetwork.com

UPPER DARBY » Members of the Rotary Club of Upper Darby-Lansdowne seemed exceptionally enthused for their recent meeting, where they honored their top Rotary Students of the Month for 2022-23.

The event is the culmination of the year's Student-of-the-Month program. The top four students were each awarded a \$1,500 scholarship.

"This is always a special meeting for us," said longtime UD-L Rotary member Maureen Inglesby, "Because we get to award students who have worked incredibly hard and who help to make our community a better place. They are our future."

Chosen for this exceptional honor were high school seniors Bridget Murphy of Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast High School, Nhaomi Lartey of Penn Wood High School, Aiman Raisa of Upper Darby High School, and Freddy Amigon of Delaware County Technical School.

Each month from September through May, the club honors an outstanding student from each of the schools in the Upper Darby-Lansdowne area.

The students are invited to attend a Rotary meeting and share their community service activities, academic achievements and future goals.

At the end of each school year, Rotary members vote to choose the top student from each school, who not only excels academically but is a giver and vibrant member of the community. The students, all days away from graduating, were honored at a recent luncheon at McCall's Country Club in Upper Darby Township.

"We know these students are on the right track of being involved in their community

and they may someday be a member of their local International Rotary Club," club President Richard Heron said. "Rotary's motto is 'service above self,' so when we choose students to honor, we don't just look at their grades. We want to see that they are involved in their community."

Bridget Murphy

Murphy just graduated from Bonner & Prendergast in Drexel Hill.

She ranked second in her class and was captain of the rowing team. She has participated in Upper Darby Summer Stage and the school musicals.

Bridget has been named a Connelly Foundation Neumann Scholar, where she was able to attend the Freedoms Foundation Service Learning and Public Policy. She attended the Notre Dame Summer Scholars Program, where she took courses in cell biology and environmental consciousness. Bridget also did community service with the Boys & Girls Clubs in South Bend, Ind.

Bridget served on student council, helped to serve Masses and was a student ambassador. Her community service at school included the blood drive and getting books and coats for those in need. She is a daughter of Kevin and Colleen Murphy of Drexel Hill. She plans on starting her college journey at the University of Notre Dame this fall, to become a nurse and specialize in neonatal heart care.

"I'm just so thrilled and honored to be here," Bridget said with an ear-to-ear smile, standing next to her proud mother. "I think the Rotary is such a wonderful organization. Everyone that I talked to today was so inspiring."

Nhaomi Lartey

Lartey was top Student of

the Month from Penn Wood High School in Lansdowne. Lartey is the valedictorian of the Penn Wood Class of 2023.

She took five Advanced Placement courses during her senior year.

She was the president of her class in grades 10 and 11 and has been a member of the Mathletes, Mock Trial team, and HI-Q team.

Nhaomi got involved in local politics after being appointed as a junior member of Lansdowne Borough Council, where she organized community events and provided insight from a different perspective. Nhaomi was one of 12 students in the United States and five in Africa recognized for her leadership skills. She established a Bright Futures initiative to help Penn Wood students navigate their postgraduate plans and has donated her time to Ardmore Elementary School, tutoring students in math, English, and other subjects.

Nhaomi was in the Future Business Leaders at Penn Wood and will be participating in a statewide competition in Hershey. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Science Olympiad, school newspaper and student council. She was accepted into Brown University, the University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Yale University, Columbia University and Swarthmore College but chose Harvard University, where she will begin classes this fall.

Aiman Raisa

Raisa was chosen as the top Student of the Month at Upper Darby High School. Aiman, who prefers to be called "Raisa," was born in New York and came to Upper Darby when she was a



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Upper Darby- Lansdowne Rotary President Richard Huron, left, and Rotary Club secretary Harry Dietzler with the 2022-23 top Students of the Month, from left, Freddy Amigon, Aiman Raisa, Bridget Murphy and Nhaomi Lartey.

Freddy Amigon

freshman. She is a member of many clubs and activities including the American Sign Language Club, the Upper Darby Arts and Education Foundation, student government, National Art Honor Society, National Science Honor Society and the Horticulture Club, where she and her team cleaned up the courtyard and grew plants.

Through the National Science Honor Society, Raisa volunteered for a three-week camp for elementary students. Outside of school, she is on the Sellers Library Student Advisory Board, where she plans programs, raises money for key projects and reviews books for the library. Raisa has helped plan events for Sellers, such as the Harvest Festival and a bake sale. Raisa plans to attend Thomas Jefferson University in the honors engineering program. She is a daughter of Mohammad and Marcella Hossain.

Amigon was chosen as the top Student of the Month from Delaware County Technical School, where he attended the Emergency and Protective Services program at the Folcroft location.

He is a son of Ana and Froilan Amigon of Upper Darby. Freddy is a giver who wants to use his talents to help others. He is graduating from Upper Darby High School as well as the Delaware County Technical School. He is interested in being an EMT and working on an ambulance.

He intends to go into the military and train as a paramedic.

An all-around athlete, Freddy is an excellent soccer player and has participated in lacrosse, tennis and wrestling. While at Upper Darby, he was a member of the chess club. Freddy recently attended a leadership conference in the Poconos. He will participate in the Health Occupations

Students of America competition for EMTs and attend Delaware County Community College. While at Vo-Tech, Freddy spent time at the county 911 call center, where he hopes to apply for a job in the future.

Those at the luncheon were treated to a talk by Ruth Ndwiga, an International Rotarian who belongs to a club in Embu, Kenya, and was visiting her sister in Primos. Ndwiga spoke about the importance of Rotary as well as her club's work to build a sanitation facility for 1,000 elementary school students. She told the UD-L Rotarians that when she subbed for the president of her club, she was the very first female to be in that important role there.

The Rotary Club of Upper Darby-Lansdowne meets on a bi-weekly basis for fellowship and to learn about the community and plan community service events. New members are accepted all year, at any time. For more than 90 years, the UD-L Rotary Club has been serving and supporting local communities. Each spring and fall, the club meets with Upper Darby teachers to give young readers a book bag, a couple of books and a stuffed animal to use as a reading buddy, to encourage children to read more.

The Rotary of Upper Darby-Lansdowne is always open to new members. The next meeting will be at McCall's Country Club in Upper Darby on Wednesday, June 14. To learn more, contact president Rich Heron at 610-259-9700 or President Elect Ryan Stone at r.stone119@gmail.com/. To find out more about Rotary, visit <http://RotaryDistrict7450.org> or <http://Rotary.org/>.