

ALUMNOTES

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

VOL. 2 No. 1

FALL 1975

REUNION '75

A record-breaking turnout and record-breaking weather marked the Third Annual Reunion of the Hunter College High School Alumnae Association on June 1, 1975, in the Hunter Elementary School building in Manhattan. Fanny Casher, Reunion Committee Coordinator, presided over the meeting segment of the program, introducing Dr. Bernard Miller, Director of Campus Schools; several present and former teachers; and Mildred Speiser, President Pro Tem of the Association. Marjorie Pearle Katz described the newly drafted Bylaws, which had been previously distributed to the membership by mail, and which were accepted by acclamation. Ruth Ulman gave the report of the nominating committee, and the slate chosen (see page 2 for officers) was unanimously elected. Sara Robbins Schoenwetter, Treasurer Pro Tem, presented a very brief treasurer's report: "We're solvent." Ms. Speiser thanked the numerous people whose assistance had made possible the accomplishments of the Association and the Reunion, appealed for more names of alumnae to be added to our ever-growing lists, and introduced Dr. Miller, who spoke about the high school's problems and possibilities for obtaining a new building (see story this page). Mrs. Maria Lo Frumento (nee Aguilera), principal, greeted the audience. Dr. Harry Ruderman, Chairman of the mathematics department, spoke of changes in the math curriculum, including the use of film, TV, and games. Dr. Helen Witmer, Mrs. Emily Boggs, and Miss Mildred Busch reminisced about Hunter past and recent. The meeting was also addressed by the president of the Parents Association, Mrs. Edith Sher, and by Phyllis Lekashman Glantz, who presented two \$100 scholarships from the 25-year Milestone Class of '50 to the Class of '75. Afterward, groups of alumnae convened according to decade and class to talk over old times, bring old friends up to date on life stories, and enjoy a selection of refreshments that included cheese and crackers, cookies, and wine punch, which was enjoyed to the last cooling drop on a very warm, very enjoyable afternoon.

SPLENDID NEW BUILDING FOR HUNTER

The possibility mentioned in the last (spring '75) issue of ALUMNOTES that Hunter High might be able to relocate in the I.S. 29 building at 94th Street and Park Avenue in Manhattan has become a reality. In February 1976, the high school, with its students, staff, and equipment, will move into this superbly equipped 6-year old building, occupying the 2nd and 3rd floors, part of the 4th, and sharing the 1st and basement levels with a few class groups still using the building.

One afternoon recently several representatives of your Alumnae Association had the privilege of accompanying Dr. Bernard Miller, Director of Campus Schools, and Mr. Stodolski, Custodian Engineer, on a tour of the building. Built of red brick to blend architecturally with the facade of a distinctive armory left on Madison Avenue, the structure occupies, with its enclosed yard, almost an entire block.

Entering the vast lobby through a glass-walled enclosure, one immediately sees a bright mosaic running the length of a huge wall directly opposite. In addition to the lobby, the first floor contains many spacious offices and fully-equipped shop facilities (graphic arts, metal and electric, woodworking, ceramics, home economics, and more). The library includes audio-visual facilities, a separate social studies reference room, conference-study areas, and carrels where students can use cassettes for individual language study. One flight down, in the basement, can be found the air-conditioning machinery (the building is fully air-conditioned, with its very few windows non-opening, and designed to seem like the openings in the adjacent armory wall); the lunchroom, featuring areas with adjustable partitions for small gatherings; a teachers' lunchroom; and -- at last -- a true gymnasium! There are actually two gymnasiums, for in the center of the enormous room is a movable partition, enabling it to be opened up for major sports and gymnastics events, dances, etc., or divided so two classes can be held concurrently. In addition to full (cont'd on page 3)

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OFFICERS

President	Mildred Speiser '49
Vice Pres.	Rose Wiesen Reiss '60
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Ass't Treas.	Mary DiPerna '70
Corr. Sec'y	Pat Fresk '54
Record. Sec'y	Susan Schiffres Nachamie '59

Dear Alumnae:

Hunter High has existed on the edge of extinction for many years. Now, out of the chaos of New York City's economic crisis, it finds that in 1976 it will have its day of independence when at last it begins a new era in a building that it can securely call its own. The coming bicentennial year has special meaning for the students entering this unusual building and also for all those who worked toward that end. With these thoughts we wish everyone a happy, hopeful New Year.

As always,

Mildred Speiser
President

ABOUT QUESTIONNAIRES

Most, if not all, of those reading this bulletin have at one time or another received a questionnaire sent out by the Steering Committee of the Alumnae Association. These preliminary questionnaires were composed hurriedly during the first weeks of the Association's existence and were intended to provide first of all current names and addresses, and secondarily to indicate areas of career and personal interest and expertise. While inadequate in many ways, they have succeeded in their purpose of enabling the Steering Committee to set up class lists and get some idea of the diversity of experience of Hunter graduates. Work will shortly begin on revising this questionnaire to produce a profile of every graduate for a more accurate tabulation of the resources within our ranks. The Committee welcomes any suggestions.

MEETINGS

All alumnae are welcome at Steering Committee meetings. The next one is scheduled for January 17, 1976, in Room 1323 at 466 Lexington Avenue, between 44th and 45th Streets, Manhattan, at 12:30 PM. For more information telephone (evenings):

Mildred Speiser - 212-UN 4-1700, ext. 922
Pat Fresk - 212-RE 2-5623

ALUMNA-GRAMS

Joan Pesikoff Kossoy
Selling Real Estate Throughout Indiana
Call Collect: 317-253-4101

COLLEGE, "SPARS," MRS., MA, MS. AGAIN,
ADM. ASST. CLASS OF '40 WHERE ARE YOU?
Bev Kessler Snyder

Greetings to all--but especially to any of the 1916 class graduates who may still have recollections of those days! Agnes Sommer Merritt

HELENE WILLIAMS SPIERMAN, '61
TEACHER OF SINGING
(212) 665-0374

To Diane Henderson Petterson '55. Please let me hear from you. Bobbie Glaze.

I AM VERY HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT MY MARRIAGE TO DENNIS FACHLER OF MOUNT VERNON, N.Y., TOOK PLACE JUNE 22. Joan Weinstock Fachler, '71

Do YOU have a message to send? Here's your chance to communicate with thousands of your fellow alumnae at one fell swoop. Send an ALUMNA-GRAM. Your check for \$5.00 made out to HCHS Alumnae Assn. will buy you three lines of copy in our next issue due in the spring of 1976. Send your copy in now while you have it in mind. You can use the form below or a separate sheet of paper. Only 45 characters, including spaces and punctuation, to a line, please. Add another \$5.00 for each additional three lines.

☐ Yes, I want to send an ALUMNA-GRAM! Here is my check for \$5.00 and three lines of copy:

NEW BUILDING (cont'd from page 1)

equipment, the gyms also are equipped with extension bleachers. There are both boys' and girls' dressing rooms as well as offices and dressing rooms for physical education staff, all with showers.

Equally remarkable is the auditorium, entered on the 2nd floor through its own lobby (with cloakroom and public telephones). Again, movable partitions can screen in both the left and right balconies (entered also from the 3rd floor) to form seminar rooms. Permanent seating accommodates 500, but the capacity can be expanded to accommodate about 750. There are a large, portable thrust stage, music practice rooms, backstage boys' and girls' dressing and make-up rooms and lavatories, a scenery room, and a storage room.

The classrooms are equally as well appointed, with floor-to-ceiling bulletin boards (these, as well as lockers, also line the hallways); chalkboards in green, blue or tan; doorway moldings painted in bright colors; movable desks; an intercom in every room; and an overall air of spaciousness and graciousness. In addition there are special facilities: a language laboratory with earphone equipment at each desk leading to master controls at the teacher's desk; two large science labs connected by a supply room; typing rooms; an art room with storage room, kiln, ceramic drying lockers, sinks, display areas and more; a kiln on every floor; a cluster of adjoining rooms on one floor that will become the guidance office; and two large carpeted classrooms that can be used for film and audio-visual programs, seminars, and meetings, or can be closed off by partitions to form four separate classrooms.

To say that those of us who saw this building were amazed is an understatement. We represented many Hunter generations with no building to call our own or with cramped and inadequate facilities in an outdated and outmoded structure. We could only gape, think enviously of the students who will be doubly privileged by attending Hunter High in this superb plant, and ponder whether we could audit classes!

(Due to a shortage of space, the story of how this building came to Hunter will be told in the next issue of ALUMNOTES. Watch for it and plan now to attend the next Reunion, which will be held there.)

REGIONAL CHAPTERS

For information about Regional Chapters of the Alumnae Association, please contact the regional representatives for your area listed below:

1. ISRAEL

Rhea Plottel ('49)
200 Ben Yehuda
Tel Aviv, Israel

2. ENGLAND

Michele Levenbook Kohler ('61)
The Gatehouse
Cold Harbor Lane
Dorking, Surrey
England RH4 3BH

3. TEXAS

Lorraine Buxbaum Goldstaub ('40)
5618 Rutherglenn Drive
Houston, Texas 77035

4. WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS & vicinity

Susan Pincus Burk ('63)
19 Sunset Rock Road
N. Wilbraham, Mass. 01095

5. MARYLAND; VIRGINIA; WASHINGTON, D.C.

Betty Sanders Foster ('39)
2445 Lyttonsville Road
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

6. WESTCHESTER/ROCKLAND, N.Y.

Myra Dembrow Saper ('67)
152 S. Central Avenue
Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977

To all those from NEW JERSEY, NASSAU, and SUFFOLK, we are still compiling your regional lists, which should be ready by the spring; we will include them in the next issue of ALUMNOTES

When writing to your regional representative, please include your telephone number.

Anyone interested in starting a regional chapter in an area other than those listed, please write to:

Rose Wiesen Reiss
308 Wayne Street
Highland Park, N.J. 08904

When requesting a regional list, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed, business-size envelope and include your high school name and year of graduation on the face of the envelope.

4.
ALL ABOUT YOU AND YOU AND YOU ...

We get the most interesting notes and letters and want to share some of them with you. Toby Wedeen Falk, '63, writes from Tucson "amid desert surroundings and much cactus," that she is teaching an art and culture course at a local community college (a subject very dear to her heart since taking "integrated arts" at Hunter 12 years ago)... Gloria Rojas, '55, is a reporter for Eyewitness News at New York's local ABC station ... Michele Weal is the author of Texture and Color in Needlepoint, published by Harper & Row in May ... Marianne Schuelein, M.D., '55, is assistant professor in pediatrics and neurology at Georgetown University Hospital ... Betty Ostroff, who was featured in a New York Times article last spring, is one of the few women to be a school superintendent, heading the Glen Rock, N.J., system ... Harriet Fruim writes about her years at Hunter High, when (1937-1941) she was shifted around "between an ancient elementary school on East 96 Street, several floors of a loft building at Park and 33rd, and, finally, 68 and Lexington." She adds that, as a retired schoolteacher, she "can boast of having taught Joan Moi, mentioned in the newsletter, when she was a mere fourth grader at P.S. 101 Queens" .. Patricia Fagin, '70, has been working in banking operations-customer relations at the Manhattan Savings Bank, 99 Park Avenue, where she is an assistant supervisor; she wants to "tell all Hunter-ites, faculty, etc., that I will be pleased to personally supervise their finances or give them advice in our economically troubled times!!" ... Edith Eardley Coleman, '28, writes from Fincastle, Virginia, that she and her retired husband bought a farm and have 17 Angus cattle, 2 calves, 4 pigs, 6 guinea hens, 2 dogs, and 2 cats! Edith Pohlmueller Hagedorn, '41, is occupations vice president & adv. dir. for a major NYC bank Vera Julia Gordon is Ass't Principal-Administration in charge of pupil personnel services at Washington Irving H.S. -- "still an all-girls school."

HOLD THE DATE! REUNION '76

will be held on

Sunday, May *7* 16

in the NEW

(fully air-conditioned)

Hunter College High School ^A building!

Watch for more details in the next ALUMNOTES

CLASS LISTS

Revised class lists are now available. Special thanks are due to Frances Lewin for her help in getting lists of names and addresses of 1930's graduates. Thanks also to Ruth Ulman and Joyce Hines for their super-heroic efforts to organize card files of names and addresses.

When requesting a class list, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope and include your high school name and year of graduation on the face of the envelope. When sending us the names of other Hunter graduates, please include their current names and addresses, names while at Hunter, and years of graduation, if possible.

HELP WANTED

To help plan for the Reunion, telephone Fanny Casher, 212-OL 5-3085, evenings.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

To save on mailing and office costs, we are not going to bill our members for dues. Therefore, it will be up to YOU to remember to pay the small annual amount that makes it possible for us to help the high school, conduct a Reunion, send out these mailings, and keep our files up to date. If you have not already paid your dues for 1975-1976, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check for \$5.00; an additional contribution would be appreciated.

Tear off and mail to: Hunter College H.S. Alumnae Association
466 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Class _____

CURRENT SURNAME

SURNAME WHILE AT HUNTER

FIRST NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

☐ I enclose a contribution of \$5.00 or more (\$) to become a member in good standing for 1975-76.

Please make checks payable to HCHS Alumnae Assn.