

## Local Business Members Awarded at Food Operator Seminar



From left are health department staff Rob Morris; Paul and John Aversano from Aversano's in Brewster, which earned a Lifetime Achievement Award; Interim Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Nesheiwat; and health department staff Shawn Rogan and Rick Carano.



From left are Rick Carano and Shawn Rogan from the Putnam County Health Department; a representative from JP Cunningham's in Mahopac, recipient of a Health Inspector's Commendation; Christine Brady of the Carmel Central School District, who earned a Lifetime Achievement Award; representatives from Frangelina's Deli and Café and Mia's Pizza, both of which received Commissioner Gold Awards; and Rob Morris, director of environmental health.

More than 175 chefs, caterers, owners and operators of Putnam County food establishments gathered in Carmel on March 20 and 21 for the 11th annual Food Operator's Seminar, conducted by the Putnam County Department of Health.

The seminar had representation from all types of restaurants, delicatessens, food shops, institutional food services and other vendors, who gathered to learn about new topics and trends in the food industry. The event also offered an opportunity for the health department to recognize food establishments for "lifetime" achievements, as well as those of the past year.

One hot topic on the agenda was an update on the recent "Dining with Dogs" legislation. This new public health law, passed by the State Legislature, now allows restaurants the option of providing space in an outdoor seating area for clientele who wish to bring well-behaved dogs out to eat with them.

Another popular and practical

topic included a close-up look at how flavor enhancement and salt reduction can go hand in hand.

Additionally, the health department took the opportunity to brief food operators on lead poisoning prevention, in relation to renovations and remodeling. These prevention efforts – in Putnam and the rest of New York State – have been significantly increased over the past year.

Food safety training opportunities, and cleaning and sanitizing bleach alternatives, were topics presented by two speakers.

Also during the seminar, two Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented: Christine Brady of the Carmel Central School District was recognized for 34 years of operational excellence, and Paul and John Aversano of Aversano's in Brewster were honored for 30 years of excellence.

A Food Safety Partnership Award was presented to Clock Tower Grill, and Health Inspector Commendation Awards for distinguished performance went to Cameron's Deli, Countryside

Kitchen, Fresh Company Catering, JP Cunningham's and the Mahopac Central School District.

The department's highest and most stringent honor, the Commissioner's Gold Award for operational excellence, was distributed to 11 food establishments: the Brewster and Carmel high schools, Community Based Services, Frangelina's Deli and Café, the George Fischer and Henry H. Wells middle schools, the John F. Kennedy and Matthew Patterson elementary schools, Kent Primary School, Mia's Pizza and Watchtower.

The health department's mission is to improve and protect the health of the Putnam County community by providing community health assessments, disease surveillance and control, emergency preparedness, environmental health protection, family health promotion, and health education services. For more information, visit [www.putnamcountyny.com/health](http://www.putnamcountyny.com/health), or [www.facebook.com/putnamhealth](http://www.facebook.com/putnamhealth) and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.



Sarah Bak, left, and Bridgette Sanok with their collection of toiletry items at Seven Star School in Brewster.

## Girl Scouts Collect Toiletries for Homeless

Brewster Girl Scouts Sarah Bak and Bridgette Sanok are collecting travel-size toiletries for a "midnight run" for homeless citizens in New York City. Both young ladies are dancers at Seven Star School of Performing Arts, and a collection box will be available at the dance studio, located at 509 Route 312 in Brewster, through April 8.

The Girl Scouts say small (travel-size) items are important, as full-size items are cumbersome to carry for people on the street. Toiletry items in need include soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste,

shampoo, washcloths, razors and shaving cream, deodorant, lip balm or moisturizer, and feminine hygiene products.

Sarah and Bridgette are working toward their Girl Scout Gold Award, which is the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA, earned by senior and ambassador Girl Scouts. Only 5.4 percent of eligible Girl Scouts successfully earn the Gold Award.

For more information about the collection, email [info@SevenStarSchool.com](mailto:info@SevenStarSchool.com), call 845-278-0728 or visit [www.SevenStarSchool.com](http://www.SevenStarSchool.com).



The Bernstein Bard Trio

## Trio Brings Americana to Tompkins Corners

The Tompkins Corners Cultural Center will present its second concert of the 2017 season featuring the Hudson Valley's own Bernstein Bard Trio on Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m., at 729 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley.

The Bernstein Bard Trio plays world and Americana music, recognizing that what is quintessentially American is rooted in cultures all over the world. The trio revels in the spirit of jazzy improvisation, the power of a folk melody and the joys and sorrows of singing the blues. Imaginative in their arrangements and captivating in their sound, the Bernstein Bard Trio is one of the top acoustic groups in New York's Hudson Valley.

For the April 8 concert, the band will feature music by some of America's legendary songwriters and performers including Hank Williams, Paul Simon, Cyndi Lauper, Bob Dylan, Townes Van Zandt, Joni Mitchell, the Allman Bros. and the Grateful Dead. The trio will also delve into

some old time and bluegrass, with tunes by David Grisman, Alison Krauss, and Old and in the Way.

The Bernstein Bard Trio, from New Paltz, includes Steve Bernstein on mandolin and vocals, Mark Bernstein on guitar and vocals, and Robert Bard on bass and vocals.

Admission is \$15 and tickets may be purchased online until 3 p.m. the day of the show, at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2901493](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2901493). Doors open at 6:45 p.m. for attendees to enjoy refreshments and pastries.

The Tompkins Corners Cultural Center, originally a church built in 1891, has been in operation for two years and features concerts, special events, film screenings, theatre performances, art exhibits, open mics for local musicians, a farmers' market, monthly Cajun music sessions, Tai Chi classes, a newly-formed Community Chorus that meets Thursday evenings, and more.

For more information, email [info@tompkinscorners.org](mailto:info@tompkinscorners.org) or call 845 528-7280.