

# Inside Out

## DaVinci Society to fete five at festive dinner



**Carol Ann Benanti**  
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Invitations are in the mail for the Wagner College DaVinci Society's 14th annual Scholarship Dinner, a premier affair that showcases Italian culture in Nicotra's Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

The annual observance of Italian Heritage Month is set for Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m., and it's not too early to reserve a seat.

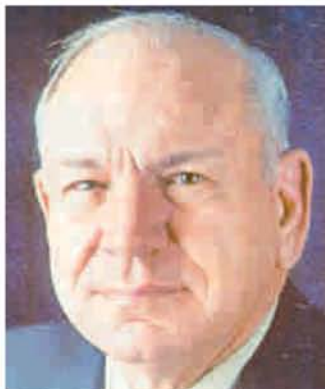
Chairing the event is **Eleanor Conforti**, former chairwoman of Community School Board 31 and a Staten Island Advance Woman of Achievement.

The dinner raises money for scholarships benefiting Staten Island Italian-American students; to date, the DaVinci Society has awarded more than \$1 million to qualifying students at Wagner College.

Tickets for the event are \$150.

For information and reservations, kindly contact **Betty McComiskey** at Wagner College, 718-420-4014 or specialevents@wagner.edu. To purchase tickets with a credit card, visit Alumniconnect.wagner.edu

This year, the DaVinci Society will honor **Ralph J. Lamberti** with the lifetime achievement award and **Dr. Pietro Carpenito** with the



**Former Borough President Ralph Lamberti**

community service award. **Thomas Checchi, Catherine Tantillo** and **Lina Fang** will each receive the renaissance award.

### THE HONOREES

Former Borough President Lamberti served from 1984 to 1990. Upon his departure from Borough Hall, he was appointed executive vice president of Staten Island University Hospital for 15 years before retiring in 2005.

Lamberti is past chairman of the Staten Island United Way and the Wagner College Da Vinci Society, founder of the annual Harmony Street Fair and chairman emeritus of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden. He is a former member of the board of the American Red Cross, Aid for Retarded Children, Visiting Nurses Association, the Heart Foundation, the Alzheimer's Association and the American Parkinson's



**Dr. Pietro Carpenito**

Disease Foundation.

He and his wife, Susan, live in West Brighton and have four children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Carpenito is executive vice president and chairman of the Richmond University Medical Center's Anesthesia Department and a vital part of the hospital since 1985. He served on its finance, strategic planning and joint conference committees and is responsible for supervising 22 anesthesiologists. He is a member of the New York State Society of Anesthesia, the Richmond County Medical Society and the American Medical Association. Dr. Carpenito served as chairman of St. Vincent's Annual Charity Ball from 2000 to 2004. He received the 2008 RUMC Medical Staff Dinner Physician Leader Award, the United Hospital Fund's Distinguished Trustee Award and, in 2005, he was named honoree for the St. Vincent's Charity Ball.



**Thomas Checchi**

Thomas Checchi worked at the Advance as a police reporter and copy editor before leaving to earn his master's degree at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. Following graduate school, he worked at the New York Post and the former Elizabeth (N.J.) Daily Journal before returning to the Advance. He was named Advance city editor in 1990, and served as the news editor before becoming an associate managing editor.

He is currently the managing producer for public interest and advocacy.

Checchi lives in Westleigh with his wife, Maxine, a special education administrator with the New York City Department of Education. They have two children: Michelle, an associate TV news producer in Portland, Oregon, and David, who is currently working at an ancient excavation site in Israel.



**Catherine Tantillo**

Tantillo is responsible for client account management for Lord Abbett & Co. LLC's international clients. Her prior experience includes serving in various roles in operations and client service at U.S. Trust Company.

Tantillo joined Lord Abbett in 1999 as the manager of accounts reconciliation, operations and institutional accounting. In 2008, she was promoted to director of operations for account servicing and was later asked to join the firm's Community Involvement Committee. She is an active participant in the Avon 39 Walk to End Breast Cancer in NYC, raising over \$255,000 since 2011. Tantillo is a volunteer for the Diva for a Day Foundation, a non-profit organization that honors women who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis, offering them a day to relax and be pampered at a full-service salon/spa. To date, Diva for a Day has served some 800 women



**Lina Fang**

who are battling cancer with a presence in 85 full-service salons across the country.

Lina Fang, president of Mei Chi Liquor and Fang Realty Corp., also is the executive vice president of the China AIDS Fund and serves as chairwoman for the American Cancer Society Eastern Division Asian Initiatives. She is a board member of the Community Agency for Senior Citizens on Staten Island and helped build the only Chinese Scholar's Garden in New York City, at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden. She is a board member of the Richmond University Medical Center Foundation.

She and her husband, Harry Fang, have two daughters and a son.

### CELEBRATIONS: SEPT. 6

Happy birthday Wednesday to **Phillip Waldhelm; Doris Bossert; Stephen Fish** and **Barbara Vitale**.