

LOCAL NEWS

COMING EVENTS

# Wagner's DaVinci Society to honor seven at annual dinner

The Wagner College DaVinci Society will host its 10th annual scholarship and awards dinner on Wednesday, September 18, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield. Seven people will be honored, and the event is chaired by Eleanor Conforti. Tickets are \$150 (\$75 tax-deductible). To purchase tickets, or for more information, call Betty Comiskey at 718-420-4014.



Benanti



Lauria



Farag



Montello

The DaVinci Society is co-chaired by the Hon. **Ralph Lamberti**, former Staten Island borough president, and **Richard Guarasci**, president of Wagner College.



Sorrentino



Villa



Forte

**Community Service Awards** will be presented to:

**Carol Ann Benanti**, "Inside Out" columnist for the Staten Island Advance, received the 2012 Italian-American Heritage Award for her interest in and commitment to Italian history and culture. She has been recognized by a number of charitable and civic organizations in the community.

**Mark Lauria**, president of Mark Lauria Associates Inc., an independent insurance agency, is chairman of Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden. He is a major supporter of the Staten Island Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

**Joe Sorrentino** was a prosecutor in the Bronx District Attorney's Office and has distinguished himself as a highly regarded attorney in New York and New Jersey, as well as federal cases in Florida, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

**Dr. Gerard Villa** practices dentistry in Eltingville. He has been finance chairman and athletic director of programs at St. Clare's R.C. Church, Great Kills, where he is a parishioner, and was honored by the CYO of Staten Island and Eger Health Care and Rehabilitation Center for his contributions.

**Renaissance Awards** will go to two people other than Italian-Americans who are noteworthy for their commitment to making a difference on Staten Island.

**Sam Farag**, a native of Cairo, Egypt, is founder and

president of Worldwide Electronic Corporation of Staten Island. A trustee of the College of Staten Island and the Staten Island Children's Museum, he is vice chairman of the Staten Island Children's Campaign and serves on many boards of directors. He has been honored by the American Red Cross, CSI, Boy Scouts of America, New York Urban League and Project Hospitality.

**Dr. Ginny Mantello**, born in India, is a neuroradiologist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine with a passion for education. She has taught meditation at Staten Island Technical High School, is co-chair of the Wellness Committee at Staten Island University Hospital, and has taught medical students, residents and fellows for 15 years. Her mission is to encourage people to take an active role in their health.

Each year, the DaVinci Society presents a special award — the **Lifetime Achievement Award** — to an outstanding recipient who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Islanders.

This year's honor goes to **Dr. Frank Forte**, director of medical oncology and hematology at Staten Island University Hospital. For 38 years, he has been active in teaching and has conducted research in cancer care, with numerous publications. He has served on the board of On Your Mark and the Todt Hill Civic Association, and has been honored by the Staten Island Heart Association, Hemophilia Society and the American Cancer Society.