

WHS NOTE

Class of 1963 Association

MAY 1, 2020

TO RESPOND WITH A COMMENT OF YOUR OWN, PLEASE CLICK ON WHSALUM63@AOL.COM.

Hi WHS Newark-SouthWardians,

For more than 20 years the connection we all shared to Weequahic High School and its neighborhoods has been kept alive via the weekly *WHS Note* mailed to over 3000 alumni and friends. The *Weequahic Class of 1963 Association* has provided this weekly forum where we have shared experiences, comments, thoughts, emotions and lots of fun.

The Association also helps to ensure that the rich Weequahic spirit continues. Thanks to the generous support from readers of the *WHS Note*, the “Class of 1963 Scholarship Fund” has sent more than \$44,000 to the WHS Alumni Association scholarship program. The scholarships are making a difference as to the future of WHS students of today. To all who answered the call to provide assistance, much appreciation.

Please continue to endorse the activities of the 1963 Class Association with your membership and a with support for the Class of 1963 Scholarship Fund. Receipt of the *WHS Note* will continue whether you respond or not.

Please print and fill out the attached form ([PDF LINK](#)). Your supportive response is appreciated.

Cyber Tepees:

Kaufer Klein, Jacqueline (66) - j.klein590@gmail.com (new)

Schlank, Myles (Peshine/WO Mountain 64) - womhs64@yahoo.com (new)

Vogel, Ken (64) - kvogel1560@gmail.com (change)

Sharing sad news:

Merle Rosen Cohen (6/63) & Judy Wilson Schwartz (6/63)

Our dearest friend for 62 years and WHS classmate, Rona Cotler Kershner Gertz, passed away. We first met at Clinton Place Junior High in 7th grade. We are so thankful that we shared weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and every single wonderful life cycle event. We will treasure her friendship and keep our shared memories together along with fellow classmate Phyllis Frank Twiss. We are hoping our very dear friend is resting in peace. [Link to Rona Cotler Gertz obituary.](#)
Merle & Judy

Myron Borden (1/52)

I'm sad to write about the announcement of the passing of Sheldon Altwarg, a WHS 1952 graduate and an "alumnus" of the Hawthorne Avenue Playground of the 1950's. He lived nearby and was active in numerous athletic events there. I was pleased to learn that he had a long career as a lawyer until his retirement in 2012. All of us who knew him will remember the good times we all shared back in the 1950's. Sheldon's obit appears at [Link to Sheldon Altwarg's Obituary.](#) Myron

Jerry Goldberg (61)

I want to advise that my ex-wife Marilyn Goldstein Goldberg passed away from Alzheimer's/Covid on April 23. Marilyn graduated from Weequahic in June of 1962. She taught Special Education for over 30 years in the Plainfield School System before retiring. Marilyn resided in Canal Walk in Somerset prior to her illness. Jerry

Paul Tractenberg (56), Marty Hoffman (1/57) and Margie Bauman (6/60) recall WHS relationships lost:

I knew from many sources about the death of Martin Fox (1/41) but learned about Allen Goorwitz/Garfield's (57) death from the WHS alumni newsletter. Both Marty and Allen touched my life.

Marty and his family were neighbors of mine for years on Sagamore Road in Millburn. Our children were friends and, in some cases, remain so. Marty was a towering and loved figure in the legal community and in the Jewish communal world. He lived a long and full life, but his death, hastened by the scourge of COVID-19, is still a painful loss.

Allen and I were a year apart at WHS but became friends nonetheless (I think through a Weequahic girl I was dating). We stayed in touch for some years after high school as Allen was trying to launch his acting career. I remember going to a very small off-Broadway production in which I believe he played a boxer. That is really the last clear memory I have of our person-to-person relationship, but some years later I was pleased to see that he had made the "big time" (albeit often in unsavory supporting roles). His death, also hastened by COVID -19, really hit home because I can still see him clearly in my mind's eye at and around WHS when we were both young and vibrant. Our lives were still ahead of us and WHS provided us both with a strong tailwind. Paul

Many of us remember Allen Goorwitz well from our days at Weequahic. I knew from classmate Janie Mendelowitz Statlander that he had been in the nursing home for some time but thought that it was the *Motion Picture & Television Country House and Hospital*. I had, of course, lost touch with Allen after high school, but have a vivid memory of him showing up as Janie's date at my Sweet 16 party at my parents' home in Newark. May he rest in peace. Margie

A few postscripts are in order to supplement stories tracing Allen Goorwitz's lengthy and eminently successful career in movies and on Broadway. As a student at WHS. Alan was smart, witty, responsible and very popular. He was elected Vice-President in the Class of January 1957 and served with dedication and diligence. As an established actor and director, he was open and approachable. Anyone from WHS, or the Newark Area, who contacted him for advice and guidance, was

granted access to his extensive network of friends and contacts in the entertainment industry. Marty

Harvey Schwartz (6/54) seeks a word from classmates:

“Hi dere” to all of my remaining classmates. So, I wonder where is our 65th anniversary get together? Did I miss it? Would love to hear from all of my great classmate. I can be reached at mrbrickface@aol.com.

Yes, I’m still working (52 years) with Garden State Brickface 3 or 4 days a week. Just moved from my house on Alice Terrace where I lived for 43 years and moved a mile away to a “55 and older” community. Still collecting Civil War antiques buying and selling. Marla Meisner Schwartz died 7 years ago and last year I lost my loving child Tracy Dana Metzger. I have two great grandchildren and six grandchildren who heap lots of love on me. So, that’s a brief summary of stuff.
Harvey

Harold Klein provides info on “Weequahic Exhibit:”

For those who are not, yet, aware, the Jewish Historical Society of NJ’s website includes a slide show as part of its “Weequahic Community Exhibit.” It consists of about 40 nostalgic slides. I came across it by accident. [Link to JHSNJ Weequahic Memoirs exhibit slideshow](#). Harold

Rosanne Litwak Skopp (57) shares highlights of an article she penned for a recent issue of the NJ Jewish News which contained nostalgic references to Beth Israel Hospital:

Arguably the most iconic building in our neighborhood was the “Wigwam on the Hill,” the famed Weequahic High School. Founded in 1933, the school brought serious educational opportunities to its students, often immigrants or the children of immigrants. We learned, along with the likes of Philip Roth and many other renowned Newark Jews, and we were proud of our school and the places we were able to go from our often-humble beginnings.

But long before Weequahic opened its doors, another famed institution established by Newark’s Jews could be seen from vantage points throughout the city.

Beginning in 1900, and thriving until today, the Newark Beth Israel Hospital – now known as Newark Beth Israel Medical Center – was a source of incredible pride to the members of the community. When we needed medical care, it was to “The Beth” that we headed.

Just about all of my friends – and my younger sister and I – were born at the Beth. Where else? And in 1963, when I was still a resident of Newark, Amy Jill Skopp, our first-born, came into the world on the sixth floor. When we knew the time had come, my husband and I walked the block and a half to the hospital. Upon arrival, he was summarily dispatched and told to go home to watch TV. He dutifully obeyed. In those days, fathers had no standing in the delivery room.

All of our family’s life-cycle events centered around the Beth. Zayda breathed his last breath there at age 87, marking the first death that I, then 12, experienced of someone close to me. Aunt Irene died at age 48, a tragic passing, a short time after Zayda. And so, our lives went, with never a thought to get a second opinion or seek advice elsewhere. That’s how it was; perhaps we were unsophisticated, but maybe our faith in medical care is not such a bad thing after all. Weequahic High is where we got educated, and Beth Israel was where we got medicated.

I have been thinking about Beth Israel a lot lately because I’ve had quite a few hospital experiences in the not too distant past here in New Jersey and in Israel where we often visit with our children. After a recent hospitalization in Israel, I am back in New Jersey, striving to recover and remembering the halcyon days when I thought hospitals were only for delivering babies. It was never true, of course, but I can pretend. We have two great-grandchildren, and I’d like some more. Rosanne

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