

WHS NOTE

Class of 1963 Association

March 29, 2019

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Hi Uniters of the Weequahic Union:

Thank you for responding to the request for exchanging of comments. The memories vessel has been largely refilled with your comments, thoughts and insights. Keep'em coming and keep the weekly *WHS Note* a vibrant and pleasing connection to the past we shared and continue to share.

Harold Klein (6/60) can now be reached at hmklein42@gmail.com.

Alumindians in the Archives:

10/24/09
Michael Ritz (58)

We all have our special memories of Newark and Weequahic. I grew up living on Dewey Street between Shaw Avenue and St. James Place. I remember well the candy store on the corner of Dewey and Edwin Place. At one time it was owned by the father of my cousin Ed Rosengold. And, who can ever forget the kindly couple who owned the grocery next store. I believe their name was Hyatt. If you did not have money, they would give you credit. Everything they sold was fresh. When entering the store, you were hit with many delicious aromas. We were quite lucky as Lyons and Hawthorne Avenues were quite close.

We could always scrounge up a ball game. We could play on the street (until we got chased) or head over to the schoolyard, Irvington Park or Weequahic Park. I always think of *our gang*, Mickey Stern, Irwin Cohen, Ed Rosengold, Shelly Simon, Tommy Dockery and hope that we can meet again to relive those wonderful memories. Michael

Michael Klein (56) shares news about his book:

Love to have my Weequahic classmates and other alumni learn of the existence of the book, *Dissident Doctor*. Lots of Weequahic/Newark content of interest. It was published in the US on March 2nd and available in hardback and Kindle. [Dissident Doctor at Amazon](#). Please feel free to contact me at mklein@interchange.ubc.ca if there are any questions. Michael

Judy Horowitz Wolff (64) recalls a "Small Weequahic World" moment:

One recent night I talked with a lovely woman named Linda at a party in Boca Raton, FL. She was not a Weequahic student, but had family that went to WHS. She told me her aunt had a candy store next to the Chancellor Theatre in Irvington. Shortly after, I read Shirley Ezersky Friedman's (56) letter that mentioned the candy store on Chancellor and Union Avenues; must be the same candy store! I think her aunt's married name was Birnbaum. Small world! Judy

Ira Ike Laufer (45) comments back to his graduation year:

If you remember those wonderful days in 1945-46, send me an email; ilaufer88@gmail.com.

Swede Masin came back to Weequahic in 1945, to show us how to box people out for a rebound during a basketball game, Coach Donne never got around to teach us much. The original Syd's gave me a free hot dog on my first Navy leave in 46 (when Jeanette wasn't watching). Ike (living in California)

Calvin Schwartz (6/63) is never too far from the home turf:

As some of you are aware, I produce and cohost a central Jersey cable TV show called *NJ Discover LIVE TV*. Of note for the Weequahic community is a recent show, titled, "NJ Discover TV Show: Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King; An Evening with Diversity, Equal Justice and Environmental Justice." Special guests included Edina Brown, Ronald Pierce and Kevin Moore. The show is archived at njdiscover.com.

Guest Kevin Moore has worked for several years on restoring Weequahic Park in Newark. He is the founder of the Urban Environmental Group and has over 20 years of experience in urban environmental issues, advocacy and project management, all through a lens of environmental justice. Formerly the Climate Coordinator for the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, Kevin, in addition to consulting, was the project director for the Weequahic Park Association's, *Weequahic Lake Restoration Project*, which, to date, is Newark's largest community-driven park and ecological restoration program.

The [You Tube link](#) to the TV show. The segment with Kevin Moore and Weequahic is at the 35:54 mark. In the first couple minutes from the 35:54 mark, there is some talk about Weequahic Park and I made reference to it. Yes, Kevin talks about the project as being one of the largest park projects. Here is text from an email I got from Kevin. "I also wanted to follow-up about funding the Urban Environmental Literacy Program, which includes Environmental Justice. We are developing here the Weequahic Park Multicultural Center, which is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Although we are working out of our East Orange office, I just wanted to let you know we have identified Weequahic Park as one of our sites and working out details of how to implement at the park, with the WPA, as we speak." Cal

Fred Goldman (6/63) gives a shout out to all Alumindians to continue to share the memories:

We don't want the newsletter to go the way of snail mail, many real newspapers, and regular TV with rabbit ears, or even the old dial home phones, so let's start thinking about some things to write about other than food. I'm sure if you been with the newsletter almost from the start, when you see "Fred Goldman (6/62) you know right away it's going to be something way DIFFERENT. And, this is coming from someone who almost wasn't from 6-62, who was around 590 out of a class of 600. I beat out ten kids that might have paid their way out (but that's another story).

I find it hard to understand how all the kids that went on to higher studies can't turn in some interesting stories. I'm sure you can find some time to type up something. I took typing with Mrs. Silbernagle. I was always one of the fastest typing up the alphabet, but when it came to typing out of the book to see who was fast, I was so bad at spelling and for every mistake they took 10 points off the score. I wound up failing. So now I have to type using one finger and so it takes me a very long time to do.

All you good students should be able to type up some stories a whole lot faster than me. Let's come up with some stuff to save the newsletter. Like Dean Martin use to say, "Keep those cards and letters coming in." So, like I was told, "Play it cool or take it over in summer school (which I did)." Now I am saying, "Do it right or say good night!" Fred

(Thank you, Fred, from an appreciative *Big Chief Editor*?)

Paula Borenstein (67) is also a Newark Public Library fan:

As a member of the team that put together the exhibit on the Newark synagogues, I would like to thank Janice Krusch (58) for taking time to visit the Newark Public Library (which is ever a fabulous place!) and for her recommendation to others. I am envious that Janice got to work there. After graduating from the School of Library Science at University of Wisconsin, that was my dream. Never had the privilege, but am a card-carrying member and still spend time there doing research and attending special events. Here's a shout out to everyone at the NPL, especially those who offer wise and friendly assistance in Special Collections and the New Jersey Room. Paula

Teaching, WHS style, remembered:

Hedy Spiegel Mark (6/63)

I LOVED Miss Melkowitz. She was so supportive and had me making my own patterns. She saw the fledgling designer in me, and that is exactly what I did as a 30-plus year career as an apparel designer. Thanks for the memory. Hedy

Audrey Marcus Berton (6/63)

Ah yes, Miss Melkowitz (Audrey) was my Home Room teacher. In those times, Audrey was not a very popular name. I was so pleased to find one of my teachers with the same name as myself.

As for Miss McKenzie, I had her for English and she constantly encouraged me to pursue my creative writing. BUT, to this day, I still dine out on the story of her wishing us a "Happy CHANOOKA." I was floored that a woman, Head of the English Department and working in a 95% Jewish school, did not know how to pronounce our holiday. Imagine how politically incorrect this would be today.

As for Mrs. Litzky; I attended the Literary Club she headed after school. Stimulating! Every time I get the final Jeopardy question correct, I thank her and throw a kiss to heaven. I am thankful always for the incredible education Weequahic HS and its teachers afforded me. BRAVO! Audrey

Arnie Kohn (56)

I remember all my English teachers very well because they gave me a very sound basis for further studies. Mrs. Wallach and DeLisi and Mrs. O'Conner were simply fabulous instructors. Arnie

Linda Sarnow Boginsky (1/56)

I will never forget English teacher Marion Jennings. I was Class Secretary and when I read my minutes, she had a zillion negative comments. It was very tense. I will say that she taught her subject thoroughly. Therefore, it was a hate/love situation.

The next semester or year I was again the Class Secretary. I was relieved and amazed that now she approved of my minutes. Once a substitute was talking about a teacher and not mentioning names. The teacher was tough and even difficult, but underneath she really cared about the students. I decided she must have been talking about Mrs. Jennings. Linda

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