

FINCH NEWS

April 2008

A Publication for Finch College Alumnae and Friends

Number 23

14th Annual Cosgrave Ceremony to Honor Six

Dr. Cynthia Wolk Nachmani, art history professor at Finch from 1971 until the college closed in 1975, will be honored with five alumnae at the 14th annual Cosgrave Awards dinner on Tuesday, May 13, at the Cosmopolitan Club in New York. The five alumnae are **Patricia Flicker Addiss**, **Hon. Maria DiGiovanna**, **Audrey Greene**, **Joyce Nounou Reuben** and **Yvonne Hammond Roome**. Funds raised at the awards event will go to the Finch College Alumnae Association Foundation, which annually provides scholarships to women who wish to continue their education from a two-year to a four-year college.

Cynthia Nachmani graduated Phi Beta Kappa from New York University, where she received her B.A., Master's and Ph.D. degrees in art history. To work on her *doctorate* she went to London to study 19th century architecture. It was 1967 and the city was swinging with the Rolling Stones and the Beatles. Her teaching career has taken her to Rutgers College, CUNY and the Museum of Modern Art, where she supervised staff, wrote grants and started her own lecture group for women. Today she conducts private adult classes in art, architecture and film and leads study trips abroad.

For 30 years **Pat Addiss** (Finch 1949-51) operated Pat Addiss Enterprises Inc., which she founded in 1973. She

Tea at the Mayor's

A group of alumnae met in October 2007 for a tour and tea at Gracie Mansion, organized by Elise Smith and Marjorie Schulman. After viewing the rooms and art collection, they enjoyed a lecture about tea, given by Plaza Hotel tea consultant Ellen Easton. She shared some tea history and noted that in the past, teas were held by the suffragettes as a way of allowing women to gather and organize without incurring the suspicions of their husbands.

Don't Miss the JESSICA COSGRAVE AWARDS

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Cocktail Reception 6-8 p.m.; Dinner 8 p.m.
Cosmopolitan Club, 122 East 66th Street, NYC
Tickets: 212-288-5653

designed and produced promotional logos and other items, ranging from note pads to rocking chairs, and had them manufactured for companies and non-profit organizations throughout the United States. Five years ago Pat handed her business to her daughter so she could immerse herself in another passion: theater. She has been a producer of several Broadway shows, including *Spring Awakening*, *39 Steps*, and *Passing Strange*. She is presently working on three productions and is a member of the Broadway League, whose members vote on the Tony Awards.

Maria DiGiovanna Fitzsimmons, "Chicky" as she was known at Finch (1958-62), managed both marriage and studies at Finch. In her senior year she received the Psychology Award and also headed the Finch Ball. She went on to earn her Master's in psychology but then



Gracie Mansion

Cosgrave Awards (continued)

decided on law school. She was a US Assistant Attorney General from 1973-79 and served as a Workers' Compensation Law Judge from 1979 to 1994. In her latter role she handled 60 to 80 cases a day, kind of like "Judge Judy," she says. Multi-talented, Chicky has her own TV show, "Upside of 50," in Monmouth County, NJ, where she lives, and she sings in jazz clubs throughout New York City under her stage name, Maria Jovan.

While at Finch (1951-53), **Audrey Greene** enlisted as a volunteer at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital as a college community service project. She is still there, but as a veteran staff member of 55 years. From 1959 to 1987 she was director of the medical record department and managed a staff of 18. Since 1987 she has served as medical information auditor. In 1985 she was elected president of the 700-member Greater New York Medical Record Association, serving for one year. In 2003 she received the Distinguished Member Award from the Health Information Medical Record Association of New York City. For nearly 10 years, Audrey has volunteered as secretary of the both Finch College Alumnae Association and the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Joyce Nounou Reuben graduated from Finch in 1972 and soon moved to London to study interior design. But even before arriving at Finch, Joyce had experienced quite a bit of the world. She was born in Teheran, Iran, of Iraqi/Jewish heritage. She attended an American missionary school before moving to France when she was 15. She met her husband in London and since their marriage in

1973, she has put her interior decorating skills to work, refurbishing apartments in connection with her husband's real estate business. In the early 1990s, Joyce's family was among the first Westerners to develop a trade in metals with the former Soviet Union. She and her husband, who maintain homes in London and on the French Riviera, are major benefactors of internationally-known hospitals, such as the Mayo Clinic and London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, the largest treatment center in Europe for children with cancer.

Singing has been part of **Yvonne Roome's** life since she was 10 years old and asked to perform on the New York radio show where her mother gave fashion commentaries in Swedish. Yvonne was nine when she settled in New York from her native Stockholm. At Finch (1958-60) she majored in radio and television under William Post, Jr. Effervescent and at home in the spotlight, the jazz vocalist has graced the stage of New York nightclubs and Finch living rooms to the delight of her audiences. Her career has created close ties with celebrities in the entertainment world, including Lester Lanin, Helen Merrill, Celeste Holm, and Henny Youngman. Yvonne has eight CD albums to her credit and was nominated for a Grammy Award in 1997. Fluent in several languages, she maintains homes in New York and Portugal, where she hosted Finch alumnae and guests last fall.

Laura Hockaday

Photo Gallery Gracie Mansion (continued)



Gracie Mansion's historic foyer



Elise Smith, coorganizer of the Gracie Mansion tour

Grant Recipient Tiffany Cotier Says "Thank you"

Editors Note: Tiffany Cotier, who received a Finch Grant in 2006 when she graduated from Queensborough Community College (QCC) is now a senior at Hunter College. She delivered this speech, which has been edited, in November 2007 to those attending Carloyn and Marshall Mount's African Art exhibit at QCC.

When I first read the applicant criteria for the Finch College Alumnae Foundation Education Grant, I felt an immediate sense of confidence and pride. Confident



because the very specific criteria seemed to be created just for me, a woman over the age of 22 enrolled in my second year at a community college in the tri-state area, with a GPA over 3.5 who planned to continue her education at a four-year school. Proud because it became apparent that someone out there, namely the Finch College Alumnae, felt that I had done something special and worthy of reward.

With this grant, the Finch College Alumnae Association has demonstrated that it understands

that circumstances can sometimes delay educational endeavors. By seeking out community college students in particular, it has also demonstrated a firm belief that great potential can be found here.

While I was attending Queensborough it was necessary for me to work full time in order to finance my education

and pay the rest of my bills; but now, thanks to the generosity of Finch College Alumnae and others, I was able to quit my job and concentrate all of my efforts on my studies.

I am proud to say that since I have transferred to Hunter, I have continued to excel, maintaining a 3.9 GPA and gaining invaluable volunteer experience in three different areas of veterinary medicine; experience that I am positive will influence my ability to gain admission into a veterinary school.

A grant is an amazing gift. For me personally, finances have been the biggest obstacle in my pursuit of a college education. Finances are what forced me to withdraw from college when I initially enrolled after high school, and the reason I was unable to return to school for four years. The thoughtfulness and generosity of the Association allows serious students like myself to make education our priority regardless of our financial situation, and for that, I will always be grateful. I look forward to informing the alumnae of my acceptance into veterinary school in a few months, as I am now confident that I will be accepted. I also look forward to returning the favor in the future by giving back to the Finch College Alumnae Association so that it may continue to impact the lives of other women as magnificently as it has impacted mine.

Thank you.



BWL Awards 2nd Finch Scholarship



Stephanie See, this year's recipient of the Finch College Alumnae Award for women in leadership, given to a middle school student at Birch Wathen Lenox School, is shown with family and Cynthia Van Dorn.

Dr. Mount Lectures on his Collection



Dr. Mount lectures to alumnae and friends at A Cameroon World: Art and Artifacts from the Marshall & Caroline Mount Collection, held in November 2007 at Queensborough Community College Art Gallery.

Finch Goes to Portugal: A Travel Journal

During October 2007, six Finch women and several husbands arrived in Portugal for a six-night adventure. United by their positive memories of Finch College and passion for foreign travel, they came by invitation of Yvonne Roome who organized a tour of her adopted country.

Wesley and Sandy Davidson, Cheryl and Jan Deknatel, Magda and Bob Katz, Barbara Piermont, Virginia and Ed Sheerin, and Hubert and Vilma Wiesenmaier, resided at the Hotel Baia, facing Cascais Bay in a quaint fishing village, less than an hour from Lisbon. We ate together nightly trying such native treats as sardines, local sea bass called robalo, and local wines. A stroll after dinner on Cascais's cobblestoned streets usually ended up at the gelato store.

On the Estoril Coast in Quincho, with the thunderous Atlantic surf below, Yvonne arranged an elegant dinner at Hotel Muchaxo our first night. The next day, we traveled by bus to Azeitao where the Jose Maria da Fonseca family has been making wine for generations. Our guide graciously gave us samples of red wine and the famous dessert wine, Moscatel de Setubal. We were also treated to queijo fresco, a delicious white cheese made with goat's milk.

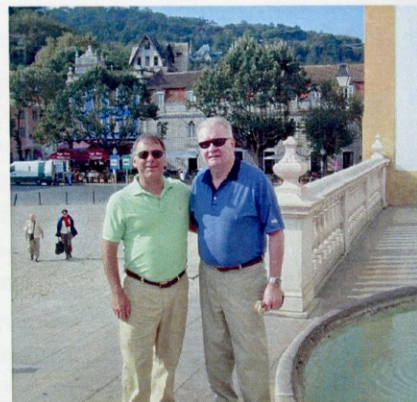
Afterwards, we went over the Arrabida Mountain, a Natural Park, where we saw hang gliders off the cliffs, surfers below, and castles above. After a curvy, scenic route, we arrived at Pousada de Palmela, a former convent, that dates back to the 12th century, with Roman archaeological remains on the property. Pousadas are government-run inns that are reinvented monasteries and convents. Here, just outside of Setubel, we had a four-course lunch that included the traditional dish, cod, and a sweet dessert made of egg whites and ground almonds whose recipe Magda had to have!

On Sunday, many of us walked to nearby Estoril. On the way, we stopped into the Casa de Santa Maria (1902-1918) situated between the Santa Maria Lighthouse and Pedra do Caalo facing the sea. This Mediterranean style house has Moorish arches and extensive use of 17th centu-



At the home of Manuel da Silva (center) with Wilma Wiesenmaier, Yvonne Roome, Magda Katz, Cheryl Deknatel, Virginia Sheerin, Barbara Piermont, and Wesley Davidson.

ry tiles. Further down the road, we quenched our thirst on the terrace of the grand hotel Villa de Italia. Later, we dined at Furnas do Guincho restaurant on their covered porch while we were spritzed with rain for about 20 minutes, the only rain we had on an otherwise sunny vacation!



Bob Katz and Ed Sheerin

On the return trip, we stopped at a local flea market and roadside stalls where Vilma spotted good bargains in sheets and towels.

Next day, we took a bus to Sintra, a charming village that was the playground and hunting ground of the Portuguese royalty. No wonder English poets such as Byron were attracted to its beauty! We toured the National Palace of Sintra with its deceptively plain Gothic façade that belies an opulent interior. The Palace, dating from the late 14th century, was the summer retreat for Portuguese royalty until the 1880s. The ceilings were impressive, particularly in *Saladas Armas, which contained coats of arms of 72 noble families.* The Saladas Pegas has an interesting, amusing history: Apparently King Dom Joao I (1385-1433) had an affair with a lady-in-waiting. As the court ladies were gossiping about his dalliance, the King got annoyed and ordered magpies, symbols of loose-tongued ladies, painted on the ceiling, one for each court lady.

Over the Sintra Mountain, through the woods to hostess Yvonne's we go!

Yvonne, who lives in the artistic village of Azoia, had us over to her 400 year-old native stone house. In her downstairs den that once housed a donkey, her cute white Lhasa Apso, XuXu, resides. We had an aperitif at her charming home and met her friends, Lynn, originally from California, and her husband, Diego, an architect from Puerto Rico, and were introduced to Swiss neighbors Paul and Jean Pierre. Later, we walked down to a fine restaurant, Refugio da Roca, where we dined on langoustes, crayfish the size of lobsters, shishkebob hung on sticks from the ceiling, and desserts that included Yvonne's favorite, a mousse type made of caramel and egg whites. Manuel da Silva, a well-known artist, also an ex-Californian, joined us as he did the first night. Afterwards, we went to his home whose façade reads Terra, Ciel, & Mar (Earth, Sky, & Sea).

On Tuesday, we set out by bus to Lisbon to view the Gulbenkian Museum, the Jeronimos Monastery and the Belem Tower. The Gulbenkian, an award-winning architectural museum contains one man's astonishing collection.



Wesley Davidson, Barbara Piermont, Virginia Sheerin, Yvonne Roome, and Vilma Wiesenmaier

One part is devoted to Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Islamic, and Asian art and the other to European artists such as Rubens, Turner, Rembrandt as well as art nouveau jewelry. Mr. Gulbenkian, who was born in Istanbul in 1869, was an oil magnate, and lucky for Lisbon that it received his collection which also includes Marie Antoinette's original chair (the French got the copy), priceless Persian rugs, and coins to rival the Getty Museum in California.

We were fortunate to have a knowledgeable guide who spoke very good English for the tour of Lisbon. We went to the *Jeronimous Monastery* (1388-1533) where the explorer Vasco de Gama was buried, Henry the Navigator (1394-1460), as well as King Emanuel. An example of late Gothic architecture called the Manueline style (1495-1521), this limestone and marble former Monastery contained such details on the ornate columns as palm trees, marine motifs - evidence of the explorers's travels to Asia, India, and Africa.

Nearby we went to Belem Tower, which has served as a custom control post, a telegraph station, a lighthouse and a prison. We also discovered in Belem the divine pastries de nata, custard tarts with flaky light pastry encasing creamy egg custards and sprinkled with cinnamon. After lunch, we went to the National Museum of Azuelo where we learned how azuelos were made (colored stones that were first introduced by the Moors in the 8th century with classic geometric design).

Later, we explored on foot, up very steep steps, through alleys and narrow streets, the Alfamo, the old part of the city. Here, the outside of the homes remains the same as they had been, while the insides are being restored. When most of Lisbon was destroyed in the infamous 1755 earthquake, Alfamo survived.

After a brief rest, we dressed up and met Yvonne at Estoril's Casino, one of the largest in Europe. After dinner, we watched a show that incorporated music, a clown, fire, water, dancers, elaborate costumes and acrobats on swings—a performance reminiscent of Cirque du Soleil. Afterwards, we gambled and Virginia's right arm won her

some money at the slot machine and Sandy won \$200 or so playing craps.

The next day, in two cars with English guides, some of us, headed north along the coast to Obidos, a medieval town that is totally surrounded by castle walls. There are shops that sell handicrafts, a famous cherry liqueur, a pou-sada, and St. Mary's Church, lined with azueloes, which used to be a Visigoth temple in the 8th century.

We continued on to the Bay of Nazare, a picturesque fishing village where we saw mackerel drying on open wooden racks on the beach, and a well-seasoned woman, deboning the fish with one hand, in record time.

From Nazare, we went to Fatima, the famous Roman Catholic pilgrimage site. The Chapel of the Apparition, a 20th century structure built on the site where the appearances of the Virgin Mary are said to have taken place, was having services. Today, devotees still go the last few miles on their knees over the stone!

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a farewell dinner with Yvonne in Cascais in the Hotel Albatroz's private dining room in. Once the summer home of the dukes of Loule, Albatroz regaled us while Yvonne, goaded on, provided the entertainment: no, not singing this time, but tales of her auspicious beginnings as a four-year-old performer in Sweden, to her days at the McDuffy School in Massachusetts where she was awarded a prize for posture, and was told her voice was too strong for the Glee Club. Next, this raconteur spoke of her salad days in New York, her career at Radio Free Europe, her colorful husbands, and of finding her way to Portugal.

Fortified with a little history, good food and company, we reluctantly returned to our everyday lives, a little richer for our wonderful trip, thanks to this indomitable Finch graduate's hospitality.

Wesley Cullen Davidson



Class Notes

'50s

Adelaide Farah is group editorial director of *Beauty Fashion Magazine*, a trade publication. When **Nina DiGiovanna LaBruna** and **Barbara Glickman** were at The Cardinal's Luncheon benefit they were surrounded by paparazzi, who were attracted to Barbara's glamorous broad brimmed chapeau. A photo with them and former Governor George Pataki appeared in *The Sun* the following day. **Nancy Azara's** latest art exhibit took place in January at the A.I.R. Gallery in Chelsea, NYC. Inspired by the birth of her granddaughter, it is a powerful grouping of 20 wooden monument forms. The exhibit, "Maxi Wall/Fierce Gathering," continues through October 2008 in the lobby of 340 Madison Avenue, between 43 and 44 Streets. **Ina Harbolick Callery** retired as an executive assistant to human resources and public relations at NYNEX, and moved to DeWitt, NY.

'60s

Karen Greenstein Rosner reports she attended Columbia Teachers College on a fellowship and received her doctorate in 1979. She worked at City College School of Education, then at The Shield Institute for 30 years. Karen said, "I strongly believe my years at Finch gave me the foundation for my personal and professional life." **Jamee Jacobs Field** worked at *Town and Country* before marrying and having three children. She is active in her community in Lake Forest, IL and serves on several boards. **Susan Safran Hermanos** works as a researcher in the drawings and print department at the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York.

'70s

NY Women in Communications honored **Joannie Plevritis Danielides** in April 2008 with the Matrix Award, presented for extraordinary achievement in the communications industry. Joannie heads Danielides Communications, Inc. An Associated Press article on the reopening of New York's Plaza Hotel reports the appointment of **Ellen Epstein Easton** as The Plaza's tea consultant. Ellen said, "Whether or not you can afford The Plaza's \$1000-a-night room rates, the \$60 tea is an affordable luxury." Actress **Isabella Rossellini** has been hired by the Italian government to be the "face" in their advertising campaign aimed to revive the Italian fashion industry. Isabella urges Americans to "let yourself be charmed by an Italian."

Faculty

Carol Hawkes is in the midst of an exciting project at School of the Visual and Performing Arts at Western Connecticut State University. Now the art, music, and theatre arts departments are all housed together, and it's Carol's job as founding dean to establish a distinctive identity for the school. It draws faculty from New York, holds an annual exhibition of MFA students' work in a New York gallery, sponsors an annual New York theater showcase, and a biennial production at the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland.

In Memoriam

Suzanne Pleshette, a Cosgrave Award winner and famed actress died in January at the age of 70 after a battle with lung cancer. Known for major roles on television, in film and theater, she became nationally famous in the 1970s for her starring role on *The Bob Newhart Show*, playing the star's wife.

Ms. Pleshette starred in several movies, the best known of which was Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* (1963). For her work in TV, she was nominated for an Emmy Award four times: *Dr. Kildare* (1962), twice for *The Bob Newhart Show* (1977 and 1978) and in 1991 for playing the title role in the television movie *Leona Helmsley: The Queen of Mean*. On Broadway, she was best known for her role as Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, replacing Anne Bancroft. In 1959 she appeared in *Golden Fleece*, opposite Tom Poston, whom she would marry more than four decades later. Mr. Poston accompanied her to New York when she received the Cosgrave Award several years ago. Before attending Finch, Ms. Pleshette attended the New York High School of Performing Arts and Syracuse University.

Finch College Encounters

In December, at The New York Junior League holiday luncheon, **Sally Kraftmeyer Hallows**, **Phyllis Gregory Heard '46**, visiting from TN, and **Lois Moran Ziegler**, were seated together serendipitously.

When **Ceil Gavin Ainsworth** and **Frances Fish Tompkins** were visiting Nohra Haime's booth at Art Basel in Miami, they ran into **Dr. Ronny Cohen**, art specialist and author from New York, and **Audrey Schlang Diamond**, owner and publisher of *Art of the Times* from Palm Beach. **Vilma Polankova Wiesenmaier** also showed up with her art student daughter and **Virginia Sheerin** drove down from Jupiter for a day of art and to get together with everybody.

A third gathering, also in Florida, **Wesley Cullen Davidson**, who recently moved to Vero Beach, **Virginia Sheerin**, and **Cheryl Young Deknatel**, who was visiting, all dined together with their spouses.

Letter from the President

Dear Finch friends,

May is always an important month for us as we honor our Cosgrave Award winners. Next year, on May 19, we are planning an extra special "Sweet Sixteen" award ceremony, celebrating our Association's 16th anniversary.

I am sure many of you will be as excited as I am when you read about various activities planned for our upcoming October reunion in Kansas City. Our organizers are putting together an unforgettable program and my hotel room is already booked!

As you read through this issue of our *Finch News*, you will once again realize what enthusiasm we have and how wonderful activities are enjoyed by our alumni.

And when you read the comments of one of our scholarship recipients, Tiffany Cotier, you will also see how meaningful we are to the young women who receive our foundation grants (see p. 3). The fact that we can contribute in this way and have a great time doing it is part of what makes our Finch family so special.

I look forward to reconnecting with many of you this month and in October in Kansas City. "Kansas City, Here We Come."

Sincerely,

Cheryl YOUNG Deknatel '70

Become a member of The Ineamus Meliora Society

All dues-paying alumnae are eligible to become members of the newly created Ineamus Meliora Society. With a minimum contribution of \$500 (in addition to your \$300 dues), you will help the Finch College Alumnae Association award more grants and scholarships to deserving women and you will enjoy unique benefits. All new members receive a package of Margaret Nakamura's beautiful Finch College note cards as a special thank you gift and invitations to members' only events. Your contribution is fully tax deductible. Join today.



Donna Miller Casey
Eileen Bluestone Sherman
Darcie Denkert
Joan A. Haris
Nohra Haime
Jamee Jacobs Fields
Freear Pollard Barnwell
Frances Tompkins
Evelyn Lorentzen-Bell
Susie Salomon
Marjorie Schulman

We're Goin' to Kansas City: You Should Come Too!

Shea Gordon Festoff, Laura Hockaday and Eileen Bluestone Sherman will welcome fellow Finch alumnae, their spouses and friends to Kansas City in Fall 2008. The weather should be beautiful. Midwest Airlines has direct flights to and from Kansas City out of New York's LaGuardia Airport. Taxis and shuttles are available at Kansas City International Airport to the Country Club Plaza, a shopping and residential area where rooms have been reserved at the InterContinental Hotel. All rooms have balconies overlooking the Plaza, modeled after Seville, Spain.

DATES

Wednesday, Oct. 29, to Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008.

Hotel rooms, single or double, are \$206/ night, including tax and one Continental breakfast. For reservations, ask for the Finch College Alumnae Group by contacting Pam Henuber, group coordinator, at the hotel: 816-303-2934.

Cocktails and dinner at the InterContinental on day of arrival.

HIGHLIGHTS

Tours of Truman Presidential Library and Museum, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art with world-renowned new contemporary Bloch Building, American Royal (founded in 1899 as national livestock and horse show), National World War I Museum and Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art; visit to a historic home.

Reception at Shea's art studio, breakfast at Eileen's home, dinner at Kansas City Country Club (hosted by Laura) and farewell dinner at American Restaurant (Kansas City's finest).

For information and all questions at all, call Laura at: 816-531-9412.

Do you want to go to Mali with Dr. Mount?

Dr. Marshall Mount, art historian and collector of African art extraordinaire, has offered to act as our guide to Mali in January 2009.

We need a group of at least 15 participants to work out a detailed itinerary that will include a visit to Timbuktu, seeing the Dogon people in their cliff dwellings, and spending a few days in Marrakesh, Morocco before heading home. The trip will be for approximately 12 days with an anticipated cost of \$5000 per person.

Please contact Cheryl Deknatel soon, if you are interested. E-mail: jandcdeknatel@yahoo.com