

# FINCH NEWS

October 2015

A Publication for Finch College Alumnae and Friends



## POWERFUL WORDS TO PONDER FROM COSGRAVE HONOREE



2015 Cosgrave Honoree Susan Mau Soong and Family



2015 Cosgrave Honoree Donna Miller Casey



2015 Cosgrave Honoree Dr. Diane Kelder and Dr. Michael Kowal

**Donna Miller Casey**, one of five Cosgrave honorees recognized June 2, 2015, was powerful, inspiring and totally honest in accepting her award at the 21st annual celebration at the Cosmopolitan Club.

“Jessica Cosgrave founded Finch College to develop a woman’s experience in intellectual, physical and social growth,” said Donna, a long-time civic leader in her native San Francisco. “We seem to focus on those skills and contributions that pad our resumes, rather than the values and virtues that develop character. I have had a varied career in sales, banking, education, religion and the arts. But my life lessons have been learned from the experiences I did not learn in school: Combating breast cancer surgery, a divorce and in being an alcoholic in recovery for two decades.

“I am happiest when I live with a balance of physical, intellectual, spiritual and social aspects. I love my friends and family (who include two married sons and six grandchildren).”

Donna, who laced her words with a sense of humor, found challenging professors at Finch while “sitting at the back of every class smoking Marlboros nonstop!” She attended Finch from 1967 to 1970 and earned her B.A. in English

Literature from Stanford in 1971.

A member of the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust Board of Trustees and the Ineamus Meliora Society, Donna said she wants to keep the society’s motto, “To make the world a better place,” in her heart and to strive to follow it. Her leadership and philanthropy have made San Francisco a better place in many ways and she is doing the same for Finch.

Fellow recipients of the Jessica Cosgrave Lifetime Achievement Award, who also spoke eloquently:

**Dr. Diane Kelder**, New York, professor of art history at Finch, 1967–1971, former faculty member at the College of Staten Island, and Professor Emerita since 2000 at CUNY’s Graduate Center.

**Nanette Lampl Avery**, Brentwood, TN, born in New Rochelle, NY, grew up on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Finch 1972–1974, Bachelor of Fine Arts from Florida’s University of Miami, elementary school teacher 25 years in Miami, award-winning author for her book, *Orphan in America*.

**Susan Mau Soong**, Honolulu, Hawaii, Finch 1967–1971 where she revived the Volunteer Service League, spent her junior year on the Finch Intercontinental Study Program (FISP), has been a docent and trustee of the Honolulu Museum of Art, past president of the Junior League of Honolulu, and received prizes for fiction and poetry from the Honolulu Branch, National League of American Pen Women.

**Jamie Leaming Watson**, New York, founder of the architectural design firm Watson+Associates in 1994, B.A. from Finch 1967–1971, Master of Science in design from Drexel University in Philadelphia, excels in a male-dominated field with architects employed at home and abroad, has worked with prestigious clients in nonprofit causes to wipe out poverty.

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## Save the Date for the 22nd Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards

The 2016 Cosgrave Awards will take place on Tuesday, May 17. So mark your calendars 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 on the weekend prior to this event. It is not too early to nominate potential recipients for this prestigious award. The instructions and nomination application can be downloaded online at [www.FinchCollege.org](http://www.FinchCollege.org) by clicking on the Cosgrave Award on the left side of the home page. If you have questions, please contact Virginia Wattiker Sheerin at 212-605-5560 or [virginiasheerin@gmail.com](mailto:virginiasheerin@gmail.com).



2015 Cosgrave Honoree Nanette Lampl Avery and her husband, Craig Avery



2015 Cosgrave Honoree Susan Mau Soong



2015 Cosgrave Honoree Jamie Leaming Watson and her husband, Emmett Watson

Before asking the honorees to come to the podium, **Virginia Wattiker Sheerin**, Cosgrave Awards Committee chairman, introduced **Louis Stern**, who with his family, donated \$100,000 this year to the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust to establish the **Freya Moskowitz Stern** scholarship in memory of his beloved wife, a Finch graduate. Others have donated to the foundation's scholarship fund but Louis Stern is the largest donor so far. Scholarships enable women with a 2-year college degree to continue on to a 4-year campus for a B.A. degree.

"When we started to date, my wife was in her second year at Finch," he said. "She invited me to the Finch Ball. She wore a great outfit, I'm sure I rented mine. I don't know if she told her parents, I was a car dealer. She loved the arts, loved New York and everything about Finch. She never took off her Finch ring."

Louis attended Cosgrave with his children, **Jonathan Stern** and **Jennifer (Stern) Kaplan**, who, with their father, gave generous ads for the Cosgrave journal in tribute to their mother.

As always, the Cosgrave Awards were a time for reunions of long-time friendships. **Rita Thompson**, honored at the first event in 1995 and a close friend of **Frances Fish Tompkins** (1997 honoree), was there from Chicago where she has worked 20 years for Oprah Winfrey, as

a producer. She said she is planning to retire and move back to New York, which was welcome news for her Finch colleagues.

**Christina Dolan Lakin** traveled from England to be there for Donna Miller Casey and, across the room at a reception for Finch Scholars (scholarship recipients) at the elegant Upper West Side home of **Ginger Runes Najjar**, **Susan Mau Soong** spotted **Victoria Villa Hamilton** of New York.

"I hadn't seen her for probably 40 years," said Susan. "She didn't recognize me, but I recognized her."

Of multiple events always preceding the Cosgrave Awards, Ginger's reception is a highlight. Several Finch scholars spoke at her home. They were attending or have graduated from outstanding colleges and universities on both coasts, while maintaining jobs, families and studies. Those who spoke include: **Danielle Jablonski**, **Cristina Mihailescu**, **Emilie Unterweger**, **Connie Falconi**, **Gabriele Rosado** and **KC Chen**.

Other special weekend events featured dinner at the palatial Restaurant Thalia, 50th and 8th Avenue; *Gigi* at the Neil Simon Theatre; visit to the Roosevelt House, 47-49 E. 65th St.; Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Lincoln Center, for dinner and jazz; Conservancy Garden tour in Central Park; Cooper-Hewitt museum, 2 E. 91st St.; Museum of the City

of New York, 103rd St. and 5th Ave., and dinner at the New York Yacht Club, 37 W. 44th St.

All were popular destinations with one goal: To raise scholarship funds for the foundation. More than 100 guests attended the Cosgrave reception and dinner at the Cosmopolitan Club, which consistently offers good food, excellent service and a warm ambiance.

**Dr. Kelder**, the first honoree to speak, said:

"Because of the students, teaching was an absolute pleasure. Not only were we within walking distance of six great museums, we had our own museum with Old Master and Contemporary wings, a vibrant program of exhibitions and performances that students at Columbia and New York Universities could only dream of. I collaborated with **Elayne Varian**, director of the Contemporary Wing and a leader in the then Minimalist Movement. My students eagerly performed as 'human statues' in a standing-room only spectacle in the Finch theater.

"My four years at Finch were also marked by social and political turbulence. I recall the student/faculty bus trip to join a large protest against the Vietnam War on the Washington (D.C.) Mall, and the tense appearance of Black Panthers in the packed theater on 78th St., proclaiming, 'If you were not part of the solution, you were part of the problem.'"

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Neal and Ruth Unterberg, Matthew Kaplan, Jennifer Stern Kaplan, Louis J. Stern, Nicole Stern, Jonathan Stern



Judy Kendall Levine with the article, "The Ladies of Finch College", from the December 1999 Avenue magazine



Laura Stober Larsen, 2015 Cosgrave Honoree Dr. Diane Kelder, Dr. Marshall Mount, Dr. Jeanne Chenault Porter



Wendy Glickstein, Laura Hockaday



Barbara O'Hare, Dr. Ronny Cohen, Rita Thompson



Margaret Stein Nakamura and her husband, Hideaki Nakamura

“What stimulated my own creativity was the company of so many gifted students. To name just a few: **Dr. Susan Grace Galassi**, the highly regarded curator at the Frick Collection; **Dr. Ronny Cohen**, independent curator and writer for art periodicals; and **Francine LeFrak Friedberg**, Broadway producer, award-winning filmmaker and inspired philanthropist known to all of you.”

Finch was not just about academics but was also about compassion, stated **Nanette Lampl Avery**, in her acceptance remarks. Her mother died just a month after leaving Nanette off at her dorm, Chalk House. She immediately received a note from President Rodney Felder.

“His note of condolence told me that even though I was far from home, Finch was here for me,” she said. “Finch was unique because our campus was the whole of Manhattan. Where else would your art history classes be held but at the Met, and one course was all it took for me to become enamored of foreign films. So much so that when our children were growing up, Saturday nights were ‘foreign film nights’ at our house.

“Although my Victorian Literature class was difficult, **Dr. Ardelle Striker** proved not only scholarly but a great horsewoman. I foolishly joined her one afternoon when we rented horses from the Central Park stables. My horse was keen on only one thing – getting back to the barn. I thought I would lose my life on a runaway horse but Dr. Striker fortunately switched with me.

“I wish to remember our award’s namesake, Jessica Cosgrave, who had the foresight to create a college that was distinctly different, for she had the vision of what it would take to empower the whole woman.”

Honored and humbled to accept the Cosgrave Award, **Susan Mau Soong** said:

“Bravo for the Alumnae Association! Not only have we been able to reconnect, but through the (Finch College Alumni Association) Foundation Trust and scholarship grants, Finch is still vital. I loved Finch even though I was not a stellar student. In fact, **Dr. (Margaret) Maxwell** commented about my constant daydreaming during European history. Perhaps I was thinking of the year ahead when I would travel abroad on the FISP program. Or maybe just deciding whether I would walk to the Met after school or visit the Whitney Museum. Little knowing that years later in Honolulu, I would become a docent at the Contemporary Museum and eventually, a trustee.

“But most likely I was daydreaming about a certain suave Columbia University medical student (Dr. John L. Soong, Jr.), without knowing that some day we would marry and have two phenomenal daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren. I am so grateful to Finch for the formative years I spent there and the opportunities it gave me.”

**Jamie Leaming Watson** said she is a “great believer in the importance of women’s colleges” and is grateful that she was able to have that experience at Finch.

“The confidence I gained during my four years strengthened my self-confidence and was a key factor in my decision to establish Watson+Associates, an architectural/design business, over 20 years ago. It is one of the few women-owned businesses specializing in corporate interiors. My major at Finch was art history. There is no doubt it had a huge influence on my design practice.

“At Finch, we were encouraged to learn and experience new things, to be open to all possibilities and to work hard, knowing that anything was within our grasp if we just followed our dreams. I will always be grateful to Finch for the life lessons that have served me so well.”

Another successful Cosgrave fundraiser was due to the volunteer efforts of many. To name a few:

**Patricia Flicker Addiss, Ceil Gavin Ainsworth, Dr. Sally Arthur, Wesley Cullen Davidson, Denise Mularoni Decker, Cheryl Young Deknatel, Wendy Glickstein, Magda Stark Katz, JoAnn Cricchio Kubat, Laura Stober Larsen, Judy Kendall Levine, Ginger Runes Najar, Margaret Stein Nakamura, Susan Embree Parker, Marjorie R. Schulman, Virginia Wattiker Sheerin, Eileen Bluestone Sherman, Frances Fish Tompkins and Lois Moran Ziegler.**

Article: *Laura Hockaday*

Photographs: *Margaret Stein Nakamura  
Laura Stober Larsen*



JoAnn Cricchio Kubat, Ceil Gavin Ainsworth



Wesley Cullen Davidson, Evelyn Lorentzen-Bell



Magda Stark Katz, Dr. Barry Festoff, Shea Gordon Festoff

# COSGRAVE WEEKEND SHOWCASES NEW YORK'S CULTURE



Finch Group at Museum of the City of New York

Cosgrave 2015 was fantastic! And so were the whirlwind Cosgrave Weekend events leading up to the annual awards dinner. *Gigi?* – Mais oui! Ah, yes, Finch alums “Remembered It Well,” thanks to fellow Finch grad and Broadway producer, **Patricia Flicker Addiss**, who arranged for center orchestra seats on Friday, May 29.

The next day, we enjoyed a delightful brunch on Madison Avenue at Match 65 Brasserie before heading next door to The Roosevelt House, a double townhouse which was home to Eleanor and Franklin, their five children and FDR’s mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt. Currently known as The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, and owned by Hunter College, the Neo-Georgian building is open to visitors for docent-led tours and such events as political celebrity book signings. Since the house has few furnishings, guests are encouraged to use their imagination – with the help of period photographs and personal items – as to how the Roosevelts lived in this spacious place during the early

part of the 20th Century.

Saturday evening provided a fabulous combo of dinner and jazz with entertainment by the Bill Charlap Trio at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola at the Time Warner Building (home to many upscale shops, wonderful restaurants and CNN). Everyone who attended said they had a great time among “all that jazz”.

Despite some rain, the Central Park Conservancy Garden provided a perfect way to commune with nature on Sunday morning as our guide, Franz Helmke, encouraged us to “tiptoe through the tulips” and other floral delights, before making our way to the newly renovated Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum for an amazing guided and interactive tour of the “Making Design” exhibition.

That evening, Finch alum and “hostesse par excellence”, **Ginger Runes Najar**, once again graciously opened her lovely Central Park West home to us with wonderful food and drink as we mixed and mingled among Cosgrave Award recipients – past and current – and learned more about the spectacular successes of some of our Finch Scholars.



Making Design Exhibit at the new Cooper Hewitt



Finch Group with tour guide at new Cooper Hewitt



Suzanne Stern Salomon, Frances Fish Tompkins, Evelyn Jacob Hilton at Gigi

Our last whirlwind weekend day was Monday, when we visited the Museum of the City of New York for a docent-led tour of “Everything is Design: The Work of Paul Rand”, a creative designer responsible for the success of many familiar advertisements, posters, corporate brochures and books. We also viewed “Saving Place: 50 Years of New York City Landmarks,” a comprehensive exhibition exploring the roots and impact of a landmark preservation movement and its impact on New York.

Monday night we visited the famous Model Room in the historical New York Yacht Club where we enjoyed cocktails on the terrace off our private dining room. A big thank you to **Virginia Wattiker Sheerin** for arranging this fascinating and unique evening!

Cosgrave Weekend, once again, provided Finch alumnae, family and friends with exceptional cultural, historical and entertainment events.

Article: Wendy Glickstein

Photographs: Margaret Stein Nakamura  
Craig Avery



Finch Group in front of the Vanderbilt Gate at Central Park Conservancy Garden

# SEEING THE RESULTS OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP ENDEAVORS



Dr. Mary Raddock, Emilie Unterweger, Danielle Jablonski, Lois Moran Ziegler, Cristina Mihailescu, Dr. Cecilia Macheski

Finch College alumnae were given a gratifying opportunity to see the end results of our Scholarship efforts on Sunday, May 31, at the lovely home of **Ginger Runes Najar** on Central Park West in Manhattan. Amid old-world décor Finch alums mingled with scholarship recipients with Cole Porter's tunes ("Night and Day!") in the background, expertly played by pianist **Matt Veligdan**.

Despite the heat, humidity and steady down-pour outside about 40 of us drank wine, ate a lovely spread, but most importantly, heard from each of the Finch Scholars present, **Peishan (KC) Chen, Connie Falconi, Danielle Jablonski, Cristina Mihailescu, Gabriele Rosado, Emilie Unterweger**, and learned how valuable our scholarship money actually is.

From a high-school dropout to a new-to-the-USA to a mom of five being able to buy her first laptop to a student of organic chemistry to a writer who uses writing as therapy, Scholarship Chair **Lois Moran Ziegler** ably introduced each of the grateful and gracious recipients to the audience and asked them to speak about their academic careers and what the Finch scholarship meant to them. Mentorship Chair **Eileen Bluestone Sherman**, aided by **Laura Stober Larsen**, added small bits for the audience

to understand both the importance of these funds and the great strides these young women were all making. Mentor **Wesley Cullen Davidson** was able to share her thoughts on mentee **Jessica Ryan** who could not be with us as she was attending the graduation of her own child. And Judges **Dr. Cecilia Macheski** and **Dr. Mary Raddock** beamed proudly as the women they selected told of how the Finch scholarship made a difference in their lives.

Each of these scholars was a tremendous example of how meaningful and invaluable our funds can be in helping a nontraditional student gain a leg up in getting their four-year degree and being a role model for those around them. Most expressed plans for working toward a master's degree or a Ph.D. and all of us were proud to be seeing and hearing these bright, articulate, determined and creative young women striving to be their best.

If you had any doubt about the endurance and sustainability of the Finch College name, rest assured these scholars are our legacy.

Article: *Melanie Jamgochian Mitchell*  
Photographs: *Margaret Stein Nakamura*  
*Lois Moran Ziegler*



Cristina Mihailescu, Peishan (KC) Chen, Connie Falconi, Emilie Unterweger, Gabriele Rosado



Ginger Runes Najar, Carol Barnes Ross, Ceil Gavin Ainsworth



Felice Forer Axelrod, Honorees Susan Mau Soong and Nanette Lampl Avery



Francine Port, Marjorie R. Schulman, Lois Moran Ziegler, Wesley Cullen Davidson, Christina Dolan Lakin



Margaret Stein Nakamura, Rita Thompson



Dr. Cecilia Macheski, Nancy Holland



Laura Hockaday, Shea Gordon Festoff

# CLASS NOTES

## 40s

**Anita Valldejuli McGowan** (Finch Class of 1944), a boarder while at Finch, is looking for other classmates.

## 50s



Sarah Guido Sutcliffe and her family

**Sarah Guido Sutcliffe** (Finch Class of 1956) celebrated her 80th birthday in August at her home in Solana Beach, California. She married Henry Sutcliffe in Mexico City soon after graduating. **Ceil Gavin Ainsworth**, who was one of her bridesmaids, attended her birthday along with Sarah's four children, Robert, Patie, Susie and John. Sarah also lives part of the year in Mexico City.

Tony award-winning producer, **Patricia Flicker Admiss**, writes, "I am so excited that my first Hollywood film, *SEX, DEATH and BOWLING*, starring Adrian Grenier should be in movie theatres this November. In other news, **Georganne Aldrich Heller** and I are producing a new Picaso play. Stay tuned!"

**Dorothy Rutter Engberg** (Finch Class of 1959), originally from Midland, Texas, retired to Palm Beach, Florida, after her husband, Alan, stopped practicing medicine in Albuquerque. Although she is in touch with Finch classmate **Norma Meer Dallal** from Albuquerque, Dorothy would like to hear from other boarders who were at Finch during her years.

**Marla Schneider Perkel** (Finch Class of 1958) after graduating from Finch, obtained a master's degree in biochemical genetics from Columbia University. She volunteered as a Science Reader with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic for 32 years while raising two children. Since 2002, she and her husband Buddy have lived in North

Truro (Cape Cod) after living in Wellfleet, also on the Cape, where she volunteered for the Wellfleet Audubon.

**Suzanne (Susie) Stern Salomon**, an only child, relished the time she had fly-fishing in Alaska last July with 13 out of 15 family members. Susie now has a second great-grand baby, Madeline Kelly Sprehe.

**Joanne Balch Thomas** (Finch Class of 1958) writes that she lives at Ocean Reef in Key Largo, Florida. She has two children and four grandchildren whom she took on a cruise two years ago from Istanbul to Athens. She plays tennis and cards as well as mahjong.

## 60s

**Wesley Cullen Davidson** (Finch Class of 1969), mentor of Finch College Scholarship Recipient Jessica Ryan, now at Smith College, took her to lunch at the Metropolitan Museum's Trustees' Dining Room, adjacent to the editorial office, where Jessica was a summer intern. In August, Jessica was learning book making at the University of Virginia before heading back to college.

**Susan Davis** (Finch Class of 1969), when she is not working at The Annenberg Retreat at Sunnyslans in Rancho Mirage, California, has started an international art exhibition of site-specific work, similar to Nohra Haime's art biennial in Cartagena, Colombia. From February through April 2017, this exhibit, *Desert X*, will go from Palm Springs to the Salton Sea and has a curator, staff, national board and not-for-profit organization. Congratulations on your new venture!

**Margaret Stewart Hedberg** (Finch Class of 1963), now owner of the International Debutantes' Ball, had an article about making her debut in 1963 in *New York Magazine*, March 23–April 5, 2015.

**Susan Klein Lane** (Finch Class of 1962) lives in Wyckoff, New Jersey, with her husband of 53 years. She teaches writing in a GED program with a highly successful rate, at Oasis, a Haven for Women and Children in Paterson, New Jersey. An appointed mediator in the Superior Court of New Jersey, she also mediates cases in Bergen County Small Claims Court as well as in the county municipalities.

**Sofia Mannos** (Finch Class of 1968) writes "Dear Classmates, An aide is typing this for me. FYI, I suffered a fall last October in my Washington, D.C., living room and I am now a quadriplegic. Not much more I can say. I am now in Baltimore undergoing therapy at Kennedy Krieger Spinal Cord Institute. Prognosis is iffy. Any

updates can be obtained from my cousins CC'd on this email. All the best. Sofia Mannos 1968." To get in touch with Sofia, you can reach her through Lori Weinraub at lweinraub@verizon.net or Jackie Quinn at jquinnews@gmail.com.

**Monica Ronan** (Finch Class of 1965) lives in Miami and owns two racehorses. She travels when she isn't trackside during the season. After Finch, Monica went to New York University and got a master's degree in public health.

## 70s

**Nanette Lampl Avery** (Finch Class of 1974) and 2015 Cosgrave honoree writes that, "Just in time for the one year anniversary of *Orphan in America's* publication, the book received a great endorsement from the Historical Novel Society." <https://historicalnovelsociety.org/reviews/orphan-in-america/>

**Felice Forer Axelrod** (Finch Class of 1971) is a consultant to Bloomberg, providing special project and management services to both corporate and nonprofit entities, including fundraising and event production. From 2010 to 2013, she served as Mayor Bloomberg's representative to the Brooklyn Academy of Music Board. She also consults with nonprofit organizations on fundraising, event production, marketing and strategy. She serves on the board of the Bachmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Foundation, Inc., and the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center. A past Cosgrave Award recipient, she is the immediate past president of the Council of Protocol Executives (COPE) and a certified Corporate Etiquette and International Protocol Consultant.

**Nina Polk Lipkowitz** (Finch Class of 1970) now lives in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, in the Berkshires. Formerly with the Westside YMCA in Manhattan for 40 years, she ran their pottery program. She also was a docent at the American Museum of Natural History. Nina's husband takes and prints photographs. They both exhibit at the 510 Warren St. Gallery in Hudson, New York where she will have a watercolor show November 3–7, 2015. To view her fabulous work, see [www.Ninalipkowitz.com](http://www.Ninalipkowitz.com).

**Marie K. Munroe** (Finch Class of 1973) has been a cash manager at Hofstra University for 16 years. In 2010, Marie finished her master's degree in Foundations of Education and hopes to begin a new master's study in teaching English-as-a-second-language this fall. She has four grandchildren.

**Anne Weitzer** (Finch Class of 1972) writes that she lives in Manhattan and Southampton.

*Continued on next page ►*

Born in Tennessee, Anne has an amusing blog post entitled "GLOBAL LOVE", in which she enumerates society's old-fashioned rules for dependence on men. You can find Anne's blog at <http://www.default.togoodness.com> in which she categorizes her blog posts from aging to women. One can message Anne at [47dehaven@msn.com](mailto:47dehaven@msn.com) or leave a comment on her blog.

## CONDOLENCES

Our collective sympathy to **Rena Niculescu Crisp** (Finch Class of 1972) whose husband **William Crisp** died on June 22. Happily married for almost 26 years with a son Peter Crisp, and three stepsons, the Crisps had seven grandchildren. Condolences can be sent to: Mrs. Rena Crisp, 400 East 52 Street, Apt. 8-A, New York, NY 10022.

Our condolences to **Ellen Easton** (Finch Class

of 1976) whose mother **Reva Paul Epstein** died January 27, 2014. Wife of the late Seymour Epstein, Reva spent 80 years volunteering in public service. She was instrumental in establishing the Discover America program with the Lyndon B. Johnson White House to assist tourism and a pilot launch, now called New York City & Co., New York City's official marketing, tourism and partnership organization. In the 1960s, Reva was one of the few women stockbrokers. In later years, she became an internationally acclaimed confectionary artist, with hand-decorated floral sugars and mints for teas, weddings and other special events.

Our sympathy to **Monica Vinade**, (Finch Class of 1965), whose father **William J. Ronan** died at 101 in October 2014.

*Article: Wesley Cullen Davidson*

## Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust

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# In Memoriam

We lost **Patricia Amerman**, senior vice president, Rubenstein Communications, on April 30, 2014, and express our collective sympathy to her family. Below are two reminiscences from classmates who knew her well.

**Agnes Birnbaum** writes:

I met Pat Amerman (Finch Class of 1974) on my first day at Finch College, when I joined her table at lunch. It was here, in the cafeteria, between classes, where Pat regularly regaled her coterie of friends with stories and laughter. As Pat was fond of Dorothy Parker quotes, it was only fitting that Pat seemed to form her own "Round Table" (actually benches!) in the tradition of the original one at the Algonquin Hotel.

Pat was very proud of her Irish-Greek heritage and her stories often revolved around family life in Astoria. Pat was a raconteur with a ready smile both in and outside of our Anthropology and English classes.

Public relations was a perfect fit for Pat's personality. Pat particularly relished overseeing her account with Waterford Crystal. She was right in her element as on New Year's Eve, you could find Pat in Times Square as the Waterford Crystal ball dropped amid thunderous cheering and global media coverage.

I am grateful for the many laughs we shared over the years. I said goodbye to Pat in her beloved neighborhood of Astoria alive with Greek pastries and cheerful shamrocks. Pat's love and enjoyment of life is both an inspiration and a lasting legacy.

Another classmate, **Laurie Rubin Squire**, reminisces:



*Patricia Amerman*

I met Pat the first day of freshman year. From the outer boroughs, we had a lot in common. We got each other's humor...even when no one else did.

Pat was proud of her Irish, Dutch-Greek Heritage (the latter had "colorful" Greek expressions). Our duo became a trio in junior year when **Maire Mulholland Martello** came to Finch. We did everything from writing the senior theater production (*Some of My Best Friends Are Women*) to our one-and-only time of cutting class (we went to see *The Exorcist* at the Paris Theatre).

The three of us got jobs at the same broadcasting company. Pat actually dated my husband first and spent that one date telling him why her friend Laurie was the "right one" for him! She was my maid of honor and later godmother to my twin girls.

It is difficult to imagine the planet without Pat.

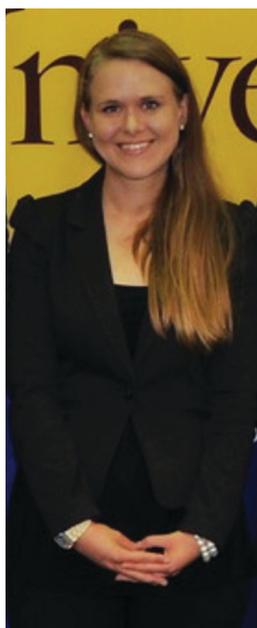
# 2015 FINCH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO NINE OUTSTANDING SCHOLARS

The Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust (FCAAFT) announced the winners of this year's scholarships awarded to outstanding community college women who are 22 years of age or above and will enter an accredited four-year college. Each scholarship is a monetary award based upon each student's merit, academic achievement and letters of reference from two of their professors. Once again, we are indebted to our fine college professor judges, **Dr. Tricia Lin**, **Dr. Cecilia Macheski** and **Dr. Mary Rad-dock** who contribute their valuable time and expertise in narrowing down the list of candidates.

The number of scholarships this year totaled nine and the amount increased to \$5,000. Recipients will receive \$2,500 upon transferring to the four-year college and another \$2,500 at their final semester before graduation. **The Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship** provided four deserving women a total of \$5,000 each. **Dr. Katherine J. Hampares**, professor of French and Spanish at Finch and 2014 Cosgrave honoree, donated a scholarship. The **FCAAFT** gave scholarships to four outstanding women.

## 2015 Scholarship Recipients

**The Freya Moskowitz Stern Scholarship, named in honor of the late Finch College graduate, is donated by members of the Louis J. Stern family. The scholarship is a grant of \$100,000 to be given in \$20,000 yearly increments for five years. The scholarship awards four recipients with scholarships of \$5,000 each, allocated over two years.**



**Emily Barnes** has always been fascinated by the sciences. Her curious and ever-thinking mind always wanted to know what makes things work. Emily's goal is to receive a degree in chemical engineering and then to work with Boeing Aircraft. She thrives in a collaborative environment in which to develop technologies that benefit others. She graduated from Gloucester County Community College, NJ, where she received the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Award, was on the president's list each semester and

an Honor Society member. In addition to working as a substitute K through 6th grade teacher, she volunteered to mentor other students at Gloucester County Community College. In her spare time, Emily completed three marathons. She will continue her education at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ.



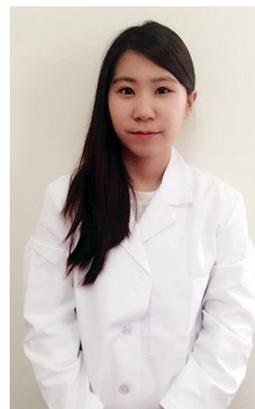
Working full time as a pharmacy technician, **Vanessa Cardona** attended Raritan Valley Community College, NJ, part time. Finding it difficult to balance both work and school, Vanessa took several years to earn an associate in science degree in chemistry. She

credits competing in the "Spartan Race" as being a tremendous motivator. This three-part race is broken into three courses: the sprint, the super and the beast, one more challenging than the other. Completing these races gave Vanessa a great sense of accomplishment and proved to her what she could accomplish in the future. In 2012 Vanessa became nationally certified as a pharmacy technician, enabling her to earn more money. She is a STEM student, Galileo Scholar and member of the dean's list. She will now become a full-time chemistry student at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and hopes one day to work for the United States government.



After graduating from the Manhattan School of Music and performing professionally as a violin soloist, **Ellen Mutter's** fingers developed nerve damage and she could no longer feel the vibrating strings and perform. She found mathematics to be a wonderful counterpart and entered Rockland Community College, NY to study liberal arts/science/mathematics. Ellen has been a member of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society and the National Society of College Scholars. She was on the dean's list all semesters and President of RCC's Gay Straight Alliance. As a member of the Honors Program, Ellen was required to take eight honors courses. She

was selected to participate in a biomedical research program at Stony Brook University; she presented her findings at a major metropolitan conference. Ellen transfers to Amherst College, MA, as an aspiring mathematician.



When business major **Hyo Jung Shin** attended a program at the American Chemical Society, she suddenly realized how chemistry and biology interface in our lives, and quickly and enthusiastically became a science major with a focus on research. Her professor writes, "[She

was in] Honors General Chemistry II and she was again in my Organic Chemistry I class this past Fall semester where she excelled in an admirable way also earning one of the two As awarded." Hyo Jung has presented her findings at several conferences, including the 2015 ACS-NY section Undergraduate Research Symposium, Columbia University's Undergraduate Poster Conference as well as the Yale University and the CUNY Environmental Summer Conference. Hyo Jung also volunteered at the KSEA Math and Science Olympiad sponsored by the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association. About 400 students in grades 4 through 12 compete annually at this event. After a summer internship with the Department of Environment, Hyo Jung will transfer from Queensborough Community College, NY, to Queens College, the same as her sister did a year ago when she received the FCAAFT scholarship.

## The Dr. Kathryn J. Hampares Scholarship:



A 36-year-old mother of two teenagers, **Amanda English** worked full time with the Bank of America and took online courses from Herkimer County Community College, NY to earn her degree. She had been with the bank 14 years when it announced a corporate move. Amanda did not want to uproot her family but planned to continue working full time and get an education.

*Continued on next page ▶*

She opted for an online degree. A cyber security major concentrating on forensics, Amanda wants to get child pornographers off the internet. The award allows Amanda to buy a desperately needed new computer, plus textbooks. When she received a letter congratulating her for being selected in the Honors Program, she had to choose a faculty member as a mentor. As an online student, she had never met any of them! She chose Mr. Price, the professor who taught the toughest course and the one who scared her the most. His mentoring certainly helped her. She has been on the dean's list and a member of the PTK Honor Society. She transfers to Utica University, NY, to continue her studies online.

### The Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust Scholarships:



**Najlaa Bouras** grew up in Morocco in a devout Muslim family, an ultraconservative ideology; all women are covered and considered second-class citizens. Her mother and abusive father sent her off to work on her grandmother's farm but it was her grandmother who urged Najlaa to get an education and not stay confined to menial labor. She returned to live with her parents, working in a garment factory to

support not only herself but also her family. After high school, she entered a contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of State for a three-month trip to the United States for leadership training. Najlaa won, one of five in the whole country. At the end, she decided to overstay her visa and take her chances. She survived by working for \$6 a day at a fast food restaurant, continuing to pursue her love of learning. After several years she applied for asylum and obtained a permanent visa, permitting her to enroll at Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, NY. She says this is the best decision she ever made. She was elected to the PTK Honor Society and Honors Club. Her passion to help immigrants, women and low-income children led her to be an active member in CUNY Corps, an on-campus organization that matches students with internships at nonprofit organizations. She was honored to represent Kingsborough in the Salzburg Global Seminar. Recipient of the **Dr. Margaret Maxwell** Award, given annually to a young woman who has overcome diversity, Najlaa will go on to Smith College in Northampton, MA.

After high school in Burma, **Chu May Paing**



worked as a volunteer teacher of English in monastic schools in the suburbs of Yangon. Later she was given the opportunity to study at Shinawatra University in Thailand. Happily, Chu May was selected from Burma to receive the U.S. Diversity Visa Lottery. This coveted visa provides candidates from underprivileged countries with permanent residency anywhere in the U.S.; Chu May chose New York City. Growing up in Myanmar and having studied in Thailand, she had a particular interest in Southeast Asian language speakers who maintain their native languages in this linguistically diverse city. At LaGuardia Community College, NY, she was selected to represent the college as an ambassador in the prestigious "President's Society". During her time as an ambassador, she was offered a job as a college assistant to tutor English to second language speakers at the Education and Language Acquisition Department. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages will become her major at Queens College, NY this fall. Ultimately, Chu May wants to teach college linguistics.



After going to public school for the third to the eighth grade, **Cheyenne Tallas Sandy** decided to homeschool herself. While her mother worked, she cared for her younger siblings. For grades nine through 11, she attended an alternate school, Sudbury, on a partial scholarship. At age 17, she left home and became totally self-supporting. At

Sudbury, an administrator paired her with a program in Japan and then on to Russia, where she worked with a nonprofit orphanage, interacting with children in speech therapy. Here, Tallas discovered the appeal of speech pathology. While working at a nursing home as a dietary aide,

Tallas saw the effects of speech pathology. She realized she could combine her interest in speech and language in therapeutic ways without being in the conventional medical field. She graduated from LaGuardia Community College and will transfer to Queens College where she was accepted in the Honors Program, to study Communication Disorders, Applied Linguistics and Japanese. Tallas hopes to spend a semester at a Japanese university. After college, she plans to teach English in Japan with the JET Program, pursue master's degrees in speech pathology and TESOL, (teachers of English to speakers of other languages). Her plan is to work in schools in the U.S. and internationally during the school year. Then she will spend summers traveling independently or with not-for-profit organizations (NFPOs) to volunteer her teaching and speech pathology skills in hospitals, shelters and orphanages around the world.



Growing up in what today is Slovenia, **Sanja Radenovic** had the unfortunate experience of having acid thrown in her face by a gang. She was the oldest of four children. Although her single father worked tirelessly, Sanja quickly became responsible for the home and supervision of her very young siblings. At age 20, she decided to move to the United States, not knowing anyone or speaking the language. Now 32-years-old, Sanja has regained a sense of self-worth and has begun to realize the dreams she had given up. She is a member of the PTK Honor Society and the Sisterhood Society Club at the Borough of Manhattan Community College. For the past nine years she has worked as a paralegal in a law firm. Sanja will continue her studies at Baruch College in New York City. In the future, Sanja would like to earn a law degree. Pro bono work for teenage girls is tops on her list.

**The \$5,000 scholarship is very often used to buy a new computer; others use the money to move to the new college location, or for textbooks and lab fees. These deserving women greatly appreciate the generosity of the Freya Moskowitz Stern family, Dr. Katherine J. Hampares and Finch College graduates to improve their lives and enhance their opportunities.**

Article: Lois Moran Ziegler

# FINCH SCHOLAR SAYS THANK YOU

*In the following letter to the members of the FCAAFT, Connie Falconi, a Finch Scholar, expresses her gratitude for all the help she has received*

I would like to congratulate the new students who received the Finch Alumnae Award of this year 2015. I wish you all great success in your careers. Also, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Finch College Alumnae Association for supporting my education and motivating me to achieve my goals.

Years ago, my mother used to ask me to go to school but I never listened to her. However, after experiencing a lot of difficulties in my life, I thought that it is never too late to start an education. In 2001, I emigrated from Ecuador with my two children; we did not speak much English. Through the years, I worked different jobs to support my family, but taught my children to value education. I started ESL classes at Hudson County Community College in 2007. I did not have a GPA, so I did not think I would go this far. I just wanted to improve my English so I could help my children to do their school homework. I remember the first time I obtained an "A" my daughter hanged it up on the refrigerator. I felt motivated to persevere to get an education and I started to appreciate it. Last year, my kids and I were attending college at the same time!

Receiving the Finch Association Award helped me to take care of some finance difficulties. However, I was very inspired because I realized that no matter how hard life can be, still there are good people out there. People like you, who care even when you did not know me. It was your act of kindness and generosity that inspired me to continue on my educational journey. At Hudson County Community College I became part of the Honor Society and graduated summa cum laude, with an associate's degree in Early Education in May of 2011. In the same year, I started at New Jersey City University, where I obtained a two-year Presidential Scholarship, and later I also obtained a scholarship from the Charlotte Newcomb Foundation. Finally, in May 15 of 2014, I graduated magna cum laude



Connie Falconi and her mother

with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Now, I am currently pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Therapy. My mother could not believe all the amazing things that I have achieved in America, so she came all the way from Ecuador to see me graduate and bring me her support. I said to her, "I am sorry mom for having given you a hard time all these years and for being such a wild child. Thank you for never giving up on me." Now, I understand that the older we get, the

wiser our parents are.

Going to school has not been easy for me, but I learned to overcome struggles while raising a family. Education has changed my life! It has helped me to gain confidence and defeat my fears. It opened my eyes to a multidimensional mind, to understand culture and re-connect with the soul. The multicultural classrooms taught me lessons outside the textbooks. Winston Churchill once said, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." This quote helped me to value new possibilities. We all have opportunities; it is a matter of taking them. As students, we do the work and study hard during those late nights to finish a paper, but we don't really do it alone. We need the fellowship of like-minded people who empower us and push us to go on just when we are about to give up. It only takes that one person who believes in us, who encourages us to see our potential – family members, children, brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents and friends who have been there along the way to motivate us and help us become who we are today.

Being part of the Finch Association is so special because they help us become stronger leaders and in-

spire us to see education and leadership in a deeper perspective. I realize that leadership is not only about what we can do for others, but what we can lead others to do. For example, I started a volunteer service in my community to help senior citizens of 80 and 90 years old. Being able to help others has helped me to expand the meaning of life. Formal education has given me the intellect for survival; but experience provided the wisdom for endurance. Success is not based only on academic achievements, but on the values and principles we perform.

I would like to express infinite gratitude to The Finch College Alumnae Association for their AMAZING work on supporting students to achieve their dreams. As role models, you have planted the seed in our hearts and our minds. This will be remembered and will be passed on to a new generation of students. The final destination is spiritual freedom that awakens, transcends and enlightens our soul. Life is about living, living is about giving, and giving is remaining humble.

Thank you so much!!

Sincerely,  
Connie Falconi

## We Need YOUR INFO!

Have you ever wished you could hear about Finch events *before* instead of after the fact? Have you ever wanted to track down someone who was at Finch when you were, but haven't had any luck? We know the feeling and here's how that can change...our database is more than 1,300 strong but **we have fewer than 300 correct email addresses!** Each time we reach out to a regional group of alums or send a blast email to everyone, **over two-thirds of you don't get the message.** Please consider going online to <http://www.finchcollege.org/newcontact.html> and entering an email where you can be reached. **We'd love to have alumnae, faculty, staff, friends, family members and our Finch scholars visit the website and let us know how to reach you electronically.** Hope you'll take a minute to do this (or get a tech-savvy friend to help) so we can share all the terrific things on the horizon.

# Finch Fall Events

## **Late October: Luncheon at Alba Farber Francesca's Los Angeles Home**

Finch alumnae are invited to a luncheon in late October at the beautiful L.A. home of hostess extraordinaire, Alba Farber Francesca, and her husband, stage and screen actor James Karen. The event will benefit the scholarship fund of the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust. If you are in the Los Angeles area and would like to come, please call **Alba Farber Francesca** at **323-663-2565** by October 15. For a donation of \$50, you will get to reunite with Finch friends and make new acquaintances, while enjoying fine dining in an elegant and congenial atmosphere.

## **Saturday, October 17: Philip Johnson's Glass House in New Canaan, CT**

A two-hour tour of Philip Johnson's Glass House in New Canaan, CT is planned for Saturday, October 17, at 10:30am. Philip Johnson, a leading 20th century architect, was a founding member of "The Harvard Five", a group of five architects who settled and began their careers in New Canaan in the 1940s. This group of avant-garde architects built 100 homes, of which four are now listed on the U.S. Register of Historic Places. Philip Johnson's Glass House is one of these homes, and the one in which he lived until his death in 2005. The contribution for the tour is \$85 (\$25 tax deductible). Please email **Suzanne Stern Salomon** at **wim.z@me.com** by October 10 to reserve your place. A luncheon for all attendees will follow at the home of Susie Salomon in Rowayton, CT, which is near the beach on Bell Island. Casual and comfortable clothing is recommended for both the tour and the lunch. Round-trip transportation by van is also being arranged from New York to New Canaan for an additional charge of approximately \$46.

## **Sunday, October 25: International Fine Art & Antique Dealers Show at the Park Avenue Armory**

Finch alumnae are invited to a complimentary tour of the 27th Annual International Fine Art & Antique Dealers Show on Sunday, October 25 beginning at 2pm at New York's Park Avenue Armory. This glamorous and carefully curated show brings together works of art that span continents and millennia – among them many of museum quality. Meet experts and get an inside perspective on some of the most coveted objects in the world. In a sublime environment this visit to the legendary International Show will be a memorable and informative afternoon with friends and former classmates of Finch. The tax-deductible donation is \$40.00. To reserve your place, please contact **Ceil Gavin Ainsworth** at **ceilains@aol.com** or **212-288-5653** by October 16.

## **Thursday, November 12: A Night of Jerry Herman's Music by Mason Griffin**

Music director and pianist, Mason Griffin, has created a

show, *No Blue Monday*, which is a biographical presentation of the life and work of Jerry Herman. "It Only Takes a Moment", "It's Today", "I Won't Send Roses", and "I Am What I Am" are just a taste of what you'll hear throughout the evening. With nothing more than a piano, Mr. Griffin provides an intimate portrait of the man behind the music, lyrics and shows. The two-hour show and cocktail reception begin at 6:00pm and take place at the beautiful home of Finch alumna Ginger Runes Najjar, 275 Central Park West at 88th Street, Apt. 12D. The tax-deductible donation is \$50. To reserve your place, please contact **Frances Fish Tompkins** at **212-744-2008** by November 5.

## **Friday, November 13: Frank Stella Exhibit at the new Whitney Museum of American Art**

Get an exclusive look at the nearly 120 works of one of America's greatest living modern artists, Frank Stella. Our private hour and a half tour of *Frank Stella: A Retrospective* at the new Whitney Museum in the Meatpacking District, limited to 25 people, begins at 3:30pm, and will be conducted by a Whitney Teaching Fellow. The tour showcases Stella's best-known works alongside lesser-known ones from private collections. Please arrive at least 20 minutes before the tour begins. The contribution is \$50, with \$15 as tax deductible. To reserve your place, please contact **Joy Correge** at **jcorrege@yahoo.com** or call **917-494-3574** by November 6. Following the tour, you are free to visit the rest of the museum and later to join in light food and libation at the rooftop eatery of the Standard Hotel, the Top of the Standard.

## **Sunday, November 15: The Salon Art + Design at the Park Avenue Armory**

The Salon Art + Design hosts the world's finest galleries in historical, modern and contemporary art and design. Visitors will find works from the great cabinet makers of 18th century France to English Arts + Crafts, Art Deco, Mid Century Modern to today's newest up-and-coming designers. It's a must for collectors and admirers of contemporary and historic design and fine and ethnographic art. The Sunday, November 15, guided tour begins at 3:00pm and the tax-deductible donation is \$40.00. For reservations, please email **Ceil Gavin Ainsworth** at **ceilains@aol.com** or call **212-288-5653** by November 8.

**Please be sure you contact the appropriate person to make your reservation for each event. Then please make your check payable to the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust, and mail to:**

Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust  
954 Lexington Avenue, #183  
New York, NY 10021

## FCAAPT General Membership Meetings for 2015/2016

Meetings of the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust will be held at the Birch Wathen Lenox School, 210 East 77 Street, New York, NY 10075 at 6:00pm on the following dates:

### 2015

- Tuesday, October 6

### 2016

- Wednesday, January 13
- Thursday, March 31
- Thursday, June 9

We welcome all members and Friends of Finch.

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2015 DUES YET?

The Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust needs your support to carry on its mission of granting scholarships to worthy candidates. Annual dues are \$50; lifetime membership is \$300. You can also have your friends and associates join as Friends of Finch. Dues are \$50 a year or \$300 for a lifetime membership. Your dues and donations are tax deductible, since we are a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Just go to the Finch College website [www.FinchCollege.org](http://www.FinchCollege.org) and click on Membership on the left of the home page to download a form and join. You can mail the form along with your dues to:

**Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust**  
**954 Lexington Avenue, #183**  
**New York, NY 10021**

### New Lifetime Members

Norma Dallal  
Stephanie Brody Lederman  
Jeanne Sutherland

### Major Donors

Donna Miller Casey  
Lois Chiles Gilder  
Dr. Katherine J. Hampares  
Charlene Rubin  
Mr. and Mrs. Evan Stern  
Louis J. Stern

### Friends of Finch

### Lifetime Members

Diane Crupain  
Dr. Nelly Santos  
Lynda Snyder  
Hedy Zankel

## Scholarships To Honor Those We Have Lost

A beloved classmate, family or faculty member may be remembered and honored with the donation of a Finch College Foundation Scholarship. The **Freya Moskowitz Stern** Scholarship is just one example of a family member choosing to honor their loved one through a legacy that will enable other young women to benefit from the value of a college education. The contribution for a two-year Scholarship in Memoriam is \$5,000; or \$2,500 for one year. If you, or a group, have someone you would like to memorialize in this way, please contact **Lois Moran Ziegler** at [ZieglerAssociate@aol.com](mailto:ZieglerAssociate@aol.com).



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