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Inside Out



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Susan Arann with her husband, Dr. Larry Arann, who was given the Outstanding Community Member Award at the Wagner College's Chai Society's Community Mitzvah Awards dinner.



Attending the event are, from left, standing, Kevin and Illyse Tynan, and Susan and Dr. Larry Arann. Sitting, from left, are Shelley Blackman, Tony and Luanne Sorrentino, and Doreen and Michael Cugno.

STATEN ISLAND

Wagner College Chai Society honors 4 Island leaders

Organization promotes Jewish culture on the college's campus

Wagner College's Chai Society marked its 11th anniversary at the annual Community Mitzvah Awards dinner in Foundation Hall's Manzulli Boardroom May 6, where four outstanding individuals were bestowed high honors.

It's interesting to note that "Chai" is a Hebrew word and symbol that means "life." Wagner College established the Chai Society in 2004.

The organization is dedicated to promoting Jewish culture and identity on the Wagner campus — and within the surrounding communities.

Programming includes the Chai Jewish Culture Lecture Series, Lunch & Learns with the campus rabbi, and Hillel student-organized events.

Four years later, Wagner College established the Chai Society Community Mitzvah Awards to recognize individuals who have enhanced and promoted Jewish life and culture at Wagner College and beyond.

Holocaust Education and Programming Center

This year, the Chai Society is also supporting the establishment of Wagner College's Holocaust Education & Programming Center.

The mission of the Holocaust Education & Programming Center is to educate future generations about prejudice, anti-Semitism and racism as well as create a space for exhibits, learning and reflection.

Melissa Rabinovich, executive editor of NY1, served as this year's emcee.

The honorees: **Julia Teichman**, Class of 2015, who received the Outstanding Student Award, presented to a student who has made significant contributions to promote Jewish life at Wagner College.

Egon Salmon received the Special Recognition Award for his unwavering support of the Chai Society, Jewish life and culture.

He was president of the Staten Island Board of Realtors in 1976 and 1977 and was SIBOR Realtor of the Year in 1978.

In 1986, he became the first recipient of the Staten Island Medallion for Outstanding Citizen.

He was a city tax commissioner from 1987 to 1990 under the administrations of Mayors **Ed Koch** and **David Dinkins**.

Dr. Larry Arann, a licensed certified clinical psychologist, certified hypnotist and certified critical incident stress management practitioner, was given the Outstanding Community Member Award presented to a member of the community who has made significant contributions to promote Jewish life on Staten Island and beyond.

And **Cory Schifter**, a Staten Island businessman who believes in giving back to the community, received the Outstanding Community Member Award.

Schifter has been owner of Casale Jewelers in Dongan Hills since August 2009, a family business started by his father under the name Independent Jewelers in 1986.



Also attending the luncheon are, from left, Howard and Nancy Springer, Claire and Jim Coyle, Diane Hopkins, Mary Beth and Tom Francis, George Hopkins, Fran Hogan and David Lehr.



Other guests included Susan Arann, at left, Linda Armstrong and Howard and Nancy Springer.



Also attending, from left, are Jeff and Linda Taylor, Susan and Dr. Larry Arann and Illyse and Kevin Tynan.



Dr. Victor Avis, at left, with honoree Cory Schifter and Dr. Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College.



Congratulating honoree Julia Teichman are Dr. Victor Avis, at left, and Dr. Richard Guarasci.