



Summer 2021

AlumNotes

Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. • Volume 48, Number 1

*Healing
the
Community*

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



It has been said that with every crisis comes an opportunity. Over the last 24 months, the HCHSAA has endured twin crises – a financial one, simmering for ten or more years that threatened to boil over in 2019, followed by the global pandemic in early 2020. While we were not perfect, we did our best to not only survive, but to view these crises as an opportunity to lay the foundation for a more vibrant, diverse, and engaged membership going forward.

In 2019, our operating deficit ballooned to nearly five times the size of previous years. In reviewing our current and historical financials, we discovered that the Association had experienced an operating deficit for 8 of the previous 10 years. And membership levels were near 10 year lows and going in the wrong direction. Just as the Board started to take action to address the financial crisis the global pandemic struck, threatening the lifeblood of donations during a time when there was a pressing need for resources to support the high school and alumnae/i community.

There's nothing like a crisis to focus your attention on the things that matter. We knew we needed to stop the financial hemorrhaging and ensure new donations could flow more easily. As important, we needed to reflect on our purpose – why we existed – as a means of narrowing our focus. We could not afford to expend precious time and resources on other things that might be good things to do, but not our top priorities. Perhaps most important (though not as urgent) was to grow and diversify our engagement with alumnae/i, especially younger alums who have not been joining the HCHSAA at the same levels as in years past.

We had recently developed our Case Statement (or Case for Support) – “The HCHSAA is a volunteer social and charitable organization committed to the recruitment, development, and advancement of the gifted alumnae/i and students of Hunter College High School” - so that alums would know why we were raising money and for what we would spend their generous gifts. We discovered, however, that the purpose statement in our Certificate of Incorporation (COI), which governs for what a non-profit organization is allowed to raise and spend monies, did not include alumnae/i programs, only student ones. An amendment to the COI was necessary if the association wished to fulfill its Case for Support, and that required approval by the membership.

The Board also learned, through surveys and interviews, that membership dues were a potential barrier to engaging a more diverse membership, particularly among younger alumnae/i, reflecting a trend among younger generations to eschew paid memberships.

And, as reported in previous editions of *AlumNotes*, the high school was addressing their own twin crises of diversity and extraordinary expenses related to Covid, for which students, the high school administration, and the

Hunter College Foundation were seeking support from the HCHSAA.

Now that Fiscal Year 2021 has closed, I wanted to provide a summary of the accomplishments, categorized by the key priorities of our Case Statement.

The expression “No money, no mission” is true for many organizations, both profit and non-profit. In terms of donations (excluding bequests or extraordinary gifts), we had the second-highest grossing year when we compared contributions and membership dues combined. What that means is that we were nearly able to cover lost revenues from the reduction in membership dues from the previous year. As we reported previously, we reduced the operating deficit by about \$100K (from approximately \$131K in FY19 to \$31K in FY20). And to address feedback we received regarding how we report our financials, members of the Finance and Audit Committees met with the auditors, who have agreed to make the distinction between regular contributions and extraordinary gifts more clear so that members can easily determine the association's operating deficits and surpluses, a key financial health metric. Our goal is to have this year's financials posted to our website for members within the next few months, and then post at least the previous two years in the new format shortly thereafter, affording an apples-to-apples comparison.

I am also pleased to report that we have made progress in improving the HCHSAA's ratings by Charity Navigator, an independent ratings organization for non-profits. We currently have a score of 88 out of 100 and can improve that to 100 out of 100 by increasing the percentage of our direct program expenses to 70% or higher from the current 61%. By reducing administrative overhead expenses, increasing donations, and directing more of our gifts to programs for student, high school, and now alumnae/i programs, our objective is to achieve a Charity Navigator score of 100 within the next three years. We believe our commitment to serving as a good steward for donor's gifts is essential to our ability to increase donations.

And to help facilitate better information sharing, we recently launched a new website that is more mobile-friendly, and less costly to update and maintain, and saving the Association over \$10,000 per year. Thank you to Caitlin Terry, our Director of Development and **Eileen Mullin '85** for their work to improve the website experience for alums (hchsaa.org).

RECRUITMENT

In the interests of increasing the number of underrepresented and low-income students to the high school, the Grants Committee provided a \$40,000 grant to Exam Schools Partnership Initiative (ESPI), a non-profit organization founded by Hunter alums, to recruit and provide enrichment, instruction, and preparation to underrepresented and low-income students, starting in

AlumNotes is published by the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. Hunter College East, Room 1313B, 695 Park Ave., New York, NY 10065. Email: info@hchsaa.com. *AlumNotes* was founded in 1973.

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the 5th grade, for two years. We will be carefully monitoring progress and the Diversity Committee is also exploring other ways to overcome low awareness and low recruitment of underrepresented students.

Following the reduction in membership dues to \$0, membership in the HCHSAA grew by 40% from the previous year, the highest level in more than 10 years.

DEVELOPMENT

The global pandemic created major disruption in the high school, in addition to extraordinary expenses. The Board mobilized and approved the largest single grant in its history (\$250,000) in response to the administration's request for assistance. The purpose of these funds is to support student health and safety, enabling students to attend classes in person.

The Diversity Committee also hosted approximately 10 summer interns from the African American Cultural Society (AACS) and Hunter's Organization of Latin Americans (HOLA) student clubs.

In total, the HCHSAA provided over \$295,000 in direct program support, which means a greater percentage of our expenses are being allocated to our mission. While this will increase our operating deficit for FY2021, we were proud to be able to support the school during its time of urgent need.

ADVANCEMENT

During the pandemic, virtual events became very popular with alums – particularly those from the 60s and 70s. With the overwhelming passage of the proposed amendments to our COI to include alumnae/i programs in addition to student ones, we have an opportunity to start developing programs that will attract and engage a broader, more diverse cross-section of alums.

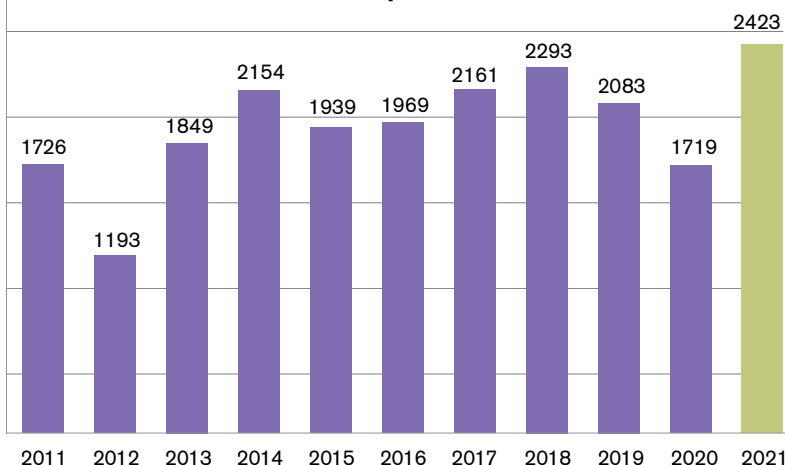
The Board is thinking about programs more broadly than virtual events. Initiated by the Programs Committee, the Board has launched a survey to help identify areas of opportunity to broaden engagement for those alums that already attend events, and begin to engage alums that have not, particularly more recent graduates. We have already received more survey completions than we have over the last several years combined.

If you have not received an online survey but would like to participate, please contact us at membership@hchsaa.org. It is possible that we do not have an updated email for you, and would like to ensure that you are able to receive important news and notifications from the HCHSAA.

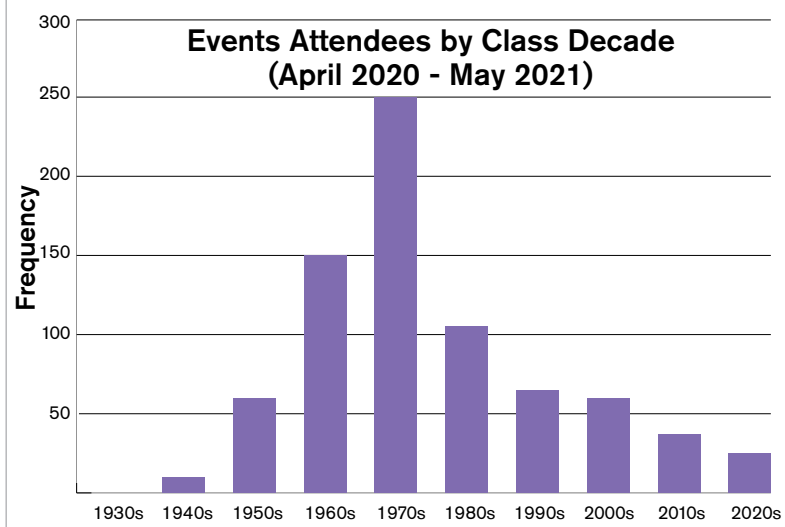
The Board has just created an ad hoc strategic planning committee that was established to help identify, prioritize, and plan our key objectives over the next three years, filtered through the lens of our purpose, mission, and vision for the HCHSAA.

I also want to personally acknowledge that the Board recognizes that we were far from perfect this past year. We made some difficult staffing decisions that unintentionally affected certain Milestone Reunion Classes. In addition, an oversight that was made when the Board decided to eliminate dues resulted in having to quickly establish a standard membership and proxy process consistent with our By-Laws. Some members found the process cumbersome and confusing. I want to apologize and ask for your forgiveness and forbearance as we work to manage the significant changes that have been made, and improve processes for this coming year.

Membership 2011-2021



Events Attendees by Class Decade (April 2020 - May 2021)







While there is still much to do, I hope you can see that we have made significant progress in our financial health, membership, and stewardship of the generous gifts we receive from you, in addition to our increased focus on purpose and mission.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors for their hard work and dedication this year, especially **Frederick Yee '93**, for his work in improving our financial health, **Judith Daniel '79**, for her leadership of the Diversity Committee, **Peggy Blumenthal '63**, for her contributions to *AlumNotes* and all other HCHSAA communications, **Vivian Altman '77**, **Anna Kovner '92**, **Esther Rose '71**, and **Adam Stolz '99** for shepherding the \$250K Emergency Grant through to fruition, and **Alex Friedman '00** for her leadership of the Membership Committee that resulted in the elimination of dues. I hope you will also join me in welcoming our incoming class of trustees: **Annette Almazan '93**, **Sherman Chan '97**, **Mari HOASHI Franklin '84**, **Maria Hekker '80**, **Sophia Liao '16**, **Diana McKeage '08**, **Jake Price '15**, and **Joyce Varughese-Raju, MD '98**. And finally, a thank you to Kinshasa Peterson, Communications Manager, for editing our beautiful *AlumNotes* and first Annual Report, and Claudia Beard, Membership Manager, for managing the membership database. I thank each of you for your passion, desire, and commitment to improve the Hunter Community.

Raymond Tsao '84

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I appreciate Hunter High's emphasis on diversity. When the Black Lives Matter marches and rallies began, my husband and I were moved to participate, and I began reminiscing. Who were Black people I recalled being in my world as a child, teen, young adult, etc.? One person I remembered was **Rudean JOHNSON Leinaeng '55**, an HCHS classmate. Not long after my participation in a Bayonne BLM rally, I got an email from Rudean letting me know she had published a novel, *Coal, War & Love* (BookBaby 2019), which I promptly ordered and am currently reading. Quite entertaining AND educational!

- Una HUNT Ratmeyer '55

Inventiveness in the time of Covid


Dear HCHSAA,

More than a year and half has passed since the pandemic forced your alma mater to reimagine school --first as a fully remote learning environment in March of 2020 and then, again this fall, as a hybrid endeavor that continued to serve some students as remote learners while moving increasingly towards in-person classes, activities, and events. As I write this, [in May 2021] HCHS's first PSAL soccer game (Coached by alum **Noah Kaminsky '09**) in 14 months is about to begin on Randall's Island (Go Hawks!). The efforts and resources required this year have been nothing short of extraordinary. Some of those resources came from the generous support of the HCHSAA and I am grateful for the leadership of HCHSAA and to the individual members who have continued to support Hunter College High School during this most challenging of years. Thank you from our teachers and students for helping us reinvent the creative and rigorous educational experiences that have been shared with generations of Hunterites.

The students may be looking toward summer vacation, but HCHS is already looking to the fall. With cautious optimism, we envision a school year where the majority, if not all, of our faculty and high school students may be vaccinated. Our science classes have keenly followed the urgent studies of the COVID-19 virus and the astonishing development of the vaccine. Even in this year where our young science researchers were limited in their access to research labs by pandemic protocols, our HS science research community thrived — in part from the continued generosity of HCHS alumna **Judith Lewent '66**. They reinvented what science competition success looked like under the guidance of the science department faculty who supported the thirteen Terra STEM Fair finalists (formerly known as NYCSEF), three Regeneron ISEF finalists and in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, two National finalists along with 6 regional semi-finalists.

As HCHS prepares to return to a school environment that looks more like a classroom than a computer screen, some of the inventiveness and creativity that thrived in these months of isolation will help us reimagine what is possible. If you haven't already seen the news stories about the extraordinary HCHS siblings, **JaeJeong Kim '21** and **Jaeah Kim '21**, who will shortly join the alumni association as graduates this June, please go to their *Oh Worm!* website, www.oh-worm.com, where they have channeled their love of science, teaching and technology to create a resource with more than 2.8 thousand subscribers to their YouTube channel that is used by more than 670 schools and colleges in 58 countries around the world.

With gratitude for your ongoing support, and wishing you a healthy summer,


Lisa Siegmann
Director, Campus Schools

SIGN UP AS A CLASS COORDINATOR!

Mark your calendars... Reunion will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2022!

Share your Hunter pride as a Class Coordinator for one of the **2022 Milestone Reunions for the Classes of 2017, 2012, 2007, 2002, 1997, 1992, 1987, 1982, 1977, 1972, 1967, 1962, 1957, 1952, Jan. 1952, 1947, Jan. 1947, 1942, and Jan. 1942.**

Class Coordinators play a vital role in the success of Reunion and are integrally involved in planning the many festivities throughout reunion weekend. Perhaps best of all, as a Class Coordinator you have an inside track to reconnecting with old friends after more than a year of social distancing and isolation. We also encourage you to generate enthusiasm for your classmates' contributions to your Class Gift.

We will follow health and safety guidelines as to whether Reunion 2022 will be onsite at the High School or online. Having conducted two reunions virtually, and with your involvement, we are confident that Reunion 2022 will be a success!

INTERESTED? LET US
KNOW BY EMAILING US AT
REUNION@HCHSAA.ORG.

CORRECTIONS AND OMISSIONS

We issue the following corrections to the Spring 2020 issue of *AlumNotes*:

Chaya Bhuvaneswar '89 was a Rhodes Scholar not listed in the Spring 2020 issue of *AlumNotes*.

In the End Notes section of the Spring 2020 issue of *AlumNotes*, the name of **Kit Lan Tam '75/'76 ICY** was misspelled. Her sister, **Margie Tam '82**, has provided us with a tribute to her life, which can be read on page 41.

We issue the following corrections to the Fall 2020 issue of *AlumNotes*:

In "Some Notable Names Among Black and Latinx Alumnae/i":

Martina Arroyo's graduation year was incorrectly listed as June 1953. She is a graduate of the class of January '53.

It was omitted that **Angela Bofill '72** was named an HCHS Distinguished Graduate in 1997.

Bobby Lopez '93 was mistakenly listed amongst alums of Latinx heritage. He is an alumnus of European and Asian American (Filipino) descent.

In the End Notes section of Fall 2020's *AlumNotes*, we neglected to mention that **Florence ROSENFELD Howe, Jan. '46** was named an HCHS Distinguished Graduate in 1990.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



Graduation Returns In-Person

Due to the easing of many of the restrictions put in place due to the coronavirus pandemic, this year's graduation ceremony was held in person at Hunter College. Social distancing measures were put in place for the graduation and a number of graduating students participated in the ceremony virtually.

Christopher Jackson '89, Editor-in-Chief of One World, an imprint of Random House, was named this year's Distinguished Graduate. As stated by Random House, "The mission of One World is to provide a home for authors... who seek to challenge the status quo, subvert dominant narratives, and give us new language to understand our past, present, and future."

This year's graduating class gift was made to IntegrateNYC, a nonprofit working to develop youth leaders with an aim to "repair the harms of segregation and build authentic integration and equity." Class Co-Presidents **Katherine Greim '21**, **Katie Lu '21**, and **Proof Schubert-Reed '21** presented the gift. To learn more about IntegrateNYC, visit www.integratenyc.org

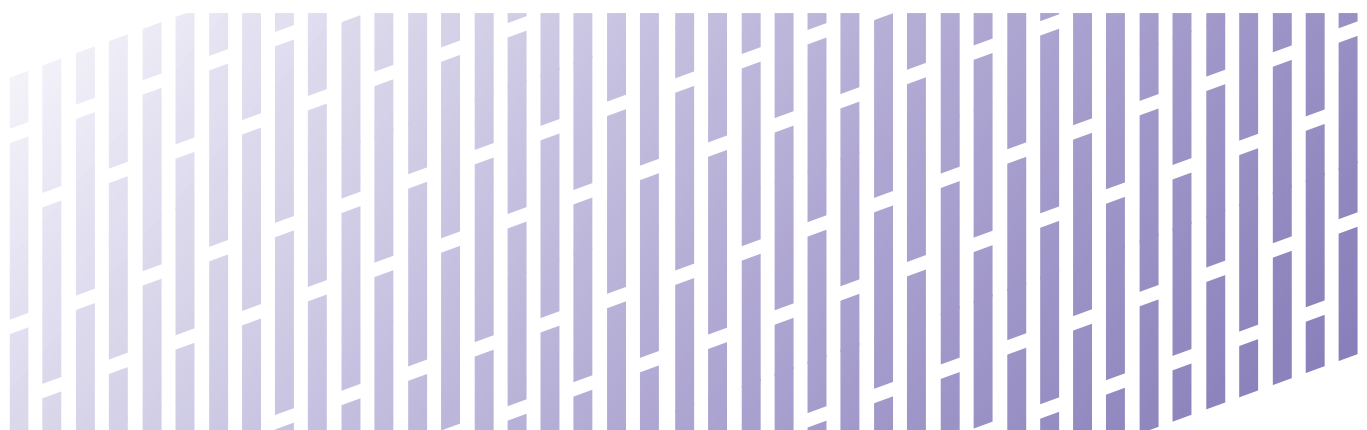
The Passing of HCES Principal Dr. Stanley Seidman

The Hunter College Campus Schools informed us of the passing of Dr. Stanley Seidman, former HCES Principal, on April 21, 2021. They have shared the following obituary with us:

We mourn the passing of our beloved and respected former Hunter College Elementary School Principal, **Dr. Stanley Seidman**. Dr. Seidman was a formidable advocate for education throughout his career, and HCES was the grateful beneficiary of his talents, dedication, and innovation during the formative 1970s-early 1980s. Principal Seidman was also

the educational force behind Hunter's legacy chess program, which still inspires children today. We send our condolences to the Seidman family and cherish the memory of this educational visionary whose work still touches Hunter today. In honor of his memory, his family has requested that donations be made to a fund established to support Chess and the Arts at HCES. Please visit the following link if you would like to make a gift in Dr. Seidman's memory: <https://community.hunter.cuny.edu/donation-pages/dr-stan-seidman>.





Physical Education Chair Robert Gaudenzi Retires

The close of the 2021 academic year also marks the retirement of Physical Education Chair Robert Gaudenzi. He started working in the physical education department at HCHS in 1980, and simultaneously served as wrestling coach at Hunter College, his alma mater. He taught generations of Hunterites and some of his more recent students informed him that he also taught their parents!

Gaudenzi also gave a farewell address to the Class of 2021. Wishing them well on their journey through life, he said, "People choose to be led by those who know where they are going." Commemorating his service to HCHS, Coach Neil Potter, HCHS Athletic Director, interviewed Gaudenzi about his profession, his life, and his family. To view the video, visit <https://bit.ly/3i8gkNe>.



Alumnus Receives Presidential Honor

In June 2021, HCHS reported that Shubh Khanna '21 was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. Khanna is one of four New York State students bestowed with the distinction; in total, there were 161 high school students nationwide recognized as presidential scholars in 2021.

The 57th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars was announced by U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars chooses scholars each year based on their academic achievements, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service and leadership.

As mandated by Presidential Executive Order, the 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars are comprised of one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at large, 20 Scholars in the arts, and 20 Scholars in career and technical education.

Founded in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored over 7,600 of the nation's top performing students. Expanded in 1979 to recognize students demonstrating exceptional talent in the visual, literary, and performing arts, the program was again extended in 2015 to recognize accomplished students in career and technical education fields.

Khanna nominated his math teacher, Miriam Ong Ante, for recognition by the program and she was named a Distinguished Teacher.





L-R: Hunter Debaters Joe K. '22 and Leo G. '22

Debate Team Update

HCHS' Debate Team has earned several high-ranking finishes at tournaments held throughout the year, including impressive performances by 9th and 10th grade novices. Grants from the HCHSAA are made annually in support of the Debate Team. Among their achievements are:

At the Columbia Invitational, the team of **Joe K. '22** and **Leo G. '22** was top-seeded after preliminary rounds and finished in 9th place overall. They earned a bid to the Tournament of Champions and were awarded the 2nd and 4th place speaker awards respectively — out of almost 300 competitors. At the New York State Championship, they ended in 3rd place and earned the 10th and 17th place speaker awards.

Integral to the team's success has been their dedication and practice, as shared by **Anabel G. '22**. "Had I not gone to as many tournaments as I did in the past two years," she said, "I wouldn't be where I am today with debate, which is why I think it's vital to future debaters that we continue to receive your support in subsidizing tournaments and making debate more accessible to interested students. Only through constant practice was I able to flourish."

Student Supports Peers in Foster Care

Sarah M. '23 is the founder of Achillea Peer Tutoring, a program that provides tutoring support to students in foster care. Sarah brings the unique perspective of being in foster care herself as a Hunter student and, while a resident in a group home, was pulled out of school for several months in eighth grade. She benefitted from tutoring at Hunter and was inspired to increase educational opportunities for other adolescents in foster care.

Sarah formed a community of student tutors at HCHS who work one-on-one with tutees; over sixty Hunter students have signed up as volunteer tutors for her program. Due to COVID-19, all tutoring sessions are conducted virtually. Through Zoom, she can reach students across the country to make a difference in the learning trajectory of foster children.

The HCHSAA has provided a grant of \$6,000 to Achillea Peer Tutoring, beginning in fall 2021, to support the cultivation of leadership skills among Hunter student tutors involved in the program. Additional funding is needed by Achillea to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) along with other operating expenses, and we offered to assist in that fundraising effort. If you are interested in supporting this project, contact the HCHSAA at giving@hchsaa.org.

AWARDS GIVEN TO STUDENTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2021

We are pleased to recognize the achievements of the Class of 2021. Below are the winners of this year's student awards that are funded by the HCHSAA.

THE SHEILA GLICKSTEIN HAKNER AWARD

was presented to **Helen Lyons '21**.

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.

THE GEORGE C. RHEE MEMORIAL AWARD

was presented to **Katherine Greim '21**.

Awarded in memory of George C. Rhee, father of **Elizabeth Rhee '92** and **David Rhee '94**, this award is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to community service and social justice.

THE MILDRED BUSCH AWARD

was presented to **Gabrielle Ahn '21** and **William Hu '21**.

Since 1987, this award is presented in honor of a former HCHS principal and teacher to students who have shown significant development as individuals and as members of the school community.

THE THOMAS HUNTER MEMORIAL AWARD

was presented to **Katherine Greim '21**, **Katie Lu '21**, **Proof Schubert-Reed '21**, and **Durga Sreenivasan '21**.

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.

WHERE THE CLASS OF 2021 IS GOING TO COLLEGE

Adelphi University	1	Princeton University	4
Bard College	2	Purdue University	2
Barnard College	2	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	3
Binghamton University	7	Rice University	2
Boston College	2	Rochester Institute of Technology	1
Boston University	5	School of Visual Arts	1
Bowdoin College	2	Skidmore College	2
Brown University	3	Smith College	1
Bryn Mawr College	1	St John's University	2
Carnegie Mellon University	3	Stanford University	3
Case Western Reserve University	3	Stony Brook University	4
Clark University	1	SUNY at Albany	2
College of William and Mary	2	SUNY Cortland	1
Columbia University	8	SUNY New Paltz	1
Columbia University - Sciences Po	1	Swarthmore College	1
Cornell University	9	Trinity College Dublin	3
CUNY Hunter College	7	Tufts University	3
Davidson College	1	Tulane University	4
Duke University	2	UNC Chapel Hill	2
Emerson College	1	University of British Columbia	1
Emory University	3	University of California-Davis	1
Fordham University	3	University of California-Los Angeles	2
Hamilton College	1	University of California-Santa Cruz	1
Harvard University	7	University of Chicago	3
Harvey Mudd College	1	University of Florida	1
Haverford College	1	University of Maryland-College Park	1
Indiana University	2	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	1
Ithaca College	1	University of Michigan	2
Johns Hopkins University	1	University of Pennsylvania	5
Lehigh University	2	University of Richmond	1
Macalester College	1	University of Rochester	1
Marquette University	1	University of St Andrews	1
MIT	4	University of Toronto	2
New York University	9	University of Vermont	2
Northeastern University	9	Virginia Polytechnic Institute	1
Northwestern University	6	Wellesley College	1
Oberlin College	3	Wesleyan University	4
Pennsylvania State University	1	Williams College	5
Pitzer College	1	Yale University	4

ALUMNAE/I NEWS

ALUMNUS NAMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER

Kent Anker '87 was appointed Chief Legal Officer of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church in November 2020. Anker functions as general counsel and provides legal advice and services in relation to secular legal matters to the board and officers of the Church. He brings a depth of experience to the position, having previously been General Counsel and Executive Vice President of Democracy Prep Public Schools, a New York-based national charter school management organization, with 22 schools in 5 states and, before that, as a litigation partner at Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman, a New York law firm.

Anker lives in Westchester County, New York with his wife, **Patty CHANG Anker '88**, an award-winning realtor, and their two children.

ALUMNUS RETURNS TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Joshua Geltzer '01 has joined the White House in a role working to counter domestic violent extremism. Appointed as Special Assistant to President Biden and Special Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security, he will work alongside the Homeland Security Advisor to stem the rise of extremist groups from forming in the United States.

Geltzer first held a position of service to the White House under the Obama administration, where he was senior director for counterterrorism and deputy legal adviser on the National Security Council. Prior to his 2021 appointment to serve the Biden administration, Geltzer was Executive Director of the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection at Georgetown University Law Center.

ALUMNA CONTRIBUTES TO THE GENETIC SEQUENCING OF COVID-19

In an article in *The Scientist*, **Libusha (Leah) Kelly '93, Ph.D.**, describes the research that she has done with Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Montefiore Health System to sequence SARS-CoV-2 among patients in the Bronx. She writes that "a robust national genomic sequencing program [is needed] to help detect, understand, and stay ahead of new and developing viral variants." Read her article at <https://t.co/seA1cEt425> and see Einstein College of Medicine's tweet <https://t.co/JVwqeO8Y1O>.



ALUMNUS APPOINTED GENERAL COUNSEL AT THE CONNECTICUT SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Gabe Rosenberg '94 was appointed General Counsel for the Office of the Connecticut Secretary of the State; previously, he managed all public-facing communications for the Office of the Secretary, including developing and implementing the messaging strategy for foreign intrusion in elections, changes due to COVID-19, and the 2018 and 2020 elections. In prior roles, he was Communications Director for the Speaker of the House and the Connecticut House Democrats in Hartford, Connecticut. He developed, implemented, and managed communications strategy for the successful effort to pass the strongest gun safety law in the country.

Among many other duties, Rosenberg has been responsible for the development of campaign messages, creation of campaign literature, and preparing candidates for debates. Previously, he was Deputy Counsel to the Connecticut Democratic Party. Rosenberg is a member of the HCHSAA Board of Directors. He is Chair of the Communications Committee and serves on the board's Diversity Committee.



ALUMNA IS FIRST FEMALE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Avril Haines '87 has made history as the country's first female Director of National Intelligence. Nominated by President-Elect Joe Biden, Haines will serve as the leader of seventeen U.S. intelligence agencies addressing domestic and foreign policy matters.

Previously, Haines was Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency under President Barack Obama, where she was also the first woman named for the role. Before that, she spent three years as deputy counsel in charge of national security issues in the Obama administration and as legal adviser to the National Security Council. Prior to her tenure in the White House, Haines was also deputy counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where she first worked alongside then Senator Biden.

A SIGNIFICANT GIFT BENEFITTING THE MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AMERICA

The Museum of Chinese in America, led by **Nancy YAO Maasbach '90**, is among several New York City based cultural institutions that was granted a portion of a \$2.74 billion gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, former wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. MOCA received an unrestricted gift of \$5 million that will help to sustain the organization, allowing it to continue to develop its programming and initiate other significant campaigns.

PLEASE PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD!

Kate EDELBAUM Heddings '89 has published a delightful book that will stimulate the curiosity of food and crossword lovers.

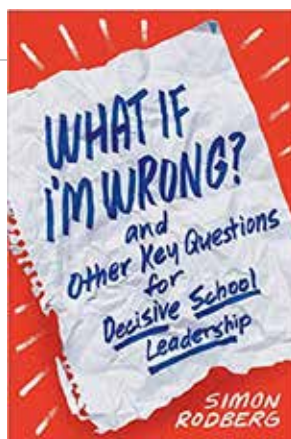
In *Hungry Games: A Delicious Book of Recipe Repairs, Word Searches & Crosswords for the Food Lover* (Tiller Press 2020), Heddings has concocted a delicious set of recipes that also involve problem solving. There are intentional mistakes inserted into each recipe, and the challenge is for savvy cooks to unearth those errors as they gather their ingredients. Are the misprints related to cooking and preparation, or spelling? Find out more by reading through this intriguing cookbook, where you are encouraged to play with your food!



A RESOURCE FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Simon Rodberg '96 is the author of *What If I'm Wrong? and Other Key Questions for Decisive School Leadership* (ASCD 2020). Aimed at school leaders, his book helps principals and other decision makers navigate complex and difficult choices that routinely come up in their work. Rodberg draws upon stories from his own experience as a principal and identifies five questions administrators can ask themselves when a critical decision is to be made.

Currently an educational strategy consultant and leader coach who teaches educational leadership at American and Catholic Universities, Rodberg has led schools and developed educational curriculum in the District of Columbia and Massachusetts.



ALUMNA IS PEN AMERICA HEMINGWAY AWARD FINALIST

Maisy Card '00, author of *These Ghosts Are Family* (Simon & Schuster 2020), was among five finalists for the 2021 PEN America Hemingway Award for Debut Novel. The award honors a debut work "of exceptional merit by an American author who has not previously published a full-length book of fiction."

A LOVE STORY SPANNING THE BORDER

Producer **Mynette Louie '93** brings a love story to the screen that crosses the U.S./Mexico border. Released in June 2021, *I Carry You with Me* also spans several decades.

After Iván, an aspiring chef and young father, meets Gerardo at a clandestine gay bar in provincial Mexico, they fall deeply in love. When their secret relationship is discovered by Iván's family, he makes the risky choice to cross the border to try his luck in the United States, promising both his young son and his soulmate Gerardo that he will return. Alone in New York City and faced with the daunting challenges of a newly arrived immigrant, Iván's decision costs him more than he ever imagined.

Academy Award® nominee Heidi Ewing's (Best Documentary, *Jesus Camp*, 2006) narrative feature debut is a tender romance spanning decades. Based on a true story, the film won the 2020 Sundance NEXT Innovator Award and Audience Award and was nominated for two Film Independent Spirit Awards and a GLAAD Media Award. *I Carry You with Me* is an epic love story, as well as a soulful rumination on family, sacrifice, regret, and ultimately, hope.

The story of *I Carry You with Me* strongly resonated with Louie, a daughter of working-class immigrants who migrated to New York and Honolulu. The film was shown at theaters in the U.S. and Mexico and is now available to rent or buy on digital or Blu-ray beginning on September 21. To learn more about the film, visit the website <https://www.sonyclassics.com/film/icarryyouwithme/>. A trailer for the film can be seen at <https://bit.ly/3xMQc11>.



LUIS MIRANDA ENCOURAGES FAMILIES TO APPLY TO HCCS

Luis Miranda, father of **Lin-Manuel Miranda '98**, wrote an article in the *Manhattan Times* about his son's admission to and experience at HCES and HCHS. In the piece, he recounted the depth of research his wife, Dr. Luz Towns-Miranda, performed in order to obtain a high quality, public education for their son. He went on to write that admission to Hunter "...is one of the best things that ever happened to our family." The article concluded with information about open houses held by HCHS for prospective parents. The *Manhattan Times* was co-founded by Luis Miranda in 1999. The award-winning, bilingual publication covers local news in the neighborhoods of northern Manhattan including Hamilton Heights; East, Central, and West Harlem; Washington Heights; Inwood; and Marble Hill. The local newspaper reaches English and Spanish speaking community residents that are predominantly Black, Latinx, and low-income; populations currently lacking in the Campus Schools student bodies.



We thank **Suzanne Fass '66** for bringing this article to our attention. To read the article, visit <https://bit.ly/3i6rNwY>

NADAL DEVELOPS COURSE IN FASHION LAW

Vanessa Nadal '00, attorney, chemical engineer, and the wife of **Lin-Manuel Miranda '98**, has co-created an innovative course on cosmetics regulations at the Fashion Law Institute at Fordham University. Drawn from a combination of her passions and experience, the program is the first of its kind. Nadal was interviewed by *InStyle* magazine about the cosmetics industry, her family, and more. To read her interview, visit <https://bit.ly/3i7ZmyG>.



NATURE AT ITS MOST WONDERFUL AND WEIRD

Life is strange; naturally you want to hear about it. *Strange by Nature* is a podcast that takes a lighthearted journey through the unexpected, amazing, and sometimes unsettling wonders of the natural world. **Victoria Thompson '98** and her two co-hosts, Kirk Mona and Rachel Giemza, are all current or former professional naturalists. Each week, all three hosts bring a new nature topic to surprise their fellow co-hosts—hilarity often ensues. There are some really strange things out there, from terrifying deep-sea creatures, to neutron stars, to naked mole-rats. Recent highlights include the unsettling appearance of the gob-faced squid, the strange history of mitochondria, and things that you will probably be sorry to learn about face mites. Each episode is about 30-40 minutes.

The podcast is free to subscribe to on all the usual podcast apps, including Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Visit the podcast's website at www.strangebynaturepodcast.com, or follow the show on social media: Instagram (@strangebynaturepod), Twitter (@Strange_Nat_Pod), and Facebook (Strange by Nature Podcast).



IN THE HEIGHTS FILM ADAPTATION RELEASED

The film adaptation of **Lin-Manuel Miranda's** *In the Heights* was released in theaters in June 2021 and was simultaneously streamed on HBO Max. We hope that you were able to see the movie!



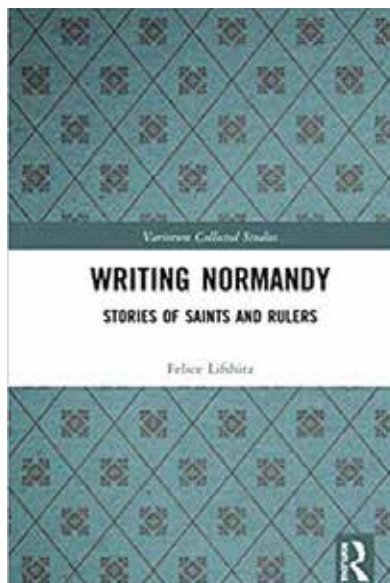
GLIMPSES INTO THE EXPRESSION OF LOSS

In *lost and found departments* (Cornerstone Press 2020), **Heather Dubrow '62** has compiled a collection of poems that address loss and occasional recovery – of words, of people, of memories, and of literary genres. The collection includes found poetry and monologues, to reimagined forms and poems of loss and recovery. Composed of writings that are witty, intelligent, and humane, *lost and found departments* challenges readers to see beyond the surface of the everyday.



A COMPILATION OF RESEARCH ON THE MIDDLE AGES

Writing *Normandy: Stories of Saints and Rulers* (Routledge 2020) brings together eighteen articles by historian **Felice Lifshitz '75/'76 ICY**, some published for the first time. The articles examine the various ways in which local and regional narratives about the past were created and revised in Normandy during the central Middle Ages. These narratives are analyzed through a combination of both cultural studies and manuscript studies to assess how they functioned, whom they benefitted, and the various contexts in which they were transmitted. The essays pay particular attention to the narratives built around venerated saints and secular rulers, and in doing so bring together narratives that have traditionally been discussed separately by scholars. Lifshitz has donated a copy of the book to the HCHS library. All of the reprinted articles were researched and written between 1985 and 1998, although some were published later due to delays beyond the author's control. For Lifshitz, this was a period of concentrated work in the field of medieval French history. She credits a good part of her success living and working in France, and handling relevant scholarly materials, to the excellent training in French language and culture that she received at HCHS, from a Grade 7 introduction through ICY-year AP French. Indeed, she credits many aspects of her success, academic and otherwise, to her Hunter education. The book is part of Routledge's Variorum Collected Studies book series. To quote the publisher's website: "Each title in the Variorum Collected Studies series brings together for the first time a selection of articles by a leading authority on a particular subject." It is a great honor, and a scholarly career milestone, to have published such a collection. Lifshitz is currently putting together a second Collected Studies volume, containing some of her more recent article-length work in Gender Studies, both medieval and modern.

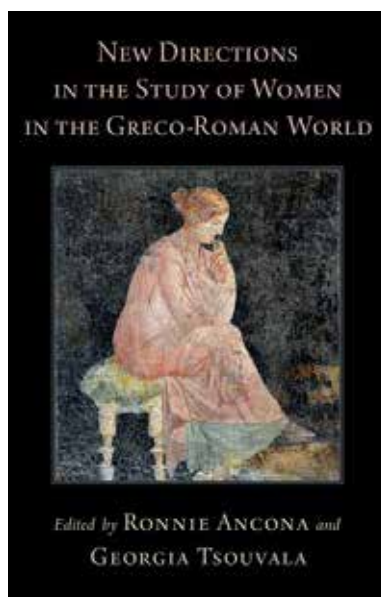


A LOOK AT THE LIVES OF ANCIENT WOMEN

Sarah Pomeroy's groundbreaking *Goddesses, Whores, Wives, and Slaves* introduced scholars, students, and general readers to an exciting new area of inquiry: women in classical antiquity. Almost fifty years later, *New Directions in the Study of Women in the Greco-Roman World* (Oxford University Press 2021), edited by **Ronnie Ancona '68**, builds upon and moves beyond Pomeroy's seminal work to represent the next step in this interdisciplinary field.

The "new directions" for the study of women in antiquity included in this volume of newly commissioned essays feature new methodological questions to be asked, new time periods to be explored, new objects of study, as well as new information to be uncovered. In addressing these new directions, the editors have gathered a distinguished group of contributors that includes historians, philologists, archaeologists, art historians, and specialists in subfields like ancient medicine, ancient law, papyrology, and epigraphy. While some chapters focus primarily on Greece or Rome, others straddle or go beyond these artificial boundaries in interesting ways.

While the focus of the volume is antiquity, the issues it raises will be of interest also to those studying women and theorizing the study of women in other periods as well. The volume will help readers to see women in antiquity with fresh eyes and to view anew important issues related to women today.



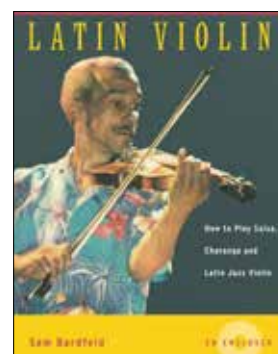
A LOOK BACK IN TIME

In her latest novel, *Antiquities* (Knopf 2021), **Cynthia Ozick, Jan. '46** has crafted a narrative that captures the shifting meanings of the past, and how our experience colors those meanings. She writes of an individual who looks back on his years as a trustee with a now-defunct learning institution for boys. His reflections on the school grow to encompass the wider circles of family and society, in addition to memories of his former students. Ozick's text is a tale that draws equally upon history and illusion.



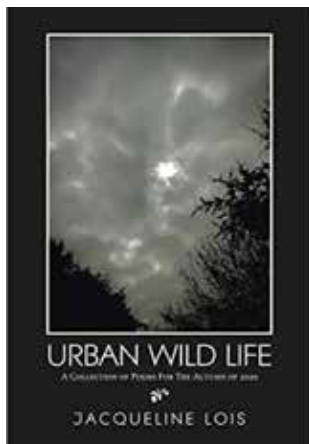
A COMPREHENSIVE WORK ON LATIN VIOLIN

Musician **Sam Bardfeld '86** has re-released his 2001 book *Latin Violin: How to Play Salsa, Charanga, and Latin Jazz Violin* (Independently Published 2020) as an eBook and on demand at Amazon. Considered one of the classics of creative/alt-strings literature, *Latin Violin* is clear and practical while also providing in-depth historical and musicological context. Violinist and educator Darol Anger described the volume as follows: "One of the great things about the book is its powerful approach to context. Historical information and painstakingly accurate transcriptions...complete the picture."



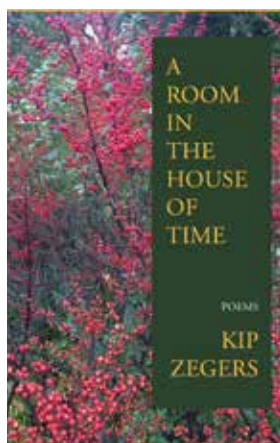
MEDITATIONS THROUGH POETRY

In publishing *Urban Wild Life: A Collection of Poems for Autumn 2020* (Xlibris 2020), **Jacqueline Strachan Laughlin '71** has returned to her first love, poetry. Now in her sixth decade, she has issued a first person, 21st century narrative that searches for, and occasionally finds, meaning in longing, rejection, sexuality, ministry, and spirituality. Describing her experience of living through the pandemic as "holy hibernation," she has emerged with a collection of poems that aim to guide the urban forester in the intimate discovery of wildlife. You can learn more about Strachan Laughlin's life as a Hunter student in our *Giving Voice to Diversity* segment on page 22.



REFLECTIONS ON LIFE AND TIME

Kip Zegers is retired HCHS faculty. Publishing his eleventh book, *A Room in the House of Time* (Dos Madres Press 2020), he uses poetry to revisit the intimate bonds of family; to address his role in an urban setting as a teacher, husband, and citizen; and to comment upon life in the widest perspective.

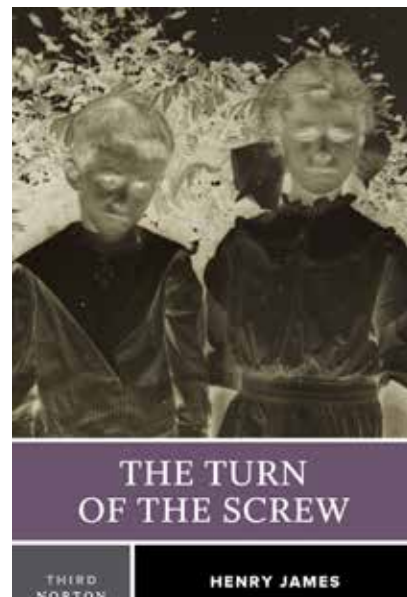


A COMMENTARY ON SYSTEMIC RACISM

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant **Anri Wheeler '99** wrote an Op-Ed regarding the attack on the U.S. Capitol and depth of systemic racism in the nation. Published on wbur.org, Boston's NPR news station, she stated, "We do not get to wash our hands of our complicity in what happened this week simply because we voted Democratic or didn't storm into the Capitol. Racism is in all of us." To read her article, visit <https://wbur.fm/3ibAvtO>.

RESEARCHING A TIMELESS TALE

Jonathan Warren '84, associate professor and former chair of the York University Department of English in Toronto, Canada, has edited a new and expanded Norton Critical Edition of Henry James' gothic novella *The Turn of the Screw* (W.W. Norton 2021). His first encounter with James' work was in HCHS classes with Rose-Marie Laster who, along with Gloria Pages, Parker Baratta, Helene Levi-Smith, and Jane Lewis, made a lifelong impression. In his novella, James tells the story of a governess who takes on the care of two orphans at a remote manse in the English countryside. A series of supernatural events occur at the estate, and she comes to believe that the children are being haunted by the ghosts of their former governess and valet. First published in 1898, the novella has been popular with several generations of audiences and has inspired several adaptations. Last year, it served as the inspiration for the second season of Netflix's hit 'The Haunting' anthology series, *The Haunting of Bly Manor*, as well as *The Turning*, a film directed by Floria Sigismondi.

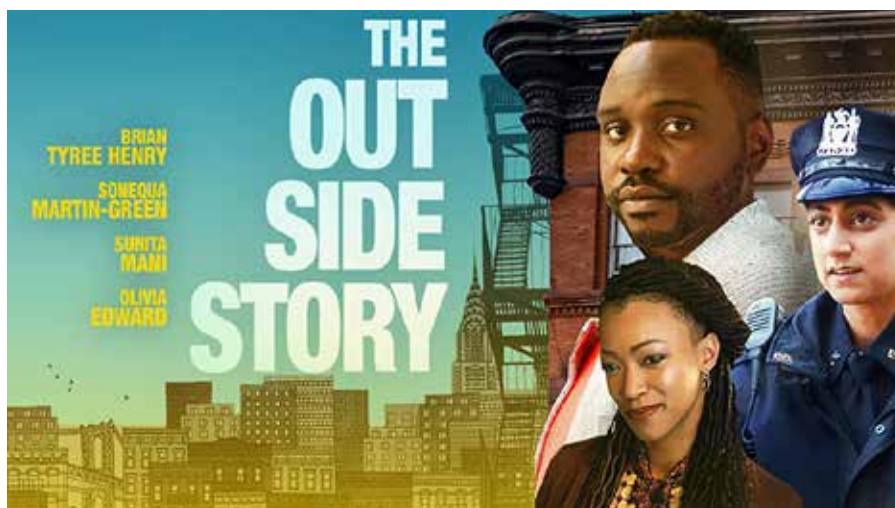


Norton Critical Edition is a well-known resource to students, instructors, and scholars, featuring a three-part format of annotated text, contexts, and criticism. Warren's authoritative edition of *The Turn of the Screw* includes explanatory notes, contextual history, and an expansive critical introduction. The product of more than three years of work, research for the edition was conducted at Yale University, Harvard University, Dartmouth College, the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Duke University, Colby College, the Hill-Stead Museum, the University of California Los Angeles, the New York Public Library, the University of Toronto, and York University.

ALUMNA CREATES KEEPSAKE BOOK FOR CHILDREN

Jessica Ambats '91 produced a keepsake journal for children to mark their experiences in 2020. In the journal, entitled *All About 2020* (Wooster Street Press 2020), there are questions and prompts for children to explore their feelings about the coronavirus pandemic and other events throughout the course of the year.





A DEBUT FILM RELEASED ONLINE

Casimir Nozkowski '94 released his first feature film, *The Outside Story*, in April 2021. The film is a drama/comedy about Charles Young, a broken-hearted video editor. Perceiving a betrayal of trust as a sign his girlfriend Isha is leaving him, Charles preemptively blows up his relationship and sequesters himself at home. The fates do not comply, and Charles locks himself out of his apartment. Stumbling into a transformational, timely odyssey exploring his community, Charles meets a dynamic ensemble of previously avoided neighbors who show him everyone has issues and it never helps to keep them all locked up.

To learn more about *The Outside Story*, visit the film's website, <http://www.samuelgoldwynfilms.com/the-outside-story/>. A trailer for the film can be seen at <https://bit.ly/36x3v9Y>.

HONORING TWO HUNTER ALUMNAE

Evelyn Hu '65, Ph.D. delivered the inaugural **Mildred S. Dresselhaus Lecture** at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in November 2020. The lecture series was initiated to honor the distinguished career of prolific MIT researcher, professor, and HCHS alumna **Mildred SPIEWAK Dresselhaus, Jan. '48, Ph.D.**, who served MIT for 50 years.

The lecture chronicles innovations in nanoscience and nanoengineering, a field in which Dresselhaus was a noted pioneer. Hu, who is the Tarr-Coyne Professor of Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering at the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University, gave a virtual presentation entitled "Transforming Defects into Opportunities: Leveraging the Nanoscale," where she discussed the potential advantages of creating defects in crystalline semiconductors. Significant contributions were made in this area by Dresselhaus.

Hu was identified by a committee of MIT faculty drawing upon nominations submitted by the community of MIT faculty, students, and researchers; along with scholars affiliated with other institutions and research laboratories and the general public. Inaugurated in 2019, The Dresselhaus Lecture recognizes a prominent leader in science and engineering, with a body of work that reflects the accomplishments and values held by the late Professor Dresselhaus.

To see her lecture, visit <https://bit.ly/3yYaiFW>



OBSERVING THE WORLD AROUND US

Bernice WORMAN Hauser '49 published an article in the Fall 2020 issue of the Teachers Clearinghouse for Science and Society Education Newsletter. Hauser, a Primary Education Correspondent for the publication and retired Director of Inter-Campus Activities at the Horace Mann School, drew upon the prevalence of lines in our daily life and how youngsters learn to develop an awareness of lines and shapes. Sourcing anecdotes from the classroom, as well as drawing observations from public and commercial institutions such as museums and grocery stores, Hauser illustrates how children encounter lines in a variety of means.

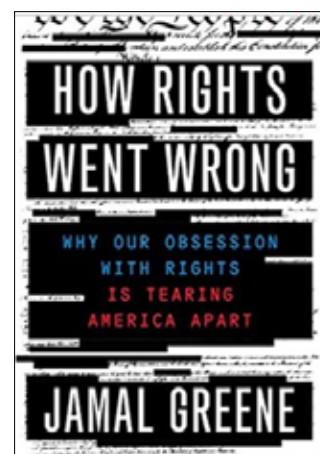
To read her article, please request a copy of the newsletter from Editor-in-Chief John Roeder of The Calhoun School. He can be reached via email at JLRoeder@aol.com.

A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF OUR RIGHTS

In his much-anticipated book, *How Rights Went Wrong: Why Our Obsession with Rights is Tearing America Apart* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2021), **Jamal Greene '95** illustrates how our approach to rights is dividing the country.

We believe that holding a right means getting a judge to let us do whatever the right protects. And judges, for their part, seem unable to imagine two rights coexisting—reducing the law to winners and losers. The resulting system of legal absolutism distorts our law, debases our politics, and exacerbates our differences rather than helping to bridge them.

Greene shows how we can build a better system of justice. In this paradigm-shifting account, he forces readers to rethink the relationship between constitutional law and political dysfunction and shows how we can recover America's original vision of rights, while updating them to confront the challenges of the twenty-first century.





CHRONICLING THE LIVES OF PIONEERING ART COLLECTORS

Ellen Hoobler '94, Ph.D., a specialist on pre-Columbian art and its historiography, is one of the authors of *Hollywood Arensberg: Avant-Garde Collecting in Midcentury L.A.* (Getty Research Institute 2020).

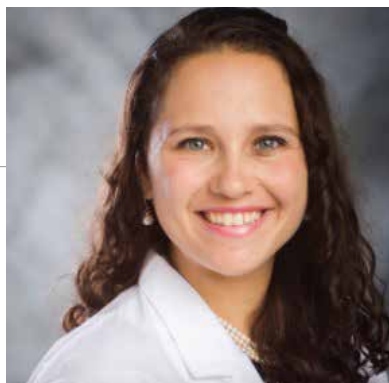
During the first half of the twentieth century, Louise and Walter Arensberg not only assembled one of the world's preeminent art collections but also carved out a unique place in the history of collecting. No one before them had made such audacious connections between modern painting, Renaissance literature, and pre-Columbian sculpture; and few (if any) used collecting more forcefully as a medium for artistic creation and intellectual exploration.

The Arensbergs' collection first took shape in their Manhattan apartment, where—in the wake of the Armory Show of 1913—they gave Marcel Duchamp his first American home and presided over the salon that brought Dada to New York. The collection expanded rapidly after their move to Los Angeles in 1921. For the next three decades, the Arensbergs put the European avant-garde, the English Renaissance, and Mesoamerican civilizations into dialogue in dense and playful displays whose visual patterns and hidden meanings shocked and inspired visitors—including some of the period's leading artists, writers, and curators.

Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic Christopher Knight of the LA Times said that this "captivating book will inspire new avenues of exploration." For more information, visit <https://www.hollywoodarensberg.com>.

ALUMNA APPOINTED TO LEADERSHIP POSITION AT CHILDREN'S NATIONAL HOSPITAL

Anna Kirkorian '00, M.D. was appointed Chief of Dermatology at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. An expert in laser and surgical treatments for pediatric dermatology patients, Kirkorian has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has given presentations at many national meetings.



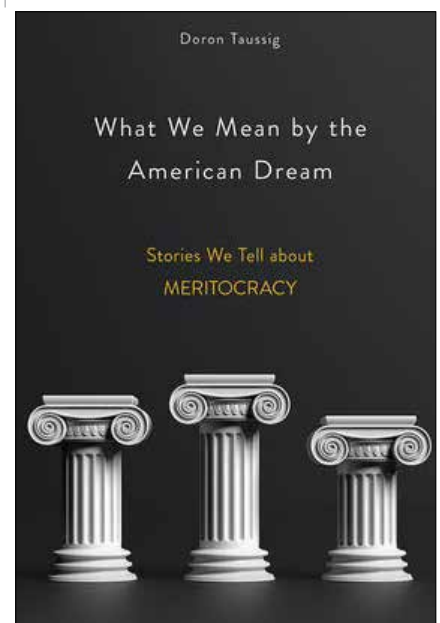
EXAMINING THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR NATION

Doron Taussig '99 has published a book that poses the question:

Did you earn what you have? Did everyone else?

The American Dream is built on the idea that Americans end up roughly where we deserve to be in our working lives based on our efforts and abilities; in other words, the United States is supposed to be a meritocracy. When Americans think and talk about our lives, we grapple with this idea, asking how a person got to where he or she is and whether he or she earned it.

Weaving together interviews with Americans from many walks of life—as well as stories told in the US media about prominent figures from politics, sports, and business—*What We Mean by the American Dream* (Cornell University Press 2021) investigates how we think about whether an individual deserves an opportunity, job, termination, paycheck, or fortune. It explores how various people, including dairy farmers, police officers, dancers, teachers, computer technicians, students, store clerks, the unemployed, homemakers, and even drug dealers got to where they are today and whether they earned it or not.





AUDRE LORDE '51 INDUCTED INTO AMERICAN POETS CORNER

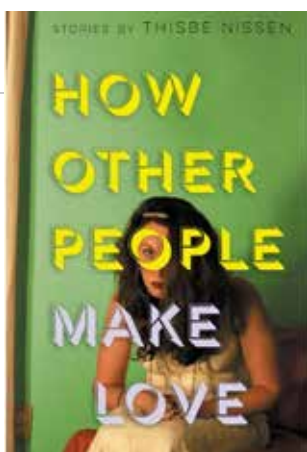
The life and works of **Audre Lorde '51** were commemorated with her induction into the American Poets Corner at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. Created in 1984 and modeled after a similar memorial space for writers at Westminster Abbey in London, the American Poets Corner was founded to recognize American writers of distinction.

A memorial stone carved with Lorde's dates of birth and death was placed in the American Poets Corner, with a quote from her poem "A Litany for Survival." Lorde began writing poetry at the age of 12, when she "couldn't find the poems to express the things [she] was feeling."

The memorial stone was unveiled on what would have been Lorde's 87th birthday. In commemoration of her achievements as a Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, and poet, Google created a Doodle of her.

WRITING OF BONDS OF INTIMACY

In *How Other People Make Love* (Wayne State University Press 2021), **Thisbe Nissen '90** chronicles the lives and choices of people questioning the heteronormative institution of marriage. Not best-served by established conventions and conventional mores, these people – young, old, gay, straight, midwestern, coastal – are finding their own paths in learning who they are and how they want to love and be loved, even when those paths must be blazed through the unknown. Concerning husbands and wives, lovers and leavers, Nissen's stories explore our search for connection and all the ways we undercut it, unwittingly and intentionally, when we do find it.

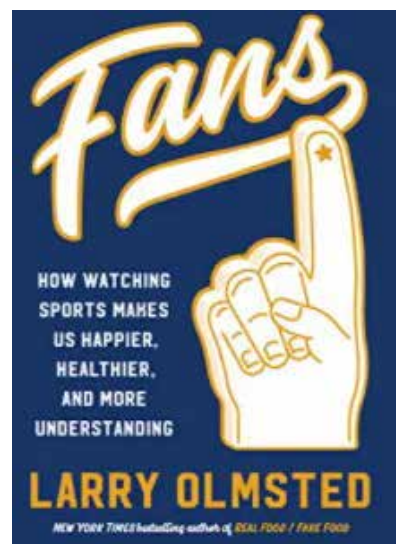


POETRY AS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR WORLD

In *Poems for Our Times* (Austin Macauley 2021), **Joyce BUKARESKY Block '57** expresses the endurance of youthful to mature love as well as the poignancy of loss. Through her writings, Block shares her passion for social justice movements, and illustrates lessons for love of country and for all people in the world.

HOW FOLLOWING SPORTS BENEFITS LIFE

In his latest book, *FANS: How Watching Sports Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Understanding* (Algonquin Press 2021), **Larry Olmsted '84** examines the lives of those who are passionate about sports. He makes the case that the more you identify with a sports team, the better your social, psychological, and physical health, the more meaningful your relationships, and the better connected and happier you are. Olmsted draws upon interviews and brand-new research to present why being a fan is good for us both as individuals and as a society.



SPELMAN COLLEGE FUNDS QUEER STUDIES CHAIR IN HONOR OF AUDRE LORDE

Spelman College, the esteemed HBCU and global leader in the liberal arts education of Black women, raised funds for the first-ever Queer Studies chair at a historically Black college or university, to be granted in Audre Lorde's name. She had a strong connection to the College, speaking on campus on a number of occasions, and donating her personal papers and other artifacts to the Spelman Archives, a part of the College's Women's Research and Resource Center.



Healing the

As in so many other fields, Hunter's graduates have been making a difference in relation to the coronavirus pandemic. As medical professionals, performing artists, and students, alumnae/i have been supporting their community as well as their fellow professionals, reaching out to their neighbors or to residents in other parts of the United States.

In this issue, we profile six alumnae who have shepherded their respective communities through the most difficult moments of the pandemic. Through providing tutoring services to children of frontline workers, or by implementing safety guidelines for thousands of hospital employees, these women have devised practical solutions to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

As the United States continues to emerge from the shadow of the coronavirus, these leaders have set forth important groundwork for the nation's recovery.



Community

By Kinshasa Peterson

LEADING THE WAY

Alumna Sets Protective Standards for 54,000 Person Professional Organization

Beverly KHNIE Philip '66, M.D. is a leader in her field. A practicing anesthesiologist who is the Founding Director of Ambulatory Anesthesia at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, Philip attended CUNY Queens College for her undergraduate studies and SUNY Upstate Medical University (Syracuse) for medical school. She has long been active in her professional association, the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), which has a membership of 54,000 physicians in the U.S. and overseas. Philip has held committee leadership positions, led the ASA Annual Meeting, and has served as ASA's Vice President of Scientific Affairs. She was elected to the executive leadership of the society in 2020, by vote of ASA's 500-member house of delegates. Her 2021 President year has coincided with the coronavirus pandemic, and Philip has done much to sustain her peers by developing resources that have supported the profession as a whole.

Philip came to Hunter as a first generation American. Her father emigrated from Poland just before the start of World War II and was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving in Europe in the Signal Corps. Her mother was born in Germany and was imprisoned in slave labor and extermination camps including Auschwitz; her mother and Philip's grandmother survived. Her parents met in New York after World War II.

Her parents both worked and instilled in their children an understanding that education was of the utmost importance. She attended P.S. 75 in Manhattan and had a sixth-grade teacher who prepared her entire class for the exam schools, teaching them the mechanics of taking a test. Philip and her classmates benefitted from this focused instruction and in that year, she and five other girls from her elementary school were admitted to Hunter.

Philip was interested in Hunter's offerings in the sciences and recalls the formative instruction she received in ninth grade Biology and in Physics. Attending the high school during the years it was housed on Lexington Avenue between 68th and 69th Streets, she appreciated the architecture of the building and its gothic elements, particularly the gargoyles. Some mornings, she and her friends came to school early and went to the upper floors of the building to watch the sun rise over those gargoyles. As a student in an all-girls school, she was impressed by the caliber of the teachers as well as the energy and assertiveness of her fellow students. Since girls served as all officers in the G.O. and in other student organizations, there was no doubt that women could hold positions of leadership.

Her Hunter education served her well in her college and medical studies. Today, she teaches and mentors anesthesiology residents, leading a seminar in negotiation. Philip's trainees often ask her about the foundation for her success, to which she readily references Hunter. At HCHS, she shared, she found a subject she loved and worked hard to achieve results.

As an anesthesiologist, Philip works in operating rooms to provide medical care for patients who are being prepared for surgery. The anesthesiologist's role includes ensuring that patients are in their best possible condition to have surgery. Anesthesiologists are responsible for the medical decisions that enable patients to come out of anesthesia safely, balancing the medications needed so that they can tolerate surgery, and for patients' recovery thereafter.



The onset of COVID-19 caused an immediate change in the execution and delivery of operations, as Philip and her colleagues needed to conduct their practice fully geared in personal protective equipment (PPE). They also helped support the work being done by fellow anesthesiologists in the intensive care unit who were directly caring for the surging numbers of COVID-19 patients. Despite the pandemic, essential operations and procedures still took place to ensure that non-COVID patients received care.

Philip, as ASA president, was also responsible for assembling resources to help every anesthesiologist in the nation. Information was made publicly available on how to protect oneself, learning necessary skills pertaining to safety regulations, and adapting equipment to protect medical staff as well as patients. With the entire profession navigating its way through the pandemic, Philip led the ASA in forging alliances with other organizations including the American College of Surgeons, the American Hospital Association, and the Association of Operating Room Nurses. Together, these organizations issued a series of roadmap documents pertaining to critical issues about coronavirus management. As ASA president, Philip has also worked closely with the media to allay the concerns of those who may need to come to the hospital for a procedure but may be afraid to do so.

COVID-19 has changed the way medical professionals care for patients. Even while clad in protective gear, they work to be extra supportive because with health restrictions in place, family cannot be present with patients. When Philip first meets a patient, she takes out her ID card and says, "this is what I look like," which always elicits a laugh and makes a patient feel more comfortable.

With the time commitment of being ASA president, this year Philip spends one day a week providing care in the operating rooms, less time than she did beforehand. As president, she is charged to shepherd ASA members to envision what they want the future of their specialty to be, while simultaneously setting standards for professional practice now.

A FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING

Alumna Helps Medical School Weather the Pandemic

Janice HERBERT-Carter '73, M.D., MGA, FACP is the Chair of the Department of Medical Education at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) a historically Black learning institution (HBCU) in Atlanta, Georgia. Serving the school for over thirty years, she contributes to developing the curriculum, faculty development, and maintaining accreditation. As Chair and Professor, she teaches in many courses for MD, PA, and post-bac pre-med students.

Herbert-Carter was raised in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and was the first generation in her family to attend college. Her parents, who were the first generation in their family to attend high school, placed a strong emphasis on education in raising her. Her mother worked as a school aide, collecting milk money from children, making copies for teachers, and monitoring the lunchroom. Her father worked at the Abraham & Straus Department store on Brooklyn's Fulton Street, packaging goods for delivery.

When she was four, her family actively sought out a school that would foster an engaging environment for their bright child. They could not afford private education and Hunter Elementary was only open to children who lived in Manhattan. Their solution was to send her by city bus to P.S. 208 in East Flatbush, quite a distance from their home. Her mother took her on the half hour bus ride every morning. The curriculum at P.S. 208 included a program of enrichment in addition to the usual instruction in English and Math; Spanish, music, and typing were offered to both boys and girls.

Herbert-Carter's mother signed her up to take the Hunter admissions test. Once she passed, they informed her that she would not be going to the same junior high school as her friends. She entered Hunter as a seventh grader who would be immersed in a variety of cultures, languages, and school traditions and still recalls Field Day at Bear Mountain. She had a diverse group of friends that included Buddhists, Jews, Muslims, Asians, and Latinas, as well as Black and White students. She especially remembers Mr. Mark and Mrs. Maria Nadel, married teachers who taught Math and Spanish, respectively. Mrs. Nadel, who was Herbert-Carter's instructor in ninth, eleventh, and twelfth grade, was dedicated to her students and taught five students in an advanced Spanish conversation

course for two years that was held during lunchtime. An émigré to the U.S. from Cuba, Mrs. Nadel also immersed her students in the culinary traditions of her homeland. Herbert-Carter is almost fluent in Spanish, even so many years later, a skill to which she gives credit and sincere thanks to Mrs. Nadel. There were only a small number of Black faculty during her time at the high school, including Ms. Sandra Miley, who taught Phys Ed, Ms. Janice Hodges who taught English, and Mrs. Irene Dabney, a Guidance Counselor.

When it came time to select a college, she chose Princeton for her undergraduate studies. Herbert-Carter majored in Biochemistry and chose to go to Howard University, a highly respected HBCU in Washington, D.C., for medical school. It was the right choice for her, and she also completed her Internal Medicine residency at Howard University Hospital. She describes the time at Howard as the best four years of her life, and it is also where she met her husband.

She was invited to join the faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine, as the school was entering a phase of growth. Affiliated with Grady Hospital, Morehouse School of Medicine is actively engaged in community outreach and holds a mission to address the health needs of the underserved with a vision of leading the creation and advancement of Health Equity. She joined their faculty with the understanding that she had the opportunity to contribute to something great. The program, which started with 27 students, has now grown to over 100 students per MD class.

Teaching during the coronavirus pandemic has presented significant challenges, particularly as she normally teaches in an interactive manner that goes far beyond lecturing. While the first two years of medical instruction are didactic, and can mostly be delivered virtually, some things must be in person such as the cadaver lab. The second two years are clinical, involving hands on patient care, and must be performed in person. Accordingly, the school reopened



its courses to clinical students in June 2020. She has also adjusted to having a home office. Since there were no casual interchanges that could take place in an on-campus setting, she scheduled more deliberate communications with students, faculty, and staff, using Zoom, FaceTime, and phone, and texts, whatever means of communication worked best.

Herbert-Carter has also acted as a resource for her church in relation to COVID-19, providing her fellow parishioners with information about the virus. She advised her church to shut down once the pandemic started and has participated in Zoom calls to inform the congregation about safety measures as well as the vaccine. She also participated in two health-related podcasts that focused on COVID-19 in the Black community for Nubian Tigers, a social awareness group organized by Black Princeton alumni. The Nubian Tigers podcasts are produced by another Hunter alumna, **Michelle SCOTT Jacobs '71**.

Though she makes her home in Atlanta, she looks back on her years in New York, and at Hunter in particular, with great fondness. Last year, she got a taste of the reunion spirit by attending the 466 Lexington Avenue Faculty/Student Reunion organized by **Ann Starer '75**. The last class reunion she attended was her 35th in 2008; she hopes that travel conditions will improve and allow her to return to Hunter for her 50th in 2023!

A GUIDING HAND

Alumna Ensures the Wellbeing of Hospital Patients and Staff

As a Clinical Psychologist and Kings County Hospital's Chief Experience Officer, **Seanna-Kaye Denham '94, Ph.D.** has fulfilled numerous roles during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this position of senior leadership, she is typically responsible for providing support and training to interns, externs, and fellows, as well as psychiatry fellows, while overseeing the patient experience. Her work as Chief Experience Officer involves the engagement of the patient and their loved ones with the hospital's workforce, and supporting the workforce at the hospital for their wellness and engagement.

Denham was born in Jamaica, West Indies. The eldest of three children, her parents relocated the family to the United States when she was nine years old. She had just completed fourth grade on the island and was scheduled to be skipped to the sixth grade when she emigrated to New York. As an immigrant new to the city's educational system, Denham was placed in a fifth-grade class and, as a sixth grader, was invited to take the Hunter test. Living and attending school in Queens, she was still adjusting to life in a new country and had not been on the subway often before taking the Hunter exam. She recalls the length of the trip to get to Hunter College, a complex journey that involved switching subway lines. Upon arriving at the College, she remembers seeing a multitude of youth, accompanied by their parents, who would all sit for the exam.

As this new opportunity took shape in her educational life, Denham's parents sought counsel from family members and school principals. The principal of her junior high school advised against entering into the admissions process for Hunter High, while the principal of her elementary school supported her applying to and attending HCHS.

Once at Hunter, Denham found community amongst a group of other students who lived in Southeast Queens. Their families had set up a buddy system where they travelled together to Hunter and navigated the subway system. Much of Manhattan was new to her and she valued getting to know another part of the city.

During Denham's years at the high school, the student body was very diverse and that helped her to feel more settled in the United States. She found that the activities of the African

American Cultural Society (AACS) were a definitive resource to her as an adolescent; the bonds between Hunter's Black students were strong and they supported one another.

Denham also benefitted from the high school's music program, where she literally and figuratively found her voice. She cultivated her talents under the instruction of Music faculty member Campbell Austin, participating in Jazz Chorus and Gospel Chorus, and performing at Madison Square Garden.

For college, Denham attended New York University and lived in the campus dormitories, taking the opportunity to learn about other neighborhoods in Manhattan. Majoring in Psychology and Africana studies, she continued to be active in student life, just as she had been at Hunter, and was president of the Caribbean Students Association. She entered doctoral study at St. John's University in Queens, where she completed her clinical training.

Obtaining her credentials as a licensed clinical psychologist, Denham was first sited at Long Island Jewish Medical Center (which is now part of Northwell Health's network of hospitals) where she practiced in a child and adolescent day program. After that program closed, a new opportunity came about for Denham to take on a position at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, a Safety Net Hospital and Level One Trauma Center where she has worked for the past fourteen years. A part of New York City's Health and Hospitals system, she values the diversity of the staff and the patients whom the hospital serves.

The pandemic brought new aspects to her work as an administrator. She has been called upon to procure Personal Protective Equipment as well as managing the physical and emotional support of a 5,400 person staff on a sizeable healthcare campus. She has worked on the frontlines since the onset of the pandemic, and her department has been operating on a 24-



hour basis for much of that time. To date, she has attended no fewer than 500 COVID-19 briefings. In her words, she has seen firsthand "what compassion fatigue looks and feels like." She has also been faced with managing her own stress as a frontline worker while she and her husband have been caring for their 3 1/2-year-old son.

The coronavirus presented Denham with additional opportunities to serve the community, including gaining an in-depth perspective about the supply chain and donations to the hospital. She managed how patients and staff entered the building to ensure safe access to, and passage through, a facility that remains open round the clock. Through her efforts, Kings County served as an emotional resource for those who were out of work, and provided jobs to some of those who'd lost employment due to the pandemic. Additional employment, some temporary and others permanent, was made available to college grads whose professions were put on hold due to the virus. There was also a support group that was formed, Helping Healers Heal, where staff members reached out to address the wellness needs of emotional support providers.

Though the pandemic has caused a source of pain and loss for so many, there have been some benefits. Since May 2021 was Mental Health Month, Denham hopes that there will be less stigma around issues pertaining to mental health and wellbeing. There has also been an increased interest in therapy. She is grateful for having had the opportunity to support and fulfill the needs of Kings County's patients and workforce, and considers her work through the pandemic to be among the highlights of her career.

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE

Alumna Serves Her Community in Medicine and Politics

In 2020, Senator **Michelle Au '95, M.D., M.P.H.** was elected to the Georgia State Senate. The first Asian-American woman to be elected to that state's senate, she holds dual occupations as a physician and as a politician in a setting where she has been on the frontlines of healthcare delivery and policy. Dr. Au, who is also a parent of three school-aged children and a published author, is used to juggling multiple roles.

Dr. Au grew up in Murray Hill, Manhattan, the daughter of Chinese immigrants. She enjoyed her years at Hunter, relishing not only the academics, but the wide range of extracurricular activities, including student government, (where she served as class co-President her senior year), writing, and performing with the Asian Cultural Society in their annual Lunar New Year show. Her junior year, she served on Term Council and was later elected senior class Co-President.

Her primary passion, however, was writing, and channeled much of her interest into developing one of Hunter's school newspapers, *Witness*. (It should be noted that in the 1990s, Hunter was home to at least four monthly school newspapers, which also included *What's What*, *The Observer*—headed at that time by future journalists **Sewell Chan '94** and **Jennifer 8. Lee '94**—and *The Forum*.)

Dr. Au became Editor-in-Chief of *Witness*, which was rebranded under her leadership. She and her team decided that the high school needed a tabloid, bringing a lighter touch to the editorial offerings at the school that sometimes (she felt) had the tendency to take itself too seriously. Attention-grabbing buzzy headlines were modeled after those published in the *Daily News* and *New York Post*. Many of their most popular running features were human interest columns, and students attested to enjoying a school paper which felt more accessible.

Academically, she took advantage of the full spectrum of the liberal arts education at Hunter. Her physics instructor, David Tomes, a British émigré who'd lived a storied life before his time in New York, became both a mentor and a friend. Her senior year, Dr. Au had the opportunity to work as Tomes' teaching assistant. Another teacher that had a significant impact on her life was Dr. Rembert Herbert, who taught AP Logic & Composition and gave invaluable advice that shaped her future as a writer. Looking back on her time at Hunter, Dr. Au stated that, "It's not one of those things you recognize the full value of until decades after you leave. The peer group is truly remarkable."

After graduation, Dr. Au attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts, where she obtained her BA in Psychobiology, and went on to medical school at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. She went on to two medical residencies at the Columbia University Medical Center, the first in pediatrics and the second in anesthesiology, and returned in 2017, where she obtained a Master's Degree in Public Health from Columbia University's Mailman School.

Her final year of residency, Dr. Au secured a book deal with Grand Central Publishing and wrote a medical memoir entitled *This Won't Hurt a Bit (and Other White Lies)*, which, among other things, detailed the challenges and rewards of having her first child early on in her medical residency. Conventional wisdom often discourages medical trainees



from starting a family during their long and grueling residency years, and Dr. Au writes in her book about the balance of "two all-consuming jobs in which the lives of others are very literally in [your] hands."

Following the completion of her anesthesia residency in 2008, Dr. Au and her family moved to Georgia, where she took a position as attending anesthesiologist at Emory-St. Joseph's Hospital. While anesthesiology is largely a behind-the-scenes specialty, more recently she and her colleagues found themselves thrust into the center of her hospital's COVID-19 response team, working both in the intensive care units and the emergency department as part of the hospital's emergency airway team. Dr. Au has also worked extensively across the state on their COVID vaccine outreach strategy, including volunteering with the Department of Health at their mass vaccination sites to get as many Georgians protected as possible.

In 2020, Dr. Au was elected to the Georgia State Senate, with the goal of advancing legislative solutions to improve the social determinants of health in one of America's unhealthiest states. She has worked on legislation protecting patients against emergency healthcare claim denials, ensuring fair coverage for post-procedural breast health imaging, capping drug pricing, gun safety legislation, and a number of bills promoting voting rights and racial equity, all of which she views as public health issues. She has also used her role as a public official to advocate for increased awareness of the rise of violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, particularly following the horrific "Atlanta spa shootings" that took place on March 16th, 2021.

On the question of multi-tasking, Dr. Au notes that she attends to her responsibilities in series, rather than in parallel. While she was in session at the state Senate earlier this year, she took a leave of absence from the hospital, but now has returned to her normal clinical hours while working on her Senate duties in the evenings and on weekends. Her three children, all school-aged, returned to fully in-person schooling last fall. It's the medical concept of triage—take care of what's most urgent now, make time for the rest later—that has allowed her to live a truly multidisciplinary life. "To paraphrase Madeline Albright, you can take on a lot, just not all at the same time."

BUILDING THE PLANE AS SHE WAS FLYING IT

Actor Addresses Food Insecurity During the Pandemic

Early in the days of the coronavirus pandemic, actor, writer, and producer **Simone Policano '12** didn't realize she was starting a nonprofit organization. Invisible Hands Deliver was born from a Facebook post she issued asking if a young, able-bodied person could help someone that was more at risk to COVID-19. She was contacted by friend and fellow Yale University grad, Liam Elkind (younger brother of **Zachary Elkind '12**), and the two began to assemble a group of friends who volunteered to deliver food, medicines, and other necessities to the elderly, the immunocompromised, and individuals with disabilities.

Referred to by her father as "The Facebook post heard round the world," the initial call for Invisible Hands Deliver's volunteers was made locally in her Queens neighborhood; flyers with her phone number were posted throughout the community. Soon after, an article about her work appeared in the *West Side Rag*, Policano was introduced to a producer who worked for Lester Holt at NBC Nightly News. From there, Invisible Hands Deliver received nationwide coverage about their mission to support the city's most vulnerable citizens. The nonprofit, which started with a website and a Gmail address as its sole point of contact, was referenced by Bernie Sanders and posted on Blake Lively's Instagram feed, reaching 27 million followers.

In the space of a year, Invisible Hands Deliver has organized over 10,000 volunteers in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Atlanta. Delivering over \$1,000,000 in food and other items, the organization has expanded its model to work in partnership with food pantries to address food insecurity brought on by the pandemic. Invisible Hands Deliver now provides free delivery of food to people who can pay for their groceries, and also delivers free food from pantries to those who are food insecure.

In her upbringing, Policano attended Hunter Elementary as well as Hunter High, and credits much of her vision and implementation for Invisible Hands Deliver to the rigorous course of study that was offered by the school. Her memories run deep, going back as far as her initial entrance examination to HCES where she remembers socializing with other young children and shaping a ball of clay (she doesn't remember

into what). Her kindergarten teacher, Darlene Freeman, was interested in Japanese culture and interspersed Japanese food and music into the lessons she taught her classes. In second grade, there was Miss Rhone, a commanding presence in the elementary school and one of the few Black teachers at HCCS. Through it all, Policano was aware of how much she was being exposed to as she matured.

At HCHS, Policano developed an interest in theatre that would form the foundation of her professional life. English/Communication and Theatre faculty member Margaret Sturiano taught a course called "Theater in New York," where she took students to see theatrical works as a supplement to classroom study. Sturiano was a significant mentor to Policano as she performed in Brick Prison Playhouse and prepared for college; today, Policano considers her a friend. Amelia Betancourt, who taught Spanish, was another influential teacher during her years at the high school. Lynda Rovine in the Guidance department was also an important figure as Policano applied for college. Social Studies faculty **Irving Kagan '82** and Physics Instructor Ross Pinkerton, both Yale University graduates, answered questions she had about the university and student life there. Through their recommendations, she chose to attend their alma mater.

In her high school experience, she valued the diversity of her friends and peers who came from all parts of the city and represented a wide range of backgrounds. "My best friend group of young women at Hunter authentically looked like a college admissions brochure," she stated. Collectively, they were on a journey to figure out what they wanted to be in life. Hunter was an environment where it was cool to be a nerd as well as intellectually curious. Policano recalled the cultural shows put on by student clubs; she was a member of Hunter's Organization of Latin Americans (HOLA) and the South Asian Youth Alliance (SAYA), the former to celebrate her Latina heritage and the latter to support her South Asian friends and learn more about their culture. The faculty, she recalled, enabled her and her classmates to have important conversations surrounding diversity and inclusion. In that setting, she cultivated a strong desire to challenge herself.



Through Invisible Hands Deliver, Policano had the opportunity to engage with Hunter as a commencement speaker. HCHS Principal Dr. Tony Fisher invited her to deliver a congratulatory address to the Class of 2020 to inspire that year's graduates. At the close of the school year, the school's guidance counselors shared a call for volunteers at Policano's nonprofit. A number of current Hunter students signed up to work alongside Invisible Hands Deliver's team. The student volunteers provided support in back-end development, coordinating deliveries to pair volunteers with recipients.

The Hunter network also helped set the foundation for Invisible Hands Deliver. **Emma Almon '12**, one of Policano's closest high school friends and an alumna who lives in Queens, was able to complete many deliveries in the borough at the height of the pandemic. Other resources came her way from the HCHS alumnae/i community, and former teachers reached out to her to express their support for the work that she was doing.

The mission of Invisible Hands Deliver is continuing to evolve. They have grown their partnerships to include food banks, religious institutions, and other community organizations to support those who are food insecure. In taking on the hunger crisis, Policano's organization is also addressing issues of poverty and systemic racism.

A strong community has formed through Invisible Hands Deliver, where many friendships have been created. Referencing the "Dynamic Duos" of youth helping the elderly, Policano has seen bonds of companionship evolve between people who might not have met if it weren't for the pandemic. "Our volunteers get as much out of this as our recipients do," she explained. "There will always be the need to bring people together."

HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE

Time Away from Campus Fosters a Vision to Provide Enrichment for Youth

COVID-19 caused **Anna Beloborodova '17** to think of others once her in-person classes stopped. With a remote model for learning in place, the Columbia University student was inspired to help the families of young learners by providing virtual academic enrichment. Inspired by her experiences as a Big Sib and mentor to younger students at HCHS, she founded the organization Hearts Over Hands in 2020.

Beloborodova came to the United States at the age of four. Born in Sweden, her parents were Russian émigrés who became affiliated with Columbia University once they arrived in New York. Her father teaches Astrophysics at Columbia, and her mother works for the University's Harriman Institute, which focuses on Russian and Eastern European studies.

They advocated for their daughter to enter Hunter and, once she took the exam and was accepted, Beloborodova was fully immersed in the school's offerings. She recalled the instruction of Dr. John Loonam and **Dr. Daniel Mozes '84, Ph.D.** in English, and **Dr. Audrey Maurer '51, Ph.D.** who taught French; courses that formed the foundation of her learning. The school's Spirit Day at Bear Mountain came to mind in her recollections of the school. She was also a Big Sib in her junior and senior years at Hunter, and she both enjoyed and valued the experience of being a mentor to younger students.

Attending Columbia University for undergraduate studies, Beloborodova began with a major in English and French, and switched her major to Psychology in her senior year. She aims to perform research before applying to graduate school in clinical psychology.

In the middle of her junior year in college, the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of her in-person classes. While spending time at home with her parents, her thoughts turned to other learners who were also pulled out of the classroom and their daily social settings. She thought empathetically of the challenges faced by parents, particularly essential workers, who were now faced with having their children at home full time.

Through her vision of serving others, Beloborodova founded Hearts Over Hands to support families by granting access to free, virtual supplementary instruction and mentorship provided by college students to children ages 6-16. It was the confidence that she developed while at Hunter that allowed the program to take shape. In its first few weeks of operation, her student-run, volunteer organization was deftly managed by her efforts to simultaneously keep on top of her college assignments. In time, though, she formed a team to work with and was able to build out her program.



Hearts Over Hands began with a small group of volunteers from Columbia University, with outreach to families in New York. Over time, Beloborodova has assembled a network of college students from universities across the United States – including Cornell University, Pace University, Rutgers University, the University of California Los Angeles, and the University of California Davis – who work with young learners nationwide. Called Big Sibs, the college students who register as mentors and instructors for her program are paired with families for a minimum of 6-to-8-week commitments, ensuring that the child bonds with their Big Sib. Many instructors have formed close connections with their young pupils and have continued their program of instruction well beyond eight weeks. Beloborodova herself has been working with one family since July 2020. Her program also operates internationally, utilizing the skills of those instructors who are fluent in other languages.

She has cherished the connections made between her team of mentors and the relationships they have developed with her pupils and their families. As Beloborodova and her instructors chart a path forward as they near graduation from college, she intends to keep the those ties close at hand as they emerge into the professional world.

GIVING VOICE TO

In this issue, we present our first installment of Giving Voice to Diversity, which will be a permanent feature in *AlumNotes* going forward. In this new feature, we will dedicate space to present the life stories and achievements of Hunter's Black and Latinx alumnae/i.

Our first Giving Voice profile is of **Jacqueline STRACHAN Laughlin '71**, who shared her experience at HCHS during the 1960s and 70s. If you are an alumna/us of Black or Latinx heritage (or know of a classmate who is) and would like to be profiled, please let us know! Email us at info@hchsaa.org.

GIVING VOICE TO DIVERSITY

Alumna Finds Places of Affinity at HCHS

Jacqueline STRACHAN Laughlin '71 reflects deeply on her educational experience, now fifty years since her graduation from HCHS.

Strachan Laughlin was born into a family of educators. Her parents, both teachers in the New York City public school system, sent their daughter to the All Saints School, a Catholic nursery and elementary school in Harlem that was close to where they lived. She was on track to attend Cathedral High School, another Catholic institution in Manhattan, but when she entered sixth grade, her father told her about Hunter and the entrance exam. She received test preparation and instruction from a colleague of her parents for the Hunter test, but her parents let her know that, ultimately, she could decide where she wanted to go to school. When the letter of acceptance came from the nuns at All Saints, she decided to go to Hunter.

Already familiar with an all-girls learning environment, Strachan Laughlin took notice of things that were different at HCHS. Coming from a school that was 90% Black, she was struck by the diversity of the student body. In the 1960s and 1970s, there was an initiative at Hunter to have each school district within the five boroughs send a student to HCHS, resulting in a group of pupils that represented a broad stretch of ethnic and economic backgrounds. She recalled how, at lunchtime, curiosity arose about what other girls were eating for lunch. So, they swapped lunches!

Strachan Laughlin was a student at Hunter during a time of significant transition. In her senior year, the high school was moved from "The Castle" on 68th Street and Lexington Avenue to the 13th and 14th



floors of 466 Lexington Avenue. In this new setting, students interacted amongst one another as friends and peers, while keeping their respective cultural connections close. Strachan Laughlin spent time with a number of other Black students, including **Susan Ware '71**, as the two lived in the same housing complex. There were affinity spaces created for students to explore issues related to race and identity and, overall, there was definitive support for women's issues to cultivate the strengths of students. These affinity groups formed the basis for today's array of cultural clubs at HCHS. In the world at large, the civil and women's rights movements inspired Hunter's young women to cast a wider lens on their academic experience. She and her friends spent time in Greenwich Village with members of the Black Panther Party. Looking back on those years, she feels that Hunter made her a well-rounded person.

Some of Hunter's faculty were acquainted with Strachan Laughlin's parents, and her seventh-grade guidance counselor was among their circle of friends. During her time in high school, her father took on a new position as Postmaster General in Manhattan. He was the first Black

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person to serve in the position and some of her classmates knew who her father was.

Academically, she credits Miriam Balf with introducing her to the study of theater and the arts. She took Balf's courses in drama and dance and learned a good deal about the prominence of Black artists in theater. While she excelled in those courses, she did not choose to pursue a career in the arts. Her grades in French, Math, and Chemistry required extra study in those subjects; Math faculty Dr. Harry Ruderman recommended that she come to his office to "talk about what you don't know."

For her university studies, Strachan Laughlin chose to attend Williams College in Massachusetts, a men's college that had just begun to admit women. She and fellow alumnae **Nancy Gallt '71** and **Jean Tibbets '71** made up a small group of Hunterites that would be among the first women to attend the school. Two of her Hunter teachers advised against her going to a former men's college, they thought it would be difficult to be among the few female students in a majority male environment. While there, she studied American Civilization and Psychology with the then new concentration in Afro American Studies. Her sophomore year she attended Brown University as a visiting student to study anthropology with the intent of becoming a clinical psychologist. Upon beginning classes on Williams' campus, she realized that she had been completely protected from sexism while at Hunter. "I didn't know what an insulated bubble I was in... I was unprepared for patriarchy," she remarked.

In college, she was frequently the only woman in the room. She married a young artist in 1973 and she had her first child, Jordan Meadows, in September of her senior year at Williams. She graduated on time with the help of her classmates that inspired her to be both mother and scholar. While she received a Master's Degree from Howard University in Counseling, she diverted her interest to nurse-midwifery as a way to support mothers and young families.



She retired from a nursing career of service at the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2018 working in clinical settings in Portland, Oregon; Long Beach, California; and Washington, DC. In recent years, she has turned to another love; that of poetry. A collection of her work entitled *Urban Wild Life: A Collection of Poems for Autumn 2020* (Xlibris 2020) was published last year. In this volume, she has sought meaning in longing, rejection, sexuality, ministry, and spirituality, and describes her experience of living through the coronavirus pandemic as "holy hibernation."

Strachan Laughlin and her classmates came together to celebrate their 50th anniversary of their graduation via Zoom during Reunion weekend in June 2021. In addition to the virtual gathering, they've chosen to mark their 50th anniversary in several ways. There was the Gold Campaign, initiated by **Alice Bruce '71**, which secured a gift of more than \$79,800 to the high school by collecting pledges from alumnae over a five-year period. Strachan Laughlin created a survey that was sent to her classmates and inquired about the lived experiences of Hunterites, posing questions including "Did you prepare in any way to take the entrance exam for Hunter?" and "What was your commute to school like?... Did you travel with another student?" The responses to her survey were as diverse as the group of her classmates.

THE ALUMNAE/ ASSOCIATION

In Memory of Ula Barrack '73

By Caitlin Terry

Ula Barrack '73 passed away too soon on February 28, 2021. Those who knew her knew that no matter what her condition or circumstances, Ula refused to live without joy, beauty, or meaning. Inspired to honor Ula's memory and support future generations of students, some of Ula's classmates worked with HCHSAA and the Director of Campus Schools to identify a specific area of need among current HCHS students, *Special Learning Services* and *Individualized Learning*. All gifts in memory of Ula will be allocated to this.

The learning specialist at Hunter College High School (grades 7-12) is currently working with 78 students with academic support needs, language needs, and specialized plans such as 504 learning plans or IESPs (Individualized Education Plans). 504 Plans are part of Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the *very year* of Ula's graduation. Each student's needs are distinct and individualized. In addition to providing services to students, the learning specialist meets with parents and teachers throughout the year.

Gifts in memory of Ula Barrack will help to support the provision of these necessary special services, and will also:

- Make additional tutoring available for students
- Enhance technological support for online and remote learning
- Help offset the \$15,000 annual cost to accommodate students who qualify for additional time during tests. (This requires hiring a proctor to administer the tests in the Learning Center, separately from the classroom)
- Support additional Professional Development for faculty

Special Learning Services and Individualized Learning is a new allocation option for giving to HCHSAA, and general donations to fund these services are welcome. If you wish to make a gift in memory of Ula, please visit <https://hchsaa.org/donate/>.



Dear HCHSAA Board of Directors,

We remain deeply grateful to the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association for the generous \$250,000 commitment to support COVID-19-related emergency needs for the 2020-2021 academic year at Hunter College High School. This gift has helped to alleviate the significant costs associated with ensuring safety for our high school students throughout the pandemic.

To date, emergency expenses for the high school have totaled more than \$620,000. These include:

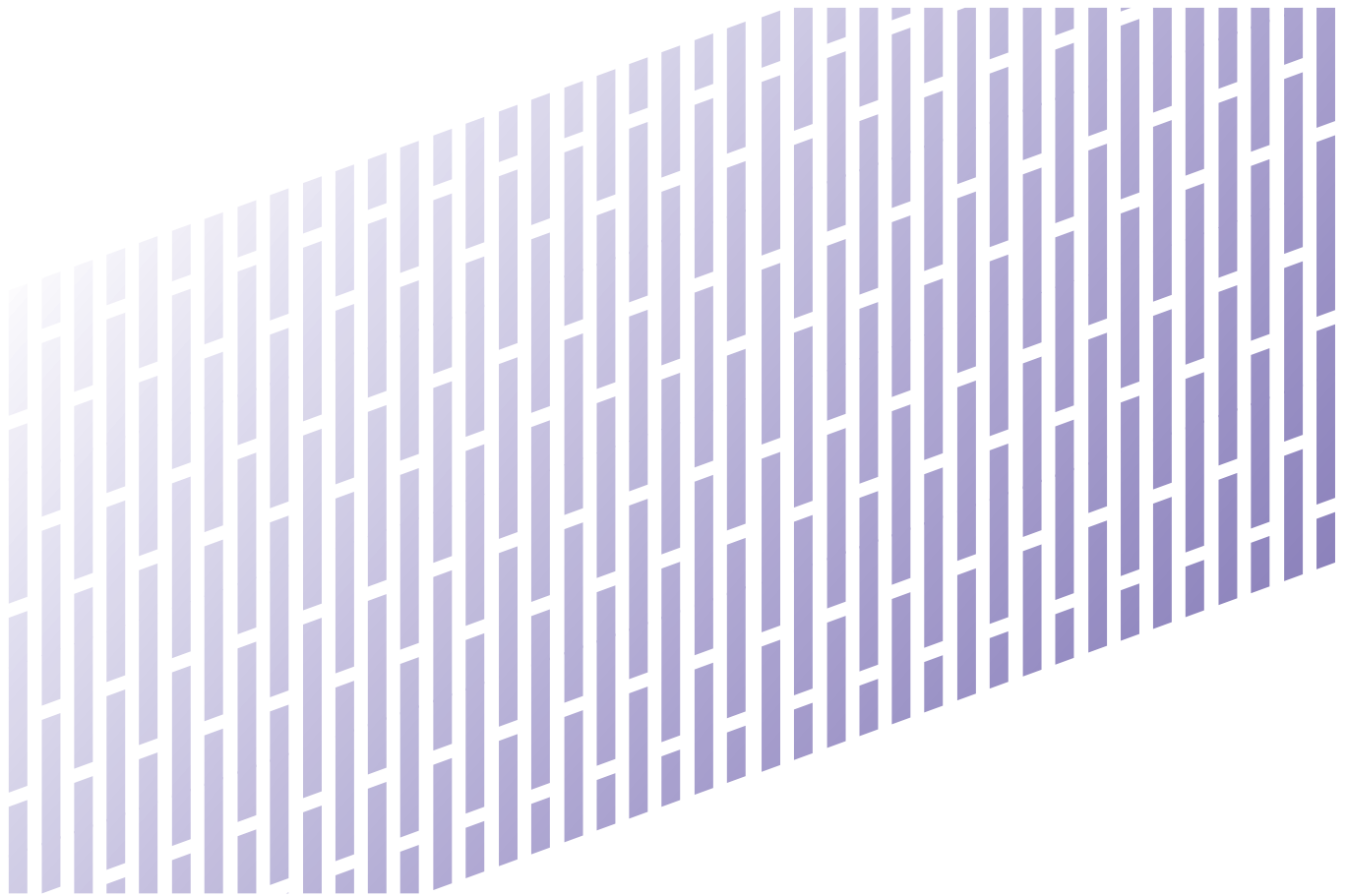
- Tents at the Silberman School of Social Work and the East 94th Street campus (22% of tent costs at 94th Street assigned to HCHS based on student usage)
- Monitors to ensure proper social distancing between students
- Outfitting a temporary nurse's office at the Silberman School of Social Work
- Bio reference Covid Testing (20% of the student population tested weekly) and the consultant who carried out the testing
- A building safety consultant
- Technology needs
- Parking for High School faculty near the Silberman School of Social Work and East 94th Street campuses
- Supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE)

In 2020-2021, approximately 60% of our high school students attended school in-person. Grades 7-10 were hybrid throughout the year, combining in-person and remote days, and between 100-150 of 11th and 12th grade students came on optional Fridays each week in May.

We again thank the HCHSAA for the critical support provided for our high school students during these challenging times. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gray
Hunter College Foundation



SUPPORT HUNTER. GIVE TO THE EMERGENCY FUND.

As we shared in the Winter edition of AlumNotes, in January 2021, Lisa Siegmann, Director of Hunter College Campus Schools, approached HCHSAA with an urgent request for funding to support COVID-19 expenses. In the 2020-2021 school year alone, HCHS has spent \$2.2M to satisfy the requirements to safely operate the school while managing the necessary precautions due to the pandemic. CUNY budget cuts have made funding extremely difficult to obtain, and the school has suffered extraordinary hardship due to these expenses. The PTAs of

Hunter's Elementary and High Schools have each pledged \$150,000 to help offset this ongoing and tremendous expense, and the HCHSAA Board of Directors pledged to join them.

In March, the Board of HCHSAA made a commitment to grant \$250,000 to Hunter College High School to offset the tremendous expenses posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes \$75,000 already donated by alumnae/i since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as \$125,000-150,000 typically

allocated in the HCHSAA budget for grants given annually to support programs that have been put on hold due to the pandemic. The first payment of \$150,000 was remitted to the school in April 2021, with the \$100,000 balance to be paid by the end of calendar year 2021. We continue to rely on support from our alumnae/i community to respond to the ongoing challenge and to support HCHS in future as expenses only continue to increase. This ambitious \$250,000 target was designed to provide as much support as possible to the students, faculty, and staff



of HCHS as they navigate this unprecedented time. We hope that you will join us in supporting these efforts by visiting www.hchsaa.org/hunteritestrong and contributing to the HCHSAA COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

Board Member Spotlight

In this issue, we spend a few moments with HCHSAA board member **Adam Stolz '99**. Stolz, who is Vice President, Strategy & Administration at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, serves on the board's Audit and Governance Committees.

AlumNotes (AN): Why were you inspired to apply for HCHSAA Board membership?

AS: Hunter gave me so much, starting with a set of tools for engaging with and learning from the world. It also gave me many of my closest lifelong friendships. The HCHSAA Board was a way to give something back. It was also an opportunity to re-immense myself in the school and to connect with alumnae/i from across generations.

AN: What aspects of your career do you feel prepared you to sit on the HCHSAA Board?

AS: I've spent most of my career focused on strategic planning and management in the public and non-profit sectors. Throughout, I've had a chance to learn from people with diverse backgrounds in a variety of settings — everything from managing emergencies and working on political campaigns to implanting policy and evaluating mergers to overseeing corporate communications. Across these roles I've spent a lot of time working with volunteer boards and advisory groups to formulate plans and build consensus.

AN: What aspects of your education at HCHS do you feel prepared you for Board membership?

AS: I think that being trapped for hours in a windowless structure with opinionated, energetic people is solid preparation for board service in many corporate or non-profit environments.

AN: What can you share with other HCHS alums to encourage them to apply for Board membership?

AS: An engaged and connected alumni community can make a meaningful difference for current and future students, and the HCHSAA Board is the principal group charged with making that happen. To be effective, the Board really needs strong representation from a range of eras — including among the newest grads — and a diverse set of Hunter experiences.

AN: What has been your greatest satisfaction serving on the board? What is the biggest challenge?

AS: Getting a lens into what's going on at the high school — what's changed, what hasn't — has also been pretty interesting. Over the past several years, it's been impressive to see

the students stepping forward and leading with respect to changes they'd like to see.

AN: Do you serve on the board of other schools or organizations?

AS: I previously served as Board Chair of an amazing non-profit started by a friend of mine called Kings County Tennis League. It uses tennis as a vehicle for youth development in and around Brooklyn's public housing communities.

AN: How long have you served at Maimonides Medical Center? Had you previously worked in healthcare?

AS: I came to Maimonides in 2016 to serve as Chief of Staff for the newly appointed CEO. Previously, I worked in management consulting with a focus on hospitals and health systems. I actually started my career in the field of emergency management, coordinating emergency preparedness and response with the City of Baltimore for several years; I ended up drawing a lot on that experience in supporting Maimonides' COVID-19 response.

AN: As a hospital administrator, you have been on the frontlines throughout the pandemic. How have you been serving Maimonides and the community since the onset of COVID-19?

AS: The people working at or near the bedside are really the ones who have been on the front lines. Respiratory therapists, housekeepers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, patient transport workers, technologists, to name a few of the people it takes to make a hospital function. The professional commitment and sheer stamina of the women and men who do that work has been nothing short of incredible.

My job during the pandemic has been focused on planning and coordination in support of our patient care mission. Structuring our command center, managing the flow of information, managing crisis communications, developing patient volume forecasts, and working on whatever issue emerged on a given day. At Maimonides the population of COVID-19 patients was among the largest in the city. We're typically set up with approximately 500 medical/surgical and intensive care beds and in



March 2020 we set in motion a plan to expand our capacity to 1,400 beds. Fortunately, we didn't have to get to that point.

AN: How has your workload changed due to the coronavirus pandemic?

AS: From mid-February to mid-May 2020, it was all Covid all the time. Since then, the challenges really haven't let up; they've just evolved. As we've dealt with second and third waves of the pandemic, we've simultaneously been retooling all our other services to deliver care in a Covid-safe manner, expanding our virtual health capabilities, and dealing with both the financial and public health implications of the drop-off in demand for healthcare services as compared to pre-pandemic levels. Since December we've also been running a brand-new vaccine program. So it's been a long fifteen months and counting.

AN: What procedures have you implemented to ensure workplace safety for your staff?

AS: We implemented the same types of procedures as most other hospitals. Fortunately, we were in a position where we never came close to running out of personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff safety was significantly a function of being disciplined about using the PPE correctly day in and day out, and not letting one's guard down. One thing we became increasingly attuned to over the course of the pandemic was the toll on mental health and well-being. We've made a concerted effort to offer opportunities for staff to seek help in a range of ways, and to remove barriers that might prevent someone from availing himself or herself of these services.

A LOOK BACK ON REUNION

REUNION 2021

Our second virtual Reunion, broadcast on Facebook Live, brought together milestone classes for an afternoon filled with Hunter memories. Alums shared their experience from varied locations including Manhattan, Massachusetts, and as far away as the Philippines, delving into topics of curriculum, classmates, and society at large. We extend our thanks to videographer **Kevin Chiu '13**, who put together a superb video for us, and to the speakers from each milestone class who spoke so eloquently! To see the Reunion video, visit <https://bit.ly/36B8cja>.

This year's class gatherings were virtual, and no less spirited than they would have been in person. The HCHSAA hosted individual get togethers for the classes of January 1951, 1956, and 1961 that featured songs, tributes, and much discussion; lively gatherings for other milestone years were also organized as Zoom events by Class Coordinators.

We also thank this year's Class Coordinators for leading the fundraising efforts for their fellow alums. Highlighted below are the amounts raised by the top five fundraising classes:

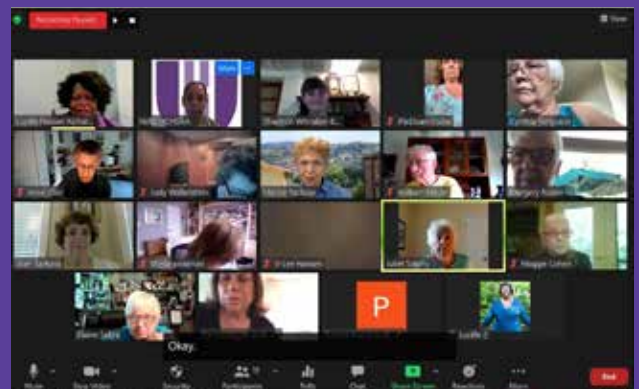
The Class of 1971: over \$79,800 raised
(from their five-year Gold Campaign)

The Class of 1986: over \$23,000 raised

The Class of 1976: over \$13,000 raised

The Class of 1956: over \$13,000 raised

The Class of 1961: over \$11,000 raised



A Report on the Annual Meeting of Members

This year's Annual Meeting of Members, also held virtually, followed the Reunion broadcast. The event drew its largest attendance to date, at over 160 attendees from approximately 2,400 members, the highest level of membership in over ten years.

Plans for the organization of the Annual Meeting were extremely complex, involving the issuance of proxy forms in advance of the event, the application of \$0.00 dues membership by alums now, a vote on the election of Directors and amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation, and the procurement of balloting software in which to conduct a vote at the meeting. The challenges of registering many new members, based on decisions taken at the May Board meeting just a few weeks before the annual meeting, left a short window to address some key issues, while adhering to the spirit and letter of the By-Laws. We

are sorry for the problems some alums had in either registering or logging into the meeting and certainly plan to streamline the entire process going forward.

Presentations delivered at the Annual Meeting by the HCHSAA President **Raymond Tsao '84** and HCHSAA Treasurer **Frederick Yee '93** provided an overview of the fiscal standing of the organization. Alums in attendance were also invited to vote on two important items: an amendment to the HCHSAA's Certificate of Incorporation and the proposed slate of board candidates for the Class of 2024. In the weeks leading up to the Annual Meeting, a group of alumnae generated their own proxy forms, and an alternate candidate for the Board requested to be placed on the ballot the day before.

In addition to those alums who'd offered their vote by proxy, votes

were held electronically at the Annual Meeting. The slate of candidates for which alums could vote included those endorsed by the HCHSAA as well as write-in candidates. Those attending the meeting were also sent ballot software that allowed them to cast votes for individual candidates and add write-in candidates. The slate of candidates can be viewed here: <https://hchsaa.org/annualmeeting/>. To read the amendment made to the Certificate of Incorporation, please visit <https://hchsaa.org/annualmeetingfaqs/> and scroll down to question number 13. With many alums asking in advance to be given time to speak, we called on as many as could be accommodated in the time available in the order in which their requests were made, and encouraged others to email their questions, so that answers to those posed most often could be posted online in FAQs posted to our website. Two

alumnae were retained as voting inspectors and tabulated and verified the votes and proxies, which totaled approximately 2,000 in number.

We appreciated the feedback from alums and will learn from this year's Annual Meeting how to improve various aspects going forward. But despite the challenges, we were able to accomplish much in a short span of time and engaged a significant number of alumnae/i. We have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in relation to the Annual Meeting, which can be viewed here: <https://hchsaa.org/annualmeetingfaqs/>.

In our new fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2021, we look forward to rolling out future communications about annual registration for membership with \$0 dues and about the 2022 Annual Meeting.

INCREASING DIVERSITY IN STEM

stEMBARK was founded by three Hunter seniors – **Krupa Sekhar '21**, **Paige Sherman '21**, and **Kaitlyn Yang '21** – who are dedicated to fostering educational equity and committed to ending the socioeconomic imbalance in STEM. In their work to increase diversity at the high school, they have established a partnership with Kweller Prep with the intention to provide enrichment and free test prep to underprivileged students who may be eligible to take the Hunter test.

The HCHSAA is supporting stEMBARK's efforts and has allocated funds that will be used for recruitment of potential Black, Latinx, and underprivileged students, and a potential program has been developed in conjunction with Kweller Prep. To achieve the goal of increased diversity in the application process, high performing schools have been identified in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx. Student interns who worked with the Alumnae/i Association's Recruitment Subcommittee gathered contact information at those schools for Principals, PTA Presidents/Parent Coordinators, and Guidance Counselors.

Given the delayed announcement of the June 2021 admissions test, the stEMBARK project with Kweller Prep will focus on the 2022 Hunter admissions test. We will update you with our progress once the testing cycle resumes. For more information about their organization, visit <https://www.stembark.com>.



Stembark

@stEMBARK · Nonprofit Organization

Events Roundup

Our series of virtual events continued through the first half of 2021. In case you missed any of these programs, we invite you to visit our website, <https://www.hchsaa.org/zoom> where you may access our video archive.

The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons

On January 24, HCHSAA hosted a discussion with **Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz '72** and **Susi Snyder '95** about the groundbreaking news that nuclear weapons were officially banned by international law. Snyder, who is the President of ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, followed a career trajectory of community activism in the U.S. that led to a leadership position with the NGO based in the Netherlands. The event kicked off with a performance of peace songs by **Pat GORDON Lamanna '65**.

Engaging the Power of Breath

Judith Sachs '64 returned to lead another introductory class on Breath and Stretching. She guided those in attendance in the practice of techniques based on traditional Chinese Qigong and Indian Pranayama methods.

Celebrating Black History Month

The HCHSAA's Diversity Committee organized two programs in celebration of Black History Month that increased awareness about Black alumnae/i and their achievements. Programs were open to students as well as alums.

The first event was a panel discussion held on February 4 about diversity at the high school that included **David Collymore '94, M.D., Chuma Hunter-Gault '90, Jessica Leonard '04, Eunice Reddick '69, and Pradine Saint-Fort '01**. The assembled speakers shared their Hunter and professional experiences. **Lisa Jones '79** served as moderator.

The second presentation was given on February 18 by veteran journalist **Melanie Eversley '79**, who shared reflections on her coverage of the late civil rights

activists Congressman John Lewis, Julian Bond, and Coretta Scott King, along with other civil rights icons.

Perspectives on Lunar New Year

HCHSAA marked Lunar New Year by hosting a panel discussion on February 19 featuring American Born Chinese alums: state senator **Michelle Au '95, M.D. composer Randall Eng '90**, and emoji expert **Jennifer 8. Lee '94**, who shared how their "Chinese-ness" infuses into their everyday life. The talk was moderated by **Nancy YAO Maasbach '90**, President of the Museum of Chinese in America.

A Night for Legal Networking

We were excited to host a networking event for young alums interested in the legal profession. On February 25, we invited a panel of attorneys to speak to young alums, including **Hon. Laura Drager '66**, New York State Supreme Court Justice (Retired); **Louis O'Neill '86**, diplomat and White and Case Counsel; **Artemis Anninos '87**, Pro Bono Counsel at Cahill; and **Won B. Chai '03**, Counsel at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. **Claudia Justy '66**, former HCHSAA Executive Vice President, served as moderator. The evening concluded with breakout sessions led by the panelists and other invited attorneys, covering a range of fields.

Celebrating Women's History Month

The HCHSAA's Diversity Committee organized a program in celebration of Women's History Month that was focused on the legacy and efforts of Michelle Obama, the nation's first African American First Lady.

Held on March 8, coinciding with International Women's Day, Dr. Khadijah Miller and **Dr. Ernestine WILLIAMS Duncan '79** discussed their book chapter, "Negotiated

Respectability, the Looking Glass Self and Mrs. Michelle Obama." The book in which their chapter appears, *Michelle Obama and the FLOTUS Effect: Platform, Presence, and Agency* (Lexington Books 2019) delves into her pioneering work in the White House; she intentionally defined her role and herself in ways that countered and complemented the images and works of previous First Ladies.

Comedians Panel

In an evening with Hunter-bred comedians **Charlie Bardey '13, Sachi Ezura '04, Claire Friedman '03**, and **Sophie Zucker '11**, they shared more than just laughs. HCHSAA hosted their discussion on March 15, which also included updates on how they have fared during COVID-19. Like many of us, they've adapted; taking their craft from open mic to Zoom. **Steve Hofstetter '97** was the moderator.

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Moderated by **Lisa GOLDIN Rabinowicz '59**, the panel discussion held for Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 7 centered on the lived experience of alumnae who fled the Nazi regime in Europe. **Susanne KLEJMAN Bennet '55, Joan KENT Finkelstein '54, Ph.D., and Eve KANNER Kugler, Jan. '49, BEM** each left for other countries in Europe or for distant parts of the globe, departing their respective homelands with their families or, in some cases, journeying alone. Ultimately, they each found safe haven in New York.

The Entrepreneur's Journey

The life of an entrepreneur can be challenging, but also quite rewarding. On May 18, Hunter alums spoke transparently about the varied aspects of entrepreneurship and shared the different paths they took to get there. Topics discussed included how venture capital was raised, how teams were built, and how, eventually, some brands were sold. Panelists included **Rob Berk**

'16, Apprentice; Alex Friedman '00, LOLA; Dave Kerpen '94, Likeable, Apprentice, Kerpen Ventures; and Pam Roach '71, Breakthrough Marketing Technology. Ryder Kessler '04, DipJar, served as moderator.

A Seminar on Investing

For several years, the Financial Women's Association has counselled HCHS students on the basics of financial awareness through their Financial Backpack program. On May 29, they offered a seminar to alumnae/i that was centered on investments. As part of their highly informative seminar, they also offered an overview of Impact Investing that deals with socially responsible investments.

Roundtable Series on Diversity-Enhancing Reforms

In the spring of 2021, HCHSAA launched a new program about diversity at the high school. Entitled the Roundtable Series on Diversity-Enhancing Reforms, content for these panel discussions was envisioned by **Noah Kaminsky '09**, who is a former science teacher at HCHS. Initially planned as a three-part series in March, April, and May, the program was centered on the Diversity Committee's three areas of focus: Recruitment, Admissions Reform, and Retention, and the low numbers of Black, Latinx, and low-income students at HCHS. Panelists for the discussions included alumnae/i as well as current faculty, former admissions staff, and current students. For the third discussion in the series, alums made use of breakout rooms to share experiences related to diversity and bias.

Support for the program was provided by **David Robison '83** and **Judith Daniel '79**, HCHSAA Vice President and Chair of the Diversity Committee. It is anticipated that the discussion series will continue through the 2021-22 academic year.

IN MEMORIAM



Shirley SCHLANGER Abrahamson '50 -Reading to school children

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE; SHIRLEY SCHLANGER ABRAHAMSON '50

Shirley SCHLANGER Abrahamson '50, who passed away on December 19, 2020, at the age of 87, had a career full of firsts. Graduating from law school in the 1950s, she was the first woman partner in her law firm in Madison, Wisconsin. Abrahamson then was nominated as the first female appellate judge in Wisconsin and was later appointed to the state's Supreme Court; the first woman to hold that position. Two decades after receiving her appointment to the state's Supreme Court, she became Wisconsin's first female Chief Justice. She would be distinguished as the longest serving judge on the state's Supreme Court, serving 43 years on the bench and 19 of those years as Chief Justice.

A trailblazer in so many ways, she set the path for women to serve as judges; Wisconsin now has six women justices out of the seven seats on the Supreme Court. Abrahamson also received recognition for her dedication from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg,

who said in a 2019 video message played at a ceremony for Abrahamson, "Among jurists I have encountered in the United States and abroad, Shirley Abrahamson is the very best."

A passionate social activist who also gave back to generations of law students as a professor, Abrahamson advocated for marginalized and disempowered individuals in a state that grew ever more deeply divided on issues related to civil and human rights. She was named an HCHS Distinguished Graduate in 1979. As a judge, Abrahamson travelled the world on behalf of the U.S. government and legal organizations to help improve the delivery of justice and strengthen the rule of law, teaching and participating in symposia and trainings and bringing back home innovative practices and ideas from other countries. We gain additional perspective about her life from her son, Daniel Abrahamson, who is also an attorney. He was interviewed in April 2021.

Abrahamson grew up in Washington Heights, where her parents owned a neighborhood bodega. The daughter of immigrants from Eastern Europe who supported her education, she wanted to be a lawyer from a very young age and held aspirations of becoming president of the United States. She learned about Hunter as she matured and knew that Hunter was where she should try to go for the very best education. Her admission to Hunter High was among her proudest achievements. She safeguarded her Hunter admissions test scores and matriculation materials with her most precious papers.

Abrahamson was very clear about her path and eventual career. "I think that anyone who knew her at Hunter," her son explained, "said 'She's going to go to law school!'" Obtaining her Bachelor's degree from New York University in an expedited three years, she married shortly after college. Relocating to Bloomington, Indiana with her husband, Seymour, who was accepted into a Ph.D. program to work with a



L-R: Daniel Abrahamson, grandson Moses, and Shirley SCHLANGER Abrahamson (2014)

Nobel Prize-winning geneticist, she enrolled in Indiana University's Law School for her J.D. She graduated first in her law school class and served on the school's Law Review. The couple then moved to Madison, Wisconsin when her husband was offered a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin. Abrahamson obtained employment with the LaFollette law firm in the city, a prestigious achievement in those times given that the job offerings to women law school graduates from other law firms were for librarian or administrative assistant positions. Abrahamson advanced to become the LaFollette firm's first woman partner. When a vacancy came about on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, then-Governor Patrick Lucey named her to fill that seat.

While practicing as a lawyer, Abrahamson was head of the ACLU chapter in Madison. Known and trusted as a legal leader among community and neighborhood organizations, as well as city officials, she was invited to draft fair housing rules for Madison and, in doing so, was responsible for the integration of housing in the city.

When their son was born, Abrahamson balanced her responsibilities for work and family. Her son stated that she worked, "Fifteen- or sixteen-hour days seven days a week, [but] still had time to be present... She attended every school performance that I ever had. She kept all of the balls in the air, in part because she only needed a few hours of sleep a night." As a parent, Abrahamson raised her son with distinct moral values around equity: racial equity, gender equity, and economic equity. He recalls not being allowed to participate in the local soccer team because, at the time, girls were not allowed to play on the team.

With her many accomplishments, Abrahamson always held Hunter close at heart. Her son recalls her sharing stories about Hunter with others and spending time with former classmates; those reunions with alumnae were cherished and "...took her back to her giggly young girl days." He feels that Hunter had a significant influence on her life. Of the several institutions she attended, Abrahamson considered Hunter to be the place where she received the finest education and where she developed the self-confidence that she could go anywhere and do anything she set her mind to.

Abrahamson will be remembered for her long track record of service. Governor Tony Evers of Wisconsin issued an Executive Order for flags across the state to be lowered to half-staff in honor of her passing in January 2021. She leaves behind a legacy of service to state, community, and family.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE PASSING OF:

Jane ELLENBOGEN Oppenheim '44,
on June 10, 2021

Lillian CHRISTIE McDermott '48, Ph.D.
on June 2020

Rosalyn GOMBERG Haratz, Jan. '49, on
December 13, 2020

Janet KEESEY Baser '51,
on May 12, 2019

Sylvia MICIK Allan McLaughlin '51,
on October 10, 2019

Susan Allison '58,
on January 9, 2021

Marcia VEGA Gonzalez '61, M.D.,
on January 11, 2021

Paula Ballan '62
on 2020

Linda Goodman '64,
on April 27, 2021

Laura Lawrence '66,
on November 27, 2019

Susan Ware '71,
on August 28, 2020

Ula Barrack '73,
on February 28, 2021

Ramona Spooner '87,
on February 21, 2021

Jewlia (Julie) Eisenberg '88,
on March 11, 2021

Pearl COHEN Wachman '35, 102, of Milton, Massachusetts, formerly of Roslyn, New York, passed away from natural causes on April 10, 2021, the birthday of her late husband Issie.

She died surrounded by loved ones, peacefully listening to her favorite song, "I Could Have Danced All Night," from the musical *My Fair Lady*, the perfect anthem for a life packed full of ebullience.

The daughter of Russian Jewish immigrants and youngest of seven children, Wachman was born in Manhattan on Sept. 18, 1918, to the late Solomon and Rose Cohen. She was a teacher in the New York City Public Schools and a leader in the union for several decades.

A force of nature who did not retire until she was 90 years old, Pearl focused on staying sharp, speaking truth to power, nurturing friendships, and keeping her large family close.

Wachman's arrival in this world was, to say the least, unexpected. Her parents had six children, the youngest of whom was 13 when, in the spring of 1918, Pearl's 52-year-old mother went to a doctor in New York City's Lower East Side and was told, "Mrs. Cohen, I think you have a tumor." She replied, "I think I'm probably pregnant."

Her mother went to another doctor, this time at Mount Sinai Hospital. There the first doctor was proven wrong, and Rose Cohen was proven right. Several months later, the surprise baby would be born – a full 20 years younger than her oldest sibling. An older brother insisted that she be named Pearl because she was an unexpected gem while an older sister was mortified that her mother might be pregnant at her upcoming wedding.

Wachman was raised in Manhattan and graduated from Hunter College. Her father, Sol Cohen, a small business owner, came to the United States from Russia in 1910 during a period of violent anti-Semitism in their hometown of Slonim, now Belarus. He was

followed by her sister and then her mother and five brothers.

She and Harold "Harry" Champagne had two children. When Harry died in 1954, Wachman was left needing to support herself and her two young sons, so she took the New York State teachers' exams and taught fifth grade math in Queens.

In 1960, she married Isidore "Issie" Wachman. He adopted her two boys. After Issie died in 1962, Wachman took a job teaching full-time and joined the teachers' union: the United Federation of Teachers (UFT).

She retired from teaching in 1988 at age 70 and went to work for the UFT, setting up a learning facility for retired teachers in Queens with her longtime friend Doris Brill. The pair became known as the "Queens of Queens." They were the coordinators for the UFT Si Beagle Program which offered courses, seminars, and trips to provide retirees with mental and social stimulation.

Wachman held a variety of positions in the union over the years and was a recognized leader. She was a chapter chairwoman, Delegate Assembly representative, Retired Teachers Chapter (RTC) Executive Board member, delegate to the national conventions of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the state convention of the United Teachers (NYSUT), and a member of the union's Supplemental Health Insurance Program board.

She retired from the union job at the age of 90 and soon after moved to Milton, Massachusetts where her son and his family lived. She continued to live independently at Fuller Village where she was involved in almost every aspect of the community.

Wachman's great interest in local, state, national, and world events led to another opportunity. At 98 years old, she became the host of a Milton Cable Access Television program called "Fuller Talks" that

reviewed everything from the health of the local deer population to the most critical issues facing the nation.

She said that doing the show let other people know that the older residents in town are "still acting, thinking, and doing."

In an interview with the *Milton Times* on September 27, 2018, to highlight her 100th birthday, Wachman described herself as "a political junkie," saying she believed political action was important for the betterment of people.

Remarkably, at age 102, Wachman, a lifetime progressive Democrat, stepped onto the national stage again in the fall of 2020 when she starred in a nationally aired political advertisement endorsing Joe Biden for president.

Those left to cherish her memory include her two sons, her grandchildren, her great-granddaughter, and her many beloved nieces and nephews. In addition to her late husbands, Issie Wachman and Harry Champagne, she was preceded in death by her siblings.

In her memory, consider donating to ACLU-TX at <https://action.aclu.org/give/tribute-aclu-tx> or the National Domestic Workers Alliance at <https://www.every.org/donate>.

Mildred EHRLICH Kline '36, a resident of Carmel, California since 1971, passed away from complications related to COVID-19 on January 18, 2021, at the age of 101. She was born in Brooklyn in 1919. She played piano and violin and started performing at the age of five. She was concertmaster of the HCHS orchestra and, following her passion, she studied music at Hunter College where she was concertmaster of the Hunter College and the Columbia University orchestras. In the late 1930s, she formed "Midge Evans and Her All Girl Orchestra" in which she and her sisters performed and later was the staff pianist at WABD in New York at the dawn of

television. She met Melvin Kline, a pianist and later engineer, at a New York City booking agency. They married in 1941.

Kline had an elementary and secondary music teaching credential and did graduate work at New York University and at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 1956, she and her husband moved to Los Angeles where she continued to teach school and give private music lessons. She also taught music classes at the Pepperdine University extension program. When her husband took a professorship position at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPGS), she taught violin, viola, piano, and guitar to several generations of local area children, continuing teaching into her 90s.

She was the concertmaster of several local orchestras including Hidden Valley, Fort Ord and NPGS, as well as performing with the Monterey County Symphony. She served many years as a volunteer in the River School music program and was active in the Music Teachers' Association of California, serving as president. She was also on the Board of the Chamber Music Society and cofounded a summer music camp and "Kids Up Front & Free," a program that brought students to concerts. She was well known in the area for her music reviews and the program notes she wrote for the Sunset Center performances. She was a musician, teacher, music arranger and conductor. In addition to music, Mildred enjoyed traveling with Mel



Mildred EHRLICH Kline '36

all over the world.

Mildred was preceded in death by Mel, her husband of 69 years, and her sister. She is survived by two other sisters; her son and daughter, and their spouses; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Donations can be made in her memory to the Mildred and Melvin Kline Music Scholarship at Idyllwild Arts Academy, Idyllwild, California

Gladys KANAREK Lerman '36* passed away on January 30, 2021. She was just three months short of her 100th birthday. The daughter of the late Louis B. and Bertha Kanarek, she was predeceased by her parents, her two brothers and her husband of 72 years, Joseph (known as Jerry).

Lerman is survived by her twin sons and their wives, and by her son and his wife. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She and Jerry lived in the same apartment house growing up in the Bronx. She met him through her best friend, Ethel, who was her husband's older sister.

A first generation American, Lerman's early schooling was in the Bronx. Her father gave up lunch to pay for her subway ride to Hunter, which was \$.05 at the time.

She was a graduate of Hunter College and earned her Master's degree in Education at Adelphi University.

Lerman brought up her family in Elmont, New York, spending summers in Otis, Massachusetts. There, she was part of a rural community she and Jerry helped to found in 1971 with ten like-minded couples. The community still exists today.

Moving to Florida in 1987, the Lermans shared a large home in New Port Richey with two widows, presaging a communal living style gaining popularity as the population ages. The residents were active in the Jewish community and the home became known as Hadassah House.

Lerman was in comparatively good health until the last few weeks of her life, and you "earned your chops" if you could beat her at Scrabble.

**Excerpted from The Newtown Bee*

Joanne GERSHEL Josephy '39 died at home on October 22, 2020, at the age of 99. Loving wife of Warren S. Josephy, who predeceased her in 2006, she was a lifelong New Yorker and was devoted to the Metropolitan Museum and the Central Park Conservancy. A graduate of Pratt Institute in costume design, she worked as the head buyer in the gift shop at Bonwit Teller during World War II, retiring to raise a family after the war. She and Warren built a house in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and divided their time between Manhattan and rural Vermont,



Joanne GERSHEL Josephy '39

where she developed a passion for gardening. She employed the skills she learned at Pratt as a volunteer in the Costume Institute at the Met and at the Museum of the City of New York for many years. A fixture for decades in her Upper East Side neighborhood, she was known for her style, energy, and zest for life. Josephy is survived by her daughters **Jennifer Josephy '64** and **Andrea JOSEPHY Leiman '68, Ph.D.**, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Marie JOHNSON Kotik, Jan. '40, Ph.D.* died June 26 at home,

surrounded by family. She was 96. Kotik was born Nov. 24, 1923, in Harlem, New York City, to Dr. Douglas Beverly Johnson, of Petersburg, Virginia, and Myrtle Capehart Johnson, of Raleigh, North Carolina. She was the second of three daughters. She lost her older sister and father before she was two years old, and her mother then took her and her newborn sister to live with her parents in Raleigh. They stayed for 10 years then moved back to their home in New York City where she attended Hunter College.

Education was a high priority in the family, and early on Kotik was recognized as an exceptional student and gifted in mathematics. At Hunter College she was named to Phi Beta Kappa and was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. While getting her bachelor's degree in math she worked in research at the Courant Institute at New York University. In 1944 she entered graduate school at Radcliffe College in mathematics, completing her master's in one semester, and starting her Ph.D.

In addition to being a brilliant mathematician in her own right, she was a peer and friend of some of the brightest mathematical minds of the post-war generation — Marvin Minsky, John Nash, and others. She was introduced to Jack Kotik, a fellow mathematician and PhD candidate at MIT, by a mutual friend from New York. On May 28, 1950, they were married at Harvard Chapel, and a year later she gave birth to the first of what would be five sons and a daughter. During her early married years Kotik worked for the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories managing defense research contracts and was known for personally checking every single equation that was published by her group. Those were busy years as the family grew and moved from Cambridge to Arlington, Massachusetts then to Forest Hills

and later Syosset, New York, on Long Island.

In those years she was engaged full-time as a mother of six and served as a Boy Scout and 4-H troop leader. She presided over a teeming household of rambunctious children, friends, music, many pets, and a garden where she grew vegetables and fruits. As her youngest child left for college in September 1981, Kotik flew to Charlotte, North Carolina to welcome her second grandchild of what would eventually be 16 in all.

In 1987 Kotik and her husband built a home in Oak Bluffs, near Marie's mother and stepfather, who had retired there. She and Jack were able, finally, to travel at will, and she had endless curiosity to see new places. She continued to travel for many years including going by herself on a 35-day cruise to China and Japan when she was 85.

Her sharp wit shone even brighter during her last years, giving those around her many reasons to laugh throughout her extended time in hospice care. She and Jack celebrated their 70th anniversary in May 2020 in which the extended family, by video due to the pandemic, were delighted to wish them joy.

At home, some weeks later, she died peacefully, surrounded by loving family. In addition to her husband, she is survived by five of her children; a son predeceased her in 2019. Her sixteen grandchildren and two nephews also mourn her loss.



Marie JOHNSON Kotik, Jan. '40, Ph.D

**Excerpted from The Vineyard Gazette*

Naomi BRONHEIM Levine '40*, who as executive director of the American Jewish Congress in the 1970s was the first woman to lead a major Jewish advocacy organization, and who later became instrumental in New York University's expansion into a top-tier institution, died on January 14, 2021, at her home in West Palm Beach, Florida. She was 97.

Levine, who grew up in the Bronx in the 1930s, first aspired to become a public-school teacher. But, as she told it, she was rejected after taking an oral exam because she had a lisp. She decided to pursue law instead.

She attended Columbia Law School, where among the other students in the 1940s were such soon-to-be-prominent women as the politician Bella Abzug, the labor lawyer Judith Vladeck, and the federal judge Constance Baker Motley.

Levine joined the American Jewish Congress in the 1950s as a lawyer on its Commission on Law and Social Action. Often in partnership with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, she wrote briefs in decisive Supreme Court cases, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, which dismantled segregation in public schools, and *Sweatt v. Painter*, which successfully challenged the "separate but equal" doctrine established by *Plessy v. Ferguson*. In 1963 Levine helped Rabbi Joachim Prinz write "The Issue is Silence," a speech expressing solidarity with the civil rights movement, which he delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial moments before the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom that August. She later taught a class at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan on law and race relations in policing. As she pursued her law career, Levine often found herself

surrounded by men. "I knew I deserved to be there because I was as smart as, and often smarter than, everyone else in the room," she once said. "And if I kept my mouth shut about it, I could get an awful lot done."

She gained greater visibility when she was appointed executive director of the American Jewish Congress in 1972, becoming, by all accounts, the first woman to lead such a Jewish organization. In an interview with *The New York Times* that year, she reflected on the women's movement and balancing her home and work responsibilities.

"I still feel somewhat guilty when I spend too much time away from home, and if my daughter got sick, I would stay home and care for her — I wouldn't expect my husband to," she said. "The young girls today think differently, and they're right." Summing up her view, she said: "Women's lib is probably correct, but it's not my style."

Levine left the American Jewish Congress in 1978 and accepted a position at N.Y.U., hired to help it become a top-tier university. At the time, N.Y.U. had a meager endowment and, with its crumbling campus buildings and drab dormitories, was struggling to attract students. Levine became its chief fund-raiser.

A decade-long \$1 billion fund-raising campaign begun in 1985 was hailed as one of the most ambitious ever in higher education. Over two decades she raised more than \$2 billion for the university and as much as \$300 million a year toward the end of her tenure.

By the beginning of the 21st century, N.Y.U. had reinvented itself as it expanded through Lower Manhattan. The headline of a 2001 article in *The New York Times* called Levine, who was then a senior vice president, the "Dynamo at the Heart of N.Y.U.'s Fund-Raising." By then the expression "Clear it with Naomi" had become commonplace within

the university's administration.

"It is impossible to overstate Levine's contribution to the transformation of N.Y.U.," John Sexton, the university's president from 2002 to 2015, said in a phone interview. "Anyone who knows the generative forces that took N.Y.U. from its nadir, which is at the advent of her arrival, to where it was in 2000 and beyond, knows that she was one of the key generators of those forces."

After stepping down as the university's chief fund-raiser, Levine established the George H. Heyman Jr. Center for Philanthropy and Fundraising at N.Y.U., where she also taught a graduate course called "Ethics, the Law and Board Governance in Nonprofit Organizations." She retired in 2004. Levine's commitment to social issues remained a through line in her career, expressed perhaps most personally at Camp Greylock, the all-girls summer camp in the Adirondacks that she ran from 1955 to 1971.

A mail boat would deliver copies of *The Times* to the camp, and Levine moderated discussions about current events with campers in a dining hall. She reluctantly closed the camp to focus on her work at the American Jewish Congress. Many campers grew up to become leaders in law, business and medicine while proudly calling themselves former "Greylock Girls." "Regardless of age, she wanted these girls to know you can do anything and be anything," Joan Kiddon, her daughter, said. "She believed she could empower these girls for life."

Naomi Ruth Bronheim was born on April 15, 1923, in the Bronx to Nathan and Malvina (Mermelstein) Bronheim. Her mother was a hospital secretary, her father a salesman. When she was a girl, she helped prepare a pot of flanken cholent stew on Friday nights in preparation for the Sabbath, and her mother sewed clothes for the family.

Levine graduated from Hunter

College with a B.A. before enrolling at Columbia Law School, where she became an editor of the Law Review. In 1948 she married Leonard Levine, an accountant who had fought in the third wave at Normandy; he died in 2001.

In addition to her daughter, Levine is survived by two granddaughters and a great-granddaughter.

After Levine retired, N.Y.U. recognized her with a Presidential Medal in 2005. She remained on the board of the school's Edgar M. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life and advised the Taub Center for Israel Studies.

Levine moved to West Palm Beach a few years ago and began writing a memoir tentatively called "History and Me." She also started a book and film club at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, where members discussed social issues. After watching "To Kill a Mockingbird" (1962), they talked about racism in America; after "Adam's Rib" (1942), they shared their views on sexism and gender inequality.

Levine hoped one day to show the 1933 film version of "Little Women." In 2016 she told *The Palm Beach Daily News* that Katharine Hepburn's headstrong portrayal of the main character, Jo March, had inspired her when she saw the movie as a girl.

"She wanted to free herself from being an ordinary woman," Levine said. "That influenced my thinking."

**Reprinted from The New York Times*

Josephine KAISER Zillian '44, 94, devoted wife and mother, passed away on January 26, 2021, due to complications of COVID-19. She is predeceased by her beloved husband of 57 years, Edward J. Zillian, and her sister. She leaves behind four children and four grandchildren, and will also be missed by her cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Born in Port Chester, New York, in 1926 to Mary (Murphy) and Andrew

Kaiser, she was raised in the Bronx in a home built by her father. As a child, she loved to walk to the bay and spend time on the boat her father built. She valued education and was proud to have earned the HCHS medal in geography. She never lost her desire to learn about and see the world.

Zillian began her professional career working as an assistant at Western Electric, where she met her future husband; they married in 1948. The couple settled on Long Island, New York, until relocating to McLean, Virginia in 1966, where they raised their four children.

She was a devoted member of Saint Luke Catholic Church in McLean and an active volunteer in the school and its PTA for decades. An avid supporter of the activities, aspirations, and education of her children, she never missed a game, event, or meeting. She was a "Mothers Marcher" for the March of Dimes, instilling a sense of caring in her children through her loving example.

Zillian loved to travel. When the children were young, the trips were often nearby like the annual family camping trip to Assateague Island. Upon retirement, she traveled the world. Some of her favorite trips included her voyage to Australia, cruises on the Danube and to Bermuda, and a trip to Ireland to visit her mother's birthplace. She felt truly blessed to be a part of important cultural milestones like the openings of the Hanover Theatre, the One City One Library Branches, and multiple exhibits at the EcoTarium, all in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Zillian approached everything with great enthusiasm. She adored her grandchildren, and nothing pleased her more than attending their activities. Well into her eighties, she put tens of thousands of miles on her car to spend time with them.

Remembrances may be made to an organization important to you or her, including your local

Salvation Army (<https://give.salvationarmyusa.org>), the Humane Society of Fairfax County (<https://hsfc.org>), or the Virginia German Shepherd Rescue (<https://www.shepherdrescue.org>). Or simply hug a family member when it is safe to do so and do an act of kindness in her memory.

Notes of comfort may be shared with her family at <https://tinyurl.com/JosephineKZillian>.



[com/JosephineKZillian](https://tinyurl.com/JosephineKZillian).

Judith JARVIS Thomson, Jan. '46, Ph.D.*, a philosopher of morality and metaphysics, died on November 20, 2020, at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was 91.

Thomson transformed the philosophical discussion of abortion with her 1971 article "A Defense of Abortion." Thomson was a faculty member at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 40 years, retiring in 2004. She remained active in philosophy at MIT, writing articles and advising graduate students, until her death. In 2006, she was named an HCHS Distinguished Graduate.

In 2012, Thomson was awarded the American Philosophical Association's prestigious Quinn Prize for her "service to philosophy and philosophers." The then-chair of the MIT Philosophy Section, Richard Holton, says that "she has had an enormous influence on fellow faculty and on generations of graduate students

who now populate the philosophy departments of the English-speaking world. Few of us ever meet her standards," he continues, "but, insofar as we do, it is often thanks to the mere thought of what she would say."

Thomson's colleague Sally Haslanger, the Ford Professor of Philosophy at MIT, notes that "she entered the field when only a tiny number of women even considered pursuing a career in philosophy and proved beyond doubt that a woman could meet the highest standards of philosophical excellence ... She is the atomic ice-breaker for women in philosophy."

Most of Thomson's work was in moral philosophy and metaphysics, and often drew connections between these two areas, but she also made contributions to the philosophy of action, the philosophy of mind, the philosophy of science, and the philosophy of language. She published six highly regarded books, including "The Realm of Rights" (1990), and "Goodness and Advice" (2001), but what shot her to prominence early on was her 1971 article on abortion, which has been anthologized numerous times and remains a staple of any course in applied ethics.

The philosophical debate about abortion had focused on the question of whether a fetus is a person; Thomson argued that even if it is granted that a fetus is a person, abortion is still morally permissible under some circumstances.

In a characteristically ingenious thought experiment, she imagines that you have been kidnapped by the Society of Music Lovers, who have plugged a violinist with failing kidneys into your circulatory system; it is the only way of saving the violinist's life. The violinist is a person, and has a right to life; nevertheless, Thomson says, it is morally permissible for you to unplug the violinist. "The right to life," she concludes, "will not serve the opponents of abortion in the

very simple and clear way in which they seem to have thought it would." After receiving a BA in philosophy from Barnard College in New York in 1950, Thomson went to Newnham College at Cambridge University on a Fulbright Scholarship. The work of the Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, who had been a professor at Cambridge until resigning in 1947, had an enormous influence on students there. This was the heyday of so-called "ordinary language" philosophy; philosophical problems were said by Wittgenstein to arise from "the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of language." Years later, Thomson recounted that after not doing well on her final exams, "I concluded that I wasn't really any good at philosophy." With her 1952 Cambridge BA (second-class honors), she was back in New York, writing copy for Fleischmann's Dry Yeast at the advertising agency J. Walter Thompson. But a daytime class in the history of philosophy at Columbia University revived her enthusiasm for the subject and she started her PhD program there, graduating in 1959. During her graduate studies she taught at Barnard College, staying on to become an assistant professor there from 1960 to 1962.

In 1962, Thomson left with her husband, the British philosopher James Thomson, to spend a year in Oxford, England. James Thomson was appointed as a professor of philosophy at MIT in 1963, and the couple then moved to Boston. Judith Thomson also joined the Institute as an associate professor in 1964 and was promoted to full professor in 1969. The couple separated in 1976, and were divorced in 1980, but they continued as colleagues until James Thomson's death in 1984.

The first MIT philosophy PhD was awarded in 1966, the Philosophy Section became a separate department in 1971, and the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy was formed in 1977. From the beginning, Thomson

taught, mentored, and supervised generations of graduate students, with her low tolerance for sloppiness and unclarity becoming part of the intellectual fabric of the department.

Thomson worked to support the philosophy profession in the United States and academia more broadly. She served as the president of the American Philosophical Association's Eastern Division in 1992-93, and chair of the APA's Board of Officers from 2002 to 2005. She was heavily involved in policy about academic freedom for the American Association of University Professors.

Thomson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1989, elected as a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy in 2016, and held the Laurance S. Rockefeller Chair at MIT from 1991 to 1996. A Festschrift, "Fact and Value: Essays on Ethics and Metaphysics for Judith Jarvis Thomson," was published in 2001. Her many invited lectures include the Tanner Lectures at Princeton University in 1999 and the APA's Carus Lectures in 2003. She was a visitor at the Australian National University, the University of Pittsburgh, Berkeley Law School, Yale Law School, the University of California at Los Angeles, and finally at Princeton University in 2010. That year a conference was held at MIT to mark the publication of "Normativity," a book based on her Carus Lectures. She received an honorary degree from Cambridge University in 2015, and an honorary degree from Harvard University the following year.

Judith Jarvis Thomson is survived by her nieces and nephews. She was buried on December 2, 2020 alongside James Thomson in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Excerpted from MIT News*

Elaine JACKSON Stack '48*, a retired Justice of the New York State Supreme Court and a highly

respected member of the Long Island legal community, passed away December 19, 2020 due to complications from COVID-19.

Judge Stack, who was known universally as Jackie, was 89, and resided in Mineola and Shelter Island. She had been a long-time resident of East Hills, New York, where she raised her family and had served as deputy mayor. At her death, she was Of Counsel to the Garden City law firm of Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco, where she was head of the Family & Divorce Mediation Group.

During a legal career that did not begin until she was almost 50, Judge Stack found success as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, matrimonial lawyer, appellate specialist, legal administrator and educator.

She earned her law degree from St. John's University School of Law in 1979, a year before her youngest child graduated from high school. She joined the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, where she rose to deputy chief of the Rackets Bureau.

Among other high-profile cases, she led the prosecution of a nationwide pedophile organization. She also prosecuted labor racketeering cases and served as a Special Assistant US Attorney in the Southern District of New York. After several years in private practice, where she specialized in criminal appeals, Judge Stack turned her focus to serving the legal community of Nassau and Suffolk counties. From 1991 through 1996 she was the administrator in Nassau for the statewide program that assigns private attorneys to indigent criminal defendants.

When New York authorized capital punishment in 1995, Judge Stack was appointed to an elite panel that screened attorneys to ensure that only those with the most skill and experience were appointed to death penalty cases.

She also served for eight years as a member of the disciplinary

body that adjudicates complaints against attorneys in Nassau and Suffolk counties, and remained a special referee hearing appeals from that body until her death.

Judge Stack was elected to the Nassau County District Court in 1997 and was elected to the State Supreme Court in 2000. As a new member of the Court, Judge Stack was assigned to the Matrimonial Part, hearing divorce, property and custody cases. There, she earned a reputation as an empathetic and efficient courtroom manager who saw through to their conclusion cases that had spent months, and sometimes years, in legal limbo.

In recognition of her courtroom prowess, Judge Stack was appointed by the Chief Judge of the State of New York, the Hon. Judith Kaye, to two elite commissions: The Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense, in 2005, and the Special Commission on the Future of New York State Courts in 2006. She remained on the court until 2007, when she was legally required to retire due to her age.

Judge Stack was an adjunct professor of Family Law at St. John's University School of Law and a Special Professor of Family Law at Hofstra University School of Law. She held high level positions, including dean, in the continuing legal education arm of the Nassau County Bar Association. In recognition of her decades of service, the Bar Association named its annual Moot Court competition in her honor.

Judge Stack was an enthusiastic campaigner for the We Care Fund, the principal charity of the Nassau County Bar Association, of which she was a past chair and was a board member at the time of her death.

An avid theater goer and world traveler well into her 80s, Judge Stack was a member of the Manhattan Theater Club and a mainstay of its annual theater trips to London. She also was an active supporter of the Jewish Lawyers of Nassau County.

Judge Stack always regarded Shelter Island as home, an affection that lives on in her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her four children, 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, the noted numismatist Norman Stack, in 1992 and by her partner, Sanford L. Goldsmith, in 2015.

**Excerpted from the Shelter Island Reporter*

Gloria SPIEGEL Fischel, Jan. '49 passed away peacefully on October 5, 2020 at the age of 89. Fischel was born on March 18, 1931 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and graduated from Brooklyn College. She served as an NGO at the United Nations representing the Women's League for Judaism. She helped to bring an understanding of Jewish principles to the U.N. as well as special foods to celebrate the holidays. Fischel welcomed guests to her sukkah and Passover Seders as it was a chance to feed and educate. She worked on behalf of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and Autism Speaks. She urged everyone to work for change.

Predeceased by her husband Teddy and her sister, Fischel is survived by her sister, her four children, their spouses, and seven grandchildren. Donations in her memory can be made to Chabad of Mineola, 261 Willis Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501.

Edith HAMMERSCHLAG Grossman, Jan. '49, Ph.D. passed away in her Manhattan apartment on November 3, 2020, just short of her 90th birthday. Her HCHS yearbook epithet read, "life for Edie would be a bubble, if only she weren't always in trouble." Well, the trouble quickly subsided and a bubble of a life it was.

Grossman met her lifelong soulmate, Alfred Grossman, while they were undergraduates at Hunter College and New York

University, respectively. They were married two weeks beyond each of their twentieth birthdays and remained inseparable partners for 67 years. Upon graduating college, Grossman took up a job as an elementary school teacher, first in Manhattan and then in Levittown, Long Island. She later moved to Plainview High School, where she served as school psychologist. From there, she enrolled in the PhD program in educational psychology in the School of Education at New York University, wrote a dissertation on the "Effects of Anxiety on Task Performance," and graduated as "Dr. Grossman" in 1970. She subsequently pursued a dual career in psychology. She spent 16 years teaching in the in the Graduate Program in School Psychology at Queens College, where she eventually was appointed as program coordinator before retiring from her academic life in 1986. Meanwhile, she maintained a heavy patient load in her psychoanalytical private practice until well into the 2000s. Grossman was utterly dedicated both to her students and to her patients, many of whom credit her with a huge role in their life successes.

She and her husband loved to travel and managed to visit many parts of the world, both on and off the beaten path. In the mid 1980s, they purchased their idyllic second home, a chalet in the French-speaking part of Switzerland overlooking Lake Geneva. They spent two or three months per year there as an antidote to their chaotic lives in Manhattan. While in New York, they frequented Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera, Broadway and off-Broadway, and as many museums as time would allow. It was her dream never to leave her apartment of 52 years in Midtown East, and she succeeded in fulfilling that wish.

While working two taxing jobs and taking responsibility for running the household day-to-day, she also managed to raise two children.

Her son is a longtime professor of economics at Princeton University while her daughter is a psychologist turned lawyer turned academic, who now is a research professor in the School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Her other love, besides her two granddaughters, was Doby (short for Doberman), her dynamic Yorkshire terrier.

Grossman came a remarkably long



Edith HAMMERSCHLAG Grossman, Jan. '49, Ph.D.

way from her roots as a holocaust survivor from Waltershausen, a small town at the gateway to the Thuringian Forest in eastern Germany. She saw the inside of her first school at age eight, after arriving in New York in 1939, but she quickly made up for lost time. A middle-school teacher of hers suggested that she apply to HCHS and she often said that this piece of advice changed the course of her life. Edie lived her life to the fullest, with days full of culture, family, travels and intellectual pursuits, and with time always for her family, students, patients, and those in any sort of need. She will be sorely missed.

Cynthia TYOR Levinson, Jan. '49 passed away peacefully in Fort Myers, Florida on October 20, 2020 as she was nearing her 90th birthday. She was born and raised in New York City.

Shortly after graduating, she married Lawrence Levinson and

moved to Washington D.C. She worked as the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture while her husband worked and went to law school. Upon the arrival of her two sons, Levinson devoted herself full time to family. They moved to New Jersey, first to Scotch Plains and subsequently to Pennington where she lived for over 40 years and volunteered at the town library. Levinson loved to walk every day and became known throughout town as "the walking lady."

She was the heart and center of the family- the thoughtful and wise person everyone confided in, and the woman who always put everyone ahead of herself. She was a calm and friendly presence liked by all.

Predeceased by husband Larry, she is survived by her three children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Her sister and brother also mourn her loss.

Diane di Prima '51*, the most prominent woman among the male-dominated Beat poets, who after being immersed in the bohemian swirl of Greenwich Village in the 1950s moved to the West Coast and continued to publish prolifically in a wide range of forms, died on October 25, 2020 in San Francisco. She was 86.

Her husband, Sheppard Powell, confirmed her death, at a hospital. She had been living at an elder care home since 2017 because of various health problems, having moved there from the couple's home in the city's Excelsior district. di Prima was initially known as one of the Beats; she published her first poetry volume, "This Kind of Bird Flies Backward," in 1958, two years after Allen Ginsberg's celebrated "Howl and Other Poems" appeared. It cost 95 cents. Lawrence Ferlinghetti provided the introduction.

"Here's a sound not heard before," he wrote. "The voice is gritty. The eye turns. The heart is in it."

But her Beat period was only the beginning; over her long career di Prima published some 50 poetry books and chapbooks.

"I don't mind that people use the Beat label," she told The Chicago Tribune in 2000. "It's just that it's very much of one time, a long time ago. A lot of people kept being Beat writers in terms of the language they used. I can do it sometimes but not most of the time."

di Prima lived a life that was light years away from the suburban-housewife world that has become the prevailing image of the 1950s — taking an assortment of lovers, doing some nude modeling to make money, courting arrest with the publications she and her circle printed. She wrote about her romantic and literary explorations in "Recollections of My Life as a Woman: The New York Years" (2001).

She had earlier written the startlingly erotic "Memoirs of a Beatnik" (1969), which had autobiographical elements but was more novel than memoir. A French publisher, Maurice Girodias, had contracted her to write an erotic take on the Beat era, and, as the Tribune article noted, "Girodias kept sending back the manuscript, scrawled with notations for 'more sex,' and di Prima obliged with fictionalized passages of erotic acrobatics." Yet the book attained cult status as a rare feminist window onto a period when men got most of the attention and sexism was much in evidence.

Ammiel Alcalay, one of her literary executors, said the free-spirit elements of di Prima's life belied the serious scholarship underpinning her poetry.

"Because of the life she lived and the iconic image of the 'Beat woman,' the extraordinary range of sources and knowledge that went into di Prima's writing and thought has hardly been explored," Mr. Alcalay, a professor at Queens College and the Graduate Center, said by email. "From discovering

Keats as a teenager to visiting Ezra Pound during his incarceration at St. Elizabeths Hospital, she was always connected to both her elders and her most vital contemporaries." Mr. Alcalay has published her work as part of a series of books called *Lost & Found*.

Among di Prima's most ambitious works was a mythologically and spiritually themed series of poems, under the title "Loba," that she added to and revised for decades; in 1998 Penguin published a collected version more than 300 pages long.

David Levi Strauss, a writer and teacher who was part of di Prima's circle in San Francisco in the 1980s, studying with her in the Poetics Program at New College of California, recalled how seriously she took the craft.

"She taught something called Hidden Religion, which was about spiritual and political heresies," he said by email. "The intention of the whole course of study in the Poetics Program was to give students an intellectual base to build on, and sources that they could draw on for the rest of their lives as writers."

di Prima was named poet laureate of San Francisco in 2009. At an event commemorating the appointment, she read a new poem called "First Draft: Poet Laureate Oath of Office." It ends this way: my vow is:

*to remind us all
to celebrate
there is no time
too desperate
no season
that is not
a Season of Song*

Diane Rose DiPrima (her brother Frank DiPrima said she adjusted the family name to lowercase the "di" and put a space after it because she thought that that was truer to her Italian ancestors) was born on Aug. 6, 1934, in Brooklyn. Her father, Francis, was a lawyer, and her mother, Emma, was a teacher.

di Prima often spoke of the influence of her maternal grandfather, Domenico Mallozzi, a tailor and anarchist who had immigrated from Italy. He was, she wrote in her 2001 memoir, "regarded somewhat as a family treasure: a powerful and erratic kind of lightning generator, a kind of Tesla experiment, we for some reason kept in the house."

Her collection "Revolutionary Letters" (she wrote a series of poems under that title) included a poem about him, "April Fool Birthday Poem for Grandpa," which begins this way:

*Today is your
birthday and I have tried
writing these things before,
but now
in the gathering madness, I want to
thank you
for telling me what to expect
for pulling
no punches, back there in that
scrubbed Bronx parlor*

Yet, she wrote, her maternal grandmother, Antoinette, and the other women in the household in which she grew up taught her the practicalities of survival. "It was at my grandmother's side," she wrote, "in that scrubbed and waxed apartment, that I received my first communications about the specialness and the relative uselessness of men."

Her mother imparted an early appreciation of poetry. "Our household was extremely verbal," Frank DiPrima said in a phone interview. "My mother would speak verse every day of my life."

di Prima stayed three semesters at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania before leaving to join the Greenwich Village scene. In 1961 she was a founder of the New York Poets Theater, which staged works by poets and avant-garde writers. She produced a literary newsletter, *The Floating Bear* — at first with her lover, the poet LeRoi Jones, who later adopted the name Amiri Baraka, and then on her own. But she grew disillusioned with



Diane di Prima '51

New York and in 1968 made her way to San Francisco to work with the Diggers, a collective known for street theater and for passing out free food and leaflets.

"I was writing 'Revolutionary Letters' at a fast clip and mailing them to Liberation News Service on a regular basis; from there they went to over 200 free newspapers all over the U.S. and Canada," she said in a written version of her poet laureate talk. "I also performed them, sometimes with guitar accompaniment by Peter Coyote, on the steps of City Hall, while my comrades handed out the Digger Papers and tried to persuade startled office workers on their way to lunch that they should drop out and join the revolution."

She had arrived in San Francisco, she wrote, with "14 grown-ups (so-called) and all their accompanying kids & pets, horns & typewriters, and at least one rifle."

Powell, in a phone interview, said such a caravan was not unusual. "People constellated around her," he said. "People were just drawn to the dynamo that was Diane."

Four of the children in that group were her own, by various fathers; a fifth came later.

In addition to her husband, whom she had been with for more than 40 years, and her brother Frank, her five children survive her, along with another brother; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

One of Ms. di Prima's best-loved poems, written in 1957 for her first child, is called "Song for Baby-o, Unborn":

Sweetheart,

*when you break thru
you'll find
a poet here
not quite what one would choose.
I won't promise
you'll never go hungry
or that you won't be sad
on this gutted
breaking
globe
but I can show you
baby
enough to love
to break your heart
forever.*

**Excerpted from The New York Times*

Ruth WOODRUFF Rivkind '51, age 87, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2021. Child actress and brilliant mind, she attended The Professional Children's School, Barnard College and NYU School of Law. She worked well into her 70s and travelled the world with Dr. Sheldon Guttman and her family. Predeceased by her loving and adored husband, Dr. Jules Rivkind, M.D. She is survived by her three daughters, her sons-in-law, and six grandchildren.

June OMURA Goldberg, Jan. '52, passed away on September 15, 2020 at the age of 85. A proud graduate of Queens College, she had a long career in publishing, starting in the mail room at Time Inc. at age 15, becoming chief of research at Time-Life books and then Chief of Reporters at LIFE magazine through seven changes of editorial leadership.

In retirement, Goldberg earned a master's degree in Costume



June OMURA Goldberg, Jan. '52

Preservation from Fashion Institute of Technology, was a member of the Japanese American United Church and studied Japanese. She enjoyed frequent trips to museums, plays, concerts and dance, and especially treasured watching her niece perform in the Mark Morris Dance Group.

At Hunter, Goldberg, known for her overall excellence, was Editor of the yearbook, voted "Most Likely to Succeed," and was the recipient of every Latin award. Her favorite memories included her French, Latin and Physics teachers, and also helping build the class mascot, a large pink papier mache elephant, in her Village apartment. She enjoyed the still-occurring yearly luncheons with a few of her close classmates. Her brilliant mind and generous heart will be greatly missed by her family and many cherished friends.

Elaine Marilyn ZURIFF Stein, Jan. '53, passed away peacefully in Sarasota, Florida on November 14, 2020. She was born in Brooklyn and was 85 years old. For 40 years she was the owner of Shore Road Gallery in Ogunquit, Maine, where she presented the work of important artists such as Frank Handlen, Leo Meissner, Emile Gruppe, Theresa Bernstein, and William Meyerowitz. She is survived by her husband Bernard Stein, two daughters and a son, a daughter-in-law and two sons-in-law, and three grandchildren. Contributions in her

memory may be made to Hunter College High School, Ogunquit Museum of American Art, and the Ogunquit Memorial Library.

Frances WATANABE Mendez '56 passed away on August 25, 2020 at the age of 82. Born August 14, 1938 in Los Angeles, California to Mas and Sue Watanabe, Frances moved to New York as a child and later graduated from Hunter College. For many years, Mendez was a lab technician at Jacobi Medical Center and Montefiore Medical Center (both affiliated with the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in the Bronx). She is survived by her husband, Louis Mendez, and by her brother and two sisters. Two other sisters predeceased her. She also leaves behind many nephews and nieces and her beloved dog Cooper. The family appreciates a donation in her memory to the SPCA of Westchester, Inc., 590 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510, or at www.sPCA914.org.

Ruth Anne Wasserman '57, passed away in Carlsbad, California on September 10, 2020 after a brief illness. She was born in New York City in 1940. Wasserman graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from City College in 1961 and earned an M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Maryland in 1964. She had a successful career working for several pharmaceutical companies in regulatory affairs, retiring in 1995. She then moved to California to enjoy her retirement, playing golf and spending time with her family. Wasserman was preceded in death by her parents, Morris and Florence Wasserman. She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, two nephews, and her grandnephew and grandnieces. She will be missed by her whole extended family and her many friends, including those she knew from Hunter College High School.

Carla Sherwin '59 was proud to



Carla Sherwin '59

be a Greenwich Village girl, born and raised on West 10th Street. She fondly remembered going to Washington Square Park on Sundays for the folk music sing-alongs. She attended PS 3 and Brooklyn College, where she majored in Philosophy and European Literature. After college, Sherwin worked in advertising (Wells, Rich, Green Inc.). Then she switched careers and became a bartender, working at The Recess (located on Bayard St. behind the Municipal Court Building), where she served and became friends with many NYPD officers. With them, she would attend annual conventions and St. Patrick's Day gatherings.

She then worked for NASDAQ for 11 years until they moved their offices. She retired but had a cancerous part of a lung removed and the cancer never came back. For the last 16 years of her life, she was a member of the Equinox Gym at Hudson and Leroy Streets which had a rooftop pool. She was called "Queen of the Pool" and "Mayoress of the Pool" because of her friendliness, her ability to introduce different people to one another, and her great *joie de vivre*. She had many friends there who loved her dearly and mourn her passing. Sherwin passed away from respiratory failure. Her ashes were buried in a plot next to her father.

Betty BERNECK Belina '61 passed away in April, 2021. She entered Hunter in 10th Grade. Belina attended Queens College where she earned her BA in French/Secondary Education and MA in French, and she received her PhD in French from Yale University. At Hunter, Belina displayed a range

of talents, designing many posters and serving on many Senior Class committees. On top of that, she had a talent for playing songs by ear and was the pianist for our Senior Show. She relocated to the West Coast in 1978; was married in 1980 and widowed in 1996. She taught French at the college level, then became a bilingual secretary and, ultimately, worked as a legal secretary in San Francisco, where at one point she presented an



Elaine BLAUSTEIN Karlin '63

in-house French course on the request of staff. When she retired she had time to indulge her interest in antiques.

Elaine BLAUSTEIN Karlin '63 entered into rest on April 21, 2021 on Bay Harbor Islands, Florida. Karlin was the daughter of the late Ruth and Abe Blaustein. She is survived by her husband Mark, sister, niece, sister-in-law, and numerous cousins and lifelong friends. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association. Gifts can be made online here: <https://www.hchsaa.org/donate> and in the comments box donors can indicate that the gift is in Elaine's memory, or Feed More WNY at: Feedmore WNY Foundation, PO Box 5163, Buffalo, NY 14240.

Barbara Schlenoff '63. Devoted friend. A successful business mind in fashion strategy, especially knitwear. She enjoyed much of New York's dining and theater highlights

over the decades. Always made time to foster our friendship from bridesmaid to teaser of my husband to spot on Aunt Bobbie. Always with a cat in her home and heart. Researched her move away to Cottonwood, AZ where Sedona real estate and the canyon vistas made her happy. Her active involvement with wine clubs, movie festivals, wolf support groups, ceramic classes and awards and numerous other outreaches made for a full life. She should have had more years - Farewell "hon."

- Amy HONIGSBERG Bernstein '63

Rose COOPERBERG Cavalluzzo '69 passed away March 6, 2021 after a brief but brave battle with ovarian cancer. Born August 16, 1952 in Manhattan, Rose grew up in Whitestone, New York, after a short time in the Bronx. She attended Sarah Lawrence College and Saint John's University.

Cavalluzzo was a loving, giving, bright and hard-working woman. A lifelong educator, she taught high school and college courses and supported teachers throughout her career for the New York City Board of Education. She made learning fun and memorable and was always willing to step in and help a student in need, even if they were not in her classes. She was quick to make friends, and always there for anyone who needed her. While New York City was where she grew up and worked, Cavalluzzo fully embraced Saratoga Springs long before she moved here in 2012, and positively adored her new hometown. She would tell anyone who asked that living in a community with so many wonderful things to do - good restaurants, places playing great music, and a library that's open 7 days a week - was exactly what she wanted.

In Saratoga, Cavalluzzo fully embraced the opportunities to continue to learn and grow. She participated in several book clubs, enjoyed the company of other teachers at the retired teachers'

luncheons, and was excited to see more of her community through the Academy for Lifelong Learning. She loved dancing, music of all persuasions, and summers by the pool with friends and family.

Cavalluzzo is survived by her husband, Michael, and her daughter and son-in-law, as well as many dear friends who have been so supportive and caring. She was predeceased by her son in 2019. She was also predeceased by her two brothers, and her parents, Dorothy and Samuel, with whom we hope she is having a long-awaited reunion.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making memorial donations Rose's name to either Caffé Lena, 47 Phila St, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 or to Old Friends at Cabin Creek, 483 Sand Hill Road, Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

Linda LOEFFLER Hanna '69 of Southold, New York died on October 23, 2020. She was 68 years old.

Hanna was born Nov. 21, 1951, in Brooklyn, to Elizabeth E. (Wittreich) and Arthur L. Loeffler and was a survivor of the 1955 polio epidemic. She attended Adelphi University, where she attained her master of science degree in mathematics in August 1977.

In 1975, she married John Lawrence "Larry" Hanna. Together they made their home in Holbrook, New York, until 2004, when they moved to Southold.

Hanna worked as a teacher in the Sayville School District from 1973 to 1982. She was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Greenport. In her spare time, she enjoyed turning VHS tapes of her favorite shows into DVDs. Above all else, she loved spending time with her husband.

She is survived by her husband and two cousins. Donations to the Southold Fire Department Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 1469, Southold, NY 11971 would be appreciated.

Linda Witchell '74, a resident

of Washington, North Carolina for more than 30 years, died unexpectedly on August 30, 2020. Witchell was born in Stuttgart, Germany on November 23, 1957 to Barbara (Burstein) Katz and Barry Witchell who was stationed there with the U.S. Army. The young family soon returned to New York City where Linda grew up. Early ballet classes lead to 12 years of training in classical, modern, and jazz and a passion for all things dance. In addition to performing throughout her teens and 20s, she taught classes and picked up Israeli Folk Dancing.

She was a strong student from a young age. She graduated high school with a New York State Regents Scholarship and attended City College of New York as a Dance major before heading west to study at the California Institute of the Arts. She later returned to New York, graduating from New York University with a business degree.

Summer jobs in Norfolk at the Virginia Stage Company and Tidewater Ballet ultimately resulted in her move to North Carolina in 1985 to be Marketing Director for the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival in High Point. She quickly adjusted to life in a small town and became a proponent of all her new city had to offer, working as a consultant, and volunteering with seniors. Witchell was an amazing cook and a genuinely kind person

who cared deeply about her friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her sister and brother, five nieces and nephews, and dear friends near and far.

Kit Lan Tam '75/'76 ICY, passed away on April 19, 2019 after a bravely fought two year battle with lung cancer. She was 61 years old. Born in Hong Kong, she immigrated to New York City with her family at the age of 10. Even though English was her second language she excelled in her studies and in 3 years entered Hunter. Throughout her teenage years she continued to study Chinese at the New York Chinese School in Chinatown and became fluent in reading and writing. She went on to graduate from Cornell University with a Bachelor's degree in History. And while working full time at the investment bank Smith Barney, she earned an MBA from New York University and became a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Tam married Edmond Chin, a fellow Cornellian, and lived in Mahopac, New York with her husband, son and daughter. She was an avid gardener and took great pride in her springtime peonies while tending to her vast collection of orchids year round.

She is survived by her loving husband, children, brothers and sister **Margie Tam '82**.



Kit Lan Tam '75/'76

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As reported in earlier *AlumNotes*, the HCHSAA, in an effort to encourage wider participation by our diverse alumnae/i community, decided to remove membership fees as a barrier by reducing them to \$0.

In keeping with the requirements of our by-laws (hchsaa.org/by-laws), to renew your annual membership or to join for the first time, you may complete the form provided in this issue and mail it to our offices, providing your current contact information, or register for an online account at hchsaa.org and follow the instructions provided under "My HCHSAA/Register".

In place of membership dues, we hope you will consider making a donation to support programs for students and alums of Hunter College High School. Tiers for giving are listed below.

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