

A Legacy of Love

On October 25th, a number of RC Alums attended the launch of the *Betsye Kay Finch Performing Arts Foundation*, and celebration of her life, at Sardi's in New York City.

Betsye Kay was a resident of the Rehearsal Club during the 1940's. Coming to NYC from Lakeland, Florida, she danced at Radio City as a Rockette, studied drama, and even took tap with Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. She returned to Lakeland where she married, had children, and became a dance teacher – inspiring young performers for over 30 years. Betsye passed away in March of this year at 92.



Left to right: Dottie Belle, Judith Curcio, Denise Pence, Kathy Conry, Michele Mason.

We joined Betsye Kay's daughter Alexis Rocker, her son Al, along with colleagues, former students, and friends such as Darlene Wendy Frank and Charles Strouse. We dined at one of Betsye Kay's favorite NY places, in a room of lovely people.

As each one lovingly spoke of Betsye Kay and how she influenced their lives, we got to know a RC sister we had never "met" before. There was Lindsey Alley's story of a perilous, yet humorous, landing at La Guardia Airport. Miriam Green told of her trademark split done at recitals. And we were introduced to Rebecca Renfroe-Borneman's beautiful song, "Dancing in the Tune." There was much laughter and tears.



Our own Kathy Conry spoke eloquently and vivaciously about the connection with the Rehearsal Club, and our looking forward to a continuing relationship. We both are interested in preserving a legacy and to inspire and support aspiring performers. Kathy presented Alexis with a RC Centennial program signed with well wishes from us.

The Foundation will award scholarships to high school students in the Lakeland, Florida area, furthering their studies in dance or musical theatre, and contributing to the quality of life through the performing arts.

By Michele Mason



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