

Alum Notes



HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC.
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President's Letter

Dear Fellow Alums & Friends of HCHS:

We are off to a great start for the new school year. The High School reopened on time this Fall, after a major summer project to renovate the HVAC systems, which was promised and delivered by Hunter College and its president, Jennifer Raab (HCHS '73). Students, teachers and parents all seem pleased — and while I always felt the air at the school to be rarefied, it is no doubt much better now that it is also clean and fresh — so this was a positive way to start the year (the school closed early in June to make this work possible, with students taking their Regent's Exams at the College.)

Also marvelous, thanks to grants from the City Council spearheaded by Councilmember Eva Moskowitz, the School is now the proud owner of a spanking new Foreign Language Lab with snappy looking Dell equipment — many of the dedicated school staff also worked to make this possible. I know that language study is an area of great interest to many alums, and so I was pleased to be asked to join in the ribbon cutting for the new lab which took place at the beginning of October.

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Save the Date - Feb. 24th, 2004

The Alumnae/i Association will host an evening at Hunter College High School on Tuesday, February 24th. Refreshments will be served and we hope to have Hunter College President Jennifer Raab and Campus Schools' Director David Laurensen address us about Hunter High today.

You Are Invited.....to the Alumnae/i Winter Brunch

Alums from all classes are invited to join us at the Alumnae/i Association's annual Winter Brunch on Sunday, February 1, 2004, at 12:30 at Raymond's Café in Chelsea (88 Seventh Avenue, between 15th & 16th Streets). Reviewers have called Raymond's "an unpretentious restaurant that immediately makes you feel at home" and as always, we have reserved the intimate and private downstairs party room for our gathering.

The all-inclusive price for the festivities is \$25 if paid in advance (\$30 at the door), and includes one cocktail, your choice of entree, dessert and coffee or tea. The brunch can

also be your gift if you renew your membership at the Premium level. Please use the form on the back page of this newsletter to send in your reservation. Space is limited, so please reserve right away! (The brunch is not run as a fundraiser and therefore the cost is not tax-deductible.)

In past years, we've had a nice mix of alums from classes as far back as 1928(!) right up through the 1990s. It's always interesting to talk to alums of different eras about their experience and remembrances of Hunter High. Why not bring a classmate of yours along and join us for this wonderful day? ☐

Reunion 2004

The Alumnae/i Association's annual Reunion is scheduled for Sunday, June 6, 2004, at the High School (94th Street and Park Avenue), so be sure to save the date. If you are a member of a milestone class, check page 8 to see if your class has a

coordinator working on special class activities and be sure to get in touch with him or her to make sure they have current contact information for you (email addresses are especially helpful). If no one *Continued on page 15*

Top 5 Reasons to Pay Your Dues

#5—It's easy - simply tear off the back page of this newsletter, write a check to HCHSAA, and mail to our office.

#4—It's inexpensive - only \$30 for regular members, \$20 for those on a fixed income, and \$15 for recent graduates.

#3—Dues payments are generally tax-deductible. As a 501(c)(3) all donations, including dues payments, are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law (consult your tax advisor).

#2—Dues enable us to publish and mail *AlumNotes*, expand and improve our website, organize social gatherings (including the annual Reunion) - all of which are

vital ways for keeping us in touch and reminding us of why the Hunter experience was so pivotal in our lives.

And

#1—You will feel great supporting *your* favorite alumnae/i association!

(You'll know if you owe dues by checking the dues expiration date (MONTH/ YEAR), which is printed above your name and address on the back page. Please note: If the month and year are equal to the current month and year, it means that you paid in this exact month last year OR that you've NEVER!!! paid dues before. Can that BE??? ☐

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Let me thank you first of all for really producing a fine bulletin, interesting reading for an oldie like me (from the class of '28). The profile of my classmate Henriette JUDELS Rattner (which was in the Summer 2003 issue) was interesting to me because my years at Hunter did not have, and I cannot recall, the class spirit and involvement that she describes. I know why - my freshman year, classes were held in a loft of an office building on 51st St. and 7th Ave. or Broadway. I remember an occasional gym class, where we wore navy gym pants, on another floor in the same building. Then there was a year or two in a school building on 110th St. and the last two years in a school on 96th St., near 1st or 2nd Avenue. I can still visualize the teachers Henriette mentions and I'm surprised that she did not include Dr. Frau Sachsse, the most remarkable German teacher, who encouraged us to take the 4th year German Regents as well as the 3rd year. Most of us passed the 4th year with higher marks than the 3rd! I dropped out of the College and directed my education into the field of religion. I'm still at it and my senior students insist I stay with it. A few years ago I attended a reunion in Coral Springs, Florida - the spirit was great and the white and purple was exciting!

Rebecca LEVITAN Lister '28

To the Editor:

If I remember correctly, both Judels sisters taught at Hunter High, one only briefly. That must have been one of the "brief stints at a couple of schools" to which Henriette referred. In a letter on page 2, "the old 68th Street building" is mentioned. But another item on page 18 states that "the 68th Street location had not yet been built" in 1939. Actually, by then it was a senior citizen among buildings. Also erroneous in the same paragraph (pg. 18) is the statement that the teachers "all looked old and wore long black skirts." In fact, some of the faculty dressed attractively and were quite pretty, to wit our French teacher, Miss Nettie Judels, et. al.

Keep up the good work.

An alum of January, 1938

To the Editor:

If you have a copy of the recent Hunter College newsletter, there is a photo of three

Hunter College class of '28 "survivors" taken with the lovely college president, Jennifer Raab (HCHS '73). The lady on the left - the blonde in the blue suit - is myself and I am also a graduate of HCHS, class of '24. I hadn't reached my 16th birthday when I graduated. I don't know about the other two colleagues - I didn't ask if they went to the high school. My Latin teacher was Miss Gertner or Gellert - she isn't mentioned in Henriette JUDELS Rattner's interview. On the bulletin board when I was in school, a production of "Hamlet" with John Barrymore was advertised - I've always regretted not seeing it since I've always loved the theater and still do. All hail to HCHS!

Jeannette WHITE Loeb '24

Editor's Note: With permission from Hunter College, we are reprinting the photo of Jeannette here.



To the Editor:

I applied to HCHS just before I graduated from an elementary school in Astoria. I was accepted and took the "L" to the city where I changed for a train "uptown." Hunter High at that time occupied a no longer used elementary school on 96th St. Classrooms were few, gym and lunch rooms were nonexistent. We remained in our "classroom" from the time we came in until we left in the afternoon. Milk and a few extras were brought to our classrooms every day and we ate at our desks. The next year Hunter was moved downtown and we remained there for a year. We finally moved to 68th St. and Lexington Ave.

My classmates came from totally different backgrounds. Five of us banded together - my best friend's parents came from Russia. I visited them often and was introduced to Russian food and the Russian Orthodox church (with 3 hour services). I watched them toss a goblet into the Hudson River in the middle of winter and was amazed to see a group of young men jump in to retrieve it. Another member of our group came from a Greek family. Our small group

visited each other's homes and were exposed to ethnic cooking. When my husband and I visited Greece, I remembered the food I ate in Chomie's house. We learned about Germany when we visited my German friend's house and about Italy and their customs.

I still remember some of the Latin we had to memorize and our French class was exceptional. After a few weeks, we had our English translated into French and the entire class recited the sentence in French - Parisian French because our teacher came from Paris. After a year of constant repetition, I began to think in French. I, too, remember Ms. Louisa Webster - we all admired her - and Ms. DeGraff who gave us dozens of passages to memorize - some of which are part of my memories of the Latin class. Later Hunter College was my new home and I continued to enjoy the many activities provided by my new "alma mater."

Adele VALENTA Sunshine '34

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Alum Profile - Elena Kagan '77

by Judy CHIN Wong '88 and Tai Wong '88



"In my family, getting the (HCHS) Distinguished Alumni Award [for 2003] was better than getting the Nobel Prize," laughs Elena Kagan '77, the Charles Hamilton Houston Professor of Law and recently appointed Dean of Harvard Law School. Dean Kagan owns a stellar resume which includes stints as Associate Counsel to the President (1995-96) as well as Deputy Director of the Domestic Policy Council (1997-99) where she was instrumental in crafting groundbreaking tobacco regulation legislation. Despite her accomplishments, it's easy to understand why to her family the Hunter award shines so brightly—Kagan's ties to Hunter run far and deep. Her brother Irving Kagan is an HCHS alumnus and veteran teacher in the Social Studies department. Mother Gloria Kagan taught for many years in the elementary school and Dean Kagan has a niece currently enrolled at Hunter.

Kagan's most enduring memories of Hunter were great teachers and great friends. "My great favorites came from the Social Studies Department - I was very fond of Mrs. Morello, also Mrs. Eichler and Ms. McCarthy," relates Kagan. She also admits, "Though I didn't always like her, I learned a lot in English from Mrs. Laster." She also keeps in touch with many of her classmates and quite a few remain close friends. She recalled being quite active in student government, serving a term as G.O. President.

Some of Kagan's most vivid memories were the physical location of school in an office building during her years there. "466 Lexington Avenue. 13th and 14th floors, I spent all but six months of my high school years there" she recalls instantly. "There were no gyms and no labs at the school. Gym could mean going to a bowling alley or a bike ride in Central Park. Labs were at Hunter College," Kagan adds. Rather than lamenting the inconveniences, Kagan, who describes herself as "a city girl," loved "going out to lunch all the time" and asserted that "we all discovered New York City because of it."

After graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's in history from Princeton in 1981, Kagan collected a Masters in Philosophy from Oxford before matriculating at Harvard Law School where she graduated magna cum laude in 1986 and was supervising editor of the Harvard Law Review. She then clerked for prominent liberal jurist Abner Mikva on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals which was followed by yet another clerkship with Justice Thurgood Marshall on the Supreme Court. "It was an extraordinary experience, most law school students dream of it," she recalls with emotion and pride. "It was like being part of history. He [Justice Marshall] was such a major figure in the great social justice battles of the 20th Century." The late Justice Marshall, she remembers fondly, "was a lot of fun. He was a great raconteur. We would start discussing a case with him and he would end up telling stories where all four clerks would end up on the floor laughing."

After a brief stint in private practice Kagan turned to academia as assistant professor at the University of Chicago Law School where she advanced briskly to become a tenured professor of law in 1995. Kagan then joined the White House counsel's office as Associate Counsel to the President. According to an article in the New Republic ("White House Watch: Wonderwork", May 18, 1998) she had decided to return to academia but was enticed to stay by a fellow Princeton alum, Bruce Reed, then domestic policy chief at the White House. He offered her the number two spot on the Domestic Policy Council and an equal partnership running the White House policy shop. In the same article Kagan is

credited with being the Clinton administration's lead negotiator on tobacco and details how she combined legal know-how and bargaining prowess to cobble together an agreement that was acceptable to all parties which gave the FDA regulatory jurisdiction over tobacco. The article quotes an anonymous fellow negotiator who compared Kagan's informed and tough style to "...Bobby Knight's old [University of Indiana basketball] teams that used to wear you down with defense."

When asked why she felt it was justified to hold tobacco makers responsible for an addictive product but one that is also clearly dangerous, Kagan emphasized the link between manufacturing a physically addictive product AND marketing it to children. "Children don't have the capacity to fully understand the dangers of smoking and by the time they do they are addicted. People start smoking quite young," asserts Kagan, a teenage smoker herself who quit in 1993. When asked whether she felt there were potential parallels between tobacco industry lawsuits and questions being raised today about obesity and the liability of the fast-food industry, Kagan cautions, "Cigarettes are addictive. Big Macs are not."

In 1999, a grateful President Clinton nominated Kagan for a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit—often considered an academy for the U.S. Supreme Court. However, the nomination failed to advance past the Senate Judiciary Committee and expired in 2000. When asked if judicial nominations had become too politicized, Kagan answered, "The politics of a judge is important, it's a legitimate area of inquiry. The President and the Senate should concern themselves about judicial philosophy." "There should be a range of opinions on the Court; it should not just be about lawyerly qualifications. The problem is there isn't much honest debate in the process today," Kagan added. In the meantime Kagan had joined Harvard Law School as a visiting professor. A full professorship arrived in 2001, and earlier this year her appointment as the first female dean in the 186 year history of the Law School was greeted with near universal encomium, re-

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Alums Reflect On Reaching Life Markers - Graduating from College, Turning 40 & Turning 60

We recently invited members of the classes of '99, '81 and '61 to write about what they're currently doing and their thoughts about HCHS as they reach some big milestones in their lives: the class of '99 recently reached the four-year marker of their high school graduation and many have completed their undergraduate studies and made the move into first full-time jobs or post-baccalaureate studies; many from the class of '81 have already turned 40 and most of the class of '61 is turning 60. Here's what these alums told us:

Steven Besserman '99: I attended Queens College. The most challenging part was dealing with petty professors - it reminded me a lot of HCHS. I plan to go to graduate school for philosophy, anthropology or sociology at some point. I'm not working in my career of choice yet, but I am working. As for marriage and children, I'm waiting until I'm at least getting towards being set in my life. Maybe before my 30s, though. I don't have any one memory in particular of HCHS, but more like a whole lot of little, everyday things that were the most important. From hanging out in the "freak" hallway, to playing some stickball or basketball in the yard, moving up from eating at Sal's - to Famous Famiglia - to food that isn't pizza, to playing killer in senior year.

Lawrence Chan '99: I attended NYU, where I graduated with a double major in Finance and Economics. It was definitely not as challenging as HCHS, and I know, through conversations with our classmates, that many of them felt the same way as well. At Hunter, not only did we go to class and have work from that, but most of us carried several extracurriculars and the responsibilities that came with those activities. College afforded us so much more free time, though I did treat it much like high school and had a heavy plate of extracurriculars and held several jobs as well. I never left the New York area. I am currently living and working in the city. I work in the financial field, because coming from undergrad business school with a finance degree, that's what you typically end up doing. Career of choice? We'll see about that. Though I really like the firm I'm working for, and the

work itself has been good as well. Its pretty much what I thought it'd be like. The memories of HCHS are so plentiful. But the best part of living in the city is that I do get to see old friends, and quite often at that.

William Choi '99: I went to the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor. HCHS was more challenging (good preparation for college). Revelations: NYC is so much more busy and fast-paced than the Midwest. A car is a must outside NYC. I am currently going to dental school at UMich, graduating in 2006. Marriage is too far ahead to think about. Wish I was in high school again - fewer decisions and worries.

Shari Goldman Gottlieb '99: I attended Yale. It was challenging in a different way from HCHS, but not more challenging. New Haven, Connecticut, isn't so different from NYC, though nothing beats the diversity of New York. I am continuing my studies beyond four years. My immediate plans are to conduct research on oral storytelling in Madrid on a Fulbright grant. I'm not concentrating on thinking about marriage and children now, but I'm only 22, so there's still a while until I even reach my 30s.

Lona Kaplan '99: I am currently a NYC Teaching Fellow, teaching self-contained special-education classes for 9th and 10th grade in Queens.

Emmet O'Hanlon '99: I am in Des Moines, Iowa, working for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), lobbying at the statehouse and doing a lot of organizing around the presidential caucuses. So far, I've met all the candidates and lobbied all of their campaign staff, so that's been pretty exciting. The job is different every day, and the people I work with are awesome. I actually feel like I'm putting my Hunter education and Political Science degree to work, whether I'm arguing for stronger water pollution standards for hog farms or trying to get subsidies for wind farms. This is my first time in the Midwest, so it's a lot different from NYC, but I'm really enjoying all the wide-open spaces and friendly faces.

Otherwise, I've been traveling around a lot, working on different campaigns for PIRG in Massachusetts, Georgia and Tennessee since the beginning of the summer. I went to Amherst College for my undergraduate degree and really loved it. It was even harder than Hunter, but I got to study with some pretty great professors, row crew, and make some quality friends. I see myself continuing to work for PIRG, lobbying and political organizing in the Midwest, for a few years, then perhaps go to law school once I know exactly how I want to use my degree and where I want to work. Kids and family are not in my immediate future.

Rebecca Podolsky '99: I attended Harvard, which in some ways was more challenging than Hunter, but in some ways less—I thought that in 12 years at Hunter I was surrounded by an equally if not more diverse and intelligent group of people than in college. Being in Boston for four years taught me that Red Sox fans are nasty and bitter people :). I guess going to college with people from all over made me realize how lucky I was to grow up in NYC. I'm back in New York now doing a post-baccalaureate pre-med program this year, but after that, I'm not sure if I will stay here.

Anri Wheeler '99: I attended Williams College which I found to be more challenging than Hunter in most ways, but I felt that I was well prepared for the school thanks to my Hunter education. I definitely feel that Hunter was superior in terms of the people I met there and I feel much closer to my high school friends than I do to the ones I made in college. Living outside the city I went through a phase of falling in love with the mountains and thinking I could never live in New York again, but by the end of my four years I was ready to be back in the swing of the big city. Right now, I am living in Hong Kong on a graduate fellowship from Williams, teaching English to community college students. My real dream would be in journalism and I am also doing an internship right now with the International Herald Tribune. After my year of teaching is up, I plan to spend

a few months traveling around Southeast Asia, India, and Africa.

Renee Willemsen-Good '99: I am currently living back in NYC and working as a 4th-grade teacher in a public school in Bed-Stuy. Having just graduated from Swarthmore College, I am excited to be out of school (as a student, at least) and in the working world (and out of a dorm room). Though working in an urban school district is constantly trying - I am still excited to be involved in the field of education, which I became passionate about in college. There is definitely a lot of time and perspective between Hunter and now. It is interesting how Hunter has woven through my post-high school life, outside of the friends that I made at Hunter with whom I've kept in contact. I've certainly gotten to meet people I didn't know well in high school through college and jobs I've had. It's been nice to be able to have that instant connection with someone because of the shared experience of going to Hunter - and it reminds me that Hunter has (for better or worse) had a pretty significant impact on me.

Jason Paez '99: I attended Columbia College, Columbia University, and did find it to be more challenging than HCHS. I studied in South America, and believe it or not, found that the world is a bigger place than New York! It was a revelation to me anyway. I'm now back in NYC, not immediately planning further study. I'm currently working in investment banking, though it's probably not my ultimate career of choice. It is everything and more that I thought it would be. Although I think about marriage and children, it is definitely something I will wait until my 30s to do.



Chris Dogonniuck '81: My views on turning 40? Who told you I was turning 40? I'm still in my twenties, am I not? Denial aside, I think that attitude expresses some of how I feel about turning 40 next March. I don't feel like I'm especially old. And as my friends can attest, I find it exceptionally easy to "stay in touch with my inner child." I still do plenty of goofy things usually reserved for people half my age (or younger). But I'm also grateful for the modicum of wisdom I've managed to accrue over four decades. I'd never pretend to be an old sage, but I realize that experience has taught me things that only experience can. The great part is that I (hopefully!) have another 40

years of experiences ahead of me, and it gets easier to appreciate and savor them, no matter how trivial they may seem. I would definitely have to say I feel good about reaching 40, and that I very much like where I am. I'm certainly not where I thought I'd be when I graduated from Hunter, though. I've changed careers, for one. I left the Marine Corps and now practice medicine, something that never even occurred to me while at HCHS.

My birth family has changed dramatically; both of my parents died in their fifties, a rather unexpected turn. The brother I'm closest to lives and works overseas, so I see him and his family infrequently. My other brother has some personal issues that make it difficult to be around him, something I never imagined. Most recently, I've joined the rolls of divorced single parents. Show me a high school senior who anticipates that and I'll forward a list of therapists. It's a horrendous thing to endure, but see the paragraph above about experience. If you can get through that without eating your gun, odds are good you'll come out better off. If it doesn't kill you, it'll make you stronger, to paraphrase ol' Fred Nietzsche.

I most certainly value my Hunter education now much more than I did when I graduated. At the time, it was just high school. Sure, you have this vague notion that Hunter is "special," but when you're surrounded by it, that just seems like the way things are. I think I needed distance to gain perspective on just what Hunter meant to me. It took me a while to realize that the education I received was so powerful. In part, it was simply the level and rigor of the education. I took Calculus in ICY with Dr. Harry Ruderman. I chickened out of taking the AP exam for that subject, and ended up retaking four semesters of engineering calculus at Penn. It was the fourth semester before I started learning things that Dr. Ruderman hadn't taught us in 12th grade!

More important than the level of the education, though, was the mental discipline and the love of learning that Hunter imparted. I learned how to think critically, not just about what others were saying or writing, but about my own beliefs. I learned not to take things for granted; to look for, and even demand, proof. To keep questioning. I don't think we realize just how tremendously crucial those mental skills are until we're older, and have found ourselves putting them to use

in myriad situations that have nothing to do with academics.

Hunter also allowed me to be who I was. Let's face it - it is not now and never has been cool to be smart in America. Our country has a long tradition of being suspicious of the "intellectual elite." I'm sure that I'm not the only one at Hunter that came from an elementary-school experience of being picked on or mocked for being the brightest kid in class, or even in the school. We got to see the fastest kid, and the strongest kid, and the coolest kid be rewarded with popularity and even trophies and titles. And those of us who were good at what we were in school for - learning - endured being stigmatized as geeks and nerds. Hunter was a place where we could take pride in being the biggest geek, and the nerdiest nerd. Where the kid who could recite the numerical value of pi to the greatest number of decimal places was held in awe. Hunter was a place where it was cool to be smart.

I think my fondest memory of Hunter is of my favorite teacher, not just at Hunter, but anywhere - Ira Marienhoff, long-time Chairman of the Social Studies Department. I still think of him to this day, and not because of anything I've long-since forgotten regarding Adam Smith. He nurtured my strengths, and forced me, none too gently at times, to face and overcome my weaknesses. And he didn't just address intellectual issues, but moral and ethical ones, as well. He saw his mission as not simply to make me a smarter person, but to make me a better person.

Marina Picciotto '81: As a recent forty-turner, I have to say that I didn't really have any expectations about 40. Growing up, I knew I would be 36 in the year 2000 and I figured that would be so old that I'd hardly notice it. So 40 was just too old to even imagine. Having a three-year-old also makes it hard for me to slow down long enough to speculate on what 40 means. It makes me feel young to watch all the things she's figuring out (and she makes me feel old when she fights going to bed and stays up later than I do). The students I teach are also getting to the age when I could biologically be their mom (or more accurately, I am getting to the age...), which is pretty spooky. I like being older in some ways. There are a lot of perks to not being the new kid on the block and having already

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Alums Reflect ...

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experienced a lot of the world. On the other hand, there is a feeling of narrowing possibilities. It's unlikely (although not impossible) that I'm going to take up surfing at this point, or figure out anything about macroeconomics. I think I feel the uncertainty of life more acutely since my daughter was born, and that uncertainty, the idea that nothing about my life is immutable and everything could change in a moment, is something that may be related to turning 40 for me.



Joann TOMASZEWICZ Dale '61:

Thoughts on turning 60 - When I was 5, I thought that 15 was old. When I was 15, I thought that 30 was old. When I was 30, I thought that 60 was old. Now that I am 59, I think that my 87-year-old mother is old. It's all relative.

I became a pediatrician, my dream since childhood. I always assumed that I would remain single because of the demands of my career, but met and fell in love with my husband in medical school. We will be married 36 years on December 23rd, since we wed during the Christmas break of our junior year in medical school. I successfully balanced career and family until our two children were young teens. My husband was working long hours as the only pulmonary doctor in private practice in Rochester, NY, and the children seemed to need a parent at home. I retired, ferried them to sports and play dates and helped with homework. It was a wise decision as they have developed into wonderful adults, but I have missed pediatrics since day one of my "retirement."

My life has been wonderful. I was the first person in my entire family to graduate from college, and the first from P.S. 11 in Woodside, Queens, to be selected for the Hunter test. My parents left the decision of whether or not to attend Hunter to me and I agonized over it. I would lose my friends and move into a different world. Since my goal was medical school, I opted for Hunter and never regretted it. I learned to savor what NYC had to offer: "two-fer" plays and even a visit to the neighboring Soviet Embassy for the beautiful coffee table books they were dispensing, along with propaganda about the USSR.

My English teacher, Miss Brown, sent us to Tiffany's to see the period table settings they had on display since that coincided with our reading of Shakespeare. I would never have ventured inside such a "swanky" store without Miss Brown's directive and the company of my friends. As I remember, Miss Brown was a fine teacher, but she was the epitome of the spinster. Everything shocked her, and she was naive. We would tease her endlessly and she would never "get it." One day we all clicked our pens when she entered the room (ha, how simple the jests of years gone by) and she was beside herself. She was, however, a fine teacher in the Hunter mold, and I learned much from her...and she was the first to dispense those "two-fers" and urge us to explore Manhattan. I think of her fondly. One of her big lessons to us was that we should never start a sentence with "well," and I never do!

Hunter taught me not to be intimidated and gave me poise and self-assurance, taught me to savor the arts, taught me to explore knowledge for the sake of knowledge, and eliminated my New York City accent - for which I am eternally grateful. I have no thoughts on turning 60 other than the few sentences I penned above. My thoughts on Hunter are endless. In those quiet moments when we all consider "what if," I think about what I would be without Hunter. Would I have married the cute guy who lived next door to my grandmother in a small Pennsylvania town? He became a telephone lineman and his wife works in a luncheonette...and they never vote. Would I be slinging hash? Would I have wed the guy I dated while a "parkee," i.e. playground supervisor? His dream was to be a NYC policeman and he had no place for a career wife. Hunter allowed me to be what I wanted. It gave me polish, self-assurance, a firm base of knowledge and the tools for continuing my education throughout life. It made me a snob too, but, once you're aware of that, it's not so bad. In summary, I'm not where I thought I would be at 60 (married, a navy wife and doctor in clinics in Maine and New Hampshire while my husband served his two years at the Portsmouth Naval Base, a grandmother, a world traveler, and a home owner...as a child, I lived in apartments), but I'm delighted to be here!

Marge DEISSENERGER Schmitt '61: I have refused to turn 60, which is most de-

cidedly old, but I did turn fifty-ten in May, and next May will probably turn fifty-eleven. Thirty-five, 40 and even 50 did not bother me at all. I'm where I thought I'd be in terms of family and education, but I had assumed that I'd maintain my career for more than four years post-college. Instead I have become "Suzy Homemaker," a title I'd rather not have. I started out in microbiological research and later worked as an EMT for about 3 years. Now, I am a gardener and homemaker. I lived in NYC/NJ until 1976 and subsequently moved to Oklahoma, Georgia and, since 1981, have been living in Southern California. I believe my decision to attend HCHS was the most important one I ever made in my life and I credit it with everything else good that has happened to me since. Even when I graduated, I believed it was a fantastic experience, I just didn't have the perspective I do now. My fondest memories are of all my classmates, my 7th grade Big Sister, Senior Sings (I still sing ours as well as other classes' songs to myself), the faculty show, and an outstanding curriculum - what an education we received! Under threat of fire recently here in San Diego, one of the things I was sure to "pack out" was my HCHS yearbook.

Helene WILLIAMS Spierman '61: Sixty is a nuisance! I guess I dread(ed) it. I loved being the youngest in theatrical and musical activities outside school. When I was a teenager, I felt, looked and acted middle-aged. Turning 30, I took stock and turned back the clock to make up for the time I'd lost. Turning 40, I still thought I was 30. Fifty wasn't too bad, because I was really 35 in my head (playing 35 in graduate school, surrounded by mostly younger people, including my professors). So how can I be 60 now? Bones, arteries, endocrines, brain cells, metabolism - they're just plain older, and so am I. I'm learning to live with various "signs of the aging process" - waking up stiff and aching if I don't exercise - it's no fun; but I'm more alert and just as much fun as I was before. I'm at the other end now, since none of my younger friends think I'm out of my forties!

I expected to be making a living in the performing arts at this point in my life. I deliberately avoided teaching as something to fall back on, so I never got teaching certification, much less went on to any advanced degree. I and some friends joined a young conductor (whom

Continued on page 16

Class of 1964 Plans 40-Year Reunion

by Ruth BARNES '64
(barnesdance@hotmail.com) & R. Lea Singer
(Rhoda EPSTEIN) '64 (rivkanet@aol.com)

The HCHS Class of 1964, currently in cyber-reunion mode, will hold its 40-Year Reunion the weekend of July 9-11, 2004. Plans include Friday and Saturday at the Forrestal Hotel, in Princeton NJ, as well as a Sunday brunch in New York City. Multiple mini-reunions are also taking place in London, Vienna, New York, Boston, Washington D.C., St. Louis, and Northern and Southern California. (The D.C. group has been meeting since it organized the 25-year reunion.)

Since May 2003, members of the class of '64 have been engaged in a vivid on-line reunion — more than 100 participants and more than 1200 messages posted. As classmates join our "chat" group, some jump right in, while others listen quietly. Most have parked their Hunter '64 yearbook (ed., Jane DeLynn) next to their computer to be able to put a face to the name of the girl "talking."

We have regaled each other with stories about our Hunter days — the teachers, the classes, and coming of age while riding the New York subways.

We have discussed the schism between "old girls" and "new girls" (our class was doubled in size in the 10th grade). We have explored the myriad ways in which our years at Hunter helped form the women we have become. Now we are catching up on each other's lives, reconnecting with old friends, and making new ones. (For people without an original *Annals*, the class has produced new copies, along with a CD of our Senior Sing.)

A far-flung organizing committee is in place, with assistance from classmates around the globe: reunion coordinator, Rhoda SRAGG Faller (Louisville, Ky.); treasurer, Judi GRUNWALD (Nyack, N.Y.); reunion site liaisons, Judith KLOTZ (Lawrenceville, N.J.) and Joan MALEWITZ (Rego Park, Queens); cyber-reunion moderators, Ruth BARNES (Riverside, Calif.) and Ina BENDIS (Santa Clara, Calif.); entertainment/activities organizer, Gareth MANN Sitz (Elgin, Ill.); 25-year reunion coordinator, Rhoda (Lea Singer) EPSTEIN (University City, Mo. & Astoria, Queens); memory book editor, Nancy WECHTER (Brooklyn, N.Y.). One group of classmates is arranging the Sunday brunch and another is organizing the selection of the class gift.

During the course of five milestone reunions, the class has located almost all its 300 members and asks the greater HCHS community for its assistance in locating the following "lost" classmates:

Nina AKERAISEN Rosenband, Elise ASHLEY, Ellen BANKOVICH, Lynn BASKIN Schwartz, Carol Ann BECKER, Christine BURNS, Barbara CHAKOFSKY, Susan CRAMER, Allana COOPER, Elizabeth DRAKE Irizarry, Marjorie ECKSTEIN, Laurel EHRlich Kane, Joan ENGEL, Maureen FERRICK, Dorothy GEORGE Horlick, Jean GUNSHANNON, Margaret HAAS, Susan HAUSKNECHT, Alice HEIN, Jayne KLEIN, Rhoda KULLAR, Alice LATIMER, Susan LEVINE, Denise MEEHAN, Laura MONTALVO, Brenda MURRAY Shaw, Reena RIBALOW Reisner, Iris ROTHSTEIN, Doris SALZBERGER, Carol Ann SCHMITT, Joan SCHMITT, Loretta SCHULTZ, Barbara SIEGEL vanHorn, Diane THERIAULT, and Barbara VAGNONI.

We are all looking forward to next July! Our class coordinator is Rhoda SRAGG Faller and she can be emailed at: meroho@aol.com □

Class of 1979 Milestone Planning for 25th Reunion is Underway!!!

The 25th Reunion for the class of '79 will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2004. Save the date!!!! We hope to be joined by our classmates who graduated in '78, many of whom we spent so many of our Hunter years with. A festive celebration is being planned!! It will be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and perhaps rekindle past friendships. If you would like to help out, please contact Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby, colbyfamily5@earthlink.net

We are also looking for "missing" classmates. If you have an address for any of

the following individuals, please forward to Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby at colbyfamily5@earthlink.net: Miriam Bendahan, Michele Brandwein, Eileen Chavis, Lily Chin, Nina Daleo, Ernestine WILLIAMS Duncan, Nina Goss, Sharon Harrison, Donna MORGAN Hastings, Diedre Jackson, Gabriella Jeney, Risa Krieselman, Pamela Landy, Deborah BLUNT Lowe, Bonnie Moy, Judy Neuwirth, Dina Plapler, Claudia Psome, Evelyn Quon, Nadine Ramirez, Barbara Schmidt, Haley Seif, Lisa Solomon, Dora Stathopoulos, Dawn Wagner, Celeste Walicki, Stephanie FOGGIE Welch, and Carol GOODMAN Zollweg. □

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. And in case you didn't know, Sarah Maria (pronounced Mariah) Jones was the name given to the archetypal Hunter High Student.

Milestone Class Coordinators

2004 Reunion (General Reunion will be Sunday, June 6, at the High School)

1944 (Jan.) **Jean Mensch**, 325 East 72nd St. 16D, New York, NY 10021; jean@hardscrabbleroad.com

1949 (Jan.): **Mildred Speiser**, 310 Riverside Dr. Apt. 707, New York, NY 10025; ispei@att.net
Harriet KONSTADT Sherman, 75 Henry St., Bklyn, NY 11201; hkonsstadt@aol.com

1949 (June): **Gloria HOOPER Raspberry**, 109 Woodside Dr., Syracuse, NY 13224, raspberry13224@yahoo.com

1954: **Yvonne Groseil, Arline SEWITCH Lieberman & Lucy Lynch**; email Arline at warl2@aol.com

1959: **Debbie HARTLEY Forchielli** (will help anyone willing to coordinate); forchielli@adelphia.com

1964: **Rhoda SRAGG Faller**, meroho@aol.com

1969 & 1974: **STILL LOOKING FOR A COORDINATOR**

1979 **Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby**; colbyfamily5@earthlink.net. To subscribe to the listserv, send email to: hchs1979@topica.com

1984: **Andrew Bellak** (bellak-bain@yahoo.com), **Anita DeStefano** (adestef@bu.edu), **Lori Fleming** (lfleming100@yahoo.com), **Emma OWENS O'Brien** (eobrien@halstead.com), & **Nelly Taveras** (abqcanela@yahoo.com)

1989 & 1994: **STILL LOOKING FOR A COORDINATOR**
'94 Egroup address: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hunter94/>

1999: **James Schiavone**, triplephat@aol.com

Chapter Coordinators

New England & Greater Boston:

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

Northern New England:

Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57, 603-447-1199

Southern Connecticut:

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

Northern Westchester (NY):

Marie Ciaiola '45, 914-276-0159

Hudson Valley (NY):

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

Ithaca/Rochester (NY):

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

Washington, DC Region:

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

Southern Florida:

Edythe WERNER Rishin '41, 954-978-9824

Chicago Area:

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

Texas:

Gail LEINKRAM Folloder '69, ladygail@houston.rr.com

Southern California:

Ann DECHTER Litvin '54; testsmart@yahoo.com,

San Francisco Area:

Caverlee Cary (cari@uclink3.berkeley.edu), Marcia Feitel (marcia_feitel@hotmail.com) & Jane Resnick (janeresnick@attbi.com)

Pacific Northwest:

Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby; colbyfamily5@earthlink.net

Israel:

Lorell FELDSTEIN Blass '45, Agron Street, Jerusalem, lorell@netvision.net.il

Recent Alums (grads of the '80s & '90s):

Amy Gong '93, amygong@hotmail.com
Kari CHIN Chachkes '87, kchachkes@mestel.com

Alums Profile ...

Continued from page 3

markable at the Law School known for great rivalries and contention. What helped was that Kagan, in addition to being an authority on administrative and constitutional law and considered an excellent professor, had gained significant respect for producing a comprehensive, even-handed report on the possibility of physically moving HLS from its Cambridge home to Allston, another Boston suburb.

As for Harvard Law School, Kagan calls it "the great metropolis—the New York City of Law Schools. Being a big and diverse community has all the advantages and disadvantages of being a great city. I'll take the advantages any day—especially the energy, diversity, number and variety of people and their perspectives. But you need to create community. And that's not natural. Cities have neighborhoods and we are trying to create neighborhoods here," Kagan explains. In order to build community, Kagan has cut the size of freshman classes by 50% to encourage students to get to know a group of other students - their neighborhood - exceedingly well. In addition, she's made physical changes by creating common spaces - internal and external - in the law school to encourage student congregation. Even though her tenure has just begun, she wants someday to leave HLS an even stronger institution than it is today—specifically "the premier center of legal scholarship in the world." To that end, Kagan is looking to make "great" appointments to the faculty, promote public service work among graduates and start to re-think the law school curriculum. One of her initiatives has been free coffee. "The Boston Globe made a big deal about free coffee. It's amazing the great units of happiness we can produce per dollar with free coffee. Happy people work hard and they produce good work for the Law School," concludes Kagan. A small step but one is tempted to think that it's a small part of a grand plan.

In her [sparse] spare time, Kagan is an avid student of American history, specifically the Founding period, a fan of Italian opera and a baseball buff. A devoted New York Mets fan, Kagan admits to feeling very conflicted when the Yankees play the Red Sox—something perhaps only New Yorkers can understand. □

Letter from the Director of the Campus Schools

Greetings Graduates,

While much of the school remains the same from year to year, this past year there have been significant changes. Over the summer we were moved out of our building on 94th Street to enable the heating and air conditioning systems to be overhauled. What a massive difference the work has made to the environment here inside the "Brick Prison"—we now have air that is free from dust and other particulates and the temperature can be monitored from each and every room in the building!

Our location for the summer was at the college on 68th Street at Lexington Avenue and we had to conduct our end-of-year examinations at that location. For some of the long-standing members of the faculty it was like going home, as many of the rooms we used were located in Thomas Hunter Hall—and they have changed very little from the days when the school was located there.

You will be pleased to know that our percentage of National Merit Scholarship students continues to be among the highest in the nation. This year some 32% of our graduating class were named as national merit semi-finalists and we expect them all to reach the finalist stage. Also on the academic front, some 75% of the students in our graduating class are applying early to universities this year—a record number for Hunter. The whole business of applying early, by November 1, is something I question in terms of wisdom, but if a student has determined with certainty the college he or she truly wants to attend, then applying early is often a good choice.

Turning to the lighter side of Hunter, you will be pleased to know that Spirit Day is alive and well. In recent years this event has been held in the fall and Bear Mountain was the destination. For the past two years, however, we have had other activities and our return to Bear Mountain this year after a spell of two years was heartily welcomed by the students. We had a wonderful day under glorious skies and the seniors initiated our new grade seven students into the traditions of our school in true Hunter fashion. Of course, the highlight of the day was the football match between the seniors and the juniors; needless to say, the seniors won hands down.

I want to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am for the gifts that the alumnae/i have sent and continue to send the school and I want to assure you that your efforts are put to good use. The money we get from the City Council is woefully inadequate and your support helps us in offering our students the very best education. The fact that you have supported many different ventures is also a great thing for the school as most, if not all, of our students will benefit in some way or another. Thank you from the whole school community.

I wish you happy holidays and look forward to meeting more of you in June 2004 at the next Alumnae/i Association Reunion.

Sincerely,

David J. Laurenson

Thank You Received for Donation to Computer Lab

Dear Alumnae/i:

On behalf of the faculty and students of Hunter College High School, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the donation of \$15,000 [in October, 2003] to renovate one computer lab. The money will be used to buy 18 new Dell computers that will have the speed and capacity to handle the new software that the text books are including in their packages and also the many new applications the faculty want to use to enhance their courses.

Technology has become an integral part of education and everyone's life. It is important to educate our students as to the most effective way to use the technology and what are valid resources found on the internet. In order to do this, the equipment must be kept up-to-date. It is through your generous donation that the high school can continue to provide the high standard of education in technology that our students have come to enjoy in all aspects of their experience here at the high school.

I invite you all to come and visit the computer labs during the day to see your funds in action. Students have access to computers from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day and they do take advantage of these resources.

Again, thank you very much for your support.

Carolyn Mayadas
Acting Chair, Mathematics Dept.

Thanks

On behalf of the students and faculty of the school, I convey our heartfelt thanks for the many gifts we have recently received from the Alumnae/i Association. The generosity of individuals and classes in providing funds necessary to sustain our programs here at the school is greatly appreciated. In particular I wish to thank the class of '63 for their contribution to the restoration of the Mason and Hamlin Grand piano that is in serious need of repair. The classes of '58 and '73 donated money for books for the library,

money that will be well spent to update our collection. To the classes of '68 and '53 we are grateful for their contributions for community activism and careers for women.

Each year I endeavor to upgrade one of the four computer labs we have in operation at the school. The Alumnae/i Association's generous \$15,000 contribution to this project is very much appreciated by the students as they use the machines extensively both in their scheduled classroom lessons and in their spare time when they are involved in

project research and writing assignments. Other projects that have benefited from your generosity are the visual and performing arts program, both the athletics and extracurricular programs, and the purchasing of new laboratory equipment.

Thank you all for your efforts on behalf of the school.

Sincerely,

David Laurenson, Principal

Special Thanks to Two Alums for Large Stock Donations

The Alumnae/i Association would like to especially thank Anita Springer '72 and Margreth DEISSENBERGER Schmitt '61 for their very generous donations to our last fundraiser. We especially acknowledge these gifts because they were made with stocks previously owned by these donors - a means of giving to your alma mater which a number of alums may wish to consider, since it may cause less drain on cash and receives advantageous tax treatment in some circumstances. Anita Springer's gift was the largest single gift we received last fiscal year (over \$2,000) and Margreth DEISSENBERGER Schmitt's was fourth (nearly \$1,600).

For others who wish to give to the Alumnae/i Association via a stock donation, we maintain an account with Charles Schwab for such purposes. Please contact Marge Kolb at the Alumnae/i office (email or telephone 212-772-4079) and we will be delighted to give you the transfer information.

We'd also like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals who gave \$100 or more to last year's fundraising drive. Donors to the current fundraising drive will be acknowledged in the next issue of *AlumNotes*.

\$101-\$250

I. Elaine Allen '66
Jean Binnie, Jan. '42
Jena Larson Close '54 (dec.)
Roberta Grossman Drosnin '65

\$100

Peggy Blumenthal '63
Linda C. Oppenheimer
Greengrass '63
Ludwika Arney Kosten, Jan. '50
Linda Adler Rosenkranz '55
Elizabeth A. Smith '47

HCHSAA Financial Info

The Alumnae/i Association is happy to report that our fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, was one of our most successful in recent years, both for the amount of contributions received from alums as well as for funds we gave to the high school. A comparison of the revenues and expenses of our two most recently ended fiscal years is presented below. As a 501(c)(3), dues payments and donations to our association are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law; we are also able to accept gifts of negotiable securities.

The association's giving to the high school originates from donations received from alums and friends in response to our annual fundraising letter as well as from milestone class gifts. Earmarked funds are transmitted to the school with the request that they be used as desired by the individual or class; in addition, our board of directors discusses requests for funding received from the school and then decides for what purposes unearmarked funds will be disbursed - recently funds have been donated to the library and the computer lab, to assist in the expense of student trips to Europe, and for video equipment for the English Department's Broadcast Journalism course.

Please note that board representatives are all volunteers who receive no compensation. Office expenses are comprised of the costs of handling your inquiries and the website and to assemble *AlumNotes*, the Reunion and other activities. We welcome questions about our finances — please contact our office by telephone, email, or in writing and we'll be happy to assist you.

HCHS Alumnae/i Assn. Inc. Statement of Revenues & Expenses Fiscal Years Ending 6/30/02 & 6/30/03 (Unaudited)

Revenues	6/30/03	6/30/02	Expenses	6/30/03	6/30/02
Dues	37,014	46,765	Office	21,940	18,705
*Other Contribs	24,370	35,804	*Printing/Postage	38,653	34,370
Fundraiser	69,747	23,164	Reunion et. al	9,507	9,930
Reunion et. al	5,985	6,985	Merchandise	0	726
Merchandise	1,511	2,199			
Interest Income	966	1,770			
			Sub-total	70,100	63,731
			Contributions to HS	51,219	26,278
			Scholarships	5,000	4,000
			Total Contribs	56,219	30,278
Total Revenues	139,593	116,687	Total Expenses	126,319	94,009

*Includes Class Gifts, Memorial Fund donations etc.

*Primarily for printing and mailing *AlumNotes*

Important Dates

- ✓ Our annual Winter Brunch will be held on Sunday, February 1st. See page 1 for details.
- ✓ Save the Date: An evening reception for alums will be held at the High School on Tuesday, February 24th. More information will be mailed to NYC-area alums in early February or you can contact our office for information.
- ✓ Reunion 2004 will be held on Sunday, June 6th at the High School. Milestone class members should check page 8 for contact information for their class coordinator(s) and then get in touch with them for more information about individual class plans.
- ✓ The next Young Alums event will be on Friday, June 4th. Additional details will be in the next issue of *AlumNotes* and on our website (www.hchsaa.org).



Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc.
Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021
Tel. (212) 772-4079 / Fax (212) 772-4074
email: hchsalums@yahoo.com

December, 2003

Dear Fellow Hunter High Alums & Friends:

Did you know that your donation to Hunter High through the Alumnae/i Association packs a double wallop? This is because it truly makes a crucial difference in the educational experience of every Hunter student present and future – but it also benefits students of years past (and that's all of us!). Here's how it accomplishes both:

- We now have a proven track record of active participation at the school, initiating and completing essential projects that other funding doesn't cover. In the last three years, your donations have totaled nearly \$200,000! These funds have been used to:
 - improve educational facilities for students (e.g., computer, science, and language labs)
 - make enriched extracurricular opportunities available to more students (e.g., subsidize European performance trips for drama and music students)
 - refurbish the soft seating area of the library
 - contribute to staff development programs
 - provide scholarships, and much more.
- Most of us remember our own years at Hunter with great affection and pride. Haven't you also had the experience of telling people that you went to Hunter – and having them know what that means? Possibly the person turned out to be another Hunter alum, or the parent or child of an alum, or maybe just someone who knew Hunter's reputation for excellence! We all have a stake in keeping Hunter great. By helping the school today, you not only help sustain the value of a Hunter education, but you help preserve the value of your own Hunter diploma. And that's something which is priceless.

This year, our goal is to raise a significantly greater amount than in any past year. Please consider a tax-deductible gift of \$100 or more as your contribution this year. (Gifts at this level and above will be acknowledged in *AlumNotes*.) As ever, donations of any size are much appreciated. In addition to cash, we can also accept gifts of marketable securities (ask us how), and we may be eligible for your employer's matching-gift program.

From all angles – whether altruism, fond memories, the desire to “give back,” or simply to help keep Hunter great – it makes sense to send a contribution. We'll do our utmost so that your money is well spent.

With cordial greetings and best wishes,

Joan Rosenthal '72

President, HCHSAA

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

Here's my tax-deductible gift of: ☐ \$200 ☐ \$175 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 or: \$_____

☐ Send me information on contributing marketable securities.

Please target my gift for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Wherever Most Needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual & Performing Arts
<input type="checkbox"/> Athletic/Extracurricular	<input type="checkbox"/> Science Labs	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Computer Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships	

☐ I'd also like to pay my dues at this time (see categories of membership on back page)

Please make your check payable to HCHS Alumnae/i Association and enclose a matching gift form from your employer, if applicable.

Class Notes

1930s

Sylvia SOLENDER Shapiro '34 writes that she and two other classmates, **Charlotte SALZ Fischler** and **Marian BERLISS Katzenstein**, meet twice a year for lunch in Boca Raton, FL.

1940s

Dorothy SIMON Hirsh '41 retired after 26 years of dedicated service as executive director of the Committee of Concerned Scientists, a human rights organization. She has been designated Executive Director Emerita. • **Rose COSTANZA Tangredi '41** has written her biography *From the Door to the Gate*. The chapter that deals with her life at Hunter High from 1939 to 1941, both at 68th and 32nd Streets, can be downloaded. Send an email to rtangredi@aol.com and put "Noepoli" in the reference line. • **Eda FUCELLA Moroney '46** and her husband, John, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with the renewal of their marriage vows at St. Agnes Church in Milford, CT, followed by a weekend family celebration in Dorset, VT attended by their children, sons- and daughters-in law, and all 11 of their grandchildren. Eda is a retired elementary school teacher from the Torrington School System. She and John have rebuilt their summer cottage in the Bayview section of Milford as their retirement home. • **Sandra LONDON Schulman '46** and **Rita VIXAXIS Packard '52** discovered a few years ago that they live two houses apart on the same street in Westlake Village, CA and have become fast friends! Hunter alums tend to bond! • **Alice TROMMER Rabin, Jan. '49** writes that Virgil is alive and well and living in Palo Alto! — Last July, in addition to visiting her son in Palo Alto, Alice met for the first time her half-sister. During the course of a grand visit, they discovered that they had both attended Hunter College High School, Alice 17 years after her half-sister. Alice reports that **Rose RESNICK Feiner '31** is an impressive 90-year old who was the first female Biology professor at City College. After their HCHS connection was established, the two alumnae spent a good part of the afternoon quoting passages from Virgil to each other "Dum fluvil..." etc. Dr. Corrigan would be proud that although Alice has forgotten much, these classic words remain clear.

1950s

Sharon RAPPAPORT Merriman '51 writes that the recent reunions with her classmates have been wonderful and she would like to thank **Caryl SOLOMON Bernstein** for tracking her down after all these years. After HCHS, Sharon finished Antioch College with a husband and a baby in arms. After a second daughter came in rapid succession, she went to law school and has been practicing ever since. Both of her daughters are attorneys as well. Her husband, Roger, passed away earlier this year, 3 ½ years after receiving a lung transplant - but lived to travel to the North Pole. Over the years they traveled extensively and Sharon still plans to visit the Galapagos islands and Vietnam in the next year. She'd be glad to hear from any classmates - having reached a time in her life when renewing old acquaintances becomes very important. Her six years at Hunter were the keystone to her entire life and interestingly, that was a common thread of conversation at the reunions her class has had - everyone believes Hunter shaped their lives and ambitions and are grateful. • **Lucille BLOCK Poskanzer, Jan. '51** is still working, though only part-time. Her daughter and family are living in Paris for 2 ½ years, so all of Lucille and her husband's travel is to France for now, including 3 ½ week jaunts in April and October. They are also planning a week in Provence in June, 2004, with their whole family, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. • **Sally LITHERLAND Kent '55** is proud that her son W. James Kent, a researcher at the University of California, Santa Cruz, is being credited with having "saved" the human genome project, a feat chronicled in *The New York Times*. With little more than a month before

the company Celera was to present a complete draft of the human genome to the White House in 2000, Kent wrote GigAssembler, a program that produced the first full working draft assembly of the human genome, which kept the data freely available in the public domain. • **Roberta KOCHANCZYK Graziano '59** writes that when she was nominated for "Most Likely to Come Back to Hunter and Teach," she never imagined that she would end up as a Professor of Social Work at Hunter College!

1960s

Linda THAU Edelson-Slocum '61 is expecting a new grandchild, a boy, who is due on December 19th. • **Katherina KROO Grunfeld '64** is, among other things, currently the co-chair of the Hunter College Hillel Foundation (an organization for Jewish college campus life). She'd love to hear from other Hunterites involved with Hillel. • **Jacki DAVIS Leak '66** retired from the NYC Police Department after 17 years of undercover and plainclothes investigations and then moved with her husband, Robert, and their children to San Diego, where she established a private practice in hypnotherapy and Rob teaches and has a successful practice in therapeutic massage, energy and bodywork. Jacki returned to school in 1994 and has since completed four degrees, a BA in psychology, a Masters in Education with a multicultural counseling emphasis, and a Masters and then doctorate, as of June 2003, in the Psychology of Culture and Human Behavior. She currently enjoys teaching the "Psychology of Women" at San Diego State University and is a Senior Consultant with Dynamic Consulting Services. Most importantly, she is a proud Grandma!

1970s

Feygele Jacobs '77 writes that her son, Louis Cholden-Brown, is a member of the HCHS class of 2008. • **Liz WALSER Gassimi '79** is currently working as a senior business analyst for Financial Times Interactive Data, a firm that supplies financial data to mutual fund clients. Liz worked full time and went to school part time, before graduating magna cum laude from Baruch College in 2002 with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. She lives with her husband of several months, Bouabid Gassimi, in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. After living in Manhattan for many years, Liz moved to Brooklyn, and just loves the new atmosphere. For the last two years, Liz has been writing a freelance column on arts and entertainment in Brooklyn for the local weekly paper, *The Home Reporter*.

1980s

Jane Ossandon '85 recently returned from Australia, where she attended **Rachel Kramer '85's** wedding to Daryll John on Brown's Island in Wodonga on November 1st. She was very happy to be able to be there and was asked four days before the wedding to be one of the couple's witnesses, which was an honor. Rachel and Daryll managed to organize shuttling 150 wedding guests in two motorized dingies across the Murray River to their island. It was an amazing logistical feat. The multi-day festivities with family and friends were incredibly fun. As for herself, Jane is living in Cologne, Germany and is a "staatlich geprüfte Luftverkehrskauffrau" as of January, 2003. She completed both oral and written exams at the German Chamber of Commerce and is now certified in airline business administration. She is in the process of applying for a new position within the Lufthansa Group, her current employer. • **Katherine Schneebaum '85** and her husband, John, welcomed their second daughter, Sophie, on June 27, 2002; big sister Charlotte is nearly 4. They're all happily settling into their new house in Red Bank, NJ. Katherine enjoyed some time off after three tough years of family practice residency but she recently started a new job in a small group practice. • **Lynn Halpern '87**, her husband, Tom Fogarty, and their sons Ethan (4 ½ years) and Zack (1 ½ years) will welcome another little boy into their family in late January 2004. •

Brent Stockwell '89 received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Harvard in 1999 and was then appointed as a Whitehead Fellow at MIT, where he ran a lab using chemistry to study molecular mechanisms underlying cancer and neurodegeneration. In January, 2004, he will move to a faculty position at Columbia University with a joint appointment in the Biology and Chemistry departments.

1990s

An overwhelming response to an inquiring email from self-anointed "class gossip" **Nina HABIB Spencer '90** prompts a class update listing in quasi-alphabetical order! So here goes: **Cathy Council** writes that she is now a mom to son Sydney A. Moshette, who's about two-and-a-half and probably keeping her very busy. Cathy also shared that **LaTisha MILES Williams**, who lives in Maryland, just returned from a trip to Egypt, and that **Jacqui Johnson** was married last year. **Serena Benedetti** lives just outside Philadelphia with her husband and this year won the prestigious Marian Anderson Award for Emerging Classical Artists. Her career as an opera singer is developing rapidly, with upcoming performances with Dave Brubeck and the Virginia Opera. Renee Fleming, watch out! **Naomi BERNER Derner** got married last year and is now officially a chartered financial analyst at Houlihan Lokey Howard and Zukin's San Francisco office, where she's been for the past four years. Naomi also ran the NYC Marathon in November. She keeps in touch with **Ariane Randall** who is a fellow transplant to San Fran and is in chiropractor school. **Greg Goldstein** is an entertainment lawyer with offices in New York and Beverly Hills, and attended the October 2003 wedding of **Jessica Lieberman**. **Debbie Cuoco** also joined in the nuptial festivities. **Vincent Gong** is an e-business solutions contractor for Morgan Stanley in NYC and sees **Jason Erlich**, who just passed his boards, very often. It just so happens that Jason is engaged to another Class of 1990er, **Salena Lee!** Congrats to both of you! Salena is also a future doctor, in med school at Stony Brook. Vincent attended the wedding of **Nick Riccardi** in L.A., where Nick works for the *L.A. Times*. In attendance at the wedding were a host of Hunterites: **Josh Newman**, **Chris Provenzano**, **Andrew Dunlap**, **Andrew Greengrass**, **David Chen**, **Steven Pigman** and **Judy Tseng**. Whew! Almost like reunion. **Cathy Harris** is doing well in Washington D.C. practicing employment law and representing primarily federal workers. She bought a house and is wielding a green thumb, and is planning her upcoming wedding to Cheryl Terwillinger in June in NYC. **Lori Hoepner** reported the activities of many classmates including the upcoming weddings of **Justine Fontinell** and **Melinda Lopez**. A "You Go Girl" goes out to Justine for being one of the brides featured in the new Discovery Channel reality show *Buff Brides*. Her wedding will be in January 2004, and we hear that **Esther Rhee** will be a bridesmaid. Esther is here in NYC at a midtown law firm, according to **Xanthe Jory**. Xanthe also reports that **Cristina Soto** is married with a baby, Sonia. Melinda's wedding is set for August in Rhode Island, and will no doubt prominently feature her fabulous four year-old son Jaxon. Lori also reports that **Miranda FLORY Capra** is in Virginia with hubby Rob, and will be defending her Ph.D. dissertation at Virginia Polytech in the very near future. On the baby front, **Ron Colombo** and wife Kim had a baby girl, **Isabella Ann Colombo**, in May 2002. **Debra BERNSTEIN Dane** is still living in Australia and had a baby girl this year, **Alexandra Halle**. **Emily Klein** got married to long-time sweetheart Tom Sugiura in January 2003 and moved to Nyack, New York where she's finishing her Ph.D. in Education at NYU. Emily reports that **Ali Garbarini** is a prof at Williams College having finished her Ph.D. in history with a dissertation on Polish ghettos during the Holocaust, and that **Ilana RUSKAY Kidd** has two wonderful daughters and is running programs at the JCC, and that **Rebecca Schwager** just had her second child, a boy. Emily also gave us the scoop on **Josh Thomases'** wedding this past summer to Tressa Elguera at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. **David Niederman** graduated from NYU Stern in 2002 and moved out west to Portland, where he lives with his wife Amanda and their three-month old Annie. **Thisbe Nissen's** new novel, *Osprey Island*, is due out in the summer of 2004. She's still living happily in Iowa City, but we'd like to think that NYC remains a major source of her

inspiration. Thisbe is a major source of information for us, reporting that **Liz RILEY Blake** just had a baby boy, Roland, and that both **Alex Shub** and **Jake Pine** have children - 15 month-old Oscar and Ruby, respectively. Jake, who owns his own catering business, joins **Jonathan Goldman** in a band in NYC called Monkeyshine Nine, which Jonathan makes time for while finishing his Ph.D. Thisbe also tells us that **Maya Gottfried** has joined her in our growing list of Class of 1990 published authors, having written a children's book, *Last Night I Dreamed A Circus*. According to Ms. Nissen, **Leila Gerstein** is writing for television in L.A. and has a few things up her sleeve for the Oxygen channel, and **Michelle Forman** teaches high school in upstate New York and is getting married in the summer of 2004. Both Thisbe and **Isaac Bess** told us about the upcoming addition to **Chris Heitmann's** family — he and his wife Cyra are expecting a baby any minute now. Isaac is deep in hip-hop moguldom in San Francisco. He runs an independent hip-hop label called Quannum and just got one of his artists on MTV. Isaac reports that **Danny Yang** is also in the music biz with his own hip-hop label, and that **Yah-yah Jeffries-El** is one of his artists! **Camilo Ortiz** is a clinical psychology professor at C.W. Post, doing research on parenting. He doesn't have to go far for his info, since his daughter Juliet will be three in January. And in a prime example of life imitating art, Camilo and **Matt Shenker**, who were named "Most Likely to Merge Into One Person" in Annals 1990, bought co-ops next door to each other. By next door, we mean three feet apart. **Darryl Siry** is living a surprisingly normal life in Marin County with his wife Keri and their two dogs. He's a veep at Fireman's Fund, where he manages strategy, e-business and communications. **Justin Reilly** is a litigator in Boulder, Colorado, specializing in business, juvenile and real estate law. And as for me, **Nina HABIB Spencer**, I do media relations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the NYC office, and have my hands full with my spunky 2 year-old, Jack. I've been married for five years to Parke Spencer and we live in the Riverdale section of da Bronx. My buddy, **Rachael Gordon**, is a wonderful elementary school teacher in the Bronx, **Cecilia Oh** is at Yale Business School and **Chen-Li (Anthony) Sung** has merged his medical and financial skills as an equity research analyst specializing in biotech in NYC. Anthony tells me that **Jeff Greenfield** is a neurosurgery resident at Cornell University Hospital and is getting married next May, and that **Syed Ali** lives and works in New Jersey at JP Morgan Chase. He also drives a gorgeous yellow Ducati 900 motorcycle. Any more info to share? Email addresses of long lost Hunterites or people not listed here? Just send a email to me at habib.nina@epa.gov. And please don't forget to give back to Hunter regularly. • **Erica MICHAELS Brown '90** married Edward Tenney Brown on November 7, 2003 in Arlington, VA. Erica's brother, **Dave Michaels (HCHS '95)**, escorted their mother and was an usher. Fellow Hunterites **Kinsey Dinan '90**, **Amy PEDERSEN Killelea '90** and **Jeff Snow '91** were also present for the celebrations. • **Daisy ALPERT Florin '91** and her husband, Kenneth, had a baby boy on July 6, 2003, whom they named Samuel Henry. • **Elizabeth Leeds '98** and **Joshua Lobel '98** were married on July 27. **Ariel Harman '98** and **Elizabeth's** brother, **Daniel Leeds '01**, were among the bridal party. **Ashley Ruth Miller '98** and **Paul Jacobs '98** were the two witnesses. **Elizabeth** and **Joshua Lobel** are now living in Manhattan, where **Elizabeth** is attending NYU Medical School and **Josh** is studying to be a rabbi at Hebrew Union College.

2000s

Jordana Kremnitzer '00 and her husband, Jay Sanchez, welcomed their second son, **Elijah**, who was born on March 18th weighing 7lbs, 14oz. He joins older brother, **Jordan**, in keeping their mom on her toes.

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

Hunterites in the News

Nanette KASS Wenger MD '47 was profiled in an interview published in the May 15, 2003 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*. After HCHS, Nanette attended Hunter College for three years and then entered Harvard Medical School, from which she graduated in 1954. Her internship and residency were done in cardiology at Mount Sinai Hospital. In 1958, she moved to Atlanta with her gastroenterologist husband and has been at the Emory University School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital ever since, and is currently its Chief of Cardiology. In 1971 she became Professor of Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine and has published nearly 1,100 articles, most of which are in peer review medical journals. In the interview, Nanette touches on her years at HCHS, recalling: "Some of the most phenomenal teachers I've ever encountered were there! They knew they were training students who had entered there competitively. Their job was challenging us, academically and as citizens of the community. It was a school that valued total participation in activities, not just the academics. This was during World War II. One day a week we wore blue uniforms of the junior branch of the American Women's Voluntary Services. We were expected to do volunteer work after school. I often walked to the New York Hospital 3 or 4 blocks away and spent several hours in the pharmacy filling pill bottles, then done by hand. We rolled bandages. The war had an impact when I was in school simply because Manhattan was considered to be a prime target. We taped windows against potential air raids and when the "drill" alarm rang we

crouched under the desks. In high school it also meant contributing. It meant knitting afghans and scarves. It was good training for subsequently moving to new communities, becoming involved in the voluntary sector of a community."

Allison Bryant MD '90 is currently a First Year Clinical Fellow in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Her residency research project focused on racial differences in the manifestations of hypertension in pregnancy. Since 1999, she has received numerous Medical Student Teaching awards and was elected as Administrative Chief Resident of her residency program for her exemplary performance. With strong interest in clinical perinatology, research and public health policy, Dr. Bryant has worked on an Infant Mortality Review team researching the excessive number of neonatal and infant deaths in some of New York's most underserved neighborhoods. Dr. Bryant plans to continue her investigation regarding the impact of preconception care and inadequate inter-pregnancy intervals on pregnancy outcomes in African-American women. Dr. Bryant received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and has completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Nick Confessore '94 had his article entitled "What Makes a College Good?" published in the November, 2003 issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* (available on-line at www.theatlantic.com). Nick has been living in

Washington DC for three years and works full-time as editor at *The Washington Monthly*.

Dave Kerpen '94 recently appeared on the reality show *Paradise Hotel* on the Fox network. He was discovered by show producers at an open casting call last spring. The object of the *Survivor*-esque game was to be the last guy and gal left in a luxurious Acapulco resort. There were weekly eliminations and lots of junior-high-style drama, especially when the previously eliminated guests were allowed to return to *Paradise* to exact their revenge - mostly on Dave! His fan club website adds: "Dave's intelligence, sense of humor, and resiliency helped his team, the Fab 4 (along with Keith, Tara, and Charla) go to the Final 4 amongst 19 contestants. Since returning from *Paradise*, Dave has appeared on numerous radio stations and has been profiled in the *New York Times*, *Salon.com*, and many other media outlets. He is currently working on a book that is set to be published in early 2004." Dave also has started his own consulting company, called Dave Kerpen Strategic Consulting.

Jennifer 8. Lee '94 is a reporter for *The New York Times*. The November, 2003 issue of *Esquire* magazine listed her in their "Other Women We Love" section "because she's got the best byline since R.W. Apple Jr."

Editor's Note: These items are based on news accounts sent in by alums or their classmates, or that the editors have come across. □

News From the High School

Spirit Day returned to Bear Mountain this year on October 9th. The senior boys beat the juniors in football and the senior girls also won against the juniors... This fall, 75% of graduating seniors have applied "early admission" to the college... The High School's PTA held its fundraising Annual Banquet at the Gum Fung restaurant in Flushing, Queens on October 24th. Over 400 people, including about 130 students, attended the dinner which was organized by the Chinese Parents' Association... The new director and assistant director of the Center of Urban Gifted Education, Dr. Dona Mathews and Dr. Laurance Splitter respectively, visited

with the high school's faculty in October. They expressed a desire to work with the faculty and students in a variety of ways through, among other things, seminars for teachers and classroom collaboration with students... The parent of a senior is spearheading workshops that are being offered for students interested in writing a play for the Brick Prison Playhouse... The Public School Athletic League (PSAL) has agreed in principle to cover many of the expenses related to Hunter's participation in the League... A project to renovate the gymnasium will be carried out from December 1 through the end of January... Official classes have been re-

instated for 7th and 8th graders and Big Sibbs can meet with their classes during this time... HCHS has been recognized as a Grammy Signature High School. This prestigious award honors public high school music programs that promote musical education as a key part of their curriculum. Hunter's music department is one of two in the country that received a Special Merit award, a category reserved for schools that have overcome adversity and budget problems to preserve their music program. The award and a cash prize will be presented to the school later in the year by a Grammy Award winning artist. □

Alum Announcements

Lita LINZER Schwartz, Ph.D., Jan. '47, is co-editor of *Welcome Home! An International and Nontraditional Adoption Reader* (The Haworth Press, Inc.; October, 2003). This book is for anyone considering international or cross-cultural adoption. It is an essential guide to the process, pros, and cons of adopting children from outside the U.S., those with special needs, and/or from a different racial/cultural background; it gives new insights into what it really means to be a family and what a combination of love and commitment can do to change lives. The editors raise questions one would never think to ask and carefully guide the reader through the answers.

Debbie GLASSER Abilock '59 and her son, Damon, have co-founded NoodleTools, Inc. (<http://www.Noodletools.com>) which has a suite of interactive tools designed to aid students and professionals with their online research. From selecting a search engine and finding some relevant sources, to citing those sources in MLA or APA style, NoodleTools makes online research easier. Currently Editor of the journal of the American Association of School Librarians, *Knowledge Quest*, Debbie has over 25 years of experience in education as a teacher-librarian, Director of a unified Technology, Library, Curriculum Department, school administrator, and Curriculum Coordinator. Debbie also writes and speaks nationally on curriculum design, integration of technology and the teaching of 21st century literacies.

Barbara RAND Olevitch, Ph.D., '64, a clinical psychologist specializing in the research and treatment of the chronically mentally ill, is the author of *Protecting Psychiatric Patients and Others from the Assisted-Suicide Movement: Insights and Strategies*, foreword by Albert Ellis (Praeger, 2002, www.greenwood.com) and *Using Cognitive Approaches with the Seriously Mentally Ill: Dialogue Across the Barrier* (Praeger, 1995). Barbara is a graduate of Barnard and received her doctorate from Yale. She is Clinical Assistant Professor at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health and lives with her family in St. Louis.

Sandor Katz '80 is the author of the new book *Wild Fermentation* (Chelsea Green Publishing). This is a groundbreaking new

cook book which celebrates the pleasures and benefits of fermented foods, demystifying this ancient food transformation process and explaining simple techniques for creating delicious and nutritious ferments at home - including sauerkraut; kimchi; sour pickles; bean ferments including miso, tempeh, dosas, and idli; dairy ferments like yogurt, kefir, and basic cheesemaking; sourdough bread-making; simple wine and beer-making; as well as cider, mead and champagne-making. Sandor, a long-term HIV/AIDS survivor, also reflects upon the importance of fermentation in the cycles of life, and as a phenomenon in the spread of ideas and social change, touching on issues as varied as globalization, genetic engineering, and gender politics. The book can be ordered on-line from www.chelseagreen.com.

Avra Kouffman '84 is a performance poet and writer. She recently moved back to NYC after living in London for several years. While abroad, she performed on British TV, Singapore radio, and at many venues and festivals including Glastonbury, Ladyfest and the Edinburgh Fringe. Her poetry video was purchased by the Barbican, the British Library, the Poetry Library at Royal Festival Hall and Scotland's Poetry Library. Avra finished her literature Ph.D. in 2000. She taught for eleven years — at University of Arizona, in five European countries and in Brazil. She recently spent two summers in Moldova, teaching grant-winning professors from ten former USSR countries. Since her heritage is wholly Bessarabian Jewish, she was grateful to be able to visit ancestral homelands in northern Moldova and western Ukraine. She looks forward to seeing her classmates at the 2004 reunion.

Charles Ardai '87 (HCES '81) announces two publishing projects with which he is involved. A new book edited by him, called *The Return of the Black Widowers*, will be showing up over the coming weeks; it collects 17 mystery stories by the late Isaac Asimov along with a new 18th story Charles wrote featuring Isaac's characters. The book is being published by Carroll & Graf and will be available in bookstores, as well as online, through Amazon.com. Also, starting next September, a new line of paperback mystery novels he is creating for Dorchester Publishing will

debut. The line is called "Hard Case Crime," and it will revive the look and feel of the great paperback originals of the pulp era (1940 through 1960 or so). The line will feature both reprints of novels from the period (including titles by Lawrence Sanders and Erle Stanley Gardner) and new novels written by current authors (Charles will be contributing a book to the line himself, under a pseudonym), as well as gorgeous painted cover art by award-winning artists.

Sandi Dubowski '88 announces the release on DVD of his 2001 documentary *Trembling Before G-d* (about Hasidim and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian). It is a beautifully designed deluxe 2-disk set loaded with special features, including 10 mini-movies that document a decade of work and how the documentary became more than just a movie, but the seeds of a movement, changing communities and lives. It can be purchased from amazon.com, bn.com or imdb.com as well as many stores.

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. 94th Street, New York, NY 10128-0798. Enclose a brief note to advise the librarian that you are an alum. □

Reunion 2004 ...

Continued from front page

is listed and you'd like to volunteer, please get in touch with our office for additional information. We can supply contact information for your classmates and will give you other ideas on how to plan your class's celebration.

As always, alums from all classes are welcome to attend the general Reunion. The day's program includes a continental breakfast, milestone class gatherings, a general assembly and a buffet luncheon. You'll also get to see the school as it is today and meet some former and current faculty members (maybe your old Latin teacher will be there!). A registration form will be included in the next issue of *AlumNotes*. □

Alums Reflect ...

Continued from page 6

I shortly thereafter married and bore a child with) in founding a "small opera company," and I was content for a while to combine the performing arts with family life. I never expected to hate being married or to resent having to compete with the outside world for participation in the operas. I never expected needing to be independent; I never expected to be the prime mover in a marital separation. Neither did I expect to be married a second time! I thought I'd have two or three children (but my one son is terrific).

In my late forties I had a yearning for a master's degree and really put my mind and energy into graduate studies in speech pathology. In college, I'd majored in Speech/Drama because speech pathology had no appeal; and later in life, the more I got into the master's program, the less I liked pathology. Well, the last thing I "never expected" was to love the articulation side of speech so much that I would set up a business in accent reduction, teaching mostly foreign-born people to pronounce English correctly, something like what we had gone through at Hunter in our speech classes ("Tip of the tongue on the upper gum ridge - And say 'ah-ee,' not 'aw-ee!'").

I am presently teaching continuing ed. classes at Queensborough Community College; and soon will have a couple of contracts doing accent reduction for doctors and ministers. Speech instruction is

now running ahead of singing in terms of income, but my present husband is a composer-pianist, and we perform together a lot (over 400 performances in the last 17 years). I live in a close-by suburb on Long Island; but in a house! with a small vegetable garden - that was unexpected after growing up in NYC.

Looking back, going to Hunter gave me a solid base of self-esteem that has seen me through several personal crises. Many of us wished there had been boys; but single-sex education was the right thing for me at the time. Hunter was a superb school, brilliantly so in many disciplines. The science teaching was so good that instead of taking Integrated Arts as a Junior, I opted for Physics. That was probably the biggest error of my schooling. I never regretted attending Hunter - until, while writing a paragraph on the "Hunter experience" for our class's 40th reunion directory, I realized that I probably should have switched to Music & Art! On the other hand, I walked out of Hunter after two years of Spanish fluent in that language, and was happy to take more in college.

One of my fond memories of HCHS occurred when in ninth grade I entered a contest that the public speaking club ran - an "Ishkabibble Contest" of extemporaneous speeches. I pulled the topic "Bikinis" - and somehow, shy little me was off and running; and I won! My sense of humor was liberated, and it hasn't stopped since. Another important thing was that after singing in the Jr. Choral Workshop all through 7th-9th grade (I think), I'd looked forward to the Senior Choral Workshop with Miss Hochman. I'd sung alto all my life, being a good musician, loving to harmonize and having good low notes. But when the time came to join the older group, I was devastated because Miss Hochman said my voice wasn't mature enough! Either that same year or the next one, we were being tested for choral music placement. Mrs. Reuss (department head) was testing, and in an attempt to show off I took a big breath... and sailed up the scale into soprano territory. That was the end of my alto career! The two most important things I learned at Hunter: the concept of the essence of a work; and how to do an outline.

Diane LEVINE Umemoto '61: I feel a lot better on turning 60 than I thought I would. I feel downright spritely. I'm very much where I hoped to be on all fronts.

I'm nearing the end of a teaching career which started out in universities in Indonesia and Thailand, transformed to high school teaching in Philippines, India, Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, and now London. I expect to retire from London at 65. Education? I always intended to get a PhD and did in my 20s; 25 years later I got a high school teaching certification, and masters in teaching and curriculum development. I have 2 lovely daughters and expect to become a grandmother next year. I've been married to the same man for 37 years, and though it has not been steady smooth sailing, it's been well worth the ride. My career is more or less what it started out as (teaching), but I've changed specialties and locations, picked up different avocations, freelanced as a writer and editor, and generally had quite a good time of it. I haven't lived in NYC since high school - I got married a year after graduating college and within a few months had followed my husband to Asia where he pursued his career with Unicef. I am as grateful to Hunter now as I was when I graduated. I went to Hunter after rather unpleasant years at my local junior high, where I was top of my class and my 7th grade teacher called me a "freak." I was just a normal person at Hunter, and therefore a relaxed and happy one. Twenty years later when I met my classmates at our reunion, my main thought was what a really nifty bunch of women they were. After our 40th reunion (which I did not attend, but followed on email) I picked up both old and new friendships, all of which have been deeply satisfying □

Join a Special Group

Your legacy can mean a brighter future for our alma mater. By including the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association in your will or estate plans, you will help continue the special enrichment projects that we fund at the High School. If you have already included HCHSAA in your will, thank you! If you'd like to include us, please use the designation: "Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc., a New York not-for-profit corporation."

Calling All Alum Authors

All alums who have published books are encouraged to submit information to our office so we can begin to build a catalog of information about alum authors. Your submission can be emailed to hchsalums@yahoo.com or mailed to us: HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

At that morning opening, I also presented Dr. Laurenson with a check for \$25,500 from the Alumnae/i Association, which represented many of the class gifts from last June's Reunion as well as earmarked gifts received in connection with our recently ended fundraising drive. Then, at our October Board of Directors meeting, an additional gift of \$15,000 was approved and has since been forwarded to the Computer Department to help with upgrading one of the school's computer labs. In addition to the aforementioned gifts, which totaled over \$40,000, we are continuing to work with Dr. Laurenson and the faculty to assess in what other areas our remaining funds from the last fundraiser can be best utilized.

Please bear this in mind when you consider our current request to help support the school — we work with the school, we hope intelligently, to use the money we request from you to support needs and programs for which public money just isn't available in these difficult times, for those who are disadvantaged economically, and where we believe that programs will give today's students some of the unique experiences we ourselves benefited from during our own tenures.

I also promised in my last letter to talk a bit about the Strategic Planning Initiative (SPI) of last year, a project spearheaded by Jennifer Raab. As I believe we said previously, this was an effort to include parents, alums and faculty in particular, and get them to think — in specific areas, such as facilities, admissions, curricula, fundraising, faculty needs and several others — about what is needed to move the High School (the Campus Schools really) forward most appropriately and to

maintain its stellar nature in future. Numerous specific recommendations have been compiled in a report — they range from smaller and specific — such as pool facilities needed for the kids — to far-ranging — a new facility, broader community fundraising and the like. Several recommendations are already underway — the College is making some of its facilities and expertise more available to the High School in particular areas; Jennifer Raab and her colleagues are working to reach out to school districts within the City where kids traditionally haven't been always made aware of the Hunter admissions exam and the chance to try for the School, so that Hunter is truly a school for excellence which serves its entire public community (this was a recommendation of both the admissions and the fundraising committees). For this particular initiative, we hope to involve alums of color to serve as role models and perhaps as mentors for students. Please contact our office if you would like to know more or — even better! — if you can help us with this worthwhile effort. It requires no money, just a bit of time and interest. Specific recommendations on curriculum, counseling, and of course, facilities are also being reviewed.

Lastly, we, the alums of Hunter High, have been involved in dialogue with other special schools — schools which require entrance exams and are long-lived examples of excellence in academic stature like Hunter — about advancing private fundraising to further the future of these public schools. It has been fascinating to meet with alums from some of the local schools we all know such as Stuyvesant and Bronx Science, and also with similar schools from Boston and Philadelphia. These dedicated alums have been working hard not only to raise

very substantial funds to help their schools — like us, because they loved their school experience and want to ensure the school continues — but also to change perceptions among their, and our, fellow taxpayers that these "special" or "gifted" schools are worthy and are integral and necessary parts of their communities, and opportunities which should be available for young people going forward, as they were for us. I will keep you posted if this dialogue moves forward.

All in all, it's been a busy year so far, and to the good. I hope that everyone enjoys the holiday season, and I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

All the best,

Cordially,



Joan Rosenthal '72

Email Us Your Email Address

Having your email address on file with the Alumnae/i Association gives our office a great way to contact you about upcoming events - Young Alums get-togethers, the Winter Brunch, Reunion, Theater Parties, etc. - and we can also pass it on to milestone reunion coordinators so they can get in touch with you about reunion plans. Unfortunately, we have email addresses for fewer than 20% of our 10,000+ alums — and many of the addresses we have are not valid. Please drop us an email to let us know your current email address - we'll enter it on our private database and we won't share it with anyone who's not an alum.

If you do want to display your email address on our Web site - hchsaa.org - click on the "Find Alums" section and then the "Alum Email Directory" section. This area of our Web site is password protected with our common password (purple) so only other alums will have access.

New on Our Website

Since we went live with our newly revamped Website (hchsaa.org) last June, we've added functionality and completed most of the promised sections. You can now access our on-line guestbook, alum email directory, an expanded links section for class Websites and Egroups, two years of past issues of *AlumNotes*, and our online privacy policy. We're even hosting a Web page for the Class of '54 (in connection with their upcoming 50th reunion in 2004 - under Find Alums/Class Websites & Egroups).

Please note, the common password for any page requesting a password is: purple (type in all lower case). If you have any questions or suggestions for additional items to include on the Web site, please contact us via email to hchsalum@yahoo.com.

In Memoriam

Elna BERNHOLZ Razran '27 passed away on May 19, 2003, in Alexandria, VA. Her daughter Lydia Razran Stone writes that Elna was always very proud of her association with Hunter.

Dorothy GLENZ Warns, Jan. '29 died on November 26, 2002. She was editor of *Argus* during her time at HCHS. She is survived by her daughter, Miggie Warns '68.

Louise JACOBS Gerber '32 died in Laguna Hills, CA on May 24th, one month before her 88th birthday. She was a graduate of Hunter College and Cornell University, where she earned her MA. She was an original member of the Actors Lab in Hollywood and worked in radio, did translation of Bertolt Brecht plays and worked with refugee German artists. She later acted on Broadway, worked in Phoenix Theatre, and directed plays at Chappaqua Drama Group and The Schoolhouse in Katonah. She was trained as a dancer by Anna and Irma Duncan in the tradition of Isadora Duncan and was hailed as a brilliant woman who was a mentor to many. Louise was the wife of the late Dr. Leon Gerber and mother of Robert, Merrell Eve and Edie Mackenzie.

Ruth Leah BERMAN Hecht '35 passed away on March 5, 2003 in Mission Viejo, CA. She was born in 1917 in the Bronx, NY, and attended HCHS and then Hunter College, where she earned a Master's in History. In 1944, she married Milton Hecht. They raised their daughters in Yonkers, NY. Ruth devoted her life to teaching and community activities. She taught social studies in the 1950s. Some of her volunteer activities included: League of Women Voters, American Association for the United Nations, Upward Bound run by Sarah Lawrence College, Volunteer Service Bureau of United Way in White Plains, Hudson River Museum, and the Bronx Project coordinated by Lehman College. She was a lifetime member of Hadassah, Women's American ORT and National Council of Jewish Women. She was actively involved in Temple Emanu-el. Ruth stayed active after moving to Leisure World in Laguna Woods, CA. She and Milton were members of the Camera Club, she was a docent at South Coast Repertory in Orange County, and helped to tutor Russian Jews who had moved to California, new camera club members, and others. She is survived by her husband, Milton Hecht; her brother, Walter Berman (and wife Frances); sister, Sylvia Schneeweiss; children, Goldee Hecht-Meyer (husband Bill Barton) and Lois Hecht Oppenheim, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Marjorie PASCHKE Butler '40 died on August 11, 2003. She was born in the Bronx, educated at P.S. 83, HCHS, Hunter College and New York Medical College, where she finished her MD degree in 1948. She continued her training as an Anesthesia Resident at New Jersey Medical Center and after her marriage to Edwin Butler, MD and during the Korean War, she worked at the Tokyo General Army Hospital. Dr. Butler later practiced at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica, CA, was a medical consultant to Blue Shield, and completed a Psychiatry Residency at UCLA and Brentwood VA Hospitals.

Anne PEARLMAN Prager '41 died on October 8, 2002. She earned a Bachelor's Degree at Hunter College and a Master's Degree at Long Island University. She taught at several Brooklyn junior high schools and then for many years at South Shore High School in Brooklyn where she was also a grade advisor. Her students and colleagues all remember her dedication, competence and love of teaching. She is survived by her loving husband, three children and four grandchildren. She loved great books, opera, theater and other thoughtful pursuits like crossword puzzles. As accomplished as she was, her greatest joy was in the achievements of her husband, children and grandchildren. She always gave her best and expected the best from her children and her students. She adored her grandchildren and they adored her. We all miss her terribly.

Barbara EWALD Nakonechny '44, of Elverson, PA, died on August 6, 2002.

Lady Hellen GUGGENHEIMER Joseph, Jan. '48 died on August 21, 2003. She lived in England for many years and was married to Sir Keith Joseph, a senior minister in Margaret Thatcher's government, from 1951 until they divorced in 1978. Together they had four children, a son and three daughters.

Sue BRIN Steiner '53 of Boynton Beach, FL, died of lung cancer in March, 2003. She was a fabric designer and businesswoman as well as an entertainer and avid golfer, having once scored a hole-in-one. Her theater experience began at Hunter, when she left school to perform on Broadway in *Wish You Were Here*. She is survived by her husband Mickey Steiner. Her friend, Marilyn LANDBERG Spechler writes that Sue loved HCHS and had planned to attend her class's 50th reunion this June; she sent her love to everyone at HCHS during her last illness and was with her class "in spirit".

Barbara DREMUK Tuffy '57 (Hunter College '61) passed away suddenly of a heart attack on October 25, 2002. Her

daughter, Moira, writes that her mother cherished both her High School and College years at Hunter and had many fond memories. Barbara is survived by her three children, Moira, Timothy and AnnMarye and two granddaughters, Cassandra and Genevieve (who was born 10 days after Barbara passed — "where one door closes another opens...").

Saralee FINGER Teitel '60 died on November 16, 2003. She earned a BA and MS degree and worked for the FAA. She had two daughters, Ilana and Tanya. Ilana is also an alum of HCHS from the class of '85.

Lesley SPRING Sanders '65 died in late August, 2003. She was a life-long member of The East End Temple and was President and Founder of Custom Communities, Inc. She is survived by her husband, Steven, son, Geoffrey, her parents, sister and mother-in-law.

Judy WEINSTOCK Greenberg '68 died on July 2, 2003, after battling leukemia for 13 years.

Erika BERSON Lange '84 died on September 9, 2003, at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston. She attended Swarthmore after graduating from HCHS and was an active member of La Leche League of Newton, MA. She is survived by her husband, Michael Lange, her son, Jason Eli Lange, her mother, father, brother and stepmother. Memorial donations may be made to the Erika Lange Scholarship Fund for Education of Group Applicants c/o La Leche League of Newton, 22 Roslyn Road, Newton, MA 02468 or to the Wellness Community, 1039 Chestnut St., Newton Upper Falls, Newton, MA 02464.

Carlo Bartolomeo Martino '91, a computer scientist and entrepreneur, died April 9th, 2003 in Chicago at the age of 30. The cause of death was an aneurysm. Carlo was a Ph.D. candidate in Computer Science at University of Chicago, continuing his interest in the field since graduating from Harvard in 1996 with a B.S. in the same. In the months before his death, the build-up to the war had galvanized him into joining the growing student peace movement. In doing so, he discovered that his experience as an entrepreneur was invaluable in helping with coordination; he took on a leadership role, managing press relations and rallying the students. In New York in 1999, Carlo founded Upoc, a wireless messaging company, with friends from college. His role as the software architect and head of engineering helped to create a successful, cutting-edge product, and a company that outlasted the dot-com bust to become a leader in wireless applications. His skill as a programmer was

unparalleled, but it was his charisma and leadership as a manager that attracted the best engineers from his previous company, Organic, and made Upoc a much sought-after employer in the city. Carlo was a lover of music, with a penchant for punk rock and heavy metal. He was a talented musician, and he played guitar, bass or drums in a series of bands that played around the East Village and Lower East Side. A well-worn band t-shirt, jeans and sneakers was his standard attire, adding to the approachable and affable qualities that made his powerful intellect endearing, rather than intimidating, to everyone who met him. He was a native New Yorker, raised on Roosevelt Island, a home he loved so much that he got a tattoo of the Tram on his arm. He had a magnetism that made him many long-term friends wherever he went - high school, college, jobs, graduate school. Born on December 31, 1972, his annual birthday-cum-New-Year's-Eve party on Roosevelt Island was the perennial meeting place of his ever-larger group of friends. He is survived by his wife, Anne, his father, Frank, his mother, Marta, his stepfather, Peter Merner, and his brother, Karun Muñoz.

The Alumnae/i Association also has been advised of the passing of the following individuals: **Ida DULBERGER** Courtines '27, **Natalie A. Bunting** '39, **Lucile STURM Weiss**, Jan. '40, **Frances FRANK Deutsch** '41, **Inez COHN Levene** '41, **Vinnie PUCCI Motta** '43, **Charlotte PRINSTEIN Temkin** '44, **Frances LATTMAN Apt** '45, **Ellin JACOBS Cohen** '46, and **Shelley POLLOCK Lauzar**, Jan. '51.

AlumnaGrams

Seeking a first-rate literary agent with recent experience selling fiction. After eight years as a staff magazine writer on three "slicks," this HCHS alum has written her first novel. Can you offer representation? Call Hertha: 201-444-0343

To: Fran Remini '60: I'd love to hear from you. Email me at lmark1234@aol.com or call 201-525-8785 (San Antonio, TX). Helene STEIN Markman '60.

Looking to interview HCHS alums who entered the Intel (formerly Westinghouse) Science Talent Search or The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair as part of my doctoral research at the Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management. For more info. about the project, please contact Stephen Brand, sbrand@enterprisefactory.com or 330-864-1518.

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!

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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 an HCHS embroidered turtleneck sweater; our tee-shirts are purple cotton, Beefy Hanes; our two-pocket purple 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.

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Alumnae/i Association, Inc.
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Year of Graduation: _____

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☐ Check here if you do not want your name and address given out to other alums or members of the HCHS community.

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- ☐ Classes of '99 and earlier \$30
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• Includes choice of one: Entry to Brunch / T-shirt / 2 mugs /
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- ☐ Adult T-shirt: \$21 Circle Choice: S(34-36) M(38-40) L(42-44) XL(46-48) XXL(50-52)
☐ Child's T-shirt: \$15 Circle Choice: XS(2T-4T) M(10-12)
☐ Coffee Mug \$11
☐ Teddy Bear \$24 Circle choice: Light Brown Dark Brown Midnight Blue Gray
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Total enclosed: _____ (Make check payable to: HCHS Alumnae/i Assn., Inc.)

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