

2018 Charity & Truth Gala

Building Tomorrow, One Woman at a Time

Thank you to all who supported the February 24, 2018 Resurrection College Prep Gala!



Emcee Vanessa Torres '03



Chair Couple Steve & Susan Besch with daughters Kayla '15 and Taylor '18



Awardees Jennifer Kohnke '73 and Kathy Rzany with special guest Adam Reed Tucker



Auctioneer Fred Angelini

Resurrection College Prep High School hosted the Charity & Truth Gala on Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Cafe la Cave in Des Plaines. The event featured dinner, music, silent and live auctions, raffles and awards. The Chair Couple for the event were Resurrection parents **Steve and Susan Besch** of Sauganash. In keeping with the event theme “Building Tomorrow, One Woman at a Time,” guests had the opportunity to meet and take photos with celebrity guest Architect and Lego Certified Professional **Adam Reed Tucker**. The emcee for the evening was alumna and community arts professional **Vanessa Torres '03** and the auctioneer for the evening’s live auction was alumnae parent and Resurrection coach **Fred Angelini**. The school’s most prestigious awards were presented at the event, the Renaissance Award to alumna, artist and illustrator **Jennifer Kohnke '73** and the Charity & Truth Award to retired educator **Kathy Rzany**.

The Renaissance Award is the school’s highest honor and is awarded to an individual who exemplifies the Resurrection spirit, who embraces new ideas, independent thought and classical values. As an alumna of the Resurrection Class of 1973, **Jennifer Kohnke** has been an active alumnae of Resurrection who has used her skills as an artist, illustrator and collaborator to enrich, renew and strengthen the community. Jennifer Kohnke is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute. In addition to working in the early field of digital graphics, she is also a fine artist, an editorial illustrator at the Chicago Tribune, and a graphic artist at WGN, where she is also the weather illustrator for meteorologist Tom Skilling. Jennifer continues to give back to the community while demonstrating the ability to grow, create and thrive in a changing world and exemplifies the meaning of the Renaissance Award by working to transform society and by contributing to the world around her. [WATCH Video about Jennifer Kohnke](#)

The 2017 Charity and Truth Award was awarded to **Kathy Rzany**, former Resurrection teacher, administrator, principal, and board member. The Charity & Truth Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to Resurrection College Prep High School through their generosity of time, talent, and treasure. Kathy Rzany began her teaching career at Resurrection in 1970 and demonstrated her commitment to education by touching the lives of members of the schools where she has served, including her years as principal at St. Monica Academy and Regina Dominican High School, as well as her many years at Resurrection. Kathy Rzany holds an undergraduate degree from Quincy College and a graduate degree in Educational Administration from Dominican University, where she also taught graduate-level education classes. She continues to serve on the Resurrection Educational Excellence Committee and she truly embodies the Resurrection motto of *Charity and Truth*. [WATCH Video about Kathy Rzany](#)

The evening also featured the conclusion of several raffles in support of the Sister Mary Monica Hope Scholarship Fund, which funds scholarships to students who might otherwise be unable to afford a Resurrection education. The Big Money Raffle winners were drawn and the first prize winner was Resurrection parent, Meg Hobson. The second prize winner was friend of Resurrection Marie Guerrieri. A Lego Raffle winner was drawn for an Architectural Lego set autographed by designer and special guest Adam Reed Tucker and the winner was friend of Resurrection Haydee Olinger. The raffle winner for two tickets to see the award-winning musical *Hamilton* was alumna Deanna Johann and the winner of a raffle for a week at a Las Vegas timeshare was Resurrection parent Eileen Pavlik. The Resurrection community celebrated a great evening in support of the school.

Resurrection College Prep High School, located at 7500 West Talcott Avenue in Chicago, is the largest all girls Catholic, Christian college preparatory high school for young women on the north side of Chicago. Since its founding in 1922, Resurrection has graduated over 14,000 alumnae. For more information about Resurrection College Prep High School, call 773.775.6616 Ext 129 or visit www.reshs.org.