The Post-fiftieth Alumni Reunion
By Roberta Rose Wallach, ’53
On September 30, 2001, 120 alumni and guests honored the classes of 1936 (with seventeen members present), 1941 (with twenty-two members present), and 1946 (with eleven members present) on their sixty-fifth, sixtieth, and fifty-fifth reunions. The Post-fiftieth Alumni Reunion was chaired by Dr. Lawrence Kaplan, ’37, professor emeritus of economics at John Jay College and chairperson of the CUNY-Professional Staff Congress retirees chapter.

Robert Goldberg, ’41, an internationally-known industrial designer, presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to the following accomplished alumni: Abraham Goodman, Estelle Ramey, Herbert Sarett, Samuel Simon, and Malvin Wald from the Class of 1936; Frank Harary, Herbert Horowitz, William Kramer, Irving Lublin, and Selma Picklin Ruderman from the Class of 1941; and Leon Deutsch, John Martin, Charlotte Sananes Russell, Marilyn Kassel Skolnick, and Edward Spingarn from the Class of 1946.

The winner of the Milton Fisher, ’38, Second Harvest Award was Oscar Brand, ’42. The renowned songwriter and guitarist is also a radio broadcaster, television host, composer, playwright, actor, author, storyteller, and historian. Mr. Brand selected the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures to receive the $5,000 grant awarded by the Fisher family.

Graduates of 1937, 1942, and 1947: Plan to attend your Post-fiftieth Reunion on Sunday, October 6, 2002! For information, call Marcia Safran, assistant director of alumni affairs, at (718) 951-5065, or e-mail Msafran@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Golden Anniversary Reunion of the Class of 1951
By Dorothy Salwen Rabinoff, ’51
On June 1, 2001, more than one hundred alumni from the class of 1951, dressed in gold caps and gowns, had their picture taken near the lily pond. Moments later, they marched across the quad to thunderous applause from the Commencement-day crowd, led by the Honorable Ira Harkavy and myself, bearing the class banner. Harkavy, cochairperson of the reunion committee, delivered greetings from the podium, recalling campus life in the last century.

Following graduation, a luncheon was held at the Student Union Building, giving members of the class a chance to renew old friendships and congratulate one another on personal and professional achievements. The class of 1951, under the chairmanship of Harry Taubenfeld, raised more than $15,000 for its class gift.

Classmates left the celebration pleased that they were able to attend, resolving to return for the Post-fiftieth Reunion planned for the fall of 2001.

Gala Reunion Salutes the Sizzling ’60s
By Jack Godler, ’52
On October 20, 2001, the BCAA held its annual Gala Reunion, a homecoming celebration, and a tribute to two distinguished graduates. This year’s event, taking place so soon after the tragic events of September 11, took on an added dimension.

Amid the fine food, inviting dance music, and nostalgic chatter were expressions of shock, pain, outrage, and anxiety. We discussed our values and beliefs during other war-torn periods, including the Sixties, the theme decade for this year’s reunion.

The tone of the evening was set by Marla Hasten Ginsberg, ’87, director of the Office of Alumni Affairs, and Eric M. Steinberg, associate provost and chairperson of the Philosophy Department, who officially welcomed the group and described the academic excellence of the new generation of Brooklyn College.
students. Roberta Rose Wallach, ’53, president of BCAA, introduced the presenters and honorees of the gala as exemplars of the potential power of Brooklyn College graduates to shape the world.

Frances Hess, wife of the late Brooklyn College President Robert L. Hess and trustee of the Brooklyn College Foundation, presented Alumna-of-the-Year Phylis Skloot Bamberger, ’60, a justice in the N.Y. Supreme Court, Bronx County, since 1988. Judge Bamberger, a nonpartisan appointee, is widely respected for her background as an attorney-in-charge for the Federal Defender Services Unit of the Legal Aid Society. In her extensive professional, teaching, and civic activities, Judge Bamberger has worked to protect the rights of the arraigned, to enhance the skills of attorneys, and to educate young people about their rights and responsibilities. She observed that her family’s values and her education at Brooklyn College gave her a special sensitivity to these critical issues.

Albert Lasher, ’51, presented his friend of more than fifty years, Alumnus-of-the-Year Myron Kandel, ’52. Both were staff members on the famed Brooklyn College student newspaper, Vanguard, and went on to successful careers in journalism. Myron Kandel, financial editor of CNN Business News, was one of CNN’s founders. He has provided economic analysis for Moneyline, the network’s flagship business news program, since its debut in 1980. Founder and editor of several important financial newspapers, he has been a foreign correspondent, a syndicated columnist, a prize-winning magazine writer, and a university professor. Kandel is the author of How To Cash in on the Coming Stock Market Boom (1982), which accurately forecast that year’s bull market.

Roberta Wallach concluded the presentation with her own “March of Time,” reeling off names and events connecting Brooklyn College students to the 1960s. There were Brooklyn College war heroes and antiwar rallies; historic academic honors and athletic victories; sit-ins and celebrations. Among the prominent public figures who visited the college during that decade were Eleanor Roosevelt, Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Benjamin Spock, Malcolm X, and Ayn Rand. Figures from the entertainment world also graced the campus, including Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Ossie Davis, Simon and Garfunkel, James Earl Jones, and our own Sam Levenson, ’34, Alfred Drake, ’35, Peter Nero, ’56, and Morty Gunty, ’52.

Will this new decade continue to be as turbulent as the Sixties? Who can say? All we can promise is that another enjoyable Alumni Gala Reunion is in the works for this autumn. We’re planning to celebrate—on a yacht! So look for your invitation and come on board.

The 2001 Levenson Awards

By Mal Sellinger, ’53

Once again the Levenson Scholarship Committee has selected three outstanding undergraduates for this annual award, given in recognition of student contributions to campus life. Named in honor of Sam, ’34, and Esther Levine Levenson, ’34, the scholarship offers a $2,000 stipend to each recipient. The winners this year demonstrate the diversity of professional goals found in the Brooklyn College student body.

Brandon Bain, at 19, is pursuing a career in journalism. He has contributed to many newspapers, including Brooklyn College’s Excelsior and Kingsman. He participates in many extracurricular...
activities while completing a minor in business, management, and finance. Brandon states that he “wants to be seen and heard.”

Nancy Caleca is a mother and a full-time student. The daughter of Sicilian immigrants, Nancy entered public school speaking only Italian. As an adult, she has tutored in an after-school program, volunteered in a classroom, and is currently active in the PTA of her sons’ school. She looks forward to a career in education as a reading specialist. Nancy would like “to give back to this country because of the great opportunities it has given me.”

Yang Miller is pursuing a career in film and video. Wending his way from Ohio, he enrolled in the Brooklyn College undergraduate film production program, soon winning the 1998 Best Documentary Award for his short film, Bindlestiffs: The Circus Family. The subject matter of his documentaries is as varied as Yang’s interests, which range from misdiagnosed stomach cancer to excavating a Viking burial ground in Iceland. Through multiple mediums, Yang hopes to create a body of work in narrative and documentary films and experimental media.

Alumni would do well to consider donations to this scholarship fund, which rewards such interesting and worthy recipients.

Alumni Help Students in Careers
By Samuel Rabinoff, ’49

The Alumni Mentors Program gives students the opportunity to work with established professionals and benefit from their example and advice. Such internships are valuable because many employers require new hires to have prior relevant work experience. In order to prepare Brooklyn College students for the workforce and expose them to a variety of career choices, the Alumni Association and the Personal Counseling and Career Services Center continue to tap alumni.

Mentors from a wide range of fields are needed to sponsor paid or volunteer internship opportunities. In the past, alumni often have provided financial support for such placements. If you can offer internship opportunities or are interested in serving as a mentor in your own field, please call Ms. Shelly Shapiro at the Career Services Program, (718) 951-5774, or e-mail, sshapiro@brooklyn.cuny.edu. Additional information is also available on the Brooklyn College Web site, http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/career.

---

Alumni News

Carry the Brooklyn College Alumni Association Platinum Plus™ MasterCard® card and help support our organization.

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association credit card, issued through MBNA America Bank, offers such benefits as a low introductory annual percentage rate, no annual fee, fraud protection, and access to Palladian Travel services.

The Platinum Plus™ MasterCard card offers a credit line up to $100,000, quick credit-line increase decisions, and $1 million common carrier travel accident insurance. Using the expanded MBNA Internet site, www.MBNA.com, you can check your balance, review statements, and schedule payments. You can also take advantage of special offers from more than 1,500 merchants and services.

Request Yours Today! Call toll-free 1-866-438-6262 TTY users call 1-800-833-6262

Use priority code TJ60 when calling. There are costs associated with the use of this credit card. For specific information about the costs you may contact MBNA America Bank, N.A. by calling toll-free. Palladian Travel services are provided to MBNA customers by an independently owned and operated travel agency. MasterCard is a federally registered service mark of MasterCard International Inc., used pursuant to license. MBNA America, MBNA, MBNA.com, and Platinum Plus are service marks of MBNA America Bank, N.A. © MBNA America Bank, N.A.
Improving Community Relations Committee

Alice Ginsberg Margolis, '43

The Government and Community Relations Committee has been considering suggestions made at its November 29, 2001, general meeting which focused on college-community interaction and ways to improve it. The committee is working with three of the community-based organizations that were represented at the general meeting.

Committee members met with Dr. Marco Mason, of the Caribbean Women's Health Association, and with Michael Keller, of the Flatbush YM.C.A. These meetings generated a useful exchange of information. The expected outcome is that the college will provide student volunteers and interns, and access to its campus facilities and the two community-based organizations will afford students opportunities to learn the fundamentals of community outreach and social service programs.

A similar meeting is planned with the director of the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

The committee also met with Ms. Nicole Hosten, director of college and community relations, to examine strategies for promoting a mutually beneficial relationship with the community.

Brooklyn College is “Family”

That highlighting family connections with Brooklyn College has struck a chord with alumni is amply demonstrated by their continued response to this feature. If you would like to add your names, write to Marcia Safran, '55, by fax, (718) 951-5962, or e-mail, msafran@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Generations

Bernard Cohen, '33; Carol Cohen, '69
Jack Godler, '52; Danielle Godler Lemoine, '03
Arthur Katz, '60; Francine Katz, '91; Roberta A. Katz, '94
Ephraim Kovel, '48; Ethel Rubin Kovel, '51; Karen Kovel Adams, '76; Leonard Kovel, '80; Mandy Bloom Kovel, '83; Michele Kovel Grubin, '88
Elinore Beckenstein Meyers, '73; Marlene Meyers, '74
Barbara Cohen Peltzman, '63; Carla Peltzman, '93
Sylvia Kuchinsky Schleimer, '42; Mildred Schleimer, '46*
Rosalie Shore, '52; Donna Shore, '82; Michelle C. Shore Langer, '05
Henry I. Tannenbaum, '36; Samuel V. Tannenbaum, '65

Couples

Robert J. Andina, '71, and Sandra Berman Andina, '71
Seymour Baum, '44, and Fay Kombaum Baum, '48
Sam Bellovin, '42, and Sylvia Novak Bellovin, '64
Stanley Best, '57, and Rhoda Goldfarb Best, '56
Larry Brandwein, '54, and Lisa Hammerstein Brandwein, '59
Stephen P. Brienza, '72, and Rosanne Biondolillo Brienza, '73
Stanley Bernard Cohen, '47, and Selma Orleans Cohen, '48
Marvin Druger, '55, and Patricia Meyers Druger, '60
Ronald Feldman, '64, and Arlene Gralla Feldman, '92
Chuck Fliegler, '67, and Helene Shapiro Fliegler, '68
Harvey Geller, '43, and Helen Leiman Geller, '43
Jack Golub, '64, and Alice Golub, '68
Dr. Steven Gounardes, '76, and Dianne Frangos Gounardes, '76
Stuart Hershkowitz, '78, and Marie Frances Ann Cincotta, '73
Max Juni, '41, and Frances Gordon Juni, '42
Alan A. Kay, '65, and Jo D'Amico Kay, '66
Ephraim Kovel, '48, and Ethel Rubin Kovel, '51
Dr. Howard Lieb, '69, and Joyce Missry Lieb, '71
Leon Meyer, '59, and Barbara Rieder Meyer, '68
Stephen M. Raucher, '62, and Helen Ludwin Raucher, '62
Paul Rosenzweig, '55, and Clara (Claire) Norman Rosenzweig, '55
Herbert Schwartz, '61, and Mary Godler Schwartz, '61
Dr. Malcolm Sellinger, '53, and Marcia Safran Sellinger, '55
Daniel Shapiro, '48, and Claire Greenberg Shapiro, '47
Dr. Leonard Sudberg, '76, and Dianne Frangos Gounardes, '76

*deceased
Spotlight on the Broward-Dade Alumni Chapter

By Helen Zegerman Schwimmer, ‘69

According to Diane Nadler Simon, ‘52, of Davie, after thirty-five years in Florida she is “thoroughly defrosted.” That’s probably because she and Mildred Bialeck Cohn, ‘43, of Hollywood, are busy cochairing Broward-Dade, one of the most active Brooklyn College alumni chapters.

Covering a sizable chunk of the Sunshine State, including Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Homestead, and Miami, Broward-Dade launched the Adopt-A-Student Program, which pays full tuition through graduation for a student maintaining a B average or better. The program’s first beneficiary was a young Russian transfer student. The current recipient, a Caribbean woman, will begin a doctoral program this autumn.

This year’s Annual Scholarship Luncheon—the chapter’s main fund-raising event—had its best turnout yet, with more than one hundred guests including Brooklyn College President Christoph M. Kimmich. Broward-Dade also contributes $1,000 annually to the President’s Fund for Excellence.

The chapter sponsors educational and social activities that attract a variety of members, including those with young children. This year a visit to the Planetarium and a tour of the new library of Nova Southeastern University are on the roster, as is a theater party for the revival of My Fair Lady. The chapter publishes a newsletter about its activities.

Our programs are social events,” says Diane, who is eager to welcome ‘80s and ‘90s grads who have relocated to Florida. “We provide opportunities to find old friends and make new ones,” she says, adding that joining the chapter’s successful, energetic ranks will help orient newcomers to their adopted state.

For starters, here’s a tidbit that recent arrivals might not know. Davie, Florida, Diane’s home, has the unique distinction of having the only McDonald’s in the country with a drive-through window that’s saddle height. Davie is horse country!

Gala Alumni Reunion

By Arlene Lichterman, ‘53

Hold the date—Saturday night, October 19, 2002—for what promises to be our most exciting reunion ever.

Join us as “Brooklyn College Celebrates New York” aboard the chartered yacht Horizon. This luxury yacht will sail from the Chelsea Piers for a moonlight dinner-dance cruise with old friends and colleagues.

The Alumna- and Alumnus-of-the-Year Awards will be presented to Sandra Feldman, ‘60, president of the million-member American Federation of Teachers since 1997 and previously president of the United Federation of Teachers of New York for eleven years; and to Scott Herman, ‘80, vice-president and general manager of America’s first all-news radio station, 1010 WINS, since January 1994.

Let's make this a great party! Welcome aboard!

Spotlight on Faculty Alumna
Professor Yaffa Eliach
Survivor, Scholar, Shtetl Builder

By Helen Zegerman Schwimmer, ‘69

Fiddler on the Roof made theater history by introducing Tevya the milkman’s shtetl to the Broadway stage, but Brooklyn College’s Professor Yaffa Eliach is about to make world history by re-creating the Lithuanian shtetl of Eishyshok in Israel.

The replica of her Eastern European childhood home will be located on 121 acres in Rishon LeZion in the West Bank and will include everything from the cobblestone streets, synagogues, and homes to the woods and river that once ran through this formerly idyllic town. Unlike the fictional characters of the Broadway musical, the original Eishyshok’s 35,000 inhabitants were brutally murdered during the Holocaust.

“I decided in 1999 that my exhibit, my books were not enough. We, the Jewish people, must restore our Jewish past. So I decided to rebuild the shtetl,” says Professor Eliach, whose family, the Sonensohns, were among the first settlers in the year 1065. The $100 million project, a daunting enterprise for an ordinary person, is for Yaffa Eliach merely another challenge in a life that reads like a modern-day miracle.

The little girl who survived a pogrom and managed to hide in caves during the Holocaust, grew up in a center for orphaned girls in the newly established state of Israel. She then emigrated to America, married her high school principal, and earned a B.A. in 1967 and an M.A. in 1969 from
Brooklyn College, and her Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate School in 1973. Professor Eliach has been teaching at Brooklyn College since 1969. She helped found the Judaic studies program, which became a department in 1972.

She pioneered the first Center for Holocaust Studies in the United States at Brooklyn College. “When I began teaching Holocaust Studies, most of my students were the children of survivors or American liberators. All came for very personal reasons and had many questions, such as ‘Why is mother screaming at night?’ I introduced oral history by having students interview their parents. My oral history manual became the model for Steven Spielberg’s foundation,” she notes proudly.

In 1976 President Gerald Ford telephoned to announce his intent to make the Center for Holocaust Studies the site for his election headquarters in New York. Professor Eliach introduced President Ford to the Holocaust. “He was very moved and promised to issue stamps commemorating the Holocaust and to build a Holocaust museum in Washington, D.C.” Eliach recalls.

President Jimmy Carter fulfilled Ford’s promise in 1978 by establishing the Holocaust Memorial Foundation with Elie Wiesel as chairperson. “We went on a fact-finding mission to Europe to determine what type of museum to build. I didn’t want the museum to focus only on death and destruction. I wanted to show the great Jewish life that was destroyed in the Holocaust. As we were flying from Warsaw to Kiev to stand on the graves of Jews murdered at Babi Yar over sixty years ago, I realized that somewhere below me was the shetl of Eishyshok. I decided to take the shetl as a model of Jewish life.

“This is how I established my exhibit, ‘Tower of Life,’ at the Holocaust Museum,” she recalls. Consisting of 1,500 photographs of the people of Eishyshok, collected from all over the world, it is a loving tribute to a world that exists only in memory.

Professor Eliach’s book, There Once Was a World: A 900-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok, was a nonfiction finalist for the National Book Award. She is the author of other books, including Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust, a classic translated into many languages. In 1995 she was chosen as “Woman of the Year” by WCBS-TV.

Alumni College Day: Paying Tribute

By Marilyn Levy Sarhis, ’53

Something significant usually happens when extraordinary people gather. A perfect example: Alumni College Day, Sunday, April 28, 2002. In response to the ever-widening impact of the horrible tragedy of September 11, 2001, our theme for this year was “Brooklyn College Faces a Changing World.”

Throughout the day, various seminars and presentations addressed this, as did conversations of alumni, who shared their experiences, their perspectives, and processes of grieving, healing, and moving forward in spite of the ripple effects of sudden change.

William L. Taylor, ’52, renowned attorney, was the speaker at the morning general session. At the 2001 Commencement, Mr. Taylor was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his lifelong devotion to civil rights. He was the editor-in-chief of Vanguard when the Brooklyn College student newspaper was shut down in 1950. A graduate of Yale Law School, Mr. Taylor was nominated by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 to be staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He currently teaches law at Georgetown University. Mr. Taylor spoke on “Rights at Risk: Seeking Equality in an Age of Terrorism.”

Following this feast of food for thought, we segued into the President’s champagne reception and lunch. BCAA has always taken great pride in the accomplishments of our remarkable graduates and we paid tribute to three of them at our luncheon.

The 2002 Alumnus Distinguished Achievement Award was presented to the Honorable Edward R. Korman, ’63, chief judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Judge Korman received his LL.B. degree from Brooklyn Law School and his LL.M. degree from New York University. He has served in both the private and public sectors and in 1985 was appointed to the United States District Court, where he has presided with great distinction.

The 2002 Alumna Distinguished Achievement Award was presented to Gloria Naylor, ’81, author of fiction and nonfiction, whose work gives a powerful
voice to black American women. Naylor is a popular visiting lecturer at American and British universities. She has received several major fellowships. In 1993 Brooklyn College awarded Naylor the Presidential Medal in recognition of her literary excellence, her commitment to education, and her support of Brooklyn College.

The BCAA Jerome Milgram Service Award was presented to Marcia Goldman, ’57, in recognition of her years of service as founder and past president of the Black Alumni Association of Brooklyn College and as a member of the BCAA Board of Directors.


Greetings from the New Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Jan Scott

It’s been a long trip for this midwesterner from Fisher, Illinois (population 1,200) to Brooklyn College. But the warm welcome and support I’ve received from everyone—from President Kimmich and the Brooklyn College Foundation trustees to the alumni chapters in Phoenix and Tucson—have made me feel right at home. And everyone has immediately begun to tell me of the many exciting challenges that face Brooklyn College today.

Previously I’ve had the opportunity to work with volunteers who were talented and committed to the organizations and institutions that I was associated with—at the University of Illinois, University of Miami, American Red Cross, American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. I’ve quickly seen how special the alumni, faculty, and staff of Brooklyn College are!

Brooklyn College makes a difference in the lives of its students. As you know, many of our students are the first college graduates in their family. Students often need financial assistance in order to attend college. They need a great faculty to teach them. They require adequate facilities in which to learn. They must have intern and mentoring opportunities to prepare them for their professional careers. They deserve the opportunity to expand their horizons and explore uncharted futures.

We need your help to make this happen. Your support of Brooklyn College—as an alumni volunteer, a financial donor, and an unwavering Brooklyn College enthusiast—helps make their education possible. In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to telling you more about how to help us open the doors of education for a new generation. And thank you, for all you are already doing to make Brooklyn College the Best!
Chapters and Affiliates
By Roberta Rose Wallach, ’53

This column highlights recent events of each chapter and lists people whom you may contact for information about local events.

Atlanta Chapter: Dick Sobel, ’51, (770) 410-9117.

BAABC: Scholarship reception.

Broward-Dade Chapter:
Planetarium; membership luncheon; Nova Southeastern tour; theater party; luncheon with President Christoph M. Kimmich and Dr. Flora Graham Kimmich, M.F.A., ’88. Millie Bialeck Cohn, ’43, (954) 925-6459, or Diane Nadler Simon, ’52, (954) 475-1638.

Campus Chapter:
Tour of AREAC; theater party; book discussion; minor league baseball game: Brooklyn Cyclones at Coney Island. Sam Rabinoff, ’49, (718) 377-6133.

Central Florida Chapter:

Long Island Chapter: Old Westbury Gardens; Big Onion Walking Tour; Islanders game. Nat Honigbaum, ’58, (516) 822-1339, or Fran Mailman Werner, ’70, (516) 433-6068.

Los Angeles/South California Chapter:
Arts Day bus tour; Talk with the Animals; Mystery Bus Ride. Jay Bachrach, ’48, (818) 789-9252, or Suzanne Klein, ’52, (818) 789-9598.


New Mexico Chapter: Shakespeare Festival; theater party. Barbara Rothman Vojta, ’57, (505) 771-0143.


Southwest Brooklyn Chapter:
Theater party; dinner with Professor Edwin Burrows. Agnes Ford, ’69, (718) 332-8715.


Accountants Alumni Affiliate:
Symposium on Alumni College Day. Dan Cannon, ’93, (718) 251-6850.

Director of Alumni Affairs
Marcia Haness Safran, ’55
Assistant Director

Marla Hasten Ginsberg, ’87

Printed on recycled paper