

S.S. SEWARD INSITUTE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Hello members of the S.S. Seward Alumni Association from your Alumni Executive Committee: Jeff Kamrowski, Elaine Colarieti, Colleen Glowaczewski, Terri Gott, Linda Pawelczak, Joe Pelegritti, Rose Pennings, Rob Pillmeier, Jim Sosler, Joe Urbanski

AT THE VENERABLE INSITUTE

Dr. Lisamarie Spindler was appointed as the new district superintendent effective July 01, 2023. Dr. Spindler has experience in policy development and design, financial management and strategic planning. She previously held several leadership roles, including Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, and was Superintendent of the Hudson City School District. She has also served as a principal, assistant principal and teacher.

If you are an alumni veteran, please consider taking part in this:

S. S. Seward is on display....

Seward would like to recognize those students, both past and present, that have served in our Military Branches. A special place in our lobby is on display to recognize the commitment and service of those who serve(d) our Country. We need your help.

To present a most complete display, we need your participation. As a graduate of Seward, share your military portrait with your full name, rank and service branch. This can be shared through the school email at: bscheibling@floridaufsd.org

Please email with any questions and thank you for your service.

The Spartan Players continued a long tradition of public performances by putting on “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” this spring.

Boys Soccer - lost in the section quarterfinals to Chester.

Girls Volleyball - lost in the section finals to Tuxedo.

Boys Basketball - lost to Millbrook in the section finals.

Boys Baseball - lost in the section semi-finals to John S. Burke.

Competitive Cheerleading – won the section title, advancing to the state cheer competition.

Girls Softball - won the section title, advancing all the way to the state championship game, where they fell 6 – 4.

Spring Track - Ryan Swinea won the section title in the 100-meter sprint, and Ryan Swinea, Garrett Gill, Wayne Williams and Isaac Williams were the section 4 x 100 relay winners.

Volleyball coach Natalie Griffin-Pellew recorded her 100th victory.

The Boys Soccer team won the 2023 Silver Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award.

Scholar Athlete Team Awards went to the 2023 Girls Volleyball team as well as the Boys and Girls Soccer teams.

Joe DiMattina, Seward athletic director and coach, received the New York State Athletic Administrators Award for Emerging Athletic Administrators representing Section IX, Chapter 9. The award recognizes a new athletic administrator for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions.

IN AND AROUND THE VILLAGE

Next time you are in Florida, make sure that you check out the new basketball/pickleball courts behind the library on Cohen Circle.

The Florida Public Library celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2023.

The Florida Family Funfest is still going strong, celebrating 25 years with this year's event taking place on August 11. The first Funfest took place on August 09, 1998. That event included bands, races, a petting zoo, pony rides and a dunking booth. Many activities from that first Funfest continue today.

Seward-Mapes Park, located off Main Street, has been the site of several community events, such as an Easter Egg hunt and a summer concert series.

Alumni serving the public on the Florida Village Board are: Mayor Daniel Harter Jr. (Class of 2002) and Trustees Tom Fuller (Class of 1966), Craig Olejniczak (Class of 1991) and Alyssa Werner (Class of 1998).

Serving on the Orange County Legislature is Glenn Ehlers (Class of 1994).

A place the size of Florida has four houses of worship: The First Presbyterian Church, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Temple Beth Shalom and St. Ignatius Orthodox Church. The Presbyterian and Orthodox church buildings date back to the first half of the 19th century.

A 4.8 magnitude earthquake shook Florida on the morning of April 05.

James Sosler (Class of 1962), Tom Fuller (Class of 1966), John Pawliczak (Class of 1971) and Claire Haupt Kirkwood (Class of 1975) were members of Hudson Valley Honor Flight mission #32 in April.

Judy Matuseski Dawson (Class of 1978) started hiking the Appalachian Trail in March. She is blogging during the experience. Her blog may be found at: AmazingTrailsYoga.blogspot.com

INDUCTEES TO THE SEWARD ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Christopher Raniere (Class of 2002), Joe Yurchuk.(Class of 2002), Michael Barbariantz (Class of 2008), Jennifer Guerra (Class of 2009), Dimitrios Moustakas (Class of 2009), Dan Chevrier (Class of 2009), Nicholas Ullman (Class of 2009), Maggie Paras (Class of 2014), Amanda Tantillo (Class of 2014)

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Members lost during the past year include:

Phyllis Brunswick Dougherty (Class of 1938), Josephine Zingale Sosler (Class of 1939), Dolores Palmer (Class of 1947), William Pillmeier Jr. (Class of 1947), Rose Bilvin (Class of 1953), Mary Woortman Kelder (Class of 1953), Nancy Schilling Slesinski (Class of 1954), Rita Lempka Glebocki (Class of 1955), Betty Crookston Matuszewski (Class of 1956), Rosemarie Stankiewicz Dembeck (Class of 1956), Corinne Wood Weeden (Class of 1959), William Uszenski (Class of 1960), Robin Rosenberg Cohen (Class of 1962), Rev. Bernard Heter (Class of 1963), John Shanley (Class of 1963), Grant Kikkert (Class of 1988), Frank Schreibeis Jr (Class of 1988).

SEWARD HISTORY

From the 1944-1945 school year

The school district had an enrollment of 272 students in grades 1 – 12.

Philip S. Woodward was named principal at Seward for the 1944-1945 school year. Before coming to Seward, Mr. Woodward was principal at Central Valley for 14 years. In addition to his administrative duties, he also had charge of physical education and athletics. He was one of the founders of the Orange County High School soccer league and had also coached the soccer team at Central Valley.

As of late September 1944, the only high school clubs were the Library Club and the Ping Pong Club.

On November 01 and 02 there were 422 gasoline “A” ration books issued to community members. Seward faculty acted as the registrars. Constables Burton Quackenbush and Edward Turchen acted as armed guards while the books were being issued, and the Florida National Bank’s vault was used to keep the books safe overnight.

The school newspaper, “Snags and Gags” published its first edition in February 1945. Hadassah Dunitz was editor, and the paper had a staff of almost thirty. The paper came to be after a student poll indicated great interest in having a school newspaper.

The Seward girls' basketball team went down to defeat to Warwick in their opener by a score of 35-20. The team also participated in a girls' sports day in Goshen, where they lost to Goshen, beat Chester and tied Tuxedo.

The Seward basketball team was in Section III of the Orange County League with Warwick, Goshen, Chester, Tuxedo and Monroe. Seward rejoined the county league in 1945. It had dropped from the league several years before. The team finished in third place, ahead of Chester and Warwick.

At the 1945 county basketball awards, Seward's coach Woodward was named the coach with the hardest job. Apparently other coaches did not think too much of Seward's talent that year. Philip Woodward Jr. was selected for the all-county basketball game.

In baseball that year, Seward was in Section 1 with Chester, Monroe, Tuxedo and Warwick. The team finished in third place.

SOCCER HISTORY

Seward's first soccer formed in the fall of 1944. Seward was invited to join the county league but responded too late to be part of the league. Chester, Monroe and Seward formed what was called a beginner's or minor league. Seward soccer got their first points in a 2-2 draw with Monroe on October 13, 1944. It is unknown who scored for Seward.

Principal Woodward coached the 1944 soccer team. Members of the team included Ted Bajgert, Charlie Faliski, Rudy Kimiecik, Floyd Morgiewicz, Sammy Ohap, William Pillemeier Jr., Ed Sikorski, Art Weslowski, John Wheeler, Philip Woodward Jr. and Stanley Wiecek.

In 1945, Seward joined the Orange County Interscholastic Soccer League, with Chester and Seward fielding teams in the league for the first time. Ed Sikorski scored the first league goal for Seward in a 4-1 loss to Chester on September 28, 1945. Seward's first league win came in a 2-1 victory over Chester later that season.

In 1946, the league was divided into two sections. Seward, Chester, Maybrook, Otisville and Montgomery were in Section II, the beginners section. Under new coach Alex Paul, the Spartans finished in third place. Bill Howell and Stanley Stopa were named to the all-county team, and John Wheeler and Ed Sikorski were named honorable mention.

In 1947, Seward won the Section II crown with a league record of 4-1-3. Charlie Harter and Stanley Stopa were named first team all-county selections. Second team all-county selections were Ken Parmeter, Stanley Volock, Ed Brown, Dan Kimiecik and John Kimiecik. Team members who suited up for the last league game, according to a photo in the *Middletown Times Herald* were: Dick Parmeter, Stanley Volock, Charlie Harter, Ken Parmeter, Bill Howell, Ken Kimiecik, Dan Kimiecik, Frank Dzierzek, John Kimiecik, George Plock, Ed Brown, Rudy Kimiecik, Casimir Rosinski and Stanley Stopa.

These Spartan soccer pioneers laid the foundation for success that continues today.



1944 Seward soccer team

Photo from the collection of Rob Pillmeier

WE WANT YOUR HELP

If you have something to share, we would love to include it in future newsletters. Also, if you need to update your mailing address, or would like to notify us of an alumni death, please contact us at P.O. Box 506 Florida, NY 10921.

We are always looking for volunteers to help the Association. Please note that you do not need to live in Orange County, NY to help. Let us know if you would like to join our efforts.