

THE WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI



M E T

FALL 2002
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WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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Phil Yourish, 1964

Co-Presidents:

Harold Braff, 1952
Faith Howard, 1982

Treasurer:

Sheldon Bross, 1955

Secretary:

Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953

Committee Chairs:

Events:

Faith Howard, 1982

Scholarships/Grants:

Sheldon Bross, 1955

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Lorraine White, 1964

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Velma Adams, 1975
Sylvester Allen, 1971
Judy Bennett, 1972
Lawrence Bridget, 1980
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Marshall Cooper, 1969
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Harold Edwards, 1966
Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert, 1960
Dale Kundin Gordon, 1968
Beverly Schulman Kass, 1953
Dave Lieberfarb, 1965
Arthur Lutzke, 1963
Bert Manhoff, 1938
Adilah Quddus, 1971
Linda Reaves, 1972
Harry Reavis, 1982
Gerald Russell, 1974
Dave Schechner, 1946
Vivian Simons, 1959
Charles Talley, 1966
Gail Washington, 1971
Sam Weinstock, 1955
Audrey Williams-Holmes, 1982

Coming Home Again!

saturday, october 12

10 AM: Tour of Weequahic High School
12 PM: Homecoming Parade
2 PM: Football Game / Weequahic - Mendham



sunday, october 13

AN ALUMNI CELEBRATION

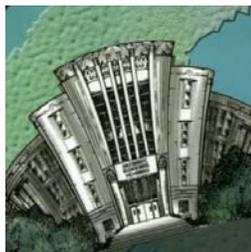
Weequahic High School's 70th Birthday
WHS Alumni Association's 5th Birthday

Congregation Oheb Shalom, South Orange, NJ

From 2-6 PM. Enjoy food, music, presentations,
and an abundance of nostalgia. Bring your classmates
and alumni friends. Over 300 alumni have already responded.
\$15.00 admission fee. There is still time to make your
reservations. Pay by check or call us at
(973) 923-3133 to use your credit card.

Visit The Old Neighborhood At WWW.WEEQUAHICALUMNI.ORG

Our apologies
for the delay. The
web site will be up and
running by November
1st. Check It Out!



70 Years of WEEQUAHIC on the Internet

✪ sign-up ✪ get your password ✪ bookmark this site ✪ view lists of classes ✪ tour the photo gallery ✪ e-mail your classmates ✪ share your favorite memories ✪ check out the calendar of events ✪ look for the latest reunion information ✪ find out what's happening at Weequahic ✪ learn about the work of the WHS Alumni Association

FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS & MEMBERSHIP

*OUR VERY SPECIAL
THANKS TO THE*

**Chancellor
Foundation
Jaqua Foundation**

LEGEND:

Sheldon Bross, 1955
Yvonne Causbey, 1977
Steve Dinetz, 1965
Eli Hoffman, 1956

SAGAMORE:

Sam & Ellen Weinstock, 1955

ERGO:

Harriet Menkes Alpert, 1940
Alvin Attles, 1955
Bruce Baumgarten, 1965
Lou Bodian, 1964
Harold Braff, 1952
Ellen Kimmelman Brown, 1960
Harold Edwards, Sr., 1966
David Fink / 1966
Rita Bromberg Friedman / 1962
Marc Grodman, 1969
Alan Kampf, 1948
Stephen Kass, 1964
David Lieberfarb, 1965
Lester Z. Lieberman, 1948
Irwin Miller, 1945
Bryan Morris, 1974
Sharon Price-Cates, 1972
Linda Reaves, 1972
Marvin Ross / 1953
Gary Skoloff, 1951
Ben Simon, 1948
Pamela Scott Threats, 1966
Lucious Williams, 1964
Muriel Berney Williams, 1961

ORANGE & BROWN:

Deborah Harris Adler, 1960
Jane Auster, 1952
Robert Barish, 1964
Theodore Becker, 1950
Edward Berman, 1948
Sidney Bernstein, 1955
Joan Musto Bitter, 1953
Mary Brown, 1970
Gerald Cappasso, 1952
Lee Casper
Howard Casper, 1948
Merle Rosen Cohen, 1963
Michael Cosby, 1974
Dwain Darrien, 1968
Fred Decter, 1960
Philip Drill, 1945
Phyllis Dubow, 1957
Susan Hupart Dunsky, 1964
Evelyn Epstein, 1934
Ronald Feiger, 1952
Sharon Rous Feinsod, 1966
Martin Fischer, 1937
William Fromkin, 1962
Maria Piacente Galeota, 1959
Ina Marcus Gelfound, 1961
William Gelfound, 1961
Ellyn Marks Geller, 1961
Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert, 1960
Beryl Goldberg, 1960
Stephen Goodman, 1959
Martin Greenberg, 1950
Allen Halperin, 1960
Gloria Hastreiter, 1946
Larry Hellring, 1964
Barry Herman, 1953
Harold Hodes, 1960
Joseph Jentis, 1952
Sharon Jones, 1968
Sandra King, 1965
Dana Gleicher Kissner, 1963
Allen Klein, 1960
Dan Klein, 1939

Julian Kramer, 1936
Herbert, Lerner, 1955
Dave Lessin, 1956
Sandy Warner Luftig, 1951
Alvin Lynn, 1950
Bert Manhoff, 1938
Aileen Resnick Marcus, 1968
Jerry Marger, 1959
Neil Markowitz, 1964
Neil Mayer, 1952
Rita McGurk, 1960
Joseph Menker, 1958
Daniel Mintz, 1964
Harvey Morantz, 1959
Sherry Ortner, 1958
Art Novom, 1954
Marvin Phinazee, 1963
Ronald Rosen, 1960
Walter Roth, 1965
Ronald Schnack, 1964
Charles Seigel, 1959
Susan Kaiser Siegel, 1962
Donald Shachat, 1952
Jerome Shipman, 1940
Harvey Sigelbaum, 1954
Sam Skurtofsky, 1959
Sondra Hildebrandt Slotnick,
1953
Robert Steinberg, 1966
Suzanne Schwartz Wallis, 1960
Steven Weiss, 1962
Joel Weiss, 1960
Marsha Gurvitz Weiss, 1965
Loraine White, 1964
David Wildstein, 1962
Linda Zimmerman Willner, 1958
Lois Wilner, 1953
Stuart Yourish, 1962

And our appreciation to the
hundreds of ALUMNI members
- too many to list.

ALUMNI STATS

Mailing List

4,395

Leaders in each category

By States

2,715 - New Jersey - 61%
443 - Florida
305 - California
229 - New York
76 - Pennsylvania
69 - Maryland
49 - Massachusetts
38 - Texas
38 - North Carolina
38 - Georgia
37 - Virginia

By Counties in NJ

1,104 - Essex
521 - Union
289 - Middlesex
184 - Morris
143 - Monmouth
88 - Ocean

By Cities/Towns in NJ

349 - Newark
157 - West Orange
152 - Livingston
121 - Springfield
79 - Edison
78 - Millburn/Short Hills
60 - South Orange
50 - Maplewood
49 - New York City

By Countries

14 - Israel
4 - Canada
3 - England
2 - Spain
1 - Germany
1 - Holland
1 - France
1 - Switzerland
1 - Denmark
1 - Ecuador
1 - Costa Rica
1 - Virgin Islands

By Class Years

1963 - 385	1964 - 358
1945 - 340	1960 - 270
1966 - 222	1940 - 215
1961 - 203	1959 - 188
1953 - 180	1948 - 180
1951 - 170	1991 - 136

WHS Alumni Married

to WHS Alumni 251

WHS Alumni Association Planning Meetings

*1st Tuesday Of Every Month
6 PM, Board Room, Beth Israel
Medical Center, Free Parking,
Sandwiches & Soft Drinks
All Are Invited To Participate*



By Phil Yourish, Executive Director, Class of 1964

An Alumni Guide For "Coming Home"

On Saturday, October 12th get up early and take a journey back to the old neighborhood. Bring your family and show them where you grew up. Drive on the memorable streets of Weequahic - *Hawthorne, Clinton Place, Lyons and Elizabeth* to name a few. Stop to see the houses you once lived in. Ride by the schools you attended as a kid - *Peshine, Bragaw, Hawthorne, Maple, Chancellor* and others. Locate the synagogues and churches where you worshipped. Were you born at the Beth? Stop by and take a look at their magnificent wall of history. And don't forget to take a stroll through Weequahic Park. The grandstand is gone but you can meander on the state-of-the-art running track which winds around the scenic lake. You'll want to get your camera out and snap a few photos.

Then head towards Chancellor Avenue. Smell the ancient aromas of some of your favorite eating places - *Syd's, Hot Dog Haven, Bunny Hop, and the Burgerama*. It's getting close to 10 AM. Park your car in the Chancellor playground and enter Weequahic through the front doors. Take a step back in time and join us for a tour of the famous high school on the hill. It really hasn't changed that much in 70 years. See the WPA murals in the lobby. Walk the hallowed halls (the tile floors are still the same). Sit on the wooden seats in the auditorium. Visit the office and if you listen carefully you might be able to hear the voices of our venerable leaders - *Herzberg, Bernstein, Weingast, Epstein, Barrett* and others. Browse through old yearbooks. Search for your locker. See if you can find your homeroom. Did you know that Weequahic had an elevator? It's still in use. Can you find the air raid shelter sign on the first floor? Play an imaginary game of hoops or kickball in the gyms. And where is that fabled swimming pool that has become so much a part of Weequahic lore?

Following the tour, get ready for a grand parade through the neighborhood. Then head for the big rock monument. Sit with other alumni in the bleachers at Untermann Field for an exciting football clash between Weequahic and Mendham. Listen to the beat of the award-winning Weequahic band and to the rhythmic voices of the cheerleaders. Allow the memories of your youth to flow forth. Savor them - there's more to come!

On Sunday, October 13th on Scotland Road in South Orange come and join us at Congregation Oheb Shalom. Do you remember when this synagogue was on Prince Street and then on High Street in Newark? Meet with your classmates. Hobnob with alumni friends from other classes. Visit with some of your teachers. Do you recall the words to the school song? There are now three versions that we will sing. View pictures and memorabilia representing 7 decades of Weequahic High. Listen to the Weequahic Jazz Band and other alumni performers. Hear alumni and teachers speak about Weequahic then and now. Find out more about the important work that the Alumni Association has been doing with current Weequahic students. Buy Weequahic merchandise and back issues of the Alumni Calumet. And don't forget to join the Alumni Association. Enjoy the gourmet food and have a great time reconnecting with the wonderful years of your youth.

***It doesn't get much better than this!
See you on Homecoming Weekend.***

By Hal Braff, Co-President, class of 1952

All Of Us Are Weequahic "Legends"

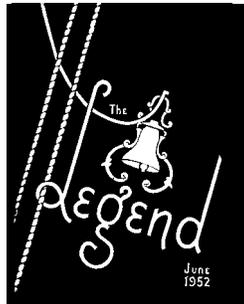
When our school is opened for tours during Homecoming Weekend, on Saturday, October 12, 70 years of LEGENDS will be available in the lunch room for you to review. They'll be waiting for you.

Perhaps your parents preceded you here - or members of your family or friends - or maybe your spouse can be seen smiling out of a yearbook whose pages are filled with pictures of people who were major figures in his or her critical years on Chancellor Avenue.

On display will be a full 70 years of Weequahic section history - your decade and those before you - the people and stories, the poetry, the heart of life on our streets - it's all there - from birth to maturity - our school's life captured in our own words - our own thoughts and aspirations, people we dated, people who we cherished and then never saw again, people who inspired us, people who have passed away. Everyone of us in our Legend.

And then take your family on a tour - to your homeroom - to your lockers - to the auditorium, the gym.

Weequahic High School played a significant role in your life. It's made it to 70. Pay it a visit - for old time's sake.



Alumni, Faculty & Friends Who Have Contributed To Our Scholarship Funds

WHS Alumni Association General Scholarship Fund

Beatrice Kaplan Brown / 1937
 Merle Rosen Cohen / 1963
 Maria Galeota / 1959
 Judith Wilson Schwartz / 1963
 Anne Kramer / 1961
 Arthur Lutzke / 1963
 Wilfredo Nieves / 1966
 Sharon Price-Cates / 1972
 Robert Steinberg / 1966
 Joel Weiss / 1960
 Class of January 1952

Maxine Boatwright Memorial Scholarship Fund

Marshana Chapman
 Arnold Cohen / 1965
 Peter Cutty
 Frances Davis
 Saunders Davis
 Martin Dickerson
 Janice Findley
 Mildred Givens
 Mary Hicks
 Adelle Howard
 Janice Lanier
 Mary Larsen
 Dave Lieberfarb / 1965
 Lela Lynch
 Mordecai Podhoretz / 1964
 Anna Acey Robertson
 Grace Simmons
 Nyoka Stackhouse-Green
 Charles Stewart
 Cheryl Taylor / 1967
 Thomas Tilley
 Anne Williams
 Hugh & Doris Young
 Phil Yourish / 1964

Hannah Litzky Memorial Scholarship Fund

Alan Adler / 1964
 Beryl Loeff Benderly / 1960
 Lou Bodian / 1964
 Lee Casper
 Bruce Cohen / 1955
 Nancy Wildstein Curtis / 1958
 Dennis Estes / 1965
 Stuart Friedman / 1959
 Harold Hodes / 1960

Simon Kaplan / 1942
 Michael Kerner / 1963
 Janice Misurell-Mitchell / 1963
 Jean-Rae Turner / 1938
 Paula Weinstock / 1941
 Lois Wilner / 1953
 Fraida Yaveberg / 1960

Weequahic High School Alumni Scholarship Fund / Sadie Rous Memorial Scholarship Fund

Bruce Cohen / 1955
 Harvey Cohen / 1953
 Seymour Zoom Fleisher / 1940
 Ezra Friedlander / 1958
 Harold Hodes / 1960
 Susan Kaiser Seigel / 1962
 Charles Seigel / 1959
 Elaine Smith-Koenig / 1949
 Muriel Reider Swartz / 1955
 Alan Sylvester / 1964
 Marsha Gurvitz Weiss / 1965
 Steven Weiss / 1962
 Fraida Markowitz Yavelberg / 1960

Academic / Performing Arts Scholarship Fund

Seymour Abrahamson / 1945
 Jerome Burner / 1945
 Herbert Chaice / 1945
 Marty Edelston / 1946
 George Ehrlich / 1945
 David Horwitz / 1945
 Helen Berg Landau / 1945
 Anne Parsonnet Lieberson / 1945
 Seymour Margulies / 1945
 Irwin Markowitz / 1945
 Janice Misurell-Mitchell / 1963
 Allen Parducci / 1945
 Bernard Robbins / 1945
 Arthur Silk / 1945
 Jack Silverman / 1945
 Dan Skoler / 1945

Our Special Appreciation:

To Dan Skoler and members of the class of 1945 for establishing the Academic/Performing Arts Scholarship and for raising \$1,175.00.

To the class of January 1952 for donating \$830.00 to our General Scholarship Fund.

SISTER ACT



Somebody said that all things are relative. This year the Valedictorian **Eleonore Ofosu-Antwi** (on left) and the Salutatorian **Elsie Jane Ofosu-Antwi** (on right) have something in common. They are sisters, they are tops in their class, and they have received full scholarships to attend Colgate University. Eleonore will major in pre-med with a minor in psychology and Elsie will major in biology.

WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

It's the start of the new school year and Weequahic is experiencing change. **Edna Bailey**, the Principal for the past 5 years, is now the Principal of the West Side Adult School. Vice Principals **Autrey Reynolds** and **Beverly Goss** are Vice Principals at Avon Avenue and Central High schools respectively and English Department Chair **Princess Towe** has transferred to Arts High School. *We wish them all well. They will always be part of our Weequahic family. Mrs. Bailey, thank you for helping us establish our office at the high school and being supportive of our mission.*



For the first time, the high school will be administered by a Leadership Team made up of Vice Principals **Bruce Bengeveni**, **Ron Stone**, **Raz Baraka** and faculty member **Loraine White** (a 1964 alumnus who has been teaching and counseling at Weequahic since 1970). Providing assistance from the central office with the transition is **Claude Scott Bey** (1964 alumnus) who was formerly a Principal at the high school.

In addition, the school is also implementing a Talent and Development model which creates four academic academies. They are: *9th Grade Success Academy, Allied Health Science Careers, Fine Arts & Business, and Political Urban Leadership Studies.*

2002 SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

19 Scholarships Awarded - The Most Ever

Jaqua Foundation, \$1,000 per year

Eli Hoffman, a 1956 graduate, is President of the Foundation.

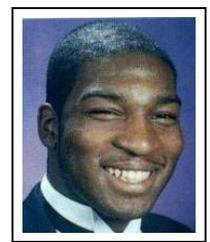
- ⊕ **Patience Agbeviadey** - Delaware State University
- ⊕ **Markita Burris** - Montclair State University, NJ
- ⊕ **Tavona Harper** - University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
- ⊕ **Kingsley Kordie** - Colgate University, NY
- ⊕ **Latasha Phillips** - Delaware State University



Patience Agbeviadey



Markita Burris



Dasean Barnes

WHS Alumni Association General Scholarship

Fund, \$1,000. Contributions were made by WHS alumni.

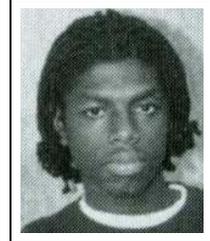
- ⊕ **Dasean Barnes** - Rutgers University, NJ
- ⊕ **Ebenezer Hippolyte** - Union College, NJ
- ⊕ **Linda Martinez** - Felician College, NJ
- ⊕ **Ronetta Neptune** - Bloomfield College, NJ
- ⊕ **Andre Wilson-Morrison** - Essex County College, NJ



Michaela Cagilus



Ibtahaj Green



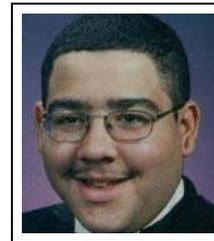
Ebenezer Hippolyte



Weequahic High School Alumni Scholarship Fund / Sadie Rous Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$500.00

Mrs. Rous was a Social Studies teacher at WHS from 1940 to 1967. Funds were provided by WHS Alumni.

- ⊕ **Michaela Cagilus** - Kean University, NJ
- ⊕ **Ibtihaj Green** - Montclair State University, NJ
- ⊕ **Jose Jaquez** - Bloomfield College, NJ
- ⊕ **Abigail Robertson** - Union College, NJ
- ⊕ **Tandrea Williams** - St. Elizabeth College, NJ



Jose Jaquez



Kingsley Kordie



Linda Martinez



Maxine Boatwright Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$1,000

Ms. Boatwright was an English teacher at WHS from 1980 to 2000. Contributions were made by colleagues, relatives and friends.

- ⊕ **Tavona Harper** - University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
- ⊕ **Ronetta Neptune** - Bloomfield College, NJ



Ronetta Neptune



Latasha Phillips



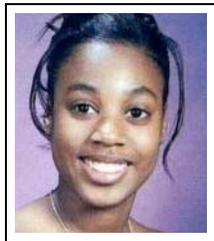
Alexis Pickett



Hannah Litzky Memorial Scholarship Fund, \$1,000

Mrs. Litzky was an English teacher and Guidance Counselor at WHS for 39 years from 1934 to 1973. Funds were provided by WHS alumni.

- ⊕ **Courtney Robinson** - New Jersey City University



Courtney Robinson



Tandrea Williams

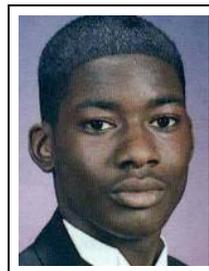


Abigail Robertson

Academic and Performing Arts Scholarship Fund, \$1,000

Established by Dan Skoler and classmates from 1945

- ⊕ **Alexis Pickett** - Bethune Cookman College, FL



Andre Wilson-Morrison



Tavona Harper

Carrie Jackson, class of 1975, Newark's Jazz Singer

**Excerpts from an article by
Barbara Kukla, Star-Ledger Staff**

As a singer Carrie Jackson knows how frustrating it can be to keep jazz alive at a time when heavy metal and rap dominate the industry. That's what's driven her to create her own record company - C-Jay Records - and a related enterprise that books more than 50 acts a year for Newark-based clubs and beyond. Simply put, Jackson's is Newark's jazz maven - high energy all the way despite her subdued singing style.

...A Newarker, Jackson got her start singing at assemblies at Peshine Avenue School. "My first solo, a little song called 'Playmates' was in kindergarten," she recalled. Coincidentally, her daughter Loretta Gronau teaches seventh grade at Peshine in the same classroom where Jackson was a seventh-grade student. Jackson's teacher was another of Newark's gifts to the music world - Melba Moore.

During her days at Peshine and later at Weequahic High School, she sang in choirs at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Newark. ... "My interest in jazz stems from the fact that I grew up listening to Sarah (Vaughan), Billie (Holiday), Dinah (Washington) and Carmen (McRae)," she explained. "I also was into Betty Carter, Nat King Cole and Arthur Prysock. They stimulated my deep love for jazz."



Jackson got her start in jazz as a piano and voice student of the late Howard "Duke" Anderson at the Newark Community School of the Arts where she also studied voice under Winton Hughes, Inez McClendon and Nadine Herman. "When Duke's band got a gig, they took me along," she said. "Everyone else was 40 years older, and I was the sweetheart of the band. It was an honor for me because I learned a lot about showmanship and all the technical aspects of music that a vocalist should know.

Anderson, who played piano in Dizzy Gillespie's first band in 1943, can be heard on Jackson's "The Nearness of You" CD. Jackson said it was Anderson's thinking that encouraged her to go beyond singing and reach out to people of all ages in the community. "The legacy that Duke left with me was the fact that he was a great teacher," she said. "He wanted to leave what he knew to others, especially children."

Jackson has followed suit, serving for several years as vice president of the New Brunswick-based Jazz Institute, which provides free music lessons and

experiences to children as young as three. On the other side of the age spectrum, she often performs for senior citizens at area nursing homes. "I love it," she said, "because the seniors really get into it. They know all the old songs. Often they get up and dance."

Jackson decided to get into the recording business in 1990 when she found that many other singers like herself were well into their careers, yet still waiting to be discovered. "I decided to incorporate my music label and did just that as a venue for other artists like myself and to keep musicians working," she said. "It was a way of sharing information, to guide other artists from what I learned from Duke and his friends."

The whole idea behind music is promotion," she said. "And what better way to promote your product than to do it yourself. A lot of singers and musicians think you just have to show up. But you have to know your business and you have to keep up with your following." Jackson got into the booking end of the business two years ago when she began lining up artists to perform on Friday nights at the Renaissance Cafe, 195 Mulberry Street, Newark.

Since then, she's gotten work for many familiar names including a gig for saxophonist Buddy Terry, a mainstay at the old Key Club and Front Room. Other clients include jazz singer Rasheema, the father and son duo of Gene Phipps, Sr. and Gene Phipps, Jr. and the Don Williams Trio. Jackson not only does all the bookings for the cafe, she also does all the promotions, press releases, fliers and mailings.

- IN LOVING MEMORY -

Elizabeth Birnbaum, 95, Spanish teacher at Weequahic

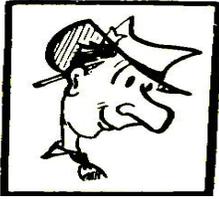
Mrs. Elizabeth Birnbaum, 95, of West Orange passed away on May 30, 2002. For 35 years, prior to retiring in 1973, she was a Spanish teacher at Weequahic High School and also served as the temporary chairperson of the Language Department. In addition, she taught night school at Barringer High School for two years.

Mrs. Birnbaum was a graduate of New Jersey College for Women, now Douglass College, New Brunswick. She earned a masters degree in Spanish from Columbia University. Born in Newark, she moved to West Orange in 1966.

Surviving are sons. Mark and Jonathan: a sister Abigail Malmgreen and a grandchild.



Mrs. Elizabeth Birnbaum



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet, which first appeared in 1950, will now appear in each issue of the Alumni Calumet

♣ **Sid Dorfman (1937)** received the Citizenship and Public Affairs Award from the Springfield, NJ B'nai B'rith Lodge 2093 for his decades of sports coverage as a columnist with the Star-Ledger.

♣ **Lorraine Stein Gordon (1937)** is the owner of the Village Vanguard, the famous jazz club in New York City.

♣ **Marilyn Schreiber Kartzman (1942)** and her husband owned Kartzman's Delicatessen in Newark.

♣ **Janice Rebenfeld Reisman (1947)** and her husband Charlie owned Bragman's Deli in Newark which is now run by her son.

♣ **Burton Ironson (1947)** is a retired Superior Court judge in New Jersey.

♣ **Morton Lowengrub (1953)** is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Yeshiva University.

♣ **Billy Pollack (1953)**, Mr. Baseball of Essex County who has amassed almost 985 victories in his illustrious pitching career over the past 50 years, will be participating in a senior league tournament in Florida in November.

♣ **Ezra H. Frielander (1958)** is a judge in the Indiana Court of Appeals.

♣ **Ellen Kimmelman Brown (1960)** recently celebrated her 10th year as director of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

♣ **Rabbi Michael Lerner (1960)**, is the editor of Tikkun magazine - a bimonthly Jewish critique of politics, culture and society. Tikkun means to mend, repair and transform the world.

♣ **Dr. Jay Levinson (1966)** a former CIA and Israeli police expert in document forensics who is now living in Israel, assisted rabbis in NYC by creating an infrastructure for collecting evidence that would help prove that Orthodox Jewish men missing in the destruction of the World Trade Center could be declared dead according to strict Jewish law allowing their widows to remarry.

♣ **Sharon Levine Yedwab (1967)** has written a novel entitled Collages - A Jewish Girl's Search for Self.

♣ **Sharon Jones (1968)** is a Vice President at Hudson United Bank in Newark.

♣ **Ann Brenoff (1968)** is the Assistant Op-Ed Editor for the Los Angeles Times.

♣ **Selvin J. White (1973)** is the Office Manager for Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. - 8th District in NJ.

♣ **Ernest Turner (1975)** serves as Vice President of the Weequahic High School PTA.

♣ **Altarik White**, a player and assistant coach at Shabazz, is the new head football coach at Weequahic.

♣ **Margaret El**, a 4th year art teacher and Calumet advisor, has been cited for her outstanding work by the Newark Superintendent of Schools. She uses an interdisciplinary approach linking art and the humanities.



A bite of history...

In 1940 Rae and Lou Charwin opened a small restaurant on Chancellor Avenue between Summit and Hobson Street in Newark. The restaurant was located in a row off stores, second from the end, and was originally called

Rae and Lou's. After about a year in business they decided the restaurant industry was not for them and put the restaurant up for sale.

In 1941 Syd Goldstein, whose family was in the dairy business in Bayonne, purchased the restaurant and renamed it SYD'S. The original menu included Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Swiss or American Cheese sandwiches, Ham, Rolled Beef, Tuna & Egg Salad, and Potato or Kasha Knishes (*knishes were not sold after 1943 because the lady who was selling them to the store died*). To replace the Knish, the Homeade French Fry was introduced in 1943. Syd opened a second location in the Hotel Bradley in Bradley Beach and in 1947 he sold the restaurant in Newark to Mort Bratter.

Originally, there were two sizes of Hot Dogs, 3 cents and 6 cents. When World War II started, the smaller hot dog was eliminated and inflation drove the larger hot dog to 10 cents. The Hamburger price was still 15 cents and all the meat came from Tucker's Butcher shop up the street.

In 1957 the restaurant was sold to Mort Kaufman and Eddie Rose. Several years later a fire destroyed the interior of the restaurant. The owners did a full restoration and then once again Syd's was put up for sale. In 1960 David Aranow, a former partner in the Hot Dog Haven, bought Syd's and changed the name to match his previous establishment.

The Syd's name was revived in June 1967 when Lenny and Betty Weiss (*1949 & 1953 WHS graduates*) along with Jack (Mamoo) Geller opened a restaurant at the present location in the Millburn Mall. Jack was bought out by Lenny and Betty in January 1971. From 1967 to 1996 the menu at Syd's saw many changes. However, as items have been added or dropped, the Hot Dog and Hamburger have remained a constant.

In 1996 Lenny and Betty decided to take on a new direction in their lives. After much soul searching they decided to sell the restaurant to Robert and Beth Grossman. Robert was a long time customer, had graduated from Cornell University's School of Hotel Management, and worked in the food industry for the past 15 years. Although changes are being made to the menu, be assured that the Hot Dog and Hamburger you order today is of the same high quality that it was 50 years ago.

**BE
AN**



MEMBER

REUNIONS

63rd - Class of 1939

June 2, 2002, Essex House, West Orange, NJ
1-5 PM. Organizers: Mickee Lublang and
Irv Lieberman.

50th - Class of January 1952

May 4, 2002, Twin Brooks Country Club,
Watchung, NJ.

50th - Class of June 1952

September 29, 2002, Newark Airport Marriott
Hotel, Newark, NJ , 12-5:00 PM. Organizers:
Lois Berg Jacobs, Joan Lang Fox, Don Shachat.

20th - Class of 1982

Weekend of Events: August 9, 10, 11, 2002,
Newark Airport Sheraton Hotel in Newark, NJ.
Organizers: Audrey Williams-Holmes, Faith
Howard, Harry Reavis.

15th - Class of 1987

August 9, 2002 the Newark Airport Holiday Inn
Organizers: Earlynne Alexander and Renata
Brown.

Planning Reunions

65th - Class of 1938

June 9, 2003, Essex House, West Orange, NJ
Contact Bert Manhoff at (973) 992-4513 / Fax:
(973) 992-8154 / bmanhoff@prodigy.net

Classes of 1941-42

Planning Reunion Lunch
Contact Thelma Fox Samuels at
(973) 921-1728, Beverlee Brownstein
Kanengiser at (973) 379-6760.

55th - Class of January 1948

April 27, 2003, Suburban Golf Club, Union, NJ
Contact Diane Denburg at (973) 763-7669.

50th - Class of January 1953

May 3, 2003, 7 PM, Cedar Hill Country Club,
Livingston, NJ. Contact Beverly Schulman
Kass at (973) 467-0582 / bevkass@aol.com -
Stanley Lewis at (908) 687-2618 /
majorstan1@aol.com.

50th - Class of June 1953

For Spring 2003. Contact Beverly Greenfeder
Levine at (914) 693-1266 /
b.levine@fordfound.org.

40th - Class of 1963

October 11, 2003, East Brunswick Hilton.
Contact Jac Toporek at (732) 388-8699 /
Whsalum63@aol.

40th - Class of 1964

October 16, 2004, Newark Club, Newark, NJ
Contact Cheryl Alterman Elblonk at (561)
795-4443 / irataxman@aol.com.



CLASS OF 1982 20 Year Reunion

By Audrey-Williams Holmes

This was a memorable 3-day weekend that included so much food, fun, dancing, and partying with old friends. If you were a classmate of Weequahic High School's class of 1982 and you did not attend the 3-day event that the Reunion Committee organized, you missed a big bash!

It starts with a cocktail party on Friday evening, August 9 at the Sheraton Hotel at Newark International Airport. The doors open and we see so many familiar faces. At first it is breathtaking, but when we actually see everybody up close, the years since high school haven't made that much of a difference. It makes you feel like "I am still young!" - and we danced and partied like we were in our teens again.

On Saturday, August 10th, we had a big picnic at Weequahic Park with grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and salads. Everyone enjoyed all the sweet watermelons, pickles and ice cold drinks. Then the game of tricks were revealed - and it was on... "water guns" one after another. People began chasing each other around and squirting each other with gushes of water. It was a sunny day just perfect for throwing water around like we were children. It made us feel like we were never going back to our adulthood. We wanted to stay out and play and reminisce!

Following the picnic on this beautiful day, we headed back to the hotel for a pool side party. With our flip-flops and sun tan lotion, we raced to the pool to be the first to dive in the water. Later, sipping on ice-cold lemonade, the anticipation of the night venue began creeping around the corner. Then we "whisked" away one by one to prepare for an evening of elegance.

Soon a festival atmosphere began to take place when we all came down from our rooms and other arrived for the big reunion affair. The familiar colors of orange, brown and white brought back so many memorable moments. The laughter and the love that was felt in the room blossomed. The speakers spoke of how we had grown, how we matured and how we are living today. A silent prayer was offered in remembrance of our loved ones. After 20 years, it was wonderful to break bread, socialize and dance - one more time.

As we concluded the celebration at our Sunday brunch, we heard echoing in the atrium, "How do I say good-bye to what we had?" The good times that made us laugh outweighed the bad. It's so hard to say good-bye to yesterday. I don't know where this road is going to lead. All I know is where we've been and what we've been through. If we get to see tomorrow, I hope it's worth the wait. It's so hard to say good-bye to yesterday and I'll let the memories be my sunshine after the rain. It's so hard to say good-bye to yesterday, our theme song, Weequahic High School Class of 1982.

This was an event that will never be topped for another 50 years!

Send Reunion Information to: (973) 923-3133 / weequahic3@aol.com

FROM THE VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI

From Harriet Ordan Korchak, New Jersey Class of 1967

OH MY GOD MRS. WALSKY! Seeing your article in the Weequahic paper brought back so many memories - I don't know where to begin. My maiden name is Harriet Ordan and I graduated from Chancellor in 1963 and Weequahic in 1967 and I went to every canteen ever held and spent so many days and nights in the playground. I used to die to dance with Mr. Barone and every time I hear Tony Bennett's song of "I Left My Heart", I think of him. I read Mr. Dreschel's obituary a few months back and felt so badly. I loved him so. It was all such great fun. I remember you so clearly. It was such a wonderful time. I am now teaching 8th grade social studies at Rafael Hernandez School in Newark. I've been there for 14 years.

I went to Boston University after Weequahic and taught high school history for years before having my children and taking time off. Getting a history job wasn't hard but keeping it was due to teacher layoffs in the 1980's so at a Weequahic reunion, I was advised to go back to Newark for job security and the rest is history. Newark is surely a different place than we remember. But there is a different kind of job satisfaction than in the suburbs. I hope to be retiring soon (I am 53). I live in Sussex County now, on Lake Mohawk after raising my children in Westfield. I hope you remember me - I remember you with much fondness and I see your face before me now. I hope you are well. Please write back soon. With love and sweet memories.

From Perry Koonce, Colorado Class of 1958

So happy to receive the copy of the Calumet from my brother Bob, a 1960 graduate. I have very happy and positive memories of my years at WHS and in Newark. ...In 1993, my wife and I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the 35th reunion of the class of 1958. We enjoyed it immensely and look forward to attending another one. I would like to support the WHSAA by becoming a member.

From Howard Wolf, husband of Sandy Friedman Wolf, New Jersey, Class of 1949

Even though I'm just the husband of a WHS graduate, I enjoy reading the Calumet for several reasons. First, although I graduated from Irvington High School, I have the honor of being mentioned in the WHS yearbook of 1949. When Sandy was interviewed for the "Favorite Sayings" pages hers was "Howie says." Also I enjoy reading the alumni names since I was a partner in Bernat Florists on Chancellor Avenue and Fabyan Place for nine years and many of the Weequahic families were my customers. I see Eli Hoffman's name on page 16 of the current Calumet. Eli was an employee of the flower shop for a while. Keep up the good work. The Calumet is well done.

From Steven Eli Schanes, California Honorary 1941 Alumnus

I attended Weequahic from January 1937 to June 1938, when financial circumstances caused a move to South Orange. I was graduated from Columbia High in 1940, where I was, most likely, the only non-Christian in the school- being referred to as "that bright Jewish boy". For obvious reasons, my heart remained at Weequahic. My Weequahic Class would have been '41. So, I am hereby applying for alumni status. As I was running this morning, an alumna handed me the most recent Calumet. I have located the membership form and am prepared to complete it upon receiving your favorable response. Possibly the following, written for my grandchildren, might move your august body to grant my petition (I am also attaching my resume- hoping that that would help).

"From our great wigwam on the hill" begins the Weequahic High School fight song. The second stanza goes: *When we come back - You're sure to see - It's been for us - A victory.* This is Jewish idiom, pure and simple. And Weequahic High in 1937 was Jewish. I loved it. Every day was exciting, new things to learn, new things to do. The first half-year there, I was in the afternoon session- going from noon to five o'clock. This had a number of advantages: In the evening, we would argue about algebra problems and shout Latin declensions at each other, and then in the morning, I would do my homework. David Lyons and I were in Latin class and for some reason the teacher, Mr. Aaron Franzblau, took a special interest in us. He nicknamed David "Cupid" and me "Weasel". My parents were not at all happy about this, but I was quite pleased. As the Weasel, I could do things that "Eli" could never do. I began to help some big boys with their homework, especially algebra and geometry, and in turn they would push me around the halls - I slid on the back edge of my leather heels - and shouted: "Here comes the Weasel!" I felt like the mastermind of a gangster mob, just like Edward G. Robinson in the movie "The Amazing Dr. Clitterhouse".

Weequahic High was not big in sports, although we competed in football and basketball. ...What we did have, however, was music- and lots of it. We had swing and Jazz bands, a marching band, a bugle corps and a symphony orchestra. I signed up for the bugle battalion and played third trumpet - which meant that we were like the drums. We never played - or even heard- the melody. At football games, the drum major and the baton twirlers would march out, followed by the 48-piece bugle corps. After we were fully on the field, we parted, making a large aisle, down which came the 108-piece marching band. It was most impressive. The fact that we lost the first eight games of our schedule never fazed us. Our hated rival was Hillside High. By a miracle, the final score was 6-6, a tremendous moral victory. It was cold and raining, but at the end of the game, we marched up and down that muddy field, playing in pure joy.

This was the Age of the Big Bands. When the Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman bands came to town at the same time - playing in neighboring movie theatres, our school practically emptied. We were there for five shows and more. I well remember when Benny Goodman's band began his theme song, playing behind the closed curtain and the drum began, we all knew that sound - It was Gene Krupa, who had been in trouble for narcotics. He was back and the place went crazy even before the curtain rose.

Music at Weequahic High was Henry Melnick. Dr. Melnick was not only our music teacher. He staged major musical events. At the end of one semester, he put on a musical - consisting of all different types of musical performances - and ending with the combined symphony orchestra, marching band, bugle battalion and the high school chorus, playing his masterpiece. I was impressed with every facet of this performance, especially Dr. Melnick's musical theme. Several years later, I heard for the first time the Fourth Movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony - and shouted out - "That's Dr. Melnick's Theme!"

Elaine Stavitsky Ratner Class of 1945 *The Ultimate Volunteer*

By Bea Smith, Union Leader



Elaine Ratner of Union, who must be doing something for someone or some organization every moment of her active life, could easily be considered "a professional volunteer." For

five decades, she has given her all to all who need her, and despite the many awards she has received for her "heart of gold" generosity, she would rather acknowledge the next helpful event than talk about the accolades.

Most recently, Ratner was honored for being a member and leader of the Batim-Union Chapter Jewish Women International, formerly B'nai B'rith Women of Union. *"The event,"* said the petite Ratner, who took time from her busy hours to visit this office, *"took place May 21 at the Galloping Hill Inn in Union. I have been fund-raising vice president for 30 years, and I've been president, off and on, for about 35 years. My members tell me I'm the glue that's holding the chapter together."* And, she said graciously, *"it's been a lot of love. We're all a family and primarily members of a fund-raising organization to promote projects. We're a mission of Jewish Women International to aid women and children and to combat domestic violence."*

She was, in fact, elected current president May 21. *"The first time I served as president was from 1964 to 1966, 38 years ago. I got into the chapter in 1952. At that time, my son, Howard, was an infant, and staying home and mingling with other mothers began to get boring. I had to have a little more in life. But let me tell you,"* she confided, *"my parents, Ida and Nathan Stavitsky, were the real motivators. They showed me the way. Before I knew it, I was co-chairing with my mother the United Jewish Appeal campaign. We were Weequahic section co-chairmen."*

Ratner may also have inherited this aspect of her life from her uncle, Michael A. Stavitsky,

who founded the National Jewish Education Association and who served as national chairperson of the United Jewish Appeal. Currently, she is an aide to Union Township Mayor Patrick Scanlon, who actually presented her with a proclamation when she was honored recently. "I started with Mayor Scanlon when he was deputy mayor, and became his aide last January. It's really a more honorary thing, but I try to be as involved as I can be. We attend meetings, see how we can improve the town for the betterment of Union."

She has volunteered her services to nursing homes "or wherever I'm needed. Whenever I visit," Ratner chuckled, "I sit right down and play the piano. I play everything by ear. I've been playing since I was 4 years old. I never wanted to take lessons. I love it, and the people in the nursing homes love it, too. Rather than sitting home and playing cards - I never play cards - I pack for Family Services and the Community Food Bank in Hillside. I volunteer for the American Cancer Society health fairs."

"And what I love most is volunteering for the Newark Museum, assisting in the membership department or whatever department they need me. I'm always available." When the Township of Union Senior Center and Township of Union Division of Senior Citizens and Recreation, plus private businesses in Union, sponsored the recent Young at Heart Olympics, Ratner signed up and won first place for both women's walking events, including the 60-meter walk. *"I'm a mall walker, a power walker,"* she boasted. *"Every day I walk four miles. I had heard of the Senior Olympics, and my friends said, 'You walk very fast. Try it.' And I did, and won two gold medals."*

Ratner, who has lived in Union for more than 38 years, retired nine years ago as administrative assistant to Manhattan Welding Co., Hillside. In between taking such courses as anthropology, nutrition and disease, and current events at Union County College - *"the courses are free to senior citizens,"* she manages to find time to spend with her family.

The family includes a son, Howard, who is a CEO of ODS, a management consultant firm; a daughter, Karen, a family therapist; another son, Steven, a physical education teacher in the Wayne school system, and owner of Mind, Body Dynamics; and five grandchildren.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLDER WHEN:

Submitted by Gene Lieberman, class of 1952

You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere.

You get winded playing chess.

Your children begin to look middle-aged.

You join a health club and never go.

You decide to procrastinate, but never get around to it.

You look forward to a dull evening.

Your favorite part of the newspaper is 25 years ago.

You turn out the light for economic rather than romantic reasons.

You sit in a rocking chair and can't make it go.

You stop looking forward to your next birthday.

After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying the second coat.

Dialing long distance wears you out.

You remember today, that yesterday was your wedding anniversary.

You just can't stand people who are intolerant.

The best part of the day is over when your alarm clock goes off.

You burn the midnight oil after 9 PM.

Your back goes out more than you do.

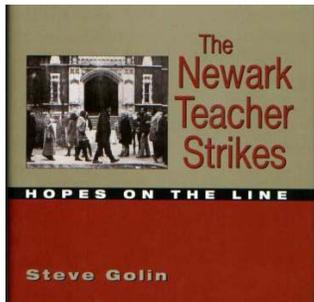
A fortune teller offers to read your face.

A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge.

You begin to outlive enthusiasm.

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

A Book Review By Dave Lieberfarb - class of 1965



Weequahic High School and many of its former faculty members play prominent roles in Steve Golin's book

The Newark Teacher Strikes. "Built in the mostly Jewish South Ward, completed at the beginning of the Depression, Weequahic quickly became one of the strongest academic high schools in the nation, the focal point of Newark's Jewish community, and the center of the Newark Teachers Union," Golin writes in the opening chapter.

Hannah Litzky, Bob Lowenstein, Alice Saltman, Esther Tumin, Jeanette Lappé, Sid Rosenfeld and even former principal **Benjamin Epstein** are cited as early members of the NTU. Mostly Jewish, leftist, egalitarian and socially committed, they helped shape the union during its formative decades of the 1940s and 1950s. Weequahic grads **Seymour Spiegel** and **Jerry Yablonsky** also joined the NTU after returning to the district as teachers at other Newark schools. Former social studies department chairman **Joe Bruder** is credited with teaching longtime NTU president Carole Graves the fine points of debating and Robert's Rules of Order.

Dave Lieberfarb and **Jim Lowenstein**, members of the Class of 1965, returned to Weequahic as social studies teachers in 1969 on the eve of the strikes. (Lowenstein is credited in Golin's introduction to the book as one of his four fact checkers). While they knew and respected the teachers of their parents' generation, they brought 1960s idealism to the school and the union. For young activists like them, it was a badge of honor to be arrested as pickets in February 1970.

Other Weequahic faculty members who were arrested included **Edward Tumin**, his sister-in-law Esther Tumin, Hannah Litzky and her best friend, retired art teacher Alice Saltman. Jim's father, **Bob Lowenstein**, a longtime union member but a department chairman in 1970, reported to work but supported the strike from inside. **Dorothy**

Bergman (1945) taught at Weequahic through most of the 1950s and was working at Boylan Street Elementary School in 1970. The strike put her in direct conflict with her sister Eleanor, a fellow teacher, who crossed the picket line one day when Dorothy was out there.

Golin also addressed the changes that Weequahic underwent in the late 1960s as "the student body changed rapidly from middle-class Jewish to southern Black. "Quiet Weequahic, once Jewheaven now is Route 66 of Black desire," wrote poet and community activist Amiri Baraka. Teachers responded in different ways. Some lowered their standards until they gave up hope; others retreated from the classroom and became guidance counselors; some tried to change the system.

Seymour Spiegel drew up a proposal for an innovative School Within a School (SWAS), launched it at South Side (now Malcolm X Shabazz) High School), and recruited a staff that included Jim Lowenstein. The program was successful, later moved into other buildings and is now known as University High School, one of Newark's magnet schools for better students.

One of the most interesting chapters in Golin's book deals with the arrested teachers' experiences in jail, particularly an activist cell of veterans of Weequahic's third-floor women's teachers room. Jeanette Lappé, Hannah Litzky and Alice Saltman were among a group that reported to the Essex County Corrections Center at Caldwell on Dec. 15, 1971. These women, reports Golin, "brought the same talent, principles and passion to jail that they brought to teaching and striking."

In jail, they tried to help the other prisoners. They led a peaceful - and polite - collective revolt that included demands for better medical attention, better food, better visitation arrangements, privacy and the right to go outside for recreation. They even organized a talent show during their eight-day lockup. They challenged the system, and with their small successes, these women teachers recreated the original meaning of their union activity.

Weequahic has played a prominent role in the fiction of Philip Roth (class of 1950). Now, as it enters its eighth decade with an entirely new structure, it is gratifying to see our former teachers and classmates have significant roles in a non-fiction work that focuses on a memorable era in Newark's history.

More Famous People Who Were Born or Lived in Newark

Enid Pulver,
Allen Garfield, George Kahn,
Billy Campbell, Melba Moore,
Queen Latifah, Frankie Negrón,
Jill Benglesdorf Pasternak,
Taurean Blacque, Tisha Campbell,
Savion Glover, Andre Tippett,
Wyclef Jean, Al Bubba Baker,
William Brennan, Jr.

NEWARK NEWS

🌟 **Raz Baraka**, Vice Principal at Weequahic, has been appointed as one of four Deputy Mayors for the City of Newark.

🌟 **Dr. Seymour Charles**, a physician for many Weequahic kids, passed away at age 81. In the 1960's, Dr. Charles gained nationwide attention as the leader for the Physicians for Automotive Safety in its advocacy for safer cars and the installation of seat belts.

🌟 **Josephine Stephens**, the owner for the past 24 years of the famous Ms. D's Restaurant on Clinton Avenue in Newark, passed away at age 77.

🌟 **The Weequahic Park Association** hosted a four-day conference of the National Association for Olmstead Parks. Frederick Law Olmstead's firm was the designer of Central Park, NYC, and all 19 county parks in Essex.

🌟 **Althea Gibson**, the first black player to win the Wimbledon tennis tournament in England in 1956 and an Essex County resident, recently was recognized by having the tennis courts at Branch Brook Park named in her honor.

🌟 **The NJ Performing Arts Center** in Newark celebrated its 5th anniversary.

🌟 **The Newark Public Library** was designated as a NJ Literary Landmark.

🌟 **Marion Bolden**, the Newark Superintendent of Schools, received the 2002 Congressional Citation for Excellence in Educational Reform and Leadership from the Congressional Black Caucus Education Braintrust, the National Alliance of Black School Educators and the Education Technology Think Tank.

MORE VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI

Jay Levinson, class of 1966, Israel

How Did Bragaw Avenue get its name ...and more

On 21 July 2002 the Bragaw Avenue School eighth grade graduating class of June 1963 held a reunion. Many of the graduates went on to Weequahic. A tidbit from that reunion: In the 1890's prosperity and an expanded network of trolley cars meant that new suburban neighborhoods began to spring up in the Newark area. At the time, what was to become the Weequahic Section still belonged to Clinton Township. During this period farms were broken up, and streets were laid out. The farm of the Lyon family was best known. It was sold, and in 1897 St. Peter's orphanage was founded on part of the property.

Another farm that was divided into streets and housing lots was that of the Gruman family whose ancestor, Ichabod Gruman, rode horseback from Philadelphia bringing to Newark the news that Cornwallis had surrendered. In 1902, the Weequahic section was annexed to Newark, and the area began to take upon itself a new character. By 1911 new street signs were in place. Ridgeway Avenue became Shaw (named after a prominent historian of Essex County), Cottage Place was changed to Nye Avenue (after Mrs. Nancy Nye, owner of the farm), and Essex Avenue became Bragaw Avenue, named after David Doremus Bragaw.

David Bragaw was born 11 December 1841 to a family of French Huguenot background. His father, Andrew, was born in Long Island City in 1789; his mother was born in Newark in 1798. In the 1820's the family settled in Newark. In 1865 David opened a grocery store near the intersection of Broad and Orange Streets, but his career was to take him in other directions. In 1879 he was elected to the Newark Board of Aldermen, and on 10 January 1898 President McKinley appointed him Postmaster of Newark. It was after David Bragaw that the street and school were named.

From Richard Waton, Class of 1944, California

It was my good fortune to live on Weequahic Avenue - attend Maple Avenue Grammar School - and graduate from Weequahic High in January 1944. In those days the area was predominantly Jewish, peacefully serene, and with a small farm still existing at the bottom of the street. Recently, a dear friend and classmate sent me a copy of your Calumet issue #6 which I found beautifully done and most touching. Accordingly, I wish to become an alumni member and also receive copies of your 5 prior issues...It's my guess that they included some fond memories not touched upon in the one I received, but if they weren't, I suggest they be mentioned with those that follow:

- (1) Syd's hot dog store, across the street from Weequahic High, and the Bergen Street Sweet Shop - both of which were popular student hangouts
- (2) Track meets that were conducted in Weequahic Park's stadium, plus the park being used for cross country races. In addition, its well manicured golf course, along with jousting and log rolling contests frequently held in summer on its delightful lake, anchored by a rustic log cabin
- (3) The tiny clapboard school house on Chancellor Avenue that George Washington visited once upon a time. Its picture used to be on the cover of Maple Avenue Grammar School's report cards
- (4) My friends and I never went ice-skating at Branch Brook Park, but I vividly recall our skating on Irvington and Weequahic Park's lakes at all hours of the day and night
- (5) The joy it was collecting food and gifts which we helped deliver by trucks to the poor at Christmas...and the man who set up a stand outside of school selling hot sweet potatoes and pretzels in winter.

Ellen Kimmelman Brown, Class of 1960, California

Congrats to everyone involved with the Alumni Calumet! What a terrific job you all do, and what great memories it brings back (my husband, Great Neck, class of 1960, is extremely jealous of every issue I receive).

From Richard Brospies, Class of 1964, NJ

To Babette Walsky: Your article in the Calumet about the Chancellor playground brought back fond memories. The playground was my "summer camp" for many years. I would ride my bicycle there almost every day. Bill Drechsel taught me how to play a serious game of checkers which I still enjoy today. I remember Gillie Lustig hitting softballs over the fence. We called the Friday night dance with boys on one side and girls on the other The Canteen. I was voted King of the Canteen in the 8th grade. Gladys was the queen. The playground was a safe place to "hang out" and meet friends. Unfortunately, the kids today don't enjoy the same type of experience. The mall is just not the same. I was able to make a lot of close friendships which I still maintain today. Thanks again for your article.

Michael Buddy Marx, Class of 1951, California

Glad to help out with the Alumni Association - I have an interesting story for the Calumet - Last year while vacationing in Tahiti on the now defunct Renaissance Cruise Line - I was in the pool and overheard someone taking about of all things Newark - Seems we are everywhere - turned out he graduated from Weequahic - I think about 1945 - his name is Seymour Kamm and now lives in New Mexico - he told me about a wonderful book all about Newark and it's Jewish community from the very beginning - the book is called The Enduring Community, The Jews of Newark and Metro West by William Helmreich - I sent the book to my Dad who is 97 and still very much with it - And of course he knew everything about the early times of Newark, the Mobs, etc. - All of which he grew up with - Just thought some of the old crowd would enjoy it - I got it from Amazon.com.

Sheldon Kimmelman, Class of 1947, Texas

A few days ago my wife Elaine (Rosenfeld) 1952, sent me to a local supermarket here in Dallas with a grocery list. As I wandered the aisles making my selections, my eyes fell upon a display of Tabachnick products in the gourmet food section. And all I could think was, Tabachnick's, gourmet? Hah.

My mind wandered back to the mid 1940's when my mother of blessed memory (she died at the age of 97) would send me to the Tabachnick store on Chancellor Avenue for a half of a quarter of a pound of belly lox. Not only did I envision the store but the heavenly aroma was just as vivid as in days gone by. I know it was a coincidence, but when I arrived home, there awaiting me was the Spring/Summer 2002 edition of the Calumet. That's when the nostalgia really set in!

Hail Weequahic!

Words and Music By
Henry Melnik, 1933

Our challenge to the breeze is flung
Our banners brown and orange sway;
Undaunted our refrain is sung,
Weequahic is out to win the fray.
All hail our stalwart Indian host,
Of stauncher warriors none can boast;
We'll fight to do or die,
To win for you, Weequahic High

From our great wigwam on the hill,
Where stand our totems gleaming high;
We chant your praise with a will,
To you all glory will come nigh.
Then hail, Weequahic, all hail to you,
We pledge our faith, our honor true;
Your name for ever ring,
To you, Weequahic High, we sing.

Weequahic The Beautiful

By Isaac K. Ellis

O school that bears an Indian name
Of old historic lore,
Whose legends of America
Lead to our very door:
Weequahic High! Weequahic High!
Hail to thy early fame:
May every deed within thy walls
Add luster to that name.

O beautiful for spacious halls
Where youth and knowledge meet;
Where hopes leap high -
where hearts beat strong,
And life runs ever sweet;
Weequahic High! Weequahic High!
Forever thou shall be
Enthroned in lives of boys and girls,
Engraved in memory.

O beautiful for golden years
That run forever new;
May time be gentle, fate be kind
And each fond dream come true.
Weequahic High! Weequahic High!
God shed His grace on thee,
Confirm thy Youth with love of Truth
Throughout eternity.

Memories Of A 1951 Graduate

By Seymour Spiegel, New Jersey

As I read the recollections submitted by other graduates of Weequahic High in the recent editions of the Alumni Calumet, I was moved to share with you and my schoolmates some of the memories that I carry with me daily. Perhaps they will resonate among the many friends that I had in those days.

During my freshman year at the Annex on Hawthorne Avenue, fresh from Bragaw Avenue School, my teachers were Sol Gleicher, Emma Conrad, Bob Lowenstein, Herman Holtzman, Art Lustig and others whose names - I regret - I cannot readily recall. But in thinking of them, I am now acutely aware of the unique and powerful personal characteristics and the impressively high level of academic competence that created the special ambiance that was Weequahic.

Among those teachers, whose differences were so pronounced, was a commonality that structured each day: individually and collectively they consistently demanded and refused to accept anything less than excellence from their students. Whether it was throwing an eraser to startle a student or a rigorous and withering lecture in logic and "straight thinking" or simply a firm dressing down or an unrelenting insistence upon rewriting and rewriting, each found an effective way of reaching us and evoking from us accomplishments beyond our own expectations.

My first memory of the "main building" is of Max Herzberg on the stage in the auditorium teaching us how to pronounce and spell the name of our school. He was extraordinarily proud of the Indian heritage that the school represented and reminded us that the name was pronounced "Wee-quaw-ic" and not "Weak work." He relished the fame of the school as he told us how mail from overseas addressed only to Weequahic High School, USA, had arrived at his desk.

Emma Conrad, my homeroom teacher for the next three years, adopted me, as she did many others, in a way that nurtured my self-confidence and monitored my progress or lack of it closely. I recall clearly how often she chastened me for letting down or taking short cuts. Of my other teachers during those years, I recall best Fraulein Qellrich, Marie

O'Conner, Irv Goldberg, Bill Castelluccio, Dave Burney, Pearl Vogel, Sadie Rous, Jeanette Lappe, Ben Epstein, Martin Green, and Ernie Ranucci. These faces flash before me without benefit of yearbook or other reminder, and I wonder why these images have remained with me while others have faded.

I was born the year that Max Herzberg opened Weequahic High in 1933 and graduated in June 1951, simultaneous with his retirement. As president of my class, I was expected to meet with Mr. Herzberg every Friday morning at 8:00 AM during my final semester. I remember very little of our conversations; but, at that period in his illustrious career, he was primarily occupied with other projects, a realization readily apparent even to a seventeen year old. As principal, Mr. Herzberg rarely, if ever, walked the halls of the school. Nonetheless, the building seemed to operate smoothly and effortlessly, a tribute to Connie Bowerman, the vice-principal, whose quiet expertise was eclipsed so completely by Mr. Herzberg's local and national renown.

The social life that Weequahic provided was for me at least as important as my education. Despite my constant struggles with family poverty and my father's prolonged illness, I found a camaraderie and love among my peers and a caring and sensitivity among my teachers that compensated almost fully for those relationships I lacked at home.

Now at 69 years of age, enjoying the fruits of comparative success and a family of my own, I still hold dear those whom I loved then with a surprising intensity that surfaces with each memory. Syd's was more than a hotdog stand; Halem's more than a soda shop; the Weequahic Diner more than a place to eat. They were the center of a close, integrated society of which I was certain that I was a part.

My '37 Chevy in 1950 was a magic chariot that transported my friends and me to secret sites of tranquility, sometimes known as Weequahic Park or South Mountain Reservation, or Hobson Street behind Untermann Field. We listened nightly to "Music 'til Midnight" that was broadcast, if I remember correctly, on WNEW. After taking home Sandy or Marilyn or Joan or Shirley or Eileen or Avis, Joe and Dave and I watched smoke rings curl from my cigar and from their cigarettes in my Chevy, at peace with the soft music and deep into unrestrained, open-hearted conversation.

Weequahic from 1947 to 1951 was to me as I have described it and more. I just need a little extra time to mine this lode.



Weequahic Park

By Richard Waton, Class of 1944

Weequahic Park was only two blocks from my home,
And by far the greatest one I have ever known.

In the spring or summer, one could play or dream,
Amidst a mass of trees and rolling fields of green.

A garden had a bounty of flowers all in bloom,
Casting off a scent of elegant perfume.

A playground for the children, had assorted rides,
With a sandbox sheltered from days with rainy skies.

A stadium had track meets, and a special treat,
Was watching trotting horses as they would compete.

Their carriages and stables weren't far away,
And kids were always welcome to feed the horses
hay.

At almost every turn, a golf course could be seen,
Anchored by a clubhouse and a putting green.

There were tennis courts and ballfields where every
game was played - And vendors walked around
selling snacks and lemonade.

Fish were always stocked in a pretty lake,
With facilities for renting boats or buying fishing bait.

Men of great dexterity, wearing bathing togs,
Fought with jousting polls while balancing on logs.

Autumn was enhancing, as leaves turned orange
brown, And a winter wonderland when snow was on
the ground.

The lake would freeze becoming a solid sheet of ice,
With skaters out in force, morning, noon, and nights.

A clubhouse has a fireplace with straw upon the floor,
And one could buy refreshments from its little store.

And at any given time, twelve months of the year,
People could relax without a thing to fear.

Yes I recall this park as a source of endless joy,
So many years ago, when I was a boy.

One Brief Shining Moment

By Arlene Chausmer Swirsky,
Class of 1964

Reading the Calumet brings me back to days I so miss. Little did I know when we moved out of Newark, the directions, convolutions and hair-pin turns that awaited me. Blissfully I had assumed I would lead an uneventful life. *But, as we all know, life has other plans for us.*

In my yearbook, Mrs. Esther Schecter, one of the art teachers who taught ceramics wrote, "Give up ceramics, stick to writing." It was the single best piece of advice I ever got. Writing has been my life. I got started way back at Maple Avenue, when I got hooked in the sixth grade. Frieda Bornstein told me I had a flair for words. The encouragement I got from her, and later from my teachers at Weequahic, and then later still, in college, prepared me to chronicle what was to happen, while I was waiting for my uneventful life to finally start. By the way, uneventfulness still hasn't kicked in.

After I graduated from college, I married a wonderful man who came from Worcester, Massachusetts. We lived in New York for a while, had one very perfect little girl and decided to move to Mass. to settle. About a year later my life did a 180-degree turn. Everything I thought I knew about life turned out to be untrue, and everything I thought I knew about me turned out to be equally untrue. My second daughter was born with Familial Dysautonomia, one of the rarest Jewish genetic diseases on the planet.

She was the first case ever seen at Mass. General Hospital. She was one of three hundred documented cases in the world. All the things humans take for granted about how their bodies worked did not work in hers. Her entire autonomic nervous system was a malfunction. She had no temperature or blood pressure control, no tears in her eyes, no reflexes and she could not perceive pain. Instantly I was thrust into a world of specialists and intensive care units. I was twenty-five years old and I was making decisions almost every day of my life that would critically impact on the life of the small child I had borne.

Heather lived to be five and a half. For all the angst and pain we suffered for her, she was a delight and taught all around her how to live. During her life and in the years that followed it, I freelanced and wrote magazine and news pieces whenever I could find the time to sit at my typewriter and compose.

Almost twenty years after her death, I sat down at my computer one day and began to write. When I had finished, the book ONE BRIEF SHINING MOMENT was complete.

It took me three years to finish and edit it. I had learned lessons about life, from a child who refused to believe she was anything but astonishing.

While life was happening to me, life was happening. My older daughter grew up and became a lawyer. We adopted a child from Colombia two years after Heather died. Recently I became a grandmother.

As Dick Martin and Dan Rowan would have gleefully said on Laugh-In, the Fickle Finger of Fate is still pointed in my direction. I am now waiting for a kidney transplant. The kidney disease I have is also a genetic disease. My older daughter Alyssa inherited it from me, and my adopted son Greg inherited the same disease from his biological parents.

I suppose I could let all of this drive me nuts, but instead I have chosen to write yet again. The new opus will carry the puffed up title REDISCOVERING MY INNER BITCH. It's a funny and sad, bitter and hopeful story that progresses daily, mirroring the experiences I am dealing with now. It is me, and I am the sum and total of all those things that gave me strength and guts. Most of those things came from Newark and Weequahic all those years ago.

We are who we are, and we do what we learn. I learned to write. I learned the skills and the art of the craft, and I got my beginnings back before I knew I would ever want to make writing a large part of my life. Thanks go, in no small part, to those teachers who made me love the language. Credit goes to the late Frieda Bornstein, the late Simon Chasen, the late Hannah Litzky and countless others who encouraged gently and tugged bravely at what they thought might eventually become talent.

EVEN MORE VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI

From Perry L. Cohen, husband of Anita Blumer Cohen, 1951, Nevada

My Life Married To A Weequahic High School Princess or How Did A Nice Chicago Boy End Up With A Wife From Newark?

It wouldn't have happened if my family hadn't moved from Chicago to Miami, Florida, and the Princess from Newark hadn't decided to move to Miami Beach. It was, as the term so aptly describes it, "Basheert." But it did happen, and I wooed and won the former Twirler from Weequahic, class of January, 1951. We met on that fateful Christmas night in 1955 and I was immediately stricken. It took a while to win the hand of the former Anita Blumer, but the incentive was great. Especially after I found out that her father owned a restaurant and deli on the corner of Halsey and Branford, in downtown Newark. The thought of a lifetime of corned beef, hot pastrami and kosher salami was impetus to marry this lass, and on a hot August night in 1957 I slipped the gold ring on her finger, she slipped one on mine, and the rabbi pronounced us husband and wife.

It was a wonderful, idyllic life. We moved from Miami to Los Angeles, and thence, retirement, to the glamour and glitz of Las Vegas, Nevada where we reside today. All thoughts of Newark had passed from our minds until the news of the Weequahic Alumni Association filtered its way west. A number of reunions later, Anita is once again the Twirler Princess from Weequahic High School. Do I regret her learning of her former life in Newark? No, not really. She has met old friends and visited old haunts. The recent West Coast Reunion helped her to discover so many of her old associates who have also moved west, and old friendships have been renewed.

Truthfully, I am glad that she is able to relive her past, but so far, no old boyfriends have turned up, for which I am very grateful. I don't know if I could live with her past romantic interludes. It's been wonderful to see her eyes light up when the latest issue of the Calumet arrives. She reads it from cover to cover, relishing each and every word. The article about the Weequahic Diner really brought tears to her eyes. It also brought back memories of helping her father out at Hobby's downtown.

No, I have no regrets marrying 'out of my station'. Who ever heard of a Chicago boy living a wonderful life with a Newark 'maidel'? Since my father-in-law sold Hobby's many years ago, the supply of corned beef, pastrami and kosher salami has dried up, but I still have my dear Anita, and that's what really counts.

From Bert Polow, Vermont, Class of January, 1935

After reading the messages from my classmate, Stanley Resnick, President of our graduating class of 1935, I felt motivated to prove that there are other survivors of that second graduating class of Weequahic High School. I transferred from South Side High (now Shabazz) for my senior year and loved it. Then after several years of World War II army service in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy, I used the GI Bill of Rights to get an LLB from NYU Law School and LLM from Rutgers Law School. In 1949, Betty Krohn, hailing from Oneonta, NY, with a fresh degree from Wisconsin, agreed to marry me and we set up a home and law office in Morristown.

In 1955 I became a part-time assistant prosecutor of Morris County and in 1963 was appointed to the judiciary. I served as judge of several different courts and after 20 years retired from the Appellate Division of the NJ Superior Court. Our three children had married and scattered to Vermont, Georgia, and California, so we finally uprooted, left New Jersey and settled in Vermont in 1986. I joined our son's law firm, Polow Polow & Mahoney and still remain active on a part-time basis. But Betty and I spend our winter months keeping warm in southern California, I look back upon my senior year at Weequahic as one of the truly fine and most enjoyable educational experiences of my life.

From Princess Towe, former Weequahic HS English Department Chairperson

Phil, I simply had to let you know how very much I enjoyed reading the latest edition of the Alumni Calumet. Though I am not a graduate of Weequahic (I'm a southern bell - smile), I think that what you have done for the many, many graduates and readers is commendable. I learned a great deal of history from all of the information that is included. Kudos to you, and to all of those who helped in making this a wonderful and informative document. Thank you for sharing it with me.

HELP US WRITE THE ALUMNI CALUMET

Send us articles, stories, memories, poems, photos, trivia, reunion information - and also give us your feedback

ALUMNI CALUMET BACK ISSUES:

Issues 1 to 6 of the ALUMNI CALUMET can be purchased for \$3.00 each or 6 issues for \$15.00. Please contact us at the WHS Alumni Association.

WANTED: PHOTOS & STORIES FOR BOOK ON WEEQUAHIC

Phil Yourish, Executive Director of the WHS Alumni Association, will be writing a book about the Weequahic area. Send old photographs and interesting stories to him at the Alumni office. All photos will be returned if requested.

- 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.

IT'S TIME TO JOIN OR RENEW!

It's amazing! We are now mailing Alumni Calumet newsletters to more than 4,395 alumni across the United States and in 12 other countries. *Now let's give back to the high school, neighborhood and city that meant so much to us during our growing up years.*

every Weequahic graduate. Your **MEMBERSHIP** will provide funds for:

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5 Membership Choices (receive a Weequahic Alumni decal with your membership):

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4 Merchandise Choices (circle size of T-shirt and sweatshirt):

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___ \$18.00 HAT (one size fits all)

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\$ _____ Academic/Performing Arts Scholarship (sponsored by Dan Skoler and other alumni from the Class of 1945)

Class (Month/Year): _____ Occupation: _____

Name: _____ Last Name at Weequahic: _____

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- IMPORTANT NOTICE -

The Alumni Calumet and Membership in the WHS Alumni Association Go Together

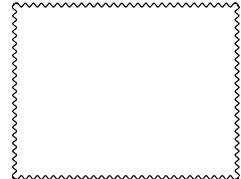
As a result of an expanding mailing list (4,395) and increased printing and postage costs, future issues of the Alumni Calumet newsletter will be mailed only to members of the WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. If you have enjoyed receiving the newsletter during the past three years, then please take this opportunity to JOIN or RENEW your membership.

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Weequahic High School Alumni Association
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ALUMNI CALUMET
FALL 2002
ISSUE # 7



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