# AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC.

WINTER 2011 • VOLUME 37, NUMBER 2

TEL 212.772.4079

FAX 212.772.4074

EMAIL hchsalums@yahoo.com

WEBSITE www.hchsaa.org

## **Alum Ambassadors**

he Alumnae/i Association is seeking alums to serve as Ambassadors in under-represented communities throughout the city. Volunteers will visit elementary schools and after school programs to speak about their Hunter experience, discuss the opportunities that a Hunter education made possible, and inform young people and their parents of the admissions process.

Those with a background or interest in community outreach, teaching, or curriculum development; who have contacts at children's organizations and summer programs in their home communities; an interest in developing opportunities for underserved neighborhoods and helping to promote a greater awareness of their alma mater are encouraged to contact the AA office at info@hchsaa.org. Please put "Alumni Ambassadors" in the subject line of your message.

## info@hchsaa.org

You may have noticed that the HCHSAA recently began sending you messages from a new email address, info@hchsaa.org. Please note that replying directly to this address is now the most effective way to ask a question or communicate a concern related to an email that you receive from us. Emailing info@hchsaa.org is also now the best method to submit news you wish to be considered for inclusion in AlumNotes. However, please continue to email hchsalums@yahoo.com if you have a question about a dues payment or donation you have already made.

## **Eyewitness to History**

n November 17, the HCHS Social Studies department hosted Eyewitness to History, a daylong program in which Hunter alumnae whose families managed to escape or survive the Nazi occupation of their native countries in the '30s and '40s shared their experiences with current students. This year's program, the third since 2008, brought six alumnae: Evelyn Konrad, Jan. '46, Eva KANNER Rosenzweig Kugler, Jan. '49, Doris METH Srinivasan '51, Joan KENT Finkelstein '54, Lily KLEBANOFF Blake '60, and Frances ZYNSTEIN Oz '60.

Each woman spoke with HCHS world history classes, offering a glimpse into the hardships and horror of that tragic chapter of the 20th century. Here are sketches of just a couple of their stories:

In 1940, when Joan KENT Finkelstein '54 was only three years old, her family fled Warsaw, embarking on an epic 10-month journey through Europe, the Middle East and India, finally making it onto an American cruise ship before their time-limited visas expired. One of Joan's family stories from that journey describes Salonika (Thessaloniki), Greece. Upon the family's arrival as part of a trainload of refugees, the local Jewish community brought food to the station but encouraged the refugees to keep moving and leave Salonika if at all possible. Six months later, nearly all of Salonika's Jewish population, one of the most ancient in all of Europe, was wiped out.

Frances ZYNSTEIN Oz '60 was one of the few infants to survive the near-constant slaughter of Jewish men, women, and children by the Nazis and their collaborators in the Ukraine. Luck, as best it can be called, played a major role in her survival. Her father was an actor and writer, but he survived as a tailor during the occupation, working in a factory



Eve Kugler, Jan. '49 poses with her older sister Ruth on Ruth's first day at school. Halle an der Saale, Germany 1935.

that made uniforms for the German army. One day, while Frances' father was fitting a general for a uniform, the general informed him of the next day's orders to slaughter all the women and children in the ghetto where he lived with his extended family, including his wife who was then pregnant with Frances. That night, Frances' family quietly fled to the nearby village of Zhmerinka, which was considered relatively safe. But, Zhmerinka, too, was doomed. Just a week after her birth, the Nazi's tore the ghetto apart, forcing hundreds of Jews to dig a ditch that would become their mass grave. Each was made to lie in the ditch, on top of the already dead and dying, before being shot in the head. Half of Frances' family perished in this grave, which, it is said, continued to move for days. However, that

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#### ALUMNOTES

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Hunter College East Room 1314E 695 Park Avenue New York, NY 10065 hchsalums@yahoo.com

Founded in 1973

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## Dues Due?

Your annual dues expiration date (Month/Year) is printed above your name and address on the back page of this newsletter. If you're "due," please consider paying today. Dues are tax-deductible and are used to support the operations of our office – including the production of *AlumNotes*, maintenance of our website and online alum directory, and organizing the various social events we hold throughout the year.



Dear Hunter Alums,

October 2010 marked my one-year anniversary as Executive Director of the Alumnae/i Association. I have found this role both challenging and rewarding. I owe thanks to many more of you than I can name for your kindness and collaboration.

However, I must extend a special thank you to Marge Kolb for her remarkable dedication to this organization. Please see the article on page 5, which highlights just some of the contributions Marge made during her nearly twelve-year tenure managing the HCHSAA office. I hope you'll join me in wishing Marge the very best in her future endeavors.

This publication also owes a debt to Elaine Brand '65, who serves as its copy editor. Elaine has been volunteering in this capacity for many years. In addition to her terrific editorial skill, Elaine brings a Hunter perspective to each issue. We are delighted to have her continue in that role.

I must acknowledge two people that I rely on every day, as well. The first is our Office Administrator, Ayesha Myers, now in her third year with the HCHSAA. The other is Ben Losi, who joined us last summer. Many of you have met Ben, if not in person, then in spirit. Ben wrote much of the Fall 2010 issue of *AlumNotes* and going forward he will be assuming a greater role in the publication's planning and design. Additionally, Ben writes the majority of the email notices that we send you. And, with the assistance of both the board and myself, Ben will be overseeing the implementation of several new improvements to the HCHSAA website, changes to be described in greater detail in the next issue of *AlumNotes*.

Also coming in the next issue, we hope to launch a new segment that describes the diverse ways in which alums can volunteer their time and talents for the benefit of HCHS.

On the cover of this issue, we call for alum volunteers to serve as Outreach Ambassadors, supplementing the school's efforts to identify and connect with communities that it may not be fully reaching. This new initiative is just getting underway and we are pleased to be able to support the high school's efforts. We have also placed a notice that the AA is seeking new board members for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. Volunteering as an HCHSAA board member is a great way to make a meaningful contribution to your alma mater.

In our fall issue, we thanked all of the donors who made substantial monetary gifts to the AA. Thanks to these generous gifts, last year we gave a record \$201,020 to the High School in support of its programs. Supporting the school in this way is a core mission of the HCHSAA in which I am very proud to participate.

Another primary function of the organization is to promote and sustain a multifaceted social and professional network for Hunter alums. Our website lists upcoming events, lets you renew your membership and purchase Hunter-themed merchandise. The site links to our separate Online Directory, too, and even contains a page listing links to a number of Hunter-related Facebook pages. The HCHSAA's official Facebook group, which is restricted to Hunter alumni, current students and staff, now has well over 2,000 members. The Hunter College High School LinkedIn group is also growing rapidly; as of January it boasted over 650 members.

Finally, when I assumed my position with the HCHSAA in late 2009, I saw an urgent need to upgrade our internal record keeping systems so we could better process, track and report on gifts and alum activities. We have now nearly completed our transfer to the industry leading donor records system, Raiser's Edge. Furthermore, our accounting records are now being maintained using QuickBooks. These efforts will enhance our ability to manage and report on our daily operations and improve our general efficiency.

Thanks again to each of you for continuing to support your alma mater and this organization. If you have not recently been active, I encourage you to get involved! Please feel free to contact the Alumnae/i Association office at 212-772-4079 or info@hchsaa.org with any comments, suggestions, or questions. I look forward to hearing from you and to meeting you personally.

Sincerely,

Elyse Reissman Executive Director

Elyse REISSMAN

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I have just finished reading the Fall 2010 volume of *AlumNotes*. And though I have often written many letters in my head, this is the first I actually feel compelled to write and send.

I, too, feel the pride we have in the accomplishments of our New York women. But I notice that most of the achievers listed are from the classes of '40 and beyond. I am a member of the class of January 1938 – the men of this era were dubbed the "the greatest generation" by Tom Brokaw, and justifiably so.

However, we females of that era had to put our hopes on hold and cut our dreams down to size. We were the Depression generation and the World War II generation and did our part as best we could. We became the supportive wives and mothers of the fifties and sixties. And as my husband often said to me "our daughter is accomplishing all the things you had hoped to do."

And I realize this is true. My daughter is the Beardsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago in Psychology, and my son is Professor in the Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics and Director of the Medical Scientist Training program at the University of California in Irvine.

We did our part through our progeny, as did many of my classmates. I am sending a small donation in memory of Shirley GLATMAN Warren and Rosalind GOLDFARB Kalb, fellow members of the A-1 1938 class at HCHS, who, too, became merely "nameless teachers in the schools around New York," and whose progeny are among those who have carried on the tradition.

They say, "you can take the girl out of New York, but you never take the New York out of the girl." I have lived in New Jersey, Chicago, and now presently in California. But I swell with pride at any of the achievements of our HCHS women.

And I also say "BRAVO" to the three New York women who presently represent us on the Supreme Court, and I am so grateful that those following "the greatest generation supporters" are upholding the tradition and achieving that which we always knew we were capable of.

Mildred ADLER Goldin, Jan. '38 (Hunter College '42)

To the Editor:

It was with a mixture of admiration, respect, and pride that I read Justin Hudson's Class Speech. I was moved to tears by his bravery in speaking out and by the clarity and integrity of his message. His words resonated with my experience of my years at HCHS from 1969-1975, and captured the ambivalence I still feel after so long.

As one of a very small group of racial and cultural minority status girls who entered HCHS at that time, I was acutely aware of the differences in social status. And while I internalized the message of being "gifted" and "privileged," I was also acutely aware of the ways my experience, my very self, was invisible. This experience was further compounded by the bullying I experienced by girls, whom I now understand, felt just as disenfranchised. The lack of acknowledgement of multiple social realities, in combination with the emphasis on elitism, made it very difficult for me to navigate through those years.

I want to acknowledge Mrs. Dabney, the guidance counselor who refused to let me transfer when I was convinced I couldn't succeed at Hunter. I very much appreciate her decision from an adult perspective, even though I didn't agree with her at the time. I have no doubt that the academic foundation I received at Hunter paved the way towards my Ph.D. and academic career as a university professor. I only wish I shared such fond memories as Justin Hudson also presented.

Yvonne Ruiz '75, MSW, Ph.D.

To the Editor:

A few years ago, after finishing a graduate degree in English literature at Oxford University, I enrolled in a teacher-training program at the same university, a PGCE (post-graduate certificate in education). It was a hair-raising experience -- I could not believe the anti-intellectualism of the teachers and the supervisors at the Department of Education, or their class prejudice, thinly disguised by politically correct pablum. Last year I published an article on my experience in *The Reader* magazine (No. 35, Autumn 2009); the piece drew attention from *The Independent*, as well as from a well-regarded

British discussion site, Mumsnet, and was called variously "searing," "heart-breaking," and "unforgettable." But I think my article will hold a special interest for Hunter alumni: I don't mention Hunter, but my own high school education was always in the back of my mind while I was in the program and when I wrote the article, and only alumni will be able to appreciate the extreme contrast between what I witnessed in the PGCE, and what I fondly remembered from my own high school days. The article can be found by googling "Scenes from a PGCE" and my last name.

Gabriella Gruder-Poni '93

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. shall be:

To organize the alumnae and alumni of the School to further the School's activities;

To provide financial support to the School in the form of endowment funds and other funding for the libraries, laboratories, theater, dance, music, art and academic programs, athletic and computer facilities, and other programs and facilities of the School;

To establish scholarships, fellowships and other student aid programs;

To serve as a resource for students of the School to enhance their education;

To sponsor educational, scientific, literary and cultural programs in cooperation with the School;

To serve as an advocate for our School within the larger community; and

To create and sustain a social and professional network for alumnae/i of the School to accomplish these goals.

## **Autumn Reception at Roosevelt House**



Acting Principal Tony Fisher addressing alums at Roosevelt House

alums attended the Alumnae/i Association's annual Autumn Reception on Tuesday, October 19.

Traditionally held in the HCHS library, the venue for this year's event was the recently renovated Roosevelt House. HCHS alumna Dr. Deborah Gardner '66, Director of Roosevelt House Exhibitions and Programs, gave tours, while Dr. Tony Fisher, Hunter's Acting Principal, shared news from the high school. Alumni of all ages came together for a delightful evening.



Five decades of Hunter Alumnae: Donna Gallers '83, Lisa Birzen '99, Peppy Dubno '64, Esther Rose '71, Judith Shapiro '51, Ena Malone '64



Past and present AA board members Purvi Sevak '91, Agnes Park '97, Susan Spector '64 , Marge Goldsmith '61



Winston Dong '82 and Jeanette Eng Hom '56

## **A Note of Thanks**

uring her nearly twelve years with the Alumnae/i Association, many of you reading this have gotten to know **Marge Kolb** '78. You may have received her letters, exchanged emails, or spoken with her on the phone. You also may have met her at a reunion or another alum event. Marge left her position with the AA in June, and we would like to pay tribute to her long service with our organization.

For much of her tenure she was the HCHSAA's sole staff member. According to former board member and retired HCHS teacher Marjorie Goldsmith, "Marge Kolb came at a time when the AA was growing to a new level. With her enthusiasm, alum connections and organizational skills she developed a central office. She was also able to multitask so that the AA could reach out to more alums."

Marge wrote outgoing email blasts and many of the dues and annual fund solicitation letters; worked on three editions of the Alumnae/i Directory book; planned social events including alumni receptions, alum author book talks, the annual Reunion, and theater parties with Lin-Manuel Miranda '98 and Cynthia Nixon '84. She also maintained the alumni database, logged gifts and dues payments, designed and ordered merchandise, and fulfilled merchandise purchases. For many years, she helped plan the board's meeting agendas, provided financial reports to the board, and took the minutes when the Secretary was unavailable. She even worked with the AA's outside accountant on the annual tax return.

Marge also greatly expanded the length and quality of *AlumNotes*, writing most of the articles and reaching out to alums to gather their updates; she was adept at recognizing alums in the news, often picking up on articles, books, or television or radio interviews by or about alums without their even having to inform the AA office. As she likes to say, "Just like stock brokers know about many different companies, I know about hundreds, if not thousands, of HCHS alums." To this day, she continues to post news items about Hunter alums on The Official HCHSAA Facebook page.

Marge was originally hired in 1998 by Board President and former classmate, Eve Ferdman '79, as well as Joan Rosenthal '72.



"Just like stock brokers know about many different companies, I know about hundreds, if not thousands, of HCHS alums."—Marge Kolb

Marge had just spent a year at home after the birth of her second son and was looking for part-time work. The AA was a much smaller organization in those days, and the 13-15 hours per week required to maintain the office and limited events schedule suited her perfectly. In 2001, Marge's young family added a third son. However, some of her work could be done at home by that time, and additional clerical help was occasionally employed on an interim basis. As the AA continued to expand Marge dedicated more hours. In 2007, Ayesha Myers was hired as her assistant.

Looking back, Marge feels that the best part of her job was getting to know and correspond with so many fantastic alums. She also feels privileged to have been able to attend so many great events, including the Annual Reunion, High School

# **Seeking Candidates for Board**

he HCHSAA is actively seeking candidates for its Board of Directors. The primary responsibilities are to advance the mission, services, programs and policies of the Alumnae/i Association. Key activities include reviewing and awarding grants to the High School, serving on at least one committee or task force, financially supporting the Association in a manner commensurate with one's ability, informing others about the organization, and assisting with fundraising and event planning. Candidates for this volunteer position must be current with their dues (they can be paid at the time of nomination) and able to attend monthly evening board meetings in Manhattan.

Candidates are asked to submit a brief autobiographical sketch or résumé and a brief statement of why they would like to serve on the Board. The term of office is three years, beginning July 1. Duespaid members may nominate individuals, including themselves, until the close of business on Friday April 1, 2011 by writing or emailing the HCHSAA office at hchsalums@yahoo.com. A current Board member will contact candidates directly with more information about the work and responsibilities of the Board. For questions, please call 212-772-4079.

Commencement ceremonies, and alum visits to the High School such as the Holocaust Survivors and the Senior Symposium. Marge hopes to continue to meet fellow alums at future alumni events and would love to hear from her friends by email to: mkolb62@yahoo.com or on Facebook. She continues work in her other area of passion, NYC public school activism, and was recently profiled in NY Teacher, a publication of the United Federation of Teachers.

## Save the Date!

unday, June 5 is the date of Reunion 2011 — when we invite the classes of 1986 and 1961 to celebrate their 25th and 50th anniversaries of graduation from Hunter High. Other milestone classes (those with graduation years ending in 6 and 1) are enthusiastically encouraged to attend as well. Admission to the General Reunion is \$35 for non-dues paying alums, and \$20 for dues paying members.

The Alumnae/i Association has a great day planned, beginning at 9:30 am with a continental breakfast and individual milestone class gatherings, followed by a general assembly and buffet luncheon. There will be student musicians performing and a chance to tour the school. The day will close with the Alumnae/i Association's Annual Meeting at 2:00 pm in the auditorium. All alums are invited to attend.

Other weekend events will include a tour of Thomas Hunter Hall on Saturday afternoon, June 4 with a wine and cheese reception to follow for the classes of 1945-1970; a free Family Softball Game & Picnic for the classes of the 1980's-2000's in Central Park, also on Saturday; and two great events on Friday evening – a cocktail party sponsored by the Young Alums and a networking event for all others.

If you are a member of a milestone class and you haven't yet heard from your class coordinator about other class activities being planned, please check below for his or her contact information and then get in touch for more information. If no class coordinator is listed, check our website (www.hchsaa.org) under the "Find Alums" button (password is *purple*) or email our office for information.

As always, alums from all classes are welcome to attend the General Reunion. You'll get to see the school as it is today and meet some former and current faculty members. Please use the inside back page of this newsletter to pre-register and check your dues expiration date (month/year) printed above your name and address to see if it's also time to renew your membership.

Please Note: Milestoners are encouraged to make a special tax-deductible donation toward their class gift to the High School. Please consult your class coordinator to see if there's a recommended amount and whether the class wishes to earmark the gift.

Check our website regularly for reunion updates...see you in June!

## A Special Note to The Class of '61

n addition to the general reunion on Sunday, June 5, the Class of '61 plans to celebrate its 50th reunion with a lunch cruise aboard luxury dining yacht Bateaux New York on Saturday, June 4, followed by a party at Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith's apartment that evening. The class will also host a very casual get-together on the evening of Friday, June 3. The venue for Friday's event is still to be determined. For questions, contact class coordinator Helene WILLIAMS Spierman at hchs1961@verizon.net.

All '61 grads are encouraged to take part in a Class Survey **Leonore Tiefer** has posted at www.surveymonkey.com/s/DWRNJDQ. Survey results will be tabulated and distributed during reunion.

Last but not least, Margreth **DEISSENBERGER Schmitt** is seeking photos of '61 alums taken between September 1955 and June 1961 for a PowerPoint presentation she will be giving at reunion. To those who have already sent photos, thank you. If you haven't, they are still needed - especially prom and "cap and gown" pictures. Please identify the people in your pictures and provide an approximate date for each photo. This information will be important in putting together the slide show. Note that photos need not have been taken at Hunter or Hunter functions, though such photos are preferable! Scanned photos should be emailed to Marge at margschmitt@sbcglobal.net or sent to her via regular mail at 9960 Cielo Vista, Escondido, CA 92026. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope so that your photos can be returned to you. Please submit photos by March 15.

## **CLASS COORDINATORS**

The following people have agreed to help coordinate reunion activities for their classes. Please contact them if you'd like to help out. If you don't see a volunteer coordinator listed for your class and you are interested in volunteering for this role, please contact Elyse Reissman at elyse@ hchsaa.org

#### 1946

Esther WEISSMAN Cember, 561-752-4609; Esther SARFATTY Confinio, 516-248-8026, escgoing@msn.com; and Susan LAUBHEIM Berlin, 212-795-4925, sberlin996@aol.com

#### January 1951

Deborah Bezahler, 212-620-7094, d.bezahler@gmail.com and Joy Levien, 954-458-4572, joylevien@bellsouth.net

#### 1961

Helene WILLIAMS Spierman 516-825-2939 helenespierman@optonline.net

#### 1971

Sandra Charton, 781-449-4165 or 617-414-5018, chartonsm@gmail.com and Amy Farber, 646-239-9549, amfarb910@gmail.com

## 1981

Mark Lang, 212-946-1214 or mlang@tbedesign.com

#### 1986

Brian J. Chávez, 917-566-5016, Brian@BrianChavez.com and Steve Young, 917-837-6756, åyoungster68@gmail.com

## 1991

Purvi Sevak, purvisevak@ gmail.com; Ellen Kackmann, 646-404-3788, EKack86178@aol.com; Kristin Sheehan, kristinsheehan@gmail. com; and Caroline Fox cfox@aya.yale.edu

#### 2001

Ellen Wang, 917-332-8351, coolerpassions@gmail.com

## **ALUM EVENTS**

## Young Alums Networking Event

On Friday, November 26, more than 80 Hunterites came together for the **2010 HCHS Young Alums Networking Event.** Alums **Lawrence Chan '99** and **Hudson Tang '99** hosted the event at Manchester Pub, their sports bar and restaurant on 2nd Avenue and 49th Street. Alumnae/i Association board member **Derek Kan '02** organized the event and reports that the Hunter crowd was very well received: "Bartenders Eddie and Candace had nothing but nice things to say about the HCHS alums. 'They had a good time, drank a lot, but ultimately took care of each other. A real nice group.' For the record, there was a great selection of microbrews and beers for all types. Good times all around."

## San Fran Loves Elena



On Saturday, October 9, Dr. Carol SCHUTZ
Winetsky '63 and nine other classmates living in
the San Francisco Bay Area met to celebrate the
investiture of Elena Kagan. In attendance were
Heidi RICHMAN Greenberg, Dr. Sharon Drager,
Barbara HIRSCHFELD Sussman, Eileen ALTMAN
Hecht, Beth Hadas, Ruth MAZUR Hart, Judy
Kunofsky, Kathryn GOLDMAN Schuyler and
Marcia Millman. The group was happy that Helga

**REISS Justman '49** could also join in their celebration. "We always thought there would be one of us who would make it to the Supreme Court," said one of the participants. "How great that it was Ms. Kagan. What a lot to celebrate." And what a good excuse for a reunion! A truly joyous occasion.

## Washington DC Metro Chapter News

The DC Chapter meets four to six times per year. Last summer it conducted a members' survey, originally created for the Class of 1965's 45th reunion last June and modified for the chapter by marketing researcher **Carol OPPENHEIMER Wolinsky '65.** The survey addressed experiences while attending Hunter, education and employment post high school, family status and hobbies.

In September, the chapter met to review the final report. "It was fascinating to note that similarities and differences alums experienced with the school were dependent on the years in which they attended," noted Wolinsky. For instance, studying Latin was required in the '50s and no longer by the '60s. Dress codes, requirements for "decorum" and rules on leaving the building for lunch or free periods became less stringent after the '60. But the focus on learning and academic challenge, support for "smart" children, high expectations, strong teaching and lasting friendships are associations that apply across the decades.

Other newsworthy events: **Chris Hayes '97** spoke to the group on October 24 about a book he is writing on the crisis in authority in the United States. The group also attended a performance of the Washington Revels, and had a meeting in February that featured guest speaker **Sara Manzano-Diaz '72**, head of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor. Anyone interested in being added to the Washington, DC Chapter mailing list should get in touch with Carol at chwol@verizon.net or 703-237-7916.

## **CHAPTER COORDINATORS**

Accurate as of January 26, 2011

#### **New England Region & Greater Boston**

Nancy Weissman '76 617-439-0110, nweissman@aya.yale.edu

#### **Northern New England**

Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57 603-447-1199

## East End, Long Island (NY)

Jean Binnie, Jan. '42 Margot STRAUS Petrow, Jan. '50

#### Northern Westchester (NY)

Marie Ciaiola '45 863-353-1616, marieciaio@aol.com

#### Ithaca/Rochester (NY)

Barbara STAMM Nosanchuk '57 bnosan@twcny.rr.com

#### Albany, NY Area

Phyllis GOLDBERG Ross '49 518-438-0487, tzipililith@hotmail.com Rona H. Wilson [HC'65], 518-465-7763

## Washington, DC Region

Carol OPPENHEIMER Wolinsky '65 chwol@verizon.net, 703-237-7916 Paula GOLDFARB Post '54 ppost2@verizon.net, 301-765-1168

#### Southern Florida

Edythe WERNER Rishin '41 954-978-9824, edympr@bellsouth.net

## Chicago Area

Andrea BOCKMAN Stack '72 847-498-5627, stackm@comcast.net

#### Гехаs

Gail LEINKRAM Folloder '69, ladygail@att.net

#### **Southern California**

Ann DECHTER Litvin '54 testsmart@yahoo.com, fax 714-990-1916

#### San Francisco Area

Caverlee Cary '73, cari@uclink.berkeley.edu Marcia Feitel '73, marcia\_feitel@hotmail.com Jane Resnick '73, janeresnick@attbi.com

#### Israel

Lorell FELDSTEIN Blass '45 Agron Street, Jerusalem, lorell@netvision.net.il

#### **Alums of Color Egroup**

Fred Mcintosh '87 hchsalumniofcolor@yahoogroups.com

#### Young Alums (Classes of '93-'10)

Derek Kan '02, derek.h.kan@gmail.com

## **HUNTERITES IN THE NEWS**

Foreign Bodies, the new novel by Distinguished Graduate Cynthia Ozick, Jan. '46, was reviewed by book critics everywhere in October and November. The book, modeled on Henry James' 1903 novel The Ambassadors, pays homage to James while turning his story on its head. The basic plot is the same in both stories; a middle-aged American protagonist travels to Paris on a mission to "rescue" a wealthy confidant's wayward son (from an older European seductress) and return him home. Thematically, both tales also pit Old World Europe against New World America. However, while James' main character, Leland Strether, is a widower from a fictional but then-contemporary Massachusetts town, Ozick's protagonist, Bea Nightingale, is a divorced high school teacher from New York City, circa 1952. A November 15 article by Charles McGrath in The New York Times further contrasts the two protagonists: Unlike Leland Strether who "winds up falling half in love with France, and with the [older] woman, himself," Bea Nightingale "doesn't think much of Paris, and unlike the dithering Strether, is unafraid of asserting herself in ways that prove surprising even to herself." The same Times article, which is as much about Cynthia as it is about her new book, quotes friend and fellow novelist Lore Segal, saying "Cynthia does and doesn't know how good she is. She won't allow herself to know it." Ozick, who has received numerous honors, including a National Book Critics Circle prize and the PEN/Nabakov Award for lifetime Achievement, spent the first 14 years of her career struggling to get published. Speaking of that difficult time, Cynthia has said, "I had such crazy passions then. I was kneeling at the altar of literature."

**Dorothy DAVID Schulman '51** was interviewed in *The Oregonian* on August 19 for her work as a volunteer mentor and tutor with Experience Corps, a national organization that recruits retirement-age people to tutor in schools with a high concentration of students from low-income families. One of about 65 Experience Corps volunteers in the Portland area, Dorothy has been with the program for over four years. This year, 10-year-old Maria de la Luz Aguilar-Vanegas is one the handful

of students in Dorothy's charge. Like a number of other students in the program, Maria, whose family came from Mexico in late 2009, has parents who speak little or no English. Such circumstances make succeeding academically all the more difficult. But, the academic mentoring Maria has received from Dorothy has made a substantial impact. "When she first arrived here she was so quiet and barely smiled," says Dorothy. "She's advanced so much." A teacher interviewed for The Oregonian article said that Dorothy's "passion for ensuring that all students have an authentic opportunity to learn and be successful is simply inspiring." Of course, the benefits of Experience Corps go both ways; the lives of the volunteers are also enriched. "I'll be here forever," says Dorothy. "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Susan LEVINE Fuhrman '61 and Augusta SOUZA Kappner '62 both had their names in the news last November, in connection with Mayor Michael Bloomberg's controversial appointment of publishing executive Cathie Black to the position of New York City's Schools Chancellor. Although Black's appointment was successful, her lack of customary credentials, such as teaching experience or an education degree, obliged her to obtain a waiver from the New York State Education Department. Professional educators, among other groups, expressed consternation over Black's appointment. On November 15 The New York Times reported "growing calls for a heightened scrutiny of her résumé." The article explained that even education experts who had worked closely with Mayor Bloomberg in the past, such as Dr. Kappner, the former president of Bank Street College of Education and a one-time member of the mayor's advisory board on education, questioned his choice for chancellor. "I would be much happier if she were an educator," said Kappner. "There are educators who have the same kind of managerial and big-system skills that I read is her strong suit." Nevertheless, New York State Education Commissioner David Steiner approved Black's waiver, following the recommendation of a specially convened advisory screening panel chaired by Dr. Fuhrman, the president of Columbia University's Teachers College.

The New York State Education Department identified the eight-member screening panel, including Dr. Furhman, in a November 19 press release picked up by various news outlets. In 2007, *Crain's* named Susan one of the "100 Most Influential Women in NYC Business."

Dr. Beverly Winikoff '62, president of Gynuity Health Projects, a nonprofit research institution on reproductive health, was featured in Nicholas D. Kristof's Op-Ed column in The New York Times on July 31. In the column, titled "Another Pill that Could Cause a Revolution," Kristof explores the potential worldwide impact of new research on the drug misoprostol. Originally developed to prevent stomach ulcers, misoprostol is one of two drugs typically administered in combination to produce a miscarriage, or "medical abortion." The other drug, mifepristone, is taken first, with misoprostol being administered a day or two later. Taken together this way in the early stages of pregnancy, these two drugs produce a miscarriage 95% of the time. However, recent studies like those by Dr. Winikoff seem to show that misoprostol taken alone will produce the same effect 80-85% of the time. This is significant, because unlike mifepristone, which is only used for inducing abortions, and, therefore, off-limits in much of the world, misoprostol is cheap, widely available and difficult to ban because it is also used to treat ulcers and postpartum hemorrhaging. Since the overwhelming majority of abortions take place in developing countries, where the procedure is often most dangerous, medical abortion by use of misoprostol alone has the potential to save many thousands of lives. Further, since medical abortion causes a miscarriage that is indistinguishable from a natural one, women in countries where abortion is a punishable offense will be less afraid to seek medical treatment should they need it. "I feel like people must have felt when they discovered the nuclear bomb," says Beverly. "This technology is world-shaking."

On August 16, WhoRunsGov.com, an online publication of *The Washington Post*, added an extensive profile of **Sara Manzano-Diaz '72,** Director of the Labor Department's Women's Bureau. Nominated by President Obama

and unanimously confirmed by the Senate in February 2010, Sara heads the only federal agency exclusively mandated to promote the interests of working women. With an \$11.6 million budget and nearly 60 workers in offices around the country, WhoRunsGov. com says, "Manzano-Diaz holds a unique and loud voice to identify specific needs, secure resources and help change public policy." Sara has spent more than 25 years working at the federal and state level, including her last position as the Deputy Secretary of State for Regulatory Programs at the Pennsylvania Department of State, a role that made her the highest ranking Latina in Pennsylvania government. She has also served as the Deputy General Counsel at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, enforcing civil rights, fair housing, and anti-discrimination laws.

Sara attributes her path in large part to her experience growing up in public housing in Harlem as the child of Puerto Rican immigrants. "As a result of being the family translator, I was the bridge between two worlds. And my love for the law and my love for justice and advocacy stems from those early days of trying to help my family out." Being encouraged to excel in school by her parents was another major factor in her success; and gender equality in education is something she advocates for today. "What I'm really about is making sure that women have the opportunities to get the training that they need and the kinds of opportunities that they need in order to support themselves and their families." She also cites pay equity as another principal goal of the Women's Bureau, citing that women, still, on average earn 20% less than men, with that gap being even greater for African-Americans and Latinas. Some of her other priorities include enhancing workplace flexibility for parental leave and childcare insurance, housing for women veterans, and collaborating with educators, employers and unions to prepare and recruit women for "green" jobs. Sara spoke with the Washington, DC Chapter of the Alumnaeli Association at their meeting on February 11.

Maria Teresa Grieco '74 is a music teacher, but she appeared in the *New York Post* on August 29 for her volunteer work with the

American Medical Center's Pet Outreach program. Specifically, Maria and her pet rabbits, Tosca and Rinuccio, visit nursing homes, hospitals and schools around New York City, to offer up the bunnies' therapeutic services. Studies have shown that pet-therapy animals can help lower blood pressure, but more importantly, they can improve peoples' moods and get through to them in ways that doctors, therapists and even family members sometimes cannot. It was such an encounter with an elderly family friend at a holiday gettogether that inspired Grieco to start volunteering. "Her hands were knotted with arthritis. I put Tosca on her lap and she sat there quietly, letting the woman pet her. It looked to me like her hands were actually stretching out and relaxing. That's when I thought [Tosca] would be perfect for pet therapy." According to the Post, the number of institutions utilizing the Pet Outreach program is growing. Maria and her rabbits have even visited Fordham University to help stressed-out students relax before their exams. "Sometimes we humans are so demanding in our relationships," says Maria, "so I love to see the rabbits snuggled together...silently enjoying each other's company. I think there's a lesson in that for all of us."

The Economist quoted renowned cyptographer and computer security specialist Bruce Schneier '81 in a December 9 editorial about what the recent scandals surrounding WikiLeaks mean for businesses everywhere. Schneier is cited, saying "The State Department has learned what the music and film industries learned long ago: that digital files are easy to copy and distribute." Dramatically improving technology has triggered a torrent of data that's easy to exchange, meaning all companies must now live with this uneasy reality. In short, says The Economist, "commercial secrets are no longer safe."

On October 29, **Sherry Dong '91** was honored for her contributions to civic life at the 2010 Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) Community Awards dinner. Just three weeks earlier on October 8, *Sampan*, a Boston-based bi-lingual Chinese-English newspaper ran an interview with

Sherry, calling her a "familiar face around the blocks of Chinatown, who is "known for her dedication to promoting Asian-American health." The interview primarily centered on Sherry's work as the Director of Community Health Improvement Programs at Tufts Medical Center. It's a role that Sherry describes as "dynamic and multifaceted" and affording "a lot of opportunity to make positive change." Among other things, Dong oversees grant-giving initiatives and develops new programs and partnerships with other community organizations. A self-described "advocate for culturally and linguistically competent care," an initiative Sherry takes particular pride in is the Asthma Prevention and Management Initiative or APMI. A multi-lingual initiative aimed at educating parents, teachers, nurses and children, APMI addresses problematic asthma levels pediatricians have observed in the local Asian-American population. When asked to identify other health concerns specific to the Asian community, Sherry cites smoking, Hepatitis B and nasopharyngeal carcinoma as relatively well-known problems, but also points out rising levels of obesity and diabetes due to increasing "acculturation to Western habits and Western diets." Having majored in Asian Studies and Sociology at Tufts prior to obtaining a Masters in Public Administration at Northeastern, Sherry admits that she "fell into healthcare accidentally," by way of previous work with Boston's Asian community as a student, a volunteer, and as an agent of state and local government; she formerly served as liaison to the Asian community in Mayor Thomas Menino's Office of Neighborhood Services. Sampan also highlighted Sherry's recent election to Board President of the Chinese Historical Society of New England.

The Huffington Post interviewed Sara Clemence '92 on October 26 about Recessionwire, an online guide to navigating the financial crisis that she launched with two fellow journalists in February 2009. Sara, who previously worked at Forbes and the New York Post, explained that she and her colleagues were inspired to start Recessionwire by the layoffs of countless friends and acquaintances, as well as their own. Investing

## **HUNTERITES IN THE NEWS**

only \$500 apiece in their venture, they set to work building a website that would advise and inspire the "recession-affected" through a combination of personal stories, finance and job search tips, and reports on economic developments. "We never stopped to question whether it was a good idea," said Sara, "It just seemed necessary." When asked to identify the best piece of advice she's given readers since starting Recessionwire, Sara asserted, "the biggest takeaway is that amazing things can come out of situations that initially seem horrible," adding, "unemployment was one of the best things that's happened to me. I now understand how powerful another person's support can be."

When the Texas Rangers promoted him up from Assistant General Manager in 2005, Jon Daniels '95 became the youngest GM in Major League Baseball history. Five years later, on October 22, 2010, the Rangers squad Jon built through a series of clever and sometimes surprising trades won the Pennant when they eliminated the Yankees in Game 6 of the American League Championship Series. Throughout October, rumors spread that Daniels, a Queens native, might "come home" to replace Omar Minyana as the Mets' General Manager. When Mike Francesca of New York sports radio station WFAN interviewed Jon on October 14 and asked him if there was any truth behind the buzz, Jon admitted that while there had been "innuendo," the Mets never extended a "formal request to talk." But by October 26, with Jon's team heading into the World Series, New York Daily News confirmed that the Mets were looking elsewhere, considering two more readily available candidates. While the Rangers ultimately lost the World Series to the San Francisco Giants, Jon was named the 2010 Major League Baseball executive of the year by the magazine Baseball America.

On September 5, **Lin-Manuel Miranda '98** and **Vanessa Nadal '00** were married at the Belvedere Mansion in Staatsburg, NY. On September 10, *The New York Times* "Vows" section reported on the ceremony as well as the couple's romantic history, which dates back to their Hunter days...sort of. Lin admits that while he admired Vanessa from afar, he never pursued her in high school.

"She was gorgeous and I'm famously bad at talking to women I find attractive." Not until 2005, when Lin was catching up with other Hunterites on Facebook, did he come across Vanessa's profile and invite her to watch him perform with his hip hop/comedy troupe Freestyle Love Supreme. Vanessa, who was then working in New Jersey as a scientist with Johnson & Johnson, showed up, and their relationship began to blossom. Vanessa recently graduated from Fordham Law School, and Lin has received so much recognition since his musical In The Heights hit Broadway in 2008 that it would be impossible to list even half of his recent media appearances here. However, Lin's surprise gift to Vanessa at their wedding reception is definitely one for the ages. He orchestrated a rendition of "To Life" from Fiddler on the Roof, employing the singing and dancing talents of many of the couple's closest friends and family.

A few days later, Lin posted a video of this charming performance on his YouTube page (www.youtube.com/user/usnavi) along with a note saying, "What we lack in polish, we hopefully make up for in joy and love." The video was soon reposted on celebrity gossip site PerezHilton.com and has since been viewed over 2 million times!

On September 18, the New York Post reported that former HCHS volleyball star James Kurfess '04 would be taking the reins as head coach of Hunter's Girls Varsity Volleyball team, the Headhunters. A powerhouse in the Public Schools Athletic League just a few seasons ago, the *Post* described recent years as a transition period for the team, observing, "It's been a topsy-turvy few years for the once-powerhouse program. So what better person to take over than an alum who remembers the team when it was one of the city's best?" Athletics Director Neil Potter brought in Kurfess as Assistant Coach in 2009, while Potter was the team's Acting Head Coach. After graduating from Hunter, James attended the University of Michigan where he played intercollegiate club volleyball. Currently taking classes at Columbia in preparation for medical school, James was glad to work with the team despite his busy schedule. "I feel like we have a shot to bring Hunter back to the elite level," said James. "We have a great legacy and a great tradition." Explaining

that he wanted to focus on toughening up the team's defensive play, the young coach asserted, "We're working hard on passing, defense, getting gritty, playing with a lot of heart and digging every ball up." It paid off. Girls' Volleyball completed the regular season with a spotless 12-0 record and won its first playoff game against Flushing. While the team did not advance further in the playoffs, the groundwork has been laid for next season, with James ready to pick up where he left off.

New York Daily News profiled Joe Ye'10 on August 10, describing how the new grad with stellar grades and a near-perfect SAT score abandoned earlier thoughts of a career in finance in order to work with a "different kind of green." Joe, who now plans to major in environmental studies at the University of North Carolina, spent the last two summers working to reduce invasive species along the trails in Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Joe's work, which was part of an internship program designed to prepare students for full-time positions with the National Parks Service, combined the physical act of removing the intrusive plants with the more scholarly task of researching their characteristics. In Joe's words, Jamaica Bay Refuge is "the jewel of the National Park Service in New York City" because it is so "undisturbed by humans." Such a regard for nature, combined with his intellect and dedication, made Joe a standout among his peers. The Daily News quotes one of Ye's supervisors, a Park Ranger, saying, "He is destined for some big things in his life." Further encouragement came directly from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. During a visit to the refuge in July, he explained that about 40% of current Interior Department employees will retire in the next six years, "so, we're looking for youth."

## Correction

Our Fall 2010 issue misspelled the last name of Aileen Leventon '70 in the caption of a photograph. Aileen appeared in a photo with Spring Gala Honoree Barbara Krumsiek '70.

## **ALUM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A hand-painted botanical etching by Carolyn HABIB Cohen '61 has been accepted into the Blossom Art Competition, an international exhibition of floral-themed art held every three years. Of over 2,300 entries in this year's competition, only 100 were selected. The exhibit opened in Naples, FL on February 5 and runs through April 10, with a national tour to follow. Visit BlossomArtCompetition.com for more details on the exhibit.

On December 5, Helene WILLIAMS Spierman '61 performed in a concert along with legendary musicians Pete Seeger, David Amram and Charlie King. Held at St. Luke's Church Annex in Beacon, NY, the memorial benefit commemorated the life of labor lawyer and social activist Art Kamell, with proceeds going to four of Kamell's favorite organizations: Doctors Without Borders, Pastors for Peace, School of the Americas Watch and the United Farmworkers Union. Helene is a classically trained professional singer; she was with the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera and co-founded the Bronx Opera Company. She has toured Europe seven times, performing with her husband, composer-conductor Dr. Leonard Lehrman. However, she might be best known among Hunterites for leading the Alma Mater at reunions over the last decade. Helene was excited that her former Hunter little sister, fellow musician Pat GORDON Lamanna '65, could attend the December 5 concert, where the two traded copies of their respective CDs. More recently, Helene performed in Manhattan at The Village Temple on January 23. Her music is available for purchase at http://ljlehrman.artists-inresidence.com/ljlehrmanrecordings.html

Leonore Tiefer '61, Ph.D. organized a "counter-conference" in Las Vegas on Sunday, September 26, in response to the Global Symposium on Cosmetic Vaginal Surgery that was being held nearby that same weekend. Called "Framing the Vulva: Genital cosmetic surgery and genital diversity," about 80 attendees came together for a day of discussion and activism, chal-

lenging the medicalization of sex and the "retailization" of medicine. The event was a partnership between the Women's Studies Department at UNLV and the New View Campaign. A grassroots scholar-activist project started in 2000, the New View Campaign came about when Leonore convened a group of feminist social scientists and clinicians to write a manifesto proclaiming a "new view" of women's sexual problems, emphasizing the importance of rights like sexual freedom, autonomy and education. The group subsequently planned a campaign to promote its message in both the academic and public spheres. September's event was the third conference put on by the New View Campaign since 2002. More information is available at NewViewCampaign.org. Leonore is also featured in a new documentary, Orgasm, Inc., which screened in select cities in February. Visit OrgasmInc.org for details.

Corrine Demas '64 released her latest novel, The Writing Circle, in July. It is the story of an eclectic group of six writers who come together to share feedback on their work, but who wind up sharing far more. According to Booklist, "Demas ups the ante by deepening the characterizations, introducing the subject of plagiarism, and exposing the vanity and insecurity of even the most celebrated writers. Delicious reading." The Writing Circle also appeared on IndieBound.org's "Indie Next List" for July 2010, having been selected by a community of affiliated independent booksellers. A prolific writer, Corrine has published numerous children's books, short stories and articles covering a broad range of topics, as well as a collection of poems, and a memoir about growing up in Stuyvesant Town. Corrine is a professor of English at Mount Holyoke College and a Fiction Editor for The Massachusetts Review, an independent quarterly of literature, the arts and public affairs. Her next novel, Everything I Was, is slated for publication in April 2011. It is a about a family in crisis. Corinne's website is CorinneDemas.com.

**Alyssa Katz '86** is serving as the Jack Newfield Professor at Hunter College this spring. In honor of its legendary muckraking namesake, the Newfield professorship has brought a distinguished journalist to teach at Hunter each year since 2006. Alyssa will teach a course titled "Who Owns Public Housing?" in which students will employ intensive document research and old-fashioned techniques of beat reporting to assess the public housing system as it endures some of the toughest challenges in its history. Students will produce a series of articles exploring topics like worsening socio-economic segregation, crime and law enforcement, and the tension between public safety and civil liberty. Alyssa is the author of Our Lot: How Real Estate Came to Own Us, which examines the forces behind the housing bubble and the mortgage crisis. She is also the former Editor of City Limits magazine and has written for publications such as Mother Jones, The Nation, Salon, The American Prospect and Housing Watch. More about Alyssa and her work can be found at AlyssaKatz.com

Cineaste Magazine presented a screening of Bastards of Utopia by Roberto F. "Pacho" Velez '98 on October 16 at Union Docs, a Brooklyn-based non-profit committed to the art of documentary filmmaking. Begun in 2003, the documentary follows the lives of three Croatian activists as they struggle to establish a "new leftism" a decade after the collapse of Yugoslavian socialism, in a political climate that has swung drastically to the right. Described by the late Howard Zinn as "dramatic proof that the struggle for liberty is irrepressible," Bastards of Utopia has been screened at festivals in both the U.S. and Croatia since its release in early 2010. In addition to Bastards of Utopia, Pacho and filmmaking partner Maple Razsa have produced a handful of other ethnographic and politically themed documentaries. In both 2003 and 2004, films by Pacho received the Best Documentary prize at the Ivy Film Festival. And in 2006 he was awarded a Javits Fellowship by the U.S. Department of Education. Pacho began teaching filmmaking at Harvard University in 2010. More about Pacho and his new film can found at EnMasseFilms.org/bastards.

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The Elisa Monte Dance Junior Board's 4th annual Gala was held on March 4, 2011 at the Joyce Theater. The mission of the Junior Board is to ensure the longevity of Elisa Monte Dance, an acclaimed Manhattan-based dance company founded in 1981, by exposing a younger generation to dance and enlisting new patrons to carry the company into the future. The EMD Junior Board is co-chaired by Elia Monte-Brown '01 (Elisa Monte's daughter) and Vanessa Fusco '01. Other board members include Lindsay McNeil '02 and Will Morel '03. The Gala included a performance by the dance company and a private party at Marquee nightclub. For more information on the EMD Junior Board visit ElisaMonteDance.org/ juniorboard or email the Junior Board at juniorboard@elisamontedance.org for any queries.

## Join Us On Facebook!

"The Official Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association" Facebook group now has over 2,100 members. Join today to reconnect with old friends and stay informed about alumni get-togethers, large or small. To access a list of Hunter-themed Facebook groups, visit www. hchsaa.org and click on "Connect" near the top left-hand corner. Please let the AA know if you start a Facebook group related to Hunter. We'll spread the word!

## **ALUMS SEEN & HEARD...**

Catherine Ferguson '57, Ph.D. in a Newsweek.com video interview about her work as a pet psychic, in connection with a July 21 article titled "What's Your Pooch Thinking?" For the interview, Catherine performed readings on Bo, the White House dog and Paul the Octopus, known for predicting the outcome of World Cup matches...

Hannah Wilke, by Nancy Princenthal '73, featured in a "Holiday Gift Guide" on art books published in the November 12 New York Times. The first monograph on the pioneering conceptual artist Hannah Wilke, art critic Roberta Smith called Nancy's book "both reliable and revelatory"...

Jennifer J. Raab '73 making an impassioned case for passage of the DREAM Act in a December 15 Op-Ed in the *New York Daily News.* "It makes economic sense. It makes social sense. And it squares with our long-held national belief that every young person in this country deserves a fair chance in life," Jennifer argued, even though she surmised that the bill's passage was unlikely...

**Manohla Dargis '79** reviewing some the season's biggest movies for *The New York Times*, such as *Black Swan* on December 2 and *True Grit* on December 21...

Allison HYMAN Tibaldi '82 writing regularly for offManhattan.com, an online travel guide that promotes a "greener" lifestyle by highlighting trips and events accessible to New Yorkers via public transportation. Often writing about family and foodie friendly getaways, her October 11 article recommended "Six Fall Food Events Near NYC"...

**Cynthia Nixon '84** writing in *The Huffington Post* on November 1, to promote Fight Back New York, a political action committee with the mission of ousting senators opposed to gay marriage...

Mark Gimein '89, former editor-in-chief of What's What, writing articles for New York Magazine including an August 15 piece on "the uncertainty of our economic uncertainty" and again on August 20 with an article entitled "Wishful Testing," about the "politicization of testing" in the City's public schools...

**Adam Horowitz '90** credited for co-writing the *TRON: Legacy* screenplay. Adam is also known for the being the executive producer of the hit TV series *Lost*, which had its series finale in May...

Sewell Chan '94 interviewed from South Korea on the November 10 edition of WNYC's *The Brian Lehrer* show, about President Obama's trip to the G-20



Seoul Summit. The founding bureau chief of *The New York Times* City Room blog, Sewell took on a new role as a Washington correspondent for the paper in early 2010. Now writing primarily about economic issues, his articles appear regularly in the *Times* Business Day section...

Hope Reichbach '06 on the September 14 Democratic primary ballot for Female District Leader of the 52nd Assembly District of Brooklyn, which includes DUMBO, Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill and Park Slope among other neighborhoods. Hope, a lifelong resident of Boerum Hill, captured 38.5% of the vote but did not win the primary.

## A Conversation With Randy Altschuler '89

n December 8, Randy Altschuler '89 conceded an extraordinarily close race for the 1st Congressional District of New York, nearly unseating the four-term incumbent who has represented eastern Long Island since 2002.

A hard-fought battleground district for decades, the 1st District was the last undecided House seat in the country in 2010. Behind by only 593 votes with nearly 195,000 votes counted, Randy, the Republican/Conservative challenger, ignored calls for a hand recount because he felt its cost would put an unnecessary burden on taxpayers.

A graduate of Princeton ('93) and Harvard Business School ('98), in 2000 Randy caofounded OfficeTiger, a company that provided professional support services, such as record management, claims processing and litigation support. By the time OfficeTiger was acquired by RR Donnelly in 2006, Randy was CEO, leading 4,000 employees in both the US and abroad. He is now the CEO of CloudBlue, a global provider of e-waste management and asset recovery services.

Tai Wong '88 recently spoke with Randy about his run for Congress, as well as his success as an entrepreneur and the value of a Hunter education.

## TW: What made you decide to run for Congress?

RA: There wasn't a "light bulb" moment. I came from a modest background, was brought up by a single mom and got a free education at some of the finest institutions in this country - it was time to give back.

## TW: Are there any unique skills or insights you feel you could have brought to the job?

RA: Most people in Washington haven't run a business or made decisions with a radical impact, met a payroll or understand what that means, and that is true on both sides of the aisle.

## TW: Had you been elected what would have been your #1 priority?

RA: Jobs, specifically private sector jobs. We need to figure out how to bring more jobs back to America. There is no "magic bullet"; we need to look at proper tax incentives, a sensible regulatory environment and educational

priorities for the long term - for example, high school science fairs are losing funding - that's probably the area we can least afford to cut.

#### TW: Will you run again?

RA: I haven't made any decisions about 2012, but I do plan to stay very involved with the GOP and the Conservative Party on a state and local level.

## TW: OfficeTiger was an early pioneer in outsourcing. What inspired you give up your lucrative job on Wall Street in order to pursue such a risky venture?

RA: Well, I was young and foolish. Given my experience in investment banking I felt that there was a strong market for a firm that provided professional support services, so analysts and bankers could be more efficient and productive with their time. We weren't staffing call centers, but providing basic analysis that was necessary but usually time consuming and repetitive.

## TW: Did you enjoy the process of launching a new business?

RA: It was thrilling to own something of your own. As an entrepreneur you remember when you hired that employee, leased an office, or something as modest as buying office chairs; it's a sense of gratification you can't get working for someone else. What I learned running OfficeTiger was it's not just about the money because you can't win the money race, but you can be satisfied that you've done a great job.

## TW: So, why did you sell OfficeTiger?

RA: We had reached a size where to continue to grow we needed to get much bigger; so the solution was to merge or get purchased.

## TW: You started CloudBlue in 2008. Can you tell us something about the firm?

RA: We recycle IT equipment for big corporations. This is an important issue for law firms and many Fortune 500 companies. First, there is the security and compliance issue so you can't just throw it in the garbage, and also most states don't allow "e-waste." In terms of data security we make sure that data



Randy Altschuler with his son Noah.

is erased permanently. Then we try to refurbish and resell equipment particularly to educational institutions at a discount. Where we can't, we break equipment down in parts with everything processed domestically, and not an ounce hits landfills. We have 16 locations around the country and a lot of growth ahead.

## TW: What experiences prepared you for your professional success?

RA: My first job out of college I had a boss at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette (since acquired by Credit Suisse) who was a perfectionist. He insisted on getting everything exactly right. His attention to detail and uncompromising pursuit of excellence was an inspiration. The key is to get the fundamentals right; it might be timeconsuming to do things the proper way but it's hard to succeed when you take shortcuts.

## TW: What made Hunter special for you?

RA: People were smart, motivated and interesting. Teachers were terrific, very engaging, and were there because they wanted to be there. It was a very open school that wasn't afraid of new ideas. I remember Greg Boyle, who was well younger than we are today, starting the debate program. Parker Baratta was unforgettable in English. And [Ira] Marienhoff and [Anna] Morello were some of the best instructors I've ever had in political science.

## TW: You have given generously to Hunter - do you have a message for alumni with regard to giving?

RA: Absolutely. As a former student, you know the high school can use the money. And you can feel secure that every dollar will be used conscientiously. It's hard to find a better cause.

## **CLASS NOTES**

## 1940s

In February, the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Michigan awarded **Kathleen NAGLER Straus '40** the Wade McCree Memorial Award for the Advancement of Social Justice. Kathleen is now serving her fifth term as President of the State Board of Education in Michigan and her third consecutive eight-year term on the board. Kathleen was elected to the Board of Education following her retirement as President of the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, a college of art and design and a school of music and dance. She has lived in Michigan since 1952.

#### 1950s

The work of **Dr. Rosalind PERLOW Kaplan '57** was exhibited at the Renaissance
Fine Art Gallery in Orangeburg, NY from
December 5 through January 15. Roz paints
in "encaustic," or heated wax, a difficult



Roz Kaplan '57 with some of her encaustic paintings.

technique that dates back to Roman antiquity when it was most notably employed in portraits and iconography. An ophthalmologist for over 25 years, Roz's art often portrays images derived from biology, such as the anatomy of a cell. The encaustic medium, with all of its history, further evokes the passage of time and the origins of life.

#### 1980s

**Josine Shapiro '84** and **Andrew Clateman '84** welcomed their daughter, Leora Ann, on September 20, 2010.

#### 1990s

Joyce Varughese '98 and Robin Raju were married on August 28 in an Indian Orthodox Christian wedding ceremony in the bride's hometown of Staten Island. Stefanie Chiou '98 and Ruby Sheets '98 were bridesmaids. Other Hunterites who attended the celebrations were Andrew Chiu '98, Janine Denny '98, Jae Sung Kim '98, Evelyn Kow '98, Tom Nikic '98, Shrenik Sanghvi '97 and Mia Unger '98. Joyce and Robin live in Connecticut, where Joyce is a fellow in gynecologic oncology at Yale School of Medicine and Robin is a project manager at TnT Expense Management.

## Class of 1960: 50th Reunion Highlights

une 2010 marked the 50th reunion for the Class of 1960. After being introduced by board president Joan Rosenthal '72, Class Coordinator Jeanette ISENBERG Bersch declared herself to be "ringmaster of this great class of 1960." She then asked everyone to stand up and a long and loud applause followed. Reflecting on the weekend, Jeanette said, "Nothing prepares you for your 50th reunion. You keep saying I'm not that old; I can't be that old."

The weekend's festivities began on Saturday, June 5 when 99 classmates got together at Astra on 58th Street for a luncheon. The group never stopped reacquainting themselves, and everyone wished they had more time together. Many then proceeded uptown for a cocktail reception and tour of the old high school on 68th Street, noting that some classrooms looked just as they had before, while others had changed greatly. All were delighted to finally be able to ride in the elevator! Saturday's dinner at Landmarc on Columbus Circle – to which husbands were invited for the first time – was a very

successful event with 75 people in attendance. Then on Sunday morning 78 alums got together for a class meet-up at the present-day High School where they shared stories of old times as Mr. Kizner entertained them all.

Jeanette noted with pride the appointment of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court, and said that many in the Class of '60 had contacted her to say they were glad their local papers finally mentioned the Hunter connection. Then the class displayed its vocal talents by offering two a cappella songs: an original piece written for Mr. Kizner, sung to the tune of Gaudeamus Igitur, which ended in a round of cheers and a standing applause, and "Tell Ya 'Bout them Seniors 60" to the tune of the "Sobbin' Women" from Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.

She closed by saying that "no matter where we go, no matter what we do we have the commonality of Hunter behind us and



78 members of the Class of '60 showed up for a wonderful discussion of old times with the inimitable Irving Kizner

we are very proud of our school." She wished continued success to the classes that came before and much good luck to the classes still to come.

Editor's Note: We apologize for the inadvertent omission of this report from our last issue of AlumNotes.

## **Ben Dattner '88 On The Blame Game**

lready something of a go-to authority in the realm of Organizational Psychology, Ben Dattner '88 may become even more visible after the release of his book, The Blame Game: How the Hidden Rules of Credit and Blame Determine Our Success or Failure, on March 15. For several years now, major news outlets such as CNN, NPR, CBS, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times have sought his expertise in workplace-related psychology.

Ben is the founder of Dattner Consulting, a firm that specializes in helping individuals and organizations improve performance by overcoming dysfunctional "cultures of blame" and establishing "cultures of trust." In addition to advising organizations that range from large corporations to small start-ups and non-profits, Ben is also an Adjunct Professor at NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, where he teaches Organizational Development.

A core concept underlying Ben's work as a consultant, which he explores in depth in the *The Blame Game*, is that the dynamics in any workplace can ultimately be described in terms of credit and blame. In short, in an environment where credit and blame are unjustly and unevenly allocated, the motivation to address problems that can make or break an organization is lost as people become preoccupied with dodging blame and grasping for credit. Ben helps organizations improve their chances of success by teaching them to conscientiously and strategically manage credit and blame.

AlumNotes recently corresponded with Ben via email, hoping to learn more about the *The Blame Game* as well as the person behind it.

## AN: Why did you write this book?

BD: A very well respected book agent heard me give an interview on NPR in early 2007, and called me out of the blue to ask if I wanted to write a book. I put together a proposal, with the help of my co-writer, Darren Dahl, who is a freelance journalist.

The basis of the proposal, and eventually the book, was that credit and blame are always at the heart of whatever dynamics are

"Credit and blame are always at the heart of whatever dynamics are occurring in a workplace, for better or for worse. Too often, people, groups, and whole companies take



Ben Dattner '88

credit for good outcomes and deny blame, or blame others, when things go wrong."

occurring in a workplace, for better or for worse. Too often, people, groups, and whole companies take credit for good outcomes and deny blame, or blame others, when things go wrong. Misaligned or unfair credit and blame can stop individual, team and organizational learning and cause people to stop communicating with each other.

Humans (and even other mammals like monkeys and bats) have been wired to care deeply about reciprocity, credit and blame, and fairness. The book offers practical advice and specific tools for individuals, leaders, and organizations for ways to assess and improve dynamics of credit and blame in one's career, in one's workplace relationships, and within and between teams.

## AN: What's a counterintuitive finding mentioned in the book?

BD: Some of the best hospitals report higher error rates than the worst hospitals, because the best ones actually disclose their mistakes.

# AN: What led you to your chosen field of study?

BD: I took an excellent Organizational Psychology class my junior year at Harvard, and found the subject matter endlessly fascinating.

After college I worked at a bank for three years, and found myself much more interested in the people and politics than in credit committee meetings. I went to NYU for my Ph.D. in organizational psychology and graduated in 1999. I then went to

work with and for Ross Garon '89, who cofounded an Internet company called Blink. com. I was the head of Human Resources at Blink, but after one year I left, auspiciously right before the dot-com bust, to found my consulting firm.

# AN: What are some of the highlights from your days at Hunter?

BD: To this day, many of my closest friends are Hunter classmates.

I co-founded, along with my close friend Tai Wong '88, the Hunter Investment Club. Sponsored by one of our favorite teachers, Mr. Marienhoff, we sold "shares" in the Club, invested in the stock market, and then at the end of the year returned profits to our members. Or at least the ones who had held on to, and could produce, their original share certificates. Some of our members, for example Bobby Jain (also '88), are now running major trading operations or working on Wall Street.

Hunter was so intellectually challenging and competitive, in a good way. I credit Hunter for teaching me about diverse points of view and for my learning how to get an opinion across in the form of a concise and compelling argument.

The Blame Game will be published by the Free Press division of Simon & Schuster on March 15. More information can be found at www.creditandblame.com

## "EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

same Nazi general sought out Frances' father and allowed him to live, so that he could finish tailoring his uniform. Frances, her mother, and two uncles were also allowed to survive. After this nightmare incident, the family spent most of the next three years hiding in the cellar of an abandoned building, with other Jews who feared Frances's cries would give them all away. Amazingly, the remaining family members survived until the Russians liberated them in 1945. Not until she was four years old did Frances meet another child about her own age. Speaking to Giovanna Termini's AP European History Class, Frances said, "The pain doesn't really dissipate over time."

While the circumstances and sanctuaries recounted by each alumna at Eyewitness to History varied dramatically, all, miraculously, wound up stateside, and of course, eventually at Hunter.

The other, perhaps more striking, similarity woven throughout their accounts of family tragedy and ultimate salvation is the fact that nearly all of these women kept silent about their experiences while attending Hunter. An echoed sentiment was that of "wanting to be American," or simply "not wanting to be different." While the adolescent desire to fit in certainly has not flagged since the '40s and '50s, it is hard to imagine keeping such significant experiences a secret in the Internet age, when even the most trivial personal utterances find expression on Facebook or Twitter. Ironically, though, their relative silence as children is largely what has motivated these women to speak up now.

While Eyewitness to History would not have come together without the contributions



Students listen to Eve Kugler, Jan.'49, tell her family's story of survival.

of several individuals - most notably Betty Kleinfeld, Chair of the HCHS Social Studies department, who has organized the event each year since its start in 2008, and Eleanor ULLMAN Light, Jan. '49, herself a refugee of Nazi Germany and later of Vichy France, who has generously funded the program through reparations from the French government – the initial impetus for the event can be traced to the to the following letter, which appeared in the Fall 1999 issue of *AlumNotes*.

## To the Editor:

A footnote to **Ms.** [Gloria] HOOPER-Rasberry's speech at Reunion '99, which was printed in the Summer '99 *AlumNotes*. Recalling that the theme of the June 1949

yearbook was the battle for freedom, she said, "We know what war was; we were survivors of the Holocaust." Though not generally known, some child survivors of the Holocaust actually became Hunter High students. As far as I know, no record exists of their number, but I was one of them. A few short years after arriving in New York without family or any knowledge of English, I managed to pass the Hunter exam, confirming my Americanization. There were unique moments. I still remember the strange feeling of Dr. Witmer's history class when we covered Krystallnacht and the Nazi occupation of Paris. "That can't be history," I thought. "I was there; I saw it happening." Of course, I said nothing. Then, and for years afterwards, like most survivors, I kept my painful history to myself. Hunter classmates were shocked to learn my secret when it came out in my book Shattered Crystals, published just three years ago. I would like to hear from other Hunterites who are Holocaust survivors to get a sense of how many of us there are. Please email me at eve@shatteredcrystals.net.

# Eva (Eve) KANNER Rosenzweig Kugler, Jan. '49

Eve did get some replies. As it turned out, more than a handful of Hunter girls' families had managed to escape Nazi occupation. And, like Eve, nearly all had remained silent about it as students. In the months and years after her letter appeared in *AlumNotes*, Eve heard



Giovanna Termini chats with Frances Oz '60 after Frances addresses Giovanna's AP world history class.

from many alumnae with similar experiences. Vignettes describing several of these experiences have since been posted on the website ShatteredCrystals.net, a site Eve created (with the help of her son, Mark Rosenzweig '84) in response to questions she was asked after her book's release, questions about the effect of the Holocaust on child survivors.

Nearly a decade later, in 2008, with several alums' experiences now collected, Eve and Betty Kleinfeld got together to plan the first Eyewitness to History. As Audrey Maurer '51, a Language Teacher at HCHS, wrote in *Hunter Hilites* after the first Eyewitness to History, "Ms. Kleinfeld expected that there might be 'three or four' women who would accept her invitation not only to visit classes but to revisit painful memories. All told, there were twenty women who gallantly shared their experiences with our students."

As a Hunter student at the same time as some of the survivors, Audrey recalls having no idea that any of her schoolmates had lived through such experiences, saying "they chose not to draw attention to something... that would distance them from classmates at their new school in their new country."

Eve is now collecting the stories of the *next* generation, the children of child survivors, to share their experiences, too. Those who are interested in telling their stories may contact her at eve@shatteredcrystals.net

## Special Acknowledgments

Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49 was instrumental in obtaining Eleanor Light's reparations from the French government, which fund Eyewitness to History. In 2005, Mildred represented Eleanor's claim before a panel at the French Consulate in New York. Communicating through a translator, Mildred argued that the "small" sum taken from Eleanor's family all those years ago must be assessed by today's monetary standards. Happily, the panel agreed.

Credit also goes to HCHS Social Studies teacher **Evelyn Sucher**, who coordinated this year's program.

## In Memoriam

Lorraine VOGEL Klerman '46, Dr.P.H., a pioneering researcher and mentor to hundreds of students in the field of public health, died on August 26, 2010 from complications of cancer. Dr. Klerman was the Director of the Institute for Children, Youth and Family Policy at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. A principal contributor to many influential studies in her long and decorated career, she had a particular interest in researching health delivery systems for economically deprived women and children. After receiving her doctorate from Harvard, Lorraine spent much of the next several decades working in in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale School of Medicine. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Klerman and her colleagues studied the Young Mothers Program, one of the first comprehensive health service programs for unwed teenage mothers. In subsequent years, she continued to study problems associated with adolescent sexuality, pregnancy and parenting, as well as child welfare, becoming an authority on (and champion of) family planning and policies designed to improve access to care for mothers and children in poverty. In 1992, Dr. Klerman was recruited to the University of Alabama at Birmingham to become the founding Chairperson of the Department of Maternal and Child Health. In 1996, she received the American Public Health Association's Martha May Eliot Award, the highest honor in the field of maternal and child health. And in September 2010, she was posthumously recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration. Dr. Klerman is survived by her four children and eight grandchildren.

**Dr. Dillie Grunauer '50** died in October 2010 after a long illness. She was 78. A respected neurologist with Chicago's Cook County Hospital since the late 1970s, Dillie was very involved in Jewish causes and an active proponent of gay and lesbian rights. For several years Dillie suffered with a unique and as yet undiagnosed neurological condition that ultimately rendered her mute although her memory and other mental faculties remained intact. Dr. Grunauer was a serial donor to countless causes and charitable organizations who shunned credit and preferred her contri-

butions to remain anonymous. She is survived by her beloved longtime partner Renee C. Hanover; her step-children, Paul and Nancy (Katz) Hanover; granddaughter Sarah Solon-Hanover; and several cousins.

Maria Elizabeth Kent '60 died on August 16 at her home in Washington, DC, of complications from a stroke. A private practice lawyer who specialized in criminal, appellate and general civil rights litigation, she was repeatedly appointed by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the D.C. Court of Appeals to represent defendants in complicated criminal cases. Dr. Kent received both a master's degree and a doctorate in history from Harvard and taught history at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for two years prior to obtaining her law degree from Georgetown in 1978. Maria also worked on a number of political campaigns, including John V. Lindsay's successful 1969 race for reelection as mayor of New York. She is survived by her stepbrother, Peter.

Lynn REYNOLDS Seaman '62 passed away on August 3, 2010 after a valiant 13-month battle with brain cancer. Lynn was a devoted and inspired teacher of French and Spanish in the Bellmore-Merrick School District on Long Island for more than 30 years. She died at home surrounded by her loving husband, Gary, and her devoted daughters, Nicole and Jessica. After retiring 10 years ago, Lynn continued to befriend and tutor new immigrants as a literacy volunteer. Lynn also traveled extensively with her husband in her retirement years using and enjoying all her language skills. In addition to her husband and daughters, Lynn is also survived by three grandchildren and many friends.

The Alumnae/i Association has also been advised of the deaths of the following alums:

Alba COLETTA Mangone, Jan. '49 Joan B. SCHNEIDER Rosen, Jan. '49 Esther GISSINGER Goldfarb '54 Muriel SPECKMANN Reed '64

## **ANNUAL GIVING FY11**

Below is the text of the letter sent to alums and friends this past November to kick off our 2010-11 Annual Giving Campaign. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to those who have already participated in this year's effort. If you haven't already made a gift, it's not too late. Please use the form on the next page to send us your donation.



Dear Hunter High Alum:

When each of us attended Hunter, we were a member of an amazing educational community of like-minded students and encouraging faculty, who challenged us, taught us to value intellectual discourse and the life of the mind, and opened up paths and a world often very different from the neighborhoods from which we came.

It is our mission at the Alumnae/i Association to foster that legacy and the Hunter High community, and to support and assist the school so it can continue to provide the same experience to current and future Hunter students. With public education at the forefront of current American dialogue, we are reminded of how extraordinary Hunter was and remains today.

With heartfelt thanks for your past generosity we write to ask you to renew your support to help us make these efforts possible.

We hope that you received and enjoyed our newest issue of *AlumNotes*. In it, we described all of the ways the funds we provided to the school last year were put to use. One of the critically important programs we highlighted is the advisory program for seventh and eighth graders, which we funded at the Principal's request. It is his (and our) hope that this program and "early intervention" assistance for students who need academic support will improve Hunter's impact on students and their scholastic performance. We also provided significant support to Science enrichment programs, including improvements to the school's laboratories and hands-on educational programs.

As taxpayers, we all are aware of municipal budget constraints. Thanks to dedicated parents and the support of Hunter College, the high school has fared better than many schools. But Hunter continues to suffer from years without sufficient resources. As with many public schools, it cannot provide many offerings and expenditures once considered "standard" without outside financial support.

We ask you to participate with us once again, and to give back to Hunter to ensure that the legacy of excellence continues so that Hunter remains a bastion of intellectual rigor, lifelong friendships and freedom of thought in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Please join us and give as generously as you are able. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law and are greatly valued!

We wish you all a healthy and wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Rosenthal '72

Joan Rosenthal

President

## **PAYMENT FORM**

To pay your dues, register for reunion, make a donation, or purchase merchandise by credit card go to our website www.hchsaa.org and click on "Visit Online Payment Center." To pay by check, complete the form below and mail this entire page with your check payable to HCHSAA in the enclosed envelope. Donors who give \$100 or more a year (excluding Dues) will be recognized in AlumNotes annual Honor Roll of Giving. To send news items for Class Notes or make address corrections please use the reverse side of this form.

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