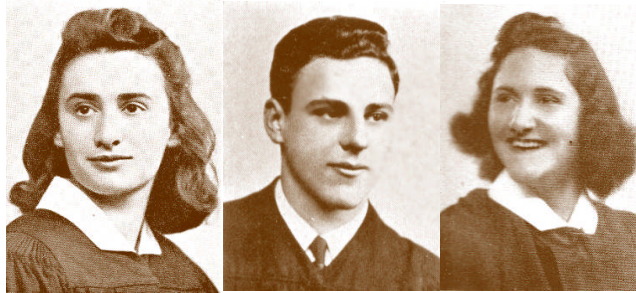


SUMMER 2011/ISSUE # 33

ALUMNI  
CALLUMNI



## CLASS OF 1939 *Celebrates 72nd Reunion*



**L-R: Mickee Gefner Lublang, Irving Newman,  
and Frances Feitlinger Kasen**

### Excerpts from an article in the NJ Jewish News

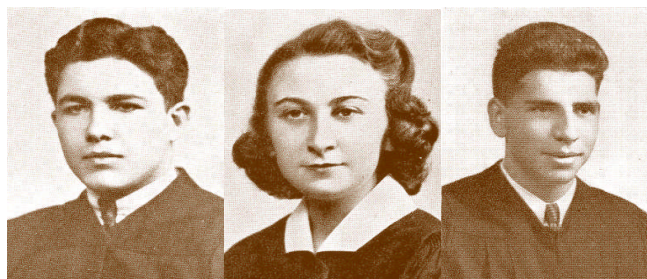
A rather elite crowd gathered at Pals Cabin in West Orange, on Sunday morning, June 5, 2011. Indeed, to qualify one had to be a native Newarker, at or about 90 years of age, and a graduate of Weequahic High School, class of 1939.

Of the 400-odd classmates who left the school 72 years ago, many remained in contact - attending weddings, bar mitzvahs, and retirement parties. And the 30 graduates who attended this historical reunion filled the air with reminiscences, joyous times together, as well as of living through depression days, World War II experiences, and both funny and glowing stories of their Weequahic days.

The featured guest was 97-year-old Hilda Lutzke of Verona who, after beginning her teaching career at the school in 1937, taught some members of the class of '39. "Weequahic had a remarkable faculty and its students were joyful to teach, respectful, and diligent in their pursuit of education," she said. "Many of them progressed to admirable levels of success."

For some of the attendees, age is not a limiting factor. Dr. Milton Luria announced that he had just retired as a physician after 53 years. Irving Newman recently wrote his first book, "*Living on House Money*." Dr. William Weiss, a national authority on allergies, volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. And Betty Krasner will soon be on her way to Tuscany for a new adventure.

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**L-R: Milton Luria, Betty Shlappin Krasner,  
and William Weiss**

## **\$48,000 awarded at 2011 Scholarship Celebration Dinner**

The roar of the thunderstorms and the pelting of hail couldn't mar the joyous occasion that took place inside the Solid Rock Baptist Church in Irvington on Friday evening, June 17<sup>th</sup>. More than 100 people braved the inclement weather to attend the Weequahic High School Alumni Association's 2011 Scholarship Celebration Dinner.

Scholarship recipients and their families, along with Weequahic High School faculty, joined the Association's Board of Trustees in a tribute to scholastic excellence. The Alumni Association awarded \$48,000 to 32 deserving students who each received a \$1,500 scholarship for college or trade school.

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## **BRAFF & BROSS Testimonial Dinner a fundraising success**

*Weequahic honors duo  
who linked past, present*

**By Robert Wiener,  
NJ Jewish News**

Two graduates of Weequahic High School who forged a link between Jewish alumni and current African-American students were honored May 19th with a testimonial dinner at Newark's Robert Treat Hotel.

The Weequahic High School Alumni Association honored co-founders Hal Braff, a 1952 graduate, and Sheldon Bross, class of 1955. The Dinner generated more than \$30,000 for scholarships and student activities.

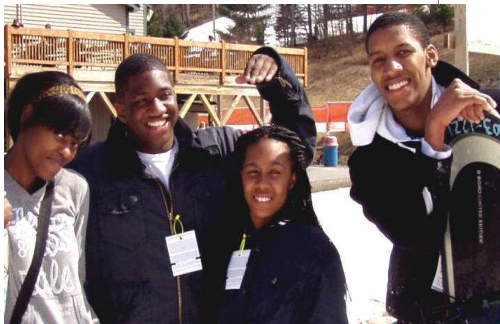
Since 1977, the association has been raising funds to finance college scholarships and other academic programs for

## HELP WANTED For Membership Drive

The Alumni Association is seeking an individual who can assist with our upcoming three-month membership drive. We are looking for somebody with good computer, telephone and clerical skills; experience with database programs; and knowledge of Weequahic's history. Work can be done at the alumni office and at home. Retirees are encouraged to apply. Salary is negotiable. Call Executive Director Phil Yourish at (973) 923-3133 for more information.

## Alumni Support for student activities:

### Skiing at Shawnee in PA



Organized by alumni Board member Vivian Simons, this was the 3rd alumni sponsored ski trip. 37 students and 3 faculty members skied, many for the first time, at the Shawnee Ski Resort in the Poconos on Friday, March 18th.

**Vivian's remarks:** It was the middle of March, but the temperature was in the 70's and although we were concerned that it was going to be too hot, it turned out to be ideal for beginner skiers and they all had an enjoyable time. Some took ski lessons and others snowboarded. The students fell, got wet, got back up, and did not quit. One student even remarked that *"this is the best time he has ever had"*.

A small group of students progressed to a point where they took a last run from the top of a beginner's trail while the rest of us waited and watched for their return through the picture window inside the main lodge. When we finally spotted them cruising down the trail we all smiled and shouted with pride *"They Made It!"*

## Women's Day Conference

This all-day event, now in its 3rd year, took place at the high school on April 8th. Ms. Ameenah Poole, a history teacher and former senior class advisor, coordinated the program with 13 other women teachers/staff.

Two keynote speakers, Dr. Gloria Boseman and Judge Tiffany Williams, and professionals from a variety of fields engaged Weequahic's young ladies in informative, interactive workshops that provided information and encouragement to empower them to make wiser choices for a successful transition from adolescence to womanhood in the 21st century.

Some of the topics explored were self-esteem, HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, etiquette, dating & domestic violence, teen pregnancy, healthy relationships, LGBT relationships and issues, suicide, mental health, substance abuse, crisis management, finances, nutrition, job readiness, and dressing for success.

## Men's Day Conference

For the past four years, Men's Day has been a collaborative venture between Weequahic and Central High Schools. This year's program took place on April 7th & 8th and the theme was *MANHOOD*. On the 1st day, the program was held at Weequahic. The keynote address was from Hashim Garrett, a motivational speaker, who shared his story of being shot several times and left for dead on the streets of New York.

The workshops revolved around topics such as manhood after graduation, career awareness, domestic abuse among teens, safe sex, overcoming anger, the consequences of poor decisions, etiquette, and nutrition.

On the 2nd day, Central High School was the host and Principal Ras Baraka spoke to the young men about the necessity of becoming strong, educated, and productive men in today's world. Activities for the day included poetry readings, free style rapping, dance, fashion, and athletics.

Continued on page 3

## ALUMNI CALUMET is a publication of the WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Editor, Layout & Design:*

**Phil Yourish, 1964**

*Proofreading:*

**Dave Lieberfarb, Hal Braff, Marc Little, and Myrna Jelling Weissman**

*Our thanks for articles and photos from The Star-Ledger, NJ.com, NJ Jewish News, and our WHS alumni and friends.*

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## RECENT DONATIONS:

Class of 1963; Class of 1945; Class of 1939; Robert & Patty Bender; Beryl Lief Benderly, 1960; Gerald Beatty, 1957; Ellen Kimelman Brown, 1960; Bruce Cohen, 1955; Richard Einhorn, 1950; Steve Dinetz, 1965; Larry Josloff, 1962; Bob Masin; Patty Masin; Sharon Rous Feinsod, 1966; Judith Seidman Gold, 1953; Susan Schilling Grand, 1958; Arnold Ram, 1948; Richard & Ruth Shipman; Sanford & Rona Steinberg; Ben Wolfe, 1955; All Peoples Day Celebration; Donations to Walter Hastreiter Fund; Donations in memory of Sandy Scheps; NJ Jewish Historical Society Metro West; West Coast Reunion.



**A special thanks**  
to **Ronald Parm** for his  
**\$1,500** contribution to  
re-establish the **Carolyn**  
**Parm Memorial Scholarship Fund** in memory of his  
Mom who was a graduate  
and teacher at Weequahic.

## ADDITIONS TO WHS ARCHIVES:

**Harold Ashby, Jr., 1969  
Class of 1939  
Linda Forgosh, JHSMW**



## Norbert Gaelen, WHS 1944, honored by Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest



The Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest was proud to pay tribute to one of its founding board members – someone who has made a considerable contribution to the MetroWest community, **Norbert Gaelen**, at its *Lasting Impressions Gala* on May 17th at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston.

Norbert believes strongly in the idea of maintaining a cultural center for the Jewish community. He has actively supported a number of Jewish causes

throughout MetroWest as well as having served on the boards of UJC MetroWest, the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest., and the JCC MetroWest. Other boards Norbert has served on include the UJC Investment Committee, the JCF Professional Advisory Committee, and the JCF Executive Committee.

### Supported JHS from its inception

Norbert and his wife, Audrey, are long time major donors to UJA MetroWest, as well as Jewish Community Foundation Lester Society members at the highest level of *Benefactor*. The Gaelens have lent their support to the Jewish Historical Society from the time it began. Both Norbert and Audrey were recently honored at the 2010 20th Anniversary JHS Annual Membership Meeting as founding board members, and Norbert serves as one of only two emeritus board members.

The arts are a particular passion for the Gaelens, and their deep interest has directed a good portion of their philanthropic spirit, as well as their personal lives. They are art collectors and have amassed a number of collections, including a fine Native American pottery collection, a painting collection, sculpture, and a very large collection of studio art glass.

### Endowed gallery space

Their interests prompted them to endow the gallery spaces at the Whippany and West Orange Jewish Community Centers, an endeavor that has helped to create spaces of visual and artistic beauty in the MetroWest community. Local artists have a venue where they can display their art. One local artist, sculptress Julie Levine, submitted an article to the New Jersey Jewish News that appeared in the March 31st, 2010 edition entitled “*They Gave Me So Much More.*” The article describes what the impact of winning the Gaelen Juried Art Show in May 2008 in the category of sculpture meant to her.

Julie states: “*Audrey and Norbert Gaelen not only give artists the opportunity to exhibit their work, but they gave me the opportunity to heal and find a core strength within me. I entered a piece, appropriately titled, Faces of Freedom. The faces on 11 clay cups held expressions of awe, joy and sorrow...some even with a touch of confusion expressed. It was my way of telling the world that I had learned some very valuable lessons.*”

## Alumni Support from page 2

### Honor Society Ceremony

Organized by Ms. Regina Covington, an English teacher and advisor to the National Honor Society. In the early evening on May 12th in the South Cafeteria, the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place for 8 senior students and up to 15 more students who will be juniors and seniors in September. The ceremony is considered a *rite of passage* for Weequahic scholars. 75 parents, faculty and guests attended. Former Weequahic Board member Marjorie Barnes, 1985, was the guest speaker.

### WHS Students Meet Holocaust Survivors

#### Excerpts from an article in the NJ Jewish News

On April 13th, a busload of Weequahic students led by their English teachers, Tamela Culp and Robert Hylton, met Holocaust survivors at a gathering at the Jewish Community Campus in Whippany.



Altogether, some 100 students from three New Jersey high schools participated in the luncheon led by Paul Winkler, the executive director of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education and hosted by the Holocaust Council of MetroWest. Addressing the diverse group of students - among them black, Latino, Asian, and white youth - the Jewish senior citizens shared their personal stories of imprisonment, hiding, torture, and narrow escapes as the young people listened intently.

Hylton said that he instructs his Weequahic students about Nazi genocide and American slavery in what he calls “*the Black and Jewish Holocausts*” by showing films like *Schindler’s List* and *The Pianist* about the Jewish Holocaust and documentaries on the black Holocaust. He said he makes connections between the two tragic historic circumstances, reminding his students that members of both groups “*were taken from our families.*”

“*I don’t think you can compare them,*” Shaquille Henry, one of Hylton’s students stated. “*They were different races in different places and horrific things took place. They both were very tragic. I’ve talked to survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, and it is really touching to hear what they have been through. The best I can do is notify others about it.*”

Isaac Parker, a junior at Weequahic, thanked the survivors “*for coming here so we get to see what their lives were about.*” Before leaving, the students pledged to continue telling the stories of the survivors from now until the year 2045 - a century after the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.

Alumni Co-President Hal Braff provided the students with the opportunity to attend the event.

## CLASS OF 1939 from page 1



**Hannah Yeager (now Helen Gottlieb) and Ken Beam**

It was clear that military service - particularly during World War II - had played a major role in the lives of the members of the class of '39.

Luria related a story about former Weequahic student, Jack Kirsch, who was shot down in a bomber raid on the Ploiesti oil field in Romania and was held in a German POW camp. At the camp, Luria said, Kirsch suddenly saw another prisoner who looked familiar, and said, *"I know that guy. He comes from Weequahic High School in Newark."* It was Dave Harrison - from the class of '39, who in another raid on Ploiesti had parachuted to safety, was captured, and placed in the same cell.

Somehow the memories of the years spent on Chancellor Avenue seemed to transcend the stories of the pains of aging and medical complaints, creating an atmosphere of fun and joy for the four hours the group spent together. *"Following our class would cover the broad spectrum of the history of the city of Newark,"* said Newman. *"There are strong threads that still bind us together."*

Those threads continue to hold; when event chair Mickee Geffner Lublang of Verona and co-chair Frances Feitlinger Kasen of West Orange, conducted a vote to determine if plans should begin for a 73rd reunion next year, the response was a resounding yes.

## SCHOLARSHIPS from page 1

In his remarks, Principal John Tonero stated that *"no other high school Principal in the United States can say that they have an alumni association that is giving 32 scholarships to students in their school."* Co-President Mary Dawkins asked the students to stand up and applaud their parents and family members for helping them reach this milestone and Co-President Hal Braff said that he looks

forward to seeing the scholarship recipients in 2015 as college graduates.

Recent college grads and former scholarship recipients Anthony Paden and David James-White, who received degrees from Tuskegee University and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, respectively, were in attendance.

The Association manages more than 20 funds established by classes or in honor or in memory of alumni or faculty.



## The scholarship awardees for 2011 are:

Deborah Abdullah, La'Quan Alston, Jane Asante, Mark Barker, Sheana Barnes, Tammi Barron, Dominique Williams Bey, Brieanna Blake, James Andrew Bonds III, Hassanah Boykins, Doron Bryant, Antoine Butler, Lovette Calloway, Demi Chisolm, Olivia Clarke, Sabrina Collins, Stephon Davis, Felicia Davis, A'lexus Evans, Dekontee Gunone, Josette Jackson, Cleopatra Jones, Amirah Lovejoy, Tyrone Mans, Sparkle Moore, Michael Nelson, Keyana Peebles, Dionn Ross, Paris Solomon, Jahnale Stokes, Imani Taylor, Christopher Wilkins.

## BRAFF/BROSS Dinner from page 1



Weequahic students. The scholarship program has served as an important link between Weequahic's Jewish past and its transformation since the 1960s into a largely African-American neighborhood.

Paying tribute to their father, sons Adam and Zach Braff and daughter Jennifer Gelman, spoke lovingly of him and his *"passion for Weequahic and commitment that the Alumni Association will provide financial support to any Weequahic student who qualifies for higher education."*

After accepting his award, Hal Braff told the interracial audience that *"as a Jew born in 1934 in America I was as blessed as anybody could be."* He said there was now a need to provide *"opportunity for*

*current Weequahic students so that they will have the same chance at the good life which we had."* Braff, who lives in South Orange, also urged graduates of other urban high schools to emulate the work of the Alumni Association.

Bross accepted his award from his sons Kevin and

Michael. *"My father would definitely give you the shirt off his back if you asked him for it - but it would be a \$3 polyester shirt,"* joked Kevin.

Addressing his father, Michael said, *"Weequahic High School and its alumni have always been a true passion for you. The people here cherish that - the way Kevin and I cherish the passion you have always shown us in being a father."*

Sheldon Bross, who lives in Bloomington, recalled an alumni association gift that enabled Weequahic students in a French class to visit Paris. A participant, now in college, told him how visiting France *"really made me want to do something with my life."* *We did something that really turned his life around,"* said Bross. *"If we can do that, we can do wonderful things."*

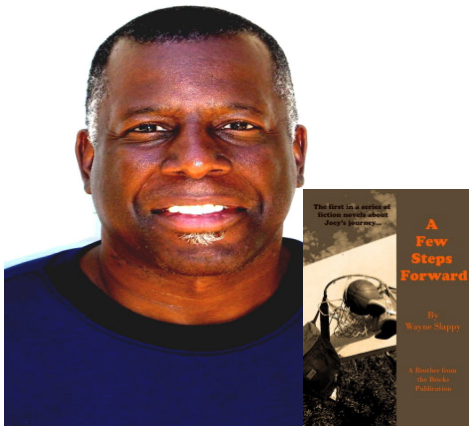
The evening's keynote speaker was Alvin Attles, a 1955 graduate who played professional basketball with the Philadelphia and San Francisco Warriors and became one of the first African-American coaches in the National Basketball Association. *"When I graduated we had seven black people in the class,"* recalled Attles.

He added, *"people like Hal and Sheldon and all of you here made a commitment to help our young people - and that is tremendous. I've traveled in and out of this country and I see the importance of education, and if you don't give that chance to young people, it is not going to happen."*



# WAYNE SLAPPY

**1970 grad reveals a passionate life full of creative and productive projects**



Wayne Slappy doesn't have a problem keeping busy. However, finding enough space in his life to include his various crafts is challenging. You see Wayne is a poet, playwright, screenwriter, author, producer and basketball skills trainer.

And he has written, directed and produced numerous plays and participated in various capacities in many film and TV projects. But there's so much more to this unique individual. Discover how a Weequahic guy has fashioned a successful life for himself in Hollywood - 3,000 miles away from Chancellor Avenue.

Wayne lived with his grandmother on the other side of Weequahic Park attending Dayton Street School. His Mom, who passed away before he started high school, always wanted him to go to Weequahic. So Wayne took German while "schlepping" between the housing projects and his aunt's apartment on Lyons and Aldine. As an "Indian," he excelled in academics and basketball playing under Coach Dave Klurman.

After WHS, he attended Barrington College in Rhode Island and continued his hoops career until injuries in his senior year. With a degree and loads of confidence at 22, Wayne became the youngest head basketball coach in the history of his alma mater when he returned to Weequahic in 1974. He continued as their coach for the next five years. During this time, he married his first wife, Helen, and they had a son, Wayne Tai.

Overall, he taught in the Newark public school system for nineteen years as a Physical Education teacher at Weequahic, Barringer and Vailsburg. Then it was on to Hollywood.

Wayne's film credits include "Chicken On The Tracks," "Lean On Me," and "Connecticut Yankee In King Arthur's Court." His personal library of more than ten screenplays are in line to be produced as financing for photography, editing, prints, marketing, distribution and advertising becomes available. His book of poetry, entitled "A Muse Meant," has garnered favorable reviews from each of the friends, celebrities and sports stars to whom it has been distributed.

*Coach Slappy* has coached, counseled and/or offered skills training to basketball players for more than 35 years. He has been associated with the Five-Star Basketball Camp network of coaches ever since he coached Michael Jordan the summer before "Sir Royal Airness" entered his senior year at Laney High. Wayne has successfully helped hundreds of high school athletes to acquire collegiate scholarships.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1994, Wayne has provided skills training and advice to a host of professional athletes at some point in their careers who have either played or are currently on numerous NBA rosters.

Hall of Famer Julius Erving, Jelly Bean Bryant and *Slap* (as many of his close friends call him) served as consultants, documentarians, and on-camera participants in the film "Fathers of the Sport," an expository documentary designed to capture the influence of playground legends in basketball and the NBA.

Wayne is pleased with the progress of his original screenplays. Two are in queue and slated to begin production in 2012. Also, be on the lookout for "Most Secret Circles" based on the real-life exploits of an unsung Jewish hero during WWII; "Jersey Boyz" (a fictionalized action flick); basketball films "Spin Move" (co-written with Peter Allen) and "Game Within The Game;" and an animation feature whose title is to be announced.

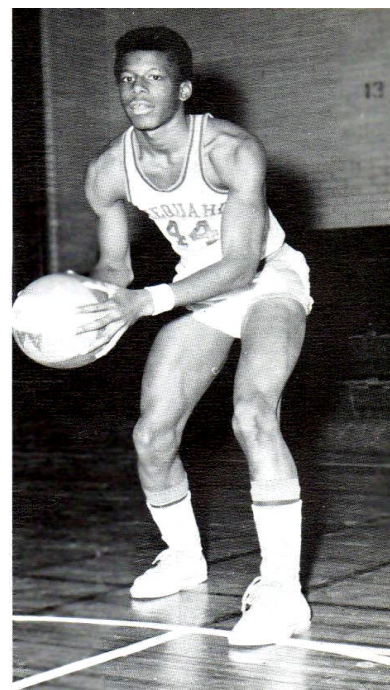
For many years Slappy has been instrumental in the development of young people from the Venice, San Fernando Valley and West Side communities of

Los Angeles. After plying his craft at the Oakwood Recreation Center for more than ten years, he currently is a volunteer at the Venice Boys and Girls Club where (like his idols Les Fein, Al McGuire and John Wooden) he uses basketball skills training as a lure to provide metaphoric life lessons to his charges and its members.

His just published pre-teen e-novel, entitled "A Few Steps Forward" is designed to inspire young men in inner cities across the country to read and should soon be available for use on a host of eReaders. *Slap* hopes this book, the first in a series of seven coming-of-age novels about a fictional character named Joey Snead who grows up in Newark, will eventually become a staple in urban school districts across the country.

Slappy is currently editing his basketball skills instruction manual entitled, "500 Ways To Score," which will be published in September. It is his intention to donate portions of proceeds of sales from each book as well as his films to the Boys and Girls Club of America, the Weequahic High School Alumni Scholarship Fund, and an assortment of non-profit organizations whose demonstrated mission is to provide literacy and educational opportunities to young people.

Wayne lives in Culver City with his wife Marlene - happily married for 6 years. And they both have attended the last two Weequahic West Coast Reunions.





## established by 1951 grad Ed Goldstein and his wife Sue

After nine-year-old Valerie Goldstein lost her courageous fight against cancer in 1976, her parents Ed and Sue were determined to do something in her memory that would ease the burden of other families faced with the crisis of a sick child. They wanted Valerie's courage to be memorialized in a meaningful way that would serve others in similar circumstances.

When Valerie became ill in the early 1970's, there were no comprehensive care facilities for children with cancer and blood disorders in New Jersey. During the six years of her treatment, Valerie and her parents would travel several hundred miles a week to hospitals in New York City, the only place where Valerie could receive the most advanced care.

Long, sometimes daily commutes from their home in Warren, parking hassles and expenses, the distress of Valerie being nauseous on the trip home, disrupted family life, rearranged work schedules - all these took an emotional and physical toll on Valerie and her parents, sapping their energy at a time when they needed it most.

The Valerie Fund was born in the Goldsteins' New Jersey basement - a group of benevolent friends supporting the Goldsteins' wish that no family should have to endure what they had during Valerie's treatment.

The idea was simple: To provide families with regional outpatient treatment centers at top pediatric hospitals within an hour's drive of most of the state's population, providing state-of-the-art medical and emotional care in a happy, upbeat, child-centered atmosphere.

In 1977, The Valerie Fund Children's Center at Overlook Hospital opened, and became the first comprehensive care facility for children with cancer and blood disorders in New Jersey.

Families turn to The Valerie Fund because of the unique combination of medical care, counseling, and other services it provides. The Valerie Fund Children's Centers comprise the largest network of healthcare facilities for children with cancer and blood disorders in New Jersey, and one of the largest in the nation, hosting over 25,000 patient visits each year.

**Close to Home:** Today there are seven Valerie Fund Children's Centers for Cancer and Blood Disorders located in major hospitals in New Jersey, New York, and the Philadelphia area providing caring, comprehensive, state-of-the-art outpatient health care to more than 4,000 children and their families each year.



Ed and Sue Goldstein

This network means that sick children are able to receive care close to their homes. Before The Valerie Fund, many children - such as Valerie Goldstein - had to travel long distances because the treatment they needed was available only at major medical facilities located in large cities.

**The Whole Patient:** At The Valerie Fund Centers, patients receive far more than treatment for their physical illnesses. Their philosophy is that to truly heal the children with whose care they are entrusted, they must treat them emotionally, socially, and developmentally, as well as medically.

**The Entire Family:** Childhood disease strikes not only the child, but the entire family. When a child is a patient at a Valerie Fund Center, a staff of social workers, counselors, psychologists, and

child-life specialists enfold the child and the family in a blanket of ongoing, individualized care. They firmly believe this approach is the most effective way to fight childhood disease.

**Fundraiser:** On Saturday, June 11, 2011, The Valerie Fund Walk & JAG Physical Therapy 5K Run took place in Verona Park and raised over half a million dollars to support children with cancer and blood disorders, more than doubling the donations from the 2010 Walk. With over 3,400 registered participants, The Valerie Fund shattered previous achievements in one of the most successful fundraising campaigns to date.

Over 100 former and current Valerie Fund patients participated in this year's event. Verona Park was filled with excitement for the kids, ranging in age from fourteen months old to former patients in their 30's. Included in the celebration was an Opening Ceremony that featured inspirational stories from two Valerie Fund kids, Ty'Rell and Sierra.

Wearing lime green shirts declaring "*I am a proud TVF kid*" on the back, the patients of Team Green took time to share in the festivities of the day. An Awards Ceremony wrapped up the memorable event, with 20 of the 191 teams receiving awards for fundraising, participation, team spirit and creativity.

Ed and Sue were visibly moved by the support for their organization which celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. They said, "*The Walk was filled with tears and laughter and love and dedication in support of our Valerie Fund kids and their families. What a day it was!*" Donations for the Walk and 5K Event are still being accepted online. To donate, visit [www.thevaleriefund.org/walk](http://www.thevaleriefund.org/walk).

The Valerie Funds also operates a free overnight camp (Camp Happy Time) for kids with cancer. The Kids not only have a terrific week (most counselors are survivors and former campers) but it gives their parents a chance to spend quality time with their other children plus giving them some relief knowing their children are well provided for with our Doctors and Nurses in attendance.

Continued on next page



## Yiddish theater honors

# David Steiner

WHS 1947

## West Orange benefactor

by Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News

Ask West Orange builder and philanthropist David Steiner if he speaks Yiddish and he'll answer *"Do I speak Yiddish? A bissel. I have enough trouble with English. Are you kidding?"*

But his ardent interest in preserving the linguistic foundation of Eastern European Jewish art, literature, and culture has earned Steiner and his wife, Sylvia, places of honor from Folksbiene, the only surviving professional Yiddish

skys: *Music and Memories of a Life in the Yiddish Theatre*," a multi-media concert. Thomas is the grandson of Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, two leading lights of the Yiddish theater.

A civil engineer by profession, David Steiner is a builder, real estate developer, and a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He has another connection with show business, as owner of Steiner Studios, a filmmaking center in Queens. A past president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, he is also a vice chair of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Both Steiners have provided major support to numerous Jewish causes and organizations, including United Jewish Communities of Metro

West NJ and the Rachel Coalition.

They are also strong supporters of the National Yiddish Book Center, a campus built around a collection of some one million Yiddish volumes. The Steiner Summer Internship Program offers students a chance to spend summers at the center in Amherst, Mass. He hopes such efforts will trigger a rebirth of the Yiddish theater

and, eventually, the building of a museum of Yiddish language and culture.

*"Yiddish may not be an important part of Jewish life around here,"* he said, *"but I hope to change that."* Steiner said his strong support of the Folksbiene (which means *"the people's stage"*) is motivated by his desire *"to make sure Yiddish culture is around."*

*"It is very important for us to preserve it - in books, in schools, and especially in the theater,"* he told NJ Jewish News in a Feb. 28 phone interview. *"The theater was such an important part of Jewish life in America, and it would be a shame for it not to be here. I hope by my encouraging it, the next generation might get an appreciation of the role it played and maybe participate more in Yiddish culture."*

## Valerie Fund from page 6

In 2001, their older daughter, Stacy Goldstein, died of breast cancer at the age of 37, leaving a husband, Robert Singer, and a son, Jonah, who was almost six. When Stacy died, they took a different route.

They provided funds to finance a major breast cancer symposium hosted by the nonprofit organization Living Beyond Breast Cancer, and they established The Stacy Goldstein Breast Oncology Center at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey to provide Fellowships for doctors based at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

*Editors Note:* When the Valerie Fund was first established, Ed says that many friends from Weequahic were instrumental in its initial and ongoing success. Some of them are as follows: **Dave Klein '59** (involved the NY Giants); **Len Cohen '48** (fund raising chair); **Shelly Greenholtz '51** (former President); **Ed Bond '51** (former Treasurer); **Ed Brody '51** (former President); **Harold Osman '52** (former President); **Allan Kampf '48** and **Dan Weiss '48** (active fund raisers).

## 1969 classmates at Maxine Flagg's 60th



Marc Little, Dorcas Clark Crosby, Debbie Smith, Maxine Flagg Brown, Ivory "Ike" Wise, Denise Jenkins and Denise Clark



theater company in the United States. Together with Michael Tilson Thomas, music director of the San Francisco Symphony and founder and artistic director of the New World Symphony, the Steiners were honored April 6 at Lincoln Center with a concert and reception.

Folksbiene is an enduring remnant of what was once the centerpiece of much immigrant Jewish culture. When it was founded in 1915, it was one of 15 Yiddish theater companies in the city. Today it is the only one still in existence, with a current season that included a musical revue starring *Picket Fences* star Fyvush Finkel and two one-acts by the celebrated writer I.L. Peretz.

The gala honoring the Steiners at Avery Fisher Hall featured Tilson Thomas conducting *"The Thomashefsky"*

# Larry Josloff

## 1962 Weequahic grad and Newark business owner steps forward to save Newark's mounted police

By Mark Di Ionna, Star-Ledger

When Larry Josloff was a kid, he was the "outrider" for the harness races at Weequahic Park. "I rode the saddle horse that led the race horses out," Josloff said.

He got the lofty position because his dad, Sollie, revived harness racing at Weequahic in the early 1950s. Sollie Josloff was a driver, trainer and owner, and had a dozen standardbred trotters and pacers stabled at the historic track.

Now Josloff, owner of Newark's largest industrial window company, is the lead horse again, driving efforts to save Newark's mounted police. He donated \$10,000, and is asking the state's horseracing community to help, as well as the Newark Chamber of Commerce.

"We have to step up and keep these guys in business," he said as he visited the Newark stables the other day, petting the schnozzes of horses with names like Sharp Shooter, Sarge and Black Jack. By "guys" he meant the human and equine members of the mounted division. "If we can raise \$200,000, we can keep them in business at least three, maybe four more years."

The money will go to feed, and veterinary and farrier expenses. And a continued clip-clop presence on the streets of downtown Newark, where police have ridden high above the crowds, or ridden into them when necessary, for 120 years.

Two months ago, it was reported here that Newark's mounted police would be a budget casualty. Five horses had already been shipped to a farm in Allentown, and another four were headed to Philadelphia. Newark's 18 mounted officers would be reassigned, and the stable on Orange Street would be shuttered. A 120-year-old tradition was coming to an end. But then came the Josloff cavalry.

Ian & Larry Josloff



"After I read that, I knew I had to do something," he said. "I did some research and I saw what Philadelphia did. Businesses got together and brought their mounted police back. Why couldn't we do that here?"

Other readers came forward, too. A woman in Scotch Plains gave \$5,000 as did the owner of several downtown parking lots. But Josloff is leading a wider charge. First, he wrote a check to Newark's Police Foundation, earmarked for the mounties. "That's the most



Weequahic Park Race Track

important thing. You have to designate it for the mounted unit only," he said. Then he got the harness racing community involved.

"I've had several conversation with Tony Abbatiello (New Jersey's most prominent harness horseman), and there is interest in helping us out," Josloff said. "They (the state's standardbred owner's association) had donated eight horses to Newark in the past. Now, I'm going to the business community."

Josloff's son, Ian, said mounted police are the mark of a big city department. "New York has them, Boston, Philadelphia. It's a strong image; a marquee trademark." The Newark unit has been downsized to six horses and three officers, Louis Camacho, Richard Miller and Virgil Cordona. The men come in on their own time to feed, exercise and groom their partners. "It's a labor of love for these guys," said Newark police spokeswoman Det. Josephine Santaniello.

So too, for Larry Josloff, who's passion for horses is only equaled by his love of Newark. "This city has been very good to my family."

His grandfather, Ezra, a Russian immigrant, started Josloff Glass in 1903. From his small workshop on Prince Street in the Central Ward, he repaired plate glass windows for stores along Springfield Avenue and downtown.

A century later, the company's job portfolio includes the aluminum curtain wall and glass at the New Meadowland Stadium, the Prudential Center, and Terminal B at Newark Airport.

Sollie Josloff moved the company to Meeker Avenue, the street that borders Weequahic Park in 1962, where it remains today. In those days, there were stables for 80 horses, a quarter-mile dirt track and a century-old grandstand from the days when the area was called Waverly Fairgrounds.

"Two of my father's harness horses went to the Newark Mounted after they retired," Larry Josloff said. "Standardbred horses have always had the perfect temperament for police work. We want to keep the tradition."



# NEWARK NEWS

From The Star-Ledger

## Giant matzoh helps usher in new Manischewitz corporate headquarters in Newark



A giant piece of matzoh made its way down a conveyor belt yesterday to celebrate the grand opening of Manischewitz's new corporate headquarters in Newark. The chief rabbi of Israel, Yona Metzger, blessed the unleavened bread, which was 25 feet long and weighed more than 25 pounds - equal to that of 336 regular squares - which the company said was the world's longest piece of matzoh.

Mayor Cory Booker joined Metzger and co-CEOs Alain Bankier and Paul Bensabat as the kosher products manufacturer unveiled its new corporate offices near Route 1 in the city's East Ward. The headquarters relocated to Newark from Secaucus to join its production facility, which was moved from Jersey City four years ago.

## Newark's New Superintendent of Schools



Cami Anderson grew up in southern California in a family of 12 children - nine of them adopted - a boisterous group of multi-racial kids who she says helped lay the foundation for her new job as Newark schools superintendent.

A career educator, she was named to lead the state's largest school district. Anderson, 39, has been a classroom teacher and currently oversees an alternative school district in New York City, called District 79, that serves about 90,000 troubled and at-risk students, including Riker's Island inmates and teenage drop-outs.

But while her professional experience and management style won her strong praise from Gov. Chris Christie, who introduced her during a press conference at Newark's Science Park High School, Anderson said it's her family background that first gave her the chops she needs for the job.

*"There are very few challenges faced by students in District 79 I've not learned from my family," Anderson said. "This makes me look at students in Newark in a different way. I don't see 55 percent of students graduating - I see the faces of my brother*

*and sisters who have overcome so many challenges in their own lives."* Anderson said she and her family, who live in Harlem, will be moving to Newark.

Her career as an educator began when she taught at a Montessori school in California. She graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, then from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and John F. Kennedy School of Government. She taught elementary school with Teach for America, then served as executive director of the non-profit's New York City chapter. She also was chief program officer at New Leader for New Schools, a non-profit that trains urban principals; did consulting work, including on Booker's unsuccessful mayoral campaign in 2002.

## Dalai Lama at Newark Peace Education Summit

The Dalai Lama visited Newark on Friday, May 13th to headline a three-day summit that advocated for nonviolence in everything from national debate to kitchen table conversations. Over the weekend, gangbangers-turned-mentors, celebrities and scholars brought a message of peace to a city that has too little of it.

The summit, two years in the making, was the brainchild of two men - a Jersey-born millionaire and a renowned Tibetan scholar. From a conversation between them, the Newark Peace Education Summit grew into an event that drew about 2,400 attendees each day, with sold-out crowds Friday and Saturday when the Dalai Lama was present.



*"On the same panel with Nobel laureates were anti-violence street kids talking about their collective experience and sharing it,"* said Drew Katz, a philanthropist and Cherry Hill native who conceived the summit two years ago after meeting Robert Thurman, the first American ordained a Buddhist monk.



Some of the more well-known participants in the event were Nobel Peace laureates Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams; 93-year-old Yoga master, Tao-Porchon-Lynch; physician/author, Deepak Chopra; Mayor Cory Booker; Martin Luther King III; actress Goldie Hawn; Russell Simmons; Buddhism scholar Robert Thurman; spiritual teacher Marianne Williamson; Zen priest Bernie Glassman; actor Edward Norton; CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien; Newark historian & Rutgers Professor Clement Price; and Weequahic's own Rabbi Michael Lerner (pictured above).

Speaking on one of the panels about youth violence was 13-year-old Mahishan Gnanaseharan, a seventh-grade student at Science Park School in Newark.

Continued on page 16

## *In Loving Memory*

### **Sanford Scheps** 1963

By classmate  
Jac Toporek



The Class of June 1963 recently mourned the passing of one of its brightest and most memorable classmates, **Sandy Scheps**. Sandy was the ultimate raconteur of Weequahic lore of the 1950s and 60s. He had fabulous recall of people, places, events, tastes, highs and lows of the neighborhoods we loved so much.

Dating back to 1998, the class reunion committee benefited from his energy and good counsel and, of course, the tales he would recount about classmates, teachers and so much more.

To his classmates and those in our Weequahic family who had the privilege of knowing him, Sandy really was bigger than life; so verbal, so nice, so interested in everyone and so proud of his family.

Our class and the Weequahic scene have lost a true Weequahic spirit. His love for the school and the place where he grew up was always visible and very often the motivating force that led to his support till his final day of everything Weequahic.

Although Sandy's sudden departure left us stunned and with a great sense of loss, it is only fitting, proper and deserving, that the Class of 1963 dedicate its scholarship award for 2011 to honor the memory and life-time friendship of Sandy Scheps. He has always made a difference in the lives of those he touched and the class is so proud that he will continue to make a difference to the lives of the graduates of Weequahic High School.

With this award we also recognize his wife Lynn and two daughters Lori and Leigh, whose love and support helped make Sandy the gifted spirit that he was.

## **BRAFF / BROSS DINNER PICS**



Sheldon, Ken & Camille Gibson, Sharpe James

Ruby Baskerville ('61)  
Karim Arnold ('84)



Hal with Lawrence & Sharon Rous Feinsod ('66)

Sheldon with Judy Bennett ('72)



Monroe Krichman ('55)

Ron Arbuckle ('63) &  
Lucius Williams ('64)

Hilda Lutzke



Hal & Rabbi Shlomo Lubin

WHS 2011 Scholarship Students

Continued on next page





Mary Dawkins ('71) & Sam Weinstock ('55)



Layton Brothers: Moe ('67) & Larry ('63)



Sheldon and sons Kevin & Michael



Sheldon and Alvin Attles ('55)



Hal with Taylor Bagley, Lara Brodzinsky, and sons Adam & Zach



Norma & David Schechner ('46) with Eli Hoffman ('56)



Arnold Keller ('52) flanked by Swede Masin's kids, Bob & Patty



Ruben Rivera & Vivian Simons ('59)



Burt ('52) and Patricia Sebold



Patricia & Marshall Cooper ('69)



# An African in America

**Dekontee Gunone, WHS 2011**

**(the writer is the salutatorian of the 20011 class)**

*There have been many bumps along the road but that has not stopped me. There is no perfect road and I am determined to continue, no matter how many obstacles I must overcome.*



Before I go into detail about my life in the United States, let me give you a brief description of where I have been. Originally I am from the West African country of Liberia. This country experienced fourteen years of Civil War, beginning in 1990. Poverty made its way through every corner of my home country, from one family to another. After 1990, electricity was no more, running water eventually

stopped, many families' homes were destroyed, and public schools, like those that you enjoy today, were closed.

Therefore, if your family could not afford to send you to a private school you were left uneducated, growing up not knowing how to read or write. Gangs roamed the streets constantly looking for prey like roaring lions seeking to devour someone. No, I am not talking about "Bloods and Crips"

Gangs in Liberia consisted of young men 13 or older, some even younger, who owned many guns. They walked around in broad daylight with guns like AK-47s, looting any store they please. Yet I find it ironic that in the United States young men who have the opportunity to get an education walk around playing with gangs as if its cool.

Coming to America I thought about the people I would meet and the many obstacles I would face. Leaving the place I've called home since birth and traveling thousands of miles away was terrifying, especially since those who surrounded me did not share my beliefs and values. I would say that the first ten years of my life was as if I were entering a dense, dark, jungle where virtually all sunlight was covered by a thick canopy overhead. To cut through that jungle, I had to explore the world around me. I had to rub shoulders with people from all walks of

life, and learn to live outside the box, different from society, while still standing strong. Although some think that their words weaken me, I don't go home contemplating the negative, or even entertaining voices in my head. I bury the ugly comments six feet under and keep my head as high as I can.

Yet there are many advantages that one can have in the United States. When it comes to education, the system is very good - offering free public schools from kindergarten until you graduate from high school. In addition, you can get grants, loans and even scholarships to further your education. With all that, many Americans allow all the opportunities to pass them by.

America is one of the most diverse countries in the world. Americans have the opportunity to be around people from all over the world. Not only do they learn a lot, they also learn from people of other nations.

All my life I did not get what I wanted but I got what was most important - my education, my home, and most importantly, my loving family. My home has been like the key that frees me from the shackles of despair. My family had always been encouraging and pushing me in the right path. My mother always says, "home is a shelter from all sorts of storms." This has been proven to be true, because when the world comes pouring down, my family is always there to shield me.



I live by my favorite motto, "commitment leads to action; action brings your dream even closer." Each day I try to learn as much as I can. Through high school I have learned all that I misunderstood in elementary and middle schools. Today I can still say that qualities such as humility and a willingness to learn have taken me a long way. Over the years of being in the United States, I have noticed that there are many opportunities knocking, just waiting for someone to take the initiative to open up a door. I am willing to answer the door and welcome opportunity!

An African in America sounds like an ordinary life story in the United States. Chances are my life will seem that way to many. But as I continue to grow in my understanding of the world around me, I will never allow myself to become ordinary in my journey through any walk of life, whether halfway across the world in Africa, or right here in the United States.

I live with a purpose in mind. With a purpose in life I have enough bedrock upon which to build my personal goals and adapt to any situation. There is no perfect path, therefore I run, determined to continue no matter how many obstacles I must overcome!

## 70th Birthday Party

*Classes from 1958 to 1961*

**Saturday, Sept. 24th, 7 p.m.,**  
Crestmont Country Club in  
West Orange

**Sunday, Sept. 25th:**

Brunch in morning  
and Golf in afternoon.

Contacts: **Brian Harris** -  
bcharris@bhs-law.com  
**Jerry Field** - fieldj@aol.com  
**Matty Wigert** - mdlmw@aol.com



## REUNIONS / GATHERINGS

### WEST COAST REUNION



**Fran Katz Sekela**

Temple Bat Yahm in Newport Beach, CA was the setting for 100 West Coast Weequahic alumni representing classes from 1939-70. Under the remarkable leadership of **Fran Katz Sekela (54)**, this event made us Indians proud!

Table decorations by **Roni Gold Cantor (6/57)** and **Gloria Amsterdam Levine (51)**, jewelry donation from **Jo Katz Nost (54)**, Four Sisters Ranch wines from **Serena Friedman (64)**, an embroidered apron donation from **Susan Levine (65)**, autographed books by **Irv Sternberg (47)**, and LA Lakers tickets, courtesy of **Wayne Slappy (70)**, were the hits of the raffles.

Wayne, **Dr. Michael Mantell (66)** and **Bud Freedman (52)** along with **Sheila Grabelle Pokras (53)** filled the event with memorable humor, reminiscing and touching emotion.



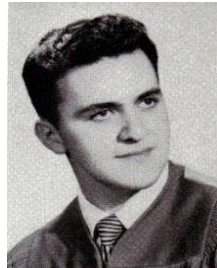
**Anita Blumer Cohen**

The California weather was almost as warm as the feeling that filled the hall. A very special and terrific cheerleading squad led us all in memorable Weequahic cheers, only adding to the pride we all felt being together.

**Anita Blumer Cohen (51)** who attended with her sister **Ruth Blumer Greenstein (48)** remarked: *"Seeing old friends and classmates and making new friends made for a wonderful day. Thanks to Fran and her wonderful committee we all had a*

*great time. The food was great and so was the weather. I drove in from Las Vegas to stay with Ruth for the weekend and then we drove down to Newport Beach on Sunday for the reunion. If any of you West Coast alumni did not get to go, you missed a real treat. Try to make it next year."*

The West Coast Reunion donated **\$1,000** to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.



**Buddy Freedman**



**Serena Friedman**

### Anthony Paden, WHS 2004

#### *Scholarship recipient graduates from Tuskegee*

Anthony Paden, a 2004 graduate of Weequahic and an alumni scholarship recipient, received his B.A. degree from Tuskegee University in Alabama with a major in Animal Poultry and Veterinary Science.

Anthony plans to be a Veterinarian and for his graduate studies he will be attending Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona,



The Alumni Association recently purchased banners of our state championship basketball teams for the new Ronald G. Stone Community Gymnasium. They were gloriously hanging in the gym for all to see at the 2011 Graduation.



## REUNIONS / GATHERINGS

### Sunday Morning Group's 20th

By Fred Rosenberg, 1948

Two significant alumni events took place this past Spring. On Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, more than 200 men gathered at The Maplewood Country Club for the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morning Group's bi-annual reunion; the following Sunday, at a breakfast sponsored by 1948 grads **Don Mopsik** and **Ed Berman** at Eppes Essen in Livingston, many of those who attended the Thursday event topped that off with a morning of whitefish and Weequahic lore. The success of these reunions and those that came before them was no accident, and to understand this, one needs a brief history lesson.

It was a *perfect storm*. A confluence of events and people collided simultaneously about forty years ago and the result was a reunion that is unique even for a school that arguably has more alumni gatherings in more diverse areas of the country than any high school from Flatbush to Fort Lauderdale.

Details are a bit fuzzy, but here's the story as I remember it. The setting was a stag dinner preceding the marriage of 1947 Weequahic alum **Mort "Lefty" Leiwant**. Those in attendance included the bride's family and friends of the prospective groom including **Abe Guritsky**, **Aaron Chernus (46)**, **Herb Kaye**, **Bud Herman** and many others whose names escape the aged memory of this writer. The affair promised to be a quiet evening of good cheer, good fun, good food and good drink ... and it was all of those things PLUS. The "PLUS" however, is fodder for another time and another place; for now, let's zero in on the *perfect storm*.

First off, the reader should be aware that "Lefty" was really a righty, and he also was a legend. A terrific athlete with a big heart, he was ... well, let's say that when God made him, He took the mold and put it in a closet never to be used again. "Lefty" was a gentle giant; the kind of guy you'd want at your side when the guys from Barringer attacked with their brass knuckles and police dogs.

No wonder he attracted so many of us to that stag party (I hate to think what the price would be for non attendance!). So the first contributor to this *perfect storm* was the man himself. "Lefty" Leiwant: rough hewn, tough, hard-nosed, yet soft as silk, a caring guy, a friend who could be counted on, and a closet scholar who could recite Chaucer and Shakespeare by heart.

Then there was the evening. The festivities notwithstanding, there was a mood of apprehension, even some sadness. We all knew that we'd find ways to see each other in the years ahead, but who knew when we'd be together like this again. Also, we were confronted with our own futures, careers, marriage plans. We knew that many of us would move away - and what then?



Danny Stacher



Lefty Leiwant



Ed Berman



Don Mopsik



Fred Rosenberg

The final component, the last element that created this *perfect storm* was the late **Danny Stacher (46)**. One of "Lefty's" closest friends, he was fairly quiet that night. But when the boisterous - and I might add, tasteless - stories, jokes and roasts came to an end, Danny leapt from his seat, and, facing the group with yellow pad and pen in hand, had everyone sign his name, phone number and address. I don't remember his exact words, but his motive was clear. He wanted to keep the guys together.

This was the *perfect storm* that set the Sunday Morning Group in motion. It began small, as Weequahic athletes and a few others gathered on Sunday mornings for breakfast and gab, but because of its immense attraction, it evolved to the unique reunions that today attract upwards of 200 alums (even some South Siders) to the bi-annual dinners.

It doesn't end there, however. Under "Lefty's" leadership, the Group has provided assistance for Weequahic High grads in need of help, and it has stayed in contact with alumni all over the country. Twenty Sunday Morning Group gatherings spanning 40 years have attracted thousands of alums and is a testament to the efforts of "Lefty" Leiwant, **Mal Sumka (43)**, **Len Alpert (49)**, and the dozens of men who have helped put the program together. It's also a result of a stag party, a prospective bride groom, and an idea by a guy named Danny Stacher.

### Hunters Run in Boynton Beach, Fla

By Don Stickler, 1951

The Weequahic alumni of Hunters Run in Boynton Beach, Florida met for a nostalgic reunion on Sunday, April 3rd. 40 alumni, all living in our 1,650 member community, attended the affair - representing classes from 1939 to 1955.

It all started some nine years ago when **Sandy Guritzky (53)** noted that it seemed like a lot of Indians lived in our community. He hosted what was expected to be a gathering of about 30 or so people by putting a notice on a bulletin board. Over 60 showed up and we have repeated the reunion about six times since.

The ranks have thinned somewhat over the last few years as no later members have joined and we have lost some of the older members. At this reunion, we all had a good time reminiscing and trying to remember everything from movie theaters to bakeries, streets, and teachers. The entertainment consisted of **Dave Holder (39)** and **Ruth Huberman Bogen (44)** singing an original song written by Ruth - evoking many memories.



Sandy Guritzky-'53 & Dave Holder-'39 in back; Len Gilbert-'47 & wife; Norm Fleischner-'51 & wife; Jean (Barack) Stickler-'54



# Grandma inspires thesis on Newark

College senior explores Jews' exodus:  
*'There was something special'*

By Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News

More than a half century after she graduated, vivid memories of Weequahic High School and a lost Newark do more than enrich the life of 75-year-old Elayne Braunstein. They have also become an inspiration for her granddaughter, Natalie Lazaroff.

As a senior project in Judaic studies at George Washington University, Lazaroff wrote a 57-page thesis about Newark, which she dedicated *"to my grandmother, the best storyteller I know."*

The paper, *"The Weequahic Indians: An Everlasting Tribe,"* goes beyond nostalgia to explore why Jewish families left Newark beginning a decade or more before the devastating riots of 1967, and how they preserved their identities after relocating to the religiously diverse suburbs of Essex County.

*"I grew up sharing Elayne's stories about Weequahic,"* said Lazaroff in a telephone interview from her home in Cherry Hill. *"I knew there was something special about what happened there. Every story conveyed a tight-knit community that was special and not necessarily replicated today in many places."*

Her grandmother, who graduated from Newark's Weequahic High in 1954, remembers that some of the friends from her Keer Avenue neighborhood started heading for the suburbs as early as 1950, years before they would have begun attending high school.

*"They moved to Maplewood and West Orange,"* said Braunstein. *"I don't know why. Maybe their parents were making more money. Then, after high school, people started to get married and moving*



Elayne Braunstein celebrates her birthday with her granddaughter, Natalie Lazaroff

*away from home. They weren't going to buy a house in Newark."*

Or as Lazaroff explains in her thesis: *"When the time was appropriate and the people were financially sound, the Newarkers made their move to the suburbs in hopes of fulfilling the American dream."*

Braunstein, the former Elayne Shain, left Newark after she graduated from WHS and attended the University of Miami, where she met and married Irwin Braunstein. They moved to his hometown of Passaic and she commuted to work in his family's business, *Elfenbein's Meat Market*, on Mulberry Street in Newark.

Four years later she found her *"dream house"* in Livingston, but her old Newark neighborhood continues to play a major role in Braunstein's memory. *"I grew up there,"* she said. *"I went to parties there, and all my friends lived there. We went to Temple B'nai Abraham. We walked or we jumped on the No. 14 bus and went downtown. We weren't afraid. When we started dating, we left the house and we walked to The Tavern,"* a popular restaurant on Elizabeth Avenue.

Braunstein is practically addicted to the weekly newsletter e-mailed from the

Weequahic High School Class of 1963. She has attended several reunions and believes that the older Jewish contingent of alumni is *"doing a wonderful thing"* by lending scholarship assistance to African-Americans, who now make up the majority of Weequahic students.

*"Weequahic is absolutely something special,"* she said. *"No one else keeps in touch the way we do."*

To her granddaughter, who plans to spend a year in Israel before attending law school, *"Newark is a unique city."* Her grandmother and her contemporaries are examples of its character, even after they left town, she said.

*"There was a definite attempt to take their Newark community out to the suburbs,"* Lazaroff said. *"That was a huge piece of it, like the 'Newark furniture' Philip Roth wrote about that was stored in the basement of Brenda Patimkin's home in Short Hills"* in his novella *Goodbye, Columbus*.

Those who left Newark *"maintained Jewish identities, whether they be religious or cultural, even after leaving the city and moving to towns that had little or no established Jewish communities at that time,"* writes Lazaroff.

Her grandmother, who now lives with her husband in West Palm Beach, Fla., returns to New Jersey frequently to visit her children and grandchildren in Cherry Hill, Warren, and Basking Ridge.

*"New Jersey is really home,"* she said.

From time to time during those visits she and Lazaroff will drive together along Keer and Clinton and Chancellor avenues - urban thoroughfares that have become her personal memory lanes.

*"From out of Weequahic comes all good things,"* she said.





## Is Moving To Newark

Global electronics giant Panasonic will be moving to Newark, Mayor Cory Booker announced, marking one of the biggest development coups of his administration. "It's historic. We've been seeing so much progress in the last four years" Booker said. "This is heralding to the globe that Newark is one of the most significant players on the Eastern seaboard."

Panasonic will lease more than half of a new 410,000-square-foot building that will go up at 2 Riverfront Center, a shovel-



ready lot at the intersection of McCarter Highway and Raymond Boulevard next to the Legal Center and across from the Hilton Gateway Hotel.

## *In Loving Memory of our teachers*



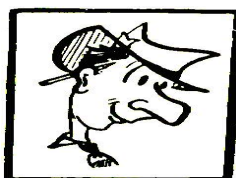
**Sidney Sperber,** 1936 grad & Business teacher; (passed away May 2011 at age 93)



**Louise M. Weinstein,** English teacher until 1970 (passed away December 2008 at age 93)



**Seymour C. Heck,** English teacher, 1958-1964 (passed away August 2009 at age 92)



## Waldo Winchester

This popular column first appeared in the CALUMET in 1950

**Elinor Miller Greenberg, 1949**, an innovator, educator, difference-maker, best-selling author, businesswoman and community leader, received the Regis University's highest honor - the *Civis Princeps* (First Citizen) Award - at the 2011 spring commencement ceremony.

**Philip Roth, 1950**, is the winner of the fourth *Man Booker International Prize*. Roth was chosen from a list of 13 eminent contenders. The *Man Booker International Prize*, is awarded for an achievement in fiction on the world stage.

**Alvin Attles, 1955** was one of 12 finalists for induction into the NBA Hall of Fame. He has contributed 50 consecutive years of service to the Golden State Warriors as a player, player-coach, coach, general manager, vice president and consultant. He is the winningest coach in Warriors history and led them to the 1975 NBA Championship.

Rachel Pasternak, daughter of **Claire Mayers Nierenberg, 1958**, is co-producing a documentary on Rabbi Joachim Prinz, titled, *Prinz: The Courage to Speak*.

**Mickey Mintz, 1959**, organized the annual Weequahic golf outing on Saturday, February 19, 2011 at Okeeheelee Golf Course in West Palm Beach, Florida: Participants were **Lois Gilbert, Jerry Field, Danny Enzer, Paul Moscovitz, Mimi Sochar, Jerry Krotenberg, Bill Jacobs, Bob Sochar and Barbara Guldán** and Mickey. If you are interested for next year, e-mail him at: [mickeypba@hotmail.com](mailto:mickeypba@hotmail.com).

**David Levinson, 1964**, latest book, *On the Other Side of Glory - Berkshire Men of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment* was published this past June.

**Marc Curtis Little, 1969**, was honored by the National Indie Excellence Awards, recognizing outstanding independently published books. Marc was selected as a "Finalist" for his new book, *Angels in the Midst*, in the category of Religion Fiction.

**Antoinette Grauer Baskerville-Richardson, 1970**, and **Alturrick Kenney, 1995**, were elected to the Newark Public School's Advisory Board.

## EPPEs ESSEN Group

Meeting for 25 years / All Bragaw Avenue School Guys / All WHS Grads - '43 & '44 / All WWII Veterans - 2 Army & 3 Navy / Collectively, 13 children, 20 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren



Left to Right Front Row: Jerry Rothstein (Fort Lee), Jerry Reich (Short Hills), Jerry Coopersmith (West Orange); Left to Right Standing in Rear Row: Norman Bierbaum (Bedminster), Joe Tennenbaum (Springfield)



## *In Loving Memory of our teachers*

### **Louis Dultz, 1949, WHS & Science Teacher**



Louis Dultz, 80, of Springfield and Boynton Beach, Fla, died on May 18, 2011. Born in Newark, he was a resident of Springfield for over 40 years. He was a 1949 graduate of Weequahic High School and a member of the Alumni Association.

Lou began his career as an educator in the Newark school system at

Weequahic High School, where he also served as the director of the Weequahic Adult School. He continued as chairman of the science department at Barringer High school until his retirement in 1991.

He earned a B.S. degree from Rutgers College and an M.A. degree in Education from Montclair State College.

Lou was the past president of the Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael Men's Club in Springfield, the financial secretary of the Odd fellows, and a member of the Jewish War Veterans. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He is survived by his wife Ann; his children, Brenda Cohen of Springfield, Steven and Jeanne Dultz of Chester, and Richard and Aksia Dultz of Berkeley Heights; and two brothers, Harvey of Edison and Norman of South Orange. Lou was a generous and involved grandfather to Jared, Adam, and Jodi Cohen; Stephanie and Eric Dultz; and Jackson and Harlie Dultz.

### **Phillip Egeth, WHS Math Teacher**



Phillip A. Egeth died on June 10, 2011. He was born in Newark on Jan. 16, 1921 and attended East Orange High School and Montclair State Teachers College.

He taught math at Vernon L. Davy High School in East Orange until he

was drafted and entered the Army Air Corps. Phil joined a B-17 flight crew at Pueblo, Colo., that included Clark Gable and then was sent to the Corps of Engineers at Berkeley, Calif., as part of the atomic bomb project.

Phil earned his M.A. degree in mathematics in 1948 from Montclair State. He taught at Weequahic and was adjunct faculty at Newark State Teachers College, Kean College, Princeton summer secondary math program, and the Morristown division of the Rutgers math program. Phil was certified for principal and math department chair in Newark. He also took part in the National Science Fellowship Award at Stanford University.

Phillip grew up and stayed very close to his brother, George, whom he joined forces with in automatic laundry ventures. He retired in 1977 from Newark and the New Jersey Education Association and relocated to Florida. He is survived by his niece, Susan Egeth Heineman of Fort Lee; nephew, Allen Egeth of Pine Brook; and great-nieces and nephews, Geodi, Kelly, Darin, and Douglas.

### **Frederick Ransom, WHS Music Teacher**



Frederick FJ Ransom, 84, of Fort Smith, Ark., passed away Feb. 21, 2011. Fred's college studies included Xavier University, University of Arkansas, Philander Smith College, and Seton Hall University. His passions were his students, classical music, languages and cultural exchange. Fred started his teaching career in Little Rock, Ark., at Dunbar High

School and Horace Mann. During those years, he proudly performed as a guest soloist with the Fort Smith Symphony Orchestra. In 1958, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to continue his vocal studies in Germany, and also lived and taught in France.

Returning to America, Fred started a long career in the Newark public school system, as a teacher and administrator in music and foreign languages. He taught at Weequahic High School in the 60's and 70's. As a vocalist, he performed with many symphony orchestras, including in the New York and New Jersey areas. Retiring back to Fort Smith, he traveled many times to Morocco, where he enjoyed working with students and assisting them with their entrance exams to various colleges in the U.S.

Fred is survived by a loving godson, Stephen Wyatt of California, and a huge extended family all over the United States, including nieces, nephews and cousins, from the Quinn, Caldwell, Miller, Davis, Jones, and Reynolds families.

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### **Alumni Passings:**

Charlotte Litman Anker	Phyllis Knoller Klein, 1956
Myrna Rosenfeld Barlow, 1963	Leonard Kleinhandler, 1944
Sheila Miller Bibi, Jan 1956	Saul Klugman
Rose Cohen Bodzin, Faculty	Lillian Levy Lerner, 1948
Lois Chase Brody, June 1950	Myron Levey, 1946
Marcia Ben Asher Burstein, 1941	Joel Levinson, 1955
Frank Chenitz, 1940	Donald Lutzke, 1969
Ruth Eile	Jeffrey Schulman, 1966
Harriet Eisenberg, 1940	Stanley Pressman, 1949
Mary Odra Ellenport, 1964	Steven Rappaport, 1964
Murray Feldman, Jan. 1953	Jeffrey Reiber, 1960
Stanley Gilbert, 1938	Gladys Stein Ross, 1951
Donna Gray, June 1963	Barbara Schoenfeld Singer, 1948
Shirley Kushner-Gold/Ladd, 1954	Anita Gorlin Barnett Sobel
Abner Hearst	Sheri Goodstein Tractman, 1945
Aaron Hipscher, 1961	Marlene Yavner Van Poznak, 1955
Beverly Schulman Kass, 1953	Phyllis Warshawsky Wolfson, 1949
	Elaine Tepper Weiner, 1956
	Adele Weiss, 1945
	Emmanuel Yeskel, 1938

# **MEMBERSHIP / MERCHANDISE / SCHOLARSHIP FORM**

**Mail:** WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101 / **Call:** (973) 923-3133

Please print clearly: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **2 PAYMENT CHOICES:**

1.    CREDIT CARD (by mail or phone)   MC   VISA   AMEX   DISC. - Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

2.    CHECK: Make out check to **WHSAA** - Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **5 MEMBERSHIP CHOICES:**    *check if change in postal address*

   \$25 Alumni    \$50 Orange & Brown    \$100 Ergo    \$500 Sagamore    \$1000 Legend

Class (Month & Year): \_\_\_\_\_ Current or Past Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name at WHS \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **9 MERCHANDISE CHOICES:** (add \$5.00 for shipping & handling / Circle your size and color / Larger sizes can be special ordered)

1.    \$5.00 ALUMNI PIN: - (in orange & brown in the shape of the WHS logo)    \$5.00 TOTE BAG: - (in orange or brown with logo)
2.    \$10.00 DVD: "Tribute to Mr. Fein Video" - (21-minute video on Coach Les Fein - player interviews and basketball footage)
3.    \$12.00 T-SHIRT: - (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL - (dark brown or orange with WHS logo)
4.    \$15.00 HAT: - (one size fits all in khaki or dark brown with Weequahic alumni lettering)
5.    \$20.00 SWEDE MASIN BOOK: - ("The Gentle Giant" written by his son, Robert Masin)
6.    \$20.00 SWEATSHIRT: - (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL - dark brown or orange with WHS logo)
7.    \$20.00 GOLF SHIRT: - (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL - orange with Indian Head WHS alumni lettering)
8.    \$20.00 BOOK: "Swede: Weequahic's Gentle Giant" - (soft cover book about one of Weequahic's greatest athletes)

## **26 SCHOLARSHIP CHOICES:**

1. \$    Avin Attles Fund
2. \$    Maxine Boatwright Fund \*
3. \$    Morey Bobrow Fund \*
4. \$    Sharon Nicely Boose Fund \*
5. \$    Class of 1945 Fund
6. \$    Class of June 1960 Fund
7. \$    Class of 1963 Fund
8. \$    Class of 1964 Fund
9. \$    Class of 1968 Fund

10. \$    Les & Ceil Fein Fund

11. \$    Ronald Griffin Fund \*

12. \$    Miriam Hample Fund \*

13. \$    Walter Hastreiter Fund \*

14. \$    General Alumni Fund

15. \$    Reada & Harry Jellinek Fund\*

16. \$    Phyllis & Donald Kalfus Fund

17. \$    Hannah Litzky Fund \*

18. \$    Bert Manhoff Fund \*

19. \$    Swede Masin Fund \*

20. \$    Edwin McLucas Fund

21. \$    Marie O'Connor Fund \*

22. \$    Carolyn Parm Fund \*

23. \$    Leo Pearl Fund \*

24. \$    Richard Roberts Fund

25. \$    Sadie Rous Fund \*

26. \$    Ronald G. Stone Fund \*

\* In Memory

Weequahic HS Murals Restoration Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## *In Loving Memory*

### **Jack Wolf, June 1952**

#### ***Did the Math Behind Computers***

**By Douglas Martin, NY Times**



Jack Keil Wolf, an engineer and computer theorist whose mathematical reasoning about how best to transmit and store information helped shape the digital innards of computers and other devices that power modern society, died on May 12 at his home in the La Jolla section of San Diego. He was 76.

Dr. Wolf was lionized by information theorists and won many awards recognizing his contributions to the communications networks that now lace the earth. Devices like cellphones would not exist had not thinkers like Dr. Wolf come up with their mathematical underpinnings.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers called Dr. Wolf *"one of the most productive cross-fertilizers in engineering research, successfully importing techniques used in one field to obtain unexpected results in another."*

Dr. Andrew Viterbi, creator of the pervasive Viterbi algorithm, said a method Dr. Wolf developed for compressing separate streams of data into a single message had uses in flash memory devices.

Dr. Wolf later made advances in data storage, removing errors and clarifying fuzzy information retrieved from magnetic disks so that more data could be stored in less space. *"This is at the heart of the information revolution,"* said **Lawrence Larson**, a colleague of Dr. Wolf's at the University of California.

Dr. Wolf was born in Newark on March 14, 1935 and graduated from Weequahic High School in 1952. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and two master's degrees and a Ph.D. from Princeton. He served in the Air Force and taught at New York University, the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst before moving to San Diego.

His most important early work was devising a theorem with David Slepian in 1973 proving that two separate streams of correlated data can be sent independently and simultaneously and then combined and simplified at journey's end. An example would be neighboring temperature sensors independently sending data to a weather center.

Decades later, building on the work of other theorists and engineers, the technique propelled the development of computer networks. *"It sometimes takes decades for the implementation of a technology to catch up with the concept,"* Dr. Viterbi said.

Dr. Wolf was recruited by the University of California, San Diego for its new Center for Magnetic Recording Research in the mid-1980s. The center's research helped increase the speed and capacity of magnetic hard drives while lowering their cost. Dr. Wolf was elected to the national academies of both engineering and science.

Dr. Wolf is survived by his wife, the former Toby Katz (Jan. 1952 WHS grad); daughters, Sarah and Jill; sons, Joseph and Jay; and five grandchildren.

### **Evelyn Jacobs Ortner June 1945**

#### ***Advocate for Battered Women***

Evelyn Jacobs Ortner of Short Hills, a leader in the fight against domestic violence, had *"a great passion for whatever she was doing, especially when she was helping other people,"* her husband, Robert Ortner recalled. *"She had great sympathy for the very underdog, the weaklings who are taken advantage of. That used to upset her enormously."*



Evelyn, who died of leukemia at age 83, started helping others when she was 9. Growing up in Newark, she founded a group called the Charity Girls that performed musical theater at orphanages, critical care facilities, and homes for the elderly.

After working as a speechwriter and special adviser at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., in the 1980s, Evelyn and her husband returned to New Jersey and in 1990 she founded Unity Group, which ran a home for battered women in suburban Essex County.

Unity disbanded in 2003 after Ortner became ill and she turned over its assets to the University of Pennsylvania for the founding of the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence, which offers courses and performs research.

Evelyn met her husband when both were 15-year-old students at Weequahic High School in Newark. They moved to Short Hills in 1963 and were married for 63 years.

Evelyn also had a strong interest in literature and earned a Master of Arts from Drew University. Her thesis, a biography of the American poet Witter Bynner, was an extension of a decades-long correspondence with him. These writings are now housed at the University of New Mexico, near the late Bynner's home.

In addition to her husband, Ortner is survived by her children, Peter and Nicole, and a brother, Edward Jacobs.

*Editor's Note: An article about Evelyn and her work previously appeared in the Alumni Calumet.*

# 2011 REUNIONS

**Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011**

## Class of January 1956

55th Reunion, 7 p.m.,  
Hyatt Hotel in Morristown, NJ.  
Brunch on Sunday at 9 a.m.  
at the hotel.

Contact: Ray Mark at (561)  
445-5009 / raycpa12@comcast.net  
www.whsjan56reunion.com.

**Friday, Nov. 25, 2011**

## Class of 1971

40th Reunion, 8 p.m.,  
Costa Del Sol Restaurant  
in Union, NJ.

Contacts: Cathy Steele (973)  
374-7553, Karen Waters (732)  
248-2480, Mary Brown  
Dawkins (973) 223-1193 or  
WeequahicHS71@aol.com

## **4TH MULTI-REUNION PARTY**

**Classes from the 60s - 80s**

**Sat., Sept. 17th, 7 p.m.**

Newark Symphony Hall's  
Terrace Ballroom

Music by DJ Ross Entertainment

Southern hospitality cuisine

Donation: \$40.00

Contact Adilah Quddus, 1971,  
at (973) 242-2346



**Weequahic High School Alumni Association**  
P.O. Box 494, Newark, N.J. 07101

## **ALUMNI STORE**



**ERGO  
Membership**



## **WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

The WHS Alumni Association is  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
incorporated in New Jersey in 2001

Phil Yourish, 1964, *Executive Director*

### Board of Trustees:

Hal Braff, 1952, *Co-President*

Mary Brown Dawkins, 1971, *Co-President*

Samuel Weinstock, 1955, *Treasurer*

Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953, *Secretary*

Tharien Karim Arnold, 1984

Ruby Baskerville, 1961

Larry Bembry, 1966

Judy Bennett, 1972

Sheldon Bross, 1955

Marshall Cooper, 1969

Harold Edwards, 1966

Arnold Keller, 1952

Marc Little, 1969

Arthur Lutzke, 1963

Adilah Quddus, 1971

Gerald Russell, 1974

David Schechner, 1946

Vivian Ellis Simons, 1959

Charles Talley, 1966

Pamela Scott Threats, 1966

John Toner, *Principal*

