

THE ALUMNAE NEWS

Published Monthly from October to June, inclusive, at 49 East 65th St., New York 21, N. Y., by the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College of the City of New York

Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 28, 1945, at post office at New York, N. Y., under act of Mar. 3, 1879

VOL. LVI

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1951

No. 7

IN MEMORIAM

It is not often that an individual is granted the span of years sufficient to allow for the birthday of a dream and its fulfillment. But to Mary A. Wells this was vouchsafed.

She was born in Vermont ninety years ago and came to New York at the age of twelve and was graduated from Normal College in 1880. She died on July 31, 1951.

Imbued always with the love of children and the passion for education, she became interested in kindergarten work long before it was introduced into the school system. Her dream was to establish a free kindergarten for under-privileged children of the East Side. Through her efforts this was accomplished; and on October 27, 1890, the Alumnae Kindergarten was opened under the auspices of the Free Kindergarten Association, and was housed in the Chapel of the Mission Building belonging to the Church of the Epiphany at 63rd Street and First Avenue.

It was with anguished fears and hopes that she awaited the first applicants. They came! and here under the fostering care of the "Kindergarten Mother", the child garden grew and flourished. Through her successful work with the little ones she was able to reach into the homes, and the circle of her influence grew even wider. Supplementary activities were established; committees took charge of a library, clothing, entertainment, and fresh air work. Possibilities and opportunities kept opening before us, and the Mission Hall was no longer adequate for our needs. In October, 1894, the Associate Alumnae rented a house at 446 East 72nd Street, which was known as Alumnae House of Normal College, with Mary Wells its first resident director. Thus was born what today is Lenox Hill Settlement.

Mary Wells was privileged to watch her work grow from year to year to the fullest fulfilment of her Dream; and on the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Settlement, she was present to witness that growth depicted in beautiful pageantry, and herself acclaimed and honored for her foresight, her imagination, her courage, and the inspiration of her spirit of service. The Settlement was proud of her and she was proud of the Settlement.

And so the circle closes. We must not mourn her death, but rather rejoice that she has lived.

IRENE BRANDON GRAFF

CONCERT SERIES

The artists appearing in the Hunter College Concert Series for 1951-1952 in-

clude Joseph Szigeti, Kathleen Ferrier, Rudolf Firkusny, Friedrich Gulda, Zino Francescatti, Gregor Piatigorsky, Artur Schnabel, Cesare Siepi, Robert Casadesu, Marian Anderson. For all except Mr. Rubinstein the recital at Hunter will be the only one in New York during the season.

For dates and rates, apply to the Director, Dr. Benno Lee, at Hunter College.

BRONX COMMITTEE

This year's first meeting of the Bronx Committee of the Associate Alumnae of Hunter College will be held on Thursday, October 11, at Hunter College. The leading candidates for President of City Council will be present to tell us about their platforms. The meeting will be held in the Alumnae Room, and will start at 8:30 P.M. We shall welcome Hunter Alumnae and their guests.

SHIRLEY HALPRIN BARISH, '38

SAVE THE DATE

We are happy to announce that we are planning one of the biggest and (we hope) one of the most enjoyable events of the year: a card party and fashion show. The proceeds will go to the Alumnae Scholarship Fund. This function will take place in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Biltmore on the afternoon of Saturday, December 8.

You may become a patron of the affair by donating \$15.00. This will entitle you to a table for four and the inclusion of your name in a brochure which will be distributed at the card party. Individual tickets are \$1.50; a table for 4 costs \$6.00. There will be hundreds of beautiful door and table prizes.

Reservations may be made immediately by communicating with Mrs. Alexander Berl or Mrs. J. Larus at Alumnae Headquarters, 49 East 65th Street, New York 21 (telephone BU 8-3203). Kindly draw all checks to the order of Hunter Alumnae Scholarship Card Party.

We hope that you will come and bring your friends. We shall do all that we can to make the occasion a happy one, but we shall need your help and cooperation to make it successful.

MRS. ALEXANDER BERL, Chairman
MRS. J. LARUS, Co-Chairman

CALENDAR, 1951

Wed., Oct. 3—Board of Directors, 8:15
Wed., Oct. 17—Executive Council, 8:15
Wed., Nov. 7—Board of Directors, 8:15
Wed., Nov. 14—Alumnae Day
Sat., Nov. 17—Northrop Camp Movies
Sat., Dec. 8—Card Party