



JESSICA COSGRAVE FOUNDER, FINCH COLLEGE

JESSICA GARRETSON was born on August 19, 1871 to Congregational minister Rev. Ferdinand VanDevere Garretson and Helen Philbrick Garretson. When she was 12, the family moved from New York where her father was rector of Grace Chapel on West 22nd Street, to Franconia, New Hampshire where she attended Dow Academy and the Cambridge Latin School before entering Barnard College, from which she received her A.B. in 1893, as a member of the first graduating class of the new women's college. After she applied to law school at Columbia University - and was formally refused on the grounds that the Law School did not admit women - she earned her LL.B from New York University School of Law in 1898.

A well-known suffragette and President of the New York Equal Franchise Society which advocated women's suffrage, she became an advocate of careers for women. Although in 1912 she described herself as an "orthodox Socialist", her views shifted and she was later known as a political "liberal".

In 1916 she founded the Lennox School, a primary school to prepare girls to enter The Finch School, a secondary school for girls, later known as Finch Junior College. It was only after 1953 that it became Finch College. Having enacted her conviction that women should be prepared for careers, she envisioned a world in which women would work until they married, at about age 25, bear and rear children for about fifteen years - before resuming paid employment at about age 40 - and working for another thirty years.

Cosgrave was a founding member of the Colony Club and the author of such books as Mothers and Daughters, Psychology of Youth, and Flower and Kitchen Gardens. She was married to - and divorced from - James Wells Finch with whom she had a daughter, Elsie Finch McKeogh, a New York literary agent. In 1913 she married John O'Hara Cosgrave, an editor of the New York World, who died in 1947.

Jessica Garretson Finch Cosgrave was awarded a Doctorate of Humane Letters, honoris causa, by New York University in June 1949. She died at her home in Manhattan on October 31, 1949, at age 78.

30th ANNUAL COSGRAVE EVENT

Spring Soirée

30 Years



You are
Cordially Invited
to the
30th Annual
Jessica Cosgrave

Spring Soirée

Thursday May 15, 2025

6:00 pm

At an Elegant

Upper East Side Club

New York, NY 10021

Cocktail Attire

Jacket and Tie Required

Denim and Sneakers not permitted

Celebrating Our 30th Annual
Jessica Cosgrave
Spring Soirée

The event will be held at a
private club on the
Upper East Side

Thursday, May 15, 2025

6:00-7:00pm Cocktail Hour and
Welcome Reception

7:00pm-10:00pm Dinner

No speeches or awards. Just a
fun-filled evening of fine dining
with fellow alumnae and friends.

RSVP by May 4, 2025

\$320 per person

includes a \$60 donation
to the FCAAFT

Family and Friends Welcome.

To make a donation, or for
table seating & special menu requests,
contact Lesley Rigler Kaminsky,
917-880-9272;

Lesleykaminsky@gmail.com.

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**30th ANNUAL COSGRAVE
SPRING CELEBRATION
AND EVENTS**

Thursday, May 15, 2025 - Frick Museum Tour

10:00am to 11:30am

1 East 70th Street New York, NY 10021

Limited space is available for this specially arranged tour by a Finch alumna. During our 1-1/2 hour tour, we will visit the museum's renovated galleries – including the first floor that now has a dedicated space for special exhibitions – and the second floor that is now open to the public. Please make your payment by May 8th. For security requirements, we need to provide the Frick Museum with the names of all our attendees on this tour. (\$120; 100% tax deductible)

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - Reception at the
Home of Diana and Mark Jacoby**

5:30pm to 7:30pm

Philip Colleck, Ltd.

311 East 58th Street New York, NY 10022

Finch alumna Diana O'Rourke Jacoby, and husband, Mark, welcome us to their extraordinary NYC 1850's landmark townhouse. Through the years, the couple - renowned collectors and dealers of fine antiques - have collaborated to bring joy to art lovers and collectors both here and abroad. From 5:30 -7:30pm, we will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres in their lovely townhouse and garden. (\$100; \$35 tax deductible)

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - Sargent & Paris Tour
at the Metropolitan Museum of Art**

12:00pm to 1:00pm

1000 Fifth Avenue (at 82nd Street) New York, NY 10028

In our docent-led tour, we will enter the world of 19th century Paris and the arrival of 18-year-old American Painter John Singer Sargent in 1874. Sargent gained acclaim "by creating boldly ambitious portraits and figure painting that pushed the boundaries of conventionality. The iconic Madame X, a beloved highlight of the Met collection, is the culmination of Sargent's early years in Paris". (\$85; \$25 tax deductible)

Please indicate the events you are attending and make your check payable to FCAAFT. Then mail to Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust
954 Lexington Avenue, #183 New York, NY 10021

Or go online to FinchCollege.org and pay with Pay Pal or Venmo

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025
FINCH WINTER BIRTHDAY LUNCH AT THE LAMBS



(l. - r.) Seated: Diana Jacoby, Wendy Glickstein, Liz Colin, Nina LaBruna, Eileen Sherman, Ellen Easton, Lesley Kaminsky, JoAnn Kubat; Standing: Mark Jacoby, Joy Correge.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025
GALENTINE'S LUNCHEON AT AMATA RESTAURANT



(l. - r.) Stan Kaminky, Lena Cavanna, Karen Rosner, JoAnn Kubat, A Friend of Finch, Hideaki Nakamura, Margaret Nakamura, Wendy Glickstein, Megan Friedman, Joy Correge, Carol Ross, Hedy Zankel, Nina LaBruna, Pat Meehan, Arline Shaffer, Eileen Sherman, Margaret Hedberg, Lesley Kaminsky.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PARTY AT MORSO



Joy Corregge, Lesley Kaminsky



Liz Colin, Margaret Nakamura



Lesley Kaminsky, Felice Axelrod,
Karen Rosner



Lesley Kaminsky, Megan Friedman



Pat Meehan, Hedy Zankel



(l. - r.) Hedy Zankel, Lorraine (“Binnie”) Ditesheim,
Phyllis Chang, Felice Axelrod, Liz Colin, Karen Rosner,
Ruth Haberman



Nina LaBruna, A Friend of Finch, Patricia Meehan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PARTY AT MORSO



Laura Larsen, Wendy Glickstein



Stan Kaminsky, Lena Cavanna



Louise Blaney, Lesley Kaminsky, Stan Kaminsky



(l. - r.) - Shannen O'Donnell, Wendy Glickstein, Megan Friedman, Laura Larsen, Rita Thompson



Margaret & Hideaki Nakamura



Felice Axelrod, Wesley Davidson

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

FINCH COCKTAIL PARTY AT UPPER EAST SIDE PRIVATE CLUB



Sherri Taxman, Margaret Hedberg, Sally Shy, Greg Hedberg



Seated (l.-r.) Karen Rosner, Sandye Berger. Standing (l.-r.) Rita Thompson, Felice Axelrod, Marcy Syms



(l.-r.) Sally Shy, Julia Berwick, Susan Galassi, Sherri Taxman



Eileen Sherman, Helena Consuegra



(l.-r.) Sherri Fleischer, Rita Thompson, Liz Colin



JoAnn Kubat, Lena Cavanna

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

FINCH COCKTAIL PARTY AT UPPER EAST SIDE PRIVATE CLUB



(l.-r.) Cecilia Macheski, Laura Morris, Sherry Taxman, Corrie De Groot



Denise Decker and Lesley Kaminsky with Stan Kaminsky



Standing (l.-r.) Rita Thompson, Helena Consuegra, Lesley Kaminsky, Karen Rosner, Sandye Berger, Eileen Sherman
Seated (l.-r.) Felice Axelrod, Marcy Syms, Liz Colin



Standing (l.-r.) Stan Kaminsky, Denise Decker, Julia Berwick, Corrie De Groot, Rita Thompson, Helena Consuegra, Lesley Kaminsky, Karen Rosner, Sandye Berger, Eileen Sherman, Liz Colin, Sherry Taxman
Seated (l.-r.) Susan Galassi, Joy Corregge, Margaret Hedberg, Wendy Glickstein, Margaret Nakamura, Felice Axelrod, Marcy Syms, Sally Shy



Original Bronze Plaque From the Front Door of Finch College.
Inscription: "Finch College, Founded 1900"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024 UPPER EAST SIDE GALLERY TOUR AND LUNCHEON



(l.-r.) Sherry Taxman, JoAnn Kubat, Lesley Kaminsky, Denise Decker, Stan Kaminsky, Deborah Goldberg, Docent; Rita Thompson, Lynda Maer, Carole Strauss, Margaret Nakamura

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 FALL FINCH BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



Seated, (l.-r.) A Friend of Finch, Wendy Addiss, Pat Addiss, Nina La Bruna, Hedy Zankel, Lesley Kaminsky, Rita Thompson, Margaret Nakamura, Corrie De Groot



Seated, (l.-r.) Pat Addiss, Nina La Bruna; Standing, Corrie De Groot

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 JESSICA COSGRAVE ANNUAL DINNER AT UPPER EAST SIDE PRIVATE CLUB



Hideaki & Margaret Nakamura



(l.-r.) Karl "Pepper" Pettit III, Julia Berwick, Emily Boehm, Carly Glasse

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 JESSICA COSGRAVE ANNUAL DINNER AT UPPER EAST SIDE PRIVATE CLUB



(l.-r.) Margaret Hedberg, Hedy Zankel, Nina La Bruna, Lesley Kaminsky; (background, right) Denise Decker.



Joy Corrage holding raffle prize she won at Cosgrave Dinner!



(l.-r.) Lauren Menkes, Lesley Kaminsky, Stan Kaminsky, Louise Blaney



JoAnn Kubat, Cheryl Deknatel



Jenny Murphy, Laura Morris



(l.-r.) Margaret & Greg Hederg, Hedy Zankel, Nina La Bruna

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 JESSICA COSGRAVE ANNUAL DINNER AT UPPER EAST SIDE PRIVATE CLUB



Laura Larsen, Denise Decker



Lesley & Stan Kaminsky



Lesley Kaminsky, Lauren Menkes



Jan & Cheryl Deknatel



Greg & Margaret Hedberg



(l.-r.) JoAnn Kubat, Laura Larsen, Marjorie Schulman,
Joy Correge

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 JESSICA COSGRAVE ANNUAL DINNER AT UPPER EAST SIDE PRIVATE CLUB



(l.-r.) Jenny Murphy, Laura Morris, Victoria Hagerty



(l.-r.) Vilma Wiesenmaier, Nina La Bruna, Kayla Rosario



Seated (l.-r.) Jill Chamberlain, Sherri Taxman, Corrie De Groot, Wendy Glickstein Standing (l.-r.) Margaret Hedberg, Leslie Ross, Lesley Kaminsky



(l.-r.) Wesley Davidson (in green), Lesley Kaminsky, Eileen Sherman



Marjorie Schulman, Joy Correge



(l. - r.) Helena Consuegra, Neal Sherman, Vilma Wiesenmaier

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 JESSICA COSGRAVE ANNUAL DINNER AT UPPER EAST SIDE PRIVATE CLUB



Sitting (l.-r.) Leslie & Michael Ross, Mary Boehm, Emily Boehm.
Standing (l.-r.) Ruth Haberman, Lorraine ("Binnie") Ditesheim



Emily Boehm, Mary Boehm, Joan Olden

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 RECEPTION & *HOUDINI'S LAST HANDCUFFS* BOOK LAUNCH AT THE UPPER WEST SIDE HOME OF GINGER NAJAR



Jeffrey & Sherri Taxman



Stan Kaminsky, Sandy Davidson



Mary Boehm



Denise Decker, Lesley Kaminsky

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 RECEPTION & HOUDINI'S LAST HANDCUFFS BOOK LAUNCH AT THE UPPER WEST SIDE HOME OF GINGER NAJAR



Co-Author Cheryl Deknatel



(l. - r.) Jan Deknatel, Cheryl Deknatel, Marjorie Schulman



Eileen & Neal Sherman



(l. - r.) Jan Deknatel, siblings & co-authors, Cheryl Young Deknatel & Charlie Young, Pamela Greene



(l. - r.) Wendy Glickstein, Corrie De Groot, Marjorie Schulman, Arline Shaffer, JoAnn Kubat

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024 GILDED AGE TOUR AT THE MET



(l.-r.) Megan Friedman, Karl (“Pepper”) Pettit III, Wendy Glickstein, Susan Reed, Corrie De Groot, William Ambler, Docent; Marjorie Schulman, Pat Meehan, Mary Boehm, Francine Port, Sherry Taxman, Lesley Kaminsky, Stan Kaminsky

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 VILCEK FOUNDATION GALLERY VISIT & LUNCH AT BRASSERIE COGNAC



(l.-r.) Sherry Taxman, Margaret Nakamura, Vilma Weisenmaier, Wendy Glickstein, Eileen Sherman, Judy Clements, Corrie De Groot, Marta Kotyza, Povi Romero, Docent; Lesley Kaminsky, Stan Kaminsky, Mary Boehm, Marjorie Schulman.



(l.-r.) Wendy Glickstein, Marjorie Schulman, Margaret Nakamura, Corrie De Groot, Mary Boehm, Sherry Taxman, Lesley Kaminsky, Stan Kaminsky, Eileen Sherman

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 LUNCH AT THE NORTON MUSEUM

Besides raising “a nice amount” for Finch, Cheryl Deknatel and Finch Florida friends enjoyed lunching at the Norton Museum in West Palm Beach on November 13th, 2024.



(l.-r.) Jill Chamberlain, Wesley Davidson, Cheryl & Jan Deknatel, “A Friend of Finch”, Denise Decker, Susan Cole, Jennifer Loving, Nancy Holland, Peter & Rita O’Hare.

Looks like Finch Alum **Mosette Broderick** has at least 2 major Finch fans! Last summer, **Wesley Davidson** advised that Mosette would be giving a one-hour lecture at the University Club on September 12, 2024 about New York entitled “History of America’s Street of Dreams.” And, **Susan Embree Parker** reported that “Professor Mosette Broderick, who received her B.A. from Finch College in 1967 and [who] since 1969 is Clinical Professor of Art History at NYU delivered a lecture at the Harvard Club of New York on February 11th entitled “Fifth Avenue, History of America’s Street of Dreams” from her book of the same name published in 2023.”

Felice Axelrod was excited to share that **Stephanie Heiermann**, a mother of 4 from Rochester, NY, had just landed a new job. Felice had underwritten Stephanie’s scholarship.

In response to our challenge: “2024: The Year That Was”, in which we invited the Finch community to submit their musings about the past year, **Rosalie VanCleaf** told us in November: “This year I decided to write about my childhood memories in the early 1940’s in an enchanted hamlet I call ‘Shanghai-La’. It was a special place at a certain moment in time that could no longer exist and I hope it will bring joy to all readers”.

Ellen Easton has fond memories of the late **Judith Jamson**: “As a Finch Freshman, 1972-1973, our ballet teacher, Betty Low, invited Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison and other dancers to give a Master Class in the auditorium. After an abbreviated version of Revelations, Ms. Jamison taught us some of the movements. She was kind, patient and friendly as we plodded our way through the steps”.

In November, **Dale Anne Bourjaily** wrote from her home in Holland: “We are planning to be at the Tefaf in Maastricht the Netherlands this March from the 17th to the 29th and are staying in Valkenburg nearby. If any other art lovers are planning to go, drop me a line at: daleanne2011@gmail.com. This year I became advisor to the hydrogen exchange in London: HDexgroup.com. The clean energy market is booming and so much is happening in hydrogen around the world. Exciting times! And, please check out our organization, bluecooling.org if you are concerned about the climate crisis, and stay safe out there!”

Galey Sergio’s family included three generations at Finch! She writes: “My grandmother, **Mildred Badham**, went to Finch when, I imagine, it was still a finishing school. She was from Birmingham, Alabama. She attended the boarding school, Shipley, before going to New York to be at Finch. She had eight brothers who were all educated at Lawrenceville and, later, Yale. It was quite a family. They believed strongly in education. Even the two girls - my grandmother and her sister - were educated. I do not have the dates for when Mildred was at Finch. My mother, **Dorothy Galey Wells**, graduated from Finch in 1940. She became a professional artist, living in Princeton, New Jersey, until her death in 2003. I, **Galey Wells Bissell**, graduated from Finch in 1970 as an Art History major. I just wanted to share this with the Finch community as a fun bit of trivia!”

Renee Pappas has donated her archive to the Hellenic American Project at Queens College. This entity archives the documents, photographs, and other memorabilia from Greek-Americans. Renee’s archive consists of photographs, videos, CDs, letters and memorabilia related to her family’s journey to America in the late 19th & early 20th centuries, as well as her work in Greece and the U.S. promoting and publicizing Greek art and culture. For more information about Greece, visit the website that Renee helped launch: gr2me.com or contact her at: r.pappas@gr2me.com.

Paula Caravelli was a member of the last graduating class of Finch. In 2024, her design firm, Paula + Martha, LLC launched their Home Collection at Valerie Goodman Gallery, 315 East 91st Street, New York, NY 10128. For more information: paula@paulamartha.com.

LOST & FOUND

Sydney Park would love to know if anyone has a Finch ring to sell. If you have one you are willing to part with, please email her at: slpark11@gmail.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

The first Finch Birthday Party Luncheon was held on September 24, 2024 at the Lambs Club in Rockefeller Center. September birthday girls were **Patricia Addiss**, **Corrie de Groot** and **Nina LaBruna** (see attached photo). Also participating in the festivities were (l.-r.) A Friend of Finch, **Wendy Addis**, **Pat Addiss**, **Nina LaBruna**, **Hedy Zankel**, **Lesley Kaminsky**, **Rita Thompson**, **Margaret Nakamura**, **Corrie de Groot**.

IRENE AITKEN

Born in New York City on March 8, 1931, the daughter of James Hallam Boyd and Elizabeth Watkins Boyd, Irene Boyd Roosevelt Aitken died peacefully at home on April 26, 2025 at the age of 94.

She attended the Hutchison School in Memphis and later Finch College in New York, where she developed an interest for history, fashion, and art. In 1950, after graduating from New York's Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School, she worked in public relations at Lord & Taylor Department Store, with a focus on retail fashion, and became assistant to the company's president, Dorothy Shaver. Her first marriage, to Benjamin Brandreth McAlpin 3rd, ended in divorce. In 1965 she wed John Aspinwall Roosevelt, the youngest son of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and a vice president of the Wall Street investment firm, Bache & Co. They remained married until his death in 1981.

In 1986 Irene married widower Russell Barnett Aitken, a ceramic sculptor & enamellist, journalist, wildlife photographer, and big game hunter. A prominent art world collector and Metropolitan Museum of Art patron, Irene, was elected a Benefactor and an Honorary Trustee in recognition of her ongoing support of the Museum. She also served as a member of the Met's Acquisitions Committee for over a decade. Irene loved New York and its cultural institutions and, in addition to the Met, she supported the Metropolitan Opera, the Frick Collection, and the Morgan Library and Museum. At the Frick, she contributed to its endowment, concert series, and exhibitions and was a member of the Director's Circle. She also donated documents and Roosevelt memorabilia to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in

Hyde Park and presented the Cleveland Museum of Art a collection of Art Deco ceramic sculpture and related materials dating from the 1930s that documented Russ Aitken's career. In 2014 she gave the Met's Department of Modern and Contemporary Art his most famous work, the largest ceramic sculpture of its time, *Hercules and the Amazons*, which was exhibited at the World's Fair in New York in 1939. Irene had deep colonial roots from both the paternal and maternal sides of her family and was a proud member of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Colonial Dames Society. She was a member of a number of clubs, including her favorites, the Colony Club in New York and the Clambake Club in Newport. Predeceased by her cherished older brother, James Hallam Boyd, Jr., and younger sister, Elizabeth, she is survived by her much-loved sister-in-law Ann Boyd of Memphis and her nephew Hallam Boyd III and his family.

On April 23, 2025, just three days before her death, Irene was honored as Outstanding Patron of the Arts by the Bard Graduate College for the Decorative Arts at its annual Iris Foundation Awards Luncheon. Attended by many of her close friends and art world colleagues, the gathering provided an opportunity to recognize her contributions to the arts and to celebrate her passion and generosity.

NANCY AZARA

Finch alum Nancy Azara died in on June 27th at age 84. A sculptor who evoked ancient feminine imagery in her carved and painted wood pieces, she was a founder of the New York Feminist Art Institute, a school run by and for women artists.

In the heyday of the women's movement and of feminist consciousness-raising in the early 1970s, Nancy and other artists began meeting in their

downtown lofts to explore their approach to art making and to sketch out projects that would support women artists like themselves, who were largely shut out of the contemporary - and predominantly male - art world. Along with artist Miriam Schapiro, she created an independent school at which art would be truth to women, by women, on Spring Street. The advisory board included Louise Nevelson, Faith Ringgold, Kate Millett and Gloria Steinem. By 1981, the institute moved to Franklin Street. She led workshops in making what she called “visual diaries.” Although the school was promoted in *Ms. Magazine* and *The Village Voice*, arts funding was drying up and its finances were always precarious. The New York Feminist Art Institute closed in 1990.

Annunciata Jean Azara was born in Brooklyn to Annunciata (Como) Azara and Joseph Azara on October 13, 1939. She studied fashion design at Finch which was then a 2-year college. Her conservative Roman Catholic parents disapproved, because they did not believe in educating women. After moving to Forsyth Street on the Lower East Side, she worked as a theatre costume designer and, on the side, made hats that were sold by Fifth Avenue department store Bonwit Teller. After marrying trumpet player Maximilian Olivas in 1966, they separated in the late 1970's and divorced in 1992. She met her future wife, Dr. Darla Bjork, a psychiatrist and artist, in 1979 when Dr. Bjork took a sculpture class that Nancy was teaching at The Brooklyn Museum. Together since 1981, they married in 2011 when same-sex marriage became legal in New York. In addition to Dr. Bjork, she is survived by her siblings, Victoria and Joseph Azara, her artist daughter, Nana Olivas, her stepson, Maximilian Mark Olivas, and a granddaughter.

MARILYN GELBER

After leaving her rural hometown of Newton, NJ, Marilyn entered an exciting world of travel, study, teaching and acting. From the time she attended Finch from 1945-46 when it was still a junior college, until her passing, her life was filled with interesting people and places. At Finch, she studied art appreciation, as well as at The Art Students League of New York. Since Marilyn's secret ambition was to be an actress, she enrolled in acting classes with Lee Strasberg. Her classmates included Al Pacino, Jane Fonda and Marilyn Monroe. During her nearly eight years with Lee Strasberg, she had lead roles in Off-Broadway shows. She studied painting and sculpture, had a New York license in interior design and was a member of the Screen Actors Guild and the Dramatists Guild of America. From 1974 to 1979 she was married to physicist Sumner Mayburg, who was instrumental in developing the laser beam. She belonged to a unique group of Finch Alumnae who actually knew Jessica Finch Cosgrave. Coming from a long-lived family - her sister Shirley passed at 98 years old, and her sister Harriet passed just shy of 100 years old - Marilyn passed peacefully in her home just after her 97th birthday on May 11, 2024.

CATHERINE DEVINE HAYDEN

Catherine (“Kitty”) Devine Hayden died peacefully on December 6, 2024 in her home in Wilton, CT where she lived for fifty years. Born in 1931, Kitty was the youngest of a family of seven children, whose parents, James and Frances Devine, had moved from the small city of Clarksburg, WV to New York City and East Hampton. She was a graduate of the Westover School and attended Finch College. After a brief marriage to Neil A. McConnell, her life went in a new direction when she wed actor and author,

Sterling Hayden, whom she met on a blind date in New York when he was taping a live television production of *Ethan Frome*. They married after knowing each other only for three weeks, and raised 5 children in the San Francisco Bay area – her son, Scott, and Sterling’s four children, soon followed by the birth of Andrew and David. After Sterling’s death in 1986, she was involved in curating his papers for an archive at Boston University. She is survived by her sons, Scott McConnell (Margaret), Andrew Hayden (Sarah), and David Hayden (Soraya), and her stepdaughter, Gretchen Hayden Ruckert (George), four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

AUDREY BLOCK HECKLER

After two years at Skidmore College, Audrey spent two years at Finch where she earned a BA. Professionally, she was President of the Gray Block Corporation, a commercial real estate firm. Her interest in self-taught artists began in 1993, and over the course of three decades she amassed an unparalleled collection of over 500 works of art. An exhibition, *MEMORY PALACES: INSIDE THE COLLECTION OF AUDREY B. HECKLER*, was on view from September 2019 to Jan 2020 at the American Folk Art Museum; it included more than 160 works by over 80 artists drawn exclusively from her collection. An important and generous benefactor of the Museum, Audrey’s donation of her art collection to that institution launched the Museum’s 60th anniversary gifts of art initiative, which has inspired dozens of individuals and organizations to donate to the AFAM collection. In recognition of Audrey’s extraordinary support for the Museum, a gallery at AFAM’s flagship location at 2 Lincoln Square was named in her honor. Audrey passed away in April 2024. She is survived by two sons, James and Andrew Heckler.

LAURIE PAKULA

Laurie Singer was born on December 19, 1936 in Kansas City, MO. Yearning for big city living, she moved to New York and graduated from Finch College with a B.A. degree. From there it was on to Washington University in St. Louis where she obtained a Master’s Degree in social work. After several moves to various cities around the country with her physician husband, Steve Pakula, the family established their personal and professional roots in Saratoga, CA. Laurie eventually decided to transition into the travel business as a travel agent. At the time of her passing on December 2, 2024, at age 87 after a courageous year-long battle with Alzheimer’s, Laurie and Steve were living in Scottsdale, AZ. In addition to her husband, she is survived by their children, Dr. Jeffrey L. Pakula and Jennifer Lynn (Pakula) Gelfand and 5 grandchildren.

SUZANNE S. SALOMON

Susie Salomon passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at the age of 89, surrounded by family and friends.

A proud Queens girl, Susie was born in Forest Hills, NY on February 25, 1936 to German immigrants Ernest and Wally Stern. She attended the Kew-Forest School, Rollins College and Finch College. A longtime resident of Fairfield County, Susie raised her three children Robin, Debbie and Jamie in New Canaan, CT and later settled in Bell Island in Norwalk. An avid supporter of the arts, Susie was a docent at the Whitney Museum in Stamford, a curator at the New Canaan Library, and a patron of the Metropolitan Opera, Creative Connections, and the Center for Contemporary Printmaking, among others. She was also a longtime donor to numerous

organizations including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, PBS, and WSHU Public Radio. Susie's innate curiosity sent her around the world, traveling to nearly every continent with friends, family, and on her own. Known for her not-so-great sense of direction, Susie often lost her way in foreign cities, which she saw as an opportunity to explore and meet new people. Always eager to learn, Susie continued her education well into her adulthood, taking classes in art, architecture, literature and creative writing, which led to a long-running writing group and lifelong friendships.

As an only child, Susie dreamt of having a big family, *and that she did!* Her three children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren were the center of her life. At her beloved home 'Whimsea' on Bell Island, the family gathered for holidays, special occasions, and whenever they pleased. Susie is preceded in death by her parents and her son, Jamie Salomon. She is survived by her children Robin and Debbie Salomon, her daughters-in-law Sarah and Susan Salomon, her eight grandchildren Tory, Tyler, Tim, Morgan, Alie, Ryan, Sophie and Ben, and five great-grandchildren Dylan, Madeline, Robbie, Wyatt and Brooklyn.

CHRISTA C. MAYER THURMAN

Christa Thurman, internationally recognized textile historian, consultant, author and lecturer, and Curator Emerita of the Department of Textiles at the Art Institute of Chicago, died at her home in St. Charles, IL on September 13, 2024 at age 89.

During her 42 years there as Curator and Chair, from 1967 until her retirement in 2009, she built a world-renowned textile collection,

doubling the museum's textile collection, establishing a conservation laboratory, curating more than 80 exhibitions, and writing 12 books based on the collection. In 1992, the endowed position of Christa C. Mayer Thurman and Curator of Textiles was created in her honor.

Born December 12, 1934, in Darmstadt, Germany, she received her pre-college education in Germany and Switzerland. She came to New York to study at Finch College in 1954, and completed an M.A. at The Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, while serving as Associate Textile Curator at the Cooper-Union Museum (now the Cooper Hewitt), from 1961 to 1967.

Twice widowed, she married Dr. Lawrence S. Thurman in 1971 and Arsenio G. Sala in 2002. She married architectural designer George A. Larson in 2021. She is survived by her brother Jan H. Mayer of Frankfurt, Germany; sister Barbara Sala; niece Dr. Michelle Sala, and nephew Pascal Sala, who reside in Canada.

HEATHER McNULTY WYSER-PRATTE

A lifelong resident of Palm Beach, FL, Heather passed away peacefully on March 1, 2024 at age 80. She was born on November 13, 1943 in New York City. After graduating from The Marymount School in New York and Rome, she attended Finch College. She was active in the Palm Beach social scene and enjoyed supporting her favorite charities focusing on the arts, children, health, world affairs, and non-partisan politics and first responders. She was especially proud of helping numerous orphans born around the world with birth defects. She is survived by her children, Joelle Wyser-Pratte and Danielle Meagher, and 5 grandchildren.