

Rose Golomb Honored For Service To Hunter College

By Sarah Neumark

Almost six decades of service to the Alumni Association have earned for Rose Sigal Golomb a richly deserved honor: the 1976 award for Distinguished Service to the Association and the College. Her impressive list of credits indicates that the Hall of Fame Committee made a well-deserved choice.

Her early school days are an unusual story. At the age of eight Rose Sigal, an immigrant from Russia, entered elementary school and, by the time she was ready for graduation from P. S. 93, it was the sixth school she had attended. Her father had been in the business of buying and selling stores and the family moved whenever he bought a new store. Rose took the examination for entrance to the Normal College High School and scored highest in the city. Ineligible to be valedictorian of her class because of the short period of attendance at P. S. 93, her teachers arranged for a special gold medal to be presented to her by President Thomas Hunter of Normal College, who was to be the commencement speaker. As he presented the medal to the young girl, President Hunter said, "Rose, in four years we'll expect you to be with us in Normal College." Those words served as a talisman for the next three and a half years.

Unable to attend a day high school because of a family situation, Rose secured a job at a \$3.50 a week starting salary, and began to study typing and shorthand in the evening. A year and a half later she could get a stenographic job. "People have always been good to me," says Rose. "As soon as my employers in the various jobs I held learned that I was aiming for college, they were willing to make all kinds of arrangements to help me. I was even able to take morning classes in the summer high school and work afternoons only at the office. Teachers in the evening high school came early or stayed late in order to help those of us who were interested in going to college."

In August, 1914, Rose learned that she could enter Hunter in the fall if she could pass entrance examinations in 4 years Latin, 2 years French, American History, and 4 years English — in which she had had no instruction at all. However, she did have Regents' marks in Algebra and Geometry. Rose Sigal enrolled at Hunter College in September 1914, determined to get the best liberal education the college could give her. She knew she was not going to teach so she would be able to use all those points usually spent on education courses for all the electives she wanted. She was also determined to participate in as many extracurricular activities as she could to make up for what she believed she had missed by not going to a day high school.

She arranged to do stenographic work on Friday afternoons and Saturdays. On Sundays she worked in an ice cream parlor. And in between school and work, she found time for extracurricular activities, one of which was being business manager of the *Bulletin* in her junior year, and editor-in-chief the following year.

In December 1916 the Student Council was searching for some new activity — something that would bring the classes together and promote college and class spirit, something that every student in College could join in if she wished. At the same time they were talking of a new songbook to replace the old Normal College Songbook, and the students were asked to try writing college and class songs.

It was just at this time that Hunter was invited to send three delegates to the first conference of the Northeastern Women's College Newspapers to be held at Vassar early in February. The three delegates were Catherine (Billie) Rice, editor of the *Bulletin*; Rose Baxt, associate editor;



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and Rose Sigal, business manager. The sessions were exciting, but the three Hunter girls found the after-session activities just as exciting. One of these was Vassar's "step-singing," where the classes, massed in front of the campus buildings, competed in the singing of class and college songs. Rose told the Student Council about this Vassar activity, and a committee was immediately set to work to adapt the idea to Hunter's needs. In May 1917, Sing, an interclass competition, "an impertinent look at pertinent topics" as it later became, was born. The Class of 1918 offered a baton as a prize for the winning class. The Class of 1917, preparing for the dreaded elementary license exam, participated with a small group. The Class of 1918 won that Sing and the one following, and in commemoration thereof, presented a baton each year to the winning class throughout Sing's lifetime. The Sing booklet in 1953 was dedicated to Rose Sigal Golomb.

After graduation in 1918, Rose Golomb's service to the Alumni Association began and has covered a wide range of activities: Treasurer, Director, three times Luncheon Chairman, Thrift Shop, Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Nominating, Finance, By-Laws Committees — a long list which, unfortunately, lack of space prohibits enumerating. However, special mention must be made of her efforts for the Scholarship and Welfare Fund which was organized in 1949 and in which she has been actively engaged.

In 1923 Rose Sigal married Dr. Joseph Golomb, a pediatrician. Their family now consists of Barry, an attorney who has been of service to Scholarship & Welfare Fund many times, and his wife, Barbara; Sarai and her husband, Samuel Zitter; and Mira, also a member of the Alumni Association; and five grandchildren. Dr. Golomb, himself a leader in community affairs in the Bronx, has watched with pride and understanding his wife's activities with the Girl Scouts, the League of Women Voters, the Alumni Association and the AARP among others. Rose was her husband's assistant in his office for 35 years until their retirement in 1974 and, through all that time, he carefully planned that office appointments should not conflict with her scheduled meetings.

Recently, one of her granddaughters asked, "Grammy, when are we going to have a generation gap?" Rose feels that there are no gaps — just bonds, ties of devotion, loyalty, affection, given freely and constantly.

With pride and pleasure, the Alumni Association honors Rose Sigal Golomb, recipient of the fifth annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Association and the College.

Sarah Neumark has become the alumni correspondent for NewsHunter. She is eager to receive news items about alumni activities and achievements, and is open to suggestions for feature articles that would be of special interest to Hunter alumni.

In addition to the recognition being given Rose Golomb for her Distinguished Service to the College and the Alumni Association, Roxee Ward Joly is also being honored for her Outstanding Professional Achievement. Both awards will be presented at the Association's annual spring luncheon on April 24, and a profile of Mrs. Joly, a leading educator and former principal of Julia Richman High School, will appear in the next issue of *NewsHunter*.

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