

# WHS NOTE

## Class of 1963 Association

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

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**Hi Weequahic Literary Lore-iates,**

**Adding a couple more rungs to the WHS Totem Pole:**

Rucker Davis, Jacquelyn (67) - [jrobindavis@gmail.com](mailto:jrobindavis@gmail.com) (new)

Silverman Nisenson, Emilie (45) - [jemilie.nisenson@gmail.com](mailto:jemilie.nisenson@gmail.com) (new)

**News of Weequahic-Family loss:**

Kawana Coleman (73)

So sad to report the recent passing of my classmate, Juliette Quattlebaum-Greene. She was married to Channon Green (72). When she attended WHS, Juliette was part of the elite accelerated academic program, on the Yearbook booster staff and played clarinet in the renowned WHS Marching Band. She was a sincere and trustworthy confidant, whom I was honored to call my best friend! Judy represented all things that were good! She was smart, creative, helpful, organized, loving, kind, generous, patient, polite, industrious, honest, and virtuous.

She truly loved those whom she genuinely loved and Weequahic High School with her entire heart and soul! It is with a heavy heart I share this information with our fellow classmates, who experienced the profound gift of having her in their lives and having her as a friend We are all better people because we had the opportunity to know each other and to have had her share in our lives. She will be sorely missed! \*Indians Forever\* The Star Ledger obituary can be read at

<https://obits.nj.com/obituaries/starledger/obituary.aspx?n=juliette-marie-quattlebaum-green&pid=195337659>. Kawana

Alan Eisenberg (Hillside 60)

It is with deep sadness that I am writing you about the passing of one of your first WHS graduates. My cousin, and the backbone of our extended family for many years now (Eisenbergs/Sadolfs), Seymour Sadolf died in his new residence in Charleston, WV on January 9. He was 96 years old, a WWII veteran and a January 1941 graduate of Weequahic High.

Seymour was my "Big Cousin" from before I could remember. We were 19 years apart. He constantly played the role of "Big Brother" to his younger cousins. His presence meant gut-laughter most of the time. It was always a pleasure being in his company. Seymour will be missed by all of us, friends and family, alike.

An obituary prepared by the immediate family can be read at

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wvgazette/obituary.aspx?n=seymour-sadolf&pid=195026524&fhid=23701>. Alan

**“Big Editor in Chief” of the “WHS Note,” Jac Toporek (6/63) shares some second generational pride:**

So proud to note that Amy Toporek has been cast in a leading role in "Hit Her with The Skates" that opens in Chicago at the Royal George Theater on March 10. The musical will be headlined by *Idol* finalist Diana DeGarmo and her husband Ace Young. The cast announcement can be read

at <https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/Diana-DeGarmo-and-Ace-Young-Will-Lead-HIT-HER-WITH-THE-SKATES-at-the-Royal-George-Theatre-Full-Cast-Announced-20200114>. Click on Amy's name for more details and pictures.

All Chicago area Alumindians, family and friends are invited to see HHWTS. I will be in Chicago from March 12-19 to view as many performances as possible. Let me know if you will attend any of the shows in that time period ([whsalum63@aol.com](mailto:whsalum63@aol.com)). Jac

**Harold Kravis (Chancellor/W. Essex 74), *The Synagogue Plaques Detective*, finds some Newark treasures from the past - far from home:**

A while ago, I was at the JCC in Deal, to hear a talk given by Linda Forgosh (Jewish Historical Society NJ). I met a guy who was originally from Newark and he told me about this synagogue, Congregation Toras Emes, in Twin Rivers/East Windsor which has plaques from two of the old synagogues in Newark. The guy told me who to contact.

My friend, Phil Yourish (curator of the *Synagogues of Newark* exhibit), called and arrangements were made to visit the synagogue to look at the plaques. Phil and I traveled to Toras Emes and we were able to see the building plaques from Congregation Ahavath Israel (Wainwright Street shul) and memorial plaques and stained-glass windows from Congregation Chevrah Thilim Tifereth Israel on Chancellor Avenue in Irvington.

Chevrah Thilim was originally in Newark for 65 years, mostly on Prince Street. It merged with Tifereth Israel and moved to Irvington in 1960 with the rabbis from both congregations, David Freedman and Benjamin Finklestein. At Wainwright Street, Mordecai Ehrenkranz was the rabbi.

Since then, we have been trying to bring the plaques back to Newark. Phil and I are pictured with one of the two Plaques in the pics are below. Harold



## **Sara Friedman Fishkin (6/60) describes the “scary” features of living in the Weequahic District:**

In response to Janet Einhorn Hirschfeld (2/56), I'm adding my own "scared out of my mind" recollection. We lived in a four-family house on Schley Street between Keer Avenue and Fabyan Place. My mother would send me to "check the damper" of our coal-burning furnace located in the cellar. Basement? You mean like a nice knotty pine play room? No, that was a euphemism for one-family houses. No, we had a very damp, dark and scary cellar. And I had no clue what a "damper" was nor how to "check it."

Doing as told, I descended rickety and creaking interior wooden stairs into the cellar and now what? I knew which of the four coal furnaces was "ours" and knew I couldn't go back until I did something. So, I grabbed a long-handled poker, poked it around the furnace (with no rationale) and then, literally, ran back to those wooden stairs. But now came the scary and worst part; how to escape?

I had to ascend those stairs to get back out of the cellar. I was SURE a demon would catch me from behind. In those days we heard about *The Bogeyman* and so I was petrified that a monster would grab me as I ran up the stairs. Nothing untoward happened to me, but just the thought of running up those stairs gives me the creeps, even now, 70 years later! Sara

## **The “W-History Hood:”**

Elaine Hersh Krusch (50)

To Arnie Cohen (56), when you mentioned Connie Francis, I thought of the time when I was teaching at The Pingry Lower School in Short Hills and she came and brought her little boy to the school. He didn't stay at the school too long because Connie was moving around. Elaine

Sharon Rous Feinsod (66)

I lived at 10 Custer Place with my eight-year older brother. So, when I finished fourth grade, he graduated that year from the high school. That fact made me one of the youngest kids around the four apartment houses at 10 and 18 Custer Place, 469 Elizabeth Avenue and 2 Custer, which was considered the high end of the

apartment offerings. The immediate neighborhood was definitely the best place to go trick-or-treating; hundreds of pieces of candy and lots of pennies and nickels.

Next to our building, there was a big lot where the older guys, including my brother, a guy named Tex, whose dad was the super, and the other big guys played ball. I, along with Eddie Levine, younger brother of the late Lenny (6/63), Michael (1/64) and the late Elliot Gottfried, rode our bikes. Judy Moss Rabinowitz (6/63) moved to the building a little later. Morey Gillette, who also was a little older, lived in our building, as did Gary Getto, who moved while we were still at Peshine. Due to the lack of girls, I learned to ride a boy's bike, climb the trees, and go sleigh riding down the hill from the lot to Elizabeth Avenue, right across from Weequahic Park. Also, we had a courtyard where lots of kids flipped baseball cards, another skill I had to learn from Eddie and Elliot. Self-made fun every day after school!

I don't remember the Toporek twins (Norbert and Jacob, 6/63) at the time they lived at 225 Meeker, but Clark Lissner (6/63), who lived there, was at WHS a few years ahead of me and probably also played on the lot. The Naulas and the Karstadts were in 18 Custer, but 469 Elizabeth had a lot of kids; Robert Kessler, his twin brothers Michael and David, and their late sister Susan. Richie Roberts (6/56) lived there as well and was known to jump across the rooftops with my brother. Somehow, my mother always got a call. Howie Tepp (64), later known as Richard, was at 2 Custer.

This all brings me to the stores at the bottom of Meeker. The drug store had everything: a pharmacy, a fountain, beautiful toys, cosmetics. The grocery store, which I remember as Kelly's, was run by Kelly, though maybe he didn't own it. Everybody made grocery orders there, which he'd tally up on a brown bag and which he trusted my mother to pay at the end of the week. He had a young delivery guy, David Feldman, who used to carry the boxes of groceries across Elizabeth and up Meeker and Custer. Kelly was very good to David.

Next to the grocery store was Louie, the barber, followed by the motorcycle shop. Confirmed by my brother. The Tavern Restaurant, home to the most elite diners, was on the corner across the street from Meeker Pharmacy before the tire place. Swanky describes the inside of the Tavern and the clients who came on Saturday evenings, Sunday. and on holidays. It is where they downed the outrageous coconut cream pie. Lines of customers filled the street on Thanksgiving morning to purchase

rolls at "The Tavern Pantry," the bakery belonging to The Tavern on Meeker (now Josloff), about half a block down the street.

Being near the youngest and one of a handful of girls put me in a different light growing up there, but it must have been a good place, as I still smile with every remembrance. Sharon

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