

# The Hunter College

# ALUMNI NEWS

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No. 4

## GARDEN DEDICATION

The garden in memory of Helen Gray Cone, Hunter's loved teacher and poet, has been planted after five years of effort and delay, and will be dedicated on May the first, at 4 P.M. at the Hunter Bronx campus. It is a curious and fitting coincidence that this year happens to be the hundredth anniversary of Professor Cone's birth. Mayday was chosen for the dedication because her birthday, March 8th, is too early to see the garden in spring bloom. It is to be hoped that the daffodils, narcissus, azaleas and rhododendron will do their part in making the dedication day a festive one. A prize is being offered for the best sonnet by an undergraduate, and the prize-winning poem as well as some of Miss Cone's flower poems will be read as part of the dedicatory program. Tea will be served. Everyone is invited to

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## MEMBERSHIP CARD PARTY

Hunter College will be ninety years old on February 14, 1960. Can you think of a better birthday tribute than an Alumni Association that has doubled or tripled itself by that time? This is the goal the Card Party Committee and the Membership Committee have set for themselves. We need your active support to make the dream come true.

The Membership Card Party will be held at Roosevelt House, 49 East 65th Street at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 18, 1959. Tickets are \$1.50 each; \$5 per table. Sponsors, who contribute \$10 or more, are entitled to one table and will be listed as such in our program. If you bring a Hunter graduate, a new member, who pays her dues that day, your guest will be admitted free.

If you cannot attend, please send us a contribution — large or small, or a door prize of any kind, just to swell the fund and encourage our efforts.

We are limited by the size of Roosevelt House and may have to turn down late reservations. Please fill out the blank below and mail it promptly.

Your committee had hoped that every chapter would be represented at the Card Party. We had hoped to present a door prize from each chapter. Brooklyn chapter has donated an electric hair dryer and Bronx is sponsoring a table. We look to the other chapters for their support in making this an all-Hunter success.

SIBYLLA A. MELLOR  
Card Party Chairman

## PRESIDENT SHUSTER TO RETIRE

Formal announcement of Dr. Shuster's retirement was made February 17 by the Board of Higher Education. He



President Shuster

will go on leave the end of next semester, after serving our College with distinction for twenty years.

Next month the NEWS will carry an article of appreciation of our president by Dean Mina Rees. Announcement will also be made of the plans which are being formulated to honor him. The alumni will be pleased to know that they will have the opportunity to participate in several ways.

Meanwhile, one of our number has been moved to celebrate President Shuster in rhyme and we print an acrostic in sonnet form written by Liboria E. Romano '55.

## HAIL AND FAREWELL

God sped Aeneas, when he launched his sail,  
Endeavoring to chart the course most wise  
Over the storm-tossed sea in southern gale;  
Resourcefully, he faced Italian skies.

George N. Shuster, our hero in his turn,  
Educator, scholar, pious and kind,  
Navigated calmly that all might learn  
Sane arts, developing the searching mind.

Hunter College, beloved of New York,  
Unmatched in this expanding universe,  
Selected him, schoolman with three-  
pronged fork:

Teacher of English, author, poet terse.

Egregious president, resigning, read:  
Respectfully, alumni say, "Godspeed."

Miss Sibylla A. Mellor  
49 East 65th Street  
New York 21, New York

- I will take ..... tickets to the Card Party at \$1.50 each Check enclosed.
- I will take ..... tables at \$5 a table.
- I will be a sponsor. I enclose my check for \$10.
- I will send a door prize before April 5.
- I cannot attend but I am enclosing a contribution as my share in making the event a success.

Name..... Class.....

Address.....



## CARD PARTY COMMITTEE

Seated: Miss E. Adelaide Hahn, Miss Sibylla Mellor. Standing: Mrs. Helen Taffel, Mrs. Carmen Russo, Mrs. Beatrice Weinberg, Miss Lillian Leight, Miss Margaret Rooney, Mrs. Lorraine Costello, Miss Ruth Ulman, Miss B. Elizabeth Kallman.

## HELEN GRAY CONE

### *A Valediction Forbidding Mourning*

We rejoiced that we knew her, all the generations who were students at Hunter more than a quarter century ago. This month of March marked the hundredth anniversary of her birth. Of this poet and teacher — and Associate Alumnae president — there are many cherished memories, and the desire to share them must move all who did know her.

Helen Gray Cone was born on March 8, 1859, the daughter of John Carpenter and Julia Gray Cone. She died on January 31, 1934. She was herself Hunter-bred, a member of the Class of 1876, of old Normal. There followed a long period of private study and writing and in 1885 Houghton Mifflin published her first volume of verse, *Oberon and Puck*. She was appointed temporary tutor in the College in 1889, then tutor in the following year. By 1899 she had become professor of English and chairman of the department. She continued to develop the program of studies in English and American literature, and in the teaching of language and composition, throughout the years of her service, until her retirement in 1926. She was foundation member of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Hunter. By special act of the State Legislature Hunter bestowed the D. Litt. degree upon her in 1920.

But the teacher and the scholar did not wholly absorb the poet. She published four other volumes of poems, *The Ride to the Lady* in 1891, *Soldiers of the Light* in 1911, *A Chant of Love for England* in 1915, and *The Coat without a Seam* in 1919. In 1930 there appeared a volume of her selected verse, *Harvest Home*.

Seventy-five years ago she was the first graduate to bring some renown to the College by her pen. In the first two decades of this century, in *Scribner's Magazine*, in *Harper's*, in *St. Nicholas*, in the *Atlantic*, in the *Sewanee Review*, in volume after volume of anthologies of American verse, collections by Stedman, by Jessie Rittenhouse, Margaret Wilkinson, Carolyn Wells, Raymond Alden, many of her poems appeared, to spread the knowledge of her name, and the joy her verse gave.

This is a body of verse grave and gay, witty, humorous, deft, clear and musical, verse in the romantic tradition

of English poetry. Love of nature, of country, of her fellow men informed all her writing. She had gone to school to the masters of English poetry, and their influence prevailed. And her many essays and pieces of literary criticism revealed her devotion to the whole of English literature, to all the best that had been thought and said.

No one who heard Helen Gray Cone read poetry could ever forget her voice. Shakespeare in class, Wordsworth in public lecture — the memories crowd. This little lady had a great voice, and a great personality. And we remember too the greatness of her vision, and pay tribute to it. In 1915 she founded her Fellowship of Goodwill, "to deepen in the individual and to spread in the community the spirit of goodwill", — a foreshadowing of the hopes of all men today, united in spirit, who are, as she said, of one blood, and live under one sky. Our present Alumni president, Adelaide Hahn, served as secretary of the Fellowship throughout its history.

Her own words speak best for Helen Gray Cone, the words of the sonnet she chose to place first in the volume of her selected verse, in 1930.

### THE COMMON STREET

The common street climbed up against  
the sky,  
Gray meeting gray; and wearily to and fro  
I saw the patient, common people go,  
Each with his sordid burden trudging by.  
And the rain dropped; there was not any  
sigh  
Or stir of a live wind; dull, dull and slow  
All motion; as a tale told long ago  
The faded world; and creeping night drew  
nigh.  
Then burst the sunset, flooding far and fleet,  
Leavening the whole of life with magic  
leaven.  
Suddenly down the long wet glistening hill  
Pure splendor poured — and lo! the  
common street,  
A golden highway into golden heaven,  
With the dark shapes of men ascending  
still. (A.M.T.)

## NORTHROP MEMORIAL CAMP

This year is for girls between the ages of 12 and 15.

To become a Northrop Camper, it is necessary for the applicant to be recommended by her teacher and have the following qualifications:

1. A real interest in Nature Study.
2. Attend a Public School located in New York City.
3. Satisfactory Scholarship and Conduct.
4. Be a member of a family of small or moderate income.

Northrop camp is located in Mt. Washington, Massachusetts. When possible, successful applicants are requested to make a contribution of \$25.00 towards the cost of a four weeks' stay at camp. A certain number of scholarships are available to those who cannot contribute this sum.

Application forms and additional information may be had by writing to Miss B. Elizabeth Kallman, 102 West 85th Street, New York 24, N. Y.

We are searching for a competent director and an athletic counselor. If you have any recommendations I will be delighted to receive them.

B. ELIZABETH KALLMAN, *Director*

## GARDEN DEDICATION

(Continued from page 1)

attend, particularly those students and friends of Prof. Cone's whose devotion keeps her memory fresh and green.

The garden is just outside Gillet Hall, and the campus is on Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx. In case of rain (horrid thought) the dedication will be held indoors.

Anyone with H.G.C. books to donate to the College library please send them to Mrs. Alfred H. Guttman, 10 Mayhew Avenue, Larchmont, N. Y.

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