



## Cosgrave Honorees ~ A Pyramid of Finch Pride



2019 Cosgrave Honorees (left to right) Tara Ana Finley, Michele Brown Sibeud, Linda Purl, Susan Lynn Zimet Cole, Dr. Emilie Colahan Jackson, Jill Waldheim Chamberlain and Carol Ann Rinzler

Seven Cosgrave Award recipients were honored at our 25th Annual Cosgrave dinner at the NYC Cosmopolitan Club on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. A warm welcome, combined with a convivial cocktail hour preceded the awards ceremony. We're delighted to share excerpts from the Honorees' inspiring speeches.

**DR. EMILIE COLAHAN JACKSON,**  
Faculty Honoree

"Finch has such a unique place in my heart because I met so many wonderful friends there--both faculty and students."

Dr. Jackson shared that her "fondest memories were discussions about the

meaning of life and Existentialism in the Finch dining hall; learning to dance in Betty Lowe's ballet class; and studying Contract Law with a Professor who was a Holocaust survivor. Her courage was so inspirational that it defined my resolve for the rest of my career."

Dr. Jackson felt "honored to head the Finch International Study Program in Europe." Dr. Jackson's career progressed from teaching French, to working as an International Consultant, to becoming a leading businesswoman at Union Carbide and later as President of the Wathne sisters' Ralph Lauren Luggage and Handbag business and eventually, serving as President of Wathne

Limited. Retiring in 2011, Dr. Jackson navigated a barge through European canals before reaching Paris, spending two years there with her husband prior to his death.

"Finch taught us to be brave and strong thinkers. I couldn't have done all the things I did without the love and encouragement of my late husband, of my documentary filmmaker daughter, Emilie Blake Jackson, and of Robert, my rock and significant other. Together we spend most of the year in

Southampton and the other part in San

Continued on following page

## SAVE THE DATES FOR FINCH EVENTS: 2019 - 2020

**FINCH SALONS AND COCKTAIL RECEPTIONS\*** (5:00-7:30pm) **2019 FINCH FALL EVENTS** posted on back cover  
Thursdays: September 19, 2019 and April 2, 2020

**General Finch Membership Meetings** (6:00-7:00pm)  
Wednesdays November 13, 2019 and March 11, 2020

**Above events held at Birch Wathen Lenox School:**  
210 E. 77 Street, NYC (\*Salons held in Rooftop Social Hall)

**2020 Annual Cosgrave Award Celebration**  
Tuesday, May 19, 2020  
**NYC Cosmopolitan Club, 122 E. 66 Street, NYC**

Keep [finchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:finchassoc@gmail.com) current with your email so that we can keep you updated

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Miguel de Allende, Mexico where we operate an Airbnb. My special thanks to all the Finch friends who inspired me and catapulted me into a successful business career and a life that has never been dull. And it all started at Finch College!”

### JILL W. CHAMBERLAIN

Jill said that “being a Finch student was one of the best times of my life. As an English literature major, I was lucky to have outstanding professors such as Dr. Ardelle Stryker and Dr. Jane Ross who helped me find my voice and taught me that my opinion mattered.”

After graduating from Finch, Jill attended the Publishing Procedures course at Radcliffe College. Her career in medical publishing took her around the globe, including a ten-year stint with WebMD and the establishment of her own freelance business. Jill married, divorced and raised two adopted children. “Throughout the many decades since Finch, I have been sustained and encouraged by my friendships with many Finch friends who, today, remain a constant. I am excited and heartened to know that the legacy continues and that our many wonderful scholarship recipients will continue to carry the torch.”

### SUSAN LYNN COLE

Susan Cole fondly recalled: “Dr. Mount was my favorite teacher” and Finch “gave me the confidence to be an independent and free thinker.” Deciding from a young age that she wanted to attend Finch, she earned an A.A. in Early Childhood Education. After the birth of her daughter, Susan returned to Finch, earning a B.A. in Art History. She spent many years establishing and designing Rolling Meadows Farm, a state-of-the-art equestrian facility in Saratoga, NY, where she also initiated a riding program for disabled children, and

hosted fundraising events for St. Jude Children’s hospital. Susan is currently enjoying life in North Palm Beach, Florida.

### TARA ANA FINLEY

Gratefully acknowledging her time at Finch, Tara said: “My four years at Finch College were supported and inspired by exceptional teachers, class offerings, the college admissions staff and fellow students who placed me on the path for a fulfilling auction house and appraisal career.”

In 2000, after more than thirty years in the NYC auction world, including positions at Sotheby’s, Christie’s and Phillips, where she became the first woman gallery director and auctioneer, Tara moved to Florida to run a Miami auction house. In 2003 she established her own appraisal firm, Anubis Appraisal and Estate Services. “All of these opportunities and many more exciting years of fulfilling assignments and growing friendships have resulted from my years at Finch.” Her message is: “If you never waiver while following your educational dream, you will succeed!”

### LINDA PURL

“I didn’t know Mrs. Cosgrave but I have the feeling we all would have liked her. I know we all owe her a debt of gratitude. I certainly do.” Recalling Jessica Cosgrave’s advocacy for women’s education and empowerment, Linda said she personally “found that philosophy very much in action when I attended Finch.” When her acting schedule conflicted with her school schedule, Linda acknowledged the willingness of Finch teachers to adjust her test-taking schedule and today realized that, in hindsight, she felt that Finch was saying “go for it, anything is possible, the sky’s the limit.”

Spending more time in New York City these days, reconnecting with friends and making new Finch connections, Linda said she feels “proud to be a part of the multi-faceted legacy of our school as it continues to support young women achieve their dreams at a time in life when they most need the support. Just the kind of unique support we were all so fortunate to have at Finch.”

### CAROL ANN RINZLER

“I remember my Finch professor, Jean Ellis, whose enthusiasm for history was contagious. Marshall Mount taught me art as history, a theme I revisit each time I see *The Market Woman* at the Met. But I owe a special debt to Rosa Trillo Clough,

a very proper lady who stopped me half way through my presenting a paper linking Modigliani’s painting of women with very long necks to a theory of his severing intellect from sexuality.” It was through Dr. Clough that Carol landed a summer job working for the History Chair at Columbia University, where Carol attended graduate school. Later, Carol married the man who hired her to write a newsletter at a Fortune 500 company. Carol and her husband, also a writer, both worked at home and as Carol reminisced: “There was a wonderful moment around 5 each afternoon, when I was done for the day and he was still working, as I walked through the living room on the way to the kitchen to make dinner and thought every time, ‘This is magic’. And every time, I thought of Rosa Clough and how she had set me on the path.”

### MICHELE BROWN SIBEUD

“It is wonderful to see so many of you here tonight to help the Finch Alumnae group raise funds for community college students.” Michelle remembered: “Our outstanding teachers were all in New York for either study or work. They were tops in their fields. Mr. Tomasini had us all wanting to major in the History of Art. I worked in the library for Mr. Shirley, who convinced me that I should apply to the Columbia School of Library Science and I am forever grateful to him for that.” Michele embarked on a career in the library field, followed by volunteer fundraising at schools and currently, volunteer work at two gardens in the Hamptons. Recalling her years working for the Princeton University Press preparing and submitting books for U.S. copyright, Michele discovered it is “truly amazing what people can find to write about. The most difficult books to copyright were Einstein’s works.” Michele proudly shared: “My greatest accomplishments are the wonderful friends we have. My terrific family, Jacques, my one and only husband of 55 years, my two daughters and their husbands and our adorable outstanding 6 grandchildren, 22 years old down to 11 years. What more could anyone ask for?” Michele elicited laughs from the audience when, recalling her Finch years and enjoying visits to art galleries, the Metropolitan Museum, the Stork Club and PJ Clarke’s, added that at the Café Carlyle, “the Brandy Alexanders were to die for!”

Edited by Agnes Birnbaum



**Finch College Alumnae Association Proposed Candidate  
Jessica Cosgrave Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Deadline JANUARY 19, 2020**

Criteria: The nominee should be a respected and distinguished dues-paying Finch Alumna who has achieved a significant contribution in public life, the arts, business and/or volunteer work in her community. The selected nominee is required to be present to receive the award at the Jessica Cosgrave Awards Ceremony. The awards dinner will be on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

**Name of Candidate** \_\_\_\_\_

**Years Attended** \_\_\_\_\_ **Degree** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity/Profession** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ATTACH TO THIS FORM A ONE PAGE STATEMENT** indicating the activities and achievements of the candidate since leaving Finch. Note any specific achievements, awards and honors. The completed application should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation in support of the candidate from another individual.

**Submitted by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Years Attended** \_\_\_\_\_ **Degree** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to: Jessica Cosgrave Awards Committee  
Finch College Alumnae Association  
Box 183  
954 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10021**

# Introducing the 2019 Finch Scholars

*Thanks to our many generous friends and donors, a record number of Finch College Foundation Scholarships totaling \$90,000 have been awarded in 2019 alone*

## **ELIZABETH BARDWIL-LUGONES**

Westchester Community College to SUNY Purchase  
The Suzanne Stern Salomon Scholarship



Long suffering in high school from depression, Elizabeth entered Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY as a Chemical

Engineering major but was soon forced to take a medical leave to seek help. After entering Westchester Community College, she took a total of three courses during her first and second semesters while working full-time at a restaurant. With newly acquired self-confidence, she excelled in school, earning PTK membership and becoming Vice President of Honors in Action. Educating the campus by focusing on access to water availability as a basic human right, she raised funds to develop wells in Sudan, and received The Rice Family Foundation Technology Scholarship.

While working as a summer intern at the New York Power Authority in White Plains, she developed a passion for biochemistry. She was selected for The Katherine Davis Global Community Scholars Program and is a member of the student government executives board. Elizabeth looks forward to pursuing research studies in infectious diseases.

## **TANINA HABIB**

Queensborough Community College to Queens College  
The Lois Chiles Scholarship



Since Tanina's high school grades were not always very "high," she attended a technical institute while working as a hairdresser. She loved teaching hairdresser students and was encouraged by the support of her husband to pursue her studies. After taking some remedial classes, she was accepted at Queensborough Community College where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA, is a PTK member, has made Dean's List and has had her poetry published. Transferring to Queens College this fall, her goal is to teach language in middle school, eventually earning her PhD.



## **LAMIA HAUTER**

LaGuardia community College to Queens College  
The Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship

After the death of her father, family care responsibilities interrupted Lamia's education. She volunteered at an organization for Syrian refugees to help them empower their lives. Graduating as one of the top 10 students in Yemen and passionate about biology, her current goal is to become an OBGYN with a view toward helping families with genetic differences create families. She

teaches Arabic as a second language and volunteers as a students' tutor, as well as at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, NY. She also volunteers in assisting immigrants to obtain American citizenship and helps them to earn a GED certificate.



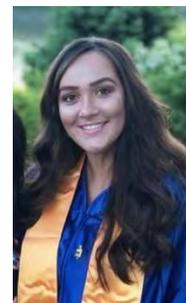
## **SARRA HAYOUNE**

Hudson County Community College to Stevens Institute of Technology (NJ)

The Richard Gilder Scholarship

Sarra is a computer sciences major who has been very active in volunteering, tutoring students, and providing leadership to many STEM groups. Her activities include assembling drones and robots, coding sessions and creating a 3-D workshop. She is a member of PTK and has participated in the prestigious Goldman Sachs local college collaborative program. Sarra is a member of The Research Experiences for Undergraduates program and an astrophysics intern at The American Museum of Natural History where she conducts research. Sarra is married and has a 4-year-old son.

## **MARITA HYSENIAJ**



Dutchess Community College to SUNY New Paltz  
The Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarship

At the urging of her father, Marita was the first in her family to attend college. She was disinterested in her

studies and did poorly. While her friends enjoyed worthwhile careers, she was underachieving in menial jobs. Starting over at Dutchess Community College, she is now a member of PTK and is on the Dean's List. After working as a student teacher at The Goddard School, she is now well on her way to earning her Bachelor's and Master's degrees as an elementary school teacher.

**RIVKA MANDEL**

Rockland Community College to Columbia University The Finch College Alumni Foundation Scholarship



Rivka was always an inquisitive child. Raised in a

Hasidic Jewish family in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, she would eavesdrop whenever her father educated her brother in ultra-orthodox teaching. When she was in eighth grade, her family moved to the Kiryas Joel Satmar Hasidic sect enclave in Orange County, NY. Her parents married her off when she was 17, and she had to work to pay her parents off for the wedding. She and her husband have a daughter and a son. As her children entered school, Rivka entered Rockland County Community College. She is now part of the Honors Program, is a member of the debate team, and is preparing for a future in law and philosophy.

**KELLY OTTERNESS**

Borough of Manhattan Community College to Smith College The Lois



**Chiles Scholarship**

Kelly is a writing and literature major with a 4.0 GPA. After withdrawing from the University of Montana due to emotional problems, she took menial jobs and, while volunteering in a school, she realized the importance of having a solid education. After joining the Civic Leadership Club, she worked tirelessly for strict gun control laws and women's rights. At Smith College, she plans to study creative writing and acting as a member of the Five College Consortium's filmmaking club.

**MIRIAM PALMA**

Borough of Manhattan Community College to NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study The Laura Rollins Hockaday Scholarship



After working as a career woman as well as having been a full-time parent of three children for eight years, Miriam went back to school at age 42. Having been educated in Italy, she left college to apprentice as a journalist there, becoming a professional journalist, before arriving in the United States as an intern with The Associated Press. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA, is a member of PTK and plans to continue her studies in political science and sociology, and to pursue work in policy making and public administration to promote issues about which she is most passionate: social justice, women's health and public education.

**KAYLYNN PUBILL**

Queensborough Community College to Hunter College The Dr. Margaret Maxwell

Scholarship Kaylynn waitressed for several years in order to earn a living. Entering



Queensborough CC as a health & science major, her goal is to attend medical school to become a neurologist. She has served as Vice President of The Women in Science club, is a teacher's assistant in biology, and has been supporting herself by working in research.

**EMERLINE RAGOONATH-DeMATTONS**

Kingsborough Community College to Columbia University The Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship



Unable to concentrate on her studies at the University of the West Indies, Emerline did not thrive there and was asked to leave. However, in one class after she gave an oral report on analytical chemistry, her professor saw that she had great potential. When she finally decided to look for a job, she found that her competition all had college degrees. After moving to New York she became determined to earn a college education and enrolled in the Honors Program at Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn where she became Vice President of Service for Phi Theta Kappa. She also joined CUNY Research Scholars Program (CRSP), where she is currently doing research. This past summer, Emerline interned at the Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, focusing on the effects of micro plastics in marine biology. Her goal is to become an analytical chemist.

### **NSEANDRA RICHARDS**

Queensborough Community to New York University, Silver School of Social Work  
The Nohra Haime Scholarship



Nseandra and her 58-year-old mother are both receiving associate degrees from Queensborough Community College! Although she suffered from depression and low self-esteem in high school, as she entered college, she followed her mother's mantra: "Do it afraid!" Countless advisors, mentors and professors have provided her with many opportunities. A member of both the PTK and Psi Beta honor societies, she participated in The Global Citizenship Alliance, a scholarship study-abroad program, traveling to Austria and Germany. She is currently working as a high school counselor at the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens. She hopes to obtain a degree in social work to become a marriage and family counselor.

### **ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ**



SUNY Sullivan County Community College to SUNY Empire State University  
The Dr. Marshall Mount Scholarship

Elizabeth did volunteer work during a gap year after high school while figuring out her future. When her mother became ill, Elizabeth helped her readjust to daily life after her infirmity affected her appetite, mobility and comprehension ability.

Always interested in photography, Elizabeth found that sharing family photos with her mother proved to be rewarding, as it helped to revive her memory. At community college, Elizabeth volunteered for various community events and opportunities, and was elected to the Student Government Association (SGA.). She saw the need for healthful food at the food pantry, and approached the Garden Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension where she received donations of fresh vegetables. Her photography class was assigned a photojournalism project to "capture our day." She shared the pantry's progression and was later approached by the graphics department about their student project, designing and making shirts and donating profits to specially earmarked charities. The food pantry soon became a beneficiary of these efforts. Elizabeth's goal is to become a professional photographer who will help shape the world through imagery.

### **CARISSA ROSELLI**

Atlantic Cape Community College to Georgian Court University (NJ)  
The Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship



Twenty-seven year old Carissa owns and operates two small businesses - landscape maintenance and a thrift shop - while working as a waitress on weekends and attending college full-time. She is also President of her Phi Theta Kappa chapter and is the student representative for her school on the Atlantic County (NJ) Women's Commission Board, as well as a scholarship recipient of the American Association of University Women, and a member of My College's

Hunger Task Force. As if this weren't sufficient, she also manages to maintain a 4.0 GPA. From as far back as she can remember, Carissa always wanted to be a teacher. After suddenly gaining 150 pounds in a year's time and struggling for five years thereafter, she was finally diagnosed with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS). When doctors recommended diabetic hormone therapy or bariatric surgery, she opted for the latter. Carissa plans to earn a B.A. to teach Biology from Georgian Court University, which she will enter this fall.

### **FAWAZAH SALEH**



LaGuardia Community College to Baruch College  
The Dr. Jane Ross Scholarship

Accounting is not a particularly desirable goal for girls in Yemen where Fawazah was born. With poor language skills when she moved to the U.S. five years ago, she took English as a Second Language courses. At the Metropolitan Learning Institute, she earned a bookkeeping diploma. Fawazah's research paper on corporations and social responsibility will be published in the Honors Journal.

Being an accounting tutor in order to gain more knowledge in that field provided her with one of the turning points in her life. Fawazah is transferring to the Baruch College Zicklin School of Business to pursue a career in Accounting. After she completes her studies there, she will apply for the BA/MS path to the CPA program, which will allow her to complete her master's degree in one year.

**SERENA SHKRELI**

Westchester  
Community  
College to  
Rensselaer  
Polytechnic  
Institute  
The Freya  
Moskowitz  
Stern  
Scholarship



As a young girl, Serena watched her father - a U.S. emigré from Montenegro without the means to achieve his dream of becoming an engineer - build PCs, change car parts, solder faulty switches, and weld pipes in their boiler room, eagerly ready to hand him any tool he needed. Since 2015, Serena has been employed at Brandy Melville where she is the Technical Coordinator in charge of Software Support. This position involves hard work and the ability to solve problems and come up with solutions under stressful and time pressured circumstances. As President of the SUNY WCC Engineering Club for two years, she implemented and led projects while coordinating workshops and events for her fellow engineering students. One of the projects resulted in a video wall that is on permanent display in the WCC Technology Building. At Rensselaer, Serena will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering.

**SHEBELLE SMITH**

Queensborough  
Community  
College to The  
City College of  
New York  
The Richard  
Gilder  
Scholarship



After emigrating from Jamaica with her parents, Shebelle discovered the wonderful world of research at

Queensborough Community College. Her work as a second author is included in a manuscript and is ready to be submitted for peer review. She had the opportunity to present her research findings at several regional conferences, and she participated in last summer’s National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at The University of Pennsylvania. She is President of the Biology Club, a peer-mentor for General and Chemistry I & II students, and a member of PTK. Her professors are confident in her ability to become a top-notch research scientist.

**ZUZU TADEUSHUK**

Rockland  
Community  
College to  
Wesleyan  
University  
The Laura  
Rollins  
Hockaday  
Scholarship



On a dare from her brother, Zuzu submitted a resume to Ford Models, which led to a very successful four-year career but a detour from her education profoundly altered her interests and career path. She began taking one or two courses to fit in with her exotic international career travels. Struggling with body dysmorphia and an eating disorder, she was sent home from Paris Fashion Week in 2014 for being too thin, and was sent home in 2016 for being too fat! Zuzu subsequently turned to academia. She plans to pursue body and gender studies in an academic capacity with the hope that her writing will be published so as to reach a wider audience.

**LOPE JAN WILLIAMS**

LaGuardia Community College to Mt. Holyoke College  
The Finch College Alumni Foundation  
Scholarship



Despite her humble origins from a poor Philippine family, Lope Jan has developed the courage, drive and self-confidence to not allow gender or economic status stand in her way. She has worked as a performing cabaret artist in Japan, has operated her own online business, and has been a Cisco call center agent. In Urban Sociology Honors Class she assessed the impact that large corporate development has had on neighborhoods and local communities in New York City; this has inspired her to study Urban Studies and Economics. She is an activist with Queens Neighborhood United, a Community-based collective that challenges criminalization and displacements in Queens, NY, and is a student editor of The Honors Journal. The recipient of several honors and awards, she has participated in the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, is a member of PTK and is a President’s Society Ambassador. A thirty-one year-old transgender female, her dream is to earn a bachelor’s degree in Urban Studies and Economics. She wants to put her education and experience to good use by helping tackle the social injustices that are endemic to our country, especially the disparity in opportunities available to the poor.

**Nominate a Finch Alumnae for a 2020 Cosgrave Award. Review the 2020 Nomination Letter on page 3 and get back to us with your recommendation. Your input is invaluable.**

# Cheers and Celebration at the 25th



Agnes Birnbaum, Felice Forer Axelrod, Marcy Syms and Judith Kendall Levine



Michele Sibeud with her grandson James Morgan, daughters Eugenie Gomolka & Amy Morgan, and friend Otis Pearsall



Caroline K. Mount, Dr. Sally Arthur, Mr. & Mrs. Cheryl Y. and Jan Deknatel  
Seated: Ronny Cohen, Tara Ana Finley, Agnes Birnbaum, Dr. Jeanne C. Porter



Ceil Gavin Ainsworth, Mr. & Mrs. Jacques and Michele Brown Sibeud



Michele Sibeud with friend Jane Tregoe to her right.  
To her left: son-in-law Dean and Eugenie Gomolka, and friend Lucy Cookson



Lillian Weichsel, Scholar judge Dr. Cecilia Macheski, Ginger R.K. Najjar and Tennie Leonard



Linda Purl, Pat Flicker Addiss



Caroline Mount with her niece, Jennifer Frommer on her right and Dr. Jeanne Chenault Porter to her left



Carol Ann Rinzler



Rita J. Thompson, Maria Sessa, and Dr. Laura Stober Larsen



Jill Chamberlain with her sister Jan Cavalli



Cosgrave Faculty Honoree Dr. Emilie Colahan Jackson with daughter, Emilie B. Jackson and Robert Schwenk



Helena M. Consuegra and scholar Zineb Bouizy



Susan Saklad Warren and Donna Miller Casey



Susan Zimet Cole and her sister, Ellen



Francine Lefrak and Tara Ana Finley



Marjorie R. Schulman and Lynda Maer



Mr. and Mrs. Stan and Lesley Rigler Kaminsky

# Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards Gala



Wendy Glickstein, Liz Colin, Dr. Laura Stober Larsen, Dr. Ronald Nicholas and daughter in law Christine & son, Uri Frazier. Standing L-R: Linda Martin Gianninni, Linda Purl, Finch scholar judge, Dr. Mary Raddock, Magda Stark Katz and Pat Addiss



Nohra Haime, Eileen Bluestone Sherman, and Helena M. Consuegra



R-L: Mr. Louis Stern with his sister-in-law Ruth Underberg and his son, Jonathan Stern



Lois M. Ziegler, scholar judge Dr. Katherine Lynch, Zineb Bouizy, and judges Dr. Cecilia Macheski and Dr. Mary Raddock



Judy Kendall Levine, Susan Zimet Cole and her sister, Ellen and Hideaki Nakanura



Renee Pappas, Kathleen Mc Fadden and Diana O'Rourke Jacoby



Mr. & Mrs. Hubert and Vilma Polakava Wiesenmaier, Wesley Cullen Davidson and Dr. Ronny Cohen



Dr. Neal Sherman



Norma Dallal



John Davies Delmar, Esq.



Jamie Leaming Watson, Marcy Syms, Felice Forer Axelrod and Rita J. Thompson



Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Lois Moran Ziegler



Same Sky Executive Director, Jill W. Abrahams to the right and staff, to the far left of Francine LeFrak with Marcy Syms



Elizabeth Haire, Julia Berwick, Wesley Davidson



Margaret Stein Nakamura and Liz Glick Colin



Josephine Scicchitano Taglianetti, Paula Kirschenbaum Isacoff, Denise Mularoney Decker



Pat Meehan, Carol Barnes Ross and her son, Jonathan Ross



Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Rita Castora O'Hare

## News from our Scholars

*...from Razieh Arabi:*

"Since I transferred to Baruch College last year, I became involved with various opportunities, such as leadership efforts. I am passionate about giving back to communities who have served and uplifted me. In order to give back to the student population on campus, I have remained active in community political affairs by serving on committees that advocate for students. I was also elected by the student body to serve the CUNY community as the Vice-Chair for Fiscal Affairs at the University Student Senate which is the leading student governing body at the University. As a student leader, I was appointed to serve as a voting member of the CUNY Board of Trustees Fiscal Affairs Committee where many discussions and decisions take place that affect various aspects of the University's students and operations, such as the operating budget and the allocation of the state and local funds. During the 2019 spring semester, I successfully completed my full-time internship with PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) where I worked as an assurance intern in the financial services sector. This summer I also interned with the midsize firm, CohnReznick, as an auditor within their Affordable Housing Market."

*...from Annamaria Havirlova:*

"As of May 1st, 2019 I am officially a Permanent Resident of the United States! Finch has helped to finance my education at William Patterson University where I majored in Global Business and minored in Professional Sales. Earlier this year I became a part of the 2019 Annual Leadership Program whose participants are all top employees who have been nominated by their managers for their potential for advancement and for their capability of managing a specific location. This program has taught me that leadership touches on operational excellence, teaches strategic planning, and demonstrates how to run a business from a position of strength and empowerment. Upon completion of this program in December, I am hoping to relocate in order to run a new location, myself."

*...from Chu Paing:*

"I am thrilled about being selected as one of the 2024 National Science Foundation



Scholars: Razieh Arabi, Jae Zheng, Paulo Cruz, Barbara Javori, Miriam Palma, Doma Lama, and Amey Wheaton enjoy a pot-luck picnic!

Graduate Research fellows nationwide this past spring. This fellowship will fund my graduate studies and stipend for three years. I am also a Linguistics Society of American fellow. This summer I attended a month long summer Linguistics Institute at University of California, Davis. It was my first time in Northern California and I enjoyed all of the region's wonderful cuisine (especially Burmese food!) In August, attended a workshop on Anthropology of Language on Mainland Southeast Asia at the University of Sydney where I met leading linguistic anthropologists. I am currently working on a manuscript for publication on Myanmar Interfaith Marriage Law. I just moved into my own apartment in Boulder, Colorado where I celebrated my 27<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of August."

*...from Aquella White:*

"Since graduating from Westchester Community College, I have continued to grow, both as a student and as a professional. I have excelled in my accounting studies at Pace University and, as a result, I have made the Dean's List each semester. I recently learned that I have been accepted by the Masters of Taxation program at Pace University, which will allow me to concentrate on a course of study in taxation while continuing to strengthen my accounting acumen. I completed a successful internship at KPMG this summer and look forward to my ongoing studies this fall as well as to an additional professional internship experience."

Contributing editor: Aquella White

## 2019 FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION TRUST

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Jill Waldheim Chamberlain  
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# 2019

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: SUSIE SALOMON

Suzanne (Susie) Stern Salomon grew up in the town of Forest Hills, Queens, one of New York City's five boroughs. She attended The Kew Forest School (with Maryanne Trump and her brother, Donald, until the latter was expelled for punching his teacher, Mr. Walker, in the face!)



During her time at Finch (1955-1958), Susie studied Art History. Each participant in her studio art class was given the assignment of designing an *ex libris* plate for its library books. Thinking her contribution was not good enough, she hid it in her cubby where it was later found and submitted to the art teacher. P.S. Her entry won, and she still has her original scratch-board design!

Susie has fond memories of her time at Finch. She said: "During my acceptance speech for a Cosgrave Award in 2005, I remarked that: 'Most school dances were held in decorated gyms, but ours was at The Plaza'."

She remembers the Finch students as being "a study in contrasts: the loafers & bobby sox crowd with wind-blown hair, versus those with pointy stilettos, pointy umbrellas and perfectly coiffed hairdos; as well as the intense, quiet bridge players at one end of The Snack Bar. Laughing, Susie says: "My pals and I were the chatty, caffeinated ones at the other end!"

Susie left Finch after three years to marry during Christmas break and move to Massachusetts with her

new husband who was attending Amherst College. They lived in that town for a year-and-a-half in a rented old farmhouse, complete with a rooster and several chickens. (Alas, the poor fowl didn't make it through the freezing cold New England winter.)

When the couple was just 22, they had the first of their three children: two boys: Robin and Jamie, and a girl, Debbie (Smith) in the middle. Today, Susie is the proud grandma of eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her "huuuuge" family extends along the East Coast from Florida to Maine, to the suburbs of Chicago, and on to Los Angeles. (Oh, and her talented artist granddaughter lives in Brooklyn, the "pre-L.A." home of Susie's beloved Dodgers!)

Susie has always volunteered with arts-related organizations and for many years she ran the gallery and curated exhibitions at the library in New Canaan, CT. She knew - and personally interviewed - Frank Lloyd Wright's photographer and worked on a street photographer show which is currently part of a collection at MoMA.

When she isn't busy visiting or hosting family, Susie is involved with Creative Connections, a non-profit that helps bring children together from all over the world through art. Another organization she is passionate about, The Center for Contemporary Printmaking (CCP), provides talented artists with the opportunity to work with professionals whose medium is

printmaking. CCP also sponsors a course for teenage students from alternative public schools, utilizing a medium with huge presses and rollers to complete the process that appeals especially to boys their age.

Since 1996, Susie has lived on Bell Island in Rowayton, CT in a yellow Victorian-style house. A "hostess with the most-est," she loves to entertain, and in October, 2015 she hosted a Finch reception at her home, and led a group of Finch alums on a tour of the iconic glass house of renowned architect, Philip Johnson, which is now part of The National Register for Historic Preservation. She extends a warm invitation to Finch friends and alums to "please come visit. I would love to see everyone!"

You can reach Susie at:  
(203) 838-3805 (home);  
(203) 554-1414 (cell)

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Article: Wendy Glickstein

Photo courtesy of Susie Saloman

## "The Business of . . ."

featuring the diverse careers of Lois Moran Ziegler, Diana O'Rourke Jacoby, Jill Waldheim Chamberlain and Felice Forer Axelrod, is the theme of the

### Finch Salon

Sept. 19, 2019

Birch Wathen Lenox School

Rooftop Social Hall

210 E. 77<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC

The event will kick off at 5:00pm with a beautiful cocktail reception followed by a lively discussion with the speakers, moderated by Eileen Sherman. Your fully tax-deductible donation of \$35 can be made on site and includes admission for the entire evening.

*Friends are cordially welcome.*

**See full details on the back cover.**

## ~~~Lost and Found~~~

I am looking for archived information on my mother, **Laura Katherine Bodnar**, who attended Finch College in the mid 1950s. Following graduation, she married New York attorney Robert J. Fiore, Sr. on August 8, 1961, before they moved to Germany and where she pursued a career in opera. Today, she resides in Kronberg im Taunus, Germany.

I am preparing a bio on my mother and would appreciate if someone could tell me

- 1) when exactly she attended Finch College,
- 2) when she graduated,
- 3) what she graduated in, and
- 4) if there is a book from the year she graduated.

From your website I see that your archive begins with the 1960 year book.

Prior to attending Finch College, my mother attended Miss Hewitt's Classes / The Hewitt School in New York. Throughout her time at Miss Hewitt's and Finch she lived at the Barbizon Hotel for Women at 140 East 63rd Street.

Please let me know if there is anyone who could provide this and additional information for a bio I am creating.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Robert Fiore  
27 Northhill Street, Apt 4B  
Stamford, CT 06907  
(203) 969-5707  
[rifiore@gmail.com](mailto:rifiore@gmail.com)

I am helping a faculty member with his research on **Dr. Ruth Nanda Anshen**, a writer and philosopher. According to the New York Times, she was part of L'école libre des hautes études de New York (the Free French University of New York) in 1954.

L'école libre was part of the New School, but that relationship dissolved in 1946. In 1947, the New York Times reported that L'école libre began using space at Finch Junior College. When it closed in 1976, Finch's records seem to have been transferred to Marymount Manhattan. I've

contacted them. However, I am wondering if the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust might have records that illuminate Dr. Anshen's relationship to L'école libre des hautes études and/or Finch.

Thank you for any assistance,

Joel Burkholder, MLIS  
Reference and Instruction Librarian  
Lee R. Glatfelter Library  
Penn State York  
717.771.4024

I am working on a website to honor and remember **Muriel Sharon**, who was the Chairperson of the Children's Department of the 92nd Street YM-YWHA for 25 years, starting in 1947. In researching her collection at the Performing Arts Library of the NYPL, I came across a notation that she worked at Finch College. No further information was indicated, neither the year(s) nor what department she worked in. My guess would be sometime in the 1950's, possibly earlier.

Would you be so kind as to inquire about her work history at Finch or to direct this request to the appropriate person? She was also known as **Muriel Sharon Tillim**.

Thank you and regards,  
Margaret Gruen  
917-968-3662

Henry Heydt  
([Skip.heydt@gmail.com](mailto:Skip.heydt@gmail.com)) writes:  
"My mother, **Doris Heydt** (née Bothwell), from Bronxville, NY, attended Finch in 1933 or 1934. Trying to confirm that and to see if there is any other information the school records might have about her. Thank you so much for your efforts.

Re: **Summer in San Marino**  
Do you have names of students who participated in the summer study program? I was one of those students in 1975.

**Patricia Gasbarre O'Connor**  
25 Briar Patch Road  
Rochester, NY 14618  
[poconnor9093@gmail.com](mailto:poconnor9093@gmail.com)

## In Memoriam

Brooklyn-born **Lillian Kamiel Fabrikant**, age 80, a former Board Member of The Birch Wathen School, and a Life Master bridge player, passed away at home in Manhattan on May 23, 2019. A graduate of Finch College, Lillian lived in New York for her entire life. In addition to bridge, her interests included golf and collecting art. She is survived by her husband, Robert, two daughters, five grandchildren and three sisters. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association and the NYU Pearl I. Barlow Center.

Philanthropist **Ann Dana Kusch** of Vero Beach, FL who passed away on the morning of June 17, 2019, attended The Spence School In New York City, The Ethel Walker School in CT, Brillantmont International School in Lausanne, Switzerland, and Finch College. The daughter of Charles A. Dana and Eleanor N. Dana of Wilton, CT and NYC, her industrialist father founded The Dana Corporation and The Dana Foundation, a private philanthropic organization that supports brain research through grants, publications and educational programs. The Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA is just one of many important institutions that bear his name.

Minneapolis-born **Charlene Sharon Nederlander** passed away peacefully on June 19, 2019 at her home in Southampton, NY. Charlene was active in the Community Service Club of Finch College where she majored in English. She graduated from Finch in 1956. She was married to Broadway producer James M. Nederlander for 47 years until his passing in 2016. Her charities included Southampton Hospital, The Preservation Society of Palm Beach, The Phoenix Symphony, and The Barrows Neurological Foundation also in Phoenix. Charlene is survived by her daughter Kristina Gustafson, grandchildren Krissana and Gunnar, and step son James L. Nederlander, and her dog Precious. Memorial donations may be made to the ASPCA.

## 2019 Scholar Reception at the Home of Ginger Kiernan Najar

A reception in May at the beautiful home of Finch College graduate Ginger Kiernan Najar provided the perfect setting and opportunity for a group of Finch College graduates who were in town to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards dinner to meet some of our remarkable Finch scholars.

**Razieh Arabi** Since transferring to Baruch College last year, I became involved with various aspects of my career and had several leadership opportunities. As a student leader, I was appointed to serve as a voting member of the CUNY Board of Trustees Fiscal Affairs Committee that involve discussions and decisions that shape many aspects of the University that affect its students, such as the operating budget and the allocation of state and local funds. During the 2019 Spring semester, I successfully completed my full-time internship with PWC (Pricewaterhouse Coopers) where I worked as an assurance intern in the financial services sector. This summer I also interned with a midsize firm, CohnReznick, as an auditor within their Affordable Housing Market. My ultimate goal is to be in a position of serving and building communities.

**Huiling Cai** Although it is the norm in the Chinese community for a woman to have a baby and take care of the family, I refused to become a housewife. My goal was to become a successful CPA. After graduating from LaGuardia Community College with a 4.0 GPA in 2018, I transferred to Fordham University with a full Toppeta scholarship, majoring in Public Accounting. This past summer I took four classes and interned at the PCI



Hostess Ginger Kiernan Najar, Huiling Cai, Yehudis Moskovitz, Sanja Radenovic Methoda, Paola Cruz; Razieh Arabi, Amey Wheaton,

Seated below: Barbara Javori, Derya Lane Yildirim Media Organization. My current GPA is 3.90+ and I am graduating this Fall. I have secured an assurance internship with Ernst & Young LLP, one of the Big Four public accounting firms, for next summer. I aim to continue pursuing a master's degree after I graduate from Fordham.

**Paola Cruz** I recently finished my first year at Columbia and became one of the campus team leaders for Project Access-USA, a global non-profit startup with activities in more than 20 countries. Through a tech-enabled mentoring program, we help international students from underprivileged backgrounds build the confidence to apply to top universities, support them during the application process, and prepare them for their first day.

**Barbara Javori** As the daughter of multinational parents, I grew up in Virginia and Spain. But it is in New York where I am fulfilling my dream of attending university, thanks in large part to the Finch scholarship. I have just completed my first year at Hunter College as an English Major and Psychology Minor - reestablishing the 4.0 I had carried through BMCC. I will be getting married this year.

**Yehudis Moskovits** is a 2017 Finch Scholarship Recipient who grew up in an insular ultra-orthodox community within which girls are set up in arranged marriages at the age of 18 and expected to start a family soon after. Despite having never received a proper education and knowing that it was against the rules of the community, Yehudis always dreamed of going to college. After a modest start, only taking night classes at Rockland Community College, Yehudis went on to earn her high school equivalency and join the Honors Program there. She started a club to foster community on campus and went on to graduate with an Associates degree from RCC. She transferred to Columbia University of the City of New York, where she is enjoying the process of working on obtaining a Bachelors degree in Evolutionary Biology.

**Amey Wheaton** Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the doors that have opened, and continue to open, as a result of my acceptance into New York University (NYU). The Finch Scholarship helped my being able to attend such an esteemed institution by providing me with the means to secure my acceptance of attendance. The Finch Foundation has also provided me with a mentor, support, and encouragement to participate in the alumni events. At each event, I am always amazed by The Finch women's strength, and demonstrative ability to lift others up. I look forward to being able to give back to the foundation, and to help see to it that others succeed as I have.

*The Finch Community welcomes news from our scholars. We always love hearing from you!*

*Article: Lois Moran Ziegler*



Photo by Lynda Maer



**Chelsea Art Scene Walking Tour**, included visits to several galleries. Pix L-R 1: Margaret Nakamura, Audrey Heckler, Nina LaBruna, Laura Stober Larsen, Joan Bick, Joy Corregge and artist (and gallery owner), Ayn S. Choi. Standing: Christine & Uri Frazier & Dr. Ronalda Nicholas, Yee YunTang, Corrie de Groot, John Delmar, Maria Terner, Carol Strauss, Marjorie Schulman. 2: Ronalda Nicholas with her son, Uri and his wife, Christine. 3: Nina La Bruna and Corrie de Groot.



### Spring Salon featuring Joanne Kubat, Ceil Ainsworth and Susan Embree Parker.

Photos L-R: 1: Finch friend Micky Pollack, Scholars: Barbara Javori, Paola Cruz and Amey Wheaton, and Norma Dallal. 2. Featured speakers: Joanne Kubat, Ceil Ainsworth and Susie Parker.

3. (lower left): Everyone enjoying convivial and delectable cocktail hour prior to presentation. 4) Barbara Javori contributes heavenly dessert.



**Annual Scholar Reception (below)** held at the elegant home of Ginger Kiernan Najar. Top row L-R: 1. Audience applauding the scholars (Susan Zimet Cole in blue). 2. Scholars: Amey Wheaton, Barbara Javori, Yehudis Moskovitz, Sanja Radenovic, Judge Cecilia Macheski, Huiling Cai and Razieh Arabi. 3. Margaret Nakamura (event photographer) with knight in shining armor!

Bottom L- R 1: Dr. Sally Arthur, Tara Ann Finley,



Wexler, Judith Kendall Levine, Agnes Birnbaum. 2: Frances Fish Tompkins, 3: Corrie de Groot, Yee Yun Tang and Liz Colin. 4: Ceil Ainsworth, Ginger, Lois Ziegler and Audrey Heckler.





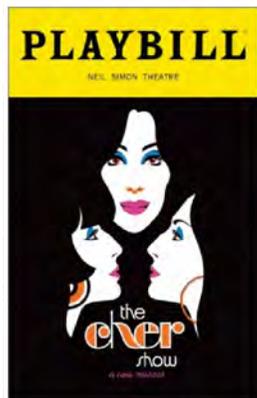
**Our visit to the United Nations** commenced with a 3 course lunch in the UN Delegates Dining Room. We were then treated to a tour led by an erudite docent who guided us through muraled hallways, and into the newly renovated General Assembly and the Security Council. Throughout the hallways were exhibits and paintings including Norman Rockwell's "Golden Rule" on exhibit in honor of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations - and where you see us posed left to right: Ellen Cole, Susan Zimet Cole, Marjorie Schulman, Stan and Leslie Kaminsky,



Lois Ziegler, Wendy Glickstein, Lillian Weichsel, Wesley Davidson, Ellen Easton, Corrie de Groot, Joy Corregge, Denise Decker and Liz Colin. Seated next to docent is Rita Thompson.

# of our 2019 Spring Events

**Dinner and Cabaret at the Beach Cafe**, featured TV and film actress and singer, Linda Purl. Linda was one of our 2019 Jessica Cosgrave Award Honorees. She is pictured here performing with singer/actor Tom Wopat.



**CHER THE MUSICAL**  
What better way to have kicked off our Cosgrave weekend than with this totally fabulous show! Thanks to Marjorie for procuring the tickets. Kudos to super Event Coordinators, Wendy and Joy for organizing all the great activities and to, photographer, Margaret for catching all the action.

**Cocktail Reception at Philip Colleck, Ltd., the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Diana O'Rourke Jacoby.** Surrounded by exquisite furnishings, antique collections and their beautiful garden, this was the perfect backdrop to the eve of our 2019 Awards Gala. Top row photo, standing L - R: Lillian Weichsel, Sandra Ayres, Lois Ziegler, Liz McMahon and Linda Martin Gianninni. Second row photos: L-R: Our hosts, Diana and Mark with 2019 honoree, Tara Ana Finley. Second photo: 2019 Faculty honoree Dr. Emilie Colahan Jackson, Robert Schwenk and Rita Thompson. Bottom row L-R: 1. Marjorie Schulman, Elaine Friedman, Agnes Birnbaum, Megan McCarthy, Rita Thompson, Lillian Weichsel and Wendy Glickstein. 2. Sandra Ayres, Linda Martin Gianninni. Seated: Ceil Ainsworth and Corrie de Groot. 3. Guests gather under stunning antique chandelier in dining room.



## Mark your Calendar for these Exciting 2019 Finch Fall Events

### Thursday, September 19, 2019

#### **Finch Fall Salon: "The Business of . . . ."**

5:00pm - 7:30pm

The Birch Wathen Lenox School (Rooftop Social Hall), 210 East 77th Street (bet. 2nd & 3rd Aves.), NYC 10075

Enjoy camaraderie, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a lively panel discussion moderated by Eileen Sherman featuring Finch alums Lois Moran Ziegler, Felice Forer Axelrod, Jill Waldheim Chamberlain and Diana O'Rourke Jacoby who will discuss their unique careers and the business strategies associated with each. **Your \$35 donation to FCAAFT for this event is fully tax-deductible.**

### Thursday, September 26, 2019 –

#### **Tour of the Exhibition, *Romaniote Memories***

5:00pm – 7:00pm

The Greek Consulate, 69 East 79th Street, NYC 10075

Our guide will lead us through a tour of the exhibition, *Romaniote Memories – a Jewish Journey from Ioannina, Greece to Manhattan: Photographs by Vincent Giordano*. The tour will start promptly at 5:00pm, followed by a panel discussion at 6:00pm. **Your \$45 donation to FCAAFT for this event is fully tax-deductible.**

### Friday, October 18, 2019 –

#### **Tour *The World of Anna Sui***

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Museum of Arts and Design, 2 Columbus Circle (@ 59th Street) NYC 10019

Our docent-led, one-hour tour will explore the influence design icon, Anna Sui, has had on fashion since the 1990s.

Famous for her pop culture fashions and boutique look, *The World of Anna Sui* features approximately 100 looks from her archive and showcases her design staples. **The cost of the tour is \$45 which includes a \$20 donation to FCAAFT.**

### Friday, November 1 – Tuesday, November 5, 2019

#### **TEFAF at the Park Avenue Armory**

643 Park Avenue & 67th Street, New York, NY 10065

The fourth edition of the TEFAF New York Fall runs 5 full days. Tour this arts and antique show at your own pace. The show highlights fine and decorative art from antiquity to 1920. TEFAF graciously donated 20 tickets so **the \$40 cost for this event is fully tax deductible.** Tickets are on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Ceil Ainsworth at 212.288.565 [ceilains@aol.com](mailto:ceilains@aol.com)

### Wednesday, November 6, 2019 – *Moulin Rouge!*

*The Musical* – 7:00pm – 9:45pm

Al Hirschfeld Theatre, 302 West 45th Street, NYC

Set in the Montmartre Quarter of Paris at the turn of the 20th Century, ***Moulin Rouge! The Musical*** is the stage adaptation of Baz Luhrmann's 2001 musical motion picture, *Moulin Rouge!*, starring six-time Tony nominee, Danny Burstein. The stage musical's score features some of the most beloved popular music of the past 50 years. Orchestra seats include a \$21 donation to FCAAFT.

#### **RSVP to Event Coordinators:**

Joy Corrage: [jcorrage@yahoo.com](mailto:jcorrage@yahoo.com)

Wendy Glickstein: [wgllickstein@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wgllickstein@nyc.rr.com)

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