

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/ ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Volume 27, Number 2

<http://heimdall.hchs.hunter.cuny.edu/alumnae/index.html>

Winter/Spring 2001

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alums:

I am looking forward to our biggest event of the year — our annual Alumnae/i Reunion at the High School on June 3rd. I hope to meet many of you there.

Some other quick notes:

- Congratulations go out to HCHS alum Jennifer J. Raab '73, who was recently appointed to be the 13th president of Hunter College. (Please see the full article on page 4.) The Association's Board of Directors was pleased to meet Ms. Raab at a special reception sponsored by the High School's PTA held prior to the March 2 performance of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* by the High School's Musical Repertory. A

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REUNION 2001

Reunion 2001 will be held on Sunday, June 3rd, at Hunter College High School (94th Street & Park Avenue). Graduates from all years are invited to attend, with milestone classes (those ending in 1 or 6) being encouraged to arrange extra activities for Reunion weekend. Most milestone classes now have volunteer coordinators working to locate and contact members of their classes and plan special get-togethers (see page 12 for details). If you are a member of a milestone class and have not yet heard from your class coordinator(s), you might want to contact them to

make sure you are on their mailing list (this is especially important if you graduated a year earlier or later than the bulk of your classmates!!).

Reunion will begin at 10 a.m. with check-in (featuring coffee and danish), followed by class gatherings, a general assembly and a buffet luncheon. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be accomplished by using the form on the back page. Dues and class gifts can be paid concurrently (check your dues expiration month/year, printed above your mailing address on the back page of this issue). □

Board Nominations Are Open

A Nominating Committee, headed by Ben Dattner '88 and Cheryl KATZ Chiovetta '80, has been established to seek candidates for five of the 15 seats on the Alumnae/i Association's Board of Directors. Dues-paid members may make nominations until the close of business on May 26 by writing, calling or emailing the association's office. To balance continuity with the need to keep leadership open, our by-laws, like those of many organizations, provide that no board member may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings in Manhattan and to participate in ongoing work such as fundraising and event planning. All members in good standing by virtue of having paid their dues are eligible

to vote in Board elections. If you wish to vote, you must pay your dues by the date of the Reunion; if you wish to run for a position on the board, you must pay your dues at the time you are nominated. (For your information, your dues expiration date appears above your name and address on the back page of this newsletter.)

Nominating Committee members will contact proposed nominees to make sure they are actually willing and eligible to serve. (If there are more qualified candidates than slots, membership vote will determine which candidates serve on the Board. Members will be asked to vote for up to five nominees, and the five candidates receiving the most votes will serve.) □

Save These Dates

Saturday, May 5, 2001: Hunter College Birthday Luncheon
(for Hunter College alums)

Sunday, June 3, 2001: Reunion at Hunter College High School.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I enjoyed "*Remembrances of Hunter High*" by Corinne Demas (Fall '00). I also attended Hunter in the "castle" on 68th Street, entering in 1967. I still remember the subway crammed with sixth-grade girls on the day of the entrance exam.

As Corinne recalled, we were "physically unfit," a condition unmitigated by gym class, where we were required to wear one-piece blue bloomers. This proved particularly embarrassing during fire drills, when we were forced to run into Central Park in our uniforms. When we subsequently moved to a midtown office building – prompted in part by student unrest – it lacked a gym, cafeteria, or assembly hall. "Gym" class consisted of such solutions as modern dance. We were able to forgo this with any convenient medical excuse, and then sit and chat near the stairway connecting the floors.

The years at Hunter remain the intellectual highlight of my life, the only problem being that all educational pursuits since pale in comparison. I hope that the students of today are as lucky.

Sheila FEIT, MD, '72

To the Editor:

I was visiting the Church of the Regeneration in Pine Plains, NY, this morning (it's in northeastern Dutchess County), where I was serving as guest deacon and preacher. The priest and I were standing at the back of the church and greeting people as they came in. I'd been there before and knew most of the members of the congregation, but he was introducing me to newcomers. A tall, white-haired man arrived and was introduced to me as "Richard Plass." I was pretty sure it was our Mr. Plass, and indeed, when I asked him if he had taught at HCHS, he said yes. He was really taken aback when I told him I had been a pupil of his in the class of 1961. (I was pretty taken aback, too!) After the service was over, we had a very nice chat during the coffee hour. He retired about 15 years ago and moved up there because he had grown up in the area in nearby Rhinebeck. He shares a house with another member of the congregation and had recently begun coming to church with him.

I told him our class was having its reunion and that I would tell everyone I had seen him. He asked me to be sure to say hello to everyone for him.

Claudia WILSON '61

To the Editor:

I was sorry to learn of Ms. Keyser's death. We knew her as M. (Marian) Barbara Keyser. She was a long-time advisor to *Sigma Gamma Pi*, Hunter's own junior-senior honor society.

Anna Marie NAPOLI '61

To the Editor:

I was very sorry to read about the passing of Jack McNeil. English was not one of my favorite subjects, but Mr. McNeil always made it enjoyable. One of my favorite memories from his class is from a day when he was trying to get us to quiet down at the start of class. The bell had rung but many of us were still busy carrying on our own conversations. Without saying a word, Mr. McNeil did a cartwheel from one end of the floor to the other. The kids who were watching broke out into cheers and applause, which caused the others to stop talking and ask what had happened. Mr. McNeil just smiled and said, "See what you miss when you don't pay attention in my class?" Cartwheels were just one of many ways that Mr. McNeil got me to enjoy English class in spite of myself.

Noel Chang '85

To the Editor:

I'm sure many Hunterites join me in feeling saddened by Jack McNeil's passing. Mr. McNeil was one of my favorite teachers. He was learned, affectionate, and witty.

Reading novels and plays with Mr. McNeil was a singular experience. When the class read *Romeo and Juliet* together, Mr. McNeil, of course, played the Nurse. He seemed to sense when you really needed to read Juliet and sometimes he even managed to perceive which classmate you felt would be just the right Romeo. From time to time, he'd interrupt the proceedings to offer insightful and clever comments about the text, or if he felt like it, about life.

When we read Salinger's *Pretty Mouth and Green My Eyes*, a short story about a

woman who cheats on her spouse, Mr. McNeil couldn't resist cautioning his class: "Ladies and gentlemen, if you're going to commit adultery, please don't do it with one of your spouse's colleagues." Barely in high school, I was quite unsophisticated at that time, but it seemed like sensible advice from a respected instructor, so I made a mental note.

Mr. McNeil was a great teacher and I will continue to miss him.

Emily GLICKMAN Meyerson '86

To the Editor:

I am saddened to read of Jack McNeil's passing last fall. I have always been grateful to have had him as a teacher before he retired. The joy he took in literature and in teaching made a great impression on me as a student. For example, I have a vivid memory of Mr. McNeil reading the part of

Continued on page next page

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Founded in 1973

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|---------------------------|---|
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Letters...

Continued from page 2

the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*; that was the first time I appreciated how funny Shakespeare could be. I have taken what Mr. McNeil taught me about the power and beauty of words into my adult life and into my career as a professor of literature and language. If I can give my students even a fraction of what Mr. McNeil gave me, I'll consider myself successful.

Anita Galters '87

To the Editor:

I grew up in Jackson Heights, Queens in a working class, immigrant family. Hunter provided me with a most significant and enduring opportunity for intellectual development. My time at Hunter and the guidance and education gained from my high school teachers gave me an insatiable curiosity that remains with me to this day. I had many extraordinary and challenging teachers, but most of all, I remember Jack McNeil and Irving Kizner, both of whom made a tremendous difference to me. I read in a recent issue that Mr. McNeil died this year. I am so profoundly saddened by this. He was a fine man and a great inspiration to me and to my friends. He opened literature to us. I remember most vividly his witty and insightful talks on Stendhal's *The Red and the Black* and Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. I know it sounds trite, but Jack McNeil really made literature come alive.

Let me also say that when I attended, Hunter was a girls' school. This gave me unique educational advantages that have endured. I was an awkward adolescent and learned that in the company of Hunterites, I could express my views. I attended Hunter before the women's movement emerged in the American political landscape. Despite the fact that cultural norms constrained us intellectually, professionally and socially, we knew that we could think and write and speak.

I'd also like to let alums born in 1931 know about a documentary project currently underway by Ina Loewenberg (a graduate of Julia Richmond High School), in hopes that some of them may be interested in participating. To that end, please see the AlumnaGram on this subject on page 15.

Claire GOLDBERG Cornell '64 □

Winter Brunch Wrap-Up

The association held its annual Winter Brunch on Sunday, February 4, 2001, at Raymond's Cafe. There were 28 alums and one guest in attendance, with years of graduation ranging from 1941 to 1991. The menu included a choice of entrees ranging from Eggs Benedict to Linguini with Mussels in White Wine and Garlic Sauce and even Hot and Sour Smoked Breast of Duck Salad with Radicchio and Endive, as well as a brunch cocktail (Mimosas were popular), coffee or tea and a special chocolate cake dessert—all for a fixed price of only \$25. With its private, downstairs dining room, Raymond's makes for a cozy location for this gathering and has also been the site of several milestone class gatherings. Watch for notice of next year's Winter Brunch and put it on your must-do list!

Opportunity.com Knocks - Alumnae/i Association Seeks Web Support

Experienced help is needed to volunteer to work with the association's office manager, Marge Kolb, and a liaison and the advisor from the High School's Web team to upgrade and maintain the association's portion of Hunter's Web page.

The hours are limited—once a good page is in place, it doesn't take much to maintain it—and it's possible to work from home and communicate with Marge and the Web team by email. The ability to create Web pages and/or a good working knowledge of HTML are necessary. Among tasks to perform are converting issues of *AlumNotes* to

Web pages and updating our online email directory.

Hunter's home page is frequently the first glimpse of Hunter that outsiders see, from prospective students and their parents, to prospective faculty and administrators, to curious alums. The school community recognizes the importance of the home page and has committed itself to putting Hunter's best face forward. Call the Alumnae/i Association's office (212-772-4079) and leave your name and phone number or email the office at hchsalums@yahoo.com.

This is a fun task for a Web-literate alum and we need your help. □

Desperately Seeking Sarah Maria Jones

If you are in touch with a classmate who isn't receiving *AlumNotes*, tell us how to reach her (or him). We rely on our members to help keep our database up to date. You can also let us know if you are looking for a "lost" classmate. We may be able to help you get back in touch. (In case you didn't know, Sarah Maria Jones was the name given to the archetypal Hunter High Student.)

Are Your Dues Due?

Your dues expiration date (MONTH/YEAR) is printed above your name and address on the mailing label on the back page. All alums are encouraged to pay dues, but payment is not required for membership in the association. We utilize dues monies to help run our office, print and mail four issues of *AlumNotes* per year (costing more than \$6,000 per issue) and prepare for our yearly reunion. Contributions above and beyond dues are also encouraged and are funneled to the High School several times per year. Dues are good for one year from the date on which they are received. If you have any questions about your dues status, please feel free to contact our office. **Remember, the Alumnae/i Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; therefore, dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.** We are also able to accept gifts of marketable securities (email us to ask us for transfer instructions) and we are eligible for matching gifts from employers. □



HCHS Alum Jennifer J. Raab '73 Named New President of Hunter College

On January 12, 2001, the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York appointed Jennifer J. Raab, currently the chair of New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission, to be the 13th President of Hunter College. She succeeds David A. Caputo, who resigned last July after five years as President. Herman Badillo, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said of the appointment, "I am delighted that Jennifer Raab has been selected to lead Hunter College at this important juncture in the College's history. Her background in public service and her passionate commitment to providing strong leadership will help her serve with great distinction."

Ms. Raab, an attorney who was selected after a six-month national search, is a

native New Yorker. After graduating from HCHS in 1973, she attended Cornell University and then received a master's degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and a law degree from Harvard. A resident of the Bronx, Ms. Raab began her career in public service as special projects manager for the South Bronx Development Organization. She has served as Director of Public Affairs for the New York City Planning Department. In 1994, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani appointed Ms. Raab commission chair to supervise the agency responsible for designating and regulating changes to more than 21,000 landmark properties. The Landmarks Preservation Commission has a 50 person staff and a \$3 million budget.

Ms. Raab has also served on the boards of the non-profit Argus Community Organization, a social service provider in the Bronx, the East 154-155th Street Housing Corporation and the Community Volunteer Corps. Her community service includes work with the Advisory Council to the midtown Manhattan Community Court and as a volunteer arbitrator in Bronx County Small Claims Court.

Hunter College is the second oldest college and currently the largest of the CUNY system. Founded in 1870 by Thomas Hunter to provide women with a free, first-class public higher education, the College became fully co-educational in 1964. The College is home to a diverse student body of more than 20,000, with more than 150 undergraduate and graduate programs offered through its five schools. □

A Library for All Reasons

Margaret "Peggy" BETZ Perrin '55

The library of Hunter College High School will begin a transformation over this coming summer made possible by funding from New York City and Hunter College, as well as the generosity of the PTA, the Alumnae/i Association, and alumnae/i milestone classes. The combined resources will help to produce an online research and learning center for a variety of activities and for students with different learning needs.

Beginning this spring, faculty will help weed the collection. Then books, periodicals, equipment, and materials will be packed and stored. Renovation will begin with the end of classes in June. The completed renovation will provide students, teachers and library staff with inviting, open, multi-use areas for library instruction and group and individual research; a centrally located reference/automated circulation service area for the library

staff; the familiar quiet study room; and a comfortable "cozy corner" for relaxation and popular reading material and periodicals. New to the facility will be a glass-enclosed room for small group and one on one instruction, conference space, future distance-learning applications and the like. In addition, the entire library will benefit from a school-wide telecommunication and rewiring project. Individual computer hookups will be available throughout and the library and its equipment and furnishings will meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The fall term will also see the expansion of the library's collection with the welcome addition of new books on the arts, African American history, science and mathematics—purchased with PTA grants and Alumnae/i gifts. Access to online resources continues through the High School's link to Hunter College, and greater availability of the Hunter College and CUNY

libraries for upper termers is anticipated.

The library renovation plans culminate two years of work by the PTA's Library Task Force and its renovation subcommittee. Parents, teachers, administrators, students and an alumna performed a needs assessment, conducted faculty and student surveys and visited other school libraries. A Task Force report summarized strengths and weaknesses of the library and its services and made recommendations that the weeding, addition of materials and renovation have been designed to fulfill. In addition to funding and gifts, the project benefitted from the enormous in-kind contribution of time and expertise by generous parents with computer and library experience. Continued support by the Alumnae/i Association, milestone classes and individual alums will help keep the library and today's Hunterites on the cutting edge. □



Alum Profile - Cynthia Ozick '46

by Judy Chin Wong '88 and Tai Wong '88



"Hunter was a revelation...Hunter changed my life forever," declares author Cynthia Ozick '46, considered one of the leading writers of her generation. The searing Holocaust novella *The Shawl* and *The Puttermessa Papers* are among her best known fiction works; she is also an accomplished essayist, poet and playwright. John Sutherland, in the *New York Times Book Review* recently commented, "Cynthia Ozick is, for my money, the most accomplished and graceful literary stylist of our time." Ms. Ozick is a recipient of numerous awards, among them a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Mildred and Harold Straus Living Award from the American Academy and National Institute of Arts and Letters. Most recently she won the National Book Critics Circle Award in the category of Criticism for *Quarrel and Quandary*.

She remembers her experience at Hunter with astonishing clarity, profound appreciation and inordinate fondness. "When I came to Hunter, I felt very inferior, incompetent and stupid; when I left four years later, I felt like I had an intellect. That's what Hunter did for me," Ozick recounts. Remarkably, she remembers her first Latin test at Hunter, "I was very apprehensive but I got a 91, which was an A," she recalls with a hint of pride.

Hunter was indeed a revelation for Ozick who hailed from Pelham Bay in the Bronx. The student body - all female was 50-60% Jewish with a scattering of African-Americans and Asians, and one Hispanic. The staff and administration were all women the only man in the school was Jimmy, the elevator operator. The environment at Hunter contrasted sharply with that of PS 71, her elementary school, where amidst apathy and intellectual desolation, anti-Semitism was deeply ingrained among the staff and the students. Ozick recalls a letter she received only a few months ago from a grade school contemporary who had read about her in a book review and related that on the Jewish holidays, teachers would comment, "At least they're not here today."

The high school was then located at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue, with the entrance on Lexington. She recalled always being late - "it was a very long subway ride." Nevertheless she often stayed late working on the newspaper and the yearbook. She wistfully recalls walking up and down the stairs in isolation late in the evenings, "...I would almost caress the banisters, I loved the school so much...it gave me my soul." Her emotional attachment is such that she has never visited the current location at 94th and Park, remarking only half-jokingly that it would break her heart, being a "fake usurpation" and "an unholy surrogate" of her Hunter.

Ozick's fondest memory is of a trio of 'wonderful' speech teachers who took the raw New York accents from around the city and disciplined them into proper speech, for which she is extremely grateful. [Ozick's diction and enunciation are impeccable.] The triumvirate were Evangeline Trolander, Ruby Papp and Olive Birch-Davis. "Such names!" she recalled with emotion. "Ruby Papp would dig her fingers into your diaphragm and make you breathe." At graduation, Ozick gave the class

speech and recalls Olive saying to the others, "Remember Cynthia when she first came to us?" "They took credit for that and rightly so," Ozick affirms.

The intellectual atmosphere at Hunter was inspiring, "Latin was so thrilling." She remembers reading Virgil and Homer and was devastated to find out that Latin is no longer a requirement at the high school. She also took French and German, reading Schiller and loving Goethe and his poetry. Her instructor, Frau Doktor Langer, only recently deceased, was motherly and wonderful. "...That the gas chambers were working at full blast at the same time is an irony not lost on me," reflects Ozick. Her love of words and of writing were fired by the great poetry of the *Aeneid*. She also credits an English teacher, "the beautiful Elizabeth Stevenson who taught Keats, Shelley and Wordsworth" for building an abiding love of literature. "To be at Hunter High was to be in heaven. I was never happier," remarks Ozick.

Hunter then was also extremely competitive, with students very ambitious and focused on their schoolwork. "This was a generation [at Hunter] that produced women doctors by the dozens. If you dated or went to the prom, you were a pariah. Only the dumbbells of the school had boyfriends; we were bluestockings - focused only on the life of the intellect," she recalls. Her contemporaries included Ellen Moyers, who is often credited with writing the first feminist work. A classmate, Judy Jarvis [Thomson], is a philosophy professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Smylla Brind, a French refugee, was a 'quiz kid' and a film star.

She always knew from the time she was a small child that she would be a writer. Her classmates and teachers also knew - it went without saying. Her advice to aspiring writers is, in

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1999 Fundraising Monies Fully Disbursed; 2000 Fundraiser is Another Success

Over \$56,000 received in connection with the Alumnae/i Association's 1999 fundraiser has been disbursed to the High School as follows: \$14,000 to be split equally among the seven subject departments; \$7,500 for the Counseling Department; \$6,600 for Science, Math and Language Laboratories; \$6,000 for scholarships to six June, 2000 graduating seniors; \$5,000 for a "Tree of Knowledge" display to commemorate events or individuals important to the school; \$4,000 for student publications; \$3,000 for student travel/exchange programs; \$2,850 for performing arts; \$1,660 for school teams; \$1,500 for computer technology; \$1,500 for auditorium decoration; \$850 for the Library; and \$1,900 for miscellaneous items specified by donors (e.g. girls' needs, Social Studies Department, Music Department).

Our current fundraiser, which began with a November, 2000 letter of appeal to alums, has had an overwhelming response, with more than \$41,000 in contributions received through mid-March. The Board of Directors of the Alumnae/i Association would like to extend its thanks to all those who sent contributions in what was just the second year for such a fundraising drive by the association. Anyone still wishing to contribute can use the form on the back page; please indicate if you want your gift earmarked for any specific area (suggestions include: computer technology; science, math and language labs; athletic/extracurricular programs; scholarships; visual & performing arts; and the library). We'd like to especially thank the following individuals, all of whom made contributions of \$100 or more:

\$2,000 and up

Joan Rosenthal '72

\$1,000 - <\$2000

Margreth Deissenberger Schmitt '61

Joan Karle Varner '60

\$500 - <\$750

Jean Binnie, Jan. '42 (and retired faculty member)

Yakira Hagalili Frank '39

Marjorie Landsberg Goldsmith '61 (and current faculty member)

Jason Offenhartz '93

Claudine Friedman Siegel '52

Christine Tomasino '70

\$250 - <\$500

Lauren McNeeney Burke '79

Hallie Cohen '65

Janine Lee Craane '78

Hester Klein Diamond, Jan. '46

Lynn Garafola '64

Judith Katz Geschwind '58

Kenneth Kloner '89

Anna R. Kovner '92

Gloria I. Lerner '60

Judith C. Lewent '66

Stephanie Mandisi Lovison '72

Cynthia E. Nixon '84

Kathleen O'Callaghan Scott '77

Jean C. Schulman '72

Anne T. Silverstein '55

Tai Wong '88 & Judy Chin Wong '88

\$100 - <\$250

Marilyn J. Abraham '68

Gloria Goodman Adler '47

Halina Korman Alter '70

Anita Altman '63

Gail Ames '60

Rosalyn H. Anderson '70

Janet Dixon Andres '50

Rita Altchek Angel '56

Patty Chang Anker '88 & Kent K. Anker '87

Artemis Anninos '87

Harriet Whitman Aufses '44 (and retired faculty member/librarian)

Miriam Skrivaneck Bachar Settle, Jan. '51

Christine Bader '89

Rhoda Ratner Barr, Jan. '48

Ellen Eslofsky Barth '73

Judith B. Bass '69

Ruth Friedman Basuk '44

Harriet Polansky Beneroff, Jan. '48

Ellen Dixon Bennett '42

Margaret Adlersberg Berger, Jan. '49

Susan Laubheim Berlin '46

Naomi Berner '90

Amy Honigsberg Bernstein '63

Blanche Davis Blank '40

Edith Franklin Bond '38

Elaine Brooks Brichta '50

Peter S. Brodsky '88

Noel L. Chang '85

Phyllis Chang '72

Leona Feifer Chanin '34

Lila Schlessinger Cheskin '42

Sara Corello '82

Patricia Barber Crais '55

Estelle N. Cross '37

Jean Stein Dalldorf '50

Valerie DeCharette '98

Vivian N. Degani '68

Josephine Acocella Demarest '42

Adele Caporale DiChiara '60

Edith Mazer Dobin '36

Roberta Grossman Drosnin '65

Lauren Bergen Edwards '69/'70

Wendy S. Ader Edwards '68

Arlene L. Scharaga Eisenberg '51

Susan A. Elberger '68

Arlene Feigen '38

Gerry Fifer '65

Helen Finegold Friedman '63 (and retired faculty member)

Ellen Fuerst '75

Anita Gallers '87

Elaine Marvin Garfield '49

Barbara Gerber '58

Ellen Germain '80

Harriet Halperin Gershon '58

Esther Wigden Glass '44

L.C. Lynch Glatte '53

Suzanne Solomon Gossett '59

Ivy Grant '92

Irene Greif '65

Carol Hutter Greitzer '41

Leanora Schwartz Gruber '32

Michael Haney '80

Linda Karnischky Harbuck '64

Beth Jackendoff Harpaz '77

Maria L. Hekker '80

Beryl F. Herdt, O.P. '50

Diana Skaletzky Herman, Jan. '50

Marcia Kane Hittner '76

Margaret Carroll Hobé '56

Clare Gottfried Holzman '59

Laraine Balk Hope '73

Susan A. Horowitz '83

Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Assn.

of Fairfield & Westchester Counties

Mary Arevalo Iizuka, Jan. '53

Louise Neuwirth Jaffe Gerber, Jan. '53

Joan Geensburg Jagow, Jan. '48

Dillie Grunauer '50

Joyce Hom Jones '86

Claudia J. Justy '66

Elita Kang '92

Nanette Rodney Kelekian '43

Dana C. Kelsey '73

Kris Kasden Kershaw '58

Dawn Kleinman '83

Edith Lieberman Korn '34

Gloria Gross Kreisman '49

Barbara Metsky Kretchmar '60

Ann Folk Kurinskas '73

Cynthia Lai '90

Nancy Lashine '72

Sherman Lau '87

Gladys Kanarek Lerman '36

Miriam Barrow Lewis '36

Marilyn Levy, Jan. '39

Greg Lichtenberg '84

Eric Lichtenstein '86

Janet Camp Lifshitz '64

Margaret Martens Loranger '52

Leslie Luby '69

John Marks '83

Paula J. Martin '64

Nedda Marus, Jan. '49

Claudia Metz '69

Marilyn Band Meyers '59

Betty Mintz '71

Barbara Richman Mirken '47

Elaine Sobel Mitchell '42

Maureen K. Molloy '49

Erna B. Morris '44

Roberta Morris '67

Viola Hurtig Morse '64



2000 Fundraising...

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Lynn Silverstein Najman '68
Elizabeth Fondal Neufeld '44
Helen Neuhaus '64
Natalie Yurchenko Newmerzhysky '64
Laurie Nisonoff '66
Audray Clements Noyes, Jan. '42
Audrey O'Brien '38
Joshua Papir '93
Dolores Erbst Pearl, Jan. '51
Sharon Katz Pearlman '77
Jennifer J. Raab '73
Elaine Hanauer Ravich '66
Deborah Neumann Reiss '77
Rose Wiesen Reiss '60
Esther H. Rose '71
Amelia Ross '75
Caroline Ross '93
Audrey Roth '74
Ina Rosen Rubenstein '54
Debby Miller Saffian, Jan. '47
Lesley Spring Sanders '65
Geraldine Poppa Schechter '55
Roslyn Abt Schindler '62
Carol Rosenfield Schneebaum '54
Janice Schneider '79
Sara Robbins Schoenwetter '65
Nadine Friedman Schultz '55
Priscilla Cooke Schwabe '63
Shirley Bomart Schwartz, Jan. '36
Robert T. Sedivy '83
Anne Segal '69
Marcia Settel '70
Linda A. Wohlhorn Simard '67
Nora Banks Smith '31
Jane S. Solomon '63
Neal A. Sotsky '84
Helene Williams Spierman '61
Anita E. Springer '72
Elaine Jackson Stack '48
June Stahl '67
Jean R. Sternlight '75
Dr. Julie I. Stone '74
Kathleen Nagler Straus '40
Carol K. Kahn Strauss '62
Diane H. Tabakman '69
Juanita Lee Tam '83
Mark Taylor '84
Joan Ellwood Thomas '45
Paula Handler Tint '48
Karla Sloves Toledano '67
Jean Tom '80
Diane Levine Umemoto '61
Anne Hermanowski Vosatka '82
Barbara Vosk Ph.D. '73
Pamela Silling Wald '69
Tilla Savanuck Weinstein '51
Roselyn B. Landau Weisblut, Jan. '34
Beverly Winikoff '62
Michele L. Winter '67
Marlys Hearst Witte '51
Dale Wolinsky Wolff '66
Elaine Postelneck Yamin '54
Frederick Yee '93
M. Catherine Yezley '74
Mireille Erdman Zarin '54
Amy Mizrahi Zorn '80
Phyllis Rosenfeld Zuckman '47
Cathy Hutchings Zumoff '64

Ozick...

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one word, persistence; she believes that the desire to write is natural and nearly undeniable. "Born writers feel the power of language when they are very, very young." Writers who don't persist aren't the real thing. "There's no suppressing a writer, [it's] inborn, irresistible... like mathematicians who are born to science," she opines.

Though her first novel, *Trust*, was published in 1966, she came to prominence in the late 1970s and 80s with *The Cannibal Galaxy* (1983), and *The Messiah of Stockholm* (1987). Ozick's works are often described as profound, precise and imaginative, though some have commented that her subjects tend too heavily towards Jewish related issues. Ozick recognizes this, noting with humility, that she thinks her place in history will be that of "a minor Jewish writer of the late 20th century."

Ozick describes herself as a classical feminist and a firm believer in the

News From the High School

Seniors Vincent Chen and Daniel Leeds were among 300 nation-wide semifinalists in the INTEL Science Competition (formerly the Westinghouse Science Competition)...Senior Cynthia Cho has won the Violet Richardson Award honoring young women for volunteer action. Her work in Club 365 (a service club that benefits children around the city) as well as over 350 hours of community service and an essay about service, earned her the \$100 top prize...Hunter's team had a perfect record in the New York Math League and was tied for 1st in the state as of the end of January, 2001...The Physical Education Department has decided on a mascot and teams will now be known as the Hunter Hawks. The Hawks won out over the second choice Knights...This year's Senior Prom will be held at Windows on the World (in the World Trade Center)...Sadly, ninth grader Daniel Jacob died in an automobile accident on December 28, 2000. □

equality of the sexes. She believes that girls can develop as leaders and that gender should be irrelevant. While it may seem a paradox to some, Ozick disagrees with segregating girls from boys in a co-ed school in an attempt to enhance girls' performance (the subject of an experiment with Math classes at HCHS in the late 1980s) whereas she feels that Hunter admitting boys was a nearly unforgivable apostasy.

Ozick appears also to be a 'classic' Liberal - today a rare and exotic breed. Reacting to our comment that it would be nearly inconceivable in the current era of 'tolerance' that anyone would dare suggest that students with accents be made to go to a speech clinic, she expressed her deep distress at the destructive influence of political correctness and multiculturalism. "Multiculturalism is not pluralism, it is balkanization," she asserts. "We have this enormously balkanized society...we indulge in groupthink, [and] become rivals, which really is subversive of American individualism," she adds. For her generation, with pluralism, you honor your heritage individually and express it without pitting one heritage against another. "Multiculturalism is very destructive of the American ideal. [It promotes] group rivalry and group hatreds," she emphasizes.

So what does an award-winning author read? Ozick obsessively re-reads her beloved classical favorites; Henry James, Chekhov, George Eliot and Tolstoy. "I seldom deviate since I read now for the sheer joy of it," she comments. E.M. Forster and Jane Austen are also on her list. She has found that she reads new authors less and less and only if she has to. European history continues to be a draw, despite the fact that in her view "all histories are horrible - with people killing each other over ideology."

After Hunter, Cynthia went on to New York University and later Ohio State University, but Hunter holds a special place: "I owe such a debt of gratitude to Hunter. I entered not knowing that I was intelligent and left knowing that I was. There is no greater gift." □



Class Notes

1920s Ada RYAN Titterton '25 writes that her claim to fame is having a very large family — seven children, 30 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren, all doing well and prospering. • Doris HYMAN Miller '29 is living at the Charter House in Silver Spring, MD. She hopes to meet with some fellow alums sometime.

1940s Joy SCHECHTER Roy '41 writes that in October, 1997, she had a miraculous liver transplant. She asks that others provide for donating their organs. • Gladys BALBUS Lipkin '42 was delighted to meet Barbara HELLER '58, present dean of the University of Maryland's School of Nursing, at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Nursing (in which they are both Fellows) in California in November, 2000. The two agreed that the best education they had was at HCHS. Gladys has also been in touch with her wonderful English teacher, Leah Jonas. • Carolyn L. COHEN Ganz, Jan. '46 retired in 1998 from teaching second grade in Syosset, but is still teaching ESL in an Adult Education Program. She and her husband have four grandchildren from their daughter and son; all are living close by so they get to see them often. • Dr. Masha KABAKOW Rudman, June '49 is currently working on two books to be published by Lawrence Erlbaum, Assoc. She's also still a full-time professor at UMass, Amherst. • Shirley KLAUSNER Vogelstein, June '49 is retired from teaching elementary school in Bellmore, NY, and is now living in Spartanburg, SC. With their families, her daughter is living in New Jersey and her son in Ohio. Shirley and her husband especially enjoy their three granddaughters.

1950s Beatrice BONNE Sichel, June '51 is a librarian at Western Michigan University. She has two children and five grandsons. • Abby J. SCHLEIN Greenberg, Jan. '52 continues to work in public health in Nassau County, NY, and again served as Acting Commissioner of Health from October 2000 to January 2001, when a new commissioner was appointed. She remains as Director of Disease Control for the Nassau County Department of Health. • Monica FREUND Silver, June '53, is a professional organizer in Tucson, AZ, working in homes and offices. She has a special interest in "chronic disorganization." She is also a daily money manager for older adults who can no longer cope with their paperwork. Daughter Valerie sells European children's shows at American prices via the Internet; daughter Diane is a program coordinator at the Cincinnati Zoo; and son Larry is assistant comptroller for the Phoenix Coyotes hockey team. Monica's husband, Arthur, is a retired pathologist. • Susan BELLINGER '55 is currently a program director at the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, where she manages the Neighborhood Partners Initiative, a community-building effort in Central Harlem and the South Bronx. This is definitely her last job! • Alice ISAACS Zyetz '55 has been coordinating and teaching in the off-campus Teacher Education Program for the University of LaVerne. After June 30, she will be traveling full-time and writing again, while living in a 32-foot fifth-wheel trailer with her husband. •

Ricarda BRAININ Heller '57 has been married for 41 years to her high school sweetheart. Although she is currently battling metastatic breast cancer, she is looking forward to the marriage of her older son, Robert, in September. • Grace LAURO Lanciani '58 and her husband became first-time grandparents in March of 2000 and granddaughter Madeline Claire is the joy of their lives. They have made many trips from their home in Florida to Virginia for holiday visits and will embark on their third Alaskan cruise in June. Grace is looking forward to her husband's retirement in two years. • Karla TURKHEIMER Moskowitz '59 just became president-elect of the National Association of Women Judges and will be installed in New York City on October 7, 2001.

1960s Rose WIESEN Reiss '60 is currently employed as an Assistant Social Work Supervisor for the NY Department of Corrections (Wagner Correctional Facility). Her husband of 32 years, Nat, is retired and works on his genealogy and is president of their synagogue. Their son, Jeff, is married, has a 5-year-old daughter, Alex, and teaches at Kushner Yeshiva. Their daughter, Laura, is a high-school special education teacher and is married to a software engineer. • Marguerite STRATTON '60 had a wonderful experience at her 40th class reunion last June and felt energized and empowered by reconnecting with classmates and one of their teachers, Irving Kizner. She was also glad to see that Hunter is flourishing. Marguerite has been in private practice as a psychotherapist for 25 years and is currently specializing in focusing-oriented psychotherapy. • Sondra SCHECTER Audin Armer '61 has had more than 60 poems published. She has a poetry homepage at: <http://hometown.aol.com/ssaphd/index.html> • Anita LERMAN Hamilton '61 has just struck down an unpopular New York State election law with the help of the Brennan Center for Justice. The success of Lerman v. Board of Elections, #99-9015, removes the residency requirement for candidate petition witnesses. Anita also ran as the 2000 Green and Independence Party candidate for Congress in the 13th Congressional District. • Marilyn HERSEY '61 moved to Baton Rouge, LA in 1998 and is the Executive Director of Swine Palace Productions, an Equity Theatre located there. She previously ran two other theatres in Connecticut: Boston Post Road Stage Company and the Westport Arts Center, and prior to that, worked as a professional actress. She has a daughter, Kristin, who is 22, and graduated from college last year. • Helene WILLIAMS Spierman '61 has a Web page which provides information about her accent reduction program: <http://homestead.juno.com/helenespierman/foreignaccent.html> • Ilona TROSTORFF Crosswhite '62 attended Goucher College after graduating from HCHS, then worked a few years on Wall Street, got married, and moved to San Francisco. She now has two children; a girl, Anastasia, who's 28, went to Princeton, got an M.A. in History at UNC and is now at NYU Law, and a son, Wyatt, who's 25, went to Bates, and is now at Georgetown Business School. Ilona is a finance lawyer at Hartford Insurance and her husband, Bill, is regional head of Fleet Investment Advisors. Ilona does much serious



gardening (right now her passions are heathers and ornamental grasses) and she would love to hear about what anyone from her "era" is doing. She can be emailed at crosswhite@snet.net. • **Barbara KAUFMAN Gladstone '66** has three sons, one grandson and one on the way. She was forced into early retirement due to a head injury sustained in a motor vehicle accident. She's anxious to hear from classmates, but unfortunately has no computer due to cognitive problems from her injury being slow to resolve — English itself is almost a second language. Contact the Alumnae/i Assn. for Barbara's mailing address. • **Linda GROSSMAN Beins '67** moved to the Washington D.C. area and is the Circulation Supervisor for the Arlington Co. Central Library. She is also working on her MLS from Catholic University. Linda and her husband would happily welcome visitors to their Silver Spring apartment; she can be reached by email at bbeins@yahoo.com. • **Faye ZUCKER '69** has relocated from New York City to Thousand Oaks, CA, to become Executive Editor of Corwin Press (Sage Publications). HCHS alums who are writing manuscripts concerning K-12 education are invited to contact her at faye.zucker@sagepub.com. Friends are invited to stay in touch too.

1970s **Barbara KRUMSIEK '70** reports that the Washington D.C. based members of the class of '70 met for a power lunch on February 1, 2001. **Yee Wah CHEN**, the newest DC resident, gathered **Joan FABRY**, **Barbara KRUMSIEK**, **Linda ROSENZWEIG**, **Judy SCHAEFFER**, **Rachel REICH Tobin** and **Barrie WOLF** for the first of many planned get togethers. • **Alice BERNSTEIN '72** is the executive vice president and general manager of the Brooklyn Academy of Music. • **Carolyn HEYWARD Grosvenor MD '72** is working part-time at a Family Health Center in Albany, NY, as an internist. She's been married for over 24 years and has no children. • **Susan MATLOFF-Nieves '74** is living in Brooklyn with her husband, Saul Nieves, and their six-year-old son, Larry. She works at the Forest Hills Community House, a settlement house in Queens, where she develops and supervises school-based youth development programs which are collaborations between her community-based agency and the public schools. • **Marcia KANE Hittner '76** assumed the position of Vice President of Marketing Strategy at EAB (Uniondale, NY) in November, 1999, after a 17-year career at Citibank. In her new job, she leads the strategic development efforts to grow the bank's traditional branch banking products, investments and insurance offerings. Marcia would be interested to hear from other Hunterites in the financial services industry and she offers her assistance to alums looking to establish personal or business banking relationships in the NY region. • **Selita Robin MILLS '76** has three sons (one in college and one in private school) and is working toward her second bachelor's degree. • **Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz '77** is currently writing a book for St. Martin's Press called *The Girls in the Van*. The title is a take-off on *The Boys on the Bus*, a book about the press corps covering the 1972 presidential campaign. Beth's book is about the largely female press corps that covered Hillary Clinton's senate campaign, which Beth worked on for The Associated Press. Publication of the book will be mid-2001.

1980s **Eric BECKMAN '83** and his wife, Jaynee, are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Benjamin Samson, on November 2, 2000. The happy family live in Los Angeles and would love to reconnect with old friends through email to jeb@speakeasy.org. • **Susan HOROWITZ '83** is living in Washington, D.C., with her husband of 10+ years, Robert Gersh, LCDR, US Navy. She is a happy stay-at-home mom to her two smart and gorgeous children, Shira, 4 years old, and Avi, 1 year old. During Thanksgiving weekend 2000 in NYC, Susan had the great pleasure of attending a mini-reunion of sorts at the home of **Allison HYMAN Tibaldi '82**. Present were Allison, husband Antonio and children Alek, 9, and Madeleine, 6; **Matt BLUMENFELD '83**, wife Claudia Canale-Parola and daughters Isa Charlotte, 5, and Sadie Rose, 1; **Gabrielle STEINFELS '83**, husband Darryl Hendricks and son Max, 1. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful food Allison prepared and the kids enjoyed playing together and generally running amok. Alas, Susan will not be around for any more reunions in the near future as she and her family are moving to Yokosuka, Japan in April for a 3-4 year stint, courtesy of the U.S. Navy. If there are any alums in that part of the world, or anyone else who'd like to get in touch, please email Susan at robert_gersh@alumni.tufts.edu. • **Cecile KUZNITZ '85** recently finished her Ph.D. in Modern Jewish History at Stanford and has begun teaching at Georgetown University. She is happy to be back on the East Coast. She recently got together with **Ming Yuen Meyer-Fong '85** and his wife in Washington, DC. • **Jonathan K. COHEN '86** graduated Yale College summa cum laude in 1990 and ended his quest for the Ph.D. at UC Irvine in 1993, with a terminal M.A. He married his longtime companion, Elspeth Riley, in July, 2000 and is presently working as a programmer, more from necessity than love. • **Allan TULCHIN '86** is currently teaching 9th and 10th grade Social Studies at HCHS. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago with a thesis entitled "The Reformation in Nimes," a study of the Huguenots. • **Michael T. Rose '87** and his wife Heidi Hoover welcomed daughter Hannalina Rose Hoover on January 26, 2001. Hanna is their first child and the first grandchild to all six of her grand- and stepgrandparents, so she has no shortage of admirers. First-week-at-home-in-Brooklyn visitors included HCHS friends **Henry Goldschmidt '87** and **Brynn Rosen '88**. Michael is taking a brief "serious career" break after ten years in the publishing technology field, most recently with the late, lamented LIFE magazine; he's currently performing with the NYC improv troupes KLAATU and LabRats and pursuing acting work and stand-up comedy when not changing diapers and making funny faces. • **Jennifer TAUB '87** is living in Boston and doing a split research/clinical post-doctorate at Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She completed her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Vermont. She is happily co-habiting with her partner, Phil, an environmental educator/activist and their wonder kitty, Max. She would be happy to hear from other Hunter alums in the Boston area, by email to jtaub@zoo.uvm.edu. • **Elizabeth (Liz) FREEDMAN '88** and her husband, Trey, welcomed their

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Remembrances of Hunter High

Lorraine Goverman Wechsler, Jan. '42

When I entered Hunter High and was surrounded by other star students, I wasn't the top gun anymore. It took me a while to learn to study and to do homework — I'd never had to in elementary school. But I graduated probably in the top 5 or 10 percent, with my share of awards.

Hunter was a happy experience. I liked all my bright classmates and the wonderful women (all women) who taught us English, physics and math, history, Latin (I had four years of it), French, art and music. We gave poetry recitals and plays in which I performed. In December 1941, my senior year, Pearl Harbor was attacked. My class graduated in January, 1942. (We had mid-year as well as June graduations in those days.)

I remember our freshman year in an abandoned grade school building at First Avenue in the 90s, and I remember how the East River flooded the basement cafeteria. I think it was there that I painted a watercolor of some tenement buildings seen from a school window. Miss Kelly must have been our art teacher then. Dr. Brown, our principal, asked to have the watercolor and it hung in her office in the building at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue for some years. I wonder where it is now.

Sophomore year we moved downtown to the 8th floor of a commercial building on 32d Street near Third Avenue. We rode a freight elevator to our improvised classrooms. I don't remember complaining. Sentimental girls, we loved our school, our teachers and one another, and felt lucky to be at Hunter. When we were juniors and seniors, all classes were together at last and we had all the comforts of the 68th Street building — an auditorium, a gym, real classrooms, and the college next door in a tall, brand new building facing Park Avenue. We were told the college had used our building until the new one was ready because its own had burned down.

The girls in my class grew up and became doctors, lawyers, engineers, college professors, school teachers, wives, mothers, community activists, and more. I know, because ten years after graduation I did a survey of our class. The story based on the survey appeared in the *Herald Tribune* (now long gone) under the byline of Judith Crist, herself a Hunter College High School graduate. As for me, I became a newspaper reporter and then a professor of journalism at Iowa State. (I've also been married so far for 51 years to the same good man, and we have three children and three grandchildren.) I sometimes think I owe any success I've had to the women who taught at Hunter High, where in an atmosphere of kindness, I was encouraged to be curious and to enjoy learning.



Judith SEGAL Zabar, Jan. '50

In 1946, I passed the entrance tests for Hunter High School and Music and Art High School. A year younger than the other freshmen, I was afraid to compete with the hip, bohemian kids at Music and Art who wore purple silk scarves, dangling earrings and black shirts. They dated; they made smart remarks. I thought I would feel safer at Hunter.

On our very first day, the teachers told us we were the "cream of the crop." I quickly saw that Hunter was organized around two issues: competition for grades and competition for friends. Grades were concrete but popularity was more elusive. My efforts to compete in both arenas effectively sublimated thoughts of boys, at least for the first two years of high school. Almost half the girls in my class had moved up from the Hunter High eighth grade and knew all the ropes. They knew the teachers, the rooms and all the intricacies of quizzes and exams. These girls, a tight clique, were the liveliest in the class and the most intriguing; I was determined to infiltrate their group and now, years later, those classmates think that I moved up with them.

We all competed for grades. Teachers never had an empty hand — they met you at the door of the classroom holding three by five inch slips of yellow paper for an unannounced quiz, or they clutched their marking books as they called on students to stand and recite. For French class, we were required to memorize endless lists of French vocabulary from *Les Misérables* — years later a Frenchman asked me why I had so many archaic words in my vocabulary. (Didn't Jean Valjean wear *sabots*?) When my French teacher told me that I had a Marseilles accent, I thought, "Oh, what joy"; then I learned it was the equivalent of a Brooklyn accent. Today I realize that our English literature curriculum replicated the architecture of the building in which we attended classes — I doubt that any new books had been added since 1918. Victorian themes suffused the English Department. The very first novel assigned in the ninth grade was George Eliot's *Silas Marner*. They thought, I suppose, that we could relate to Effie, that befuddled child. As far as I was concerned, she and the old man could have stayed in that shack forever. The next book we read was *Treasure Island*. Not one woman or young lady ever appeared in the entire book. I can still recite "Knew you not Pompeii" and can throw "hoist by his own petard" into any appropriate conversation. There were only one or two teachers who ever mentioned sex, usually in reference to Roman or Greek literature. Mrs. Lillienthal taught biology and hygiene and gave us permission to go home and try tampons, an anatomical revelation. Formal finals provided the tension and excitement of sporting competitions — in a superstitious way we didn't wash our hair or wear nylons (a recent post-war phenomenon) until we took our last test.

There were several popularity markers. For me, socialization revolved around the local coffee shop, elections and special interest clubs. The G.O. was a big deal and there on Friday afternoons, not only did the two representatives from each class attend, but we got to see the upper-grade big shots in action and hope that we too could be Big Sisters and invoke Robert's Rules of Order. We also fussed about Sweet Sixteens. An elaborate corsage of

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Remember...

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heavily beribboned sugar cubes was constructed by a best friend and was proudly worn all day. My Sweet Sixteen was truly a "hen party." I borrowed a large mechanical hen that laid eggs from my Dad's store and used it as a centerpiece. Irony eased the dateless pain.

We graduated in 1950 with one white-gloved hand still in the first decades of the century. In 2000, my classmates and I celebrated our fiftieth anniversary and lasting friendships. I delighted in the easy rapport with my old friends and with women I had hardly known. Our spontaneous conversations covered fifty years of feminism. We compared our daughters with ourselves, their careers and expectations and our lives that were shaped by postwar America. I am often reminded of Hunter High's special gifts to me. They are a woman's confidence, a respect for excellence and critical thinking, and the discipline of hard work.

We encourage other alums to submit memories of their time at Hunter High (1,200 words or fewer, please), and we will endeavor to publish them on an on-going basis. □

Class Notes

Continued from page 9

first child, Frances (named after her maternal grandmother, a graduate of Hunter College) on April 16, 2000. Liz's sister, **Katherine FREEDMAN '84**, is a very proud aunt. Liz finished her residency in family practice in Connecticut last year and recently joined a group practice, where she is working part-time. Trey continues to do biology research at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Liz can be contacted at esfreedman@home.com.

• **Christine BADER '89** received an MBA from Yale last May and is currently working for BP Amoco in Jakarta, Indonesia. • **Nora J. BENSANEL '89** received her Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University during the summer of 1999. She is now living in the Washington, DC, area, working as a defense analyst at the Rand Corporation.

Alumnae/i Announcements

Deborah TANNEN '62 announces the publication of her book *I Only Say This Because I Love You: How the Way We Talk Can Make or Break Family Relationships Throughout Our Lives*, which will be published in May, 2001 by Random House. Tannen is a Professor in the Linguistics Department at Georgetown University and has previously authored the books: *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation* and *That's Not What I Meant: How Conversational Style Makes or Breaks Relationships*.

Barbara SHULGASSER-Parker '72 announces the publication of her novel *Funny Accent* in May, 2001. Shulgasser-Parker, now living in Santa Monica, CA, co-wrote with Robert Altman the film *Pret-a-Porter* and was a film critic for the *San Francisco Examiner* for 13 years. *Funny Accent* has already been praised by Diane Johnson, author of *Le Divorce*, Anne Lamott (*Traveling Mercies*) and Elena Lappin (*Foreign Brides*), who called it "a moving first novel full of originality, wisdom and irreverent wit." Thirty-two year old Anna is the protagonist of the novel and her biggest problem is a penchant for men old enough to be her father. Heading home to Scarsdale to celebrate her father's 70th birthday, she longs to break the pattern, anticipating an awkward confrontation with a close family friend – the first older man in her life – about whom she has written a recently published short story. Looming in the background are a struggling playwright and a

well-known Jewish writer, no spring chickens, either. The book is being published by Pica-dor USA, a division of St. Martin's Press.

Sandi DuBOWSKI '88 announces the release of his feature-length documentary film *Trembling Before G-d*, about Hasidim and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian. Shot over the past five years in Brooklyn, Jerusalem, Miami, Los Angeles and London, it had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival and an international premiere at the Berlin Festival in the winter of 2001. The film will have a theatrical release, television broadcast and long festival life in the coming years. For information or to help with distribution, fund-raising, or Web development, please contact Sandi at sandi@tremblingbeforeg-d.com or visit the Web site at www.tremblingbeforeg-d.com.

You can have your announcement published by writing or emailing the Alumnae/i office. Authors are encouraged to donate a copy of their published books to the High School library, where they will be placed in a special area with other books by alums. The address to which to send your books is: Hunter College High School Library, 71 E. 94th Street, New York, NY 10128-0798. Enclose a brief note to advise the librarian that you are an alum. □

1990s Darryl SIRY '90 was married to Keri Schneider from Danville, CA, on October 28, 2000, in a Halloween wedding in San Francisco. Many Hunter alums were present: best men **Marc SIRY '85** and **Eric SIRY '88**; wedding party member **Peter GALUSKIN '98**; and guests **Billy ZEDLOVICH '90**; **Camilo ORTIZ '90** (a friend of 25 years!) and his wife, Betty; **Kate EDELBAUM Heddings '89** and husband Doug (who came dressed as George and Martha

Washington); **David WOHL '85** and **Janie WEIGANDT '85**. Darryl is currently living near Haight/Ashbury and works as vice president of customer research and strategy at Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in Marin. He can be reached at darryl@siry.com. • **Daniel MORGENROTH '95** is presently living and working in Brooklyn, NY.

You can contribute your news to Class Notes by writing or emailing the Alumnae/i Association office. □



Chapter Coordinators

New England Region:

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

Greater Boston:

Nancy Weissman '76 (see above)

Northern New England:

Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57,
603-447-1199

Southern Connecticut:

Melissa ROSSE Dobbyn '77,
203-324-2828, rosse@gandb.com

Northern Westchester (NY):

Marie Ciaiola '45,
914-276-0159

Hudson Valley (NY):

Deborah I. Dorwitt '77,
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sascha@darjeeling.demon.co.uk

Israel:

Lorell FELDSTEIN Blass '45,
02-6240044 12 Agron Street,
Jerusalem

Recent Alums (grads of the '80s, '90s and '00s):

Christine Bergmann '92,
605 W. 112th St., #4B, NY, NY 10025,
c.bergmann.1@alumni.nyu.edu
Amy Gong '93, agong@nypl.org

Special note to chapter leaders: If you have any news or notices of meetings or get-togethers that you'd like us to publish, please let us know by June 30th.

Milestone Class Coordinators

Reunion 2001:

Jan. '51: **Joy LEVIEN**, 333 E. 79th St., Apt. 12U, New York, NY 10021, (212) 734-4323

June '51: **Janet KEESEY Baser**, 330 S. Wild Horse Way, Cottonwood, AZ 86326, (520) 649-0482; jbaserart@aol.com. Janet is looking for a classmate in the NYC area to help her with reunion planning.

1956: **Ruth KAUFMAN Davis**, 31-43 69th St., Jackson Hts., NY 11377, (718) 779-1874; davisrk@flash.net

1961: **Helene WILLIAMS Spierman**, 33 Court St., Valley Stream, NY 11580, (516) 256-4209 (after 10 a.m. only); helenespierman@juno.com

Leonore TIEFER, 300 First Ave., New York, NY 10009; H (212) 533-2774; Fax (212) 254-5922; ltiefer@mindspring.com.

Note: The class of '61 is planning its individual class get-together for Saturday, September 8, 2001 (location to be determined). Helene has put together a reunion web site at: http://homestead.juno.com/class_of_1961. Class members are also encouraged to attend the general reunion on June 3rd at the High School.

1971: **Joan GRABHORN Romano**, 14 Jonas Blvd., Centereach, NY 11720, (516) 451-2404, jromano@flashcom.net Note: The class of '71 is planning its individual class get-together for Saturday, August 11, at the home of a classmate. Class

members are also encouraged to attend the general reunion on June 3 at the High School.

1976: **Warria ESMOND**, 63 St. Andrews Lane, Glen Cove, NY 11542, (516) 695-2961; rheamd@aol.com

Marie DeRosa, (718) 625-7293

1981: **Lauren BUXBAUM Kacir**, 1304 North First Street, Temple, TX 76501; lbkacir@pol.net. Lauren is looking for a classmate in the NYC area to help her with reunion planning.

1986: **Christine Quinones**, 292 Lincoln Place, #2D, Bklyn, NY 11238, (718) 596-2560; cmq1@rcn.com

Allan Tulchin,
tulc@attglobal.net

1991: **Carrie Fox, Ellen Kackmann, Jonathan Levin, & Marguerite Liao** Contact via email: fly91reunion@yahoo.com, sign guestbook at www.memyselfandfly.com or telephone Marguerite at 212-854-9505.

1996: **Elizabeth S. HOOK**, 640 W. 231st Street, Apt. 5D, Bronx, NY 10463; H (718) 543-9662, W (212) 852-6768; elizabeth.hook@sales.turner.com

Judy SELTZER, 2546 East 13th Street, Apt. D-5, Brooklyn, NY 11235; H (718)-646-4339; jds27@cornell.edu

Class News

Class Web Sites & Email Rings

1961: http://homestead.juno.com/class_of_1961

1965: <http://home.att.net/~deborah/index.htm> (Please email **Debby ROSENFELD Landes** '65 with any material you wish to be included on the page at deborah@att.net)

1980: www.egroups.com/group/hunter1980

1991: www.memyselfandfly.com

Attrn: Class of Jan. '53: About six of us have been getting together for lunch once a month in NYC. If you'd like to join us, please call **Susan ROSENO Fahrenholtz** at 973-338-6588 or **Ellen MENDEL** at 212-662-4193. It's time to start working on our 50th reunion, too!



Class of 1980 Has October Get-Together

Laura EDLIN '80

Members of the class of 1980 met on Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8 in New York City. On Saturday, Alison BRAVER, Marni CENTOR, Kellie COPE and husband Craig, Laura EDLIN, Karen GRAUBART, Anne HOOGESTEDEN, Maria MADIGAN, husband Dino and son Emanuel, Barbara RIORDAN, Jane SHUFER and Laurie PENDERGAST met at the 42nd Street Library. Everyone was not only recognizable, but they all looked terrific and there was one big hugging session for a while. The group's intrepid guide, Susan LINDER, steered them through the library and regaled them with stories and pointed out highlights of the library's architecture and collections as well as the recent renovation. Susan then ushered everyone outside and on the way to Grand Central Terminal, they popped into the Lincoln Building where there is a small bronze of the Lincoln Memorial in D.C. The bronze is the original sculpture by Daniel Chester French who later rendered it into the familiar monument. In Grand Central, Susan pointed out the zodiac signs on the ceiling of the main room, which are reversed from their placement in the sky. The group also learned more about the Beaux Arts architecture of the terminal and heard themselves in the echo chamber by the

Oyster Bar. Our thanks to Susan for doing such a wonderful job and being so patient as we tried to follow her, listen to her explanations, and still talk non-stop to each other.

Next, we walked to the theater district and John's Pizzeria. It was a perfect location as we trekked up to the third-story balcony and spread out at a table overlooking the scene below. Nina HAFT joined us for dinner, having come in from California so she could be with everyone. We ate, drank and talked for about three hours and when we finally left, no one wanted the evening to end. So back to Grand Central we went, to a hidden bar in the terminal which used to be an office and apartment for one of the supervising architects when the terminal was built. Constructed in 1923, the bar is a little gem of a spot, where Alison turned most of us on to chocolate martinis and we continued to play catch up.

On Sunday, there was a more intimate gathering at Merchant's on First Avenue in the 60s. Alison, Jane, Marni, Laura and Chris LOMBARDI brunched and had a chance to have more in-depth discussions than the day before.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of our various reunions has been reconnecting with classmates both on- and off-line. Let's not lose touch now that we've found one another again! □

President's Letter

Continued from front page

number of alums attended the performance. We applauded the cast, orchestra and production staff, led by director Liba Wenig Rubenstein, and thank the faculty advisors, Regina Robbins and Rebecca Hollander.

- The Search Committee looking for a new HCHS principal/director of campus schools has submitted names of three eminently qualified candidates to Hunter College. We expect the College to make a decision soon.
- Donations to our second annual fundraising drive currently exceed \$41,000. Grateful thanks are extended to all who contributed to this effort, including our many large donors, who are listed beginning on page 6.
- On a personal note, I'm happy to announce that our office manager and *AlumNotes* co-editor, Marge Kolb '78, gave birth to her third child, Sean Thomas, on March 15. He joins big brothers Aidan, 12, and Daniel, 3.

As always, I appeal to all alums who can to please pay your dues. Our association does not receive monetary support from anyone other than our members (although Hunter College kindly provides us with office space and a telephone), so we really depend on dues payments to support the publication of this newsletter and all the other member services we provide.

Cordially yours,

Eve S. Ferdman

Eve S. Ferdman '79

Check Out Our Terrific HCHS Merchandise!

The Alumnae/i Association currently offers four different items of HCHS logoed items:

- ☆ a cute and cuddly 11-inch velvet plush *teddy bear* available in golden brown, dark brown, grey and midnight blue and wearing a cream "Hunter High" turtleneck (\$24)



- ☆ a HCHS coffee/tea *mug* (white with purple lettering - \$11); and
- ☆ a child or adult-sized purple, Beefy Hanes *T-shirt* with white lettering (\$15/\$21).

- ☆ a large two-pocket purple *apron* embossed with our school crest and the slogan "Gifted Cook" (\$20);

To order, use the form on the back page. Remember, our prices are inclusive of sales tax (where applicable) and shipping and handling.

2000 Alumnae/i Directory Still Available

There are a few copies of the 2000 alumni directory still available for purchase. If you're interested in obtaining a copy, please contact the publisher, Harris, directly at 800-877-6554.



In Memoriam

Correction: In the Fall issue, it was erroneously reported that Kathy ZAPANTIS Miller '59 had passed away. This information was provided to the Alumnae/i Assn. by our 2000 directory publisher, Harris Company. Katherine ZAPANTIS' correct married name is Keller and she is in good health and is currently working at George Washington University in Washington DC since receiving her Ph.D. in English Literature from the University of Toronto.

Molly HAPP '43, of Hamden, CT, died on September 19, 2000, from the effects of diabetes. Her friend Rosalind MAREN Pomerantz '43 writes that although Molly was chronically ill for many years, she never lost her good humor and zest for life.

Maria AZZARONE Bentel '46, a prominent architect, planner and educator, died on November 8, 2000 at her home in Locust Valley, NY at the age of 72. The cause of death was complications from multiple myeloma, a rare form of bone marrow cancer. Prof. Bentel was a well known member of the faculty in the Architecture School of the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) where she had taught since 1977; prior to that, she lectured at the City University of New York. Prof. Bentel was also a partner in the architectural firm of Bentel & Bentel, Architects/Planners A.I.A. which she established with her husband Frederick Bentel in 1957. It was one of the first husband and wife professional collaborations in architecture on Long Island and one of only a handful in the New York City area in the 1950s. The firm offered Master Planning, Urban Planning and Architectural Design services to municipalities and institutional clients in the metropolitan area and along the eastern seaboard between Virginia and Vermont. This professional range reflected the couple's commitment to the Modern Movement and its central thesis that good design could produce physical environments which are both socially progressive and uplifting aesthetically. Along with her husband, Maria came to be known for her work on schools, libraries and religious buildings and received numerous awards, including an Honorable Mention in the Brighton Beach Housing Competition of 1968. She also received many New York State Association of Architects awards, including those for Saint Jude's Within the Walls, a prison church in the State Correctional Facility in Napanoch, NY, in 1964; the North Shore Unitarian School

in Plandome, NY, in 1970; the Jericho Public Library, Jericho, NY, in 1974; and the Hillwood Commons Student Union Facility at Long Island University's Brookville campus in 1975. Prof. Bentel also received the distinguished faculty award from the alumni of the Architecture School at NYIT in honor of her commitment as an educator.

After graduating from Hunter High School in 1946, Maria received her Bachelor's of Architecture degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1951, one of only four female graduates of the Architecture school in that year. In 1952 and 1953, she received a Fulbright-Hayes Scholarship, with which she attended the Istituto d'Architettura di Venezia and in 1957, she became a member of the American Institute of Architects. In 1999, she and her husband received the Lifetime Achievement Medal from the AIA-Long Island Chapter.

Ms. Bentel is survived by her husband, Frederick Richard; two sisters, two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren. Donations in her memory can be made to the Prof. Maria A. Bentel Memorial Fund, attn: Dean John di Domenico, New York Institute of Technology, School of Architecture and Design, Old Westbury, NY 11568.

Arlene SCHARAGA Eisenberg, June '51 died on February 8, 2001, at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan from breast cancer. With her two daughters, Mrs. Eisenberg wrote *What to Expect When You're Expecting*, which became known as the pregnancy bible. From girlhood, when she repeatedly read *Dr. Spock's Baby and Child Care* to qualify for a Girl Scout child care merit badge, to grandmotherhood, when she led the weekly new mothers' group at Anshe Chesed Temple on the Upper West Side, she seemed the perfect mother, but her mission was to tell mothers that they did not have to be perfect. *What to Expect When You're Expecting* was the first book in a best-selling series on what to expect from pregnancy, babies and toddlers and was released by the Workman Publishing Company in 1984. Sales were modest at first, but demand grew by "word of mother," with sales currently totaling 9.6 million copies in 31 languages. In interviews, Mrs. Eisenberg said the book responded to a fragmented society in which people often live far from relatives who could reassure them about pregnancy. "It used to be you could get all

the good information about raising your kids from your mother, but it's all changed. Most young women have never held, never even seen, a newborn baby. It's really a shock."

Arlene was born in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn in 1934; her father headed the Sanitation Department in Queens. She met her future husband, Howard Eisenberg, a publicist for Eddie Fisher, when she was 16 and they married when she was 18. She and her husband wrote articles together for many popular magazines, including *The Ladies' Home Journal*, *McCall's* and *Sports Illustrated*. In 1965, they won the Gold Medal of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for a *Look* magazine piece, "The Christian War Against Anti-Semitism."

Arlene is survived by her mother, her husband, her two daughters and one son and six grandchildren. One of her legacies is the What to Expect Foundation, which she and her daughter Heidi Murkoff founded after visiting pregnant inmates at Rikers Island Jail. The foundation is printing a basic pregnancy book written at a lower literacy level for disadvantaged women. Heidi has said she will probably carry on with the next chapter in the family's series, *What to Expect in the Teen Years*; her daughter, Emma, who inspired the first book, is currently 17.

Terry HAMLISCH Liebling '60 died on February 24, 2001 of breast cancer. Ms. Liebling lived in Los Angeles and was a Casting Director for feature films and television. Her credits included *Apocalypse Now*, *The Two Jakes*, *Nine to Five* and *The Empire Strikes Back*. She was also the sister of composer/performer Marvin Hamlisch.

Jenna FELICE '94 died on March 10, 2001 after being in a coma for a week following a severe asthma attack. A co-worker of hers at Tor Books wrote of her that she was 16 when she first came to work with him as an intern and she was "terrific" — mouthy, funny, perceptive, immensely practical and direct. She came on board full-time a few years later as an on-staff editorial assistant and quickly proved to be a "Radar O'Reilly" at getting things done, with a tough, sometimes dismissive, often exasperated, always funny and very Brooklyn attitude. Despite her youth, Jenna spent more years taking care of herself than many people a decade older than her. By the time she was in her early teens, almost everyone in her birth family



was dead or in jail and she more or less raised her younger sister herself. She wrote and sold a magazine essay about being the survivor of a family destroyed by AIDS. Jenna will be missed.

Per MALLOCH '96 (left HCHS prior to graduation) died on November 1, 2000, in his Columbia University dorm room. In a piece published in *ColumbiaSpectator.com* (an online publication), Per was remembered as one of those people who "lived life on a higher plane, slightly out of sync with the world that we know, possessing a talent and intelligence that puts their thoughts and works beyond the scope of the everyday world, the type of creative, incendiary personalities who give the world its art, literature and zest. Per was tall and thin, with a mind that would dive into one passion after another and a manner that delighted those around him." His friends described him as "crazy alive," with an otherworldly uniqueness that drove his work and drew a large and disparate group of friends to him. Per was a prolific artist in the Columbia community, a published author, a *Spectator* columnist, a member of the Philolexian Society, the incoming editor of the *Columbia East Asian Review*, and the host of a program on WBAR; he was also a straight-A student. One of his projects shortly before his death was to write, score and produce a wacky musical about chickens, *The Chicken Musical*, with roles for all of his friends. He produced and sold the musical on CD and built a Web site devoted to it. Per also wrote video-game music, dance music and death metal music.

The Alumnae/i Association has also been advised of the passing of the following individuals: Sarah BLACKMAN Sacks, Sadie SPIRITOS Stein, H.W. DAUB Saville '22, Grace KOHN Scheiberl '25, Sylvia GABRILOVE Wolfson '27, Frances WIGDERSON Dickman '30, Marion WEINSTEIN Shapiro '32, Adelaide JOFFE Seer '35, Lois DROSIN Blieden '36, Louise LAMBERT McAVOY '38, Gladys DICK Siegfried '38, Catherine E. THOMAS '40, Mary LYNCH Purcell '45, Florence GOLDBLUM Wechsler, Jan. '49, Doris COHEN Farin '55, Judith BYER Sperber '60, and Louisa LAUE '74.

AlumnaGrams

Ina Loewenberg (Julia Richman '48, Cornell '52) is looking for volunteers for a photographic documentary on **women born in 1931**. Participants will be interviewed and photographed and will receive the published volume and their portrait. Contact Ina Loewenberg, 6 Brickwood Knoll NE, Iowa City, IA 52240, email: ina-loewenberg@uiowa.edu

Looking for Lily HIRSCH. I believe that she and I graduated from Joan of Arc together in June '45. Would love to hear from her. **Rozzie WEISS Rothman, June '48**. (Contact the Alumnae/i Assn. for address.)

Ocean, tennis, golf, shopping and more in a professionally-decorated villa on Hilton Head Island - \$800/week. Email **Shari BARTON '53** at sharb22@aol.com.

Special events and wedding photographer. Unobtrusive, candid, photojournalistic, as well as formal, timeless images. Published in over 100 international magazines and books. Call **Rose HARTMAN '55** at 212-242-2933 or email:

The Class of '60 is collecting for a memorial gift to the High School on behalf of all its members who have died. Please make out your check to the HCHS Alumnae/i Assn. (so it will be tax-deductible and mail it to: Mirla MINTZ Morrison, 240 Macy Rd., Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510. The gift will be chosen by the class, so please give us your suggestions by emailing Mirla at morrison@cloud9.net or calling her at 914-762-1474.

Anita LERMAN-Hamilton '61 wants to say "hello" to fellow classmates, especially classes of 61, 60, also 59, 62 etc. Phone 718-727-1967.

H. Dubrow '62 is looking for contact information for her former English teacher, Charles Raphael. Please phone her at (w) 608-263-2913 or email hdubrow@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Hunterite ('63) turned Personal Trainer! ACE-Certified, with gym, mind-body, and clinical rehabilitation experience. Will design a program that safely meets your goals, fits your lifestyle and keeps you at it! Boomers and Seniors welcomed. Reasonable rates. Free consult. Call **Rhetta BARRON** at 212-254-0843.

Karen S. Adler '69 seeking Sheila Kasoy '68. Please contact me, dear long-lost friend, if you would like to be in touch. Email to ksa@pobox.com or call 404-633-4534.

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☐ **Check here if you do not want your name and address given out to other alums or members of the HCHS community.**

DUES:

☐ Classes of '96 and earlier \$30
☐ Classes of '97-'99 \$15
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*Includes choice of one: Entry to Reunion / T-shirt / 2 mugs / Teddy Bear / Apron. Please indicate choice and size, if applicable: _____ (The value of your gift will decrease the amount of your contribution which is tax-deductible; you may also choose to give your entire contribution to the Assn.)

Reunion 2001:

☐ Classes prior to '51 or after '96 \$15 (alums of less than 5 years or more than 50 years)
☐ Dues paid members — '51 thru '96 \$25
☐ Non-dues paid members in advance \$30 (\$35 if paid at the door)

☐ **CLASS GIFT:** _____ ☐ **FUNDRAISER CONTRIBUTION:** _____

(Please indicate if you would like your contribution earmarked for a specific area.)

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☐ Coffee Mug \$11
☐ Teddy Bear \$24 Circle choice: Light Brown Dark Brown Midnight Blue Gray
☐ Apron \$20

Total enclosed: _____ (Make check payable to: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Inc.)

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