

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/i ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

Fall 2000

Winter Brunch

Take a break from winter to join friends at the 2001 HCHS Alumnae/i Winter Brunch. We'll be gathering on Sunday, February 4, at 12:30 p.m. at Raymond's Cafe, 88 Seventh Avenue (between 15th and 16th Streets). We'll have the run of the private dining room downstairs and our menu will include a cocktail, choice of entree, dessert and coffee or tea. The price, including tax and gratuity, is \$25 if paid in advance, or \$30 at the door. Please use the form on the back page to mail your reservation to the association. The brunch is also offered as a gift to those paying Premium dues of \$75. Seating is limited, so mail your check right away, using the form on the back page. (Note: the brunch is not run as a fundraiser and therefore the cost is not tax-deductible.) □

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HCHS Merchandise - Just in Time for Holiday Giving

The Alumnae/i Association offers four different logoed items: mugs, teddy bears, aprons and tee-shirts, so you can display your school spirit for all to see or buy a gift for that relative or good friend in your life



who is also an alum. Our teddy bears, available in four colors, are pictured here. For more information on merchandise, please turn to back page. □

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alums:

I have just a few items to inform you of in this issue:

- The search for a permanent principal of the high school/director of the campus schools continues into a third year. As president of the Alumnae/i Association, I continue to serve on the search committee along with representatives of the college, high school faculty, parents and students. Sue Leung Eichler, who served as acting principal for the past two years, declined to serve a third year and has returned to teaching in the Social Studies department. Her interim successor, Christine Cutting, is an experienced administrator from Long Island.

- Reunion 2001 may seem a long way away, but now's the time to start organizing your class if you're about to celebrate a milestone year (multiple of 5). I know from personal experience from organizing my own class that this duty is not like work, but like play. Please check page 5 to see if your class has a coordinator yet and if it does, let him or her know of any classmates who are not in touch with the Alumnae/i Association, so they can be added to the mailing list. If there's no coordinator yet, perhaps you can volunteer for this fun duty. Call or email our office for more information.
- Please plan now to attend our

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Save These Dates

Sunday, February 4, 2001: Winter Brunch, 12:30 p.m. - Raymond's Cafe, New York City

Saturday, May 5, 2001: Hunter College Birthday Luncheon (for Hunter College alums)

Sunday, June 3, 2001: Reunion at Hunter College High School.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I, too, remember the joys of Dr. Jonas' classes. Although my field was Social Studies – inspired by Dr. Helen Witmer – the love of literature inspired by Dr. Jonas did lead me as a mature adult to the International Summer School in Literature at the University of London Summer Program. I remember many moments in Dr. Jonas' class. Use of the word "nice" was a no-no.

Lenore BAUMRITTER Blank, Jan. '45

To the Editor:

I lived in New Orleans for eight years with my family and my boys attended a wonderful magnet school, Audobon Montessori. As we were preparing to move, I stopped by the home of an energetic, dedicated computer teacher to donate some equipment and software. As we spoke, I heard her New York accent and, as it turns out, she is a Hunterite, **Rona LEHMAN King '66**. She had taught my children since kindergarten and neither of us had known until then! Needless to say, we became instant friends. I also stay in regular contact with my classmates **Ingrid Kjeldaas** and **Elaine LEONG Eng**, who both still live in NYC.

Last year, I was elected into the American Ophthalmological Society (AOS), which is the oldest and most prestigious honor society in ophthalmology. My thesis was entitled "Scar Remodeling after Strabismus Surgery," and was published in the 1999 Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society. I have many more research projects in various stages of completion, most of which deal with new concepts in mechanisms of strabismus (eye muscle problems/double vision) and new procedures for surgical correction. The AOS has about 220 active members worldwide and 130-140 emeritus members, including, now, about 12-14 women.

Hunter was the main influence that allowed me to pursue this career. My work is sometimes radical and controversial, but I have no fear of standing by my ideas, due to the confidence Hunter instilled in me early on. Recently, another well-known pediatric ophthalmologist and fellow AOS female member told me she would not be able to endure the controversy and criticism that I do and admired this

trait in me. She has chosen the less-controversial path of ophthalmic genetics for her research. Although women have made great inroads into the field of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, those who do research usually wind up in genetics, which is more traditionally a female pursuit. Women doing research on strabismus surgery is unheard of, and not easily accepted. Thanks to Hunter for giving me the courage to pursue the life and career paths I wanted.

Irene Ludwig '72

Greetings to all Hunter High Alumnae/i!

I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to our wonderful, talented, and generous former students to inform you of an incredible adventure current HCHS musicians and I are planning. The HCHS Chamber Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble are planning a tour of the Czech Republic and Austria in January through early February 2001. These ensembles are award winning and outstanding, and they will surely do Hunter proud in performance. This incredible opportunity will include an exchange with musicians at the Janacek Institute in Prague and with other gifted students at the Karl Popper Schule in Vienna. Okay, so here's where the guy asks for donations, right? Not necessarily. Although donations towards scholarships for worthy students who may otherwise not be able to go will always be gratefully accepted, the main reason for this letter is to ask for IDEAS on fund raising. Maybe this is your area of expertise and you are willing to offer some advice or help. Maybe you work for a corporation or institution here in NYC that is just dying to give away grant money to a truly worthy cause. Maybe you just happen to need some chamber music for a social or corporate event. The possibilities are endless. On behalf of the students in the instrumental groups, I thank you in advance for your advice and support. I can be reached at 212-860-1403 or via email at mstratec@hchs.hunter.cuny.edu or mstratec@home.com.

Michael Stratechuk,
HCHS Music Department □

Alumnae/i Directory Still For Sale

You can still purchase a copy of the 2000 edition of the Alumnae/i Directory, by telephoning the Harris Company at 1-800-887-6554. The directory costs \$59.99 for the standard edition, \$69.99 for the deluxe edition or CD-ROM, and \$89.99 for the deluxe edition plus CD-ROM. Listings include address, telephone number, email address, up to three degrees earned, spouse/partner and children's names, and career information. Separate sections of the directory are sorted by year graduated, career and geographical areas. The Harris Company will not make the directory available to third parties, only to alums or their close relations. □

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Alum Profile - Cynthia Nixon '84

by Tai Wong '88 & Judy Chin Wong '88



"If a man is over 30 and single, there's something wrong with him. It's Darwinian. They're being weeded out from propagating the species." A memorable observation from implacably cynical attorney Miranda Hobbes on HBO's hit show, *Sex and the City*.

Cynthia Nixon, HCHS '84, Barnard '88, thankfully, is quite unlike the character she portrays on the popular HBO show. Nixon, one of the most successful and prolific actresses to graduate from Hunter College High School, takes her and the show's success in stride. "I never dreamed I would be on a TV series ... I love it!" she exclaims. Though her most prominent and enduring role to date, playing Miranda is only her most recent gig in a career that already spans 22 years. Her acting career started at age 11, after a friend of the family was looking for a young adult for a movie he was producing and thought Nixon would be good for the role. Guided by her mother, who was an actress, she signed on with a manager and later appeared in *Mom*, *the Wolfman*, and *Me* just before she started at HCHS.

Her first year at Hunter, she was away for two months filming *Little Darlings* with Tatum O'Neal, Kristy McNichol and Matt Dillon. After

that, Cynthia limited herself to shorter commitments so she could keep up in school. She endured an unenviable schedule: go home after school, go to sleep, go to work, then back home to do her homework and finally go to bed at 2 a.m. She doesn't complain or regret it, though. "I was tired but happy," she says. Although Cynthia worked continuously while at Hunter, she typically acted in plays that required less out-of-town traveling. She did make an exception in 11th grade, when she traveled to Czechoslovakia several times to film *Amadeus*, which took the Oscar for Best Picture in 1984.

Despite the frantic schedule, Cynthia enjoyed her years at Hunter, remembering fondly lunches and ultimate frisbee in the courtyard. Apart from a brief stint in Junior Chorus and a single performance for Brick Prison Playhouse in its inaugural year – a play, she recalls, that was done entirely in the dark – she found little time for extracurricular activity. Academically, she found Hunter challenging but rewarding and lavished praise on the quality and the dedication of the faculty. She recalls Social Studies stalwarts Sue Leung Eichler, Susan O'Malley, Jane Lewis and Irving Steinfink. "I wasn't really interested in Social Studies, but they were so good, they made it interesting," Cynthia says. She recalls that science, while "not her thing," was taught really well, mentioning specifically that Marjorie Goldsmith always made it fun – "the woman was hilarious!" She credits Parker Baratta and former English Department chair Rosemarie Laster for instilling in her a love of literature, so much so that she majored in English literature at Barnard.

For Cynthia, Hunter's greatest legacy was a group of close friends; she still stays in constant contact with about a half dozen of them. Her partner,

Danny Mozes, is also HCHS '84, and together they have a four-year-old daughter, Samantha. They weren't high-school sweethearts; according to Cynthia, they only started dating in college when Danny transferred to Columbia. "We knew each other and our cliques overlapped ... I always had my eye on him," she added. As for Samantha, she will be taking the test for Hunter College Elementary School soon, though Cynthia laments that there are only "... 16 spots and so many applicants." Surprisingly, she finds that the demands of being an actress complement well her role as a mother. While she might be very busy for a few days and hardly see Samantha, those days are typically followed by days off which she devotes entirely to her daughter. In fact, she admits she would find it much harder to adapt if she had a job in which she didn't get home until 8 p.m. every day.

Responding to our questions about the particular challenges of being an actress, she cites first the long hours of filming. "A normal day is 14, 15 hours, though it can be as long as 18. You can get a reprieve from time to time because you are not in every scene but these are only problems when you are working." While Cynthia has been fortunate and her impressive and lengthy resume opens doors, for aspiring thespians, finding work is often quite difficult. "Take acting classes, then find a support group," she advises. It can be desolate while waiting for work, which is why a support group of others in similar situations is important. "It's so easy to become very negative." While waiting for a job, "keep working, write your own stuff," she insists. She notes, however, that it is important ultimately to have a circle of friends outside of acting. "It's a trap in our profession that your circle becomes very small," she says. She notes that

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Remembrances of Hunter High:

An Excerpt from *Eleven Stories High: Growing Up in Stuyvesant Town, 1948-1968*, by Corinne Demas '64

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I entered [Hunter College High School] in 1958, when I was eleven. [At that time it] was housed in a pseudo-medieval castle, a style favored by New York public schools, attached, like an architectural relic, to the modern edifice of Hunter College. The high school building faced the bustle of Lexington Avenue, between Sixty-eighth and Sixty-ninth Streets; the college faced more subdued Park Avenue. There were high ceilings, light fixtures dangling from chains, and tall gothic-style windows that could be opened at the top by the dexterous use of window poles. Like many city buildings that had endured decades of pollution, its limestone surface was blackened, as if it had gone through a war. There was decorative stonework at the top, barely visible from the street below: crenellations, ersatz balconies and gargoyles the size of kindergarteners. When some of this started crumbling, the stonework was removed. For months – could it have been years? – the school was encased in scaffolding, while workmen slowly amputated gargoyles and acanthus leaves. We looked out at the world through metal bars. In early fall, on one of the balconies of the apartment house across Lexington Avenue, a gentleman in a dressing gown was served coffee by a maid in uniform. Sitting among evergreens and topiary too perfect to be real, he read his morning paper, oblivious to the traffic below and the eyes of the students imprisoned across the street.

At the time, there was no other public school in America quite like Hunter. Take fifteen hundred adolescent girls, selected through entrance examinations, drag them from all five boroughs of New York City (a large contingent from Stuyvesant Town), provide them with challenging courses, and let them compete. And compete

we did, from grade seven through twelve. There were no remedial classes, no gut courses. We were graded on a scale of 0 to 100. Though no one ever got a hundred in any subject, anything below an 85 was considered failure. Grade point averages were calculated to the hundredth of a decimal point, and class rank was recalculated every marking period, which seemed to occur remarkably often. One classmate stopped by the office regularly to check on hers. Was it possible that somehow while we slept some student had improved a grade in some course and so altered her class standing and therefore yours? You weren't told anyone else's standing, of course, just your own. The less confident confined our inquiries to times we were sure no one would overhear.

Hunter raised us to believe there was a clear path that led from good grades, to acceptance to the best college, to the best life. How much easier to believe happiness depends on a simple goal-like a high grade point average-than to have it be something less well defined. We all undoubtedly discovered later how narrow Hunter's vision was, but even the most rebellious of us bought into the priorities at the time. This drive for academic success channeled our hormonal activity, to the extent that we were practically unaware of it. If our bodies were crying out, we threw ourselves into our work and into the passionate social structure of Hunter High School, the extracurricular activities-the school publications, the literary magazine, social service organizations, and the General Organization ("G.O."), a student senate where issues of small consequence were fiercely debated on a weekly basis. There was no prom committee at Hunter, but there was a French literary magazine. There were no athletic teams, but there was the International Relations Club....

... Hunter girls came from all over New York City. Some walked, some had hour-long commutes on a variety of buses and subways, and occasionally even the Staten Island Ferry. The households they came from were as economically varied as New York itself. Some girls' fathers were wealthy lawyers; some didn't have fathers at all. Some lived in luxurious apartments overlooking Central Park and vacationed in Switzerland, others lived in tiny walkups and never went on vacations anywhere. Fortunately – miraculously? – these differences didn't have much bearing on the social life of the school. What we cared about most was how we performed at Hunter – who did the best science project, who got the lead in the dramatic society play, who got 800 on her SATs.

Hunter girls who lived in Stuyvesant Town often made arrangements to travel back and forth to school together. Even if you didn't, the chances were fairly good that you'd run into schoolmates on the Twenty-third Street cross-town bus, or waiting on the platform for the Lexington Avenue subway. I was chronically late. I hated to get up in the morning - no doubt because I was often up long after bedtime reading novels (The Brontes and Thomas Hardy were popular among us), and because I was anxious about school, for I was often behind in my homework and studying, no doubt from reading novels at my desk instead of doing my schoolwork. Sometimes I used my travel time to finish my homework. If I didn't get a seat on the subway, I could wedge my three-ring binder in between the bodies crowded into the car, and have a desk standing up....

... While the typical suburban American public high school of the '60s was low and sprawling, Hunter was resolute in its verticality. There

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HCHS Holocaust Survivors Web Site

Thirteen alumnae have recounted their experiences during the Holocaust to create the Hunter College High School Holocaust survivors Web site. It is located at <http://business.virgin.net/er.kugler/hchs/index.htm>.

The impetus for the site was to provide a resource for current students by personalizing the Holocaust, helping them to relate to a part of 20th century history that remains incomprehensible to many. The survivors not only share what happened to them under Nazi domination but also write about what it was like to come to a new country and then to be Hunter students hiding their Holocaust histories. The site, which is non-commercial, has already been visited by students from as far away as California. Survivor alumnae joined together after a notice was published in *AlumNotes*.

The contributors to the site are Evelyn Konrad, Jan. '46; Dorrit Leipzig, June '47; Margot Erlanger Wegner, June '47; Eleanor Katten Goldberg, June '48; Eleanor Ullman Light, Jan. '49; Eliane Meyer Norman, June '49; Edith Schleissner Nathan, June '49; Lisa Kurcz Barclay, Jan. '50; Edith Kurcz Jayne, June '53; Inge Gould, June '54; Hannah Radzow[it] Simon, June '54; Marlies Muhlfelder Gluck Upton, June '57; and Eve Kanner Kugler, Jan. '49, who is the editor of the site. The Webmaster is Mark Rosenzweig '84. □

Chapters

We have 12 chapters in the U.S. as well as ones in England and Israel. To obtain contact information for chapter leaders, please contact our office.

Our newest chapter, in Southern California, is being looked after by Ann DECHTER Litvin '54. Please contact her if you're interested in upcoming activities or if you can help her organize the chapter. Ann can be emailed at testsmart@yahoo.com or by fax at 714-990-1916.

President's Letter

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annual Winter Brunch, which will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2001, at Raymond's Cafe in New York City. This will be your only notice, due to printing and mailing schedules for our winter issue. Please use the form on the back page to register for this fun event!

- In this issue, we feature an excerpt from a memoir by an alum from the class of '64, Corinne Demas. We hope you enjoy her memories of Hunter in the late '50s and early '60s. We encourage other alums to share their reminiscences of "a certain time" at good old HCHS by submitting a short piece to our office. Also, in our continuing series of profiles of alums, we present an interview with Cynthia Nixon '84, an actress who currently stars in HBO's *Sex and the City*.
- I'd like to remind everyone that dues, while voluntary, are the sole support we receive to run our office and publish and mail this newsletter. Your dues expiration date (MONTH and YEAR) appears above your name on the mailing label. We also welcome contributions above and beyond your dues, which you can earmark to be used for a specific purpose at the high school. We can also accept gifts of negotiable securities – please contact our office for routing information.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a happy holiday season and remind you that our HCHS merchandise makes great holiday gifts!

Cordially yours,

Eve S. Ferdman

Eve S. Ferdman '79

Reunion 2001: Milestone Class Coordinators

- Jan. '51: Joy LEVIEN,
333 E. 79th St., Apt. 12U,
New York, NY 10021,
(212) 734-4323
- June '51: Janet KEESEY Baser,
330 S. Wild Horse Way,
Cottonwood, AZ 86326,
(520) 649-0482;
jbaserart@aol.com.
Janet is looking for a classmate
in the NYC area to help her
with reunion planning.
- 1961: Helene WILLIAMS Spierman,
33 Court St.,
Valley Stream, NY 11580,
(516) 256-4209
(after 10 a.m. only);
helenespierman@juno.com
- Leonore TIEFER,
300 First Ave.,
New York, NY 10009;
H (212) 533-2774;
Fax (212) 254-5922;
ltiefer@mindspring.com
- 1971: Joan GRABHORN Romano,
14 Jonas Blvd.,
Centereach, NY 11720,
(516) 451-2404
- 1981: Lauren BUXBAUM Kacir,
1304 North First Street,
Temple, TX 76501;
lbkacir@pol.net.
Lauren is looking for a
classmate in the NYC area to
help her with reunion planning.
- 1991: Jonathan LEVIN
email: jal318@nyu.edu
- Marguerite LIAO
email: mhl17@yahoo.com
- 1996: Elizabeth S. HOOK,
640 W. 231st Street, Apt. 5D,
Bronx, NY 10463;
H (718) 543-9662,
W (212) 852-6768;
elizabeth.hook@sales.turner.com
- Judy SELTZER,
2546 East 13th Street, Apt. D-5,
Brooklyn, NY 11235;
H (718)-646-4339;
jds27@cornell.edu



Class Notes

1930s Dorothy DUROUX Hansmann '36 enjoyed celebrating her 60th Hunter College reunion on April 29, 2000, along with her twin sister, **June DUROUX Foster '36**. At the college reunion, they spent some happy hours visiting with high school classmates.

1940s Phyllis WHITMAN Beck '45 was recently named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania for her dedication and commitment to the state. She was chosen based on the quality and breadth of achievement after nomination by a state or local organization. As the first woman elected to serve on Pennsylvania's Superior Court, Judge Beck has been described as "a judge's judge" and has earned the admiration and trust of the legal profession. She is a strong advocate for judicial reform and chaired the Governor's Commission on Judicial Reform under Governor Robert P. Casey. Her scholarly articles, published in a variety of law reviews, reflect her interest in issues relating to women, the family and equality. Her public service includes chairing the Independence Foundation, serving as vice president of the Philadelphia Free Library, a founder and president of Philadelphia Futures, a child mentoring organization, and serving as a board member of Philadelphia Reads. • **Barbara GOTTLIEB Goodfriend '47** retired recently and is enjoying life and her family and grandchildren. She works in an Artreach Program co-sponsored by the Whitney Museum of American Art and the National Council of Jewish Women, which involves visiting classrooms with slide presentations of Whitney Art (and includes visits to Hunter High!). • **Lita LINZER Schwartz '47** is having a show of her photographs in October. She is also a delighted grandmother of three pre-schoolers. • **Phyllis LAMBERT Clemenz, Jan. '49** is trying to locate **Phyllis GIROLAMO Waters, June '48**. If anyone has information about her, please email the Alumnae/i Association office.

1950s Lisa KURCA Barclay, Jan. '50 has four children - three sons and a daughter. She is a retired professor and is currently working on genealogy and an autobiography. She is active in the Center for Creative Retirement. • **Alice TERNLUND Bennett, Jan. '50** is an adjunct nursing professor and a part-time visiting nurse. She has two daughters, Nancy and Amy. • **Elaine GINSBOURGER Berman, Jan. '50** has one son, Corey, and is a retired educator. She is active with the New York State United Teachers Political Action and is on the board of the League of Women Voters and Community Chest. • **Florence BILAN, Jan. '50** is a retired financial manager, living in Westchester. • **Elaine SHWIDE Blackman, Jan. '50** has two sons and four grandchildren. She is a docent at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and is mostly retired from her career as a CPA and tax accountant. • **Rima BARUFKIN Bostick, Jan. '50** is a financial planner residing in Kinderhook, NY. • **Phyllis LeKASHMAN Glantz, Jan. '50** is a retired teacher and still mentors for District 10 in the Bronx. She has five children, nine grandchildren, and one more on the way. • **Diana SKALETZKY Herman, Jan. '50** is president of the

Franklin Township Public Library, vice president of the NJ/West Hudson Valley Region UAHC, and is also on the national board of the UAHC (Union of American Hebrew Congregations). She is married to Dr. Robert Herman, has two daughters and is currently working toward a graduate degree.

• **Thea SCHLOSS Katz, Jan. '50** taught high school math before retiring and is now pursuing travel, courses and babysitting. She has three children and 13 grandchildren. • **Thelma WARNES Lynham, Jan. '50** has two children, Liza and Richard. She is retired but keeps busy as an amateur painting docent at a local historical homes museum and as a lay reader and lay eucharistic minister at her Episcopal church. • **Florence ZIMMERMAN Marks, Jan. '50** is the chief psychologist for the Queens Child Guidance Center and has one daughter, who is a psychiatrist. • **Nancy PARKES Marr, Jan. '50** has three children and five grandchildren. She retired as director of a community youth agency and is currently involved in Weed & Seed, League of Women Voters and other community organizations. • **Gladys STEINER Phillips, Jan. '50** is "actively retired" - she works for her doctor son twice a week and is a school mentor once each week. She has three sons - the doctor, another who's an attorney and an insurance broker. • **Florence COHEN Sacks, Jan. '50** is a retired college English professor who co-authored a grammar textbook entitled *Sentence Dynamics*. She is currently the Redondo Beach (CA) Library Commissioner. • **Frimye SRULOVITZ Schaffer, Jan. '50** is retired and enjoying activities she couldn't pursue while working. She has been married for 43 years and has two children, a daughter, who is the associate dean at Parsons School of Design, and a son, who is a partner in a NYC law firm. • **Sondra ARONS Sheine, Jan. '50** is a mycologist (studies fungi). She has two daughters, Wendy and Judith. • **Judith SEGAL Zabar, Jan. '50** is a retired high school substitute teacher. She is a board member of the Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association, the Hunter College Scholarship and Welfare Fund and the Eldridge St. Synagogue Restoration. She has three children. • **Michelle MARDER Kamhi '54** recently co-authored *What Art Is: The Esthetic Theory of Ayn Rand* with her husband, Louis Torres. Though writing the book was an all-consuming project for more than five years, they gladly took time off to attend the picture-book wedding of Michelle's son, Max, in Austria in May 1999. While at Hunter High, Michelle had corresponded with an Austrian pen pal, whom she later visited in Vienna - little imagining that forty years later she would return to witness her son's marriage to an Austrian (met, improbably, at the University of Edinburgh!). • **Rhoda KESLER Unger '56** has been named a professor emerita of psychology at Montclair State University and is currently a resident scholar in women's studies at Brandeis University. The third edition of a textbook that she co-authored, *Women & Gender*, was published this year by McGraw-Hill and her handbook on the psychology of women and gender will be published by Wiley in 2001. • **Linda WEISS Spiegler '59** is living in Washington, D.C. with her husband Paul and is happy to announce that her daughter Rebecca has plans to marry next year.



1960s Nancy Carol STAHL '60 was ordained to the Christian ministry on July 19, 1970, at Ridgewood Christian Church, Ridgewood, NY. She has served congregations in Wappingers Falls, NY; Peoria, IL; Garden City, MN; Erie, PA; and Dunn, NC. She is currently caring for her 85-year-old mother and is employed part-time as a hospital chaplain in Charlotte, NC. Nancy is an active ecumenist and enjoys working in cross-cultural settings. This past summer, for the fourth consecutive year, she sponsored children from Belarus for six weeks as part of the American Belarussian Relief Organization's Children's Project. One child, Irina, has stayed with her all four summers and is now 14. Nancy was sorry to have missed her class' 40th reunion. • **Margreth DEISENBERGER Schmitt '61** visited her son Eric and his wife in Providence, RI in October, where they are completing their residencies in pediatrics and dermatology respectively. She then drove to Rochester, NY, to reconnect with classmate **Joann TOMASZEWICZ Dale '61** and her husband Bob, who recently became grandparents.

1970s Lauren McNENNEY Burke '79 joined Salomon Brothers after her graduation from Barnard and was a fixed income salesperson for nine years. She then joined Morgan Stanley where she ran the emerging markets fixed income sales group. She "retired" from full-time employment in 1998 to raise her two sons, Will and Peter, and currently works as a consultant to a hedge fund.

1980s Neal SOFGE '85 married Marisa Osario on Saturday, September 2. **Brett SONNENSCHNEIN '85** married Jennifer Owens on Sunday, September 3. Attending one or both weddings were: **Marc SIRY '85**, **David WOHL '85**, **Mary Jane WEIGANDT '85**, **Michael WASSON '86**, **Michele TRESTER '85** and **Gabi SOLOMON '85**. • **Richard E. VEHLow P.E. '87** is still working at the New York State Office of General Services as an assistant HVAC engineer on prison projects. He earned his professional engineering license in 1997 and is currently working toward an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which is expected in 2002 (in time for the 15th!). He recently became engaged to Christine LaVarnway from Massena, NY, and will be married on July 7, 2001. He can be reached by email at: vehlor@rpi.edu. • **Ben DATTNER '88** received his Ph.D. in organizational psychology at NYU last year. His dissertation was about narcissism and fairness in the workplace, and he is now an independent executive coach/group process consultant. If

your organization is dysfunctional, you can email him at bdattner@yahoo.com. • **John J. EDWARDS III '88** has a couple of momentous news items. On Sept. 9, he married the now Rebecca Lowell Edwards on Cape Cod. They live in Brooklyn Heights. On Oct. 30, he started work at The Wall Street Journal, where he's a news editor on the national news desk. Along with another news editor, he oversees marketing and media coverage and technology coverage. His new email address is john.edwards@wsj.com. John's wife is the Journal's circulation marketing manager, so now they're both working at Dow Jones again. They met there five years ago, when John was a reporter for Dow Jones' wire service and Becky was an executive assistant. • **Iris ZAMIR Jaffe '88** graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 with an MD/Ph.D. On May 23, 1999, she married Jacob D. Jaffe, with fellow classmate **Patty CHANG Anker '88** as maid of honor and fellow alums **Kent ANKER '87** and **Rana DERSHOWITZ '88** also in attendance. Iris is currently a resident in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and will begin a cardiology fellowship at Brigham & Women's Hospital in July 2001.

1990s Vicki KRITSOVAS Smetak MD '91 is currently a resident in pediatrics at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. She married Anthony Smetak, a financial analyst with Salomon Smith Barney, earlier this year. • **Ciné OSTROW '93** is an architect living and working in Seattle. • **Lauren Hersch NICHOLAS '98**, a junior at Cornell University, is one of eight undergraduate students in the U.S. to receive a one-year \$5,000 scholarship from the AARP Andrus Foundation to study financial aspects of aging such as retirement, pensions, and women's financial issues. She will also receive \$1,000 to travel to the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America in Washington, DC, where she will present on her research. Lauren has also been elected to Kappa Omnicron Nu, the honor society for scholarship and service, has been named to the dean's list, is the undergraduate representative to the Cornell Commission on the Status of Women, has been elected secretary of her Class Council for the third consecutive year, is a member of the Concert Committee, and helped to found the "Buddy Program" that assigns an upper-class mentor to each freshman.

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

Are Your Dues Due?

Your dues expiration date (MONTH/YEAR) is printed above your name and address on the mailing label on the back page. All alums are encouraged to pay dues, but payment is not required for membership in the association. We utilize dues monies to help run our office, print and mail four issues of *AlumNotes* per year (costing 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) non-profit organization; therefore, dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We are also able to accept gifts of marketable securities (email us to ask us for transfer instructions) and we are eligible for matching gifts from employers. □



Alum Profile ...

Continued from page 3

some of her closest friends are professors and teachers, and one runs a painting business.

While best known for her role as Miranda Hobbes, Cynthia has had extensive experience on stage and on the big screen. During her senior year in high school she appeared in two Broadway productions, *Hurly Burly* and *The Real Thing*. She was nominated for a Tony in 1995 for her role in the Broadway hit *Indiscretions*. Recently, Cynthia received rave reviews for her performance in Douglas Carter Beane's *The Country Club* and has appeared in *The Vagina Monologues* alongside Rita Moreno and Marlo Thomas. With *Sex* co-star Sarah Jessica Parker and others, she is one of the founders of the theater company, Drama Department, and has appeared in several of their productions. Of all her roles the one she is most proud of playing was Nora in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. She

recalls being pregnant and exhausted but exhilarated at the same time. "I could have done that [play] for a long time; it was 'meaty'!"

Cynthia finds that the stage experience is quite different from TV or film. In film, the director is always there and you shoot until it is done, but stage involves months of rehearsal and then repeating the production itself. "It can get tedious ... and becomes a challenge to keep interested," she comments. "It helps if there's a friend in the house or if you work with a group which looks constantly for small improvements." Cynthia finds most important the quality of the people with whom she is working and the quality of the material. Doing Ibsen and Shaw is more difficult but much more interesting than some light comedy, she opines.

As for television, Nixon is very selective of what she watches. While she owns a TV, she does not receive cable service, a prerequisite for quality reception in New York City, preferring

to watch videotapes of her own choice. This, she admits, can get embarrassing, especially at the Emmys. She does watch (taped) episodes of *Sex and the City* with her daughter, who she thinks is not too young for the show. She would rather Samantha watch the show than a bad kids' cartoon. "I am not a censor ... I answer whatever questions that Samantha might have," she adds with no hesitation. As for the price of fame, Nixon feels that it doesn't intrude dramatically in her life, though it has gotten worse. "I still ride the subway all the time ... it's nice when people are charming, but some people are rude and ignore Samantha as if she's not there," she said. When asked if she has a goal in life, she says, "I am not a goal person ... I always wanted a daughter and I have that." She offers instead a bit of advice, "Life hands you so many more interesting things than you would choose for yourself. See what comes."

See Cynthia Sunday nights at 9 p.m. EST on HBO. □

Remember...

Continued from page 4

were six floors, with the gym at the top, the elevator reserved for teachers and for students with coveted medical passes. We had five minutes between classes. Traffic on the stairs was intense, and knitting needles were banned. (It was never clear if that was really to prevent someone from being impaled during class change time or if it was to prevent the distraction of knitting — a popular activity at the time — during class.) Urban backpacks hadn't been invented yet, and we dragged our books around in giant tote bags. There was a hardcover text for each class, all school property, clothed in book covers made from brown bags from D'Agostino's turned inside out, the pages softened by the sweat of several decades of previous scholars. No one would have believed that a generation later women would climb stairs in

place as a voluntary form of exercise. This was a time when few women did any exercise at all by choice, and for most Hunter girls gym was the low point of the week. We were a physically unfit group of young ladies, but not the least concerned about it. I remember a girl weeping because she had broken a fingernail on a basketball.

Hunter in the early '60s was just at the cusp of the Women's Movement. The phrase hadn't yet come into use, but our school was actually a hotbed of feminism. We knew we were smart; we aspired to higher education and impressive careers. What we didn't know was how we would integrate this with the role of wife and mother, which were roles we had been raised to assume we would perform, as well. Our gallery of expectations included all those that our mothers' generation had, combined with all those our daughters' generation would have. What we didn't know, too, was how

hard it would all turn out to be. At our tenth Hunter reunion we were, for the most part, our old competitive selves. We had headed off to college and graduate school with our Hunter value system intact, and we were smug about our achievements as doctors and lawyers and college professors. By the twenty-fifth reunion we had changed, we had been softened (humanized, some would say) by the inevitable tragedies of life, as well as its pleasure. Our Hunter bond was still strong, but what united us now were the life experiences that Hunter had not prepared us for—raising children, surviving illness and divorce, dealing with the aging and death of our parents, facing our own aging, and, inevitably our own mortality, as well.

We encourage other alums to submit memories of their time at Hunter High (1,200 words or fewer, please) and we will endeavor to publish them on an ongoing basis. □



Alumnae/i Announcements

Lita LINZER Schwartz '47 announces the publication of *Endangered Children: Neonaticide, Infanticide and Filicide* (CRC Press, 2000), of which she is a co-author, and *Psychology and the Media: A Second Look* (American Psychological Assoc., 2000), of which she is editor and also co-authored two chapters.

Michelle MARDER Kamhi '54 announces the publication of *What Art Is: The Esthetic Theory of Ayn Rand* (Open Court, July 2000), which she co-authored with her husband, Louis Torres. Aimed at general readers as well as scholars, the book deals with all the major art forms. The authors argue that philosopher-novelist Rand's little-known theory of art offers an objective alternative to the contemporary arts establishment's view that virtually anything is art if a reputed artist or expert says it is. Examining the principles of Rand's theory in a philosophic, historical, and scientific context, they show its kinship to the original concept of fine art and to the ancient Greek concept of the *mimetic* (or imitative) arts which, they argue, is implicit in the practice and theory of art in other cultures. They then apply Rand's theory to a debunking of the purported innovations of modernism and postmodernism from abstract art to installation art and experimental fiction, dance, and music. Finally, they discuss its public policy implications regarding government and corporate support of the arts, art law, and arts education. Cultural historian Jacques Barzun, author of the recent best-seller *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life*, has called *What Art Is* a splendid piece of work. In a recent interview, Ms. Kamhi traced her interest in the arts to her years at Hunter College High School. Since 1990, she has co-edited *Aristos*, a journal on the arts, with Louis Torres. Previously she conceived and produced a half-hour documentary film entitled *Books Our Children Read* (1984). For further information about *What Art Is*, visit its website at www.aristos.org/editors/booksumm.htm.

Sharon KLAYMAN Farber, PhD, '61 announces the publication of her first book, *When the Body is the Target:*

Self-Harm, Pain, and Traumatic Attachments (Jason Aronson Inc., August 2000), which looks at eating disorders and self-mutilation (including body piercing and tattooing) as prototypes for understanding a range of self-destructive behaviors and why they have become so prevalent, particularly in girls and women. It has been featured in the Psychotherapy Book Club and more information about it can be found at the publisher's Web site: www.psychotherapylibrary.com. Sharon credits Hunter with being the place where she learned to think and write and adds that being around all that intellectual energy made thinking and writing not only an acceptable thing but a very good thing. It was in teacher Charles Raphael's creative writing class that she was introduced to stream of consciousness writing, which got her intrigued with the concept of free association in psychoanalysis. Her career began as a recreational therapist in a small private psychiatric hospital, which led to a long career in the mental health field via clinical social work.

Judith SACHS '64 announces the publication of her latest book, *20-Minute Vacations: Quick, Affordable, and Fun "Getaways" from the Stress of Everyday Life* (NTC/Contemporary, 2000), which arrived in bookstores in early October. Ms. Sachs, who has taught stress management at the College of New Jersey and currently serves as faculty for the Human Resource Development Institute for the New Jersey Department of Human Resources, offers one hundred easy and accessible "holidays" from real life that promise to relax the body and calm the mind. Ms. Sachs will be teaching on-line stress management courses at Dreamlife.com beginning in November. She is the author or co-author of 21 preventive care books on topics ranging from midlife to sexuality to successful aging. Some of her most recent titles are: *Rewinding Your Biological Clock* (W.H. Freeman, 1999), *Break the Stress Cycle* (Adams Media, 1998), and *Nature's Prozac* (Prentice Hall, 1997). Her forthcoming book, *Naked Woman: Uncovering Female Sexuality*, co-authored with Dr. Sandra Leiblum, will be published by Crown

in 2001. She also teaches tai chi to senior citizens and competes nationally in push-hands, the sparring form of this martial art. Visit her Web site at www.judithsachs.com.

Greg LICHTENBERG '84 announces the publication of the trade paperback version of his memoir, *Playing Catch With My Mother; Coming to Manhood When All the Rules Have Changed*. In his book, he speaks for the silent sons of the gender wars – those boys who had to make their way to a more enlightened manhood through a minefield of collapsing families and contradictory ideals. Born to idealistic, egalitarian parents, raised on ideals of tolerance and open conversation, he sees his parents' marriage shattered by violence and divorce even as society begins to regard all things male with suspicion. The result is a rare inside view of masculinity's contradictory demands, a visceral book alive to the flashpoints where a young man discovers what his world now expects of him – and how he will respond.

Michael WEIKSNER '91 has launched an online townhall called Quorum.org (<http://www.quorum.org>). The goal of Quorum.org is to provide a "citizen-centric" public space on the Internet where citizens can inform themselves, engage each other and political leaders, and help shape the public agenda. Unlike other community sites, the articles and comments are filtered collaboratively by the members so the best comments rise to the top and "flames" and other unproductive speech are buried. Quorum.org is non-profit and non-partisan. The origins of Quorum.org began as an essay written in 8th grade for Sue Eichler entitled, "Technocracy: The Ideal Form of Government."

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 send your book is: Hunter College High School Library, 71 E. 94th Street, New York, NY 10128-0798. Enclose a brief note to advise the librarian that you are an alum. □



In Memoriam

Isabel ROSEN Kivy '17 died peacefully in her sleep at home on August 12, 2000 at the age of 100. Isabel was an honor graduate of Hunter and won a full scholarship to college, which she was unable to accept because she had to work to help support her parents. She highly valued intellectual endeavor and was very grateful for the rigorous education she received at Hunter. She was strongly committed to the education of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Isabel particularly remembered a teacher named Miss Knightheart who introduced her to ballet, which became a lifelong interest for her, as she later performed in amateur companies and taught in her own ballet school. She was also a gifted painter. Isabel was a strong, capable and talented woman who devoted herself to the welfare of her family throughout her life. She leaves behind two children, Dr. Peter Kivy and Dr. Elaine Kivy Genkins, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Maude TAYLOR Paro '24 died at her home in Greenwich, NY on August 19, 2000, at the age of 93. After graduating from Hunter High, she earned her Bachelor of Education degree at Hunter College and her Master's degree from Columbia. While raising her family on Long Island, she taught at Cold Spring Harbor High School. She was known as an accomplished poet and had her first poems published at the age of 84. She was also a volunteer literary educator, contributing many hours at the Greenwich Library and she enjoyed doing *The New York Times* crossword puzzles and creating holiday limericks for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the Greenwich Free Library.

Ruth DELISKY Bogen '34 died of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) on September 5, 2000, at the age of 84. She had lived in Port Washington, NY, since 1953, when she moved

there with her husband, Samuel. She was a member of the Community Synagogue and the Port Washington-Manhasset League of Women Voters, for which she helped produce the annual Voters Guide for many years. She was also a member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Port Washington Public Library and along with her husband, was a founding member of the Beachway Estates Association, which in 1955 acquired the waterfront property now known as Galloway Park for the use of the local community. In 1999, she was named to the Town of North Hempstead Women's Roll of Honor. For the past 10 years, Ruth was a volunteer reader for recordings for the blind and for the past five years, she taught English as a Second Language at the Port Washington Public Library. She also worked full-time for 25 years as office manager for her husband's engineering firm and during that time, earned an MBA from Adelphi University. Her BA was from Hunter College, where she was a Latin major and a Greek minor. She is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

Edith MORRIS Olmstead, Jan. '38 died on June 20, 2000, in St. Paul, MN, where she resided. A retired high school teacher, she was still employed as a tax accountant at the time of her death. Memorials may be made to any public library.

Edith M. HOWARD '38 died on February 9, 2000. She was a graduate of Hunter College (1942) where she majored in art. She went on to earn her MD from the University of Geneva in Switzerland and worked as a pathologist at East Orange Veterans Hospital in New Jersey until her retirement. She is survived by her sister Dellora HOWARD Hercules '36.

Audrey ADRIAN Balzac, Jan. '47 has passed away as a result of breast cancer. Her classmate Jean WEEKS Friedman writes that Audrey attended the class' 50th reunion in 1997 and seemed fine on that happy occasion.

Through their research, the publisher

of our 2000 alumnae/i directory, the Harris Company, has advised us of the passing of the following individuals: Dorothy AUSTIN, Alice PAPASIAN, Hannah SHAW, Rose ADELE Levy '13, Rose STERN '19, Helen HONIG Berger '21, Emma KRAUS Layman '22, Freda CHERNIAK Martin '24, Rita MORGAN '24, Helen CAHILL '25, Helen HILL Green-Jounevant '25, Mignon PEYSER Greene '25, Lillian HALPERT Fuhro '26, Harriet COHEN Levinson '27, Miriam STERN Schiffman '27, Sylvia BOTTSTEIN Woods '27, Mildred GOLDBERG Carter '28, Sarah LEDERMAN '29, Marion L. BECKER Schrage '29, Frieda EDEL '30, Elsie SPRON Grupsmith '30, Augusta SOCNIAK Russell '30, Hazel SACKS SACKIEL '30, Grace SCHWARTZ Wachs '30, Janice WEINSTEIN Kamholtz '32, Margaret KRUMM Kavelaar '33, Bernice GOLDBERGER Rapfogel '33, Eleanor LAX Alexander '34, Lucille BAILEY '34, Jeanne ROSENBLUTH Gordon Goldman '34, Dorothy FINKEL Kurland '34, Ruth GROSSMAN Rothman '34, Regina CROTTY Stripling '34, Shirley ZIMET Unger '34, Rosaline LIEBERMAN Odessey '35, Lillian STEIN Schiff '35, Marion SASSER Wicks '35, Wilma HOLDORF Chapman '36, Estelle LEVANDE Sillerman '36, Shirley ZIMMERMAN Silver '36, Kathleen GILLIGAN, Jan. '37, Charlotte O'CONNELL Tessier '37, Elsie INNIS De-Sandies '38, Gloria Maria VALENTINE Koch '38, Frances GIANCASPRO Marucci '38, Margaret MUH O'Hare '38, Marie SMITH Drew '39, Marie EVANGELISTA '39, Olla LAWLESS Kimper '39, Blanche SOHN Shatz '39, Vivian BRAININ Siegel '39, Marion FEIN Alperin '40, Helen ROTHSTEIN Gerberer '40, Violetta CARILLO Marotta '40, Leah BARNETT Stern '40, Ruth WALCOTT '40, Evelyn GOLDBERG Bigging '41, Grace GREIF Gordon '41, Gloria DELLA-FEMINA Gornie '41, Doris POMERA Budoy '42, Renee BASSAN Hymes '42, Audrey LYNCH Kehoe '43, Sonia SCHWEID Reizes '43, Roberta RUBENSTEIN Spohn '43, Elaine EPSTEIN Drangel



'44, Joan SHEER Grossman '44, Stephanie KUBLIN Kaminski '44, Rebecca (Ruth) FOX Kramer '44, Gloria GILBERG Levine '44, Minerva MILLER Marcus '44, Ruth FRIEDBURG Maykulsy '44, Joan ABBETT Salnik '44, Florence BILSKY Satin '44, Ruth KATZ Winstein '44, Marion SONNENFELD, Jan. '46, Paula ZAJAN '46, Gloria COCHRANE Ongue '47, Carol HAHN Glasser '48, Mildred GROSS Stern '48, Marion REINER Wishengrad '49, Lillian HILL Fennerll, Jan. '50, Rima DRELL Collin '50, Alma SHURLAND Beazer '51, Rosemarie HERRMANN Bence '52, Irene GOLDBERG Friedman '54, Margaret KEANE Mullany '54, Joan GARFEIN Shretter '54, Lenore LAZARUS Weisenfeld '54, Yvonne CORPUZ Conrad '55, Dorothy KAWACHI '55, Marilyn SCHNEIDER Cohen '56, Valerie KUNDA Cosgrove '56, Elaine HALADAY '56, Miriam

KOSINER Mills '56, Judith KURENS Oldham '56, Catherine ROWAN Sakowicz '56, Kathy ZAPANTIS Miller '59, Dorothea FUCHS '61, Judith LIEBMAN '61, Roberta WOHL Goldstein '63, Jaroslava KUZMYCZ Sydorak '63, Harriet EDWARDS '67, Betty GONG '67, Stacey PILARINOS Wright '67, Nina BOGATY '72, Pamela CHEVERS '72, Marjorie GROSS '73, Nina LICHTENBERG '74, Lisa BURRUS '75, Deneen LUCKEY '82, Mark ROSENFELD '82, and James TRIUMPH '82.

Retired HCHS English teacher **Jack McNeil** passed away on September 9, 2000, from cancer at the age of 74. He taught at Hunter from the late '50s to the mid-'80s and his friend, Michael Uzzi, said of him, "He loved Hunter, loved teaching there, loved the students and had a tremendous effect there." Mr. McNeil was born in Germantown, PA, and grew up in Philadelphia. He studied literature

and teaching at West Chester (PA) State College. Among his interests were music, particularly opera and vocal music. He was a supporter of the gay community and was a member of the East End Gay Organization and supported the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in NYC. He was predeceased by his long-time companion, Bob Reid, who died in January 1999. Stephanie GERBI Harris '63 writes that Mr. McNeil began his career at HCHS in 1958, when she was in 8th grade, and quickly became an institution. His Philadelphia accent ("gurrels," as he would call her and her classmates) was easy to imitate and Senior Show impersonations were frequent and hilarious. It was amazing how students would look forward to his class, be it learning grammar or a discussion of *Ivanhoe*, because there would always be tangents and anecdotes to enliven the hour. Mr. McNeil gave his students an abiding appreciation and love of the spoken and written word, guided them through the great themes of literature and made them question the mores of the times. He enriched the lives of us all and for this we are eternally grateful.

Former faculty member **Barbara (Bobbi) Keyser** died on August 9, 2000, in Florida at the age of 81, following a long illness. She taught history at Hunter for 20 years before becoming headmistress of The Madeira School, in McLean, VA, in 1965. There she is credited with her commitment to building the character of young women and for her vision of a multicultural community long before the term was popularized. Miss Keyser was a graduate of Sidwell Friends School and Vassar, and earned an M.A. in history from Columbia University. Her honors included a Fulbright Fellowship teaching in the Netherlands (1955), membership in the College Board (1960-63), and service as Educational Advisor in the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State (1963). After leaving Madeira, she was elected Mayor of Shelter Island, NY. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Miss Keyser's niece: Patsy S. Ticer, 512 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. ☐

AlumnaGrams

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Class of '78 - Larissa OMELCHENKO seeking Jill Kirkwood, Melissa Lichtman, Karen Maline, Dora Stathopolous and Kathy York. Please contact me at LalaTasha@gateway.com or 202-268-6292.

Esther Rogoff Taus, Jan. '31 would enjoy hearing from classmates, especially Julia Poulas, Sylvia Rosen, Naomi Sorken, Emily Schiele, Mildred Weiss, and Edith Kane. Contact the Alumnae/i association for Esther's address

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