

THE ALUMNÆ NEWS

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The first year of my term as President of the Alumnae was both historic and encouraging. The Diamond Jubilee, in which I represented you with the public, was something of which we can long be proud. The events attracted wide interest and attention in both scholastic and government circles, and served the added purpose of bringing into the fold many Alumnae who had allowed their interest to lag.

Under date of May 23rd, 1945, the Board of Higher Education has added its word of thanks to that of President Shuster for the gift of \$7,500.00 from the Associate Alumnae on the occasion of the Jubilee. To this have been added the gift of the Silver Class, and at the Annual Reunion, on May 19th, the gift of the 50-Year Class.

The meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Council were well attended, and many problems and plans were vigorously discussed. We have made a good start toward increasing the membership among recent graduates, who are ably represented at the meetings of the Board by young chairmen who speak for them, and who, through the Committee on Special Activities, are creating projects of particular interest to the younger graduates.

It is, of course, the view of your President that every Hunter graduate should pay the nominal dues of \$2.00 and be a member of the Associate Alumnae. To that end an appeal was made in the *Hunter College Bulletin* to the students, asking them to secure for membership their grandmothers, their mothers, their aunts, and their sisters; notices were published in medical journals and the *Key Reporter*, which brought hundreds of answers. During the course of the year your President personally brought in over seventy-five members; but the membership picture is still far from satisfactory. We are, therefore, formulating a statement of what membership carries with it by way of concrete benefits, so that those who find it not enough to belong merely in support of the great College which gave them an opportunity for a free higher education, will know that they get far more for \$2.00 than any one would dream could be furnished. There are the Alumnae Day in the Fall, the Spring Reunion and Tea in May, the Sunday night Supper Dances for servicemen at the Con-teen, invitations to College events, Officers' Dances at Roosevelt House, opportunities to meet classmates and friends at the Alumnae Breakfast and the Bridge, and, above all, the ALUMNÆ NEWS.

For the coming year, we had planned to have gymnastics and swimming at the College on Friday nights in classes and groups,

for the Alumnae only. Although there seemed to be a substantial demand, the response has been disappointingly small. We plan an evening meeting for those who are not free during the day. Just what form that meeting will take has not been determined. If any of you have any suggestions, we would be glad to get them.

I hereby publicly express my appreciation to my Officers, Directors, Chairmen, and all of the workers who have made the past year a success. I trust they will all come forward with greater plans and new members, and that every activity which is announced will have unqualified and enthusiastic support.

RUTH LEWINSON, President.

SPRING REUNION

In spite of a dreadful downpour an enthusiastic audience assembled in the Assembly Hall of Hunter College on May 19th. The rain could not keep away many who look forward to the Annual Spring Reunion to meet and say Hello to old friends.

The program began with organ selections by Miss June Zinckgraf of the Class of '46, followed by singing of the National Anthem.

Dr. Ruth Lewinson, our President, welcomed the members, and with a good supply of humorous stories got the audience into a jovial mood. In a more serious vein she went on to recount the numerous activities of this past year, our Jubilee Year, paying tribute and giving thanks to Mrs. Helen Simis, Mrs. Louise Draddy, Mrs. Edna Luetz, and all other members who have helped in any capacity whatsoever to make this year as productive as it has been. A special tribute was paid to well beloved Mrs. Otto Hahn, who symbolized "the News itself".

Our membership has increased, our younger members have begun to participate more actively in the Association, our Patriotic Service has continued. Our sale of bonds, thanks to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Samuel Bitterman and all her co-workers, is steadily mounting.

Dr. Lewinson urged continued cooperation with the College, support of concerts, funds, and the Roosevelt House League.

The Hunter College Alumnae Choir delighted the audience with a program of charming music well sung. This included Brahms' Liebeslieder Waltzes, Humperdinck's Prayer, and Grieg's My Johann.

President George N. Shuster extended his greetings to the Alumnae of the College. He outlined briefly the extensive work toward the war effort in which Hunter College is participating. He mentioned the money being raised for Victory Ships, one of which will be called *S. S. Hunter*, the Bond Drive,

GRADUATE MENORAH SOCIETY

Once a month a joint meeting of the Day, Evening Session, and Graduate Menorah Societies of Hunter College is held at the Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House. The threefold objectives of the joint meetings are to carry on the basic aim of the Menorah movement, namely, the study and advancement of Jewish culture and ideals; to bring about a closer social relationship between the members of the Menorah graduate and undergraduate groups; and to help foster a spirit of good-will and mutual understanding among Hunterites of all faiths, the primary purpose of the Roosevelt House.

In its first and third objectives, the Menorah Societies have the coöperation of the Hillel Foundation, another Jewish organization, a unit of which was formed a few years ago at Hunter College, and to which has been allocated the third floor of the Roosevelt House.

The Hunter Graduate Menorah Society that came into being in 1935 (the Day Session group in 1917) has subscribed to the *Menorah Journal*, a periodical of high scholastic value, and participates in all the major activities of the undergraduate societies.

The project initiated by the Graduate Society and carried on, under its own auspices, was the establishment of the "George Alexander Kohut Memorial Library" at the American Colony in Palestine, "Ein Hashofet", named after the late Justice Louis D. Brandeis. Their interest in this colony was stimulated by the fact that several of the Chalutzim are Hunter College graduates. Up to the outbreak of World War II, more than 3,000 books were sent to this library through the Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

With the opening of the Roosevelt House, the Graduate Menorah Society has assumed an added task, namely, the procuring of books of Jewish interest for the general "Inter-Faith Library" on the second floor, and for the library of the Hillel Foundation rooms. A considerable number of books for both libraries have already been obtained, including the *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, the generous gift of Mrs. Alexander Kohut.

To help further the splendid work being done by the Graduate Menorah Society, I am appealing through the medium of the columns of the ALUMNAE NEWS to those Hunterites who were members of the organizations in their undergraduate days or who would like to become affiliated for the first time now, to write to me at Hunter College.

The officers of the Graduate Menorah Society, all Hunterites, are the following: Honorary President, Mrs. Bernard Deutsch, member of the Board of Higher Education; Honorary Vice-President, Mrs. Moses Epstein, National President of Hadassah; President, Mrs. Alexander Rosenzweig; Vice-President, Mrs. Max Labenace; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Benjamin Ashe.

DORA ASKOWITH,
Faculty Adviser, Menorah Society.