

ALUMNOTES

VOL. 1 NO. 1

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

FALL 1974

HUNTER HIGH TODAY

Floors 13 and 14 of an office building at 466 Lexington Avenue are the temporary home of Hunter College High School. This has been so since 1970, when the old high school building on 68th Street was required for use as additional classroom space by Hunter College. While a permanent high school building is being sought, students and teachers operate in this makeshift location, lacking laboratories, adequate classrooms, and a gym. In most cases, they must travel elsewhere for gyms and laboratory facilities. Paper, chalk, up-to-date textbooks and other amenities are in short supply.

In recent years, standards and policies of admission to the high school have been revised. Boys are now eligible to take the entrance exam, and eighteen young men entered in September 1974. Admission exams are given only for the seventh grade, and the sixth grade applicants for testing must be achieving reading and math scores three or more years above grade level. In addition, about twenty per cent of each incoming class is composed of students who enter under a special admissions program; i.e., by recommendation from their elementary school principals plus academic success in a summer Hunter High School program.

There have been curriculum changes over the years as well. Typing is offered; Latin is no longer compulsory. At the end of five academic years of accelerated studies, a student is eligible for graduation with a Hunter diploma. She may, however, elect to stay for a sixth or Inter-Collegiate Year (ICY), an individualized program of special studies or work, and then enter college, in some cases at the sophomore level. Under this program, students have been working at museums, in research laboratories, on Wall Street, and in theatrical troupes.

There have been changes in student government as well. In addition to the G.O., student representatives on the C.A.C. (Central Advisory Council) have a voice in policy-making and course and teacher evaluation.

(cont'd on p. 4)

*** REUNION ***
coming in June
see story page 3

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

According to our proposed by-laws, "the purpose of (the Alumnae Association) shall be to promote the interests of Hunter College High School in order to guarantee its continued existence as a school for the intellectually gifted, to provide financial support for (the school), and to provide programs for its membership."

Much of the past year has been devoted to locating our membership so that we can fulfill those purposes.

The high school is currently operating under less than ideal conditions (see story this page) in a city that faces a budget deficit of hundreds of millions of dollars.

During the next several months when city and state budgets are being drawn up for the next fiscal year, we will be mobilizing our forces to ensure that the High School gets its fair share.

Alumnae representatives will be testifying at all pertinent public hearings. If necessary, we will launch a broader lobbying effort that could include, for example, a letter writing campaign.

Much of our fund raising activity so far has been limited to Reunion and voluntary dues. While we have not emphasized solicitations, we did have enough in our treasury to present the school with a \$500 gift in November. Campus Schools Director Dr. Bernard Miller said the money was immediately used to purchase paper.

Political, financial, and social activities are expected to increase as the Association becomes better organized.

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ALUMNOTES - published twice a year by the
HCHS Alumnae Association

Editorial Committee

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Dear Alumnae:

Two years ago, a group of us got together to help set up the foundation for this Alumnae Association.

Although we were of widely disparate ages, classes and experiences, we had in common a feeling of great warmth and affection toward the High School and the goal of seeing to its continuance in a permanent home. In addition, we hoped an alumnae association would enable us as individuals to renew, maintain and expand our relationships with a group of active, articulate, intelligent and interesting women.

While the High School does not as yet have its permanent home, we remain generally optimistic. Though many of the tasks of organization have proved nearly overwhelming, your response has encouraged us to continue our efforts. Indeed, the original small group has had the pleasure of seeing our ad hoc Steering Committee expand with the voluntary participation of quite a few of you—all stimulating new associates. All of us hope that even more of you will join us in the exchange of ideas and the implementation of activities.

May I suggest that for the New Year you resolve to come to the forthcoming reunion, to send in current names and addresses of your classmates (imagine trying to locate 10,000 women up to 50 years after high school graduation!), to represent your class at meetings, and also to contribute ideas and womanpower (and money, too, if possible). We promise you a stimulating, rewarding, beneficial experience on behalf of Hunter High.

As always,

Mildred Speiser
President Pro Tem

ALUM-HISTORY

In the two years since small ads in the personal columns of THE NEW YORK TIMES announced the resurgence of the Hunter College High School Alumnae Association, we've come a long way. By word of mouth, endless telephone calls, and the sometime cooperation of the Postal Service, we have expanded our mailing list to more than 3,000 of you, held two reunions and are planning a third, drafted By-Laws, and presented a gift to the High School.

The history of the HCHS Alumnae Association is a brief one. While some classes, notably those of 1928 and 1949, kept together and held regular reunions over the years, most of us have been out of touch with former classmates and the school. However, graduating classes in the early 1960's did form an association but ran into various difficulties, including the disappearance of all of their records and treasured mailing lists when the High School had to leave the 68th Street building on short notice.

Realizing that an organized alumnae association was a potentially powerful advocate for the school, Mrs. Lillian Scheuer and several other parents of high school students conceived the idea of trying to reach a sizable number of former graduates and planned a reunion. Several alumnae picked it up from there and began the organizational work,

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

All alumnae are welcome to attend Steering Committee meetings, held on Saturdays in the High School, 466 Lexington Avenue, between 45th and 46th Streets, in room 1323 at 12 Noon. The following dates have been set for Steering Committee meetings:

February 8: Election of Nominating
Committee; Program Planning

March 8: Discussion of By-Laws

For further information, telephone:

Mildred Speiser - (212) 864-1700, x-922;
Sara Schoenwetter - (212) 865-4741; or
Pat Fresk (212) 532-5623.

'74 REVISITED

The 400 alumnae who attended Reunion '74 last May 4 in the Elementary School building were greeted by President Pro Tem Mildred Speiser, who introduced Katharine Elsenbast Russ, 1910, who recalled with great charm and enthusiasm Hunter in the old days, and Susan Matloff, 1974, whose more recent impressions were equally enthusiastic. Dr. Bernard Miller, Director of Campus Schools, also addressed the group. Then the assemblage fanned out to rooms that had been set up to accommodate 10-year groupings of classes.

Exclamations of "What year were you?", "What was your name then?", "I knew you looked familiar!", and "What are you doing now?" were heard on every side. Addresses, phone numbers and life stories were exchanged as acquaintances were renewed and plans for future get-togethers were hatched, all pleasantly facilitated by a generous abundance of wine, punch, cheeses and pastry. Special thanks from everyone to Sara Robbins Schoenwetter, whose organizational talents and tireless attention made this splendid occasion possible.

ALUM-HISTORY (cont'd from p. 2)

committee meetings and unglamorous but necessary chores that have seen this Association through its formative stages. Among them must be mentioned our "officers" pro tem: Mildred Speiser, who indefatigably attends and chairs meetings; Sara Robbins Schoenwetter, who reminds us of our fiscal responsibilities; and Pat Fresk, Teddy Christon, Ruth Ulman, and Rose Wiesen Reiss, who are dedicated to getting in touch with every possible addressee.

ALL ALUMNAE ARE INVITED TO:

the

Hunter High Fair

in the High School building

February 28, 1975

'75 PREVIEWED

Sunday, June 1, 1975, will be the date of our third Annual Reunion. 2 o'clock is the time and the Elementary School, 418 East 54 Street between First and York Avenues, is the place. (The June-Sunday combination is intended to make attendance possible for those who were unable to come to past reunions.)

The program will differ somewhat from those of previous years. This year we have some specific business to transact; namely, the formal ratification of our By-Laws and the election of officers. (Watch for the spring issue of Alumnotes, which will contain more detailed information about these important matters.)

Gail Grange Berson, Reunion Coordinator, announces that refreshments will be served, and there will be ample opportunity to socialize with rediscovered classmates. From all indications, more alumnae than ever will be attending Reunion '75, so there should be more of your classmates to renew acquaintance with. You won't want to miss it!

TREASURER'S REPORT

We were delighted to be able to make a much-needed and appreciated contribution of \$500 to the High School for the purchase of necessary supplies.

Our expenditures for this year, additionally, have been for mailings, this newsletter, the reunion, ads in a few magazines and newspapers, an ad in Annals, and an Alumnae Award presented at graduation.

It would be most pleasing to be able to report receipt of many contributions since the reunion last May. But to date, financial responsibility for the Association has rested on a limited number of persons. We would like to continue to serve you and HCHS, but this requires money. Won't you send a check to help out? Your help will help us all!

Sara Robbins Schoenwetter

ALL ABOUT YOU AND YOU AND YOU

So many former Hunterites are doing so many interesting things and achieving so much that we can mention only a few of you at one time: Joan Moi, '74, a promising young scientist now at Yale, won two major prizes and a medal at the 1974 International Science & Engineering Fair

June Noble Allnach, '59, is active in the Sweet Adeline organization of Barbershop Quartets ... Maria Muldauer, a famous pop-rock-folk singer, was featured in a recent Sunday TIMES article .. Mildred Newman is co-author of the popular book, "How to be Your Own Best Friend" Marie DeVito, '71, is an assistant producer of test commercials Rita Delfiner, '64, is a reporter for the NEW YORK POST Harriet Halperin Gershon, '58, is a Senior Lecturer in Immunology at the Abakhouzsky Medical School in Haifa, Israel Dillie Grunauer, '50, is an M.D. specializing in neurology Alynn Nathanson, '64, is a Mongolian Language Trainer at Leeds University in Leeds, England .. Mary Bozsis Zlochen, '58, is an assistant bacteriologist at Bellevue Hospital Joan Gottlieb Adoff, '51, is a management officer for an atomic energy commission contractor Adrienne Fine Bank, '52, is a senior research assistant at the Center for the Study of Evolution, UCLA Joyce R. Hines, '47, is a U.N. Population Affairs Officer Helen Olsen, '49, is Supervisor of General Accounting for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Selma Shaffer Cooperman, '43, is a psychiatrist.

We could go on and on, and we will in the next issue. Is your occupation unusual? Let us know what you are doing.

HUNTER TODAY (cont'd from p. 1)

But Hunter High, under the aegis of Principal Mrs. Maria LoFrumento (nee Aguilera), continues to be a school dedicated to educating the gifted. According to Dr. Bernard Miller, Director of Campus Schools, the school's intention is to offer a custom-made program to each student. The innovative curriculum and the commitment of the faculty and the students transcend the inconveniences and adversities of being a "school without a building."

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS (cont'd from p. 1)

Since its beginnings two years ago, the Alumnae Association has: -- held monthly Steering Committee meetings; -- updated and expanded class lists as new addresses and names come in; -- formed a Newsletter Committee that aims to produce two informative issues per year; -- drafted By-Laws, which are enclosed herewith (please read them carefully and mail suggestions or questions to: Hunter College H.S. Alumnae Assn., 466 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017, attn: By-Laws Committee); -- and is planning its third Annual Reunion (see story page 3). It's beginning to look as if the Association is really on its way!

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

NAME					CLASS	
	first	school	last			
ADDRESS					TEL.	
	street	city	state	zip		

☐ I enclose a contribution of \$5.00 or more (\$) to become a member in good standing for 1974-1975.

☐ I plan to attend the Reunion on June 1, 1975.

☐ I enclose \$2.00 for Reunion expenses.

Make checks payable to HCHS Alumnae Assn.

☐ Here are the names and current addresses of some other Alumnae:

Name					CLASS	
	first	school	last			
ADDRESS					TEL.	
	street	city	state	zip		

NAME					CLASS	
	first	school	last			
ADDRESS					TEL.	
	street	city	state	zip		

(Please use another piece of paper for additional names and addresses.)