

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/ ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Summer 2001

REUNION 2001

Reunion 2001 was held at Hunter College High School on Sunday, June 3rd, with over 250 alums and guests in attendance. Forty alums hailed from classes prior to 1951, while the two 50-year classes (January and June) made a showing of 40 women each. The 25th year class (1976) brought out 33 members, while the class of 1981 also made a good showing with about 34 members. Summaries of how each milestone class celebrated can be found beginning on page 6.

The day's program began at 10 a.m. with a continental breakfast and individual class gatherings. The next item on the agenda was the general assembly, where all classes gathered in the auditorium for a short program. Speakers included the Alumnae/i Association's president, **Eve S. Ferdman**

'79, treasurer, **Joan D. Rosenthal** '72, vice president and HCHS Science Department Chair, **Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith** '61, and representatives of the milestone classes. At the end of the assembly, there was a drawing for the raffle of a beautiful, hand-made quilt, kindly donated by **Charlotte OSCAR Peslak, Jan. '51**. Retired HCHS language teacher **Jacqueline Wahl** picked the winning ticket for **Phoebe SIEGEL Greenberg, Jan. '51**. Over \$300 was raised by the raffle, which will be donated to the High School as part of the gift of the class of January, 1951.

Treasurer **Joan D. Rosenthal** '72 announced that thanks to the on-going generosity of alums, over \$70,000 had been donated to the High School in the association's fiscal year from 7/1/00-6/30/01. She requested all

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alums:

Thanks to all who made Reunion 2001 such a success! I was thrilled to meet and greet so many of you who attended, along with various faculty members such as **Jacqueline Wahl** (ret.), **Sue Eichler**, **Francine Salzman**, **Dr. Audrey Maurer** '51, **Eva Abbamonte** '81 and **Bobbie BRICKMAN Bremmer** '76. I would especially like to thank board member **Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith** '61 and our office manager, **Marge KOLB** '78, for their time and energy in planning and organizing this year's festivities, as well as all the volunteer class coordinators, who did such a great job contacting their classmates and planning extra get-togethers and activities. We are also grateful to our crew of alum volunteers who helped out on the day in a variety of ways—particularly with check-in and merchandise sales. All attendees enjoyed the wide variety of delectables at the buffet brunch, but

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Welcome Alums of 2001!

With this issue of *AlumNotes*, we welcome almost 200 new members of the Alumnae/i Association—the graduates of the class of 2001! We're glad to have you join us and we wish you all the best with your post-high school endeavors. The Alumnae/i Association publishes this newsletter four times per year in an attempt to keep our alums informed about each other as well as our alma mater. We sponsor several get-togethers during the year, with our largest undertaking being the annual Reunion each June. Please keep us informed of your whereabouts so you can continue to receive our mailings. You can call, email or snail mail us with your news and address updates. If we can ever be of help to you in any way, please don't hesitate to call on us. ☐

Save These Dates

Sunday, February 3, 2002: Winter Brunch, NYC

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



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I recently received the Winter/Spring edition of *AlumNotes* - it was the best issue I've read in quite some time, although it contained the sad news that one of my high school friends, Jenna Felice '94, had died. To this day, whenever I try to put into words the definition of the feeling of helplessness, I remember her telling me about her personal and family troubles and being powerless to provide even much comfort, let alone actual help.

I was also saddened by the continued poor showing from my fellow classmates and generation, in their lack of generosity [to the association's fund raising efforts]. I give what I can despite outstanding student loans, because I believe Hunter has an important mission, at which it excels; it helped to "form" me far more than I feel my undergraduate alma mater did. Thus, while both receive my donations and fond remembrances, Hunter receives the lion's share. I remember a time when money was not as plentiful - when some classmates ate at Three Guys, while others ate in the cafeteria, when a lucky few could walk to school from Park Avenue homes, while others rode the subway or bus from who-knows-where. Where is their sense of responsibility and obligation now?

Jason OFFENHARTZ '93

To the Editor:

I don't believe you receive any letters from graduates of 1924, so I am sending one - that's 77 years ago. My junior high school class at P.S. 10 (or was it 110?) in Harlem was considered so exceptional that we were admitted to Hunter High in our sophomore year without taking an entrance exam. I graduated before my 16th birthday and then went to Hunter College. Immediately after college, where I had enrolled in Hunter's first journalism course, I decided not to teach, but to become a journalist. I did that for several years on the now defunct *Brooklyn Eagle*, a distinguished newspaper in its day. Eventually, through a series of accidents, I became an

elementary school teacher. I kept my journalism skills by working part-time in the public relations field. I haven't accomplished anything spectacular - I think my only claim to fame was having won a contest in the *New York Post* for the best review of a John Steinbeck novel - *The Moon Is Down*. I'm a culture vulture - enjoying the theater, museums, lectures, and my "intellectual" passion is bridge, which stimulates my memory and my brain in general.

I attended my 1928 Hunter College reunion in 1998 and surprisingly, a few of us were still around and in fine fettle. I enjoy reading *AlumNotes* but I've never come across a familiar name.

Janet WHITE Loeb '24

To the Editor:

Three cheers for Judith SEGAL Zabar, Jan. '50 for her final sentence (in *Remembrances of Hunter High*, Winter/Spring 2001). Yes! A woman's confidence, a respect for excellence and critical thinking, and the discipline of hard work are all special gifts from Hunter.

Natalie KRAUSS Halprin, Jan. '38

To the Editor:

Cynthia Ozick, Jan. '46 (*Alum Profile*, Winter/Spring 2001) was my classmate! I started in September, 1943 in the 10th grade and graduated in February, 1946 (thanks to 4-year German, French, Italian and Latin Regents) and went on to Stanford University, where I got two degrees in 3 1/2 years. I love Cynthia's writing and she was the all-time favorite of Gordon Lish, Knopf editor and writing teacher, with whom I took writing seminars after the publication of my novel, *Indiscretions*, in 1979.

Like Cynthia, I am the happy product of the HCHS speech clinic, but my teacher was Miss Bush. Since English was my eighth language, and my parents and I lived in Elizabeth, NJ, as a natural mimic, I sounded like the characters on *The Sopranos* until Miss Bush cured me in three months. Without her help, I would have been a

pariah at Stanford and probably would not have been able to pursue my career in corporate public relations. I also have fond memories of HCHS teachers: Miss Pickwick in Science, to whom I owe my love of flying; Miss Croninn, who furthered my lifelong love of history; Mrs. Reuss of the red dress, who made my cheeks match her dress when she forced me to sing a solo!!! I was thrilled to read Cynthia's brief HCHS memoirs. My profile is on the HCHS Holocaust Survivors website (<http://business.virgin.net/er.kugler/hchs/index.htm>).

Evelyn KONRAD, Feb. '46

To the Editor:

I wish to express my gratitude to Barbara Keyser (In Memoriam, Fall 2000 issue). She was an inspiring teacher, demanding our best and giving

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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 heartening. We'd like to especially thank the following individuals, all of whom made contributions of \$100 or more:

\$100 - < \$250

Jonathan Alan Arak '83
Eve Ida Barak '65
Susan Majors Battley '68
Bruce Cadenhead '82
Mimi Eng '84
Barbara FASKE Grant Zane '49
Rachel Rita Elfie Green '60
Nora Taylor Jaffe '63
Gladys Balbus Lipkin '42
Maria LoFrumento (retired Principal)
Myrna Manners '74
Jeffrey Mass '82
Carmen Mendez '74
Rosanne Olken '94
Miriam Sandberg Pellman '47
Margaret Betz Perrin '55
Sarah Schneewind '82
Dale Olsen Tritschler '83

Letters...

Continued from page 2

us her all. Ms. Keyser opened our eyes to the real world, as she led us, in white gloves, to Washington D.C., beginning the Washington Seminar tradition. She and the Social Studies Department encouraged us to participate, to change the world, to reject traditional limits.

I am sorry that I didn't write this letter in her lifetime. And so, I wish to honor and recognize those whose lives meant so much to me and hope that others will do the same. Thank you Mrs. Kreiser, Mr. Kizner, and Dr. Karp, to name just a few.

Doris MEIBACH Wallace '62 □

New Director of Campus Schools Named

In April, Dr. David Laurenson accepted the position of Director of the Campus Schools and commenced work on August 6th. Dr. Laurenson was born in New Zealand, graduated from the University of Auckland and then moved to the U.S. at the age of 22. He pursued graduate studies here, eventually earning a Ph.D. in education from the University of Arizona. For the past seven years, he has served as the executive director of the Alabama School of Mathematics and

Sciences, a competitive boarding school for superior math and science students, in Mobile, Alabama. Dr. Laurenson intends to develop a mission statement for the school, increase communication and team-building and create a short-term strategic plan to establish goals. He also feels it is important to make Hunter more well known in New York and plans to get involved with the city's political and other influential people with the hope of raising more funding for the school. □

Brief History of the HCHS Alumnae/i Association

In 1972, small ads were placed in the *The New York Times* announcing the formation of the Hunter College High School Alumnae Association (the/i at the end of Alumnae was adopted in the 1980s after the graduation of the first men). This association followed on the heels of one which was formed in the 1960s which subsequently folded due to financial and other difficulties, including the loss of their records when the High School moved out of its former location on 68th Street.

The new association was conceived by several parents of students of the High School who realized that an organized association of alums could be a powerful advocate for the

school. A reunion was planned and several alums picked up on the work from there. In 1974, the first issue of *AlumNotes* was published and mailed to 3,000 alums. By-laws were passed and the first Officers (Mildred SPEISER, Jan. '49, Rose WIESEN Reiss '60, Sara ROBBINS Schoenwetter '65, Mary DiPERNA '70, Pat FRESK '54, and Susan SCHIFFRES Nachamie '59) were elected at Reunion '75, which was attended by more than 400 alums.

Today, the association has its own office (donated by and located at Hunter College), maintains a mailing list of over 9,500 alums, publishes a quarterly newsletter and has a part-time Office Manager. □

Are Your Dues Due?

Your dues expiration date (MONTH/YEAR) is printed above your name and address on the mailing label on the back page. All alums are encouraged to pay dues, but payment is not required for membership in the association. We utilize dues monies to help run our office, print and mail four issues of *AlumNotes* per year (costing between \$6,500 to \$7,500 per issue) and prepare for our yearly reunion. Contributions above and beyond dues are also encouraged and are funneled to the High School several times per year. Dues are good for one year from the date on which they are received. If you have any questions about your dues status, please feel free to contact our office. *Remember, the Alumnae/i Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; therefore, dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.* We also accept gifts of marketable securities (email us to ask us for transfer instructions) and we are eligible for matching gifts from employers. □



Alum Profile - Bernadine Healy '62

by Tai Wong '88 & Judy Chin Wong '88



"A Red Cross volunteer and trained lifesaver in every household, no more blood shortages and new programs that address the humanitarian needs in American communities" are the ambitious goals that Dr. Bernadine Healy, President and CEO of the American Red Cross, has set for herself and the ARC. Before succeeding Elizabeth Dole in September, 1999, at the helm of the American Red Cross, Dr. Healy was Dean of the College of Medicine and Public Health and Professor of Medicine at Ohio State University.

Leading the American Red Cross is the culmination of a long and distinguished career in medicine and public health for Dr. Healy. She was appointed by President George Bush in 1991 as Director of the National Institutes for Health (NIH), the federal agency which is the major funding source of biomedical research at universities and hospitals nationwide. There she oversaw 20,000 staff members with an annual budget of \$11 billion. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Healy served as chair of the Research Institute of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Dr. Healy was appointed Deputy Director of the Office of Science and

Technology Policy by President Reagan in 1984. From 1976-1984, Dr. Healy was professor of medicine and cardiology at the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Healy has also served as President of the American Heart Association and on the Board of Overseers of Harvard University.

At HCHS, Dr. Healy was her class valedictorian and went on to graduate summa cum laude from Vassar in 1965 and cum laude from Harvard Medical School in 1970. She is the author or co-author of over 220 peer-reviewed manuscripts in cardiovascular research and health and science policy. She is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Women's Health* and author of *A New Prescription for Women's Health; Getting the Best Medical Care in a Man's World*, published in 1996. In 1997, she became medical consultant to CBS News and appears several times a week commenting on health, medical and public safety issues. She has won numerous awards, including the Charles A. Dana Foundation Award for exceptional leadership in the strategic direction of the NIH, *Glamour* magazine's 'Woman of the Year', Sara Lee Frontrunner Award, Humanitarian of the Year (1997) by the American Red Cross and Democracy In Action award from the League of Women Voters.

The second of four daughters, all HCHS alumnae(!), Dr. Healy credits Hunter College High School as "having had an enormous bearing on me and my life." Hunter was a place that "valued individuality and achievement" and where life was purely abstract and theoretical. Hailing from Long Island City, she rode the BMT and IRT to 68th Street and Lexington Avenue. Dr. Healy fondly recalled her first week in homeroom where one of the "gals" who had been there since 7th grade

(Healy joined in the 9th) asked where she was from. When she replied parochial school, the girl laughed and said, "We are a parochial school too, a Jewish one!" Hunter was quite heavily Jewish, a fact not lost on Dr. Healy's father who appreciated the emphasis that people of Jewish faith placed on education.

Dr. Healy's fondest memory of Hunter was of the late Barbara Keyser, a social studies teacher who later became headmistress of the Madeira School in Washington, D.C. "She was a true inspiration, the way she taught and cared about the girls individually," Healy remembers. "All the teachers were great, but she stands out...she really respected intellect and creativity," Healy adds. The fact that every teacher had a sense of pride in what their students could accomplish created a special and inspirational environment at Hunter. Even now, she maintains that her most challenging accomplishment was graduating first in her class at Hunter. "(I have) never been surrounded by so many smart people who were so focused on intellectual development," Healy notes. It was a place where Kierkegaard was discussed in the hallways, quite a change from parochial school where she got in trouble with the priests for reading banned books by authors like Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. "I fit right in because I was an egghead kind of kid," Healy quips. She was proud to be 'a Hunter girl'—a special kind of gal who read *The New York Times* every day, discussed key political issues and elevated academics over dating.

Healy's decision to matriculate at Vassar on full scholarship was influenced by Ms. Keyser, who was an

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Healy...

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alumna—"She told me so many great things about Vassar." Also, her science teacher, Ruth Lilienthal advised that she might not fit in at Radcliffe. "In retrospect it was the right decision, I was a social geek," she related. After graduating summa cum laude from Vassar, she did, however, eventually accept a full scholarship to attend Harvard Medical School. As for her choice of profession, she half-jokingly explained that "I decided to become a physician after deciding I wouldn't be a good nun."

Her advice to current Hunter students: Don't aspire to prominence or external success. Do what you enjoy, what you think will make a difference and don't let anyone talk you out of it. "Life is not a narcissistic experience—I truly believe that every one of us is on this earth to do some good," she advises. "Don't be defined by your resume, but rather by what you have tangibly accomplished in a lasting way." Though her career to date includes several presidential appointments and high profile positions in some of the nation's most prominent medical research institutions, Dr. Healy holds the opportunity to serve the great

noble institution of the American Red Cross in special regard. "The American Red Cross, born on the battlefields of the Civil War, is about people helping people—about generous, strong and decent people bound by beliefs beyond themselves."

While she would indeed like to see a Red Cross volunteer in every household, she makes a special plea for perhaps the most important gesture of selflessness: donating blood. "The safety and availability of America's blood supply is a top priority of the American Red Cross. We are committed to ensure that safe blood is available whenever and wherever needed. As stewards of the blood supply, the Red Cross and other blood centers have the obligation to safeguard this precious national resource. We all expect blood to be there for us, but barely a fraction of those who can give do," she chides. The necessity to screen for HIV and, more recently, for variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (the human form of mad cow) combined with an ambitious program at universal leukoreduction—eliminating white blood cells that cause adverse reactions after transfusion—has made supplies tighter and more expensive. Healy reminds us of Edward R. Murrow's famous words: "You have fourteen pints, you can spare one." □

News From the High School

Social Studies teacher Irving Steinfink left in June after 31 years at the High School. He's off to rural Massachusetts to "live in the woods, meditate and take photos".... Fifty-four seniors made it to the finalist round of the National Merit scholarship program.... In March, Dr. Rosamund Rhodes, an Associate Professor of Medical Education and the Director of Bioethics Education at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, spoke to biology students as part of science teacher Tobie Brandriss' Biography Project.... The last ever "official" class was held at Hunter in June. Five to ten minutes will be added to another period to allow for announcements and distribution of information that students used to receive in homeroom. The change came about because of a new state law mandating that every school keep period-by-period attendance records.... The boys' basketball team finished its season with a record of 15-3, placing third in a tough division. Sadly, they lost their second-round play-off game against Aviation High School when star senior forward Ross Weisser injured his ankle early in the game.... Senior Jennifer Chiu was one of six winners of *The New York Times* College Scholarship Program. She will receive \$12,000 per year for college, a computer, a six-week summer job and a mentor from the *Times*' staff. □

Reunion...

Continued from front page

alums to pay dues to the association, as those monies support the operations of the office, including the publication and mailing of *AlumNotes*, which is an expensive proposition, costing between \$6,500 and \$7,500 per issue. Vice president **Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61** reported on news from the high school, informing alums that changes are underway to the high school's physical plant, including ongoing renovations of labs, the planned renovation of the library to begin this summer and improvements to the

courtyard, which will benefit both the school and the community. She highlighted student achievements in the past year, which included national chess champions on almost every grade level, two semifinalists in the Intel Science Search (formerly Westinghouse), and the trip to Eastern Europe taken by the Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band.

The assembly program ended with an enthusiastic, a capella rendition of the alma mater, led by **Helene WILLIAMS Spierman '61**, after which the celebrants adjourned to the cafeteria for a wonderful buffet luncheon. □

Visit us on the WEB at
<http://heimdall.hchs.hunter.cuny.edu/alumnae/index.html>



Milestone Class Reunion Activities

January, 1951 -

Coordinator: Joy Levien

Planning Committee: Debbie Minkoff Bezahler, Nancy Tesceny Fallon, Theda (Toby) Sheppes Kashin, Grace Nielsen Keers, Helen Kinslow, Madeleine Zimmerman McGuinness and Marie Abdullah Tashji.

Neither fire nor flood stopped 47 classmates from the class of January, 1951 from having an absolutely marvelous 50th reunion!!! The first restaurant booked for our June 3rd luncheon (with very careful planning nine months previously) suddenly closed in late May due to a fire. And, our June 2nd rooftop party was scheduled during a week of downpours!! But, miraculously, the skies cleared on June 2nd precisely from 3:59 pm to 5:59 pm and our first reunion event for classmates and spouses was a spectacular outdoor success. In addition, our June 3rd luncheon at the last-minute, emergency-choice restaurant was a gourmet's delight. So, the class of January 1951 was greatly blessed during its 50th Reunion, much as it was 50 years ago by having had the privilege of attending Hunter College High School.

This privilege and what Hunter meant to us were described at the General Assembly at the High School on June 3rd by our class spokesperson, Mary Racelis, who came from the Philippines to attend our Reunion. First, Mary emphasized that Hunter was an affirmation for young girls that it was okay to be smart and to love learning. At Hunter, there was no need to hide our intellect as might have been the case had we gone to a co-ed high school in the 1950s. Secondly, Hunter expected us to excel—and we did, both then and during the next 50 years—for ourselves, for our families, for society and for Hunter. Thirdly, we were expected to go to college, though many of us came from families of little or no means and from parents who often did not have even a high school education. Fourth, Hunter nurtured our early feminism with bright,

accomplished and caring women teachers as role models. They imbued us with the self-confidence to fight the battles for rights which our 21st century Hunter sisters may take for granted. Our class produced doctors, lawyers, college professors, mathematicians and corporate executives, who followed these professions during the 1950s and '60s when achievements by women in these areas were rare. Finally, and most importantly, Mary noted that Hunter brought us deep and meaningful friendships which have survived over 50 years.

So much for the serious stuff!! We really had a lot of fun at our get-togethers, beginning with the aforementioned Saturday night rooftop party at the beautiful West Village apartment of Debbie and Harvey Bezahler, who graciously furnished about 50 celebrants with lots of wine, cheese, and stuffed grape leaves and a wonderful view of New York City. Close friends hugged and other classmates met again for the first time in 50 years, all marveling at how "young" and "unchanged" everyone was!!! Some of us met spouses for the first time and thought how great they all were. The occasion was so joyous and happy that groups continued the fun spontaneously later at nearby restaurants.

Sunday morning, June 3rd, at 10 am, registration at the High School was a moment of revelation as each classmate received a nametag containing her picture of 50 years ago from our yearbook, *Annals*. Miraculously again, no one had really changed!!! Coffee and danish were taken in a 2nd floor classroom decorated with blown-up pictures of our teachers from 1951, festive purple and white balloons and a complex math problem on a blackboard (which was immediately solved by half the attendees—ok, really by Nancy Tesceny Fallon). At 11:30 am, after much exchanging of children's and grandchildren's achievements, 44 of us, wearing white "Hunter '51" visors, filed into the High School auditorium

for the formal reunion ceremonies, including Mary's speech. First, however, there was the drawing of the lucky raffle winner for a gorgeous hand-made quilt donated toward our class gift by Charlotte Oscar Peslak. All alums in attendance had a chance to buy raffles, but one of our own, Phoebe Siegel Greenberg, was the winner! You know there was no fix, because retired language teacher, Jacqueline Wahl, was the one who picked out the winning ticket.

After the formal reunion ceremonies were over, we reconvened at the restaurant, Luca, on 1st Avenue, which provided a charming Italian setting for our luncheon. Forty-seven of us sat at tables of six and eight and feasted on antipasti, fried calamari, penne pasta, sauteed salmon, roasted Cornish hen, tiramisu and creme caramel. We talked and talked and talked. Then, as a community, we remembered the eight dear classmates and Miss Dorothy Geddes, our class advisor, who had passed away. After this moment, many of us just stood up and spoke to our classmates about anything we wanted to say. Some mentioned family; others described achievements and trauma; and some gave us words of wisdom about the meaning of life. Each classmate left Luca with a souvenir cream and purple mug with the cover of *Annals* on the front.

There is only one way to really sum up this milestone reunion and that is by noting the name of each classmate who attended. Each of these Hunterites, by her very special presence, made the occasion truly a memorable and rewarding experience for all. In addition to the 11 already named in this report, the other 36 attendees were: Mona Amreich Aronow, Millie Arikian Kandarian, Lucille Block Poskanzer, Marcia Brodsky Feinberg, Selma Bromberg Kornik, Emerita Cabrera Tiedemann, Claire Condes Cafaro, Myra Cohen Hkahr, Nina Epstein Zimmerman, Dolores Erbst Pearl, Gloria Fleischer Cohen. Leah Geller Richter, Lyn Gold Lubliner, Joan Gottlieve Adoff, Ethel



Grau Engel, Eileen Higgins Martin, Sieglinde Hoof Kress, Irene Hornstein Neuvelt, Irma Hyman Epstein, Suzanne Jaffee Sanders, Judy Levin Sheehan, Ann Lewitus Russo, Jane Manning Forstenzer, Joanne Modafferi Petito, Joan Murray Jobsis, Sydelle Orzak Lichtman, Carmela Possemato Koussis, Sandra Potkorony Chamson, Stella Purce Revard, Risa Rosenblum Stabin, Jeanette Smith Sorrentino, Blossom Steinberg Kirschenbaum, Ruby Tagliaferro Lambert, Barbara Traub Werber, Joan Tyor Carlsen and Ilse Weinberg Goldsmith.

The class of January, 1951 is proud to present a gift of over \$7,000 to the High School for a purpose to be decided upon at a future date.

June, 1951-

Coordinator: Janet KEESEY Baser

Ours was a most incredibly fabulous fiftieth reunion! We met Saturday evening, June 2nd, at Natalie SARAPO Schifano's lovely home in Dobb's Ferry, for a delicious catered buffet supper. There were thirty-two of us, including several husbands, one sister and one daughter. Our special thanks were given to Marian Anger, Janet KEESEY Baser's daughter, who produced the delightful nametags. With the arrival of each classmate the euphoria grew. Many had not seen each other in 50 years, and recognition came with chills and glee. On hand were copies of our Senior Proclamation, as well as the April 26, 1951 edition of "What's What" with the review of our Senior Show and articles on our senior "Superlatives" and the Senior Class Officers. Several had brought their yearbooks, and some even had their "Dr. Ben Z. Drene" pins. There was a Hunter sing-a-long before the evening ended. One husband commented that he had never felt the energy and affection in Natalie's living room in any of the reunions that he had attended.

On Sunday, the euphoria continued. Thirty-seven classmates came to the high school, and with the January 1951 class, we made a large showing at the general meeting. All of us were impressed by the number of male alums in the more recent classes, as

well as those who came with children in tow...a great new way to see a reunion. Lunch for our class was held at a nearby restaurant, where "catching up" continued and more pictures were taken. We resolved to meet again in five years, and those who still live in the area plan to meet periodically.

Reviewing that weekend is like looking through a favorite photo album. The chance to see and connect after all this time was very special for most of us. We are a very diverse group. Many have been pursuing professional careers, have pioneered in non-traditional occupations, have focused on family and community and have often combined several of these interests. Those of us who have retired have finally had the opportunity to go on to new or postponed interests and some have relocated to new and different places. It was especially interesting to see that some of us had gone back to school later in life and/or changed careers. A number of us are "giving back" to our world community. But no matter what occurred in our later lives, we all expressed affection and gratitude for the Hunter College High School we attended. Those years shaped us like no other period of our lives. We were young and naïve, made mistakes, made good decisions, learned to survive and expanded to the potential that we were taught was in each of us.

We will be mailing out a request for current information from all our classmates and hope to produce a Milestone Report for everyone's enjoyment. To date, the class of June

Calling All Alum Authors

If you are a published author, please email us (hchsalsums@yahoo.com) or drop us a line listing the titles and publishers of all your books. Although we currently have some of this information, 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 have not already done so, please consider donating a copy of your book to the High School library, where it will be placed in a special collection with books by other alums. Since the library is currently undergoing renovation, please send copies of your books to our office: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021 and we will forward them to the library early in the 2001/2002 academic year.

1951 has collected in excess of \$1,900 for our gift to the high school.

1956

Although they did not have a class coordinator, 18 or so members of the class of 1956 were in attendance at the general reunion on Sunday, June 3rd and very much enjoyed catching up with each other. They are looking forward to their 50th reunion in five years.

1961-

Coordinators: Helene Williams Spierman & Lenore Tiefer

Anticipating their Reunion luncheon on September 8th, seven stalwart members of the Class of 1961 enjoyed a mini-gathering at the June 3rd reunion. We enjoyed seeing our foreign language teacher Jacqueline Wahl, who evoked strong memories even in those of us who never had her for a teacher. The up-coming Reunion lunch (at Quatorze Bis on East 79th St.) will have close to 70 grads attending, and they look forward to again seeing their Senior Advisors, Miriam Burstein and Irving Kizner, after 40 years. Our class gift is in the process of being collected and will be forwarded to the Alumnae/i Association after our September get-together.

1966-

Coordinator: Dale WOLINSKY Wolff

The class of 1966 has planned their reunion get-together for October 7, 2001. For more information, please contact Dale WOLINSKY Wolff at dsw@cloud9.net.

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Class Notes

1930s **Veronica COMERFORD Machek '35** writes that she and a few of her classmates still keep in touch. **Betty BARTHA Hastil**, **Mildred SEUSS Gervasio**, **Jean McCLELLAN Reidy** and **Llev PRITCHARD Jones Ennis** used to get together once a year, though not lately. • **Mary WICKS Ulrich**, Jan. '37 writes that she and eight of her classmates shared a table at the Hunter College Birthday Luncheon in May, 2001, when they celebrated the 60th anniversary of their college graduation. They have kept in touch with each other for 68 years including sharing 80th birthday celebrations and 50th wedding anniversaries.

1940s **Marian BOYKAN Pour-El**, Jan. '45 recently retired as Professor of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota. However, she is still actively engaged in research and in lecturing. In September, at the invitation of her Japanese colleagues, she will travel to Kyoto, Japan to lecture on her specialty - mathematical logic. As this will be an international meeting, she is looking forward to renewing friendships with her colleagues from around the world. • **Alice M. TROMMER Rabin**, Jan. '49 writes to say that her youngest son, Matt, was recently awarded the John Bates Clark medal when he was named the best economist in the U.S. under age 40 by The American Economics Association. This award came just a year after he won a MacArthur Foundation "genius" award. • **Jane SCHWARTZ Schultz '49** and **Jerry Schultz** (the photographer at the class's 45th and 50th reunions) will be spending June, 2001-May, 2002 in Mountain View, CA, where they will both be working for NASA. Northern California alums can reach them via email to janeschu@pitt.edu.

1950s **Attn: Class of Jan. '53**: About six of us have been getting together for lunch once a month in NYC. If you'd like to join us, please call **Susan ROSENO Fahrenholtz** at 973-338-6588 or **Ellen MENDEL** at 212-662-4193. It's time to start working on our 50th reunion, too! • **Carolyn HARMON Bovell '54** received an Ed.D. from St. John's University in January, 2000. She currently teaches the Fifth grade at Portledge School, an independent school on the north shore of Long Island. Son, Matthew, and daughter, Rachel, both of whom are Harvard graduates, are married. Husband, Woodrow, a retired NYC junior high school assistant principal, is presently Director of Learning Support Services at The College of New Rochelle. • **Barbara R. Heller '58** EdD., RN, FAAN, Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing and Vice Chair of the Statewide Commission on the Crisis in Nursing has been named one of the top 100

women in Maryland, according to the *Maryland Daily Record*, a legal and business newspaper based in Baltimore. Barbara was also inducted into *The Circle of Excellence for Sustained Achievement - The Top 100 Women's Hall of Fame* for being named three times to this distinguished list. Barbara was honored for her career success and leadership, contributions to the community and mentoring of other women. • **Roberta GABOR Merrens '59** retired as Executive Director of the Northern Adirondack Planned Parenthood in December, 2000 after a tenure of more than 23 years. On January 29, 2001 Roberta was honored by Family Planning Advocates of New York State at their 24th Annual Conference in Albany. She received "The Reverend Beatrice Blair Courageous Service Award" in recognition of her dedication and work on behalf of women's reproductive rights. Roberta and her husband, Matt, currently live in Vermont.

1960s **Minna MEYER Greenberg '60** has been elected to a two-year term as president of the Bergen County (NJ) League of Women Voters. She has also been reappointed to the Bergen County Open Space Historical & Farmland Preservation Trust, which oversees the allocation of approximately \$3 million in tax dollars each year. • **Mirla N. MINTZ Morrison '60** retired from teaching in June, 2000 and transformed into an educational consultant. She is busier than ever and loves the variety of jobs she is getting. • **Janet LUNDBERG Jacobson '62** and **Eleanor ROSS Kleinberg '62** met their former HCHS Latin teacher, Irving Kizner, at The Spence School. Mr. Kizner has been the Latin teacher at Spence for their daughters, Linnea Jacobson and Amanda Kleinberg. Both daughters graduated in June, 2001. Linnea will be attending Sarah Lawrence and Amanda will be attending Barnard. • **Doris MEIBACH Wallace '62** writes that since retiring as a Social Studies teacher, she's enjoyed subbing at Hunter High. Her husband, Martin, also subs at Hunter. • **Holly TANNEN '64** received her master's degree in Folklore from the University of California at Berkeley. She performs traditional Anglo-American ballads and folksongs and her own contemporary satirical songs. She has released two CDs, *Rime of the Ancient Matriarch* and *Between the Worlds*. Holly also claims to channel entities from the half-astral plane. Last year, she presented her one-woman, one-entity show *Practical Alchemy (An Exquisitely Perverse Grace)* in Mendocino, CA. She is currently creating a portable, expandable, collapsible version of *Alchemy* and translating the poetry of Arthur Rimbaud. She can be reached at mistress-of-folklore.com, [8](http://practicalalchemy.com,</p></div><div data-bbox=)



htannen@mcn.org or holly@practicalalchemy.com • **Marianne K. TOMECEK '69** graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in June, 2001. Her mother, **Anna ERHARDT Tomecek '38** was in attendance. Marianne left the U.S. Justice Department four years ago, but while there she worked in the office of Janet Reno. • **Judith Weisman '69** is still living in the "North Country" (Plattsburg, NY) and practicing surgery in a small town. She is also raising her two sons, Gabriel, 16 and Dano, 10. She'd love to hear from anyone traveling in the area (on your way to Montreal?); email her at j.weis@verizon.net.

1970s **Donna J. ISRAEL '71** is a freelance writer currently collecting bylines on several continents. Recently she interviewed Juno Online founder and HCHS alum **Charles Ardai '87**, for Canada's *National Post*. Between serious assignments, Donna writes a monthly column for England's *Bizarre* magazine. Donna is also in the process of relocating, and while cleaning out her attic, she unearthed a collection of Hunter memorabilia from the 1960s and '70s which she brought to her class's 30th reunion get-together in early August. • **Monique LIPTON '77** is currently the vice president in charge of corporate tax research at The Bank of New York, where she's worked since early 1990.

1980s **Maria MADIGAN Kourtakis '80** married Kostantinos (Dino) Kourtakis, brother of HCHS teacher Evantha Kourtakis Basias, in 1993. They have a two-year old son named Emmanuel. Maria is currently practicing patent, trademark and copyright law at a small firm in Philadelphia. • **Sarah SCHNEEWIND '82** and **Martha SCHULMAN '82** will be colleagues at Columbia University next year. Martha, who has had a few stories published and is in the MFA program at Columbia, will be teaching Logic and Rhetoric, a/k/a Freshman Composition. Sarah, who has just survived her second year of teaching at Southern Methodist University, will be a Visiting Professor in Modern Chinese History. Sarah and Martha were delighted to represent Hunter at the wedding of **David BOLOCAN '82** and to attend the wedding of **Brendan GLYNN '82**. Sarah also notes that it's a small world: a colleague at SMU roomed with **Howie SCHWARTZ '82** at Penn. • **Nicole FEIST '85** and Sandra Myers (Washington University class of '90) were married on May 20, 2001 in a joint Jewish and Episcopal ceremony at Church of the Holy Apostles in Manhattan. **Gena FEIST '87** served as an honor attendant. Gena relied on her skills as a professional baker to create a magnificent four-tiered wedding cake decorated with cascading flowers. The happy couple spent June and July being feted by cousins in Europe, where Nikki presented a seminar in Amsterdam at the 5th International Deaf-Blind Conference. Nicole and Sandra Feist will

make their home in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood and can be reached at feisteye@hotmail.com • **Jane OSSANDON '85** has been living in Germany for eleven years and is still working for Lufthansa; she is currently working toward certification as an Airline Business Administrator. In addition to studying and shift work, she is working out six times a week in preparation for her first "Volkstriathlon" in September, which consists of a 700 meter swim, 20 kilometer bike race and 7 kilometer run. • **Laura AURICCHIO '86** is living in New York City with her husband and dog and works as a Whitney Teaching Fellow at the Whitney Museum of American Art. The class of '86 was well represented in Columbia's Ph.D. program with Laura being a 2000 graduate and classmate **Ethan ROBEY** receiving his Ph.D. on the same day. **Meredith DAVIS** is currently completing the same Ph.D. program in the same department. • **Ben Dattner '88** has founded his own consulting firm. If you or anyone you know works in an imperfect organization, please visit or have them visit www.dattnerconsulting.com. • **Adam SMITH '88** is currently living in NYC with his fiancée Robin and will be married this fall. His painting titled "Blood Tied" was included in "Breaking the Rules 2001", an exhibit at the Katonah Museum of Art in Westchester, which ran from May 19-June 24, 2001.

1990s **Kristina BOYLAN '91** successfully defended her dissertation in March 2001 and received her D. Phil. in Modern Latin American History from the University of Oxford in July, 2001. She currently works as a research associate at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University and will begin teaching history courses at American University in the fall. She hopes to catch up with other Hunterites in D.C. or NYC. • **Vanessa PAYNE Broomfield '92** got married to Tony Broomfield, Jr. from Silver Spring, MD, on May 5, 2001. Members of the wedding party included long time friends, bridesmaid **Marina FIELD '92** and singer **Ivy GRANT '92**. Vanessa is currently living in Silver Spring and working with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Management Consulting division. • **Mora STEPHENS '94** and **Joel VIERTEL '93** got engaged earlier this year and will be married in New York in June of 2002. Other Hunterites in the wedding party will include **Alek FRIEDMAN '93**, **Jessica ROBINSON '94** and **Rebecca ALSON-MILKMAN '94**, who will be getting married herself in October of 2001. • **Matt BUCHALTER '95** graduated from Cornell University in 1999 with a B.S. in biology and is starting his third year at NYU School of Medicine. He can be reached by email at bucham01@popmail.med.nyu.edu.

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



Remembrances of Hunter High

by Marilyn BOHMAN DeMario '59

If memory serves (though often, these days, it does disappoint), the year we entered HCHS as seventh graders (1953) was also the first year there were *men* on the faculty. Mr. Slauson in Cit. Ed., Mr. Raphael in English, and Mr. Harvey in Latin are the ones that come to mind, though there may have been one or two more. I don't recall very much about the male teachers in seventh grade; perhaps we were all getting used to this strange new place together. By eighth grade, however, we students had bonded strongly with each other, and we were ready to take these men on, force them to discover whether they had the strength to cope with us "glorious things."

In Mr. Raphael's English class, we, just as many classes of eighth graders in years before us, were assigned to read Mary O'Hara's *My Friend Flicka*. Flicka, you will recall, was a gelding, but we were city girls after all, and how could we be expected to know what it meant for a horse to be

gelded, or, for that matter, what the word "castrated" meant? As the first eighth graders to be reading *My Friend Flicka* with a male teacher, we could not let this opportunity slip by. We planned it for days. Jane B., a usually serious and conscientious student who nevertheless had a streak of mischief in her, volunteered to ask, "Mr. Raphael, what's a gelding?" The rest of us acted as though we were surprised by the question, but joined in to say that it was something we all needed to know as well. We *had* to know if we were to truly understand this novel. It was a *literary* question, you see. As I look back on that class, I cannot believe that Mr. Raphael was not prepared for *the question*. Surely somebody heard the giggling and whispering that went on in the hall for days and clued him in. Nevertheless, he played his part magnificently. His face went beet red; his brow held little beads of sweat. I can still feel his embarrassment as I felt it for him then. Perhaps we should not have done such a cruel thing after all. But he was a trooper and he said the word we all wanted

to hear him say out loud: "testicles." We got him good.

We got him good, that is, until the fall of 1958 when we were seniors and Mr. Raphael was our English teacher once again. This time it was Samuel Coleridge we read, *Kubla Khan*. By this time, we had been talking about metaphor in English classes for a long time, but it was Mr. Raphael who taught us that some metaphors could be *sexual*. Pleasure domes? Sacred rivers? Caverns? Sunless seas? Mr. Raphael, please! I cannot speak for anyone else, but I, for one, was truly shocked. Poets write about sex? And here we were in an English class talking about it with our male teacher? And of all male teachers, the sweet Mr. Raphael, who blushed so beautifully just a short five years before? What had he been doing those five years while we were studying Latin, World History, and Physics? ☐

If anyone has additions or corrections to Marilyn's memory, she would love to hear from you by email to marilyndem@aol.com

Alumnae/i Announcements

Alma SCHELLE Woolley, Ed.D. '49 has just had her book *Learning, Faith and Caring* published. It is a history of the Georgetown University School of Nursing from 1903-2000. A reviewer wrote that the book adds to our understanding of the complexity of nursing schools.

Jeanette SMITH Sorrentino, Jan. '51 is a co-author of the recently published book *Half A Childhood, Quality Programs for Out-of-School Hours*, 2nd Edition, with Judith Bender and Charles H. Flatter, published by School-Age Notes, Nashville, TN. Jeanette also had an article entitled "We Artists Have to Stick Together - A Story of One Boy's Lesson on Compassion" in the Summer, 2000 issue of *Childhood Education: Infancy Through Early Adolescence*, the journal of the

Association for Childhood Education International and another article entitled "Today is Saturday" in issue 33, 2000 of *Passager*, an independent journal published by the University of Baltimore.

Rhoda SRAGG Faller Esq. '64 announces the publication of her book *Moving the Nest: A Mid-Life Guide to Relocating (The Baby Boomer's Road Map to Selecting the Ideal City, Home, Career Enhancement Opportunity, and Lifestyle)*, co-authored with her husband, Bernard Faller, and published by E.M. Press, Inc. This insightful and witty guide is the perfect how-to book and offers baby boomers the tools to choose a new location that is just right for them. Rhoda is an attorney specializing in plaintiff's medical malpractice and a member of the bar

in New York, New Jersey, Florida and Kentucky. Bernard recently graduated from the University of Louisville, Brandeis School of Law, thus beginning a new career at the age of 55. The Fallers are excellent guides who understand that a move at age 50-something entails an entirely different set of shoulds and shouldn'ts than did the moves the reader went through at age 20- or 30-something. While there is a female and a male perspective in this ultimately blended presentation, there is also a professional flavor to the book's advice from two people who set out on a mission and succeeded.

Lynn Visson '62 announces that Hippocrene Books has published an

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Reunion Activities ..

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1971-

Coordinator: Joan Grabhorn Romano

Five members of the class of '71 attended the general reunion on June 3rd and had an enjoyable time. The individual class get-together was held on Saturday, August 11th, which was after the deadline for this issue of *AlumNotes*. We hope to have a wrap-up to print in the Fall issue.

1981-

Coordinator: Lauren Buxbaum Kacir

The Class of 1981 met for our twentieth reunion in a triumph of enthusiasm over organization! Forty of us were able to attend in person with a small selection of spouses and children in tow. I had been warned by my father to be prepared for the men to look exactly the same and the women to look haggard, but I am pleased to say that all of our attendees of both genders are aging attractively. The vast majority of us looked better than we did in our youthful days! But I suppose this self-congratulatory emphasis on mere external appearances does not demonstrate the foundation in more substantial values with which we were imbued at Hunter. (Never mind the myriad SAT words with which I embellished the statement!)

Being the first truly integrated (with reference to gender) Hunter class, it was interesting to note comparisons between us and the more senior alumnae present. Aside from our obvious ebullience, one (male) classmate commented that he felt that his college experience had significance more similar to that described by the older women who attended Hunter before us. He speculated that our being coed diminished the singularity of our Hunter experience when divided from the rest of our lives. I would have to disagree, since I attended a single sex college, and I regarded my Hunter experience as being more formative. Perhaps his sentiment was a result of the later maturation of male adolescents. (Uh oh. I think I may start a battle of the sexes here!)

Certainly, our behavior was less mature and our collective commitment to maintaining Hunter High less obvious. Although I personally made the largest contribution I could afford, I was not willing to press my classmates to do so, and am entirely unaware of the total donated by our class. I arranged our reunion because I loved the time I spent at Hunter, and still miss the friends I made there. However, I was so busy that I was unable to take full advantage of the support offered by the alumnae/i office and was able only to send out a single group email to those of our class who had submitted their e-dresses. And, as was pointed out by more than one of my classmates, I did leave this electronic mailing until rather close to the event! I was thus even more gratified by their enthusiastic response and attendance.

Despite the lack of tangible evidence for our benevolence toward HCHS, I think that, like previous classes, many of our members (of both genders) remain committed to the public good, charitable works and education in general. I think, too, that this is an attitude fostered by our Hunter experience. Few of us, however, are at a financial point where we can afford to back up our enthusiastic reminiscences with sizeable donations. On the other hand, several of our number are employed as teachers, many are with non-profit groups and all of us are committed to the well being of our individual families. We have numerous doctors, lawyers and journalists. Many of us are deeply involved in technology, research and engineering. In addition, we had a significant number of classmates involved with internet communications.

Mark Lang is one of these and he was able to design a website and guestbook for our class reunion at <http://www.tbdesign.com/hchs1981>. Joe Milukas has already hosted a party announced on the site, 32 of our classmates have left information about themselves, Thunder Levin provided some internet photographs from the reunion and two guests have offered their

congratulations to our class. I hope that we can continue to enhance this link to one another and Hunter. Many thanks to all those who have posted, expressed their enthusiasm and will help out with our 25th!!!

1991-

Coordinators: Marguerite Liao, Carrie Fox, Ellen Kackmann & Jon Levin

The Class of '91 celebrated its ten-year reunion on Saturday, June 2nd at Guernica in Alphabet City. We enjoyed a private party in Guernica's downstairs space until 10 p.m., at which time the Lounge opened to the public. Reunion festivities lasted well into the night, however, with reports of some classmates staying until 4:30 a.m. The first guest to arrive was Ken Toloui, who also has the distinction of having traveled the farthest (from Thailand!). More than 110 classmates attended, converging from such disparate locales as the aforementioned Thailand, Germany (Isabel Cole), Puerto Rico, Texas, and California, as well as from nearer points like Washington, D.C., Boston, and of course, across the river from Brooklyn. An additional 40-50 spouses/significant others/life partners/friends also attended. We were especially glad to see old friends who left Hunter before graduation, like Tara Bahna-James, Moishe Chan, and Christopher Walters. Other special guests included Justianna Birzin's two children (4-year-old Brooklyn and 2-year-old Jake). Other parents who showed off photos of their kids were Margaret Cook (3-year-old twins Tatyana and Tyara), Kenny Gelfand (3 year-old Rachel and 14 year-old Felicia, who was adopted by Kenny and his wife Ruth), and Spencer Nabors' 6-month-old daughter, Simone. Those of us who attended Sunday festivities at the High School were also lucky enough to meet Lisa Levy Katz's three children (5 ½ year-old Malka, 3 ½ year-old Shlomo, and 1 ½ year-old Berel). Lisa's kids couldn't make it Saturday night but Phil Tang, still

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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;
testsmat@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,
605 W. 112th St., #4B, NY, NY 10025,
c.bergmann.1@alumni.nyu.edu
Amy Gong '93, agong@mypl.org

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

The South Florida Chapter will hold its third Reunion for alums of all years on Saturday, February 2, 2002 at the Palm-Aire Country Club in Pompano Beach, easily accessed by the Florida's Turnpike and I-95. We hope to see all South Florida residents and snowbirds for luncheon and entertainment. For further information, contact (954) 978-9824 or email edy.mpr@worldnet.att.net.

Attn. Alums living in Western Europe: If you are interested in getting in touch with other alums living in the area, please contact Anne-Helen GREENE Standing '67 by email to standring.green@freebel.net.

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, (212) 921-4344; slspr@aol.com
- 1967: *Temporary Contact:* **Ruth Katz**, 270 Jay St., Apt. 7F, Bklyn, NY 11201; (718) 834-6863, katzencham@yahoo.com
- 1992: **Sascha Segan**, 210 E. 73rd St., Apt. 10D, New York, NY 10021; (917) 696-6251; wandererstill@yahoo.com
- Abby Foster**, 180 West End Ave. #27C, New York, NY 10023; (212) 874-5020; abbyfoster@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 is not mandatory. 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. □

Desperately Seeking Sarah Maria Jones

If you are in touch with a classmate who isn't receiving *AlumNotes*, tell us how to reach her (or him). We rely on our members to help keep our database up to date. You can also let us know if you are looking for a "lost"

classmate and we may be able to help you get back in touch. (In case you didn't know, Sarah Maria Jones was the name given many years ago to the archetypal Hunter High Student.)



President's Letter

Continued from front page

the best part of Reunion is always the camaraderie and shared school spirit.

I was thrilled to present the high school with a check for \$35,875, which included \$2,000 for each of the eight departments (total \$16,000) to be used to introduce new or improve ongoing programs and efforts, \$10,000 to fund the new "soft seating" area as part of the ongoing renovation of the school library, \$4,300 for science, math and language labs, \$2,450 for visual and performing arts, \$1,325 for athletics and other extracurricular activities, and \$900 for the computer labs and related programs. These monies represent class gifts and a portion of the proceeds received as a result of last fall's fundraising effort. The Alumnae/i Association also awarded three \$1,000 scholarships at the Honors and Awards Ceremony held at the High School on June 11. The scholarships were given to the two winners of The Thomas Hunter Memorial Award: **Joshua Geltzer** and **Liba Wenig Rubenstein** and to the winner of The Mildred Busch Award: **Tiffany Mooney**. We also

awarded an \$80 metrocard to the senior who had traveled the furthest to attend high school - **Jeffrey Pawson** of Staten Island.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank departing board member **Margaret "Peggy" BETZ Perrin '55** for her many years of service to the alumnae/i association. Peggy is a past president of the association and has acted as the board's liaison to the high school's PTA and Library and Computer Committees in recent years. Our returning board members, who were re-elected by acclamation at Reunion, when the number of nominees did not exceed the number of empty slots, are **Elaine Brand '65**, **Joan Rosenthal '72** and **Harriet KONSTADT Sherman, Jan. '49**. We currently have two openings on the board, which we will look to fill pursuant to the provisions of our by-laws.

Cordially yours,

Eve S. Ferdman

Eve S. Ferdman '79

Reunion Activities ..

Continued from page 11

drumming, dropped by late after a gig in town with his band, *Mary Prankster*. Other classmates involved in the music world include Sean Grant, who is coming out with a rap CD, and Daniel Levinson Wilk, who is writing a musical about airline pilots when not working on his dissertation on NYC doormen. In the wellness and healing category, Han Lee is practicing acupuncture and Justianna Birzin is a massage therapist. There were also lots of doctors, lawyers, grad students, recently graduated, engaged, and married. We all had a great time catching up and missed our friends who weren't able to make it. Those who missed the fun can view reunion photos (courtesy of self-styled reunion photographer Sang Yul Bae) posted at www.memyselfandfly.com. Special thanks go out to Jessica Ambats, for her web savvy, Antoine Bryant for best guest book entries, and Jenna Halvey and Douglas Kee for their careful cataloging of attendance. Last but not least, thanks so much to everyone who contributed toward the Class Gift. We raised \$2,764, a record amount for a 10-year reunion!

1996 - Coordinators:

Elizabeth S. Hook & Judy Seltzer

The class of '96 got together at Turtle Bay Cafe on Saturday, July 7th, for a night of drinks and reminiscing. This was our first milestone reunion and although we are still attempting to find contact information for a large portion of the class, we had a great turnout of about 75 people! The night began with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at 7 p.m. and lasted until around 11 p.m., when the group separated to continue the festivities at several other locations. Among the attendees were many who are currently pursuing graduate degrees in areas including law and medicine. Others have recently begun careers. Some of the job titles we heard about that night included consultant, investment banker, teacher, and analyst. We are still working on raising money for our class gift but hope to have all donations in by the end of the summer. □

Check Out Our Terrific HCHS Merchandise!

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

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

- ☆ a HCHS coffee/tea **mug** (white with purple lettering - \$11); and



- ☆ a child or adult-sized purple, Beefy Hanes **T-shirt** with white lettering (\$15/\$21).

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

To order, use the form on the back page. Remember,

our prices are inclusive of sales tax (where applicable) and shipping and handling.



In Memoriam

Corrections: In the Fall, 2000 issue we incorrectly reported that Marilyn (Maggie) SCHNEIDER Cohen '56 had passed away, based on erroneous information from our alumni directory publisher. Maggie has written to say that she is very much alive and is working as an interior designer in New York City.

Francine Haber '61 was incorrectly reported as deceased in our Summer, 2000 issue. Francine is alive and well and living in Colorado.

Eleanore GRUNDESEN Brouk '36 passed away in 1999 in Michigan. She spent most of her married life in Florida, but moved to Michigan to be nearer to one of her two sons after her husband passed away.

Aleine AUSTIN Cohen '36 died of pneumonia on June 2, 2001, in La Jolla, CA, at the age of 78. She attended Barnard and graduated from Antioch College, then earned a Master's and Ph.D. in American history from Columbia University. She then went on to a career as a educator, historian and author, with her field of interest being the history of the American labor movement. She was the author of *Mathew Lyon, "New Man" of the Democratic Revolution and Labor*; she was also a contributor to the *Monthly Review* and the *Antioch Review*. During World War II, she served as education director of the Mississippi River Workmen's

Program of the National Maritime Union, which educated shipboard workers. After the war, she served on the staff of the *Monthly Review* and taught in the early 1950s at Highlander Folk School in Tennessee, where she became acquainted with Rosa Parks and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who were students at the school. Her two husbands predeceased her. She leaves behind a daughter, a son and two grandsons.

Shirley SLOBIN Silverman '38 died on April 20, 2001 in Pompano Beach, FL of lung cancer. She was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Hunter College (1945).

Phyllis STIRIZ Smith '39, of the Bronx, passed away on February 11, 2001.

Ruth WINKELMAN Wender '41 died on August 23, 2000. She is survived by a daughter and a son, and by her twin sister **Irene WINKELMAN '41**.

Renee SOHNE Altman '45 passed away on May 13, 2001. After leaving HCHS she earned a BA in French at Brooklyn College and worked as a bilingual secretary for several years until she began her family. After son Alex entered high school in 1977, she began a second career as a patient representative in a rehabilitation facility until her retirement in 1996.

Jolane BAUMGARTEN Solomon, Jan. '45, a professor emeritus in the Boston College biology department, died in March, 2001. She graduated from Hunter College and then went on to earn a master's degree and a doctorate from Radcliffe College. She began her teaching career as a fellow at Harvard University in 1953 and went on to assume several roles at Harvard over the next decade. Her research interests focused on experimental diabetes and reproductive physiology. Dr. Solomon joined the Boston College biology department as a lecturer in 1963. Dedicated to promoting and furthering the role of women in science and research, she was the school's first ombudsperson and chaired a committee that examined the role of women at Boston College. She received numerous grants to support her research efforts and published articles in publications including *Science*, *Nature*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. She leaves her husband, Bernard Solomon, two daughters and a son and four grandchildren.

Ricarda BRAININ Heller '57, of Rego Park, Queens has passed away. She received her BA from Hunter College and was a retired Editorial Assistant. She leaves behind a husband, Henry C. Heller, and two sons, Robert and Steven, who will miss her.



Alumnae/i ...

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expanded paperback edition of her book *Wedded Strangers: The Challenges of Russian-American Marriages*. This edition includes new chapters on cultural conflict, problems in raising children and Americans who find Russian wives through dating agencies and the internet.

Elena GOLDSTEIN Lister, MD '74 announces the publication of her book, *I Will Remember You*, by Laura Dover with introduction and commentary by Dr. Lister (Scholastic, Inc., April 2001). Dr. Lister is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital. She also serves as the consultant to many NYC schools when there is a death in their school community and speaks at conferences across the country about death and dying, especially end of life care for dying children. *I Will Remember You* is a guidebook/workbook especially for teenagers dealing with a loss as well as the friends and adults who know them.

Varese LAYZER '89 announces the recent publication of her book *Signs of Weakness, Juxtaposing Irish Tales and the Bible*, published by Sheffield Academic Press, Sheffield, England. The book is described as a fascinating comparative study that matches Samson, Jonah and Esther with three heroes from early Irish literature, exploring weakness and heroic strength, gender and power, frailty and ambiguity. The comparison illuminates each tradition and highlights the richness of two ancient narrative traditions. Varese obtained a doctorate in English and Celtic from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and currently lives in upper Manhattan.

Thisbe Nissen '90 recently published her first novel, *The Good People of New York*, (Knopf), which *The Boston Phoe-*

nix calls "an enticing story one wants to lap up whole," and *The New York Times* refers to as "deeply satisfying." The novel follows the lives of quintessentially New York mother and daughter, Roz and Miranda Anderson, and is told with "edgy humor and deep sympathy" (Kirkus Reviews). Nissen is also the author of a short story collection, *Out of the Girls' Room and into the Night*.

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 temporary address to send your books is: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021. □

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

Louella POLTSKER Stampfer '45 would like to hear from Dorothy WONG '45. Please call 212-865-0636.

Ben Dattner '88 has founded his own consulting firm. If you or anyone you know works in an imperfect organization, please visit or have them visit: www.dattnerconsulting.com.

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