

# AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/ ASSOCIATION, INC.

Box 373, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021

Tel. 212-772-4079 Fax 212-772-4074 Email: hchsalsums@yahoo.com

Volume 28, Number 4

<http://heimdall.hchs.hunter.cuny.edu/alumnae>

Summer 2002

## Alumnae/i Theater Party - Class Mothers '68

Join us on December 4, for a special Alumnae/i Association performance of the play *Class Mothers '68*, directed by HCHS alum Jeremy Dobrish '86. It stars Priscilla Lopez, a Tony award winning actress (and star of such shows as Broadway's *Pippin*, *Company*, *Nine*, *A Chorus Line* and *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine*), playing six very different women in Eric H. Weinberger's play. The premise is that the mothers have been roped into appearing in an annual parents' production for the Class of '68 graduation night at the private school their children attend. Lopez plays them all, milking every bit of pathos and comic nuance from Weinberger's clever play. Out-of-town reviews have called Lopez's performance "shining" and the production a "double-platinum creation, one for the script and one for the acting."

The play begins at 8 p.m. at the Harold Clurman Theatre, 410 West 42nd

*Continued on page 15*

### INDEX

Alumnae/i Announcements . . . . .	8
Class Coordinators . . . . .	6
Class Notes . . . . .	10
Hunterites in the News . . . . .	9
In Memoriam . . . . .	18
Letters to the Editor . . . . .	2
Merchandise . . . . .	17
Milestone Reports . . . . .	4
Remembrance . . . . .	12

## Reunion 2002

More than 275 people attended the Alumnae/i Association's annual General Reunion on Sunday, June 2, which was held at Hunter College High School, 94<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Avenue. Most attendees represented milestone classes from 1997 all the way back to 1937. Other attendees included a large contingent of pre-1952 alums (36), as well as current and former faculty members, including Harriet Aufses (Librarian), Emily ELSASSER Forrest (class of '92), Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith (class of '61), Anastasia Nicholas, Joanne Roque (class of '92) and Francine Salzman. After individual class gatherings and before the buffet luncheon, a general assembly was held in the auditorium. Speakers included outgoing Alumnae/i Association President Eve S. Ferdman '79, Dr. David Laurenson, the current Director of Campus Schools (Hunter High and Hunter Elementary) as well as Principal of the High School, Alumnae/i Association Treasurer Joan D. Rosenthal '72/'73 and representatives of the milestone classes.

Eve Ferdman welcomed everyone to the 30th general reunion held by our alumnae/i association (the first being in April, 1973). She explained that our

association was kick-started by some parents of students in the early 1970s, who thought that an active alumnae association could assist in the survival of the school, which was threatened at the time with being closed due to budget cuts and its lack of a permanent home (it was then housed in two floors of an office building on Lexington Ave. between 46-47th Streets). Eve added that now, all these years later, we have a vibrant association, which helps keep all of us in touch through a quarterly newsletter which is mailed to almost 10,000 alums and through the annual reunion. In the last issue of our newsletter, a cut to Hunter's budget in the Mayors' proposed budget for the coming year was highlighted. Eve explained that the school's PTA has been very active in trying to forestall these cuts, as has the Board of the Alumnae/i Assn. Attendees were asked to sign letters to Mayor Bloomberg to be delivered to him en masse. (Editor's Note: Following the Reunion, over 200 letters were delivered to Mayor Bloomberg. The compromise budget reached later in June between the Mayor and the City Council restored most of the proposed cuts in education spending.) Eve also

*Continued on page 16*

## Welcome Alums of 2002!

With this issue of *AlumNotes*, we welcome 180 new members of the Alumnae/i Association—the graduates of the class of 2002! 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 one another 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. □





# Letters to the Editor

## To the Editor:

I thoroughly enjoy reading *AlumNotes* from cover to cover. In doing so, I realize that the school as it is now has changed in many respects. I recall that housed as we were in the old gargoyle castle (68<sup>th</sup> St. & Lexington), we were very much a part of the college and enjoyed many interactions at that level, including a very memorable tea with Eleanor Roosevelt. I was also privileged to take many college courses prior to my graduation, which was a great help to me in completing my education. My family had financial challenges during my years at Hunter and in order to be able to continue there, I had to work after school. The school librarian helped me to find employment in the library system, which enabled me to do my homework during quiet times between tasks.

I very much enjoyed the freedom of having no boys around to hold us back in any way. It is hard for me to imagine the impact co-education would have had on the way we acted, dressed and conducted ourselves. I often wonder about this and frankly regret the loss and opportunities of an all-girl school. But it is obvious that much remains the same at Hunter. The dedicated faculty and striving for excellence, the compassion, the openness, the willingness to stretch and grow seems to be firmly entrenched. It is heartening to read of the reuniting of "campus schools" with the college so future students can benefit from the closeness that affords.

My current interests during my retirement years are my family and grandchildren (whom I mentor and tutor), the new friends I have made since becoming a "Valley Girl" (in California) recently, and my activities with Friendship Force, an organization started 20 years ago by President Carter, to promote world peace one family at a time. It is a

worldwide organization whose members live in each other's homes for a week at a time—a wonderful way to travel and make friends. I'd love to hear from other Hunterites who might also belong. My email address is grammy98@earthlink.net.

**Arlene SOLOMON Lawson '54**

## To the Editor:

When I entered Hunter in 1961 as a 10<sup>th</sup>-grade student, Hunter was still an all-girls school. We were just on the cusp of what was to become known as "Women's Liberation." In other schools, female students were relegated to the role of class secretary—they could never be class president, vice president, head the newspaper or yearbook—nor could they shine intellectually and impress guys at the same time. Hunter removed the shackles of the male/female "thing" and allowed my intellect to explore and develop, with plenty of time for the male/female "thing" outside of school hours, and in college.

**Rhoda SRAGG Faller '64**

## To the Editor:

Over the past 10 years I have received several awards for service to the community, for being a pathfinder and community leader, and for being a champion of women's causes in the community. Each time I credited my four years at Hunter for making the difference in my life. My mother had the courage to send her 14-year-old daughter on the subway to attend a school so far away from our neighborhood in Brooklyn. Hunter became my home, my refuge, a place where I could grow and thrive. I have so many memories of teachers and students who helped me on the path of my life. Had it not been for teachers like Jean Binnie, Josephine Renda, Bobbie Keyser, Dr. Witmer and so many more whose names escape me now, I would never have become the woman I am today.

When I graduated from Hunter, I entered NYU, much to the disappointment of my adviser, who wanted me to go to one of the "Seven Sisters." But I wanted to become an occupational therapist, a career my guidance counselor had never heard of. After four years at NYU, I moved to Buffalo to take a position at the Psychiatric Center. I married, raised three children, taught at Erie Community College and in 1979 started my own business. At that time, it was unheard of for a woman to start a private practice in occupational therapy or even to start a business. There was no support from the bank, the SBA or any organization. I had a vision of what I wanted to accomplish and now, 23 year later, Optimal Therapy Associates

## AlumNotes

Published by the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc.  
Box 373, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10021  
E-mail: hchs alumnae@yahoo.com  
Founded in 1973

Co-Editor.....	John J. Edwards III '88
Co-Editor.....	Marge Kolb '78
Acting President.....	Marjorie Landsberg Goldsmith '61
Secretary.....	Elaine Brand '65
Treasurer.....	Joan D. Rosenthal '72
Assistant Treasurer.....	Harriet Konstadt Sherman Jan. '49
Board Members.....	Kari Chin Chachkes '87
	Cheryl Katz Chiovetta '80
	Ruth Kaufman Davis '56
	John J. Edwards III '88
	Mimi Eng '84
	Marianne K. Tomecek '69
	Doris Meibach Wallace '62
	Tai Wong '88
	Judy Chin Wong '88
	Odella Woodson '79
Office Manager.....	Marge Kolb '78
President Emerita.....	Mildred Speiser Jan. '49
Founding Member.....	Theodora Christon '42
Founding Editor.....	Marjorie Pearle Weiser '51





Services is the third-largest woman-owned business in western New York, and my daughter and son are my business partners. We have 125 employees and provide occupational and physical therapy services to 23 school districts and agencies.

Hunter taught me the importance of community service and community involvement. The environment at Hunter enabled a shy, quiet girl from Brooklyn to embark on a lifetime career of service and accomplishment. I am enormously grateful to the teachers who helped me accomplish all these things.

**Gloria Lucker '53**

#### **To the Editor:**

This is in reply to a letter by **Gisela RITTER Gall, Jan. '44** which appeared in the Winter 2002 issue and asked about "Smyla or Smila...Brynd or Brind" who was a classmate of hers and went on to become a movie star using the name Vanessa Brown. "I have often wondered what happened to her and suggest her ...[as] a subject of a future close-up," Ms. Gall went on, "...IF her story turned out happily, that is." Well, it did and it didn't. I was interested in Smylla Brind because when I was at HCHS (class of January '46) she was still the subject of much lively hallway conversation. I also later met a good friend who had known Smylla at UCLA early in her film career. Smylla Brind, who was born March 4, 1928, in Vienna, did indeed become Vanessa Brown and enjoyed some renown as an actress. But her career never really took off, and I heard much later that as her prospects dwindled she gained a great deal of weight and eventually died of cancer in California on May 21, 1999. These facts, plus a brief mention of a husband—one of two, I believe—are noted on the site <http://www.imdb.com> under Vanessa Brown in the People category. My notes from last winter show that I found two other Web

sites about Smylla/Vanessa at the time, one with several photos from one of her films, but when I tried these again recently, the first (<http://www.angelfire.com/apes/tarzanscott/tsg.html>) was temporarily unavailable and the other (<http://www2.prestel.co.uk/build/newsp.htm>) yielded a "Not Found" notice. Maybe Ms. Gall has more information than I do by now? If so, I'd like to hear it.

**Lorna KRAUT Churchill, Jan. '46**

#### **Letters to Milestone Classes from Retired/Former Teachers**

##### **Dear Fellow Alums:**

I wish I could be at Reunion with you to see what wonderful women and men you have become. It is always a thrill to attend these annual affairs. It's especially regrettable that I cannot come, since it is my 60<sup>th</sup> milestone year. During my 34 years of teaching at Hunter there were many changes, but it always remained a very special place for learning. I think this was mainly because of the superiority of intellect and love of learning that you students brought to us to teach.

I can still recount to friends many of the wonderful, mostly humorous incidents that accompanied our journeys together. Two brief examples: When I recalled an event as having occurred after the war, one of you asked, "Was that the Civil War?" My contraceptive prescription: an aspirin tablet...held between your knees. (If any of you have anecdotes of your own, send them along and I'll add them to my stand-up repertoire.)

The strength of the Alumnae/i Association attests to the fact that we have established profound and deeply treasured friendships ever since. Just one example is that of my own Health and Physical Education teacher, with whom I'm still in touch, as we share fond memories of our years on 68<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Streets. You will be in my thoughts, especially on the day of the general

reunion on June 2. I salute all of you who brought so much joy and enrichment to my life.

**Jean Binnie '42, retired faculty member**

#### **Dear Classes of 1987, 1992 and 1997:**

As you are catching up on old times and recent events, I am grading AP European History students in Nebraska. I hope you are all doing well and would love to hear about what's going on with you.

**Dr. Patricia Rosof** (email: [prosrof@hchsm1.hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:prosrof@hchsm1.hunter.cuny.edu))

Hello and regards to the many, many students I remember so warmly. You were fun to teach.

**Mrs. Marsh** (at HCHS since 1976)

## **Revamped Website is in the Works**

We will soon be unveiling our newly redesigned website, which is currently being designed by a committee of the Board of Directors, with the help of a professional website designer and HCHS alum.

The website will continue to feature a message board and directory of alum email addresses, and will also include links to class websites, future issues of *AlumNotes*, articles from our archives and a directory of alum authors and the books they've written.





# Milestone Class Reunion Reports

**January 1952: Coordinators:**  
**Phyllis ANTMAN Feifer & Judith**  
**RUBINSTEIN Prigal**

The Hunter girls of January 1952 were a small, cohesive class of only 82. The Hunter women of 2002 who attended their 50th reunion were delighted to discover that after 50 years, diverse careers, and moves across the country, we had retained a unique congeniality. Twenty-one classmates, many from far away, were able to attend the general reunion at the high school on June 2, while 12 sent regrets.

Name tags, with pictures from our yearbook, helped us identify each other. While some have kept up high school friendships over 50 years, many met for the first time since graduation—but after a few moments it was as if the intervening years had never happened. There was a profusion of warm greetings and hugs followed by squeals of delight, and suddenly we were a roomful of high-school seniors enjoying our “flashback” and savoring the exchange of special memories. We could create instant images of classrooms, the basement locker room, the gym, our teacher—and the pleasure of learning in an all-girls setting. A good education does not preclude having a good time and we had both! Classmates were encouraged to dig up 50-year-old mementos and, miraculously, old copies of *What's What*, the senior play and “Sing,” and sheet music for Sarah Maria Jones survived. We exchanged old photos and took some new ones.

A 50th reunion yearbook had been assembled with family and professional news, as well as comments about our years at Hunter. It was interesting to note that two subjects mentioned quite often as having left impressions were Speech (good memories) and Latin (mixed memories); yet these are two areas no longer emphasized at the Hunter of today. The senior play and Field Day also figured prominently in our collective memory. We agreed that our old “castle” building on 68th Street & Lexington provided a more aesthetic

environment than the present one (known as the “Brick Prison” by today's students).

Our senior class president, Sylvia BRODSKY Pressler, spoke about the extraordinary, formative experience we had at Hunter, and how we were taught, in a supportive all-girls environment, that there were no limitations on what girls could accomplish. The ensuing 50 years helped us appreciate how this exceptional education and effective feminism have enriched our lives. After the luncheon at the high school, we continued talking and socializing at a nearby restaurant where we enjoyed canapes and drinks. Some even stayed on for an early dinner. It was a wonderful day—as one class member wrote, “I can't believe it's been 50 years—where did the time go? Tempus Fugit.”

So far, our class has collected \$1,000 as our gift to the school. We're now optimistically looking forward to our 55th!

**June 1952: Coordinator: Lorraine**  
**WOODS Costello**

A bond exists among Hunterites that made our 50th celebration feel more like a family gathering than a class reunion. It was wonderful to meet people whom we hadn't seen for half a century and to be able to connect with them as if we had just met them in class yesterday. Through the efforts of our class coordinator, Lorraine, and her committee, Sheila and Dottie, we achieved a remarkable attendance of 48 ladies. From Italy and Canada and many other distant points they came to our milestone event, and all agreed it was worth the trip. At a Manhattan restaurant where we met for dinner Saturday night we were each given a nametag which included our photograph from our 1952 *Annals*. When we met again on Sunday we heard the names of our deceased classmates read aloud and we took a moment to remember them. We also heard greetings from those people who were unable to attend. Later, the comments of the spokespersons from all the milestone classes were tasteful and witty and eloquent. (What a clever bunch we are.)

Our class made a donation of \$4,300 earmarked for the Music and Arts program. We have fond memories of the Music Department and its impact on our lives during our years at Hunter. Being present at this reunion reinforced our feelings of pride and gratitude for the opportunity to have been a part of this wonderful school.

**1957: Coordinators: Vicky SILVER**  
**Hiller & Rosalind Kaplan**

The class of '57 had an extremely successful reunion on Sunday, June 2nd. Among the 50 Hunterites who attended was Mrs. Maria Lo Frumento, former principal of HCHS. Mrs. Lo Frumento taught Spanish to us in the very early years of her career. Some of us had even attended her wedding. We were happy that she and her husband could join us. The luncheon took place at Brunelli's Restaurant, located at 75th Street & York Avenue. Hunterites came from as far as California, Florida, Tennessee, Louisiana and Pennsylvania. It was wonderful to renew old relationships. We are looking forward to our 50<sup>th</sup>.

**1962: Coordinator: Susan L. Schulman**

The Class of 1962 began planning for our 40th reunion in October 2001. Our first planning sessions included Doris Meibach, Janet Lundberg, Susan Schulman, Leslie Krakower, Diana Cavalluzzo, Liz Davidson, Naomi Conn, Lynn Reynolds, Dana Jacobi, Karin Prager, Jane Reckford and Marsha Magzamen. Leslie and Diana began Internet searches for classmates; Lynn agreed to be treasurer; Marsha and Leslie began finding housing for visiting classmates; Janet agreed to make the photo badges and burn the CDs of the Sing; Margret Elson would make the banners and Susan agreed to take on another reunion (while Liz relieved our stress with her magical neck massages.) We decided to include anyone who had shared any of our six stressful years at Hunter (but not spouses or significant others) and set the reunion for June 1, 2002, at Sardi's Restaurant. Instead of a questionnaire, we asked everyone to write a one page “memory” sharing anything they wanted with their former classmates. Ironically, this





free-form approach unexpectedly caused widespread soul-searching and considerable stress as people re-evaluated their lives and accomplishments. The "memories" were fascinating and showed the wide range of life choices made by our classmates. As children in the 1950s, we were raised to be mothers and teachers, yet our ultimate career choices included doctors, lawyers, heads of not-for-profit institutions, travel agents, therapists, actors, a U.N. translator, corporate executives, psychologists, writers, press agents and, of course, mothers and teachers. We distributed the "memories" to our class along with a CD of our Senior Sing and a complete class list.

We were able to locate 109 members of our graduating class of 136 and on June 1st, 63 members of the Class of '62 came from 18 states and Canada to meet at Sardi's. Many had not seen each other in 40 years. Photo badges featuring our graduation pictures helped identify us although we seemed to know each other instantly as we stepped off the elevator. After 40 years we found most people basically unchanged—physically and emotionally. The instant bonding showed the strength of our connection with Hunter and with each other. (Some of us had spent 12 years together, entering Hunter Elementary in 1st grade.) Our luncheon featured a Show and Tell table where Hunter buttons, senior hats, photos, Argus, Annals, graduation programs, and our mascot, the camel Sir Hara, were lovingly displayed. We staged a group photo, which captured the sheer exuberance of being together again. Several people (including our "Most Loquacious" classmate, Heather DuBrow) told funny stories about meeting former teachers in unexpected places. Lois Steinberg brought a Hunter T-shirt, which the entire group signed as a gift for class organizer Susan Schulman, reminding us of the autograph "hounds" we cherished in high school. Our own illustrious Bernadine Healy was welcomed warmly and said she relished being in a roomful of friends who called her Bernie. After Sardi's many of us drifted over to Bryant Park, where we continued talking until sunset, when some moved on to dinner. On Sunday

several of us attended the overall school reunion where Susan presented the principal with the CD of our SING along with our class gift of \$1,500.

Because our class e-mail list was in place at 9/11, there was an outpouring of love and concern and support from classmates around the world that was extremely moving. Some lost family members in the tragedy and others were actively involved with the search and recovery efforts and shared their devastating experiences with those far away. If we hadn't already bonded prior to 9/11, we did then. Based on the many eloquent post-reunion e-mails, the general feeling was that we are still pretty much the same but MORE SO. People seemed more comfortable within themselves than in previous years and happier with their lives. Some of us have already retired or are considering new directions. But underneath our artfully draped, slightly larger, fifty-something, baby boomer façades, we still consider ourselves HUNTER GIRLS.

#### **1967: Coordinator: Ruth Katz**

The class of 1967 celebrated its 35th reunion with a dinner held on Saturday, June 1, at the lovely Upper West Side home of Dr. Shelly Goldklank. More than 30 class members attended, some accompanied by spouse—whose bemusement at this all-female event and at HCHS in general lent an extra dimension to the festivities. Several attendees came from as far away as California and Florida—and one, Janet LIEVOW Brightman, all the way from England. Dr. Ruth Katz, assisted by the computer expertise of Nancy PASACHOFF Kutner, arranged the dinner; Ruth's husband, Neil Chan, beautifully catered it.

Class members in attendance ran the gamut of professions, from psychologist, to educator, to lawyer, to doctor, etc., to one Feldenkrais and yoga practitioner (also a teacher). Among those with children, some had ones already in, or even through with, college; others had children who were still quite young. (Indeed, a major reason for non-attendance this year, as opposed to previous years, was conflict with a child's bar/bat mitzvah date.) But conversation did not center on

professional accomplishments or even on family. In this writer's opinion, what dominated the occasion was the sheer excitement and joy of meeting old friends, of seeing how wonderful everyone looked, and of recognizing the continuing connection between us and our striking parallels in development and thought despite any and all divergences of path. In a word, conversation was very easy and, in some cases, very deep.

A number of classmates who could not make the Saturday dinner did come to the schoolwide brunch the following morning, bringing to over 40 the number present during reunion weekend as a whole (thus, between one-fifth and one-fourth of our entire class). Two young daughters of classmates were also present: nine-year-old Jillian Sierra Harris (daughter of Carol FENDEL Harris), who spontaneously and charmingly assumed the role of greeter and facilitator; and seven-year-old Marina Rebecca Chan (daughter of Ruth Katz). When the moment for class speeches arrived, Doris Abrahams agreed to do the honors. (Anyone who attended HCHS in the mid-1960's will remember her as the guitarist who made "Let's Pretend" practically the HCHS anthem.) She spoke with passion of our often-rebellious high-school years—the '60s, which left their permanent mark on us—and of the late Jane Greenspan, our class adviser, who saw us through it all. Mrs. Greenspan passed away in 1996 and we have dedicated our milestone class gift to her memory. (We also thought this year of our other class adviser, Irving Kizner, whom we contacted and, inasmuch as he was unable to come to this year's reunion, will expect to see five years down the road, if not before!)

As a follow-up to reunion, classmate Miriam Schneidmill is presently working on a class website and an address list that will be carefully maintained, with all current information. (There will also be a push to locate missing classmates.) Emailing was a great success this year, but things will be easier if she who does it next time 'round has a list that is up-to-date from the start. Meanwhile, classmate Marilyn Lee is collecting and compiling one-page

*Continued on page 7*





## Milestone Class Coordinators

**2003 Reunion (General Reunion will be Sunday, June 1, 2003 at the High School)**

1948, June: **Miriam KOSTINER**

**Roschelle,**  
233 Park Dr.,  
Eastchester, NY 10709,  
914-793-6641

1953, Jan.: Attention: Class of Jan. '53: We're looking for you for our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion next year. A group of us in the New York area are at the beginning stages of reunion "thinking." A good beginning would be a coordinator. We also need an updated and expanded mailing list. Please send us your addresses (e-mail and snail mail) and telephone numbers. If you have information about any other classmates, please send that information as well. One of the decisions to be made is whether to meet in January or June 2003. The high school's annual reunion is June 1. Input, planning, information, coordination—we need it all. Has it really been almost 50 years? Let us hear from you:

**Susan ROSENO**

**Fahrenholtz,**  
28 Winding Lane,  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003,  
973-338-6588;

**Rachel (Rose Lee) Lawrence,**  
139 W. Englewood Ave.

Apt. 2B,  
Teaneck, NJ 07666  
201-833-1973

yentarl@msn.com;

**Ellen Mendel,**  
372 Central Park West,  
New York, NY 10025,  
212-662-4193,  
LNM97@webtv.net

**Joan BANFIELD Stephens,**

65 Intervale Ave.,  
Teaneck NJ 07666,  
201-837-2015;

**Carol PODELL Vinson,**

262 Henry St.,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201,  
718-624-4589;

**Ruby KOENIGSBERG**  
**Vogelfanger,**

351 W. 24th St. 14F,  
New York, NY 10011,  
212-989-5603,  
MVOGELFANG@aol.com

1953, June: **Shari Barton,**  
2920 Upton St. NW,  
Washington, DC 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

1968: **Miggie Warms,** 34-43 86<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Jackson Hts., NY 11372,  
migwar@aol.com

**Lois Radisch,** 311 W. 24<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Apt. 3F, New York, NY  
10011, ljrads@aol.com

1978: **Marge Kolb,**  
mkolbcorr@aol.com

\*\*Since 1978 was an "orphan" graduating class (we were either 1977 class members who stayed for ICY or early graduates of the class of 1979), I'm wondering if there's interest in celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2002. Please contact me if you want to take over class coordinator duties or plan a separate function for next year. Otherwise, we'll just all meet at the general reunion at the High School on Sunday, June 1, 2003 and we'll invite the class of 1979 to join us there.

1993: **Laureen Barrameda,**  
laureen1993@yahoo.com

Attn: The Class of 1993 10-Year Reunion Dinner is scheduled for Saturday night, May 31, 2003. Members of the class should email Laureen for information on how to join the reunion e-group, which will keep you up to date on reunion plans.

**2004 Reunion**

1964: **Rhoda SRAGG Faller,**  
**Gareth MANN Sitz &**  
**Varda Brahms;** email Rhoda  
at: meroho@aol.com

## 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 Dobbryn '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. 112<sup>th</sup> St., #4B,  
NY, NY 10025,  
c.bergmann.1@alumni.nyu.edu

Amy Gong '93,  
amygong@hotmail.com

*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 October 15.*





# Israel Chapter Sponsors Get-Together

by Lorell FELDSTEIN Blass '45

The Israel Chapter of the HCHS Alumnae/i Association held a get-together on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the home of Debby ESKOLSKY Millgram '52, with seven alums who graduated in years ranging from 1945 to 1972 attending. It was a very pleasant evening where recollections were shared of our high school days and our varied experiences, depending on the years each of us attended. We spoke of our adjustment to Israeli life and to the motivation that brought us to live in this very different culture. What was especially remarkable is that at a time when

every meeting of Israelis nowadays always reverts to a discussion of our political situation, on this evening the subject was not mentioned. It was a few hours that took us out of the routine reality with which we generally cope. Those alums who could not attend expressed regret (one even tried to postpone her airline flight). From time to time Hunter alums visit Israel and sometimes telephone me so we can get together. The fact that we never knew each other while at Hunter or were years apart in our attendance does not detract from some feeling of closeness.

Debby ESKOLSKY Millgram contributed the following anecdote: In my effort to invite all Hunter graduates, I visited Dola Ben Yehuda '18 to make a personal invitation. Her father was the man credited with bringing to life Hebrew as a spoken language in the modern age. (She is 100 1/2 years old.) I heard her father sent her to NY during the "War" (to avoid the conflict) and that was when she went to Hunter. So I said to her, "I heard your father sent you to Hunter during the Second World War." She said, "No, dear, I went to Hunter during the First World War!" □

## Milestone Reports...

*Continued from page 5*

"bios" — for which the deadline has been extended to mid-September. And there is more good news: even those who could not attend this year's gathering (and we heard from at least thirty) were energized by our classwide communication. Thus, we already have a number of RSVPs for 2007: among others, from Shirley Adams and Helen Greene Standing, who plan (or would like) to fly in from England and Belgium, respectively!

### 1972: Coordinator: Penny GOLD Novello

The class of 1972 had a luncheon at Miss Elle's Homesick Bar & Grill in Manhattan on Saturday, June 1. About 20 people attended. We had a great time, poring over old yearbooks and just catching up. We had a new bride, Jody Leight, and her husband. Rachel Feldman brought her absolutely adorable little girl. Two class members came from California — Nancy Goldstein and Jan Miller. It was a lovely way to spend an afternoon with old and distant friends. On Sunday, June 2, we had a similar turnout at the High School. Some people who couldn't make it on Saturday came on Sunday. We all agreed that it was impossible that we graduated 30 years ago, but hey, time marches on! Glad those who could come did, and those who didn't... well, we missed you. Maybe next time.

### 1977: Coordinator: Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz

More than 40 members of the class of '77 attended our milestone 25th reunion, including a few who traveled to New York from as far away as California and Washington State. Classmate Ellen Purtell spoke on behalf of our group at the reunion assembly and got a huge laugh when she informed Hunter's new principal, who happens to be a rather tall man, that he is not nearly as intimidating as Maria LoFrumento was! (LoFro, as we fondly called her behind her back, ran the school when we were there, and was a powerhouse despite her diminutive size.) As Ellen so aptly added, 25 years after graduation, our classmates are doing everything from raising babies to "splitting the atom." In addition to a number of stay-at-home moms and working mothers of children ranging from newborns to 20-somethings, our ranks include teachers and college professors; musicians, actresses, writers, film makers and artists; engineers, researchers, and others in science/computer/hi-tech fields; financial analysts, accountants, consultants and others in the worlds of finance, insurance, public relations etc.; doctors, nurses, physical therapists and others in medicine; psychologists, therapists, counselors and other mental health profession-

als; LOTS OF LAWYERS! and last but not least — a minister and a police detective.

### 1982: Reunion Committee: Steve Nussbaum, Ronit Setton, Sara Corello, Katherine Frink Hamlett, Clairemarie Fisher-O'Leary, & Carrie Lobman

The Class of '82 20th reunion effort began with a series of planning sessions over brunch, but rapidly expanded to a class-wide project that culminated in an unforgettable weekend-long series of events. Aided by the impressive sleuth-work of our classmates, and the wonders of Internet technology, we were able to track down contact information for 200 of the 208 people in the Class of '82. Special thanks go out to the tenacious efforts of Saul Fisher, who performed countless searches for us. Once the word got out about the reunion, the planning took on a life of its own. The technologically-gifted Ella Roberts set up a Class of '82 Web site, which played our Senior Song ("I Wanna Be Sedated," but better known as "Get Me Graduated") and allowed us to play a memory invoking Hunter Trivia Quiz that she created. Hung Ng volunteered to coordinate a Class of '82 newsletter, for which classmates submitted updates on their lives and favorite memories from our years at Hunter. The response was phenomenal. Over half our class provided

*Continued on page 13*





## Alumnae/i Announcements

**Lois GREEN Schwoerer, Jan. '45** has had her 4th book, *The Ingenious Mr. Henry Care: Restoration Publicist*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in December 2001.

**Nancy KIPNIS Miller '57** announces the publication of *But Enough About Me: Why We Read Other People's Lives* (Columbia University Press, 2002). In her latest work of personal criticism, Nancy K. Miller tells the story of how a girl who grew up in the 1950s and got lost in the 1960s became a feminist critic in the 1970s. Miller interweaves pieces of her autobiography with the memoirs of contemporaries in order to explore the unexpected ways that the stories of other people's lives give meaning to our own. In *But Enough About Me*, she defends the memoirist's art against accusations of terminal narcissism, showing how all forms of life writing—memoirs, diaries, essays—reveal as much about us as they do about their authors.

According to Susan Gubar, co-author of *Madwoman in the Attic*, "Miller's strikingly original voice surprises and delights readers with insights into the paradox of memoir—that the stories we tell about ourselves intimately connect us to other people."

**Jo ASARO Manning '58** had her second book of Regency fiction, *Seducing Mr. Heywood*, published in June by Thorndike-5-Star Authors. The book has received great reviews from Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, Booklist (Starred Review) and Romantic Times (a fanzine). The book is available for sale on Amazon.com.

**Joan Wilson '62**, known now as Hafeezah, has just self-published a handy tips booklet, *Coach Yourself! From A - Z: 77 Power Principles for Successful Living*. For ordering information email: hafeezah@hotmail.com or voice mail: (212) 459-4806.

**Margaret FARGO Keck '64** is pleased to announce the release of

"Dance For Victory," a 60-minute VHS stereo videotape produced by Moriah Ministries. She and Tom, her husband of 30 years, are cofounders of Moriah Ministries. The focus of the ministry is to unite Jewish and gentile Believers into one body. On the video Margaret teaches two worship dances and she and Tom speak on how to obtain victory in your life. The video can be ordered at <http://www.davidicdance.com>. Margaret attributes her years at Hunter to teaching her that she could try and do anything. She attributes her years as a Believer in Yeshua (Jesus) to teaching her that she could learn something from anyone regardless of his or her IQ.

**Diane M. Sharon '66** announces the publication of her book *Patterns of Destiny: Narrative Structures of Foundation and Doom in the Hebrew Bible* (Eisenbrauns 2002). In the book, Diane uses the tools of structuralist literary criticism to uncover social and theological patterns in biblical literature. She provides a brief framework for understanding the approach used in her study, then demonstrates that the notion of destiny, specifically the ideas of establishment/foundation and condemnation/doom, are embedded in narrative that includes an eating and drinking event. To order, please go to the Eisenbrauns, Inc. website at [www.eisenbrauns.com](http://www.eisenbrauns.com) or call 574-269-2011.

**Margaret Bender '81** had her book, *Signs of Cherokee Culture: Sequoyah's Syllabary in Eastern Cherokee Life*, published in June by The University of North Carolina Press. The book is a nuanced ethnography of Eastern Cherokee literacy that documents the community's experiences with all forms of writing, both Cherokee and English. It explicates the historical and contemporary uses and significance of Sequoyah's syllabary, the most famous example of American Indian writing systems. The book is based on extensive fieldwork in the community of the

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in western North Carolina and uses a semiotic approach to investigate the historic and contemporary role of the syllabary.

**Thisbe Nissen '90** announces the publication of *The Ex-Boyfriend Cookbook*, co-written with Erin Ergenbright (Harperinformation, June 2002). The book details Nissen's and Ergenbright's loves lost, but also records the recipes they gained from failed romances. Their intimate dating stories could have been lifted straight from any girl's diary, fixing upon a vast array of encounters from the first crush (he's 19, you're six), to the high-school prom date (yes, that's you in the silver sequined dress), to the college sweetheart, to the previously married man (with kids). Their clever collages accompanying the recipes illustrate each boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl tale with a flavor that pokes fun at love gone wrong. With room in the back for your own collages and stories, this is the perfect keepsake for anyone who has had his or her heart broken. *The Ex-Boyfriend Cookbook* will help make it all better, even if it's only until the last spoonful.

**Steve Hofstetter '97** has just had his first book published: *Student Body Shots: A Guide to the Best 4-6 Years of Your Life*. The book features a forward from actor Rider Strong, whom people will probably remember from ABC's "Boy Meets World." A humorous look at everything college, the book retails for \$11.95 and can be ordered through Amazon at Steve's Web site, [www.observationalhumor.com](http://www.observationalhumor.com).

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. □





# Hunter is Among Top Feeder High Schools to Harvard, Yale & Princeton

According to an article in the September 2002, issue of *Worth* magazine, Hunter College High School ranks 26th (out of approximately 31,700 high schools nationwide) in a listing of the top feeder high schools to the elite trio of Ivy League colleges—Harvard, Yale and Princeton. The rankings were based on the percentage of a high school's students graduating from 1998 to 2001 who matriculated at one of the three col-

leges. With 67 students matriculating in the four-year period, HCHS averaged almost 17 students per year. (In the class of 2002, which was not included in this ranking, 22 HCHS students accepted admission to Harvard, Princeton or Yale.) There were only five other public high schools in the top 100 and these were ranked 59th, 71st, 81st, 87th and 90th. The average yearly tuition at the high schools ranked above Hunter was \$20,899.

*Worth* opines that since Harvard, Yale and Princeton are three of the most selective Ivy League colleges, chances are great that if a high school can consistently place a large number of students in one of them, they can also consistently place students into any other college.

(Our thanks to Gisela RITTER Gall, Jan. '44 for sending us the article from *Worth*.) □

## Hunterites in the News

**Bernadine Healy '62** was the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) when she launched the Women's Health Initiative, a \$625 million effort to study the causes, prevention and cures of diseases that affect women. Recently, a study of estrogen/progestin funded by the Initiative showed a slightly increased risk of invasive breast cancer among women taking the hormones.

**Cynthia Nixon '84** advocated publicly in a variety of forums against cuts to New York City's education budget which were proposed by Mayor Bloomberg, including a call-in interview she gave to conservative radio talk show host John Gambling, on WABC radio. In May, she received a summons for allegedly blocking a sidewalk outside City Hall while decrying proposed budget cuts to schools. Her daughter attends public school in Manhattan. Cynthia is in her fifth season as a star of HBO's "Sex and the City."

**Thisbe Nissen '90** was featured in an August 14, *New York Times* article "Rolling Their Own" (in the Dining In Dining Out section) about the new trend among some Americans to make sushi at home. Thisbe is a fiction writer who lives in Iowa City, Iowa.

**Adam Shapiro '90** is the former director of the Seeds of Peace Center for Coexistence in Jerusalem. He is currently a volunteer organizer with the

International Solidarity Movement, a movement of Palestinian and international activists and grassroots community organizations working together to use nonviolent direct action to confront and resist the occupation of Palestinian land. In March of this year, he was prominent in the news after he spent a night in Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah while Israeli soldiers shelled the town. Shapiro went there, he later explained, to try to gain access for an ambulance into the presidential compound to treat the wounded. In April he was named an honorary Veteran for Peace by the Veterans for Peace organization.

**Antonios (Tony) Benetatos '97** was the probationary firefighter featured in the documentary "9/11" shown on CBS in March of 2002. Tony was chosen as the subject of a film about firefighters being made by French brothers and documentary filmmakers Gedeon and Jules Naudet. Tony's company, Engine 7, Ladder 1, was located on Duane Street, just blocks away from the World Trade Center. Tony is currently working with a fire company in Maspeth, Queens, where he is training on the Haz-Mat squad. □

## 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. We may be able to help you get back in touch. (In case you didn't know, Sarah Maria Jones was the name given to the archetypal Hunter High Student.)

## Send Your Submission to AlumNotes

We're always looking for submissions for *AlumNotes* - from remembrances of a particular time at Hunter; to letters to the Editor; news for Class Notes; announcements such as book publications, album/CD releases, acting endeavors; to notices of your or another alum's (or our alma mater's) inclusion in news articles. Submissions can be emailed to us at [hchsalums@yahoo.com](mailto:hchsalums@yahoo.com) or mailed to our office: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021. (We reserve the right to edit submissions for length and/or content.)





# Class Notes

**1920s** Rebecca LEVITAN Lister '29 writes to ask if she's the oldest alum (she's not, we have many alums from the 1920s and even one from a class as early as 1918, whom we've heard only recently is alive and well). Rebecca has just had her latest book, *Words from Torah*, published by her local Hadassah chapter. It's available for \$10 by check to Hadassah, 1021 Newcastle B., Boca Raton, FL 33434.

**1930s** Esther ROGOFF Taus, Jan. '31 received her B.A. from Hunter College and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University and subsequently worked as a Professor and Chair of the Economics Department from 1968-1974 at Lehman College. She was awarded the President's Medal by Hunter College President David Caputo and was elected to Hunter's Hall of Fame in 1990. She is currently in charge of Adult Education at Temple Beth El in San Pedro, CA, and is writing a book called *Torah for Today*. She'd love to hear from classmates. • Beatrice STERN Levine, Jan. '32 writes that her grandson, Brian, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and NYU Law summa cum laude, is now clerking in Miami for the judge who supervised the Elián González case. Another grandson, David, is at Johns Hopkins studying cinematography and recently made the Dean's List. Beatrice's husband, Dr. Sol Levine, passed away in 1999. • Sylvia SOLENDER Shapiro '34 writes that she and classmates Charlotte SALZ Fischler and Marian BERLISS Katzenstein continue to get together at least twice a year for lunch. • Blanca GIL DE RUBIO Cedeno '38 served with the NYC Housing Authority from 1952-1987, beginning as a housing assistant and rising to the position of member and vice-chair of the Board of Directors until her retirement in 1987. She is one of the founders of ASPIRA and Boricua College and served on the board of the National Institute of Building Sciences, as well as the boards of universities and colleges. She is also a member of the Hunter College Hall of Fame.

**1940s** Rita RUDGES Maran '45 invites alums to participate in a straightforward human-rights education project by going to [www.humanrightseducation.org](http://www.humanrightseducation.org). • Lois GREEN Schwoerer, Jan. '45 received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from George Washington University at the May 2002 commencement and has just had her 4th book published by Johns Hopkins University Press (please see the Alum Announcements section). In addition, the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA, has appointed her an Andrew M. Mellon Foundation Fellow for two months in the 2002-2003 academic year. • Lorraine VOGEL Klerman '46 is still active in teaching and research and is currently serving as a Visiting Professor at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, with appointments at Dartmouth Medical School and Georgetown University as well. Her four children and seven grandchildren also keep her busy.

**1950s** Helen KILOH McCullough '50 married Leo McCullough on November 10, 2001. She is currently retired. Helen's three children live in California and Leo and her combined families boast eleven grandchildren. • Virginia BIRKENMAYER Svane '54 has spent more than 40 years living

in Europe, having married a Danish diplomat. They are now retired and living in an old farmhouse in the south of France. They still travel quite a bit in the Middle and Near East, North Africa and Brazil. • Marilyn KUPERMAN Scott '55 has just retired after 22 years as a teacher of Latin and English Literature at Community High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Just prior to retirement, Marilyn was named Outstanding Latin Teacher in the State of Michigan, an award given by the University of Michigan's Department of Classical Studies. She is an active member of Temple Beth Emeth, where she was its first female president. A widow with two grown children, Marilyn plans to be married this fall to a retired professor of international health and economics. She would love to hear from other Midwestern Hunterites. • Catherine Ferguson '57 writes a weekly column for the waterfront edition of the Jersey Journal. She also does psychic readings of pets by using the animals' pictures. • Barbara R. Heller, Ed.D., RN, FAAN '58 has left her post as dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing as of June 28, 2002, after 12 years of leadership. She will assume new university-wide administrative responsibilities as Executive Director of the newly established Center for Health Workforce Development at the University of Maryland-Baltimore. As leader of the Center, Dr. Heller's focus will be on workforce development, promoting interdisciplinary education for collaborative practice, providing leadership and management training for health care professionals, and shaping state and national policy as it relates to health professions. Dr. Heller will also take on new responsibilities as the School of Nursing's first Rauschenbach Distinguished Professor, an endowed professorship dedicated to the improvement of nursing and nursing education through research and teaching. During her 12-year tenure as Dean of the School of Nursing, Dr. Heller achieved her goals to set the School on a new course as a state-of-the-art learning organization and a center for promoting excellence, innovation and leadership in nursing education, research and practice. • Alice Raggio '59 had her first grandchild, Katie Anne Hutter, born on October 2, 2001, to daughter Shananne and her husband, Stephen Hutter.

**1960s** Helene WILLIAMS Spierman '61 was married to Leonard Lehrman on July 14, at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City. As part of the ceremony, classmate Leonore Tiefer read a very humorous poem written by Alex Skovron, Helene and Leonard's Australian poet-concert entrepreneur. Also in attendance were classmates Lisa Harbatkin, Steli Keller, Patricia Anne Williams, Ann KOPPELMAN Stamler and Amy Mathieu (now known as Stephanie Amy Cowell—she left Hunter after the 8th grade). Lisa and Ann also helped out by taking pictures, as did Ann's and Stephanie's respective husbands. Fellow alum Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49 helped with the reception details, which Helene handed over to her only two days before the event, and without whom Helene wouldn't have been able to pull it off. Helene was also excited that her wedding notice was published in the *New York Times*! • Dr. Gloria HARPER Dickinson '64, chair of the Department of African American Studies at the College of New Jersey, was recently elected National President of the Association for the Study of African American Life &





History ([www.asalh.org](http://www.asalh.org)). Founded in 1915 by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, the "father" of Negro History Week (since 1976 known as Black History Month), ASALH is the oldest extant learned society dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of African History and Culture. Additionally, Gloria and **Grace BALL Strauther '53** served concurrent terms as members of the board of directors of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the world's oldest Greek letter organization for college women of African descent, with a membership of over 170,000. Gloria is completing a four-year term as National Recording Secretary and Grace served as Far Western Regional Director from 1996-2000. Both currently serve on the National Constitution Committee and only discovered their Hunter connection in April, 2002. • **Ann GORMLEY Pinzl '64** has entered a new phase—collecting retirement income—although she's keeping professionally active and so doesn't think of herself as retired. With much regret, she left the Nevada State Museum, where she had worked for almost 30 years in various curatorial capacities, particularly botany. Recent administrative changes had de-emphasized the collections that were her love, and so now she and her husband will travel more and she will do contract work when interesting projects come her way. Anyone interested in having floristic surveys done or in getting their collections organized, or just wanting to catch up, can contact Ann via email at [apinzl@worldnet.att](mailto:apinzl@worldnet.att). • **Ina ALSTER Gravitz '65** has ventured rather far from HCHS, having relocated to the Twin Cities after her husband's retirement. There she continues her career as an indexer. Ina would like to hear from other alums in the Twin Cities area—perhaps to start a local chapter there. Email her at [inagravitz@earthlink.net](mailto:inagravitz@earthlink.net). • **Henriette Hamel '67** is the Regional Toxics Coordinator for the NYS Department of Health in Syracuse. She is married with one "superior" cat and lives in the country in central New York. She is a cross-country skier, bicyclist and biathlete. • **Terri GORDON Dubin '68/69** has lived in the Chicago area for 18 years. She visited family in NYC in April, at which time she tried to get her high-school-junior daughter to understand and appreciate the value of an "all-girls" school. Alas, she only wanted to look at Columbia—no all-women colleges for her!

**1970s** **Christine BEDNARSKI Aldrich '70** works by day as a consultant to UPS Freight Services on deployment of their global business system and in her free time, she's one of the publishers of *Mystery News* ([www.blackravenpress.com](http://www.blackravenpress.com)). • **Caroline GROTENSTEIN Isaacs '70** is still happily working as a psychotherapist and living with her partner (now official Domestic Partner) of 18 years, Randy. Caroline finally became Bat Mitzvah'd last year and is currently serving as president of Temple Beth El in Eureka, CA. • **Mona DEUTSCH Miller '70** writes to say she can hardly believe it's over 30 years since her graduation from HCHS. She's happy to still have wonderful Hunter friends, including Helen Bendix in LA, Joan Fabry in DC, Fay Greenbaum in NYC and Janet Beizer, who teaches at Harvard. Mona's 14-year old daughter, Thais, loves to write, act, sing, watch TV and go to the movies...which will sound familiar to anyone who knew Mona. She wonders if anyone knows what happened to the superb Russian teacher Linda Elberger? • **Vivian Reiss '70** has just had the 22nd solo exhibition of her paintings. This show was entitled "Portraits," an intimate look at Toronto's art scene. Although residing in Toronto for the past 27 years, Vivian has traveled the world and has just been elected member international of The Explorers Club. • **Miriam W. Schustack '70** writes to correct an entry in

the Class Notes section of our Spring issue: "However unlikely it may seem, there are two alumnae from the class of 1970 who had the last name Schustack at Hunter (we are cousins). **Susan SCHUSTACK Frankel** started in the class of 1971, and later accelerated into 1970, while Miriam Schustack was always in the class of 1970. An recent entry in Class Notes caused some confusion by mixing Miriam's first name with Susan's (married) last name, causing some of Miriam's friends to wonder what had happened to Miriam's husband (who is fine, but not named Frankel). • **Elinor R. Hoffmann '71/72** is a partner in the New York office of the law firm Coudert Brothers LLP, specializing in antitrust law, dispute resolution and project finance. She is married with two children—her oldest, a daughter, is entering Stuyvesant High School next fall (why doesn't Hunter have an entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade class??). Elinor is in touch on a regular basis with a number of 1971 and 1972 graduates of Hunter and would love to hear from more. • **Barbara Vosk '73** is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Raleigh, NC. She and her husband, Howard Shareff, have two children, Rebecca, 13, and Brian, 16. • **Nancy LEHRMAN Bloom '77** and her husband Jacob are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, a daughter they've named Shira, who was born August 29, 2001. She joins Julia, almost 12, and Michael, aged 9. • **Marjorie FLACKS Wittner '77** is still living in Marblehead, MA, with her husband, Ben, 12-year-old son, Michael, and 8-year-old daughter, Allie. She left private practice to return to public service in April 2001, and is now the Acting Chief Counsel of the Massachusetts Labor Relations Commission. She sends her regards to all her 25<sup>th</sup> reunion classmates from the class of '77.

**1980s** **Laura Harrington '82** earned her Ph.D. in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism in June from Columbia and in July, gave birth to a son, Ori Maitreya. She and her husband, Irv Steinfink, now live in western Massachusetts, enjoying the benefits of country living. • **Paul B. Radvany '85** and his wife, Kim, had their second child, Katherine, last November. They also have a three-year-old son, Jason. Paul has been a federal prosecutor in New York for the past five years. • **Lynn D. Halpern '87**, her husband, Tom Fogarty, and son Ethan welcomed Zachary William on April 25, 2002. Lynn and her family live in Manhattan and she keeps in touch with many Hunterites and their children. • **Jodi KRASILOVSKY Miller '87** received her MBA from Wharton in 1997. She is currently taking a break from the work force, after working as a health-care consultant for many years, to stay home with her three-year-old daughter, Rebecca, and son, Benjamin, born in December 2001. She loves being home with them and is having lots of fun. She and husband, David, a neuroradiologist, are living in Wynnwood, PA, and Jodi would love to hear from classmates via email to [davidjodi@comcast.net](mailto:davidjodi@comcast.net). • **Ari Urakubo '89** graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in 2001 and is currently in a psychiatry residency program at UCSF.

**1990s** **Camilo Ortiz '90** is living in Forest Hills and recently became an Assistant Professor of Psychology at C.W. Post University and a daddy to Juliet Ivy Ortiz. • **Charles Q. Choi '95** is a freelance reporter for *Scientific American* and other magazines in New York. He recently earned his master's in journalism.

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





## Reading Diane di Prima's "Remembrances of Hunter."

Adapted from *But Enough About Me: Why We Read Other People's Lives* by Nancy KIPNIS Miller '57.

(By permission of the author. All rights reserved.)

When Diane di Prima '51 published her long-announced memoir, *Recollections of My Life as a Woman: The New York Years* in 2001 (an excerpt of which was published in the Winter, 2002 issue of *AlumNotes*), I was curious to see what the sequel to her 1969 *Memoirs of a Beatnik* would offer. Although our families couldn't have been more different (hers Italian-American from Brooklyn, mine Jewish-American from Manhattan), or our careers (she became a poet and I an academic), like me di Prima had gone to Hunter in the 1950s, and I was eager to read her version of that experience—the Hunter experience that one way or another marked a girl for life.

Separated by a six-year interval, di Prima and I nonetheless had some of the same teachers, some of the same passions. We both see our Biology teacher, Mrs. dLilienthal, seated in the place she occupied in the science classroom: "a small woman on a high stool." The shape of her beautifully sculptured head was accentuated by a pixie haircut. In Hygiene (a required course then), Mrs. Lilienthal believed there should be no fake feminine modesty about sexuality or body parts. With utter serenity, she would make a huge class of giggly, embarrassed school girls repeat after her "pen-is," "va-gi-na," slowly accentuating each syllable. Was that all we needed to know? I doubt that many of us at fifteen wanted to know much more.

"Miriam Burstein, beautiful as her name." In the yearbook, there's a picture of Miss Burstein (a teacher also evoked in Audre Lorde's memoir about this era, *Zami*) with the members of the English department, smiling somewhat ironically, not wearing the horn-rimmed

glasses I remember. Looming, is how I see her in memory, standing, maybe leaning on the desk. But what did we read with Miss Burstein? Di Prima recalls discovering Keats—her inspiration for her ideas about poetry, about becoming a poet—in Miss Burstein's class. "I came to Keats by way of Somerset Maugham, 'hack novelist' as Miriam Burstein called him in an English class. Maugham had quoted Keats: 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty'—was it in *Razor's Edge*?" I liked Somerset Maugham too, especially *Of Human Bondage*, but would anyone confess to reading *Marjorie Morningstar*? We learned what not to like, as we discovered what we loved.

We both had a passion for Latin. "French was okay with me," di Prima recalls. "But it was Latin I was in love with. In spite of my ancient, crumbling, old-fashioned teacher. Structure and fluidity at once, like biology and physics coming together." How could she not have named the legendary Dr. Corrigan! Dr. Corrigan was the only teacher to use Delaney cards. Slotted into columns of slits in a special notebook that lay open on her desk, the cards recorded every aspect of student performance. Looking at no one in particular, Dr. Corrigan would pick her victim, slide her card out of its pocket, call on her to read and translate. Never even the flicker of a warning. When I took the Latin exam in graduate school I had the luck of being assigned a passage from The Aeneid—a work that I could still remember translating in Dr. Corrigan's class, long after the actual words had faded.

Except for those three teachers, little else about our Hunter years matched up. But everything that makes us different, that makes me say no, not my story at all, is exactly what makes her memoir valuable to my own history—and perhaps to yours. Reading di Prima reminds

me of the girl I was in the 1950s, even if that girl is someone I often did not enjoy being. In *Recollections...* di Prima describes Hunter as a place where it was "safe" for the first time to be incredibly smart, to become the person she already thought she was. For me, Hunter made the question of being smart a daily anguish. The details of competition were refined. Grades were posted every quarter and your average calculated to two decimal points. There was your name, your grade, your quartile, and your place in the class. It was not enough to be good at what you were good at; you had to be good at everything. And some girls were—the girls whose names always headed the list. The worlds of home and school often were at odds in their values, in their ideas about us. "At home," di Prima writes, "it would be 'Who do you think you are—Sarah Bernhardt?' whenever I 'got dramatic' as my parents put it—took myself seriously in any way." The histrionic was frowned upon in fifties girls. My parents would have agreed with the negative evaluation by one of my English teachers that I found in my file: "Inclined to dramatics in her emotional behavior."

There was one place, however, neither home, nor school, where dramatics were encouraged and made another kind of sense. Dance. Both di Prima and I were passionate about "modern dance," the thing in the 1950s. To look like a dancer was to have the look. I knew I would never be a dancer; I knew I didn't have the body or the talent; but I wasn't terrible either and I had the requisite intensity. My mother had dragged me to classes at the YMHA from an early age, and when I was fifteen I took a summer course at the Martha Graham studio. I was great at "contract and release" the basic movement of the Graham body grammar (contract and release

*Continued on page 17*





## News From the High School

**H**unter High's 2002 graduation ceremony was held on Thursday, June 20, at the Hunter College Assembly Hall. This year's Distinguished Graduate, Jennifer Raab '73, addressed the 180 graduates as part of the program. Ms. Raab is the president of Hunter College and was formerly the chairwoman of NYC's Landmarks Preservation Commission. Nancy Kang was the class valedictorian; she will be attending Harvard in the fall. The class featured 56 students who were named National Merit Finalists, with 26 receiving National

Merit Scholarships; 64 students will be attending Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth, Stanford and MIT. A reception for the graduates and their families was held afterward at Park East Synagogue ... Faculty member David Hankin won the 2002 Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching and was honored at a reception held on April 22, 2002... On May 29, violinist Ariel Jeong (11<sup>th</sup> grade) and pianist Natalie Ehrlich (12th grade) played on Bob

Sherman's "Young Artists Showcase" on WQXR radio, performing the Brahms Violin Sonata in G Major ... Hunter's Math Team took four of the top 15 individual places in the senior division of the NYC Interscholastic Math League contests. Eleventh grader Jonathan Sasmor placed first in the city. In the junior division, Hunter took 10 of the top 50 individual positions. In the New York State Math League contests, Hunter's team placed second and Jonathan was tied for 6<sup>th</sup> best individual score. □

### Milestone Reports ...

*Continued from page 7*

submissions, which were distributed via email ahead of the reunion and helped prime the excitement for the reunion events.

Our reunion weekend incorporated three events: 1) the Class of '82 Cocktails at the appropriately named Cocktail Room on Saturday night; 2) the Alumnae/i Association Milestone Class Event at the high school on Sunday morning; and 3) a Class of '82 picnic in Central Park on Sunday afternoon. Popular culture now tells us that if you build it they will come, and the Class of '82 came in droves. Attendance was incredible, as people came from all over the country. At the Saturday-night event there were approximately 160 people, including over half of our class. The special guest star, though, was Dr. Bernard Miller, the former Director of Campus Schools, who left Hunter and essentially graduated with our class. The night at the Cocktail Room was essentially an exercise in positive sensory overload, with so many familiar faces surrounding you, so many things to say, and so little time. At the event we played the original party music tapes from our Senior Party, which Ted Schneck had saved. Although the official event was scheduled from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., we eventually moved the party around the corner to the Tar Bar,

where we reminisced to the early hours of the morning. For those of us who managed to get up to attend the Alumnae/i Association event at the high school, it was like returning home. Once again inside the Castle on 94th Street we walked the halls, listened to alum speakers in the auditorium and ate in the cafeteria. We felt as if we were caught in a time warp of the most positive kind. A particular highlight was the chance to see some of our former teachers (Mrs. Goldsmith, Ms. Salzman and Ms. Nicholas), who inspired us back then and remain timeless. Finally, the Class of '82 Picnic, coordinated by Martha Schulman and Sarah Schneewind, allowed us to once again lounge as a group in our old haunt in the Park above 97th Street. It also enabled us to see and share the Class of '82 offspring, which were all of course talented, gifted and adorable. Ted Schneck provided many of them with original Class of '82 T-shirts, featuring our mascot Rasputin Raccoon, which he had also saved over the years.

In summary, the Reunion Weekend was an amazing experience. An opportunity to once again bring together a truly unique and special group of people, whose spirit is just as bright and energetic as it was 20 years ago. To many of us, Hunter was more than just a high school, it was an experience that in many ways defined us—our values, our goals, and our ideals. As part of

this experience, a bond was built between our classmates, and the school itself, that endures despite the years. The last page of the Class of '81 Annals invokes a quote from the Eagles, which perhaps says it best: "You can check out, but you can never leave."

### 1987: Class Coordinator: Kari CHIN Chachkes

September 11th prompted our class to have a 14.5-year reunion back in November 2001 which Joanna Spencer was kind enough to host in her apartment in Brooklyn. In early 2002, via the email group (hchs87@yahooogroups.com), we started planning the 15th year reunion. Kari Chin, Derek Chu and Jane Miller all pitched in to organize the events. We began the festivities on Saturday afternoon at Pilgrim Hill in Central Park.

About 40-45 classmates came to the event, along with many significant others and children. It was a lovely day and we ate and talked for about three hours. That evening we went to the American Park restaurant in Battery Park City, which overlooks the Statue of Liberty. Classmates and significant others mingled until late into the evening. Rather than crashing the hip-hop promoter's party that was scheduled to begin after our event, several people headed to Pastis in the West Village until the wee hours of the morning. The turn-

*Continued on page 14*





# Remembering Jack McNeil

Marlena Corcoran '68

Jack McNeil is my Freshman English teacher. It is the fall of 1964, just before the Johnson-Goldwater Presidential race, and I am one of the last girls admitted to Hunter in ninth grade. I have just graduated from parochial school in Brooklyn. This puts me somewhat outside the Hunter mainstream. "Watch out for that school," says my uncle. "They're Communists." I show up for English sporting the straw hat of a Goldwater Girl. Jack looks out over our heads. "When I was in high school," he says, "it was the era of zootsuits." Jack had been too strapped for money to buy one right away. But he wanted to belong, he said, real bad. He describes in great detail the tailoring in question. You can tell he's thought about this a lot. Jack goes on to detail the sharkskin suit, his next object of desire. I cannot remember the point of this, except that somehow it has to do with, that I can take my hat off now. It would be okay. I stare out the window at the Chrysler Building. Jack explains that he had come from a family that wanted him to be somebody. So he became a teacher. "The second generation, they're teachers," says Jack. "Then their children, they become lawyers, doctors, that kind of thing." What happened to the sharkskin suit, I wonder. The last thing on earth I want to be is a teacher. How did I wind up at this place where the first thing they explain is, what is a Normal School? But Mr. McNeil, he seems okay. So I take off my hat.

It is 1964, and the first winds of "do your own thing" are drifting through the corridors at 68th and Lexington. Maybe we can pick our own books. *Anna Karenina*,

someone calls out, and everybody says yes, that's what we want to read. *Anna Karenina*. "You'll read *Anna Karenina*," says Mr. McNeil, "when you're seniors." Oh, we can read it now", says a girl in the second row. "We know all about sex." Mr. McNeil looks out the window. "You know all about sex," he agrees. "It's marriage you don't understand."

It is 1968. I'm lucky they don't kick me out of school, because there's some kind of law about how you can't stay in school if you're pregnant. My boyfriend is a para-trooper, in jail for refusing to go to Vietnam. Where he thought they sent paratroopers is a good question. All I can say is, 18. I've explained to Miss Gargiulo why I'm often late to class. It has to do with trying not to throw up on the train. She said, "Pass the Regents exam and you pass the course." I make similar deals with every teacher, quietly backtracking over my senior year. They look out the window and murmur their terms. I work like a tugboat hauling the QE2. I understand now what I could have been doing with my time. Right now, I just haul: speeches, essays, drawings, equations. Whatever it takes. One warm evening we all line up outside the auditorium. All of us are wearing our floppy class hats, our pink plaid blouses, our black skirts. It's graduation night. We are about to become the Class of '68. The girls march joyfully, singing, down both aisles, toward the stage. I swing into line. Suddenly an arm shoots out across the aisle. Oh, no! No! What didn't I do? Jack McNeil pulls me over and whispers, "I just wanted to congratulate you in particular." □

## Milestone Reports ...

Continued from page 13

out at the official reunion at the school was slightly smaller than at the other events because several of us were still sleeping. We met in the Class of '87 room (which turned out to be Mr. Kanganis's room) and we were so happy to see Ms. Goldsmith (our class adviser) and Ms. Salzman (Science). Ms. Salzman brought us up to date on our teachers and on recent events around the school. We then headed to the auditorium along with the other milestone classes. Representatives from each of the classes spoke (even someone from the class of 1932!). We ended the event at a luncheon in the cafeteria (the first time many of us had been in the cafeteria since 1987). It was wonderful to see so many of our classmates—some of whom we hadn't seen in five, 10 or 15 years. Hopefully, we will all keep in touch via the email group and will see each other before 2007!

### 1992: Class Coordinators: Abby Foster & Sascha Segan

About 80 class members enjoyed a dinner and after-party on Saturday, June 1, at Obeca Li in TriBeCa, which was chosen to provide support for the downtown area in light of the economic impact following September 11th. Many class members hadn't seen each other in the 10 years since gradua-

Continued on page 17

## Don't Forget....

Alumnae/i Association Theater Party on December 4.

See page 1 for details.





# Welcome New Alumnae/i Association Board Members

**Kari CHIN Chachkes '87** was born in Jamaica, West Indies, and moved with her family to Queens when she was a year old. After attending Hunter, she received a B.S. from Georgetown University (School of Foreign Service). She spent her junior year abroad at the Université de Lyon, France and later received her J.D. from NYU School of Law. After practicing for five years as a corporate attorney at Holland & Knight, Kari is now a legal recruiter. She lives in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, with her husband, Gil Chachkes, also an attorney, and their three-year-old daughter, Rebecca. Kari fully credits Hunter with helping her to become the person she is today.

**Ruth KAUFMAN Davis '56** earned a B.A. in History/Languages from Queens College, an M.A. in Educational Psychology from NYU and a P.D. in Educational Administration from CCNY. She also holds an M.A. in Speech/Language from St. John's University. She has worked for the NYC Board of Education since 1960 in a variety of capacities, beginning as a classroom teacher and subsequently working as a learning disabilities specialist, a reading teacher, a coordinator of special projects, a special-education monitor for the Office of the Chancellor, a resource-room teacher and, currently, a speech-improvement teacher. In the last capacity, she has earned two ACE awards from ASHA, the national organization of speech therapists. Additionally, she is providing Early Intervention Speech Services under the auspices of the NYS Department of Health to non-speaking two-year-olds. Ruth lives in Jackson Heights, Queens.

**Marianne K. Tomecek '69** is a Lutheran pastor currently serving Trinity Lutheran Church of Alden Terrace, Valley Stream, New York. Prior to her matriculation at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div., 2001), she served as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice from 1983-1997, handling civil litigation and holding various management positions with

the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas and Counsel to the Director, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys in Washington, D.C. Before joining the Department of Justice, Marianne served in enforcement litigation and management with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Houston, Texas (1978-1983), following her graduation from Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco (J.D. 1978) and from the State University of New York at Albany (B.A. 1973). Marianne's fond memories of life at HCHS (including envelope stuffing for alumnae mailings while in the 7th grade) prompted her desire to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alumnae/i Association, while renewing old acquaintances and establishing new ones.

**Doris MEIBACH Wallace '62** feels she can offer the Board of Directors a unique perspective, as she frequently works as a substitute teacher at HCHS. She loved going to Hunter and feels it influenced her entire life. As a Social Studies teacher in the New York City public schools, she always

aimed to educate and excite her students, as she had been. Her political involvement, too, has its roots at Hunter, where she learned that it was her responsibility to make changes; that doing nothing was a choice. Her independence was nourished on the Woodlawn-Jerome subway line. She received a bachelor's degree from Cornell, her master's from the London School of Economics, and has taken many courses and traveled extensively since. She is committed to a public school system in a free society. The Hunter ties are strong. Her husband, Martin Wallace, is also a substitute teacher at the High School, and her sister, Ina Meibach, is also an alum, from the class of '57.

**Odella Woodson '79** lives in New York City and is looking forward to working with the alumnae/i board to influence growth in Hunter toward diversification. She would love to see Hunter move toward including those who have a variety of attributes in the learning environment. She doesn't know how much influence she will have in this area but she will certainly try. □

## Alumnae/i Theater Party ...

*Continued from front page*

Street, between 9th and 10th Avenues and will be followed by a Q&A with the play's star, Priscilla Lopez, author, Eric Weinberger, and director, Jeremy Dobrish. There will also be a

chance to mingle with friends following the Q&A with a cash bar available. The cost is \$35 for alums and their friends and tickets are limited. To order, please mail a check with the coupon below (sorry—no refunds) to: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.

## Alumnae/i Theater Party - December 4, 2002

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$35 each for a total of: \_\_\_\_\_ (check payable to HCHS Alumnae/i Assn.)

Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

&/or Email: \_\_\_\_\_





## Reunion 2002 ...

Continued from front page

gave the report of the Nomination Committee, informing attendees that our association's board of directors has 15 members and each year, five of the slots come up for election to a 3-year term. This year, two board members are prevented from running for re-election due to term limits, Eve Ferdman '79 and Amy Gong '93; two other board members have resigned due to work obligations, Ben Dattner '88 and Josh Burstein '89. In addition, the board was carrying two vacancies; thus there were six slots open apart from the two current board members who are running for re-election, Tai Wong and Judy Chin Wong, both from the class of 1988. Nominations were received for five of the six slots from: Ruth Kaufman Davis '56, Doris Meibach Wallace '62, Marianne Tomecek '69, Odella Woodson '79, and Kari Chin Chachkes '87. Since the number of nominees are less than the number of open slots, Eve asked that the 5 new nominees and 2 current board members be elected by acclamation, which they were.

Dr. Laurenson introduced himself to the audience of alums with some personal details—he likes to ski and run, enjoys the arts and plays a little piano—and discussed his prior work experience. He has worked at an all-boys school attached to the University of Toronto in Canada which went co-ed in 1972 (the reverse of Hunter's history) and headed the Alabama School of Mathematics and Sciences, a competitive boarding school for superior math and science students in Mobile. He also told the gathering about the Hunter High of today, which still has the Washington Seminar trip, Big Sibs, *Annals*, *What's What* and *The Observer*, but also has 20 varsity sports teams including cross-country, basketball, swimming and volleyball as well as 40 active clubs, including debate and chess, orchestra, band, jazz band, chorus and a 47-piece string orchestra. He ended by thanking the alums for their past financial support of the school, including recent donations to purchase furniture for the newly reno-

vated library.

Joan Rosenthal, the Alumnae/i Association's treasurer, informed those present that when the final bills for the purchase of library furniture are paid, the association will have given the High School \$150,000 in somewhat less than a four-year period. This advances the association's goal of assisting the High School, in addition to our mandates to support the annual Reunion, publish *AlumNotes* and generally keep alums in touch with each other.

Speakers on behalf of milestone classes spoke of their still-vivid memories of their time at Hunter, emphasizing how valuable their "Hunter experience" had been. Steven Nussbaum, speaking for the class of '82, opined that "Hunter becomes part of you." The class of '77, which was the first to graduate from the school's current location at 94<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Ave., was represented by Ellen Purtell, who remembered that two floors in an office building at 466 Lexington Ave. had been home for almost her class's entire time at Hunter and gym class was likely to be held at a bowling alley or the "Y". Hunter had taught her not to be afraid of men, like Dr. Laurenson, but she can remember being afraid of Principal Maria LoFrumento, who was only five feet tall!

Penny GOLD Novello '72 related that her class had started in the 68<sup>th</sup> Street building, where their lockers were in the basement and the gymnasium was on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. Doris Abrahams '67 announced that her class's gift to the school would be given in honor of deceased faculty member Jane Greenspan, who had been their class adviser. In the difficult, uncertain, rebellious times that were the 1960s, Ms. Greenspan guided, helped and taught their class with great humor. Susan Schulman '62 told how even though she and her classmates might be "old broads," they had an email list in place prior to September 11<sup>th</sup>, which provided a place for classmates to bond after that terrible time.

Lorraine WOODS Costello, June '52 reported that 50% of her classmates were present at the reunion! She recalled that Hunter High had been all-girls when she attended, and they had been

taught that they could be anything. Many members of the class have had two careers—one before and one after the births of their children. Many have now become volunteers to give back of their skills. Speaking for the class of January '52, Sylvia BRODSKY Pressler expressed the view of many alums, that after Hunter High, college seemed almost anti-climactic. The years spent at Hunter formed the roots for her class—although the time was pre-feminism, they were taught that they could aspire to anything. All the teachers and administrators were women—the only man in the building was Jimmy, the elevator operator.

Vera Gordon, June '47 spoke about her class's experience at Hunter—they were a group who had known World War II. She recalled going to school on D-Day after hearing news of it on the radio in the morning and of helping to distribute ration books. The education her class received was marvelous and incredible. She also spoke of the accelerating pace of class members being lost due to age and declining health and she encouraged all classes to organize and attend every milestone reunion that they can. Rhebe RUBEN Aguado, Jan. '47 related that she had been a child of immigrant parents who thought she should be a secretary and marry her boss, but instead she went to Hunter and later obtained a Ph.D.

Anita SCHWARTZ Campanella, June '42 reported that about 20 of her classmates were in attendance at the reunion. Her class began attending Hunter in a loft on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and subsequently moved to 68<sup>th</sup> Street. Volunteerism is alive and well among her classmates, even though they are in their late 70s. Angelina CIAOLA Gange represented six members of the class of '37 present at the reunion, recalling that her years at Hunter began on 96<sup>th</sup> Street and Avenue A (now York Avenue), in a building that should have been condemned. Her overarching memory is of being well trained and well prepared by the education she received.

As always, the annual Reunion was an event not to be missed. Mark your calendar now for next year's event, which will be held on Sunday, June 1. □





## Reading Diane ...

*Continued from page 12*

itself was in her view the body's breath put into motion). Martha Graham, exactly like the photographs, at one with her image, would stride into the room, looking like Medea—majestic, the ultimate in getting dramatic. One wanted to please Graham. Even being wrong was worth it to be rewarded with her attention. Once she slapped me with the back of her hand across the thighs, commanding me to expand my turnout.

We would cross the floor on a diagonal, making a gesture of pointing (dramatically) to the corner we were facing. The success or failure of the gesture was tied to the spirit of the arm's arc, the energy as the arm unfolded, rather than its actual reach. "Martha" would interrupt the student halfway across the floor if the feeling in her gesture was wrong—timid or overly graceful. Graham was looking for a kind of force. The interruptions were the highpoint of the class for it was here that the essence of the instruction was delivered. Graham explained that in Hebrew the word for sin also meant: to miss the mark, not hit the target. The only sin, she said, was not giving oneself over to the aim of the gesture: to fail to salute the imaginary person standing in the corner toward whom your body was moving. Maybe Graham was right for life off the floor as well.

Hunter forced us to make the reach, especially if like di Prima we were in love with words. Perhaps it's not surprising that many Hunter girls from this period later emerged as poets and writers (in addition to di Prima, her classmate Joyce Johnson—then Glassman—and Audre Lorde), or that many more became well-known feminist literary critics in the academic world. Outside the narrow precincts of fifties femininity that drew limits around our ambitions, Hunter was a space in which girls could salute the person they had begun imagining themselves to be. □

## Milestone Reports ...

*Continued from page 14*

tion, so the reunion was especially enjoyable. The class member who traveled the furthest to attend the reunion was Carina Markett, who flew in from Ireland; several others traveled from California. While several classmates have had children, only classmate Vanessa Zoulis attended with hers—an adorable baby daughter named Eugenia. After Obeca Li, the party moved to Christine Bergmann's apartment in Battery Park City and went until 4 a.m. on her rooftop (with, admittedly, a rather spooky view of Ground Zero). A few stalwarts also made it to the general reunion at the High School the next day, including current High School faculty members Emily ELSASSER Forrest and Joanne Roque.

Class members can continue to stay in touch online at the hchs92 group on Yahoo.com, which has about 120 class members signed up.

**1997: Class Coordinator: Maryanne BUTLER Nelson**

The class of 1997 gathered for its first

milestone reunion at Carmine's Restaurant on Saturday, June 1. For many of us, Carmine's (and its huge quantities of food) brought back memories of our high school sports banquets. Almost 90 members of our class were able to attend. In many ways the last five years seem to have been quite a long time, with numerous life changes, including finishing college (or nearing the end), moving on to graduate school and jobs, and with new places of residence all around the country. In other ways, we didn't seem that different. People looked a lot the same (though many of the guys seemed to have a lot more facial hair) and we did pretty well with each other's names. We talked and ate for a few hours before splitting up and heading to various other locations. We were (sadly) not so well represented the next day at the general reunion at the high school, but we did get to meet up with Mr. Randolph and hear his news about the school and other classmates that he's heard from. We also wandered the halls reminiscing about our days spent there. We hope to see even more '97 grads when we meet in 2007 for our 10-year reunion! □

## HCHS Merchandise Helps You Display Your School Spirit!

The Alumnae/i Association offers four different logoed items: teddy bears, T-shirts, aprons and mugs, so you can display your school spirit for all to see. Our teddy bears are soft and cuddly and sport a Hunter High embroidered turtleneck sweater; our T-shirts are purple cotton, Beefy Hanes; our two-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 members 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. Shipping and sales tax (if applicable) are already included in the price.







## In Memoriam

**Jeanette EILENBERG Kliger '21** died on Feb. 11, 2000. She had been living in New York City.

**Miriam JANDORF Orr, Jan. '21** died on February 11, 2002 at the age of 97. She was also a graduate of Hunter College and retired from a career as a New York City school teacher. She was pre-deceased by her husband, David, and is survived by a daughter named Sue.

**Mollie GOLDBERG Levinson '24** died on April 15, 2002. She was a retired teacher and was living in New York City.

**Alexandra WILLIAMSON Lippman '31** passed away recently. She was a graduate of Hunter College and worked as a publicist in New York City. She is survived by her husband, Joseph, and a daughter, Victoria McKee

**Edith MAZER Dobin '36** died on May 7, 2002. She graduated from Hunter College in June 1940 and was a retired editor for a legal publisher. At the time of her death, she resided in Bethesda, MD.

**Nita KARRAS Krikellas '40** passed away recently. She was a retired teacher and had earned her Bachelor's degree from Hunter College and her MA from CCNY. She is survived by her

daughter, Nia, who lives in NYC.

**Marie PRENDERGAST Kautsky, Jan. '42** died earlier this year. She earned a B.A. from Cornell and an M.S. from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and had worked as a chemist. She is survived by her husband, Norman, a son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

**Shirley COHEN Field, Jan. '44** died on April 22, 2002, after a lengthy bout with pneumonia. She is survived by her husband, Eugene, as well as three sons and three daughters.

**Rita MAY Fitzpatrick '44** died on May 8, 2002 in Nyack Hospital, Nyack, NY, of lymphoma, which she had battled since 1995. Over 500 people attended her wake and funeral. Rita was always proud that she was a graduate of Hunter High and once appeared on the TV show "Jeopardy." She was married for 53 years to husband, Eugene, and is survived by him and six children.

**Jolane BAUMGARTEN Solomon, Jan. '45** died on March 12, 2001. She was a professor emeritus in the biology department of Boston College, having earned her Bachelor's degree from Hunter College and her master's and Ph.D. in

endocrinology from Radcliffe College. She is survived by her husband, Bernard, as well as two daughters and a son.

**Tilla SAVANUCK Weinstein '51** passed away suddenly on January 21, 2002 in Reno, Nevada, where she had settled just five months earlier, following her retirement from Rutgers University. She had been a professor of mathematics, highly regarded both personally and professionally by all who knew her. A memorial service held in her honor at Rutgers in March was attended by more than 100 colleagues, friends and family.

**Arna KASDAN Porat** (started with class of '52) recently passed away. She went to Israel when she was yet in school, to Kibbutz Geva, and married in 1953. She attended Bar-Ilan University where she completed a degree in Social Work. She lived and worked in a development town eventually achieving a national, supervisory position in the Ministry of Welfare. Her husband asked to have her remembered to her friends from Hunter.

The Alumnae/i Association also has been advised of the passing of the following individuals:

**Marguerite VAUTHIER Adams '30** and **Marie Henneke, Jan. '52.**

## Jack McNeil Memorial Fund Still Accepting Donations

The memorial fund for Mr. McNeil, a long time faculty member in the high school's English Department who passed away in September of 2000, continues to accept donations. The fund currently stands at \$2,200 and monies will shortly be forwarded to the High School's English

Department. Contributions to the fund are tax-deductible and checks made payable to the HCHS Alumnae/i Assn. (memo: Jack McNeil Memorial) can be sent to: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.

## Memorial Fund Established for Bobbi Keyser

At the request of a number of alums, we have established a memorial fund for faculty member Bobbi Keyser. Contributions to the fund, which are tax deductible, will be donated to the Social Studies Department in her memory and can be sent to: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.





## 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 (and continue to send) contributions in response to the fundraising letter in the Fall 2001 issue of *AlumNotes*.

Donations are passed through to the High School for the benefit of students. This is the Alumnae/i Association's third annual fundraising drive and so far, more than \$20,000 has been received in the current effort. We'd like to especially recognize the following individuals, all of whom made contributions of \$100 or more:

### \$1,000

Judith C. Lewent '66

### \$500-<\$1,000

Bella LESHAW Frutkin '24

### \$250-<\$500

Eric Beckman '83

Joanne BETTEN Kaplan '63

Deborah NEUMANN Reiss '77

Sara ROBBINS Schoenwetter '65

### \$100 - < \$250

Kyle Cabbell '82

Barbara COHEN-Stratynier '68

Mimi Eng '84

Diana SKALETZKY Herman, Jan. '50

Maria LoFrumento, Retired Principal

Elaine POSTELNECK Yamin '54

Carol ROSENFELD Schneebaum '54

Cathy HUTCHINGS Zumoff '64

## AlumnaGrams

Rebecca LEVITAN Lister '29 has just had her latest book, *Words from Torah*, published by her local Hadassah chapter. It's available for \$10 by check to Hadassah, 1021 Newcastle B., Boca Raton, FL 33434.

Sheila GREEN Goodman '56 is experiencing a hunger for being reacquainted with her classmates. Where are you guys? Please let me hear from you. Email [mimi444rose@msn.com](mailto:mimi444rose@msn.com) or phone 305-858-0155.

Marianne Tomecek '69 is back in New York and hopes to renew old friendships. Would love to hear from others from the class of '69 ('68 or '70 too). Please call 516-285-6103 or email [mktomecek@aol.com](mailto:mktomecek@aol.com). Would have attended reunion, but currently serving as a Lutheran pastor, so Sunday mornings are tied up!

**Attn: If you lost a very small address book** at the general reunion on June 2, 2002, at the high school, please contact the Alumnae/i Association office at 212-772-4072 or by email to [hchsalums@yahoo.com](mailto:hchsalums@yahoo.com)

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Daytime Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc.

Mail to: HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc.  
Box 373, Hunter College

### 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 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 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) nonprofit organization; there fore, 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.



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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
New York, NY  
PERMIT NO. 5508

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 '98 and earlier \$30  
☐ Classes of '99-'01 \$15  
☐ Class of '02 FREE  
☐ Senior/Fixed Income \$20

☐ • Premium Membership \$75

•Includes choice of one: 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.)

☐ **MILESTONE CLASS GIFT:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **FUNDRAISER 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's 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.)

Office Use:	Received	Entered	Letter	Merch. Sent
-------------	----------	---------	--------	-------------