

### Troop 315 Girl Scouts Recieve Silver Award



Five girls from Florida, NY, received their Silver Award on November 20, 2011 in a ceremony at Monroe-Woodbury high school. This award is the second-highest award a Girl Scout can achieve. Well done Brittany Milz, Sinead C Brosnan, Melissa Barth, Inga Squillace, and Kathryn Latimer! Congratulations to you all!

Submitted by Troop Leader 315, Martina Brosnan

### PI Chamber Gives Back to Community



Left to right: Pine Island Chamber Treasurer Joe Maggio, Hudson River Healthcare representative for the Alamo Kathy Brieger, PI Chamber President Mariene Caraballo, Jay Rowland from Back Pack Snack Attack, Denise Thibault from the Florida Food Pantry, Black Dirt Feast co-chairs Sondra and Peter Hall, Marge Koopman from the Warwick Ecumenical Food Pantry, and Victoria Garloch from Warwick Community Kitchen

The Pine Island Chamber of Commerce was founded 50 years ago by residents and business people of the hamlet who wanted to create an organized means for protecting and promoting the interests of the Pine Island. Today, the Chamber continues its mission to increase prosperity in the business community, to support and enhance the uniqueness of the region, and to enrich the lives of all residents through community spirit and cooperation.

In 2011, the Pine Island Chamber worked toward its mission by hosting two well-attended mixers, an annual membership dinner to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, organizing and operating the Black Dirt Farmers Market, a new seasonal community farmers market in the center of the hamlet, and holding a First Annual Community Tree Lighting ceremony to a huge crowd of children, parents and community members. In addition, a Chamber subcommittee, led by members Peter and Sondra Hall, held a sold-out Annual Black Dirt Feast—a sumptuous 5-course dinner prepared by top regional chefs. The dinner, a celebration of

farm-to-table, raises money for various community projects.

The Pine Island Chamber's 2011 Black Dirt Feast proceeds were designated to benefit a new Chamber Scholarship Program (currently being organized to begin in 2012) as well as continuing with hamlet beautification, currently refurbishing the main Pine Island "welcome" sign, and giving back to the community to feed those in need.

To fulfill the third of these missions, donations which totaled over \$1600 were made to local organizations in desperate need of help. The donations were presented in front of a packed crowd at the Chamber's Holiday Mixer held on December 13 at the Harvest Luncheonette in Pine Island. Organizations receiving donations were the Alamo (accepted through Hudson River Healthcare), the Warwick Food Pantry, the Florida Food Pantry, the Back Pack Snack Attack Program, and Warwick Community Kitchen meal (soup kitchen/local Girl Scout project held at Pine Island School "for those in need of a warm meal").

### Fabulous Fall Season for Seward Institute Continues



Pictured from left to right: A. Kamrowski, Robert Gravelle (Athletic Director), A. Morgan, D. Stam, A. Faliski, S. Cannillo, M. Collins, L. Dunn, Michael Rheume (Principal), K. O'Neill

Photo: Francesca Gallardo

by JJ Kimiecik

Apparently the Seward Spartan and Lady Spartan athletic teams can do more than routinely capture Section 9 Championships. It appears many of those players are not just outstanding athletes, but are outstanding scholars as well.

A recent announcement from the NY State Public High School Athletic Association has just declared five Seward varsity teams as "Scholar/Athlete Teams." According to Athletic Director Rob Gravelle, the Scholar/Athlete Team Award averages the top GPA's of a specified number of student/athletes for each sport. Those students must have a GPA of 90 or higher.

Mr. Gravelle's list of current Scholar/Athlete Teams and their coaches:

- Girls' basketball-Joe Dimattina
- Softball-Don Lewis

The next five teams earned their award this past fall season:

- Boys' soccer-Bill Steele
- Girls' soccer-Joe DiMattina
- Boys' Cross Country-Nick Pantaleone
- Girls' Cross Country-Nick Pantaleone
- Volleyball-Jennifer Buckley

Congratulations to all student players who excelled on the field and in the classroom.

And, obviously, as important as those coaches are—just as important are the members of the staff and faculty who do just as great work in the classroom as the coaches do on the playing field.

Quick note: Congratulations also to the the SS Seward Alumni Association for picking up the expenses to have some of the old team trophies resilvered. Those trophies are displayed in the lobby of the gymnasium. The two vintage trophies done so far date 1904 and 1907. They apparently were won at track and field meets. That lobby, by the way, contains a remarkable record of sport success at Seward for over 100 years. Check it out.

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### SS Seward Institute Participates in MSG Varsity/Cablevision Power To Learn Charity Champions Program

On December 1, Cablevision's MSG Varsity and Power to Learn, along with Florida Mayor Jim Pawliczek, recognized students at

Pantaleone. "It's important that they realize that they can have a positive impact on another person's life. We are also grateful to MSG Varsity