

# THE HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

Published Monthly from October to June, inclusive, at 49 East 65th St., New York 21, N. Y., by the Alumni Association of Hunter College of the City of New York  
Second Class Mail Privileges Authorized at New York, N. Y.  
Price \$2.00 a Year, or 20% of the Annual Dues.

VOL. LXII

MARCH, 1957

No. 3

## COLLEGE BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



(From Left to Right) First Row: Victoria Bitterman, President, Scholarship and Welfare Fund; Mildred I. Thaler, First Vice-President of Alumni; Beatrice K. Weinberg, Third Vice-President; Marie K. Gallagher, Dean of Guidance; Frances R. Abrams, President; Irene Brandon Graff, Past President; Helen H. Taffel, Asst. Corresponding Secretary; John J. Meng, Dean of Administration. Second Row: Rev. David H. C. Read; Cecilia Aide, Treasurer; Evelyn Mallamud, Asst. Treasurer; Ruth Lewinson, Past President; Dorothy Thompson, Second Vice-President; Kathryn L. Hopwood, Dean of Students, Park Ave.; Mina Rees, Dean of Faculty. On Stairs: Hugh F. Bennett, Registrar; Edgar H. Hemminghaus, Dean of Students, Bronx; Sylvia Nadworny, Corresponding Secretary; Helen L. Simis, Past President; Lillian Leight, Recording Secretary.

About 700 alumnae (no alumni—better luck next year?) and their friends gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the Biltmore on February 9 to celebrate, a few days in advance, Alma Mater's 87th birthday anniversary. They filled 65 tables, not to mention the dais (occupied by officers and guests of honor); and their seating-list covered seven double-column pages, starting (suitably) with *Abrams*, and ending with *Zwinge*. This list, by the way, adopted the form *Mary Jones Smith*, which we think is much more meaningful than the more common *Mrs. John Smith*. It also followed the convenient plan started in 1955 of indicating the tables assigned to Classes, Chapters, and other groups. From this we can see how well the "Milestone Classes" turned out. 1912 (with a little assist from 1911 and 1928) had three tables; 1917, four; 1922, three; 1927, three; 1937, four; 1947, one. As for the special

Golden and Silver classes, they were out full force, 1907 with 46 members at five tables, and 1932 with 110 members at nine tables. Apart from the Milestone Classes, many Classes had at least one table; 1914 had a table and part of another, and 1915 (the writer notes with special pride) had two tables, one for January and one for June. It should also be noted that the *pre-Golden* Classes were well represented: 1885-1900 gathered together at one table; 1903, 1905, and 1906 at another; and 1901 and 1904 had their own individual tables. And our youngest were on hand too, 1955 and 1956 combining to fill a table. As for the Chapters, Bronx, Nassau-Suffolk, and Queens had two tables apiece; Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Westchester had one apiece; and the two branches of Manhattan, East Side and West Side, shared one. Two College Departments, Education and Physiol-

ogy, each had a special table, as did the High School, and also the Association of Neighbors and Friends of Hunter College.

The pre-Luncheon program opened with the singing of the National Anthem by a very talented undergraduate, Bob White, and with the Invocation by the Rev. David H. C. Read of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. A delicious luncheon ended with the Birthday Cake, presented as usual by the Alumni Committee of the Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association, and accompanied, also as usual, by a delegation of Lenox Hill youngsters who sang "Happy Birthday" with aplomb and zeal. Then the Alumni President, Mrs. Samuel Abrams, presented a well-merited corsage of orchids to the Luncheon Chairman, Mrs. Jacob Schechter, and, after reminding her hearers of her proposed slogan for the Alumni, *Greater Service through Greater Membership*, greeted the large audience, especially the Milestone Classes, who occupied all the central area of the Ball-Room; introduced the officers and guests seated on the dais; and paid a special tribute to the memory of Louise Draddy. She then presented Marie K. Gallagher, the just retired Dean of Guidance at Hunter.

Dr. Gallagher spoke with her usual fluency and clarity. She had many interesting facts and statistics to present about the Hunter Girl of Yesterday and Today, with the years 1917, 1937, and 1957 chosen as her focal points. She gave the changing percentages and figures concerning boroughs represented, number of majors available, number of student clubs, professions chosen; she touched on changes in the curriculum and in co-curricular life; she noted the addition of graduate study to the institution, and of deans to the faculty. Of special relevance were her words about the Bureau of Educational Guidance, the early Vocational Guidance Committee (headed by Professor Harriet H. Keith), the Placement Bureau which succeeded the Bureau of Occupations (established by the Alumnae)—with all of which she had so much to do. She mentioned new developments among the student body—the increasing number of foreign-born, of those entirely self-supporting, of those with their own domiciles, of those married. In conclusion she stressed the importance of helping the students to become whole and balanced, and of working for greater service, through greater Alumni membership as our President had urged, and also through closer communion with young people.

President Shuster, who followed Dean Gallagher with a talk on "The Hunter Student of Today", began with a tribute to her, illustrated by an anecdote of one special case successfully handled by her; spoke as she had done of Hunter's new Graduate Program, and also of the Adult Education Program, including all sorts of attractive opportunities ranging from badminton to the Concert Series; and closed with a tribute to the Alumni President.

Next on the program was a well-earned recognition of the invaluable services of Dr. Ruth Lewinson, who, after donating her time

and talents for 35 years as Counsel to the Alumni, was now resigning from this important post, to the regret of all.

After Ruth's word of response, it was the turn of Ruth's big sister Edna, who as President of the Golden Class spoke not only for the forty-six members of '07 who were present but for many others as well. This class, organized on its fifteenth anniversary, has since received a message to every member every year; has contributed to the funds for the organ, for furnishing a House Plan room at Roosevelt House, for dances and ambulances during the war; and was the first as a class to join the Neighbors and Friends of Hunter College. It now celebrated its Golden Anniversary with the munificent gift of \$2000 to the Scholarship Fund in the name of its member Louise Draddy.

Professor Henrietta Tichy in behalf of the Silver Class spoke in verse, with interludes of song from Bob White, '58, and concluded by announcing the class gift of books for the Bronx Library.

Mrs. Abrams told of other presents. The Alumni had contributed \$400 for their College Birthday Gift, part of which had been used to purchase two large silver bowls and ladles for the Bronx Campus, while the rest had been deposited in the College Birthday Fund. Gifts for the Scholarship and Welfare Fund had also been received from many sources. Mrs. Abrams spoke of the gifts from Chapters (Bronx, East Side, Los Angeles, Nassau-Suffolk, New England, Queens, San Francisco, Stuyvesant-Cooper, Washington), and from Classes ('25, and her own Class of June '22).

Mrs. Samuel Bitterman, President of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund, then accepted the gifts made to this Fund. She expressed special appreciation of the work of Edna Lewinson, President of '07, in raising \$2000, and of Celia Zanger, President of '22, in raising \$1100. She also congratulated the Silver Class of '32. She reported that of the students graduated with high honors last June, five had been helped by the Fund; and she voiced the hope that the Fund's goal of \$250,000 would be attained in two years. She closed with a plea that any who had neglected or overlooked earlier appeals make their contributions as soon as possible.

Bob White led the Alumni in the singing of our own "Ivy Leaf" and of "Fame". Mr. Read delivered the Benediction. And another Luncheon—a particularly enjoyable one—was over.

E. ADELAIDE HAHN, June '15

### BIRTHDAY ASSEMBLY

The College celebrated its birthday a day ahead of time, with an assembly on February 13.

After the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner, led by Professor Emile and accompanied by Mr. Bruce Prince-Joseph at the organ, Dean Meng read from the book of Proverbs and then greeted the audience, as the representative of President Shuster; or, as he

put it, if father is missing from the family gathering in honor of Alma Mater's birthday, the oldest boy has to substitute.

Birthday greetings were presented by the Elementary School in the form of a dialogue directed by Mrs. Katherine Kreag and enacted, in suitable costume, by Marjorie Berger as Susan D. Anthony, and Robert Schiffer as her suitor, seeking her as his valentine; and then more greetings came from the High School, in the form of an introductory speech by Lenore Hammel, and an entertaining original song by the Choral Group under the direction of Miss Charlotte Hochman. Adrienne O'Brien, President of the Student Self-Government Association of Park Avenue, presented Dean Meng with an envelope containing a check from the Student Council. Professor Edward Davison, Director of the School of General Studies, on behalf of the evening students, presented Dean Meng with an envelope which he, with rueful and winning frankness, confessed was still empty, as the result of various contretemps, but which he hoped would soon be filled. He gave the interesting information that the S. G. S. now numbers more students than the Day Session at Park Avenue, Hunter in the Bronx, and the Graduate School all together.

Mrs. Abrams on behalf of the Alumni told something of the work of our body in organizing the Bureau of Occupations, founding the Library and making many gifts to it (including over \$500 for books given this year by the Silver Class of '32), and presenting many awards and prizes. She stressed particularly the Scholarship and Welfare Fund, and told of some of the gifts just made to it—\$2000 from the Golden Class of '07, \$500 from the Silver Class, \$1100 from her own 35 year Class of '22—as well as the sum of \$1000 raised annually by the Queens Chapter. She also of course reported on the Alumni Birthday Gift to the College, going in alternate years to Park Avenue and the Bronx (it's the turn for the Bronx this time), and exhibited half of this year's gift, in the form of one silver punch-bowl and one ladle. Her concluding words were: "Seniors, we count on you to join us in June so that we can augment the services which the Alumni Association is so happy to render our Alma Mater."

Two superb piano solos by Carmen Czernik justified Professor Emile's prediction that she will some day be a distinguished concert pianist; and selections from *Pinafore*, directed by Dr. Monroe Grossman and accompanied at the piano by Harriet Silverman, whetted the audience's appetite for the complete performance, to be given on March 7, 8, and 9, in the Playhouse.

As Dean Meng said in introducing the speaker of the day, Soia Mentschikoff, '34, the loveliest gift a college can have on her birthday is the presence of one of her daughters who has made a name for herself. And this is surely true of Miss Mentschikoff, who has outstandingly fulfilled the promise that she outstandingly displayed in her undergraduate

days as President of the Student Self-Government Association. After her graduation from the Columbia Law School in 1937, she practiced in New York with some of the best law firms of the city; then she served as Visiting Professor of Law at the Harvard Law School from 1947 to 1949, being the first woman to achieve this honor; and she is now Professorial Lecturer at the Law School of the University of Chicago.

Miss Mentschikoff's address, on "The Liberal Arts and the Law", was singularly interesting, instructive, and stimulating. By taking familiar domestic incidents—young married couples at odds as to whether they will live in the city or the suburbs, Tommy complaining (glibly but untruthfully) that Johnny had kicked him in the teeth—she lucidly and vividly illustrated many legal problems and phenomena: the question of jurisdiction, rational discussion, the issue of conflicting values as norms, the possibility of arbitration; due process of law, the right to cross-examine, the right of confrontation, the right to counsel, the calling of disinterested witnesses. She showed the complications that arise in groups. To the children, they are the "we" group and the parents are the "they" group, who feel that as a matter of natural law automatic authority rests with them (though when a five-foot-two mother faces a six-foot-two son certain sanctions can hardly apply). But the whole family, parents and children, become the "we" group in contrast with other families. And one can keep on and on enlarging the group till one comes to the U.N., which in its way faces the same problems as the little family group. She made her audience share her view that sociologists might well, in their study of family life, use the analogy of law. And such parallels are of value in all college life: they have lessons for the Student Council, for undergraduate clubs. In conclusion she declared that every liberal arts college worthy of the name should teach and communicate this type of group analysis. Colleges are experimenting in this direction. Hunter is ahead of many in that it has always had law courses, but these should not be confined to Political Science majors.

The speaker surely left her audience longing to take courses in law, provided they were taught by Soia Mentschikoff, and even to be lawyers, provided—a hardly likely phenomenon—that they could all be Soia Mentschikoffs.

Dean Meng expressed his appreciation of Miss Mentschikoff's brilliant speech, and then added a word of thanks to Mr. Prince-Joseph at the organ, and to the Traditions Committee (Professor Josephine Burke Faculty Adviser, Gertrude Robinson Student Chairman, Denise Fields Student Vice-Chairman) for their part in planning a thoroughly delightful program.

Let us have more such programs. The Alma Mater is blessed in the possession of many distinguished daughters. It is thrilling to see and hear one of them in the flesh.

E. ADELAIDE HAHN