

The Indomitable Sadie Rous

Social Studies Teacher from 1934 - 1967

**By Paula Gilliland, from the
Star-Ledger on June 23, 1968**

Editor's Note: Mrs. Rous passed away one month after this article was printed. In the original article, a picture was included with Mrs. Rous talking to two former students, Carl Gregory and David Wright, who were juniors in college. Today Mr. Gregory and Mr. Wright are both Principals in the Newark Public Schools.

It's not difficult to understand why Mrs. Sadie Z. Rous is such a popular teacher in Weequahic High School in Newark. Just to visit the warm-hearted history teacher is an inspiration. During the 33 years she's been at the school, she's taught all types of history courses, established an alumni scholarship fund and personally touched the lives of thousand of students.

Her teaching philosophy is really quite simple. "You have to love the students and your subject," she said. "No one should go into teaching unless he loves it."

She said if a person doesn't get satisfaction from teaching, he shouldn't enter the profession.

"You can't fool the students," she said. "They know if you really care about them...if you know what you're doing." For over a quarter of a century the students at Weequahic High School have known that Mrs. Rous does care about them and does know what she is doing. "I'm always at my desk each morning before eight o'clock and my door is open," she said. "The students know they can come to me with their problems at any time...and they do." In addition to teaching, Mrs. Rous was a guidance counselor for 20 years.

Her role in seeking financial assistance for deserving students hoping to go to college has been a major one. In 1962 she wrote letters to 100 alumni, requesting \$100.00 each towards a scholarship fund. She was told to expect no more than a seven per cent response. Instead, 90 per cent of the alumni sent checks. The fund has now grown to \$23,000 and scholarships are given on the interest and other gifts. Recipients are chosen from applications sent to a scholarship committee composed of faculty members.

When Mrs. Rous joined the staff at Weequahic, it was a predominantly white school. Today the enrollment is about 70 per cent Negro, but things



are not basically changed, Mrs. Rous said. "The top students are as good as they've ever been," she said. "The only difference might be that some of the students entering high school aren't as academically prepared as they should be." She said the atmosphere in her classroom is the same as it was 33 years ago. "I'm a very strict teacher and I set very high standards for my students," she said.

She noted that some believe that there's a split between the community and the faculty at Weequahic High school and the assumption is a false one. "We have a great number of faculty members, both Negro and white, who really care about the community," she said. "Most of the students here are good children...it's only the few unruly ones who get the publicity." She said the principal, William Monprode, was *perfectly marvelous* and the faculty was *inspiring*. "Our faculty is as good as any in the country," she said. "Weequahic High school is a great place to work."

She and her husband, Samuel, live in Newark ("we wouldn't live anywhere else"), have one daughter ("who went to Weequahic") and one grandchild. The couple's hobby is to travel and their chief love is people. "My husband is as excited about helping students as I am," she said.

A native of Newark, Mrs. Rous received her bachelor's degree from Montclair State College, her master's from Teachers College at Columbia University and has done graduate work at the New School for Social Research in New York City. She went into teaching because she'd never wanted to do anything else. Except for one semester spent at South Side, her entire career has been at Weequahic.

Barbara Rous Harris, Class of 1959, Writes About Her Mother

I was a member of the class of 1959. I attended my 10th reunion but have had very little contact

with Weequahic High after that. By that time, in fact, my deepest connection to Weequahic, one even deeper than the ties created during my four years there, was broken by the death of my mother, Sadie Z. Rous in July 1968. Weequahic and Newark were two of the great loves of my mother's life. Her students and the high school where she taught for thirty-three years, were one of the main topics of conversation in our house, while many of her political passions in the 1950's and 1960's were rooted in her fury at the political and economic interests and prejudices that were threatening the stability of the high school, neighborhood, and city that she loved.

The Newark riots came as close as anything I ever witnessed to breaking her heart. It was, of course, typical of her that her response was not to give up on Weequahic or her city. Instead she created the scholarship fund that was renamed for her when she died suddenly at the age of 55. I think she would be thrilled that three decades later the fund continues to help Weequahic students and that an alumni association has been created to keep alive the interest of its graduates in their alma mater.

At the time I attended my 10th reunion, I was married, teaching history at Pace University in New York City, and had one son. Since then I have divorced, moved to North Carolina, where I am Professor of History and Women Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and remarried. My son, almost thirty-five, still lives in New York City.



The combination of living in North Carolina and my mother's death made Weequahic High School seem very far away and relegated it to my memories of the distant past. But two different contacts re-established that connection for me within the last few years. My closest friend and first cousin, Myrna King Malec, also a member of the class of 1959, joined the Alumni Association and told me about it. In fact she bought me a Weequahic T-shirt, which I proudly wore when I celebrated my 60th birthday with our families in the mountains of North Carolina this past summer.

The other contact was Sherry Ortner of the class of 1958, who was a scholar at the National Humanities Center in the nearby Research Triangle Park two years ago. As some of you may know, Sherry has written a book about her class at Weequahic, which will be published, I believe, this spring. I for one can't wait to read about ourselves and our high school through anthropological eyes.

Esther Tumin, Former Weequahic Teacher



Esther Tumin, 84, passed away on January 9, 2003 in Maplewood, NJ. Mrs. Tumin was a physics lab instructor at Weequahic High School and a guidance counselor at Livingston High School before retiring in the early 1980's.

She graduated in 1938 from the New Jersey College for Women in New Brunswick. Mrs. Tumin was a founder and Sunday School teacher at Bet Yeled and a member of the Habonim and Pioneer Women, all of Newark. As a volunteer for EIES, a foundation for the blind, she read the newspaper aloud twice a week for people who were blind. She was also a member of the National Council of Jewish Women in Livingston.

Born in Lyubar, Russia, she lived in New York, Newark and Livingston for 30 years before moving to Maplewood five years ago. Surviving are daughters, Vivian Unterweger and Judith, and a grandchild.

Marvin Frankel, 1937 Grad, Was Famous Jurist



On March 5, 2002, Judge Marvin Earle Frankel, a 1937 graduate, passed away at age 82 in New York City. In a career of more than 50 years, Judge Frankel, a former member of the Federal District Court in Manhattan, made his mark as a widely traveled campaigner for human rights and as an advocate before the Supreme Court.

He was instrumental in drafting the brief for The New York Times in the landmark First Amendment case, *Times vs. Sullivan*, which set sharp limits on libel suits brought by public figures. His final appearance before the high court was in February 2002. While on the bench, he wrote "Criminal Sentences, Law Without Order" with Gary Naftalis, a book that argued that judges seemed to mete out sentences with more caprice than rules. The book provided the intellectual impetus for federal sentencing guidelines which brought order to the highly subjective sentencing process.

In Loving Memory

In 1948 he received his law degree from Columbia University where he was editor of the law review. The following year, he went to work for the Solicitor General's office in Washington, DC, helping to write briefs and argue cases before the Supreme Court. He argued his first case before the high court in March 1952. From 1956 to 1962, he was a partner in the New York law firm, Proskauer Rose Goetz & Mendelsohn. He began teaching at Columbia University Law School in 1962. With the backing of Robert F. Kennedy, he was nominated to the federal bench and took his place in New York's southern district in 1965. As a judge, he presided over a wide range of cases and was known for his penetrating but literary style in his decisions.

Judge Frankel surprised the legal community in 1978 by returning to private practice, at Proskauer Rose, until 1983. From that year until his death he worked as a partner at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, a Manhattan law firm, where he was litigation director for many years. After leaving the bench, he quickly transformed himself into a human rights crusader, becoming chairman of the board of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. He traveled to the Soviet Union and criticized the repression of Jews, and to Israel, where he said living conditions for political prisoners were "quite terrible." He also went to South Africa to criticize apartheid and to Argentina and Zaire to publicize kidnappings and murders by military regimes. In 1988 he was arrested for two days in Kenya when he attended an inquest into the death of an opposition leader who had perished in police custody.

Twelve days before his death, in a wheelchair, he made a last argument before the Supreme Court, saying that the use of school vouchers in Cleveland was an improper entanglement of church and state. The argument came just days before the 50th anniversary of his first argument before the court.

He is survived by his wife Alice Kross; daughters Eleanor Perlman and Mara Wallace; two stepchildren, Ellen Schorr and David Schorr; a sister Marjorie Frankel; and six grandchildren. He was also married to Betty Streich for 20 years.

H. Jory Levine, 1951 Grad, Was Entrepreneur & Philanthropist

On September 5, 2002, H. Jory Levine (Harvey Levine) passed away at age 69. Born in Newark, he was a resident of Bridgewater for over 30 years. Mr. Levine was the owner/manager of the Red Bull Motor Inn of Somerville, NJ for over 25 years. He became well known for his razor-sharp witticisms



which greeted commuters each morning as they passed the inn's marquee. He was also proprietor of several other motor inns and restaurants in the surrounding area.

An avid sports enthusiast, he completed 10 marathons around the world and countless local runs and triathlons. His interests ranged from fine art, music, literature, horticulture and birding. A lover of language, he wrote for many local publications including *The Speaker*, *Big Eye* and *The Women's Newspaper of Princeton*.

His philanthropic nature led to the creation of the Levine Foundation for the Arts and generous donations to many national and local charitable organizations. His intelligence, charm and humor will remain a part of all that.

Leonard Kaplan, 1949 Grad, Was President of Company



Leonard Kaplan, 72, of Newport Beach, California passed away in January 2003 from injuries sustained in a car accident. Mr. Kaplan was president of Prime Medical Facilities in Newport Beach for many years.

Born in Newark, Mr. Kaplan lived in Kansas City, Mo., before moving to California in 1984. A 1949 graduate of Weequahic School in Newark, NJ, he was named to the All-City basketball team.

Surviving are sons, David and Richard; a daughter, Marci Kaplan Marchand; a sister, Doris Losseff and four grandchildren.

Bertram Schneider, 1946 Grad, Was Elementary School Teacher

Bertram Schneider, 74, of Linden recently passed away in February 2003. He was a sixth-grade teacher in Edison, a member of the B'nai B'rith, Linden Chapter, and the Men's Club of Congregation Anshe Chesed. In addition, Mr. Schneider was a volunteer senior clerk at the Surrogates Office at the Union County Court House.

Born in Newark, he lived in Union before moving to Linden in 1964. Surviving are his wife Beatrice; a daughter, Ellen Greenfield; sons, Arthur and William; a brother Lewis, and three grandchildren.

Graduates:

Ira Berger, 1940
Mary Holland Gerber, 1940
Selma Bauers Cytryn, 1940
Josephine Kestner Bodarsky, 1940
Richard Waton, 1944
Nat Weissman, 1944
Al Lichtenstein, 1947
Larry Sheehan, 1963
Bobby Cohen, 1960
Mort Belfer
Robert Silverman

Community:

Rabbi Ely Pilchik, Rabbi, Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Newark & Short Hills

Edward L. Kerr, former Newark Police Director

**Lauretta Bateman Olshan
1938 Grad Was Bookkeeper**



This is written in loving memory, by her classmates, who remember her as the perennial treasurer of their reunion committee. She was our record-keeper and pivot-point for inter-communications over all the years of planning reunions. She will be sorely missed by

us, by her family and her many friends and most remembered for her cheerful disposition.

Lauretta attended Maple Avenue School and then graduated to Weequahic as a member of one the first classes to meet in the new high school. She worked as a bookkeeper for 41 years for Iris Construction Company in Union. She became active in community organizations, Women's American ORT, Hadassah, Kidney Research Foundation, among others. Always active and involved.

Lauretta lived in Union with her late husband, Milton, and her two children, Michael and Susan for many years, before moving to Manchester, NJ. She was ill for several months and died at home on January 31, 2003 at age 82.

**Diane Polk Schwarz, 1960 Grad
Was Elementary School Teacher**

Diane Schwartz of South Orange recently passed away. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Mrs. Schwartz was a fourth-grade teacher in Westfield. She was also the founder of South

In Loving Memory

Orange Neighbors, a community stabilizing organization and she was active with the Jewish Community Center of Union County and the United Jewish Federation of MetroWest.

Born in Newark, she moved to South Orange several years ago. Surviving are her husband James; daughters, Amy, Rachel and Rebecca; her mother, Chuddy Polk; and a grandchild.

Jason Soley, 1936 Grad

Was Famous Sculptor



When Jason Soley passed away in 1983, he left an international legacy of unique sculpture. Soley's work in chrome sculpture earned him acclaim throughout the world.

"Jason Soley was a sculptor of the first rank among the artists of his generation," said Thomas W. Leavitt, director of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art. *"He discovered a medium which he developed importantly for over 20 years - the welding of automobile bumpers into sculptural forms."*

Soley graduated from Cornell in 1940, and returned as a professor of art and dean of the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning. His sculpture is included in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and many other museums and public institutions.

**Irwin Lee Brody, 1945 Grad
Was Telecommunications Pioneer**



Irwin Lee Brody, 70, of Boonton, New Jersey, died Tuesday, February 11, 1997. He was president of Phone-TTY, Inc. and executive director of NY-NJ Phone-TTY, and a long-time leader in developing and producing assistive devices for people who are deaf and hard of

hearing. Brody was instrumental in refurbishing teletypewriters (TTYs) and adapting them to be used with specially constructed modems. This enabled deaf people to use the commercial

telephone network to communicate with others similarly equipped.

In 1976, his dedicated engineering and design efforts led to more innovations, included visual signalers to alert deaf and hard of hearing people to telephone, doorbell, baby cries, and fire and smoke. He also created visual alarm clocks, and the world's first Braille TTY for deaf-blind people. Brody was involved in the development of software that allowed computers to function as TTYS. In addition, he developed the hardware and software used by nearly every state telecommunications relay service to provide a telephonic link between deaf people using TTYS and hearing people.

Brody was also a long-time civic leader. He was the past president of New Jersey Association of the Deaf; past president of Temple Beth Or of the Deaf; founder of NY/NJ PC Deaf Connection, a personal computer user group for the Deaf; and past chairman of the New Jersey Committee on Alcoholism and Hearing Impaired.

Brody attended the Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, and graduated from Weequahic High School in Newark, NJ. He then attended Newark University, and Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and received his B.A. in psychology from Rutgers University.

John Iannuzzi, President of the Barringer HS Alumni Association

From the recent Barringer High School Alumni Association newsletter: It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved president, John Iannuzzi. John passed away suddenly on Thursday, December 19th (at age 65). He leaves behind his wife Addie, daughters Gina, Karen, Joanne and sister Phyll.

John was active in civic and social organizations, and for the past four years was the major impetus behind the Barringer Alumni Association. Through the focus of his energy and dynamic leadership, the activities of the organization expanded and grew...We will miss his organizational skills and his infectious enthusiasm, which rubbed off on us all, and resulted in the success of all projects we undertook under his leadership.

Editor's Note: Over one year ago, I met John for the first time when I had lunch with him, his sister Phyll, and Pat Restaino, a former Principal at Weequahic, to talk about creating a citywide alumni association. He was very excited about the prospect of both alumni organizations working together. In October, I saw John again when I attended Barringer's alumni affair. Our alumni association has a lost a new friend and an outstanding individual.



Hannah Litzky Captured The Hearts of Her Students

A Weequahic Teacher and Counselor for 39 years

A reprint of an article by Diane C. Walsh, Star-Ledger Staff

When Howard Cooper was told that Hannah Litzky, his beloved English teacher from Weequahic High school, faced fines and jail time for participating in the Newark teachers strike in 1970, he wanted to help. So, he paid the \$200 fine. It didn't keep her out of jail. But in a letter she wrote him, Mrs. Litzky said his generosity erased "all the anger, the frustration, the despair, I have felt in recent months."

"These are difficult times in every segment of society," she wrote, adding, "the schools seem to be the most vulnerable. Teachers have been so demeaned, so mistreated, at least here in Newark, that many of us had begun to feel our efforts were useless. You can therefore understand why your fond reminiscences and your generosity renewed my faith in what I had accomplished."

Casper, a retired builder in Philadelphia, keeps Mrs. Litzky's letter in his office. Since his graduation in 1948, he regularly corresponded and exchanged books with the adored teacher, who whetted the literary appetite of scores of students. To many of these students she became known as "Aunt Honey."

Mrs. Litzky died on Tuesday, August 24th from congestive heart failure.

She was 86. She was the youngest of five children born to Rebecca and Pincus Ginsberg, Jewish immigrants from the Ukraine, who settled in Newark in 1889. The Ginsbergs made sure all their children went to college. Hannah and a sister became teachers, Louis was a writer, whose son Allen, became one of the premier writers of the Beat Generation.

Mrs. Litzky's daughter, Paula, said yesterday that there was a strong intellectual bond between her mother and Louis and Allen Ginsberg. "My mother was extremely open to new ideas and I always felt she was very much in sync with a wide range of thought," said Litzky.

Larry Litzky recalled that books were everywhere in their house when they were growing up. He said his mother never watched television, preferring instead to read and write to her friends and former students. Acclaimed author Philip Roth is among her most celebrated students.

Mrs. Litzky worked at Weequahic High School from 1934-73, as an English teacher and guidance counselor. She earned her bachelor's degree from Montclair State College, her Master's from New York University and spent a year in graduate study at Oxford University.

She met her husband, Leo Litzky, as a teenager, while playing tennis in Weequahic Park. Dr. Litzky retired as principal of South Side High School. They lived for many years in

Newark before moving to West Orange. He died in 1994 at age 80, three months before their 60th wedding anniversary.

Aside from her dedication to teaching and family, Mrs. Litzky also had a strong social conscience, often writing letters to newspaper editors to express her views.

She was active in the American Jewish Congress, serving two years as President of the Business and Professional Women's Chapter. She belonged to Temple B'nai Abraham and was also involved with the Jewish Community Center, Amnesty International, NOW, Common Cause and the Sierra Club..

Her niece, Essex County Freeholder Patricia Sebold, said Mrs. Litzky was her role model. "She stood tall against social injustices. Much of what I am today, an English teacher and an Essex County freeholder, I attributed to my Aunt Honey."

Throughout her life, Mrs. Litzky also practiced yoga. Her daughter Ruth, became a yoga instructor and Paula Litzky said until only a few years ago her mother would perform the exercises in Ruth's class when visiting her.

Mrs. Litzky is survived by three children, Ruth Litzky Willets of Australia, Larry of Paris and Paula of Manhattan; and seven grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

Stanley Herr, 1963 Grad, Law Professor and Advocate for the Disabled



Stanley S. Herr, 56, a University of Maryland law professor whose work on behalf of the disabled included landmark cases establishing their right to public education in the District of Columbia and a 1989 Maryland ban on the execution of retarded criminals, died Sept. 24, 2001 at his home in Baltimore. He had cancer.

Since 1983, Dr. Herr, who was president of the American Association on Mental Retardation, had taught courses in human rights, disability rights and civil rights at the law school in Baltimore. In his law practice, he specialized in the rights of the disabled and the homeless.

As a Kennedy fellow at the White House during the Clinton administration, he was an adviser to the Domestic Policy Council on issues of disability and homelessness.

Dr. Herr was a 1963 alumnus of Weequahic High School. At WHS, he served as senior class president and captain of the cross country team.

He graduated from Yale University and received a law degree. He received a doctorate in law from Oxford University and was a Rockefeller fellow for human rights at Columbia University, a Kennedy fellow at Balliol College, Oxford, and a Fulbright senior research scholar at Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He also taught law at Harvard and Catholic universities and was a consultant to the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. He served on the Maryland governor's Commission to Revise the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Law. He was author of "Rights and Advocacy for Retarded People" and co-author of "Legal Rights and Mental Health Care," both textbooks. He also wrote for law reviews. Among his honors were the American Bar Association's Paul G. Hearne Award for Disability Rights and the University of Maryland Regents' Award for community service.

Dr. Herr was a member of the boards of the American Jewish Society for Service and Special Olympics Maryland. He was co-founder of the Homeless Persons Representation Project in Baltimore.

Survivors include his wife, Raquel Schuster-Herr, and three children, David Louis Herr, Deborah Ann Herr and Ilana Ruth Herr, all of Baltimore; and a sister, Judith N. Herr of Bethesda.

Donations can be made to: Stanley S. Herr Fund for Disability Rights and Social Justice, University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, 515 West Lombard Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Other Alumni Who Have Recently Passed Away

Rona Mink Smith - 1958
Jeffrey Davis - 1964

Lawrence Webb, Firefighter and 1978 Grad, Dies While Fighting Blaze



Tributes poured in for fallen Newark firefighter Lawrence Webb, 37, a 15-year veteran on the force, who died after battling a two-alarm blaze in the city's North Ward on May 22nd.

One of the tributes came from his cousin and Newark native, Shaquille O'Neal. "My cousin was a heroic firefighter who died on the job," the NBA star said. "Ever since we were little boys, he always wanted to be a fireman. I come from a family of fireman and police officers." City flags on all municipal buildings flew at half-staff to honor Webb, a second generation fireman. It was the first time in seven years that a Newark fireman was killed putting out a fire.

Webb joined the department on April 21, 1986. He was a 1978 graduate of Weequahic High School and the NJIT Institute of Technology, where he studied electrical engineering. He was a motorcycle enthusiast, kept snakes as pets, and devoured motivational and spiritual books.

"He was a great firefighter, a really class act," said Dave Giordano, president of the Newark firefighters union. "He was just like his father, a prince." "We extend our profound and heartfelt sympathy to the family of this courageous firefighter," said Mayor Sharpe James. "His father was a distinguished member of the fire department, and the entire family has a legacy of service to the city of Newark. I join with the city and his family in mourning this tragic loss of life."

More than 2,000 firefighters, trembling and weeping, were still shaken by Webb's death as his coffin was raised onto Engine Company's 13 firetruck in front of St. James A.M.E. Church and joined a convoy that took him for a final ride past his North Ward firehouse on Mt. Prospect Avenue where his fiancee, Andrea Chapman, dropped a single red rose across his charred helmet. An old firehouse bell rang 16 times - four stanzas of four rings - the department's century-old code for a firefighter killed in a fire.

Woody Eig - 1962



Woody Eig, a 1962 graduate of Weequahic High School passed away on October 2, 2001.

Mr. Eig was the owner of Snacks Unlimited for many years. Previously, he worked in real estate and insurance, had an ice-cream distributing business, opened up a donut and ice-cream shop, and was a bar tender. He lived in Boston Massachusetts for 10 years and most recently in Ocean and Wall Townships.

Mr. Eig is survived by his wife Donna; sons, Brian and Jonathan; father, Herbert Eig; sister, Robbie Henry and her husband Samuel Henry; a step-daughter, Rachel Stone; and a step-son, Michael Stone.

Weequahic Teacher, Advisor and Principal, **BENJAMIN EPSTEIN,** Passes Away at 87

By Meg Nugent, Star-Ledger

It was 10 years ago when Miriam Cahn asked her father, Benjamin Epstein, to make some audiotapes about their family.

"I wanted a history of my origins," recalled Cahn. "I knew there were many details I could never recall and I wanted them so I could give them to my children and to my children's children."

Mr. Epstein happily complied, spending hours creating a five-tape narrative he titled "The Saga," an oral history drenched in detail about growing up in Newark during the first half of the 20th century. Mr. Epstein, who also shared his talents as a spell-binding raconteur with his students as an educator in the Newark school system, died July 13 at Bey Lea Village in Toms River after a long illness. He was 87.

Mr. Epstein, a native of Newark who moved to Toms River 20 years ago, filled the tapes with remarkable stories about life in the city's Third Ward. The eldest of three children, he spoke of how he got his first job at 5 years old, shortly after the death of his father. He helped his seamstress mother make ends meet by going to a synagogue three times a day to say Kaddish, the prayer for the dead, in his father's memory, said son-in-law Jeffrey Cahn.

He would get tipped a few pennies for being the "reminding person," who would leave the synagogue during the course of the service to tell those waiting outside it was time to go to say the Kaddish, Cahn said.

Mr. Epstein also talked about growing up in a flat without heat, an indoor toilet or running water. He spoke of the importance of the city's public baths, the only place where city residents could wash since they had no indoor plumbing at home.

Years later, Mr. Epstein would use his ability as an orator to describe to the American Jewish community the scenes of persecution he witnessed during a short stint as a student in Germany. Mr. Epstein had gone to Germany during the early 1930s to study medicine, but that dream ended when he and other American Jews were advised to get out of Germany and go home, said Miriam Cahn.



"He gave lectures to the Jewish community about the horrors of what was happening in Germany," she said. But since it was the early days of Hitler's rule, she said, "he was not believed."

When he returned, Mr. Epstein landed a job as a biology teacher at Weequahic High School. He would eventually become the school's principal and serve as assistant superintendent in the Newark school system.

One of the students in his advanced biology class was his own daughter, Miriam, who remembered him as a dynamic, engaging teacher. "He was a good storyteller and he could tell a good story about biology - as well as about the Holocaust," his daughter said. "He was the opposite of boring." Mr. Epstein also loved to share his knowledge outside the classroom.

He had that very peculiar talent of taking a complicated thought and reducing it to a nugget and encapsulating it in a few words, and then forcefully delivering those words," said Jeffrey Cahn.

"No matter how complex the subject, he could teach it to anybody in almost no amount of time," added Cahn, who recalled a very enlightening conversation in which his father-in-law helped him to quickly grasp the basic concepts of labor negotiations.

Longtime friend Lawrence Lehman recalled Mr. Epstein as a very intelligent, articulate and well-read man who knew several languages. "When he took a position in any kind of debate or discussion, you had to be pretty good to show where he was wrong," Lehman said. "And most of the time, he was right."

Mr. Epstein was a founder and president of the Newark Teachers Union and a consultant for collective bargaining for the National Association of Secondary Principals. He was also a former president of the Newark Principals Association.

In addition, he was President of the New Jersey Region of the American Jewish Congress, Vice President Emeritus of the Ocean County Jewish Federation, and a member of the Essex County Jewish Community Council.

In addition to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. Epstein is survived by his wife, Evelyn; a stepdaughter, Amy Berman-Dalcero; a stepson, Charles Pollack; a brother, Morris; a sister, Shula Lubar; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Editor's Note:

On Friday night October 29, 1999, Ben Epstein was honored by the Weequahic High School Alumni Association at its Homecoming Reception at Rutgers Law School in Newark. From 1961 to 1964, "Mr. Epstein" was my Principal and I renewed my relationship with him when I became a teacher in the Newark School System and he was the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools. It was an honor for me to have made the introductory remarks on that occasion for such a distinguished man .

- Phil Yourish

Joseph Murphy, Professor and Ex-Chancellor of CUNY



Joseph S. Murphy, the son of a labor organizer and a champion of the working class who became Chancellor of the City University of New York, died in an automobile accident near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on January 17, 1998. He was 64.

Born in Newark in 1933, Dr. Murphy, who was an alumnus of Weequahic High School, attended the University of Colorado and received his BA degree from Olivet College in Michigan in 1955. A recipient of a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, Dr. Murphy received his doctorate from Brandeis

University in 1961 and was an assistant professor at Brandeis until 1965.

Known for his genial manner and visceral sympathy for the plight of students, Dr. Murphy was able to rebuild and even extend academic programs during his tenure as CUNY Chancellor from 1982 to 1990, despite the system's financial woes.

Dr. Murphy, who learned to speak Yiddish from his mother, a Polish Jew, and Gaelic from his father, an Irish longshoreman, was a political scientist and the author of two books, The Theory of Universals in Eighteenth Century British Empiricism (1961) and Political Theory: A Conceptual Analysis (1968). He was known for his ability to combine a practical knowledge of politics with an enduring commitment to the poor and the working class.

Dr. Murphy is survived by his wife, Susan Crile, three children, five grandchildren and his mother, Doris Murphy of the Bronx.

- IN MEMORIAM -

Donald T. Weckstein, 70; authority on legal ethics - class of January 1950

By Jack Williams,
San Diego Union-Tribune



As the University of San Diego School of Law grew in enrollment, programs and prestige in the 1970's, Donald T. Weckstein provided the leadership and

vision to usher it into the next decade. Then he handed the dean's role over to his successor, Sheldon Krantz, and focused on teaching and writing in achieving a reputation as one of San Diego's premier authorities on legal ethics.

Mr. Weckstein, who retired from USD in the spring and became professor emeritus, died July 22. He was 70. The cause of his death was complications from a series of strokes.

During his tenure as dean from 1972 to 1981, the law school doubled its faculty, expanded its curriculum and reduced class size. He oversaw the founding of a legal clinic at the school, four law institutes offering legal specialties and the expansion of foreign study programs into several countries.

"No one did more over the course of the past quarter century to enhance the reputation and prestige of our law school," said Daniel B. Rodriguez, the law school's current dean and professor of law. "For nearly 30 years, Don's teaching, influence and intellect touched students and colleagues at home and abroad, not only at the University of San Diego, but at numerous institutions he visited."

With Mr. Weckstein at the helm, USD sponsored its first annual Institute on International and Comparative Law in Paris in 1973. He founded the school's

Board of Visitors in 1975, bringing together distinguished alumni, attorneys, community leaders and judges. And in 1977, he presided over the dedication of Grace Courtroom to house the school's law library collection. The courtroom was modeled after the first U.S. Supreme Court and inaugurated by a special session of the Supreme Court of California.

At USD, Mr. Weckstein taught labor law, professional responsibility, labor arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. He collaborated with Robert Aronson in writing "Professional Responsibility in a Nutshell," which was published in 1980 and was contributing author to "Moore's Federal Practice," which was published in 1974.

Mr. Weckstein, a native of Newark, NJ, came to USD in the fall of 1972 from the University of Connecticut, where he had taught since 1967. A frequent lecturer and panel participant in legal workshops and symposia, he was affiliated with the National Academy of Arbitrators and the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution. In 1999, he was director of the London Institute, a law teaching program held in conjunction with King's College of London.

His honors include the Bernard E. Witkin Award from the Law Library Justice Foundation in 2000 and the Robert C. Barrett Award in 2001 from the California Dispute Resolution Council. "For all his accomplishments, Don will be remembered as a great person," said Grant Morris, a law school colleague and friend. "But he was much more than that. As a leader, he was humble and approachable. He always treated people respectfully and fairly."

Mr. Weckstein earned a bachelor's degree in 1954 at the University of Wisconsin, a juris doctorate in 1958 from the University of Texas and a master of laws from Yale University in 1959. He served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the Army and rose to colonel in the Army Reserve.

Survivors include his wife, Linda; daughters, Elizabeth Furman and Alyson Weckstein-Lou and Julie; and a son Zachary; brothers Norbert and Raymond; and three grandchildren.

RECENT PASSINGS

Melvin Ortner, 1938

Florence Kwaloss Waldman, 1945

Sanford Rems, 1961

Elton Johnson, Jr. 1963

Robyn Banks, 1989

Marcia Warren, English Faculty

Edith Daniels Greenspan, 1945

Edith Daniels Greenspan, 73, of Boca Raton, Florida died March 18, 2002. She was born in Newark and was a 1945 graduate of Weequahic High School. Mrs. Greenspan was a professor of physical education and health at Kean University, Union, before retiring in 1980. She later supervised student teachers at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. She was a graduate of the University of Michigan and completed her graduate studies at New York University. Mrs. Greenspan was active in the Soroptimist Club, the Music Guild of Boca Raton, and served as an officer of the Congregation of Temple Beth El. Predeceased by her husband, Leonard, she is survived by two daughters, Gina Steinway and Janice Resnick; two sisters, Dorothy Daniels Bergman and Eleanor Daniels Ricciardi; and five grandchildren.

Leslie Aronow, 1962

Leslie Aronow, 57, who passed away in June 2002, was a 1962 graduate of Weequahic High School. He was a partner and manager with his son, Adam, of Party Patrol DJs in Metuchen for 14 years. He was also a sales associate at Rahway Lumber for 15 years. Earlier, he worked for Summit Subs, Summit, and Bernies Subs, Metuchen, and was active with Hot Dog Haven, a family-owned business in Newark for 10 years. Mr. Aronow was a member of the Union County chapter of the Mens Bowling Association of New Jersey. Born in Newark, he lived in Hillside and Edison before moving to Colonia 15 years ago. Surviving are his wife, Francine; his mother, Pearl Aronow; and sisters, Francis Pechnik and Beverly Samuels.

Art Lerman, 1966

Art "John" Lerman, 54, passed away in May 2002. He was collection manager for Associated Creditors Exchange in Phoenix before retiring in 1997. Earlier, he was a manager for FCA, Coast Professionals Services in California, vice president of operations for Professional Collection Consultants Corp. in California, and president and CEO of Collection Management Systems in Newark, NJ. During the Vietnam War, he served in the Marine Corps. Born in Newark, he lived in Merrick, New York and Anaheim Hills, California before moving to Mesa, Arizona. He was a 1966 graduate of Weequahic High School. Surviving are his wife, Judith Klara ElReedy-Lerman; sons, Robert Luna and Jason Lerman; daughters, Justine and Amber Ruth; and his mother, Betty Lerman.

MAXINE BOATWRIGHT, POPULAR WHS TEACHER, PASSES AWAY

By Phil Yourish, Class of 1964

On June 12, 2000, Maxine Boatwright, a favorite Weequahic English teacher for the past 20 years, passed away at age 55. She was also this year's Senior Class Advisor.

It was September 1968 at West Kinney Junior High School. I was a 21-year-old rookie teacher anxiously wondering if I would make it through the first day. Then I met Maxine Boatwright. She immediately elevated my level of insecurity by telling me that this was a tough school and that I would be fortunate if I made it past the first two weeks. I did make it - and we became close friends for the next 32 years. I would like to share some of my thoughts about a wonderful teacher and a very beautiful individual.

Maxine's story is one of dedication and commitment. A typical scenario would find her toiling in her classroom late in the evenings as she shared the empty school building with the custodial staff. She was truly a "student's" teacher. For more than 33 years, her life revolved around her students. They were her passion - an integral part of her life. She enthusiastically believed in their potential and encouraged them to "reach for the stars" and take advantage of their opportunities. She continuously challenged her students to succeed and had a knack for making each student feel special.

Maxine embraced her African heritage and expressed her pride to her students on a daily basis. Her classroom had its unique identity and signature. It was a dynamic and creative encounter that immediately captured your attention. A tour of Maxine's classroom would reveal decorations representing the seasons and holidays; hanging mobiles; walls covered with posters; poetry; photographs; words of wisdom and reflection; and bulletin boards chock full of students' classwork. It reflected in a most genuine way her strong beliefs about education and life.

As a life-long resident of Newark, Maxine attended South Street and Oliver Street Elementary Schools before graduating from East Side High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bloomfield College and a Master of Arts Degree from Montclair State College. Prior to coming to Weequahic, she taught at Broadway Junior High School, West Kinney Junior High School, and Vailsburg High School.

Maxine, you touched the lives of your students, colleagues, friends and family in a profound way. We will all miss you very much.

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Below are excerpts from an article that appeared in the Star-ledger in 1996 about Maxine and her class:

Teacher sees hidden talent in hallowed halls of Weequahic

By Barbara Kukla, Star-Ledger

Maxine Boatwright thinks her students are getting a bad rap. Boatwright who's taught English at Weequahic High School for nearly three decades, has begun a one-woman campaign to refute the negative images adversely affecting her students. The hallowed halls of Weequahic, where author Philip Roth culled experiences and ideas for his hit novel, "Goodbye, Columbus," remains laden with talent, she believes. All it needs is unearthing.

By seeing the educational glass as more full than empty, Boatwright wants to dispel some of the myths and negativity generated by those unfamiliar with the school and its students. Despite their weak skills, Boatwright believes her students "are capable of producing at an above-average level," given heavy doses of encouragement and inspiration. They should not be judged solely on their test scores," the teacher said. "Given the opportunity, they all have the potential to produce 'A' work.' When Boatwright's 9th and 10th-grade students recently balked at learning one of her favorite poems, "An Arabian Proverb," Boatwright challenged them to create their own Words of Wisdom.

In creating their own Words of Wisdom, the trick was for the students to use just two sentences or less, similar to the messages contained in Chinese fortune cookies. What's more, they had just 15 minutes to complete the assignments. Here's what they had to say (some of the their Words appear below):

He who is wise is always able to compromise

Cherish yourself before you cherish someone else

Few people have wisdom; hope to be one of those people

*Memories are precious; cherish them like gifts and fortunes
Encouragement and inspiration must be provided
Money is like a key; it opens lots of doors*

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Ginsburg, Recreation Director and School Administrator



Former Weequahic High School Athletic Director, Hal Ginsburg, passed away in September.

He was employed by the city of Newark for 12 years before retiring as its Director of Physical Education and Recreation in 1986. Earlier, he had been the Physical Education Department Chair and baseball coach at Weequahic High School, and before that, a Physical Education teacher at Dayton Street School.

Mr. Ginsburg was 1951 graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles. He earned a master's degree in 1955 and a doctorate degree in 1958, both from New York University. He served in the Army during the Korean War.

Mr. Ginsburg was a member of the NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Young Men's Hebrew Association of Union and the Council of Administrators and Supervisors Association. Born in Hoboken, he lived in Newark and Union before moving to Bradley Beach five years ago. Surviving are his wife Frances; a daughter, Mrs. Randi Elman; brothers George and Donald, and three grandchildren.

William R. Steiner, Trade Center Victim and 1962 Alumnus



Mr. Steiner, 56, was working on the 97th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center when a hijacked plane crashed into the building on Sept. 11. Mr. Steiner, who was known as Bill, was a managing director of information technology at Marsh Inc., an insurance company that is a unit of Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc. Mr. Steiner had worked for the parent company for more than 30 years.

Born in Newark, Mr. Steiner graduated from Weequahic High School in 1962 and later attended St. John's University's branch in Manhattan, earning degrees in business administration, computer science and reinsurance.

He met his wife, Russa, at a friend's wedding in 1966. The couple married in 1969 and lived in Edison, Los Angeles and Hamilton Township before settling in Solebury Township, Pa., in 1987. Mr. Steiner continued to commute to Lower Manhattan from Pennsylvania. Mr. Steiner was the father of three children: Meredith, 23, Jordan, 21, and Darren, 18. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his mother, Wilma E. Steiner of Bethlehem, Pa.; his brothers, George W. Steiner of Toms River and Robert Steiner of Bethlehem, Pa.; and his father, George H. Steiner of Hackettstown.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the attention of Beth Geibe, William R. Steiner Children Memorial Fund, First Union Bank, 336 W. Bridge St., New Hope, Pa. 18938.

Lois Menkes, Newark Teacher and WHS 1944 Grad



As a teacher, Lois Menkes knew better than anybody how hard it can be to motivate pupils. So she devised ways to get their attention.

Mrs. Menkes, who taught for 34 years at Madison Elementary School in Newark, recorded tunes on a cassette that she would bring to class every day. As students lined up outside the classroom door, Mrs. Menkes would hit the "play" button for the "The Hustle" while the kids hustled into their seats, hands neatly folded. They would then wait for the theme song from the movie "Rocky III," "Eye of the Tiger," which was their cue to frantically get out their materials for class.

According to her brother, Star-Ledger sports columnist Jerry Izenberg, Mrs. Menkes found ingenious ways to keep students interested. She and her husband Marvin would take children to NY museums on weekends, invite them to their home for barbecues, and play baseball with the kids in the local schoolyard. Mrs. Menkes taught 3rd grade and later became a reading specialist.

Mrs. Menkes, who was born in Newark and most recently lived in Verona, passed away in September from breast cancer. She was 74. Growing up in Newark, she graduated from Avon Avenue School and Weequahic High School before attending Newark University (Rutgers-Newark) for one year. She then transferred to Ohio State University, where she graduated with a degree in theater arts. Mrs. Menkes also earned a master's in education from Kean University and a Ph.D. from William Paterson University.

She is survived by her husband, Marvin; brother, Jerry; daughter, Nancy Clayman; son Neal; a son-in-law Andrew Clayman; a daughter-in-law, Joan Menkes, and five grandchildren.

Rev. John Sharpe, Newark Minister and WHS 1963 Grad



On Friday, May 25, 2001, Rev. John Sharpe, the minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Newark and a 1963 graduate of Weequahic High School, died of a ruptured artery at age 56.

Community outreach was the trademark of the Rev. Sharpe's tenure at Shiloh. He reached out to the city's large Latino community and invited neighborhood Latinos to worship at his parish with a congregation of predominantly African-Americans. He made it clear that the church does not have a specific nationality or creed. His personality captured the heart and attention of young people. He instituted a tutoring program, organized a basketball league, and started a day care center. He also ministered the sick at Columbus Hospital, set up substance abuse counseling, and started a prison ministry. He also owned V & S Southern Cuisine on Chancellor Avenue in Newark.

Rev. Sharpe was born in Autaugaville, Alabama and is survived by his wife Audrey, his son, John, Jr.; and two grandchildren.