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The Detective Jonathan Diller Scholarship Inaugural Fundraiser Raises \$70K

***Community and local businesses join to support fund in
memory of fallen NYPD Officer***



L-R Larry Weinberger, Stephanie Diller and Joe Saladino at inaugural Detective Jonathan Diller Scholarship Fundraiser.

WANTAGH, NY — The Detective Jonathan Diller Scholarship Fund, established in the memory of the late NYPD Detective [Jonathan Diller](#), held its inaugural kick-off fundraising event at [Mulcahy's Pub & Concert Hall](#) (at 3232 Railroad Ave. in Wantagh, NY) on Wednesday, November 20th, 2024. The event lasted from 6:30 p.m. through 10:30 p.m.

The fundraiser drew in approximately 500 people, including Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino, and representatives from the New York Police Department (NYPD), Nassau County Police Department (NCPD), Suffolk County Police department (SCPD), and other elected officials. The Pipes & Drums of The Emerald Society of the New York City Police Department performed, as did the Joe Saladino Band. A total of approximately \$70 thousand dollars was raised to directly fund annual scholarships for tuition for students at Diller's former high school, [St. Mary's](#), located in Manhasset, NY.

NYPD Detective Diller lost his life in the line of duty earlier this year on March 25, when he was murdered during a traffic stop in Far Rockaway, Queens.

The event featured food, drinks, raffle prizes, live auctions, and entertainment. Nearly 50 local businesses sponsored or donated money or prizes to the fundraising effort. John Theissen ran live auction. John Murray, the proprietor of Mulchay's, offered a special rate for use of the venue.

Raffle prizes included gift certificates and other items from a wide variety of establishments that included Bluebird Kitchen, Matteo's, Danny's Chinese, Great South Bay Music Festival, Seven Beach Lane, Kwong Ming, Saltano's, North Fork Doughnut Co., The Good Life, Dark Horse, Tap Room, American Beauty, Vin's Bake House, Carvel, Bacaro Italian Tavern, Zona Restaurant, Umberto's, Gino's Tuscany, Smoking Al's, Tavlin Market, Rejuvenate Spa, Patrizia's, Vincent's Steak House, Mercato Kitchen & Cocktails, Anthony's Kitchen & Cocktails, Laser Plus, Voodoo Crab, Calda, All American Burger, Taco Joe's, as well as VIP tickets to the Billy Joel Exhibit at the Long Island Music & Entertainment Hall of Fame.

The fund was organized and established by Larry Weinberger, President of MGD Investments, who gathered supporters and sponsors.

"Detective Diller's dedication to police work, and his love of being a police officer, was apparent to all who knew him," Weinberger said. "This fund will create a never-ending legacy for Detective Diller, as every year the high school Jonathan attended, St. Mary's, will select a student(s) in need of support pursuing their education and career goals."

Jonathan Diller's wife Stephanie supports the effort and was there to thank everyone who attended. She spoke about what St. Mary's meant to her late husband and her hopes for this scholarship to give students the opportunity to follow in his footsteps.

"Jonathan always talked so fondly about his time there and he always was involved in sports and was very active, and that's what made him into the person he was," said Stephanie. "I want the scholarship to go to someone who is just like Jonathan and to have that experience and to continue for people to become like him. We need more of Jonathan in the world."



Stephanie Diller thanks the fund organizers and supporters on stage.



L-R John Theissen ran the live auction, Joe Saladino rocked the house with the Joe Saladino band, and The Pipes & Drums of The Emerald Society of the New York City Police Department performed, Photo credit, Chris Collora, EGC Group.

The fund has gained strong community support throughout the region—from New York City to Suffolk County—with participation from the NYPD, NCPD, SCPD, and the Town of Oyster Bay.

Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joe Saladino is a strong supporter of the fund and even brought his band, The Joe Saladino Band to rock the house as the main entertainment for the night.

“Johnathan Diller is someone we all look up to,” Saladino said. “He’s a hero. He left his beautiful wife and son every day to protect communities as a police officer. It speaks to his heroic actions. We appreciate that Jonathan has always been a hero and we’re going to make sure that his memory and his passion for the community and his love for all of us always lives on.”

Additional sponsors and supporters include Mulcahy’s Pub & Concert Hall, MGD Investments, Dream Studios, and The EGC Group, Sunrise Chiropractic & Wellness Office, Hassett Ford, Gennaro Jewelers, 1031 Financial, Blue Shark Realty Group Inc, Lifestyles Sports, Family Wealth & Pension Management, LLC, Zwanger-Pesiri Radiology, Budd Morgan Alarm Co., Rosenberg Calica Birney Liebman & Ross LLP, John Theissen Children’s Foundation, Beach Bakery, The Froccaro Family, Flip N’ Save, Sign Up Now, Sahn Ward Braff Coschignano PLLC, Fortitude Investment Group, and Peapack Gladstone Bank.



The fund is continuing to accept donations online. For more information to either support this effort or donate, please call 516-409-1800. St. Mary’s High School has established a featured webpage for the scholarship which outlines the details and allows for donations. For more information about the scholarship or to donate, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/DillerScholarshipFund>

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