

Summer
2013

AlumNotes



HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC. • VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1



FEATURE STORY

Alums in the Arts

PAGE 6

Letter From the Co-Presidents

Dear fellow Hunter graduates,

Casual observers of New York's top public high schools tend to assign labels to those schools. Stuyvesant and Bronx Science are the math and science schools. LaGuardia is the performing arts school. Hunter is the humanities school. And "jock school" is not the first term that comes to mind when describing any of them. Hunter's excellence in the humanities continues to be one of our *alma mater's* most notable characteristics, but Hunter excels in many other areas. Thanks in part to the generosity of our alumnae/i, Hunter is a math and science school, a performing arts school, and, yes, a school with students who excel in the gym, on the track, in the pool, and on the field, in addition to the classroom.

HUNTER IS A MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOL. Over the past few years, Hunter has dramatically expanded the opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience as scientists and engineers. Today, dozens of students participate in the HCHS Science Research Program, created with the generous support of alumna **Judy Lewent '66**. The students conduct original research and present their findings at scientific competitions and symposia. This year, Hunter students also received scholarships for competitive summer science programs funded by the Alumnae/i Association. The alumnae/i who attended this year's reunion assembly saw a demonstration by another science program supported by the HCHSAA – the Rohawks student robotics team. The next generation of robotics team members will develop their skills in a new ninth and tenth grade engineering program the Alumnae/i Association funded this spring. The Alumnae/i Association has also purchased tens of thousands of dollars in computers, graphing calculators, and laboratory equipment used by the mathematics and science departments.

HUNTER IS AN ARTS SCHOOL. The cover story in this issue of *AlumNotes* describes just a few of the alumnae/i who have distinguished themselves in careers in the arts. The performing arts also were a focus of the Alumnae/i Association's 2013 Spring Gala, where we honored award-winning actress **Cynthia Nixon '84**. Today, Hunter students interested in the performing arts have a variety of choruses, orchestras and other instrumental groups, and dramatic societies to choose from. The Alumnae/i Association and PTA renovated the auditorium and are now renovating the music rehearsal studios. The HCHSAA has also purchased musical instruments and equipment for the digital art and music lab, and funded a "Hunter Then and Now" photography project.

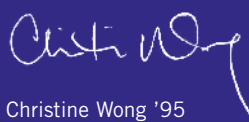
HUNTER IS AN ATHLETIC POWERHOUSE. Interscholastic athletics has been a vital part of the Hunter student experience for the past three decades. Today, Hunter fields 31 high school athletic teams (15 girls' teams, 13 boys' teams, and three co-ed squads), plus a number of middle school teams. This year, Hunter won city titles in girls' fencing and boys' lacrosse, and the girls' and boys' swim teams, boys' and girls' volleyball teams, and boys' fencing team all enjoyed long runs in the city playoffs. Hunter even produced a state champion in girls' wrestling (**Sara Andresen '14**). The PTA provides the majority of private funding for the athletic program, with the Alumnae/i Association funding renovations and new equipment for the weight room used by the athletic teams and physical education classes, as well as a "Wall of Fame" honoring our school's athletic history.

We continue to be amazed by Hunter students' achievements in these areas and many more, and we are proud that, for the second consecutive year, the HCHSAA provided more than \$200,000 in financial support to Hunter. With your help, the Alumnae/i Association will continue to support Hunter students as they excel in all of their academic and extracurricular endeavors.

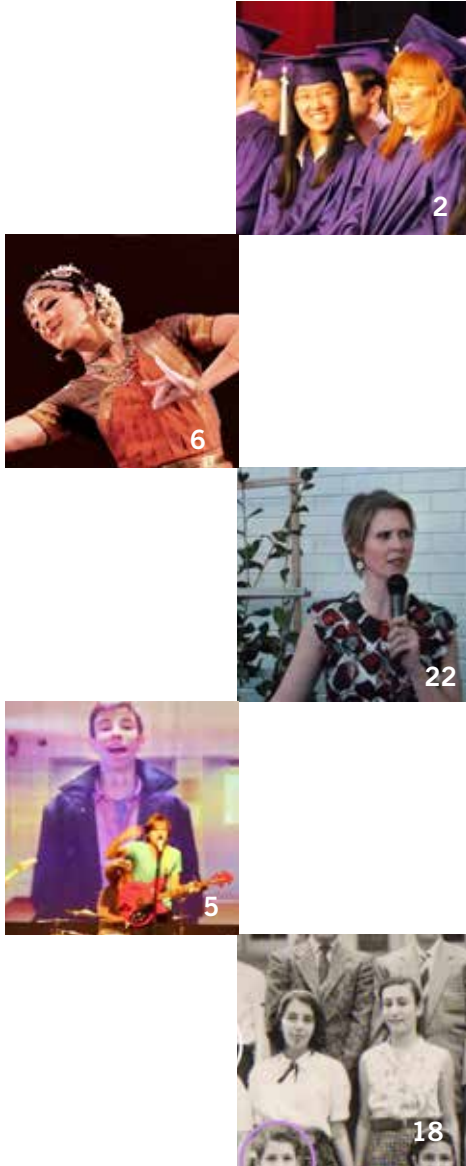
Sincerely yours,



Jason P. Criss '92
Co-President



Christine Wong '95
Co-President



ALUMNOTES SUMMER 2013

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On the cover: Still from a production of FLORIDA, an opera by Randall Eng '90

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*“I know that I sit
in the president’s
chair at Hunter
College only
because I stood
where you do
today, having met
the challenge of
a Hunter High
School education.”*

— Jennifer Raab '73

Graduation 2013

On Thursday, June 13, seniors from the HCHS Class of 2013 filed into the Hunter College auditorium to the strains of *Pomp and Circumstance* and cheers from proud parents, friends, and extended family. The ceremony included greetings from Hunter College President **Jennifer Raab '73** and District 4 Council Member **Daniel Garodnick**, as well as words of advice from Principal **Dr. Tony Fisher** and the 2013 Distinguished Graduate **Jon Daniels '95**. There were also musical selections performed by members of the graduating class, including *Home* by Phillip Phillips and instrumental piece *Grown Blue* by **Nick Burka '13**, and the presentation of the Class Gift of new, eco-friendly water fountains for the school.

Below are excerpts from the ceremony.

“We are gathered here today to witness the sacred matrimony between a few dozen eager high school students and one of the first tangible signs of our successes: our diplomas. Indeed one cannot frame intangibles, such as friendships or particularly compelling class discussions, on the wall; this is why it is so important that you are all here today, because this is the last large intangible moment of our high school careers. After today, our time in high school will be defined in physical terms: memories will be incited by yearbooks, diplomas, and old sports jerseys. But here and now, together, we are creating a final joint experience before

we move on to different places and pursuits. Here and now, we want to revel in the untouchables: your love, your encouragement, your compassion, your wisdom, and our thanks. Here and now, we consider how we’ve grown together in the last six years. To be sure, the last few years have had their ups and downs, but it was ultimately you who brought us back up to those high points. Our graduation is exactly that – OUR graduation: mine, theirs, and yours. We couldn’t be up here head-to-toe in purple without you.” – Rachel Kaly '13, Salutations

“I am fortunate to be blessed with a number of prestigious degrees from universities, but there is only one diploma that hangs on the wall of my office upstairs. That diploma is the same one that you will receive today. I chose to hang only my high school diploma because I know that I sit in the president’s chair at Hunter College only because I stood where you do today, having met the challenge of a Hunter High School education.... We can only imagine the extraordinary future accomplishments of the graduates sitting onstage today. **Sindy Tan**, who conducts research on structural biology using techniques such as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, may discover a cure for cancer. Sindy may also have a side-career in 21st century fashion design, which she began by engineering and creating her stunning electric prom dress. We expect **Kevin Chiu** to one day take Hollywood by storm. Kevin’s

extraordinary stop-motion video *More: The Hunter Pixilation Project*, featuring 140 Hunter College High School students, has been picked up by websites and been seen by hundreds of thousands of viewers. I would not be surprised if **Jared Ross Pochtar** and **Andre Asher Arslan** returned one day to receive their Distinguished Graduate Awards. A technological wizard, Jared took computer programming classes at Hunter College, Columbia, and served as a TA. Andre won a gold medal and the Romanian Master of Mathematics competition in Bucharest. We expect the class of 2013 to make contributions to literature, since five of today’s graduates won prizes in the annual CCNY poetry contest, including **Arielle Korman** and **Shayla Partridge** in first and second place. So graduates, I wish time allowed for me to sing allowed each one of your extraordinary accomplishments. I am in awe of your brilliance and ambition, and proud of the role Hunter has played in shaping your futures. You made Hunter, as we said in my day, by passing a difficult test. But then Hunter helped make you by nurturing your talents, demanding excellence, and pushing you to fulfill your potential.” – Jennifer Raab '73, President of Hunter College

“I’ve been considering the top two benefits that I got from my time at Hunter. One: it really forced me to step out of my comfort zone. I was a little mama’s boy from Queens – I see a few of you amongst us here as well – and I was very comfortable in my little cocoon there; same

friends since kindergarten, had it all planned out to junior high and what high school I was going to go to. Basically I was going to stay where I was and not be challenged. And what Hunter forced me to do, both directly and indirectly, was to experience new things. Coming into the city for the first time, you learn to have your head on a swivel, get street smart and understand what's going on around you – things that you don't know at the time but are truly going to help you regardless of what you do in life – and basically understand that there's more in life than you've experienced and there always will be. And number two, this was my first exposure, truly, to diversity. I think we take that for granted about Hunter, but there aren't many schools that offer what it does. First of all, being in New York City and the great diversity that we experience here, but then pulling from all five boroughs, people of different backgrounds, religions, financial means, thought processes, and it really forced me for the first time to understand that not everyone thought like me. And in my current job, I deal with people who are aged sixteen to eighty, from all fifty states, from twenty-five different countries around the world, and I can better appreciate where they're coming from because at a young age I had to experience people from different backgrounds.”

– Jon Daniels '95, Distinguished Graduate

“Dr. Fisher, President Raab, Mr. Daniels, teachers, parents, guests, and the graduating class of 2013: thank you so much. When I sat down to write this speech – or rather, when I cleared my desk of empty coffee cups and never-opened test prep books to write this speech – I had no idea how to compose a cohesive, unifying address to comprehensively represent our graduating class. So I didn't write that speech. I simply can't. Are we united? Of course. Are we passionate? You bet. Have we succeeded? Absolutely. But are we a uniform body? Am I equipped to speak on behalf of the lives of these 197 men and women I've lived with for the past few years? No way. We are graduating together, but we are a class of individuals. If I have learned anything from this class of students – and I have learned a great deal – it is that there is more than one way to overcome an obstacle. We all started from the same place, and we're back here together at the end of it all. I got here my way, and I loved the ride.” – Simon Bloch '13, Class Speech

“Look around you, look at your classmates. Take a moment to think about how much you



Top: Serina Chang '15, Miru Osuga '14, Jae Eun Kim '15, Faith Pak '15, and Katrina Gonzales '16 play before the ceremony; Bottom: the Class of 2013

owe to them. It is not just that you would never have gotten all this work done without each other for help and support, in person and on-line, although that is certainly true. You have, in so many ways, made it easier for yourselves to achieve all that you have. Collectively, you have made it OK to stay up late working instead of just giving up. You have made it OK to continue a philosophical or political conversation after class is over. You have made it OK to do calculus homework in the hallway. You have made it OK to hang out and have long and sometimes questionable conversations right outside the principal's office. You have made it OK to stay late multiple days of every week of the year, debating or practicing quiz bowl or rehearsing a scene one more time. You have created a remarkable culture of curiosity and academic

achievement amongst yourselves, along with a sense of belonging and especially of caring for one another. If you believe those who graduated from Hunter before you, you may or may not be lucky enough to find this sense of community anywhere else. So here is my obligatory advice to you: don't leave it up to luck. First, stay in touch with each other. Second, everywhere you go, look for like-minded souls whose sense of purpose you share. Use your time at Hunter as a constant reminder that, as amazingly talented as you are, you will achieve so much more if you are part of a team and part of a true community.” – Dr. Tony Fisher, Principal of Hunter College High School

News from the School

“Yiddish Diva” Celebrated

Reyna Schaechter '13 was profiled in *The Jewish Week* for her fluency with Yiddish, which has led her to work as a volunteer at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, transcribing and translating recorded testimonies of Holocaust survivors. Not only that, but she and her sister and father formed The Schaechter Sisters, a singing group that performs original Yiddish musical revues in schools, synagogues, retirement homes, and festivals. The group was the subject of the 2012 documentary film *When Our Bubbas and Zaydes Were Young*.

Girls Wrestling Champions

Sara Andresen '14 won her weight class in the New York girls' state wrestling championships. Hunter was also host to the Inaugural PSAL Girls Wrestling Season in April, with eighty wrestlers from eight different schools. Both Sara and fellow Hunterite **Sarah Tortorici '13** won their weight classes in the tournament.

A Stop-Motion Video Leads to Internet Stardom and a Concert

More: The Hunter Pixilation Project started as a graduation project; a video comprised of 1991 still photos put together in Quicktime and set to



The band Cheers Elephant performs at HCHS while *More* screens in the background

the single *Leaves* by the band Cheers Elephant. The result is a wonderful example of the spirit, enthusiasm, and incredible creativity of Hunter students today and always. The video, posted on Vimeo by creator **Kevin Chiu '13**, went viral, ending up on sites like *Buzzfeed* and *Humans of New York*, shared by bands like OKGo and Colossal, as well as alums **Lin-Manuel Miranda '98** and **Christopher Hayes '97**. But perhaps the best result of the project, for Kevin and his fellow students, was the fact that Cheers Elephant saw the video and loved it so much that they decided to come to New York and play a special concert at Hunter. As Kevin says in a post on the site *Imgur*, “a little bit of passion can go a long way.” See the video here: www.vimeo.com/62474345

Celebrating Hunter Scientists



Divya Sampath '13 and Mildred SPIEWAK Dresselhaus '47

The HCHS Science Research Program is designed to promote original student research in science by providing upper-term research students the chance to do what real scientists do: read journals, communicate with professional researchers, and plan and carry out a project to an appropriate research conclusion. The Science Research Symposium is an annual opportunity for the students not only to present their research to the public, but to learn from a Hunter alumna/us who has made significant contributions in their field.

The third annual symposium took place this year on May 23 in the high school auditorium. After snacking on light refreshments, the students and guests gathered to listen to opening remarks from Master of Ceremonies **Divya Sampath '13**, a senior whose own work focused on paleontology

research at the American Museum of Natural History, followed by terrapin conservation and population analysis at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Reserve. Divya spoke about the year in SRP, including the thirteen students who were named authors on publications, the four who were named Siemens semi-finalists, and the sixteen who were named New York City Science and Engineering finalists – five of whom went on to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair, bringing home a third place award in microbiology and a second place award in plant sciences. She then introduced keynote speaker **Mildred SPIEWAK Dresselhaus '47**, whose work in carbon research and nanoscience has garnered her the US National Medal of Science, the Fermi Award, the Kavli Prize, and twenty-eight honorary doctorates. Mildred spoke for over an hour, detailing not only her trailblazing history as a female scientist in the 1950s and 1960s, but also the specifics of her research and current work with nanotubes. Dr. Dresselhaus' lecture was followed by three student presentations: “Improved Accuracy for a Human Pose Imaging Robotics Control System” by **William Thompson '13**; “Reinventing Antibiotics: Diminishing Antibiotic Resistance in MRSA using Gram-Positive Lysins” by **Alexander Epstein '14**; and “Optimization of Alignment and Registration in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Medical Image Analysis” by **Sindy Tan '13**. Each student explained not only their actual research methods and processes, but also eventual outcomes and future plans for continued work.



Alexander Epstein '14 explains his research project



*“It’s a long road
from shyness
and timidity
to unfettered
creativity, and
Hunter was the
vital first step.”*

— *Sofia Perez ’85*

Alums in *the Arts*

We all know about our famous Hunter alums – the performing artists, writers, and creators who have “made it.” From award-winning stage and film stars like **Lin-Manuel Miranda ’98**, **Bobby Lopez ’93**, **Cynthia Nixon ’84**, and opera singer **Martina Arroyo, Jan. ’53**, to writers like **Amy Sohn ’91** and poet laureate **Audre Lorde ’51**, to hip hop artists like **Marvin “Young MC” Young ’85** of *Bust a Move* fame, Hunter is well known as an alma mater of creative celebrities.

But the measure of an artist is not fame, but dedication, passion, and perseverance. The truly incredible thing about Hunter is not how many of its alums are renowned, but how many of them have made careers for themselves – sometimes, multiple careers! – in these difficult and frequently unclear industries.

We polled over fifty alums who self-identify as actors, dancers, performers, painters, musicians, composers, writers, poets, potters, curators, developers, administrators, and supporters. At first glance, they have little in common; they are diverse in their interests, varied in their paths, and dispersed around the country and all over the world. But in reaching out to them – listening to their stories and experiences – the Alumnae/i Association discovered a number of similarities.

What is most remarkable, perhaps, is the fact that so many alums have managed to incorporate myriad passions and skills into their artistic

endeavors and careers. **Matthew Brand ’84**, for example, approached his career as an artist from the point of view of a mathematician. As the inventor of specular holography, a type of optical illusion that tricks the eye into seeing a 2D object as 3D, he is, in essence, a light sculptor, whose work is on display at the Museum of Math. “Renaissance artists made extensive use of planar and projective geometry in composing their paintings,” he explains. “The old masters put ‘easter eggs’ in their paintings to show off their mastery of optics. In the last century, artists doing large-scale commissions have come to depend heavily on mathematical modeling to solve design problems. Right now, there’s a generation of digital-savvy artists growing up with mathematical models of natural shapes and processes built right into their tools. In all cases, math is the tool that shapes the art.”

Jane Dubin ’74 credits her Hunter math studies and college math major with some of her success as a Broadway and off-Broadway producer. “There are so many aspects and so many different roles needed to make art, which means the backgrounds of people are not homogeneous. In producing, people have many ways to the same end – some come up as actors, directors, designers on the creative side; some through stage management, company management; others through investing, business, etc.... Believe it or not, the most important subject for me has always been math.”

Tamara Nadel ’91, meanwhile, is a dancer

and soloist with the nationally recognized company Ragamala Dance, where she has been part of the creation and performance of over twenty original works and toured extensively to such venues as the Kennedy Center, American Dance Festival, and Edinburgh Fringe Festival. “One of the major reasons I was drawn to Ragamala’s work, and what keeps me engaged nineteen years later, is the way it integrates the body, mind, and soul. The nature of the work is such that, in order to bring it to life, we as dancers need to engage with it on all three levels. Particularly for those of us who are not Indian, our jobs require constant learning about the philosophy, spirituality, mythology, iconography, music, literature, visual art, and history of South India. All of Ragamala’s dancers have Bachelors (if not Masters) degrees in areas like History, Religious Studies, English, International Relations, and Museum Studies.” She also serves as the company’s Development and Outreach Director, a position which provides a full time salary and means that “unlike other dancers – who also work long days, often waiting tables – all of my work is toward the same goal: to fund, create, rehearse, and share Ragamala’s work.”

For both **Mary Lugo ’73** and **Susan L. Schulman ’62**, careers in publicity have provided ways to augment a love of an art with various forms of creativity. “It combines so many skills – writing, communicating, and being creative,” says Mary, a film and television publicist, “and I’ve been fortunate to have the opportunity to



Photo credit: Grant Halverson ©ADF

ON FRIENDSHIPS

“Hunter provided me with some really good friends, and they are at the back of my mind when I write. They are a very important part of my intended audience.” – Jean Kwok



“In my case, just being with all those wonderfully talented women who became my dearest friends was worth the price of admission.” – Gareth MANN Sitz



“I was surrounded by fellow students who were working hard and achieving, as well as recent alumnae and faculty that cheered us on. We were made aware of alumnae contributions, and saw what was possible.” – Zenaide NEWMAN Reiss

Tamara Nadel '91 in Ragamala Dance's Sacred Earth

work with some great filmmakers.” Susan, who works on Broadway and off-Broadway, agrees; “few realize that, as a theatrical press agent, I am responsible for how a new play is perceived. My job is to create the right expectations for both the critics and the audience.” **Elizabeth Kandel '99** also does marketing for Broadway and off-Broadway, and found a life in arts administration fundamentally fulfilling. “I left Hunter knowing that all I wanted to do was perform, but I didn’t want to lead the life of an actor. The summer after my freshman year of college, I interned at The League of American Theatres and Producers (now known as The Broadway League) and it was the first time I realized that it was possible to work in an office and still contribute to theater.... I ended up creating a major in Theater Management.”

All the alums we polled credit Hunter for providing them with an education that made it possible for them to think critically and bravely about how they wanted to make their lives in the arts. **Joan Rudd '65**, a sculptor and painter, points out that “living a self-directed life takes enormous discipline and sense of purpose. Constantly stretching to improve adds meaning to the striving for full potential.” “The competition was harsh,” agrees **Gareth MANN Sitz '64**, “but it helped me to become realistic about what a life in the theater would entail...

Hunter’s academic rigor made me very focused as an artist.” As a result, Gareth has made her life as a theater artist and teacher in the smaller community of Elgin, IL because “after all the competition and striving at Hunter, it’s quite lovely to just enjoy being able to use my talents to make my community a better place.” **Sofia Perez '85** started her career in journalism, but has branched out to include creative writing.

“I have always wanted to be a writer, but when I was younger I wouldn’t have dared to utter that wish out loud.... My fear was this: what happens if I declare my dream to write and pursue it, but end up failing at it?... It’s a long road from shyness and timidity to unfettered creativity, and Hunter was the vital first step.”

More than that, however, alums spoke with fondness and, frequently, awe for not only their friends and fellow classmates, but older and younger Hunterites who inspired them while at school. “Audre Lorde was my big sister when I was in 8th grade. Martina Arroyo used to practice with Miss Hochman in the auditorium,” says **Rosaly DEMAIOS Roffman '55**, now a poet and writer. “Sometimes I would sit in the hall just to listen to them without any idea who this woman Martina was.” **Michael Goldwasser '89**, now a record producer (*Dub Side of the Moon*), recalls being inspired to form a band with his classmates after seeing **Michael Holt '86** perform

ON GROWING UP IN NEW YORK

"My band The Feds got our start playing at Hunter dances and by tenth grade we were playing at clubs and bars around the city, which was fun and exciting, and which certainly whet my appetite for a career in music. It wasn't difficult. Yes, I might have been pretty tired on a Friday morning after a Thursday night gig, but the happiness that I got from playing music made it all worth it." – Michael Goldwasser

✱

"I went to museums all the time (I would even cut class sometimes to go to the MoMA... shh!!)... and I studied life drawing at the Arts Students League on Saturdays."
– Caroline Ellen

✱

"I remember that Mr. Rosenberg got us tickets to dress rehearsals of Wozzeck and The Rake's Progress at the Met in 7th grade, which blew my mind. These two seminal 20th-century works were my first experiences in the opera house, and I'm so glad that I was exposed to them before I got to know the older operatic canon." – Randall Eng

during an Arts Week. "That might have been the first time that I realized that a kid like me from Hunter could perform great music on stage and make a lot of people happy. And Michael's band, The Connotations, was the epitome of cool to me and my group of friends."

Many alums talked not about specific Hunter-ites, but rather a culture among the students, one in which Sofia Perez says "we could express our intelligence and quirkiness without ridicule – where we all had license to be deep or just deeply weird. That kind of freedom is essential to all of the arts." **Donna Minkowitz '81**, now a memoir writer and essayist with a new book coming out in September, recalls being instilled with a deep love of learning by Irving Kizner, her Latin and Greek teacher. "He kept putting out the

message that literature was important, that language was beautiful, and that the two were intimately connected.... We would be on the edge of our seats, listening." **Zenaide NEWMAN Reiss '46** credits the culture with helping her to pursue her love of textile arts, because she understood that "I had what it took to apply myself to the task and do the work to reach any goal. I was surrounded by fellow students who were working hard and achieving, as well as recent alumnae and faculty who cheered us on." **Elan Bogarin '00**, who has a film company with her brother, **Jonathan Bogarin '96**, agrees that "the key to Hunter is the people. Every person I knew, whether they were into the arts or not, thought creatively. This constant dialogue and diversity of ideas is what prepared me to pursue a career in the arts."

Hunter made that kind of camaraderie possible. **Randall Eng '90**, now a musical theater composer and professor at NYU, credits the time he wrote a musical for Brick Prison Playhouse his senior year as the catalyst for his career in composing. "At that point in my life," he explained, "I knew that I enjoyed making music but I didn't have much experience composing.... I was taking Mr. Rosenberg's Orchestration and Composition Class, where I learned some of the basics of writing for multiple instruments. One of the other students offered to play guitar in the band, and we then found a flute player, a cellist, and a bassist. It all happened pretty easily, which in retrospect was the key. The infrastructure was already in place – we didn't have to figure out how to cast, rehearse, stage, etc. – and without that, there's no way that someone like me would have taken on a project like that. Brick Prison was something I just fell into, but it changed my life." Of course, more than one alum credits the Integrated Arts Program as having a huge influence, not only on themselves as artists, but on how they saw the world.

It wasn't always easy or possible, however, to be a Hunter artist. While the skills they learned served them in a variety of ways, many alums felt discouraged by the hyper-academic culture at Hunter. **Stephanie NG Lowry '80** remem-



Cover of a recent record produced by Michael Goldwasser '89

bers "classmates making jokes about me going to study film in LA [at USC]. It was certainly unconventional at the time. I had no desire to attend an Ivy League school after the rigorous education at Hunter. But I remember hearing things like, 'Stephanie's going to LA to study underwater basket-weaving.' I didn't think that going into film was a respected ambition at the time, not at Hunter. It would have been nice to feel like there was as much support and enthusiasm for the arts as there was for the 'brainier' pursuits. My impression of the school in the present day is that it has changed in that regard. I'm in awe of the artistic talent that has emerged from my alma mater in the past decades." Older alums, especially, remember a time when the school was not as supportive of creative endeavors as it is today. **Elizabeth Hastings '68** wished that "music had a bigger profile. I took part in a program with the National Chorale a few years back that took me to HCHS and I had the opportunity to hear the chorus. I was blown away by its size and quality." **Millicent GERSON Dillon '40** confirms that the school has changed since her time there; "I know, since I have a friend whose grandson goes to Hunter now, how extraordinarily different it is. The Hunter High that I went to – and remember, this was still in the Depression – had no art courses, no music courses, or anything that related to the arts in its curriculum. It was a scholarly school, with no interest in improvisation or creativity, but what it did, it did wonderfully well."

ON HUNTER

“I think having Hunter under my belt gave me a certain amount of confidence that if I could survive Hunter, I could survive much more, and push myself to achieve in areas for which I did not think I had God-given gifts. Hard work and perseverance can somewhat make up for a lack of native ability.” – Stephanie NG Lowry



“It’s only in retrospect that I realize how unique it was for Hunter to be such an academically rigorous place and at the same time be so saturated with the arts. As an adult—working for a company that is committed to community outreach and education—I know that students who are engaged with the arts do better academically. I know that the creativity fostered through arts education is a highly valued skill in a global economy. It’s no coincidence that so many of Hunter’s most prominent alums have made careers in the arts. Hunter really encouraged us to engage both intellectually and creatively.” – Tamara Nadel

“Hunter helped to build the skills needed for success in any chosen field. In addition, the school’s high standards and the constant example of bright, ambitious classmates developed an appetite to aim high and an understanding that real achievement requires hard work. At the same time, and equally important, there was a strong sense that our teachers expected us to succeed and had confidence in our ability to do so. It was something to live up to.” – Michelle MARDER Kamhi



“I have only positive memories of Hunter and am so grateful I went there. Did it encourage me or nurture me as a dancer? No, but that wasn’t its job... Hunter taught me that one must have an academic education and then go out into the world and do whatever you want.” – Judy Weisman

Jessie LINDHOLM Conroy '41 concurs that during the Depression, “practical directions were front and center and a lot of attention to art would have seemed dilettante.”

But it wasn’t just the era – becoming an artist is always fraught with pitfalls, confusion, and financial insecurities. Karen STEIN Gladstone '58 found the prospect “unimaginable, beyond the realm of possibilities. It was not something you could do to support yourself... I viewed the lifestyle as one for interesting young men and wealthy women.” Decades later, when novelist Jean Kwok '86 was at Hunter, she “was still so close to my life working in the sweatshop as a

child that I never allowed myself to consider writing as a profession. I was driven by the need to escape from extreme poverty. I was not going to do anything as insane as going into the arts.”

As a result, many current artists took long paths to arrive at their careers – ones that sometimes involved decades-long professions in other fields. Karen Gladstone got her degree in Journalism and worked at *Look Magazine* and *Dow Jones* and in publishing before moving to a farm in Wisconsin with her husband. After that, they moved to Utah and bought and ran a bakery. Only now, in her “retirement,” does she work in ceramics. Judy Weisman

'69 was a dancer as a young woman, but then became a surgeon for thirty years before returning to dance. “After my kids were born,” she explains, “I did a little community theater and the local *Nutcracker* as an Adult Party Guest. Then followed a number of years of raising my kids as a single mom and being in solo practice; I didn’t have time to dance. Or do much of anything, actually!” While some alums, like Mona DEUTSCH Miller '70, started their artistic careers after having kids (“After my daughter was born, I stopped working [as a lawyer] for a year and stayed home with her. Her arrival and my much-needed departure from the overwhelming grind of the office precipitated a tremendous creative renaissance in my life. I started writing, took screen writing courses, and started writing screen plays”), art was often a part-time hobby by necessity while raising children or providing for families.

Ilene EDELSTEIN Beckerman '53, who wasn’t published until she was 60, writes that she “had six children in seven years. That was my career. When they went to school, I helped my husband start an advertising agency.” She has since published five books, including *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, which was also turned into an Off-Broadway play. Jessie Conroy’s first job was as a technical illustrator working on the manual for the nuclear submarine, a skill which she then used to make money as a freelance patent illustrator while raising her three children and studying painting. “When college tuition bills started to come in,” she writes, “I decided to put my other self to work. At the age of 46, assuming that I had an aptitude for computer work – my BA was in statistics – I felt I should look into computers, since it seemed to be well paying. Luckily, the New York Telephone Company gave me aptitude tests and hired me.... I retired from there at the age of 65, but I was still painting and exhibiting in my free time.” Veena STEEN Burry '60 had a professional career in education as a university librarian and with the NYC Board of Education before she took an early retirement in 2003 to focus on her passion for fiber arts, particularly knitting and crocheting.

It takes a tremendous amount of courage and conviction to follow your heart and have a career in the arts that is fulfilling and sustainable. Even alums who were dissatisfied with the artistic environment during their time agreed that Hunter prepared them to attack their lives – artistic and otherwise – with intelligence and determination. When asked what she learned at Hunter that most contributed to her work as a writer and critic opposing many “avant-garde”

ON HUNTER TEACHERS

“Miss Burstein and Miss Newton opened up a world of creative writing.” – Ilene EDELSTEIN Beckerman

✱

“The huge amount of reading and writing we did (in multiple languages!) has helped me as a writer. We were exposed to a tremendous amount of literature, and there were marvelous teachers. In particular, I want to acknowledge Mrs. Barbara Ellberger (Russian), Mme. Luisa Ghnassia (French), and Mr. Parker Baratta (senior seminar, English).” – Mona DEUTSCH Miller

✱

“In a roundabout way, I owe my sociability with artists to two teachers whose courses I never got to take: Harry Ruderman smoothed a path for me to audit math/sci courses at Hunter College and NYU, which gave me the opportunity to explore the art spaces in the East Village and Soho and get to know some working artists. And Ira Marienhoff, a wonderful conversationalist with whom I had long mutually-enjoyed disagreements, occasionally let rip with inspired diatribes about the ‘weirdos’ in the downtown art scene. So, following teenage logic, I knew I wanted to get involved in that scene before I left NYC.” – Matthew Brand

✱

“The most influential teacher for me was Anna Morello. I feel like she really challenged me to be a critical thinker, and I think that she was a better teacher than any of my subsequent professors at Columbia.

And in the arts, Philip Rosenberg was a music teacher that I had several times, and I really enjoyed his Orchestration and Composition class, which got me thinking about composition on a more serious level.” – Michael Goldwasser

✱

“The teacher who was most influential in my life was Jack McNeil. I still think of him often and I owe any successes I had as an English teacher, staff developer and fiber arts workshop leader to him. He taught me how to look at literature and life as sources of creativity. There was also an art teacher named Mr. Smith I think who taught me to look with understanding at modern art. These two teachers really taught me how to see! They also taught me that there was validity to what I saw and that my interpretations had merit.” – Veena STEEN Burry

✱

“My ninth grade social studies teacher purchased my pastel drawing of flowering forsythia from an HCHS hallway display from the art class. No price was listed. I think she offered me \$40. She stated that she was pretty sure I would get no encouragement at home to be an artist and that she wanted to encourage me, that I ‘had something.’” – Joan Rudd

✱

“Barbara Ames was the elementary school music teacher and was truly inspirational at nurturing our love of performing and our talent. And

she must be doing something right to have churned out Bobby Lopez, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and about half of the members of the band Dujeous. I’m sure there are others I don’t know about. If I hadn’t fallen in love with the arts under her guidance, I wouldn’t have had my ‘Aha!’ moment years later that there were office jobs that still contributed to theater.”

– Elizabeth Kandel

✱

“Unquestionably my most influential teacher at Hunter was Eve Eisenstadt (head of the art department). She is still a close family friend today.”

– Elan Bogarin

✱

“I think I would have ended up in film or TV anyhow, but Mrs. Schaeffler’s TV Production class went a long way towards solidifying my career goals. And her encouragement of our independent study course that resulted in the production of Star Wreck – The Videotape with classmates Mark Lang, David Hyman, and David Wallace revealed what a cool place a movie set could be. The idea that a bunch of friends hanging out playing make believe could actually be a profession was an important lesson to learn! And while I wouldn’t say he was directly influential to my career in the arts, I think Mr. Marienhoff certainly helped me broaden my horizons and think more critically about the world around me.”

– Thunder Levin

ADVICE FOR YOUNG HUNTER ARTISTS

“You must follow your heart. Someone once told me that you should not go into the theatre unless you can’t stand NOT to go into the theatre. I think that applies to all the arts as there are always ways to make more money. You must love it. And, after all these years, I still do.” – Susan L. Schulman



“As an artist, everything you know and you have experienced becomes your art. We do not make art in a vacuum. So, I guess my advice is to suck up all that knowledge. Even the chemistry, math, and physics is going to help, especially if you are going to be a sculptor or a potter. And if nothing else when you get to college those art history and humanities classes will be a breeze.” – Karen STEIN Gladstone



“One cannot be a very profound artist without having been exposed to, and being a part of the ‘bigger picture’. It’s lovely to play Mozart sonatas, but you have a different take on them when you also know The Marriage of Figaro or The Magic Flute. One’s take on The Marriage of Figaro is not complete without exposure to Beaumarchais, or the period of history in question; likewise, with The Magic Flute, one must delve into the religious and sociological climate

that inspired its composition. Be curious.” – Elizabeth Hastings



“Follow your dream! You can always go to law school later!” – Judy Weisman



“Take advantage of Hunter’s proximity to so many great museums, and look at art all the time.” –Caroline Ellen



“You can self-identify as an artist even if that’s not how you earn a living.” – Gareth MANN Sitz



“Be fearless. Whatever your chosen area of the arts: go out and create, experiment, and tell that little censor inside to go far, far away.” – Sofia Perez



“You will learn from your failures. You are young. You can experiment.” – Stephanie NG Lowry



“Everybody’s going to have an opinion. Some discouraging. Listen to everybody--then listen to yourself.” – Ilene EDELSTEIN Beckerman



“Follow your passion! Learn the business.” – Jane Dubin

Ignaz Semmelweis – the young Hungarian doctor whose efforts to prevent childbed fever by requiring doctors to wash their hands were for years scorned by the Viennese medical establishment. It was a moving example of the difficulty in overturning entrenched beliefs, and of the need to persevere if you believe your ideas are right.” **Caroline Ellen ’82** had a career that spanned painting and modeling, before settling into jewelry design. “I think there was a kind of fearlessness that we felt as Hunter students, almost a naïve feeling that the world was our oyster,” she says, “and that was quite helpful for me when I decided I wanted to be a jeweler; I didn’t really stop to worry about what a competitive field it was, I just focused on trying to create beautiful jewelry.”

In the end, regardless of how long it took, or where they practice their arts, all the alums we spoke to were grateful for their Hunter education, for the breadth and scope of it, and for the way it prepared them to meet so many different challenges, artistic and otherwise. “Being an artist of any kind is a long exercise in building a tolerance for rejection and nurturing the hope of perfection,” **Laura Furman ’63**, writer and professor emerita at UT Austin, posits. “Knowing in detail how complicated the world was in the past and is in the present provides an internal and external structure for living as an artist.” “Simply being aware of the larger world and all the different people in it, of different ways of living and different ways of thinking, can’t help but lead to a broader perspective, which then informs your creative process,” says filmmaker **Thunder Levin ’81**. “But in a more practical sense, the liberal arts and general education that Hunter provided made up for the very narrow focus of my film studies at NYU.” But Michael Holt, whose high school band inspired Michael Goldwasser, and who is now a musician and cultural activist, perhaps summed it up best. Because, “coming from an intellectual, academic family, I had to explore that path to realize it wasn’t for me, and Hunter helped me do that. At the same time, a good liberal-arts education helped make me a well-rounded human, which artists need to be in order for their work to have wide relevance. And Hunter really supported me as a creative person. I remember it as a very creative, artistic place, and I hope it is still that way.”

The Alumnae/i Association would like to thank all the alums who emailed and called, especially those who were not mentioned above. It has been incredible to learn about your lives and careers.

innovations in the visual arts, **Michelle MARDER Kamhi ’54** replied that, “oddly enough, one of the most important influences

may have been an assignment in 9th or 10th grade biology class to read and report on a biography of an influential scientist. I picked



Stills from the feature film *Invisible Murals*, directed by Elan Bogarín '00 and Jonathan Bogarín '96. *Invisible Murals* re-imagines the history of oil through the myths, murals, and oral histories of a Venezuelan oil boom town. Funded in part by PBS / invisiblemurals.com.

Hunter Arts Today

In a presentation to the PTA in the fall of 2012, **Julie Reifer**, Chair of the Art Department, and **Michael Stratechuk**, a member of the Music Department, discussed their curricula and teaching philosophies. They stressed that art doesn't just happen – it takes hard work and discipline, and it's important for the students to realize that they have to learn the skills of creation, just like they have to learn how to solve a math problem or write an essay. Every student can improve, and by building these skills, a student is empowered, which translates into confidence and a greater willingness to take risks.

In the arts curricula today, students investigate

history, analyze styles and then apply these concepts to their own creative work. The departments aim to create safe environments that allow students to take chances and learn new things. There is one semester of art and music required in seventh, eighth, and ninth grade. These classes cover European and non-European art forms, historical context for artistic movements, as well as museum trips and related projects, composition courses, and music theory. The advanced electives focus on specific areas of interest, such as photography or jazz. On top of these courses, there are credited electives, such as choir, jazz ensemble, symphonic strings, and concert band.

The English/Communications and Theatre

Department, meanwhile, offers required courses in physical theater, scene study, and acting, as well as more academic literature classes. Upper term electives include creative writing, New York theater, advanced directing and acting, and film studies. There are also usually four mainstage productions each year, plus the mentored student-written work produced by Brick Prison Playhouse. According to the course catalogue, the goal of the department is to “enable students to develop a lasting appreciation of literature and the verbal arts; to learn to express themselves both verbally and in writing with confidence and conviction; [and] to explore the deepest aspects of what it means to be human.”

Want to learn more? Check out the work of these and other Hunter artists!

Ilene EDELSTEIN Beckerman '53

www.ilenebeckerman.com

Elan Bogarin '00

www.invisiblemurals.com;
www.eltigreproductions.com

Jonathan Bogarin '96

www.jonathanbogarin.com

Matthew Brand '84

www.zintaglio.com

Emilie BIX Buchwald '53

(publisher, editor, writer, and co-founder
of Milkweed Editions)
www.milkweed.org/authors/emilie-buchwald

Veena Burry '60

www.knittingguru.com



Shawl by Veena Burry

Maggie SCHNEIDER Cohen '56

(interior designer)
www.maggiecohen.com

Millicent GERSON Dillon '40

www.millicentdillon.com

Jane Dubin '74

www.doubleplayconnections.com

DuJeous (music group made up of

Hunter and LaGuardia alums)
www.dujeous.com

Caroline Ellen '82

www.carolineellen.com

Laura Furman '63

www.laurafurman.com

Karen STEIN Gladstone '58

www.artistsofutah.org/15Bytes/index.php/tag/karen-gladstone

Michael Goldwasser '89

www.michaelgoldwasser.com

Michael Holt '86

www.michaelholtmusic.com

Michelle MARDER Kamhi '54

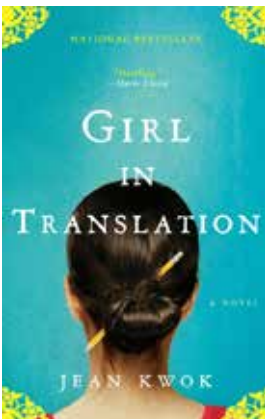
www.aristos.org

Elizabeth Kandel '99

www.situationinteractive.com

Jean Kwok '86

www.jeankwok.com



*Book cover for Jean Kwok's novel
Girl in Translation*

Thunder Levin '81

www.stormfrontfilms.com



Poster for Thunder Levin's film Apocalypse Earth

Stephanie NG Lowry '80

[www.imdb.com/name/nm0523370/?ref_](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0523370/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1)
[=fn_al_nm_1](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0523370/?ref_=fn_al_nm_1)

Jo ASARO Manning '58 (author)

[thebentagency.com/author.](http://thebentagency.com/author.php?id=35&name=Jo_Manning)
[php?id=35&name=Jo_Manning](http://thebentagency.com/author.php?id=35&name=Jo_Manning)

Donna Minkowitz '81

donnaminkowitz.wordpress.com

Tamara Nadel '91

www.ragamaladance.org

Janice GADSEN Pendarvis '69

(musician, voiceover artist, professor at
Berklee College of Music)
www.janicependarvis.com

Sofia Perez '85

www.sofia-perez.com

Joan Rudd '65

www.joanruddsculpture.com



Comforted Among the Mourners, ©Joan Rudd, 2005

Susan L. Schulman '62

www.schulmanpublicity.com

Alum Updates

Shirley YANISHEFSKY Cohen '53

co-edited and co-authored chapters in the book *The ASD Nest Model: A Framework for Inclusive Education for Higher Functioning Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, published this year by the Autism Asperger Publishing Company. The book describes the program she co-developed for the NYC Department of Education that is now based in 20 elementary schools. A companion manual that she co-authored will be published later this year. Shirley is now focusing on a one-year transitional partner program that she developed, entitled *The Intensive Kindergarten*.

Cambridge University Press recently published the second edition of three English as a Second Language textbooks co-written by **Judy SOLOWAY Kay '57**. The series is entitled *Discovery Fiction* and is geared towards high school and college students. Judy received her Masters degree in TESOL from Hunter College, and afterwards taught at Marymount Manhattan College, where she met her *Discovery Fiction* collaborator, Rosemary Gelshenen.



Jane WOLF Waterman '64 (above)

launched www.parentingourparents.org as part of creating an interactive global community for the millions of people caring for their aging parents. She simultaneously released her companion memoir and self-help book on being a parent to her parents. It's called *OH MY GOD! WE'RE PARENTING OUR PARENTS: How to Transform this Remarkable Challenge into a Journey of Love*. Jane shares her professional experience coupled with her own personal story to guide others. She is currently developing a coaching institute to train others interested in helping with this difficult transition. The

book and more are available for sale on the website, as well as online and at bookstores and libraries everywhere.

Ina ALSTER Gravitz '65 was recently installed as the President of the American Society for Indexing.

Helen Epstein '65 (below) had her story about two Berlin schoolgirls in the 1930s published on *The New Yorker* website, over forty years after studying writing in graduate school with journalist and staff writer Paul Brodeur. She also regularly blogs from www.artfuse.org, and publishes e-books of the writing life at www.plunkettlakepress.com. She is currently in the process of finishing her sixth book, a memoir entitled *First Love*.



Regional Chapters of the HCHSAA:

Central NY:

Liz Delora Clinton '60 would like to hear from alums interested in a get together. Her e-mail address is eac4849@aol.com. Please include your preferred location: Syracuse, Ithaca, Skaneateles or Auburn—these locations are most central to the region and hopefully aren't unreasonably far for anyone.

Want to reach out to your local chapter head? Emails are listed below. Don't see one near you? Start one! Email Lillian Meredith at Imeredith@hchsaa.org to find out more.

Young Alums (Classes of '95-'13)

Derek Kan '02, derek.h.kan@gmail.com

NORTH-EAST

New England Region & Greater Boston

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

Northern New England

Dorothy ALTMAN Solomon '57, 603-447-1199, 603-387-7755, litlady@ncia.net

Albany Area (NY)

Phyllis GOLDBERG Ross '49, 518-438-0487, tzipililith@hotmail.com

Central New York

Elizabeth DELORA Clinton '60, 315-415-0568, eac4849@aol.com

SOUTH-EAST

Washington, DC Area

Paula GOLDFARB Post '54, 301-765-1168, pp325@verizon.net

Southern Florida

Edythe WERNER Rishin '41, 954-978-9824, edympr@bellsouth.net

SOUTH-WEST

Texas

Gail LEINKRAM Folloder '69, ladygail@att.net

INTERNATIONAL

Israel

Lorell FELDENSTEIN Blass '45, lorell@netvision.net.il

With the passage of marriage equality in Washington State, **Susan KRAVIT-Smith '76** is marrying Kathryn Smith, her partner of 19 years, this summer at their home. Their 12-year-old daughter, Elianna, will be a girl-of-honor with her best friend Maria, both of whom will "look fabulous in white tuxedos with tails!" Susan adds "Congratulations to everyone across the country who voted for marriage equality in their state, and certainly to all of you who may now be married."

Over Memorial Day weekend, **Cheryl KATZ Chiovetta '80** celebrated the Bnei Mitzvah of her triplets, Eliana, Lauren, and Gianni. Included among the guests were former classmates, including **Marni Centor '80**, **Laura Edlin '80**, **Nancy Lewin '80**, and **Wendy GRAU Becker '80**. Cheryl writes that "everyone had a great time, and the Hunter girls were honored with a candle and the Time Warp from *Rocky Horror Picture Show*."

Avril Haines '87 will succeed Michael Morell as the CIA's Deputy Director this coming August. She comes to this position after three years as President Obama's deputy counsel in charge of national security issues and as legal adviser to the National Security Council. She has also served as legal counsel for the State Department, and deputy counsel for the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee. According to an article in the Washington Post, "White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough said Obama valued Haines's 'independence of thought, fierceness of advocacy, and rigor in how analytically she attacks problems.'" This is the first time a woman has been picked for this position, which is the known as the No. 2 job at the CIA.

Ariane Randall '90 and her partner Philippe Gilbert celebrated the birth of their son Marc in January in Paris, France. She writes that "Marc brings us joy and delight every day!"

Joining Ariel and Susan in the marriage department are **Yasmine KIRKORIAN-Gonen '00** and **Daniel Gonen '98**, who were married (to each other) on May 26. In attendance were many Hunterites, including **Arthur Lewis '98** who played one of his original songs during the ceremony, and those pictured below: **Tamar GONEN Brown '93**, **John Wolff '97**, **Ben Locke '98**, **Anjana CHANAYIL Funai '98**, **Paul Jacobs '98**, **Andrew Gursky '98**, **Vandana Nagaraj '98**, **Evan Hill-Ries '98**, **Alex Sarlin '98**, **Mark Roaquin '98**, **Arthur Lewis '98**, **Brandon Inhaber '98**.

Want to submit an update? Email Lillian Meredith at lmeredith@hchsaa.org

Alums in the News

Ophelia Devore '41, model, business woman, and pioneer, has placed her papers at Emory University's Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Library. Read the article in *The Atlanta Daily World*: www.atlantadailyworld.com/201305306368/Featured/black-is-beautiful-pioneer-ophelia-devore-s-papers-at-emory

Greg Keller '92, actor, discussed his work in the play *Belleville* opposite Maria Dizzia. Read the article in *The New York Times*: theater.nytimes.com/2013/02/17/theater/maria-dizzia-and-greg-keller-matched-stars-of-belleville.html

Lila Neugebauer '03, theater director, has been named one of four up-and-coming theater artists from the 2013 Humana Festival of New American Plays. Read the article in *Variety Magazine*: www.variety.com/2013/legit/news-humana-festival-up-coming-playwrights-actor-director-1200436025



Left: Yasmine KIRKORIAN-Gonen '00 and Daniel Gonen '98 on their wedding day. Top: Hunterites at the Kirkorian-Gonen wedding.

In Memoriam

Elsie LEWIS Leeman, Jan. '35, of Providence, RI died on February 14 at age 93. After being captivated by Virgil's *Aeneid* while at HCHS, she went on to study classics at Hunter College, graduating in 1939. Elsie pursued advanced studies in classical philology through the 1940s and, with interruptions for child rearing, earned a PhD from Columbia University in 1952. For over 30 years, she was a teacher of Greek, Latin, and English at Classical High School in Providence. Elsie was married for 68 years to Rabbi Saul Leeman, and was the devoted mother of Deborah Robbins, Joel Leeman, and David Leeman, all of Newton, MA, and the late Michael Leeman. She leaves seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Alumnae/i Association was informed of the death of **Roslyn KIRSCHNER Fallick '40** by her longtime friend and former classmate **Shirley HACK Hirschel '40**. Roslyn attended Hunter College and received her Masters in Education, after which she worked for the New York City Board of Education, for the elementary school, and as a reading specialist. She was married for fifty years, and widowed. She is survived by her two sons.



Elsie LAUE Raffensperger, Jan. '45, passed away on December 30, 2012, at the age of 85. She graduated from Hunter College in 1950 with a degree in chemistry, and completed graduate level courses in psychology before beginning her career as a food technologist at the General Foods Research Laboratory. She and her husband worked there together before moving to Chicago, followed by Knoxville, TN, Louisville, KY, and Lewisburg, VA, before settling in Lexington, KY. Elsie was an active elder and Deacon in her church, president of her local AAUW organization, member of the league of Women Voters, and participated and led as an officer in numerous other organizations. She also taught science and math in several high schools, and tutored students for standardized tests and

college exams. An active artist, she studied at the Arts Students League, the University of Tennessee, and the Louisville School for Art, and helped found the "Out of the Blue" Art Gallery in Lewisburg, where she worked into her eighties. She is survived by her two children and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Himmelreich Memorial Library in Lewisburg and the Lexington Hope Center.

Diane I. Johnson '51 passed away July 27, 2011 after an accident which caused partial paralysis. Following four months of treatment, she succumbed to infection. Many Hunterites attended her funeral at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, where she and her family were longtime active participants. Diane had many varied and active interests throughout her life. Music was a constant; she played violin with her junior high school orchestra and later with The Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra and various chamber music ensembles. She was also an enthusiastic hand-bell choir member at her church, and an energetic and graceful belly dancer. Diane was always involved in community and civic work; she was once president of the Brownstoners of Bedford Stuyvesant, a group that works to preserve and extend awareness of the culture and history of these unique structures, and continued to be a dedicated contributing member of FIDO (Fellowship for the Interests of Dogs and their Owners). Diane also modeled and helped to plan and present delightful fashion shows. For many years, she worked for Trans World Airlines, where she established a close circle of friends with whom she travelled extensively. In June 2012, family and friends helped scatter her ashes in the Johnson Family Cemetery near McKenney, VA, along with the ashes of her beloved pet dog Charlie. As the minister mentioned, Diane's radiant smile will long be remembered. Among those who miss her exuberant spirit are her brother Philip, his wife Willene, their sons Derek, Christopher, and Musa, Musa's wife Robbie, and Diane's precious great-niece Kafia. Her memory is cherished by all who knew her.

Sylvia Marian Friedman '55 passed away at home in Manhattan on February 4 after a long bout with emphysema. She attended Hunter College Elementary School, Hunter High School, Bard College, The New School for Social Research, and Columbia University. Sylvia was a former New York State Assemblywoman and a community activist for the disabled and homeless. She was president of the 504 Democratic Club, Gramercy Stuyvesant Independent Democrats, chairperson at the Friends Shelter for Homeless Men and Women at the 15th Street Quaker Meeting House, which she started twenty

years ago. She was the Director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled (CIDNY), and program director of Concepts of Independence. She also taught kindergarten in Harlem for fifteen years, and had numerous talents, including ice dancing, gourmet cooking, managing a catering business, giving equestrian lessons, and was a devoted aunt to her four nieces and nephews. She was described by friends as "small in stature, yet larger than life; a tiger with high standards." She had "charm,chutzpah, blunt language, and an indomitable will." She will be missed by her family, many friends, and especially her sister, **Judith FRIEDMAN Kupersmith '57**.

Doris Rojas '55 died at home on March 1, just days before her 75th birthday. For forty years, she lived in Phoenix, AZ where she raised her twin sons and two daughters. A chronic illness curtailed the athletic ability she displayed at Hunter, but not her fearless spirit. She had worked as a paralegal but after an amputation and a wheelchair, she chose to return for a degree to become an accountant. Her youthful fellow graduates applauded the older woman whose courage was an inspiration to all of them. Doris worked for the IRS until she retired. She is survived by her children, Jeremiah and John Velez, and Jacqueline and Jennifer Hildebrandt, three brothers, and her sister **Gloria Rojas '55**.

The Alumnae/i Association has also been advised of the deaths of the following alums:

Mary E. WICKS Ulrich, Jan. '37
Lillian SCHOOLMAN Kaplan '37
Stephanie JAKIMOWITZ Benton '38
Romola ERRIQUEZ Modugno '38
Deborah BURSTEIN Karp '39
Bertha Ruze '40
Grace MORGAN Birch, Jan. '42
Nina FISHER Felder, Jan. '43
Marcia Kaner '43
Joanne THOMSON Balkenberg, Jan. '44
Lillian HORNER Barton '46
Mona Gilberg '47
Helen MAU Gosch '50
Beatrice BONNE Sichel '51
Therese COMERFORD Oneto, Jan '53
Eva WATERS Sevita '53
Margaret "Peggy" ELDER Wines '53
Carole Joanne BANEK Petras '57
Judith WACKSTEIN De Rubini '60
Leona AVERY Tabell '60
Daisy HILSE Dwyer '63
Ellen TURKISH Comisso '64
Margaret FARGO Keck '64
Linda Lee Jacobs (class year unknown)
Mary FOY Leiter (class year unknown)
Despina PLOUSSIOS Patsoulakis (class year unknown)

Notes on Reunion 2013

The highlight of every reunion weekend is the General Assembly; it provides a chance for the entire alumnae/i community to come together and give thanks for the incredible education that binds us all together. Capping off a weekend of tours of the old high school, baseball in the park, and gatherings of individual classes, this year's assembly was by turns funny, touching, thought-provoking, and sobering.

After a morning of coffee and conversation in various classrooms on the second floor of the high school, the General Assembly began at 11am with a presentation from **The RoHAWKS**, the Robotics Team whose work and competition participation was sponsored in part by donations from the Alumnae/i Association. The students presented the robot they'd built, which roamed around the stage and shot Frisbees with remarkable accuracy, and team advisors **Lisa Siegmann** and **Brian Park** discussed future plans for the team.

Then, starting with the oldest class of January 1943 and moving forward through time, delegates from each Milestone class stood before the podium and told stories from their days at Hunter. There were rhapsodies on the importance of all-girls education and humorous defenses of the men in the audience; there were snippets of songs from various speakers, as well as the entire senior sing from the 50th reunion class; there was the moment when a voice from the 1963 section called out to **Gail GRANGE Berson '58** and her fellow classmates, "you were our big sisters!"; and of course, amusing anecdotes about the intensity of the work, followed by heartfelt gratitude for the resulting education. But the most surprising, moving, and contemplative moment came from **Alberto Rivera '98**, who stood up and spoke of his time at Hunter as one of love and family, before stating that he is currently homeless and living on the street. It was a poignant, and important, moment in a day of otherwise congratulatory sentiments, that what we have is precious and fragile, and should never be taken for granted.



Top: alums sing the school song; Middle: the Robotics Team demonstrates their robot; Bottom: alums exploring the old high school

May KANTER Chariton, Jan. '43: "During our high school years, we had two momentous events. The first occurred on a cold December morning. We went to school and there was an announcement: Do not go to your homeroom – we are all gathering in the cafeteria. And they had a radio set up, and we heard President Roosevelt issue a formal declaration of war. This was history. We were living through history. And now we are history... we remember America's war on two fronts, and rejoiced greatly when the war ended. The second never-to-be-forgotten event was the dance with the boys. This was the first time male and female hormones had ever mingled at Hunter High. It was a success of a sort, but never repeated somehow."

Alida ROGNONI Mesrop '48: "Hunter was the greatest experience in our educational lives. And we knew it. We knew it when we were here. And we knew it even more after we left.... We were a wartime class. We were in the crux of history.... We left for summer vacation, and we came back and the atomic bomb had been dropped. And we had VJ day, and the war was over. And many of us had family in the army – brothers, uncles, cousins – and we were so grateful that they were going to come home. And it was a time of tremendous hope. The war to end all wars was over. And we were going to have peace, and the United Nations. And we moved along with history."

Patricia ELDER Ryan, Jan. '53: "The profound impact of a first-class education may not show up right away. The first step I took after graduating was to elope with a boy I really barely knew. The usual consequences of struggle and divorce followed. Nonetheless, I was inspired to go on, at middle age, leading me to obtain an Associate's Degree, then a Bachelor's at Stony Brook University, a Master's from St. John's University, and finally a Master's a PhD from Hofstra University. Toward the end of that journey, I gained a husband more in sympathy with my ambitions, and have enjoyed that relationship for 40 years now."

Gail GRANGE Berson '58: "To quote my husband, I am today with a bunch of absolutely incorrigible Hunter girls, and it's terrific. I think it's alright that there are guys here now, but in our era, it was good that there weren't, because there was a different attitude towards females."

Jane Solomon '63: "We were children of World War II. It ended the year most of us were born. If our parents were not born here, they likely came from Europe as part of the great migrations of the early 20th century, or to escape the Holocaust. We know that, although from different parts of the world and different strife, many of today's students and their families have analogous histories and similar goals of freedom and opportunity.... We are members of the '60's Generation. That means we followed news about the bus and lunch-counter sit-ins and Freedom Marches against segregation down South, and heard Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington the summer we graduated. We remember where we were that November, at the moment we learned that President Kennedy was shot. And then Bobby. And then Dr. King.... Socially, the Supreme Court issued its Brown v. Board of Education decision. The Pill became available. Sex, drugs, and rock n' roll followed. Actually,

rock and roll probably came before sex for us.... I haven't polled my classmates, but I'm probably not alone in having subscribed to *Ms. Magazine*, holding an account at the now defunct First Women's Bank on Park Avenue at 57th Street, and smoking Virginia Slims cigarettes when its slogan was "You've come a long way, Baby!".... 'Glass ceiling' hadn't been coined, or even thought of. We were simply trying to get in the door."

Marlena Corcoran '68: "I am here to represent not only the Class of 1968, but the year 1968. You may have heard of this mythic time – Peace, Love – but a cataclysmic social change feels more like the fog of war. People who today may look like gracefully aging respectable ladies were often, at the time, in a lot of trouble."

Yehudit "Judy" Moch '73: "We lived through a time of transformation at Hunter: the sixties and the seventies.... We were the last all-girl class. The culture – and it's not that we don't like you boys – but the culture transformed us as young women, and again we helped transform society."

Laura LEWIS Mandeles '73: "Inter-College Year was a fabulous idea. We had a choice: graduate a year early, or spend an entire year taking advantage of New York City. And we could do pretty much anything. I had an internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I took music lessons. We had girls all over the city doing all kinds of things, because they recognized that by the time we got to senior year, the best thing they could do for us was to let us be out there exploring, and I think it affected my whole life."

Matthew Blumenfeld '83: "The friendships that we've built in our class have been profound – you could see it last night, when a hundred of us gathered. Of course, not so many made it this morning."

Jill Slater '88: "Last night we had about a hundred people as well, and over and over again, people who hadn't seen each other in so long felt an instant connection, and that is amazing.... For me, coming out of deep Brooklyn, it changed my world forever the moment that I got to Hunter. The biggest things were being around really intelligent people, and the diversity of the people there, and that is unparalleled anywhere – college, graduate school; maybe on the subway you get that kind of diversity."

Tai Wong '88: "I met my wife here, we have four children. I met the greatest teacher I've ever had here, Mr. Marienhoff.... For me, when I came to Hunter, my world became a much bigger place."

Alek Lev '93: "Hi, my name is Alek Lev. I am a man. You know, when Jason asked me to give a little talk, I didn't realize it would have to be a rebuttal. The all-girls school thing sounded great, I would love to have gone.... For me, it's an incredibly meaningful place. My two best friends not only were from Hunter, and not only did we all go to college together, but we all lived together in LA and they're both here. It really tightens you up in a way that maybe makes you not make that

Top: members of the Class of 1963 at lunch. Bottom: members of the Class of 1963 in 6th grade at PS173. Circled in purple are Phyllis GREEN Rosner, Judy Berger, Mary "Miriam" FIRESTONE Levitan, Helen STERN Sunshine, and Bess KARMEN Teller, all of whom attended the 2013 reunion. Circled in white are girls who left HCHS after 8th grade.



many other friends? I guess that's the other way of looking at it. I'll say one thing about the boy/girl thing – and I never thought about this until right now – but, I guess you did good work. Definitely. Never once, at Hunter, did it occur to me that there might be a thing that a boy could do that a girl couldn't do. Everyone was incredible. Everyone was brilliant, and still is."

Alberto Rivera '98: "I was always welcome here. I attended a special class that they used to give early in the morning, preparing us for the test in AP US History. I don't know if this helps someone to tell them about myself, but I used to get here at 7 in the morning, loved to play basketball, really really loved this place. I used to make the announcements.... I'm currently homeless after advocating so much for people. I do hope that this place and this nation remains the kind of place I always grew up thinking it was. I encourage you all to remain courageous and loving. One thing I was thinking about recently, well when things go bad, do you try to do the best you can? Or do we just fall and drag each other down? God bless you all."



Magdalena Zielonka '13: "This is a very emotional time for us, because right now we're entering our last week at Hunter. We're graduating on June 13. But I think we can say, we're leaving knowing that we had an awesome time."

Karen Chen '13: "Graduating is a little scary, and I think I can speak for my class when I say that it's really scary going off to college and not knowing anything, but it's good to know that there's an Alumnae/i Association here to support us, and to know we're not going to be alone when we graduate."

The rest of the weekend was taken up with events, from class parties and dinners, to tours of the old high school and the conservatory garden. There are more pictures on our Flickr Account: www.flickr.com/photos/hchsaa/sets.

Notes From Milestone Classes

Class of June 1948

By Alida ROGNONI Mesrop

Sixty-five years since graduation and still going strong. That's the HCHS Class of June '48.

While many classmates could not participate in person, reunion gave us the opportunity to connect by mail, email and, yes, the old fashioned telephone. One theme pervaded everything: the privilege we enjoyed at being Hunter College High School students, and the impact that education had on us in every aspect of our lives. Thank you, Hunter.

We gathered on Friday, May 31 at a midtown restaurant for the first of our reunion events. Nineteen of us (including four husbands and a son) caught up. While most of our classmates arrived from the New York area, California, Florida, and Canada were also represented. The talk was spirited. Someone later marveled that at no time did health and medication even enter the conversation. We are a lively bunch!

On Saturday afternoon, about twelve of us gathered at a Manhattan apartment, and continued catching up, and detailing plans for the future. Travel was certainly high on the list. We remain engaged in our communities and our families, informed about the world and eager to share our opinions. No one is shy!

Sunday at Hunter College High School was the culmination. Whether we graduated 70 years ago or 5 years ago, there was a common bond. We had attended the best school in the country...no doubt about that.

All good things do come to an end, and it was with regret that we said goodbye and made plans to meet again.

Thank you Hunter College High School for an incredible experience, and thank you Alumnae/i Association for making our reunion extra special.

Class of January 1953

By Irma JAFFE Becker

The Class of January 1953 had a wonderful, marvelous, marvelous, wonderful, wonderful, marvelous reunion!

Saturday night we had a great time at Scaletta's Restaurant on West 77th Street. Forty people attended, twenty-four of them alums. Considering that we had a class of under one-hundred, we can't locate twenty-six, at least twelve have passed away, and many are physically unable to get around, it was a terrific turnout. People came from California, Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts, upstate New York, and of course the tri-state area. The best part was that all of us remembered each other and connected as though no time had elapsed since high school. One of the women speaking on Sunday expressed this feeling very well. An alum with short term memory loss was accompanied by family members; she sang all the words to *Sarah Maria Jones*. Someone wrote two new stanzas to the song, including words about "creaking bones" instead of "Hunter in my bones." Notes were sent by some who could not attend and they were read aloud. It was a fabulous night!

Sunday we had the same number of alums, mostly the same group as Saturday with just a few different women. We had walkers and

canes, but more than enough spirit. We stayed in the cafeteria and talked and talked until the room had to be closed.

We are now sharing pictures via the internet.

Class of 1963

By Susan COHEN Esquilin

The HCHS Class of 1963 produced a monumental event that is not yet over. The weekend began on Saturday with a rehearsal of some songs from our Senior Sing at the home and under the leadership of Rhetta Barron. That same day, about thirty of us attended a special tour of the old high school for the 50th reunion class. We enjoyed being able to access the elevator without passes and noted that the halls and classrooms did not look very different. On Sunday, about fifty of us gathered at the new high school for the General Assembly where our former GO President Jane Solomon placed us in a historical context, and our singers led the class in a shortened version of our Sing. We then moved down to a restaurant on Second Avenue for lunch and continued conversation, where almost ninety of us were present. Smaller groups got together throughout the weekend for more intimate and extended encounters.

In preparation for this reunion, we have been able to collect contact information for 168 members of our class. With ten members known to be deceased, we are missing only eighteen people. We have received contributions for our class gift from people who could not attend the reunion, and both those who attended and those who did not have contributed toward an online survey, the results of which will be distributed to the class. The survey will describe our class both demographically as well as provide reflections about our lives and experiences at Hunter. Finally, we are looking forward to making available the work of a videographer who attended our luncheon.

We are happy to have also been in touch with Mr. Lyubomir Detchkov of the HCHS Math Department who expressed the Department's appreciation for the gift of a copier at the time of a previous milestone reunion and our current contribution toward the Department's request for graphing calculators. Our gifts to the Math Department are in honor and memory of Dr. Dorothy Geddes, our class advisor.

Class of 1988

By Jill Slater

Of the 250 students invited to attend 7th grade at Hunter College High School, about 210 matriculated. By graduation, our class had atrophied, only slightly, to 189.

In that this year's reunion was a milestone, I was intent on tracking down every last person who showed up that first day of school in September of 1982. Thanks to the internet and a volunteer group of accomplice sleuths, I was able to invite everyone but 10 people to our 25th Reunion festivities.

On the very balmy Saturday evening of June 1, about 100 classmates arrived at Hunter College's Faculty Dining Room to conjure, indulge in, and celebrate the nostalgia of our youth.

We listened to a playlist of over 6 hours of 1980's favorites crowd-sourced from our class, watched a slideshow of over 300 photos that ran all night – also crowd-sourced from those with old photo albums – harkening back to our high school years, and even ate cannoli's in honor of the 1987 Spring Carnival dessert of choice.

Discussions focused mostly on our time at Hunter, rekindling old loyalties to our seventh grade homerooms (7-4 assembled a spontaneous group portrait), recounting crazy teacher stories, and just trying to remember what we could about our six years together. We were giddy recalling anecdotes that ignited laughter and that bonded us to one another after all these years.

As is often the case, the decision to attend comes with trepidation and a bit of anxiety while the departure is full of regret and resistance. Unfortunately, we only booked the room until 2am. So after a rousing communal skipping hora to Red Red Wine by UB40 – a 30-year running tradition for our class – I had to physically remove wine glasses from people's hands and nudge them towards the door. It was after 2am and our assigned Public Safety officer wanted to go home.

It was hard to say goodbye.

Class of 1998

By Joyce VARUGHESE-Raju

The Class of 1998, in their unique style, met up the weekend after the official Reunion weekend. Twenty-six members of the 15th reunion year class gathered at Crown Victoria Bar and Beer Garden in Brooklyn on the afternoon of June 8, accompanied by Coach (aka Asumana Randolph), spouses, significant others, and children. It was a gorgeous day for an outdoor gathering and many great conversations took place that carried on into the evening hours.

If you are a member of the class of 1998, consider joining the Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/HCHS98

HCHSAA Events

Hunter Grapevine

Astor Wines and Liquors played host to the first Hunter Grapevine, a wine tasting event and conversation with *New York Times* food editor **Julia Moskin '85**. As the HCHS Jazz Ensemble played in the background, alums mingled over cheese and pastry, and sampled from five specially selected wines. Each wine was chosen because of its potential pairing with recipes from Julia's new book *Cook Fight*.

After guests had a chance to acquaint themselves with the selection, **Jason P. Criss '92** introduced Julia, who has worked as a restaurant critic for the *New York Press*, a freelance writer for magazines like *Saveur* and *Metropolitan Home*, a critic and food writer for *The New York Times*, and the co-author of nine cookbooks. Julia then got up and talked about the premise of *Cook Fight*, co-written with her former *Times* colleague Kim Severson. In the book, she and Kim cook their way through twelve challenges, ranging from recipes on a budget to kid birthday parties to holiday meals, each competing to create the best menu. The 125 recipes include Sticky Toffee Pudding, Lamb Rack with Cilantro-Mint Crust, and Crusty Macaroni and Cheese. Since the five wines were chosen to compliment recipes from the February Comfort Food Challenge section of the book, Julia read the introduction to that section, and then took questions from the audience.

About the concept of the book:

"In 2008, we were having story meetings – you know, it's not always so easy to come

up with new things to write about food, and every year certain things come around, you know, there's Thanksgiving, there's Christmas, there's Hanukah, there's Passover, but we try to move the needle forward on the conversation about food. It is a very exciting time, I think, to live in New York, especially, and to be eating and writing about food. And so someone in the meeting said 'we should

do a piece about how to throw a dinner party for forty dollars.' And Kim and I said, at the exact same second, 'that's way too much.' And Frank Bruni said that, and he said 'Well you both do it, and I'll come and judge it, and we'll see whose is better.' And that was it – it just took off from there. He did not choose a winner. Because he's a coward."

CRUSTY MACARONI AND CHEESE (*from the book*)

"This mac and cheese recipe is the most emailed recipe in the history of The New York Times. So, Mark Bittman, take that!"

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

12 ounces extra-sharp cheddar cheese, coarsely grated

12 ounces American or cheddar cheese, coarsely grated

1 pound elbow pasta

1/8 tablespoon cayenne pepper (optional)

Salt

2/3 cup whole milk

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Use 1 tablespoon of the butter to thickly grease a 9-by-13 inch baking dish.
2. Combine the grated cheeses; set aside 2 heaping cups for the topping.
3. Boil the pasta in salted water until just tender, drain, and rinse under cold water.
4. Toss together the pasta, the remaining cheese, the cayenne, if using, and salt to taste in a large bowl. Put in the prepared baking dish and pour the milk evenly over the surface. Sprinkle the reserved cheese on top and dot with the remaining two tablespoons butter.
5. Bake, uncovered, for 45 minutes. Raise the heat to 400 degrees and bake for 15 to 20 minutes more, until crusty on the top and bottom.

Makes on 9-by-13 inch baking dish, about 8 servings



Julia Moskin '85 signs books for Marie DeRosa '76 (left) and Florence ROSENFELD Howe, Jan. '46 (right)

On being a food writer:

"It's an extraordinary privilege to have a full time job as a food writer. It's rare, unfortunately. I get a lot of questions from young Hunter students, young college graduates, saying "how can I have your job, your job is so amazing." And it's a bit of a one in a million opportunity. But I studied. There is a body of work in food writing. There's Elizabeth David, there's Joseph Wechsberg, there's all these really amazing documents about the history of food. You know, people think it's really easy – and it is easy, in a way, and going to restaurants is fun – but contextualizing food, understanding what someone like David Chang is doing when he, as a Korean American, puts pork belly in a Chinese bun and puts Kimchi on it, is really complicated and really interesting in a lot of ways. And that's the kind of thing that I try to do."

On processed food:

"One of my favorite food writers is Laura Colman, and one of the sentences she wrote in 1984 is still true, is that corporations and agribusiness do not have your interests at heart. They do not care. And it's not their business to care, but it's our business to care. And it's hard. I was just talking about how easy it is to order take out. But you have to try, you have to work at it. You have to cook."

On her relationship with Kim Severson:

"Kim Severson and I sat next to each other at *The New York Times* Dining Section for about five years, and we quickly noticed that we had very few things in common. I was Jewish, she was Catholic; she was from the Midwest, I was from New York; I was sarcastic, she was very earnest, I used to make her cry all the time because she didn't know I was kidding. It was sort of a tempestuous relationship in the beginning, but essentially, both of us were there to write about food. And we described each other in a way, after a while, that actually really reminded me of how I am with my friends from Hunter, which is that we were 'work wives.'"

After the conversation ended, Julia signed copies of her book and chatted to alums, as the Jazz Ensemble struck up again, and guests lingered over crudité before exiting into an early March snow storm.



Top: alums take in the view; Bottom: Barbara METSKY Kretchmar '60, Lily KLEBANOFF Blake '60, and Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61 at Storm King Arts Center

Storm King Day Trip

The bus left midtown Manhattan at 10 am on Sunday, April 21. By noon, alums from a range of years disembarked in the gorgeous Hudson Valley, ready for a day of exploring the outdoor sculpture garden at Storm King Arts Center. Named for the craggy mountain visible to the north of the grounds, Storm King's dramatic landscape includes fields and woods, lawns and wetlands, and serves as a perfect backdrop and inspiration for some of the most exciting contemporary sculptures in the region. From Maya Lin's *Wavefield* and Andy Goldsworthy's *Storm King Wall* near the lake to the revolving double helixes of George Cuts' *Sea Change* rotating in the woods,

from the miraculous *Suspended* by Menashe Kadishman to Mike Di Subero's soaring visual anchor *Pyramidian* which ties the whole park together, Storm King is a veritable gold mine of modern art.

The alumnae/i and their guests spent the first part of the day guided around Museum Hill by a docent, who discussed the various sculptures by artists such as David Smith, Ursula von Rydingsvard, and Charles Simonds. Then, after lunch, they were taken by trolley to the more remote areas of the museum. The day concluded with some free time to explore on their own, climbing hills to see hidden sculptures, or discovering the aspects of some of the interactive pieces. On the ride back to the city, everyone agreed it had been a perfect, blustery spring day spent among friends.

“At the risk of sounding corny, Cynthia is a star, not only because she can light up a screen or connect with the back of a theater with her brilliant eyes, but also because she lights up our minds. I’d like to think that her time at Hunter has something to do with it.”

— Andrew Clateman



Cynthia Nixon '84 speaks at the Spring Gala

Spring Gala 2013

Cynthia Nixon '84 has accomplished quite a bit in the last three and half decades of her prolific career. With two Emmys, a Tony, and a Grammy, her work as an actress has been lauded in every medium. As an activist, she has been recognized for her dedication to GLBTQ equality, women's reproductive rights, and public school education. And, of course, she graduated not only from Barnard College, but from HCHS as well.

So it was with pride that her fellow Hunterites gathered high above midtown to celebrate her work while overlooking the city that has defined so much of her passionate career. As the HCHS Jazz Ensemble played old standards, guests caught up over food and drinks, taking in the breathtaking sunset over the Hudson, before **Jason P. Criss '92** began the evening's program by welcoming everyone and thanking those who had made it all possible. He was followed by Hunter College President **Jennifer Raab '73**, who spoke of her commitment to CUNY support of the high school, and the importance of public gifted education. Remarks were concluded by HCHS Principal **Dr. Tony Fisher** who, in honor of the evening, updated the guests on the incredible achievements by students in the areas of both activism and theater. Dr. Fisher was followed by **Andrew Clateman '84**, a founder of the Brick Prison Playhouse and close friend of Cynthia's, who introduced her with love and admiration.

As the evening grew darker and the lights of the city brighter, it was finally Cynthia's turn to speak. After thanking the HCHSAA and the guests for making her the 2013 Gala Honoree, Cynthia spoke of her deep connection not only to Hunter but to her classmates, who continue to be her closest friends. She went on to discuss her fascination with the fact that so many Hunter grads become teachers, asking "what is it about us that we return to this so much?", admitting that she channeled her own Hunter teachers

while playing roles in *Wit* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brody*. "Our teachers instilled in us the love of the subjects they taught, but they didn't instill in us anything more than they instilled the love of learning and the desire to be in a learning environment." She concluded by saying that, "while I have so many of my Hunter friends around me, walking through our lives together as we fall in love and get married, and have kids and find our careers and find our homes, and do all those grown up things – console each other over the loss of our parents – you know, as we march through life together, I remember what I was told about Hunter, that it's the kids that make Hunter Hunter. But then I think to myself, the kids are with me and they're my age now, they're 47, and the magic of that has sort of faded because they're my buddies, my life. But in the same way that in Greek mythology, we're told that the Greeks would take the heroes and the mythical creatures, and when they died they'd throw them up into the sky, and they'd become the constellations, and they could be guided by them, that's the way I feel about my teachers, whether they're like Parker Baratta who has passed on or whether they're like Ms. Eichler who is standing here in this room. I feel that as I walk through my life with my Hunter friends arm-in-arm, I feel that above me is Mr. Baratta and Ms. Eichler and Ms. Laster and Ms. Salzman and Mr. Arrigo and Ms. Brandriss and Mr. Washington and Miss O'Malley and Miss Schlesinger and Dr. Wekerle and Dr. Marienhoff, who I never even had. I got my classmates here, and I've got my teachers living and passed on above me watching me and inspiring me, reminding me about what I want to be and what I want to aspire to, and how I want keep learning and how I want to instill that love of learning in my kids."

Afterwards, Cynthia and the other alums continued to mingle for another hour, reminiscing about their own experiences at Hunter and beyond. By the time the last guest left, the sky was dark and lit up by the red lights of the Empire State Building.

Giving

Hunter Alumnus Underwrites Scholarship Program

*Hunter alums give back to the school in big ways and small – and every donation counts. Sometimes, however, an alum will choose to underwrite a specific program with his or her donation. The following essay is from **Jeff Hakner '87**, whose donation this year in honor of his mother established **The Sheila Glickstein Hakner Award**, a \$1,000 prize given to a senior who has shown dedication in service to the education of others.*

My mother, **Sheila GLICKSTEIN Hakner '55**, passed away in June 2012, shortly after I attended my 25th reunion. She did not have an opportunity to enjoy the retirement that she worked and saved so hard for; just a few months after retiring she was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer. In considering a charitable gift in her memory, I naturally was drawn to the one institution that linked the two of us: HCHS, from which I graduated in 1987.

Sheila often recalled an experience that was similar to mine. She was the daughter of working-class immigrants whose world up to age 12 was limited to the East (what we now call the South) Bronx. Hunter was a life-changer.

She traveled daily from her bleak tenement home on Hoe Avenue to the sophisticated world of Manhattan, where she encountered girls of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, all of whom were “brilliant.” Yet despite her background, she was accepted as a peer on the basis of her own intellect and spirit.

After Hunter, and graduating with honors from Queens College, my mother began a career of service to those less educated and less fortunate. Her first job was with the State employment department, helping immigrant workers get re-trained and find good jobs. When she rejoined the work force, she entered the profession of English as a Second Language, and returned to Queens College where she taught in the ESL program. After working as an administrator for several community colleges, my mother went back to school to obtain her PhD from Teachers' College, heroically completing her dissertation after recovering from open-heart surgery. The final 18 years of her career were spent at St. John's University, where she directed ESL programs that helped thousands of immigrants throughout the city build a path to a college degree.

As it was for my mother, Hunter was a life-changing experience for me as well. Restless and unchallenged in my local elementary

school, I recall arriving at Hunter in the 7th grade and feeling as if I had at long last found the oasis of intellectualism. I was among peers, and although it was challenging at first, I never regretted my decision to attend.

Hunter gave both my mother and me an education of private prep-school quality, without the price tag that neither of us could have afforded. I was honored to be invited to the HCHS awards ceremony this June, to be in the same auditorium where I was honored with graduation awards 26 years ago, and to hand out the very first Sheila Glickstein Hakner award in recognition of a graduating senior who has demonstrated exemplary dedication in the service of education to those less fortunate.

I was struck by the spirit of the students, faculty and administration. The same collegial atmosphere that I recalled from my days there was just as strong. I even ran into a few former teachers who remembered me!

I'm sure for many of my classmates, Hunter was a similarly powerful life experience. We were all given access to a first-class education and paid nothing except our subway fare. As we reflect back on the past quarter century, we should all consider giving something back, to help future Hunterites enjoy the same benefits that we did.

ABOUT THE SHEILA GLICKSTEIN HAKNER AWARD

Awarded in honor of Sheila Glickstein Hakner '55, mother of Jeffrey Hakner '87, and a lifelong educator, this award is given to a student who has shown dedication in the service to the education of others.

To determine this award, the Administration will on an annual basis consult with the directors of our external affairs office, who oversee our community service program and who thus have the best sense of who is involved with schools outside of the building. The \$1,000 award, which will be given to a senior each year for as long as there are funds, is for the student to spend as they choose. This year's recipient was the lead student in organizing a long-term every-week tutoring effort at a public school in East Harlem. Whenever possible, we will look to give the award to a student who has worked with a school in an underprivileged neighborhood.

ABOUT JEFF HAKNER

After graduating HCHS in 1987, Jeff Hakner earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cooper Union. He returned to his college alma mater where he has served over 20 years as the school's Director of Telecommunications, and teaches as an adjunct faculty member

in various Computer Engineering topics. Jeff also became heavily involved as a volunteer in numerous railway preservation groups. Since 2012, he has held the position of President of the Shore Line Trolley Museum (East Haven, CT) where he is currently overseeing a \$2 million construction project to build new tracks and buildings to protect the museum's collection of almost 100 antique electric railway cars.

Support Your Alumnae/i Association

Gifts to the Alumnae/i Association allow us to create and sustain a social and professional network for all alums of the high school, and serve as the funds from which we are able to provide operating and endowment support to the school itself. The AA helps finance programmatic support, scholarships, fellowships and other student aid programs, and serves as a resource for the school by sponsoring educational, scientific, literary and cultural programs in cooperation with faculty and administration. We are tremendously grateful to those alums who have already made us a part of their philanthropic plans.

Gifts to the AA may be unrestricted or directed. Unrestricted gifts are among the most valuable, because they allow us to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest, and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they arise. Directed gifts allow you to designate your gift to a specific program, a support group, or a priority area at the high school. When you make a directed gift to HCHSAA, you enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting a program that is personally meaningful to you.

Gifts of cash can be made online using your credit card or by sending in a check. Gifts of appreciated securities, stocks, and bonds also provide considerable tax advantages when transferred to HCHSAA before they are sold. If you have held your securities for more than one year, you may find that your gift will provide a twofold tax benefit, creating an income-tax deduction as well as helping avoid the capital-gains tax that would have been due on their sale.

WAYS TO GIVE

Become a Member Today

The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association serves more than 11,000 alums around the globe. Membership dues support the ongoing operations of the office and enable us to maintain our website and online Alumnae/i Directory, produce three issues of *AlumNotes* annually, and present free and low-cost events such as the annual Autumn Reception and Reunion weekend. Your membership in the Alumnae/i Association makes you part of the HCHSAA community and



strengthens your ties to other alums and friends — and your ties to the school.

Joining is easy and affordable and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Dues-paid members receive benefits and discounts and are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting in June.

If your dues are current, thank you for your support. If it is time to renew or you would like to join, please refer to the Payment Form on the back page or go to our website at www.HCHSAA.org.

Annual Giving

Contributions to the Annual Fund are unrestricted, 100% tax-deductible contributions that provide direct support for high school programs and activities. The AA's Annual Fund helps us to better serve students, address faculty and administration requests for support, and capitalize on new opportunities. By making a gift to the Annual Fund, alums provide a vital and necessary stream of academic and student support. In fiscal year 2013 the Alumnae/i Association made 18 grants to the high school totaling \$200,000. For a list of projects funded in FY13, see the box at right.

Matching Gifts

Many companies have matching gift programs that match charitable contributions made by their employees. To find out if your company has a matching gift program please check with your human resources department. Matching Gifts can double or even triple your gift to the Alumnae/i Association. We are pleased to recognize the following donors:

Fiscal Year 2013 Matching Gift Companies

Aetna Foundation Matching Grant Program
AIG Matching Grants Program
American Express Foundation
Bank Of America
Deutsche Bank Americas
Diageo
Fortress Investment Group LLC
Gannett Foundation
GE Foundation
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Google Matching Gift Program
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IBM
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Microsoft Corporation
Moody's Foundation
Oracle Corporation Matching Gifts Program
PepsiCo Foundation
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Random House Publishing Group
Raytheon
Roll Giving & Paramount Community Giving

FY13 Grant Award Summary

Administration

Eighth Grade Advisory Program	\$20,000
School Psychology Consultant	\$10,000
Writing Lab	\$10,000
Ninth and Tenth Grade Engineering Program	\$4,750
Robotics team competition support (2 regional event registrations, materials and travel)	\$15,000

External Programs

Two trips to West Virginia for 10 students and 2 to 3 faculty members to volunteer for a Habitat for Humanity chapter and help families in need	\$9,200
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Health & PE

Two new televisions and wall mounts	\$1,712
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ICIT

Upgrade 30 computers and deteriorated cables and peripherals in the open access lab	\$32,400
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Library

Completion of the yearbook digitization project	\$10,000
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Mathematics

Purchase of TI-Nspire CAS Graphing calculators	\$12,000
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Music Room Renovation

\$25,000

Science

Development of new labs using the new Nspire handheld calculators	\$4,000
Replace interactive software with 26 copies of "Anatomy & Physiology Revealed"	\$1,500
Financial aid for 10 to 20 students for competitive programs and labs around the country	\$10,000
Book cases	\$3,465
Ice Makers	\$5,900

Social Studies

Museum podcasts by faculty member Giovanna Termini, specifically tailored to department curriculum	\$4,500
12 laptops and a computer cart	\$8,288

Scholarships

THE MILDRED BUSCH AWARD

Since 1987, this award is presented in honor of a former administrator to students who have shown significant development as individuals and as members of the school community: Nicole Annunziata, Julie Byrnes, Gaeun Kim.

THE THOMAS HUNTER MEMORIAL AWARD

Since 1981, this award is presented in honor of the founder of our school to the students who best exemplify the ideals of Hunter College High School: Charles Bardey, Arielle Korman.

THE SHEILA GLICKSTEIN HAKNER AWARD

This new award, created in honor of Sheila Glickstein Hakner '55, mother of Jeffrey Hakner '87, and a lifelong educator, is given to a student who has shown dedication in the service to the education of others: Jake Schade.

Schwab Charitable Fund
SPX Foundation
The Standard Employee Giving Campaign
UBS Employee Giving Program

Unilever
Wells Fargo Community Support & United Way Campaign
Yahoo! Employee Funds

Hunter College High School Class of 2013 College Matriculation

Honor Someone Special with a Gift in Their Name

A Tribute or Memorial Gift is an especially meaningful way to recognize friends, family, business associates, and special occasions, while at the same time supporting the programs of one of the city's greatest schools. Tribute Gifts mark special occasions such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations. Memorial Gifts express your sympathy or remember a loved one. Contributions are acknowledged with a personalized letter sent to the honored individual or family without reference to the amount of the gift. Programs in parentheses represent gifts designated to those specific departments or funds.

Fiscal Year 2013 Tribute / Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Jean Binnie, Jan. '42

Holly Gunner '62

Vivian Burke, Jan. '49

In Memory of Miriam E. Burstein '41

Muriel SHUR Kranowski '61 (Endowment)

Naomi COHEN Sacks '69

In Honor of Saul Clateman

Anonymous (Endowment)

In Memory of Shirley Dule '37

Lynda Kayes

In Memory of Alice Giorgio '48

Rosanne M. Giorgio

In Memory of my mother, Jean Gordon

Goldman '34, also a Hunter grad

Kathryn GOLDMAN-Schuyler '63 (Math)

In Honor of the Wedding Anniversary of Joyce

Garskof Losen Jan. '50, and Stuart Losen

Judith SEGAL Zabar, Jan. '50

In Memory of Ira Marienhoff

Eric Budish '96

In Honor of my sister Doris Rojas '55

Gloria Rojas '55

In Memory of Mary E. Ulrich, Jan. '37

Angelina CAIOLA Gange, Jan. '37

In Honor of the Graduation Class of 1951

June BECKER Bergstein, Jan. '52

In Honor of Class of 1963

Judy C. Berger '63 (Math)

Eleanor VOKET Kempin '63 (Math)

Elizabeth BACHARACH Lipman '63 (Math)

Barbara Damashek '63

College	Attending	College	Attending
Bard College	1	Princeton University	4
Barnard College	1	Purchase College State University	
Baruch College of the CUNY	1	of New York	1
Bennington College	1	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1
Binghamton University	5	Rochester Institute of Technology	2
Boston University	1	Rutgers	1
Bowdoin College	2	Sarah Lawrence College	1
Brandeis University	2	Scripps College	1
Brown University	4	Skidmore College	1
Carleton College	1	Sophie Davis School of Biomedical	
Carnegie Mellon University	2	Education	1
City College of New York CUNY	1	St. John's University - Queens Campus	1
Colby College	1	Stony Brook University	7
College of William and Mary	1	SUNY College at Geneseo	2
Columbia University	5	Swarthmore College	1
Connecticut College	3	Syracuse University	1
Cornell University	11	Temple University	1
CUNY-Macaulay Honors College	5	Tufts University	3
Dartmouth College	5	University at Buffalo The State	
Davidson College	2	University of New York	2
Emory University	2	University of Chicago	8
Fordham University	1	University of Delaware	1
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering	1	University of Illinois at Urbana-	
The George Washington University	2	Champaign	1
Georgetown University	1	University of Maryland, College Park	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	1	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	3
Harvard College	6	University of Michigan	1
Haverford College	1	The University of North Carolina	
Hunter College of the CUNY	3	at Chapel Hill	1
Indiana University at Bloomington	1	University of Pennsylvania	9
Johns Hopkins University	4	University of Vermont	1
The Juilliard School	1	University of Wisconsin, Madison	1
Lehigh University	3	Vanderbilt University	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	Vassar College	3
McGill University	3	Villanova University	1
Mount Holyoke College	1	Washington University in St. Louis	3
New York University	15	Wellesley College	2
Northeastern University	2	Wesleyan University	6
Northwestern University	4	Williams College	3
Polytechnic Institute of NYU	1	Yale University	10

In Honor of the Class of 1968

Susan T. Smith '68

In Honor of the Class of 1977

Maureen L. Campbell Smith '77

In Honor of the Class of 1987

Mary V. ROBBINS Kopke '87

Planned Giving

Contribute to the Alumnae/i Association's future by planning for a special kind of gift. The lasting impact of bequests—both large and small—has helped shape today's

Alumnae/i Association. For many alums, a charitable bequest is the easiest and best way to make a gift. By means of your will or other estate plan, you can name HCHSAA as the beneficiary of a portion of your estate, or of particular assets in your estate. A bequest also allows you to honor a loved one, while providing critical support to the high school. Giving by bequest costs nothing now, yet it may give you a great deal of satisfaction to know that your future gift will live on. To learn more, visit our website at www.hchsaa.org, or call executive director Elyse Reissman at 212-650-3349.

The Honor Roll of Giving

The Alumnae/i Association's Board and staff extend sincerest thanks to those individuals who donated to the Alumnae/i Association directly or through the Hunter College Foundation in support of the AA fund or the high school's endowment fund in Fiscal Year 2013. We are pleased to recognize all donors who gave \$100 or more – whether to the Annual Fund, Milestone Class giving, Tribute and Memorial Funds, Spring Gala, or the Our Foundation Our Legacy campaign – between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.

\$10,000 and above

Jason P. Criss '92
HBO

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Erica GREENBAUM Gerson '96
Jeff Hakner '87
Jeremiah Lane '97

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Mark Kondracki '90
Barbara Leslie GERBER Krasner '58 PhD
Parents of Jeremiah Lane '97
Benjamin Macklowe '88
Matt Sirovich '83
Major League Baseball
Anonymous '03

\$1,000-\$2,499

Surya S. Bhattacharjee '92
Matt Blumenfeld '83
Peggy Blumenthal '63
Jonathan Chang '04
Leona FEIFER Chanin '34
Ohn Choe '01
Thomas K. Chu '85
Steven Chulik '85
Adam E. Cohen '97
Zoe Cohen '94
Hester Klein Diamond, Jan. '46
George I. Fan '88
Edith Fenster '62
Alex Friedman '01
Ellen Fuerst '75
Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61
Joan HANSEN Grabe '56
Caroline ROSS Grossman '93
Beryl F. Herdt '50
Evelyn Hu '65
David Isaacson '97
Nora TAYLOR Jaffe '63
Grace Keers
Elbrun RUSSELL-FRENCH
Kimmelman '62
Emily Klein '90
Mary V. ROBBINS Kopke '87 and
Peter V. Kopke '87
Sherman Lau '87
Adam Lowe '85
Cynthia E. Nixon '84
Rachel KENYON Perkel '83
Dina G. Pruzansky '88
Donna Soohoo '82
Beverly Winikoff '62 MD
Frederick Yee '93
Anonymous '85

\$500-\$999

Rita ALTCHER Angel '56
Adrienne ANDERSON Barnhart '53
Barbara MARTIN Bearman '63
Laureen BARRAMEDA Bilodeau '93
Daniel Breiman '84
Vivian Breitel '63
Emily BERKMAN Brunner '97
Susan M. PINCUS Burk '63
Warren Chang '88 and Christina
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Hogan Chen '00
Derek J. Chu '87
Bridget Collins '81
Gloria Coruzzi '72 PhD
Catherine L. Council '90
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Alexandra Essey '09
Marcia Feitel '73
Alexis Fermanis '94
Helen FINEGOLD Friedman '63
Daniel Gonen '98 and Anna Y.
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Diane Halberg '82
Jessica Holloway '96
Gayle DRANCH Insler '68
Andrew Kaminski '05
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Andrea Krantz '80
Barbara Krumsiek '70
Rustam Lalkaka '07
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Hannah Lipman '89
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Kelly Stevens '87
Indraneel Sur '95
Juanita LEE Tam '83
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Susan Warshauer '66
Karen Wexler '77
Timur Kaya Yontar '87
Anonymous '85
Anonymous '93
Anonymous '01

\$250 to \$499

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Eric Beckman '83
Judy C. Berger '63
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Margaret HEINSOHN Bezy '60
Melissa ROTH Bloch '63
Diane SCOLLAR Blum '63
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Marjorie DENKER Bresler, Jan. '43
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Eric Fleisig-Greene '97
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Elizabeth Gerber '63
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Judd Kessler '00
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Ann FOLK Kurinkas '73
Raphael P. Kuyler '91
Naomi CONN Liebler '62

Tak Liu '82
Alisa KUGEL Mannis '76
Ruth TRAEGER McCloud '63
Camille A. McFarlane '86
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Ellen Ash Peters '47
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Jennifer Rhodes '93
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Rosaly DEMARIOS Roffman '55
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Anonymous '82
Anonymous '94
Anonymous '96

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Evelyn Konrad, Jan. '46
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Vera Krimnus '01
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Ella Kusnetz '67
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Annie Lee '05
Bernard Lee '89
Linda Q. Lee '80
Marilyn Lee '67
Matthew Lee '92
Tracy Lee '91
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Marlene FIELDS Levine '63
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Benjamin Locke '98
Linda Lee BUZHAR Lockman '63
William Lopez '99
Susan E. Lorsch '68
Joyce GARSKOF Losen, Jan. '50
Catherine YUEN Louie '77
Helene Lupatkin
David Lyczkowski '95
Melissa Carrie Mandor '95

Douglas Mao '83
Laura SINGER Mariski '72
Nancy Martin '85
Nedda Marus '49
Jocelyn Maskow '76
Alice ROSEN Mason '45
Jeffrey Mass '82
Carol Matas '65
Ethel SCHMID Matin '48 PhD
Jeanne Kukura Matross '64
Karen Matseoane '92
Carmen BELL Matthew '49
Carole LUSTIG Mayer, Jan. '53
Sarah McCoy '88
Glen McDonnell '87
Joann LYON McLennan '55
Josephine McSweeney '47
Esther Melamed, Jan. '49
Ellen Mendel, Jan. '53
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Michael Merlo '94
Roberta GABOR Merrens '59
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Melissa STARLIGHT Metz '82
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Pauline DRYDEN Miles '49
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Mary D'AMORE Miller '56
Kathi Ann Mintzer '71
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Karen Ng '90
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Geraldine KASOFF Nussbaum '58
Debbie Oestreicher '81
Mara STEARNS O'Laughlin '62
Anita STEIN Olinzock '69
Natalie SCHNEIDER Olsen '52
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Anonymous '84
Anonymous '90
Anonymous '98

Your Alumnae/i Association at Work

Every issue, we highlight some of the many ways in which your support has contributed to the school and the community. For more information on these and other HCHSAA-funded projects, please email info@hchsaa.org.



HCHS yearbook from 1917

Library Gets a Digital Upgrade

The high school library has copies of over ninety yearbooks dating all the way back to 1917, when the first annals was published. For years, this incredible wealth of Hunter history has been available but rarely accessible, kept on shelves and in boxes in the library storage rooms, in a valiant but ultimately futile attempt to stave off the ravages of time and use. In 2011, however, thanks to generous donations from alumnae/i, the library began the process of scanning and organizing each yearbook into a digital database. Librarian **Eugene Lim**, who headed up the recently completed digitization project, says that recording the yearbooks into this digital format “makes it easier for the HCHS community to access their content, and preserves their information as a resource. It is a key step in preserving our institutional history.” But just in case the prospect of a virtual copy of your senior photo makes you nervous,

rest assured that the server is password-protected and only accessible from within the high school and the college. Currently, only the AA and the library have access to the PDFs, so if you want to see them, you have to go through them.

The archive is missing the following volumes from the collection. If anyone is able to donate these (or copies of them), it would be appreciated: Jan./June '18, June '19, Jan./June '20, Jan./June '21, June '22, Jan./June '23, Jan./June '24, Jan./June '25, Jan. '29, Jan./June '32, Jan./June '37, Jan./June '38, Jan. '39, Jan./June '40.

Weight Room Gets New Equipment

“The Alumnae/i Association has been extraordinary,” says **Robert Guadenzi**, chair of the Health and Physical Education Department, as he shows off the new equipment in the high school weight room. After decades of using inadequate, outdated, and occasionally dysfunctional machines to teach students in classes and on teams, Robert applied for a grant to help him and his colleagues redesign the space. Over the last three years, with support from the HCHSAA and the PTA, the department

has replaced most of the aerobic and strength training equipment with state-of-the-art models.

The weight room is now equipped with a new elliptical trainer and treadmill, as well as four virtual reality bikes with video-game style training exercises and internet access so the students can race kids from all over the country and track their progress. There's also a new treadmill that lets the runner pick trails from all over the world using Google Maps, making the prospect of running in place a little less daunting. The department also installed a flat screen TV connected to the internet, so they can access different training and technique videos. In an age of escalating childhood obesity, these new machines make exercising not only interactive and user-friendly, but also fun. Robert agrees that “the kids love it.”

It's not all fancy machines, however. The department also made much needed upgrades to the balance and strength training equipment – including a TRX suspension system and brand new balance balls. “It's not just a weight room anymore,” said Robert, “but a place where kids can really learn different modalities of training.” These upgrades bring Hunter to the forefront of physical training and guarantees that the PE department will be able to engage students with a love of exercise that will last a lifetime.



The high school weight room with upgraded machines



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ROSALY DEMAIOS ROFFMAN '55

poet

Someone Tried to Draw the Tsunami

So we could speak
about the unspeakable
under a window
down the street

So we could hold
the unmanageable
think about waves
as lines, as messages

From that giant mouth
of the sea
a giant hunger
took every boat
took every person

What is remarkable
was the still singing
of the elephants
burying one of their own
on high land

the respect of the birds
till breaking
from trees

And that lone fisherman
going back
to sea
to look
for his only child

He is a dot
on the line

We tell him
he can do anything

We fold out
around him

He is ours
We are his

His is ours

from ONLY THE SEA KEEPS

Calendar of Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 25

Evening Tour of the Rubin Museum of Art

Happy hour and a docent-led tour

Location: Rubin Museum, 150 W. 17th St., NYC

OCTOBER 5

TEDxHunterCCS

Featuring members of the Hunter community.

Visit www.tedxhunterccs.org

Location: HCHS, 71 E. 94th St., NYC

OCTOBER 10

Autumn Reception and Poetry Reading

Celebrating the poetry of Heather Dubrow '62, Rowan Ricardo Phillips '92, Erica Ehrenberg '96, and HCHS teacher Kip Zegers

Location: HCHS, 71 E. 94th St., NYC

To register for an event, visit our website at www.hchsaa.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. is:

To organize the alumnae and alumni of the School to further the School's activities;

To provide financial support to the School in the form of endowment funds and other funding for the libraries, laboratories, theater, dance, music, art and academic programs, athletic and computer facilities, and other programs and facilities of the School;

To establish scholarships, fellowships, and other student aid programs;

To serve as a resource for students of the School to enhance their education;

To sponsor educational, scientific, literary, and cultural programs in cooperation with the School;

To serve as an advocate for our School within the larger community; and

To create and sustain a social and professional network for alumnae/i of the School to accomplish these goals.

Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc.

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