

**The Nissa I. Larsen Memorial Dance Award** honors the passion, dedication, and artistry of Nissa, whose love for dance inspired all who knew her. Nissa grew up in Cambridge, MA and attended CRLS where she was active in after-school dance clubs, hip-hop presentations and extracurricular gymnastics.



While she never pursued a performing role in Dance, Nissa attended a wide variety of dance recitals, showcases, productions and concerts. She was a supportive member of several companies including Alvin Ailey, the Joyce Theater, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

Upon graduation from Vassar College in 2001 Nissa worked as a media planner for Saatchi before joining Barry Diller's firm and then David Rockwell's Design & Architectural company. As Contributing Editor at Harris Publications, she launched a column called "Self-Made Woman" interviewing high-powered professionals and celebrity entrepreneurs.

Nissa relocated to East Hampton, NY and was offered a position as Concierge and Director of Events at EHP Resort and Marina, followed by supervisory roles at Baker House 1650 and Sag Harbor's legendary Baron's Cove. Nissa also served as Lead Gymnastics Specialist at Hampton Country Day Camp where she incorporated dance into routines for her young students.

In 2025, after completing a post-graduate degree in Hospitality Leadership from Cornell University, Nissa was excited to continue her career in the tourism industry and move back to her beloved hometown of Cambridge.

Nissa passed away on February 1, 2026.

