

Remembering the Weequahic Dream Team

From The New York Times, June 18, 1974

Weequahic High School in 1965-66 and 1966-67 had what some observers felt was the finest schoolboy basketball team ever to play in New Jersey, and quite possibly in the entire country. Each of the five starters played college ball, and two reached the National Basketball Association. *Yes, that was quite a ballclub,*" reminisced Les Fein, then Weequahic coach. *Not only were the boys excellent players, but they were gentlemen."*

The players were Dennis Layton, Dana Lewis, Leroy Cobb, George Watson and Bill Mainor. Layton, a 6-foot-2-inch guard, played with Phoenix and other teams in the NBA after a brilliant college career at Southern California. Lewis, a 6-10 1/2 center with a fine outside touch, was the Philadelphia 76ers' first round draft choice. Mainor, a 6-3 leaper, played at Fordham, and Cobb, 6-6 1/2, and Watson, 6-8, played at Southern Cal with Layton.

The Top 20 H.S. Basketball Teams

School	1967	City & State
1.	Weequahic	Newark, N. J.
2.	Torrance	Torrance, Calif.
3.	Schenley	Pittsburgh, Pa.
4.	Wood	Indianapolis, Ind.
5.	Lincoln	Milwaukee, Wis.

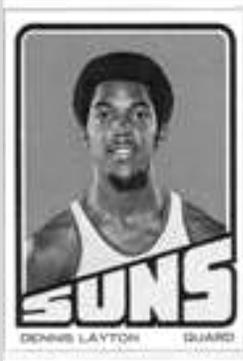
Cobb died of an embolism while undergoing surgery a couple years ago. *A tragedy,* Fein said sadly. *I stay in touch with the others. Layton is living in Los Angeles and is studying acting. He's had bit parts in a couple of films. Lewis bought a house in Haverstraw, N.Y., and played with Hartford in the Eastern League. Mainor lives and works in Long Island, and Watson is living in Los Angeles."*

Of the five, Fein perhaps was closest to Layton. *He was the heart of my ball club,*" Fein said. *Dennis was a complete player and a dynamic leader. He could shoot, pass, penetrate, play defense. You name it, and he could do it. I can't understand how he could have gotten waived out of the N.B.A., and I've done something I've never done before. I've written to Red Holzman (Knicks coach) asking him to give Layton a tryout. There's no doubt in my mind Layton easily could be the Knicks' third guard."*

Fein, now 55 years old, gave up coaching after Weequahic swept through its 1966-67 season undefeated and won the Group 4 state championship. In the winter of 1968 he went to Israel to help coach the Israeli national team in preparation for the Olympics. While there, Fein also conducted clinics, gave lectures about basketball and taught at the Wingate School of Physical Education for three months.

In 12 years of coaching Weequahic, Fein's team won eight city titles, six Christmas tournaments in six tries, two Essex County championships and three state championships. His secret for success: *balanced offense and superlative defense."* When he returned from Israel, Fein and his wife *Ceil* worked on developing the NJ Weight Watchers program which they had launched a couple years earlier. At the time he said, *"I have achieved all that I could as a high school basketball coach."*

DENNIS "MOE" LAYTON



Phoenix College

Moe started his college basketball career at Phoenix College and was one of the top players in the school's history. He led the team to a 35-1

record and is still the all-time leading scorer with well over 1,434 points.

Southern California

Moe then accepted a full scholarship to the University of Southern California where he was awarded *"First Team/All PAC Eight, TV Guide All-American, Converse All-American and Kodak All-American honors."* He led USC to their best record of 26-2 and to USC's first-ever #1 ranking while averaging 18 points a game. Moe once tallied 41 points against Arizona State while making 18 field goals, a record that still stands. He played with Paul Westphal and Weequahic teammates George Watson and Leroy Cobb.

NBA: Suns, Spurs and NY Knicks

Moe was then drafted by the Phoenix Suns and made the *"All-Rookie"* team. After two years, he played for the NY Knicks and the San Antonio Spurs. While with the Spurs, he teamed up with Hall of Famer, George *"Iceman"* Gervin, and was instrumental in the team winning their first two Central Division titles in 1978 and 1979.

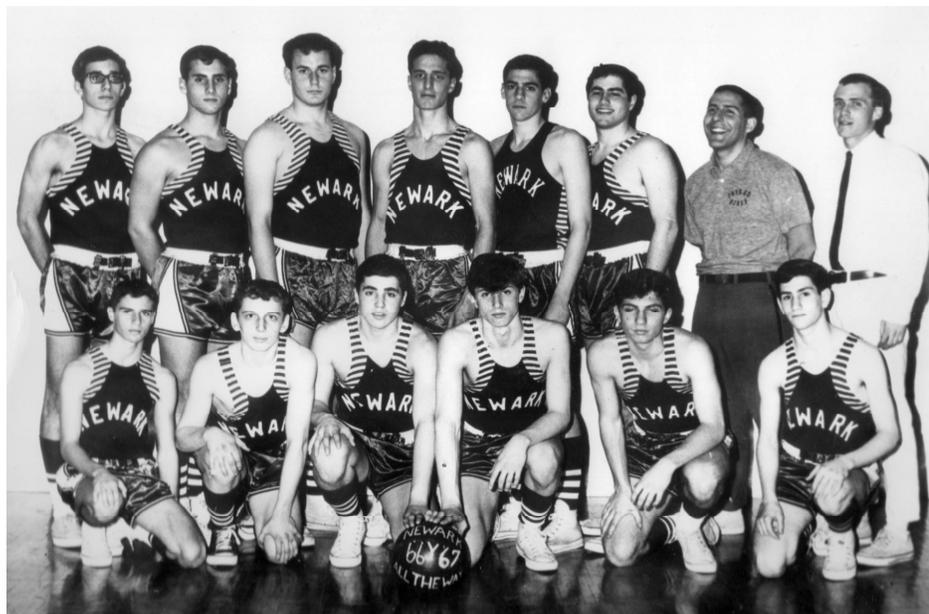
In 2006, Moe was inducted to the Pac-10 Hall of Honor and was honored at USC's new Galen Center where his #34 is retired. He is active in sports officiating and private basketball training and was a recruiter for Fleisher & LaRusso Sports Agency placing star college athletes into professional basketball teams throughout the world. He is currently residing in Newark and working at his alma-mater.



One season, two basketball championships in 1967

*As the Weequahic Indians were making basketball history,
the YMHA team across the street was winning a national championship*

By William "Billy" Jacobowitz, 1968



Standing from left: Ken Teitelbaum, Larry Fisher, Bill Jacobowitz, Jeff Fox, Jeff Tolvin, Jeff Rubin, 'Y' Physical Education Director Mike Diamond, and Coach Dave Cooper. Kneeling from left: Dave Haber, Richard Naftalis, Mark Steinberg, Ken Dychtwald, Mike Frank and Mel Narol.

The 1966-67 basketball season was a memorable time for fans in the Weequahic section of Newark. Many remember the great Weequahic High School team that was known as the "Dream Team." They won the state Group 1V title and were acclaimed as national champions.

Led by Dennis "Mo" Layton, a future NBA player, and Dana Lewis, a future NBA first round draft pick, the Indians finished the season undefeated. With Coach Les Fein at the helm, they dominated almost every game and were recognized as the best high school team in the country.

Fewer fans recall the great YMHA team of the same season which won the National Championship of all Jewish centers throughout the country in Canton, Ohio. The 'Y', located just across from the high school, was a hotbed for top-notch basketball players. For many years the 'Y' fielded very competitive teams in a league that had teams from Jewish centers all over New Jersey. However, the 1966-67 season turned out to be very special.

Entering the season, the members of the team knew they were pretty good. I know that because I was the starting center on the squad. Every member of the team except one was a student at Weequahic.

The starters included Jeff Fox, a solid scorer and fierce rebounder; Kenny Teitelbaum (co-captain), a good ball handler and shooter; Jeff Tolvin, who was our "Bill Bradley" because he was such an accurate shooter; and Kenny Dychtwald, who could score and played tough defense.

Our super sixth man was Larry Fisher, who really liked to shoot and was good at it. The strong bench included Mel Narol, Jeff Rubin (co-captain), Richie Naftalis, David Haber, Mark Steinberg and our only non-Newarker Mike Frank from Hillside High. The team was coached by the usually reserved but intense Dave Cooper.

Our league featured teams from Trenton, Camden, Highland Park, Plainfield, Elizabeth and our chief rival Bayonne. We also played games against Bensonhurst,

N.Y., a perennial power and teams from New Haven and Bridgeport, Connecticut. We lost our first game at Bensonhurst, then went on to eighteen wins in a row including a win over Bensonhurst.

We swept all eight games to win the Southern Division crown of our league. We then topped Northern Division champ Bayonne 63-46 to win the state title. It was then on to Canton for the National Championship crown.

After a long bus ride that we shared with the team from Coney Island, we arrived in Canton. The tournament, sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board, included eight teams from around the country and ran from March 30th through April 2nd.

Our first round opponent was the defending National Champion team from Cincinnati. Few gave us a shot to win. Right from the start we showed our Newark toughness and dominated the game.

We won going away and got ready to play Coney Island which had defeated the team from Allentown, Pa. We knew we were more talented than our rival, but physically they punished us. At the end we won by four points our lowest winning margin of the year. I can honestly say that game was the most physically challenging I ever played in.

In the finals we faced New Haven, Connecticut, who had won their bracket that included teams from Newport News, Virginia, Canton and Albany, N.Y. We had beaten New Haven twice already that season and were confident we would do it again. They played their hearts out, but we emerged victorious.

Jeff Fox was unstoppable on the boards. As usual, Teitelbaum, Dychtwald, Tolvin and Fisher contributed greatly to the win. I had the game of my life scoring 31 points. At the celebration dinner following the conclusion of the tourney, we were honored as the new National Champs. It was a great time for a bunch of kids from the Newark 'Y'.

Coast To Coast Bike Trip At Age 75

Herb Schon(wetter)

WHS Jan 1950

By Todd Bailey, The New Mexican

It's not about how old you look, but about how old you feel. And 75-year-old Herb Schon feels like he's in his 20s. The former New York City bakery owner, turned retired Santa Fe, New Mexico bicycle enthusiast was the oldest of 26 bicyclists from around the world who spent almost two months this summer biking across the United States.

He dipped his front wheel into the Pacific Ocean in San Francisco on June 3 and on July 24, Schon dipped his wheel into the Atlantic Ocean in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. And the 52 days in between show Schon what kind of person he is. *"The experience has taught me to believe in myself more,"* he said. *"I have said this before, but you to have the knowledge that your mind is so strong, that it can control your body."*

His mental strength was tested early and often during the 3,900-mile trip. On the second day, the bicyclists entered Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada Mountains west of Truckee, Calif. It was there, at over 7,000 feet, that they were met with a *"raging blizzard."* Mother Nature wasn't kind at times along the trip. Schon faced 30-mile per hour headwinds, torrential rains and 105-degree heat. He also had to endure his *"lousy knee pain."* The group's schedule called for 90-mile rides on 17 of the 52 days. *"I have always had a good work ethic and that translates into making myself endure so much more,"* Schon said.

Earlier in his life, Schon ran in marathons. Various injuries forced him to commit to biking. And to him, a true bike ride is anything over 30 miles. And the pace he keeps while he rides means everything. That's why he wouldn't stop for lunch during his rides, he would always eat as he biked. Along the route were SAG (Support and Gear) stops where trucks that carried the group's gear would stop every 30-35 miles to offer snacks and drinks. *"Other people were so amazed that I wouldn't stop when I rode,"* Schon said.



"It wasn't that I wouldn't stop for a sandwich and a cup of coffee. I just liked to keep rolling. So the mental aspect drives the physical."

Most of the hotels the group stayed at featured hot tubs for the riders to relax their bodies, and scattered throughout the nine-week event were five rest days. *"I wish I had the use of a hot tub each night,"* said Schon, who often stretched to help his body. *"Somehow, my body always recovered by the next morning. But my knee continued to bother me. It would be full of pain at times and I would have to pedal with one leg, but I fought through it. I had to."*

Schon spent most of his life in New York City. He had a television production company that made commercials. Then Schon had, what he calls, a *"serendipitous journey into baking."* He baked some Rugelach for a party and the people there encouraged him to become a baker. His food was shown on CNN, the Food Network and QVC. *"I started a wholesale bakery that was really successful,"* Schon said. *"But I sold it in 1997 when I was ready to move out here."*

Schon spends his retired life being active. He is involved in several area bike clubs and enjoys biking in the mountains of Northern New Mexico. *"I think all the training that I did in Northern New Mexico really helped me with the cross-country bike ride,"* Schon said. *"I would always ride with the younger guys in my group because I enjoy the challenge of keeping up with them. It makes me train harder. Both with my mind and my body."*

Which is why he was able to fight through the pain in his heavily-wrapped bad knee and sore shoulders. Schon considers



himself mistake-prone, which is why he was so thankful to never endure a wreck, but he did get three flat tires. He also gained 8 pounds during the trip as well. He believes it came from the eating along the trek - and not from the lobster dinner with champagne, followed by ice cream in York, Maine, after the trip concluded.

Schon thought of the idea to bike across the country while looking for a 75th birthday gift to give himself. He recalled a conversation with a fellow bicyclist who wanted to ride cross-country. *"I thought she was nuts,"* Schon said. The memory of that conversation was the selling point in his dream. In March, he planned a three-month training program that had him biking daily to reach a weekly total of 250 to 400 miles. The rides ranged from distance (70 to 100 miles daily) to hill climbing.

"I don't ever want to say I can't do something because I am too old," Schon said. *"I want to say I can do it because I try. You're only young once, but can be immature all your life."*

Some additional comments from Herb:

We rode 47 days (5 days rest) and 17 of them covered distances from 95 to 121 miles. Regarding stopping to eat - at my age, with arthritis and torn ligaments - stopping for more than 5 to 10 minutes would mean 15 minutes of stretching, or at least ingestion of two percocets accompanied by a very chilled Pinot Grigio.

The ice cream at Brown's in York, ME is the best I've ever tasted. Worth a visit. Getting home to my wife Irene was the best part of the trip. The ride was completed on July 24 in Portsmouth, where I was greeted by my son, Peter, his wife, Amanda (carrying my first grandchild), and a stranger to me, a 1967 WHS grad, Joe Diament, who had heard about the ride and felt the old Weequahic ties.

Adenah Bayoh, 1997 WHS Grad, Opens IHOP

By Reginald Roberts, Star-Ledger

For years Irvington's Springfield Avenue business district has flourished with more than a few dollar stores, discount clothing stores, nail salons and fast-food restaurants. Now that an IHOP (International House of Pancakes) has come to town, Irvington officials are hoping it will raise the profile of the busy corridor a notch or two. The IHOP officially opened last fall, the township's first national brand family sit-down non-fast-food restaurant, taking over from the longtime fixture in the community - Kless Diner.

The old Kless was completely renovated with non-traditional IHOP decor. Seating capacity was increased to 190 with an upstairs meeting room that will accommodate 15. *"This is one of the most exciting new projects in the township in a very long time,"* Mayor Wayne Smith said during a ceremony inside the restaurant. *"As we rebuild and reshape and restore the township, it's important that we attract national brands to our main corridor."*

Smith said the IHOP would be one of the catalysts to bringing other national retailers to town. One businessman was so inspired by the new IHOP that he is already considering Irvington as a location for a national store, the mayor said. The last IHOP to open in the area was three miles away on Bergen Street in Newark seven years ago. In two months, it became one of the chain's top

performing restaurants in the region. In Newark, things were done in reverse. The IHOP quietly opened, then a big ribbon-cutting ceremony was held two months later.

The owners of the new franchise, Adenah Bayoh, an Irvington businesswoman, and her partner, Kunle Alli, saved the grand opening until after a weekend of working out kinks. Bayoh said she sent out 50 invitations to senior citizens for a Saturday test run. More than 300 showed up. By Monday, hundreds of free pancakes had been served to various church and community groups. The restaurant is open 24 hours.

Months ago, Bayoh put a hiring sign in the front window of the restaurant. She was expecting about 200 applicants for 140 part-time and full-time jobs: She got more than 900. About a third of the applications were from high school students. *"They wanted to come from school and go to work"* she said. *"I saw Adenah in those kids."*

Now 29, Bayoh got her first job at 14 flipping burgers at the McDonald's on Springfield Avenue about a mile away from her restaurant. It was her best business lesson, she said. When she went to see Smith with the idea of opening a

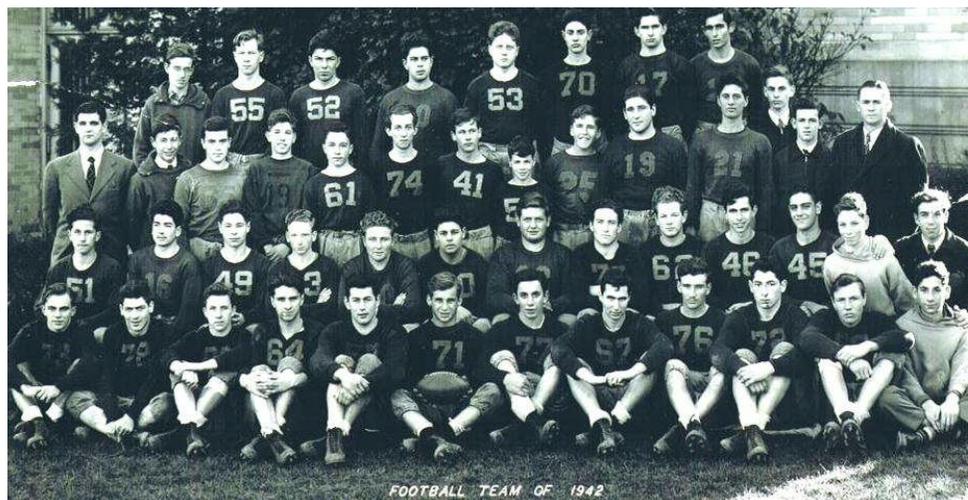


restaurant in town, Smith suggested Kless Diner, one of Irvington's landmark businesses with a unique vertical sign to match.

George 'Pete' Apostolatos had wanted to sell the restaurant for years, but couldn't find the right investors, Smith said. He introduced Bayoh to Apostolatos and after nearly three years of hard negotiations with him and a rigorous process with IHOP, the franchise became a reality.

Bayoh greeted customers asking them if their food was okay. John Lynch, a retired Newark police officer, said he had frequented Kless and loved IHOP pancakes. The blue and white sign was all he needed to know an IHOP was opening. After an order of eggs over easy, bacon and pancakes, he gave the new restaurant a thumbs up. *"The only complaint I have is the parking. There's not enough parking,"* he said. By noon all 38 parking spaces, except the ones reserved for the handicapped, had been taken.

Beverlyn Grissom of Trenton, who was in the area on business, and Tanya Poteat of Montclair both had eaten at Kless Diner as children. *"There was such strong hospitality you just don't find in urban areas,"* Grissom said as she left the restaurant.



1942 WHS Football Team.
Submitted by Seymour Kamm,
class of June 1944. Some of the
football players are as follows:

**Jack Greenspan, Red Feldman,
Bill Horey, Skip Sobo, Iggy
Bornstein, Sid Lieberman,
Seymour Kamm, Herb
Zuckerberg, Mickey Dunst,
Marty Rubin, Burt Geltzeiler,
Jerry Rosenfeld, Joel Jacobson,
Alan Semel, Art Lustig, Art
Givas, Dave Furst, and Frank
Tavelow.**



established by 1951 grad Ed Goldstein and his wife Sue

After nine-year-old Valerie Goldstein lost her courageous fight against cancer in 1976, her parents Ed and Sue were determined to do something in her memory that would ease the burden of other families faced with the crisis of a sick child. They wanted Valerie's courage to be memorialized in a meaningful way that would serve others in similar circumstances.

When Valerie became ill in the early 1970's, there were no comprehensive care facilities for children with cancer and blood disorders in New Jersey. During the six years of her treatment, Valerie and her parents would travel several hundred miles a week to hospitals in New York City, the only place where Valerie could receive the most advanced care.

Long, sometimes daily commutes from their home in Warren, parking hassles and expenses, the distress of Valerie being nauseous on the trip home, disrupted family life, rearranged work schedules - all these took an emotional and physical toll on Valerie and her parents, sapping their energy at a time when they needed it most.

The Valerie Fund was born in the Goldsteins' New Jersey basement - a group of benevolent friends supporting the Goldsteins' wish that no family should have to endure what they had during Valerie's treatment.

The idea was simple: To provide families with regional outpatient treatment centers at top pediatric hospitals within an hour's drive of most of the state's population, providing state-of-the-art medical and emotional care in a happy, upbeat, child-centered atmosphere.

In 1977, The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Overlook Hospital opened, and became the first comprehensive care facility for children with cancer and blood disorders in New Jersey.

Families turn to The Valerie Fund because of the unique combination of medical care, counseling, and other services it provides. The Valerie Fund Children's Centers comprise the largest network of healthcare facilities for children with cancer and blood disorders in New Jersey, and one of the largest in the nation, hosting over 25,000 patient visits each year.

Close to Home: Today there are seven Valerie Fund Children's Centers for Cancer and Blood Disorders located in major hospitals in New Jersey, New York, and the Philadelphia area providing caring, comprehensive, state-of-the-art outpatient health care to more than 4,000 children and their families each year.



Ed and Sue Goldstein

This network means that sick children are able to receive care close to their homes. Before The Valerie Fund, many children - such as Valerie Goldstein - had to travel long distances because the treatment they needed was available only at major medical facilities located in large cities.

The Whole Patient: At The Valerie Fund Centers, patients receive far more than treatment for their physical illnesses. Their philosophy is that to truly heal the children with whose care they are entrusted, they must treat them emotionally, socially, and developmentally, as well as medically.

The Entire Family: Childhood disease strikes not only the child, but the entire family. When a child is a patient at a Valerie Fund Center, a staff of social workers, counselors, psychologists, and

child-life specialists enfold the child and the family in a blanket of ongoing, individualized care. They firmly believe this approach is the most effective way to fight childhood disease.

Fundraiser: On Saturday, June 11, 2011, The Valerie Fund Walk & JAG Physical Therapy 5K Run took place in Verona Park and raised over half a million dollars to support children with cancer and blood disorders, more than doubling the donations from the 2010 Walk. With over 3,400 registered participants, The Valerie Fund shattered previous achievements in one of the most successful fundraising campaigns to date.

Over 100 former and current Valerie Fund patients participated in this year's event. Verona Park was filled with excitement for the kids, ranging in age from fourteen months old to former patients in their 30's. Included in the celebration was an Opening Ceremony that featured inspirational stories from two Valerie Fund kids, Ty'Rell and Sierra.

Wearing lime green shirts declaring "I am a proud TVF kid" on the back, the patients of Team Green took time to share in the festivities of the day. An Awards Ceremony wrapped up the memorable event, with 20 of the 191 teams receiving awards for fundraising, participation, team spirit and creativity.

Ed and Sue were visibly moved by the support for their organization which celebrates its 35th Anniversary this year. They said, "The Walk was filled with tears and laughter and love and dedication in support of our Valerie Fund kids and their families. What a day it was!" Donations for the Walk and 5K Event are still being accepted online. To donate, visit www.thevaleriefund.org/walk.

The Valerie Funds also operates a free overnight camp (Camp Happy Time) for kids with cancer. The Kids not only have a terrific week (most counselors are survivors and former campers) but it gives their parents a chance to spend quality time with their other children plus giving them some relief knowing their children are well provided for with our Doctors and Nurses in attendance.

Continued on next page

Yiddish theater honors

David Steiner

WHS 1947

West Orange benefactor

by Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News

Ask West Orange builder and philanthropist David Steiner if he speaks Yiddish and he'll answer *"Do I speak Yiddish? A bissel. I have enough trouble with English. Are you kidding?"*

But his ardent interest in preserving the linguistic foundation of Eastern European Jewish art, literature, and culture has earned Steiner and his wife, Sylvia, places of honor from Folksbiene, the only surviving professional Yiddish



theater company in the United States. Together with Michael Tilson Thomas, music director of the San Francisco Symphony and founder and artistic director of the New World Symphony, the Steiners were honored April 6 at Lincoln Center with a concert and reception.

Folksbiene is an enduring remnant of what was once the centerpiece of much immigrant Jewish culture. When it was founded in 1915, it was one of 15 Yiddish theater companies in the city. Today it is the only one still in existence, with a current season that included a musical revue starring *Picket Fences* star Fyvush Finkel and two one-acts by the celebrated writer I.L. Peretz.

The gala honoring the Steiners at Avery Fisher Hall featured Tilson Thomas conducting *"The Thomashef-*

skys: Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theatre," a multi-media concert. Thomas is the grandson of Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, two leading lights of the Yiddish theater.

A civil engineer by profession, David Steiner is a builder, real estate developer, and a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He has another connection with show business, as owner of Steiner Studios, a filmmaking center in Queens. A past president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, he is also a vice chair of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Both Steiners have provided major support to numerous Jewish causes and organizations, including United Jewish Communities of Metro

West NJ and the Rachel Coalition.

They are also strong supporters of the National Yiddish Book Center, a campus built around a collection of some one million Yiddish volumes. The Steiner Summer Internship Program offers students a chance to spend summers at the center in Amherst, Mass. He hopes such efforts will trigger a rebirth of the Yiddish thea-

ter and, eventually, the building of a museum of Yiddish language and culture.

"Yiddish may not be an important part of Jewish life around here," he said, *"but I hope to change that."* Steiner said his strong support of the Folksbiene (which means *"the people's stage"*) is motivated by his desire *"to make sure Yiddish culture is around."*

"It is very important for us to preserve it - in books, in schools, and especially in the theater," he told NJ Jewish News in a Feb. 28 phone interview. *"The theater was such an important part of Jewish life in America, and it would be a shame for it not to be here. I hope by my encouraging it, the next generation might get an appreciation of the role it played and maybe participate more in Yiddish culture."*

Valerie Fund from page 6

In 2001, their older daughter, Stacy Goldstein, died of breast cancer at the age of 37, leaving a husband, Robert Singer, and a son, Jonah, who was almost six. When Stacy died, they took a different route.

They provided funds to finance a major breast cancer symposium hosted by the nonprofit organization Living Beyond Breast Cancer, and they established The Stacy Goldstein Breast Oncology Center at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey to provide Fellowships for doctors based at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Editors Note: When the Valerie Fund was first established, Ed says that many friends from Weequahic were instrumental in its initial and ongoing success. Some of them are as follows: **Dave Klein '59** (involved the NY Giants); **Len Cohen '48** (fund raising chair); **Shelly Greenholtz '51** (former President); **Ed Bond '51** (former Treasurer); **Ed Brody '51** (former President); **Harold Osman '52** (former President); **Allan Kampf '48** and **Dan Weiss '48** (active fund raisers).

1969 classmates at Maxine Flagg's 60th



Marc Little, Dorcas Clark Crosby, Debbie Smith, Maxine Flagg Brown, Ivory "Ike" Wise, Denise Jenkins and Denise Clark



A Jewish Girl's Black Roots

Early Lessons in Devotion

By Evanne Schreiber Geltzeiler, WHS 1952



It was 1938 - the Joe Lewis and Max Schmeling rematch: The "*Brown Bomber*," this time, beat Max Schmeling in the first round. The black race reigned supreme that night. My brother Dickie and I were thrilled!

Boxer Joe Louis, beloved idol of Dickie and me, was an icon in the ring. But just two years prior, in 1936, white audiences, rooting for Max Schmeling, were ecstatic when he gave a beating to Louis. He even received a congratulatory telegram from Goebbels with "*Heil Hitler Regards*."

In 1938 Consolidated Edison had 10,000 employees, but only 65 were Negro, and the popular Negro radio characters, Amos and Andy, were played by white men. The only Negro playing a Negro part back then, was the beloved Rochester on The Jack Benny Show.

A Yiddish word, "*Balabusta*," was the highest compliment a Jewish woman could receive back in the 1930's and '40s. It meant she was an excellent housewife and mother.

My mother, however, was very different. A dynamic redhead (dyed), and an aggressive businesswoman, her days and evenings were spent at the Beau Mode, her dress shop directly across the street from our small apartment on Belmont Avenue.

And so, when I was three and four years old, Hazel, our live-in maid, became my surrogate mother. Our reciprocity of affection was very deep.

My favorite day of the week was Hazel's day off. I can still remember those Sundays when Hazel and I, hand-in-hand, walked to the corner bus stop at Clinton Avenue where we boarded the bus that took us to Hazel's neighborhood, in the colored section of Newark. That "*you can find something truly important in an ordinary minute*," (Ref. Mitch Albom, The Five People You Meet in Heaven) is so true.

I can recall, even now, the surge of joy I felt when I saw the little girl, sitting on the wooden front steps, arms folded around her knees, waiting for me, her Sunday playmate. I don't remember her name, but I can't forget the feeling of excitement in anticipation of a happy play day. We got along perfectly.

Sunday dinners at Hazel's were mid-afternoon. The crackling sound of chicken frying and the smell of pies baking permeated Hazel's residence. The family sat around a long table in the living room where the meal became a ceremony of sharing food and conversation and love. What a contrast to my own family where, by dictum, the children ate first so we would be "*out-of-the-way*."

So warm and loving, my exposure to Hazel's family life allowed for a stirring interpenetration of affection and adoration which deeply influenced me while affording a clarity of understanding unencumbered by bias. I felt a lingering reluctance to return to my own neighborhood.

Hazel's family life was the welcome salvage of the shipwreck that was my own family life. The unraveling of their marriage, and the constant arguing between my parents, was profoundly disquieting and frightening.

Hazel's home was my perfect safe haven. I surrendered, deeply and truly, to the power of Hazel and her family's love and attention.

In my thoughts, I reinhabit that wonderfully warm experience, with Hazel and her family, securely embedded where I can embrace it. That relational experience has outdistanced time and surmount-



ed distance because when someone is in your heart, they are with you always.

We are all connected. That you can no more separate one life from another than you can separate a breeze from a wind. (Ref. Mitch Albom, The Five People You Meet in Heaven).

I am forever deeply indebted to that wonderful, loving, noble family whose generosity and loving-kindness gave me an inner abundance of well-being and sense of worth that continues to sustain me.

I subscribe to the tenet that "*we are who we are because they were who they were*." Hazel and her family untangled my emotions and fired a rapacious love of family life, reverence and respect.

The legacy of Hazel is strong and poignant. Though not genetically related, the heritability factor was highly heritable, most particularly the culture of family.

If it is true that we are the sum of our memories, then Hazel and her family were a profound contribution to the mother I was to become.

That the social and cultural divide prevalent in the 1930's was not part of my childhood experience, was a privilege and an advantage that has magnificently enhanced the richness of my life.

A surprise visit by Philip Roth to Weequahic

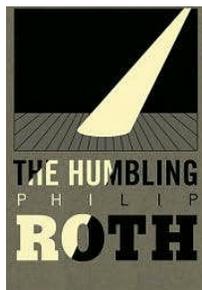
By Mark Dillonno,
Star-Ledger, 10/18/09

Philip Roth came home again Saturday, which is not so unusual because he's been a frequent visitor in recent years. "As you get older, you get closer to home." Roth said this as he entered the Newark Museum yesterday as the surprise guest on a bus tour of Newark. Now 76, the man once called one of America's greatest authors is now called America's greatest living author as contemporaries like Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer and John Updike have passed on in recent years.

Saturday, he was among another group of contemporaries, though a decade younger: graduates of Weequahic High, 1959, who, as part of their 50th reunion, signed up for "Philip Roth's Newark." Still, the "kids" knew him. As Roth stepped on to the bus, the murmurs turned into buzz, the cell phones and digital cameras flashed. America's greatest living author is also Weequahic High's most famous graduate.

"Omigod, are we excited!" said Marsha Weinstein. "If I had known, I would have brought my books for him to sign. I have all his books." "I have an empty seat!" said Jill Goff, as Roth moved through the bus shaking hands with men and holding the hands of the women. Many were wearing brown-and-orange Weequahic Indian sweatshirts. A distant cousin approached. The younger siblings of Roth classmates. The daughter of a teacher. Old neighbors, or people who knew old neighbors. Roth knew most all. "Say hello for me," he said over and over.

Liz Del Tufo, the venerable Newark historian and cheerleader, decided to launch the Newark "Philip Roth Tour" a few years ago and yesterday's was the fourth. "I felt the city needed to do something to honor him." The author, who today lives in Connecticut, had never done the whole route. But on the first tour, he was honored at his childhood home at 81 Summit Avenue, where the block was ceremoniously named Philip



Roth's Latest Book

This is how much Newark is a part of Roth: Rob Steinbaum, publisher of the New Jersey Law Journal, remembers Roth once saying, "My sentences are like a Hobbie's sandwich. First you slap on the pastrami, then you slap on the coleslaw, then you put on the Russian dressing, and pretty soon the whole thing gets soggy." Roth said he spent many days in Newark over the past decade plus, walking with Charles Cummings, the late city historian who did research for the author. But the plaque unveiling, and a memorial ceremony for Cummings, brought Roth out more in public. "I think I've always been close, but these public things are very gratifying. It's great."

The tour is one of the staples of the Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee menu of bus trips, which explore the city's architecture and history. The Roth tour is based on Newark buildings and neighborhoods described in his books. Each stop has an accompanying passage. The mark of a good columnist is to know when to get out of the way of a great writer, and so Philip Roth's written words speak for themselves:

The Newark Museum (from Goodbye, Columbus): "I could see it without even looking; two oriental vases in front like spittoons for a rajah and next to it the little annex to which we had traveled on special buses as schoolchildren."

Clinton Avenue (from The Plot Against America): "We were on Clinton Avenue just passing the Riviera Hotel, where, as I never failed to remember, my mother and father spent their wedding night ... directly ahead was Temple B'nai Abraham, the

Roth Plaza and a plaque unveiled on the house. "He was very touched," Del Tufo said. "He said, 'Newark is my Stockholm and that plaque is my prize' referring to the Nobel Prize that has eluded him.

great oval fortress built to serve the city's Jewish rich and no less foreign to me than if it had been the Vatican."

Weequahic Park (from the Plot Against America): "...a landscaped three hundred acres whose boating lake, golf course and harness-racing track separated the Weequahic section from the industrial plants and shipping terminals lining Route 27 and the Pennsylvania Railroad viaduct east of that and the burgeoning airport east of that and the very edge of America east of that - the depots and docks of Newark Bay where they unloaded cargo from around the world."

Weequahic High (from Portnoy's Complaint): "At football our Jewish High School was notoriously hopeless (though their band, I may say, was always winning prizes and commendations)." Also from Portnoy was a chant the boys from



Weequahic used to serenade their losing teams: "Ikey, Mikey, Jake and Sam We are the boys who eat no ham. We play football, we play soccer - We keep matzohs in our locker, Aye aye aye, Weequahic High!"

As the bus of Roth and other alumni pulled up to the school, all joined in. After the laughter died down, the group began singing the Weequahic High alma mater, and Philip Roth, one of the nation's greatest writers, sang right along.

Editor's Note: When Roth and two busloads of members of the class of June 1959 entered the high school, they gathered in the auditorium where Alumni Director, Phil Yourish, greeted them. Since Roth was unable to attend his induction last year into the first Alumni Hall of Fame, he was presented with a proclamation from the City of Newark that the alumni association had been holding for him. He then took questions from the very eager and excited audience.

Larry Josloff

1962 Weequahic grad and Newark business owner steps forward to save Newark's mounted police

By Mark Di Ionno, Star-Ledger

When Larry Josloff was a kid, he was the “outrider” for the harness races at Weequahic Park. “I rode the saddle horse that led the race horses out,” Josloff said.

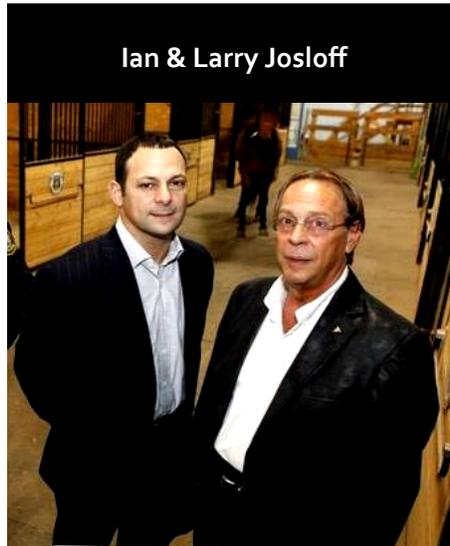
He got the lofty position because his dad, Sollie, revived harness racing at Weequahic in the early 1950s. Sollie Josloff was a driver, trainer and owner, and had a dozen standardbred trotters and pacers stabled at the historic track.

Now Josloff, owner of Newark’s largest industrial window company, is the lead horse again, driving efforts to save Newark’s mounted police. He donated \$10,000, and is asking the state’s horseracing community to help, as well as the Newark Chamber of Commerce.

“We have to step up and keep these guys in business,” he said as he visited the Newark stables the other day, petting the schnozzes of horses with names like Sharp Shooter, Sarge and Black Jack. By “guys” he meant the human and equine members of the mounted division. “If we can raise \$200,000, we can keep them in business at least three, maybe four more years.”

The money will go to feed, and veterinary and farrier expenses. And a continued clip-clop presence on the streets of downtown Newark, where police have ridden high above the crowds, or ridden into them when necessary, for 120 years.

Two months ago, it was reported here that Newark’s mounted police would be a budget casualty. Five horses had already been shipped to a farm in Allentown, and another four were headed to Philadelphia. Newark’s 18 mounted officers would be reassigned, and the stable on Orange Street would be shuttered. A 120-year-old tradition was coming to an end. But then came the Josloff cavalry.

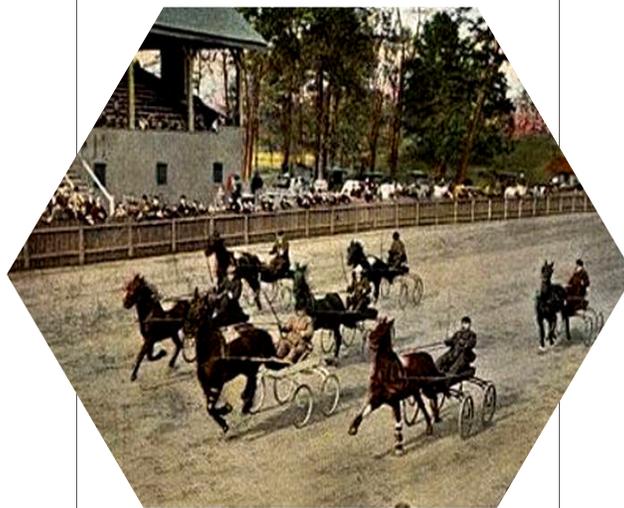


Ian & Larry Josloff



“After I read that, I knew I had to do something,” he said. “I did some research and I saw what Philadelphia did. Businesses got together and brought their mounted police back. Why couldn’t we do that here?”

Other readers came forward, too. A woman in Scotch Plains gave \$5,000 as did the owner of several downtown parking lots. But Josloff is leading a wider charge. First, he wrote a check to Newark’s Police Foundation, earmarked for the mounties. “That’s the most



Weequahic Park Race Track

important thing. You have to designate it for the mounted unit only,” he said. Then he got the harness racing community involved.

“I’ve had several conversation with Tony Abbatiello (New Jersey’s most prominent harness horseman), and there is interest in helping us out,” Josloff said. “They (the state’s standardbred owner’s association) had donated eight horses to Newark in the past. Now, I’m going to the business community.”

Josloff’s son, Ian, said mounted police are the mark of a big city department. “New York has them, Boston, Philadelphia. It’s a strong image; a marquee trademark.” The Newark unit has been downsized to six horses and three officers, Louis Camacho, Richard Miller and Virgil Cordona. The men come in on their own time to feed, exercise and groom their partners. “It’s a labor of love for these guys,” said Newark police spokeswoman Det. Josephine Santaniello.

So too, for Larry Josloff, who’s passion for horses is only equaled by his love of Newark. “This city has been very good to my family.”

His grandfather, Ezra, a Russian immigrant, started Josloff Glass in 1903. From his small workshop on Prince Street in the Central Ward, he repaired plate glass windows for stores along Springfield Avenue and downtown.

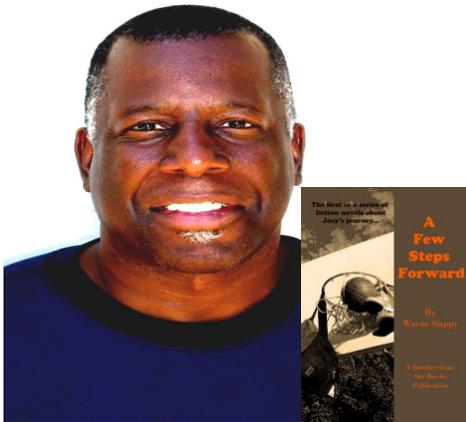
A century later, the company’s job portfolio includes the aluminum curtain wall and glass at the New Meadowland Stadium, the Prudential Center, and Terminal B at Newark Airport.

Sollie Josloff moved the company to Meeker Avenue, the street that borders Weequahic Park in 1962, where it remains today. In those days, there were stables for 80 horses, a quarter-mile dirt track and a century-old grandstand from the days when the area was called Waverly Fairgrounds.

“Two of my father’s harness horses went to the Newark Mounted after they retired,” Larry Josloff said. “Standardbred horses have always had the perfect temperament for police work. We want to keep the tradition.”

WAYNE SLAPPY

1970 grad reveals a passionate life full of creative and productive projects



Wayne Slappy doesn't have a problem keeping busy. However, finding enough space in his life to include his various crafts is challenging. You see Wayne is a poet, playwright, screenwriter, author, producer and basketball skills trainer.

And he has written, directed and produced numerous plays and participated in various capacities in many film and TV projects. But there's so much more to this unique individual. Discover how a Weequahic guy has fashioned a successful life for himself in Hollywood - 3,000 miles away from Chancellor Avenue.

Wayne lived with his grandmother on the other side of Weequahic Park attending Dayton Street School. His Mom, who passed away before he started high school, always wanted him to go to Weequahic. So Wayne took German while "schlepping" between the housing projects and his aunt's apartment on Lyons and Aldine. As an "Indian," he excelled in academics and basketball playing under Coach Dave Klurman.

After WHS, he attended Barrington College in Rhode Island and continued his hoops career until injuries in his senior year. With a degree and loads of confidence at 22, Wayne became the youngest head basketball coach in the history of his alma mater when he returned to Weequahic in 1974. He continued as their coach for the next five years. During this time, he married his first wife, Helen, and they had a son, Wayne Tai.

Overall, he taught in the Newark public school system for nineteen years as a Physical Education teacher at Weequahic, Barringer and Vailsburg. Then it was on to Hollywood.

Wayne's film credits include "Chicken On The Tracks," "Lean On Me," and "Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court." His personal library of more than ten screenplays are in line to be produced as financing for photography, editing, prints, marketing, distribution and advertising becomes available. His book of poetry, entitled "A Muse Meant," has garnered favorable reviews from each of the friends, celebrities and sports stars to whom it has been distributed.

Coach Slappy has coached, counseled and/or offered skills training to basketball players for more than 35 years. He has been associated with the Five-Star Basketball Camp network of coaches ever since he coached Michael Jordan the summer before "Sir Royal Airness" entered his senior year at Laney High. Wayne has successfully helped hundreds of high school athletes to acquire collegiate scholarships.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1994, Wayne has provided skills training and advice to a host of professional athletes at some point in their careers who have either played or are currently on numerous NBA rosters.

Hall of Famer Julius Erving, Jelly Bean Bryant and Slap (as many of his close friends call him) served as consultants, documentarians, and on-camera participants in the film "Fathers of the Sport," an expository documentary designed to capture the influence of playground legends in basketball and the NBA.

Wayne is pleased with the progress of his original screenplays. Two are in queue and slated to begin production in 2012. Also, be on the lookout for "Most Secret Circles" based on the real-life exploits of an unsung Jewish hero during WWII; "Jersey Boyz" (a fictionalized action flick); basketball films "Spin Move" (co-written with Peter Allen) and "Game Within The Game;" and an animation feature whose title is to be announced.

For many years Slappy has been instrumental in the development of young people from the Venice, San Fernando Valley and West Side communities of

Los Angeles. After plying his craft at the Oakwood Recreation Center for more than ten years, he currently is a volunteer at the Venice Boys and Girls Club where (like his idols Les Fein, Al McGuire and John Wooden) he uses basketball skills training as a lure to provide metaphoric life lessons to his charges and its members.

His just published pre-teen e-novel, entitled "A Few Steps Forward" is designed to inspire young men in inner cities across the country to read and should soon be available for use on a host of eReaders. Slap hopes this book, the first in a series of seven coming-of-age novels about a fictional character named Joey Snead who grows up in Newark, will eventually become a staple in urban school districts across the country.

Slappy is currently editing his basketball skills instruction manual entitled, "500 Ways To Score," which will be published in September. It is his intention to donate portions of proceeds of sales from each book as well as his films to the Boys and Girls Club of America, the Weequahic High School Alumni Scholarship Fund, and an assortment of non-profit organizations whose demonstrated mission is to provide literacy and educational opportunities to young people.

Wayne lives in Culver City with his wife Marlene - happily married for 6 years. And they both have attended the last two Weequahic West Coast Reunions.

