began as editor of City & Society with Volume XIV, Number 1, of 2002. The first article in that issue had previously accepted for publication by Jack Kugelmass. My first editorial responsibility, therefore, was to put that article together with a series of other articles originating in a SUNTA-sponsored interlocutor session with Charles Keil at the 2001 American Anthropological Association meetings. In many ways this sort of arrangement can be helpful for a new editor, since all the content for a single number of the journal is in hand. Matters were different for Volume XIV, Number 2, which brought together a series of individually submitted articles. Even under these circumstances, however, it was possible to organize the issue in a way that permitted different articles to resonate with each other in unanticipated ways. In this case, two articles focused on Los Angeles, but from very different points of view. One of the Los Angeles articles, however, dealt with immigration issues, which spoke to the remaining articles which, each in their own ways, addressed struggles to cope with the imported and the indigenous. The opportunity to orchestrate the often serendipitous materials into issues that somehow hung together was not always possible, but when it happened, it turned editorial labor into a creative, aesthetic endeavor.

Volume XV, Number 1, of 2003, allowed me for the first time to work with a guest editor, Anne Lewinson, as we prepared papers from another 2001 SUNTA-sponsored session to produce an issue on metropolitanism as an African way of life. Volume XV, Number 2, again offered a collection of articles with no single shared theme. Nevertheless, one article about karaoke bar hostesses in China resonated with another article about exotic dancers in the United States; one article about ethnic enclave economies in Chicago resonated with another
about economic development in eastern Canada, and with a third about urban gentrification and sport in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

In 2004, the University of California Press began to publish City & Society, the first step to full participation in AnthroSource. Volume XVI, Number 1, focused on migration. An innovative set of three articles by Rachel Reynolds and Scott Youngstedt contrasted the migration experiences of Nigerien Hausa and Nigerian Igbo migrants to the United States. This module was counterpoised with two other articles exploring immigration-related issues in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Ankara, Turkey, followed by something completely different: Jeffrey Ehrenreich's stunning photo essay on Mardi Gras performers in New Orleans. Volume XVI, Number 2, 2004, was a theme issue on gated communities and other forms of urban segregation, guest-edited by Petra Kuppinger. The articles in this issue yet again were the product of fortunate serendipity: all but one began as papers individually submitted to the American Anthropological Association and grouped by SUNTA into a single session, and the final article was an individual submission to City & Society.

In 2005, the entire production process for the journal shifted to the University of California Press, and content was deep-coded for online searchability in AnthroSource. Much of Volume XVII, Number 1, 2005, came from a SUNTA-sponsored interlocutor session with Michael Peter Smith. An essay by Smith was followed by articles by three respondents and a final rejoinder by Smith. Two additional articles also addressed the “borderlands” theme of this issue. One looked at baseball and urban revitalization in a small East Coast American city; the other investigated transnational dilemmas confronting residents of Polish and German cities on either side of a national border as they come to terms with their new shared status as citizens of the European Union. Volume XVII, Number 2, 2005, the final volume under my editorship, involved working with guest editor Kathleen Bubinas on a special issue devoted to Chicago. An essay by Bubinas introduced four articles and a photo essay, followed by a concluding commentary by Janet Abu-Lughod.

I am pleased with the variety and range of the articles that appeared in these eight issues of City & Society, and I believe they served the journal’s readership well. But journal editors have to address more than journal content alone. When I started working with Jack Kugelmass as associate editor of City & Society, the American Anthropological Association still published its journals in-house; during my last two years as editor of City & Society, as noted above, the transition of all AAA journals to the University of California Press and AnthroSource was completed. Thanks to the foundation laid by Jack Kugelmass, SUNTA and City & Society fared better during this transition than did other American Anthropological Association sections and their publications. Jack’s wisdom and skill in taking the journal electronic had already
saved enormous sums of money prior to the transition. When I became editor, Robert Lavenda agreed to serve as production manager, providing such technical excellence in electronic typesetting that the University of California Press allowed him to continue this task through the end of my term as editor, saving more money. In addition, the University of California Press was so impressed by Jack’s earlier design of the journal that SUNTA did not need to pay for a redesign when production shifted to the Press.

With costs minimized and technical details under control, and eventually (in 2003) with Petra Kuppinger as a most able associate editor, I was able to turn my attention to two key editorial challenges: first, to ship both issues of each volume within the calendar year on the cover; and second, to get more articles into the editorial pipeline to facilitate timely publication of future issues. Both goals were achieved during the years I served as editor. One technique that helped was described above: alternating single-themed issues, usually based on SUNTA-organized sessions at the American Anthropological Association, with issues containing individual submissions on a wide range of topics. This made planning future issues much easier, and when Petra Kuppinger succeeded me as editor, she began with some articles already well along in the production process. As it turned out, single-themed issues with guest editors also gave SUNTA members a chance to try their hand at editing, and started to build a pool of experienced potential future candidates for editor and associate editor. When it came time to appoint my successor, applicants included Petra Kuppinger, the current editor, who had been both associate editor and a guest editor, and Kathleen Bubinas, currently associate editor, who had served as a guest editor.

One of the great pleasures of the job of editor is the opportunity to read submissions based on recent research on topics of emerging interest to the discipline, together with the commentaries of knowledgeable reviewers. But a third challenge facing any editor of City & Society is finding knowledgeable and reliable reviewers for articles with such varied topics and wide-ranging settings. Securing such reviewers was sometimes daunting, but always interesting, leading to contacts with scholars all over the world. I was impressed again and again by eminent authorities who generously agreed to review submissions and provided thoughtful, helpful comments for authors. I always tried to communicate reviewer comments to authors in a supportive manner, especially when telling them that publication was not (yet) possible. The reward came when articles that had been revised more than once eventually achieved publishable quality.

Between 2002 and 2006, City & Society published pieces on transnational migration and politics, gentrification and urban segregation, but also on music and sport and urban celebrations. One issue looked at a number of cities on the continent of Africa, and another was devoted
entirely to a single city, Chicago. We published pieces based on research
in North, Central, and South America, Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia,
South Asia, and East Asia—and on the transnational migration circuits
linking people from some of these regions to other regions. Many
contributors and reviewers who made this possible were themselves
located around the world, thereby embodying the central commitments
of SUNTA. Editing a journal is hard work, but I am very glad I had the
opportunity to do it. It changed me personally and professionally, for the
better. I am still grateful to Jack Kugelmass and the SUNTA board for
giving me the chance to take the job on. And it is a pleasure to see City
& Society remain strong now that the torch has passed to my successor.