

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

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This issue of the NEWS is being sent to many graduates of the College who are not at present members of the Associate Alumnae. It is hoped that this may stimulate them to a desire to enroll in our great organization, and thus to avail themselves of the opportunity of renewing contacts with their fellow-graduates and above all of serving the Alma Mater.

It would also be helpful if every recipient of this NEWS who is already an Alumnae member would pass her copy along to a non-member.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Saturday, February 12, at the Associate Alumnae Luncheon held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Hunter College celebrated its 85th Birthday.

On this 85th Birthday, our thoughts turn first to our Founder, Thomas Hunter. We think of the thousands and thousands of young women who might never have had, in the earlier history of our city, the chance of a higher education had it not been for Thomas Hunter's efforts.

We think of Lydia Wadleigh, the first Dean. We think with gratitude that there is still with us the lady thousands living today think of as *their* Dean — Annie Hickinbottom Mills. We think of other leaders of the past — and we think of our best known poet, Helen Gray Cone.

We can be proud, too, of the thousands of our graduates, far too numerous to mention by name, who have devotedly served the city and the community. We should think for a moment of the vast influence for good that the Hunter graduates of the past eighty-five years have had on our educational system, in the elementary schools, in the high schools, in the colleges, and in school administration. Hunter graduates have served quietly, conscientiously, and devotedly in the schools here, and in many other communities of this country. Indeed, we get reports of Hunter graduates throughout the world, carrying on the best traditions of their Alma Mater.

One should, in reviewing, pay tribute not only to our teacher graduates, but also to all those who have succeeded in other professions — to the doctors, the lawyers, the nurses, the social service workers, the chemists, the journalists. In the arts, too, our graduates have won their share of laurels, as you all know. We number amongst the members of our Hunter family

writers, poets, artists, singers, musicians — including Miss America of 1950. Last but not least, many of our graduates have been very successful in the most important profession of all, that of homemaker and mother. I truly think that there is hardly a profession in which women have come to the fore where we would not find Hunter graduates.

It may not be becoming to boast, but today on our special birthday, we can boast of what Hunter graduates have done; we can look forward to what future sons and daughters of our Alma Mater will do. We have no doubt that they, too, will serve well.

For the chance to serve, for our education, we should on this day give thanks again to our city, as well as to our founding fathers and mothers.

May I now express my personal good wishes to you all, and my hope to be able to reflect your hopes for our Associate Alumnae, in the work that we are doing together, with the help of our many able and hard-working committees.

FRANCES ROTH ABRAMS, President

ALUMNAE BREAKFAST

About 700 Alumnae and their friends gathered in the Grand Ball-Room of the Waldorf on Feb. 12 to celebrate Hunter's 85th anniversary.

Helen Luckey Simis, the indefatigable Chairman, opened the program with her warm, informal words of welcome. This was followed by a greeting from the Alumnae President, Frances Roth Abrams, who presided throughout the function with a combination of graciousness and dignity. The principal speech, "Hunter", was made by President Shuster, who paid tributes to Hunter's loyal undergraduates and graduates, to her scholarly faculty, and to the faithful Associate Alumnae ably headed by Mrs. Abrams.

Clergymen of three faiths participated in the program. The Rev. Edmund A. Bosch, Chaplain of the Police Department, delivered the invocation; Rabbi Louis I. Newman, whose family includes many Hunter girls, read from the Scriptures; and the Right Reverend Monsignor John Reilly pronounced the benediction.

Music was provided by one of Hunter's old girls and by one of her new boys. Robert F. White, from the student body in the Bronx, sang the national anthem before the start of the luncheon, with Elissa Oppenheim at the piano, and later rendered three selections, "Bless This House", "The Fairy Tree", and "Falling in Love",

ELIZABETH M. LYNSKEY

It is with grief and a sense of profound loss that I write, in these brief lines, an appreciation of the spirit that pervaded the life of Elizabeth M. Lynskey during the twenty-five years in which I was closely associated with her, both professionally and personally.

Her personal life was devoted unstintingly to the service of those who needed her, in and out of College. She had the true conception of the teacher's role in education — to minister to the minds and hearts of her students and to their practical needs. The hours of unselfish labor given to students who were in danger of failing cannot be counted — the same is true of those who carried burdens, often beyond their years. Her aid to students extended even to the practical solution of their financial and family problems. Hers was a gentle disposition to which people felt drawn, particularly young people, to whom she gave of her time and energy, often beyond her physical strength.

She was a scholar in the best sense of the word — an avid reader, and fully grounded and recognized in the field of her specialization. She believed profoundly in the ultimate realization of world peace and in the brotherhood of man, and worked strenuously and sincerely toward the attainment of these ends. Her efforts are reflected in her activities in the United Nations and in the Peace Society of her Church, and in giving generously of her time and energy to organizations and groups that wished to be informed on such matters.

The keynote of her character is service and faith. Her religion was a very real force in her life, and it was her aim at all times to live the kind of life her spiritual beliefs demanded. The world is a better place in which to live because she passed along the way, and she will live in the hearts of those who knew her best for longer than the life of her generation. The good we do lives after us, and Elizabeth Lynskey will always be remembered for her gentleness, her steadfastness of purpose, and her good will toward all. Her gain is our loss.

ELIZABETH A. WEBER