

FINCH NEWS



NOVEMBER 2020

A Publication for Finch College Alumni and Friends

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS



Finch College Birthday celebration hosted by Dr. Frank Carnabucci and The Birch Wathen Lenox School at the Harvard Club, New York City
This was also the last "hoorah" for the inimitable, Frances Fish Tompkins. Frances was always the centerpiece and life of the party. Here too, seated between Ceil Ainsworth and Wendy Glickstein, she is surrounded, by many of the 40 celebrants at the event. Frances was the first president of our alumnae foundation and on-going champion of our many proud achievements. Her legacy will be cherished always. Please see *Remembering Frances Fish Tompkins* on page 11.

THE ARRIVAL OF FALL

O.K. We're navigating a pandemic, and life, in general, is upside down. Of course, Mother Nature didn't get the memo, and right on cue the trees outside my window turned vibrant colors, the air cooled, and pumpkins in all sizes and shades of orange dot the landscape up here in Hudson, New York. I, for one, am very happy that the natural order of the world still persists.

In truth, autumn always gives me a boost of energy. I credit that to "the schoolgirl anticipation," forever buried deep inside me! Each fall, how exciting it was to return to 52 East 78th Street and to all the chaos and glamour of New York City! (Thinking about it still makes me giddy.) None of us could predict the "what or how," but we all knew that some extraordinary adventures awaited!

In 2020, dedicated Finch alums, proudly keep that thrill alive for a new generation of women. Pandemic or not, another 10 remarkable Finch Scholars take their rightful place in the world of higher education this fall. We salute them and all our Finch scholars! Now, it's their turn to be giddy with excitement. Extraordinary adventures await, indeed!

Article: Eileen Bluestone Sherman

SAVE THE DATES FOR FINCH EVENTS: 2020-2021

COSGRAVE 2021: Stay tuned for information about our hopes and plans for the next Cosgrave Awards Evening and Finch College Weekend celebration.

2021 Excursions: Time will tell, but our wish-list is ever-growing. Keep in touch via: finchassoc1@gmail.com

We can still all "see and toast one another" at our
**'VIRTUAL' FINCH
SALON FUNDRAISER**

November 19th ~ 6:30 Cocktails, 7:00pm SALON
Details on back cover . . .

IN THE SPOTLIGHT REGEEN (“GINGER”) RUNES KIERNAN NAJAR

The first in her entire extended immigrant family from Romania to be born in America, **Regeen (“Ginger”) née Runes**, the older of 2 siblings and the first to be born in the United States, was raised in New York City. Her brother, Richard, younger by 7 years, is today a judge in Westchester.

Ginger’s father, Dagobert Runes, was an author of over 67 non-fiction books. While still in Vienna - the heart of Europe’s cultural life in the 1920’s and 30’s, he wrote *Der Wahre Jesus* (“The Real Jesus”) a study of how Christians who swept across the world killing people in the name of Jesus during the crusades in the Middle Ages, abused and mis-used Christ’s name.

As Hitler was rising to power, Runes’s editor warned him not to return to his apartment in Vienna, because he feared Dagobert would

be killed. So Dagobert Runes took the train back to Chernovitz, Romania, picked up his bride, Maria Theresa, with her younger sister, Isabelle, and her 2 younger brothers, Siegfried and Harry. With very little money, they boarded the SS Hamburg to start a new life in America. (Interestingly, they traveled in 2nd Class, so they didn’t disembark at Ellis Island – only those who were in steerage did.) Ginger’s family spoke and read many languages, but since they didn’t speak English, they enrolled in an institute known as Education-

al Alliance. And what did they do? They started a small magazine called **BETTER ENGLISH** which her uncle sold for a nickel on the street. Within a month, it sold 1,000 copies! Thus, the **PHILOSOPHICAL LIBRARY PUBLISHING COMPANY** was born. Gin-

12. At Finch, she was a Psychology major. After Finch, she interned at the Fenischel School in Brooklyn.

She met her first husband, author Thomas Kiernan, a quarterback at Notre Dame, before her freshman year at Finch. His father - a lawyer - was one of the founding partners of White & Case. The couple had two boys, Padraic (Paddy) and Josh. Thomas died in 2003. Ginger met her second husband, Avraham Najjar, in Israel while touring the Middle East in the 70s. He later opened an office in New York City to sell the foreign rights of Israel’s major publisher, Masada Press. He also owned the Sabor restaurants in Manhattan at 83rd & Amsterdam & 89th & 2nd. He passed away in Israel 3 years ago at the age of 62. In addition to Ginger, he leaves behind their son, Josef (Joey) Runes Najjar.



Regeen Runes Kiernan Najjar

ger’s family and other German-speaking immigrants comprised a close-knit group. Her father and Albert Einstein became best friends. Her mother, who played piano, was often accompanied by Einstein on the violin during afternoon soirées in their home. The Philosophical Library has, in fact, published 7 books on Einstein.

Ginger grew up at 44 West 77th Street, across the street from The Museum of Natural History near Manhattan’s Central Park. She attended The Walden School from K through

who died in 1979, was followed by her father in 1982. Six years later, she assumed the directorship of Philosophical Library, and has been its publisher ever since. Open Road Integrated Media in New York City handles both wholesale and retail sales.

For more information, contact Ginger at editors@philosophicallibrary.com.

Article: Wendy Glickstein

Photo Courtesy of Ginger Runes Kiernan Najjar

2020 FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION TRUST

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Dear Friends,

To date, the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust has awarded more than 130 scholarships to extraordinary women who have gone on to complete their higher education at Hunter College, Smith College, Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, City College of New York, Swarthmore College, Vassar College, Amherst College, Columbia University, NYU, in addition to other fine institutions.

During this challenging time of Covid-19, your ongoing support of Finch is more vital now than ever before. Please help us secure the legacy of Finch College to enable future generations of amazing young women realize their dreams of achieving their educational and vocational goals.

On behalf of our scholarship recipients, and those who will benefit from their education and expertise, our heartfelt thanks,

The Finch College Alumnae Association

Your donation will be welcome in any amount and may be allocated for any particular purpose. Below are some suggestions. You can also include a note with your check and mail to: FCAAFT, 954 Lexington Avenue #183, New York, NY 10021

Name _____ Tel: _____

Address _____

Email (if new or changed) _____

Indicate amount(s) you would like to donate and designate if toward any particular project(s):

\$2,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$200 \$100 Other _____

Scholarship outreach Production of Finch Publications

In honor of: _____ Preferred project: _____

Full two-year scholarship \$5,000 One-year scholarship \$2,500

Lifetime Member Dues \$300 2021 Dues \$50

Now accepting dues and donations via PayPal: <https://www.finchcollege.org/paypal>

All contributions are tax deductible as the FCAAFT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

FINCH 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ten outstanding women will each receive a \$5,000 Finch College Foundation Scholarship as they transfer from a community college to a four-year college.



JAWERIA BAKAR
KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO YALE UNIVERSITY
Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship

It was when her father died suddenly of a stroke that Jaweria decided to become a neurosurgeon. She went from being a pampered 17-year-old in Pakistan, to a wife in an arranged marriage. By age 21 she was the mother of two and living in the USA. Majoring in biology at Kingsborough Community College, she has maintained a GPA of 4.0, has fifty-two honor credits, writes for the Honors Journal, and is President of The Biotech Club, and President of PTK Honor Society. Her acceptance to SUNY College of Medicine's Exploring Health Careers Program will enable her to build a pipeline between SUNY Downstate College of Medicine and Kingsborough Community College. Jaweria looks forward to pursuing a bachelor's degree in neuroscience and behavior, and an M.D./Ph.D to combine her medical degree with a doctorate focused on genetic engineering, with a further specialization in neurosurgery.



SAMANTHA BROWN
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO SMITH COLLEGE
Laura Rollins Hockaday Scholarship

Growing up with a hard-working single mother and several half-siblings, Samantha's family was an outlier in the small, middle-to-upper class commu-

nity of Bergen County, NJ. Her younger years were filled with visits to food pantries for donations from their church. Today, she is an Honors Student. Her final research paper - on the origins and ongoing cultural significance of the humble denim jacket - is included in a special exhibition on fashion/clothing at the Bard Graduate Center. Samantha plans to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology.



KRYSTAL BORNEO
ESSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO STOCKTON UNIVERSITY, GALLOWAY, NJ
Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarship

Inspired by individuals who became doctors, lawyers, and professors despite their impoverished backgrounds, Krystal is grateful for the privilege and opportunity of attending college and attaining an education. As VP of hallmarks for Alpha Theta Chapter - the PTK chapter at Essex - she learned to balance work pressure while managing the choices she makes in her everyday life. Krystal has made Dean's List

every semester, even while interning at Newark's Youth Court, and as a law clerk intern at Elizabeth City Hall. At Stockton University, she plans a dual Bachelor's/Master's degree in Forensic Investigation, with the ultimate goal of attending law school.



YANQIU GUO
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship

Hailing from a conservative family in China, Yanqiu's academic goal is to be admitted to a prestigious graduate program in mathematics and data science. At Queensborough Community College she was exposed to a wide range of subjects, such as Calculus, Linear Algebra, Probability, Statistics, Differential Equations, Discrete Math, and Combinatorics. Having completed two undergraduate research projects - funded by the CUNY Research Scholars

Continued at the top of next page ▶



CEREN CITAK
NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO MT. HOLYOKE COLLEGE
Dr. Margaret Maxwell Scholarship

"As a queer, Muslim, first-generation Middle Eastern woman raised in a chaotic and violent home, I have proven to myself that I can persevere in harsh conditions." At age 15, Ceren suffered a brain hemorrhage that limited her education. Living in a teen homeless shelter, Ceren enrolled at Norwalk Community College while working full time. She taught computer science, coding, and robotics to children for five years, and, refusing to be diminished by her circumstances, she is passionately curious with a zest for learning. At college she serves as a tutor in biology, philosophy, and mathematics. She has volunteered with Service-Learning Club, and with non-profit Head Count, to register voters. A member of PTK Honor Society, she is a STEM major concentrating in biology.

Program and the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (NSF), respectively – she looks forward to a career in scientific research. She is interning at Brookhaven National Laboratory.



KARIMA JLIFI

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Laura Rollins Hockaday Scholarship

A mother of two young children, Karima entered Hudson County Community College to improve her reading and writing skills. After applying to the College Tutorial Center, she became a mathematics and programming languages tutor. Currently pursuing an Associate Degree in Mathematical Science with a plan to transfer to the Albert Dorman Honors College at The New Jersey Institute of Technology, she is currently a member of PTK Honor Society and volunteers as a tutor for other students in computer sciences and math. Her goal is to become a data scientist, utilizing specialized programming skills with a strong background in mathematics.



CASEY LARSEN

LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship

Growing up in an alcoholic, abusive family, Casey found solace in the English language, absorbing literature beyond her years while penning short stories in her free time. At LaGuardia Community College, she is an Ambassador with the highly selective President's Society, the executive/chair of the Student Senate, a fellow with the LaGuardia-Wagner archives, an English/writing tutor with the Student Government Association, and the student representative on the Presidential Search Committee. She has been published in LaGuardia's literary journal, The Lit, and is currently working on a short horror story featuring only women of color as the protagonists. Casey's goal is to become an English teacher so she

can inspire young future writers to help them achieve their goals. She also plans to be a part-time mental health counselor for adolescents.

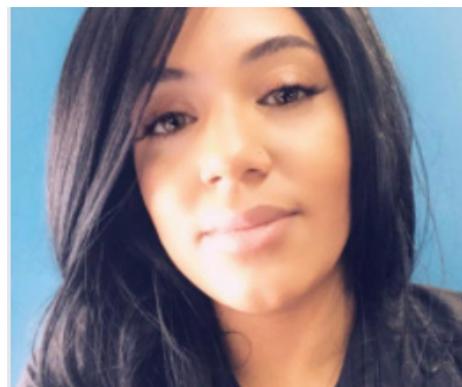


VERONIQUE MANFREDINI

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarship

Born in Italy of an American mother and Italian father, Veronique found solace and escape in the world of books. She began writing stories at age 11. At 15, she transferred from language school to culinary school, ALMA. When her grandmother moved to Florida to become a chef, Veronique moved to New Jersey where she became a pastry chef. After three years, she enrolled part-time at Brookdale Community College, becoming a member of PTK Honor Society, and the Women in Learning and Leadership program. She participated in the arts magazine, Collage, which earned the Columbia University Scholastic Press Association Gold Crown Award for outstanding work. She co-facilitated a workshop titled "Youth in a Changing World" with Columbia University's Committee on Global Thought, and was asked to join the Brookdale's Trustee Advisory Committee to help the Board of Trustees address issues on campus. Nominated to the All-NJ Academic Team, and as a Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholar Semi-finalist, her goal is to become an English professor.



CHARISA QUINONES

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO SMITH COLLEGE

Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship

Since her parents separated when she was 12, Charisa was put in charge of supervising her four siblings while her single mother worked. Pregnant at 15, Charisa and her baby lived in a shelter

where she met people from diverse backgrounds who taught her about womanhood and the importance of inner strength. When her daughter was one-year-old, Charisa earned her high school diploma. After entering another shelter, she became a home health aide. With the birth of her son, knowing that she had to further her education in order to secure a brighter future for her children, she enrolled at Kingsborough Community College where she took courses in Women and Gender Studies. After becoming the President of the Women and Gender Studies Club, she coordinated two symposia geared at spreading awareness of discrimination: gender, race and ethnicity, disabilities, religion, and age. She was VP of The National Society of Leadership and Success. An internship with NY Assemblywoman Michele Titus expanded from administrative duties to Special Assistant, assisting constituents with navigating complex personal issues such as immigration, housing, and medical coverage disputes. She plans to study sociology and psychology with a goal of working with local, state, and federal government legislators to improve access to education, healthcare, and other core resources. This Fall, Charisa and her two children are off to Smith College.



ZUZANA RYZNAROVA

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CITY COLLEGE

Joan Kaye Bick Scholarship

Raised in the Czech Republic, Zuzana stayed in the US after coming to this country as an exchange student. The experience introduced her to new cultural norms and values and helped her to improve her English. While completing Reiki teacher training in 2013, she met other holistic practitioners who were organizing a volunteer trip to Guatemala to provide alternative healing to the local people. A career in education would be a wonderful way to fulfil Zuzana's passion and desire to make a positive impact on people's lives. Wanting to be a positive influence for a younger generation, at age 40 she went back to school at BMCC and majored in Childhood Education. She has maintained a GPA 3.96. Zuzana has been accepted at The City College of New York, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education and will be majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies in Art and Science with a concentration in Social Welfare. She seeks a career which will enable her to be a positive influence by creating safe spaces for young people.

Article: Lois Moran Ziegler

LOOKING FORWARD TO AS WE FLASH BACK TO

Events arranged and coordinated by



**MUSEUM OF ART & DESIGN
(Columbus Circle)**
hosts Anna Sui Exhibit



Lois Moran Ziegler, Rita J. Thompson, Margaret Stein Nakamura, Joy Corregge, Marjorie Schulman, Corrie de Groot, Audrey Heckler and front trio: Joan Kaye Bick, Susan Rubenstein Reed and Patti Becker enjoy the tour of the extensive fashion design icon, Anna Sui, renown for her wide range of pop culture fashions.



**FINCH "CAREER WOMEN
OF DISTINCTION"**
wow the crowd at the
September Finch Salon

Diana Jacoby (Gallery owner of 18th century furniture and other works of art), Jill Chamberlain (Medical Publisher), Felice Axelrod (Special Projects and Services Director) and Lois Moran Ziegler (Corporate Retail Executive)



"We're ready for our close-up,"

say Finch women as they enjoy the gracious hospitality of the Birch Wathen Lenox School's elegant cocktail party preceding every Finch Salon.

MEMORY PALACES



INSIDE THE COLLECTION OF AUDREY BLOCK HECKLER
at the American Folk Art Museum at Lincoln Center,
focused on the distinctive art niche of self-taught art in the USA



TEFAF NY is recognized for going "beyond the boundaries" featuring over 90 exhibits of works from the antiquities to the present

FUTURE FINCH EVENTS

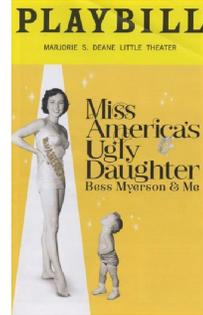
THOSE ENJOYED LAST YEAR

Wendy Glickstein and Joy Correge



THE BIRCH WATHEN LENOX SCHOOL ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

Headmaster Frank J. Carnabuci III (left photo) honors outstanding BWL students with the Finch College/ Birch Wathen Scholarship. The festivities continued with a surprise birthday cake, saluting Finch's 120 years!



Finch group enjoys a scenic sunset roof-top toast following Bess Myerson 'tell-all' show, **MISS AMERICA'S UGLY DAUGHTER**. Our beloved Frances Tompkins surrounded by Rita Thompson, Liz Colin, Marjorie Schulman, Joanne Kubat, Margaret Nakamura and FOFs: Carolyn Gans, Suzanne Nason & Corrie de Groot

Carolyn Gans, Suzanne Nason & Corrie de Groot



ROBIN WOOLARD JEWELRY SHOW

Galina Kouliava with host, Marjorie Schulman displaying lovely line of ultra modern yet timeless designs. robinwoolard.com



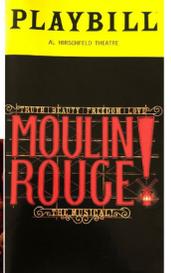
SIX FABULOUS FINCH SCHOLARS

usher in 2020 at their annual New Years Luncheon with a couple of Finch friends. Ceil Ainsworth, Amey Lynn Rose, Stephanie Rim, Razieh Arabi, Jae Zheng, Eileen Sherman, Huiling Cai and Aquella White

Prime Ork Seats for

MOULIN ROUGE THE MUSICAL







Tour of the VINCENT GIORDANO EXHIBIT

preceded by panel discussion about the Jewish journey from Ionannina, Greece to Manhattan

ROMANIOTE MEMORIES EXHIBIT AT THE GREEK CONSULATE



FOF Sherrie Fleisher, Marjorie Schulman, Wendy Glickstein, Liz Colin, Rita Thompson, Frances Fish Tompkins, Renee Pappas



CLASS NOTES

Since audiobooks have become popular over the past few years, Finch alum and award-winning author, **Eileen Bluestone Sherman**, has joined the ranks of the audiophiles by recording her young adult (YA) romance novel, "The Violin Players" (a Jewish high school girl is introduced to anti-Semitism.)

The book, which examines the price paid when hatred is dismissed and discrimination is ignored, is currently streaming on all the major digital platforms such as: Audible; Chirp; Apple Books; Google Play; Kobo; Libro.fm; Authors Direct; eStories and Booktopia.

Earning 5-star reviews, Readers' Favorite said: "Eileen Bluestone Sherman shines a light on discrimination in 'The Violin Players' with an enthralling narrative...I felt the excitement from the very first page, and it kept me glued until the end."

"The Violin Players", published by the Jewish Publication Society (an imprint of the University of Nebraska Press) will be available in paperback and e-book formats in December. It can also

be pre-ordered at barnesandnoble.com.

Laura Rollins Hockaday, who passed away in 2017, enjoyed a prolific 38-year career as a "star" writer at the Kansas City Star. Posthumously, Laura has been nominated to join the MoPress Hall of Fame.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, this year's event was postponed to September 24, 2021 for the 2021 Missouri Press Hall of Fame Banquet at The Elms Hotel in Excelsior Springs, MO. The other 2 nominees are Dane Vernon and Kia Breaux.

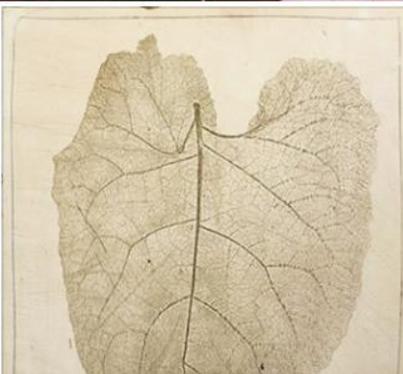
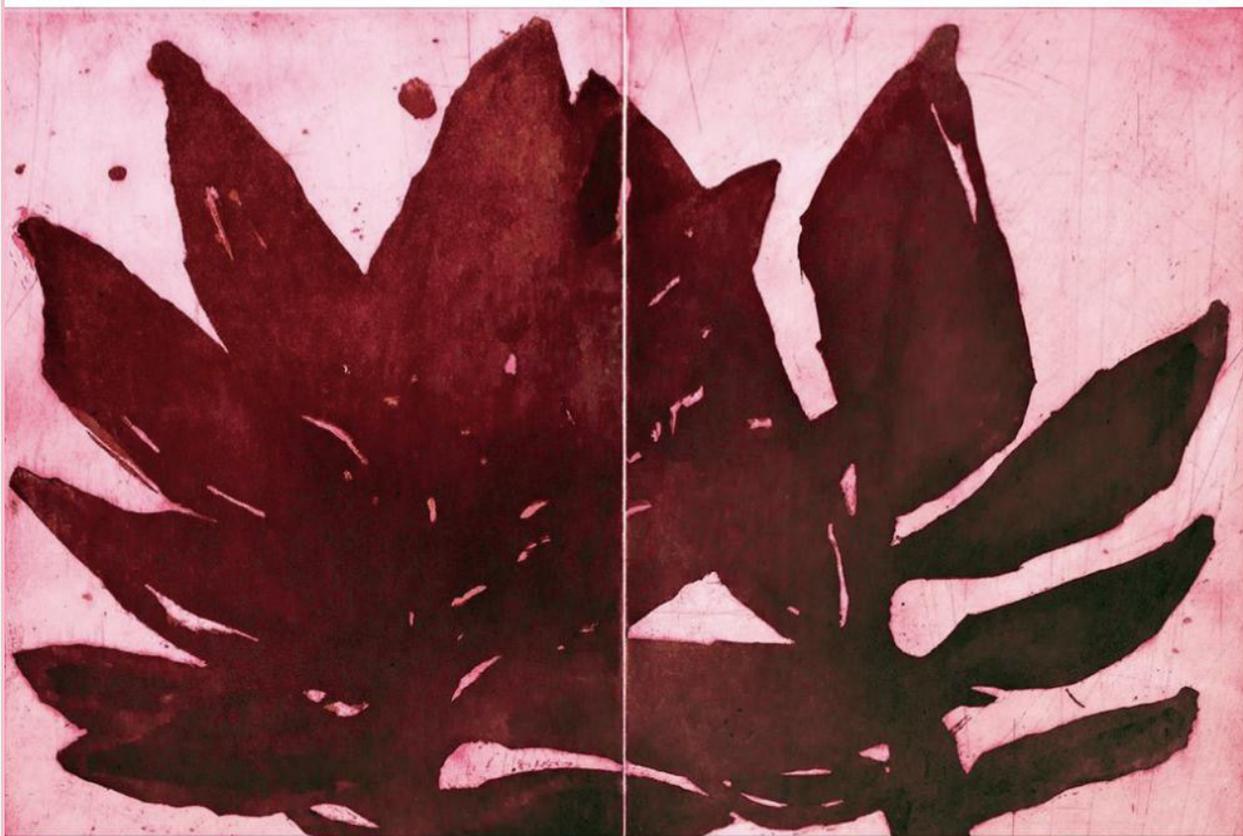
Continued on page 10 ▶



VanDeb Editions

May 17 at 11:21 AM · 🌐

Nancy Azara, "Red Twins", aquatint. "Witch Hazel", aquatint. "Rhubarb", soft ground etching. Nancy at work.



Artwork pieces by Nancy Azara

CONGRATS FINCH SCHOLARS

Upon entering the final semester of a four-year college, Finch Scholars receive an additional \$2,500 when they are about to earn their Bachelor's Degrees.

Our most recent graduating Finch Scholars are:

Alicia Bauman-Morales | *Lois Chiles and Richard Gilder Scholarship* | *Queensborough Community College to Hunter College*

Alicia has created her own rigorous and dynamic course of self-study, which includes technical dance training in Graham-based contemporary forms, Limón Ballet and House Dance. She is also engaged in the ongoing creative process of refining a solo work, which she recently performed in Puerto Rico as part of a creative exchange with PISO Proyecto, a premier dance organization.

Kristine Kim | *Patricia Hamrick Huber Scholarship* | *Bergen County Community College to Rutgers University*

Kristine recently completed a full-time co-op

position with L'Oréal. During the summer of 2019, she completed her internship with the Finance Department of a startup company. She is grateful for – and admires and appreciates – the Finch organization who advocates for - and supports - women such as herself.

Courtney Cahoon | *The Helena Consuegra Scholarship donated by Nohra Haime* | *Monroe Community College to College of Brockport State University*

Although Courtney has switched her major from graphic design to sculpture, she continues to minor in graphic design, and has been accepted into the Bachelor of Fine Arts program.

Melissa Baccala | *Lois Chiles Scholarship* | *Housatonic Community College to Mt Holyoke College*

Melissa says she has formed treasured friendships with her peers. Her academic focus has been History and English. She is a skilled writer and enjoys historical research.

Barbara Javori | *Laura Rollins Hockaday Scholarship* | *Borough of Manhattan Community College to Hunter College*

Babs plans to continue at Hunter College to earn a master's degree in English Language, Literature and Theory.

Yuliia Kalynchuk | *FCAAFT Scholarship* | *Borough of Manhattan CC to Baruch College*

"The Finch College Foundation Scholarship allowed me to concentrate upon my finance major, pay my tuition the last two semesters, and graduate on time without student loans."

Myoung Min | *Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarship* | *Bergen County CC to Rutgers University*

"The Finch Scholarship was a precious gift, for it allowed me to concentrate on my studies. In my role as mother, wife and student, I have little time, however after graduation I want to participate in Finch events."

Notes From Across The Pond...

(Editor's note: Thelma Wigoder - known professionally as Thelma Ruby - trained to be an actress at Finch Junior College from 1941 to 1943, by the brilliant, charismatic Frances Pole. While at Finch, she took a Philosophy course taught by the school's founder, Jessica Cosgrave, whom she recalls as being "a lovable & delightful lady who was not only very impressive but was also soft, gentle and caring at the same time. She writes that Mrs. Cosgrave "made it her business to really get to know every girl, and she threw a party before each academic year started in order for the teachers and students to meet." During World War II, Thelma was evacuated to New York with her mother, who had been a child performer billed as Dainty Little Paula Ruby, A Real Juvenile Star. Thelma's first real acting job was in repertory with Harry Hanson's Court Players. Her busy acting career included starring with Topol in *Fiddler On The Roof*, with Judi Dench in *Cabaret* and with Orson Welles in *Chimes At Midnight*. At age 45 she married distinguished director/teacher/actor Peter Frye and they lived in Israel for 11 years. Their joint autobiography, *Double Or Nothing*, recounts their lives before marriage. Today, Thelma lives next door to the famous Wimbledon Tennis Courts, overlooking Wimbledon Park with its lake. She keeps in touch regularly via email with Finch friend and alum, Ceil Ainsworth. Her website is: <http://www.thelmaruby.com>.)

Dearest Ceil,

Thank you for your lovely email. You cannot imagine how happy I am to be in touch with you again. And, yes, I hope to stay with you again next year, if I am still feeling fine.

By the time I reached my late 80s, I thought I had already retired as an actress, but a chance meeting with the artistic director of a small but prestigious theatre led to his asking me to do my one-woman show again at age 92! It is basically the same show I performed for Finch in New York some years ago, where I am onstage alone with a pianist for an hour and twenty minutes. The London performance was in July of 2016. It was such a success that I have since reprised it about 15 times at other venues! I was booked - and the show sold out - for my 95th birthday in March, but it was cancelled due to the Coronavirus, along with a big party the following day for which I had prepared for months. It has now been 10 weeks since I am at home in lockdown, and I doubt that the postponed performance and party booked for October will ever happen.

The recent 75th Anniversary VE Day cele-

May 2020

bration was very special for me, since I still have vivid memories of May 8, 1945. At age 20, I was entertaining the troops in the hospitals division of ENSA. The patients of Archibald McIndoe, a famous wartime plastic surgeon who did amazing and innovative work on boys who had been shot down in flames, created what they called the Guinea Pig Club, because the boys needed multiple operations. On that day in May, we were performing at a place where they went between operations. Boys with no faces, noses, ears, and hands were a terrific audience – even laughing and cheering through all their pain and suffering.

Afterwards, I saw a boy sitting next to me in the bar who had no hands. He put his stumps into the handle of his beer mug and raised it with the rest of us as we made a toast "to peace."

We were later driven back to our base at Chichester. En route, we could see that after nearly 6 years of blackout, the fleet at the Portsmouth naval base was floodlit once again. Back in Chichester, the Cathedral and the cross in middle of the town were also floodlit.

Lots of love,

Thelma

◀ Continued from page 8

Kelly Gonda (Class of '72) has finally realized her dream of living on a farm. After working as an actor and producer, she and husband, Lou, have moved and are now raising chickens, horses, and goats that produce the sweetest milk. They will soon be marketing their milk product, "Tia's Cajeta."



When Finch College closed, **Obron Farber** transferred to Barnard to complete her undergraduate degree. After a year of traveling throughout Europe, she lived in NYC, Santa Fe and Los Angeles, before returning to her hometown, East Hampton, to raise her daughter, Shola Farber.

For many years, Obron has worked with the local Historical Society, the Cultural Center of Guild Hall, and most significantly, on the Village Planning Board. While service on the Board requires a significant commitment of time, Obron says it is the most satisfying of her public obligations, because she is in a position to help preserve the historic beauty and character of her community, while working to maintain and enrich the future of that village. Recently, she was recognized by the Mayor of East Hampton, NY for her tireless work as a member of the Village Planning Board.

If you are reading this and have any memories or anecdotes about 1940s Finch alum **Mary Ann Hosack (Watkins/Young)**, please write to her daughter, Elizabeth Watkins Rosenberger, at: 10476 Gull Hills Drive, Richland, MI 49083 or email her at: Liz.W.Rosenberger@gmail.com.

The Finch College Alumni Book Club, created by **Sarah Hoddinott**, is already a great success. The first 2 books for discussion were *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Where The Crawdads Sing*. For more information, please go to Finch College on Facebook.

The personal folk art collection of **Audrey B. Heckler** – featuring the work of self-taught African American artists – was on prominent display as **Memory Palaces: Inside the Collection of Audrey B. Heckler** at the American Folk Art Museum at Lincoln Center in New York from September 17, 2019 – January 26, 2020.

Finch College Director of Admissions, **Dr. Sara ("Sally") Arthur**, has moved to Vero Beach, FL full time. After the college closed, Sally joined Marymount Manhattan College and New York University. A former member of the Finch College Alumni Association Board of Trustees, Sally also founded the popular and successful Finch College scholarship program.

With a desire to give back to Finch College which supported her in a time of need, scholarship recipient **Danielle Jablonski** has volunteered to revamp the system for receiving Scholarship applications. Yale graduate Danielle currently lives in Las Vegas where she owns her own business. She recently produced *ClexaCon: A Media & Entertainment Convention for LGBTQ Women and Allies*, and the film, *Seasons of Love*.

2019–BWL Scholarship

Jessica Cosgrave founded the "sister schools" Finch College and The Lenox School, an all-girls K-12 school. Lenox eventually merged with The Birch Wathen School, and is known today as The Birch Wathen Lenox School. The Finch College/Birch Wathen Lenox Scholarship, is awarded annually to an outstanding seventh grade student.



Finch Alum, **Rita Thompson**, was grateful for the opportunity to meet civil rights icon, Congressman John Lewis, at an event on Martha's Vineyard in the summer of 2017, and to be able to thank him personally for his sacrifices and his service to our country.

Rita is currently working as a producer on the second season of *Tamron Hall*, which is produced and distributed by Walt Disney Television. She and the rest of the staff have been working from home since the Covid-19 quarantine started halfway into the first season. The new season kicked off on September 14, 2020.

Demonstrating strong leadership skills as her Class Representative, the 2019 Awardee, **Grace Corathers**, encourages other girls to volunteer and participate as she has, by not leaving all leadership roles to the boys. An excellent student, Grace has earned the scholarship through her positive attitude and elegant, refined poise.

Both the funding and selection of the award recipient are strictly at the discretion of The Birch Wathen Lenox School.

Compiled by Wendy Glickstein

Fun Finch Fact

Thanks to Amazon, supporting a favorite charity is easy to do. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to FINCH. So start shopping on Amazon today! Donations can also be sent to:
954 Lexington Avenue #183
New York, NY 10021



Instead of panicking during this pandemic, **Liz Colin** has immersed herself in "virtual" tap and belly dancing via ZOOM!, where she and her California-based daughter-in-law, and pals in Brazil, are having a ball with their fun and vibrant dance instructor.

Remembering Frances Fish Tompkins

When Finch alums gathered for tea at the Harvard Club on February 19th to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of the founding of Finch College, no one knew it would be the last celebration we would ever have with Frances Tompkins. Four days later, she suffered a stroke before passing away peacefully on March 7th, less than a month before her 81st birthday.

West Virginia-born Frances devoted her time and efforts to all things Finch - working tirelessly on the Finch College Directory and our fundraising events, and forever donating generously to the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation and Scholarship Fund.

Frances was an active and long-time Finch Board member. Several years ago, when the Board created the "Friends of Finch"



category of membership, she recruited so many of her own friends that this effort became known as "Friends of Frances!"

Frances was the life of every party. Always up for a good time, she loved exploring unusual restaurants, and attending theatre, cabaret and museum exhibitions with her many friends. (She once led a posse to Times Square for a visit with "The Naked Cowboy," a local colorful character.)

Frances was predeceased in 2007 by her husband, Judge Harold Tompkins. She is survived by her son, Laurence Alan Fish Tompkins, his wife, Devorah, and their twins Eitan and Charlotte, born in January.

Tribute by Wendy Glickstein

Photo courtesy of Laurence Tompkins

Transitions

Lady Hilary Glidewell (nee Winant) passed away on 24th November, 2019, her 97th birthday. She attended Finch College from 1940 to 1942 and was extremely proud and honored to be awarded the Jessica Cosgrave Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. Inspired by Ms. Cosgrave and her time at Finch, she picked up the baton for women following their own career paths, becoming a journalist on the Daily Telegraph (UK) after WWII, switching to advertising once she married and started a family and then becoming heavily involved in local and national politics for the Liberal Party.

Carol Rinzler's sister, Rica Rinzler, passed away in June 2018.

2018 Cosgrave Award recipient, **Lois Chiles**, lost her beloved husband, Richard Gilder, on May 12, 2020.

Active in government, nonprofits and political life in Washington, DC, **Betty King** passed away peacefully in Miami Beach on February 23, 2020. Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1932, Betty attended Vassar and Finch College(s). During her years in New York, she worked both in Broadway and off-Broadway theaters, and later administered scholarships and training programs for the African-American Institute. After over 30 years in DC, Betty retired to Miami Beach where she volunteered in many capacities and used her magnificent voice to record for the blind, with Washington Ear in DC and the Radio Reading Service in Miami.

Frances Fish Tompkins passed away in New York City on March 7, 2020 after a brief illness.

Barbara Allen de Kwiatowski, one of the most famous muses of artist Andy Warhol, passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 8, 2020.

A model and journalist, de Kwiatowski was best known for working with Warhol on Interview magazine, which began circulation after complimentary copies were given out to the New York "in-crowd". When Warhol published his diaries in 1989, they mentioned her 73 times.

Living in New York in the 1960s and 70s, the socialite was a close friend of Truman Capote and Roman Polanski, as well as Mick Jagger, who was famously rumored to have tried to climb into her bedroom window one night.

She was married twice, once to newspaper entrepreneur Joseph Allen when she was 19, and then to Henryk de Kwiatowski in 1986, with whom she stayed until his death in 2003.

Anne Cox Chambers, who with her sister took over the family media conglomerate that became Cox Enterprises, and who once served as US ambassador to Belgium, died on January 31, 2020, age 100, at her Atlanta home.

In the 1970s, Chambers and her sister, Barbara Cox Anthony, became controlling owners of the newspaper, TV and radio empire founded by their father, three-term Ohio governor and onetime presidential candidate, James M. Cox.

Jamee Jacobs Field of Hobe Sound, FL and Lake Forest, IL passed away peacefully surrounded by family at age 72 on Saturday, September 19, 2020. After graduating from Finch College, Jamee worked at Town & Country Magazine as an assistant fashion editor. During this time, she met and fell in love with Marshall Field V. They were married on August 19, 1972. Her husband survives her, as do children Jamee Field (Michael) Kane, Stephanie Field (John) Harris and Abby Field (Lloyd) Gerry; her stepson, Marshall Field VI; and her adoring grandchildren Chloe, Charlotte, Henry, Carter, Addison, Stephanie, and Charlie.

Ronald Jochum ("Ron") Ziegler, husband for 54 wonderful, fun-filled years of **Lois Moran Ziegler**, who heads the Finch College Scholarship Committee, passed away on October 13, 2020. Ron was a great friend of the Finch Foundation, both as a generous contributor and as an active participant in all of our special fundraising activities throughout the years. Donations in Ron's memory may be made to Colgate University, The Ronald J. Ziegler '55 Memorial Fund, Gift Records, PO Box 313, Canajoharie, NY 13317-0313.

ZOOM-IN THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH AT 6:30PM FOR **TALES FROM SHOWBIZ**

Our Very First "Virtual" Finch Salon Fundraiser

Featuring five highly distinguished alumnae from stage, film, and cabaret:



Tennie Bernstein Leonard



Alba Farber Francesca



Franchelle Stewart Dorn



Thelma Wigoder Frye "Ruby"

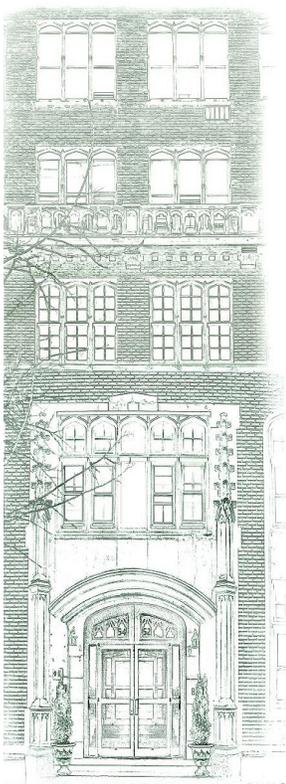


Linda Purl

REGISTRATION BY MAIL Your contribution of \$25 is fully tax deductible and can be paid by check, issued and mailed to FCAFT - 954 Lexington Avenue #183, New York, NY 10021

OR PAY PAL Quick & easy PayPal: Enter <https://www.finchcollege.org/paypal> and tap "Salon"

Once you are registered, Finch Administrative Assistant, Joey Suchanek, will send you the official **ZOOM Invite**, which will provide the link for the **Finch Salon**. Please feel free to contact Joey prior to the Salon for any questions or for assistance setting up the **ZOOM app** on your computer: jsuchanek1@gmail.com • (646) 884-4249



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