

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC

SPRING 2004 • VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2

Tel 212.772.4079

Fax 212.772.4074

Email hchsalums@yahoo.com

Website www.hchsaa.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ALUMS-TO-BE— THE CLASS OF 2004

With this issue of *AlumNotes*, we welcome 187 new members of the Alumnae/i Association—the graduates of 2004! Normally we don't add new graduates to our mailing list until our summer issue, but this year, we added your class early so you could appear in our new alumnae/i directory which will be published early in 2005. We're glad to have you join us and we wish you all the best with your post-high-school endeavors. The Alumnae/i Association publishes this newsletter three or four times each year as a way of keeping our alums informed about one another as well as our alma mater. We sponsor several get-togethers during the year, with our largest being the annual Reunion each June. We request that alums pay annual dues to help support our activities, though we waive dues for current year grads and offer reduced dues of \$15 for grads still in college (one to four years from graduation). Please keep our office informed of your whereabouts so you can continue to receive our mailings. You can call, email or snail-mail us with your news and mailing address updates. And if we can ever be of assistance to you in any way, please don't hesitate to call on us.

SAVE THE DATE—NEXT YOUNG ALUMS EVENT ON JUNE 4TH

The first Young Alums event for 2004 (for alums in their 20s and 30s) will take place on Friday, June 4th. Details will be announced on our website—www.hchsaa.org—as well as by email to those who have signed up for our Young Alums email list. (If you'd like your name added, please email us at hchsalums@yahoo.com.)

YOU ARE INVITED.... TO REUNION 2004

Did you know that the first Reunion sponsored by our Alumnae/i Association took place in April 1973? ...That the oldest alum to attend was from the class of 1911?... That the school's principal at that time was former Spanish teacher Maria LoFrumento (née Aguilera) and the campus schools' director, which was a separate position, was Dr. Bernard Miller?

Did you know that nowadays, the reunion is held at the home of Hunter High since 1977—Park Avenue & 94th Street?...That this year, the 50th-year class of 1954 is the first 50th class that did not have separate January and June graduating classes and thus had 231 members?...That the class of 1979, which is celebrating its 25th reunion, was the first to revert back to a six-year high-school

program, with a five-year option for early graduation, after an experiment in the 1970s that had most students graduating after five years, with an optional sixth (ICY) year?... That this class also was the last all-girls class of Hunter High?

You can follow up on all these facts and more by attending our annual Reunion. It's taking place on Sunday, June 6th, beginning with check-in at 9:30 a.m. and followed by individual milestone class gatherings, a general assembly and a buffet luncheon. If you're a member of a milestone class and you haven't yet heard from your class's volunteer coordinator about other class activities being planned, please check page 11 for his or her contact information and then get in touch

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION BOARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The Alumnae/i Association is seeking qualified candidates for our Board of Directors. Responsibilities of this volunteer position include attending monthly meetings in Manhattan and participating in on-going work such as fundraising and event planning. Dues-paid members may nominate individuals, including themselves, until the close of business on Friday, May 28th, by writing, calling, or

emailing the association's office. All members in good standing by virtue of having paid their dues may vote in board elections. If you wish to vote, you must pay your dues by the date of the Reunion; if you wish to run for a board position, you must pay your dues by the time you are nominated. (Your dues expiration date appears above your name and address on the back page of this newsletter.)

IN THIS ISSUE

ALUM PROFILE: 3 ALUM ANNOUNCEMENTS: 14 CLASS COORDINATORS: 11
CHAPTERS: 11 CLASS NOTES: 15 HUNTERITES IN THE NEWS: 14
IN MEMORIAM: 18 LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMPUS SCHOOLS: 9
NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL: 9 PRESIDENT'S LETTER: 2 REUNION: 10



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Alums & Friends of HCHS:

To my amazement we are already in the proverbial “home stretch” of the school year. It has been a busy year for us—especially through the last holiday season—working with Dr. Laurenson, the director of the Campus Schools, and the faculty on putting to most intelligent use the funds we raised in our previous drive to help Hunter. (Our current effort, dating from November, is still alive, and funds are still coming to us—thank you!) I thought I would briefly elaborate on how we chose to “invest” those funds in Hunter on behalf of all of us.

We first disbursed the many earmarked gifts received late last summer and the class gifts from the 2003 Reunion which were also designated by those classes, totaling over \$25,000. Next, as we consistently try to do, we gave a large donation to the Computer Labs—these facilities are critical for today's students, and we give at least \$15,000 each year so that Carolyn Mayadas, Acting Chair of the Mathematics Department, can see that one of the labs is updated on a three-year cycle. We have now been consistent supporters of the labs for several years, and that effort has really improved the school's ability to serve.

Last, and by no means least, we were given (at our request) a “wish list” compiled by the faculty of each department. This includes Physical Education and Counseling as well as the more obvious academic areas. There was a wide range of requests—from equipment to monitor kids' health and fitness to books for the Social Studies department. The conversations we had around this list—some of these requests triggered memories either of the subject in question or of the faculty!—I think were fun for all the board members.

The wonderful part was that thanks to your response to our calls for funds, we were able to satisfy all of the requests we received (however, that was it for funds until the new drive geared up). This was tremendously gratifying for us, and I hope for all of you who may be reading this note. We were very happy to be able to respond in this way to the faculty who are a

large part of why Hunter is such a unique experience for its students in all generations. So, we still have scholarships and some memorial funds to share with Hunter, but in just this school year we have already disbursed over \$70,000 toward these programs which I have described. Thank you again.

One of the areas that has greatly benefited from alum interest and funds is the Library. We had an enjoyable event there February 24th, and I think a number of the many alums who attended have concluded (as have I) that the Library now looks much better than it ever did when they attended Hunter! We had alums from classes of the 1920s through 1990s, and we greatly appreciate their interest and attendance, particularly as the weather was unfortunately wet (yet again here in NYC). Jennifer Raab '73, President of Hunter College, and Dr. David Laurenson both spoke about Hunter as it is today, and I was very proud to hear how many achievements and awards of various kinds have gone to current students—and the archival schools are still competing, too. Current students who are marvelous jazz musicians also entertained at the event. Thank you very much to Jennifer and David for helping to make the event such a success.

The Library, by the way, is in the process of obtaining needed new furniture (it is a much-utilized part of the school) also as part of its renovation, and continues to be in need of funds for this purpose. For those of you—many, I hope—planning to come to Reunion, please feel free to stop by the Library and see it for yourself.

Last, but not least, on June 4th we will again host a Young Alums event, and Reunion is on June 6th. I look forward very much to seeing and meeting many of you at Reunion.

With warm regards,

Joan Rosenthal '72

AlumNotes

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

Email: hchsalums@yahoo.com
Founded in 1973

Co-Editor
John J. Edwards III '88

Co-Editor
Marge Kolb '78

President
Joan Rosenthal '72

Executive Vice President
Ruth KAUFMAN Davis '56

Vice President
Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61

Secretary
Marianne Tomecek '69

Assistant Secretary
Marguerite LIAO Williams '91

Treasurer
Mimi Eng '84

Assistant Treasurer
Harriet KONSTADT Sherman Jan. '49

Board Members
Elaine Brand '65
Cheryl KATZ Chiovetta '80
Amy Gong '93

Barbara MAYER Lambert '64
Nicole Morgenstern '75
Doris MEIBACH Wallace '62
Tai Wong '88
Judy CHIN Wong '88
Odella Woodson '79

Office Manager
Marge Kolb '78

President Emerita
Mildred Speiser Jan. '49

Founding Member
Theodora Christon '42

Founding Editor
Marjorie PEARLE Weiser '51



co-writer,
co-producer:
The West Wing

"Mayors come and go, but the life of the city must endure. Never forget that this city is about dignity; it is about decency," intoned David Dinkins, the outgoing Mayor of New York City, in his concession speech at the end of a bitterly fought campaign against Rudolph Giuliani in 1993. The speech, considered by many as the finest of his career, sprung from the pen of Eli Attie '85. In the ensuing years, Attie would produce speeches for a panoply of Democratic heavyweights including House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt and Vice President Al Gore.

Attie's introduction into politics was somewhat unremarkable. After graduating *magna cum laude* from Harvard in 1989 with a degree in Social Studies, Attie eschewed law school for a slot in the New York City Urban Fellows program, which he describes as an internship in city government. "I had applied to law school after college. At the last moment I realized that I didn't want to be a lawyer. It was the best decision I've never made," recalls Attie. As for the Dinkins speech, "It was my first job in politics and I had grown very close to him [Dinkins] personally. It was tough to lose my first campaign. I wanted to find the words that I thought he [Dinkins] would want to say," Attie explained. Attie's interest in politics (and writing) go further back. In his ICY year, he worked as an intern in City Council President Carol Bellamy's office, which quite remarkably germinated a number of political luminaries. Alumni include Carter Eskew, Bill Knapp and speechwriter-strategist Bob Shrum, whom Attie calls a mentor and one of the finest speechwriters working today.

Attie's natural interest in literature and writing were nurtured by his time at Hunter. "My favorite teacher was [Parker] Baratta—he had a very subversive, sardonic way of teaching. He praised and undermined in

the same thought. He taught me to be very mischievous and irreverent—I ended up being his teaching intern," Attie recalls fondly. He also mentioned Rose Marie Laster's fabled College Lit. course which he characterized as "fascinating and terrifying." Mrs. Laster is remembered as forever castigating the unfortunate Hunter habit of answering a question with a question, in her effort to instill self-confidence in her students. Attie, a writer-producer for NBC's Emmy juggernaut *The West Wing* since 2001, named a teacher in one episode "Mrs. Morello," a tribute to the long-serving HCHS icon whom Attie remembers as "a smart, funny teacher who taught on a college level." "I got an email out of the blue from Mrs. Morello for that," chuckles Attie.

As for his tenure at Hunter, "I had a fantastic time. Like many of my friends I grew to appreciate Hunter more at the very end and much more in the years since. I have never had a better peer group. So many of my closest friends are Hunter classmates. These folks had a level of sophistication and awareness that I found that I had taken for granted." Attie recalls being involved in launching Brick Prison Playhouse, the student-run "independent" theatrical company and writing a one-act play in 10th grade, where he worked with Cynthia Nixon '84 of *Sex and the City* fame and which "was the last time I did dramatic writing before *The West Wing*," Attie laughs. He also served as editor of *What's What* and was literary editor for *Annals*. When pressed for interesting stories, Attie was at a loss, "I was depressingly well-behaved, a bit bookish and well-mannered and never did anything outrageous." He attributed Hunterites' overall mild demeanor thusly: "Kids engage in outrageous behavior because they are bored. Hunter people, on the

other hand, love to have endless conversations—I recall huge discussions in coffee shops at 3 a.m.—it was the way we lived."

Asked about how he became involved in speechwriting, Attie said, "I never considered myself as a particularly good writer. Decent writers don't tend to go into politics; those who do, do so because they are really interested in government and want to contribute at the margins," Attie confides. "A successful speechwriter usually thinks along the same direction of the politician. In that hurricane-like environment I always focused on who I was working for, abandoned my ego and looked to reflect their ideas." He recounted his long experience with Al Gore: "The egocentric speechwriters don't last very long. Al Gore, for example, is a very smart man and a good writer who would write all of his speeches himself if he could. A big part of our relationship was not to be hurt when he shot down something on which I had been laboring. Political service is like a cult of self-rejection. People who can do that and be content to stay anonymous can have enormous impact." Attie cautions strongly against the temptation for insiders to write "tell-all" books. "While it might be in the author's personal interest, it really hurts the next generation of political aides as politicians have become very wary and guarded," Attie chides.

Attie, who was disarmingly candid and self-effacing throughout the interview, added a fascinating observation on great speeches. "It's a bit of a myth that the speech makes the moment when the opposite is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ALUMNAE/I WINTER RECEPTION GENERATES WARMTH

Although a light snow fell all day, making streets wet and slushy, the Alumnae/i Association-sponsored Winter Reception, held at Hunter College High School on February 24th, attracted scores of alums and friends. The event gave New York City-area alums the chance to enjoy each other's companionship in the high school's spacious Library. Against a background performance by a quartet of talented jazz musicians from the high school, attendees munched on goodies, sipped drinks and talked (and talked). The highlight of the evening came with short addresses from Hunter College President (and HCHS alum of the class of '73), Jennifer Raab, who was followed by the school's current director/principal, Dr. David Laurenson.

Alumnae/i Association President Joan Rosenthal '72 kicked off the program by extending special recognition to guests Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49 and Teddy Christon '42, both founding members of the Association and in the case of Mildred, a past president, and to Margaret "Peggy" BETZ Perrin '55, also a past president, and a former faculty member of the high school. Alum, HCHSAA Board Member, and Science Department Chair Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61 was thanked for her help in organizing the evening's festivities. Lastly, Joan thanked Jennifer Raab, pointing out that the current good feelings flowing from the college to the high school were in large part due to her efforts.

Jennifer Raab stressed her love and gratitude for Hunter High, adding that she knows the feeling is not unique to her. She remarked that in the past, she always naturally gravitated to anyone she met who was also a Hunter High graduate, and she is gratified that it's now part of her job to be the school's biggest cheerleader. Historically, Hunter College and Hunter High have had an interesting relationship—the school's



Current HCHSAA president Joan Rosenthal '72 is flanked by past presidents E. Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49 (left) and Margaret "Peggy" BETZ Perrin '55 (right)

namesake, Thomas Hunter, believed that teachers should receive both pedagogical training and "lab" experience—which was the reason for the existence of the elementary and high schools. When Hunter College, as part of CUNY, began open admissions at the end of the 1960s, there was a space crunch, and it was decided to close the high school, which was then located on the college's campus at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue. Raab herself remembers marching with other students to protest this decision, holding signs reading S.O.S. (Save Our School). Hunter College ultimately reversed its position, leading to the high school's temporary relocation to two rented floors of an office building at Lexington Avenue and 46th Street and its subsequent move to 94th Street and Park Avenue in 1977. With this separation from the college, the relationship between the two schools changed. The high school, which formerly served as a "feeder" school for Hunter College, became almost "parent-less" and this feeling was strengthened with the shift in belief away from gifted and talented pro-

grams that took root in the College's School of Education. Raab remarked that it's amazing how the high school continued to flourish in spite of all this, to the point where it was recently ranked as the number one public feeder high school to the elite trio of Harvard, Yale and Princeton. Raab rejoiced that these days we can celebrate the end of the ambivalence over gifted education.

Pointing to the school's history of being housed in "really bad facilities," Raab laughingly recalled going to Harry's Bookstore near the 46th Street location, which she attended for several years, to look for a Regent's Review book and discovering that she was in a porn shop. A much earlier location for the school was on 32nd Street in a factory (and many alums have recalled locations with mice, peeling paint, no lunch room or gym facilities, etc.). When the school found a new, permanent home in 1977, many alums thought the building was great—but then discovered that the students had christened it the "Brick Prison" for its lack of windows (and the ones it has are extremely narrow). Raab explained that the



HCHSAA board member Amy Gong '93 and her former French teacher, Audrey Maurer (formerly Panczyk) '51

site had formerly been the home of a historic armory, and there were complaints from preservationists after the Board of Education had already started demolition. This led to the preservation of one wall of the old armory on Madison Avenue, and the design of the new school to be in keeping with the old armory. Despite this history with regard to its physical plants, the high school was, and is, a place of prolific creativity, with great faculty members supporting the student body.

As alums, Raab pointed out, there is much we can all do to continue to support our alma mater, such as participating in lobbying efforts to gain additional funding for the school from the city and state government, proclaiming our status as graduates of Hunter High at every opportunity, donating our time to mentoring and internship programs for current students, and by our continued financial support. Raab stressed that many, many alums, including herself, came from backgrounds of modest means and have benefited from all we received from Hunter High.

Dr. Laurenson, introduced by Jennifer Raab, has been the Principal of the high school and the Director of the Campus Schools for three years, adding stability to the administration after a series of acting directors for the three years prior to his engagement. Laurenson expressed his delight at the number of attendees, especially since this event was the first such function in recent years. He described the school as it is today—1,200 students enrolled in grades 7–12, with the only entry point being in the 7th grade.

He lauded the students' recent accomplishments, which include: the chess team placing second in the nation, with one girl ranked 6th nationwide; four students qualifying for the Biology Olympiad and 18 for the city-wide Science Fair; national winners in the 10th and 12th grades in the Mathematics Association of America competition; 42 students qualifying for the American Invitational Math Contest; students taking 28% of the gold medals in a regional literature competition (NY/NJ/CT); a student who took 1st place in a chamber music competition sponsored by Lincoln Center; and the Girls' Volleyball Team being runner-up in the city. Relationships being formed with Hunter College include a joint orchestra of college and high school students and a number of departments at the college expressing interest in offering courses to the high school students. (You can view a more complete list of student accomplishments by visiting our Website—www.hchsaa.org—and then accessing our "Link" to the high school's Website—where you can click on "Honors & Awards" at the bottom of the page.)

Dr. Laurenson thanked alums for their continued financial support of the high school, citing the nearly \$70,000 in funds transferred over in this academic year alone. He added that the school has especially benefited from funds earmarked by alums for the Library. With the addition this year of a new librarian, Eugene Lim, a great, robust Library program is in place, and as studies have shown, will do much to aid student achievement. ■

by Marge Kolb '78

Editor's note: It's not too late to contribute to the current fundraiser, which began in November, 2003. You can use the back page as a cover sheet to mail your check to us, and if you wish to earmark your donation for a specific area, please let us know. While you're at it, why not check your dues expiration date, printed above your name and address, and add your dues payment to your donation? Both dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

WINTER BRUNCH WRAP-UP

The Alumnae/i Association's annual Winter Brunch was held on Sunday, February 1, 2004, at Raymond's Cafe, in Chelsea. As always, we reserved the intimate and private downstairs party room for our gathering and the 20+ alums who attended enjoyed a lovely meal and even lovelier companionship and conversation. We were honored to be joined by long-time alums Beatrice STERN Levine, Jan. '32 and Norma ALEXANDER Abdulah '39, who were the most senior of the attendees, while the "youngsters" included past Alumnae/i Association president, Eve Ferdman '79, Deborah Kahn '75 and Bonnie QUINT Kaplan '70. Marilyn Zinder, Jan. '47, who was a perennial brunch attendee, died tragically several days prior, and was sorely missed (for more information, see the In Memoriam section on page 18).

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 online 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). Some pages of our Website require you to enter a password (to help protect individuals' contact information from non-alums); the common password is: purple (all lower case). If you have any questions or suggestions for additional items to include on the Website, please contact us via email to hchsalums@yahoo.com.

THE VIEW FROM 70

In the Winter/Spring 2001 issue of *AlumNotes*, Ina Loewenberg (a graduate of Julia Richman High School (1948) and Cornell University) placed an AlumnaGram looking for volunteers for a photographic documentary on women born in 1931. Recently published, her book *The View from 70—Women's Recollections and Reflections* profiles 42 women, nine of whom are HCHS graduates.

The following excerpts are printed by permission from Ms. Loewenberg. Her book is available for purchase by mail, phone or fax. By mail, send \$26.95 (Iowa residents, add \$1.15 sales tax) to: Publications Order Service, The University of Iowa, 2222 Old Hwy 218 S., Iowa City, IA 52242-1602; by telephone, call 1-800-235-2665; by fax to 319-384-3806. A printable form is available at the Website: www.uiowa.edu/~businsvc/publorder/graypearl/viewfrom70.htm.

Eve KANNER Kugler, Jan. '49

[Eve was born in Germany, moved with her family to France in 1939, and came to the United States with her sister in 1941. She then lived with a series of foster families until her family was reunited several years later. Eve herself tells this part of her story best on her Website: <http://business.virgin.net/er.kugler/>.] In her last year in junior high school, Eve was accepted to Hunter College High School. Her classmates were excited about this, not even aware that four years before, Eve had arrived in America not speaking English. Her foster family was also very proud. Hunter was a "total world away" for Eve, out of the neighborhood to a challenging school program and many afterschool activities. She spent the full day there. She met girls of the greatest variety of backgrounds, some very rich, some very poor. She never dated in high school; it was a girls' world...

[Eve worked after high school while attending night school at Brooklyn College—from which she graduated in 5 years, becoming one of the first night-school students to become a member of Phi Beta Kappa.] ... With a fellowship from the Ford Foundation,

she undertook a master's degree program at the University of Pennsylvania. She chose South Asian studies as her field, hoping it would lead to stimulating work. What it led to was marriage. She met her future husband, who was in the army at nearby Fort Dix, and they soon married and moved to Queens. In her second year of the master's program, which she completed, she commuted to Philadelphia two to three times a week. Eve passed the civil service exam and, for the next seven years, while her husband was struggling to establish a law practice, she worked for the Social Security Administration. Her children, a girl and then a boy, were born after this period, when she was 32 and 35 years old. Eve stayed home before the children started school.

She and her husband became increasingly active in Democratic reform politics in New York. To make the electoral process more democratic, Eve and her husband worked to get reform-minded candidates on the ballots in primary elections and to get them elected... Eve had known that she wanted to be a writer from the age of 12. In 1978, she enrolled in a writing course at the New School and studied there for two years. It was a momentous choice because it led directly to her recovery of her past. ... [She had blotted out the fear and terror of her family's experiences in Europe, but finally felt driven to ask her mother to tell her everything. This resulted in her mother's story being turned into a book, *Shattered Crystals*, which was published in 1997.] ... In 1980 Eve became a reporter for and then feature editor of the *Riverdale Press*, a weekly, prize-winning newspaper with circulation in the Bronx and Westchester County. ... Looking for a change, in 1985 Eve became the press officer for the comptroller of New York City, issuing press releases, giving press briefings, and accompanying the comptroller to meetings. ...

[After divorcing, Eve married a widower from London and moved there in 1991.] ... Eve has become ever more involved with other Holocaust survivors on the Internet

and with "alumni" of the ship on which she came to the United States. She gives talks in schools to children 10 to 12 years old, beginning, "When I was your age..." Eve says of her life, "I made it up as I went along." ... Eve's has been an unusual life. But there are universals, too, that unite her with other women born in 1931: "Wrinkles," Eve says, a "slowing down," aches, less energy, having to get up during the night. She also finds an appetite for doing things and going places and reports "a greater need than when I was younger to sit and talk, not gossip, talk with other women of my age. I find we are all more open than we were."

Elaine "Jackie" JACKSON Stack '48

After junior high, Jackie took and passed the test to enter Hunter College High School, where she encountered the "first defining experience of life." Everything about it opened up her world. Getting out of the largely Jewish Bronx neighborhood and going to school by subway was an eye opener. There were girls from all over the city, girls who were black, Asian, non-Jewish. It was not a perfect world: She recalls hearing 20 years later that a black classmate didn't get to a committee meeting held in someone's apartment house because she was directed to the service entrance when she showed up, and went home instead. Jackie was active at Hunter on the newspaper staff, in plays and, above all, in athletic activities as president of the Athletic Association. She was (and is) very tall and, for the first time, she felt "free to be physical."

... There was no money for going to private college, and Jackie went on to Hunter College. ... She left college to get married about a year before graduating. She didn't return to school until 16 years and four children later. ... When her youngest started school, Jackie returned to college on Long Island, where she lived. This was 1968 and C.W. Post College was trying to interest adults in returning to school. Most of Jackie's previous course work was credited,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

THE ROAD TO AVENUE Q

On February 5, Robert Lopez '93 was the special guest at an event at Hunter College organized by college president Jennifer Raab (HCHS '73). Robert is the co-songwriter and co-creator of the Broadway musical *Avenue Q*, which opened on July 31, 2003, at the Golden Theatre. This followed an off-Broadway run for which it won the Lucille Lortel award for Outstanding New Musical and a nomination for an Outer Circle Critics award as Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical. At the February 5th event, Lopez was introduced by Raab and was then interviewed by Hunter College Professor of Theatre, Claudia Orenstien, Ph.D. A Q&A session and reception rounded out the evening. The audience included a group of current HCHS students as well as a few alums. (Notice of this event was publicized on our Website—www.hchsaa.org—where you can go to check for updates between *AlumNotes* issues!)

Robert grew up in Greenwich Village, where both his parents worked at NYU. He attended Hunter Elementary and Hunter High, where he wrote the "Art Beat" column for the student-published newspaper *What's What*. He explained that Hunter had no football team, and so the theater group was considered "cool" (compared to the Chess Team!). As early as the third grade, Robert was telling people that he wanted to be a playwright. In eighth grade, he wrote a song for a show that was produced by an outside theater group—and he got the thrill of seeing his first song performed live. He also recalled that one of the plays he wrote in high school, *Heartbreaking Purity of Flowers*, was rejected by fellow-student members of the Brick Prison Playhouse (a Hunter High theater group).

After graduating from Yale with a B.A. in English, Robert moved back home and worked at temp jobs for a while. This inspired the opening song of *Avenue Q*—"What Do You Do With a BA in English?"

He joined the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, a forum for those who want to write musical theater, and there met his eventual collaborator, Jeff Marx. The BMI Workshop is free, but requires applicants to audition with a song they have written. The first year is comprised of learning the "lingo" of musicals (e.g., the "I Want" song comes early in the show and allows the hero/heroine to tell what they



want; the "Charm" song makes the audience smile, etc.) and assignments are given (e.g., write a song for the Blanche DuBois character in *A Streetcar Named Desire* or for Willie Loman from *Death of a Salesman*). Robert had never had a collaborator prior to Jeff, but when they tried working together, they both enjoyed it. Their process nowadays consists of working at the same time in the same room; they both write lyrics, even writing lines together.

Avenue Q is a musical about young people living in an outer borough of NYC after

graduating from college, with the added twist that half the characters are puppets. (The show's Website warns that the show is great for teenagers because it's about real life, but may not be appropriate for younger children because it addresses issues like sex, drinking and surfing the Web for porn.) Robert and Jeff patterned the characters after themselves and people they know, but using puppets, they believe, adds to the fantasy and allows characters to randomly break into song. Some of the puppeteers in the show have worked on *Sesame Street* and though no effort is made to hide them, audience members have said that their disbelief is suspended to the point that they begin to wonder what the puppet characters are thinking.

While at the BMI workshop, Robert and Jeff wanted to write a show for a younger audience and first worked on a proposal for a very loose adaptation of *Hamlet* using *Sesame Street* characters, called *Kermit, Prince of Denmark*. They then decided to write an adult puppet show, starting out by making a list of song titles, then writing the songs to go with them, and lastly working on the story. They ended up with 15 songs and no book, and were still able to attract interest from producers. When the book was completed, the show played off-Broadway, got a rave review from the *New York Times*, and eventually moved to Broadway. Robert recalled "shopping" for a Broadway house as being "pretty amazing." Robert ended the formal part of the evening by playing the piano and performing several songs from *Avenue Q* (accompanied by his wife and by his collaborator) as well as several Shakespearean sonnets he had set to music during his high school years. Robert and Jeff have just sold a movie musical to Universal and are working on a "reality" show for VH1 about their lives as Broadway composers. ■

by Marge Kolb '78 ■ photo by Ana Golici

ALUM PROFILE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

true. The Dinkins concession speech—he could have been reading from the phone book; there was very little that could be done to elevate that moment.” The Democratic Party apparently thought otherwise. After Dinkins’ defeat, Attie became the chief speechwriter and special assistant to House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt. Political junkies may remember Gephardt’s speech after the 1994 Republican sweep made Newt Gingrich Majority Leader. “We may not all agree with today’s changing of the guard. We may not all like it, but we enact the people’s will with dignity and honor and pride. In that endeavor... there can be no losers, and there can be no defeat.” Two years later, Attie moved to the White House to fill a newly created position of Special Assistant to the President for Communications where he worked with, among others, Elena Kagan ’77, now Dean of Harvard Law School. In 1997, he became Gore’s chief speechwriter and stayed through the harrowing 2000 recount. Gore and he eventually penned Gore’s final concession speech, earning Attie in some quarters the moniker of “master of disaster.”

After Election 2000, fellow Hunter and Harvard classmate, Eric Kaplan ’85, who wrote and produced *Futurama*, and now *Malcolm in the Middle*, encouraged Attie to move to L.A. and become a screenwriter. “Eric heard about an opening and said, ‘I think you should do this.’ There’s something about knowing people at that age [high school]. They know you better. Perhaps because they breathed the same air and grew up under the same influences; everything needs less explaining. My Hunter friends are my touchstone in life, they remind me of who I am instead of what I do,” Attie concludes. Attie hooked up with *The West Wing* in June, 2001.

Attie is primarily responsible for the show’s script, or teleplay, though being a producer involves him in logistics and managerial issues as well. Attie credits the hard deadlines in speechwriting as excellent training

for TV writing. The resilient success of *The West Wing*, he says, lies in its ability to show politics as people would like politics to be. “I get to tell my stories but change the ending. It’s the politics we like to see, something we can relate to. It’s refreshing because people have grown so cynical about politics.” This view is unfortunate and inaccurate, Attie adds, as “...the real White House is filled with decent, hardworking people who try to do what is right. And that goes for both parties.” As for who most resembles the idealistic President Bartlett on the show, Attie mused that there was a lot of Howard Dean in Bartlett “...which might mean that Bartlett would be unelectable in reality.”

On the side, Attie writes a handful of articles a year for the *Washington Post* on rock music and has been a contributing editor to *Guitar World* magazine. He has played in a few amateur bands including one called Bam-Bam when he was at Hunter. Attie’s brother Oliver (’83) was “an incredible math and science whiz” who is currently a math professor doing research in bioinformatics.

Attie has no concrete plans for a return to politics other than the occasional work he has done for John Edwards and Gephardt’s recently abandoned Presidential campaign. “I am still very engaged in politics but I am very happy right now and plan to be here for a while. L.A., after all, is a lot like Washington D.C.—they are both company towns. Some say Washington is ‘dog-eat-dog’ and L.A. is just the reverse,” Attie jokes. Working in the White House, Attie counseled, “is a young person’s game. Most people are in their 20s and 30s. The average aide works there for 18 months. I was there for five years. I certainly would have stayed to work for Gore had he won. But I would have been about three feet tall by now.” As for current Hunter students, Attie advises, “Invent your own career. Find a maverick profession. But most importantly, do something fun and that you love. Hunter people are talented and smart—don’t waste it.” ■

by Judy CHIN Wong ’88 and Tai Wong ’88

VIEW FROM 70

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

and when she graduated three years later, her family proudly attended commencement. Earlier Jackie’s mother had told her that her career choices were to be a nurse, teacher, or librarian. ... Jackie chose librarian and earned a master’s degree in library science in 1973. She immediately discovered that a librarian was not what she wanted to be, after all, and instead worked for the Council on Foreign Relations and as a public relations volunteer for the local high school theater group. “Floundering” in the mid-1970s, she took seriously a suggestion made at a party that she go to law school. Her husband encouraged her, and her children tutored her in math for the entrance exam. During her legal education at St. John’s University, Jackie’s house was the center of a study group of three or four fellow students, young men who usually stayed for dinner, chatting with the children while she took time off to do laundry.

... After Jackie earned her law degree in 1979, she got the job she wanted, Assistant District Attorney for Nassau County. ... After seven years, she went into private practice as a criminal defense lawyer, than as an appellate attorney [and later as administrator of an assigned counsel defender plan]. ... Jackie continued in that job through 1996 and began running for office, seeking to become a judge. Defeated four times, she succeeded in being elected a district court judge in 1996. She served only four years of a six-year term because she was then elected to the New York State Supreme Court, where she now serves. Her court deals with matrimonial cases and although she recognizes a “basic sadness” to the substance of the work, she is proud of her court and of her “top notch” all-female staff. ... Since the 1970s, Jackie has had a “sense of change in the status of women,” and she imagines that other women her age recognize this change as well. “Who I am today is not who I was,” she says. Yet the woman she is today is also the proud grandmother of 15 grandchildren, whose photographs are prominent in her chambers. ■

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CAMPUS SCHOOLS

After a long winter, spring is finally upon us here at Hunter. Our various construction projects are progressing well, and the warm weather should spur a host of changes to the physical appearance of Hunter. While the changes to our courtyard and gymnasium move forward, though, we are once again reminded that it is not the facility, but rather those who make use of it, that makes this building such a special place.

Thus far, our students have had an exceptional year both inside and most especially outside the classroom in representing the school. In the math department, 42 students qualified for the invitational exam leading to the Math Olympiad. On the AMC math contests, we had a national winner in the grade specific competitions; Kyle Holmes won the AMC 12. In the Math Counts competition for grades seven and eight, our team placed first in all of New York City. Hunter is proud to be sending three of the four members of the New York City team to the state competition.

Our science department has qualified four students for the National Biology Olympiad, and 18 students for the Science Olympiad. In January the science department hosted our annual science fair, in which class winners from seventh and eighth grade presented along side willing upper-term students.

In the music arena we are proud of our first place standing in the Junior Division of the Lincoln Center Chamber Competition. This competition is based on a tape that chamber groups submit for adjudication. Several members of our orchestra also joined the Hunter College Orchestra in a joint concert held at Hunter College on March 3rd. Mr. Stratechuck, one of our music instructors, conducted part of the concert. It was a wonderful evening of music played before a large audience in the Hunter College Auditorium.

The winners from the Scholastic Competition for Writing and the Visual Arts have been notified, and Hunter students comprise 28% of the gold-level winners in the regional competition (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut). These students will proceed onto the

national competition. The English department is also proud of teachers Lori D'Amico and Kip Zegers. Ms. D'Amico was selected as the seventh teacher to participate in the Japan Study program in Japan this summer. Mr. Zegers has just published a book of poetry based on his experiences and inspirations over his years here at Hunter.

Our athletes are also having an outstanding year, highlighted by the success of our girls' volleyball team. The girls placed second in all of New York City, after losing their only game of the season in the PSAL city championships at Hunter College in November. The boys' basketball team qualified for the playoffs for the first time since moving up to the "A" division three years ago, and our boys' swimming team also qualified for the playoffs during the winter sports season.

The Hunter Chess Program continues to be outstanding, with a team traveling to Chicago in December to compete in the national grade-level tournament. Our seniors placed second in the team competition. Special congratulations go out to senior Annie Weiss, who placed sixth in the nation in the individual competition and continues to be ranked nationally.

Lastly, our student government hosted a convention in February for similar organizations from 12 area high schools to discuss pressing issues. The event was a great success with student government representatives coming from both private and public schools. Former Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger was a guest speaker at the event.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Alumnae/i Association for its continued support of activities and programs at the school. The recent grant to the Library, and to the departments of Health and Physical Education, Social Studies, Counseling, Arts, and Foreign Language, are much appreciated by the students and faculty.

I look forward to seeing you on June 6th at the annual alumnae/i reunion.

David Laurenson

NEWS FROM HCHS

Over 15 Hunter students presented their science projects at the NYC Science and Engineering Fair held in the Great Hall of City College on February 10th. Many won various awards as a result of that competition. Several students also presented their work at the NYC Science Math and Technology Regional Fair held March 17th at Polytechnic University. These students and their project titles are: Kayla Higgins (Grade 9)—Color and Memory; Aliza Malz (Grade 10)—The Nematic Phase of Liquid Crystals; and Oliver Yang (Grade 11)—Cerium Porphyrin Double-Deckers. Aliza Malz was declared a finalist and will represent the region at the International Science and Engineering fair to be held in Portland, Oregon on May 9–14th. ...The annual Homecoming event was held on December 18th and was very successful. Many students from the class of 2003 came back to visit with current seniors and faculty members...The PTA held its March meeting in Flushing, Queens to accommodate the large number of parents of current students who come from that borough...The Boys Swimming Team qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2001, but was ousted in the first round, losing to Brooklyn Tech 52-42...Social Studies teacher Satinder Jawanda returned to the faculty in January after a three semester maternity leave. She was quoted in the student newspaper, *What's What*, remarking that "Toddlers and teenagers are not that different; at both ages they're trying to assert themselves as people."... Dr. Nell Scharff is taking a one-semester leave to teach a class at Baruch College for high school principals-in-training...Physical Education teacher Sandy Pashkin has retired...Renovations to the gym are in progress, including major work begun over the Christmas break which involved redoing the floors, repainting lines and the wooden backboards and refurbishing tiles and walls. Still to come is the installation of purple padding on the walls, replacing cracked tiles, and the arrival of new bleachers... Donations of old computers (Pentium II's and newer) and printers (laser or inkjet) are welcomed by the high school. Please contact Carolyn Mayadas at 212-860-1314.

REUNION 2004

GENERAL REUNION: SUNDAY, JUNE 6, AT HCHS

REUNION 2004

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for more information. (If no class coordinator is listed, check our Website or email our office for information).

As always, alums from all classes are welcome to attend the general Reunion. You'll 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!). Please use the back page to pre-register (discount available) and check your dues expiration date (month/year) printed above your name and address to see if it's also time to renew your membership. Milestone-class members are also encouraged to make a special donation toward their class gift to the high school (which, like your dues, is tax-deductible); consult your class coordinator to see if there's a recommended amount and whether the class wishes to earmark the gift.

Hope to see you all on June 6th!

50TH REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1954

The Reunion Committee of the class of 1954 has been burning up the phone wires, the internet and the US Postal service to plan a splendid reunion weekend for our classmates. In the works is a tour of the new high school, informal trips to museums, Ground Zero, and Ellis Island.

A grand Gala dinner, chaired by Ina ROSEN Rubenstein, is scheduled for Saturday night, June 5 at the Marriott Eastside, where many of our classmates are planning to stay. The evening will include a brief stroll down memory lane, via slides and a recreation of our "Senior Sing."

More pictures are welcome for the slide show. Contact Ina at Inarub@aol.com or 760-942-9432. She is also looking for volunteers to help with decorations and to serve at a registration desk. Lucy PARROT Lynch, our treasurer, will be happy to register you for the festivities. See details on our Web page at the HCHS Website, www.hchsaa.org [click on "Find Alums" on the left menu bar, then "Class Websites & Egroups" (password: purple), then the link for 1954]. We are sure that all attendees will especially enjoy reading our version of a yearbook, entitled "Sarah Maria Revisited" which is being edited by Maxine MANDELL Hersh. Other meals are being planned for Friday and Saturday. Details will be announced. In addition, all who are interested are invited to join a Shabbat Dinner on Friday night at the Marriott. Details are available from Naomi LEVY Weinstock at 303-885-6215. For further information, or to offer help, please contact Arline SEWITCH Lieberman at WARL2@aol.com, or 610-565-0305. We also hope to see you all at the June 6th general reunion at the high school, where we will have additional time to catch up with classmates. The day will include a general assembly at which our own Peggy GRANT Baylor, now a judge in Detroit, will speak for us. (Use the registration form on the back page to register for the general reunion.) We look forward to seeing lots of old friends (make that "vintage" friends.)

25TH REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1979 TO TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 5TH

The class of 1979 (including our classmates who graduated early, in 1978) will

gather to celebrate our 25th reunion on June 5th, at 5 p.m. at Sambuca Restaurant on West 72nd Street and Central Park West. Invitations have been sent, so if you have not yet received yours, please contact Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby at colbyfamily5@comcast.net. The reunion is planned to coincide with the General Reunion taking place at the High School on June 6th. Since many of us are coming from around the globe (Kathy Schmidt is coming from Germany!!), attending both events would give us the opportunity to spend more time with former classmates and rekindle past friendships!! Why not make it a reunion weekend!!

We still do not have any contact information for some of our former classmates and would appreciate help in locating: Miriam Bendahan, Debbie BLUNT Lowe, Michele Brandwein, Eileen Chavis, Nina Daleo, Laura GILSIG Lockie, Sharon Harrison, Diedre Jackson, Gabriella JENEY Knudsen, Judy Neuwirth, Evelyn Quon, Nadine Ramirez, Rebecca Ritter, Barbara Schmidt, Stephanie Schwartz, Haley Seif, Dona Stathopoulos, Caryl Zenker, Sui Chan, Lidia Diminich, Stacey Dulberg, Anita Friedman, Ruthie Glover, Laurie KING Johnson, Jeanne Palaigos, Pauline Scotti, Julie Tsang, Nancy Yee, and Elisa Zapinsky. If anyone has information on any of these former classmates, please forward it to Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby so that we can send them an invitation to the reunion.

Some help will be needed with check-in at the reunion. Please let Lorraine know if you would be able to arrive 30 minutes prior to help out. Looking forward to seeing everyone in June!

REUNION 2004

MILESTONE CLASS REUNION COORDINATORS

- 1939 (Jan.):** Harriet Held Koppal
10 Erick Ct., Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724;
631-367-4837; harkop@aol.com
- 1944 (Jan.):** Harriet Whitman Aufses, 1185 Park Ave.,
New York, NY 10128; 212-410-6056
- 1944 (June):** Jean ULITZ 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.,
Brooklyn, NY 11201; hkonstadt@aol.com
- 1949 (June):** Gloria HOOPER Raspberry
109 Woodside Dr., Syracuse, NY 13224;
rasberry13224@yahoo.com
- 1954:** Yvonne Groseil, Arline SEWITCH Lieberman and
Lucy Lynch; email Arline at warl2@aol.com
- 1959:** Debbie HARTLEY Forchielli, forchielli@adelphia.com
- 1964:** Rhoda SRAGG Faller, meroho@aol.com
- 1969:** Marianne Tomecek, mktomecek@aol.com
- 1974:** STILL LOOKING FOR A COORDINATOR
- 1979 (& '78 Early Grads):**
Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby; colbyfamily5@comcast.net.
To subscribe to the listserv, send email to: hchs79-subscribe@
topica.com; the address to post messages is: hchs79@topica.com
- 1984:** Andrew Bellak, bellak-bain@yahoo.com
Anita DeStefano, adestef@bu.edu
Lori Fleming, lfleming100@yahoo.com
Nelly Taveras, abqcanela@yahoo.com
- 1989:** Kysha Harris, kysha@ideas2opportunities.com
- 1994:** Jamie Miles, jmiles33@aol.com
Egroup address:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hunter94/>
- 1999:** James Schiavone, triplephat@aol.com

CHAPTER COORDINATORS

New England Region

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

Greater Boston:

Nancy Weissman '76 (see above)

Northern New England

Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57, 603-447-1199

Southern Connecticut

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

Northern Westchester (NY)

Marie Ciaiola '45, 914-276-0159

Hudson Valley (NY)

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

Ithaca/Rochester (NY)

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

Washington, DC Region

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

Southern Florida

Edythe WERNER Rishin '41, 954-978-9824

Chicago Area

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

Texas

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

Southern California

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

San Francisco Area

Caverlee Cary '77, cari@uclink3.berkeley.edu
Marcia Feitel '73, marcia_feitel@hotmail.com
Jane Resnick '72, janeresnick@attbi.com

Pacific Northwest

Lorraine CUNNINGHAM Colby, colbyfamily5@comcast.net

Israel

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

Recent Alums (grads in their 20s and 30s)

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

Special note to chapter leaders: If you have any news or notices of meetings or get-togethers that you'd like us to publish, please let us know by June 15th.

REMEMBRANCES OF HUNTER HIGH: CLASS OF 1984—"THE JOYFUL ELITE"

In preparation for its 20th reunion this spring, the class of 1984 has had a lot of activity on its Yahoo! egroup, with messages posted by scores of class members—so, we thought we'd excerpt some of their memories here. As one member of the class remarked after joining the egroup: "A few months ago, life at Hunter seemed so distant...perhaps more than twenty years. [Now] it doesn't quite feel like yesterday, but the memories that have been stirred certainly make it seem closer. And it helps me to remember all the little details that made it a wonderful part of my life."

See how the experiences of the class of '84 compare to yours (and to see if your class has a Website or egroup, check the "Find Alums" section of our website—www.hchsaa.org—and remember that the common password for any page requesting one is: purple.)

Incidentally, the term "The Joyful Elite" came from a January, 1982 article about Hunter High published in New York Magazine which was written by HCHS alum Katharine DAVIS Fishman '54 (whose daughter Margaret Fishman '82 was a student at the time). When speaking with Ms. Fishman recently, she related that when the article came out she received both negative and positive feedback about it from HCHS alums (to read the article yourself, go to our website and click the left-hand button "About HCHSAA" and then choose "Archival Articles"). Ms. Fishman has been studying teenagers again lately and has a book being published in the fall entitled *Attitude!*, which is about eight teenagers attending The Ailey School in Manhattan and how they organize their whole lives around a talent. The class of '84 took the Joyful Elite appellation to heart and four enterprising members of the class actually made "Joyful Elite" buttons to sell at school. They even "marketed" them in their year-book, running the following ad: "JOYFUL ELITE Buttons. \$1 each. Special deal—buy all 200 for \$75 (or best offer) and we'll gift-wrap them. Contact A. Clateman."

What did Hunter mean to you?

Nelly Taveras: Hunter offered me a great education, but what I got was much more than that—I felt it offered me the world. Hunter gave me the confidence to believe that there was nowhere I couldn't go. That I did not go on to take on the world is not the point, but rather, that I thought I could. There are few teenage experiences that can reward you with such a treasure. Ah, to help one believe in oneself, that is what Hunter does best. Hunter for me meant that I left my mostly Dominican world in Washington Heights and got to discover such exotic and far flung places as the Upper East Side, the Village, Bayside and Riverdale. It meant that I got to make life-long friends that even without communicating with them for ten years, I still can't help feeling that we share such important frames of reference that I will always consider them my friends. It was the place, after all, where I met my future husband. I will always feel lucky that I got to go to Hunter and can only lament that there is no Hunter for my kids. Hunter had much more impact on my life than college did. I failed to take advantage of what my college had to offer, but at Hunter doors were opened to me, a first generation immigrant, that my parents could only have dreamed of.

Chuck Kanafi: [Hunter gave us] the feeling that the entire world of options was open before us—but I often wonder if that feeling isn't common to any 16-18-year old...the difference being, perhaps, that Hunter gave us the opportunity to actually "realize" some of these aspirations, in the form of ICY projects, teaching internships, a fairly liberal policy concerning the creations of clubs, etc. Although I have spent most of the past 20 years losing that belief, recently (and no, I haven't joined any cult, participated in Landmark Fora, or any other such thing) I have come to the understanding that it is just as true as it was 20 years ago...all we need is to have the courage to believe.

Antolin DuBois: No matter how widely divergent or weird your views, you were at

least among your intellectual peers—and in my case oftentimes betters. My post-secondary school experiences, although both good and bad, didn't really measure up to this high bar, and in fact there were many students who weren't quite ready for school at that stage in their lives...shall we say. The thing is that you don't really recognize the value of being around smarter people until you have to hunt to find them. Thankfully, this happened after high school, when I already knew that I wanted and could achieve a better life. Had Hunter not been there for me, I would have gone to the zoned high school, Brandeis, where I subsequently taught for 10 years, and I am not so sure that I would have sought out and looked to have been challenged by smarter people—quite possibly I would have coasted, and thus in my book, going to Hunter—with all its intellectual activity, greatly benefited my life.

Anita DeStefano: In general Hunter was filled with nice and decent people and was a special and great environment to go to school. In my elementary school I was definitely identified as a "super brain" and felt a bit like an outsider. In 6th grade, I once got a 50 (out of 100) on a math quiz and I remember going to the bathroom and coming back to the quiz being turned over grade up on my desk and the whole class laughing about the grade. There was a desire to see the smart kid fail. I feel that I was in the middle of the pack at Hunter, but that there was a real lack of competitiveness against other students and that we were not looking for our classmates to fail but to achieve. I also know that at the local high school that I would have attended, there were multiple entrances and that separate entrances were used by the black and white students and that on one occasion police were needed at the school because of racial tension. I am quite sure that this local high school did not have a Gay Rights Club with a faculty advisor and students that were "out" and never beat up in school (at least I am unaware of this ever happening at my years at Hunter). To me Hunter represented a place where it

was OK for people to be themselves. This in combination with the education made it well worth the 3 hour round trip I made daily.

Bob Glickstein: I loved my time at Hunter, they were definitely some of the best years of my life. I loved my friends and the fun things we did. I loved most of my classes and my teachers. I loved the subway and the independence of traveling solo to a different borough every day. I also dug being in an exclusive school where entry was based on merit, not money. And I'm well aware of how lucky we all were to go to school with one another rather than at typical high schools where every last one of us sensitive brainy nerds would have been beaten routinely.

Faculty

Social Studies teacher Mr. Floersch—who had an uncanny resemblance to John Denver: the blunt/shaggy haircut, the round glasses... Mrs. Brennan driving an MG Midget...Wrestling with Mr. Gaudenzi in Gym class... Mr. Guarracino, a great Physics teacher with a wonderful sense of humor... Taking a meditation walk through Central Park in Ms. Thomas' yoga elective gym class in tenth grade. Supposedly we were following her literally blindly—keeping our eyes closed and trusting her lead, in single file—but I don't think many of us actually did this...Mr. Arrigio in Math and Ms. Saltzman in Science who were not only very knowledgeable about their subjects but also managed to convey their passion in such a way that motivated others to learn...Checking out the current list of faculty for the school and finding the following teachers who taught our class: Aboody, Basias (née Kourtakis), Brandriss, Gaudenzi, Goldsmith, Kanganis, Krilov, Kubat, Marsh, Meeker, Rosenberg, Saltzman, and Sasso. Perhaps it says something about the school that all these people have taught there for at least 20 years...

Gym, Sports & Games

Wintertime co-ed 8th grade swimming class (at 8 a.m.!)...Ultimate Frisbee...playing a lot of football and basketball in the yard, a lot of cards in the hall...Pacman and Zookeeper video games... handball against the lone

standing wall from the armory if we were outside during lunch and multi-wall handball indoors in the basement stairwell if it was raining...goalie-ball in 7th grade—where two people would sit at opposite ends of a length of hallway and try to bat a tennis ball past one another (using handball style “hitting”), and you were not allowed to get up off the floor... raquetball at the Y, soccer in Central Park for gym...running with Ms. Wahl/Prendergast and having to keep a runner's journal—then using our bus-passes to get to the other side of the Central Park reservoir and pretending that we'd jogged there...The “Assassination” game where you had to water pistol your victim in front of witnesses and then you would inherit their target until only one person was left standing. (The principal stopped the game when it spilled over into the NYC subway system and some people playing at another school were almost shot by the police since their water pistols looked like real guns)...

Riding the Subway

Antolin Du Bois: The major problem I had [was getting back to school after swim class at the college, because] I only had a bus pass, not a train pass, so someone would always have to walk down the stairs and toss the train pass through the iron bars. We almost got caught, once or twice. [Of course, this was pre-Metro Card days.]

David Kuznick: I actually got nailed after swimming one time by the train police for trying to use my train pass at the wrong station and had to go to court(!). I had to have [faculty member] Mr. McLeod write a note saying we were told our train passes would be accepted at the “wrong” station because we were participating in a school class. The case got thrown out. Whew! Fast-forward a few years to some time toward the end of 12th grade. I had lost/accidentally washed/something-or-other my train pass, and I flashed an old one at my home station. I get nailed by the cop and have to go to court again. Now the fun really begins. I go to court in Queens, and the judge tells me he is not going to hear my plea at that date because since I had a prior conviction (??)

if I pled guilty in front of him, he would toss me in jail (!!); so he set a new trial date in a month. Nice! Turns out the instance above was appearing on my record as a conviction, even though it was dismissed! So now here I am, thinking I am about to go to jail right before graduation (that still simply boggles my mind). So what do I do? Hire a classmate's mother who was in fact a lawyer! I don't remember what the case she presented was (besides the fact that the court records were simply wrong), but the judge did in fact dismiss the case. And my lawyer charged me \$50. I can't believe I forgot that wonderful incident until just now. To think I was THIS close to being a consultant for *Oz* [HBO's prison drama]...

Memorable Culture

Being bused up to City College and watching a gymnastic performance of *A Midsummer's Night Dream* performed on monkey bars. The “actors” were delivering lines while tumbling and leaping which made the play unintelligible and ridiculous. It was reminiscent of the Saturday Night Live skit where a group performs ballet for a blind audience...An experimental production of a play called “Scooter Thomas Makes It to the Top of the World.” I remember almost nothing about the play besides the title and some of how the set looked and the fact that a character sings “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” with the lyrics shifted “left” one syllable against the melody—the song ends one note early without resolving the melody, to great comic effect.

Funny Stuff

Dressing up as coneheads on our first Senior Day...Boys' bathrooms with no doors on the stalls (one of the more curious and inconvenient echoes of the era of boylessness at Hunter and the lingering distrust of our mischievous ways)...the bodice-ripper cover art on our copies of *Romeo and Juliet*... Using punch cards to run our PL/C programs on those IBM 360 mainframes; so lovely to hand in your stack of cards, and wait around for 6 hours only to find out you had a typo, so your program couldn't run. ■

HUNTERITES IN THE NEWS

Augusta SOUZA Kappner '62 was the lone appointee of NYC's Mayor Bloomberg on the Panel for Educational Policy (which replaced the old Board of Education) to vote against his plan of mandatory retention of third-graders based solely on the results of either their reading or math citywide exams. Hours before the vote, Mayor Bloomberg removed two of his appointees and the Staten Island borough president removed his appointee, replacing them with individuals in agreement with the policy. Although Ms. Kappner had made her position against the policy clear several days before the vote, and had distributed to other panel members the results of a study that found such policies costly and counterproductive, she was allowed to remain on the panel. A *New York Times* article noted that reporters asked city officials if she might have been retained because "even the mayor was too ashamed

to fire Dr. Kappner, president of Bank Street College, one of America's premier educational institutions." According to the article, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott replied that Dr. Kappner was retained because she had made her position plain early, while the Bloomberg administration was unable to get a "clear answer" from the appointees who were removed.

Naomi Miller '68 was the subject of a six-page profile in the January/February, 2004 issue of *Archaeology* magazine, entitled "Seeds of Time (How one woman's knack for extracting history from plant remains led to some startling conclusions about ancient people and the environments that sustained them..)" The article can be accessed on the Web at www.archaeology.org.

Cynthia Nixon '84, a star of the HBO series *Sex and the City*, and longtime public educa-

tion advocate, was the keynote speaker for the Alliance for Quality Education's (AQE) Education Advocacy Day in Albany on March 9, 2004. Nixon, who has a child in the NYC public school system, has been a consistent supporter over the years of efforts to increase state funding aid to public schools.

Shola Lynch '87 is a documentary film maker and recently made her directorial debut with *Chisolm '72: Unbought & Unbossed*—a 2004 entry at the Sundance Film Festival. The film, which documents Shirley Chisolm's 1972 presidential bid, is also slated to be shown on television as part of the PBS series POV.

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

ALUM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynn Visson '62 announces the publication of *The Russian Heritage Cookbook: A Culinary Heritage Preserved in 360 Authentic Recipes* (Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, 2004). This is a collection of classical Russian recipes preserved by Russian emigres and adapted for the modern kitchen.

Faye Zucker '69 has published a book called *Depression* (Franklin Watts: September, 2003). It is part of a mental health series from Scholastic called "Life Balance" written for adolescent and teen readers. Faye also continues in her day job as Executive Editor of Corwin Press, a division of Sage Publications in Thousand Oaks, CA and can be reached via email to fayezucker@aol.com.

Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz '77 announces the publication of her second book, *Finding Annie Farrell* (Thomas Dunne Books, 2004). The book is about Beth's mother, who grew up in rural Maine during the Depression as one of five sisters. After her death 20 years ago, Beth discovered her

mother had many secrets—a phony name, hidden brothers and more—and the book chronicles how Beth came to understand what her mother's life was really like, which is a journey many of us make with regard to our parents when we grow up. The book is also about the abiding connection many of us have to a special place, a piece of terra firma that means something to our families—in Beth's case, Maine, where she spent all her summer vacations. There, all the cares of city life that so depressed her mother seemed to vanish. Beth's previous book, *Girls in the Van*, chronicled her travels as a reporter for A.P. with the campaign of Hillary Clinton when she ran for the Senate in New York State. Both of Beth's books are available on Amazon.com or at your local bookseller.

Victoria Olsen '82 announces the publication of her book *From Life: Julia Margaret Cameron and Victorian Photography* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003). It is the first full-length biography of a pioneer British photographer,

whose work was also the subject of a retrospective at the Getty Center in Los Angeles last fall. Cameron is best known for her portraits of Victorian celebrities like Alfred Tennyson, Charles Darwin and Anthony Trollope. She also photographed her servants and family members, especially her favorite niece, Julia Jackson, who later became Virginia Woolf's mother. Victoria has donated a copy of her book to the high school library in recognition of her first serious study of history, with Janet Baer in AP European History.

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.

1940s

Daphne SCHUYLER Solà '42 and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 28th at a concert and party given by their daughter Michéle. She is the director of the Manhattan Country School on 96th Street, where the concert was held. The occasion marks the gift to the school by the Kitzinger family of a 1916 Steinway piano; the donors are parents of two former MCS students. • **Evelyn SBARSKY Stephens '42** recently joined the Alumnae/i Association, having found us through her neighbor **Theresa RICHMAN Martinez '60**. Evelyn writes that if it weren't for her high school teacher Helen Elizabeth Witmer, she would not be where she is today. • **Elsie LAUE Raffensperger '48** and her husband, Stanley, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their two children and spouses, plus eight grandchildren, at a Lake Harmony resort over the Columbus Day weekend. Elsie's greatest fun was watching all her family play soccer while she and her husband watched under a shade tree.

1950s

Nadine FRIEDMAN Schultz '55 retired after 38 years as an elementary school principal and subsequently reinvented herself—she is now teaching in a graduate school program for aspiring teachers and loves her new career. She teaches summer school and the fall semester and spends the winter in Sarasota, FL. Any Hunterites in Sarasota can contact her via email to tataschultz@comcast.net. • **Rosalyn REBAK Heith '56** is proud of her daughter Diane, who earned a Ph.D. from Brown University and whose first book, *Polling to Govern: Public Opinion and Presidential Leadership*, was published by Stanford University Press in November. • **Deanna BLAUSTEIN Spielberg, Ed.D. '58** and her husband, Ted, are marking their 30th year in the same house and same office, but manage to get excitement in other ways. She and Ted share office space, he as a physi-

cian and she as a psychologist. Deanna claims to have the best high school memories of many people she knows!

1960s

Deena DANIELS Yachymiak '60 writes that she is loving retirement and that it is the best part of life (too bad one has to be so old when it occurs!). She sends greetings to everyone who remembers her. • **Lynda LIEBERMAN Baker '69**, a certified professional facilitator, is president of MeetingSolution, an organization development consulting firm (Website: www.meetingsolution.com). She also serves on the board of the International Association of Facilitators. She lives with her husband, Rabbi Kerry Baker, and their 3-year-old daughter, Emily, in Austin, TX. • **Helen M. HALAISKI Evans '69** became a grandmother on November 29. She writes that Daniel Matthew Evans is a joy!

1970s

Ilene R. Klinghoffer '70 is the production manager in Con Edison's Corporate Communications department, where she works with graphic designers and printers to ensure that Con Ed's printed materials are manufactured properly. She also plays the bassoon with the Queens Symphonic Band, where she is a member of the board of directors as well as program annotator.

1980s

Robert Blocker '82 and his wife, Christine, are the proud parents of Jessica and Alyssa Blocker, born on May 2, 2002. Robert owns his own CPA firm and Christine worked as a CPA and public-school teacher until the birth of the twins. • **Susie Lebryk-CHAO '82** is one of four high-school English teachers featured in "The Writing Classroom," a 10-part series produced by Maryland Public TV that will be released in September. • **Glenn S. Greene '83** began working last

October as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, Constitutional and Specialized Tort Litigation Group. He continues to live in Washington, D.C. • **Lana Nieves '85** read **Jane Ossandon '85's** item in the last newsletter about **Rachel Kramer '85's** wedding in Australia, and writes: "Even though Rachel and I are great friends, and pretty much neighbors these days (I live in Wellington, NZ), I was unable to attend her wedding, which sounded like the party of the century. I have seen photos, though, and I picked Jane out right away—she looks exactly as she did in 1985. Rachel did manage to pay me a visit a few months before the wedding, and we had a great time—although we both could have done with a few more days together. Rachel looked really well and very happy. As always, she's heavily involved in performance/theater. I'm thinking she and I should be considered the Antipodean branch of the HSCSAA."

1990s

Once again, the Class of '90 has news to report for lots of its members, all thanks to **Nina HABIB Spencer**. She's been collecting and compiling everyone's information, and wrote us the following: The class may hold the record for the number of people marrying each other. First there was **Amanda Cicarelli** and **Eric Epstein**, who now have a two-year-old daughter, Julia. Then, as was reported in the class's last update, there's **Jason Ehrlich** and **Salena Lee**. This time around, there are two, yes TWO, additional Hunter 1990 unions. **Maria Cardona** and **Ian Wright** are happily married and living in Brooklyn with their daughter Kayla, who will be two in late July. Ian's the Associate Director of the Academic Counseling Center at Long Island University's C.W. Post Campus on Long Island. Maria is an RN at NYU Hospital, and does an occasional shift in the ER at Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn. And (drum roll please), **Lori Hoepner** and **Jeb Harben** will be tying the knot May 1st

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

CLASS NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

in NYC! Where, you may ask, did they get re-acquainted? Why, at the class's ten-year reunion, of course. See? It really pays to come to these things, folks. Lori also writes that **Adam Horowitz** will be getting married in Minnesota to his long-time sweetie on Memorial Day weekend, and that he's writing for the WB's *One Tree Hill*. Lori also saw **Chuma Hunter-Gault** on CBS's *Without a Trace* recently. He was playing a cop who met an untimely death. The award for Making-NYers-Wonder-Why-They-Live-Here-Especially-in-the-Winter goes to **Michelle ROONEY Harriman**, who writes that she and husband Mark moved to sunny Del Mar, California in June 2003, where she opened a private pediatric physical therapy practice. Michelle got her degree in physical therapy from Columbia and now uses yoga and aquatics to treat children with physical impairments. What really got me jealous is the fact that in her spare time, she can take her longboard out to the beach and surf out to the dolphins and sea lions. **Brad Miles** writes that he and his wife, Rachel, live in Manhattan with their 19-month-old daughter, Gabrielle. Brad runs several optical businesses in the city, and was recently named one of the "40 Under 40" to watch in the optical industry by a leading trade publication. He sees Ian and Maria regularly, as well. **Josh Spirn** is an Assistant D.A. in Boston, and is getting married in June. Ian will be his best man, returning the favor Josh did him when he married Maria four years ago. It was great to hear from **Sage Weiner**, who will be finishing his fellowship in medical toxicology at the NYC Poison Control Center in June and then starting as an attending at Kings County/SUNY Brooklyn Emergency Department and Division of Toxicology. Sage has been happily married for a year and a half to Young Sun Huh (they met in a college film class), who is a chef at the fabulous NYC restaurant Daniel. Sage also reports that **Jen Lingeman** is doing her residency in pediatrics in New Mexico. And wait! There's another doctor in the

house! **Liat Kaplan** is in the final months of a fellowship in musculoskeletal imaging at the Hospital for Special Surgery here in NYC. This summer, she'll be moving to Zurich to join an American radiology practice there, and she can't wait to check out the European opera scene. Liat encourages any alums passing through Zurich this summer to drop her line at LJK@post.harvard.edu. **Stephen Nachamie** is a New York-based director/choreographer and author. The year's already been good for Stephen—he just won the North Carolina Triangle Award for his production of *West Side Story*. This summer he'll direct *Cabaret* at the Sharon Playhouse in CT and *Joseph* at the West Virginia Public Theater. He is readying his own play, *The Taiwan Diaries*, for production this fall. **Catherine Carter** has been married for over five years to John Palfrey, and has a two-year-old son named Jack. **Debbie Cuoco** is living in Cambridge, MA, working as a paper conservator for Special Collections at Harvard College Library. Her lab is going to be featured in the next issue of *Harvard Magazine*, so you big-H alums, be on the lookout. **Jacqui JOHNSON-Eaton** lives in Silver Spring, MD, where, after starting out in the D.C. schools under Teach for America in 1998, she continues her work as an elementary school teacher. She married a fellow Howard U. alum in November 2002. She happens to work with **Nancy O'Neill's** mom, so Jacqui can report that Nancy has a son who was born last year and who is highly adored by his grandmother. **Keisha SUTTON-James** reports that after getting her MBA from Wharton in 2001, she is now working at J.P. Morgan Private Bank. She was married in 2002 to Michael James, whom she met during college when she was an intern on Capital Hill. They live in NYC. **Naomi BERNER Derner** reports that she and her husband are taking a little break from San Fran on a long vacation to London, Amsterdam, Tanzania and Zanzibar. And finally, **Ron Colombo** announces that he and his wife, Kimberly, are expecting their second child on May 19,

2004. Any more info or email addresses to share? Don't be a stranger! Write to Nina Habib Spencer at habib.nina@epa.gov. • **George Greco '91** is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Goucher College in Baltimore, MD. • **Amy Sohn '91** was married in October, 2003 to painter Charles Miller in Becket, MA. Fellow Hunterites **Vanessa Grigoriadis '91** (HCES '85), **Sarah Kovner '91** and **Jessica Forsyth '91** were in attendance. Amy is currently completing her second novel, *My Old Man*, which will be published by Simon & Schuster in September. Charles is working on a series of paintings of Jewish boxers from the Golden Age. They can be reached at amy@amysohn.com. • **Erin Manning '92** is engaged to **Max Kellerman '91**. • **Caroline Ross '93** married Dan Grossman in July, 2003. Classmates **Erica ROSENFELD Halverson**, **Jessica Smith**, **Miwa Geiger**, **Erica Chong** and **Erica Litke** were all in attendance. Caroline's fellow HCHS alum and sister, **Juliet Ross '96**, also attended and is planning to get married herself in 2004. Caroline recently earned her MBA at the University of Chicago and is currently working in marketing at Kraft Foods. • **Capt. David H. Chen '96** is back from Iraq after serving with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division for nine months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He remains stationed at Ft. Stewart, Georgia. • **Judy Seltzer '96** is a fourth-year student at the Royal Veterinary College in England. • **Crystal Wong '98** is currently living in Japan finishing up the second (and last) year of her stint in the JET Programme, where she is an ALT (Assistant Language Teacher) teaching English to high school students. It's been a great way to learn about herself and about Japanese culture. • **Lawrence Strauss '99** will be marrying fellow Brandeis alum Terri Machtiger this May. He has been accepted to the H.L. Miller Cantorial School, and he and his by-then-wife will be spending the 2004–2005 academic year in Jerusalem—in the uncontroversial western part of the city, he hastens to point out. He can be reached at flourdustedhazzn@netscape.net.

CLASS NOTES

2000s

Amy Berkowitz '01 is currently a Junior at Tufts University, majoring in International Arts and Letters. At Tufts, she received a Neubauer research scholarship, and is using the grant to make a documentary film about “marriages of convenience” between gays and lesbians in India. She is in the pre-production phase, doing lots of background research and emailing potential subjects, and plans to shoot the film this summer in Bombay. **Sandi Simcha Dubowski '88's** recent film, *Trembling Before G-d* (about Orthodox Jewish gays and lesbians), was a huge inspiration for Amy—she thought the subjects' stories were fascinating, and she was really amazed that people were willing to open up about such sensitive issues on camera. • **David Roth '01** is currently attending Williams College and has spent the past academic year studying at Oxford.

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

Desperately Seeking Sarah Maria Jones

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

35TH REUNION PLANNING FOR THE CLASS OF '70

There is about a year to plan our reunion. If you have not been receiving email from Bonnie QUINT Kaplan, please either send your email address to: bonnieq@pobox.com or write to Bonnie: 35 Prospect Park West, #11C, Brooklyn, NY 11215 requesting postal mail (if you don't have email). The more people from our class who participate and the more varied life experiences we can share, the better our reunion will be.

NEW ALUMNAE/I DIRECTORY IN THE WORKS

The Alumnae/i Association has signed with the Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company to produce an updated directory book; our last edition was published in 2000. The directory will include each alum's year of graduation, up to three degrees earned, spouse/partner's and children's names, residential and business addresses and telephone numbers, and email address. There will also be separate appendices listing grads by class year, geographic location and career code. Questionnaires will be sent out late in the spring by email or postal mail, and the book will be published early in 2005.

ALUMNOTES IS FREE—BUT IT COSTS US MONEY!!

Your dues expiration date (MONTH/YEAR) is printed above your name and address on the back page. All alums are encouraged to pay dues, but payment is not required for membership in the association. We use dues monies to help run our office, print and mail three or four issues of *AlumNotes* per year to over 10,000 alums (with a cost of more than \$10,000 per issue) and prepare for our yearly reunion. Contributions above and beyond dues are also encouraged and are funneled to the High School several times per year. Dues are good for one year from the date on which they are received. If you have any questions about your dues status, please feel free to contact our office. Remember, the Alumnae/i Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; therefore, dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We are also able to accept gifts of marketable securities (email us to ask us for transfer instructions) and we are eligible for matching gifts from employers.

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.”

In Memoriam

Former faculty member and alum **Dr. Leah JONAS Peavy** '35(?) died on February 4, 2004, at the age of 96. She earned a B.A. in English from Hunter College, where she was Phi Beta Kappa, and a doctorate from Columbia University. She taught English at HCHS until 1948, when she left to stay home with her two daughters. She is well-remembered by her former high school students for her fabulous ability to foster good writing and a strong desire to pursue college-level research on analysis of literature. When she returned to working it was at Hunter College, where she gave courses in English composition, Milton and Shakespeare. Living in retirement in Mineola, she served on the Mineloa Library Board, hosted The Wednesday Night Drama Discussion Group at her house for many years, taught the 6th grade bible class for Corpus Christi Church, led the Tuesday Morning Poetry Discussion Group, and was a frequent contributor to the Muttontown Unitarian Church newsletter. She is survived by her two daughters and four grandchildren.

Betty LEWIS Yanowitz, Jan. '45 and Hunter College August '44, died on March 3, 2004. She received her M.A. in Psychology and was a school psychologist for the Yonkers, NY school district. She is survived by Robert Yanowitz, her husband of 56 years, and by a son, Dr. Edward Yanowitz, a daughter, Dr. Joanne Max, and grandsons Eric and Andrew Max.

Mary Anne KENNEDY Angell '45 was killed in an automobile accident on December 28, 2003. She earned a B.S. from the University of Rochester and a Master's Degree in Zoology from Columbia University. She was a long-time resident of Mamaroneck, NY, before retiring to Wilmington, VT. She worked for IBM for over 30 years, including a three-year stint in Paris as a telecommunications consultant. After retiring, she and her husband traveled extensively, as she supported his photographic pursuits in recording people, cultures, and nature. She spent five summers volunteering for

the Alaska Parks Department, took a motorcycle trip through Europe and visited Antarctica five times. In addition to her devotion to her husband and family, she had many lifelong passions including foreign languages, crossword puzzles, the *New Yorker* magazine, cooking, reading, and community and volunteer work. She is survived by her husband of more than 52 years, Bob Angell, and their four children and five grandchildren.

Marilyn ESTREICHER Zinder, Jan. '47 died on January 30, 2004. Her death was sudden and shocking in that it was the result of her being hit by an 18-wheeler truck on 1st Avenue as she was on her way to meet some friends for lunch. Marilyn is fondly remembered by the Alumnae/i Association as an administrative volunteer in the early days of the association and 2nd vice president from 1996 to 1998. She is survived by her husband, Norton Zinder, a renowned scientist and a professor emeritus of genetics at Rockefeller University who discovered bacterial transduction. Also surviving are two sons, Michael and Stephen, and five grandchildren. Besides supporting her husband in his work, Marilyn worked as a reading tutor at Julia Richman High School and as a volunteer caseworker for the city's Department of Consumer Affairs. The Alumnae/i Association is accepting donations to a memorial fund in Marilyn's honor.

Estelle ROTHENBERG Green '49 died in mid-March, 2004, after a brief hospitalization. She earned a B.A. from Queens College, an M.A. and Ed.D. from Columbia University, and was retired as an Assistant Professor at CUNY. At the time of her death, she was actively working with several class members to organize the class's 55th reunion and had once again offered to host a party at her apartment as she had for the 50th. Her funeral on March 17th was attended by 3,000 people. Estelle is survived by her husband, Robert, and children, Peter and Sara.

Nellie V. PENTTILA Luoma '50 died on Oct. 9, 2003 after a long illness, at

the home of her son in Wareham, MA. She was born in 1933 in Kotka, Finland. She lived in New York City, spending her childhood in Harlem. She enjoyed taking tours of Harlem and teaching the tour leaders about the Finnish-American landmarks in Harlem. She was an alumna of Hunter College (1954) and was active in fundraising for the college, particularly supporting the Art Department. She was interested in the restoration of the Alvar Aalto designed library in Viipuri after a visit there in 1992. She was a member of many New York City museums, Finlandia Foundation, the American Scandinavian Foundation and Scandinavian Society. She was a trademark specialist for ExxonMobil and retired after a distinguished career. She is survived by her husband, Robert W., of New York City, and two children, Robert J. of Wareham, MA and Irja C. (HCHS 1972) of Londonderry, NH.

Reina S. GOTTESMAN Tanenbaum '58 died on December 1, 2003 at the age of 62. She earned a B.A. and an M.A. from NYU, but always said that her years at HCHS were responsible for imbuing in her a desire for learning. She was married for over 40 years to William Tanenbaum who remembers her as his best friend, partner, confidante and sweetheart. She was an extraordinarily loving mother and a wonderful grandmother, who was looking forward to the births of two more grandchildren from her daughters Ruthie and Betty. William writes that Reina's righteous soul now rests with God.

The Alumnae/i Association also has been advised of the passing of the following individuals: **Ada RYAN Titterton** '25, **Fanny SCHERL Weinstein** '25, **Alma MENLINE Toplon** '26, **Helen OBERSTEIN Lowenthal** '30, **Annette BAGDANOWSKY Lipman** '31, **Mildred LENSCH Bokair** '33, **Sydell BERNSTEIN Chubak** '40, **Hilda WIGDER, Jan.** '49, **Joan FISCHL Fuhrman, Jan.** '50, **Rhoda KRAMER Channing** '58, **Grace Connor** '58 and **Dr. Evlin Lura Cook FRIEDMAN Kinney Wright** '63.

AlumnaGrams

Rose Hartman '55 lends a "creative eye and elegant touch" to her special events photography. Contact her by phone or fax: 212-242-2933.

Mary DiPerna '70 (who designed the Alumnae/i Association's membership database) celebrates her company's 19th year providing PC consulting, database development and hands-on training for business users of Excel, Access, Filemaker, Word, Outlook and more. Contact her at marydiperna@mdpsystemsinc.com.

Judy & Tai Wong '88, who author the Alum Profile in each issue of *AlumNotes*, will be running a column about former Social Studies chairman E. Ira Marienhoff in a future issue. Mr. Marienhoff taught for 25 years at HCHS and passed away 10 years ago this December. They would welcome any memories, stories, or comments of Mr. Marienhoff. Please email all submissions to Tai Wong at wongdoer@yahoo.com.

DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE TO SEND? Send your 135-character AlumnaGram to 10,000 Hunterites for just \$10. Add another \$10 for more than 135 characters; a maximum of 270 characters total is allowed. To send an AlumnaGram, please send your name, address, daytime telephone number, check made payable to HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc., and, of course, your message, to: HCHS Alumnae/i Association, Inc., Hunter College, Box 373, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY!

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 would like your email address displayed on our Website—www.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.

MERCHANDISE

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 T-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.

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

Year of Graduation: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

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

DUES

- ☐ Classes of '00 and earlier \$30
☐ Classes of '01-'03 \$15
☐ Class of '04 FREE
☐ Senior/Fixed Income \$20

- ☐ Premium Membership \$75
Includes choice of one: Entry to Reunion /
T-shirt / 2 mugs / Teddy Bear / Apron. Please
indicate choice and size, if applicable: _____.
(The value of your gift will decrease the
amount of your tax-deductible contribution;
you may also choose to give your entire
contribution to the Association.)

REUNION 2004 (SUNDAY, JUNE 6)

- ☐ Classes prior to '54 or after '98 \$15 (for alums of more than 50 years or
less than 6 years)
☐ Dues paid members—'54 thru '98 \$25
☐ Non-dues paid members \$30 (\$35 if paid at the door)

☐ **MILESTONE CLASS GIFT:** _____

☐ **FUNDRAISER DONATION:** _____

Please indicate if you'd like your contribution earmarked for a specific area.

MERCHANDISE (includes postage & handling and NYS sales tax)

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ (Make check payable to: HCHS Alumnae/i Association., Inc.)

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