

# FINCH NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2021

A Publication for Finch College Alumni and Friends

## 2021 JESSICA COSGRAVE HONOREES



Ilene Kristen



Joy Correge



Jane Drake Piechota



Lesley Rigler Kaminsky



Agnes Birnbaum



Sarah Guido Sutcliffe



Jennifer Loving

### — We Are Proud To Present Our 2021 Cosgrave Honorees —

#### **Agnes Eileen Birnbaum**

Agnes Eileen Birnbaum attended Finch from 1970-72 studying Psychology and English before graduating in 1974 from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL with a B.A. in Behavioral Sciences. She worked at Newsweek magazine for 22 years, followed by freelance magazine writing, public relations work, business development with the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, and a stint at Tiffany & Co. Agnes is currently pursuing screenwriting and

has been active in the Finch alumni group from the beginning. She serves on the Board of the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation, is involved in numerous charitable endeavors, and enjoys tutoring children.

#### **Joy Correge**

Native New Yorker Joy Correge attended Finch College from 1967 to 1970, graduating with a B.A. in English. In 1988, she received an M.A. in Liberal Studies from New School University.

For more than 35 years Joy worked as an editor and corporate communicator for business publications. She has volunteered in many organizations, including the Manhattan Jaycees and the Washington Heights Chamber of Commerce. For the past 10 years, Joy has been a Board Member of the Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust, publisher of The Finch News for 6 years and currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Finch Special Events Committee.

*Continued on page 11 ►*

## SAVE THE DATES FOR FINCH EVENTS 2021

Join us Tuesday, October 19, 2021 for the  
26th Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards Ceremony

The Cosmopolitan Club  
122 East 66th Street  
New York City

Our fabulous "Weekend of Special Events"  
preceding the Cosgrave celebration is  
posted on the back cover. Also view details  
on our website: [finchcollege.org](http://finchcollege.org).

Keep in touch:  
[finchassoc1@gmail.com](mailto:finchassoc1@gmail.com)

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: BARBARA RICHARDS PITNEY

Barbara Richards grew up in Montclair, New Jersey. As an Art History major, a highlight of her years at Finch (1956-1960) was taking the senior thesis class in her junior year, thanks to Dr. Marshall Mount. The subject of her thesis was ARCHITECTURE AFTER THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. After college, Barbara went to work in the Art Department of Norcross Greeting Cards in Midtown Manhattan. There, Mr. Norcross took her under his wing because her having an extensive knowledge of art was not sufficient, as he had a business to run. She stayed only 2 years because she was offered the job of Finch Alumnae Association Administrator. Her husband worked for Mobil Oil and had applied for a position in the International Division. He was accepted, and in 1964, they moved to Lagos, Nigeria. As fate would have it, her be-

posted to Melbourne, Australia where Qantas Airlines taught her how to figure rates. Back in Nigeria, a Pan Am agent had taught her how to configure mileage tickets, unlike the South Pacific practice of backhauling (stopping in the same city twice) was illegal and the fare was no longer based upon mileage, which created a great financial disadvantage. After almost 4 years, and back in the U.S., she opened a travel agency, Wabba Travel, in Basking Ridge, NJ, which she still runs to this day. (Fun fact: a “Wabba” is a bronzed winged pigeon and is an aborigine word). In the 1990s, Barbara married Philip Pitney. Sadly, Philip died 3 years ago from complications of Lyme disease. Barbara has 2 daughters from her first marriage: Kirsten Sibilina, a partner in an architecture firm in NYC; and Keely Loveys, a mother, and “techie”, who



Barbara Pitney with her daughters, Keeley and Kirsten

loved Finch Art History professor, Dr. Mount, went to Nigeria on a grant but their years did not coincide. During her time there, Barbara helped expand the collection of the Nigerian Art museum in Lagos by offering to give appraisals and export visas for art in exchange for invaluable pieces to be donated to the Museum. In those years, American expats were smuggling art out of the country, by stashing it under fake bottoms of their luggage. If caught, they would lose everything. So, the expats ended up donating valuable pieces to the Museum Collection in exchange for permits to take other artifacts with them. Also during that time, she wrote a guidebook to Lagos, which she sold to corporations to familiarize expats and visitors with that city’s remarkable history and street culture. The book was a huge success; so much so that the country’s Director of Education bought 3,000 copies for distribution in their schools as they offered no local history classes! Returning to NYC a short time later, the couple was

lives in Basking Ridge, conveniently near Barbara’s office. Kirsten’s son, Django, a terrific artist, is also a music major who currently is: writing music, playing in a band, and working in a coffee shop, all while finishing his 4-year degree in 3-1/2! Kirsten’s other son, Wyatt, is a freshman at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Keely’s daughter, Chloe, a high school senior, plans to attend St. Elizabeth’s College next year, and son Braydon is a high school freshman. Barbara is a big fan of all things Finch. Besides contributing to the Finch Scholarship Fund on a regular basis, she attends many Finch functions and loves seeing boarders and day students from her alma mater’s glory days. She keeps in constant touch with Ceil Ainsworth, as well as fellow Finch classmate, Susan Embree Parker.

*Article: Wendy Glickstein*

*Photo courtesy of Barbara Richards Pitney*

## 2020 FINCH COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION TRUST

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cecille (Ceil) Ainsworth (Honorary Chair)  
 Razieh Arabi (Scholar)  
 Felice Forer Axelrod  
 Agnes Birnbaum  
 Zineb Bouizy (Scholar)  
 Huiling Cai (Scholar)  
 Jill Chamberlain  
 Elizabeth (Liz) Glick Colin (Co-Chair)  
 Joy Corregge  
 Wesley Cullen Davidson  
 Susan Davis  
 Cheryl Young Deknatel  
 Alba Farber Francesca  
 Virginia Wattiker Gildea  
 Wendy Glickstein  
 Audrey Greene  
 Barbara Javori (Scholar)  
 Lesley Kaminsky  
 Barbara H. Katsos, Esq.  
 JoAnn Cricchio Kubat  
 Yehudis Moscovitz (Scholar)  
 Chu Mai Paing (Scholar)  
 Susan Embree Parker  
 Peggy Millheiser  
 Amey Lynne Rose (Scholar)  
 Marjorie R. Schulman  
 Susan Warren  
 Aquella White (Scholar)  
 Jiahui (Jae) Zheng (Scholar)  
 Lois Moran Ziegler

### OFFICERS

Joy Corregge  
 Vice President  
 Wendy Glickstein  
 Vice President  
 Susan Embree Parker  
 Vice President  
 Marjorie R. Schulman  
 Treasurer

### CHAIR SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Lois Moran Ziegler

### FINCH NEWS

Elizabeth (Liz) Glick Colin  
 Publisher  
 Wendy Glickstein  
 Editor  
 Agnes Birnbaum  
 Feature Editor  
 Wesley Cullen Davidson  
 Class Notes  
 Margaret Stein Nakamura  
 Contributing Editor  
 Eileen Bluestone Sherman  
 Contributing Editor  
 Lois Moran Ziegler  
 Contributing Editor  
 Aquella White  
 Scholar Correspondent



Dear Finch College Alumnae and Friends of Finch,

We are only weeks away from Tuesday, October 19, 2021, when we can, at long last, gather in celebration of the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Cosgrave Awards Reception and Dinner at the Cosmopolitan Club**  
**122 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**New York City**

We are forever grateful to you - our many wonderful friends, alumnae and members - who never fail to heed our call for support, regardless of whether you are able to be present for our many wonderful year-round activities and events.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, 2021 has proven to be a record-breaking scholarship-giving year, in which we awarded 17 scholarships to a wonderfully diverse group of women, whom you will meet in the following pages! We hope we can count on you, once again, to help strengthen our organization with your generous participation and support.

For more details about our Cosgrave Honors Ceremony and the four days of exciting events leading up to the Awards evening, please feel free to email us at [finchassoc1@gmail.com](mailto:finchassoc1@gmail.com) or visit our website, [FinchCollege.org](http://FinchCollege.org).

So many thanks for all you do.

The Finch College Alumni Association Foundation Trust

\*\*\*\*\*

**Your donation will be welcome in any amount and may be allocated for any particular purpose. Below are some suggestions you can check. You can also include a note with your check and mail to: FCAAFT, 954 Lexington Avenue #183, New York, NY 10021**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if new or changed) \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate amount(s) you would like to donate and designate if toward any particular project(s):

\$2,000     \$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$200     \$100     Other \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_     Production of Finch Publications

Full two-year scholarship \$5,000     One-year scholarship \$2,500

Lifetime Member Dues \$300     Annual Dues \$50

**Now accepting dues and donations via Pay Pal: <https://www.finchcollege.org/paypa>All contributions are tax deductible as the FCAAFT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**

# MEET THE 2021 FINCH SCHOLARS



**JULIA ANELLI**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
*Frances Fish Tompkins  
Scholarship donated by De-  
vorah & Laurence Tompkins*

A child stutterer, Julia worked hard at not appearing “stupid”. With a current curriculum that includes remedial courses at

BMCC, her literature professor suggested she read literature, since ideas are art and there is no need to worry about being “right or wrong.” While working part time, she has obtained Life, Accident & Health, Finance Series 7, Series 63, and Series 66 licenses and is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi. Julia plans to become a financial advisor.



**PERFECT FRIMPONG**  
MERCER COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
TO RUTGERS  
UNIVERSITY  
*Frances Fish Tompkins  
Scholarship donated  
by Hedy Zankel*

Although Perfect had faced many financial challenges - including the inability to afford academic materials or tuition – she was always a motivated student who consistently earned exemplary grades. Lacking the necessary academic textbooks and laptop computer, she used her ingenuity to photograph textbook pages, using videos online as a supplement to materials she was required to purchase, while availing herself of the school’s library computer. Currently a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Mercer Honors Program, as well as the President and Dean’s list, she is well on her way to realizing her dream of becoming a cardio-thoracic surgeon.



**SHERETTE GREGG**  
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO NEW YORK UNIVERSITY OR BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
*Joan Kaye Bick Scholarship donated in her honor by Julie Weed*

When six years old, Sherette saw Roots on television, her dream was to become a screenwriter and director. Her father disagreed,

he believed she should be in healthcare as she was a very sickly child.

She entered LaGuardia Community College and studied Occupational Therapy. Then her father was diagnosed with AIDS she was forced to leave school to care for him full time. In 2009, Sherette helped a friend cast a short film that was picked up by HBO! This lit the fire in her and she wrote and directed a short film Mariposa, shot it right in the neighborhood where she grew up. It did well enough to be screened in film festivals. She has worked for many years as an Executive Assistant at Ogilvy & Mathers Advertising and Penguin Random House. In spite of working full time, Sherette maintains a 3.8 GPA and all As, is a member of PTK Honor Society and is studying Screenwriting!



**SONYA GUIMET**  
BOROUGH OF  
MANHATTAN  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO  
NEW YORK  
UNIVERSITY  
*Laura Rollins Hockaday  
Scholarship*

A community organizer in Bushwick, Sonya plans to study immigration law and the history of U.S.

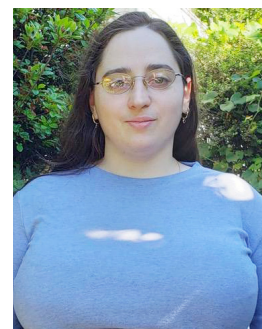
immigration controls. Having recently recently attended the State Assembly member’s Immigration Legal Clinic in order to better volunteer in helping neighbors complete applications for social service benefits, she also enrolled in Women’s Studies & Ethnicity, Race and Migration departments, democratic socialist, and immigration advocacy clubs to benefit her interest in advocating for immigration reform through policy. Sonya’s life goal is to impact family separation policies, gaining skills and influence to increase the social impact for her community members, namely immigrants and incarcerated women. She looks forward to the prospect of receiving a Ph.D and teaching at the university level.



**ALESSANDRA HUSSAIN**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HUNTER COLLEGE  
SILBERMAN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
*Dr. Margaret Maxwell  
Scholarship*

After eleven years of college starts and stops as a result of living with abusive family members, Ally had to work to support herself. Hav-

ing returned to BMCC, she is on board to graduate with an associate degree in Human Services. Along the way, she has worked as a nanny for many years, and in the pediatric unit at Bellevue Hospital. Active in her community, Ally Completed NYS Mandated Reporter Training, 40+ Hour Rape Crisis Intervention Training, CPR Certified, Volunteer Rape Crisis Advocate, all of which have contributed to her well-rounded social work education.



**LARA LEFKOWITCH**  
NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
*Laura Rollins Hockaday  
Scholarship*

Attending Norwalk Community College has proven to

be instrumental in helping Lara cultivate and realize her goals. In addition to volunteering in mental health clinics, she is a member of the Honors Program and Phi Theta Kappa honor society and has maintained a 3.98 GPA. Her thesis addressed the subject of ADHD in senior adults, and she presented her findings at both her own college, and as a guest of Middlesex Community College during their Academic Convivium. Her ambition is to join the field of psychology, igniting a passion for research and a desire to participate in the future. She believes the United States is facing a shortage of qualified mental health workers.



**FATIMA MADANI**  
KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HUNTER COLLEGE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
*The Joan Kaye Bick  
Scholarship*

Fatima graduated from high school in Yemen with the goal of becoming a nurse. Taking the opportunity to attend college while working as a live-in home health aide, she works 4 days, and studies 3 days a week. A member of the Honors Program, and the Honors Club, she has achieved a GPA of 3.5. Her professor has described her as having a professional demeanor, and as being a collaborative thinker and leader with cross-cultural respect toward all other people. She is Secretary of the Honors Assembly, and participates in PTK Five Star Chapter, and is one of only thirty-two Presidential Scholars in a CCNY student body of over 15,000 students. She looks forward to receiving a B.S. in nursing.

*Continued on page 5 ►*



**VERONICA MARTINEZ CASTRO**  
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
*Lois Chiles Gilder Scholarship*

Growing up in Ecuador, Veronica's father wanted her to pursue electrical engineering so she could work

in his construction company. His ultimatum was: study electrical engineering, or I will not pay your tuition. Moving to New York with her mother and stepfather, Veronica enrolled in the Environmental Science program at LaGuardia Community College where she became a student leader, Honors Program and participated in research CUNY Research internships, Program (CRSP) and the NIH Bridges Program. She also contributed to researching air and water pollution issues that threaten public health and environmental justice in Queens. Veronica has presented at 2020 CRSP Symposium, the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference (NCHC20), and the CUNY Conference in Climate Change Education (C4E). She was selected as a national 2021 Goldwater Scholar for science research. She looks forward to becoming a conservation biologist and environmental activist.



**RAQUEL MENNELLA**  
RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL STUDIES  
*Joan Kaye Bick Scholarship*

Raquel's laser-like focus is on native plants,

while her long-term goal is protecting the backbone of our ecosystems. Her courses cover agriculture, forest management, invasive plant species, habitat loss, and climate change. She successfully proposed a grant for the local non-profit Raritan Headwaters Association to restore a 2.1-acre plot of ecological interest. An environmental science major, Raquel maintains a 3.5 GPA. With a keen interest in state legislation, she received the President's Volunteer Service

Award, achieving gold level status. Her ultimate goal is to make a lasting and positive impact on the environment.



**MEHREEN MUGHAL**  
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO QUEENS COLLEGE  
*Frances Fish Tompkins Scholarship Donated by Deborah & Laurence Tompkins*

Hailing from a traditional family where girls were married at

age seventeen, Mehreen's mother urged her to have a good education and a secure future. Always bookish, she seldom had ventured outside her home. Having enrolled in the CUNY Research Scholars Program, she researched ionic liquids, their synthesis and applications in batteries and fuel cells, which resulted to the reduction of air pollution. She was Research Assistant, CUNY Research Scholars Program (CRSP) and recently participated in the competitive Community College Internship Programs at Brookhaven National Laboratory. A chemistry major, with a cumulative 3.93 GPA, she has completed most medical school pre-requisite courses and will do her research in cardiology.



**VALERIE PIRES**  
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
*Lois Chiles Gilder Scholarship*

Valerie's life challenges have included being the product of a dysfunctional family, as well as enduring spinal

cord surgery, plus a year of rehabilitation. Now, as the Editor of e-Fiorello, she has created the digital photographic publication In-Focus, both of which are published by the Honors Program. The Museum of the City of New York selected one of her photographs to be featured in "In Focus" and it is also included in their permanent collection, "New York Stories." Valerie is a research assistant for the oral history project and virtual exhibition developed by the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives, which explores LGBT history in New York City politics and City Hall. She is developing a multimedia series to explore the challenges nontraditional women encounter when pursuing higher educa-

tion. Valerie is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Film and Media Studies.



**SULAY RESTREPO MAROULIS**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO BROWN UNIVERSITY  
*Lisa B. Fishman Scholarship donated by Susan Saklad Warren*

Coming to the US alone from Colombia at age 18, Sulay worked

as a waitress and took English as a Second Language (ESL) at her local church. Now a Business Administration major, she enjoys maintaining a close relationship with her professors. She is Vice President of the Finance & Banking Club. One of her projects was the College Fed Challenge, which afforded her the opportunity to learn about the Federal Reserve Bank and complete a US economy case study, which resulted in her producing a video and winning an award for her efforts. She participated in Student Plus at BMCC, providing community service, and has completed 50 hours of service work volunteering during COVID-19, cooking and serving food to the needy. Sulay took part in the competitive Kaplan Leadership Program which helps community college students pursue a bachelor's degree with the goal of becoming leaders in their professions and communities, while helping to empower women to become financially independent.



**ANGELICA ROSADO**  
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO CUNY YORK COLLEGE  
*Friends of Frances Fish Tompkins Scholarship*

At age 18, Angelica married and moved from the Dominican Republic to New York. As a waitress at IHOP, she

became involved with unionization efforts. She coordinated fundraising events and a lecture series for her church, including professionals addressing issues of aging, parenting,

# FINCH ALUMS NATION-WIDE GATHER FOR INAUGURAL ZOOM SALONS

## *A Tribute to Elayne Varian, Director of the Finch Museum of Art*

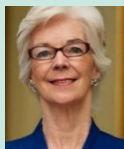
On Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00PM EST, four Finch graduates discussed the influences that Mrs. Elayne Varian had on their careers in the art world and in their personal lives. Moderators Peggy Millheiser & Eileen Sherman were pleased to welcome the esteemed panel of Finch alums and successful career women comprised of: Ronny Cohen, Joannie Danielides, Wesley Davidson and Susan Grace Galassi, each of whom shared her personal and special Finch memories.



During her junior and senior years, **Wesley Davidson** was Chairman of the Finch Museum Committee. Upon graduation, she worked for the renowned gallery owner,

Richard L. Feigen & Co. More recently, she was a docent at the Vero Beach Museum of Art in Florida, and co-authored the book, *WHEN YOUR CHILD IS GAY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW* (Sterling, 2026). Currently, she blogs for [whencyourchildisaddicted.com](http://whencyourchildisaddicted.com) and straight-parent, gay kid, and has a Facebook group: Kids on Drugs: Signs, Risks and How to Get Help!

**Susan Grace Galassi** is a graduate of the New York Institute of Fine Arts (NY-IFA). Recently retired from her Senior Curatorship at the Frick Collection, she is currently teaching and writing. She is author of ten art books, including two on Picasso.



**Ronny Cohen** also attended the NYIFA. She is an AAA Art Advisor and Appraiser, and has written many articles on art.

**Joannie Danielides** is the owner of the public relations firm, Danielides Communications, Inc., which specializes in the arts, healthcare, education and retail. An award-winning public relations recipient, Joannie served as Press Secretary for Donna Hanover for eight years, and was a long-time friend of Mrs. Varian.



The evening offered an exciting glimpse of the heady days of The Finch Museum and the careers it helped foster.

Article: Wesley Cullen Davidson

## *Finch Virtual Scholars' Celebration 2021*

By all accounts, our 2021 Finch Scholars Celebration was a huge success!

Since this year's event was virtual, we were able to hear from – and see! – our Finch scholars via Zoom who interacted with us from across the country and as far away as Italy. Also in virtual attendance were Friends of Finch (FoF), judges, scholars, donors and some fifty-plus Finchies, all of whom heard amazingly inspiring and uplifting stories from 11 of our Finch Scholars, and who participated in a lively exchange afterwards.

Finch Scholarship Chair, **Lois Ziegler**, provided an overview of the Scholarship pro-

**Cai, Ceren Citak, Paola Cruz, Yanqui Guo, Doma Lama, Veronique Manfredini, Miriam Palma, Fawazah Sale, Aquella White and Jiahui Zheng.**

My event Co-Chair, **Huiling Cai's**, words summed it up beautifully, "It feels so good to see how much women can accomplish with their determination and bravery. Hearing their stories really inspires me to aim higher and work harder. I am so fortunate to be a part of this amazing community. A million thanks to my Finch family!"

The program concluded with robust interaction and spontaneous discussion among



Susan Warren and co-host, Huiling Cai dine and discuss success of the Scholar Celebration Salon

gram. To date, we have awarded scholarships to 130 deserving young women. She said that, this year, we have a record number of 16 new scholars to welcome into the Finch fold!

Special thanks were given to those scholars who have volunteered their time and special talents in the past year to help us secure the future of the Finch Foundation, including **Huiling Cai, Aquella White, Yehudis Moscovits, Danielle Jablonski, Barbara Javori, Jae Zheng, Amey Lynn Rose Wheaton, Razieh Arabi, and Chu May Paing**, whose insights and talents have proven to be invaluable to both our organization and to our future ability to help even more deserving young women achieve their academic and life goals.

We were treated to updates directly from the following scholars: **Zanib Bouizy, Huiling**

our Finch Scholars furthering their sense of community and enhancing their connectivity to our Finch Foundation.

One (1) full two-year scholarship totaling \$5,750 was raised for the Finch Scholarship Fund from the Finch Scholar Zoom Celebration in June. On behalf of the beneficiaries, a world of thanks to all of our generous participants and donors.

If you were unable to attend either of these Zoom events, a video of each event is available on the Finch College Alumni website: [www.finchcollege.org](http://www.finchcollege.org). We look forward to seeing you at future Finch fundraising events that support our Scholarship program for our intrepid and accomplished recipients.

Article: Susan Warren

# CLASS NOTES

**Eileen Sherman** reports: "I'm holding my breath and keeping my fingers crossed, but at the moment, my international musical group, THE INDIE COLLABORATIVE, is still scheduled for a fabulous evening of music to celebrate the holiday season in the Bruno Walter Auditorium at Lincoln Center on December 8, 2021. Grammy, Emmy, and Top Charting BILLBOARD award-winning artists will take the stage to honor the Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's holidays with sparkling music to match the spirit of the season. As co-founder and producer of The Indie Collaborative, I have the distinct privilege of creating this very special holiday event. If you're in NYC, I hope to see you there! Will keep everyone posted."

Through the grapevine from **Marjorie Schulman**: "I just learned that actor James Stewart was married for 45 years to former model and Finch alum, **Gloria Hatrick McLean**, who grew up in Larchmont, (Westchester County) NY. Married and divorced in her early 30s with twin sons, she later had twin daughters with Stewart."

**Syida H. Long**, class of '57 writes: "I usually don't pay attention to the Finch notes, but I thought I'd recommend something that, as a Catholic and lay Dominican, I find really terrific. There is something from Fr. Mike Schmitz on Ascension where, on your phone and/or computer, you can hear the Bible read in a year with brief commentaries. It begins with Genesis and you can go at your own pace, i.e., more than a year. I love it, and hope others will, too."

**Lois Ziegler** recalled that "Dr. Tomasini started each art history class with, 'Ladies, please remove your charm bracelets.' We all wore gold charm bracelets, and the clanging just drove him crazy! During the first class, he showed a slide



and asked the name of the art and its creator. It had bright colors, boxes, and lines, and did not look at all like any mountainous landscape or somber religious items I had seen in church. It was my eye-opening introduction to modern art - Broadway Boogie Woogie by Piet Mondrian, and I have never forgotten it. Since Finch was merely blocks away from the Met, we were able to walk there often. And, since I live only several blocks from the Met, I still do, to this day."



Renowned afternoon tea authority & lifestyle and etiquette industry leader, **Ellen Easton**, shares her flair with florals in "April Showers Bring May Flowers," a feature article in "The Three Tomatoes." For more information, go to: <https://the.threetomatoes.com/April-showers-bring-may-flowers>.

**Renée Pappas** executive produced the recent Romaniote Memories Virtual Exhibition.

To view the event's virtual opening, go to: <https://vimeo.com/512479228>

**Ceil Ainsworth** chum, and 1958 Finch alum **Christa Mayer**, tied the knot for the third time on July 24, 2021 in the Chapel of St. Mark's Church in Geneva, IL. Congrats to Christa and new hubby, George.

**Alba Francesca Farber** writes: "In the works for a decade, The Actors Fund HOLLYWOOD ARTS COLLECTIVE has finally broken ground on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. I sit on the Fund's Western Council, and I am Co-Chair of Development. The Fund has partnered with the City of Los Angeles to build the 151-unit affordable housing residence for persons who work in all areas of the entertainment industry. There is also a second building which is an arts collective with a theater, rehearsal space, recording studios, art galleries, an outdoor amphitheater, office space for other nonprofit arts groups, and a new home for the Western Region of the Actors Fund. And, I am delighted to report that actors Morgan Freeman and Mark Ruffalo have agreed to join our Campaign Committee!"

*Compiled by Wendy Glickstein*

## Transitions

**Brenda Ballin (née Phillips)**, who led guided tours at the Met for many years died on January 28, 2021, age 92, at her home in Manhattan from complications of COVID-19. Brenda was born on May 7, 1929. She graduated from the Dalton School before studying at the Tobe-Coburn School for Fashion Careers in the early 50s, and then graduating from Finch Junior College. She worked at both Vogue and Harper's Bazaar. She married Stanley Ballin in 1956. After his death in 1987, her long-time companion was Arthur Horowitz, who died in 2011. She is survived by her daughters Leslie Ballin and Shakira Ballin and two grandchildren.

James C. Bouras, former husband of **Katharine Adams**, Finch '69 Class(mate) of Wesley Davidson, passed away on February 24, 2021 at age 79 after a brief illness.

Robert Ellison, former husband of Finch alum, **Nancy Harrell** - whom he married in 1957 - passed away in NYC on July 9, 2021 at age 89. A consummate art collector, he gave over 600 works to The Met.

**Marguerite Littman** died on October 26, 2020 at her home in London. Born May 4, 1930 in Monroe, LA, she worked for Glamour Magazine as an advice columnist and for fashion photographer, Richard Avedon, after attending Finch. She counted among her friends Gore Vidal, David Hockney and Truman Capote, and was a founding member of what would become the AIDS Charitable Trust. Just before her death in 1997, Diana Princess of Wales, an avid supporter of AIDS organizations, donated her wardrobe for sale at an auction to benefit the Trust, among other charities. In 1999, Marguerite stepped back from the Trust, which became part of the Elton John AIDS Foundation. Twice-divorced, she married British barrister Mark Littman who died in 2015. There are no immediate survivors.

**Marie Munro**, Finch alum and former Cash Manager at Hofstra University on Long Island, NY passed away on July 27, 2021 at age 69.

Robert Gordon Syms, younger brother of Finch alum, **Marcy Syms**, passed away on July 26, 2021 at age 65.

*Compiled by Wendy Glickstein*

# FINCH SCHOLAR NEWS, NOTES & UPDATES

Peggy Millheiser, mentor to Finch Scholar Justine N'Gozan, reports:

**Justine N'gozan** was born in the Ivory Coast. As the eighth child of a family of nine children, her parents always encouraged her “to do more, as long as (you) set your mind to something and are willing to do the work.” Though her parents remain in the Ivory Coast, Justine and 3 of her siblings have moved to other countries, including the United States, France, and Ghana.

Justine has “always been amazed to see how scientific knowledge could be used to make informed decisions in different areas such as communications, and even meteorology.” Combining her interest in finance and her love for mathematics has led her to study financial mathematics, which can give her an entree to the world of finance while, at the same time, honing her mathematical knowledge and skills.

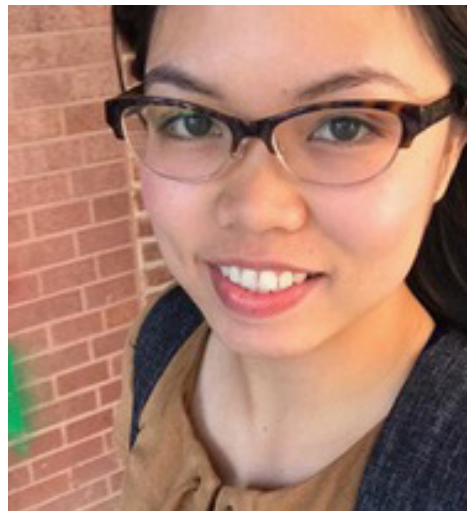


In March 2012, Justine moved to Connecticut. In July 2014 she relocated to Texas to attend the University of Texas at Arlington and to work as a graduate teaching assistant. In the summer of 2017, Justine interned at the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Mathematical Sciences Graduate Internship (MSGI) Program at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California. During the summer of 2019, she worked as a mentor for the National Society Black Engineers “SEEK” program. She accomplished all of this while going to school! In 2020, she was awarded her PhD after defending her dissertation on “Stochastic Risk Measures for the Lundberg

Model with Reinsurance and Investment.”

In November 2020, while finishing her research and writing her thesis, Justine married and moved to Florida. But she misses Texas and hopes to return there soon.

**Paola Cruz:** I am a first-generation, low-income (FGLI) student entering my third year at Columbia, studying Medical Humanities, and hope to graduate in Fall 2021 or Spring 2022. Since enrolling at GS (?), I have become an ad-



vocate for underserved communities, working with organizations that champion FGLI students. I served as the campus director for Project Access, a tech-enabled mentorship that helps students from underprivileged and non-traditional backgrounds worldwide get into top universities. I am currently mentoring a young woman from India toward that goal. In addition to my studies and involvement with Columbia, I was one of the Young Invincibles (YI) Northeast Regional Board Members. As such, I helped address inequalities in higher education, healthcare, and the workplace. My recent work included the fight for restoring the CUNY ASAP funds that support many marginalized and low-income students. As a result of the support offered by YI and the NYC Council, as well as other organizations, the CUNY ASAP \$35.3 million budget was restored! If it weren't for the Finch scholarship and community, I would not be at Columbia. While working toward my degree, I hope to continue exploring and learning more about the relationship of neuroscience and technology. After graduation, I am planning to attend medical school.

**Amey Lynne Rose:** After completing my Dietetic Internship program at the James J. Peter's Veterans Medical Center in the Bronx, I passed the national Commission on Dietetic Registration exam last December, which awards me my credential as Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). I am currently pursuing my Master of Science degree in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics at New York University where my focus is on



clinical nutrition research as it pertains to gastrointestinal disorders, oncology, and screening and assessment of behavioral, acute and chronic disease-related malnutrition. I maintain my massage therapy practice on the weekends, while simultaneously seeking an inpatient clinical nutrition position at a teaching hospital to hone my clinical skills. In the interim, I have taken on a few private nutrition clients to educate and counsel on nutrition and wellness principles using the institute of Functional Medicine (IFM) approach. My goal is to complete the IFM certification program upon completion of my MS degree in the spring of 2022.

**Casey Larsen:** Despite this unprecedented and unsettling past year of COVID-19, I have managed to maintain my GPA at NYU, and I am on track to making Dean's List by the end of the semester. I have joined Youth Outreach Writer's Web (YOWW), where a select few English majors from NYU are paired with Department of Education (DOE) high schoolers to aid them



with their writing. I am currently mentoring two students, helping them write academic papers, college essays, personal creative writing, and even emails! I have also joined the Teaching and Learning Club at my school, and I plan on getting involved with the radio network on campus.

*Continued on page 10 ►*



◀ *Introducing 2021 Scholars continued from pg 5*  
 teenagers, and healthy eating. Today, at age 46, with her children graduating from college, Angelica has returned to school. Her outstanding classes are: Gerontology (HSS 214), HIV-AIDS Science and Society (SCN 194), all of which contributed to her learning about anthropology, history, and HIV stigma. She has always felt reassured by the wisdom of the elderly, and her future goals include obtaining a Master's in Geriatric Social Work.

**SANDRA SMITH**  
 QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO BARUCH COLLEGE  
*Julie Weed Scholarship*

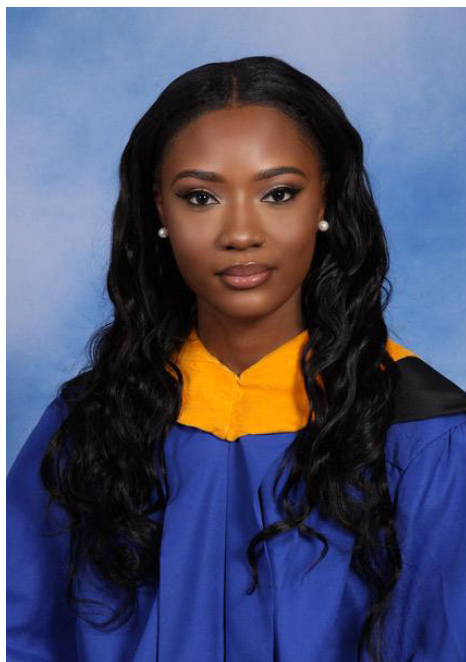


Sandra was a 33-year-old single parent when a neighbor, noticing a jawline bruise, suspected her to be a victim of domestic violence. Secretly researching the intricacies of domestic violence and applying the methods, Sandra learned how to safely escape her then-violent reality. In 2014, she filed for an order of protection, changed the

locks on her doors, and never looked back. Out of a sewing hobby, Sandra cultivated a micro business, Sandra Smith LLC, in 2016, which offered custom bags, décor, and face masks locally. Earning GPA's ranging from 3.92 to 4.0, while balancing the day-to-day duties of running an e-commerce business and being a devoted solo parent to three active children, her goal is to achieve a B.A. in Business, with a minor in Psychology.

**TRACEY SMITH**  
 BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO SUNY  
 DOWNSTATE HEALTH SERVICES UNIVERSITY  
*The Doma Lama Scholarship*

Tracey looks forward to becoming a pediatric nurse. In addition to taking classes toward that end, she has volunteered in the community through BMCC: Building Outstanding Lead-



**NAOMI YABRA**  
 ROCKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO  
 MT. HOLYOKE COLLEGE  
*Frances Fish Tompkins Scholarship donated by Hedy Zankel*

Although Naomi's strict religious Jewish upbringing and environment did not allow for any women's personal freedom, her goal is to receive a solid education in psychology, biology, philosophy, and anthropology so she can do graduate work in the area of plant-assisted therapy. One of the challenges she currently faces in the field of counseling psychology is that many trauma victims are unable to heal in a full or holistic sense. Her interest lies in the study of the human brain and how music and art can help trauma survivors, and she wants to help victims of extreme trauma to heal and become independent so they can make a meaningful contribution to society and the world.



ers of Tomorrow (BOLT), Partners Lending Outstanding Support (PLUS), Women Resource Center, BMCC Admissions Team Office, the Pathway for Experiencing Parenthood program (PEP), Career Center for Development, and the BMCC Counselling Center. Such programs have provided her a foundation in both leadership and volunteerism. She was nominated to receive the graduating Women Award, and has also been selected to participate in the Margaret Whitehorn Student Nurse Service Program for students entering Bellevue Nursing. She is on the Dean's list and, is a BMCC Achiever award recipient, given to students earning a 4.0 GPA at the end of each semester.

**CHRISTAL YU**  
 BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO JOHN  
 JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
*The Lynda Maer Scholarship*



Christal's life goal is to create opportunities for youth development, aiming to heal families and communities by focusing on prevention. She believes in being proactive in order to address the trauma that often goes overlooked, thereby supporting children in their efforts to live up to their fullest potential. Once struggling with three jobs and multiple "F" grades, she now holds a 3.8 GPA and is frequently called upon as a Student Speaker. Christal taught a workshop "Trauma Informed Care & Human Service Skills," recognizing gaps in the program where students could be better served. Her ability to manage mental health crises in her own family helped her to polish her media relation skills, and she has been asked to represent the Navigator Network through interviews with such publications as CivilEats and Money Magazine.

*Scholars' Bios Compiled by Lois Ziegler*

**Yanqiu Guo:** Last semester, I took five classes and earned an “A” in all of them. I am now a senior student, double majoring in Statistics and a mathematics with a 4.0 GPA. During the summer of 2020, I interned with Dt. Mickey Chou at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where I conducted research. The program focused on teach-



ing learning for signal processing in streaming read outs for nuclear and particle physics experiments. I also participated in a Penn State University research project, which was motivated by the need to predict offshore wind energy. In December of 2020, I gave a presentation at American Geophysical Union’s fall meeting. I am currently taking six high-level classes, and I have been selected as a teaching assistant for Calculus V class. I also have a part-time job teaching big data in HD education. I plan on applying to graduate schoolchild summer before I graduate in the fall.



**Sam Brown:** Since I spent a unique first semester studying remotely at Smith College from NYC, I am now happy to be entering my second semester and declaring a double major of Psychology and English, with a concentration in Poetry. I am planning to move to Northampton, MA at the end of May/early June and live on campus. These days, I am keeping busy looking for a poetry-focused internship for the summer.



**Razieh Arabi:** I graduated from Baruch College in the spring of 2020, with a bachelor’s degree in Accounting. Shortly after graduation, I began working as an auditor for Deloitte and, due to the pandemic, I am working from home.



**Aquella White:** I will be graduating with a Master’s degree in public accounting in May, and have registered for - and have finally been approved by NASBA - to sit for the VPA EXAM. After graduation, I will be studying for the CPA exam before starting my career as an auditor.

*The Finch College Alumni Association Foundation extends a warm welcome to the following 9 Finch Scholars who recently joined the Finch Board: Razieh Arabi, Zineb Bouizy, Huiling Cai, Barbara Javori, Yehudis Moskovits, Chu May Paing, Amey Lynne Rose, Aquella White, and Jae Zheng.*

**Tanya O’Debra:** I am a former Finch Scholar who recently starred in a digital play which opened on April 15th. <https://www.bricktheater.com/event/the-ultimate-stimulus-now-more-than-ever/>



**Chu May Paing:** I am taking this opportunity to share the recent podcast conversation I had with Asia Art Tours regarding women’s participation in the political life of Myanmar, which has been overtaken in a military coup, resulting in the atrocities resulting in many human rights violations. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/Chu-May-paing-on-feminism-feminists-Myanmar’s-freedom/id1406775458?i=1000512895511>



### Jennifer Loving

Graduating from Finch in 1971 with a B.A. in Art History, Jennifer Loving headed for Paris, first working for Peat, Marwick and Mitchell and then TWA. Next, she worked for a Senior Congressman in Washington, D.C. before jetting off to Saudi Arabia to tutor Prince Faisal Bin Fahd's daughters. Returning to NYC, Jennifer studied interior design at Parsons School of Design, and became a realtor. She was a member of the Junior League in NYC, a docent at the National Academy of Design, and also at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Jacksonville, FL. Mother to daughter Olivia, Jennifer lives in West Palm Beach, FL, where she is an active member of St. Edwards Guild, a charitable group. She is a member of the French Heritage Society and enjoys playing competitive croquet and backgammon.

### Sarah Guido Sutcliffe

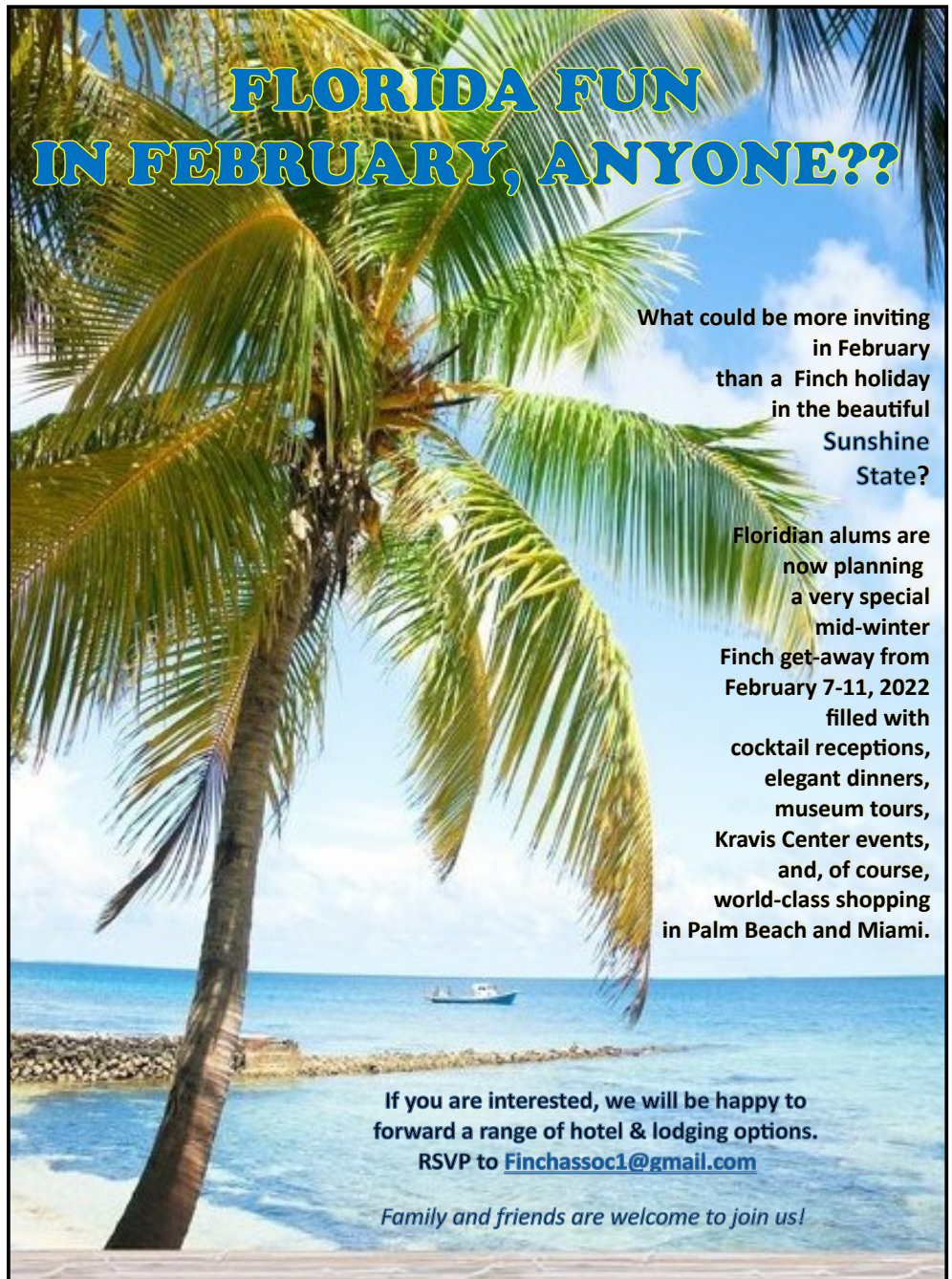
Sarah Guido Sutcliffe attended Finch from 1954 to 1957, earning an A.A.S. degree in Home Economics. She took the first Finch European trip abroad, which was the precursor to the FISP program. Upon her marriage, Sarah relocated to Mexico City, adapting to a new culture while learning Spanish. She has been a tremendously inspiring role model to her family throughout her life, and is actively involved with the La Jolla Village Garden Club in San Diego, CA. Sarah is accomplished in gardening, painting, knitting and needlepoint. A proud mother of 4 children and 8 grandchildren, she divides her time between Mexico and Solana Beach, CA.

### Lesley Rigler Kaminsky

Lesley Rigler Kaminsky attended Finch College from 1963 to 1966, majoring in Art History, followed by interior design studies. After joining and then heading her family apparel business, MIRIAM RIGLER, she founded a custom clothing design studio, LARK AND RIGGS COUTURE, and continues to provide bespoke fashion. Lesley has been very active in charity work, particularly pediatric cancer research, cerebral palsy, Dress for Success and Oasis – A Haven for Women and Children. A mother of 2 daughters, Lesley and her husband Stanley Kaminsky combined have 11 grandchildren.

### Jane Drake Piechota

Jane Drake Piechota graduated from Finch College in 1970 with a BA in Art History. She and her husband, Dennis, established a private conservation laboratory workshop in 1978. This led to working with the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq, The US Department of State, UCLA Library, The Harvard Museum of the



## FLORIDA FUN IN FEBRUARY, ANYONE??

What could be more inviting  
in February  
than a Finch holiday  
in the beautiful  
Sunshine  
State?

Floridian alums are  
now planning  
a very special  
mid-winter  
Finch get-away from  
February 7-11, 2022  
filled with  
cocktail receptions,  
elegant dinners,  
museum tours,  
Kravis Center events,  
and, of course,  
world-class shopping  
in Palm Beach and Miami.

If you are interested, we will be happy to  
forward a range of hotel & lodging options.  
RSVP to [Finchassoc1@gmail.com](mailto:Finchassoc1@gmail.com)

*Family and friends are welcome to join us!*

Ancient Near East, and The Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology. An active volunteer, for seventeen years she has worked with Community Cooks, an organization that offers home-prepared food to vulnerable neighbors. Jane has a son and a daughter and 2 grandchildren, and resides in Arlington, MA.

### Ilene Kristen

Ilene Kristen attended Finch College from 1969 to 1970, and majored in Drama and minored in Art History. She is an accomplished actress, singer, songwriter and cabaret performer. Cast in the original Broadway production of Grease as Patty Simcox, Ilene is best known

for her roles as Delia Ryan in the ABC soap opera Ryan's Hope, and her Emmy-nominated performances as Roxy Balsom on One Life to Live. She has volunteered at a homeless shelter, and through the Children's Aid Society, introduced children to the arts. Ilene resides in Manhattan with director Gary Donatelli.

### *The Jessica Cosgrave Awards Journal*

will contain more detailed information about each awardee's professional and personal lives. It provides a portal into how attending Finch College impacted their lives in terms of the careers they followed, their personal lives and how they have given back to society via many charitable endeavors. And, it will be chock full of lovely photos depicting different aspects of their accomplished lives.

Stay tuned! It is guaranteed to be a fun read.



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

---

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL  
JESSICA COSGRAVE AWARD WEEKEND  
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

*Coordinated by Wendy Glickstein and Joy Correge*

**Friday, October 15, 2021 - Reception at Regeen "Ginger" Kiernan Najar's Home 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

275 Central Park West (at 88th Street), Apt. 12D, NYC 10024  
Ginger Najar, Finch alumna and hôteesse extraordinaire, welcomes us once again to her beautiful home overlooking Central Park where we will enjoy cocktails, canapés and stimulating conversation, as we reconnect in person for the first time since the onset of Covid-19.

**Saturday, October 16, 2021 - New York Historical Society Tour 11:00am - 12:30pm**

Meet at 170 Central Park West (at 77th Street), NYC 10024 for a private, docent-led, 90-minute group tour of the newly opened exhibit, Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and visit Meet the Presidents and the Oval Office and the Center for Women's History. After the tour, you are free to enjoy the rest of the exhibits and the gift shop or have lunch on your own at the museum's Storico Restaurant. (Reservations: 212-873-3400.

**\*Sunday, October 17, 2021 - SIX the Musical at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre 6:00pm - 7:20pm**

Starring the six wives of Henry VIII, this British musical is a

celebration of 21st century woman power. With book, music, and lyrics by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, the show made its debut in London's West End in 2019. (80 minutes, without intermission).

**Monday, October 18, 2021 - Finch Fall Salon at the Nohra Haime Gallery 2:00pm - 3:30pm**

500 West 21st Street, (near 10th Avenue) NYC 10011  
A global trendsetter in the contemporary art world, our illustrious Finch Salon guest star and former Cosgrave Award recipient, Nohra Haime, welcomes us once again to the Nohra Haime Gallery in Chelsea where she will share glamorous, kooky, and heart-warming stories from her extraordinary career. Meet and Greet at 2:00pm. Program begins at 2:30pm. Moderated by Finch Salon Chairs, Peggy Millheiser and Eileen Sherman.

**26th Annual Jessica Cosgrave Awards Celebration**

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

The Cosmopolitan Club, 122 E. 66 St, NYC 10065

5:30-6:45pm: Cocktail Hour and Welcome Reception

6:45-8:00pm: Awards Presentation and Speeches

8:00-9:30pm: Dinner Reception