



## Finch Foundation Grant Recipients Fulfill Their Career Ambitions

*Each year the Finch College Alumnae Association Foundation awards a grant of \$2,000 to four women above the age of 22 who transfer from a community college to a four-year college. Eileen Bluestone Sherman leads the Finch Mentor Program that pairs a Finch alumna with a grant recipient to assist the awardee in her career. In the following article, Eileen recounts the exceptional progress of Finch grant recipients.*

This year, after spending a rather lovely (and snowy) New Year's weekend in Vermont, my husband, **Dr. Neal Sherman**, and I headed back to New York City for a delicious Sunday brunch at one of Neal's favorite Upper East Side eateries. While the food never disappoints and the atmosphere is always casual and relaxing, this meal was particularly delightful because we were joined by some rather remarkable young women. What I originally told Neal would be a simple 90-minute get-together turned into an entire afternoon of fascinating conversation. We sat down for brunch and finally made our way back to the front door as the restaurant was setting up for dinner.

So, who were our intriguing brunch companions? Our guests included current Finch scholarship winners **Zineb Bouizy**, **Annamaria Havrillova**, and **Danielle Jablonski**, accompanied by her life and business partner, Kate Raddock. Everyone shared current news. It seemed extraordinary because each young woman could not be more unique. Yet, all shared the same level of passion, drive, and standard for excellence that describes each and every outstanding Finch Foundation Grant Recipient. A lovely camaraderie flourished, and a great time was had by all!



L to R: Zineb Bouizy, Danielle Jablonski, Annamaria Havrillova

Currently studying at Yale University with a December 2013 graduation date, **Danielle Jablonski's** academic focus is a combination of environmental studies and political science, with a long-term goal as a neighborhood organizer. Of course, Danielle is not waiting until graduation to put her career plans in motion. In 2008, Danielle and Kate co-founded CRUX Climbing, ([www.climberux.org](http://www.climberux.org)), a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that uses the sport of rock climbing to foster physical and mental health within the

LGBTQ community of New York City.

Danielle explained that CRUX organizes rock-climbing events for adults of all backgrounds and abilities throughout the year as well as hosting outdoor rock and ice climbing events in New York and around the U.S. Currently, the organization hosts three events per week and has a membership base of 1,400 climbers who range from total beginners to experienced competition climbers and full-time, rock-climbing guides. The membership is made up of roughly half

### *19th Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards Celebration*

*Mark your calendars for the Tuesday, May 21 Cosgrave Awards at the Cosmopolitan Club in New York City. The reception begins at 6:00 p.m., the presentation at 7 p.m. and dinner at 8 p.m. Highlights of the Cosgrave weekend include reserved tickets for Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, a new play produced by Finch alum Patricia Flicker Addiss, on May 17; and a tour of and lunch at the New York Historical Society, followed by a reception, including musical entertainment by a surprise guest, at the home of Finch alum Ginger Najar on May 18. All proceeds benefit the Foundation. For more information, please contact Virginia Wattiker Sheerin at her office: 212-605-5560 or Ceil Gavin Ainsworth at home: 212-288-5653.*

women and half men, creating a gender balance that is difficult to find in most co-ed sports organizations. Danielle serves as CRUX's executive director and is especially proud of the services and support the organization offers homeless and at-risk LGBTQ City Youth through free rock-climbing events and instruction. As if all this isn't keeping Danielle busy enough, she is looking forward to a study abroad program in Italy this summer and confessed that one of her long-term goals is to earn her helicopter pilot's license. (I promised I would inquire among Finch grads to see if anyone is, indeed, a helicopter pilot. If you are out there, be in touch!)

**Annamaria Havrilova** happily announced that her May 2013 graduation from William Paterson University, with a degree in business, is close at hand. She told us all about her recent success in a national collegiate competition attended by 35 business schools from around the country. Her persuasive and articulate skills not only landed her school into the finals, but she personally caught the attention of NOT ONE but SIX companies, scouting for new talent. At our brunch she still didn't know which job offer she might choose, but the competition certainly gave her a substantial boost up that career ladder.

**Zineb Bouizy**, our 24-year-old newlywed, told us that she is currently studying civil engineering at the City College of New York Grove School of Engineering and is already investigating Ph.D. programs. Zineb shared with us her experiences at a special program hosted by Columbia University, and her personal interests in city infrastructure and city planning. A gifted mathematician, Zineb continues to serve as a math tutor at LaGuardia Community College. In addition, she is creating (at the community college) a guidance service for other women in pursuit of professional careers. But don't think she's just "all about academics!" This fall her own "ingenuity and resourcefulness" took center stage when she taught herself to bicycle in order to help Hurricane Sandy victims. Now, bicycling is one of her favorite hobbies!

We all had a marvelous time sharing stories, and the young women were especially interested to get to know other Finch scholarship winners who, I assured them, had equally intriguing stories and impressive resumes. For the record, here's a bit of news about five more remarkable women.

## Update on Other Finch Grantees

**Tatiana Shaurova** wrote me that she completed her undergraduate degree, and this fall began working on her Ph.D. at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo. She was awarded a Presidential Scholarship and is very excited to be part of the department of Pharmacology and Cancer Therapeutics. (This highly competitive program only accepted FIVE individuals into the Ph.D. Program last year!) Tatiana's note was especially touching because she explained that Roswell Park was the institute that treated her late husband, and her association has great personal meaning.

I just learned from her Finch Mentor, **Jill Chamberlain**, that **Klara Kang**, our marine biologist, studying and working at Florida's FIT, celebrated her wedding day in December 2012. Her new husband shares Klara's dedication to the study of ocean life and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in fish biology. As one might guess, the couple exchanged their wedding vows on the beach.

Much further to the North, one of our 2012 Finch Grant Recipients, **Susan Van Ness**, earned all A's for the fall semester at Wesleyan University, majoring in American Studies with a concentration on Media. Her goal is to earn a Master's Degree in Library Science while also serving her local community and its farmer's market. Susan's desire to merge her volunteer work with her academic studies has resulted in a very exciting and worthy digital humanities project proposal. With a primary focus on distribution of food, the goal of the project is to ensure that fresh fruits and vegetables be readily available to the poorest sections of Susan's Connecticut community.

Meanwhile, in Poughkeepsie, **Cathy Schmitz**, our Bard graduate, is not only "cracking those books again", earning yet another degree as a paralegal, but she is currently founding her own small literary magazine with the assistance of a former professor from Bard. Slowly, but surely, Cathy is making her publishing dreams come true.

Finally, I heard from **Maki Kato**, who graduated from Wellesley College last May. Upon graduation, Maki became part of a fascinating project with the MIT Media Lab, testing "App Inventor", an educational tool for the Android smart phone. Maki's role was to test the product and then introduce the product to school teachers. She headed out to Southern California recently to become a clinical research fellow and already received two rapid promotions!

The common thread among all these highly talented and determined women is their heartfelt appreciation for the Finch College Foundation Grant. In addition, they all voice a "sincere thanks" for our efforts to become Finch Mentors and friends. (For the record, our newest Finch Mentor is **Anne Birnbaum Casey**, whose own success as a librarian in the corporate world should prove to be invaluable assistance to Susan Van Ness as she explores her options in library science.)

The fabulous January brunch with Danielle, Annamaria, and Zineb made me more convinced than ever that our foundation is fostering the dreams of future leaders while sustaining the Finch College legacy. (Neal, who came to the brunch to be my "official photographer", was as mesmerized as I was by our three guests.) Plus, as Dr. Maxwell predicted, our foundation is creating some new and lasting Finch friendships. (I, for one, connected with the terrific **Laura Stober Larsen**, who is now my "partner in crime" as we try to match scholarship winners with the perfect Finch Mentor.)

So...don't be shy. Hop aboard our "band wagon" and get involved with our Finch Mentor Program. You can email me at [kcne@juno.com](mailto:kcne@juno.com). It's easy, fun, and inspiring. I assure you that a Sunday brunch with any of our winners provides "absolute proof" that the Finch College Alumnae Association Foundation is helping to mold the next generation of women "superstars". In other words, the Finch spirit prevails!

*Article: Eileen Bluestone Sherman  
Photograph: Dr. Neal Sherman*

# In the Spotlight

## Marcy Syms: An Educated Consumer in Philanthropy



Marcy Syms

One would be hard pressed today to find a living soul who grew up in New York during the '60s and '70s unfamiliar with the well-known marketing mantra: "An Educated Consumer is Our Best Customer".

In 1959, Sy Syms opened his first men's clothing store on Cortlandt Street in Manhattan's financial district. The company went public 24 years later, and remained a major retailing force with a loyal customer base in the tri-state area until its dissolution early last year.

Sy's daughter, Marcy Syms, (Finch class of 1973 and Cosgrave Award recipient in 1999), says her father was inspired to give back to New York which had given him so much. As recipient of that perspective, Marcy proudly continues to honor her father's legacy through the Sy Syms Foundation, which was created in 1985. The foundation's first big check went to establishing the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University, the largest school for secular and religious Jewish education in the United States. Today, the foundation helps fund 64 charities and organizations.

In 1979, Syms Corporation became the first major corporate underwriter of its kind to sponsor public television programming. A survey of Syms customers showed that WNET/PBS was their third most watched TV station, after CBS and NBC. This PBS affiliate's first beneficiary was "Agronsky & Company", precursor to the current

"Washington Week", hosted by Gwen Ifill.

Interest in – and subsequent involvement with – the preservation of old Hollywood films soon followed. In the early '80s, three Garbo and three Hepburn films formed the genesis of Reel 13 on Saturday nights, which the foundation continues to underwrite today.

As part of its ongoing commitment to funding for education and the arts, the foundation supports the Weizmann Institute and Simon Wiesenthal Center in Israel, and has sponsored films for HBO on Wiesenthal that were created to expand outreach and understanding of the center's mission. Highly committed to medical education, Marcy believes that since the male and female bodies function very differently, medical treatment for each should be administered accordingly.

This year, 2013, marks the tenth year in a row that the foundation has celebrated the month of February as GO RED for women's heart disease. When asked about how one might approach entering the field of nonprofit or philanthropy, Marcy says that, first, one should identify her area of interest, such as a specific museum or hospital, health care education, or scientific research. And, due to the ever-rising cost of food these days, the need for food banks is especially great. One's choice should also be made based on one's passions and lifestyle. An individual who aspires to become a board member of a not-for-profit organization can expect to pay as little as \$5,000 to \$10,000, or as much as \$25,000+, for that privilege.

Another option for entering the field is through participation in a museum's docent program, or by taking nonmatriculated classes in a certificate program at Columbia or New York University. Within the past decade, these two New York academic institutions have created the finest not-for-profit certificate programs to be found anywhere.

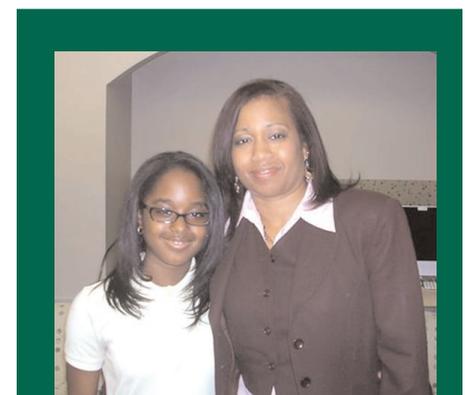
As of June 2012, both the tax code and reporting requirements for nonprofits have changed, and Marcy stresses the need to

keep up to date with issues and trends in this field. One hot button issue she cites is the salary of a nonprofit's executive director, which many people believe is all too often too excessive. She also emphasizes the need to familiarize oneself with the laws and best practices governing not-for-profits. One interesting statistic she shares is that people earning \$25,000 give 4.2% of their annual income to charities, while those earning \$75,000 only give 2.6%, and that percentage decreases the more money an individual has as income.

This year, the Sy Syms Foundation is funding the research and restoration of shop life on the Tenement Museum's first floor and in the basement at 97 Orchard Street on Manhattan's Lower East Side. You can "read all about it" in the February 12, 2013, edition of the *New York Times*. Marcy is especially delighted with the paper's favorable review, which is certain to attract many visitors to this historic site.

To learn more about the Sy Syms Foundation, visit its website at [www.symsfoundation.org](http://www.symsfoundation.org).

*Article:* Wendy Glickstein



Taylor Foster and her mother

**Seventh Grader Taylor Foster** was awarded the Finch College-Birch Wathen Lenox Scholarship, which provides partial tuition for the remainder of her high school studies. Interested in history and science, Taylor aspires to be a veterinarian.

# Letter to the Finch Community from Cheryl Young Deknatel

Soon after my husband, Jan, and I moved to Miami Beach, I realized how much I missed all of my Finch friends from up north. While looking through the Finch Directory, I thought it would be fun to have a Finch Florida reunion, since I found 65 names on the East Coast of Florida, from Vero Beach down to Key Biscayne.

The first Finch Florida luncheon for the “Miami” ladies was at my condo on Belle Isle in January. We were six in all; the earliest student attended her first classes in 1948, and the last one graduated in 1972. Joining me were Tara Finley, Adria Frede, Suzanne Jones, Betty King, and Julia Polo Londono.

Having recently moved to the building next door to mine, Betty’s commute was, by far, the shortest! Her cookbook, which has received enthusiastic reviews – *Seasons to Taste Cookbook: Menus and Memories from Home and Abroad* – can be ordered

from Amazon.com, or through her website: [www.seasons2taste.com](http://www.seasons2taste.com). Adria was down for a week from her Manhattan home (she also has an apartment in Sunny Isles Beach, towards the northern end of the Miami Beach barrier island.). Since traffic in our area can be every bit as challenging as that of New York, her bus trip, normally 40 minutes, turned into a 1–1/2 hour long drama! Coming from Coral Gables, Tara, who has her own art appraisal business, managed to combine business with pleasure as she scheduled a pre-luncheon meeting with a client one island over from mine. Her website is: [www.annubisappraisal.com](http://www.annubisappraisal.com). Julia’s time at Finch was short, as her father summoned her home to Colombia. It was only after she married that she returned to the U.S., moving to Miami in 1979. Her current project – inspired by one of her six children – is establishing an EcoVillage for mentally challenged adults. Julia will be spending five weeks in Colombia visiting various EcoVillages and learning more

about legal requirements. She is also the CEO of EYMAQ, which acquires and provides specialized machinery, raw materials, parts, and equipment for the industrial sector. Adria divides her time between New York, Miami, and Paris (where her daughter lives), and enjoys scuba diving in various locales, including the Bahamas where she spends months at a time each summer. Her son, playwright Josh Koenigsberg, just had his third Off-Broadway show, *The Mnemonist of Dutchess County*, on Theatre Row in New York in February. Suzanne was the only native Floridian in the group. A former PanAm stewardess, she has recently created her own barbecue sauce, “Dot Jones Coconut Grove Hot & Spicy”.

The next Finch Florida luncheon will take place in Palm Beach on March 20. Look for a Finch Florida update in the Fall issue of the *Finch News*.

## Salute to Nohra Haime

On November 1, 2012, nearly 50 Finch members, friends, and colleagues gathered at the New York City home of Lois and Ron Ziegler for a reception to honor Finch alum and artiste extraordinaire, Nohra Haime. This special Finch College Alumnae Association Foundation event was held in recognition of Nohra and her exhibition of nine works, “Niki De Saint Phalle”, which ran from July 12 to November 15, 2012, on Park Avenue between 52nd and 60th Streets.

Dr. Marshall Mount’s salute to Nohra read, in part: “Nohra was an enthusiastic and first-rate student whose interests included a wide range of arts and cultures...I was impressed then – and continue to be impressed – by Nohra’s expertise and imagination which comes through in the many exciting Latin American artists she has showcased in her terrific gallery.”

Nohra then spoke about her early interest in the artist Saint Phalle, whom she described as a “French-American woman who was a self-taught sculptor, painter and filmmaker specializing in outdoor public works. Niki sculpted robust figures in the era of Twiggy, taking risks and going against the culture of the day. The multifaceted Saint Phalle created a unique universe which established her international reputation.”

The foundation’s tribute was in honor of Nohra’s professional

success, as well as her being a true friend of Finch College. Over the years, Nohra has hosted numerous Finch events at her galleries and has given generously to support Finch’s mission of awarding scholarships to female adults who have graduated from community colleges – to date, a total of 46 women. Nohra recently made a \$2,500 donation to the foundation.

The evening ended with the presentation of a Tiffany plate inscribed to Nohra, as a thank-you for her dedication to, and work on behalf of, Finch College.

For more information, visit Nohra’s website at: [www.nohrahaimegallery.com](http://www.nohrahaimegallery.com).



Nohra Haime gives talk about artist Niki De Saint Phalle

# Class Notes

## 40s

A Cosgrave Award recipient, **Martha Goodyear Mason**, travelled on a paddle-wheeler cruise boat from New Orleans to Memphis, with her daughter, Ann Mason Sears, last fall.

## 50s

**Sandra Haas Berler** lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and spends summers on Martha's Vineyard. She is on the Board of the Washington Ballet. Sandra skis in Utah and stays at the Alta Lodge owned by Finch alumna **Mimi Murray**.

**Betty King** attended Cheryl Young Deknatel's luncheon in January in Miami Beach. Last autumn, Betty published a cookbook entitled *Seasons to Taste Cookbook: Menus and Memories from Home and Abroad*, available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For Betty's 80th birthday, her family gave her a ticket to Los Angeles so she could meet Jay Leno who took Betty for a ride in one of his prized steam cars invented by Betty's grandfather!

**Heidi Lasky Levey**, of Essex Fells, New Jersey, calls herself "a professional volunteer". For many years, she has served on boards of local chapters of national councils. She is grandmother to 17-year-old twins who live in Massachusetts.

**Julia Polo Londono**, who moved to Miami in 1979 from Colombia, attended Cheryl Young Deknatel's luncheon in Miami Beach in January 2013.

## 60s

**Marion Arkin**, who lives in Arlington, Virginia, writes that she and her long-time beau, Joe Thomas, frequently visit relatives in Denmark and France. They have recently ventured to Argentina and New Zealand, but enjoy as well their road trips within the United States.

**Evelyn Lorentzen Bell** is a photographer with the Garden Club of America. She enters shows across the country and was reunited through her photography with

classmate **Margaret F. Brown** in Denver where she won "Best in Show".

**Mosette Glaser Broderick**, Director of the Urban Design and Architecture Studies Program at New York University, is quoted in *Gotham's January 2013* issue about carriage houses. (Also in the same issue of *Gotham's* are **Margaret Stewart Hedberg's** quotes about debutante balls. Margaret is the Head of the International Debutante Ball.)

**Teacher Katherine J. Hampares**, Ph.D., taught at Finch from 1969 to 1972. She was the former professor and Chair of the Spanish and French Department. After Finch, she was professor of Spanish at Baruch College, CUNY. Professor Hampares is listed in *Who's Who of American Women, N.E. and the World*.

While at Finch, **Roni Okun Jacobson** held a full-time job. She is still working in the Hunts Point Market, but now as an owner and an operator of a wholesale produce company. Roni spends most of the year commuting between Florida, Manhattan, and Southampton. She's married with two children.

**Sally Johnson Shy** of Memphis, Tennessee is considered to be one of the "Ten Most Influential Women in Memphis". She has written a children's book, teaches etiquette, and is an event designer. Her son is an associate producer of CBS Sports for which he has won an award. She started the Busy Bee Children's Line and has ten grandchildren to dress.

**Julie Wunker**, Wesley Cullen Davidson's roommate at Finch, helped Wesley celebrate her 65th birthday last October.

## 70s

**Cheryl Young Deknatel** and her husband, Jan, are now Miami Beach, Florida residents. In the summer, they reside in Essex, Connecticut. Cheryl recently joined Noesis Capital

### Finch College Alumnae Association Foundation

954 Lexington Avenue, #183  
New York, NY 10021  
[finchassoc@gmail.com](mailto:finchassoc@gmail.com)  
[www.FinchCollege.org](http://www.FinchCollege.org)

### Board of Trustees 2013

Lois Moran Ziegler – *Chair*  
Ceil Gavin Ainsworth  
Sara Arthur  
Joy Correge  
Cheryl Young Deknatel  
Audrey Greene – *Secretary*  
Margaret Stewart Hedberg  
Laura Hockaday  
Susan Embree Parker  
Marjorie Schulman – *Treasurer*  
Virginia Wattiker Sheerin  
Frances Fish Tompkins

### Officers 2013

JoAnn Cricchio Kubat – *President*  
Joy Correge – *Vice President*  
Susan Davis – *Vice President*  
Wendy Glickstein – *Vice President*  
Audrey Greene – *Secretary*  
Magda Stark Katz – *Vice President*  
Susan Embree Parker – *Vice President*  
Marjorie Schulman – *Treasurer*

### Finch News

Joy Correge – *Publisher*  
([jcorrege@yahoo.com](mailto:jcorrege@yahoo.com))  
Wendy Glickstein – *Editor*  
([wglickstein@nyc.rr.com](mailto:wglickstein@nyc.rr.com))  
Laura Hockaday – *Feature Editor*  
([hockaday@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hockaday@sbcglobal.net))  
Wesley Cullen Davidson – *Class Notes*  
([wcdwrite@aol.com](mailto:wcdwrite@aol.com))  
Magda Stark Katz – *Contributing Editor*  
([magdakatz@gmail.com](mailto:magdakatz@gmail.com))  
Margaret Stein Nakamura – *Contributing Editor*  
([nakamuranyc@aol.com](mailto:nakamuranyc@aol.com))  
Emilie Puzio – *Contributing Editor*  
([emp.ciao@yahoo.com](mailto:emp.ciao@yahoo.com))

## Class Notes *continued*

Management, a registered investment advisory firm in Boca Raton. She held a luncheon in January at her home in Miami Beach for fellow Finch alumnae in Florida.

Cosgrave Award recipient, **Ann Holmes DiLuglio**, who is contact with **Evelyn Lorentzen**, divides her time among Providence, New York City, and Palm Beach. She has written medical books.

The son of **Joanne Roseman Einhorn** directed and conducted *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella on Broadway*, which opened March 3.

**Virginia (Ginger) Gerstley** writes that she is a Senior Vice-President in Investments at UBS Financial Services, Manhattan. For the past two years, she has travelled to Europe, Africa, and South America.

**Antoinette (Toni) Walker Hamner**, docent at the Vero Beach Museum of Art, has a new grandson: George F. Hamner IV, born in Birmingham, Alabama, November 12, 2012.

**Pamela Hamrick Huber**, from Palm Desert, is busy with ice skating, and her "furry family".

**Barbara Schlissel Jacobs**, a former designer for Ruth Scharf, has been knitting since she was a child. Her knit designs for children, under the former label "Allie Bird, Inc." appeared in *Vogue Knitting*, and the *New York Times*. Barbara is now teaching knitting in an after-school program (S.C.A.N.) for kids, 7 to 16, who live near Lexington Avenue and 115th Street.

**Diana O'Rourke Jacoby** is co-owner and partner of Philip Colleck Ltd. with her husband, Mark Jacoby, since 1988. In 2005, she started Diana O. Jacoby Interiors, a design firm specializing in residential interiors.

**Sally Aller Marti** lives in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where she works in the Admissions Office at the Lawrenceville School.

**Virginia Merriman**, an antiques and art dealer as well a collector, lives in Little Compton, Rhode Island.

**Virginia Handal Miller**, a Somers, New York resident, recently retired from the New York Bar after practicing law since 1983. For her anniversary last February, she and her husband Tommy went dog sledding in Northern Quebec. She recently received the Junior League of Westchester's Annual Sustainer Award.

**Linda Purl** performed at Feinstein's at the Regency with Desi Arnaz, Jr. in fall 2012 to benefit The Actors Fund. Cosgrave Awardees Patricia Flicker Addiss and Magda Stark Katz came to one of the sold-out performances. Her classmate, Ellen Easton, hosted a September 2012 birthday tea for Linda at Lady Mendl's Tea Salon in Manhattan. Linda's new CD will be available soon on [www.lindapurl.com](http://www.lindapurl.com).

**Jamie Leaming Watson** has a very successful commercial design firm in Manhattan, Watson + Associates. Her website is [www.watsonandassociates.com](http://www.watsonandassociates.com).

*Article: Wesley Cullen Davidson*



L to R; Miami Luncheon attendees: Betty King, Julia Polo Londono, Adria Frede, Tara Finley, Cheryl Young Deknatel, Suzanne Jones

## *In Memoriam*

**Barbara K. Gerstell**, 74, died in Vero Beach, Florida, on December 24, 2011.

**Doris Asiel Meyer**, 96, died in Delray Beach, Florida, on November 5, 2012.

**Louisa "Lou" Darragh Reston**, 94, died at her home in Virginia, on February 23, 2013.

**Ann Eisenneye Ross** died in 2012.

**Faith Heiden Sessions** attended Finch College in the 1930s. After Finch, she studied medicine at NYU and art at the Arts Student League. Multi-lingual, she often hosted delegates at her apartment for the 1949 UN Conference.

**Isaiah Sheffer**, who taught Theatre Arts at Finch, passed away on November 9, 2012, in New York City. He was the founder and Artistic Director of Symphony Space on the Upper West Side of Manhattan for many years.

Condolences to **Ann Holmes DiLuglio** (1971) whose mother passed away in 2013 and to **Heidi Lasky Levey** (1954), whose husband passed away nearly two years ago.

## *Questions for Readers*

If anyone has stories to share with a biographer of Finch graduate **Bethany Anne Beckwith Noble**, class of 1935, please contact Brent Morgan at [bmorgan@live.com](mailto:bmorgan@live.com).

If anyone knows when **Gladys Pulitzer Preston**, who died October 28, 2011, attended Finch, please email attorney Alyse M. Reiser at [aresider@gunster.com](mailto:aresider@gunster.com).

**Julia Gede** would like to know whether anyone interviewed members of the last class or ever kept a file of old newspapers, alumnae newsletters, and yearbooks from the start of the college? If you have any of this information, please contact Wesley Cullen Davidson at [wcdwrite@aol.com](mailto:wcdwrite@aol.com).

# Six Finch Honorees Forge Their Own Legacies

*The Cosgrave Award honorees for 2013 each have contributed toward the well-being of society and the world in general. They have enhanced the understanding and appreciation among people for art, theater, literature, education, and languages. Their efforts and contributions will be recognized at the 19th Annual Jessica Cosgrave Lifetime Achievement Award presentation on May 21.*

**Dr. Jacqueline (Jackie) Stuchin-Paprin**, faculty honoree who was chairman of the Department of Education at Finch from 1972 to 1974, instilled in her early childhood education student-teachers the importance of one-on-one communication with a child. Individual tutoring was required for her students. Dr. Stuchin, as she was known to Finch women, had firsthand knowledge of her subject because she was in on the ground floor of Head Start. She was asked by Dr. Shirley Feldman, who Dr. Stuchin said “coined the phrase, Head Start,” to join her as a reading specialist and researcher for further programs. Following Finch, Dr. Stuchin returned to the Bronx, where she had grown up, to teach at Bronx Community College. For 18 years she taught young adults how to read, write, and speak correctly, skills they had not mastered in high school.

The five Finch Alumnae honorees are: **Sandy Rowley Colt, Martha Coyle, Jane Crawford, Marilyn Gelber, and Georganne Aldrich Heller.**

As agile and wiry as a teenager, **Sandy Colt** can scamper up the masts of the ELISSA, to check its massive sails before heading out of the Galveston harbor, where the historic Tall Ship of Texas is anchored. Sandy is a volunteer crew member, certified by the U.S. Coast Guard. When not sailing, the wife of Sloan Colt and mother of their four adult children is teaching students how to overcome dyslexia, a reading disorder that has put them behind in school. She noticed this distressing dilemma while teaching at the Dalton School in New York for college-bound students. Intent on alleviating these challenges, Sandy studied to be a licensed dyslexia therapist

and certified academic language therapist. But instead of classrooms, Sandy, like her fellow Cosgrave honoree, Dr. Stuchin, prefers individual, face-to-face communication. This method has lifted many young people out of failure and into success and self-confidence.

Fluent in five foreign languages, **Martha Coyle** put all of them to use in her long careers with two renowned airlines, Pan American World Airways and Cia Mexicana de Aviacion. In her 18 years with the former and 20 with the latter, Martha traveled the world, earning awards for her outstanding service to passengers and staff. Handling finances was a major emphasis of her roles with both airlines. As financial manager for Cia Mexicana, she lived in Los Angeles, Mexico City, Philadelphia, and New York, communicating mostly in Spanish. A desire to learn Hebrew took her to Israel where she lived for three years and studied at Tel Aviv University.

After graduating from Finch in 1970 with fellow honoree Sandy Colt, **Jane Crawford** moved from traditional college exposure to Medieval and Renaissance art, to a new world of Avant-Garde expression, born amidst dilapidated old buildings but nurtured by young, brave, starving artists of SoHo’s early years. To help them earn recognition, Jane established the Foundation of Art Performances and Projects, which represented scores of contemporary artists from New York to cities throughout Europe. She met Gordon Matta-Clark, charismatic leader of the SoHo movement and ardent about helping the homeless move from cardboard boxes to “garbage brick” houses of melted broken bottles. Jane and Gordon were married before his untimely death from cancer in 1978. She continues to reproduce Gordon’s environmental “garbage walls” of discarded refuse around the world. With filmmaker Robert Fiore, her husband of 33 years, Jane has assisted on many acclaimed movie and TV documentaries.

During her year at Finch (1945–1946), **Marilyn Gelber** lived at the former

Studio Club, 210 East 77th Street, today the Birch Wathen Lenox School, co-founded by Jessica Finch Cosgrave and site of present Finch Alumnae meetings. She knew Mrs. Cosgrave and remembers her as a serious headmistress of Finch but not superior or condescending. Toward her degree in English literature, Marilyn would go to settlement houses and tell stories to the children. This inspired her to transfer to Adelphi College (now University) on Long Island to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. She continued studies at Columbia University Teachers College while teaching at several New York nursery and kindergarten schools and even co-founding one on the Upper West Side. The travel bug bit and she went to Europe to live for 18 months. She returned, went back to teaching but enrolled in acting classes with famed actor/director, Lee Strasberg. Her classmates included Marilyn Monroe, Dustin Hoffman, and Jane Fonda.

A devoted patron of the theater, **Georganne Aldrich Heller** has thrown her support behind unknown Irish actors and playwrights and introduced them to audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. She founded her nonprofit Irish Theater & Film Production company in New York, where she produces most of her plays at the Irish Arts Center, but was to open a show in April at the Irish Repertory Theater. *Who’s Your Daddy?* is based on a true story of a gay Irish actor who adopted a young orphan from Uganda. Both the actor and his adopted son lived with Georganne and her husband for two years in their L.A. guesthouse. Her love of the arts was inherited from her father, the late Larry Aldrich, prominent fashion designer who had a passion for contemporary art and was a benefactor of early artists in SoHo and elsewhere. He founded the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

*Article: Laura Hockaday*



## Finch College Ring: Lost and Found

Jane Warren Drake Piechota (1970) tells how her college ring that she lost many years ago was returned to her in January 2013: "I have an ending to the lost Finch College ring! On January 12, I went over to Donna Bertolami's house in Arlington, Massachusetts, to claim the ring I lost years ago. Her father, Peter, had found the ring in the parking lot of a bank a block from where I live and a block from his small restaurant, The Town Hall Restaurant, which he and his wife Ruth owned until 1986. Donna said she advertised in the *Arlington Advocate* about the ring hoping that the owner would claim it. Though I read the *Advocate*, I didn't see the advertisement. A few years later Donna located and contacted Finch but there was no resolution. Finally, she made 2012 the year of uniting the ring with "JWD '70". Fortunately for me, Cheryl Young Deknatel saw her correspondence and knew that I was JWD. It took me five months to email Donna but as soon as I did, Donna gave me her number and we met in January. Thankfully, Donna believed the ring belonged with its owner and she was going to make sure I got it!"

### Have you paid your 2013 dues yet?

The Finch College Alumnae Association Foundation needs your support to carry on its mission of granting scholarships to worthy candidates. Annual dues are \$50; lifetime membership is \$300. All alumnae who have paid their dues, either annual or lifetime, are eligible to become members of the Ineamus Meliora Society. The minimum gift contribution, over and above your dues, is \$500. Your dues and donations are tax deductible, since we are a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Dues-paying members receive a free copy of the much-acclaimed Finch Directory. You can download a membership form online at [www.FinchCollege.org](http://www.FinchCollege.org) and mail it along with your dues to:

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

A Directory update will be issued on a regular basis, so please notify the Finch College Alumnae Association of any changes or corrections in your address, email address, name or any other information online at [www.FinchCollege.org](http://www.FinchCollege.org) under information.

#### New Lifetime Members

Dr. Katherine J. Hampares  
Roni Okun Jacobson  
Heidi Levey  
Julia Londono  
Syida H. Long  
Jane Drake Piechota  
Natalie Cooper Rosenthal  
Sally Johnson Shy  
Rita J. Thompson

#### New Ineamus Meliora Society Members

Evelyn Hilton

#### Major Donors

Nohra Haime, \$2,500



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