

# AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/II ASSOCIATION

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## HUNTER PLACES PAST: ALUMS RUSH TO RECALL

Our request for reminiscences of Hunter locations past brought in a rich rush of recollections. In this issue, our correspondents remember the host of short-lived school sites of the 'teens and twenties. Most also recalled the means, usually subway, by which they commuted to school. Many memories of Hunter buildings set off memories of faculty members, administrators, and elevator operators. (Watch for these in a later issue.)

Emily Kuhm, who was at Hunter High from 1914 to 1918 and went on to Hunter College, remembers "a public school building [P.S. 165] at 108th Street and Broadway for the first two years and a public school building [P.S. 93] at 93rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue for the last two years. We attended classes and had no other activities that I remember."

Hazel Daut Saville '22 was also in the 108th Street school in 1918 and 1919, on the upper floors. "Then we expected to go to the Annex on 93rd and Amsterdam. But lucky us—we were sent to the 'new building' at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue and graduated from the old red chapel on Park Avenue in June 1922."

Olga Goodman '24 recalls using the YM and YWCA at 52nd Street and Lexington for class shows, and fills in some other 1920s Hunter High locations:

Sept. 1920 – Jan. 1921 – 5th floor old [college] building at 68th and Park Avenue; red brick, used from around 1870 to the fire.

Feb. 1921 – June 1922, P.S. 165.

Sept. 1920 – 1923, P.S. 93, used by juniors and seniors. 1923 – 24, 4th floor of "new" white [college] building at 68th and Lexington.

June 1924 – our graduation was in the Red Building chapel, I believe.

Teresa Gloster '29 adds some more annexes of the '20s:

Sept. 1925 – Central Jewish Institute building, East 85th Street and Lexington Avenue.

Feb. 1926 – elementary school, 108-9 Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues.

Sept. '26 – Knights of Columbus building at 50th Street and Broadway (now torn down). Few classrooms; a dinner bell marked the change of classes. Mrs. Egbert was in charge.

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## PRESIDENT SHALALA AND THE CAMPUS SCHOOLS

*The Hunter College Campus Schools received prominent mention in Hunter College President Donna E. Shalala's recently issued report, Hunter College 1980-1985. Herewith her remarks:*

As for the Hunter College Campus Schools, on Park Avenue and 94th Street, their building, designed to hold 1200 students, now contains 1700. However architecturally advanced this windowless facility is, it no longer serves our purposes....

In the last five years at the high school, the curriculum has expanded to include computer courses and Chinese as well as more options in health and physical education. Students are now required to take courses in the visual arts and in either instrumental or vocal music. And in their senior year—by which time they have completed all their Regents examinations—students have a choice between taking five additional course at the high school level or two to three courses in college in addition to signing on for an off-campus learning project.

Campus School students' extracurricular activities have also been expanded. There are nine new teams that compete in the Public School Athletic League. Forensic activities are now available as are a band, an orchestra, and four vocal-music groups. There's also a new stress on service projects growing out of commitment to the City and detailed explorations with the American Friends Service Committee and social agencies in the Yorkville neighborhood.

What remains the same is the Schools' dedication to serving gifted children—without regard to income, race, ethnic background, sex, or religion. The service pays off in good citizenship and scholastic achievement: this past year, for example, three seniors were chosen in a nationwide competition to become Presidential Finalists, and somewhat more than 25 percent of each year's graduating class wins National Merit awards, a percentage which we are led to believe is the highest in the nation.

Feb. '27 – A public elementary school at 320 East 96th Street near First Avenue, now part of Manhattan Vocational and Technical High School.

Dorothy Pearlstein Zuckerman '29 recalls that her class stayed at 96th Street "for the rest of our terms and I believe we called that the 'Main Building' but we always shared it with the elementary school that really belonged there. I do not recall any contact we ever had with the neighborhood institutions or the regular inhabitants of our buildings." Teresa adds that graduation exercises in June 1929 were held in the chapel of Hunter College in the old building on Park Avenue [which later burned down, and was replaced by the building now known as Hunter College North].

Helen Fitzpatrick Crabtree '26 recalls "an old abandoned public school building at West 108th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway. Columbia was nearby and Broadway had several movie houses, ice cream parlors and cafeterias. Her letter continues:

"A group of us who lived in the Yorkville section traveled to and from school on the Third Avenue trolley which meandered up Third Avenue and across 110th Street to Amsterdam, the end of the line. It must have been a long slow trip, but we were so busy comparing notes about homework assignments and giggling over

the nonsensical things girls of that age giggle over, that we did not seem to notice the passage of time, except to worry about being late. (Lateness was a mortal sin!)

"Once in a while, a couple of us would walk home in order to use the nickel saved from carfare for an ice cream cone. We would cut across Central Park, completely carefree and blissfully oblivious to anything that might be termed 'danger.'

"Our high school building was very cold and bare. No attempt had been made to decorate or enhance the gray and dim white paint that predominated. We sat at old-fashioned fixed school desks with an ink well at the top right hand corner and between classes we ran up and down the narrow staircases, arriving out of breath because we *dare not be late*."

A colorful odyssey is reported by Ida Peiken Miller '28: "Our first term was set in the college building. What a thrill to attend classes with college students! From there we went to the top floor of an elementary school at 108th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Then there were three terms, I believe, at the Central Jewish Institute building on East 86th Street. Back we went to 108th Street and finally to East 96th Street, next to the Consolidated Laundry, whose odors wafted in all day long. In the 108th Street building we had frequent visitors in our clothing closet, the mice who shared our lunch from the brown paper bags which most of us carried daily.

"These trips all over Manhattan were not easy for me and my 'buddy' Beatrice Mechanick, the only two students from Brooklyn who survived. (If we were late three times and couldn't find the train conductor to indicate there was a subway delay, Miss Webster invited us personally to seek a transfer to a school nearer home. It was less traumatic to turn around, go home and be absent that day.)"

Svea Wathen '25 adds a few more early locations. "One was at 107th Street on 7th Avenue, the other at about 114th Street on 7th Avenue. We occupied one floor in each building, gloomy and dark, painted brown and battleship gray. No lunchrooms or gymnasiums.

"... I lived on East 83rd Street then, and travelled to school by trolley car, Lexington Avenue to 110th or 116th Streets and crosstown. We spent about two or three semesters at the college building at Lexington and 68th Street, which was wonderful, in walking distance. But even in that building there was no available auditorium for our graduation ceremony. We went instead to the office of our principal, Miss Webster, who gave us our diplomas, shook our hands and wished us luck!"

Olive Huber '22, who was in several of the same locations, remembers "a lovely experience with schoolwork, basketball and swimming in the 60th Street pool, with plenty of gorgeous memories."

Watch for more memories of Hunters past in future issues.

## *All about you...* continued from page 5

GER '69, an associate professor at the University of Tennessee's College of Medicine in Memphis, writes that her sister **Susan ELBERGER** '68 moved to Boston after her marriage last August to **Stewart KEMLER**, and that their mother **Helen PERLMAN Elberger** moved to Del Rey, FL after retiring from teaching in New York City schools.

### 1950's

**Arlene SCHARAGA Eisenberg** '51 co-authored *Night-calls*, the story of her husband's transformation from a male chauvinist to a feminist obstetrician-gynecologist, with husband Henry Eisenberg and brother-in-law Howard. Right on, Arlene!... **Lee Rachel LAWRENCE** '53 is broadcast editor for the Associated Press in Des Moines, IA... **Joan KEHN McAllister** '55 has two teen-aged sons, is chief psychologist for the Oakland City, MI, Child and Adolescent Clinic and also has a private practice... **Joanna MILLER Bukszpán** is an immigration lawyer in New York City... **Helen WERNER Wolfe** is assistant professor of Information Systems at Post College in Waterbury, CT.

### 1940's

**Marie ROACH Griffin** '41 writes: "Filled with a desire to pass on the qualities of creativity and excellence

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