

## GIRL SCOUTS

# Four from Swampscott receive Gold Award

Four members of the Swampscott Girl Scouts received their Girl Scout Gold Award pins at a ceremony at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Marlborough.

Genya Crossman, Grace DiBenedetto, Amisha Divadkar and Alison Janavaris received the highest award that a Girl Scout can achieve.

The event was attended by family, friends and Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts' CEO Ruth N. Bramson and Board President Peggy Stevens.

The Gold Award is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community whether local or global, creates change, and is something that becomes ongoing. The project is more than a good service project — it encompasses organizational, leadership, and networking skills. Only about 5 percent of all Girl Scouts earn this award each year.

All four girls worked on a peace project, however they modified each project to fit their unique personalities and different interests.

Crossman's "Peace One Day" promoted peace in a way that was unique to her, she set out to find what is stopping the community from achieving peace. She held a seminar panel with local professionals, and conducted research for her Peace One Day: Peace for Oneself and One's Community Help Book. Together, with volunteers, she created a scrapbook style self help book for other community members to utilize.

DiBenedetto's "Peace One

Day: Peace through Poetry" promotes the ideals of the Peace One Day movement. DiBenedetto worked with volunteers to teach children in her community about peace through poetry. She worked with her local library to utilize one of the rooms and advertised the poetry classes to the public. With help, she hosted four successful classes at the library and put all of the poems made by the children into a book that is now on display at the Swampscott Public Library.

Divadkar's "Peace One Day" does just that, she started by organizing a public screening of "The Day after Peace" at Cinema Salem to inspire the community, the same way she was inspired to earn her Gold Award. Next,

Divadkar interviewed members of the community to assess the impact of the film. With the help of volunteers, she created a documentary to trace the efforts and impacts of the each group member's project as a whole. She edited and finalized her documentary for viewing.

Janavaris's "Three Days of Peaceful Music for One Day of Peace" extends the teachings of the Peace One Day movement. After being inspired by Jeremy Gilley's film "The Day after Peace," Janavaris planned two free workshops and a concert open to the entire community. She taught nine musicians from the workshop groups named The Peace Proclaimers two songs, which they all performed the day of the concert.



**Amisha Divadkar and Alison Janavaris are two of the four Swampscott girls to receive Gold Awards.** PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH STUDI

