



Weequahic High School Alumni Association

Weequahic's First Class of Hall of Fame Inductees



Alvin Attles, Class of June 1955

*Noted career as NBA player, coach
and executive*



Sid Dorfman, Class of June 1937

Award-winning sports journalist



Les Fein, Faculty (deceased)

Legendary basketball coach, 1955 to 1967



Dr. Max Herzberg, Faculty

(deceased) first Principal, 1933 to 1951



Sandra King, Class of 1965

*Celebrated host and reporter on
New Jersey Network*



Benilde Little, Class of 1976

Best-selling author and journalist



Robert Lowenstein, Faculty

*Longtime educator in Newark, Chair
of WHS Foreign Languages Dept.*



Hilda Lutzke, Faculty

*Popular English teacher at Weequahic
from 1937 to 1975*



Seymour "Swede" Masin,

*Class of June 1938 (deceased). One of
Weequahic's greatest all-around athletes*



Dr. Victor Parsonnet, Class of

*June 1941. Pioneer in cardiology at Newark
Beth Israel Medical Center*



Philip Roth, Class of Jan. 1950

Pulitzer Prize winning author



Ron Stone, Faculty (deceased)

Beloved Principal from 2002 to 2007

Diamond Jubilee



MAX HERZBERG

First Principal of Weequahic



Max J. Herzberg was the first principal of Weequahic High School and served for 18 years. He retired in 1951 after 44 years in the Newark school system. Mr. Herzberg was a former president of the National Council of English Teachers.

Upon his retirement as director of publications, he received the council's W. Wilbur Hatfield Award for *"long and distinguished service to the teaching of English in the United States."* The award also praised him for *"stimulation of higher standards in the production and use of books, magazines, radio, television and motion pictures."*

Born in New York in 1886, Mr. Herzberg lived near Red Hook, Brooklyn, in his boyhood and used to recall that he had been a member of a tough waterfront gang specializing in slingshot warfare. He later attended Newark public schools and completed the standard four-year course at Columbia University in three years. He did post-graduate work at Columbia and NYU. Mr. Herzberg joined the Newark schools staff in 1907 and became head of the English department at Central High School in 1912. As Weequahic's first principal, he used to observe that in 18 years he never asked for a single suspension or expulsion.

He was a former president of the Newark Schoolmen's Club and a member of many educational organizations. He was former president of the Stephen Crane

Association and was a member of the Listentome Literary Club of the Oranges.

In his other career, Mr. Herzberg joined the staff of the Newark Evening News in 1913 as a book reviewer and became literary editor in 1920. He held that position at his death and had edited the newspaper's Sunday Book Page since its inception in 1947. He estimated that he had written 5,000 book reviews and handled copy on more than 20,000 reviews.

Mr. Herzberg's own career as an author began in 1914 with his first textbook, *"A New Style Book of Business English."* He wrote or edited numerous other texts and books, ranging from a collection of Mark Twain's works to a textbook on Shakespeare's *"Julius Caesar"* complete with historical background.

Other works included a poetry anthology entitled *"Off to Arcady,"* a biographical and critical introduction to Stephen Crane's *"Red Badge of Courage"* and a collection of American prose and poetry called *"This Is America."* Mr. Herzberg was a member of the dictionary staff of G. & C. Merriam-Webster and editor of its leaflet, *Word Study*, sent several times a year to English teachers.

Mr. Herzberg died in January 1958. At that time he was survived by two sons, Richard and Donald, and a brother, Gustave.

ALVIN ATTLES

Class of June 1955

Player, Coach and Executive

Al Attles has witnessed it all during his lengthy NBA legacy with the Warriors (now Golden State) as a player, coach and executive - the exciting wins, the disappointing losses and the magical 1974-75 World Championship season.

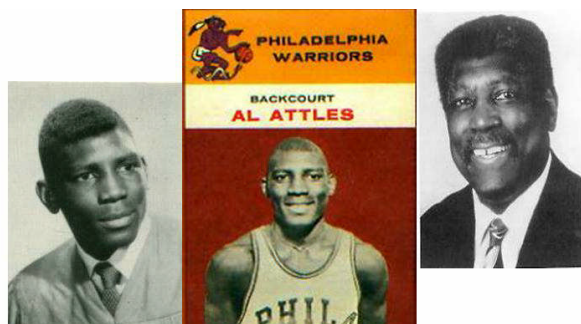
He has personal, first-hand accounts of Wilt Chamberlain's intimidating presence, Nate Thurmond's defensive prowess, Rick Barry's offensive explosions, the exciting days of "Run-TMC" and the high-flying antics of two-time NBA Slam Dunk Champion Jason Richardson. Attles is one of only 5 players in Warriors history to have his jersey retired (#16) - and remains one of the most publicly recognizable sports figures in the area.

Beginning his 48th year with the Warriors organization, Attles' current stint with the same team represents the second-longest streak in NBA history, trailing only Boston's Red Auerbach, who was a member of the Celtics' organization from 1950 until his passing in 2006.

The 71-year-old Attles joined the Warriors in 1960 (a 5th-round draft choice) and has since been affiliated with the club in one capacity or another, building a unique relationship based on commitment, loyalty and dedication. He has spent the last 21 years as assistant general manager with the Warriors, assisting the front office in a variety of ways, ranging from player personnel input to numerous speaking engagements. His endless contributions locally as a player, executive and civic leader resulted in his much-deserved induction into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

In the latter stages of the 1969-70 NBA campaign, Attles was named head coach of the Warriors, replacing George Lee after 52 games (spent the final two years of his playing career in 1969-70 and 1970-71 as a player/coach). His 30-game stint as head coach to end that season proved to be the start of the longest head coaching run in Warriors franchise history, a 13-plus-year tenure which produced, among other highlights, the lone NBA Championship in the club's West Coast history (1974-75).

Under Attles' tutelage, Golden State captured the Pacific Division title during the 1974-75 championship season and defeated Seattle (4-2) and Chicago (4-3) en route to the NBA Finals, where the Warriors swept the Washington Bullets (4-0).



During his 13-year coaching run, Attles guided the Warriors to six playoff berths, two division titles and an overall 557-518 record, which ranks 18th on the NBA's all-time coaches' winning list. One season after leading his team to the NBA title, he led them to a sparkling 59-23 record in 1975-76, the best mark in franchise history and the top record in the NBA that season.

Additionally, Golden State posted an all-time franchise record 11 consecutive wins during the 1971-72 campaign, Attles second full season at the helm. He also was named head coach of the Western Conference All-Star Team in both 1975 and 1976 and guided the Warriors to eight consecutive winning seasons during his first eight full seasons as head coach. Attles completed his coaching career in 1982-83 to become the Warriors GM, heading the team's basketball operations for three years through 1986.

Attles originally joined the Warriors as a player when the franchise was located in Philadelphia, where he spent his rookie season with the team (1960-61) and one additional campaign before the team moved to San Francisco in 1962.

One of the most aggressive and hard-nosed players in the league, Attles earned the unique nickname of "*The Destroyer*," which appropriately described his mentality on the floor. During his 11-year NBA career, he averaged 8.9 points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists in 711 regular-season games and currently ranks fifth on the Warriors all-time games played list.

Furthermore, he was involved in one of the most memorable games in NBA history on March 2, 1962, when he and Wilt Chamberlain combined for 117 points against the New York Knicks, the most ever by a pair of players in league annals. In that game, Attles tallied 17 points (8-8 FG, 1-1 FT), while Chamberlain netted an all-time NBA record 100 points.

Al and his wife, Wilhelmina, reside in Oakland and have two adult children, Alvin III and Erica.

In 2006, Al hosted a scholarship fund raising dinner for the Alumni Association and more than \$125,000 was raised for the Alvin Attles Endowment Fund.

SID DORFMAN

Class of June 1937

73 years as a journalist

Excerpts from an article by
Steve Politi, Star-Ledger



Sid Dorfman left his house in the spring of 1935 with three nickels in his pocket - two for the round-trip ride on the No. 14 bus and one "just in case" - and set out looking for a job. He showed up at the downtown Newark offices of a struggling newspaper called The Morning Ledger and was hired to write high school results at 10 cents a column inch. He was 15.

Seventy-three years later, Dorfman is still a vital part of The Star-Ledger, and along the way his contributions have helped it grow into the biggest in New Jersey. Sid started his journalism career at 15 as a rewrite person in the sports department, writing high school games. In 1938, he formed Dorf Feature service, which eventually became one of the largest news bureaus in the country, serving The New York Times, Herald-Tribune, N.Y. Daily News, and other New York papers.

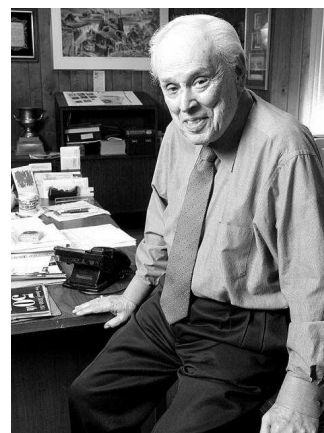
At age, 88, Sid is not in retirement mode. He still runs Dorf Feature Service in Mountainside, which supplies The Star-Ledger with high school and college sports coverage and town news. He also writes a weekly sports column. No one has worn more hats. Dorfman has covered golf, midget bike races, boxing and virtually every other sport as a reporter. He has designed the front page and the sports pages, lobbied to get more funeral homes to post obituaries in the newspaper and set up a system of bureaus that puts reporters closer to the suburban towns they cover. "No single person in the history of this paper meant as much to its success as Sid Dorfman," said Jerry Izenberg, whom Dorfman helped hire as a sports columnist in 1962. "In a lot of ways, there would not be a Star-Ledger without him."

He did everything in the early years. He was the first golf writer at the newspaper, even though he had never played or even watched the sport. He covered midget motorized bike races at the Velodrome in Nutley. He was the "Masked Lady," picking horse races at the local tracks. He covered amateur boxing at the Newark Athletic Club. He worked as a copy editor on the sports desk, and there were nights when he not only put out the sports section but filled in on the news side, laying out the front page as well.

He was, in a word, indispensable. But he is best known for his bureau's expansive coverage of high school sports. Few newspapers provide more scores, results and features about school athletes than The Star-Ledger. Boyd Sands, executive director of the New Jersey State Interscholastic



Athletic Association, said "Sid is behind it all. It's thanks to Sid that so many of our student athletes are showcased around the state and across the country."



Dorfman introduced some features that are still among the most popular in the newspaper today. He started the Top 20 ranking for high school sports around the state, and started All-State teams, not just for football and boys basketball, but for girls sports as well - the first newspaper in the metropolitan area to do so. "When nobody paid attention to women's athletics, Sid was on the case," said Donald Newhouse, president of The Star-Ledger. "History has proven his instincts infallible." and his biggest contribution may have come in another unfamiliar area: death notices.

"Sid is a special New Jersey treasure," said Jim Willse, editor of The Star-Ledger. "In addition to being a great columnist, he is a terrific editor, mentor and friend, and the best thing of all - he's just warming up."

Throughout his career, Sid has been recognized for his work with many awards and honors. Some of them are as follows: Old Time Athletes Hall of Fame; Newark Athletic Hall of Fame; Sports Hall of Fame of NJ; NJ Interscholastic Athletic Association Hall of Fame; World Golf Hall of Fame (best column in U.S., one year only); Metro West Jewish Hall of Fame; NJ Sportswriters' Association Distinguished Service Award and Honorary Life Membership; NJ Interscholastic Coaches Association Service Award; NJ Interscholastic Athletic Association Service Award; Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark Philip Dameo Memorial Award; First Fidelity Bank Humanitarian Award; Seton Hall University Larry Keefe Memorial Award; NJ Genesis Drug and Alcohol Program Humanitarian Award; Honorary Chairman: United Way, Mountainside, N.J.; Honorary Member, U.S. PGA and N.J. PGA; Life Member Golf Writers Association of America; B'nai B'rith International Civics Award, Springfield Lodge.

In 2002, Sid was selected as a "Distinguished Alumni" by the Weequahic High School Alumni Association.

LES FEIN, Faculty

Legendary Basketball Coach



The name Lester Fein is synonymous with the word *champion* in the state of New Jersey. From 1941 through 1967, Fein coached championship basketball and/or volleyball teams at four high schools, 3 in New York and Weequahic, as well as at a U.S. military air base.

His most successful year was the 1966-67 season, when his Weequahic basketball team went

undefeated (26-0) on their way to capturing the New Jersey State Championship. Weequahic was named the *No. 1 high school team* in the United States and Coach Fein was honored as *USA Coach of the Year*.

Fein is celebrated most for his incredible 12 years of coaching success at Weequahic where he was both Chairman of the Athletic Department and Athletic Director. Between 1955 and 1967, his Weequahic basketball teams won three State championships – 1962, 1966, 1967; seven State sectional titles – 1958-60, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1967; three Essex County titles – 1962, 1966, 1967; and eight Newark City League titles – 1956-59, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1967. Fein's success in New Jersey high school basketball registered a 210-69 won-loss record, a .753 winning percentage!

Following successful college basketball careers, five of his high school players went on to play in the National Basketball Association. In all, more than 50 of his players were recipients of basketball scholarships to major universities. After leaving Weequahic, he and his wife, Cecile, owned one of the most successful Weight Watchers franchises in New Jersey.

In 1968, Fein answered a U.S. State Department request to coach, teach and counsel basketball in the State of Israel. The four-month undertaking, headquartered at the Wingate Institute for Physical Education in Netanya, took him throughout the country and led to a lifetime commitment to supporting Wingate's programs and activities; in particular, the campus' *Nat Holman School for Coaches*. He served many years on the *Board of Maccabi USA/Sports For Israel*.

Fein was author of the articles in the *Athlete Journal*: *The Tall & Short of It*; *Third Quarter - One To Go*; and *Everyone Can Play Volleyball*.



Among the many honors he received, his alma mater, New York University (MA in 1941), bestowed its prestigious *Arch Award for Leadership* upon Fein, and, in 1988, he was one of the original inductees to the *Newark Athletic Hall of Fame*, which, in his honor, created the *Les Fein Scholarship* which was received by 2004 WHS grad, Tahri Marshall. Most recently, Fein received the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the *International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame* and was inducted into the *JCC MetroWest (NJ) Athletic Hall of Fame*.

In 1941, Fein coached basketball at Riverdale Country School, where his youngsters were Private School League Champions. In 1942, he led Woodridge High to the Catskill Mountain League title and Interstate Sectional Championship. Coach Fein entered the U.S. Army Air Force in 1942 and guided the Lakeland AAF Florida team to the Third Air Force Championship. Following World War II, 1946-49, Fein led Fallsburgh Central High to the Basketball Interstate Sectionals three successive seasons, and four successive State Volleyball Championships. Fallsburgh volleyballers were undefeated all four years!

Les passed away in 2007. He was married to Cecile for 63 years. Their two children are, Stephanie, of North Caldwell, and Kenneth, of Monroe, Conn., They have three grandchildren, Jennifer Rebecca Fein, Danielle Lauren Fein, and David Hunter Fein. To his family, Les was the perfect tango partner, a voracious reader, a dapper dresser, a wonderful listener.

"He was just a good soul, a good person with a good heart who wanted to do things the right way and who appreciated others who did," said his daughter, Stephanie. *"It was never just winning for the sake of winning. ... It was always for the pride in doing it well."* He stressed that relationships were the key to winning in basketball. *"That's how his life was,"* said his son, Kenneth Fein, *"He had many dear relationships."*

Les was the Honorary Chair of the alumni scholarship fund and was always generous in supporting our projects. In his memory, the Fein family and the Alumni Association have established the Les and Ceil Fein Endowment Fund.

SANDRA KING

Class of 1965

Emmy-Winning News Reporter



Sandra King has been producing, directing and reporting award-winning news, documentaries and public affairs programs - first for **WNET/13**, later for **New Jersey Network** - for more than 30 years. Generally focused on issues of race, class and justice, her Emmy-nominated documentaries - aired on PBS stations across the country - include: *Newark: The Slow Road Back*; *Prophet*; *The Writing on the Wall*; *This Little Light*, and *Newark Boys Chorus: ROOTS*.

Sandy had covered legal and social justice issues for most of her long news career, before launching NJN's *Due Process*, now in its 13th season. She writes, reports, produces, co-hosts and manages the unique weekly series - devoted exclusively to questions of justice and injustice.

A 1998-99 **Nieman Fellow at Harvard University**, her awards for journalism and film-making include: **The American Film Institute's Bennett Award for Best Locally Produced Documentary**, **The National Headliner Award**, **The American Women in Radio and TV's Pinnacle Award**, **The New York Deadline Club's** top honors (4 times), **The Leigh Whipper Gold Award**, **the CPB's Silver Medal**, several **Cine Golden Eagles**, **The NJ Broadcasters' Best of the Best Award** (4 times), and honors at the **Chicago, Athens, Philadelphia and Houston Film Festivals**. She has also garnered **10 Emmy Awards** and more than 75 nominations.

In addition to her work for public television, Sandy has lectured extensively on journalism, social history and public policy and for 15 years taught TV Journalism at Rutgers University in Newark. She also taught Writing and Documentary at Harvard following her stint as a Nieman fellow - the only New Jersey recipient of academia's highest journalistic honor.

Among her numerous other honors, Sandy has been named Rutgers-Newark Alumna of the Year, North Jersey Press Club's Woman of the Year, NJ Citizen Action's Media Person of the Year, a NOW "Reporter You Can Trust," and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund's 2007 award recipient for Distinguished Service.

Sandy's passionate commitment to justice and political action began at Clinton Place Junior High - which she was asked to leave after organizing a protest against racist policies - and continued at Weequahic, an institution then in the throes of its own racial division and transition, where she skipped her junior year to graduate in three years.

From there, it was on to Bard College, where she studied religion and philosophy before running out of money, and Rutgers-Newark, where she graduated with a degree in sociology in 1969. She spent eight years with The Star-Ledger as an award-winning reporter, specializing in urban, race and gender issues, before making the transition to TV. Earlier this year, when Rutgers-Newark celebrated its Centennial, it profiled one student from each of its decades - selecting Sandy as its person of the 1960's.

Sandy remained in the Weequahic section through the 1970's, but now calls the Forest Hill section of the North Ward home. As she told the Star-Ledger in an article last year, she has remained in Newark while others have fled because leaving would make her "*part of the problem.*" Much of her work has focused on the city, including a documentary that reflected on the 1967 Newark riots 20 years later, and a two-hour special last year that marked the 40th anniversary of the disorders. "*I've always thought from the time that I was a pretty small kid that I was suppose to try to make a difference in this troubled place where I grew up,*" she said.

As for hosting and producing a serious program in a sea of reality TV and entertainment posing as news, Sandy says it can be frustrating. "*There is no commercial vehicle for doing what I do. Literally, it does not exist,*" she says. "*Due Process*" is watched by about 200,000 people every month - a drop in the bucket compared with commercial hits - but Sandy says she doesn't mind. "*It may not be the biggest audience, but...you are reaching those people with something that may really matters to their lives, that may change the way they think.*"

BENILDE LITTLE

Class of 1976

Best-Selling Author

Former *Essence* magazine staffer Benilde Little is one of a new wave of successful African American female authors whose novels are earning legions of devoted fans. Her smart, attractive, overachiever protagonists are outwardly successful, but struggle with self-doubt, invisible class barriers, and heartache. Little has been compared favorably with notable writers of American fiction such as Edith Wharton and Terry McMillan.

Little is the best-selling author of *Good Hair*. The novel fictionalized the class issues Little had encountered both at Howard and in the world of professional, urban African Americans. The title referred to a trait that was essential for membership in the upper echelons of the African American social order, hair that didn't need to undergo lengthy chemical treatments to become straight. Using whites as an example of beauty, the characters in *Good Hair* also judged their peers by the shade of their skin.

The main character of the novel, Alice Andrews, is an African American woman from Newark who earns a scholarship to a prestigious women's college in New England. *Good Hair* follows Andrews' life as she struggles for acceptance among her elite classmates and, after graduation, in her professional and social life in Manhattan.

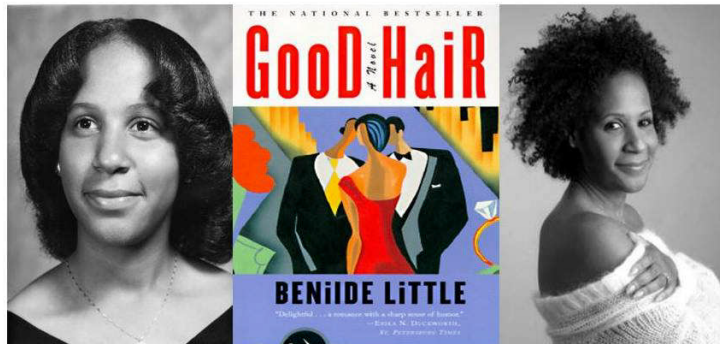
Selected as one of the ten best books of 1996 by The Los Angeles Times, *Good Hair* spent six months at number one on the Blackboard Bestseller list. Little was nominated for an NAACP Image Award for her work and was awarded Best New Author by the Go On Girl Book Club, a nationwide reading group. James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, called the book "an important book to read for anyone who has ever been in love...a superb debut."

Little's follow-up novel, *The Itch*, was published in 1998. Set among the world that W.E.B. DuBois called, "*The Talented Tenth*," she examined the privileged lives of the black elite in Manhattan and Los Angeles, and their struggle to find a sense of purpose amidst overwhelming material success.

Benilde's critically acclaimed third novel, *Acting Out*, asked the question of how someone maintains their course when their world is turned upside down unexpectedly. Her latest novel, *Who Does She Think She Is?* was published in 2005.

Little was formerly a senior editor at *Essence* and a contributing editor at *Heart and Soul*. She has been a reporter for *People*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *The Star-Ledger* and has written for *In-Style*, *Allure* and other publications. She graduated from Howard University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and also attended graduate school at Northwestern University.

Little was born in 1958 and grew up in a modest, integrated neighborhood in Newark. Her mother had dropped out of high school, became a nurse's aide, and then served as president of the Parent-Teacher Association at her daughter's school. Little's father worked at General Motors as a materials coordinator and was active in community and civic organizations as well. Her parents provided her with music lessons and nice clothes and strongly encouraged her to excel in school.



The 1967 riots in Newark irrevocably changed Little's neighborhood. Many of the white families moved away, as did some of the established African American households. The Littles, however, refused to move. Newcomers to the neighborhood, many of

them from a riot-torn area of Newark known as the Central Ward, viewed middle-class families like the Littles with suspicion. Little, an overachieving student, was often ridiculed by her fellow African American classmates. "I was the rich kid," Little recalled in an interview with Pamela Newkirk in the *Washington Post*. On several occasions, she was attacked on her way home from school.

At Howard University, she met many wealthy students who had several generations of Howard alumni in their family. For the first time in her life, she was asked what her grandfather had done for a living. Little became acutely aware that there was a type of caste system among African Americans. Because she had her own apartment and car, she was considered part of the elite. These were some of the personal experiences that have become themes in her writing.

Benilde Little lives with her husband Clifford Virgin and their two children, Baldwin and Ford, in Montclair.

DR. ROBERT LOWENSTEIN, Faculty

Distinguished Educator

By Dave Lieberfarb, WHS 1965

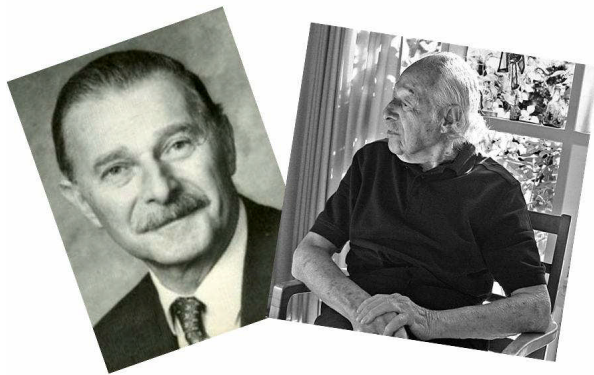
Thirty-one years after retiring as chairman of Weequahic's foreign language department, Dr. Robert Lowenstein turned 101 in July 2008. Dr. Lowenstein taught at the high school during its early years before World War II, in the post-war era after serving overseas, and in the post-riots era after fighting his own battle against McCarthy-era political persecution. He and his wife, Zelda, who died three years ago, also raised three Weequahic alumni: Amy Lowenstein, 1962; Martha Lowenstein Rennie, 1964; and James (Jim) Lowenstein, 1965.

The centenarian has also maintained a 60-year relationship with one of Weequahic's most famous alumni, Philip Roth, whom he met when the future author was in his freshman homeroom. A published poet and author himself, Dr. Lowenstein was a model for a character in one of Roth's novels, *"I Married a Communist."* Dr. Lowenstein's works have been published in a variety of poetry magazines. His daughter Martha recalled that when she and her siblings were young, their father also wrote a couple of plays and stories for children. She related attending a performance of *"Petey and the Pogo Stick,"* a dramatization of one of his stories.

Robert Lowenstein was born July 13, 1907, the fifth of six children, including two others who reached the century mark. He rattled off the names of his siblings: Ida, Eleanor, Aaron, Evelyn and Regina (Jean). Eleanor lived to 102; Evelyn to 100. Their mother reached age 92, and her mother made it to 95.

He graduated from South Side High School and received a degree in English from Rutgers in 1928. He earned a master's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania, then spent a year in France, where he taught in a boys' secondary school where they trained to be elementary school teachers. Back in America, he went to Johns Hopkins University, where he earned a Ph.D. in French literature, writing his doctoral thesis on Voltaire.

Dr. Lowenstein's first teaching job was in Trenton at Central High School where he taught French and Italian. *"After a few years, I came to Newark,"* he said, *"because the pay was better, it was my hometown, and I could live in my parents' house."* He spent time at South Side, teaching French, Spanish, and Latin, then Barringer, *"to replace a retiring Italian teacher,"* before coming to Weequahic.



During his first stint at Weequahic, he married the former Zelda Lewis on July 11, 1941. He joined the Army Air Corps and was sent overseas just before the birth of his first child, Amy, whom he didn't get to see until he returned from 16 months in North Africa, Italy, and Yugoslavia, where he picked up a working knowledge of Serbo-Croatian.

Despite being a decorated World War II vet, Dr. Lowenstein ran afoul of the political persecution that took place during the Cold War. One of three Newark teachers fired in 1955, he fought it out in the courts. He was represented by distinguished Newark Judge John Bigelow and attorney Morton Stavis, who subsequently was one of the founders of the Center for Constitutional Rights. *"When the case was finally decided in my favor, the opinion was written by a judge who had been a classmate of mine at Rutgers,"* Dr. Lowenstein recalled. *"Everything worked out fine."* Daughter Martha learned when she went to college that her father's fame preceded her. *"I didn't realize that you were somewhat of a cause celebre,"* she said. *"When I got to [the University of] Wisconsin, some of the graduate history students wanted to interview me because I was your daughter."*

Reinstated with back pay in 1961, he went to Barringer as language department chairman. *"I was very happy at Barringer teaching Italian,"* he said. But his final transfer was to Weequahic in 1967, when there were no longer any young Lowensteins in the school. Although he gave up mowing his lawn and shoveling snow a couple of years ago, Dr. Lowenstein still stays active by taking several walks a day. Shirley Seltzer, widow of former Weequahic Math teacher Morton Seltzer, relates that *"whenever I drop by to visit him, he has always 'just returned from a walk.'"* On the phone, he will give her advice for dressing for the weather conditions!

Dr. Lowenstein continues to write poetry and takes great pleasure in rereading his favorite writers, Montaigne and Dante. At the age of 101, family, friends, the natural world, reading and writing remain central to him. The French have a word for it - *engagé*.

HILDA LUTZKE, Faculty

38 years teaching English

Born and raised in Newark, Hilda Lutzke knew she wanted to be a high school English teacher. She received a BA from Montclair Teachers College (now Montclair State University) and later received an MA in Education from NYU. On February 1st, 1937, Hilda at age 23, began teaching English at Weequahic High School, where she remained until her retirement in 1975.

She knew her students were bright and her goal was to help them express themselves well. She focused on grammar, sentence structure, and expanding their vocabulary. She tested them on their reading and gave frequent writing assignments.

"I wanted my students to speak articulately and write effectively, and I worked toward those goals until the day I retired," Ms. Lutzke commented.



HILDA G. LUTZKE



But beyond the academics, Hilda always had an interest in her students' well being and their futures. She was happy to help them with their decisions regarding college or other plans for after graduation. Over the years, she has also enjoyed staying in touch with former students and reconnecting with others she has met locally or during past winters in Florida.

During her career, Ms. Lutzke was a founding member of the Newark Teachers Union. She also served as President of the American Jewish Congress' Greater Newark Women's Division, and as a member of its National Governing Council.

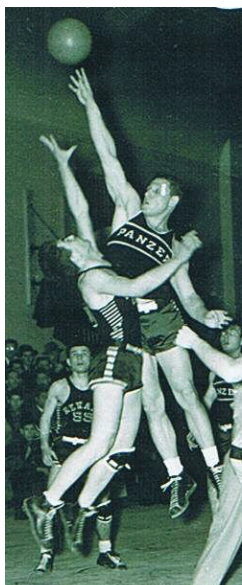
Her late husband, Maurice, was Vice Principal and then Principal of Hawthorne Avenue School. She has two children, Eleanor (class of June '59) and Arthur (class of June '63) and two grand-daughters, Jessica and Melissa.

SEYMOUR 'Swede' MASIN

Class of June 1938

Newark sports icon

By Matthew J. Dowling, Star-Ledger



The athletic accomplishments of Seymour 'Swede' Masin have long been elevated to legendary status in Newark sports lore and led novelist Philip Roth to base a character in a Pulitzer Prize-winning book on *"The Swede."*

The two Weequahic High School graduates never met before *"American Pastoral"* was published in 1997 since they attended the Newark school more than a decade apart. *"Until he got the book, he didn't believe it,"* Swede's daughter, Patty, said. *"It was very exciting for him and for all of us."*

Still, Swede took the unexpected fame with the same humility that marked his outstanding sports career as a young man some six decades earlier at Weequahic, where he starred in basketball, track and football. *"He was a truly great high school and college athlete,"* said Sid Dorfman, a Star-Ledger columnist who met regularly with Swede to talk sports. *"You had to tell him how good he was because he wouldn't. We had to drag it out of him."*

Swede was named to the Star-Ledger's top 50 athletes of the century as well as the all-decade basketball team of the 1930s. He is widely considered one of the greatest athletes in Newark history. With little training in track and field at age 14, Swede put the 8-pound shot 57 feet, 6 inches - a record that stood for 45 years. As he matured, he became an imposing figure by the sports standards of the 1930s and 1940s at 6 feet, 1 inch tall and 200 pounds.

He continued to build his legacy when he attended Panzer College, which is now a part of Montclair State University. He captained the basketball, soccer and track teams at Panzer. Swede led the basketball team to a 44-victory streak (longest in the country at that time) including wins over powerhouse teams like New York University and Long Island University.

Jerry Izenberg, longtime Star-Ledger sports columnist, said New York teams suddenly began refusing to schedule games against the upstart Panzers. And Swede's prowess in track and field earned him a state shot put and discus championship and a silver medal in the discus at the Penn

Relays. He was also a Coaches All-American Soccer Player. *"For him to dominate in everything was amazing,"* Izenberg said. *"He was the guy that the entire city of Newark knew. He was so complete, he had the physical strength to match his talent."*



Swede served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II, stationed on a minesweeper in the Mediterranean. When he returned from the war, he resumed his sports career by playing professional basketball for the Newark Bobcats in the American Basketball League, a precursor to the NBA.

His love of sports never waned during the 49 years he spent as a liquor salesman, primarily working for Gordon Bass and Co. in Union. Swede attended any community sporting event he could find and transferred his passion for athletics to his children.

"Our whole social life was going to sporting events," said Patty Masin, who was a physical education teacher at Elizabeth High School. *"He just loved sports and loved kids."*

It wasn't until Patty Masin uncovered a scrapbook documenting Swede's achievements in high school and college that she understood the acclaim that followed his sports career. *"He was just a powerful person, so loved and respected by everyone,"* Patty Masin said.

"I really treasured his friendship," said Les Fein, who got to know Swede through their regular lunch meetings with Dorfman to talk sports. *"He was an incredibly warm, soft and wonderful individual for his legendary prowess as a big strong man. He was like a gentle giant."*

Swede had the opportunity to meet Roth when the author was a featured speaker at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center two years after *"The Swede"* character won Roth so much acclaim. *"You put me on the map,"* Swede told Roth, according to an account published in The Star-Ledger at the time. *"You put me on the map,"* Roth replied. Most recently, his son, Bob, has written a book about his life.

In addition to Patty and Bob, Swede had another daughter Dale Raugas, a son Doug, and six grandchildren.

In his honor, after he passed away in 2006, the WHS Alumni Association established the Seymour "Swede" Masin Memorial Scholarship Fund.



VICTOR PARSONNET

Class of June 1941

Pioneer in Cardiology



An accomplished surgeon and researcher, Dr. Victor Parsonnet has demonstrated a lifetime of commitment and service to the advancement of cardiovascular medicine and surgery. Although he has gained international renown for his work with pacemakers, he also pioneered many cardiovascular procedures in

N.J., such as the first total esophagectomy, the first aortocoronary-bypass operation and the first kidney and heart transplantations.

Other contributions included the establishment of the first in-hospital emergency page system, now used universally as Code Blue or similar pages, the earliest demonstration that remote radiofrequency cardiac monitoring was feasible, now used in monitored critical care areas worldwide.

Among his many scientific contributions was the implantation of the first permanent transvenous pacemaker, a procedure now used in almost every pacemaker implantation throughout the world. He also implanted the first nuclear pacemakers in the United States and later pioneered the use of the lithium battery pacemaker, now used in virtually every pacemaker and defibrillator implanted today.

He is past Director of Surgery, a position he held for 34 years, and he founded the hospital's Pacemaker Center in 1966 and remains its Director. He is Director of Surgical Research at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, as well as Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Dr. Parsonnet has earned numerous awards and honors, and has served in various capacities, from founding member, trustee, to president, in many professional organizations and societies. He has been selected as "Outstanding Physician" of the year, received the "Pioneer in Pacing" award; and in 1996, The American Heart Association selected him to receive their "Heart of Gold Award." This year they awarded him their 2008 Visionary Award that will henceforth bear his name for future awardees.



He has been a member of 13 editorial boards of cardiovascular journals, and holds five patents. As a recognized expert in his field, he has also published more than 600 articles, authored five books and 86 book chapters, produced 24 medical tapes and 20 teaching films, created 36 exhibits, and conducted more than 700 meetings, lectures, and presentations during his career.

Dr. Parsonnet attended Cornell University and the New York University College of Medicine where he received his medical degree. He completed his internship in surgery at Boston Beth Israel Hospital, and residencies in Pathology at Bellevue Hospital and Grasslands Hospital, and in surgery at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. He completed fellowship training in vascular surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York and in cardiovascular surgery with Drs. Michael DeBakey and Denton Cooley at Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston. He served in the USNR during World War II, and the USAF during the Korean Conflict from 1952-54.

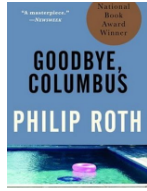
Through his avocational interest in music he became Board Chairman of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 1991. Earlier this year he was named Chairman Emeritus of the orchestra, and recently was their honoree at the 2008 opening night ceremonies, receiving the first Leadership Award that will bear his name for future awardees.

Dr. Parsonnet lives in Oldwick, N.J. with his wife, Jane. His first wife, Dr. Mia Parsonnet, also a physician, died in 2002. They have three children; one of whom, Julie, is Associate Professors of Medicine and Dean of Education at Stanford Medical School, Jeff is Associate Professor of Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School, and Brian is an engineer in business in Fort Collins, CO. They have five grandchildren, but now together with Jane they have six children, ten grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

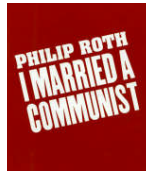
PHILIP ROTH

Class of January 1950

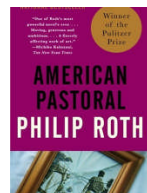
Pulitzer Prize Winning Author



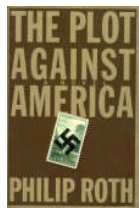
Philip Roth has been a prolific and celebrated writer of novels and short stories since *Goodbye, Columbus*, his debut collection of short fiction, for which he won the National Book Award in 1959 when he was only 26 and which was later made into a film.



He used his experiences in growing up in the Weequahic section, and his days as a college student in Rutgers and Bucknell as material for many of his works. In *Goodbye, Columbus*, the story is of a poor young Jewish man from Rutgers-Newark, who has an affair with a wealthy young Jewish woman the suburbs.



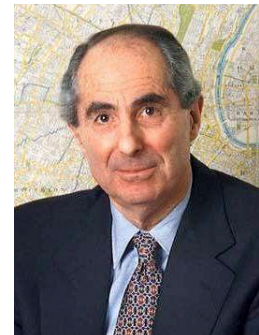
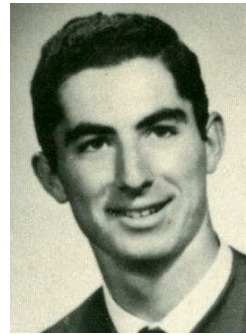
Roth, a January 1950 graduate of Weequahic High School, was born in 1933 to Herman Roth, an insurance salesman, and the former Bess Finkel. His older brother, Sandy, was a 1946 Weequahic grad. His first wife, Margaret Martinson, was the inspiration for female characters in several of Roth's novels, including Lucy Nelson in *When She Was Good*, and



Maureen Tarnopol in *My Life As a Man*. She died in a car crash in 1968. In 1990, he married his long-time companion, English actress Claire Bloom. They are no longer together.

At a special ceremony attended by Roth in 2006, a plaque was placed on his boyhood home on Summit Avenue. "Today, Newark is my Stockholm, and that plaque is my prize," he said, "I couldn't be any more thrilled by any recognition accorded to me anywhere on earth"

Roth's themes involve Jewish-American identity, sex, shame and the role of the individual in contemporary society, and his novels are alternately bleak and hilarious. The controversy over the sexual frankness of his third novel, *Portnoy's Complaint* (1969), made Roth a literary celebrity, a role he reluctantly embraced and used as fodder for later books. The *Portnoy* novel, a psychiatrist-couch monologue by a young, insecure, and hilariously articulate Jewish man who describes his life, notably his possessive mother, his erotic fascination with blonde Gentile girls, and his masturbatory exploits, is Roth's most famous. It has been widely acclaimed a comic masterpiece.



His alter ego, Nathan Zuckerman, appears in several of his books: 1974's *My Life as a Man*, 1979's *The Ghost Writer* and 1983's *The Anatomy Lesson*. His character David Kepesh is the protagonist of *The Breast* (1972), *The Professor of Desire* (1977) and *The Dying Animal* (2001), and Roth has also used his own name as the main character in mostly autobiographical works, including *The Facts* (1988), *Deception* (1990) and *Operation Shylock* (1993). His 1970 comic novel *Our Gang* is a parody of the Nixon administration... *The Plot Against America* (2004) is an alternate history in which Charles Lindbergh defeats Franklin D. Roosevelt for the U.S. presidency and turns America into an isolationist bastion of anti-semitism.

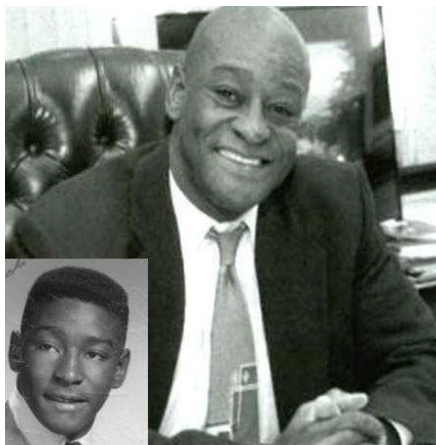
Roth is inarguably the most decorated writer of his era. His many literary awards include the American Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for the 1997 work *American Pastoral*. In 2002, he was awarded the National Book Foundation's Award for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. Most remarkably, several of his novels have either won or been named finalists for one or more of America's four most prestigious literary awards, a phenomenal achievement for a writer now entering his eighth decade.

Literary critic Harold Bloom has named him as one of the four major American novelists still at work, along with Thomas Pynchon, Don DeLillo, and Cormac McCarthy. In 2004, the Philip Roth Society announced the publication of the inaugural issue of the Philip Roth Studies journal.



RON STONE, Principal

Dynamic Leadership at Weequahic



Ron Stone believed *“the best measure of success is not how high up the ladder of achievement one ascends, but how many others you help along the way.”*

After six years as Principal of Weequahic High School,

Ronald G. Stone, passed away suddenly on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at age 57. His passing was a great loss to the high school, the Weequahic community, and the city of Newark. Mr. Stone was a passionate, dedicated, and determined educator. He was an inspiration to his staff and students. He brought to the high school a fresh vision, a compelling agenda, and a strategy for success. He embraced Weequahic with energy and enthusiasm. His bold, dynamic and extraordinary leadership truly made a difference.

During his tenure, the school prospered for the first time in many years. This included creating an atmosphere for learning and success; instilling school pride; the renewal of the school's accreditation; improved test scores; an increase in students graduating and attending college; better facilities for the marching band and athletic teams; the renovation of Untermann Field; a state championship football team; the use of conflict resolution as an alternative to gang violence; and the establishment of a working partnership with the school's active alumni association.

Ron was born in Newark's Central ward, the oldest son of the late Dr. Elayne D. Brodie, who encouraged him to excel in academics, music, and athletics. He spent his adolescent and teen years growing-up in the North Ward section of Newark, where he attended Summer Avenue Elementary, Broadway Junior High School, and Barringer High School. At Barringer he was First Chair trumpet, leader of the Blue Jackets Jazz Band, in addition to his pursuit of athletics. He became a three-year varsity wrestler and a track and field athlete, under the guidance of Coach Tony Naporano, and the personal influence of Coach Frank Verducci. Winning both the City and the District Championships in the 157-pound weight class, he concluded his high school career undefeated in 1968.

He continued his education and graduated Kean College with a BA in Physical Education and an MA in Administration and Supervision. At Kean he lettered in football as the starting fullback. He also began to play Lacrosse, and after two years, was named Captain of the Lacrosse team earning All Metropolitan honors as a Midfielder.

In 1974, Ron became a Physical Education teacher and coached in the Newark Public Schools. In early 1980 he started the first wrestling club for elementary youth at Franklin Elementary. He coached boy's basketball at Peshine, Dayton Street and First Avenue schools. He influenced the lives of numerous young athletes. Prior to coming to Weequahic in 2002, Mr. Stone was Vice Principal at Dayton Street School and Avon Avenue School.

In 1993 at age 43 in pursuit of new challenges and to test his physical limits, Ron won the North American Power Lifting Championship, squatting 680 pounds, setting a State dead lift record of 710 pounds. He held a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and placed 10th in the New Jersey State Road Cycling Criterion Championship two summers ago.

A motivational speaker, Mr. Stone received numerous recognitions and awards - most recently, *the Benedetto Croce Educator's Award*. He was also inducted into the *Newark Athletic Hall of Fame* and made the keynote address.

Forever the optimist, Ron would affirm *“there is a crisis in urban public schools, but I contend these institutions are indispensable. Public schools are vital to inner-city communities. The bottom line is that, even when there is little evidence of educational efficacy, urban public schools provide services that are desperately needed. Therefore, it's up to us to change a culture of hopelessness to a culture of, WE will succeed, no matter what!”*

Ron and Meg Charney Stone were married for 16 years. He had four sons, Bobby Jr., Ronnie, Jr., and twins Jesse and Jarret. His legacy and devotion to his family, his students, and his colleagues will live in our hearts forever!

He firmly believed that *“through God, all things are possible.”*

