

# AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC

FALL 2007 • VOLUME 34, NUMBER 1

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## REGISTER FOR THE HCHSAA ONLINE ALUM DIRECTORY

In mid-June, HCHSAA launched an online directory—a tool to enable alums to network with classmates and other alums—which is an integral part of our effort to keep alums connected and to build a stronger Hunter community. Access is limited to members of our alum community; directory information is not provided to any outside vendors. On September 18, we sent the most recent email message inviting alums to register. Each alum for whom we have an email address was sent a unique access code and instructions for registration. Many have already signed up—what are you waiting for? If you did not receive an access code, we don't have your email address! Please email our office at [hchsalums@yahoo.com](mailto:hchsalums@yahoo.com) and we will provide you with your access code. Once registered, you can update your own listing and edit what is viewable by other alums. The directory can be accessed from the link on the home page of our website: [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org).

## HCHSAA EVENTS: SAVE THE DATES

### Autumn Reception

Thursday, October 25, 2007  
6:00–8:30 p.m.  
Hunter College High School

### Young Alums Happy Hour (classes of 1992–2004)

Saturday, November 24, 2007  
Details TBA via email

### 2008 General Reunion

Sunday, June 8, 2008  
Hunter College High School

## You are invited to the 2007 HCHSAA Autumn Reception



HCHSAA's annual Autumn Reception for alums and friends will be held this year on **Thursday, October 25, 2007, from 6:00–8:30 p.m. at HCHS (94th St. and Park Ave.)**. This is an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones, enjoy a student performance, hear from current students and the High School's administration about Hunter today, go on a tour to see the latest improvements, and enjoy plentiful hors d'oeuvres and liquid refreshments.



We'll send a reminder via email closer to the date, but this will be the only invitation via postal mail. **If you plan to attend, kindly RSVP by emailing [hchsalums@yahoo.com](mailto:hchsalums@yahoo.com) or calling 212-772-4079.**

## WELCOME 2007 ALUMS!

With this issue of *AlumNotes*, HCHSAA is pleased to welcome the 180 members of the class of 2007 to our Association. We're glad to have you join us and we wish you all the best with your future endeavors. We publish *AlumNotes* 3–4 times each year to keep alums informed about each other and our alma mater; we sponsor activities such as theatre parties, Young Alums events, and the annual General Reunion each June; and we maintain a website ([www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org)) and online alumni directory. We also send out news and notices of alum events via email so be sure to send us your email address!

In addition to our services for alums, another of our primary purposes is to help support our alma mater. Our newest members may be interested to know that during

the past six years while you were at Hunter, the Alumnae/i Association contributed \$475,000 directly to the school to support activities, programs, and facilities, and we awarded \$28,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors. Our newest fundraising effort—the *Our Foundation, Our Legacy* campaign—seeks to raise \$5 million in the next five years to establish a permanent endowment for the school and fund other immediate needs. So far, we have raised nearly \$800,000 toward this goal!

Please remember to keep our office informed of your whereabouts so you can continue to receive our mailings—you can call, email, or snail-mail us with your news and/or address changes. If we can ever be of assistance to you in any way, please don't hesitate to call on us.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

If you haven't already, you should soon be receiving a special mailer about the joint campaign by the Alumnae/i Association and The Hunter College Foundation to raise funds for HCHS (and you will note that the Foundation is also running a campaign for the Elementary School), which includes the establishment of a permanent endowment fund. The mailer thanks the approximately 1,500 individuals who made donations between January 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. We hope YOU are listed! *[The special mailer replaces the Honor Roll of Giving for the period of July 1, 2006–June 30, 2007, which otherwise would have been published in this issue of AlumNotes.]*

While most private schools have substantial endowment funds, this is a new concept for HCHS. An endowment will create a permanent, secure resource base which will allow the High School to fulfill its mission of offering a preeminent public education to intellectually gifted students and will enable long-term financial planning and the flexibility to develop and sustain the level of innovative academic and extracurricular programming unique to Hunter. We are so pleased that Leona FEIFER Chanin '34 made a leadership gift of \$100,000 to establish the endowment fund over a year ago and that since then a number of individual gifts including some as large as \$5,000, \$10,000, and even \$35,000, \$60,000 and \$100,000 have been received.

For some alums, remembering Hunter in their wills is an additional or preferred option—we urge those of you interested in this possibility to revisit an article entitled “Planning to Give” which was published in the Spring 2005 issue of *AlumNotes* and authored by alum Christina Mason Esq. '75 (the article can be viewed on our website under the “Make a Gift” menu item).

We're happy to report that our fiscal year ended June 30 showed good results—dues receipts and annual giving contributions were strong with more than \$80,000 received in both of these categories. Support in these areas allows us to maintain and improve our services to alums and to continue our annual gifts to the High School to support immediate needs there. This past year, we were able to expand social events for alums—theatre parties, a museum tour, Young Alum and Social/Networking events—and added other services with the introduction of our online alumni directory and in-house training sessions for reunion class coordinators. Our gifts to the High School last year included funding for new computers for one of the labs, graphing calculators for the Math Department, college-level Art history text books, equipment for the Physics team, software for the Foreign Language lab, and gifted education pedagogy (staff training).

As always, the annual reunion in June was an uplifting experience and reminded us of how important Hunter has been in our lives. We look forward to upcoming social events, including our Autumn Reception on October 25th at the High School.

Finally, we would like to thank our departing Board members, Barbara MAYER Lambert '64 and John Marks '83 and welcome members Rosalind PERLOW Kaplan '57, Susan MAJORS Battley '68, and Eloise NURSE-Paterson '83.

Cordially,

Purvi Sevak '91

## AlumNotes

Published by the  
Hunter College High School  
Alumnae/i Association, Inc.  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dear HCHS Alums:

Regretfully, age and health prevented me from attending this year's reunion. I would have loved to, especially since one of the milestone classes—1982—is from my “graduation year” after having been with the Hunter Campus Schools for sixteen years as Director. They were wonderful, exciting, challenging, exhausting years and I enjoyed every one of them. During that time, we saved the schools from extinction, moved from our building adjacent to the college to an office building between 45–46th Sts. and then to Park Ave., experimented with new programs, different schedules, and revised admissions procedures, and admitted boys for the first time. Additionally, we survived the angst of civil rights tensions, and the various NYC fiscal

crises—all the while maintaining the high scholarship, the warm camaraderie and the teaching standards for which this school is famous. It was a privilege to be a part of your lives. The very best to everyone.

**Bernard S. Miller**

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*The following letter is in response to a number of alums who wrote in to our last issue about competing on the game show Jeopardy!*

To the Editor:

I attribute my success on the 1970 television game show *Sale of the Century* directly to Dr. Corrigan and her colleagues in Hunter High's Latin Department. On that

show, you accumulated prizes, large and small, but would have to forfeit the large prizes if you were not the winner at the end of the session. I won easily after two days of taping, answering questions requiring general knowledge, but was losing during the third day. I was regretting my greed and my decision not to leave after two days when the question was asked, “What are you missing if you are innominate?” Without hesitating, I pressed the button and gave the correct answer—without a name. Thank you Hunter and thanks to Dr. Corrigan. I answered the next question correctly, became the big winner, took my prizes and gratefully went home.

**Ellen SINCOFF Rodis '55**

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## HCHSAA Welcomes 3 New Board Members

**S**usan MAJORS Battley '68, mindful that her class will be celebrating its 40th HCHS reunion in 2008, feels that she now has both the motivation and the time to contribute more than just an annual gift donation to the Alumnae/i Association. Susan has professional experience and skills in education/academia and business, and is interested in helping to enhance the Association's membership outreach and program sponsorship efforts. She has served previously as a board director and program chairman for the Institute of Management Consultants in New York City, as well as on regional nonprofit boards. Although Susan has earned five university degrees, including doctorates in both economic history and clinical psychology, Hunter College High School provided her with her happiest and most rewarding educational experience and was the springboard to lifelong

learning through several sequential careers, including several decades of university teaching and academic administration at Stony Brook University, and, since 1998, she has been the CEO of Battley Performance Consulting, a strategic leadership and change management firm in the metropolitan New York area. As a leadership psychologist, Susan has advised Fortune 500 CEOs and world-class institutions on executive and organizational effectiveness. Her most recent book, *Coached to Lead*, was published in 2006 by Wiley/Jossey-Bass and her expertise has been featured in numerous media outlets, including *The New York Times*, CNN, NPR, CNBC, *Entrepreneur*, *Leader to Leader*, and *Harvard Management Update*. She traces her interest in leadership and mentoring back to her HCHS years, including her time as a Big Sister and her tenure as the Manhattan

chapter president of Red Cross Youth during her senior year.

**R**osalind PERLOW Kaplan '57 went to Einstein Medical School after graduating from Queens College *magna cum laude* in just three years. She became an ophthalmologist and practiced ophthalmology in NYC and in Westchester until 1992. She then took a Neuro-Ophthalmology fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in 1992 and taught at Columbia. She believes that if it wasn't for Hunter High School, she never would have been able to face all the obstacles and challenges that were presented to a woman competing in a man's field in the 1960s. She owes Hunter a great debt and would like to give something back by serving on the Board.

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## Alum Profile: Diane di Prima '51

by Avra Kouffman '84



David Short

In late April, writer Diane di Prima '51 spoke with me at her San Francisco home. I'd asked for an interview since I felt her insights would be helpful to the younger generations of creative Hunterites. In her memoir *Recollections of My Life as a Woman*, Diane writes that, as a teenager, she chose to be "dedicated to art and the life of art." What makes her such a potent role model is that she has stayed steadfast in the service of her art for more than half a century.

During our talk, Diane addressed some hurdles that can deter young artists, like a shortage of confidence, confusion over how to handle recognition or the lack of it, the need to make a living, and the fear that artists are doomed to a life of suffering. She also observed that literary theory which is "Marxist in bent" can influence students to feel it's "horribly selfish of them" to want to be artists: "I've had young women, basically kids, teenagers in college, beautiful people, full of energy, doing music, doing performance, writing" who "think they're being selfish and terrible and evil and they're neglecting the masses and they're just behaving like privileged whatever, which is bullshit." Diane laments, "We're cutting off the lifeblood of the next generation with things like that."

By contrast, in *Recollections*, Diane recalls her own teenage feeling that being an artist was "a vocation, like being a hermit or a samurai. A calling. The holiest life that was offered in our world: artist."

Her passion and purpose were accompanied by an exuberant confidence in her right to live, and be taken seriously, as a poet. As a young woman, she corresponded with Ezra Pound and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. She then became one of the principal Beat poets in a cadre that included Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, and Jack Kerouac. Diane attributes her confidence as a female in a notoriously male-oriented poetry scene, in part, to being raised in a family where her mother's father put six daughters through college, and where women routinely worked outside the home.

"And then I had the luck to go to Hunter," Diane recalls enthusiastically, "when it was still an all-women's school. I had those wonderful women teachers—I write about some of them a little in *Recollections*... Having a place that was all women and all these really, really smart women—Ruth Lilienthal went off later and became a Zen person in Japan and our history teacher, Mrs. Robbins, sent us off to the Institute of Pacific Relations, to find out about Mao, in the '40s. So we were getting this really sharp, polished female mind at work. One of our English teachers was an actress, a Shakespearean actress. We performed staged readings of all the plays we were studying. A different world. So there was confidence being exuded there."

Even so, how did she find the courage to contact Pound, who was already regarded as one of the century's premier poets? "First of all," she replies, "we're all just human beings on a planet. I'll give you another answer, too. In Pound's *Pisan Cantos*, the late Cantos, there are some lines... where he's talking about breaking

down egos. The famous part is 'Pull down thy vanity, I say pull down.' Then he says this: 'But to have done instead of not doing/ this is not vanity' and 'To have gathered from the air a live tradition/or from a fine old eye the unconquered flame/This is not vanity./Here error is all in the not done,/all in the diffidence that faltered...' So, it's like, right from his own work, it's true that any elder artist is just another artist and most of the time, they've been inadvertently isolated because people buy into celebrity, but they're just people with interesting and knowledgeable access to the creative stuff, the creative spirit."

This unceremonious view of fame seems to have helped Diane stay focused on her work, rather than on the media attention it could attract. She says of her early experience with the New York Poets Theatre, "When we got one review from the *Times*, I started to realize that this was going to get unwieldy if we continued—nobody understood what we were doing and it was taking energy and attention away from the work as we tried to explain ourselves or got upset about a bad review—all that." In response, she explains, "I tried to be... not totally, but a little bit invisible," and didn't publish with a big New York press before the late 1990s. By publishing her work via small presses, she was able to avoid ceding creative control to corporate publishers. "I wasn't sure whether I was strong enough to resist those kinds of pushes and shoves and pressures," she says, "and I didn't really want anything that I could see that I could get out of New York notice, so therefore, I just avoided it all." Even now, Diane says of large publishers, "I want to finish my book and then I'll let them know about it—maybe they'll like it, and if they don't, screw 'em! I can publish it with a small press out here, I can publish it myself, I can go online and publish it." She encourages her students to adopt a similar do-it-yourself ethic.



Diane's practical approach to getting your work out extends to how to finance it: "A lot of young people think they should be somehow making their money, building their whole life around their art. You do...in terms of what's important—priorities...but in my day, everybody expected to have to have a job and do their art, and it was considered smart to try and get some skill so that you're not just earning minimum wage." She says, "What I urge people to do still is to go get one of those community college certificates in something that you like. It could be landscape gardening, welding, it doesn't matter, you know? And have that skill...just have it there as a fallback. Go for it with your own work but don't feel like, 'Oh my God, I'm not making it; therefore, I'm going to have to give this up,' which is where people go, they have that either/or: either my work is going to support me and I'm going to get well-known by the time I'm 30, 40, whatever, or I have to give this up. No! I mean, first of all, if you think you can give it up, you probably shouldn't be doing it in the first place. Your art owns you; you don't own it."

What about the cultural mythos around the archetype of the tortured, brutally intense artist? When asked about the price of living and feeling things so intensely, Diane says, "I never believed that you had to suffer in order to write, but I always believed you had to stay totally true to what your vision was and that nobody was going to pay you to do that, so you just had to do it on your own. That hasn't changed—that's still basic. I think it's a horrible hype—and an evil thing on the part of the society as a whole—to sell young people the idea you have to suffer to be an artist. One of the most horrible parts of that hype is how they like to glamorize women artists who killed themselves, and everyone is like, 'well, that's the price she paid.' That's all

b.s., total bullshit, because you don't need that to write or to make art. But it sometimes happens that you're put in a very difficult position by society. It's not a law of nature that if you're an artist, you're in a difficult position. It's the law of this stupid culture and capitalism and other things. So I find it very sad, not that they pay attention to people like Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath, that's fine, but that they don't pay attention to women artists that are strong and that thrive and get their work done, of which there are millions. It's really pathetic!"

When asked about balancing the personal and political, Diane says she doesn't find balance a problem in this respect. As a lifelong anarchist, she has "never been somebody who believed in programmatic work on social change." She adds, "It's not that I disapprove of people who do it, it's just not my way. But early on, I made a decision that if there was something I believed in and someone asked me for something like a benefit reading...I'm right there with it. But I don't go looking for causes to beat the drum about. I've got enough in my own backyard." She adds, "But I try to keep my eyes and my heart open and do go with what comes my way, and I speak directly to it."

*Diane di Prima '51 is the author of more than 30 books and the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from St. Lawrence University. Last year, she received the Fred Cody Award for Lifetime Achievement and Community Service.*

*Avra Kouffman '84 is a performance poet and the author of "Lush: Poems for Stage and Page."*

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

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**E**loise NURSE-Paterson '83 earned a B.A. in Political Science from Trinity College and then attended Temple University School of Law and received her J.D. in 1990. While in law school, Eloise studied International Law and participated in travel abroad programs in Italy and Israel. She studied at Tel Aviv University School of Law and participated in one of the first international programs with American, Egyptian, Israeli, and Palestinian students. After law school, Eloise worked as a prosecutor with the Queens County District Attorney's Office and then worked as a criminal defense attorney, specializing in juvenile delinquency and child abuse/neglect cases. Additionally, she spent four years in the arena of family law and not-for-profit housing. She has also worked on several presidential campaigns and ran two successful city council campaigns, with her expertise lying in canvassing operations. She is currently involved with several organizations including NAACP, National MochaMoms organization, and St. Martin's Episcopal Church, where she was recently appointed to the Vestry. Eloise is married and is the mother of two young children, Carter and Basil. Eloise's interest in serving on the Alumnae/i Association's Board of Directors is due to the importance of Hunter in her life—it was where she made life-long friendships and made special memories. She plans to express her appreciation by giving her time and attention to the Alumnae/i Association and the school. Hunter was instrumental in her growth and she appreciates every lesson she learned as a student, athlete, and a young adult.

**T**he annual Alumnae/i Association-sponsored all-class reunion took place on Sunday, June 3 at the High School. It was a great opportunity for alums to see the school as it is today, meet current and former faculty members, and share reminiscences of HCHS with fellow alums. The day began with individual milestone class gatherings, followed by a general assembly, and ended with a buffet luncheon.

At the assembly, HCHSAA co-president Purvi Sevak '91 thanked all the HCHSAA Board members and others who had provided volunteer help to organize the reunion and check people in that day, especially Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61. She also welcomed faculty members who were present, including Marge, Audrey Maurer '51, Fran Salzman, and Adrienne ANDERSON Barnhart '53, as well as two founding members of the Alumnae/i Association, Teddy Christon, Jan. '42 and Vera Gordon '47.

Alum and fundraising consultant Matt Blumenthal '83 briefly updated the attendees on the progress of *Our Foundation, Our Legacy*—the campaign to raise major funds for HCHS.

Speakers for each milestone class expressed thanks and affection for their years spent at HCHS and told of classmates who had traveled in from as far as California, Mexico City, and Europe just to attend class reunions. Michael Burstein '87 endeared himself to many older alums by paying tribute to Hunter's proud girls-only history, pointing out that his aunts Miriam and Deborah were both alums—but then expressed the gratitude that he and his two brothers feel to have attended the school after it became co-ed. Stephen Nussbaum '82 added that his class was one of the first to be co-ed, and he recalled a *New York Magazine* article about the school entitled "The Joyful Elite" which stated that Hunter provided

an excellent education for women and boys (!), adding "and that's what it was!" He expressed thanks to all the Hunter women who tolerated the influx of boys and taught them to be feminists. Janine Craane '77 expressed that Hunter had taught her and her classmates that they are entitled to "be somebody." She commented on the diversity which enabled her to taste gefilte fish and learn Chinese jump-rope. The class of January, 1947 entertained everyone by singing their Senior Song. They were happy that out of their graduating class of 145, 25 members were present. They collectively felt that Hunter had helped them tremendously in their journey through life. One of the oldest attendees at the Reunion, Norma ALEXANDER Abdulah '39, was one of the final speakers and she expressed her lasting love for Hunter.

Here are summaries of individual class activities as described by the volunteer class coordinators (or in some cases, extreme last-minute party planners):

#### 2002—Mariko Ichikawa

The class of 2002 celebrated our 5-year reunion at Local East on Friday, June 1. About 40 old friends came out in full force and shared an evening full of warm high school memories while catching each other up on our lives. Many '02 alumni are plugging along at first jobs (or looking for second jobs) or pursuing advanced degrees. Three of our classmates have gotten married (two women, one man) while I'm pretty sure the rest of us are still working on growing up! On Sunday, June 3, about 15 of us came back for round two to attend the general reunion and shed a tear for the locked up arches. Although the courtyard has changed, we were surprised to see how much Hunter has remained the same. I am happy to say that this reunion was a great excuse for us to reconnect and make plans for keeping in touch before the next one!

#### 1997—Easter Z. Wood, Elizabeth Bernstein, Maryanne BUTLER-Nelson, Henry Wong

The class of 1997 could scarcely believe it had actually been 10 years since we left Hunter, but indeed it has and our 10-year reunion, held at the hip and happening Zanzibar restaurant and bar, was a smashing success! Almost 100 classmates showed up to nosh with and toast each other, and interesting stories abounded. Several alums have become doctors and lawyers, and some are striving towards those ends; many have been around the world; and some are engaged in wonderful creative endeavors. Some are recently engaged, a few are married...some with children, and still more are swinging singles taking in what New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and London (among some of the locales) have to offer. Over and over it was remarked how special the education we received at Hunter really was and how close we all felt to one another as alums. Everyone hung out chatting for several hours and we basically took over the bar—you could truly feel the love and energy flowing as people reconnected and recollected.

After the main event began to disband, some of us—more than half of us, really—weren't ready for the party to end so we headed over to I-Bop in Little Korea for a little karaoke. We sang and screamed and just had an absolute blast together. It was SO much fun and the perfect way to end the evening (well...morning!). The reunion team sends its best regards to the class and thanks everyone again for the wonderful time! We'd love for anyone who was not there and who is not on the mailing list to contact the class at our Yahoo! group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/karatesquid>.

#### 1992—Jeanne LEVIN Lipson

Despite plans coming together at the last minute, the Class of '92 held two successful events on Saturday: an early afternoon

picnic in Central Park and a late afternoon gathering at Local, which even drew many non-locals back to NYC. Though no official headcount was taken, more than 50 people turned up at Local, including a number of significant others and children. It was probably the first time the bar staff had to walk around strollers to get to the kitchen. It was a great day of catching up and reconnecting. The Yahoo! group formed way back at our 10th reunion is still active and many who could not make the reunion in person have checked in with updates. If we haven't heard from you yet, we look forward to at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hchs92/>.

#### **1987—Derek Chu, Geeta Tate**

The Class of 1987 celebrated our 20th reunion with a reception at the Housing Works Bookstore and Cafe on Crosby Street. Thanks to the sponsorship of an anonymous donor from our class, we enjoyed the space and an open bar all night. Members of the class came from as near-by as Manhattan and as far as Europe to celebrate. The general mood of the reunion was one of delight and enthusiasm at seeing each other again after so long; we even sang the *Alma Mater!* Just as at our reunion five years previous, people didn't want the party to end, so a smaller but still noisy group continued to party at Il Bagatto until about four in the morning.

As with all classes, our members span all sorts of professions, but what really seems to define us is our understanding that there are always opportunities for the Hunter graduate. One graduate was effusive in his praise of the school, crediting his experience there with his success today. Another graduate told of how she chose to leave the corporate world in order to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor; she's currently in her third year of medical school. The class continues to stay in touch via our Yahoo! group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hchs87/>.

#### **1982—Steve Nussbaum, Sara Corello, Katherine FRINK Hamlett, Ronit Setton, Jill Cohen**

The class's 25th reunion effort began with a series of planning sessions via email and culminated in an unforgettable weekend-long series of events. Through some impressive sleuthing, aided by the wonders of computer technology, we were able to track down contact information for 189 of the 206 people in the Class of '82. Special thanks go out to the tenacious efforts of Saul Fisher, who performed countless searches for us. Sara Corello spearheaded an extremely successful fundraising effort for our class in support of the newly created HCHS endowment. Katherine FRINK Hamlett coordinated a Class of '82 newsletter, for which classmates submitted updates on their lives and favorite memories from our years at Hunter. The response was phenomenal. Approximately half of our class provided submissions, which were distributed via email ahead of the reunion and helped prime excitement for the reunion events.

Our reunion weekend incorporated three events: 1) the Class of '82 Party at a lounge called Society on Saturday night; 2) the Alumnae/i Association General Reunion at the High School on Sunday morning; and 3) a Class of '82 picnic in Central Park on Sunday afternoon. Popular culture now tells us that if you build it they will come, and the Class of '82 came in droves. Attendance was incredible, as people came from all over the U.S. and several from other countries! At the Saturday night event, there were approximately 115 people, including 75 classmates. The night at Society was essentially an exercise in positive sensory overload, with so many familiar faces surrounding you, so many things to say, and so little time. Katherine FRINK Hamlett arranged for a professional photographer to take pictures, so that the memories could be preserved for posterity.

Although the official event was scheduled from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., many of us stayed much later and reminisced into the early hours of the morning. For those of us who managed to get up to attend the Alumnae/i Association event at the High School, it was like returning home. Once again inside the Castle on 94th Street we walked the halls, listened to alumni speakers in the auditorium, and ate in the cafeteria. We felt as if we were caught in a time warp of the most positive kind. A particular highlight was the chance to see some of our former teachers (Ms. Barnhart, Ms. Goldsmith, and Ms. Salzman), who inspired us back then and remain timeless. The Class of '82 Picnic, on Sunday afternoon, allowed us to once again lounge as a group in our old haunt in the Park above 97th Street. It also enabled us to see and share the Class of '82 offspring, who were all, of course, talented, gifted, and adorable. Finally, it should be noted that our reunion continues on, thanks to Adam Dolgins, who has created a Class of '82 Yahoo! Group through which our classmates stay in touch on a daily basis.

In summary, the Reunion Weekend was an amazing experience—an opportunity to once again bring together a truly unique and special group of people, whose spirits are just as bright and energetic as they were a quarter of a century ago. For many of us, Hunter was more than just a high school; it was an experience that in many ways defined us—our values, our goals, and our ideals. As part of this experience a bond was built between our classmates, and the school itself, that endures despite the years. The last page of the Class of '81 *Annals* invokes a quote from the Eagles, which perhaps says it best, "you can check out, but you can never leave."

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### 1977—Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz

It was fun and sometimes emotional to reconnect with old friends at the reunion events or by email. About 25 of us made it to the Social Bar for the Saturday night party—I lost my voice after talking non-stop for five hours. About 30 came to the Sunday event at the school. Janine Craane did a terrific job speaking on behalf of our class at the assembly, and those of you who missed it will be proud to hear that we were the rowdiest bunch in the auditorium—we booed the “boys,” cheered for some of our old teachers like Ms. Barnhart, and tried hard to remember the ridiculous tune to our school song. I think it’s fair to say that the 30th reunion of an all-girl school is a little bit daunting. In the days beforehand, I got and sent various emails obsessing about what to wear and how to hide wrinkles. And gee, thanks, for the two old friends who actually gave me wrinkle cream—I really do need it! But I honestly believe that as a group, we looked GREAT!!!! Some of us looked better than we did when we were 17, which I attribute to having the right hair style and buying the right clothes for your body and personality rather than having to kowtow to our mother’s tastes. Sure, some of us were a little grayer; others dye or are lucky enough not to have gray; some had lost weight, some had put on a couple pounds; but many of us found ourselves saying to each other, “You haven’t changed at all!” and totally meaning it. In terms of who we are and where we’re at: We have more than our share of doctors, lawyers, college professors, and businesswomen/bankers/investors, as well as other educators, nurses, and mental health professionals. Some confessed to having “survival jobs.” A couple of us who’ve been in corporate America for 20 years are ready for a second kinder, gentler career. A number of us are staying

home with kids and saying “careers are overrated.” A number of us are exhausted from working full-time and raising kids (including yours truly). Some are looking to get back into working regular hours because kids they stayed home to raise are older now. Our kids range in age from 3 to college graduates. The reasons that people couldn’t make it to the reunion speak volumes about the lives of 40-something women in the early 21st century: aging or recently deceased parents, children’s social lives, children’s high school graduations, big projects at work due, 25th college graduations, and commitments to religious institutions. Many of our conversations were about remembering a time and place that doesn’t exist any more—an all-girl school, mostly working-class kids, growing up in the ’70s, which was a dangerous, dirty, and depressing time to live in NYC. We traded recollections about the whores across the street from 466 Lex., the perverts in Times Square, all the times we were stuck in the dark in a subway tunnel, memories of bowling at dingy old Bowl-mor with the heroin treatment center down the street, and persuading our mothers to let us travel to visit our friends all over the city. There’s some talk of organizing a joint 50th birthday party, and maybe even an online version of an updated yearbook.

### 1972

About five class members attended the general reunion at the High School. Speaking for the class, Robin KAPLAN Messer recalled that during their years, the school was located at 68th St. and Lexington and was all-girls.

### 1967

About 50 class members attended an event at a classmate’s home on the Saturday of Reunion weekend—with everyone wondering how it could be 40 years since they graduated, when they are

all only 37 years old? The party attendees had so much to talk about with each other and they find that they are still growing. They expressed gratitude to Hunter for teaching them that they could do anything they wanted to do.

### 1962—Doris MEIBACH Wallace, Naomi CONN Liebler, Beverly Winikoff

The Class of ’62 each paid \$62, to meet on 6/2, as we neared 62 years of age (most of us). The stars were clearly in our favor as we dined and drank and talked and talked and talked at the Duane Park Cafe. After 35 years, no longer competing with one another, we toasted our commonality and sisterhood. We finally left only because there was another group coming. We pledged to contribute to the Hunter Campaign, many having already started with sums ranging from \$62 to \$10,000.

### 1957—Vicky SILVER Hiller, Rosalind PERLOW Kaplan

On Friday, May 4, 2007, we began the celebration of our 50th HCHS Reunion. A tour of the old high school building was held on Friday. We had more than 30 participants. On Saturday evening, May 5, we had a cocktail party at the home of Rosalind PERLOW Kaplan, attended by 80 Hunterites and 10 spouses. There was plenty of food, an open bar, and much love and laughter in the air. On Sunday, May 6, a luncheon for 92 classmates was held at Divino Ristorante. It was a wonderful weekend! Hunterites came to the reunion from Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, and all parts of the U.S. We look forward to our next reunion in 2012.

### Jan. 1947—Dorrieth Leipziger

So there we were—14 of us on Sunday, June 3, 2007 at the High School, and 16 on the day before for lunch at Trattoria Dopo Teatro—peering at the yearbook pictures on our name tags, greeting one another with shouts of “It’s you! You look great!” In the High School auditorium on Sunday, we brought the house down with





Members of the Class of January '47

our very spirited rendition of “Seniors of ’47” sung to the tune of “Give My Regards to Broadway.” All together, 20 of us plus five guests celebrated this milestone reunion—coming from 11 states, some far away like California and Florida. Some of us had kept in touch over the years, but most were truly getting reacquainted after six decades. We had become wives, mothers—to a total of 57 children, grandmothers—to 79 (Nell COCHRANE Taylor has 12!), and even great-grandmothers. Though a few of us are still working, most have retired as—among other endeavors—teachers, civil servants, attorneys, librarians, social workers, researchers, published writers, judges, and opera singers—well, only one judge—Betty GOLDBLATT Ehrlich—who couldn’t join us, and one opera singer—Alice MOVITZ Warwick—who did. We compared notes on our travels and found that one of us—Jean WEEKS Friedman—has visited 104 countries! Our most vivid memories of Hunter High include: the pleasant shock of being addressed as “Miss” by our first-term

teachers; the absolute panic engendered by Mlle. Garlati who would speak only French to us from (almost) the first minute of her class; the enduring friendships we made; tons of homework; working on *What’s What* and *Annals*; being challenged by the bright minds of our peers and exceedingly demanding teachers; our school edifice—at 68th and Lexington—which was like the setting for a Gothic novel (gargoyles and all); and the wartime WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) taking over our building at 1 p.m., resulting in classes at dawn and 17-minute lunch breaks in our classrooms. A special thank you to all who contributed to our milestone class gift of \$1,720. This includes \$300 in memory of Marion HONIG Friedlander, who just passed away on March 31, 2007. A reminder: it’s not too late to augment the total, perhaps in honor or memory of a classmate. We all hope to stay well and happy until we meet again—in 2012—for our 65th!

## Are Your Dues Due?

Your HCHSAA dues expiration date (month and year) is printed above your name and address on the back page of *AlumNotes*. You will find a schedule of dues on page 23; please use the entire page as a cover sheet for sending your payment. A reply envelope is attached for your convenience. To pay via credit card, please pay online at our website—[www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org)—and click the button “Visit Online Payment Center.”

Dues support the operations of our office—including production of *AlumNotes*, maintenance of our website, and various social events throughout the year. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, dues and donations to the Alumnae/i Association are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. HCHSAA is also eligible for matching donations from many employers—so please check with your company’s HR department.

# CLASS OF 2002 CHECKS IN

*Five years after their graduation from HCHS, the members of the class of 2002 are pursuing advanced degrees or starting their first full-time jobs. We asked them to “report in” and here’s what they wrote:*

Proud Hunter alum **Naomi Chen** went to Wheaton College in IL, and had a chance to spend a summer in the new towns of Lima, Peru learning about the evangelical Christian church there. She hopes to study Public Health, first at Hunter College, and then at Harvard, with the goal of doing translational research in chronic disease management strategies. At the moment, she is the harried, but continually amazed, coordinator for the Geriatric Career Development program in the Bronx, which is a workforce development program for 60 at-risk youth to learn about careers in geriatric healthcare.

**Ana Chiu** currently works for the NYC Department of Small Business Services, as an analyst putting together an online one-stop-shop for entrepreneurs to start and expand their businesses. She recently graduated from the NYC Urban Fellows program, where she worked at the Administration for Children’s Services for nine months, developing her skills in quantitative analysis, strategic planning,

and operational consulting. Before that, she spent four happy years at Swarthmore College studying economics and public policy. Ana is currently living in her beloved neighborhood of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn and rediscovering the wild side of New York by going kayaking and rowing every weekend.

**Jessica Lynn Costa** graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in political science from the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston University. During her undergraduate career, she spent a semester abroad in London working at the Conservative Party headquarters preparing policy briefs on the Fox Hunting Act of 2004. Jessica has just completed her first year at Boston University School of Law and earned a spot on the Boston University Banking and Financial Law Journal. Her fondest memories of Hunter include the time she spent on Term Council and serving as a teaching assistant to Ms. Kenyon’s tenth grade social studies class. Though her academic career took her to Boston, she has returned each summer to work for Gartner & Bloom, P.C., the law firm that she worked for as part of Hunter’s ICY program.

Since graduating from Wesleyan University last year, **Pia Silva Dubitsky** has been involved with several entrepreneurial ventures. She was awarded the StartingBloc Fellowship for her work with the nonprofit microfinance organization IMPACT! Humanity, which she co-founded with **Helen Gugel**, and she worked with **Sophie Wittenberg** to organize a series of fundraisers for the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Currently, she is Vice President of Sales and Marketing at TasteSpace.com, New York City’s newest and most powerful search engine of bars and restaurants. She hopes to continue working on socially motivated business

ventures by working part time at the Clinton Foundation this fall.

**Daniel B. Honigman** recently received his master’s degree in New Media Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Previously, Daniel graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a B.A. in cultural anthropology. He is currently living and working as a freelance reporter in Chicago.

**Mariko Ichikawa** went to the University of Pennsylvania and majored in Fine Arts. Unfortunately her duties as sorority social chair outweighed any whims of studying abroad, but she did throw some great parties, which she continues to do now with **Tyler Pennell** at bars across NYC. She is currently working at Macy’s Merchandising group in the Men’s division, and interestingly enough, Ryane Spindel ’01 works in the marketing department. Her fond memories of Hunter include Mr. Scott’s chemistry class and the ever elusive Charles, every AP Psych class with Mr. Boyle, and, one of the hallmarks of being an upperclassman—bowling with Ms. Miley.

**Diana Kamin** graduated in June 2006 from Georgetown University with a B.A. *cum laude* in Art History and minors in Theology and Spanish. After a year as personal assistant to gallery owner Spencer Brownstone, as well as incalculable hours of free labor as a curatorial intern at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, in April 2007 she took the position of Biennial Assistant at the Whitney Museum, working on the 2008 Whitney Biennial. She still has her tracers if anyone wants to organize an all-ages Killer tournament.

**Michelle Kang** graduated from Barnard College in 2006 and has since relocated

## HCHSAA Website

Our web address is **[www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org)**.

Highlights of our site include archives of past issues of *AlumNotes*, a list of Distinguished Graduates, and a listing of class websites and egroups. The site also features online credit card payment capability—check it out! Certain pages are password-protected with our common password: purple (all lower case).



Jessica Lynn Costa, Daniel Herbert-Cohen, and Hanna Lee



Mollie Eisenberg, Eleanor Anderson, and Daniel Greco

to Seattle to work at an architecture firm. She's also finishing up writing a book chapter for the architecture firm Gensler.

**Barbie Leung** graduated with a B.A. in Film & Media Studies from the University of Rochester. Now back in NYC, she is currently working behind the scenes on independent film projects—she is the Assistant Director for two indie film shorts currently in pre-production, one titled *Portrait*, about a young woman's search for her recently deceased mother's lover, and an as-yet unnamed project for Elevator Room Productions.

**Michael Nevradakis** is happy to say that things have been going quite well for him. He received his B.A. from Stony Brook University in December 2005, graduating *summa cum laude* with a Major in Political Science and additional minors in Media Arts and International Studies. While at Stony Brook, he had the opportunity to get involved in a number of wonderful things outside the classroom, including serving as Program Director and, later, interim General Manager of the campus radio station, WUSB 90.1 FM; president of the campus chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists; as well as founding an online newspaper, *The Stony Brook Independent*. He also served as an intern for Senator Charles E. Schumer and for the New York Public Interest Research Group

(NYPIRG), but by far his most memorable moment—in fact, the most memorable in his life up to now—came in the summer of 2004, when he volunteered at the Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. After receiving his B.A., Michael continued his studies at Stony Brook in pursuit of a Master's in Public Policy, which he received this past May, finishing with a 4.0 GPA. He is now preparing to begin law school, although he's still undecided between a couple of different schools. However, he is very much looking forward to the opportunity to pursue legal studies. More recently, Michael also worked as a Policy Assistant for the Hunger Action Network of New York State, helping to organize the group's advocacy efforts and annual lobbying event in Albany this past March. Looking back, he often thinks of his days at Hunter, the great people he got to know, the great teachers he had, and great and not so great moments that he experienced. One thing is for certain, however: his education at Hunter prepared him for the road ahead like nothing else could have, and his experience in college would not have been the same without it.

**Alex Schwed** graduated from Yale in May of 2006 with a degree in English. He then did a year of science classes at a post-baccalaureate program at Bryn Mawr in order to be able to apply to

medical school. Since July of this year he's been working with the hematology department of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia doing clinical research and is currently in the application process for medical school. Alex lives in center city Philadelphia.

**Alexey Sokolin** went to Amherst College, where he had two majors (Economics and "Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought"), spent four years rowing on the crew team and worked on graphic, video, and web art projects. He spent a semester abroad at University College London, allocating most of his time to vacationing around Europe and taking photos. Currently he works in the Investment Management Division of Lehman Brothers, and hopes to soon continue his education in both business and law.

**Ben Stiglitz** graduated in spring 2006 from Cornell University with a B.A. in Physics, and was married to his wife, Melisa, six days later. Not without anxiety, he decided to move to California's Bay Area and take a software engineering job at Apple Computer, where he is working on the next version of Mac OS X with two other alums—classmate **David Underwood** and Adam Berger '00. Although he has been hopelessly out of touch with a lot of his Hunterite friends, he still frequently thinks about his six years in the "brick prison."



# HCHS COMMENCEMENT 2007

Commencement exercises for the HCHS class of 2007, held on June 26 at Hunter College's Assembly Hall, were a celebration of brand new alums and "older" alums as 180 purple-robed and capped seniors were joined by Distinguished Graduate Dr. Susan LEVINE Fuhrman '61, president of Columbia University's Teachers College; Jennifer Raab '73, president of Hunter College; and Irving Kagan '82, HCHS Social Studies teacher and senior class advisor, and the song *For Now*, from Bobby Lopez '93's Broadway hit *Avenue Q*, was performed.

In her salutation, Rebecca Kilberg '07 remarked that six years ago, Hunter High became the new home for her and her classmates—albeit a home with no windows! They quickly learned that there's no such thing as a "generic" Hunter kid—the math whiz may also be an athlete and appear in the school musical. She thanked the faculty and administration for their consistent attention and help, as well as Hunter College, the PTA, the Alumnae/i Association, and of course, all the parents, for their support over the years. There is sadness in leaving Hunter, but joy in remembering their time there.

Jennifer Raab congratulated the graduates and urged them to remember Hunter as they go through their lives—pointing out that while they "made" Hunter by passing a difficult entrance exam, Hunter then "made" them into what they are today.

New York City Councilmember Dan Garodnick, who helped get funds for recent renovation and technology projects at the High School, told the graduates to take a moment to thank a teacher and acknowledge what their parents have done to get them to this point. He urged them to take note of who they were sit-

ting next to and what they were feeling since their high school graduation only comes once, adding that as Ferris Bueller said, "Life goes by pretty fast—if you don't stop and take it in once in a while, you'll miss it."

Susan LEVINE Fuhrman '61 was next to address the gathering (Fuhrman's accomplishments were detailed in the Spring 2007 issue of *AlumNotes*, which can be accessed online at [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org) using the password: purple). She told the graduates that she had no list of "don'ts" for them because, "Who knows what will happen in the future?" Her advice to each member of the class was to find their dream, their passion, or their calling. She added that they shouldn't discount the role serendipity will play in their futures and so they should be open to chance. They should also strive for balance in their lives and make time for themselves and their families.

Irving Kagan related that at the beginning of 7th grade, the Social Studies department stuck all the students on an "island" with instructions to figure out how to construct a community. Although that was a one-day exercise, it led to six years of forming a "society"—which although never a utopia, included conflict resolution and the formation of lasting relationships. He praised the class of '07 for its high spirits and conviviality and urged them, as they scatter to begin again, to use the words of Meriwether Lewis as their compass: "In the future, I will strive to live for mankind as I have heretofore lived for myself."

In one of the most poignant moments of the program, Jason Gutekunst Perlman '07 gave the class speech, remembering that when he took the entrance exam for Hunter Elementary he was asked how tall

## BEST OF ANNALS 2007

**Mascot:** Habeas Porpoise

**Senior Advisor:** Irving Kagan

**Number in Survivor's Club** (HCES students who graduated HCHS): 36 out of a class of 49

**Signs You've Been at Hunter Too Long:** You've had THREE principals... You teach here... You've read *Romeo & Juliet* three times...

**Top Signs You're at a Hunter Party:** It's on someone's roof... You're celebrating one of the more overlooked holidays such as St. Cornelius Day... You had to transfer trains at least twice to get there...

**Best Quote:** "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." —Dr. Seuss (as quoted by Ernest Chan '07)

his apartment building was and replied "as tall as the sky" and then when he began the 7th grade on September 6, 2001, he and his classmates all thought the Twin Towers were "as tall as the sky." Although 9/11 was a horrible way to begin high school, every memory of the class's years together since then has given all of them dreams "as tall as the sky."



# ALUMS VISIT WITH HCHS SENIORS

On June 11, 2007, more than 20 alums returned to HCHS to talk with graduating seniors about their careers. In the first-ever “Senior Symposium” organized by the High School’s Counseling Department (with assistance from the Alumnae/i Association), alums were grouped into “themed” panels. Each panel held two sessions. The panels were: Journalism, Entertainment (two panels), Public Service, and Business. Participating alums were: **Jonathan Arak ’83**, a theater director (and Princeton Review tutor); **Charles Ardai ’87**, the founder and former CEO of Juno; **Matt Blumenfeld ’83**, a fund-raising consultant; **Charles Choi ’95**, a freelance science reporter; **Davina Cohen ’97**, a multifaceted performer; **Elena Conte ’97**, who works for the community-based organization Sustainable South Bronx; **Sara Corello ’82**, a partner in a law firm which specializes in union-side labor and benefit issues; **Adam Dolgins ’82**, a partner in the television production company, Fractured Hip; **Sandi Dubowski ’88**, a documentary filmmaker; **Mark Feinsand ’92**, *Daily News* beat writer covering the Yankees; **Mike Fitzpatrick ’93**, a baseball writer for Associated Press; **Alicia Gumbs ’94**, writer for *The Village Voice*, *Black Enterprise Magazine*, and other publications; **Beth Harpaz ’77**, travel editor for the Associated Press and a published author; **Laura EBERSTEIN Jacobs ’84**, a Court Attorney for a Civil Court Judge and Adjunct Professor at NYU Law School; **Bobby Lopez ’93**, co-writer and co-creator of Broadway’s *Avenue Q*; **Lin-Manuel Miranda ’98**, the composer-lyricist-star of Off-Broadway’s *In the Heights* (which is moving to Broadway in Fall 2007); **Mari Morimoto ’92**, a veterinarian and freelance *manga* translator (Japanese comics and cartoons); **Jeanne Mullgrav ’80**, NYC Commissioner for the Department of Youth & Community Development; **Muzzy Rosenblatt ’83**,



Alum participants of the Senior Symposium: Bobby Lopez '93, Lin-Manuel Miranda '98, Davina Cohen '97, and Jonathan Arak '83

Executive Director of the social services agency Bowery Residents' Committee; **Andrew Siff '86**, on-air general assignment reporter for NewsChannel 4 in NYC; **Marc Siry '85**, a VP of Product Management & Design for NBC; **Amy Sohn '91**, author of two novels and a contributing editor at *New York Magazine*; and **Ian Trontz '88**, the weekend metro section editor for *The New York Times*.

Common themes raised by many panel members included: the gifts that Hunter had given them—how to communicate clearly and have confidence in your own ideas, curiosity about the world, and exposure to a diverse community (both ethnically and socioeconomically); the necessity of studying many different subjects in college and the recommendation of spending a semester or year abroad; and choosing for your career something you love to do (which will increase your dedication and commitment). Some panels engaged in targeted discussions—those in the field of Journalism discussed the pros and cons of freelance versus full-time work and dot-com versus print

journalism—while one of the Entertainment panels briefly discussed whether or how much the faculty should be involved in student theatre productions.

The feedback from this first large-scale alum “career day” was very positive and the High School and the Alumnae/i Association hope to repeat it in the future.

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## SIX STUDENTS AWARDED HCHSAA SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, the Alumnae/i Association awards \$1,000 scholarships to the winners of the Thomas Hunter Prize and the Mildred Busch Award. The winners are selected by the High School’s Honors and Awards Committee, and the awards are presented at the Honors and Awards Ceremony, which was held this year on June 11 at the High School. The students honored this year were: Stephanie Chan, Mark Iosifescu, William Lee, Yuri Lin, Sharon Mei, and James Stevenson.

## HUNTERITES IN THE NEWS

**Cynthia Ozick, Jan. '46** authored an article of literary criticism in the April 2007 issue of *Harper's Magazine* entitled "Literary Entrails: The boys in the alley, the disappearing readers, and the novel's ghostly twin." Ozick's most recent book is *The Din in the Head*, a collection of essays (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006).

**Bernadine Healy '62** was featured on the cover of the April 9, 2007 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* accompanying an article she wrote entitled "Cancer & Me: How I Refused to Give In." Healy, the *U.S. News* health editor and former head of the National Institutes of Health and the American Red Cross, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1999 and recently published a book entitled *Living Time: Faith and Facts to Transform Your Cancer Journey* (Bantam Dell Publishing Group). After her diagnosis, Healy initially underwent neurosurgery, which was complicated by the tumor being near her speech center—leaving her to face the possibility that she would be left unable to speak. The surgery went well, with half the tumor removed—but pathology revealed it to be an oligodendroglioma, an obscure tumor with unusual genetics. Luckily, one subset of the tumor had recently been found to be responsive to chemotherapy. Healy chose to forego radiation—which in combination with chemo, was the accepted therapy—because long-term exposure to radiation of the brain puts patients at risk for memory and cognitive difficulties. Healy experienced serious bone marrow toxicity during her second round of chemo, but was able to switch to a newly approved drug called Temodar, which has a special knack for crossing the blood-brain barrier. Her scans steadily improved over the next year. Her journey has taught her that "treasuring the moment at hand is what lifts the spirit...for those threatened by a grave

illness, every day of just being takes on a new light."

**Marcia KANE Hittner '76** was featured in the July 5, 2007 issue of the Queens weekly newspaper *The Tribune* in an article entitled "A Tempest Lurks in Forest Hills." Hittner runs the family-owned publishing firm Tempest Books, which began as an offshoot of her father's PR firm, Howard Kane Associates, Inc.; previously, she spent 20 years working for Citigroup and MBN-AMRO. Tempest has published two books in the three years since it began operations and both were written by former *New York Times* writer Joan Swirsky, including her most recent one entitled *Mommy, I Want to Kill Myself* which follows a New Jersey mother's search for the right diagnosis and treatment for her mentally ill son.

**Arthur Chi'en '87** recently won two Emmy Awards for his work as a general assignment reporter for *The CW11 News at 10* (Ch. 11 in NYC). He began his journalism career in 1993 at NBC News and was a producer for the *Nightly News with Tom Brokaw* as well as a New York Bureau Producer for *The Today Show*. He left the producing ranks in 1998 to join New York 1 news as an on-air reporter and also worked at WFXT in Boston and WCBS in NYC.

**Alejandro Crawford '90** was pictured on the front page of the February 27, 2007 issue of *AM New York* (a NYC daily newspaper) accompanying an article about the reemergence of NYC's "Silicon Valley" entitled *From Bust to Boom*. Crawford is the chief executive of Nolej Studios in Hell's Kitchen, a tech firm which offers an array of services, from record and film production to website development and guerilla advertising campaigns.

**Lin-Manuel Miranda '98** continues to receive accolades and awards for his off-Broadway show *In the Heights* which will soon be making the move to Broadway. The show was nominated for the 2007 Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Music and Outstanding Lyrics and won the 2007 Outer Critics Circle and Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Musical, while Miranda individually won the Clarence Derwent Award presented by the Actors' Equity Foundation to honor the most promising male performer on the New York metropolitan scene, and the *Village Voice* Obie Award for best music and lyrics (coincidentally, the Obie Awards ceremony was co-hosted by fellow HCHS alum, **Cynthia Nixon '84**.)

## ALUMS SEEN & HEARD...

**Veronica Cruz '86** performing in a grouping of short plays at the 78th St. Theatre Lab in May...**Mike Rose '87** singing in a musical improv workshop showcase at The People's Improv Theater on W. 29th St. on May 14...**Ben Dattner '88**, NPR's workplace consultant, on a May 9, 2007 segment entitled "Don't be Cynical: It's a Great Place to Work" (to listen online, go to: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyid=10085101>)...**Amy Sohn '91** on WNYC-radio's *Leonard Lopate Show* (with guest host Julie Burstein) on June 20 discussing the book *Blindsided by a Diaper* (2007: Three Rivers Press) for which she contributed the essay "Confessions of a Sugar Mommy"...**Jessica Swain '04** playing the part of Susan in the Connecticut College production of *Company* in late April. Swain subsequently secured a summer internship for Sidekick Events LLC, an event coordinator in NYC.

## ALUM ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Gail LEVY Pool '64** announces the publication of her new book *Faint Praise: The Plight of Book Reviewing in America* (University of Missouri Press, 2007). The book takes a long-overdue look at the institution of book reviewing. Pool reveals why bad reviewing happens despite good intentions and how it is that so many intelligent people who love books can say so many unintelligent things about them. She takes readers behind the scenes to describe how editors choose which books to review, as well as the roles of publishers, authors, and readers. In the process, Pool reveals a culture with little interest in literature, much antipathy to criticism, and a decided weakness for praise. Pool is a freelance journalist and reviewer based in Cambridge, MA and a former editor of the *Boston Review* and book columnist for the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and *San Diego Union Tribune*. She is a member of the National Book Critics Circle and the editor of *Other People's Mail: An Anthology of Letter Stories* (1999: University of Missouri Press).

**Jane Dubin '74** heads the production company Double Play Connections, which this summer presented *Take Me America—the Musical* by Bill Nabel and Bob Christianson at the WorkShop Theatre in midtown Manhattan ([www.takemeamerica.com](http://www.takemeamerica.com)). The show was also a selection of the Midtown International Theatre Festival.

**Rhonda Garelick '79** announces the publication of her new book *Electric Salome: Loie Fuller's Performance of Modernism* (Princeton UP, August 2007). Loie Fuller (1862–1928) was an untutored American woman from a very humble background who moved to Paris and became one of the most celebrated performers of the early twentieth century. She held numerous patents for her inventions in stage-

craft and costuming, and she was one of the first women filmmakers in the world. Fuller is considered one of the founding mothers of American modern dance, and she was also highly influential in the realms of neoclassical ballet, modern drama, and photography. She also managed to live fairly openly as a lesbian in Paris, sharing her home for decades with Gabrielle Bloch, a Jewish banking heiress who dressed only in men's suits. Garelick is already at work on a new project, about Coco Chanel.

**Jana (a/k/a Jane) Martin '80** has recently published *Russian Lover and Other Stories* (Yeti/Verse Chorus Press, 2007). The 14-story collection races and glides from Miami to Manhattan to Tucson to Russia and features a vengeful stripper, a spurned wife writing to her ex-mother-in-law, and all sorts of other heroines fielding life's curveballs with great guts and panache. Reviewers have called the book “dazzling” and said it “knocks your socks off,” deeming Martin everything from “one to watch” to someone who “combines the brilliance of T.C. Boyle and the icy clarity of Margaret Atwood.” Martin has performed/read the stories in California, Atlanta, Woodstock, and Stone Ridge (NY), as well as Chicago, Portland, Seattle, and Miami. Check Martin's blog for news of a possible NYC reading: [janamartin.blogspot.com](http://janamartin.blogspot.com). The book is available from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) as well as selected bookstores.

**Martin Signore '86** announces his new book *Fantasy Football For Dummies* (Wiley, 2007) which gives straightforward advice on everything you need to know to start playing the game and winning your league. The book features personal insight from Signore—a screenwriter, interactive gamewriter/designer, and fantasy football expert and addict—as well as helpful (and humorous) tips from his own league, the Hollywood Football League. In a separate project, Signore's

short film, *300 PINS*, which he wrote, directed, and produced, remains available for viewing on [www.veoh.com](http://www.veoh.com) in HD or on YouTube. It's a spoof of the movie *300* and takes place in a bowling alley. It was a recent finalist in the MTV Movie Awards/Yahoo Movies Best Spoof Contest. [Ed.'s note: *Maybe Signore was inspired by high school bowling with Ms. Brennan at MSG?*]

**Jacqueline LoBosco, Ph.D. '88** announces the publication of her book *How to Ace the SAT Without Losing Your Cool: Academic Workbook* (MJ Publishing, 2007), an instructional manual designed to help students maximize their SAT performance. LoBosco cofounded Academics Plus Tutoring Center, a tutoring and training company that specializes in personal development and academic enrichment programs for individuals of all ages, on the Upper East Side with her sister Michele in 2000. More information about Academics Plus, including ordering information for LoBosco's book, can be found at [www.academics-plus.com](http://www.academics-plus.com) or by emailing LoBosco at [jacqui1@gmail.com](mailto:jacqui1@gmail.com).

**Steve Hofstetter '97** announces the publication of his new book *National Lampoon's Balls! A Sarcastic Guide to Sports* (National Lampoon, 2007). Incisive commentary on the world of sports, *Balls!* takes loving aim at the overblown salaries, steroids, and sex scandals of professional ball. Each chapter features essays, lists, and shorts in addition to classic Lampoon snark. Hofstetter writes a weekly humor column on [SportsIllustrated.com](http://SportsIllustrated.com), blogs funny for [NHL.com](http://NHL.com) and contributes to *Maxim* and *ESPN Magazine*. *Steve's Sports Minute (Or So)* is syndicated on 163 radio stations nationwide, and he's a frequent guest on ESPN, Fox Sports, and Sporting News Radio.

*You can have your announcement published by writing or emailing the Alumnae/i office.*



## 1940s

Sandra LONDON Schulman, Jan. '46 was sad to read in the last newsletter of the passing of classmate Marion SEUSS Krauthamer in January 2007. She noted mention of Marion's friendship with Carolyn COHEN Ganz who was also Sandra's classmate in junior high school and then at Hunter High and Hunter College ("Hi, Carolyn!"). Sandra has fond memories of Carolyn's delightful personality and sense of humor! Like her, Sandra taught—for about 50 years—and her last full-time position was as the Learning Center Director at Los Angeles Pierce Community College. Her husband, Ben, also taught at Pierce, and they just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary. They met at Hunter College, where he was in the second co-ed graduation class. • Suzanne BLOCK Meyerowitz '47 is keeping busy playing tennis and serving as docent at the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery; she also belongs to a book and bridge club. A highlight of 2006 was a trip to Provence with her two daughters; this year they plan to visit Tuscany together. Suzanne also took a Grand Circle River Cruise to Russia in April. When in NYC, she likes to catch up with classmates Bea ZOLANGE Schultz, Joyce LITT Lubow, Elsa GELLIS Schmaus, and Miriam SANDBERG Pellman; it's always a treat and keeps Hunter alive for them! • Daveeda DARER Finkelstein '48 writes that after graduating from Hunter, she attended Brooklyn College for two and a half years and then emigrated to Israel in 1951, where she has lived on a kibbutz ever since. She has been married to Baruch Finkelstein for 56 years and they have five children, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In Israel, Daveeda studied at the Hebrew University in Beersheba, earning a B.A., and at the Hebrew University in Haifa, where she obtained an M.A. in Anthropology. On the kib-

butz, she has worked with the chickens, in the dairy barn, the kitchen, and for many years as the chief bookkeeper.

## 1950s

Virginia BIRKENMAYER Svane '54 recently moved from Pouzols, France to the Italian-speaking town of Ascona (in the canton of Ticino) in southern Switzerland; the climate is wonderful and life is extremely pleasant there. She appreciates receiving the HCHSAA newsletter so far, far away from Manhattan! Virginia is also proud to announce that her son, Erik, has written the scenario for a state-of-the-art comic album based on the life of Leonardo da Vinci; a sequel will appear later this year. • Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57 has been re-elected Secretary of the New Hampshire State Democratic Party. Dorothy has been politically active in her adopted state of New Hampshire since moving there upon retirement in 1995. Until June of 2006, she was Chair of Carroll County, serving about six years in that position, and she takes credit for moving the area into the Democratic column. • Harriet HALPERIN Gershon '58 is back living in NYC again and would love to have contact with classmates. • Barbara BYRD Wecker '58 recently retired as a judge of the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court. After a very satisfying career on the bench, she is enjoying the choices her new-found freedom allows—not the least of which is spending time with her seven grandchildren who live in three different cities.

## 1960s

Vera AMES Rushmer '61 reports that her younger daughter, Susie Stauffer, had her first child, Rachel Rebecca, in March. This is Vera's third grandchild and she and her husband are feeling very blessed.

Though all three live in the northeast and Vera and her husband in Florida, they are still able to see them frequently. • Jeanne LA SALA Breslin '64 graduated from Bryn Mawr in 1968 and then earned her M. Arch. (Master's in Architecture) from the University of Illinois in 1981. Her daughter was born in Virginia, grew up in Chicago, and is now a "voluntary" New Yorker who teaches at Stuyvesant.

## 1970s

Caroline GROTENSTEIN Isaacs '70 and her partner, Randy, adopted their teen-aged daughter, Sarah, two years ago. Caroline writes that Sarah is "an amazing gift from the Universe and is about to graduate from high school." • Margaret McMahan '78 and her husband, Mike, welcomed their first child, a son whom they named Michael Thomas Mently, in February 2005. Margaret now works part-time and is enjoying spending time with her son, who "loves trains, letters and numbers as well as his 'aunts'—classmates Sharon Gumerove '79 and Elena ANDREWS Gaillard '78." Margaret was prompted to write in about her son after seeing news of another classmate's new baby in a recent newsletter—she jokes that her son is therefore no longer the youngest legacy of the HCHS class of '78/'79!

## 1980s

Karen Graubart '80 recently became an Associate Professor of Latin American History at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. • Nina Haft '80 has been living in the San Francisco Bay Area since graduating from Swarthmore College. She is a contemporary dance choreographer and artistic director of Nina Haft & Company and is on the dance faculty at California State University, East Bay. Some of her notable works include a



klezmer dance opera about the daughter of a Jewish gangster, and a site-specific performance tour of Frederick Law Olmsted's Mountain View Cemetery. She would love to hear from classmates and other Hunter alumni. Feel free to email her! • **Juanita Punwaney '84** currently lives in Manhattan and practices dermatology at the Faculty Practice of the NS/LIJ Health System. She was recently interviewed as the dermatology expert for the "Live Well" column in the February 2007 issue of *Distinction Magazine* and subsequently also appeared in the "Noted and Quoted" section of *Cosmetic Dermatology Journal* in May 2007. The first thing she proudly mentions in her bio is having graduated from HCHS! • **Genise Reid '84** began the AEGIS doctoral program (Adult Education Guided Intensive Study) at Columbia University Teachers College in June. Her husband, Leon (Manhattan School of Music '83), is also at Columbia, completing his masters in Music Education. In July, they celebrated their 8th wedding anniversary. • **Kim MARTIN Zywicki '85** is a lawyer on hiatus, working only "extremely part-time" while staying at home with her two-year-old daughter, Claire. She hopes to get back to practicing employment law at some point. Kim reports that classmate **Durba Ghosh '85** recently returned from a trip to India; she and her husband are both history professors at Cornell and enjoy life in Ithaca with their young children, Ravi and Lila. Also, in April, **Wendy Turchin '85** had twins, Samuel and Hannah, who are keeping her and her husband on their toes. Wendy will return to her psychiatry practice soon, so she can get some rest! • **Patty CHANG Anker '88** and **Kent Anker '87** are happy to announce their adoption of Rose Zhide Chang Anker and the successful completion of kindergarten by big sister, Grace. Kent continues as a liti-

gator at Friedman, Kaplan, Seiler and Adelman, and Patty recently began doing marketing for Taunton Books. The Ankers currently live in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. • **Edward Jacobowitz '88** is currently a stay-at-home dad for his two young children in Portland, OR while his wife completes her medical residency. He'd be happy to hear from classmates or alums living in the Portland area. • **Amy Lesen '89** finished her fourth year as Assistant Professor of Biology at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. This past year, in doing some work with folks down in New Orleans, she got a tenure track job offer at Dillard University, a small Historically Black College/University (HBCU) in New Orleans. Amy will start as Assistant Professor in the Division of Natural Sciences and Public Health in the fall of '07. She will also be doing work in New Orleans with the Center for Bioenvironmental Research which is affiliated with Tulane, on sustainable redevelopment of New Orleans and the melding of ecology and culture in the city. Lastly, she's involved in research with Roger Anderson and Andrew Juhl at the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University, doing work on the microbial ecology of the Hudson. • **Jessica Liberman '89** and **Keith Wilcox '89** were married at the Montauk Yacht Club in Montauk, NY, on March 31, 2007. Jessica and Keith first met in their pre-kindergarten class at Hunter Elementary in 1975, but did not begin dating until November 2004. Their wedding was a true Hunter affair with several of their HCHS classmates in attendance including: **Vincent Auricchio**, **Kate EDELBAUM Heddings**, **Kysha Harris**, **Andre Haynes**, **Kenny Kloner**, **Raquel Klugman**, **Nnenna Lynch**, and **Sarah TOMLIN Bupp**. • **Helen PUNWANEY Currie '89** is a pediatrician living in Long Beach, CA with

her husband, Neil, and two children, Katelyn, 5, and Aidan, 2.

## 1990s

**Nancy O'NEILL Van Horn '90** packed up in June after three years at the American Embassy in Moscow and headed for Kyiv, Ukraine for another three. She, husband Phil, and son Jack, welcomed Charlie, who was born in November, 2005 in Vienna. Jack, who is four, is a great big brother and has mastered Russian so well that he's entering a Russian school this fall. Any Hunterites passing through the outer reaches of Eastern Europe are welcome to a hot meal—email Nancy at [ntvanhorn@hotmail.com](mailto:ntvanhorn@hotmail.com).

• **Raj Punwaney '90** is completing a double residency in medicine and pediatrics at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan. • **Nina HABIB Spencer '90** reports that, as always, there is quite a bit of news about her classmates:

**LaTisha MILES Elcock** gave birth to her second child, Zain Cato Elcock, on January 10. He's fascinated by his 2-year-old sister Adia, and both are keeping mom and dad, Darren, very happy and exhausted. **Eric Selmon** submitted his first update upon the birth of his fourth child, Raphael, earlier this year. He and his wife, Chana, are also proud parents to Jacob, 6, Mia, 4, and Zoe, 3. They live in Rockland County and Eric is a research analyst and portfolio manager at Longbow Capital, a hedge fund in the city, while Chana will likely return to work shortly at Newark Beth Israel Hospital, where she is an ER doctor. **Darryl Siry** and his wife, Keri, welcomed their first child, Gemma Diane Siry, on May 22. She even has her own website: <http://gemmasiry.blogspot.com>. **Erica MICHAELS Brown** and her husband, Edward, welcomed their first child, a daughter, on May 7. Kari Ganda

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## CLASS NOTES

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Brown is a joy and already (no surprise) off the chart in height. Erica is in her fifth year as the Director of Regulatory Affairs at the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies in Washington, D.C. Baby news also from **Camilo Ortiz**, whose wife Betty gave birth to their second child, Gabriel Will Ortiz, on June 10, 2006. Camilo was also granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology at Long Island University. **Randy Eng** and his wife, Katie, welcomed first child, Olive, in November. He sent a picture and she is pretty darn cute. There is good news that **Rebecca SCHWAGER Guest** is moving back to the NYC area—Larchmont, to be exact—with her family, and **Thisbe Nissen** is also moving closer to NYC after living in Iowa for 12 years. She is getting married soon and starting a visiting professor position at Brandeis as the Fanny Hurst Writer-in-Residence. She'll be moving somewhere in the Hudson Valley area of NYS, preferably a place where she can keep chickens and goats. Watch for a new story collection and a new novel from Thisbe. **Jeremy Gordon** reports that he's been living in Portland, OR for 12 years, and is a musician and a freelance gardener. He plays the bass drum (Surdo) in a samba/percussion orchestra called the Lions of Batucada, and moonlights as a guitarist/singer for the rock band Trick Sensei. Look them up at [www.tricksensei.com](http://www.tricksensei.com). Our favorite opera singer, **Serena Benedetti**, announced that she and husband, Frank Pantazopoulos, had a baby girl, Katina, on March 25. **Keisha Sutton-James**, **Elizabeth RILEY Blake** and **Maya Gottfried** were all at her shower back in February. **Alejo Crawford's** NYC-based company Nolej has received quite a bit of attention lately, first on MySpace, where two spots created by the company for an online job search engine made it

onto the MySpace Featured Videos section (and have gotten 500,000 hits to date) and also when Alejo appeared on the front page of *AM New York* in an article on the latest trends in interactive media. Wonderful news from **Karen Ng**, who gave birth to twin girls—Abby and Emma—in October 2005. Karen is back to work full-time as a family physician in a group of community health centers in inner-city Providence, RI. **Ali Garbarini** and husband, Micah, had their first child, baby boy Zeke, in February. The whole family is in Paris for the year as Ali does research for a new book. Old buddy **Chen-Li (Anthony) Sung** sent a very mysterious email saying he recently got married...more info later. **Stephen Nachamie** has been busy this year directing plays and musicals across the U.S., and even joined the faculty of Professional Performing Arts High School in NYC last year and became Mr. Nachamie for a bit. He's developing a new musical, *Faraway Bayou*, and directing *Tick Tick Boom!* in Boston this fall. Check Stephen out at [www.stephennachamie.com](http://www.stephennachamie.com). • **Ellen Kackmann '91** recently returned from Europe where she was a Fellow of the German Marshall Fund. As such, she traveled to Paris, Brussels, Rome, Hamburg, and Bucharest for the purpose of increasing trans-Atlantic understanding of public policy issues. In August, Ellen returned to Europe as a Fulbright Scholar. In Finland, she will conduct her original research on Finnish housing policy and housing finance. Just prior to leaving the U.S., she was working for Wachovia Multifamily Capital on affordable housing transactions and was proud to reside in Washington Heights, where she grew up. • **Purvi Sevak '91**, her husband, Jeff Hubbard, and older daughter, Qatalina, welcomed a second girl, Zarya Anandi Sevak Hubbard, weighing 6 lbs. 2 oz., on July 26, 2007. Purvi is currently an Associate Professor of Economics

at Hunter College and also serves as president of HCHSAA. • **Simeon Wallis '93** married Dr. Susan Kovsky on July 1, 2007 at The Dearborn Inn, in Dearborn, MI. Susan is completing her fellowship in Rheumatology at the University of Michigan and is residing in Ann Arbor. Simeon is a research analyst with Evercore Asset Management in New York. Celebrating with Susan and Simeon were Hunter classmates **Daniel Kirschbaum**, **Craig Lowenthal**, **Seth Ruderman**, and **Onika WILLIAMS Herman**. The couple will honeymoon in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe in December. • **Scarlett McKinsey '97** and **Craig Capeci '97** were married on October 8, 2006 in East Hampton, NY. Many HCHS alums attended including **Matthew Stimmel**, **Eli Rous**, **Ian McGinley**, **Zach Behr**, **Jeff Lane**, **Jeremiah Lane**, **Eddie Cooper**, **Doug Julie**, **John McGoey**, **Suzie Dishman**, **Chris Hayes**, and **Kris Rutman**. Scarlett is a resident in pediatrics at Mt. Sinai Hospital and Craig is a resident in orthopaedic surgery at Hospital for Joint Diseases, both in Manhattan. • **Emily Chang '98** married Michael Woo on June 23, 2007 on Long Island. They have known each other for over four years and are currently living in Brooklyn. In attendance at their wedding were classmates **Evelyn Kow**, **Stephanie Yu**, **Albert Park**, **Jason Chin**, and **Lucien St. Gerard**. • **Luke Stein '98** married Jennifer Gordon on July 28, 2007, in Canton, MA. Hunterites in attendance included classmates **David Davidson**, **Arthur Lewis**, and **Mark Roaquin**, as well as **Andrew Siff '86** and **Michael Siff '89**. Luke is currently studying for a Ph.D. in economics at Stanford.

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

## In Memoriam

**Mollie Orshansky** '31, a statistician and economist who in the 1960s developed the federal poverty line, a measurement that shaped decades of social policy and welfare programs, died Dec. 18, 2006, at her home in Manhattan. She was 91 and the cause was cardiopulmonary arrest, said a niece, Eda F. Shapiro. She said the family had not immediately announced the death because of concerns over a long-running legal dispute in Washington over Miss Orshansky's estate. Miss Orshansky was buried a day after her death in Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Glendale, Queens. Miss Orshansky, whose parents had known poverty in Ukraine, worked for the Social Security Administration from 1958 until she retired in 1982. She was "one of a respected but mostly invisible cadre of women research professionals based at S.S.A. and other government agencies during the postwar years," the historian Alice O'Connor wrote in *Poverty Knowledge*, a 2001 history of poverty research. "These women," Ms. O'Connor wrote, "found job opportunities in federal government and other 'applied' endeavors when university jobs were largely closed off to them, although within government they were often clustered in research bureaus focusing on such traditional 'women's' concerns as social welfare, female labor force participation, families and children, and home economics. That experience as a career government statistician, a far cry from systems analysis, was what gave Orshansky the wholly unexpected designation as author of the

government's official poverty line." In 1963 and 1964, Miss Orshansky conducted the research that would become the basis of the poverty thresholds. She used the economy food plan—the cheapest of four "nutritionally adequate" food plans developed by the Department of Agriculture—and multiplied the dollar costs by roughly three to come up with a minimum cost-of-living estimate. (A household food consumption survey by the Agriculture Department had shown that, in 1955, families of three or more people spent about one-third of their after-tax cash income on food.) Miss Orshansky devised more than 120 poverty thresholds, adjusting her calculations for family size and composition and rural-urban differences. She published her research in a seminal 1965 article in *The Social Security Bulletin*. President Lyndon B. Johnson had declared a War on Poverty, but there was no official definition of the problem at the time. In May 1965, the Office of Economic Opportunity, the federal agency charged with carrying out the antipoverty effort, adopted the "Orshansky index" as the yardstick to measure poverty. It was a use that Miss Orshansky herself had never intended. "Orshansky developed the index as a research tool, not an instrument of policy or a criterion for determining eligibility for antipoverty programs," the historian Michael B. Katz wrote in *The Undeserving Poor*, a 1989 history of antipoverty efforts. The federal poverty guideline—\$9,800 for a

single person and \$20,000 for a family of four in 2006—has long been criticized as understating the true extent of poverty. It also seems outdated. Food today makes up a much smaller proportion of household expenses than it did in the 1960s; the costs of housing, transportation, child care and health care have risen far more sharply. In 1995, a panel of the National Academy of Sciences urged several changes in calculating poverty, but no major changes have occurred, in part because they would have the politically unpopular effect of increasing the poverty rate, probably by a couple of percentage points, which would require an expansion of benefits. Miss Orshansky, a lifelong liberal Democrat, expressed sympathy with the criticisms of the poverty line. "The best that can be said of the measure," she once wrote, "is that at a time when it seemed useful, it was there." Miss Orshansky was born January 9, 1915, the third of six daughters of Samuel and Fannie Orshansky, Jewish immigrants who settled in the Bronx after leaving Ukraine. She graduated from Hunter College High School in 1931 and from Hunter College in 1935, with a degree in mathematics and statistics. Miss Orshansky did graduate work in economics and statistics in Washington. In 1939, she became a research clerk with the federal Children's Bureau, doing statistical analyses of child health, growth and nutrition. In 1942, as a statistician for the New York City Department of Health, she helped

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## In Memoriam

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develop a survey on the incidence and treatment of pneumonia. Beginning in 1945, she spent 13 years at the Agriculture Department, collecting and analyzing records on household spending and food consumption. In the 1960s, at the request of the Justice Department, she testified at hearings that led to the elimination of poll taxes, which had been used to keep black Americans from voting. She said that a poll tax of \$2, for example, would be enough to cost many poor families an entire day's meals. Miss Orshansky received honors from the Social Security Administration, the American Statistical Association and the American Political Science Association. For most of her career, she lived in an apartment on the waterfront in Washington. She traveled extensively and loved to cook. In 2002, *The Washington Post* reported on a legal struggle over Miss Orshansky's care, which had begun after she was hospitalized in the fall of 2001. A niece, Jane M. Pollack, had taken Miss Orshansky to New York, but a judge in Washington, who had named a legal guardian for Miss Orshansky, tried to compel her to return to Washington, arguing that her family had not demonstrated that they could adequately care for her. On August 15, 2002, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled that the judge had abused her authority and ignored Miss Orshansky's wishes to live with her family in New York. The appeals court also canceled the appointment of the guardian. Other legal issues remain unresolved, said her niece Ms. Shapiro of Manhattan.

In addition to several nieces, Miss Orshansky is survived by a sister, Sarah Pollack of Manhattan.

*[Ed.'s Note: The preceding was adapted with permission from the obituary written for The New York Times by Sewell Chan '94. Miss Orshansky was also profiled in the Summer 2006 issue of AlumNotes.]*

**Esther Rich Smoke '37** died on June 19, 2007. She was a resident of NYC.

**Sylvia MANDEL Lauber '42** passed away on May 6, 2007. She was a resident of Fair Lawn, NJ, and had retired as a teacher from that town's public school system. She had been looking forward to the 65th reunion of her class in early June and was always proud to be part of the Hunter High and Hunter College families.

**Eleanor GASPARI Shapiro '44** (Hunter College '48) passed away on April 4, 2005, after a brief and brave battle with cancer. Also a graduate of City College, with an M.B.A., Eleanor was an accountant—but most importantly, she was a devoted and beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. After graduating from Hunter College, Eleanor married Joseph Shapiro, an engineering graduate of City College and veteran of World War II, with whom she had three daughters. The couple moved from their first home in Washington Heights to suburbia in Hicksville, Long Island, and then to Wayne, NJ, as they raised their family and pursued their careers. They shared their love of travel with their children and took two cross-country car trips as well as other, shorter trips to vari-

ous parts of the U.S. and Canada; they also visited Israel with a group of friends from Wayne. After retirement, Eleanor and Joe moved to Boynton Beach, FL, but returned to NJ each summer. They loved the Florida lifestyle—Eleanor as a great swimmer and Joe as a golfer. They continued their travels, enjoying trips to Alaska, Europe, the Far East, and Australia as well as at least one cruise each year. For her 75th birthday, Eleanor and Joe took their entire family on a cruise to Bermuda. Eleanor is survived by her husband, three daughters, and five grandchildren.

**Aimee-Simone JAFFE Mast '49** died peacefully on January 4, 2007, at the Weiler Hospital of the Einstein College of Medicine after a long illness. A graduate of Barnard College and NYU, she worked as a medical editor and staff assistant at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, producing one of the first compendiums on birth control around the world in the 1960s. She was a member of the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the Riverdale Mental Health Association. Aimee was born in Paris and fled France in 1942 with her parents to make a new and happy life in the United States. Among others, she is survived by her devoted husband of 47 years, Stanley, her son, James, his wife, Jessie Fan, and grandson, Caleb.

**Phyllis BERK Balsam '52** (HCES '48) died May 15, 2007, of lung cancer, two weeks before her 73rd



birthday. She was very proud of her children and grandchildren, was a successful businesswoman, and spent time every year on a kibbutz helping Israeli causes. She lived part of the year in Lakeland, FL to be near her son and daughter-in-law who both practice medicine there. Classmate Judith GELLERT Haun, her oldest friend, recalls that she and Phyllis (whom she called "Cookie") traveled the IRT subway daily through all their years at Hunter.

**Alice Maree HABER Rainess '53** died on May 24, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Alan.

**Iris GORDON Steiner Fein '54** passed away on July 16, 2006. She was a Hunterite from K-12 and a beloved member of her class. She most recently lived in Long Island City and had worked as a para-professional at Jamaica High School.

**Beryl PAER Richardson '64** died on August 13, 2007 of breast cancer. She earned a B.A. from City College and an M.A. from the University of Santa Clara and was the health educator for Gadsden County, FL for the past four years. She is survived by her husband, Ron Richardson of Gretna, FL; two stepsons, Jacob Richardson of San Jose, CA, and Matthew Richardson of Gretna, FL; and many other relatives, friends, and coworkers who will miss her very much.

**Jonathan T. Weiss '80** died on August 1, 2007 after a long illness. He earned a B.A. from Colgate University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law School and then worked for Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP for 20 years, eventually making partner. He was one of the

few boys admitted during the landmark year Hunter High became a coed school and is remembered with great affection by his classmates as being a gentle, funny guy. Classmate Lisa Tsufura writes that she can still picture him playing his saxophone and walking down the halls of Hunter High with his buddy, Joe. He was the gentle quiet soul who was there to help out if needed. He is survived by his wife, Marcy Siskind, children, Jordan and Truly, parents, sister, and two brothers. The class has decided to establish a memorial fund in his name; contributions can be sent to the Alumnae/i Association.

**Stephen Gilliard, Jr. '82**, a political journalist who found his calling as a combative and influential blogger on the left, died on June 2, 2007, in Manhattan at the age of 42. He had been hospitalized at Lenox Hill Hospital since February because of heart and kidney failure, said his cousin Francine Smith, a spokeswoman for the family. From his perch at *The News Blog*, which supported his modest living expenses through advertisements and donations, Mr. Gilliard offered his powerful readership a blunt and passionate take on the events of the day. He was one of fewer than a dozen liberal political bloggers to make a living from his blog, said Markos Moulitsas Zúniga, the founder of the Daily Kos website, to which Mr. Gilliard had been an early contributor. Mr. Gilliard was born in Harlem and attended Hunter College Elementary School and Hunter College High School before graduating with a degree in journalism from NYU. After working in print journalism, Mr. Gilliard migrated online, working for a website, Net

Slaves, that chronicled the lot of the tech worker during the dot-com boom. His involvement in online political writing received a critical boost when Mr. Moulitsas chose Mr. Gilliard to help create material for the Daily Kos site at a time when it had 4,000 visitors a day; it now has 500,000 a day. Mr. Gilliard's survivors include his parents, Steven Gilliard, Sr. and Evelyn Lillian Gilliard of Manhattan, and two sisters, Valerie Gilliard and Roberta Smalls, both of Massachusetts. In what is a now-familiar story among Internet collaborators, many of the thousands who posted online reactions to Mr. Gilliard's death wrote that they had known little about him, even the fact that he was black. Others, though, mourned the loss of an African-American voice in the liberal blogging world. Those closest to him offline similarly knew next to nothing about his life as blogger. "Most of the family didn't know what he was doing on the Web site," said his cousin, Ms. Smith, who said his parents did not own computers. *[Ed.'s Note: The preceding was adapted with permission from the obituary written for The New York Times by Noam Cohen '85.]*

The Alumnae/i Association also has been advised of the passing of the following individuals: **Marilyn STEIN Herrmann '52** and **Max Robbin '95**.

Former faculty member **Richard Plass** died in mid-April after having been ill for some time. He was living in Pine Plains, NY at the time and was a faithful member of the Church of the Regeneration. HCHS colleague Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61 remembers him well, noting that he was the G.O. advisor for many years.

## 2008 MILESTONE CLASS REUNION COORDINATORS

2008 milestone classes are those classes that end with a “3” or an “8.” So far, only the 60th reunion class of June 1948 has volunteer reunion coordinators. If you are interested in helping plan your class reunion in 2008, please contact the HCHSAA office.

**June 1948:** Rosalind WEISS Rothman-Immerman, 914-686-4789, nanaroz@bigfoot.com  
Florence WEBER Klein, 718-279-4316, fklein30@nyc.rr.com  
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## CLASS OF JUNE 1948 REUNION ALERT: 60 YEARS IN 2008 AND STILL GOING STRONG!

The June 1948 class coordinators hope to offer several events to complement the official HCHS reunion scheduled for Sunday, June 8, 2008. We want to offer our own class brunch or dinner or both. We are a milestone class and hope this will entice as many of you as possible to be present on that special weekend. But, before we can plan we have to know your plans. It's such fun when we get together, so please, do your best to join us for the weekend of June 6–8. We look forward to a significant showing before and during the official reunion. Your class coordinators are listed above. We welcome your ideas. We can try to answer any questions. Call or write or email. You'll be hearing from us as the 2008 dates grow closer, but don't wait until then. Now's the time to tell us your thoughts and suggestions. Here's to a spectacular 2008 milestone class reunion.

## CHAPTER COORDINATORS

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**Young Alums** (classes of '92–'04)  
Errol Bakal '99, theerrol@hotmail.com

## AlumnaGrams

**HAVE A VACATION HOUSE FOR RENT? LOOKING FOR SUBJECTS TO INTERVIEW FOR YOUR DOCTORAL THESIS?** You can run an ad here to reach more than 10,000 Hunterites for only \$10 for the first 135 characters or \$20 for up to 270 characters. To send an AlumnaGram, please send your name, address, daytime telephone number, check made payable to HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc., and, of course, your message, to: HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!

## YOUNG ALUMS ENJOY HAPPY HOUR “LOCAL”-LY

About 40 alums enjoyed the June 1 Happy Hour sponsored by HCHSAA. The venue was Local on 2nd Avenue and 53rd Street. Young Alums coordinator Errol Bakal '99 reports that everyone had an incredibly fun time. The next Young Alums event is tentatively planned for Saturday, November 24. If you're an alum from the classes of 1992–2004 and you haven't been getting email notices for these events, please send us an email at hchsalums@yahoo.com so that you can be included in future emails.

## DUES / DONATIONS / MERCHANDISE ORDERS

To pay dues, make a gift, or purchase merchandise online, go to [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org) and click on "Visit Online Payment Center." If you prefer to mail a check, please send us this entire page in the enclosed envelope. Jot down your news for Class Notes on the reverse side and make any address corrections. Please also provide the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ANNUAL DUES** (Your dues expiration date (MONTH/YEAR) is printed above your name on the reverse side of this page.)

- |   |      |  |
|---|------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classes of '03 and earlier | \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Premium Membership—\$85   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classes of '04–'06         | \$15 | Includes choice of one: T-shirt / 2 mugs / Teddy Bear / Apron  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class of '07               | FREE | Please indicate choice and size, if applicable: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Fixed Income        | \$20 | (The value of your gift will decrease the amount of your tax-deductible contribution; you may also choose to give your entire contribution to HCHSAA.) |

**MILESTONE CLASS GIFT** (Donors who give \$100 or more will be recognized in a future *AlumNotes*.)\*

- ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$1,000    ☐ Other amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Enclosed is my **EMPLOYER'S MATCHING GIFT** form.
- ☐ \*List my name on Honor Roll of Giving as: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \*Please do not list my name on Honor Roll of Giving.

**ANNUAL GIVING 2007–2008** (Donors who give \$100 or more will be recognized in a future *AlumNotes*.)\*

- ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$1,000    ☐ Other amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Enclosed is my **EMPLOYER'S MATCHING GIFT** form.
- ☐ \*List my name on Honor Roll of Giving as: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \*Please do not list my name on Honor Roll of Giving.

**MERCHANDISE** (includes postage & handling and NYS sales tax)



### HCHS Merchandise Helps You Display Your School Spirit!

The Alumnae/i Association offers four different logoed items: teddy bears, T-shirts, aprons, and mugs, so you can display your school spirit for all to see. Order today—online at [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org) or use this form! Shipping and sales tax (if applicable) are already included in the price.

- |  |           |                |                |                 |          |            |            |
|--|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult's T-shirt | \$22      | Circle choice: | S(34-36)       | M(38-40)        | L(42-44) | XL (46-48) | XXL(50-52) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child's T-shirt | \$16      | Circle choice: | XS(2T-4T)      | M(10-12)        |          |            |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Mug      | \$12/\$20 | Circle choice: | 1 mug for \$12 | 2 mugs for \$20 |          |            |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teddy Bear      | \$24      |                |                |                 |          |            |            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apron           | \$20      |                |                |                 |          |            |            |

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to: HCHS Alumnae/i Association., Inc.)

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# Autumn Reception

## Thursday, October 25 at HCHS

*Please join us at the annual HCHSAA Autumn Reception.  
For more information, see page 1.*

*RSVP if you plan to attend via phone (212-772-4079)  
or email ([hchsalums@yahoo.com](mailto:hchsalums@yahoo.com)).*