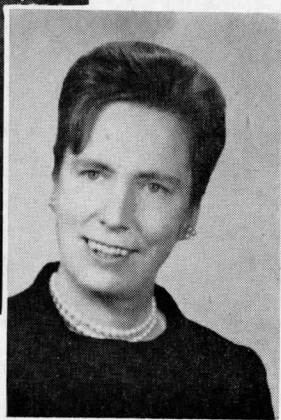




Julia Richman '72



Roxee Ward Joly '35

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Fifth principal of the high school named in honor of a distinguished Alumna

Isabelle Freund Weill '26

Roxee Ward Joly '35 is the fifth principal of Julia Richman High School in New York since it was established in 1913. How does one become the head of a great high school? For Roxee the road has been long but rewarding.

She was eight when she was brought from Albany, her birthplace, to New York. After attending P.S. 86 in Manhattan, she entered Hunter College High School where she showed great talent for leadership as president of the Athletic Association and chief justice of the student court. At graduation she was voted the best all-round student.

At College Roxee fulfilled the prophecy of her high school class. Hunter, she declares, offered her "much more than mere college courses." With a mathematics major and minors in physics and English, she still had time to participate in the Athletic Association and the Student Self-Government Association, becoming secretary of the latter in her senior year. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and to the Math Honor Society as a senior, graduating magna cum laude and receiving the amethyst H-pin and the mathematics prize.

At Columbia, she received her M.A. in pure math.

Ineligible, because of age, for a senior high school license, Roxee took the examination for junior high. It was twelve years, during which time she taught at J.H.S. 49 in Brooklyn, before another senior high school math test was announced.

Her first high school appointment was to Newton High where she spent five years, after which she served for twelve years as chairman of the math department at Walton High School.

Chosen as the first Administrative Intern in New York State by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Roxee had invaluable training for high school leadership. Her work on projects such as team-teaching and audio-visual aids at James Monroe High School gave her experience she found most helpful when, in the fall of 1964, she was appointed principal of Julia Richman High School.

She says she inherited a well-run school with a staff of 150 teachers and a student body of 3,000. Profiting by the projects of her internship training, she has introduced such techniques as: an independent study center, involving the use of film strips and slides; team-teaching in biology; and the installation of the overhead projector.

Her particular interest is curriculum study with emphasis on the math curriculum. She has chaired the committee that wrote the Teachers' Guide for Eleventh Year Mathematics; written several programs for math instruction; and a number of curriculum bulletins. She has conducted in-service courses and has been a speaker at city and state associations of mathematics teachers.

Does all this leave time for family life? Indeed it does. Married in 1937, she has produced two Joly sons now aged twenty-six and twenty. Since her husband is an engineer and she is a mathematician, it is not at all surprising that her sons are interested in engineering and science. Her main hobby is sailing, and she and her sons race every available weekend on Manhasset Bay.

Among those who have undoubtedly watched with interest and encouragement the climb from Hunter girl to high school principal are Roxee's sorority sisters of Alpha Gamma Delta, whom she still sees, and the two professors who influenced her most, Marguerite Darkow and Mina Rees.

A long road, yes, but an almost inevitable climax for one whose motto must certainly have been that of her native state, "Excelsior!"