

THE HUNTER COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWS

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COLLEGE BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



First Row: Rabbi Newman, Mrs. Shuster, Mrs. Abrams, Dean Rees, Mrs. Graff.
Second Row: Mrs. Bitterman, Dean Hopwood, Dr. Lewinson, Dr. Meade, Mrs. Simis, Mrs. Strenger.
Third Row: Dean Hemminghaus, President Shuster, Dean Meng, Director Davison.

"Wasn't it a nice affair!" That was the comment heard on all sides after the Birthday Luncheon on February 15, and we hope it came to the ears of Florence Serxner Strenger, the able Chairman.

Even the surroundings were "nice". The return to the Astor — now the Sheraton-Astor — was a happy move. The Grand Ball-Room, conveniently located on the ground floor, is a good place for seeing and hearing, and also provides commodious reception-rooms, particularly well-adapted to the grouping of the Milestone Classes, and efficient checking facilities. The luncheon was delicious and well-served.

And the company was "nice". There were about 750 Hunterites on hand, including a graduate of 70 years ago, Jessica Rosenfeld of the famous "blizzard" Class of '88, and representatives of '96 and '98. In all 49 Classes and 9 Chapters were listed as present, as well as some friendly non-graduates from the Hunter Faculty.

And the program was very "nice" indeed. It was a real Hunter program. The highly gifted singer, who we hope some day will join our Regina Resnik in the roster of Metropolitan stars, was Martina Arroyo, Hunter graduate and member of the Hunter College Opera Workshop. The invocation and benediction were pronounced by Rabbi Louis I. Newman, who not only is our Alumni President's own clergyman but is a member of a family that

includes four generations of Hunter graduates. And the birthday cake was as usual presented by our own Alumni Committee for the Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association, which began its great career as our own settlement and which, also as usual, sent us a group of children to sing "Happy Birthday" to us.

There were of course greetings from our own Alumni President and our own College President. Mrs. Abrams, who presided with her customary sincerity and dignity, thanked her colleagues in the Association, mentioned in particular the special widely-distributed November issue of the NEWS, told of her enjoyment of her years in office, and pledged support to the coming administration. President Shuster spoke of the new Hunter TV program under Professor Stoessinger's direction; in lighter vein referred to the picture of his photogenic spouse in the NEWS, and to the experience of a Hunter graduate in Germany on a Fulbright Award who by mistake was set to peeling potatoes ("We know", commented a German paper, "that Hunter College is a very great college, and we hope many other girls come to peel potatoes"); and in very serious vein, after paying tribute to Mrs. Picker's generosity, told of the College's need of great support from many Alumni in the face of a falling tax budget.

And the speaker of the day was likewise one of Hunter's own: Dr. Mary E. Meade, 1918, Assistant Superintendent of the High

School Division of the New York City Board of Education. Dr. Meade's talk on "What Hunter Has Meant To Me" was such a gem in its abundance of charming reminiscences replete with humor and sentiment, its solid common sense, and its lofty idealism, that no reporter's summary can do it justice, and we are printing it in full elsewhere in the NEWS.

And finally there were the gifts and greetings from the Milestone Classes. The Golden Class unfortunately was not in attendance; this was a very small class, because it came along just at the time that a shift was made from the seven-year course (really a combination of high school and college work) to the regular four-year college course following four years of preparatory school. However, a message was read from its President, Muriel Rochester Paige. The Silver Class had two speakers, Muriel Cutler Kovinow for June and Mary Greene Candib for January, and a singer, Lillian Hilsom Forrest. This class, we learned, has had nine reunions since its 20th anniversary, and 430 of its over 900 members have been reached. It has children ranging in age from two months to 22 years, and two grandchildren; its most spectacular claim to renown is in the person of one son, Robert Strom of television fame, son of Beatrice Reisinger Strom. The class set itself a goal of \$1,000; but all worked so well—notably Eva Gottlieb, who single-handed raised over \$125 by making and selling aprons—that it was able to present \$1,370 to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund.

There were other fine gifts. 1912 handed in \$369 on account toward its coming Golden Gift. The Milestone Classes were well represented. June 1913 contributed to the special Scholarship Fund in memory of Dean Mills. 1918 provided not only the Speaker of the Day, but 50 shares of Bethlehem Steel, which will assure a scholarship of \$120 a year. 1923 provided not only the Dean of Faculty, but the sum of \$830, to be divided equally between the Alumni Scholarship and Welfare Fund and the College Graduate Scholarship Fund. 1928 provided not only the Chairman of the Day, but a considerable sum to augment its earlier Silver Gift, a scholarship in science. 1938, 1943, and 1948 all made gifts or pledges to the Scholarship Fund. So too, beside the Milestone Classes, did every one of the twelve Alumni Chapters. While the smaller and younger Chapters of course cannot, and cannot be expected to, match the Queens Chapter's pledge of \$1,000 for the Scholarship Fund in memory of Louise Draddy, still "all are needed by each one". And altogether, in addition to the shares from 1918, gifts of over \$4,000 in cash were presented, and were graciously and joyously accepted by Mrs. Samuel Bitterman, President of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund, who reported that several hundred students had already been helped by the Fund.

Finally, a Friendship Hour concluded this truly nice affair.

E. ADELAIDE HAHN

COLLEGE BIRTHDAY ASSEMBLY

The College Birthday Assembly on Feb. 19 was thoroughly enjoyable—only it's a pity there weren't more Alumni present.

President Shuster read the famous passage from I Corinthians (chapter 13), and then greeted the audience, including in his speech an excerpt from the address delivered by the Chairman of the Board of Education at the dedication ceremonies for the new building that was later to become the Old Building. The Chairman spoke of the great expense involved (\$1,000,000 for land, building, and appliances), and of the location (far uptown in rural surroundings, but destined some day, so he prophetically assured his listeners, to be in the heart of the city). It was particularly interesting for the present writer to hear these words, which must have been listened to at the time of their original delivery by her mother, who was one of the girls entering the beautiful red-brick Gothic building when it opened in 1873.

There were also greetings from representatives of the Elementary School (Jordan Wouk and Deborah Moldow), the High School (Barbara Byrd), the Day Session of the College (Appolonia Mayer, Student Vice-President), the School of General Studies (Constance Christopher, Student President), and the Alumni (our own Mrs. Samuel Abrams). Mrs. Abrams told of our distinguished Alumni Luncheon Speaker, Dr. Mary E. Meade, and of the Alumni gift to the College, a refrigerator for use in connection with Dean Hopwood's teas to students.

There was an abundance of music. Mr. Bruce Prince-Joseph at the organ played the processional, the accompaniment for the national anthem (led by Professor Anders Emile) and for the college song (led by Donna Hood Pointer), and the recessional. There were a trio for flute (Sophie Schultz), violin (Joseph Dellicari), and piano (Samuel Sanders); a piano solo by Samuel Sanders; and songs by Robert White (accompanied by Mr. Sanders).

The final number was a gloriously uproarious parody on a television program, "I've Got a Secret", under the direction of the gayly-skipping Professor Robert D. Hayton. The panel was provided by a most gifted Thespian in the person of Professor Frederick L. Zimmermann, and two highly photogenic ladies, Miss Isabelle A. Krey of the faculty and Miss Carol Lawton (a second-generation Hunterite) of the student body. The contestants were Mrs. Helen Luckey Simis, Past President of the Alumni; Professor Anders Emile and Mr. Maurice Friedberg of the Faculty; and Miss Julie Shefkes of the student body. The inevitable singing commercial was performed by Mrs. Donna Hood Pointer, and an unannounced and effective entrance was made by no less a personage than President Shuster.

We hope the Alumni will resolve not to miss such a pleasant occasion next year.

E.A.H.