

WHS NOTE

Class of 1963 Association

February 15, 2019

Your exchange of comments makes the weekly *WHS NOTE* a vibrant and pleasing connection to the past we shared. Please continue to share your recollections, experiences and thoughts by sending them directly to whsalum63@aol.com. Your participation will ensure that the newsletter will be sustained for many editions to come.

The Weequahic High School Alumni Association, which solely mails the newsletter, is also listing links to the newly formatted *WHS NOTE* on their website at <http://weequahicalumni.org/whs-note/>.

Hi Connectors to Weequahic Connections:

Alumindians in the Archives:

5/10/08

Shirley Ezersky Friedman (56)

Every week both I and my husband cannot wait to see what everyone is writing about this week when it comes to food. All the fabulous delis back East, the wonderful bakeries, the rye breads, the challahs, Charlotte Rousse, Italian hot dogs on Hawthorne Avenue across from the Annex that I remember so well, Syds; I could go on and on for hours. It has been so many years, but I remember getting on the bus on Chancellor Avenue and Union Avenue in Irvington; the 8 Lyons to be exact. There was a candy store there and I would love the coffee ice cream sundaes with wet nuts. Oh, was that ecstasy. In California, no wet nuts. In fact, it is even hard to get a sundae out here; no candy stores or the likes of it. I wonder, do they still have the little mom and pop candy stores that I loved so much. How about fireflies? I often wonder how much things have changed. In Southern

Cal there are Sushi Bars, Salad Bars and Yogurt, so very different from the East.

When everyone talks about the delis, we salivate. Would you believe, while reading the description of the pastrami sandwiches I can actually smell it 40 years later. Those wonderful Italian hot dogs from Jimmy Buffs would be worth a trip back east. As soon as there is another reunion, we will be there in a flash. Shirl

Gail Greenfeder Saks (6/62) extends an invite for a FLA get together:

The *Monelles*, or a group of "girls" who graduated in June 1962 and January 1963 are planning a lunch get together in the Boynton, Delray, Boca area for Thursday, March 7th. Place and time TBD. If anyone is interested, please contact me at gailsaks@icloud.com ASAP so we can find a location for all of us. Looking forward to seeing you. Gail

Judy Horwitz Wolff (64) shares another memory of a WHS teacher:

No one seemed to remember the lovely Miss Melkowitz, who taught Home Ec at Weequahic. I loved to sew and took sewing whenever I could fit it in my schedule because the machines at school were far superior to mine at home. Miss Melkowitz was so patient and understanding. She took me from *Simplicity Patterns* to *Butterick*. *Vogue* would follow much later.

I recall "the apartment," a suite of rooms at school where I believe housekeeping skills were taught. I have dust bunnies galore to prove I never had such a class, but I wonder if anyone remembers Home Economics classes related to these rooms. Judy

Teacher memories requested, but only use the best English:

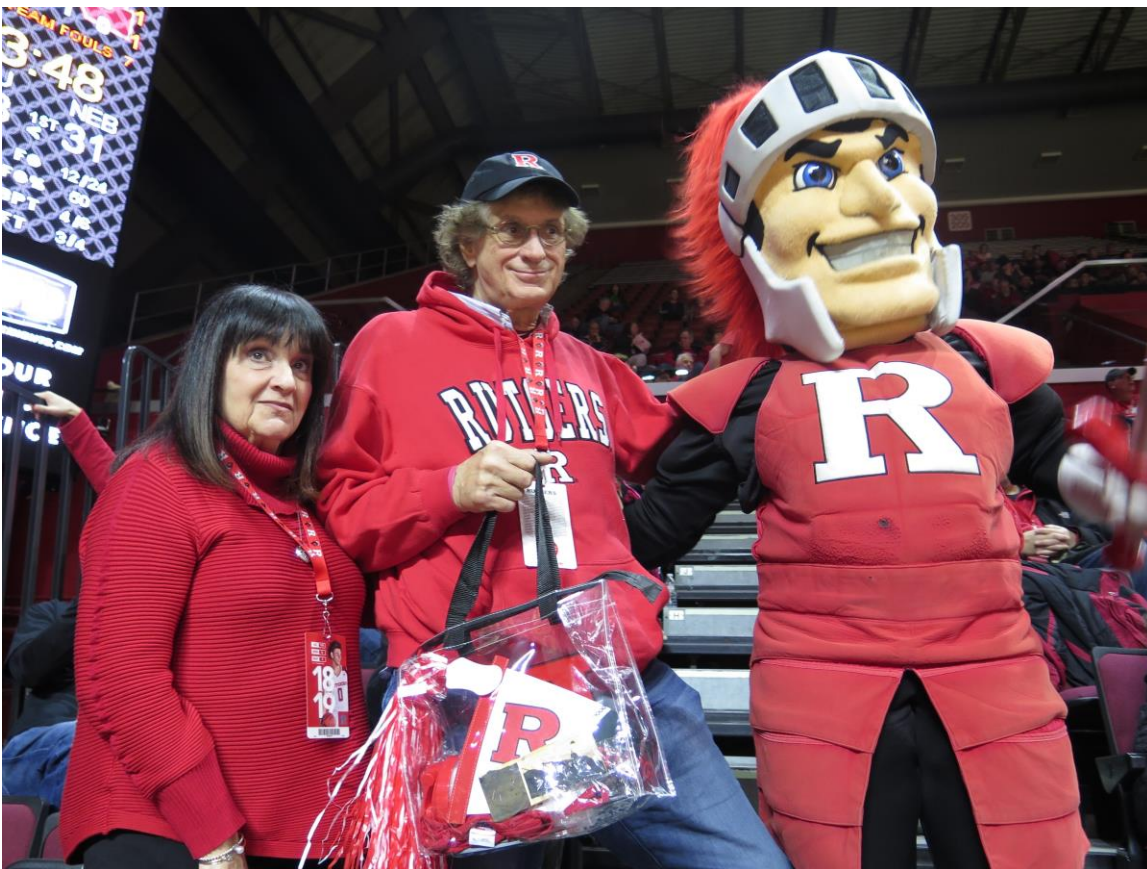
And while on the subject, a number of teachers of English have received well deserved attention in the *WHS Note* over the years (Hannah Litzky; Hilda Lutzke; David and Louis Stamelman; Edward Tumin). An invitation is extended to share recollections and stories of the English faculty at Weequahic including Janet McKenzie (who knew she was Chair of the

English Department in 1963?); David Bucharest; Eugenia Chosney; Ida Cohen; Marilyn Feitel; Anthony Ficcio; Leonard Gross; Seymour Heck; Earl Hendler; Marion Jennings; Harold LaPenna; Edith List; Marie Muro; Milton Schaeffer; and Louise Weinstein.

Were the English classes named “English Grammar and Composition?” Can anyone remember any compositions they wrote? The best, the worst?

Cal Schwartz (6/63), a Rutgers honoree:

One of those top ten Rutgers nights at Rutgers vs Nebraska basketball game. Honored as “Season Ticket Holder of the Game (on jumbotron for all to see, too) for all my years attending Rutgers basketball (football, wrestling etc.) Quite emotional recognition. And, Rutgers won. My wife Fran and the RU Mascot, “Scarlet Knight,” joins me in the official honoree photo. Cal



Burt Ironson (47) drops a drops comment:

Smith Brothers Cough Drops came with pictures of the bearded brothers on the box. The drops were black in color and the flavor was licorice. Ludens came in a box and were menthol in taste. Burt Ironson.

Janice Krusch (6/58) invites you to enjoy what she enjoyed:

I was lucky to see *The Synagogues of Newark* exhibit recently at the Newark Public Library (my employer in the late '50s, salary \$1.00 an hour). Many thanks to all those who put this exhibit together. I believe the exhibit will be there through February and I encourage those who can visit to do so.

Then, it was on to Hobby's for the most delicious, lean corned beef on rye bread I've had in many years! Spoke briefly to Rona Brummer, who still helps out part-time. A special thanks to my cousin Gary Denburg, the son of my beloved cousin Diane Newmark Denburg, for chauffeuring me around. For sure, I would have gotten lost in downtown Newark. What memories!
Jan

Joe Diament (67) responds to the *WHS Note's* "Big Chief Editor's" request for some additional notes for the Class of 1963 Newsletter; the New Hampshire – Newark/NJ connection:

There's a surprisingly strong connection between our "New" states which I'll offer in an annotated form:

- Several years ago, a New Jersey party was held in Portsmouth, NH (pop. 24,000) and nearly 30 people attended with several hailing from Newark (not all from WHS).
- At least 3 members of the WHS class of 1967 live in NH; Dennis and Ann (Silverstein) Souto, Yvette Yeager (67), and yours truly.
- Terrie Norelli, a recent Speaker of the NH House (in which I served briefly) is a NJ transplant.

- Ned (Edgar) Helms, a former Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (a colleague of mine) and the grandson of Edgar J. Helms, who founded *Goodwill Industries*, is a graduate of Rider University.
- A recent neighbor of mine lived in the Vailsburg Section and graduated Seton Hall Prep HS, as did the current CEO of Exeter NH Hospital.
- Two good NH friends of mine who are also, colleagues and political compatriots, spent several days in Newark working with Senator Booker on Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016.
- Sen. Booker has returned the favor and reconnected with them in his current quest. I'm sure we'll be seeing quite a bit of him in NH over the next months.
- Finally, and least importantly, many years ago when I was still young enough to be assigned to referee Division I collegiate soccer, I was sent from to NH to officiate a few games at a weekend soccer tournament at Rutgers. Joe

Jac Toporek (6/63) proudly showing off Weequahic Grounds:

On my various trips to Israel, I always take great pleasure in viewing first hand those who are visiting for the first time. The awe and fascination are heartwarming and inspiring. Well, had a similar pleasure recently in taking a slight side route home after a business meeting in Downtown Newark. Normally would go directly home, but this time I had a passenger, a Jewish community activist, who I had briefed on the deep and glorious Jewish roots of Newark on our trip to the meeting. Could not resist, and made the right turn off Broad Street onto Court Street and up to the former High Street. My passenger was so impressed with the old Temple B'nai Abraham.

Motivated by her enthusiasm, of course I had to show her more. Making a left onto Elizabeth Avenue from Clinton Avenue there was the gas station that use to be the site of Ann Gordan's where my twin and I had our Bar

Mitzvah party. Down Elizabeth passed the Weequahic Diner and the Denburg Bakery behind it. Yes, I was filling her in on all the history.

And shortly, thereafter, to the right on Elizabeth Avenue was the corner of Meeker where once 225 Meeker, the apartment called home, stood across from the TAVERN Restaurant. And my front yard, Weequahic Park. She loved the park and that there was a trotter track there at one time and that the golf course still exists. And we concluded with a ride up Chancellor Avenue past the locations of the various synagogue (now houses of worship for different denominations), the Y and Weequahic High School. And completed the tour with a few tid-bits about the shops on the Avenue.

My passenger, too, came from a Jewish neighborhood in another state, but not like the Weequahic South Ward and its rich history. Needless to say, “awe and fascination.” Jac

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