

JEWISH LIFE

Wagner College Chai Society names award recipients

By MAURA GRUNLUND

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The Wagner College Chai Society has announced the honorees for its 6th annual Community Mitzvah Awards that will be bestowed at a dinner on Tuesday at the JCC in Sea View.

The Outstanding Student Award will go to Arielle Richardson, a junior from Eastport, Maine. As a student, Richardson has been actively engaged with Israel and Hillel programs on campus. She studied at the Rothberg School at Hebrew University in Jerusalem while living in the Pisgat Ze'ev settlement for one year. Arielle is committed to deep involvement and furthering understanding of the complexities of Israeli culture and history and has been an active force in Israel programs at Wagner College.

The Outstanding Chai Society Member Award goes to Marcia and Monroe Klein of Todt Hill. The Kleins, members of the Wagner College Chai Society Steering Committee, assist the society in providing scholarships and programming to Wagner College and the Staten Island community. Mrs. Klein was a public school teacher for 30 years. Klein is a licensed real estate broker. They have both been active volunteers in the Island community for more than 40 years.

The Outstanding Community Member Award goes to Dr. Morton J. Kleiner, chairman of the Department of Medicine and director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Staten Island



Monroe and Marcia Klein

University Hospital. He is board-certified in internal medicine and nephrology, practices with Island Medical Specialists in Ocean Breeze and New Dorp and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Kleiner has research interests in iron deficiency and rehabilitation medicine for end-stage renal dialysis patients. The awards will be given at a dinner at 6:30 p.m. For information and tickets, call Betty McCormiskey at 718-420-4014.

HOLOCAUST EVENT

Survivor Ben Wayne will be a speaker at a Holocaust Commemoration event on Sunday at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in West Brighton that will honor all veterans of World War II.

"The veterans helped preserve the freedom and democracy that we have been

enjoying since the end of World War II," said Manny Saks, chairman of the Holocaust Commemoration Committee.

"Too often, the veterans are not recognized adequately."

Longtime committee members Harvey Cohen, a Vietnam veteran, and Nathan Cohen, whose father is a World War II veteran, will read the names of more than 30 U.S. Army units that liberated the concentration camps.

"The commemoration is a way for the Jewish community to express their heartfelt and sincere thanks to the World War II veterans, not only those who liberated the concentration camps but to all who served their country," Saks stressed.

Wayne also will speak at a Holocaust memorial event at



Dr. Morton J. Kleiner

his own synagogue, Congregation Ahavath Israel in Totenville, on Friday at 7 p.m. Wayne was born in Slovakia in the former Czechoslovakia and was active in the resistance movements in his native country and in Hungary. He was imprisoned at the Sered Concentration and Slave Labor Camp, escaped and then was involved in the Slovak anti-Nazi uprisings. Professor Lori Weintrob of Wagner College will present a synopsis of her interviews and research on Staten Island veterans of World War II. Sy Bosworth, an uncle of Manny Saks' wife Karen and part of a unit that liberated Buchenwald concentration camp and also fought in the Battle of the Bulge and D-day, will speak.

"My dad, Samuel, was a survivor, and for all we know Sy could have liberated my dad," Manny Saks said.

Manny Saks' daughter,



Arielle Richardson

Shannon, will be reading President Dwight Eisenhower's message to the troops before they went into battle on D-day. Steve Gross, a newly appointed trustee of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation, will speak about the clerics' deaths when the U.S. Army transport ship on which they were sailing was hit by a German submarine. Veterans Dennis McLoone and Mary LaManna will present the MIA-POW portion of the ceremony.

The 319th U.S. Army Band will play and perform the call to the colors. Participants from Staten Island veterans' posts will do the trooping of the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of patriotic songs. Students from the Island synagogues and Hebrew schools will read essays and poems in an effort coordinated by longtime committee member George Laufer. Several Is-

land synagogues have recovered and rescued Torah scrolls that the Nazis confiscated; these scrolls will be ceremoniously passed, as is the event's tradition, from generation to generation.

A memorial lighting ceremony will feature seven candles, including one that represents the hope that another Holocaust never will occur. During the memorial segment of the program, clergy and lay participants will lay a wreath in honor of all deceased veterans of World War II and say prayers, including psalms, for peace, soldiers and the United States. The committee has prepared a photo exhibit that may be viewed prior to the program, and there will be a table with MIA-POW information.

Veterans of World War II are eligible for a certificate of appreciation from Borough Hall. Veterans should provide as soon as possible prior to the event their name, mailing address, rank, units and dates of service by e-mail to emssail8@gmail.com. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the free program will start at 6 p.m.

AVIV HADASH

Assemblyman Michael Cusick is expected to install the officers at Congregation Aviv Hadash after services on April 12 in New Springville. President Michael (Mickey) Berkofsky, and vice presidents Joel Epstein and David Rabin will be among those who officially take office. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m.