

## JEAN NORMANDY, 96

*Wagner professor had remarkable career path*

Jean Normandy, 96, of Bridgewater, Va., a former Staten Islander and a professor emeritus at Wagner College, died Saturday in the Bridgewater Nursing Home.



CIRCA 2007

She was born Jean Nicita in Messina, Sicily, and immigrated with family to the United States when she was 4 years old, moving to Rosebank. She later settled in Grymes Hill and lived there until 1982, when she relocated to Bridgewater.

A child of the Great Depression, Ms. Normandy went to work after grammar school. She began as a seamstress, a member of the former International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, before performing in several theater groups during World War II; one revue, "Pins and Needles," enjoyed 1,108 performances on Broadway. She also performed overseas for the U.S. Army in the Philippines, where she coordinated several special performances for the troops.

After recovering from a bout with tuberculosis, she briefly pursued the secretarial field before her interest in fashion helped her land a position in retail sales at the high-end department store, B. Altman and Co. She was later promoted to assistant buyer of showroom sales.

With a fervor for education, Ms. Normandy earned her high school degree by

going to night school, then enrolled in Wagner College and graduated summa cum laude in 1961 with a bachelor's degree in English. She received a fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania, where she obtained her master's degree in English. She then returned to Wagner, becoming an instructor in the English department, while also studying for a master's degree in education, which she received in 1963. She taught at the Grymes Hill campus for 20 years, until retiring in 1982 as a professor emeritus.

Ms. Normandy had a passion for the arts and enjoyed going to the theater and museums, travel and fashion. She especially loved Renaissance literature, as well as the works of Shakespeare and Milton.

"My sister was a very intelligent woman," said her sister, Mary Cimler. "Whatever she did, she did well."

Ms. Normandy was a former member of Marble Collegiate Church, Manhattan.

In addition to her sister, surviving are her brothers, Carmen, Anthony, Joseph and Vincent Nicita.

The funeral service will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in New Dorp Moravian Church. Burial will follow in Moravian Cemetery, also New Dorp. Arrangements are being handled by the John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Eltingville.