

# FINCH NEWS

APRIL 2018

A Publication for Finch College Alumnae and Friends



## MEET THE 2018 JESSICA COSGRAVE AWARD HONOREES



Lois Chiles

Five outstanding Finch alumnae will be honored at the 24th annual Jessica Cosgrave Lifetime Achievement Awards, on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at the Cosmopolitan Club, 122 East 66th Street, New York City. The event begins with a cocktail reception at 6 PM, presentation of awards at 7 PM, and dinner at 8 PM.

**Lois Chiles** transferred to Finch from the University of Texas in 1968 and was discovered by a fashion photographer at what was then Stark's Coffee Shop (today, Missoni!) on 78th & Madison. As a model, she was photographed by Richard Avedon and Irving Penn and, as a film actress, she had roles in "The Way We Were,"



Helena M. Consuegra (center) with her nieces

"The Great Gatsby," and "Broadcast News" and, as a "Bond Girl," played an astronaut opposite Roger Moore in "Moonraker." Lois and her husband, Richard Gilder, are well-known New York philanthropists. Lois also serves on the boards of The Yale School of Drama and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. She continues to be a generous supporter of the Finch Scholarship Fund.

**Helena M. Consuegra** graduated from Finch with a BA in Psychology. While at Finch, she spent summers in her native Bogotá, teaching family planning to the local women. She also studied at the University

College of Cardiff in Wales, and worked at the United Nations before switching gears to study film editing, earning an MFA degree in film from the Columbia University School of the Arts, working as a producer, editor, and sound recordist. She later applied her filmmaking knowledge and skills to a career in fundraising and event planning. As a consultant for Americas Society/Council of the Americas, she oversees its annual gala of 500 guests. A former treasurer for The Finch College Alumni Association, Helena also worked for many years at the Nohra Haime Gallery in New York.

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## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 24TH ANNUAL COSGRAVE AWARDS

The 2018 Jessica Cosgrave Awards will take place on **Tuesday, May 15**, at The Cosmopolitan Club, 122 East 66th Street, New York City. Reception is at 6 PM, awards at 7 PM, and dinner at 8 PM. Be sure to mark your calendar for this major fundraiser of the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation

Trust. You should also plan on attending the fun-filled cultural and social events during the weekend preceding this event. Details can be found in the Cosgrave Awards invitations, which have been mailed. For more information, please contact **Virginia Wattiker Gidea** (212-605-5560;

virginiasheerin@gmail.com).

*It's not too early to nominate potential recipients for the 2019 Cosgrave Award. The instructions and nomination application can be downloaded at [www.Finch-College.org](http://www.Finch-College.org) by clicking on the Cosgrave Award on the left side of the home page.*



Jane De Moret Foster



Wendy G. Glickstein

**Jane De Moret Foster** graduated from Finch in 1970 with a degree in English Literature. After Finch she worked at Sotheby’s for eight years before starting her own jewelry design firm. For two decades she worked closely with Fred Leighton, “the jeweler to the stars.” Jane is an accomplished horticulturist with two of her own gardens selected for inclusion in the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens. Later in life, she discovered her true passion, writing. At age 65, she published her first novel, “Below Sea Level,” which won the Illumination Book Award for Fiction. Since then, she has written three more novels, including “Careless,” to be published this summer. She is a past president of The Colonial Dames of America--Chapter XVII--Palm Beach, Florida.

**Wendy G. Glickstein** calls herself “the Jacqueline of all trades.” After graduating from Finch in 1970 with a BA in Languages, she worked in advertising, public relations, public television, film, and the law. She was a long-time member of the International Women’s Writing Guild. Today she heads her own business, specializing in residential and home office organizing. A certified paralegal, she applied for—and received—a trademark for her company name, *REALLY NEAT! for an organized environment*®. When she is not busy creating an organized environment for her clients, she works tirelessly on behalf of The Finch College Alumni Association. Currently Editor of *The Finch News*, her “In the Spotlight” interviews offer rare glimpses into the lives and careers of Finch alums.



Susan Saklad Warren

**Susan Saklad Warren** graduated from Finch with a BA in 1969. She went on to work in advertising at NW Ayer and public relations at Ruder Finn. She later spearheaded corporate gift sales at Saks Fifth Avenue developing strong client relationships with Fortune 500 companies. For the past several years, Susan has devoted her energy to improving the welfare of children and families. She has proudly served as a Board member, Officer, Fundraiser and Event Chair of family-centric non-Profits

and is a Board member of Legal Information for Families Today/LIFT. She also volunteers both as a Tutor as well as a Reader to the visually impaired. Her commitment to “putting smiles on children’s’ faces” continues the legacy of her daughter, Lisa. Susan recently received Assembly member Rebecca Seawright’s Woman’s Leadership Award.

*Article: Rita J. Thompson*

# FINCH FUNDRAISING EVENTS CONTINUE TO ENLIGHTEN AND ENTERTAIN



Lois Moran Ziegler (center) with Finch Scholars (left to right) Tanya Ritchie, Jiahui Zheng, Naa O.T. Bruce, Amey Shue, Cristina Mihailescu, Zineb Bouizy, and Yeshey Belzom at the inaugural Salon.



Finch Group with docent John Davies Delmar at Chelsea NY studio of artist Ayn S. Choi, in front of her painting, Assumption of the Apocalypse, 2017.

Finch graduates **Pat Flicker Addiss**, **Ceil G. Ainsworth**, **Liz Glick Colin**, **Joy Correge**, **Wendy Glickstein**, **Ginger Runes Najar**, **Eileen Bluestone Sherman**, **Frances Fish Tompkins**, **Lois Moran Ziegler**, and many others have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to organize exciting fundraising events that bring Finch graduates, their friends, and Finch Scholars together. Thanks also go to the Birch Wathen Lenox School, **Ms Najar**, **the Hedbergs**, **the Zieglers**, and **Nohra Haime** for their generosity in hosting the Finch community at receptions that enable us to celebrate the School's legacy and impressive accomplishments of our graduates and scholars. Such events help us to continue to raise significant funds for Finch scholarships and grants.

Last spring, the Cosgrave Weekend events included the first Salon at Birch Wathen Lenox; visits/tours of The Museum of Arts & Design, The Museum of the Moving Image, and The Museum of the City of New York; the Broadway musical, "War Paint" (starring Patti Lupone and Christine Ebersole); and elegant cocktail parties at the homes of **Margaret and Gregory Hedberg** (who gave a talk about his book, Degas' Little Dancer Aged Fourteen) and **Ginger Runes Najar**, who hosted what has become a much-anticipated annual event in her home, for Finch graduates, mentors, scholars, and their families and friends.

The new Salon Series was created by **Dr. Sara Arthur** and **Eileen Bluestone Sherman**, who acts as moderator for panels of Finch graduates discussing their noteworthy careers. In addition to being well

attended by Finch alumnae and friends, the series draws a number of Scholars (some of whom have come forward with their own fundraising endeavors at the two most recent Salons, by raffling off their own special creations). The inaugural Salon, which was also a celebration of the opening of The Birch Wathen Lenox School's beautiful rooftop social hall, included a cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment by pianist Mathew Velligdan and vocalist Julie Foldesi and included a lively discussion between Broadway producer **Pat Flicker Addiss** and entertainment correspondent and videographer **Magda Stark Katz**. Passionate about their work (second careers for each), Pat and Magda are also great friends, having bonded on a FCAAFT fundraising trip to Kansas City several years ago. (See the article on page 5 for information about the next Salon, to be held in May.)

The 2017 Fall season kicked off with the exciting "Explore the Chelsea Art Scene," a tour led by John Davies Delmar, Esq, who focused attention on the work of feminist and post-feminist artists, including Patricia Bouley and Ayn S. Choi. The tour culminated in a visit, refreshments, and talk by **Nohra Haime** at her beautiful new gallery at 500 West 21 Street, where works by Louise Nevelson and contemporary artist Lesley Dill were featured.

Other fall events included a visit to The Armory Art and Antiques Show, a perennial favorite, A daylong performance at the Met Breuer by the brilliant performance artist **Eiko Otake** (as part of her

*Continued on next page ►*

## FINCH SCHOLAR PERFORMS AT METROPOLITAN MUSEUM



Eiko Otake (left) with Sherrie Lynn Fleisher at the reception following Eiko's performance

Last Fall, world-rekknown performance artist and dancer **Eiko Otake** appeared at The Metropolitan Museum, presenting "A Body in Places." The many Finch College alumni who attended were totally entranced.

"A Body in Places" explores relationships, influenced by her post-war childhood in Japan and the 2011 tsunami and earthquake disaster in Fukushima. Her graceful body movements are choreographed before a floor-to-ceiling visual screen of photographs taken in Fukushima. Eiko is an activist and believes that disasters need to be remembered, and not only be considered disruptors.

In 2002, Eiko received the very first Finch Scholarship. A graduate of Empire College, she transferred to the New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study Graduate Program. In addition to performing all over the world, Eiko teaches at Wesleyan College. To celebrate Eiko's achievements, many Finch alumni gathered at the home of **Lois and Ron Ziegler** to toast the great success of our scholarship recipient!



(Left to right) Judy K. Levine, Nohra Haime, Lois M. Ziegler, Carol B. Ross, Frances F. Tompkins, and Rita J. Thompson, at Nohra Haime's new gallery (Fernando Botero's *Odalisque*, 1998, looks on!)

trilogy, at the Cloisters and the main Metropolitan Museum of Art) was followed by a wine and cheese reception at the home of **Lois and Ron Ziegler** (See the highlight article below.). Since Eiko was the first recipient of a Dr. Margaret Maxwell grant; it was gratifying to witness her growth as an artist. In December, Finch's own **Tennie Leonard** performed at the Don't Tell Mama cabaret in the theatre district.

On October 26, "Finch Women in Real Estate," the second salon moderated by **Eileen Bluestone Sherman**, featured guests **Judy Kendall Levine**, **Sally Kraftmeyer Hallows**, and **Peggy Kutzen Wunderlich**, all well-respected realtors in the New York metropolitan area. The panel shared amusing anecdotes and cautionary tales, and joining in were other Finch women in real estate, among them **Barbara O'Hare**, **Megan McCarthy**, and **Sarah Zucker Macyshyn**. After the talk, Finch Scholar **Razieh Arabi** displayed her touching pastel portrait of a refugee child before it was raffled off. **Tennie Leonard** was the lucky winner! Bob Morris of The New York Times was in attendance. He later wrote his impressions in a wonderful Times article of December 14, 2017.

"The Power of Media," the third Salon in the series, was held this year on January 18. This time, the panel featured speakers and Finch graduates, Emmy Award-winning journalist, and longtime Producer of the Oprah Winfrey Show, **Rita J. Thompson**, and **Nina DiGiovanna La Bruna**, Italian chef extraordinaire and culinary favorite on Cooking With Nonna, who thanked Salon videographer **Magda Stark Katz** for introducing her to the cable program, brought great stories, along with her newly published book, which features some of her recipes. Rita (recently returned to NYC from Chicago, and is now actively involved in FCAAFT activities) spoke about how Finch inspired her pursuit of a career in journalism. She got her foot in the door at New York Magazine, won an Emmy for her work at WCVB-TV in Boston and traveled the country as Senior Field Producer for the Oprah Winfrey Show. After the panel discussion, another raffle was held, this time featuring a lovely



Finch alumnae in NY Real Estate (left to right) Peggy K. Wunderlich, Judy K. Levine, and Sally K. Hallows at the second Salon at Birch Wathen Lenox School



(Left) Nina DiGiovanna La Bruna, Tuscany chef extraordinaire, and (right) Rita J. Thompson, Emmy Award-winning journalist and producer, at the Salon on "The Power of the Media"

crocheted wall hanging made and donated by Finch scholar **Carmen Guillen**. This time, the lucky winner was **Frances Fish Tompkins!**

These events bring the entire Finch community together. With so much talent, enthusiasm, and par-

icipation, and so much generous support, it's clear the Finch legacy is here to stay!

*Article: Margaret Stein Nakamura*

*Photos: Margaret and Hideaki Nakamura, Lynda Maer, and Liz Glick Colin*

## SEVENTH-GRADE BWL STUDENT RECEIVES FINCH SCHOLARSHIP

Seventh grader **Lindsay Griesman** is a motivated, eager student with a zest for curiosity. She enjoys French, is an actor, and Middle School Community Leader at The Birch Wathen Lenox School, which was also founded by Jessica Cosgrave. The partial tuition scholarship, fully selected by and funded by the private 12-year school, is awarded annually. Lindsay's sister, Amanda, received the Finch Scholarship three years ago.



Lindsay Griesman (left) and her sister Amanda

# UPDATES FROM FINCH SCHOLARS

Finch Scholars are making their way in the world! Busy as always, here's the latest news.

**Derya Lane** writes:

"I will be attending law school this summer. So far, I got into Fordham Law, but I am still waiting to hear back from other schools. So, my final decision has not been made. I have been volunteering in animal shelters, and worked as a legal assistant over the last year and will continue to do so until the summer."



**Derya Lane**

**Chu May Paing** tells us:



**Chu May Paing**

"This fall I began my second semester as a PhD student in Linguistics at the University of Colorado Boulder. At CU Boulder, I am affiliated with the Culture, Language, and Social Practice Program and the Tibet-

Himalayan Initiative, where I am strengthening my interest in political economy of language in Myanmar (Burma). For the past semester, I have been observing the discriminatory language toward women in the Race and Religion Laws of Myanmar.

I am currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant where I teach the courses in Languages of the World and Language in US Society. I am also a Graduate Student Program Coordinator for the Literacy Practicum Program through which CU undergraduate students volunteer for helping local community organizations in improving literacy skills in the Front Range area. I have been awarded as one of the only three incoming PhD students as a diversity fellow from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement at CU Boulder for four academic years."

**Shaumane Paulk** writes....

"Everything happened so fast! I graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelors degree in Social Work in May 2017. I obtained my Social Worker's license in July 2017, and am now a licensed Social Worker for the state of Ohio. I am currently working for the City of Columbus at the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) as a Social Worker/Case Manager, and I'm loving it! The scholarship I received from Finch after graduating from Norwalk Community College was so instrumental, I'm forever grateful."



**Shaumane Paulk**

**Amey Shue** notes:



**Amey Shue**

Didactic Program in Dietetics. I am a non-traditional student who is pursuing a second career to accompany my massage therapy practice. I am passionate about health and wellness, food culture, sustainability, and the special senses of smell and taste. I am studying in Paris, France for my spring semester to explore these particular areas of interest. Upon graduating from NYU, I will apply to graduate school to pursue a Master's degree in Public Health, while simultaneously completing my Dietetic Internship. I will then write for the Registered Dietitian exam."

**Shirley Young** writes....

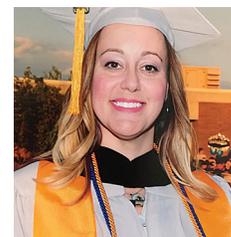
"I was working on an Associate's Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY, when I received a

scholarship from Finch College. After graduation in 2004, I transferred to Marymount College of Fordham University to complete my undergraduate work. Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast during my time at Marymount. I visited New Orleans for the first time about 6 weeks after Katrina, loved the people and the city, and wanted to be part of the rebuilding. I graduated from Marymount and Fordham with a BSW in 2006; I immediately applied for graduate studies at Tulane University School of Social Work and was accepted to the class of 2007 with advanced standing. In December 2007 I received my MSW and a certificate in Disaster Mental Health from Tulane. Since then, I qualified for the credentials, LCSW-BACS, in the State of Louisiana (Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Board Approved Clinical Supervisor.) I am employed full-time as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault at Metro Centers for Community Advocacy in Jefferson, Louisiana."



**Shirley Young**

**Margurite Rosania** says:



**Margurite Rosania**

I am a senior Law and Justice major in my final semester at Rowan University. I work full time and attend classes full time, so to say that I am eternally grateful that this is my final semester is an understatement. I have been an Executive assistant pretty much all of my life. It is where I am most comfortable. However, I hope to change that once I receive my Bachelor's degree. My plan is to work for Human Resources or perhaps Mediation in the future. Congratulations to everyone graduating this spring. We did it!

*Compiled by Aquella White, Finch Scholar*

## THE FINCH SALON SERIES: SEASON I



(Left to right) Pat F. Addiss, Eileen B. Sherman, and Magda S. Katz at Inaugural salon

The reviews are unanimous, and all agree! It's a definite "thumbs up" for our new Finch Salon Series.

"What's a Finch Salon?" you ask. Simply put, "An elegant cocktail party combined with a fascinating program, that highlights the careers of highly accomplished Finch women." This first season has its "finale episode" on May 10, with a focus on art and music. Truly, Season I was as diverse as it was fascinat-

ing. From the Broadway scene and entertainment interviews to New York real estate, to an inside look at television journalism and a highly successful culinary show on the web, Finch Salons never fail to entertain, instruct, and delight audiences.

Our incredible guest stars to date include **Pat Flicker Addiss, Magda Stark Katz, Sally Hallows, Peggy Wunderlich, Judy Kendall Levine,**

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# CLASS NOTES

## 60s

**Victoria Campbell Staniar**, a transfer student from the University of Miami (Florida), graduated from Finch in 1966. Vicki was a Psychology Major and hailed from Ft. Lauderdale, where she had attended a small private school (Pinecrest) from which she and **Wesley Cullen Davidson's** husband Sandy graduated. Wesley and Sandy recently had lunch with Vicki in Vero Beach, where Vicki was staying for two months. When not in Florida, Vicki is in Manhattan, New Jersey, or Cape Cod.

## 70s

**Franchelle Stewart Dorn's** performance in "20th Century Blues," billed as "Four Women, Four Lifetimes, One Camera," was reviewed by Alexis Soloski in *The New York Times*, on November 27, 2017. The show ran at the Pershing Square Signature Center in Manhattan until January 28, 2018. Franchelle's role was an investigative reporter who worried "that all this attention might resurrect something from the past."

A resident actor with the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, Franchelle was awarded The Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Supporting Actress, Resident Play, MORE. This Finch graduate is originally from Texas.

**Margaret Brown**, who entered Finch in 1968, writes that "Finch College challenged her to grow more than she imagined." She describes herself as growing up rather sheltered in West Hart-

ford, Connecticut and then witnessing, while at Finch, an after-dinner talk by The Black Panthers as well as an antiwar rally in Bryant Park. Margaret has remained friends with **Jamie Leaming Watson** and **Evelyn Lorentzen Bell**.

**Talmadge Ragan** was asked by the Finch Drama Department, led by Isaiah Sheffer and Mark Gordon, to write a story, a short play, or skit during the Women's Rights Movement. With other contributions from the Drama Department, her poem, "Tell Me," was included in the Finch show entitled "Some of My Best Friends Are Women." Gene Shalit, the NBC reviewer, liked the show. Later, a North Carolina newspaper picked up Talmadge's poem.

**Jenny Long Murphy**, a 1975 graduate of Finch, lives in Bellaire, Texas with her husband Ed, three children, and numerous pets. During the past six months, Jenny has helped in the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort as well as working at her father's art gallery, the Meredith Long Gallery, that has been in business for over 60 years!

**Laura Rubin Squire**, a 1974 graduate, spent one year while at Finch interning at a radio station and another at a television station. She became a syndicated columnist for Tribune Company's *Newsday* and credits that career begun at Finch as Arts Editor of the *Finch News*. Today, Laura is a broadcast stage manager at the Metropolitan Opera.

**Diane Cricchio** was so influenced by Finch that she named her daughter Raleigh Finch Di-erlam. Raleigh was her roommate at Finch and

you know where the Finch originated! This well-named daughter lives in Washington, while Diane lives in New York City.

**Patti Menkes** graduated from Finch in 1975; her roommate was **Hyla Miller Levine**. A Class President both freshman and sophomore years, Patti is an artist working from studios in Toronto and Florida. Her professional name is PA Sandler. Her work can be seen throughout the United States and Canada.

Patti married a Canadian property developer and moved to Toronto in 1977. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

## Condolences

Our condolences go to the family of **Emily Hamilton Puskar**, Finch Class of 1963. Emily passed away on April 3, 2017 at age 76. The daughter of the Director of Foreign Aid under John F. Kennedy, Emily spent most of her life in Greenwich, Connecticut, where she organized weekly morning prayer groups at the Episcopal Christ Church and was active in The Colonial Dames of Connecticut.

She is survived by her husband Valerian; sister Helen Hamilton; brother Milo Hamilton; son Michael; and daughter Katherine, Head of Content/Feature at *The Daily News*. Thanks to **Cindy Feinberg Megidoo**, a 1962 graduate, for sharing this news with our Finch family.

*Compiled by Wesley Cullen Davidson*

## IN MEMORIAM: Laura Rollins Hockaday

When **Laura Rollins Hockaday** passed away at age 79 on October 24, 2017, the Finch community lost a wonderful friend and a major contributor to its mission of providing opportunities for women who otherwise might not have the means to pursue their dreams of higher education.

Laura Hockaday, the older of two children of Mr & Mrs Burnham Hockaday of St. Louis, was born on June 25, 1938. She graduated from Finch in 1960. Her brother, John, died at age 21 in 1962, the same year Laura began her 38-year career at *The Kansas City Star*, writing on a variety of subjects. She was travel editor from 1975 to 1982, before reluctantly agreeing to become society editor, and only on the condition that she be permitted to define the word "society." For Laura, that meant reaching out to people in all parts of the city in order to fully represent its great diversity. She retired from *The Star* in 2000.

I first met Laura about 10 years ago when I joined the Finch College Alumni Association



Laura Rollins Hockaday

Foundation as a Lifetime Member. We hit it off right away. Whenever I wrote a piece for the *Finch News*, Laura was always the first to email me her congratulations on "another fine job."

Since I valued her judgment and admired her as both a friend and writer, her kind words and support always meant so much to me.

Several years ago, when Laura asked to interview me for the *Finch News*, she invited me to join her for lunch outdoors in Rockefeller Center. That day—just as she always did when visiting with the Finch group in New York—she had a pad and pencil in hand and a camera around her neck. It was so typical of Laura to always be prepared for that great Finch scoop or photo!

Laura was planning to attend Cosgrave 2018. Instead, her generous bequest of a cash gift to the Finch Foundation will be earmarked for future Finch scholarships as *The Laura Rollins Hockaday Scholarship*.

She is survived by her dear cousin, Irv Hockaday, his wife Ellen, and their daughters and sons-in-law and their families, as well as by an aunt and many other cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

*Article: Wendy Glickstein*

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: RENÉE PAPPAS

If a “Renaissance Woman” can be defined as an adult female who has acquired profound knowledge or proficiency in more than one field, then **Renée Pappas** has more than earned that distinction.

When Renée and I sat down recently over a three-hour lunch to chat about her interesting background, travels, and diverse accomplishments, I came away from our meeting, breathless—as if I had just disembarked from a whirlwind tour of “Around the World in One Hundred Eighty Minutes”!

Renée Diane Pappas was born into a Greek-American family in Chicago on March 18, 1947. After her dad died when she was 8 years old, she and her mom and younger sister, Connie, moved—first to Los Angeles, then to Huntington Beach in Orange County—where she attended Orange Coast Community College. After college, she became part of the behind-the-scenes music scene at a well-known local club, “The Golden Bear.”

In 1969 she began a career in the entertainment industry, first as an agent with IFA (International Famous Agency.) After a year and a half as their West Coast lecture agent—where her client roster included A Clockwork Orange author, Anthony Burgess, and actor Dennis Hopper—she left the Agency to become Director of Personal Appearances for The Beach Boys.

In 1972 she joined a company newly formed by music impresario, David Geffen, who guided the careers of such artists as The Eagles (“Hotel California”), Jackson Browne (“Running on Empty”), and Linda Ronstadt (“Blue Bayou”).

After her marriage to record producer and co-founder of Atlantic Records, Jerry Wexler, Renée moved to New York to resume her studies at Finch and Marymount Manhattan College, graduating from the latter with a BA in Liberal Arts with a major in History and a minor in Art History.

Having taken an interest and active role in helping to expand her husband’s vast art collection, which included works by Magritte, Picasso, Dali, and Edward Hopper, she became an Affiliate Member of the American Federation of Arts. She then joined the interior design firm of Scott-Ullman, working on the homes of Rupert Murdoch, concert promoter Bill Graham, and her good friend, Linda Ronstadt.

Renée moved to Greece in 1992 as a consultant for international productions such as George Lucas and Steven Spielberg’s “Young Indiana Jones” and as a gala fundraiser organizer for UNICEF and the National Gallery of Greece, as well as for a tribute gala for Vangelis, the Oscar-winning composer of “Chariots of Fire.”

In 1997 she served as the General Director of the Festival of Ancient Olympia, whose opening performance featured Mikhail Baryshnikov and his White Oak ballet company; she also assisted other Greek cultural institutions in promoting Greek art and culture internationally. From there, it was on to working in international print media, placing stories on her clients in The International



Renée Pappas

Herald Tribune, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, Time Magazine, Newsweek, The New York Times, and other major publications.

During the 2004 Olympics in Athens, she produced a live daily program for Bloomberg Television, which featured such guests as then Prime Minister, Costas Karamanlis. She also acted as a consultant to NBC’s The Today Show during their Olympics coverage. After various other stints, such as co-organizer of a Niarchos Foundation, Fulbright Foundation, and US Embassy lecture featuring 20th Century Fox Chairman, Jim Gianopulos, Renée moved back to Chicago to become Director of Development for the National Hellenic Museum.

In 2015, Renée curated “Visions of a Magic Time,” an exhibition that featured the photography of Pattie Boyd (former wife of Beatle George Harrison) at the Hilton Asmus Gallery. In 2016 she served as Benefit Chair for the first “Chicago Says No More; An Evening With Dee Dee Bridgewater” anti-domestic violence fundraising event.

After living in Chicago for four years, Renee relocated to Manhattan in 2017 and is currently Executive Producer for “Before the Flame Goes Out,” a documentary on the little-known Romaniote Jewish communities of New York City and Ioannina, Greece. She is also a consultant for the Paris-based Atelier 144 ([www.atelier144.com](http://www.atelier144.com)) representing their exhibition “Great Black Music” for its North American tour. For more information, you can reach Renée at: [reneedpappas@gmail.com](mailto:reneedpappas@gmail.com).

*Article by Wendy Glickstein*

*Photo courtesy of Renée Pappas*

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# 2018

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**Rita J. Thompson**, and **Nina Di-Giovanna LaBruna**. Up next are **Renée Pappas**, **Dr. Ronny Cohen**, and **Nohra Haime**, three shining stars from the music and visual art worlds, with more riveting and compelling interviews now being planned for Season II.

If in New York, these are evenings not to be missed. Thanks to the generosity of the Birch Wathen Lenox School, our series is set in the rooftop social hall of our friends at BWL, who also provide us a lavish cocktail party. If life should have you elsewhere, still no worries. Thanks to the professional expertise of **Magda Stark Katz** and the IT know-how of **Cheryl Deknatel**, we all will be able to enjoy videos of Season I on the Finch website beginning this summer.

Each Salon serves as a FCAAFT fundraiser for our scholarship program, and as an added bonus, at each salon, one of our very gifted Scholars donates a piece of her hand-made

art or crafts for our evening's raffle. Season I's offerings included two exquisite paintings and a crocheted doily courtesy of Finch Scholars **Razieh Arabi**, **Yehudis Moskovits**, and Carmen Guillen.

So, mark your calendars now, for Thursday, May 10, when we next meet at the BWL School (210 East 77th Street) for a unique and thoroughly enjoyable evening highlighting the extraordinary careers and life experiences of **Nohra Haime**, **Dr. Ronny Cohen**, and **Renée Pappas**. Tickets are a \$35.00 contribution for our Scholarship program, and reservations are required.

Feel free to invite friends and family. All are welcome. Send your checks to:  
FCAAFT  
Box 183  
954 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

See you this May!

Article:  
*Eileen Bluestone Sherman*

## FINCH FLORIDA GROUP REMAINS ACTIVE



The **Finch Florida Group** met for a luncheon at Pistache Restaurant in Palm Beach in November 2017, and in December was hosted by **Starr Ezra** at her lovely apartment in Miami Beach. Everyone enjoyed the get-togethers and also helped raise funds for another Finch scholarship.

*Contributed by Cheryl Deknatel*



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