

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



The Cortland High School and **Cortland Elks #748** People's Choice Award Dinner was held at the Cortland Elks Lodge. This event was created by the Cortland High School Renaissance Committee in conjunction with the Cortland Elks Lodge 748 to honor 20 phenomenal students who have demonstrated the following characteristics: kindness, compassion, serving others, committing to graduate, overcoming obstacles, or having integrity. The students themselves came up with the categories. Schools typically recognize students who have the highest averages or who have the best athletic seasons. The room was filled with Elks, teachers, school administrators, students, and parents. One was pressed to find a dry eye in the room as the teachers read off the recipient's name and reason for their choice. Joining the student award winners and their families were Mr. Brian Tobin, Mayor of Cortland, Mr. John Pinto, Exalted Ruler of the Cortland Elks Lodge, Mr. Michael Hoose, Superintendent of Schools, BOE member Janet Griffin, Mr. Joseph Mack, high school principal, Mr. Kevin Cafararo, junior high principal, and the nominating staff members. A special thank you to Amy Johnson, and all those that made the evening a huge success; it will be a memory these students will never forget.



For the 5th consecutive year, **Potsdam Elks Lodge #2074** was a proud sponsor of the Very Special Arts Festival held at Potsdam College. The Lodge provided a \$500 donation and Elroy the Elk was on hand to meet and greet the children as they arrived and for photos. Elroy also accepted a certificate of appreciation from event coordinator Helen Bush. Potsdam Elks #2074 is honored to be a part of the Very Special Arts Festival. Elroy the Elk says he'll return again next year and looks forward to seeing the children next May!! Elroy is pictured with a group of students as they arrived for the Special Arts Festival.



Brewster Lodge #2101 held a Student/Writer of the quarter honoring outstanding students. Each Month the Lodge honors one boy and one girl that are selected by a committee at the Henry H. Wells Middle School. The students are chosen for scholarship, writing ability, extra effort, most improved, ect. The students honored and their families are invited to the Lodge where they are served dinner and the students are presented with a framed certificate recognizing their achievement. The students are pictured as they proudly display their awards. Pictured in the front row, l to r: Chloe Stalker, Marisa Milani, Caitlyn Murphy, Jennifer Russo and Mia Gagnon. In back row, l to r: Peter Priolo (Youth Activities Chair), Ryan Matthews, Victor Farias, Clayton Harrison and Harry Sherblom (Exalted Ruler).



Port Jefferson, NY Lodge #2138 recently attended Centereach's Troop 356 Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony for 5 Scouts from their Troop. East District DDDGER Henry Ross of the Port Jefferson Lodge was on hand to present to the 5 scouts with an American Flag, as well as a Certificate of Achievement from the Lodge as well as one from the Grand Exalted Ruler. Pictured from the left are: DDDGER Ross, Gregory Garcia, Evan Klein, Ryan Joseph Ormiston, Christian Ptak and Gregory James Pistone.



Oswego Lodge # 271 recognized Merritt Czerow on his achievement of Eagle Scout. Merritt completed his service project for designing and building 24 bluebirds and tree swallow bird houses at Fallbrook at the State University College at Oswego. Exalted Ruler Jim Oldenburg is pictured presenting Merritt Czerow with a certificate from the Lodge and a check for \$ 100.00 for receiving the rank of Eagle Scout. Also pictured is Lolly Malone, Youth Chair

Albany Lodge #49 recently sponsored a dinner for students and their parents as part of the City of Albany's Youth in Government Day. The high school students attended the monthly Common Council meeting with their respective Alderperson then came to the Lodge for dinner. Common Council President McLaughlin and Exalted Ruler Carey addressed the fourteen students and their parents. Also, as a part of Albany Lodge #49 "Live At 49" concert series, a local band hosted a concert and raised over \$990.00 for Elks Charities. This was accomplished by donations at the door and raffles.



The **South Central District** sponsored a EDQS with 4 teams participating from Maine-Endwell, Chenango Valley, Binghamton West and St Mary's from Cortland. Maine-Endwell Middle School took first place - "The Awkward Turtles" were made up of Abigail Wheeler (Captain), Maddie McCarthy, Sarah Kompon, Melissa Streifert and Advisor Ryan Both.



The first **NYS EDQS** was held after the District competition with 3 teams participating from Maine-Endwell, Chenango Valley and Waterloo School districts. The Chenango Valley team took first place. The team members included: Taylor Potenzino, Shane Culver, Carter Wilson, Alexa Attleson, Hannah Frey and Advisors Matt Stanton and Zack Stanton. We had New Vision Students from BOCES and 20 Elk volunteers that kept score, ran the time clock, judged, and moderated! I forgot to include that for the 5 school districts in this competition there were 3,000 students impacted by this program.