Anna Brodsky

Anna Brodsky was sixteen years old when she was chosen as the "Prettiest Girl in Chelsea," winning the YMHA Beauty Contest on November 6, 1926. Anna was born in Plymouth, but grew up in Chelsea, living a few blocks from her extended Brodsky and Miller families.

By 1926, the YMHA was an important cultural and social center for Chelsea's first- and second-generation Jewish immigrant families. Initially located on Third Street, a few doors down from Broadway, the YMHA later moved to a large building on Crescent Avenue, where its after-school activities, athletic facilities, Camp Menorah, vocational training, senior lunches, and Jewish holiday events were enjoyed by generations of Chelsea families, young and old, into the 1980s.

Years after winning her YMHA beauty title, Anna married her neighbor Maurice "Murray" Miller. Their granddaughter Deborah Sullivan, an artist now living in California, said that Anna "was the type of grandma you dream of: adoring, generous, funny, mischievous. I remember that she was also a flirt!"

Source: Ellen Rovner, The Chelsea Gateway Project