

# AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/ ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Fall 2001

## Winter Brunch Set

Take a break from winter to join friends at the 2002 HCHS Alumnae/i Winter Brunch. We'll be gathering on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. at Raymond's Café, 88 Seventh Avenue (between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets). We'll have a private dining room downstairs and the menu will include a cocktail, choice of entree, dessert and coffee or tea. The price, including tax and gratuity, is \$25 if paid in advance or \$30 at the door. The brunch is also offered as a gift to those paying Premium dues of \$75. Seating is limited, so mail your check right away, using the form on the back page. (Please note: The brunch is not run as a fundraiser and therefore the cost is not tax-deductible.)

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## President's Letter

*Dear Fellow Alums & Friends of HCHS:*

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of the Alumnae/i Association and personally as well, I wish to express our deepest condolences and concern for those affected by the shocking, tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. These terrible acts touched not only individuals and families in New York City, but the entire United States—indeed, the world. We are encouraged, however, by the world's efforts to do whatever it takes to rebuild New York and restore this great nation.

As I write this in mid-November, the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> are not as fresh as they were in the weeks which immediately followed, although I fear the ramifications will be with us for a long time. For those of you who no longer live in the city, I can tell you that I've never experienced as strange a time as in those first few days after the 11<sup>th</sup>. Everyone here seems to either know someone who was lost in the World Trade Center disaster or know someone who knows someone. We all walked around in a daze for days, never cracking a smile, and tears welled up every time we read one of the posters which were displayed around town about missing loved ones. Life does go on, though, and one of the first indications to me that we, and our city, were going to be okay was the day when the Empire State Building's observation deck reopened on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 10,000 people waited in line to go up.

As always, our top priority is our Hunter family, our alumni, the students, faculty, and administration of the High School. As a community, we appear to have been spared by not losing any alums (as far as we know) and we were fortunate that no one at

HCHS lost a parent, sibling, or spouse in the events of that horrific day. (Sadly, a Hunter Elementary student lost her mother.) All of our current board members are well, though our newsletter co-editor, John Edwards '88, who worked at the World Financial Center (across the street from the WTC), has had to travel to relocated offices in South Brunswick, NJ. Another of our board members, Harriet Sherman, Jan. '49, a retired social worker, spent time volunteering at one of the receiving centers set up for the families of the victims.

In this issue, in lieu of our usual alum profile, we've printed stories of some of our alums' experience with and reaction to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the aftermath. There is also an article about the effect on the high school students, written by Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61, who is a member of the high school faculty as well as the alumnae/i association's board of directors. We are using this issue of the newsletter to launch our fundraising campaign for 2001, which we've conducted in prior years by sending a separate letter. Our board discussed whether we should cancel or postpone this year's fundraising drive and instead encourage our alums to donate to other causes, but in the end, we decided that we should go forward with our campaign. Although we hope that Hunter College will not have to reduce the budget to the High School, it is a possibility under the budget cuts announced by New York City's mayor. No matter what, the fundraising we've done in the past and the way we've earmarked our donations to the high school have gone into enriching the experience of the students. We all have some great memories of Hunter High, and how wonderful it will be if our donations can help in continuing to

*Continued on page 17*





# Letters to the Editor

## To the Editor:

I enjoyed the profile on [American Red Cross President] Bernadine Healy '62 (Summer 2001 issue). I feel like a friend is speaking when I see her on TV.

Jean MOVERMAN Leonard, Jan. '44

## To the Editor:

I, like Bernadine Healy and many others, am very indebted to Barbara Keyser [a former HCHS teacher who died recently]. We kept in touch during the years after high school, especially when she lived in Virginia, and I was deeply saddened by her death. She was the very best teacher I ever had - inspiring, encouraging and vigorous.

Marianne Schuelein, MD, '51

## To the Editor:

I am enclosing a contribution to the Jack McNeil Memorial Fund. We were colleagues in the English Department during the years I taught at Hunter,

1953-1959, and were good friends. Jack was a marvelous teacher and a wonderful human being. It is appropriate that the high school should plan a special project in the English Department in his honor.

Nell COCHRANE Taylor, Jan. '47

## To the Editor:

Enclosed please find a contribution to the Jack McNeil Memorial fund. I have very fond memories of Mr. McNeil, with whom I studied Stendhal's *The Red and the Black*. His enthusiasm for European culture and literature was contagious. He provided much needed elements of *joie de vivre* and joy of study in the generally grim grind of Hunter in the late 1950s. I remember his stories of Naples, which I still plan to visit! Perhaps the memorial fund might go toward the purchase of modern European literature for the school library or some other use that would reflect his enthusiasms.

Jill Becker '60

(Alums may still donate to the Jack McNeil Memorial fund by using the form on the back page and making the appropriate notation on the check memo.)

## To the Editor:

I work at the Museum of Television & Radio (25 W. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, NYC, 212-621-6631). Three years ago I tracked down tape masters in the late producer's attic of a television series that was long thought to have been destroyed by CBS. The series, *American Musical Theatre*, ran on WCBS from 1959 to 1965 and featured an audience of students from NYC high schools who were in a workshop about musical theater and asked questions on the show. In going through the producer's files (the producer was Ethel Burns, a NYC music teacher and music supervisor for the Board of Education), I found a list with the names of some of the student who were frequently on the show. Many of

the girls came from Hunter High—mostly from the classes of 1960 and 1961.

The *New York Times* wrote an article about the discovery of the tapes—which were donated to the Museum and are available for viewing by the public—and I received calls from all over the country from "Ethel Burns's kids." When we did a special screening of an *American Musical Theatre* program featuring Beverly Sills earlier this year, I invited several of the Hunter High girls (and Stuyvesant boys) who were on the series to attend the event and had a great reunion. We have programs in which many of the class of '61 may appear. I would be glad to have guest passes for them at the Museum and we might even effect a little reunion of the students who were on *American Musical Theatre* when they come in for the Hunter reunion.

Jane Klain

## A Good Reason to Attend Reunion

*Below is an anecdote that appeared in the Metropolitan Diary section of The New York Times on October 29, 2001:*

Ellin J. [JACOBS] Cohen was at a Hunter College High School reunion reminiscing with fellow graduates of the Class of '46 when a man entered the room. The women told him he must be mistaken as there had been no men in their class. He explained that his wife, a graduate of the Class of '44, had died. She had told him that when he began to go out again, he was to find a woman who had attended her school. She wanted to be certain, he said, that his next choice would be intellectually comparable to her. □

## Save These Dates

Sunday, February 3, 2002: Winter Brunch, NYC

Sunday, June 2, 2002: Reunion at Hunter College High School

## AlumNotes

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# Alums Discuss WTC Tragedy and Its Aftermath

In lieu of our customary alum profile, we've chosen to print some thoughts of alums about the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the aftermath:

**Paul Haskel '81:** My office, One Chase Manhattan Plaza, is only two blocks from Ground Zero. I had the terrifying experience of watching the South Tower collapse from my office window (which is on the 59th floor and overlooked the towers). Though everybody else in my office had the intelligence to have evacuated after watching the second plane hit, I actually arrived after they had already left and, oblivious as to what had happened, walked into my office. As the tower collapsed, I hid behind my desk and felt my building shake. As I was about to evacuate, security came on the loudspeakers and implored everyone to stay on the floors, as it was very difficult to breathe on the street level. After a little while, the building shook again as the second tower came down. The floor I was on started to fill up with smoke, but it did not get too bad. About a half hour later, we were finally evacuated and I walked home. I am back at work now and my office affords a view of Ground Zero. Obviously we are all going through a hard time. Even at 12 years old, taking the subway to Hunter from Brooklyn, I have always felt very safe here in the city. It may take a little while for that feeling to come back.

**Ellen Germain '80:** It was 6 p.m. in Moscow on September 11 when someone came into my office in the U.S. Embassy and said, "A plane just flew into the World Trade Center." "The World Trade Center in New York?" I asked stupidly. Then I ran down to join the crowd of people gathered around the TV in the cafeteria. Although I was thousands of miles away, I'm still a New Yorker, and I was shaken by the disaster on a very personal level. Every Russian I spoke to for the next few weeks began the conversation by expressing sympathy and outrage over the attacks; the embassy was inundated with sympathetic telephone calls and faxes; and a carpet of flowers and notes appeared outside the embassy. Despite all that, and despite talking to friends and family in NY almost every night for the first couple of

weeks, it's clear to me that by being in Russia I'm distanced from what happened. Daily life here continued on without missing a beat, and the events of Sept. 11 ceased to be the main topic of conversation weeks ago. It's unsettling and frustrating to feel personally distanced from this event, even though I'm deeply involved as a diplomat working to implement our changed foreign policy priorities. Although we've been affected directly in many ways here in Moscow, including massively increased security around the embassy and no mail for weeks due to the anthrax scares, it's not like being in NY. Immediately after the attacks, all I wanted was to be home in my suffering city. It's very, very hard to be far away at a time like this.

**Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz '77:** I saw it as I rode the train over the Manhattan Bridge from Park Slope, where I live, to Rockefeller Center, where I work as a reporter for the Associated Press. It was surreal—squares of bright orange on the sky-colored towers that my two sons had been taught to identify since they were old enough to talk. I had heard, as I dropped my 4-year-old off at day care a few minutes before, that a small plane had crashed into one tower, but now that I saw both on fire, I—and everyone else—knew it was terrorism. Every day for weeks after, I saw New Yorkers weeping on trains and sidewalks—something I had never witnessed before. The faces of the "missing," on posters plastered on

lampposts, billboards and subway stations, still stare out at us, the survivors, as we try to resume our lives. Every conversation since September 11 has been ABOUT September 11. And there are flags everywhere—jewelry, clothing, windows and cars. My husband worked at 90 Church Street, one building north of the twin towers; thank God everyone there got out OK. But like a lot of downtown workers, they are all now displaced, to offices in Queens and Brooklyn without phones, email, computers or their files. I'm lucky. No one I know personally died; it's all one degree of separation—the husband of the PTA president at my older son's school; 12 of the 30 firefighters at our little fire station on Union Street, every one of them worshiped like gods; the brother of a friend, etc. Still, it has changed everyone's lives. A whiff of smoke or a forgotten briefcase in the subway sparks evacuation. A low-flying plane and everyone looks up in terror. I went to the dentist recently and had to show two forms of identification! The library now searches patrons on the way IN, not just the way out. And the still-burning metal can be smelled still as far north as Chinatown. It all makes me wonder: Did the terrorists, in some small way, win already?

**Daisy Alpert Florin '91:** September 11 was my second day teaching third grade in a private school on the upper east side. Before the terrorist attacks

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## Are Your Dues Due?

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





## Alums Discuss WTC ...

*Continued from page 3*

changed the world, my plans for the day were simple and few: to start to get to know my students, to establish classroom routines and rules and to get through a list of well planned activities. For their part, the children were trying to get adjusted to a new teacher, a new classroom, new sneakers, maybe a new haircut. When my husband called to tell me that there had been an attack on the World Trade Center, I felt painfully cut off. I wanted to run home and share the experience with him and my family and the rest of the world. I wanted to watch news, news and more news. I wanted the images. I wanted the sounds. But when I hung up the phone and turned around, eighteen eight-year-olds were looking up at me, wondering what we were doing next.

Life doesn't stop in school, not even for a terrorist attack. I put my game face on and tried to push through the day. But then the parents started coming. A slow trickle at first (*Send Caroline down... Send Robert down... Ashley's mom is here for her*), then a stream steady enough for the other kids to start to notice. I was instructed to tell them that there had been a big accident downtown and, I told these savvy city kids, "You know how traffic gets in New York!" I explained that some parents were picking their kids up early to avoid the traffic. I've wondered since then about the effect of concealing the truth from the children that day but I think it was the right thing to do. Cut off from television and the outside world, we teachers knew so little about what was going on. And I felt I needed to process the information myself in order to explain it to children.

The day slowly fell apart. My well-laid plans for a productive day were quickly scrapped as one by one the children were taken home. Those who remained played cards, chess, drew pictures, chatted with me and their friends. Other teachers and I remarked that the kids probably had the best school day of their lives: no reading! no math!. When the last child was picked up by his parents, I was relieved. I realized then that I had been worrying all day that one parent might not come for his child, not that day, not ever. As I walked out of the school at the end of

that long, long day, the world felt like a profoundly different place. But my kids were fine and, for at least one more day, their world was safe.

Since September 11, our school has been plagued by bomb scares, four in total. The first one was on September 13, our first day back at school after the attacks. The most recent one forced us to close school on Halloween. I can see first the fear and then the anger in their faces as we are forced out onto the street once again, missing whatever activity has been scheduled. I am always frightened when we hear the bells go off but the kids are old pros now. Once outside, they settle down on the sidewalk with a book or chat quietly with their friends as, all around them, grownups run around trying to restore order. I am constantly amazed by their patience, their resiliency, their quiet courage. The world has taught them far more this fall than I ever could.

**Janet LEVY Pahima '76:** It must have been a little after 4:00 p.m. Tel Aviv time on September 11 when another lawyer, recently back in Israel after five years working in New York law firms, burst into my room to tell me that two planes had just crashed into the World Trade Center. My immediate reaction was terrorism, but that goes with the territory when living in Israel. In disbelief, I tried to connect to the CNN website, but it had crashed. We connected to the Maariv website (a local Israeli paper) and saw pictures of the towers on fire. There is one television in the office in a large conference room, and we finally broke up a meeting with members of the Israeli parliament to go inside and watch, in time to see replays of the first footage of the second plane hitting. Within a few minutes, I felt like I had to leave the office to get home and watch TV uninterrupted. On the way home, there were hysterical reports on the radio, and the announcement live that one tower had collapsed and then the other. I refused to believe that the collapse could have been total, until I saw the horrible pictures.

For the next two weeks, I was affixed to the television whenever possible, and unable to concentrate when supposedly at work. During those first few weeks, it seemed the whole world was standing still. There was no other conversation on the street or in meetings or at home. A woman was shot to death in a car while driving in Israel the next

day - it was almost unnoticed in the news. Israel is so tied to NY that we got reports all the time and slowly heard of people that we knew who did or did not get out and it was horrible. I felt like it was the beginning of the end of the world. And I still feel that way. But we are ignoring the end of the world part and trying to go on with our own lives and our own problems and plans.

There was also the irony of people worrying about us here in Israel for the past 12 months, only to have the crack in our view of what is safe. Just because I am from NY every person in my office and in my husband's family came by or called to ask if my family was safe. My family is fine - which is most important, but part of me kept thinking that it does not matter if I know people or not. They are all people I could have known. That's our life. Lawyers and bankers, secretaries, companies. It is pretty weird to say that our hearts and prayers are with Americans whose guards stand outside department stores to check people leaving rather than entering. This was my reaction in June. I came into New York just for my Hunter 25<sup>th</sup> reunion, and the day before had lunch with a close Hunterite that I had not seen in years. She sent me to the World Trade Center in my search for luggage. Across from the World Trade Center, when I walked into the Gap, I automatically opened my bag for the guard to check. He looked at me like I was nuts. Then I realized in New York, they actually have guards to see if anyone is stealing, not to check for bombs. Maybe all that has changed forever now.

**Cheryl Katz '80:** On the evening of September 10, I thought about bringing my kids (2-year-old triplets) to the company day care the next day on Broad Street, two blocks from the Stock Exchange. Then I remembered that I had a museum trip that night with co-workers, so I decided not to. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, after voting in the primary elections, my husband, Nick, and I drove to work down the West Side Highway, him driving and me reading the paper, filling him in on anything interesting. Traffic was light and I figured we'd get in before 9 a.m. At 8:49 a.m. we passed Chelsea Piers and Nick yelled that the World Trade Center was on fire; there was nothing on the radio yet. We pulled out the camera (with three kids,

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# Class of '61 Celebrates 40th Reunion

Helene WILLIAMS Spierman, Patricia Ann Williams, & Leonore Tiefer

The Class of '61, coordinated by Helene WILLIAMS Spierman, and the Reunion committee of: Carol ARNDT Wolfe, Evelyn ECKSTEIN Lieb (as Treasurer), Leonore Tiefer, Jane WALK Meisel and Patricia Anne Williams, celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> reunion on Saturday, September 8, 2001, when its members gathered for a sumptuous luncheon at Quatorze Bis restaurant on East 79th Street. The organizers were overjoyed that over half of our tiny class (originally 137 graduates, plus 6 more who had "Hunter in their bones" although they had left before senior year) had subscribed to this reunion, and the ultimate attendance of 65 justified our efforts. This reunion included many classmates who had never attended a reunion, as well as many who had not come to one in several years. Attendees even came from England, France, Germany, California and Canada. Our Senior Class advisors, Miriam Burstein and Irving Kizner, who attended our reunion for the first time, had a little reunion of their own and held animated conversations with their former students.

The first hour or so of the reunion occurred on the street outside the small restaurant where folks wandered back and forth checking nametags and exclaiming "you look just the same" even when it was patently obvious that 40 years had done the work that 40 years is bound to do. Indeed, that was probably the best part of the reunion with women exchanging their personal history (often with pictures) of the last 40 years, in some instances for the first time. It was amazing that despite the span of time, the universal feeling was that we had all parted only a short time ago. Even more amazing was the similarly universal feeling of closeness among women who, to be truthful, were not necessarily close friends 40 years ago.

Reunion Coordinator Helene WILLIAMS Spierman compiled a 64-page directory, which was distributed to all attending and also by mail. It featured photos scanned from the Annals and current contact informa-

tion (including the all-important email address), and also contained answers to a six-item ("but limit your answers to 100 words each") questionnaire prepared by Leonore Tiefer. Items such as "Describe your accomplishments since our last reunion," "Brag a little about your children and grandchildren," and "Looking back, now, what do you see as the major advantages and disadvantages of your HCHS education?" produced fascinating answers. We have had several of these questionnaires over the years, and the data will make a terrific dissertation for someone someday.

Patricia Anne Williams, former Senior Class president, welcomed the gathering in her characteristically witty, energetic fashion, complimenting us on our bravery in confronting fellow high-school students of 40 years in the past. Reunion Treasurer Evelyn ECKSTEIN Lieb announced that we will present \$5,000 to the high school. Our gift is earmarked for a new conference table and chairs for the HCHS library. Acknowledgments for the large-print photo name tags (Stella Homicki), illustrated song folios (Jane LEINNINGER Holcomb), and reunion mailing and copyediting of the Class Directory (Renée PACHTER Cafiero) were followed by thanks also to Diane (DeeDee) Brenner and Joan CHARLAT Murray for several vintage photographs used in the Class Directory. In addition, Pat read a list of our fellow alumnae whose whereabouts are unknown (11) or in the "might be missing" category (5). Joan CHARLAT Murray made a humorous report on how diligent Helene was in tracking folks down, by recounting an incident in which she was in a ladies' room on the New York Thruway only to hear Helene's dulcet tones behind her inquiring as to whether it was really she (Joan)!

Pat read an e-mail message from Jane Klain, manager of research services at NYC's Museum of TV & Radio, regarding the CBS-TV program *American Musical Theatre*, which ran from 1959 to 1965. Jane, who has made it her mission to unearth, restore and make available to the public segments of *American Musical Theatre*, has also been trying to track down the "kids" who

made up the audience. Among them, from our class, were Claire Harnan, Susan WEXLER Hensel, Judy HODGES Kiriazis, Diane Brenner, Esther KLEIN Buddenhagen, Phyllis Klein and the late Dorothea Beckwith. Claire's name was on a fragment of notebook paper among the possessions of Ethel Burns, the show's producer, who died several years ago, and Jane Klain tracked her down in the spring of 2001 through the Hunter Alumnae/i Association. Since that time, Claire and Susan WEXLER Hensel have been to the museum to view some of the old tapes, which Claire characterized as "an extraordinary time-warpish experience!" Jane has extended an invitation to any Hunterite who attended any of the shows to visit the museum as her guest, whenever convenient. Jane can be reached at: (212) 621-6631, or jklain@mtr.org.

We had a moment of silence for the nine of us who have passed away; and Sharon KLAYMAN Farber spoke, acknowledging her debt to Hunter by reading the dedication of her new book. The last bit of business before dessert (oh, the rich chocolate cake!!) was the presentation of a plaque to Helene WILLIAMS Spierman—"The Laver Rose Award ... with gratitude and affection for outstanding efforts on our behalf..."—which Stella Homicki had masterminded. (Although Stella had been Helene's houseguest over the reunion weekend, she had no idea that this had been "cooked up.") Along with the plaque came a tote bag, which many of those present autographed as a memento. Helene was thrilled and moved by the tribute.

The post-official reunion activities were numerous and varied. Some of us left immediately for different pre-arranged activities. Twelve of us assembled at a different café to meet with Jean Boudwin, who simply doesn't like crowds and feared (correctly) that the full reunion group would be large; and an additional hour or two were spent in further

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# Address of Distinguished Graduate Patricia Anne Williams '61



Left to right: Jennifer J. Raab '73 and Patricia Anne Williams '61

*Patricia Anne Williams '61 was named the Hunter College High School Distinguished Graduate for 2001. Williams is an Acting New York State Supreme Court Justice, who first served in private practice at the firm of Willkie, Farr, and Gallagher and then spent a decade as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District before being named to the bench by Mayor Edward Koch in 1986. An excerpt from her address to the 2001 graduating class given on June 21 follows:*

Forty years ago I sat in one of the very seats that you are now occupying and experienced the same feelings...In 1961, Hunter was both the same and vastly different from the school as it now exists...Because the college was right next door and connected by a passageway, some Senior class students were able to attend college courses in certain subjects during the regular school day. And, of course, the school was all girls then - a fact which I believe made our educational experience an even more special one...Your faculty is at least as superbly qualified as was mine...Your curriculum is certainly more diverse, complex and advanced than that of forty years ago and that fact appropriately reflects the changes and advances

of nearly half a century in almost every sphere of human endeavor...

I intend to challenge you to go beyond the ordinary successes reasonably expected of and by you. In 1961, the major problems of the world were starkly defined: the Bomb, the Cold War, Colonialism and Apartheid, Segregation, Sexual Equality and Freedom - those problems were always seen with initial capital letters and were problems created or left to fester by our parents. The class of 1961 left Hunter secure in the knowledge that we were already well-equipped to confront and wrestle with those problems. We believed that college would give us greater knowledge and fine-tune our minds in the process. We knew that we could and would solve those problems - and we did!

However, we did not totally solve them. In the process of wrestling with the perceived problems of our own age, we only solved the surface issues, leaving the roots of those problems of our own age alive and well and creating new problems which now confront you. So, while The Bomb is no longer the offspring of the contest of the

Superpowers, nuclear power has simply proliferated beyond the original small club. Indeed, the methods of mass destruction are now both more deadly and more easily transportable. The Cold War, Colonialism and even Apartheid ended, but their death spawned the resurgence of old rivalries and hatreds which, in turn, have generated new hot wars and their accompanying excesses. Here at home, segregation ended and sexual equality and freedom were proclaimed. But the old stereotypes, fears, and hates which underlay those problems have survived in new forms and there are new problems: AIDS threatens us all, but especially the entire continent of Africa; new diseases appear and old ones reappear in more virulent forms; our air, earth and water are dirty and the ozone layer is in trouble.

It all sounds pretty hopeless, doesn't it? - but it most certainly IS NOT!!

You are the Future. You are the best and the brightest and that future will be what you make of it. At this moment, none of you have all the tools necessary to even begin confronting the problems of the present in order to create the future that you want and deserve. But there is one tool that you do have - a Hunter College High School education - the basic tool to which you will be able to add all the others that will make you leaders of your future. For that is what you will be - leaders in whatever field you may choose as your life's work.

Virtually all of you are headed off to college, many to some of the finest colleges and universities in the country - institutions where you are expecting to be intellectually challenged and rigorously so. Some, if not most of you, are worried that for the first time in your lives you may fall short of your own expectations. DON'T BE CONCERNED!!! The challenge of the next four years is one for which each of you is superbly equipped. Hunter has taught you how to think, how to study and how to communicate - both verbally and via the written word. Each of you will find that the real intellectual challenge of your





lives was here, at Hunter. It was here that you learned to use and stretch those wonderful brains with which you were born. It was here at Hunter that you began to see and understand the world as a whole.

The next four years will give you more knowledge and information. But information is not enough. The task ahead of you is not merely to acquire another degree and more information. Your real task is to take on the problems that we, your parents, have left unsolved and to find solutions for them - while hopefully not creating new problems. That will require wisdom, not simply information. Wisdom - what is it? The dictionary gives a plethora of definitions: the faculty of making the best use of knowledge, experience, understanding, good judgment, the power of discerning and judging correctly, discriminating between what is proper and improper. I would add to those definitions that wisdom includes the characteristic of compassion. And you will require wisdom in any field that you may choose - teaching, any of the sciences, history, art, law, music, business or something else.

Perhaps your greatest challenge will be to find the wisdom to deal with the seemingly intractable internal problem of race in our society. In the early years of the twentieth century, William Edward Burghardt DuBois wrote that the color line would be the paramount problem of the twentieth century. He was, of course and unfortunately, absolutely correct. DuBois died in 1963 and therefore had no way of knowing that his prediction would carry over into the twenty-first century. In several areas of this country, the population is already majority non-white. That is a trend which will not be reversed. On the other hand, racist hate groups are proliferating at an alarming rate. I can only hope that this trend is one which you will have the knowledge and wisdom to reverse. I believe that you can and will because I look at you and see a diverse group of highly intelligent and well-educated young people who have shared their lives for a number of years together at this wonderful place known as Hunter.

There is every reason for you to feel confident that you can confront and resolve the problems of your time. Each of you will be able to add some small

part to the solution of some one or more of the problems of your future. It will be up to you to develop the wisdom necessary to determine the proper and appropriate solutions and to have the courage of your convictions in pursuing their implementation...You cannot fail to be successful if you lead your future lives as you have conducted your years at Hunter. Hunter has trained you to succeed and you have succeeded - today is the proof of that success. Some, but not all of you, will have lots of money and be rich people some day. However, all of you can be rich in knowledge and wisdom if you use the lessons you have learned at Hunter throughout your lives.

I believe what I have just said because Hunter still affects my life. Hunter gave me a Liberal Arts education, one that was not just a means of passing exams and getting into college. Rather, my Hunter education ranged from 7<sup>th</sup> grade cooking class to basic botany to sex hygiene...One of our teachers had even spent some time in Laos and so we learned a great deal about the history, politics and culture of that then embattled southeast Asian country. Our senior class trip was to Washington D.C., where we met and had discussions with some of the leading political figures of our time. In short, Hunter gave me not just mere knowledge, but also a sense of the world and life as a whole and the means to find my place in it. Every day I strive to use that education and that sense of self and the world in order to produce the wisdom which I believe that I must have in order to perform my chosen profession.

As you know, law is my profession. A friend once told me that being a Judge is a "holy calling" since it requires that one have both knowledge and wisdom and then apply them to the relations between human beings. I believe that he was right. Law is central to America. We are possibly the most litigious nation on earth. Every conceivable problem between two or more people finds its way inexorably into a courtroom for resolution. The challenge for the law is to remain a reliable forum for the solution of many of society's problems. As a Judge who handles primarily criminal cases, every day I confront situations in which human beings are looking to me to resolve problems fairly and justly. Every day I

strive to find within myself the wisdom - the power to discriminate between what is proper and improper by making the best use of my knowledge, experience, understanding and compassion - in order to make the right and just decision.

I believe that the purpose and role of the Liberal Arts education which Hunter College High School provides is to enable one to live a thoughtful, productive life. Such an education should enable you to continue to question and learn and use that knowledge all the days of your lives. That purpose and role has not changed and I trust that it will serve each of you as well as it has served me. I challenge each of you to use your Hunter education to obtain the wisdom that will enable you to confront and find solutions to the problems of today as well as those of tomorrow...

Even if you do not feel it at the moment, these have been the best years of your lives. The friendships you have forged with each other and the mentoring relationships you have forged with your teachers will endure...Hunter College High School is a special and magical place where special people graduate with a special education. You will keep in touch with it and with each other because they will always be your intellectual base and, hopefully, the wellspring of the wisdom that I know you will acquire.

*The Distinguished Graduate Award is given annually after a committee of High School faculty members proposes a slate of candidates, which is then voted on by the entire faculty. Alums are encouraged to suggest names of classmates or other alums who have distinguished themselves. Please forward the name of the alum and a short bio to the Alumnae/i Association via mail or email. □*

**Check us out on  
the web at:**

**[http://heimdall.hchs.  
hunter.cuny.edu/  
alumnae/index.html](http://heimdall.hchs.hunter.cuny.edu/alumnae/index.html)**





## Chapter Coordinators

### New England Region:

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

### Greater Boston:

Nancy Weissman '76 (see above)

### Northern New England:

Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57,  
603-447-1199

### Southern Connecticut:

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

### Northern Westchester (NY):

Marie Ciaiola '45,  
914-276-0159

### Hudson Valley (NY):

Deborah I. Dorwitt '77,  
914-562-0457

### Ithaca/Rochester (NY):

Barbara STAMM Nosanchuk '57,  
964 Cayuga Heights Rd.,  
Ithaca, NY 14850,  
jsn7@cornell.edu

### Washington, DC Region:

Deanna GORKIN Okrent '60,  
301-754-1001,  
d.j.okrent@worldnet.att.net

### Southern Florida:

Edythe WERNER Rishin '41,  
954-978-9824

### Chicago Area:

Andrea BOCKMAN Stack '72,  
847-498-5627,  
stackm@IX.netcom.com

### Texas:

Gail LEINKRAM Folloder '69,  
scooby@ev1.net

### Southern California:

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

### Israel:

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

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

Christine Bergmann '92,  
cbergmann01@alumni.gsb.columbia.edu  
Amy Gong '93, amygong@hotmail.com

**Reminder:** The South Florida Chapter will hold a reunion on Saturday, February 2, 2002 at the Palm-Aire Country Club in Pompano Beach. For further information, please contact Edythe WERNER Rishin '41 at 954-978-9824 or email edy.mpr@worldnet.att.net

*Special note to chapter leaders: If you have any news or notices of meetings or*

## 2002 Milestone Class Coordinators

1952: **Lorraine WOODS Costello**,  
91 East Ridgewood Ave.,  
Paramus, NJ 07652-4026;  
(201) 967-9346;  
lwcostello@worldnet.att.net

1962: **Susan L. Schulman**,  
1501 Broadway, Suite 1613,  
New York, NY 10036;  
(212) 921-4344; slspr@aol.com

1967: *Temporary Contact:* **Ruth Katz**,  
270 Jay St., Apt. 7F,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201;  
katzenchan@yahoo.com

1972: **Penny GOLD Novello**,  
807 Hampton Rd.,  
Woodmere, NY 11598;  
pnovello@msn.com

1982: **Sara Corello, Katherine Frink-Hamlett, Steven Nussbaum MD, & Ronit Setton**; email: xsir@aol.com

(Class members: Please provide your email addresses to Steven at xsir@aol.com)

1992: **Sascha Segan**,  
210 E. 73<sup>rd</sup> St., Apt. 10D,  
New York, NY 10021;  
(917) 696-6251;  
wandererstill@yahoo.com

**Abby Foster**,  
180 West End Ave., Apt. 27C,  
New York, NY 10023;  
(212) 874-5020;  
abbyfoster@aol.com

1997: **Maryanne BUTLER Nelson**,  
403 Grandview Ct.,  
Iowa City, IA 52246;  
mbnelson99@yahoo.com

### 2003 Reunion

1953: **Shari Barton**,  
2920 Upton St. NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20008,  
(202) 362-6524;  
sharb22@aol.com

**Mary Ellen KELLY Lane**,  
20 Brighton St., Candlewood  
Vista, Danbury, CT 06811;  
(203) 743-9325;  
meldanbury@aol.com

## Attention, Graduates of 1937, 1942, 1947, ... 1987, 1992, 1997 and All Multiples of Five In Between: Your Classes Need Coordinators for Reunion 2002!

If you don't already see a class coordinator listed for your year and if you want to ensure that you and all your classmates get the most out of Reunion 2002, why not volunteer yourself to coordinate the activities? The position of class coordinator is most important, but does not need to be unduly time-consuming, especially if you can draft some of your classmates to help you out. It simply involves contacting classmates and encouraging them to attend next year's reunion (which will be held at Hunter College High School, 94th Street and Park Avenue, on Sunday, June 2, 2002). Our office will provide you with all the information we have on file regarding names, addresses and email addresses for your classmates as well as mailing labels so you can easily drop a line to everyone.

We'll also reimburse the coordinator for the reasonable costs of one mailing (postage and stationery). Many class coordinators plan a separate social function from the one at the high school, such as a dinner or luncheon the day before the main reunion, however, that it not a requirement. We also look forward to receiving corrected addresses or names of "missing" classmates so we can update our database. If you are not able to volunteer yourself to be a class coordinator, perhaps you can think of someone who might be willing to do it (perhaps your class president or yearbook editor). If so, let our office know who that person is and we'll try to talk them into the job. If you have any questions about volunteering to be a class coordinator, please contact our office.





## BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

PERMIT NO. 6478

New York, NY

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE:

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## Alums Discuss WTC ...

*Continued from page 4*

there's usually a camera around) and took pictures. At 8:54 a.m. the radio announcer said that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. I called work and told them that I would be late because traffic was being rerouted. I could see a second plane and wondered why it was flying so close to the fire. Thinking, if Nick hadn't been delayed by voting, we would have been under the tower when it was hit! At 9:05 we were diverted onto Chambers Street. We had just crossed Church Street when there was an explosion. Our van shook, debris started flying, and people were running and screaming. Thank Heaven the kids didn't come in with us! I wondered how much insurance we have and who will take care of the kids? We shouldn't have driven together! A man stopped his car in front of us and got out. Nick yelled at him to get back in and keep moving. Our cell phone wasn't working! The police were amazing, and kept the traffic moving. We started driving uptown and hit Chinatown around 9:15 a.m. The sky was still blue there and people were acting as if nothing had happened. We went back downtown and parked at the Seaport. It was unreal. We start walking toward my office. Nick's building is just three blocks from WTC. I got to work and found everyone had been evacuated at my office. No one was at our contingent meeting spot, which we had just discussed last week. Eerie! The Chase branch was closed, but they let us in with Nick's ID. We called our offices and home. His co-workers were still in the building and they were telling everyone not to leave. Then we found out about the Pentagon. We left around 9:50 and then heard a loud explosion. The sky turned black and everyone was running. There was ash, soot and other things we didn't want to think about flying through the air. We covered our faces and ran along the water to the car. We were lucky. We were safe. The car was still there. A normal five minute ride took a half hour but we finally got on the FDR Drive north (south had already been closed, the bridges were closed, the subways weren't running). Lucky again, this was one of the few roads in Manhattan still open. The sky was blue here. People weren't covered in ash here.

Everything looked normal except that people and not cars go over every bridge and walk along the southbound roadway. When we got home at 11:45 a.m., our nanny was in tears, and soon left to walk home to Brooklyn. We took off those clothes and hugged the babies and never wanted to let them go!

**Greg Lichtenberg '84:** When the first airplane hit, I was walking by the Hudson River with my son, Zev. Five months old, he was riding on my chest in a frontpack. He saw almost exactly what I did, but if he noticed the change in the skyline, he didn't show it. My reaction wasn't much more understanding than his. I stood with him on Pier Forty and watched the flames and the smoke streaming sideways in the wind, and the little flashes in the air that turned out to be people, falling, and I remember at first feeling only irritated — a stranger had just told me that a plane had "blown the top off the World Trade Center," but I could see for myself that the top was still there. I told myself this person was an exaggerator and a busybody. I've heard of people who had smart reactions soon after the attack, who could look at the burning towers and think to say, "I am looking at a tragic loss of life," or, "This is an unthinkable evil." I couldn't. And when I did begin to feel the loss, it was the loss of the skyline, the familiar towers and our everyday, walking-the-neighborhood view of them that I felt. It seemed as if someone had thrown a brick through my window, and now I had to explain to my family why there was cardboard bandaging our apartment. This was, perhaps, an overly personalized, inadequate acknowledgment of what had been done, but each time I go outside and look south, I feel the same way. Soon I read a spokesman for the Taliban saying now Americans would appreciate what the Palestinians go through at the hands of the Israelis. This remark seemed to me opportunistic and cynical, but also true, at least of me — I felt much more able to imagine waking up to my local police station blown up by a foreign attack, or my neighbor's house, which I passed every day, bulldozed. Then I read someone in the Israeli government saying that we Americans would now appreciate what the Israelis go through at the hands of Palestinian terrorists. This also seemed opportunistic, cynical, and correct. And today, of

course, stray American bombs are falling on the unlucky in Afghanistan. On every side, through the bravery of those willing to die for what they believe, we have this power to damage the places that mean home, safety, us. All sides have this power, unevenly of course, in different ways and with different justifications, yes, of course; but we all have it, and we all use it. If nothing else, we have this in common. One day, I expect, Zev will ask me why.

**Heather FREIRICH Rome '79:** I have lived in Switzerland and now England for the past 14 years, though my parents are still in Flushing, in the house in which I grew up. On September 11, I had just woken up from a much-needed afternoon nap (my three-year-old daughter being a terrible sleeper), when my husband told me that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. A neighbor across the road had asked him if he had seen the news when he was getting our children out of the car after picking them up from school. He made sure I was fully awake before saying anything. I didn't believe him at first, thought he was referring to something else closer to home when he said something really, really bad had happened. Bolting down the stairs to switch the TV back on, my head was still fuzzy and I seemed to feel nothing, even after the news that the second plane had hit and both towers had collapsed with emergency personnel and workers trapped inside. Only when they showed the footage of desperate people waving, bodies falling and then the firemen in the basement did I finally start to shout at the screen "Get out! Get out!" and then start crying, sobbing from my guts like I haven't done since my brother died over two years ago.

My mother was born and raised in London and had brought us up on stories of the Blitz and being evacuated to the country during WWII. I resolved to "carry on as normal" as the most fitting way to react. My husband would watch the TV sporadically during the days that followed and pass on the latest. I didn't dare look at it until the 6 p.m.

*Continued on page 15*





# 2001 Fundraiser Kicks Off

Dear Hunter High Alum:

Please stand with us in supporting our alma mater, the crown jewel of high schools in New York City. Your continuing assistance is vital in ensuring that the Alumnae/i Association will continue its important role in making major contributions to the High School and the student body. Here's a partial listing of how some of your recent generosity has helped our school:

- **Computer Technology:**  
Continued funding for equipment purchases and staff development programs to enable the teachers to enhance their computer knowledge and incorporate the computer as a learning tool
- **Scholarships:** Continued scholarships for selected graduating seniors
- **Science, Math and Language Labs:**  
Fifteen new microscopes with substage illumination for ninth-grade and AP Biology (eliminating the need for students to share microscopes); thirteen lab tables for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade science room; centripetal force paradox demonstrators, magnets and Friction lab kits
- **Library:**  
New books; new furniture for "soft-seating area" of newly renovated library
- **Other:**  
*Foreign Language Department:* VCR, DVD and television monitor (to play foreign language movies); AP text books

*Social Studies Department:* New source readings for ninth-grade textbooks

*English Department:* Additional set of texts for AP Literature (a second section was added and textbooks could not be purchased with New York State Textbook monies for this college-level course); purchase of blank video tapes for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade public speaking improvement

We hope that you will consider a gift of \$100 or more in support of today's students and faculty. In lieu of cash, please note that we accept marketable securities, too. (Ask us how to contribute these.) Please ask your employer if they participate in a matching gift program. Of course, whatever sum you generously choose to contribute will be appreciated. Your gift to the Alumnae/i Association will not only attest to your appreciation of your high-school experience, it will affirm your belief in the value of a Hunter College High School education for today's students.

We hope you will join us in helping our High School continue "sheltering those who love and serve her well."

Very cordially yours,

*Eve S. Ferdman*  
Eve S. Ferdman  
President

PS. We rely on dues to meet the operating expenses of the Association (including publication of this newsletter). Please take this opportunity to pay your dues (above and beyond your contribution to this fundraising drive) by using the form on the back page.

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Please cut here

**YES! I'd like to help the HCHS Alumnae/i Association support our High School.**

Here's my tax-deductible gift of: ( ) \$50 ( ) \$100 ( ) \$150 ( ) \$250 or: \$\_\_\_\_\_

( ) Please send me information on contributing marketable securities.

Please make your check payable to HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Inc. and enclose a matching gift form from your employer, if applicable. If you can make your gift for \$100 or more, we'd like to thank you by listing your name in an upcoming issue of *AlumNotes*. Please indicate if you would like your name printed as it appears on the back page of this newsletter.

Please target my gift for:

- |                               |                                   |                                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ( ) Computer Technology       | ( ) Science, Math & Language Labs | ( ) Athletic/Extracurricular Programs |
| ( ) Scholarships              | ( ) Visual & Performing Arts      | ( ) Library                           |
| ( ) Wherever it's most needed | ( ) Other: _____                  |                                       |





## Thanks-Yous Received for Alumnae/i Association Scholarships

*In 2000, the Alumnae/i Association awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors and in 2001, three more were awarded. (These monetary awards go to the winners of The Thomas Hunter Memorial Award and The Mildred Busch Award, which have a varying number of winners from year to year). The following are excerpts from two thank-you letters received following this year's awards:*

Dear Alumnae/i Association:

I am honored to have been one of this year's recipients of The Thomas Hunter Memorial Award. I thank you very much for...the accompanying scholarship. Hunter has been with me for over two-thirds of my life, as I have attended the school since kindergarten, and there are few aspects of my development and maturation for which I cannot give Hunter some credit. I have received a wonderful education, in an atmosphere filled with open discussion and active participation that has allowed me to thrive. I have met teachers who have made me think and rethink, and students who will, I hope, remain dear friends and colleagues for the rest of my life. Hunter gave me great independence and, in turn, taught me responsibility. I believe and hope that I

can use the lessons of this great school to make the world at least just a bit better.

I am very proud to have been chosen as a student who "best exemplifies the ideals of Hunter College High School." Hunter has been, is, and will continue to be a uniquely important community to me, and the thought that my name will be on the plaque outside of the auditorium with other distinguished winners of this award delights me and somewhat astounds me, as well...Again thank you so much for the award.

Sincerely and respectfully,  
**Joshua A. Geltzer**

Dear HCHS Alumni Association:

I am honored to receive the generous gift that accompanies The Thomas Hunter Award. I am grateful for this generous award which comes at a much needed time - and I assure you it will be put to good use. Hunter has meant so much to me in these last six years. Thank you for your ongoing support for the school and especially the students. We are all grateful.

Sincerely,  
**Liba Wenig Rubenstein** □

## Fall 2000 Fundraiser Continues to Receive Donations

The Board of Directors of the Alumnae/i Association would like to extend its thanks to all those who sent contributions in response to our November 2000 fundraising letter. This was just the second year for such a fundraising drive by the association and the response was very good. We'd like to especially thank the following individuals, all of whom made contributions of \$100 or more:

### \$250 - < \$500

Yakira HAGALILI Frank '39  
Mary Victoria Robbins '87

### \$100 - < \$250

Diana W. Bianchi, MD '72  
Susan McGOWAN Caster '75  
Patricia BARBER Crais '55  
Judy Goldsmith '78  
Joan GEENSBURG Jagow, Jan. '48  
Rhonda WEXLER Karlin '77  
Madeline May MILLER Lucas '49  
Susan L. Reantillo '72

## Alumnae/i Association Receives Thank-You for June Donation to High School

*The following letter, dated July 2, 2001, was received by the Alumnae/i Association from the former (interim) principal of the High School, Christine J. Cutting:*

Once again, on behalf of the students and faculty, please accept my sincere appreciation for the very generous donation of \$35,875 made by the Alumnae/i of Hunter College High School. The growing commitment of the Alumnae/i is very encouraging, for it signals the strong academic and emotional connection held by many graduates for Hunter. As requested, the funds will be appropriated to the special programs of the departmental faculties as well as specific school-wide projects such as: "soft-seating" in the newly renovated library, support for

Science, Math and Language Labs and the co-curricular and extra-curricular programs mentioned in your letter.

I want to take this opportunity to commend and thank Marge Goldsmith who not only serves as a great resource of Hunter history but a guiding light for the future. Her love, commitment and insight into the Hunter culture will help balance tradition and progress as decisions are made that will bring this highly acclaimed high school to its full potential. The knowledge, experience and success of the Alumnae/i will be an extremely valuable resource as the Hunter community examines its mission for educating an increasingly diverse population of students for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The articulation of

this vision will establish the goals toward which the Alumnae/i Association's generous donations in the future can be channeled for maximum effect.

On behalf of all the students and faculty at Hunter College High School, I want to thank [the board of directors] for your tireless effort in energizing the Alumnae/i Association. Surely, there can be no more dedicated people to Hunter College High School than those who spent some of their most formative school years here. Their investment will insure that the current students similarly have the opportunity for a meaningful and memorable high school experience. □





# Class Notes

**1930s Roxee WARD Joly, Jan. '30** is enjoying "independent living" at the Mayfair in Glen Cove, NY. The residents are well organized into "study groups" - just like school! • **Frances OKUN Mark '39** received a Ph.D. in Sociology in 1986 and did research into alcoholism for the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation until she retired in 1997. She'd love to hear from other June, 1939 graduates.

**1940s Jean MOVERMAN Leonard, Jan. '44** writes to ask, "What happened to the class of January 1944? Does anyone know where Miriam Koblentz, Emmy Numrich or Shirley Cohen are?" • **Paula COHEN Ritter, Jan. '45** writes that her HCHS French teacher, Mlle. Bruyere, worked them hard, but Paula was glad of it when she was in Normandy in mid-September, and was able to thank the French people for all their kind thoughts after the terrorist attacks on the U.S. Paula remembers being in Mlle. Bruyere's classroom on D-day, with classmate Jean Gordon sitting next to her.

**1950s Marianne SCHUELEIN, MD, '51** is still teaching in the Departments of Neurology and Pediatrics at Georgetown University Medical School and seeing patients with neurological problems. She is the President of the Cosmos Club in Washington, only the second woman in the club's 123-year history. Her husband, Ralph Krause, is retired from the National Science Foundation; her older son, Peter, is an orthopedist and a fellow in trauma at the Detroit Receiving Hospital; and her younger son, Steven, has traveled the world and is currently living on Martha's Vineyard while he looks for a job in business development or management consulting. • **Ruth A. Nelson '55** is retired, but still teaches adjunct tennis classes. She taught at Nassau Community College in Garden City, Long Island from 1963-1999 as a Professor in Health and Physical Education. She remains active in tennis and golf; and still skis in Colorado each year. She also enjoys spending time in Florida. • **Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57** and husband Stanley became grandparents when son Jay's twin daughters, Emily Elizabeth and Amanda Paige, were born on May 10. Great-grandmother is **May FOOKSON Scholer '28**, who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday recently. • **Barbara Heller '58** is resigning as Dean of the University of Maryland's School of Nursing, effective June 28, 2002. She will then take on new responsibilities as the School's first Rauschenback Distinguished Professor, an endowed professorship dedicated to the improvement of nursing and nursing education through research and teaching. Dr. Heller will also undertake university-wide administrative responsibilities as Executive Director of a newly established Center for the Advancement of Health Professions Education at the University of Maryland Baltimore. • **Nadine FRIEDMAN Schultz '58** has just retired after 38 years as principal of a magnet school in Stamford, CT. She has accepted a new position as a reading teacher.

**1960s Peggy Blumenthal '63** writes that when her mother, Elaine Blumenthal, passed away last August, she had to sort through old photos and files, which brought back memories of her time at Hunter High. It remains the highlight of her

educational career—with more intense growth than at Radcliffe or in graduate school. Long may it thrive!

**1970s Meryl Kravitz '70** has just returned from Lithuania, where she taught on a Fulbright at Vilnius Pedagogical University. • **Maria Rychlicki '70** has been appointed as the first director of community relations/ombudsperson for the city of Beverly Hills. • **Penny GOLD Novello '72** reports that daughter Jessica, 23, graduated cum laude from NYU in May and is currently attending Columbia University School of Social Work. Son Daniel, 21, is attending Rochester Institute of Technology. And twin sons Jason & Michael, 18, are attending the University of Rochester and Fordham University, Lincoln Center, respectively. Penny is still working with her husband at his business in Brooklyn. And they still live in Woodmere. They are also involved with a hunger relief organization called Rock & Wrap It Up! which gets leftover food from rock concerts at Jones Beach, Westbury Music Fair and MSG, and other venues nationwide, and delivers it to local homeless shelters, soup kitchens, battered women's shelters, etc. If anyone is interested the Web site is [www.rockandwrapitup.org](http://www.rockandwrapitup.org). • **Adrienne MULLER Camesas '74** is entering her 15<sup>th</sup> year in private practice as a cardiologist. She keeps in touch via email with **Robin Bernstein '74**, who is currently living in Sweden. • **Denise Soffel '74** is thrilled to report that her daughter, Johanna Levy, is a member of the HCHS class of 2006. Denise is enjoying the discovery of all the ways Hunter is the same and all the ways it's different, in the 30 years since she attended. • **Marie KORN Cohen '75** is a part-time research associate at the Welfare Reform Academy at the University of Maryland, where her husband, Tom, is also a physics professor. Her two children, Rebecca and Michael, are ages 12 and 9. They all live happily in Chevy Chase, MD.

**1980s Anne HERMANOWSKI Vosatka '82** is living in New Jersey, raising three sons, ages 8, 6 and 1, and working in basic research at Merck Research Labs. Her husband, Bob, is doing research and has a neonatology practice at Columbia Presbyterian. Anne still knits, but says her output is pretty meager. She tries to get to New York City whenever she can, as she misses the city life. • **Gena Alexandra Feist '87** writes to correct her occupation as listed under her sister Nikki's item in the Summer 2001 issue of AlumNotes and asks "no cake orders please." Although Gena did whip up her sister's four-tier wedding cake as a special gift, she is no longer a professional baker as reported. Gena's current day job involves Intellectual Property litigation at New York City's Debevoise & Plimpton law firm. Gena still loves baking, but now it's just a talent to fall back on if the "law thing" doesn't work out. • **Doris Lee '87** has been living in Hong Kong for the past four years. She got married to Sidney Cheung in 1998 and just gave birth to daughter, Leni, on October 9, 2001. Doris would love to hear from her classmates. • **Peter Friedman '88** and his wife Zahava recently celebrated the birth of their

*Continued on page 13*





# September 11, 2001 at Hunter College High School

by Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith  
'61, Chair, HCHS Science Department

September 11<sup>th</sup> began in an ordinary way in our uptown school in a residential neighborhood. Without the continued feedback from radio, television or classroom phones the day remained normal until almost 10 a.m., when word of the World Trade Center disaster began to filter through the school. Our new Principal, Dr. David Laurenson, found out as he passed through the main office and picked up a phone call from someone outside the school asking: "Have you heard...?" The response by the school administration was immediate and organized. An informational message was printed and delivered to all classrooms, so that all students would have the same information at the same time. Students who had immediate concerns about their parents or families could report to the auditorium, where the counseling staff was standing by. Teachers had a calming effect on their classes and students were invited to use department phones to get information about their families. Students loaned cell phones and provided moral support to each other. There was a line of students in department offices waiting to use the phone and there were sighs of relief and "high fives" when kids found out that family members who were in the area were safe. There was a heartwarming sense of support and caring visible on many levels. There were a few teachers who were scared about their own families; and despite their personal anxiety they tried to calm and care for their classes. Luckily, amaz-

ingly and thankfully, the Hunter community was relatively unscathed by personal loss. Two cousins, one in the elementary school and one in the high school lost a mother and an aunt, respectively. It was learned later that one of our security staff lost a cousin, and a member of our custodial staff lost a niece in the attack.

The directives from the administration provided calm, structure and acknowledged the tragedy in our midst. Classes could not go on as planned and there was a flexibility allowing students to discuss, ask questions or see a counselor, as needed. No students were allowed to leave the building. The G.O. set up sandwich lines and food donations arrived from several local delis. A TV was set up in the auditorium for continuous news. Many PTA reps came to school to help with the organization of the dismissal when and if appropriate, and just to lend moral support. The administration was in constant communication with Hunter College and President Jennifer Raab, who demonstrated extraordinary care and concern for our school during this crisis. Plans were made for housing students overnight, if necessary. The department chairs were called together several times for updates on the situation and information about transportation. Subway and bus service was spotty and the private vans to Queens and Brooklyn would not be running. Parents of younger students called school and made plans to pick up their children, beginning about 1 p.m. A sign out system was implemented so that no child

would leave the building unless signed out by a parent. As limited public transportation resumed after 2 p.m., messages were sent to all classrooms to inform the community. Many students living in Manhattan took classmates home with them and many neighborhood families opened their homes to students and parents who were displaced. We had become a cohesive 94th Street family.

Teachers were posted in the lobby to make sure that students were with an adult or had a way to get home. Some of the older students began the long walk across the 59<sup>th</sup> Street or Brooklyn Bridge, and others waited in the auditorium for parents to make the trip to school to pick them up. By 5 p.m., just a few students were still waiting for parents. The Administration and several teachers remained until all students had gone. Meanwhile, plans were being made for the days to come, involving safety procedures, transportation, special schedules, charity drives, cancellation of some out-of-school events, and most importantly, crisis intervention.

On Wednesday, September 12, Mayor Giuliani closed all public schools in the city. Schools reopened on Thursday with a delayed start for students. All teachers reported at 8:15 a.m. and met with Dr. Laurenson and Assistant Principal Jeff Anderson for an update of the day's schedule and availability of special services. The Hunter College School of Social Work sent staff to meet with

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## Class Notes ...

*Continued from page 12*

daughter, Sara Tova, who joins older sister Shoshana (5 1/2) and older brother Aharon (2). They live in Passaic, New Jersey, and Peter works in Manhattan. Peter occasionally speaks with **Ben Dattner**, **Ben Macklowe** and **Richard Lansky**, all from the class of '88.

**1990s Maryanne BUTLER Nelson '97** married Jared W. Nelson in July 1999 and graduated magna cum laude from Brigham Young University in December, 2000 with a B.A. in History. She and her husband are now living in Iowa City, IA where Jared is in medical school; Maryanne works at the College of Medicine.

**2000s Alidia Clagett '01** and classmates **Josh Geltzer**, **David Gopstein**, **Muoyo Okume**, **Ben Kingsley** and **Corinne Schneider** are enjoying their new life as Princeton freshmen. Alidia and David are even in the same Spanish class. Although none are roommates, they are located close to each other in the freshman colleges. • **Graham Pierce '01** is currently a freshman at the University of Rochester.

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





# High School Library Renovation Nears Completion

by Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61

On October 17 the new HCHS library opened following major renovations. The administration and parents association have been working towards this renovation for several years. Once funding was in place through Hunter College and New York City, a library task force was convened, consisting of the principal, librarian, faculty, parents and alums. Several members of the committee, notably former Alumnae/i Association board member Margaret "Peggy" BETZ Perrin '55, have professional library experience.

Goals for the job included better sight lines for the staff, improved lighting, a more modern and conducive study atmosphere and improved computer access. The new design is more open and light-filled as several of the old partitions have been removed and new partitions have glass panels. The circulation desk has been relocated to the center of the space, making the library staff more accessible. A new library office, now with a window, has been

constructed behind the desk. The old office space has been remodeled to serve as a seminar and resource room. The class of '61 has earmarked its milestone gift in the amount of \$5,000 for the purchase of a conference table and chairs for that space. In addition, the soft-seating area will be furnished starting with a separate \$10,000 gift from the Alumnae/i Association.

Space has been rearranged to allow a larger area for computer use. Sixteen computer terminals will be available for students' use, for catalogues, research and net service. The library is now equipped with several extensive online catalogue systems, such as JStor and the CUNY collection. Older students can accomplish higher-level searches with these new materials. The "library classroom" will have a media set-up for VCR and computer projection, when funds are available. Although the total square footage remains the same, the library is "brighter, more welcoming to students and provides a more modern facility" in the words of librarian Diane DeVeaux. In

addition, "Winnebago," a new circulation system for electronic record keeping and book processing, has been installed.

Historically, alums have been essential supporters of and contributors to the library in many ways. Many classes have gifted *The New York Times* index for their year. Alum authors have established many personal collections, and other collections have been established on special themes or as memorials to deceased classmates. These are all prominently displayed in the library.

Although the renovation funds covered demolition, construction, rewiring, packing, unpacking and reshelving of books, as well as lighting, painting, and the new circulation desk, additional funds for new furniture and new storage systems would go a long way to making the library facilities commensurate with the needs, abilities and expectations of our students. Alums wishing to contribute toward the library renovation can indicate this when responding to the fundraising appeal in this newsletter. □

## News From the High School

Of the 170 graduates of the class of 2001, 60 were named National Merit Semifinalists, 54 were named National Merit Finalists, and 23 received National Merit Scholarships. (By comparison, Stuyvesant High School, with over 750 students in its senior class, had 88 semifinalists.) One student won the National Achievement Scholarship for African-Americans. Twenty of the class members are currently attending Ivy League universities.... Longtime faculty members Sue Leung Eichler, Janice Warner and Campbell Austin left the High School at the end of June, 2001.... Nine members of the debate team headed for Mongolia in August to help develop a high school debate program there. Members of the team, the state

champions, debated secondary school and university students in English on a topic far removed from their urban experience: Should Mongolia seek economic alternatives to animal husbandry? Noel Selegzi, the team's coach, is also executive director of the International Debate Education Association, which has helped create debate programs in secondary schools and universities in Haiti, and in Europe and Asia.... Hunter College has assigned an on-site supervisor for the physical plant at the Campus Schools. Patrick Tobin will spend Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the school and will meet with key administrators in a continuing effort to improve the physical facility. □

### Class of '61 ...

*Continued from page 5*

re-union. Even after that we were not sated—some of us went off to a play, others to the Metropolitan Museum. Several out-of-town attendees had arranged to stay in New York for a day or two or three and therefore had even more time for personal, more intimate interactions.

The World Trade Center terrorist attack on September 11<sup>th</sup> came close on the heels of our reunion. Fortunately, we all made it home safely. For several weeks afterward, a sharing of experiences, feelings and ideas via our class email listserv augmented the warmth and closeness we had felt in reunion. Our world has certainly changed, and we will never be the same; but at least we are here together. (Photos of the reunion will be posted on our home page: <http://www.homestead.com/hchsclassof1961>.) □





## Alums Discuss WTC ...

*Continued from page 9*

news and then was glued to the screen for at least two hours. I was 99% certain my parents were not affected - they rarely go to the Financial District, but until I managed to speak to them 24 hours later I got more and more agitated. The first week after was a blur. Shock perhaps. I left NYC in the mid-80s, tired of the threat of crime, high price of apartments and unrelenting hustle that was the norm at the time. After the bombings I just kept remembering the good times, the thrills and chills at Hunter, Shakespeare in the Park on a summer evening and how much I loved the Indian summer days that were pleasantly warm and clear - and perfect weather for those hijacked planes to hit their targets.

The British reaction to the terrorist attacks has been, for the most part, not only very supportive but very touching in many ways. Apart from the Americans killed, the British lost the largest number of nationals in the bombing. Many of them were quite young, under 40, and worked in the financial services industry. No doubt it was a wonderful opportunity for them to get to work on Wall Street. The day after the atrocities all the media were full of expressions of sympathy and outrage from the highest to the lowest in the land. Ordinary people of different ages remembered America coming to England's aid during the last World War and said they could do no less in return in her hour of need. The Queen not only gave the unprecedented order to play "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, but made sure that the news went out well beforehand, so people knew about it and could go and seek a little comfort if they wished. Of course, there were other more unsavory reactions. A smallish number of left-leaning intelligentsia started getting self-righteous, saying America was getting its just desserts for unrestrained capitalism, globalization and neo-colonialism. On September 13 BBC TV's "Question Time," was a disgusting shambles. Normally it is a respected and interesting political program featuring a moderator, a panel of invited guests on a current topic or topics and (supposedly) a variety of

studio audience members with diverse opinions on those topics. The panel was reasonable enough, containing various members of the Muslim community and a former U.S. Ambassador, among others. However, a fair portion of the studio audience behaved like a pack of hyenas, practically howling their anti-American and often anti-Zionist sentiments with little or no attempt on the part of the moderator to maintain some objectivity or balance. (It also turned out that before the program started the producers had been whipping up the audience, telling them to say what they pleased. As a ploy to get good ratings it bombed totally). The ex-Ambassador was practically in tears and I was only able to watch for about ten minutes because it was so sickening. The next day, screams of outrage echoed from every quarter, demanding to know if this was the way to behave towards a staunch ally in their hour of need. Why hadn't the program been edited properly? The BBC issued a weak apology, but I doubt if many people will take it seriously for quite a while.

The Europeans have been more guarded in their reactions. Initially every government was quick to offer sympathy and expressions of shock and horror. Once talk of a coalition began, they all sounded much more cautious, especially France. It is only fair to point out that France has a sizeable Arab and Muslim population but it is rarely totally enthusiastic about anything that it hasn't initiated itself. For me the most somber discovery has been reading about the reactions of the Muslim communities. Although many condemned the bombings it was all rather muted. Several journals have pointed out that for many Muslims, even now at the beginning of the 21st century, their first allegiance is to Islam, then to their family and only then to the country they live (and may have been born) in. It cannot be called treason and no nation expects unquestioning loyalty, that is not the nature of democracy, but I do not think they are not doing themselves any favors. □

## September 11 ...

*Continued from page 13*

students and teachers if needed. The counseling staff was available on a continuous basis. The G.O. began a fund raising initiative for the victims' families - raising over \$2,500 in a few days. A memorial table was set up in the lobby for students to leave a flower, a stuffed animal, a candle, or an expression of remembrance. Each floor in the high school had a large poster entitled "Wall of Grief" so that students could write notes of sympathy, support, anger, and outrage. Older students donated blood at Mt. Sinai. One student organization, Hunter Action Against Hunger, sold candles to be lit at the Union Square vigil a few days later. As students and teachers met and interacted, the ever-present question and concern was, "Are you okay?"

Over the next several days and weeks as the customary school events resumed, there were continued acts of kindness within our community and towards friends and neighbors. School seems to have been a welcome relief to many, a chance to have some return to normalcy amidst the fear, turmoil and grief surrounding us all. On October 11, one month after the disastrous attack on New York and Washington, D.C., the G.O. and the Administration held a special Day of Remembrance as a memorial to the victims. It was a stirring day, which began with a school wide assembly in our courtyard. Activities were developed to provide activism, creativity, expressions of grief, information, and charity. There was some way for every member of the student body and faculty to participate. The diverse program included a Blood Drive, mural painting, crane folding for peace, memorial flower plantings on 94th Street, flag making, fund raising, religious information forum, a film on terrorism, teach-ins, speak-outs and more. The closing ceremony in the courtyard featured musical tributes by the jazz chorus and madrigal group. The entire school sang "This Land is Your Land." It was a remarkable display of unity, pride and solace and a major step in the healing process. □

*"This massive attack was intended to break our spirit. It has not done that. It has made us stronger, more determined and more resolved. With one clear voice, unanimously, we need to say that we will not give in to terrorism...."*

NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani





# Hunter College President Raab Welcomes New HCHS Principal

*At a special reception held October 2, 2001, Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab (HCHS '73) welcomed the new Director of Campus Schools and Principal of HCHS, Dr. David Laurenson. Here is an excerpt from her remarks that night:*

The arrival of new leadership is reason enough to celebrate the Hunter College Campus Schools, but we also want to remind everyone of the role the two schools play in providing remarkable resources for New York City and the country. Each year, fifty students enter the elementary school and approximately 2,500 sixth graders compete for 240 spaces in the high school. In the fall of 2001, these new students joined a student body which has produced chess teams that have won national championships at the elementary and high school levels, debate teams that have won local, state and regional awards, scholar-athletes who have won major competitions in tennis and swimming, and musicians whose orchestra toured the Czech Republic and performed in Vienna and who have won the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Competition.

We celebrate the renewal, rebuilding

and strengthening of the relationship between the Campus Schools and Hunter College. It is a recreation of a family, like long lost siblings reuniting. Hunter College has always been part of a larger family. It is a place where learning to be a teacher and practicing that craft has always been central to its mission. From the day it opened its doors in 1869 as a teacher training school, there were primary, high school and college divisions. A century ago, the High School became a separate entity. Over time, the schools began to move apart. When CUNY's enrollment exploded in the 1970s and Hunter College grew overnight, lack of space at the college forced the relocation of the campus schools, removing the High School and Elementary School students from their traditional academic setting. Finally, in 1977, the campus schools found a new home at 94<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Avenue. This geographic separation weakened the Campus Schools' links to the College and their educational focus on gifted education. Now, however, we have new leadership that is committed to gifted education and to rebuilding the programmatic ties between the College and the Campus Schools. The

Office of the President, the Dean of the School of Education and the Director of the Campus Schools will all be working together. The Campus Schools will benefit in every way from their ties to the College. The College will benefit from the Campus Schools as the traditional role of laboratories for gifted education is renewed and reimagined. In this way, we will revitalize the identification of the word "excellence" with Hunter so that no one thinks of the Hunter College Campus Schools without associating them with excellence.

After the terrible tragedy that struck our city on September 11, we decided to go forward with this event for several reasons: First, we need to go back to our normal activities to educate our children, second, new leadership of the Hunter College Campus Schools is going to allow us to re-focus on gifted education, and third, we should use this as a special time to celebrate a great heritage of the campus schools: creating leadership for the city, state and nation...At a time of crisis for our city, the importance of family has been reaffirmed. So too, we will reaffirm that in our family of Hunter schools. □

## Alumnae/i Announcements

**Sally ROTHSTEIN Lipsey '43** announces the publication of her book *Encyclopedia of Mathematics Education*, co-edited with Louise S. Grinstein, and published by RoutledgeFalmer. Dr. Lipsey is a retired associate professor of mathematics at Brooklyn College. She currently serves as the immediate past president of Women and Mathematics Education, and is a member of the science education committee of the New York Academy of Sciences.

**Diane di Prima '51** announces the publication of her book *Recollections of My Life as a Woman, The New York Years*, published by Viking, April, 2001. In this rich and passionate memoir, influential poet Diane di Prima explores the first three decades of her life. The book over-

flows with tableaux of parties and performances populated by pals such as Michael McClure, Allen Ginsberg, Merce Cunningham, Audre Lorde '51, Larry Rivers and Frank O'Hara. *The Washington Post* says, "There is a generous, almost casually brave air about di Prima that reminds us of the audaciousness of nonconformists in the buttoned-down '50s and early '60s and how alive with artistic and personal experimentation she and her comrades truly were."

**Gloria JACOWER Arenson '53** announces her new book *Five Simple Steps to Emotional Healing: The Last Self Help Book You Will Ever Need*, which will be published in December, 2001 by Simon and Schuster. Gloria is a marriage and

family therapist and has authored three other books: *How to Stop Playing the Weighting Game*, *A Substance Called Food* and *Born to Spend*. Contact her at [glotao@home.com](mailto:glotao@home.com) or visit her website at [www.gloriaarenson.com](http://www.gloriaarenson.com)

**Helene WILLIAMS Spierman '61** announces the release of her new CD, "A Marc Blitzstein Songbook." It's available for \$14.95 + \$2.50 shipping from Original Cast Records, PO Box 496, Georgetown, CT 06829, <http://originalcastrecords.com/upcoming.html>.

**Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz '77** announces the publication of her book *The Girls in the Van: Covering Hillary, St.*

*Continued on page 17*





## President's Letter

*Continued from front page*

produce graduates such as Bernadine Healy '62, the current (now outgoing) president of the American Red Cross, who has been so visible since the events of September 11 (and who was profiled in the last issue of our newsletter) or Acting New York Supreme Court Justice Patricia Anne Williams '61, who was honored last June as the HCHS Distinguished Graduate for 2001. I hope you will consider a gift of any size to our fundraising drive.

On a positive note, some board members (past and present) and I were happy to meet with the new Director of the Campus Schools and Principal of Hunter College High School, Dr. David Laurenson, at a reception in his honor by Hunter College President Jennifer Raab (HCHS '73) held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Laurenson also attended our October board meeting, where a lively exchange was held.

I'd like to end with some good news, by announcing that three of our board members recently became parents: Tai and Judy Wong (both class of '88) welcomed Caroline Elizabeth on August 25<sup>th</sup>, and John Edwards '88 and his wife, Becky, welcomed Rita Marie on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mazel Tov!

*Eve S. Ferdman*

Eve S. Ferdman '79

## Email Us

We love to hear from alums with their news, letters to the editor, address changes etc.

Even if you have no news, please email us your current email address for our records. This is especially important if you're a member of a milestone class which will be celebrating a special reunion next year (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, etc. years since you graduated). When you provide your email address, please let us know if you want it published on our website's email directory or just kept on our internal records.

Our email address is: hchsalums@yahoo.com.

# Remembrances of Hunter High

*by Cing-Yuen Wong '79*

It was at Hunter that I felt free to become the person that I wanted to be. It was at Hunter that I found people, both students and teachers, who made it possible to become the person that I wanted to be. I had no idea what lay in the larger world outside my neighborhood when I took up my sixth-grade teacher's offer to sponsor me for the Hunter test. I still didn't "get it" after I was accepted. However, when I took the Third Avenue bus uptown and saw that the school was in an office building in midtown Manhattan, well, I suspected that this was no ordinary school...and I liked it. It was acceptable to be bright and female and not dating at 12 (which was the apparent norm in my neighborhood). The walking tours for the zeros (seventh-graders) were enlightening and just simply delightful. I learned that I LOVED walking around New York!

In conjunction with my burgeoning relationship with the city was my growing intellectual relationship with my teachers, most of whom could hold their own in a college setting but instead chose to teach us. They treated us as responsible (even when we weren't) people. Excused cuts?! None of the kids from the old neighborhood had those. The smoking bathroom! What a con-

cept. The teachers challenged us to think on our own. I wrote more papers in high school than I did in college! All the subjects became my favorite subject... not that it wasn't painful sometimes. Mrs. Baer's eighth-grade Area Studies class (Social Studies) taught me to work from original sources and to question them, if possible. This came in very handy during my scientific career. We learned to work cooperatively as well as individually. Actually, much of my successful work in science was based on skills acquired during my Social Studies classes.

I liked being free from the tyranny of having boys around. My experiences in sixth grade of how girls generally behave in the presence of boys were pretty dismal. And frankly, it was the same in college, but by that time, I knew that it was behavior I did not have to accept. I learned to be brave at Hunter. During my time there, I had some very tough times within my family. I saw other girls coping with similar situations and it gave me courage to thrive. I learned that I had choices and with the help of good friends I grew up. And I still depend on those dear friends today; even when the time between visits sometimes stretches into years. □

## Announcements ...

*Continued from page 16*

Martin's/Dunne, 2001. Beth, a reporter for Associated Press, covered Hillary Clinton's Senate election campaign for nearly two years and chronicles that time in this new book. Gail Sheehy, author of *Hillary's Choice*, has said, "Just like *The Boys on the Bus* did a generation ago, *The Girls in the Van* gives us an intimate portrait, upfront and personal, of a major political campaign." Although soon-to-be-Senator Clinton dominates the story, Harpaz also details how reporters cope with the absolute boredom

of hearing the same few speeches months on end and how she tries to have a normal home life for her two small children while working a time-consuming job.

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

## Don't Forget....

Our annual Winter Brunch will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2002 at Raymond's Cafe in NYC. Please join us for an afternoon of camaraderie and warmth. (See page 1 for details.)





## In Memoriam

**Edythe E. Friend '34** passed away on August 5, 2001. She received a BA from Hunter College and was retired from a position at Credit Suisse First Boston Corp.

**Nancyann WOODARD Graham '44** died of liver cancer on September 24, 2001, in Falls Church, VA. She was a graduate of Cornell University and had worked in radio and television in New York City. Early in her career she hosted a radio quiz show called "Ask Ella Mason." She was later a researcher for an NBC radio documentary series on political and social current events and in the 1950s, she was the on-camera food editor for NBC's "The Home Show." In the early 1960s she played the character "Miss Nancy" on the children's television show "Romper Room," produced in Baltimore.

**Ingeborg "Inge" Hirschfeld '44** died on October 24 after a long struggle with breast cancer. She had a BA from Queens College and a Masters in Public Health from Columbia, but was proudest of her diploma from Hunter High. For her, it represented a special achievement because she competed successfully for admission only two years after learning English in an accelerated program for immigrants. She attended her class's 50th reunion in 1994 and spoke often of the deep feelings of sisterhood she derived from that experience. She never married or had children, instead choosing to work most of her life in health administration, primarily at Columbia University and Montefiore Hospital. She also delved deeply into the performing arts, missing very few theater, opera, concert or dance events in New York City

and traveling widely to enjoy these experiences in other countries.

**Phyllis BREINDEL Siegelman, Jan. '47** died on June 22, 2001, after a long and courageous struggle with cancer. Her Hunter friends, especially the two surviving members of the "Four Musketeers"—Pat (Joan) ALTMAN Frank and Dorrit Leipzig—will miss her greatly.

**Edith Marion SCHLEISSNER Nathan '49**, born May 1, 1931, in Prague, Czechoslovakia, died peacefully in her sleep at Mission Hospital on July 28, 2001, after a brief illness. Edith was a two-term secretary of the LW Duplicate Bridge Club, past president of the Aquadettes and recently assistant supervisor at the MAC Learning Center. Edith attended Hunter College, graduating with the class of '53 and also obtained her MS there in 1971 in vocational counseling. She retired as district manager after 27 years service in the New York State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. She is listed in *The National Distinguished Service Registry of Medical and Vocational Rehabilitation of 1987* and received numerous awards for her services. Edith is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, Herbert, her son, Edward, and her daughter, Beverly Bowen. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in Edith's memory will be appreciated to Temple Beth El, 2A Liberty, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 or to the donor's charity of choice.

**Judith "Judy" LEVIN Sheehan, Jan. '51**, of Weston, CT, died of cancer on October 6. She was a graduate of City College of New York and went on to teach elementary school in Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crown Heights

before moving to Connecticut in 1962. She and her husband, Patrick, raised five children together and were enjoying spending time with their six grandchildren. The family suggests that donations in her memory be directed to the Save the Children Federation.

The Alumnae/i Association has also been advised of the passing of the following individuals: Grace Gordon and Esther WENDEL Shepard Carnevale '36.

Retired HCHS Guidance Counselor Irene C. Dabney died at her home on June 30, 2001, at 80 years of age. She had battled heart problems for years. From September 1968 to February 1984, Irene counseled many students of Hunter High who were inspired by her warmth, caring manner and love for them. Irene was a counselor in New York public schools before coming to Hunter High. Upon her arrival, her sparkle and enthusiasm for people quickly affected the entire faculty. She loved people and urged those she interacted with to always see the best in others. Irene was a remarkable woman, a person who gave much to Hunter High, her community and the world around her.

Retired HCHS teacher Joan McCarthy O'Malley died on October 21, 2001 after a long illness. As a member of the Social Studies Department from the early 1960s until the late 80s, she inspired decades of students with her integrity, scholarship and dedication to the historian's craft. She served at the Hunter community in countless positions such as grade advisor, student government advisor and union chapter chair as well as treasured friend and mentor to new teachers.





## First Ever HCHS Gala Event is Planned

Ben Dattner '88 is currently collecting ideas for an event, to be held in the spring, to raise funds for Hunter High School. So far, people have suggested having a dinner, a concert, and/or a silent auction. If you have any suggestions for events or venues, if you would be interested in being on the event committee, or if you have goods or services that you could contribute to a silent auction, please give Ben a call at 212-501-8945, or e-mail him: [dattner@dattnerconsulting.com](mailto:dattner@dattnerconsulting.com).

## Message from the Editors

From our perspective as editors, this newsletter "writes itself." The truth is, it is written by all of you - the alumnae/i of HCHS. We encourage your submission of news and letters, and if you have suggestions of items you'd like included in future issues, please let us know. We're easily accessible by email to [hchsalums@yahoo.com](mailto:hchsalums@yahoo.com) or by mail to: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021. Address changes can also be emailed or mailed to us so there's no interruption in your receipt of *AlumNotes*.

## Memorial Fund Established for Jack McNeil

After we reported in our Fall, 2000 issue that retired English teacher Jack McNeil had passed away in September, 2000, a number of alums requested that we establish a memorial fund to accept donations in his name. We have now done so and anyone wishing to make a donation to this fund should send a check to the alumnae/i association with a notation - Jack McNeil Memorial. We will collect the funds and then forward them to the English Department at the High School to be used for a special project, as yet undetermined, in memory of Mr. McNeil. Remember, the alumnae/i association is a 501(c)(3) and therefore all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

# AlumnaGrams

Sylvia FREIMAN Appelbaum, Jan. '35 would like to hear from fellow classmates or teachers. Please call 845-292-5365.

## DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE TO SEND?

Send your 135-character AlumnaGram to thousands of Hunterites for \$10. Add another \$10 for more than 135 characters; a maximum of 270 characters total is allowed. Send in your message now. Use a separate piece of paper and PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!

YES! I want to send an AlumnaGram. Here is my check for \$10 for every 135 characters.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc.

Mail to:

HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc.

Box 373, Hunter College

695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021

## Calling All Alum Authors

If you are a published author, please email us ([hchsalums@yahoo.com](mailto:hchsalums@yahoo.com)) or drop us a line by mail, listing the titles and publishers of all your books. Although we currently have this information for some of you, we'd like to make sure we have a definitive listing. At some point in the future, we'll post it on our website as a reference for all alums. (If you responded to this request af-

ter our last newsletter, you do not need to re-submit.)

Please consider donating a copy of your book to the HCHS Library, where it will be identified in a special collection of books authored by alums. The mailing address for the library is: Hunter College High School Library, 71 E. 94th Street, New York, NY 10128. □

## HCHS Merchandise Helps You Display Your School Spirit!

The Alumnae/i Association offers four different logoed items: mugs, teddy bears, aprons and T-shirts, so you can display your school spirit for all to see. Our teddy bears are soft and cuddly and sport an HCHS embroidered turtle-neck sweater; our T-shirts are purple cotton, Beefy Hanes; our 2-pocket aprons are inscribed with "Gifted Cook" and our insignia; and our mugs are super for all your hot beverages. One



alum we know liked her teddy bear so much, she bought four more for her grandchildren. Another recently wrote, "The HCHS Gifted Cook apron is SUPERB! I wear it when all my family are together and they think it's great. It's well-made and gives plenty of coverage." Prices and order information are on the form on the back page and shipping and sales tax (if applicable) are already included in the price.



Hunter College High School  
Alumnae/i Association, Inc.  
Hunter College, Box 373  
695 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**YES! I want to be a member in good standing of the  
Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc.**

*Please send us this entire page. Jot down your news for Class Notes and make any necessary changes or corrections to your name and address in the area above. Please also provide the following information:*

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**DUES:**

☐ Classes of '97 and earlier \$30  
☐ Classes of '98-'00 \$15  
☐ Class of '01 FREE  
☐ Senior/Fixed Income \$20

☐ **WINTER BRUNCH** \$25

☐ \* Premium Membership \$75

\*Includes choice of one: Entry to Winter Brunch / T-shirt / 2 mugs / Teddy Bear / Apron. Please indicate choice and size, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ (The value of your gift will decrease the amount of your contribution which is tax-deductible; you may also choose to give your entire contribution to the Assn.)

☐ **CONTRIBUTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

☐ Adult T-shirt: \$21 Circle Choice: S(34-36) M(38-40) L(42-44) XL(46-48) XXL(50-52)  
☐ Child's T-shirt: \$15 Circle Choice: XS(2T-4T) M(10-12)  
☐ Coffee Mug \$11  
☐ Teddy Bear \$24 Circle choice: Light Brown Dark Brown Midnight Blue Gray  
☐ Apron \$20

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

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