**BAABC:** Scholarship reception; seminar on Alumni College Day. Craig Collins, ’98, (718) 342-7073.

**Broward-Dade Chapter:** Theater party; membership luncheon; scholarship luncheon; tour of Spanish monastery; museum tour; slide show: “Brooklyn Remembered.” Millie Bialeck Cohn, ’43, (954) 925-6459, or Diane Nadler Simon, ’64, (954) 475-1638.

**Campus Chapter:** BC theater party; Regina Opera; Museum of Jewish Heritage; Cyclones baseball game at KeySpan Park in Coney Island. Sam Rabinoff, ’49, (718) 377-6133.

**Central Florida Chapter:** Luncheon. John Banaghan Sr., ’57, (407) 339-9110.

**Long Island Chapter:** Westbury Pops concert; Aviation Museum tour; wine and cheese party. Marsha Zim Elowsky, ’56, (516) 349-8821, or Claire Garfinkel Kerman, ’56, (631) 367-2833.

**Los Angeles/Southern California Chapter:** cultural extravaganza; theater party; bus tour and matinee; Mystery Bus Ride. Jay Bachrach, ’48, (818) 986-9252, or Allen, ’52, and Suzanne Eisenberg Klein, ’52, (818) 789-4000.

**Manhattan Chapter:** Tour of Radio City; boat ride to the Rockefeller estate. Arlene Lichterman, ’53, (212) 988-9471.

**New Mexico Chapter:** Picnic. Barbara Rothman Vojta, ’57, (505) 771-0143.

**Northern Metropolitan Chapter:** Luncheon with Professor Howard Davidoff; luncheon with Professor Stuart Schaar; Joan Tartell Stupler, ’52, (914) 968-3530.

**Phoenix Chapter:** Luncheons on three occasions. Joanne Gurin, ’73, (602) 942-4622.

**San Francisco/Northern California Chapter:** Alumni picnic; lecture with Polytech alumni. Arnold Kaufman, ’59, (650) 493-5287.

**Southwest Brooklyn Chapter:** Luncheon. John Banaghan Sr., ’57, (407) 339-9110.

**Tucson Chapter:** Luncheons; theater party. Irma Schulman Sankman, ’50, (520) 877-8283.

**Accountants Affiliate:** Edward Shoenthal, ’67, (212) 807-8013.

**Brooklyn College Former Athletes Affiliate:** Reunion dinner in Florida. Dave Askinasi, ’50, (561) 499-6601.

**BC Managers for the Performing Arts:** Dinner. Neal Brilliant, ’93, (718) 768-4937.
Alumna at Citibank Provides Internships

Thanks to the Citibank–Brooklyn College Career Makers Program founded by Marge Magner, ’69, chief operating officer of Citigroup’s Global Consumer Group, Citibank and Brooklyn College are finding out how much they have to offer one another. Aiming to provide students with the opportunity to build a career in financial services, the program places students in full- and part-time positions in local Citibank branches. It also offers professional training and the possibility of employment with Citibank after graduation.

Since the inception of the program in fall 2002, seven students have benefited. More than a dozen are expected to participate this summer. The program has provided Citibank with a pool of valuable new employees. “We are extremely pleased with the talented students we have found in the Career Makers Program,” says Citibank Area Manager Gale Schwartz. “Many Citibank managers who have heard about the program from participating colleagues are contacting me to request students for their own branches.”

If you would like to tap into the talent by creating student internship placements and filling job openings, contact Robert Oliva, director of the Brooklyn College Center for Career Development and Internships.

Levenson Awards 2002

by Samuel Rabinoff, ’49

Each year, the BCAA presents awards of $2000 each to three students for their contributions to campus and community life and/or in the performing arts. The awards are in honor of Sam, ’34, and Esther Levine Levenson, ’34. Sam Levenson was a Spanish teacher at Tilden High School who left the classroom to perform; he became a beloved comedian and made countless appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show.

The Levenson Awards Committee screens the applicants and examines their applications, records of achievement, and recommendations. The 2002 awards were presented at the BCAA Annual Meeting, held on Alumni College Day, April 28, 2002. As always, the diverse winners represent the best of Brooklyn College.

Edward Barrera, ’03, returned to Brooklyn College as an adult student after a few tough years. Idealistic and passionate, he wishes to exert a positive influence on the world as a journalist. A former managing editor of the Kingsman, he served as an intern with the New York Daily News, where he worked on pieces exposing abuses of power. The first CUNY student to win an internship at the Daily News, Edward “may well be blazing a trail for other BC students,” says one of his professors.

Tina Samuels, ’03, hopes to become a television writer and producer, using her experiences to craft documentaries, comedies, and dramas about teenagers. Her goal came into focus while she was working at a TV station in Kingston, Jamaica, during her final year of high school. Since then Tina has volunteered at the Brooklyn Tabernacle Youth Center. She writes and edits a newsletter for Brooklyn Cable News and worked on a project for the BC TV Club with the goal of increasing student involvement in campus activities.

Elliot Wasser, ’02, in the words of one of his professors, “served the student body at Brooklyn College in every imaginable capacity.” He received a degree in physical education, specializing in adaptive physical education. He was a student teacher at Edward R. Murrow High School, working with physically and emotionally challenged students. He also held an internship at the Brooklyn United Cerebral Palsy Center. He has been recognized with a number of honors including the Community Civic Action Award, the Emerging Leader Award, and the Social Justice Award.
The Levenson Awards are funded by alumni who make donations to reward worthy recipients. They are the only awards funded by the Alumni Association. Contributions may be made specifically to the Levenson Awards Fund and sent to the Brooklyn College Foundation.

Brooklyn College Former Athletes Affiliate
by George Edelman, ’42

The Brooklyn College Former Athletes Affiliate (BCFAA) held its thirteenth annual dinner on January 21, 2003, at Ben Venuto’s in Boynton Beach, Fla. The anecdotes, ambience, food, drink, and President Kimmich’s remarks all got rave reviews. Julie Kasner, ’41, (basketball) and I were the oldest in attendance. If you are an alumnus or alumna who is a former athlete living in Southern Florida and wish to participate in this affiliate, contact Dave Askinasi, ’50, 14738 Shadowood Lane, Delray Beach, Fla. 33484, telephone: (561) 499-6601, e-mail: coacha326@aol.com. The next dinner is planned for Tuesday, January 20, 2004.

Tucson Chapter Receives Milgram Award
by Helen Zegerman Schwimmer, ’69

“We all like each other, so we have fun when we get together,” says Irma Schulman Sankman, ’50. A veteran New York City and Chicago metropolitan area teacher, Sankman came to Tucson, Ariz., in search of warm weather. She found that and a group of energetic Brooklyn College graduates. They soon formed the Tucson BCAA chapter. Whether it’s for a luncheon, a theater party, a trip to Rocky Point, Mexico, or the stimulating book discussion groups led by Niel Glixon, ’43, the Tucson alums have enjoyed each other’s company for over fifteen years. They count among their number a flock of snowbirds that migrates every winter to bask in the warmth of the Arizona sun and the companionship of fellow alumni.

This year the Tucson chapter won the Jerome S. Milgram Award. Typically given to an individual, the award went, for the first time, to a chapter, in recognition of its outstanding contribution to the advancement of the BCAA and its activities on behalf of Brooklyn College.

Sheila Weitzner Liebson, ’46, accepted the Milgram Award for the chapter on Alumni College Day, May 4, 2003. A seasoned traveler, Sheila just returned from a trek to the Galápagos Islands. She noted that she found it “a pleasure to walk around the campus and see that it’s still Brooklyn College.”
Gala Alumni Reunion

Hold the date—Saturday, October 25, 2003—for an exciting reunion that will highlight many groups, including:

• Class of 1993—Tenth reunion;
• Class of 1978—Twenty-fifth reunion;
• Class of 1963—Fortieth reunion;
• All House Plans, Sororities, and Fraternities.

In addition, the Alumna and Alumnus of the Year Awards will be presented to Mary E. McWilliams, ’49, and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, ’70.

Join us for the Gala Reunion, when we honor our alumni, and dine and dance under the stars, at the Water Club on the East River. See for yourself how “Brooklyn College Bridges the World.”

“IF You’re Lucky”

Reunion Recollections

by Jack Godler, ’52

As I headed to the Fiftieth Reunion Dinner for the Class of 1952 in the Student Center on the evening of May 29, 2002, I wondered who I would see. Two thousand of us graduated in 1952. One hundred and forty-five submitted bios for the Reunion Journal. After college we spread out across the country and around the world. We worked in every profession. A director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center; at least two military aviators; a ranking State Department officer who was accused of being a spy; a top Canadian foreign service officer: Who would have thought that a bunch of BC grads could be such an array of Le Carré characters?

I thought about the six people I had known since college. Only two were here tonight. The three of us walked into a room buzzing with chatter. I saw Bob Goldberg and his fraternity pals; Marilyn Freedman Antelis, recently widowed; Eleanor Jensen Scott, star senior athlete; Anita Bernheim Weintraub, former member of the BCAA Board of Directors; and Theodora “Teddy” Levin Sklover.

One hundred eleven members of our class came to the reunion dinner; all but a handful attended the Commencement exercises the next day. The majority came from the metropolitan area and its suburban counties. Some were from as far away as California and Hawaii.

I don’t remember what we ate, just the table-hopping and the waves of conversation. “You look like the woman in the Varsity Players production . . .”

Were you the guy who . . . when Vanguard was suspended . . . house plan party . . . Country Fair . . . Boat Ride . . . Kingsman . . . Calling Card . . . department club . . . the big game when we beat . . . Weren’t you in my class?”

The next morning at breakfast, there was a tangible sense of excitement in the Georgian Room. We donned our golden caps and gowns and smiled for the photographer: (In the picture, I’m in the front row, a few seats away from Bill Taylor, one of our class heroes.) We marched down the aisle to our seats in front, past rows of young people in their maroon or black robes applauding us. Myron Kandel later quipped to the graduates, “When you come back for your fiftieth, this is what you’ll look like. If you’re lucky.”

At the luncheon that followed the ceremony, we heard from Marla Ginsberg, President Christoph Kimmich, and Roberta Rose Wallach, ’53, president of BCAA. Then Joan Tartell Stupler, Northern Westchester Chapter; Bob Goldberg, Nyack, N.Y.; Ethel Lipschitz McClatchey, Los Angeles/Southern California Chapter; and I offered comments.

We said goodbye, trading phone numbers and addresses, promising to be in touch. We left, ready for the times ahead. Listen up world: We’re the Class of 1952. We’re still here and going strong.
Brooklyn College is “Family” by Roberta Rose Wallach, ’53

Attending Brooklyn College is a tradition carried on by generation after generation in many families. The romance doesn’t stop there. Many couples meet at Brooklyn College as well. If you would like to see the BC alumni in your family listed in this column, send their names to the Office of Alumni Affairs. Please give us your name, too, and your street and e-mail addresses and telephone number.

Contact Stacey Backenroth, ’02, at the Office of Alumni Affairs by phone at (718) 951-5065, or e-mail at Staceyb@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Generations
Sylvia Udis Haironson, ’38, and Sidney Haironson, ’34 (both deceased)
Don R. Haironson, ’45
Estelle Salmansohn Haironson, ’46 (deceased)
Eli L. Methal, ’74
Ira Haironson, ’81
Mina Leibowitz Herman, ’53
Bruce Jay Herman, ’80
Susan Herman Mendelowitz, ’76
Stuart Lawrence, ’63
Elena Sherri Lawrence Dredger, ’88
Aurora Messina Natt, ’44
Alegra Natt, ’84
Marilyn Levy Sarhis, ’53
Elyse Wolkin Sarhis, ’81

Couples
Stacey Reinecke Backenroth, ’02, and Lyle Backenroth, ’95
Irene Danzker Deitch, ’52, and Jack A. Deitch, ’49
Wendy Goodman, ’76, and Leonard Sudberg, M.D., ’76
[We apologize for the incorrect listing for Dr. Sudberg in the last issue of the Alumni Newsletter.] Ellen Sussman Greenspan, ’69, and Aaron Greenspan, ’70,
Sylvia Udis Haironson, ’38, and Sidney Haironson, ’34 (both deceased)
Lillian Gulotta Knight, ’53, and George Knight, ’53
Cora Helena Bials Roth, ’60, and Sheldon Roth, M.D., ’60

The Post-fiftieth Alumni Reunion 2002
by George Edelman, ’42

The Post-fiftieth Alumni Reunion luncheon was held on October 6, 2002, in honor of the classes of 1937, 1942, and 1947 on their sixty-fifth, sixtieth, and fifty-fifth anniversaries. Attended by alumni, friends, relatives, Brooklyn College Alumni Association board members, and College faculty and staff, the festive gathering at the Brooklyn College Student Center was presided over by Dr. Robert I. Goldberg, ’41.

This reporter was both an honoree and presenter at this function. The other reunion honorees were: Mildred Winer Abramowitz and Lea Schwartz Singer from the Class of 1937; Paul Baer, Bernard Buchner, Esther Conwell, Bertram Fields, Morton Glantz, Georgia Heaslip, Frances Kolton, Jerome Laskey, Benjamin Rivlin, and Leonard Rokaw from the Class of 1942; Lilyan Goldman Glusker; Ben Hammer; Herbert Kelman, Abraham Klein, Myron Levine, Judy Gorenstein Salwen, Miriam Schlein, Grace Marmor Spruch, and Philip Stopol from the Class of 1947.

This year Dr. Robert I. Goldberg, ’41, and Evelyn Horowitz Weinstein, ’43, shared the Milton Fisher, ’38, Second Harvest Award, which acknowledges the creative, professional, and philanthropic accomplishments of alumni subsequent to their fiftieth reunion. Recipients have the privilege of determining the disbursement of the $5000 grant to benefit Brooklyn College. Mrs. Weinstein specified that her half be used for a scholarship while Dr. Goldberg assigned his portion to the Art Department.

The meeting closed with a slide presentation by BCAA board member Ron Schweiger, ’70, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the guests.

Reunion 2002 Garners Rave Reviews
by Helen Zegerman Schwimmer, ’69

Picture this: The air is crisp on the evening of October 19, 2002. As the sun sets over the tranquil waters of the Hudson, the luxury yacht Horizon sets sail from Chelsea Piers in Manhattan. As the liner cruises down the river, the alumni on board watch the New York
skyline light up. The Statue of Liberty stands taller and prouder than we remember. Pure magic.

Suddenly a voice calls out, “Did you hang out at Wolfie’s, Dubrow’s, or Garfield’s? Did you listen to Odetta, Jan Peerce, or Simon and Garfunkel? Did you go to Saturday matinees at the Kingsway, Oriental, Avalon, Rugby, or Pitkin? Did you hear Eleanor Roosevelt, Allen Ginsberg, or Robert Kennedy speak on campus?” As emcee, Roberta Wallach, BCAA president, takes us on a trip down memory lane.

A little background: The Activities Committee began to plan the 2002 reunion shortly after 9/11, when tourist trade in the city was at a low ebb. We decided on the theme “BC Celebrates New York” and to have the event aboard a ship that would sail the harbor in support of our school, city, and country. This was the first time in years that a reunion was held off-campus, and what a success it turned out to be.

Alumni who graduated as recently as 2002 and as long ago as 1943 mingled amiably over dinner, dancing as the wine flowed, the music played, and the conversation sparkled. Our honorees were straight out of central casting. Scott Herman, ’80, with a bachelor’s in Television and Radio, was presented the Alumnus of the Year Award by his former professor and present employee, Sister Camille D’Arienzo, R.S.M., professor emerita of television and radio, and commentator for 1010 WINS. Since 1994 Scott has been vice-president and general manager of 1010 WINS, America’s first all-news radio station and one of the Infinity Broadcasting Corporation’s six New York City radio stations that Scott now manages. Scott, his wife, Beth, and their three children live in New Jersey.

The Alumna of the Year Award went to Sandra Feldman, ’60, president of the million-member American Federation of Teachers since 1997. As vice-president of Education International, an organization of teacher’s unions in democratic countries, Ms. Feldman travels extensively in Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America to promote trade unionism and democratic principles. She is married to New York businessman Arthur Barnes. Unfortunately, Ms. Feldman could not attend.

By the end of this spectacular evening, we were looking forward to our next reunion. If you missed the boat, make sure to mark your calendar for October 25, 2003. Join us on the East River at the world-famous Water Club restaurant when “Brooklyn College Bridges the World.”

**Spotlight on a Faculty Alumnus**

**Samuel L. Leiter, ’62: A Life in the Theater**

by Helen Zegerman Schwimmer, ’69

One spring day in 1962, while struggling to decide what to do after graduation, Samuel Leiter spotted a flyer on a Boylan Hall bulletin board. “It was pure serendipity,” marveled Distinguished Professor of Theater Leiter, a former Broeklundian professor who is currently the chairperson of the Theater Department.

Flashback: While studying a text on the different aspects of theater, Leiter had been fascinated by the chapter on kabuki, the traditional form of Japanese theater. The author of that chapter was the person named as the contact on the leaflet. Although Leiter discovered that the announced position had been filled, he was offered a two-year grant to pursue an M.F.A. in directing at the University of Hawaii, with six months of study in Japan. This decision was as easy as the one to marry Marcia Lerner; ’63. The couple have three children.

Over the past thirty-five years, Leiter has become a renowned scholar in theater generally and kabuki in particular. His numerous books include *The Great Stage Directors, Shakespeare Around the Globe,* and *The Art of Kabuki.*

The subject of his doctoral dissertation, the history of theater in Brooklyn, lies closer to home. In the nineteenth-century, Leiter notes, “the area around the present-day Fulton Mall was considered Brooklyn’s Broadway,” offering Shakespeare revivals and melodramas. Theater continued to have a strong presence in the borough, and Leiter has fond memories of attending performances in two Brownsville theaters with his mother, who nurtured his love of the stage.

Leiter is gratified that many of his students are working actors who have found their niche in commercials, television, and theater—on and off Broadway. Two of the best known are Jimmy Smits of *L.A. Law* and *NYPD Blue,* and Dominic Chianese, a.k.a. Uncle Junior in *The Sopranos.*

What’s ahead for the Brooklyn College Theater Department?
Professor Leiter describes the two million dollars recently bequeathed by former Brooklyn College philosophy professor Walter Cerf as “manna from heaven,” which will allow the department to expand in spite of the current economic crunch. High on his wish list are additional faculty and more classroom and rehearsal space. “We are trying to be recognized as one of the best municipal colleges in the country for theater,” he said. More productions that will attract local audiences are on the horizon as well.

Alumni College Day 2003: Spotlight on New Faculty
by Marilyn Levy Sarhis, ’53

In August 2002 headlines nationwide declared: “Brooklyn College Tops ‘Beauty List.’” The Princeton Review’s eleventh annual guide to the best colleges in the U.S. ranked Brooklyn College as having “the most beautiful campus in the country.” There seemed to be a greater than usual sense of pride in the air when we gathered at our alma mater on Alumni College Day, May 4, 2003. In the morning, concurrent sessions allowed us to choose from a range of intellectually stimulating topics, several of which were presented by new members of the faculty.


The Black Alumni Association of Brooklyn College (BAABC) presented its seventeenth Annual Clearinghouse Expo, convened by Craig Collins, ’98, BAABC president and board member. The speakers were Marcia Goldman, ’57; Winston Price, M.D., ’70, and Barbara Gordon, M.D., ’86. Ms. Goldman is president of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc., a part of the Trust for Public Land; she is past president and a board member of BAABC, and the recipient of the 2002 Jerome S. Milgram Award. Dr. Price is assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn. Dr. Gordon is an attending physician at New York Methodist Hospital.


An elegant champagne reception hosted by President Christoph M. Kimmich and Dr. Flora Graham Kimmich, M.F.A., ’88, preceded the BCAA Awards Luncheon where the 2003 Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to Edward I. Geffner, ’59, and Joanne Waldstreicher, M.D., ’81.
Geffner is executive director of Project Renewal, Inc., which offers rehabilitation and job training to thousands of recovering addicts and homeless in New York City. A member of the bar, he is a staunch supporter of civil rights, the environment, and human and social services ranging from the Vera Institute in New York City to the Department of Social Welfare in Jerusalem. Geffner is often an invited speaker at leading university business and law schools, including Yale Law School, where he earned his J.D. Ethyle R. Wolfe, provost and vice-president for academic affairs emerita, and former dean of the School of Humanities, presented Edward Geffner with the coveted award.

Dr. Joanne Waldstreicher is vice-president for internal medicine, clinical research and development, with Johnson & Johnson. Since receiving her degree from Harvard Medical School, she has devoted her professional life to pharmaceutical and clinical research involving endocrinology, metabolism, and oncology. She has received many academic and professional honors, has co-authored numerous publications and abstracts in the most respected medical journals, and holds thirteen patents. Dr. Morton D. Glantz, ‘42, professor emeritus of chemistry, who taught and mentored Dr. Waldstreicher, presented the award.

The Jerome S. Milgram Award, given for outstanding contributions to the advancement of BCAA, was awarded to the Tucson, Ariz., Chapter. Sheila (Dorseman) Weitzner Liebson, ’46, past president and current secretary, accepted the award for the group from Marcia Goldman, ’57, who received the Milgram Award in 2002.

The keynote speaker for the afternoon general session was Distinguished Professor Samuel L. Leiter, ’62, who holds an M.F.A. from the University of Hawaii (1964) and a Ph.D. from New York University (1968). (See the “Spotlight” article about him in this issue.) His topic, “From Gefilte Fish to Sushi: A Life in Academic Theater,” captivated us.

The day concluded with the BCAA Annual Meeting, the presentation of the Sam Levenson, ’34, and Esther Levine Levenson, ’34, Awards, and the annual report by President Roberta Rose Wallach, ’53.

Get-Together for New Alumni
by David Wenger, ’03

After graduation most Brooklyn College students go on to be successful in their chosen professions. Most remember that Brooklyn College opened doors for them. Some give back to the College by actively participating in the affairs of the Alumni Association and the school. In this spirit, the Brooklyn College Alumni Association held a start-up meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2003. Graduates from 2001 and 2002 were invited to the Student Center for a dinner with Roberta Wallach, the president of the BCAA, and Marla Hasten Ginsberg, the director of the Office of Alumni Affairs. Such issues of interest as senior recruitment, job placement, networking, graduate studies, mentoring, and scholarship programs were discussed. A committee was formed and another meeting was scheduled. Items on the agenda include a Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game, various social activities, and a newsletter. All are welcome to plan and enjoy the events to come.

Letters to the Editor

The gala reunion of October 19, 2002, was twenty on a ten-point scale.
—Hal Scharf, ’56

The harbor cruise [10/19/02] was a very nice way to hold a reunion.
—Barbara Fenko, ’80

My last year at Brooklyn College is already crammed with plans for my future in journalism. I have been lucky to be a part of this “poor man’s Harvard.” The Sam Levenson Award has lifted a huge financial burden, and once again made me realize that without the academic support of professors and financial support of alumni, journalism would be a distant dream. I thank all of you who helped me.
—Edward Barrera, ’03

What joy to receive the Alumni Newsletter, Volume 4, Number 1! You and your team turned out a communications piece that was warm, newsy, and full of heart. Everyone is full of compliments. Diane Simon, ’52, and I have received several inquiries on membership from local alumni who didn’t know we had a [Broward-Dade] chapter...Wonderful!!
—Millie Bialeck Cohn, ’43

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.