

Coach Les Fein

A Weequahic Legend Passes

*Within a span of five years in the 1960's,
Les Fein's basketball teams won three state
Group IV basketball championships and the
1967 squad was the best in the nation*

By Phil Yourish, 1964



I thought he was invincible. And why not? After all, he was the COACH. When I heard in February that he had a heart attack and a stroke, I believed, even at age 88, this would be just another challenge that he would overcome.

As the Executive Director of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, I got to know Les Fein over the recent years in a way that I never knew him when he was my physical and health education teacher at Weequahic in the early 60's.

For the past few winters, when I made my annual trek to Florida, I always looked forward to having lunch with Les at his country club. Although he thought the attraction for me was the huge and tasty buffet, it was really only about being with Les Fein.

I always enjoyed getting together with him. My time with him was very precious. I could sit and listen to his stories for hours. He was mesmerizing. In his soft-spoken and expressive manner, he could relate a story in the most engrossing way. I would be totally absorbed, always wanting to hear more.

To a Weequahic guy who grew up in the bleachers of our tiny gym watching the magical moments of basketball unfold on the court before me, his stories about his teams and his players were riveting - and he provided the emotion with the details.

As an ardent fan, the highlight of my high school years was the Weequahic basketball team. Could there be a finer moment than when Weequahic beat Westfield to capture its first state basketball championship in 1962?

For a man in his late 80's, Les' memory was sharp and his recall of facts was remarkable. Considering that he left coaching and Weequahic in 1967, there wasn't much that he couldn't remember.

Not only did he speak about the highlights of his 12 golden years at Weequahic and the exploits of his exceptionally talented teams and players, but he shared with me the more personal side of his life - his growing up in Brooklyn, his time in the Army, his marriage to Ceil, his coming to Newark, tales about his kids, his coaching career, and the success he

and his wife had with Weight Watchers.

It needs to be noted that Les was more than just sports and basketball. He was a very well-rounded individual with a wide variety of interests who was an avid reader, enjoyed music, art and theater, and was very knowledgeable about local and world affairs.

Recently, he sent me an article that he wrote and wanted me to critique. In it he stated that for him the most important factor in coaching was "relationship." And his life reflected that credo.

He knew his players well beyond the basketball court. He could recite their experiences and achievements in life during and after Weequahic. He always had their names, addresses, and telephone numbers nearby, and even after all these years, he made a concerted effort to stay in touch by telephone, letter, and an occasional lunch when they came to visit him in Jersey or Florida.

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Les Fein, 88, WHS Basketball Coach

By Laura Johnston, Star-Ledger - 03/10/07



Ceil and Les Fein

To all of Newark, Lester Fein was the famed coach who led the Weequahic High basketball team to three state championships, seven state sectional titles and a 26-0 season in 1966-67, when Weequahic was ranked first in the nation.

To his family, the Verona resident was the perfect tango partner, a voracious reader, a dapper dresser, a wonderful listener. He was a mensch.

"It means 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 Fein of North Caldwell. *"It was never just winning for the sake of winning. ... It was always for the pride in doing it well."*

Mr. Fein - Les to his countless fans - died Friday in Boca Raton Community Hospital, in Florida, where he had a second home, after suffering a heart attack and stroke last month. He was 88. The father of two and grandfather of three coached for 12 years at Weequahic, in Newark's South Ward, and kept in touch with his players ever since. A reserved man, he cheered on the Knicks and the Giants, played golf and tennis, collected art and ran a Weight Watchers franchise with his wife and daughter.

"I could talk forever about Lester," said Stephen Bleier of Morristown, team captain during Weequahic's 1961-62

season. *"I just wanted to be near him, and I guarantee a lot of people felt the same way. There was a goodness from him."*

Mr. Fein met his wife, Cecile, at a Sweet 16 party in Brooklyn. Cecile was 15 1/2; he was a year older. *"I told my sister I was going to marry that guy,"* Cecile Fein said after 63 years of marriage. *"I felt it."* The couple dated all through New York University, where they earned bachelor's and master's degrees and doctoral equivalency in physical education and health.

After they married, they moved to Woodridge, N.Y., until Mr. Fein was drafted into the Army Air Force during World War II and stationed at Fort Jackson, S.C., Cecile Fein said. After the war, they moved to Union, where Mr. Fein began teaching physical education at Weequahic.

And then he began coaching. Mr. Fein made sure his team felt like part of the family. He invited his players over for pre-season lunches, rewarded them with cookies his wife and daughter baked and stressed that relationships were the key to winning in basketball.

"That's how his life was," said his son, Kenneth Fein, 58, of Monroe, Conn. *"He had many dear relationships."* In 12 seasons at Weequahic, Mr. Fein was 210-69, won the City League title eight times, the Essex County title three times and the state Group 4 championship three times. He was twice The Star-Ledger Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the JCC MetroWest Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Alvin Attles, who played for the NBA's Philadelphia Warriors, and later the Golden State Warriors, met Mr. Fein on the Avon Avenue Playground before he was in eighth grade. It was 1951, said Attles, 70, who remembers Mr. Fein's 1951 Chevy. *"As great of a coach as he was, he was a much better person,"* Attles said. *"There was something about him that reached everyone."*

In addition to his wife, Cecile, and children, Stephanie and Kenneth, Mr. Fein is survived by three grandchildren: Jennifer Rebecca Fein, Danielle Lauren Fein, and David Hunter Fein.

WHS Legend Passes

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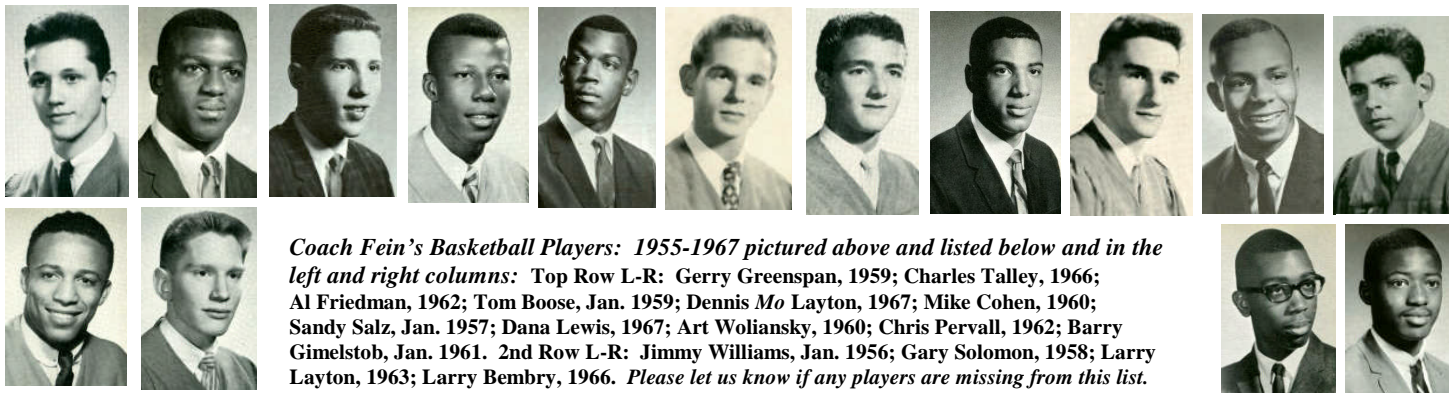
This past September, at our Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner, as he spoke eloquently about Alvin Attles (*whom he did not coach*), he took time to introduce his 17 basketball players who were present. Les Fein was always about creating relationships.

Three of the qualities that I admired in Les were his authenticity, modesty, and sense of humor. When you were in his presence, you felt like he was genuinely interested in who you were. He made you feel comfortable and special. In addition, his success in sports and business was always kept in perspective. Although he received many honors and awards, he was the most humble person I knew. He had no need to broadcast his accomplishments. Most of all, Les could make me laugh. His humor was subtle, but he brought a smile to my too serious face many times.

When we started the alumni association in 1997, Les was one of our biggest supporters at a time when many doubted our capacity for future success. He always made himself available and he served as the honorary chairperson of our Scholarship Committee. My favorite days were the ones when he called to tell me how much he enjoyed the latest Alumni Calumet newsletter, what a wonderful job the alumni association was doing, or to just chat for a few minutes. In the ensuing years, he would be very generous, providing funds for the French class trip to Paris and for the Alvin Attles Scholarship Fund.

The Coach didn't grow up in New Jersey. He attended school in Brooklyn. He never knew much about Newark until he applied for a teaching job. From hearing him talk about his life during that time, I always got the feeling that although coming to Newark was fortuitous, it was also his destiny.

Les was an intelligent, kind, generous, caring, courageous and engaging individual. I appreciated his friendship and I feel privileged to have known him. He was truly a Weequahic legend! We will miss him very much.



Coach Fein's Basketball Players: 1955-1967 pictured above and listed below and in the left and right columns: Top Row L-R: Gerry Greenspan, 1959; Charles Talley, 1966; Al Friedman, 1962; Tom Boose, Jan. 1959; Dennis Mo Layton, 1967; Mike Cohen, 1960; Sandy Salz, Jan. 1957; Dana Lewis, 1967; Art Woliansky, 1960; Chris Pervall, 1962; Barry Gimelstob, Jan. 1961. 2nd Row L-R: Jimmy Williams, Jan. 1956; Gary Solomon, 1958; Larry Layton, 1963; Larry Bemby, 1966. Please let us know if any players are missing from this list.

Fred Anderson
Joe Baker III
Jerry Bardin
Michael Baskin
Steve Berkowitz
Ernie Bethea
Sandy Bleier
Steven Bleier
Cliff Carter
Tom Chakeres
Lucious Childs
Leroy Cobb
David Coffey
Bert Coppock
Fred Dale
Joe Daniels
Willis Dargon
Julian Decter
Bobby Denard
Jeff Elson
Danny Enzer
Robert Epstein
Billy Ertag
Barry Feldman
Jerry Field
Dave Flecker
Sam Fromkin
Bill Fruchter
Gerry Gimelstob
Harvey Glassman
Larry Hellring
Phil Hickson
Lonnie Hill
Harold Hooper
Don Iasillo
Garry Jenkins
Larry Jenkins
Ken Jones
Walt Karney
Al Kershner
Judd Kessler
Larry Koonce
Lenny Levine
Artie Lieb
Milton Litt



RELATIONSHIP

A Reason For My Success In Coaching

By Les Fein

(This article was written by Les just prior to his illness in February, 2007)

"IT IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP,"

I said to Isiah Thomas one night before game time at Madison Square Garden. It was the year before he took over from Larry Brown as Head Coach of the New York Knicks. He was in his usual place, standing right beside my season's seat, to watch the Knicks play. It was a bad year for the Knicks and Larry Brown would lose his job as a result. During a brief conversation with Isiah, I told him what I believed. I told him what I would start my lectures with at coaching clinics around the country, that "it's all about relationship."

Of course there is conditioning, pre-season preparation, teaching skills, individual play (offense and defense), new techniques, team play (offense and defense), special game situations, team and player strategy, scouting reports, general game philosophy and more. But to make it all work, to get the maximum value of each phase of the game and the players (team), there was an ingredient necessary to bond it together. For me (and for others), it was and will always be *relationship*. So, beyond teaching, motivation, practice, there is *relationship*.

When Isiah Thomas was given the Knicks coaching job, it was the caveat that he had to improve on the Knicks' record or "he was gone." The next season when Isiah was interviewed, he told the sportswriter that "last year a wise fan told me it's all about

relationship." I believe he was quoting me. What I learned about Coach Thomas is that he not only listened, but he heard me. I was impressed.

Relationship is somewhat elusive. It can be explained, defined, discussed in a variety of ways and words. I started coaching basketball, baseball and football in 1942. Eventually it was exclusively basketball, and ended in 1967. My last twelve years, 1955-1967 were spent coaching basketball at Weequahic High School in Newark, New Jersey. They were the most successful, the most dramatic and the most satisfying, the happiest time in my coaching career.

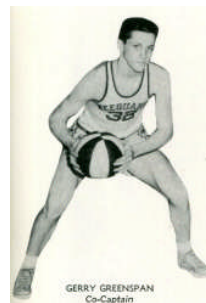
Relationship, how did it start? Was this a conscious effort on my part, a deliberate plan to a philosophy for coaching? No, no, no! I wasn't even aware of doing something beyond the usual teaching, practicing and motivation. It was just my way. I couldn't teach or coach young people any other way. Every coach has his or her way. As people are different, so coaches' "ways" are different, and results (winning) are different.

How could I get my players to believe in what I was trying to teach, to believe I was coaching them to reach heights they dreamed of? I knew they had to trust me, respect me, support me, even like me if I wanted them to believe me. And as important, they had to know that I trusted, respected, supported and liked them. Finally that thread of *relationship* had to go three ways; coach to player, player to coach, and player to player.

When that *relationship* can be built, then the opportunity for success becomes more attainable. It is then that acceptance by the team for the coach's plans takes hold. Without that acceptance, the players' passion, the team's fervor is not at its highest level.

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Bill Luper
Rich Magliacano
Bill Mainor
Ira Marcus
Frank Marshall
Al Mayo
Jim McIntyre
Richie McLeod
Steve Medwin
Harold Morrell
Arni Moskowitz
Dennis Mosley
Tex Murray
Charles Myers
Will Penn
Elliot Ponchick
James Randolph
Arnie Rudominer
Robert Russell
Joel Samitt
Les Schofferman
Claude Scott
Robert Scott
Salome Scott
Howie Sharenow
Al Simkowitz
Marvin Soloman
Larry Stewart
Frank Summerfield
Nick Swerdloff
Henry Thayer
Richie Thayer
Ken Thompson
Paul Trachtenberg
Walter Uhrman
John Wakefield
George Watson
Alex White
Barry Wiernik
Marion Wiley
Lucius Williams
Ray Lefty Wilson
David Wolkstein
Dave Wright
Danny Wuensch



RELATIONSHIP *from page 4*

The apex of success happens when a kind of “*brotherhood*” wraps itself around the team. It often encompasses the entire school, students, faculty, the community and everything connected to the team.

A school varsity team holds a unique position. They play for the love of the game. They perform before their peers and the public, they are on exhibition. The school, fellow students, family, friends and the world see them, praise them, condemn them, glorify them and ignore them. For young people that’s a lot on their plate. The coach shares in all of this and more. The coach has the responsibility to try to have it all happen and end in the joy of accomplishment.

The young athlete can take it quite well. The benefit of youth, energy, strength, spirit of competition, desire, determination, motivation, camaraderie, joie de vivre helps to overcome all adversity. As a coach it wasn’t quite so easy, but I confess, I loved it.



Coach Fein being honored at an Alumni Homecoming with Charles Talley from the 1966 Group IV State Championship basketball team

When the team and the coach have that mutual belief in each other (love), the road before them is straight to success and fun. It is a heady, glorious, happy, ever memorable experience. Just ask the players, ask the coaches.

How I got to this exhilaration I felt as a coach and how I managed to do what it is I did is not easily explained. For now the simplest explanation is, that is the way I

saw life and how to live it. (Not to say that I haven’t slipped here and there along the way). But, that is how I see life, in sports, family, business and day to day. Surely there have been those times I failed the “*relationship*” test. For the 25 years I taught and coached, those years I tried to live my *relationship* philosophy, those years especially.

Weequahic High School was so special. I attribute much of the success and the accomplishments to an outstanding student body, the faculty (extraordinary), the community (caring), and the coming together of talented young men and opportunity.

So, how is it done? *Relationship*. How did I do it? Can it be taught, packaged, marketed? Will it work at the college level, the pro level? How does *relationship* fit in family, business, politics, everyday life? These are questions for another time, another writing.

It’s all about *relationship*. I believe that. Do you believe it? I know it was the foundation for my success and happiness.

THE PASSING OF A REMARKABLE MAN

PRINCIPAL RONALD G. STONE

By Phil Yourish, 1964

How do we fathom the precarious nature of life? What explanation can we give when somebody dies young and suddenly? How do we begin to understand and cope with a loss that seems so inexplicable? How do we find solace when a rich and productive life is taken too soon? How do we grieve, heal and move forward?

Weequahic High School Principal, Ronald G. Stone, passed away suddenly on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at age 57. His passing is 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 made significant advancements. 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.

Although a Barringer grad, Mr. Stone bled orange and brown with the same fervor as any homegrown alumnus. He brought the great Weequahic tradition back to the high school. His dream was for Weequahic to return to the glory days of academic excellence. Faced with the many challenges of running an urban high school, Mr. Stone used the athletic teams to spark student interest. He had the school building and Untermann Field painted in orange and brown and had T-shirts made for the students with the large letters "IP" on the back for *Indian Pride*.

He spent school funds to build an exercise facility so that the athletic teams would have greater parity with the suburban schools that they competed against. He organized pep rallies and made Friday a day when both students and staff were encouraged to wear school colors. He was always visible at sporting events with his deep voice booming above the rest - cheering, urging Weequahic to victory.

Once he got the students' attention, he emphasized the importance of the classroom and the pursuit of academic excellence - and Weequahic was making strides in that direction.

For four years, he was a member of the alumni association Board of Trustees and attended our monthly Board meetings. A regular part of the agenda was the "*Principal's Report*." He helped us to establish guidelines and priorities. His contributions were essential to our success. During this time, the high school and the alumni association became a collaborative effort.

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STONE *continued from page 1*

Moreover, Mr. Stone was always very accommodating. At Homecoming each year he would share with alumni his thoughts on education and report on the progress that the school was making. On the occasion of our first Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner, he played "Taps" on his trumpet.

At our recent "American Gangster" fund raising event, "Heart of Stone," a trailer for the documentary being made about Mr. Stone, the high school and the alumni association, was shown before the movie. When Mr. Stone was introduced, he touched the hearts of the 500 people present with his inspirational words - concluding by raising his fist in the air and shouting "IP." For many of us, that was the last time we had an opportunity to be with him.

*Ron Stone was a genuine Weequahic hero. For six years he was a precious gift to the high school. His impact was immense. We all have benefited by knowing him. In his memory, the **Ron Stone Endowment Fund** has been established by the alumni association.*

Walking with a Chief

By Mary Dawkins, Co-President, 1971

Mary Dawkins is the Weequahic High School Alumni Association's new Co-President. She has been a Board of Trustees member for the past 5 years and served as the Co-Chair of our

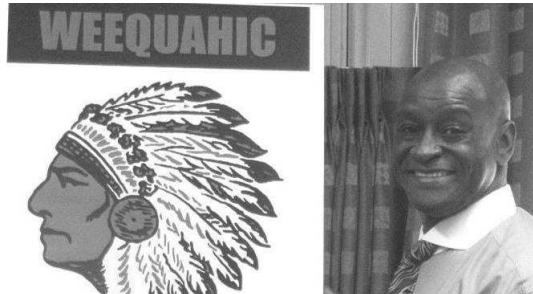


very successful Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner in honor of Alvin Attles.

Mary is the Executive Director of Grace West Enterprises, which includes child-care, senior citizens, and homeless housing programs.

She is a graduate of Rutgers Newark and has a Master's degree in Education. She is married to Mack Dawkins (South Side High School) for 32 years and has one son Mack III, married to Jenea.

Weequahic High School was ambushed last month with the sudden and shockingly unexpected death of Ron Stone - a man amongst men - a man with a dream for the success of every student who passed through the doors of the school - the man who taught all of us about the meaning of **IP** for **Indian Pride**.



Ron Stone was a source of strength for each warrior who donned the Orange and Brown and anyone else who dared to share his dream. He has left us, but that dream still lives. His wisdom - his authority still inspires us.

When we were last together, Ron spoke about how we must support our kids and prove to everyone that they can be successful at school and in their lives after they graduate. Clearly, he faced a bittersweet battle every day. Yet he was both the authority and the role model. He showed the tribe that there was a better way - a path towards a more positive, productive and fulfilling life - the path of education - no u-turns - because their goals and future lie straight ahead.

Ron's dream was left with us and we must continue his legacy. Ron now is *In the Presence of God*. His work is done. It is we who must roll up our sleeves, get behind his dream, and make it resonate within us.

The WHSAA worked closely with him to forward his academic and athletic programs and we will gladly do the same with his successor. We pledge to whomever is chosen our new chief to dedicate our time, talent and resources toward assuring that Weequahic High School will regain its reputation as one of America's finest academic institutions.

At the Memorial Service in Untermann Field many students dedicated their educational future to Ron's memory. We urge you to continue the dream of our Beloved Chief. You will find that those who traveled the path before you will be with you - encouraging you, committed to you. *You will be the dream fulfilled*

WHAT NOW?

By LaTisha Prophete, WHS Senior

The tears are drying from the faces of our students, but the one thing that remains evident is the fear of the unknown wandering in our minds. WHAT NOW? What will happen now that Mr. Stone is gone?

It feels like just yesterday Mr. Stone was walking around playing, joking, and talking with us. Now that he is gone, it feels like no one can fill the void that he has left at Weequahic. Yet, what we don't know is that we can all fill that void. We can take control. We can continue the legacy that Mr. Stone has set out for us. We are on the right track. All we need is focus.

There came a time when our community thought that we were all failures. In our minds we believed that, and it reflected in the actions of the students who came before us. But Mr. Stone didn't believe that. He came to Weequahic with hope and he brought back the Indian pride that was missing.

He noticed how the students had low self-confidence and how they were struggling with situations that needed all of his time. So he made time. He taught the students that we should be proud to be an Indian. We had to accept the fact that we can stand up next to any magnet school and be just as good as them.

A friendship was built with Mr. Stone and the students grew attached to his many customs at Weequahic. He created an environment that separated our home lives from our school lives. Academic scores are going up and Weequahic's athletic teams are gaining more than just trophies. Students wanted to do more than just finish high school; they wanted to go to college or trade school. The students gained a confidence that made Mr. Stone and the Weequahic family proud.

Everything was going well at Weequahic and the media grasped at every moment of it. We were compared to the Cinderella story and everybody was excited about

our accomplishments. Mr. Stone gained respect and everybody applauded about how he took control of a struggling situation and found the answer that many people before him couldn't find. He completed the goal that he had set out for himself and now that he has been taken away from us by his sudden death, we have to complete the goal that he had set out for US.

The fear that is presented in our minds is the question that we must answer. WHAT NOW? What will we do now that



Mr. Stone is gone? The answer is very simple. As students at Weequahic High School, we are going to stand up and do what we know is right. We are going to create an environment where the students have an understanding that we must continue to accomplish the education that was denied to us before. We need to put aside all our differences and help one another. There comes a time when we all need a shoulder to lean on and we all can lean on each other. The time is now. We can take control. We are on the right track. All we need is focus.

Indian Dedication

Appiffanny Boston, WHS Senior

It is freezing cold. The wind is blowing Oh, how I cannot wait to get home in the warmth, away from this torturing November weather. I look around and see how many people are sitting in the bleachers here to support and show their love for our beloved Principal Ronald G. Stone. It is Friday, November 16th, 2007. Today is a day in honor of Mr. Stone. Everyone who truly cares, from current

students, to staff, to alumni, to the people of the community is here to give tribute to our dearest lost one. With spiritual songs from the soloist and the choir, a combination of current students and alumni, we feel the warmth of the sun, which shines upon us from the start of each hymn until the end of each word.

We now hear the wonders of our Stone, his accomplishments and contributions to our school, what we will miss about him, and what we can do to continue his vision. From students, staff and alumni, we hear the greatness of Stone and feel the impact of a great loss.

All reiterate the message to the senior class: *GRADUATE!!* Graduate and continue on with your success in the world and the betterment of yourselves; try to be better than what Mr. Stone hoped for; try to supersede his expectations and make him proud, and you be proud, proud to be an Indian.

Graced by the presence of Mr. Stone's family, we hear the encouraging words of Mrs. Stone. With great emotion she tells us of his dedication to our school, especially to the students, how we were his home away from home. The love and support of the students, staff and community are greatly appreciated by the Stone family and they are grateful to be part of our Indian home.

With the setting of the sun, the ceremony is done, but our journey has just begun. The cold of November is setting in, as we go home to reflect on what has just been said. What will become of our school? And will everyone fulfill his or her duty to make Weequahic great? Sit down. Think about it. Will you be another statistic that fails to do your part? Or are you that dedicated Indian we are looking for?

Mrs. Stone speaking to the students at the memorial service:

"But look at me - I am still standing - and I want all of you to believe in yourselves and know that you all have the strength inside you to help me keep Mr. Stone's legacy alive by continuing your education, find your passion, and be true to yourself."

In Loving Memory

Ronald G. Stone was born in Newark's Central Ward on November 3, 1950. In his youth, the seeds for future success were planted. His values were formed and his consciousness raised by his mother, Dr. Elayne D. Brodie, a well-respected community activist, who marched in the streets of Newark for quality education in the 60's and 70's. She encouraged him to excel in academics, music and athletics.

Mr. Stone spent his teen years in the North Ward section of Newark where he attended Summer Avenue School,



Broadway Junior High, and Barringer High School. At Barringer, he was first chair trumpet and leader of the Blue Jackets Jazz Band. A three-year varsity athlete in track and wrestling,

Ron won both the City and District championships in wrestling in the 157-pound weight class and didn't lose a match in his senior year in 1968.

As he moved on to higher education, Mr. Stone earned a BA degree in Physical Education and an MA degree in Administration and Supervision from Kean University. He also became the starting fullback on the football team and was the captain of the lacrosse team earning All Metropolitan honors.

In 1974, Mr. Stone became a Physical Education teacher and coached in the Newark Public Schools. In early 1980, he started the first wrestling club for youth at Franklin elementary. He coached basketball at Peshine Avenue, Dayton Street, and First Avenue schools. He influenced the lives of numerous young athletes.

In 1993, at age 43, in pursuit of new challenges to test his physical limits, Mr. Stone won the North Atlantic Power Lifting Championship, squatting 680 pounds and setting a State dead lift record of 710 pounds. He also had a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and placed



tenth in the NJ State Cycling Criterion Championship. His varied hobbies and interests - golf, chess, tennis, music - were met with the enthusiasm of a student who would soon become a 'master' of that particular skill.

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.

Prior to coming to Weequahic in 2002, Mr. Stone was Vice Principal of Avon Avenue School. Weequahic was his greatest challenge and he assumed leadership with confidence and optimism. *"There is a crisis in urban public schools,"* he declared, *"but I strongly believe that these institutions are indispensable!"* He passionately felt that it was up to us to change the culture of hopelessness, to a culture of *"we will succeed, no matter what!"*

Mr. Stone led a very active life with his loving wife Meg. Her thoughts of him are: *"my idol, my best friend, who enriched my life in a way no one could imagine a human could do. His spirituality brought me to a higher level. My greatest joy was just waiting for him to return home to enjoy our evenings together. Our different cultures came together and formed a bond of strength, dignity and respect that emitted an energy that was felt by all who witnessed our relationship. The bond will never end. We will live now at opposite ends."*

To cherish his memory, Mr. Stone leaves his wife of ten years, Meg; his four sons, Bobby, Ronnie Jr., Jesse and Jarret; brothers, Hugh, Howard and Larry; sister,

Jacquetta Campbell; grandmother, Marlyne Brown; mother-in-law, Selma Charney; brother and sister-in-law, Sandy and Rona Steinberg; many nieces, nephews, friends and his Weequahic High School family. He was predeceased by two brothers, Gary and Kevin.

His legacy and devotion to his family, his students, and his colleagues will live in our hearts forever!

Some thoughts on Mr. Stone:

Sharmayne Fontaine, WHS Student

"Not only was Mr. Stone a Principal, but he was a father, friend and a mentor. He cared for his students. He gave them guidance when their lives were going astray. He went beyond his duty to make sure that his students were safe."

Elizabeth Haden, Acting Principal

"He was our leader, our biggest cheer-leader, our father, mentor, protector and my friend. His dedication to the staff and students inspired and instilled in his administrators the charge to supervise and to lead professionally and efficiently. I am grateful for having the privilege to know him, to work with him, to learn from him, and to love him."

Ras Baraka, former Vice Principal

"Mr. Stone protected our children with his life. I know because I was there beside him. He faced guns and gang members. He confronted abusive boyfriends and misguided parents. He put himself in harm's way to assure that our children were safe."

Michelle Bryant, Mr. Stone's Assistant and a Barringer High School classmate.

"Remembering Mr. Stone means realizing his dream to make Weequahic one of the top comprehensive high schools in the city and also continuing his legacy of Indian Pride. A good friend is hard to find, so when in life you have that one opportunity to work alongside a true friend, you must consider yourself truly blessed."

In Loving Memory

Betty Frankel Kirschner, WHS 1954

Kent State Professor and Activist



Betty Frankel Kirschner, an emeritus Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at Kent State University, died on June 15, 2006. She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Kirschner Grygo, and grandchild Mackenzie Ware.

A devoted teacher, Betty began her career by teaching social studies at West Kinney High School in Newark. In 1969, she became a member of the faculty at the Trumbull Regional Campus of Kent State, where for 30 years she taught courses in social problems, social stratification, gender, and family. Betty was the epitome of a politically concerned activist-scholar. As a teaching assistant in graduate sociology at the University of Alabama (1965-67), she participated in the civil rights movement and received the Citizenship Award from the National Council of Negro Women (1965).

At Kent State, Betty was deeply interested in the events of May 4, 1970, when the Ohio National Guard fired into a protesting crowd killing four students and wounding nine others. She participated in jury selection studies associated with the civil cases brought by families of the May 4 victims. As part of the protest against building a gym near the site of the shootings in the late 1970s, Betty conducted a survey of the "*Tent City Protestors*" resulting in a professional paper at the 1978 Southern Sociological Society conference. She regularly attended and provided a "*home base*" for others to attend the annual vigils and programs associated with the remembrance of May 4.

Throughout her career, Betty was an active member and a national, state, and local officer of the American Association of University Professors. Whether helping to organize a second bargaining unit for NTT faculty or supporting research about gender equity, she enthusiastically worked to better the working conditions of all faculty.

For many of her dearest friends, Betty's greatest legacy is as a feminist sociologist who was a powerful and articulate defender of women's rights in national organizations and at Kent State. As a founding mother of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), she served on the Steering Committee (1971-73), was an SWS secretary (1972-74), and organized the first two annual conferences (Denver 1971; New Orleans 1972).

Betty was an active member of various committees of the Sex and Gender section of the ASA. At Kent State, she was one of the first teachers of the Sociology of Women, and an early researcher about "*The Invisibility of Women*" in introductory textbooks. Betty helped to develop both the Women's Studies program and the Women's Center at Kent State. She was an invaluable mentor to women students and faculty alike - willing to support individual struggles, to share her knowledge and experiences, and to gently nudge other women to stay true to the vision of an empowering feminist scholarship.

In Loving Memory

Dr. Sanford Lewis, 86

By Jeff May, Star-Ledger



Dr. Sanford Lewis set some kind of example. Most of the things he loved are reflected in the careers of his children. He was a medical doctor with a fondness for classical music and a devotion to Jewish causes.

One of his sons became a dermatologist. Another is an attorney who plays piano professionally. And his daughter teaches preschool at the Jewish Community Center of MetroWest, a group he led several decades ago. *"He was Type-A, but it that way,"* said his son John Lewis, the lawyer. *"He liked his fun, too. I guess you can say he didn't waste a lot of time."*

Born in Newark, he graduated from Weequahic High School and went to the University of Pennsylvania. His father was a dentist, and Dr. Lewis was leaning toward the same profession when he enrolled in New York University School of Medicine. He went on to become a medical doctor, specializing in internal medicine.

He opened a practice in Newark, then moved to East Orange and eventually West Orange. During World War II, he served for a time as chief of radiology for the Pacific Theater. Back stateside, Dr. Lewis picked up work doing forensic medicine for insurance companies and offering expert testimony in workman's compensation and medical cases. *"He was very verbal, articulate, clear-thinking and ethical,"* Mark Lewis said. *"That combination was perfect for that kind of work. He could look at a case, dissect it and report his findings impeccably."*

Dr. Lewis later became chairman of the state Board of Medical Examiners and was also a member of the New Jersey board of hospital supervisors. His busy schedule didn't stop him from taking on other duties, though. During the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War in 1967, he raised a large amount of money for Israel in a single night by feverishly working the phones. He later became president of the local

chapter of the Young Men's Hebrew Association, now known as the JCC MetroWest.

Dr. Lewis loved tennis, and was a longtime member of Orange Lawn Tennis Club in South Orange. He also was a subscriber to the New York Philharmonic and would regularly visit Tanglewood in the Berkshires with his wife to see summer performances. *"His real love outside of tennis was classical music,"* John Lewis said. Later in life, he took up sculpting, working in marble and wood.

In addition to his two sons, John and Mark, Dr. Lewis is survived by his wife, Carol, a psychologist; a daughter Lynn, and three grandsons. Tributes may be sent to the JCC MetroWest or to Doctors Without Borders.

Doris Daun Edelman, June 1955



Doris Edelman, an amazing wife, mother, grandmother and friend, died on September 8, 2008, surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Newark, Doris lived in Union before moving to Springfield. She was a member of the inaugural class of the Hebrew Youth Academy of Newark. She was a graduate and proud alumna of Weequahic High School and attended Newark State Teachers College. She enjoyed many friendships with her contemporaries from these associations.

Doris was a longtime active member of Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield and their Women's League, as well as Hadassah and ORT. She was past president of the Park Place Association and an active participant in the community's development. She and her late husband, Sam, also enjoyed membership in the Couples Club of the JCC in Whippany.

Doris was the beloved wife of Sam Edelman, devoted mother of Abbe and Robin Edelman of Livingston; Alan and Janie Links of Springfield; loving sister of Charlie and Joy Daun of Florida; and devoted aunt to Dana and Michael Zuller and Donna and David Lester; the adored grandmother of Sydnie and Noah Edelman and Zach and Alexa Links, and grand-dog mother of Mo-Jo Edelson and Sumo

Links. She was predeceased by Sushi Edelman, her beloved shih-tzu. Donations may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, 14 Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 1400, NYC, NY 10122.

Eugene Heller, Jan. 1954



Eugene "Gene" Heller, a prominent real estate developer, died at his home in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., at the age of 72. Mr. Heller was diagnosed with melanoma in January 2007.

Mr. Heller was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and moved to Newark at an early age. He graduated from Weequahic High School and attended Rutgers University. He later served as a trustee of Rutgers University and Hackensack Hospital.

Mr. Heller was involved in a family business with his brothers. He then left and went on to pursue a career in real estate development. He joined with Leonard Stern to co-found the Hartz Mountain Real Estate business. At Hartz, he had the vision for the transformation of the Secaucus Meadowlands from swamp to mixed-use development consisting of residential, hotels, retail, industrial and offices. Under his leadership, Hartz developed 40 million square feet of space throughout New Jersey.

In 1991, Mr. Heller went on to establish his own company, G. Heller Enterprises. He is credited with being the driving force behind the rebirth and revitalization of Edgewater, which is part of NJ's Gold Coast, as well as other projects in New Jersey.

Mr. Heller became a Florida resident in 2006, and enjoyed golf, traveling, spending time with close friends and was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan. His greatest joy was being with his family.

He will be deeply missed by his beloved wife, Penny; his son, Todd, and daughter, Bonni Konefsky and her husband Steve. He was also a devoted grandfather to Marisa, Jennifer, and Jordyn. Mr. Heller is also survived by his former wife, Ticia Heller. Donations may be made to Yale Cancer Center Melanoma Unit, Clinical Research Program, 2333 Cedar Street, New Haven, Conn., 06520.

In Loving Memory

Jerry Krupnick, Jan. 1943 Star-Ledger TV critic

By Alan Sepinwall, Star-Ledger



Jerry Krupnick, who wrote about television for The Star-Ledger almost as far back as there was television to write about, died Aug. 14 of complications from congestive heart failure. He was 82.

After serving in the Army in World War II, Mr. Krupnick came to The Star-Ledger in 1950, and within a few years was the paper's go-to man for coverage of that newfangled medium called television. He created TV Time of the Week, one of the nation's first Sunday TV magazines, and wrote about TV for the paper up to, and even after, his retirement in August 1998. "Jerry loved TV and he loved his work, which he executed with charm, wit and wisdom," said Susan Olds, The Star-Ledger's assistant managing editor for features. "It was an incredible career to be sure - for its longevity, yes, but more so for the energy and sense of purpose he delivered day in and day out. The Star-Ledger is richer for his years of service."

Mr. Krupnick had a distinctive flair for language. He referred to public television pledge drives as "begathons" and was fond of explaining the distinction between "trash" (genuinely bad television) and "supertrash" (so-bad-it's-good television). He wrote using the royal "we," and was fond of inserting his wife of 58 years, Phyllis, (WHS Jan. 1945) into the column, referring to her as "Our Favorite Wife," or "OFW" for short. "He always wrote I was his 'OFW,'" said Phyllis Krupnick. "Everybody called me that, because they read his column and they got a kick out of it."

"One of Jerry's favorite words to describe (bad) shows was 'wallow,'" recalled Star-Ledger copy editor David Lieberfarb (WHS 1965), "which was probably less negative than it sounds. He also used to love to run words together, as in something 'camethisclose' to being one of his top picks."

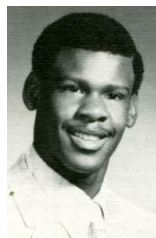
Though he was best known for his television coverage - he was a two-time winner of the New Jersey Press Association Award for Critical Writing, and was named the 1990 Television Columnist of the Year by the International TV Society. Mr. Krupnick also spent 15 years as Sunday editor for The Star-Ledger. He was responsible for assembling all but the Sports and Real Estate sections for each Sunday's paper, often with the help of only a single assistant.

Mr. Krupnick's newspaper career - and his relationship with Phyllis - began at Weequahic High School, where he was editor-in-chief of the school paper. Phyllis' father and brother also worked in the newspaper business. (brother Robert Kalter worked for The Star-Ledger for 50 years.)

Mr. Krupnick enlisted in the Army at age 17 and became a staff sergeant in the 69th Division of the infantry, doing combat patrols in France and Germany during World War II. He also wrote for the Army's Stars and Stripes newspaper, and re-enlisted after the war to become public relations director for a series of "soldier shows" in Europe.

His sons all recall their father working long hours, particularly while putting out the Sunday paper, but never complaining. Though he missed out on family time, he made it up to the boys with special trips, or with VIP treatment courtesy of having a TV critic for a dad.

Eugene Lawson, 1970



Eugene (Gene) Lawson was born February 10, 1953, in Jersey City, NJ, the 3rd child of the late Willadean Burrell and Louis Lawson. Gene graduated from Weequahic High School in 1970 and then enlisted

in the US Air Force and after serving his country, he received an Honorable Discharge. Constantly expanding his knowledge, he received his Associate of Arts Degree from Essex County College and his Bachelor of Science degree from Rutgers University.

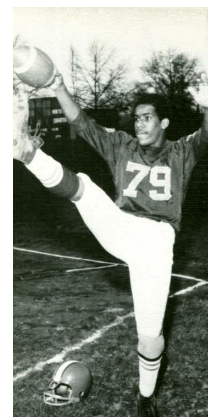
During his life, Gene worked for the City of Newark, taught and coached in the Newark school system and, most recently, worked for Joint Meeting of Essex &

Union Counties. He was always active with various nonprofit organizations and served a term on the Irvington Board of Education. He was an active member of Trinity Lodge #33, Prince Hall Affiliation, Golconda Temple #24, Prince Hall Shriners; Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star #43, Ruth Court #5, as well as many other houses.

He was always doing whatever he could to help those around him. When he made a promise - he kept the promise. He loved God, sports, reading, dancing and having a good time - and had a huge sense of humor and compassion. Gene listened, guided, advised, and held dear everyone he knew. As a result, he was loved by many. Gene headed the WHS Class of '70 Reunion Committee and he organized the 10, 20, 25 and 30 year reunions. He was also involved with the formation of the high school's alumni association. He really loved his alma mater!

Gene leaves his legacy through his family and friends, most especially, his *wife*, Elmira, and *sons* Eugene, Jr., Viktor, Mikal and Bandit, *granddaughters*, Hannah, Kiara, and Kennedy, *brothers*, Ali, Albert, and Anthony, *sisters*, Cynthia, the late Catherine and Luvada, *nieces and nephews*, Cynthia, Jamillah, Rahmiece, Taheerah, Louis, Jr., Stephen, Jaquayah, Shamsuddin, Maryum, Najee, Nyja, and Bryce, *mother-in-law*, Liana, *stepmother*, Carrie, *daughters-in-law*, Kelli and Aliyah, *brothers-in-law*, Leighton and Patrick, *sisters-in-law*, October and Corliss, *cousins*, Esther, James, Gwen, Maurice, and Andre, and many other close family and friends.

Arthur Cartwright, 1970



Arthur T. Cartwright passed away on August 9, 2008. He was the beloved son of Gladys and the late Booker T. Cartwright; loving husband of Helen Cartwright; cherished father of Nicole, Arthur T. Jr. and Harold W. Cartwright, and caring brother of Pamela, Bertha and

Cybelia. He is also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

In Loving Memory

Bernard Goldwater, WHS 1951

Legendary baseball coach Goldwater dies at age 74

By Tony Graham, Asbury Park Press

Eric Salkin, who roamed center field for coach Bernie Goldwater's Freehold Township High School baseball teams in the mid 1970s, said he could always be certain of one thing. *"We always felt like we were more prepared when we took the field than any other team."*

But Salkin was unprepared to learn Friday morning that Goldwater, 74, had passed away Thursday in Florida. *"It came as a shock,"* said Salkin, owner of Salkin's Jewel Case, Freehold Township, who described himself as a *"dear friend of the family."*

Goldwater amassed 331 coaching victories in 24 seasons at Southern Freehold High School (now Howell) and Freehold Township. He also served as an athletic director in the school district. The 12th winningest high school baseball coach in the history of the Shore Conference, he retired from coaching in 1988.

"I think people learned more under him in the two years they generally played for him, than they did in all their other years (playing baseball) combined," Salkin said. *"I've heard other people say that. Bernie was tough but he was fair. Personally, I was more afraid of disappointing him than I was of losing the game."*

Losing was something that was never a habit under Goldwater. According to Asbury Park Press reports he began coaching at Southern Freehold High School in 1965 and left the school seven years later with a 75-57 record.

Patricia Brant Joyner, WHS 1962

Patricia Ann Joyner passed away on May 4, 2006 at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Pat attended the Newark Public schools and graduated from Weequahic High School. She went

on to earn her Associate's degree in 1989 from Essex County College and her BA degree from Kean College in 1991.

Pat was married to Robert Joyner. She was the mother of the late Twana Joyner, who had two children, Patrice and Jerome Joyner. She was a devoted grandmother and caregiver for her great-granddaughters, Tawana, Chyna and Yanayjah. She also loved traveling, music and people. Until her illness, Pat had been working as a Program Administrator for the Technical Training Project, Inc. at Essex County College since 1980. With her entrepreneurial spirit, Pat launched Joyner Enterprises, Inc., manufacturing her *"Clocketbook."*

Harvey M. Sklaw, WHS 1946

Seton Hall Law School professor emeritus, 78



Harvey M. Sklaw, devoted husband, loving father and brother and cherished grandfather, died on June 16, 2007, after a brief illness. He was 78. A resident of Maplewood for 36 years, Professor Sklaw moved to Long

Branch in 2006, where he resided at the time of his death.

Professor Sklaw was born Feb. 8, 1929, in Newark. He was Professor Emeritus of Law at Seton Hall University School of Law, where he taught generations of future attorneys for 35 years and was an authority on consumer protection and products liability law.

He was a graduate of Rutgers University and Seton Hall University School of Law. Professor Sklaw lectured widely and was a member of the adjunct faculty at Rutgers University Law School and a visiting professor at the universities of Milan and Parma, Italy.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Renee Sklaw of Long Branch; his sister, Barbara Sender of Short Hills; two sons, Kenneth Sklaw of Purcellville, Va., and Laurence Sklaw of NYC; daughter-

in-law, Faavale Sklaw, and four grandchildren, Rebecca, Sarah, Matthew and Ella. He was predeceased by his sister, Gloria Fantl of Coconut Creek, Fla. Donations may be made to the Harvey M. Sklaw Scholarship Fund, Seton Hall School of Law in Newark.

Jacob Frieder, WHS 1936



Jacob Frieder, 89, passed away suddenly on July 1, 2007. A longtime resident of Newark, Mr. Frieder lived in Clark and Delray Beach, Fla., before moving to Lakewood in 2005.

"Jake" was a January 1936 graduate of Weequahic High School, where he is remembered as the athlete to score the first touchdown in school history, and the winning touchdown to give Weequahic its first football victory.

He was a World War II veteran rising to the rank of sergeant. He retired from the Newark Post Office after 33 years of service as a clerk and a supervisor.

Mr. Frieder was a past president of the Jewish Civil Service Fellowship, an organization of postal employees, a member of the Knights of Pythias, and was instrumental in organizing the Clark Tenants Association in the mid 70's, prior to moving to Florida.

He is survived by his beloved wife Lenore of 66 years; a daughter and son-in-law, Joan (WHS 1967) and Donald Smith; a son, Kenneth Frieder (WHS 1963); and grandchildren Jonathan and Elliot Frieder, Lesley Wolf and Allison Smith; a sister, Esther Frieder; and four great-grandchildren.

**Alan Abrahamson
Bernard Berger
Murray Perlman
Philip Spiegel, June 1949
Solomon Ostrin, Faculty**

In Loving Memory

Arnett Lieb, WHS 1960

(Sent in by Eileen Diakunczak)



Artie (Arnett) Lieb passed away on June 24, 2007. Arnett resided in Ocean and Monmouth counties for many years. Arnett was head drummer at Weequahic High School in his senior

year and continued making music his career with different bands, one of which was the *Salvations*. They were very well known at the New Jersey Shore. For many summers he played down the shore at *The Osprey* and up until just a few months ago the *Salvations* had their second reunion at *The Osprey* and all their loving fans came and packed the club.

After the band split up, Arnett was a booking agent in the music industry. When he decided to give up his career as a musician, he opened up a Dunkin' Donuts store in Long Branch which he had for many years. He retired a few years ago.

Arnett remained very close to a couple of Weequahic High School friends. Steve Wax, who passed away a couple of years ago, his high school sweetheart Ronnie Schecter (she was a cheerleader), who also passed away, and Marty Green and his family, who resides in Florham Park.

Arnett loved basketball, and was a big fan of the Monmouth basketball teams. Coach Les Fein stopped in his store on occasion and Arnett always talked about his fond memories playing basketball on Coach Fein's team. How sad, they both passed away on the same day. Arnett will always be remembered by his family and friends for his love, character, inspiration and leadership.

He left behind his wife Nelma, his sister Eileen Diakunczak, a WHS grad, two daughters, Mrs. Jaime Schultz and Mrs. Casey Leeder, their spouses Steven and

Mark, and two grandchildren Matthew and Jackie Schultz.

Herb Jacobson, WHS Jan. 1941



Herbert N. Jacobson, 84, of Monroe Township, died July 15, at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Born and raised in Newark, Mr. Jacobson lived in Union for 35 years before moving to Monroe Township 12 years ago.

Herb was employed as a salesman for the Mart Furniture Galleries, Union. He was an Army Air Force veteran of World War II and a standout athlete at Weequahic High School where he received an all-around sports athlete award. He received a basketball scholarship to Ryder College, from where he graduated with a B.A. degree in accounting. In 2004, he was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Jacobson is survived by his wife, Paula (Weitzman); two daughters, Jeri Jacobson and Tracy Reinhardt of Bedminster, and Lanie and Jim Bilenker of Basking Ridge; one sister, Rita Resnick of Freehold, and three grandchildren, Laura, Julie and Benjamin. Donations can be made to the American Heart and American Diabetes foundations, and to the Atlantic Hospice.

Frances Kram Slifer, WHS 1965



Frances R. Slifer 59, passed away in July at her home. She was born in Germany, came to the United States as an infant, and lived in Newark, Maplewood and in Livingston since 1973.

Fran was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women and ORT. She was the beloved wife of Arnold; devoted mother of Shari Slifer and Richard Slifer; dear daughter of Bronya Kram and the

late Philip Kram and loving sister of Dr. Harry B. Kram and the late Dr. Joseph A. Kram. Contributions may be made to the Jewish National Fund or United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

From Dennis Estes, class of 1965

On behalf of the entire class, I want to express my sincere condolences to Sid Slifer of our class, who was Fran's brother-in-law, and Arlene Music Levitt of our class, who was Fran's cousin, on this terrible loss. Of course, we express our deepest condolences to our good friend, Fran's husband Arnold, also a Weequahic graduate and to Fran's mother and her two children.

While in high school, I really didn't know Fran very well. That changed significantly over the past 40+ years while we both had a labor of love in steering our reunion events. I have been nominally the titular head of the committee, but Fran was the "heart" of the committee and she will be sorely missed by all of us. Forty-two years ago I considered Fran merely another graduate of our class. At the time of her death, I was so happy that I was able to consider Fran a really good friend. I and the other members of the Reunion Committee, (especially Poppy Braunstein Segal) have suffered a great loss, as have we all.

Marilyn Gulkin Einzig, WHS 1962



Marilyn A. Einzig, 62, of Springfield died June 2. Born in Newark, she lived in North Caldwell before moving to Springfield 12 years ago. Marilyn retired as vice president of sales for Paragon

Mills, a wholesale carpet and floor company in Union, after 26 years with the company.

A June 1962 graduate of Weequahic High School, she attended Jersey City State College. Marilyn is survived by her husband, Gary Grossman; two daughters, Staci Santucci and Robin; a brother, Stanly Gulkin; and two grandchildren.