Cornelia Kennedy Suskind is the founder and president of the Rocina Institute, a non-profit organization created to foster understanding and open-minded dialogue on contemporary issues. Her early career was spent as a journalist, working as a reporter for *People* magazine, an editor at *Family Weekly* magazine and as the managing editor of *New England Living*, a monthly lifestyle magazine. She later worked on the PBS documentary series *Frontline*.

When her second son Owen was diagnosed with autism at age 3 she left her journalism career to focus on his needs and those of her older son, Walter. Learning from the many talented therapists who worked with Owen, she eventually home-schooled Owen for two years when an appropriate school could not be found. Upon his graduation from Katherine Thomas high school, Cornelia created a transition program for young men on the autism spectrum in Washington, DC called Newfound Academy. Designed to prepare them for greater independence in the next phase of their lives, the program focused on job coaching, transportation training, money management, personal care and skills of daily living as well as wellness and social skills.

She assisted her husband Ron Suskind in the writing of their book about their son Owen’s journey, “Life, Animated: A Story of Sidekicks, Heroes and Autism.”

Having trained as a floral designer in London, Cornelia founded Cornflower Designs in Cambridge, MA in 2016. She is also currently pursuing a master’s degree in history at Harvard University, a life-long aspiration. She serves on the boards of several nonprofit institutions, including LIFE, Inc., the supported independent living community in Hyannis, MA where Owen resides. She lives in Cambridge with her husband, Ron.