



## ***TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL COSGRAVE WEEKEND EVENTS***

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

**12:00pm – 1:00pm**

***A Tour of the Vilcek Foundation and its Art Exhibition***

**21 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021**

Join us for a tour of the Vilcek Foundation that was established in 2000 by Jan and Marica Vilcek, immigrants from the former Czechoslovakia. The Vilcek Foundation is a private foundation whose mission it is to raise awareness of immigrant contributions in the United States and foster appreciation of the arts and sciences. Our tour includes the exhibition, *Grounded in Clay: The Spirit of Pueblo Pottery*. Our docent is Povi Romero, the Foundation's Native American Arts Fellow.

(\$70; \$70 tax deductible)

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

**1:00pm – 2:00pm**

***Gilded Age Art Tour at the Metropolitan Museum of Art***

**1000 Fifth Avenue (at 82nd Street)**

**New York, NY 10028**

During our docent-led tour, entitled “*Art in the Gilded Age*,” we will explore art prior to the Gilded Age in the exhibition New York Art Worlds 1870–1890 and the changes during the Gilded Age. Our docent is an expert in American Art. You can also visit the Costume Institute's newly opened show, “*Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion*,” at no extra charge.

(\$75; \$25 tax deductible)

**Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**3:00pm – 5:00pm**

***Reception and Book Launch at the home of Regeen (“Ginger”) Kiernan***

**275 Central Park West (at 88th Street), Apt. 12D, NYC 10024**

Come join us at Ginger's elegant home for a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception, where Finch Alum, Cheryl Young Deknatel, and her brother, Charles Young, will discuss their new book, *Houdini's Last Handcuffs*. There will be a limited availability of copies of the signed book for purchase by cash or check. The book is also available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com. Reviews of the book have been excellent since its release on March 26th. “This is a literary gut punch. It is the great Houdini book the world has been waiting for. A perfect escape,” John Kelly, Detroit Free Press (\$75; \$25 tax deductible.)

# TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL COSGRAVE SPRING SOIREE



you are  
cordially invited to the

## 29th ANNUAL JESSICA COSGRAVE SPRING SOIREE

Monday, May 20, 2024  
6:00 pm

Union Club  
101 East 69 Street  
New York, NY 10021

COCKTAIL ATTIRE  
jacket and tie required  
denim and sneakers not permitted

## 29th Annual Jessica Cosgrave Spring Soiree

UNION CLUB

101 EAST 69TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10021

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024  
6:00PM Cocktails, King Room  
7:00PM Dinner, Evarts Room

(No speeches, no awards,  
just an evening of fine dining  
and conversation with alumnae  
and friends in an elegant venue)

**\$300 per person,**  
includes a \$60 donation to the FCAAFT  
(Family and Friends Welcome)  
RSVP by Saturday, May 4

Please make checks payable to FCAAFT  
and mail to

Ms. Marjorie R. Schulman  
Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust  
75 East End Avenue, Apt. 4G  
New York, NY 10028

or  
Go online to **FinchCollege.org** and submit  
payment on PayPal or Venmo

Contact **Lesley Rigler Kaminsky**  
(917-880-9272; [lesleykaminsky@gmail.com](mailto:lesleykaminsky@gmail.com))  
for table seating and special menu requests  
or to make a donation

SPECIAL EVENTS INVITATION TO FOLLOW



# 2023 FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION TRUST

Razieh Arabi [Scholar]  
Felice Forer Axelrod  
Agnes Birnbaum  
Zineb Bouizy [Scholar]  
Huiling Cai [Scholar]  
Jill Waldheim Chamberlain  
Elizabeth Colin  
Joy Correge  
Wesley Cullen Davidson  
Susan Davis  
Cheryl Young Deknatel  
Alba Francesca Farber  
Virginia Wattiker Gildea  
Wendy G. Glickstein  
Audrey Greene  
Catherine Cline Hamilton [Trustee]  
Margaret Stewart Hedberg [Trustee]  
Barbara Javori [Scholar]  
Lesley Rigler Kaminsky [Chair]  
JoAnn Cricchio Kubat  
Yehudis Moscovits [Scholar]  
Chu May Paing [Scholar]  
Susan Embree Parker [Trustee]  
Yeshi Pelzom Pradhan [Scholar]  
Amey Lynne Rose [Scholar]  
Marjorie R. Schulman  
Eileen Bluestone Sherman  
Aquella White [Scholar]  
Jiahui (Jae) Zheng [Scholar]  
Lois Moran Ziegler [Trustee]

## OFFICERS

Joy Correge  
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Vice President

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## CO-CHAIRS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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Karen Greenstein Rosner

## FINCH NEWS

Wendy G. Glickstein  
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Agnes Birnbaum  
Features Editor

Margaret Stein Nakamura  
Photographer

Aquella White  
Scholar Correspondent

Lesley Rigler Kaminsky  
Editorial Consultant



Cheryl Young Deknatel

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CHERYL YOUNG DEKNATEL

When we spoke in early March, Cheryl Deknatel was eagerly awaiting the debut of *HOUDINI'S LAST HANDCUFFS*, the book she co-authored with her brother, Charlie Young, to be published by Vine Leaves Press on March 26th.

When three young friends in 1950s Manhattan receive a mystical Ouija Board from writer, Walter Gibson, on the 30th anniversary of Harry Houdini's death, the trio is thrust into a world of magic and wonder. While the adults try reaching Houdini in a Séance at his former home, the children, unknowingly, call upon the master magician through a pair of handcuffs from one of their father's magic collections. Houdini, in desperate need of their help, reveals a hidden notebook filled with scientific formulas coveted by both benevolent and malevolent secret circles. The notebook is a puzzle, locked behind Houdini's cryptic code. This series of events sets off a thrilling chase, as the pursuit of Houdini's notebook holds the key to many secrets and adventures. In *Houdini's Last Handcuffs*, readers will be mesmerized and tantalized by every twist and turn that leads them on a riveting journey in a world where magic meets science.

*Houdini's Last Handcuffs* is Cheryl's debut novel. Raised on Manhattan's Upper West Side, she graduated from Finch College before going on to earn an MBA from Columbia University. In addition to having a successful career in finance, Cheryl is on the Board of the Finch College Alumni Foundation Trust, whose fundraising activities focus on awarding grants to women attending community college in the Tri-State Area (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut) who seek a four-year degree. The mother of 2 daughters & 1 son, and grandmother of 10, Cheryl and husband, Jan Deknatel, divide their time between Miami, Florida and rural life in Essex, Connecticut.

*Houdini's Last Handcuffs* is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kindle, and Alibris. For more information, visit: [Houdinislasthandcuffs.com](http://Houdinislasthandcuffs.com).



## FINCH FUN-RAISERS: FINCH REUNION COCKTAIL PARTY & BUFFET

On Monday, October 16, 2023, a good time was had by all at FCAAF's First Reunion/Cocktail Party/Buffer to honor the memory of Ceil Gavin Ainsworth, a founder, trustee, and leader of our organization who passed away on April 29, 2023. The event was attended by more than 70 Finch alumnae, benefactors, friends, spouses, and offspring at Manhattan Italian restaurant, Morso.



*Agnes Birnbaum, Susan E. Parker*



*Lynda Maer, JoAnn C. Kubat*



*Megan D. Friedman, Karl ("Pepper") Pettit, Rita J. Thompson*



*Lois M. Ziegler, Phurkima Sherpa, Helena M. Consuegra*



*Lesley R. Kaminsky, Pamela Nadler*



*Nancy Azara, Darla Bjork, Nana Oliva*



## FINCH FUN-RAISERS: FINCH REUNION COCKTAIL PARTY & BUFFET



*Mark & Diana Jacoby, Susan L. Wexler*



*Mary & Amani Dorn, Beverly Abercrombie, Franchelle S. Dorn & Dr. Ronald Nicholas*



*Felice F. Axelrod, Marcy Syms*



*Stanley Kaminsky, Lesley R. Kaminsky, Susan Consalvo & John Brewster*



*Louis ("Laddie") Stern, Lois M. Ziegler, Ruth Underberg*



*Denise M. Decker, Stanley Kaminsky, Patricia Meehan*



## FINCH FUN-RAISERS: FINCH REUNION COCKTAIL PARTY & BUFFET



*Sherry Z. Birnbaum & Karen G. Rosner*



*Joan B. Olden, Nancy A. Walker & Binnie Ditesheim*



*Margaret S. Nakamura & Vilma Polakova Wiesenmaier*



# FINCH FUN-RAISERS: 2ND ANNUAL FINCH HOLIDAY PARTY

The Second Finch Annual Holiday Party paid tribute to Scholarship Chair, Lois Moran Ziegler, on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at Upper East Side Italian bistro, Masseria East, as she passed the baton after serving in that leadership capacity for 19 years. Forty guests – including Finch alumnae with their spouses, friends or mentees – enjoyed a three-course luncheon with a complimentary glass of wine.



*Lois M. Ziegler, Nina LaBruna*



*(l.-r.) Mark Jacoby, Diana Jacoby, Stan Kaminsky, Lesley R. Kaminsky, Louise Blaney, Magda S. Katz and Karen G. Rosner*



*Audrey Heckler, Margaret S. Nakamura*



*Sherette Gregg and mentor, Rita J. Thompson*



## FINCH FUN-RAISERS: 2ND ANNUAL FINCH HOLIDAY PARTY



*Nina LaBruna, Corrie de Groot, Margaret S. Hedberg and Lesley R. Kaminsky*



*(l.-r.). Binnie Ditesheim, Hedy Zankel, JoAnn Kubat (in background), Carol Ross, Margaret S. Hedberg*



# FINCH FUN-RAISERS: FIRST ANNUAL FINCH GALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

The First Annual Finch Galentine's Luncheon (which happened to be the first Finch fundraiser of 2024!) also took place at Masseria East, on Saturday, February 10, 2024. More than 30 guests – both from inside and beyond the Finch community – received a single chocolate rose in a festive box decorated with hearts.



*Maxine Stark, Marjorie R. Schulman, Suzanne B. Jennings*



*(l.-r.) Agnes Birnbaum, Sherry F. Taxman, Wendy G. Glickstein, Joy Correge, Rita J. Thompson, Megan D. Friedman*



*Lesley R. Kaminsky & Joy Correge*



*(l.-r.) Nina LaBruna, Patricia Meehan, Margaret S. Hedberg*



**Marjorie (“Cookie”) Michel Luke**, who attended Finch from 1965-1966, sends word from Troy, Idaho, where she has been living for the past 21 years, that her husband of 13 years, Robert Luke, passed away on January 31, 2024. Cookie is also the sister of Susan Michel, daughter of Kathryn Schlessinger Michel and niece of Marjorie Schlessinger Deane. Marjorie Deane was Chair of the Board of the Tobe Coburn School for Fashion Careers. all four women were Finch attendees. (Frances Fish Tompkins and Lois Moran Ziegler also attended Tobe Coburn after their time at Finch.) You can write to Cookie at: 3680 Highway 8, Troy, ID 83871-9611, or reach her via landline at: 208-835-5612.

Illustrator/Designer by trade, our passionate Finch photographer, **Margaret Nakamura**, has an abiding love for modern dance, which began during her time at Finch, when she had the privilege of studying under Betty Low. In recent years, she has taken classes at Harkness Dance Center of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y (“92Y”), studying under dancer/choreographer, Gloria McLean. Margaret is pictured on the right in this photo from “We Are the Mirror,” a project on which her class collaborated, based on a work by the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Persian poet, Rumi.



**Renée Pappas** writes: “I am thrilled to share news about the recent launch of **GR2ME**, a website dedicated to providing cultural content and information about the rich culture of Greece, including movies, music, and history as well as original videos that showcase all aspects of Greek life. **GR2ME** is the brainchild of internationally renowned cinema designer and film collector, Theo Kalomirakis, who assembled a global team of writers, directors, technology experts and accomplished professionals in the areas of art and culture, who bring together Greeks at home and abroad with Grecophiles. The site will soon feature an e-shop, as well as sections

on games, travel, cooking, and news about all things Greek from five continents. For more information, log onto: [gr2me.com](http://gr2me.com).

**Thelma Frye**, Wimbledon, England, who turned 99 in March, reports from across the pond: “I graduated from Finch in 1943, and was still performing until recently. I performed my one-woman show to a sold-out audience last July, and have a small part in the upcoming film about Amy Winehouse, **BACK TO BLACK**. I live alone and organized the Finch trip to London a few years back. I also came to New York and performed for you a few years ago, and on my visits to New York stayed with dear Ceil Ainsworth. I am such a lucky old lady, still feeling young and enjoying every day. My whole happy life is thanks to Finch, the Theatre Arts Department and the wonderful Frances Pole, who headed it.”



*(Editor’s Note: In this photo, Thelma – as Amy’s great-aunt Renée – is seen in a production still from BACK TO BLACK. The cast is dressed in black when the coffin of the singer is driven to the cemetery. The film is scheduled for release in the U.S. in May.)*

**Wesley Davidson and Toni Hamner** lunched with **Sally Arthur** in Vero Beach on December 4, 2023. Wesley says Sally is in good spirits and would love to hear from Finch alums. You can drop her a line c/o Harbor Chase, 4150 Indian River Blvd., Vero Beach, FL 32967.

**Paula Caravelli** writes: “I graduated from Finch in 1975 (the last graduating class) and have been working as an architectural interior designer for many years. This year, 2024, I will be launching my Home Collection with Valerie Goodman Gallery in New York City.” For more information, contact Paula at: [paula@paulamartha.com](mailto:paula@paulamartha.com); [www.paulamartha.com](http://www.paulamartha.com).



**Sherry Taxman's** son is engaged to the daughter of Ron Hug. Hug is working to preserve the childhood home of Fred Astaire in Omaha, Nebraska. Sherry writes that The Joslyn Art Museum is scheduled to re-open on September 10, 2024, and she is hoping to organize a Finch trip to Omaha in the not-too-distant future.

Congrats to first-time grandma, **Jill Chamberlain**, whose daughter & son-in-law, Lauren and Jason Yarborough, welcomed son Ashton Edward on August 13, 2023. Best wishes to all!



*Marcy Syms*

On Wednesday, April 3, 2024, **Peggy Millheiser and Eileen Sherman** hosted Finch alum and philanthropist, Marcy Syms, on Zoom as part of the popular Finch Salon Series.

As one of 21 Italian-American artists, **Nancy Azara** participated in the art exhibition, A Legacy of Making, at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute in Manhattan which opened on September 27, 2023 and was extended to April, 2024. Nancy wrote that she would be sharing her working process and ideas around ecology and spirit. A sculptor who works in wood and whose scroll rubbings and tracings are collaged on mylar and paper, Nancy is always happy to receive and respond to questions and comments at her events. She is the author of Spirit Taking Form: Making a Spiritual Practice of Making Art, Red Wheel/Weiser and the subject of the monograph VOTIVES: Sculptures, Nancy Azara (2022.) She has also taught numerous workshops and classes. For more information: [www.nancyazara.com](http://www.nancyazara.com); [www.calandrainstitute.org](http://www.calandrainstitute.org).

**Stephanie Brody Lederman** writes: "These past few years have been quite amazing for me. My painting "Outdoor Girl" - 48 x 72 inches - was bought by the iconic Paris bookstore, Shakespeare & Company. It is on permanent display on the 2nd Floor balcony and can be seen from the Main Floor. My art was also on display at the Pompidou Museum Library last Spring. Now, at age 84, I am still cooking with gas." Stephanie was also looking forward to an artist's Book Show at the Southampton Art Center in March.

On Leap Year Day – Thursday, February 29, 2024 – Finch alums **Rita Thompson, Maria Sessa and Wendy Glickstein** were on hand to congratulate Jeremy Yuto Nakamura, son of Finch alum **Margaret Stein Nakamura** and her husband, Hideaki Nakamura. Jeremy is one of 4 Japanese-American artists whose works were featured in an exciting new exhibition "Post No Bills," at Now Here Gallery, 40 Wooster Street, in SoHo. The exhibition ran through March 24<sup>th</sup>.



*(l.-r.) Jeremy, Margaret and Hideaki*

## Transitions

**Mark Piel** passed away in New York City in February 2024, age 91. He leaves behind his widow, Helga; children Ellen and Stephan & their spouses; and grandchildren Sabina, Madeline and Katie. After a successful career as Librarian at Finch College, he served as Librarian of The New York Society Library from 1978 to 2005. Mark loved the literary world, the theater and time spent with family at his second home in Grafton, Vermont.

**Julie Ann Wunker**, Finch Class of '69, passed away in February 2024 from Glioblastoma. Originally from Ohio, and later, Ft. Lauderdale, after attending Centenary College in Hackettstown, NJ, she majored in Art History and was on the Museum Committee at Finch, where she roomed with Wesley Cullen Davidson. While at Finch, she worked part time at Gluck Framing on East 78th Street. After graduation, Julie worked at Tiffany's, where her boss was Walter Hoving. She later worked for a South American venture capitalist who had a celebrated art collection. Julie's brother, Robert Wunker, is receiving condolences at 5080 Annunciation Circle, Unit 303, Ave Maria, Florida 34142.

In October, 2023, Finch Special Events Co-Chair, JOY CORREGE, organized various fundraising events, including a visit to MoMA, an evening of music at Jazz at Lincoln Center, and a well-attended tour of the Gilded Age Mansions of New York.

This group photo includes (l.-r.) Joy Corregge, Karl (“Pepper”) Pettit & Megan Friedman, Friend of Finch (“FoF”) Corrie de Groot, Audrey Heckler and Marjorie Schulman, on the steps of the James B. Duke House, current home of the NYU Institute of Fine Arts on 78th Street off Fifth Avenue – just steps away from where Finch College once stood!



## *Let's Stay Connected (on Social Media!)*

We're excited to announce the launch of our new *LinkedIn* page, where you can network with professionals in your field, share career updates, and stay informed about upcoming Finch events. By joining us on our vibrant online communities, you will stay connected with your fellow alumni while learning more about the Finch Scholars program.

To join, click here: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9382083>.

And, don't forget to connect with us on Facebook, where you can share memories, achievements, and photos with your fellow alumni and scholars. Whether you're looking to reconnect with old friends or expand your professional network, our *Facebook* page is the ideal platform for staying engaged with the Finch Alumni and Scholars communities.

To join, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/284882935502>.

By creating spaces where we can celebrate each other's successes, share valuable insights, and foster meaningful connections, we can support and inspire one another as we continue on our diverse journeys.

We look forward to seeing you online!