

# THE ALUMNAE NEWS

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

April 12, 1954

Dear Fellow Alumna:

Although I have held office in many organizations since I was twelve years old, I have never had such a trying time as during the last few months as your president. I have tried, during the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Council, to keep the Associate Alumnae on an even keel. I have tried to meet the many new problems which arose fairly and honestly. That I have in some measure succeeded is attested to by the many letters and words of encouragement I received from

old friends and many new ones in the organization.

The interest which this election has aroused should be utilized to continue those projects which we deem important and to initiate new ones that will be of the greatest benefit to graduates and undergraduates alike. In this way we can be a greater force for good in our community.

May I publicly say 'Thank You' to all whose advice and council have helped me over these difficult times.

Gratefully yours,

FRANCES R. ABRAMS

Mrs. Elizabeth R. Fondiller, in a letter dated Feb. 9, 1954, which she sent to the Editor of the ALUMNAE NEWS, wrote as follows (of the action of the Nominating Committee in not nominating Mrs. Berliner as President of the Alumnae): "The issue here is not parliamentary law but the fact that the Alumnae have been deprived of one of the finest administrations we have ever had, with no reason given. Indeed, no reason or explanation offered could bear the light of day."

Mrs. Blossom M. Goodman, in a letter dated February 20, 1954, which she sent to the Editor of the ALUMNAE NEWS, wrote as follows: "I am one of the alumnae who read, with no little shame, the last issue of the ALUMNAE NEWS. It therein appears that the forthcoming election of officers has degenerated into a contest to be resolved in terms of parliamentary law and distortion of fact."

In the April issue of the ALUMNAE NEWS, the Editor wrote the following paragraphs apropos of the statements quoted above:

*"We invite Mrs. Goodman to send to the News one example of distortion of fact committed by the adherents of the slate which she is opposing!"*

*"We invite the writer of the letter in question, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Fondiller, to send to the News a statement of any reason or explanation for the decision of the Nominating Committee not to renominate Mrs. Berliner that 'could not bear the light of day!'"*

On Friday, April 16, Mrs. Fondiller telephoned the Editor and said that she "accepted the challenge" in the April NEWS and would send the Editor a communication on the subject. She was very insistent that this communication be printed in the May NEWS, and the Editor assured her that it would be.

On Saturday, April 17, Mrs. Fondiller telephoned the Editor and said that she was not going to send her the communication that she had announced on the previous day. The reason that she assigned for her change of mind was that she did not wish to hold up the May NEWS. She was assured that if she sent her statement promptly, as she had volunteered to do in the conversation of the previous day, she would not be delaying the May NEWS. She then gave a different reason for not sending the statement, namely, that she was "under instructions" not to do so.

On Wednesday, April 21, Miss Hamburger telephoned the Editor and said that she was speaking for Mrs. Berliner, Mrs. Fondiller, and Mrs. Goodman. She declared that none of these three was willing herself to speak to the Editor, because they objected to the April NEWS, but that all wished to send statements to the May NEWS, Mrs. Fondiller and Mrs. Goodman in answer to the Editor's "challenges", and Mrs. Berliner in answer to the editorial. She refused to have these statements reach the Editor until Sunday, April 25.

On Monday, April 26, the Editor finally received the promised "answers", mainly in the form of questions, and an article from Mrs. Berliner. See pp. 8-9.

The Editor deeply regrets the necessary delay to the May NEWS, which, as she had promised in the April issue that she would do, she was trying hard to have appear in time. She also apologizes in advance for possible misprints in this material, which there may not be time to proofread adequately. But the April NEWS was indubitably — and unaccountably — late, and so for the benefit of those wishing to reply to it the Editor has extended the dead-line fourteen days, because she believes fair play demands it.

paper on "Emphatic and Non-Emphatic Personal Pronouns in Hittite".

The Classical Association of the Atlantic States held its annual meeting in New York City this year, at the Hotel Shelton on April 23 and at Hunter College on April 24. Professor E. Adelaide Hahn was Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements, and Toastmaster at the Banquet on April 23. At the same function Dean John Meng greeted those present in behalf of Hunter. On April 24, Dr. Thelma B. DeGraff presented a paper titled "What About Greek?"

Boston University has announced that "thirty-two nationally prominent educators, all specialists in their respective fields, have been selected from all part of the country" for the advisory board of its *Journal of Education*. Among these is Dr. John Tyson, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Hunter.

The McGraw-Hill Book Company recently published *Television in School, College, and Community* (339 pages) by Assistant Professor Jennie Waugh Callahan of the Department of Speech and Dramatics. This impressive volume, intended for public schools, for colleges and universities, and for community and state leaders, is described as "the first book in the field to deal exclusively with educational television and to picture at work the people who are fashioning TV-techniques that can teach as well as entertain". It describes the work in this field of mayors, chambers of commerce, librarians, church groups, directors of scientific and cultural institutions, health and safety organizations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, PTA, YMCA, YWCA, local and national clubs. An extensive bibliography and a detailed index are included.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Jeannette Williams Edgar, of the class of January 1925, died on January 8 in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. She leaves her husband, Russell W. Edgar, director of Western Electric's engineering plant of Laureldale, Penn., and two sons, Arthur R., twelve, and William A. ("Sandy"), nine.

At College, she was a member of the Choral Club, the Y.W.C.A., and Kappa Delta Sorority, and was Class President in her Junior Year.

From 1926 she taught Speech at Jamaica High School, becoming Chairman of the Department six years later. She produced a succession of ambitious and highly successful student and faculty plays, among them *Patience*, *Quality Street*, *Trial By Jury*, *Star Wagon*, *Sherwood Forest*, *The Devil and Daniel Webster*. She voluntarily coached plays for Long Island church and civic centers. In her work she fostered the careers of a number of students who achieved success in radio, television, and theater.

She devoted fully as much effort to helping foreign-born students and those with speech defects. For many years she served the Board of Examiners of New York City

as an Assistant Examiner, and she was one of the prime movers in organizing the School and Theater League, which offers Broadway fare to high school students at reduced prices.

In 1947 she moved to Kutztown, where she continued her teaching and dramatic work at Kutztown State Teachers' College and Cedar Crest College, Allentown. Her hobby was painting, and her work in ceramics won her a place of distinction in the studio work there. She was President of the Woman's Club at the time of her death, an office she had held since 1950.

ELLEN ACTON

EMMIE E. HYAMS

On February 19, Miss Louisa M. Webster, second Principal of Hunter College High School, died after a long illness.

Miss Webster was born in 1864 in New York, and lived for many years in her family's homestead in the Yorkville section of the city. She attended Hunter College (then called Normal College) and was graduated in 1881. She taught first in the elementary schools of New York, but in 1896 became an Instructor of Mathematics in Normal College, and in 1913 an Assistant Professor.

In 1920, Miss Webster was appointed Principal of Hunter College High School, succeeding Miss Grace B. Beach, who had retired. From then until her own retirement in 1934, Miss Webster was the Principal. During the summers she maintained a private summer high school for boys and girls, one of the first summer high schools in the city.

Miss Webster was remarkable for her scholarship, her vigor, her independence of mind, her integrity, and the high ideals which she set for herself, her teachers, and her students. She combined the rigorous standards of the Victorian era with a keen sense of humor which gave perspective to her point of view. Her alert mind was aware of every detail of the school, to which she gave her unstinted devotion. No one who was associated with her could fail to appreciate her personality, her idealism, and her achievement.

DOROTHY C. BUNKER

#### LOUISA M. WEBSTER

Through four-score years and ten, from Lincoln's day,

Her life's warp stretched, while, true to her own name,

She wove the woof herself in such a way

The symbols formed a pattern in a frame:

Our country's best traditions, strong and old,

Encompassed her devotion as she taught,

And bound together, like a rim of gold,

Her sympathy, and clarity of thought.

In widening spheres, she guided those in need,

And, selfless, helped the ill, far off and near;

A friend magnanimous in word and deed,

Untiring, modest, loyal, and sincere.

Hers was the tapestry, both work and theme;

Ours but a loving tribute of esteem.

MILDRED BRUBAKER