

SPRING 2015 / ISSUE 39

ALUMNI
CALLUMNIET



Myra Lawson, WHS 1970 - our new alumni Executive Director -



The Weequahic High School Alumni Association is pleased to announce that Elmira (Myra) Lawson, class of 1970, has been appointed to the position of Executive Director. She replaces the founding Executive Director, Phil Yourish, who served for the past 14 years.

Myra will be responsible for managing the alumni office and working in partnership with the board on membership, scholarships, fiscal management, fundraising events and projects, and meeting our vision of serving the high school and its students.

Since graduating from Weequahic, Myra has worked for Essex County College, Chase

Bank and, most recently, for the national office of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

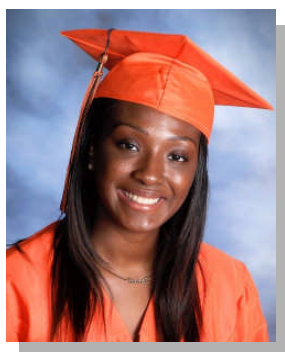
She began her career as a secretary and over the years became a human resource professional providing support, guidance and training in all aspects of HR management, including organizational development and capacity building.

Myra attended Essex County College and Bloomfield College and has a solid and diverse background in business administration and building partnerships. She has also been an active member of the class of 1970's reunion committee and instrumental in planning five very successful reunions.

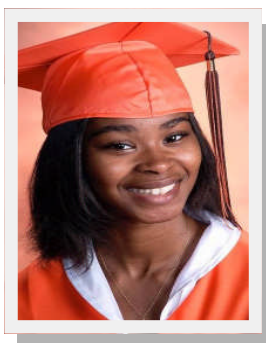
Myra is the widow of the late Gene Lawson, class of 1970 (*an Alumni Association original committee member*), and together they raised three sons in Newark - Eugene, Viktor, and Mikal, who are the pride of her life. She has six grandchildren, Hannah, Kiara, Kamirah, Kennedy, Laila, and Brooklynne. She still resides in Newark on Grumman Avenue.

Myra is thrilled to take on this leadership role and is looking forward to a successful tenure.

2014 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - see 23 more students on page 3 -



Yetunde Oloko
Valedictorian



Destiny Norman
Salutatorian

Ronald G. Stone Fund

PLEASE RENEW

Weequahic is in its 82nd year as a neighborhood high school in Newark. We look forward to your continued support for scholarships, activities, and other opportunities for current and future students.

Please renew your MEMBERSHIP in the WHS Alumni Association and encourage your Weequahic classmates, relatives and friends to join our remarkable organization - now in its 18th year.

See **BUY A BRICK**
information on page 2

LEAVE **YOUR** LEGACY!



HOW: You have an opportunity to leave a wonderful legacy of your time and memories spent at Weequahic through a fundraising initiative of the *Weequahic High School Alumni Association* that will raise funds for scholarship and student activities for the current generation of students. Donate towards a personalized brick that will be placed as a paver on the front walk to the high school's main entrance for all to share and admire.

LEGACY BRICK OPTIONS: Your brick will be laser engraved with your name, graduation year, special messages, and logos. Two sizes of bricks will be offered:

4 x 8 brick can be personalized with an inscription of your choice with up to 1-3 lines of wording (18 - 20 spaces/line).

8 x 8 brick will have 1-6 lines of wording (18 - 20 spaces/ line).

A logo or clip art can be added if you choose (from a list provided or you can upload your own!)

These tribute bricks are perfect for honoring your family's name, celebrating a precious memory, remembering your graduation class, memorializing a loved one - or it can even make a wonderful graduation gift. This brick will forever preserve your legacy at Weequahic High School while helping raise funds to make scholarships and activiteis possible for the current generation of Weequahic students. If not a member, your brick purchase includes a one year membership in the Weequahic High School Alumni Association.

Brick Size	Price Member	Price Non-Member
4" X 8" Text Only	\$85.00	\$110.00
4" X 8" Text with Artwork	\$110.00	\$135.00
8" X 8" Text Only	\$260.00	\$285.00
4" X 8" Text with Artwork	\$285.00	\$310.00

If you would like to have a 4" by 4" **Replica** with the same inscription as your brick, you can purchase one for **\$30.00**.

BUY A BRICK at

<http://www.polarengraving.com/WeequahicAlumni>

ALUMNI CALUMET

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Phil Yourish, 1964

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Dave Lieberfarb, 1965; Myra Lawson, 1970; and Hal Braff, 1952

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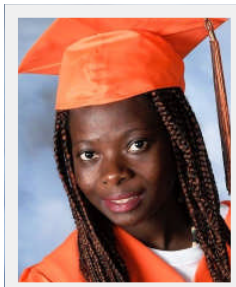
RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

\$250 or more

Alumni Legacy Walk Purchases
Milton Armm, 1958 - Mural Restoration
David & Lenore Beckerman
Marilyn Bobrow - Morey Bobrow Fund
Steven Bogner, 1966, Edwin McLucas Fund
Hal Braff, 1952 - 80th birthday donations
Howard Casper, 1948
Class of 1943
Class of 1963 Scholarship Fund
Class of 1964 50th Reunion
Steve Dinetz, 1965 - Chancellor Foundation
David Fink, 1966
Dena Gittleman Greenstein, 1964 - '64 Fund
Maria Piacente Galiota, 1959
Warren Kessler, 1960
Monroe Krichman - Donations in his memory
Judith Herr, 1964 - Stone, Rous, Litzky, '64 funds
David Horace, 1987 - Ronald Griffin Fund
Patricia & Bob Masin - Swede Masin Fund
Jackie Ivers Metsger, 1964
Robert Rockfeld - Linda Marcia Small Fund
Marvin Schlanger, 1965
Irwin Schrob, 1963 - 70th birthday donations
Nancy Small, 1962 - Linda Marcia Small Fund
David Steiner, 1947
Marc Weiner, 1966
Michael Weissman, 1957
Benjamin Wolfe, 1955



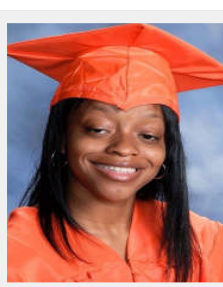
2014 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Nancy Boachie
Morey Bobrow Fund



Quadasia Burchett
Edwin McLucas Fund



Aniqua Butler
Class of 1952 Fund



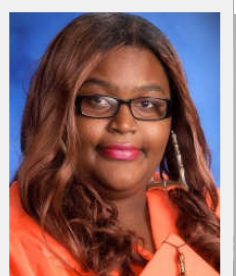
Dajahna Butler
Monroe Krichman Fund



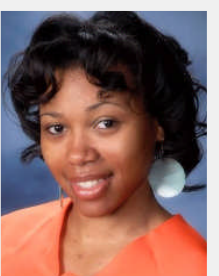
Ameerah Carson
Richard Roberts Fund



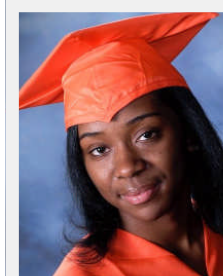
Kearah Cook
Class of 1963 Fund



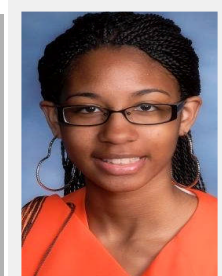
Toshia Davis
Sadie Rous Fund



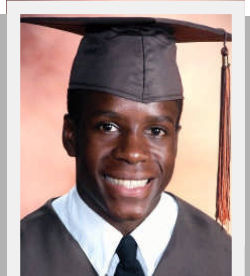
Jabrie Dwight
Melvin Narol Fund



Alliyyah Kamal
Class of 1964 Fund



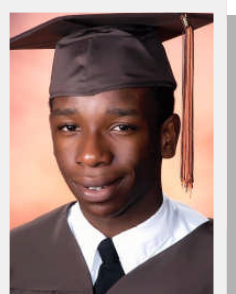
Tania Faison
Walter Hastreiter Fund



Osafi A. Fordyce
Reada & Harry Jellinek Fund



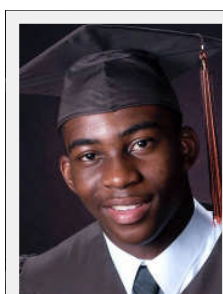
Uriah Golding
Edwin McLucas Fund



Trevlon Hamer
Marie O'Connor Fund



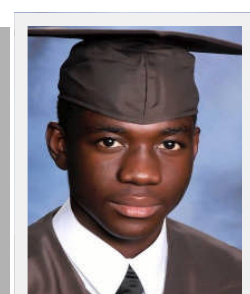
Eboni DeLoatch
Hannah Litzky Fund



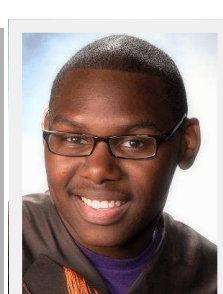
Randel Maxwell
Class of 1964 Fund



Medjina Meronee
Marcia Small Fund



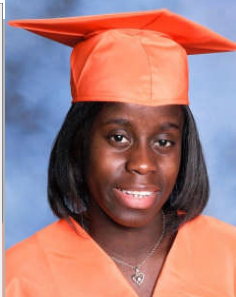
Ebenezer Oduro
Tweneboah
Leo Pearl Fund



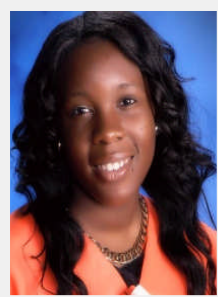
Ryan Rasberry
Class of 1964 Fund



Jada Reynolds
Ronald Griffin



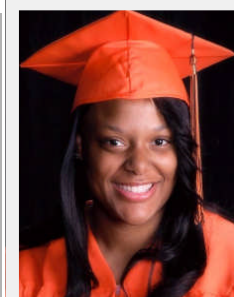
Lanavesha Richardson
Swede Masin Fund



Shanazz Robinson
Marcia Small Fund



Shalaya Washington
Class of 1964 Fund



Breevantae Wells
Reada & Harry Jellinek Fund



AT THE WIGWAM ON THE HILL

Weequahic Girls Run For Glory



There were lots of hugs, high fives, and then a spirited victory lap.

The Weequahic program had never won a state title before, so the celebration was as loud as the athletes were proud after an emotional and historic victory at NJSIAA Group 1 Relays at the Bennett Center.

Not only is this the first state title for Weequahic, but its victory marks the first time a girls team from Newark has won a state relay title since Science High won the Group 1 title in 1997.

Weequahic, which received outstanding efforts from numerous athletes, finished

second in the meet-concluding 4x400 relay to clinch a 56-52 victory over defending champion and runner-up Haddonfield.

How They Did It

Yaminah Smith anchored the 4x400 for Weequahic in 61.2. The senior also ran 5:23.5 on the fourth place distance medley relay, anchored the runner-up sprint medley relay that placed with a 2:21.5 carry, and ran on the winning shuttles hurdles.

"This means everything to me and our team," said Smith. "This is such a big goal and a dream of ours and our coach (Kcyied Zahir) for so long," said Smith. "It's the best moment I've ever had, and this team has ever had. This is just an unbelievable feeling."

Weequahic received a key victory in the 4x200 when freshman Carla Hines won the race for Weequahic on a lean at the line as Weequahic edged Metuchen, 1:50.99 to 1:51.00. Weequahic also picked up a clutch runner-up finish in both high jump and shot put.

Kelly Ann James also had a big day for Weequahic. She threw a personal best of 34-5 1/2 in the shot put, ran on the 4x200 and 4x400, and shuttle hurdles.

"Everyone has worked so hard for so long for this," said Zahir, in his 12th year as head coach at Weequahic. "I can't tell you how much it means to me, the girls, the program and the city of Newark. I am so proud of what these girls did today. They were amazing."

Kcyied Zahir, Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year



Kcyied Zahir has had a dream ever since he took over as head coach at Weequahic 12 years ago - to take the program to a place that it has never been before. He did that this year as he led Weequahic to its greatest season ever.

Under Zahir, Weequahic won the Essex County Track and Field title, the state Group 1 Relays, and the state Group 1 championships, all for the first time in school history, and also won its second Central Jersey, Group 1 title (it also won in 2013).

For his outstanding efforts, Mr. Zahir was named the NJ.com State Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year for 2014-15.

At The 2014 Thanksgiving Day Football Game



L-R: Myra Lawson, 1970; Phil Yourish, 1964; Pamela Scott Threets, 1966; Shirley Johnson, 1970; and Linda Reaves, 1972

WHS blanket by Gwen Meade



To order Indian scarfs, hats, and blankets, from our Weequahic friend, Gwen Meade, call her at (973) 703-1521 or email her at meadelewis@yahoo.com.

THE NEWARKER An Airport Restaurant That Became A Destination Unto Itself

By Eric Model, who explores the “offbeat, off the beaten path overlooked and forgotten” on SIRIUS-XM Radio and at www.journeysinto.com.



You might not know it today, but once there was a time when it was stylish to travel - especially by air. It was the real deal. Folks dressed up - women wore stockings and heels and men put on jackets. In flight, there were gourmet meals served up on china and with linens.

In fact, there was a time when a trip to an airport itself was a special occasion - even to those not going away. They went there for fun and a sense of adventure. Locally, Newark Airport was once one of those places. Part of what made the airport special was a very unique restaurant for its time - **The Newarker**.

The late Joe Baum, who later became famous for creating the Four Seasons, the Brasserie and Windows on the World restaurants in New York, is largely credited for the success and the enduring legacy of *The Newarker*.

Baum had initially gotten into the hospitality business in 1949 when he joined the Schine hotel chain, working as the director of its restaurants in Florida. Four years later, he came to Restaurant Associates to open and manage its newest venture, the restaurant at Newark Airport called *The Newarker*.

To many, it was an odd endeavor, but Baum made the most of it. He hired a classically trained Swiss chef (Albert Stockli) to develop an ambitious menu. He invested in good china and well-designed menus. He also came up with the

kind of attention-grabbing features that he would bring to all of his later restaurants.

The Newarker eventually became famous for its generous portions, notably its Absecon oysters, called “knife and fork oysters” because they were so large that they had to be eaten with a knife and fork. Mr. Baum sold them by the half-dozen, but added a seventh oyster, presented on its own plate. He added a third claw to every order of lobster. He stuck Fourth of July sparklers into birthday cakes, and whenever possible, set dishes afire.



Mimi Sheraton, a former restaurant critic for *The New York Times*, who worked as a consultant to Mr. Baum on the Four Seasons once described Baum as “the Cecil B. DeMille of restaurateurs - everything was a big production.”

Baum once explained to an interviewer. “The customers like to see things on fire, or accompanied by fiery props, and it doesn’t hurt the food that much,”

The Newarker lost \$25,000 in its first year, but by 1955 it was serving 1,000 meals a day, and turning a handsome profit.

Baum was said to be a perfectionist, spending countless hours fussing over every small detail - ranging from the interior design, the silverware and the staff uniforms. Restaurant Associates maintained an extensive culinary library, and Mr. Baum would fly all over the world with his team to do field research when devising a menu.

And it all worked. *The Newarker* became famous for its elegant dining, grandiose portions, and over-the-top flambé. And, it was so good that people used to go to the airport just to eat. In fact, *The Newarker* became a destination restaurant where 90 percent of the customers were non-travelers.

Newark Airport has nothing like that today, of course. There are eateries, but it’s a very different scene than what was found in the old terminal in those days. There is still a *Newarker* restaurant but it’s not to be found on-site at the airport, but rather nearby at the Hilton Hotel.

It’s billed as a “full service restaurant.” We are told that “Menu selections include many popular favorites served in a newly renovated restaurant ... where one can enjoy the new Hilton Breakfast Buffet. Breakfast Lunch and Dinner available.”

Inspired by the original *Newarker*, I don’t doubt that the food might very well be good at both eateries, but it’s hard to conceive how they might match what made the *Newarker* of yesteryear so special.

HUNGRY SKIES

By Pete Genovese, Star-Ledger



Airport food, for many travelers, often amounts to heat-lamp burgers, sorry-looking salads and too many things wrapped in plastic. That is about to change big-time at *Newark Liberty International Airport*.

A star-studded collection of chefs - Alain Ducasse and Jacques Torres for starters - have partnered with OTG and United Airlines to create 55 restaurants, cafes and markets in United's Terminal C.

The \$120 million project, now underway, will also include food halls, gourmet markets, retail and duty-free shops and 6,000 iPads in 20 different languages. But the food will be the star, with top-shelf chefs lending their names and culinary expertise to creating an airport dining experience like no other.

Among the restaurants will be *Saison*, a classic French brasserie from Alain Ducasse (this is the legendary French

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NEWARK NEWS

Dr. Clement Price, Newark's distinguished professor and historian, passes away



Rutgers University professor and historian Clement A. Price, a lens to Newark's past and its present, died following a stroke. He was 69.

Rutgers-Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor said *"it is impossible at this moment to imagine this world, let alone our university or our community, without him. He is a primary reason why so many of us at Rutgers-Newark are here."*

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka said the city was *"in shock and mourning. Not only was he a dear friend to me, he was a friend to all of Newark. His great intelligence, his vast learning, his eloquence, and most of all, his unbelievable personal warmth, made him one of our city's most titanic, respected, and beloved figures. He empowered and energized everyone he met and touched with his warmth and wisdom."*

Price, who went to college at the University of Bridgeport, Conn., came to Newark in the wake of the city's infamous 1967 riots and became one of its most ardent boosters. He began studying Newark as a graduate student, taught at Essex County College and later moved to Rutgers-Newark, where he earned his Ph.D.

In interviews, Price said his sense of community began as a child growing up in Washington, D.C., where his love for history didn't just come from teachers and textbooks. It came from his mother, Anna Christine Spann Price, a schoolteacher, and his father, James Sr., who worked for the Internal Revenue Service.

Price lived in a historic brownstone on the edge of Newark's Lincoln Park with his wife, Mary Sue Sweeney, the former director of the Newark Museum, choosing to move to the city at a time when people were looking to leave. In an interview years ago, Sweeney recalled her husband telling her: *"Everyone who lives around us is no different than you or me. They just had different luck."*

An author and prominent African-American scholar, Price could discuss race relations and politics, as easily as music and the pre-Jackie Robinson era of baseball. He was the founding director of the *Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience* at Rutgers-Newark University, where he brought together a wide intersection of urban and suburban residents to participate in the *Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series*.

One of the state's foremost authorities on black New Jersey history, he was the author of *Freedom Not Far Distant: A Documentary History of Afro-Americans in New Jersey* (1980), and other works that explored history, race relations and modern culture in the U.S. and New Jersey. His most recent book was a three-volume work, *Slave Culture: A Documentary Collection of the Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project*.

Those who wanted to know more about Newark would inevitably end up at the door of Price, who arranged tours for visitors who wanted to see a more balanced picture of the city's life as well as its potential. At the same time, he also served and led a number of boards, committees and foundations far and wide.

He chaired the New Jersey State Council on the Arts from 1980 to 1983. He was a trustee of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, president of the Newark Education Trust, chairman of the Save Ellis Island Foundation, and a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution.

In 2011, President Obama appointed him vice chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Earlier this year, Price was named Newark's official historian.

Corner renamed 'Hobby's Plaza' in honor of famed deli

By Jessica Mazzola, Star-Ledger



Patrons wanting to know anything about the well known Hobby's Delicatessen need just read the signs. How long has it been open on the Newark corner? The back of employees' shirts read the answer: *"Established before you were born."* What does it serve? Employee aprons say: *"From Bris to Shiva, and all the bologna in between."*

And now, *"where is it?"* can be answered by just looking at the street sign.

City officials held a ceremony at the eatery unveiling a sign that will rename the corner of Branford Place and Halsey Street *"Hobby's Plaza."* The restaurant, which has been owned by the Brummer family since 1962, has been at that corner for about 100 years.

"It is a great day for the city of Newark, the county of Essex, and the state of New Jersey, to be able to celebrate an institution that represents family, that represents community, and that represents education, all while giving us great chicken soup," Newark Central Ward Councilwoman Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins said before presenting a ceremonial street sign to the Brummer family.

"I wish we had more families like this in the city of Newark," South Ward Councilman John Sharpe James said of Sam and Rona Brummer, who took over the business in 1962, and their two sons, Marc and Michael, who run it today.

"I look forward to this business being open at least another 100 years."

Sam Brummer, a Polish immigrant who came to the United States to escape the rise of Hitler, is a World War II veteran. Rona, a second generation Russian-

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NEWARK NEWS

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American, was born and raised in the city. *"I went through thick and thin with Newark, but I never left it,"* Sam said in between greetings from friends and family who traveled from across the country to attend the ceremony. *"It is a great city."*

In addition to being known as a meeting spot for prominent politicians, and a luncheon location for celebrities, residents and visitors alike, Hobby's also has a reputation for fostering a community feel in Newark.

Jenkins shared a story during the ceremony of a signal that had been used by the wait staff before the Brummers bought the business. The signal denoted that a black customer had placed an order. He abolished the signal, and created a culture of acceptance inside the establishment, she said. *"You gave dignity to all those who walked through those doors,"* she said to Sam Brummer during the ceremony.

"We had a great rapport with everyone - black, white, it didn't matter," he said. The Brummer family called the street renaming recognition from the city *"priceless."* Marc Brummer said. *"Newark has always been a part of us. Newark and Branford Place really feel like our home."*

Rutgers plans new arts center in Hahne's building



The vacant Hahne & Co. department store in downtown Newark, now being redeveloped with a new Whole Foods supermarket, office space and rental apartments, will soon become a part of the city's arts community.

Rutgers University approved a \$25 million plan to lease three floors of the sprawling building to provide studio, classroom and gallery space for campus arts programs, in

partnership with Newark artists, schools and other institutions.

"We are really intent on making collaborative spaces with the community," said Rutgers Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor.

She said the project - to be called *Express Newark* - is expected to spark new shops, galleries and restaurants in the Halsey Street neighborhood that borders the Hahnes building.

The university said it plans to use the new space as an arts incubator, with space for a communications media center, a print shop, portrait studio, lecture hall and gallery space. Cantor said the building will also host the university's Institute of Jazz Studies.

Newark woman's \$25-a-month gift to students for more than 50 years



Every month, Eddiemae Livingston sets aside a \$25 check after she pays all of her bills. She places that check in an envelope, with a note of encouragement, and mails it to a young man or woman attending college, usually a student from Newark. The amount may be small, but every cent of her one-woman scholarship program says a lot about this 95-year-old Newark resident, who lives in Court Tower Apartments.

"I help people who need help," she says. *"Our future depends on whether students are educated."*

She doesn't have a process for who is selected. Forget essays and applications. You just have to be going to school. She normally picks one student per school year, but Livingston has paid for three students at the same time for two years.

She usually finds her recipients through passing conversations, such as one with a neighbor who happens to be talking about a granddaughter in college. When she hears something like that, she insists on offering the scholarship.

Livingston has been sending out her monthly stipends for more than 50 years, fulfilling a promise that she made in 1942. That was the year Livingston graduated from Benedict College, a historically black institution located 43 miles from Newberry, S.C., the tiny rural town where she was high school valedictorian.

As one of nine children born to sharecroppers, Eddiemae Livingston could not afford to pay for college. A cousin helped with the tuition and that kindness is why the 95-year-old woman helps college students today.

80th Anniversary of Newark Penn Station



City leaders and local business officials gathered at Newark Penn Station to celebrate the transit hub's 80th year in operation. Officially dedicated on March 23, 1935, the station helps shuttle tens of thousands of commuters to and from their homes and workplaces every weekday, according to NJ Transit officials.

Approximately 54,000 of those pass through it via its various rail lines, run by NJ Transit, Amtrak and the Port Authority. Funded by the Pennsylvania Railroad and the city of Newark, the building's original construction cost a total of \$42 million. It underwent extensive renovations in 2007, including the restoration of its façade, train platform improvements and other upkeep, which officials said they would remain committed to.

"It's just a mecca for the city of Newark," City Councilman Eddie Osborne said. To commemorate the occasion, visitors were offered tours of the building, and a row of historic buses were on display

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NEWARK NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

outside the station's main entrance on Raymond Plaza West.

Chip Hallock, the president and CEO of the Newark Regional Business Partnership, said the station was a vital part of the economy for both the city and northern New Jersey. "This is a gateway to Newark, and such an important part of our transportation system here," he said.

Newark's Rosa Parks Statue



A visit to the Essex Government Complex in Newark can now include a look at what county officials say is the only Rosa Parks statue in the state. A 700-pound bronze statue in the civil rights activist's likeness was officially unveiled during a county ceremony on October 2, 2014.

"This is a great thing for Newark, for Essex County, and for the state of New Jersey," County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo said at the unveiling. "We've found that there are 10 Rosa Parks statues in the United States. This is the first one in New Jersey. There is no question that it should be here in Essex County."

DiVincenzo joined Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, other local mayors and officials, students from the Rosa Parks Community School in Orange, and more than 100 guests to officially unveil the new addition to the government complex.

The statue, by artist Jay Warren of Oregon, depicts Parks sitting on a bus seat, with the inscription, "You must never be fearful of what you are doing when it is right."

Baraka said of Parks: "I'm sure that she didn't think, when she sat down on that bus, that we would be here all these years

later, 1,000 miles away, honoring her," "The statue, he said, would serve as a reminder for all of the children and grandchildren who continue to benefit from the struggle of Rosa Parks."

Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver, a 1970 Weequahic High grad, said during the ceremony: "She can be a symbol, but she can't be the last. This needs to serve as a reminder to everyone in Essex County to continue to stamp out [discrimination]."

Parks joins a long line of people who have been immortalized in Essex County statues including Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., Congressman Donald M. Payne, the first African American congressman in N.J., former Governor Brendan Byrne, and Jorge Oliveira, a 10-year veteran of the Essex County Sheriff's Office who was killed while serving in the armed forces in Afghanistan.

Vanessa Watson, legendary girls basketball coach at Shabazz High School, retires after 31 seasons



Vanessa Watson is truly going out on top.

With 720 career victories, 10 state championships, and 6 *Tournament of Champions* titles, including one in each of the last two seasons, Watson has retired from coaching girls basketball at Shabazz High School (formerly South Side) in Newark.

She finished her career with a 720-107 record, and she trailed only Pascack Valley's Jeff Jasper 923 wins on the all-time list for New Jersey coaches.

After 31 seasons on the bench at the Newark school, Watson's decided to call 2013-14 her last season.

Cong. Ahavas Sholom led planning and funding of new Sussex Ave School playground



What was once a barren blacktop schoolyard in Newark is now a brand-new colorful play area financed in large part by the contributions of agencies and individuals in the Greater MetroWest Jewish community.

The playground at the inner-city Sussex Avenue Renew School was officially opened on November 16.

The prime mover in the project was Newark's 108-year-old Congregation Ahavas Sholom, which put together a public and private consortium that included the Green Acres Program of the state's Department of Environmental Protection, private donors, the Healthcare Foundation of NJ, and 15 other foundations.

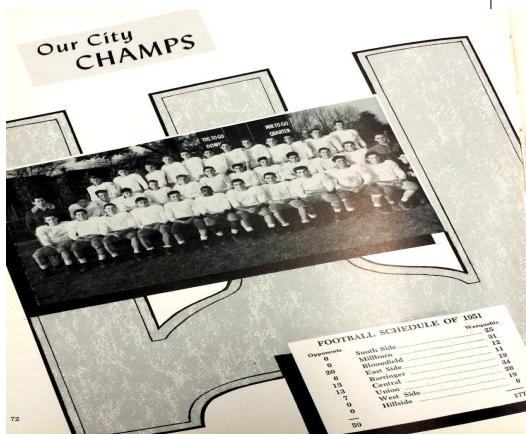
The overall cost of the project - including design, environmental investigation, and project management - totaled "about \$1,000,000," according to the Trust for Public Land, based in Morristown, which helps communities with green-space planning, fund-raising, and park design. The Healthcare Foundation gave Ahavas Sholom a \$75,000 grant to help subsidize construction.

The brainchild of the project was congregation president Eric Freedman of West Orange, who organized its financing and construction. The quarter-acre site has an Astroturf ball field, playground equipment with safety flooring, and a gardening area where students and community members will plant vegetables in the spring.

Editor's note: This is the second playground sponsored by Congregation Ahavas Sholom. A number of years ago, it led a campaign to successfully fund the Newton Street School playground.

1951: An Indian Season to Remember

By Erwin Sloan, WHS 1953



I matriculated at Weequahic High School in February, 1949 and graduated in 1953. At the time I entered the school, Weequahic was mainly known for three things. Two of them were a source of pride. The other was an embarrassment for the neighborhood as well as the butt of jokes throughout Newark.

Weequahic was well known for its academic excellence. Along with Columbia High, the two schools were rated as the best high schools in New Jersey.

The second thing that Weequahic took great satisfaction in was its winning basketball teams. The hoopsters were always a strong contender for the City Championship. They usually did well in the State playoffs.

The football program stood in sharp contrast to academics and basketball. From the time the school opened, the team was a consistent loser. If the team won one game, it was considered to be a satisfactory season.

Weequahic's opening opponent was South Side High. It was usually the team's only victory. Since South Side was the first game, the only thing fans had to look

forward to was another eight game losing streak.

For Weequahic football fans, Thanksgiving always started off as a gloomy day. Neighboring Hillside High was our traditional rival and was always victorious. Most of the games resulted in one-sided victories for the Comets.

1951 marked a seminal year in the history of Weequahic football. After a number of losing seasons, the squad did, however, have reason for optimism. Our head coach, **Louis Stamelman**, was a calm, positive

leader. His two assistants, **Bill Horey** and **John Sabo**, were excellent teachers and motivators. Both played football at Rutgers where coach Sabo was the star of an 8-1 team.

A number of the seniors were playing their 4th year of varsity football. The junior class contributed several talented athletes. One of our best linemen, **Arnie Taub**, was a sophomore who excelled with the varsity as a freshman.

The season opened with a resounding victory over South Side. Despite the impressive victory, many fans were not ready to jump on the bandwagon. After all, defeating South Side was not anything to get excited about. The community began to take notice when we scored an easy victory over Millburn High in our second game. Fans couldn't remember the last time Weequahic started a season winning its first two games.

Our third opponent Bloomfield High was considered to be one of our toughest challenges. The game was to be played in Bloomfield. The team's coach, Bill



Coaches Bill Horey, Lou Stamelman, and John Sabo

Foley, was a legendary figure in New Jersey football. Before we played Bloomfield, fans familiar with their program said that the officials were so partisan that visiting teams rarely won.

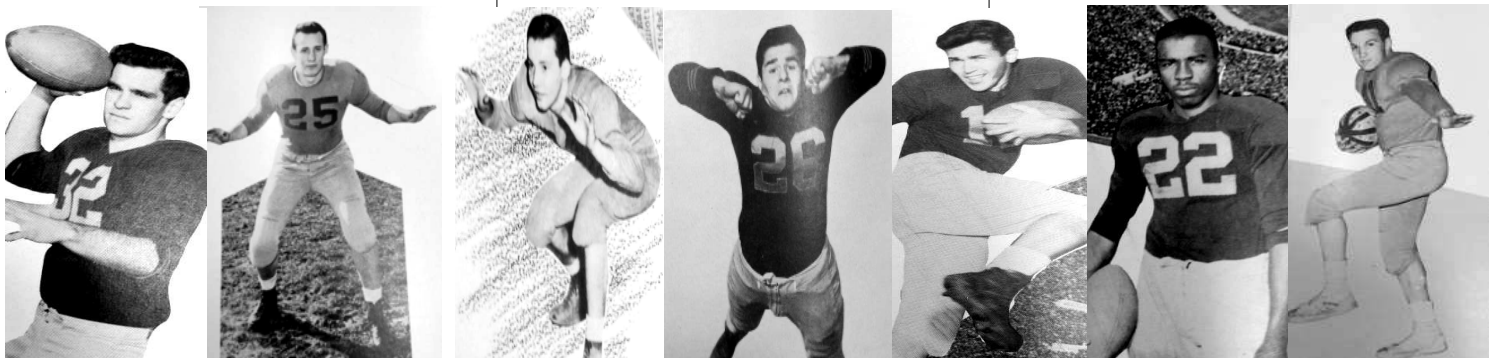
Game week was marked by tragedy when Coach Stamelman's sister died from cancer. Coach missed a few days of practice. On Saturday, he rejoined the team wearing dark sunglasses, probably because of his grief stricken eyes.

The game was close with Bloomfield holding a slight halftime lead. It appeared to many of us that the officials were bending over backwards to insure a Bloomfield victory. During halftime, Coach Stamelman seemed close to tears as he delivered an impassioned talk.

None of us ever heard Coach curse. Right before we left the locker room we heard him use profanity. Later many of my teammates admitted that they nearly smiled hearing our Coach acting so out of character. Unfortunately, our smiles turned to tears when we suffered what was to be our only defeat of the season.

The highlight of the season came when we played Barringer at home. Both teams were undefeated in the City League.

(Continued on page 10)



Norm Hinkes

Arnie Taub

Andy Zupko

Myron Harkavy

Al Lubetkin

Sam Williams

Marvin Feinblatt

1951 CITY FOOTBALL CHAMPS

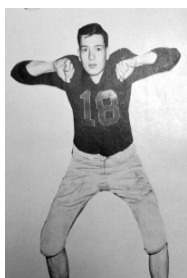
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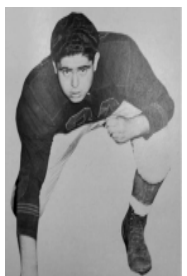
Erwin Sloan



Carl Grossman



Milt Westrich



Bob Chernin

The winner would probably take the championship. You could just imagine the excitement that the team generated in the community.

Many regarded us as a miracle come true. The crowd was one of the largest in school history.

Barringer had a veteran squad led by two All-City linemen and tailback Frank Verducci (who later became a successful Barringer football coach). The strength of the Weequahic team rested in our backfield.

We were fortunate to have as our quarterback **Norman Hinkes**, who was a two year starter. He was a skilled passer and dangerous runner.

His greatest asset was the calm, firm, confident leadership he projected in the huddle. Some of Norman's teammates received more recognition at the conclusion of the season, but I believe that Hinkes was the glue that held the team together.

All of our backs were talented runners. Our halfbacks **Alvin Lubetkin** and **Allan Merkin** were threats to score at any time. Blocking for them was **Marvin Feinblat** who could be counted on in a short yardage situation to get the critical yards.

Our defense was led by end **Andy Zupko** and nose guard **Arnie Taub**. Both players would eventually become All-State selections. The contest with Barringer was everything the fans hoped for.

Unfortunately, I proved to be the weak link in our defense as Barringer consistently gained yardage over and around me. My play was so bad that one of my closest friends on the team threatened me unless I improved my play immediately.

The key play in the game came when linebacker **Myron Harkavy** blocked a Barringer punt and that led to the winning touchdown.

After the game, I realized that we wouldn't have had a chance at winning had it not been for the inspired play of my teammates.

The remainder of the season left us with one more major goal - beat our hated rival Hillside High. The night before the game it snowed. The sun came out early in the morning leaving the field a muddy quagmire. Neither team was able to gain any traction; the game ended 0-0.

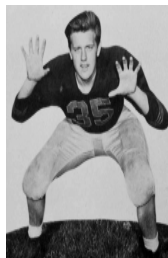
At the conclusion of the season we were treated as hometown heroes. A dinner was held in our honor and we were presented with gold plated footballs. Later we were given jackets designating us as City Champions.

After the Barringer game as we turned in our equipment, our equipment manager commented "*This is a day you will never forget.*" How right he was!

Author's note: *Unfortunately, the coaches and several of my teammates are no longer with us. I would like to dedicate this article to their memory. They left the Weequahic community with a legacy we can all be proud of.*



Don Blotner



Roy Moses



Marvin Frank

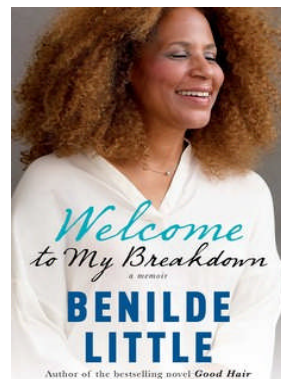


Marv Dinetz

WEEQUAHIC WRITERS

Benilde Little, 1976

(WHS Alumni Hall of Fame)



The nationally bestselling author of *Good Hair* and *The Itch* pens her first book of nonfiction, a "momoir" about her own journey caring for aging parents, raising children, being married, plunging to the depths of depression, and climbing her way out.

My mother was gone. I never thought I would survive her death.

A major bestselling novelist and former magazine editor, long married to a handsome and successful stockbroker with whom she has a beautiful daughter and son, Benilde Little once had every reason to feel on top of the world. But as illness, the aging of her parents, and other hurdles interrupted her seemingly perfect life, she took a tailspin into a pit of clinical depression.

Told in her own fearless and wise voice, ***Welcome to My Breakdown*** chronicles a cavern of depression so dark that Benilde didn't know if she'd ever recover from what David Foster Wallace called "*a nausea of the soul.*"

She discusses everything from her Newark upbringing, once-frequent visits to a Muslim mosque, and how it felt to date a married man, to her doubts about marriage, being caught between elder care and childcare, and ultimately how she treated her depression and found a way out.

Powerful, relatable, and ultimately redemptive, *Welcome to My Breakdown* is a remarkable memoir about the power within us all to rise from despair and to feel hope and joy again.

Dr. Victor Parsonnet gives his trove of documents to historical society

Surgeon helps preserve history of 'the Beth'

By Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News Staff Writer



In 1950, a few years after becoming an intern at what was then Newark Beth Israel Hospital, Dr. Victor Parsonnet began collecting a wide variety of its papers, books, and records, along with his own memories of a lifetime serving patients.

They include handwritten copies of patients' medical records between 1927 and 1933 prepared by his father, Dr. Eugene Parsonnet.

There is a bound copy of the Newark Beth Israel Hospital Medical Journal from 1953, steno pads recording hospital income from 1925 to 1937, and a program from the hospital's 50th anniversary dinner-dance in November 1951.

Now, at the age of 90, the pioneering heart surgeon is donating many of those items to the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, influenced partly by a suggestion of former President Bill Clinton.

"Years ago I attended one of the Renaissance Weekends," a gathering of artists, scientists, academics, and political leaders Clinton sponsored, Parsonnet told NJJN in a March 17 interview at what is now Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

"President Clinton said that men and women have a responsibility before they leave this coil to write down who you are for your family. So I did."

Those family members include his daughter, Dr. Julie Parsonnet, who is a professor of medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine in California, and a grandniece studying at Rutgers.

But because both of his grandfathers, Victor Parsonnet and Max Danzis, were founders of the Beth in 1901, he is determined to share his memoirs with a wider world.

Linda Forgosh, JHS executive director, was eager to give the Parsonnet papers a safe home in the JHS archives on the Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus in Whippany.

"They enable us to tell as complete a story as we can about one important part of the history of hospitals in America," said Forgosh. *"They are original documents that are not going to come again. For us at the historical society it is a point of pride because it is here. It is one of our larger collections and the most complete collection of documents of New Jersey's first and only Jewish hospital."*

The Beth was the first Newark hospital to accept black and Jewish doctors. For decades it has been one of America's pioneering surgical centers. Many of the records revolve around Danzis and date back to the 1920s.

"He has written all sorts of professional manuscripts," said Parsonnet, glowing with family pride. *"He was one of the first doctors in this country to do gall bladder*



Dr. Parsonnet and Linda Forgosh

surgery [around 1904], and he presented papers on embolism at the British Medical Society in the 1920s."

Among Danzis's writings were articles on anti-Semitism in medicine and the plight of refugee physicians from war-torn Europe in the early 1940s. Danzis moved to America from Ukraine at age 17.

"He had only one ruble in his pocket, but within 10 years, he was married, had a child - who became my mother - and founded this hospital, even though he did not speak English when he got off the boat," said Parsonnet. *"My other grandfather, Victor Parsonnet, died in 1920. He dropped dead at the age of 48. That is one of the reasons I got interested in sudden death."*

That interest led him to become a pioneer in the development of the pacemaker, the heart transplant, and the artificial heart. *"Heart surgery began as a specialty in the late 1950s. So I was lucky; I was in the right place at the right time for everything,"* he said.

His 100-page manuscript of his years practicing medicine at the Beth covers everything from romantic relationships between interns and nurses at the hospital to his cringing at dissections and autopsies. He recalls his enjoyment in learning Latin, *"which provided an understanding of normal and abnormal anatomical and disease processes."*

(Continued on page 13)

On High Street in 1910



On Lyons Avenue in 1928

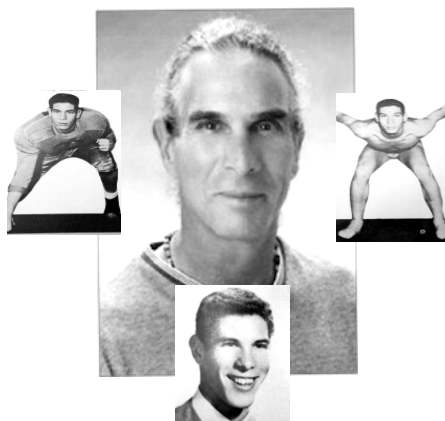


Today as Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



Through the Looking Glass

By Hesh Goldstein, WHS 1957



Growing up in Newark, going to Weequahic High School where I played football, swam and ran track, attending Seton Hall University where I was captain and MVP of our swimming team, was like living in a dream world. All fun and games. Before and during high school, summers at Bradley Beach. During college, life-guarding at Brookside. In between, sports for every season. After college, reality set in. Get a job. Get married. Buy a house. Raise a family.

From Livingston to Colorado to Hawaii

While living in Livingston, something was amiss and I didn't like the mundanity of my life. My mind was telling me to open up doors that I never imagined could be opened. So, while separated from my wife and after she found my replacement, I moved to Aspen and got a job with the Aspen Ski Corp. I skied every day and endured the job. The ASC was more rigid than any company I had experienced in Newark and New York. So, to take a real walk on the wild side I let my hair grow and completely lost the "corporate image." It also cost me my job. 1975. What next? What to do? Where to go?

I had just become a vegetarian (a vegan 15 years later) despite having no clue what it entailed, but decided to stick with it. A friend told me that living in Hawaii could be fulfilling. I picked up a travel book written by a man named Fodor and learned about a little vegetarian restaurant in Lahaina, Maui called "Mr. Natural's." I started working there in June of 1975.

What happened next seemed like a chapter out of "Alice In Wonderland." The restaurant closed within a year and I got a job as a truck driver for a natural food store in a

different part of the island. While there I noticed that the owner had friends in similar businesses on all the other islands. So, I suggested that he and his friends form one company and lock in the state.

When he learned that I had an accounting background, he told his friends in the similar businesses that he had a truck driver with an accounting background who was going to potentially make them more successful than they ever imagined. I then orchestrated the formulation of the largest natural food chain in Hawaii at the time called "Down to Earth."

Now the theater of the absurd was about to happen. While being the CFO and co-manager of their largest store in Honolulu, a friend that was doing a radio show on Sunday mornings from 6 to 7 a.m. told me that his show was floundering. The head guy of "Down To Earth" wanted me to go on the air in his place to do a health related show the following Sunday.

A Radio Show Called Health Talk

That opened a door I never would have imagined existed. The show, "Health Talk," became an instant hit and it forced me to read and study everything I could about the link between diet and disease. On the show I was getting over 20 phone calls asking health improvement and degenerative disease reversal questions. The owner of the station said that no one, even in prime time, ever got that many calls and insisted that I do two hours. Now, I was getting over 30 phone calls.

As the years passed, I would get calls from MDs asking what my credentials were. Somehow, they never appreciated me telling them that I graduated Magna Cum Laude from the "School of Hard Knocks." But, hey, I'm from Newark. What else would I say?

My original promo for the show got people's attention. It is still plays today. It says: "I don't care what your doctor tells you and despite the fact that he wants you to continue helping him make his Mercedes payments, there is a cure for arthritis. Tune in on Sunday morning at 6 a.m. to 'Health Talk.'" When in 2007 I got a Master's Degree in Nutrition, the MDs stopped calling. And now, in addition to the Hawaii radio show I do a weekly show on American Voice Radio. Now the plot thickened.

My website, www.healthtalkhawaii.com, was created, which contains hundreds of my radio shows and health related articles that I have written.

"A Sane Diet For An Insane World"

More recently, I published my book, "A Sane Diet For An Insane World." which can be viewed at www.asanediets.com. The book exposes the hidden growth hormones and the toxic, synthetic chemicals to keep flesh red, to keep it from stinking, and to create enormous weight in the creatures to be slaughtered to achieve more profits. It also tells the truth about sugar substitutes, the MSG euphemisms, and how horrifically poisonous and toxic genetically modified foods are.

And as fate would have it, there was a recent article in the newspaper stating that a government panel advised to cut back on flesh-based foods and processed foods and increase the consumption of fruits, vegetables, nuts, whole grains, and other plant-based foods to better one's health and the environment. I guess that makes me a legend in my own mind.

Helping To Reverse Illness

I also began writing health related articles for an internet company called "Natural News," and have helped countless numbers of people reverse illnesses such as obesity, autism, cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, asthma, osteoarthritis, joint pain, gingivitis, erectile dysfunction, high blood pressure, inflammation reduction, migraines, allergies, PMS monthly period pains, with a product called organic sulfur crystals - and this is just the tip of the iceberg. One other significant accomplishment I achieved was to keep fluoride out of Hawaii's water supply.



Hesh Goldstein
Preface by Patricia Bragg

(Continued on page 13)

HUNGRY SKIES *(Continued from page 5)*

chef's first airport restaurant collaboration); *Nonna's Meatball Kitchen* from Amanda Freitag; *Melange Bakery Cafe* by world-renowned pastry chef and chocolatier Jacques Torres; and *Notorious P.I.G.* by Elizabeth Karmel, founding executive chef of *Hill Country Barbecue* in New York City and Washington, D.C.

Another highlight: *Thyme*, the first vegetarian restaurant in a North American airport, a creation of Amanda Cohen, owner of *Dirt Candy* in New York City.

Kevin Pemoulie, co-owner of *Thirty Acres* in Jersey City, has a wine bar/restaurant, *Oeno*. At the appropriately-named *Daily*, the chef will scour local markets for fresh foodstuffs and create the day's menus with them. At *Nonna's Meatball Kitchen*, meatball sandwiches come in a dizzying array of choices - veal, chicken, lamb, brisket, eggplant, spinach/feta, and many more.

Proof, by John Delucie, founding chef at the *Waverly Inn*, will feature a tavern-inspired menu to complement a whiskey-forward bar list. *Salumeria Prima*, from Elizabeth Falkner, will offer a wide selection of cured meats, with cheeses from famed *Murray's Cheese* in the city.

Forget all that dreadful airport pizza; one of the new restaurants in Terminal C will be *Tagliare*, a pizzeria overseen by Dom DeMarco Jr., son of legendary pizza maker Domenico DeMarco, owner of *Di Fara* in Brooklyn.

That's not the only major pizza star you'll find in the terminal. Roberto Caporusco, from renowned *Keste* and *Don Antonio* by Starita in Manhattan, will open *Forno Magico*; the menu will include Neapolitan-style pizzas, plus antipasti, meats, cheeses and salads.

Classified will showcase chef Marc Forgione's signature American style, with his takes on such classics as chili and burgers. *Novella*, from chef Jose Garces, is billed as a global food bar with small plates and light entrees with a Latin flair.

Alex Guarnaschelli will bring classic French fare to life at *Riviera*, where the menu will include grilled oysters, roasted chicken and steak frites. Besides *Pemouile*, Jersey-based chefs at the airport include Ike Aikasa, owner of *Shumi* in Somerville; and Dale Talde, who is about to open *Talde* in Jersey City.

Terminal C won't lack for hungry customers; the airline offers 400-plus flights every day from Newark to 150 destinations worldwide. 20 million passengers go through the airport annually. Overall, in 2013, United Airlines and United Express carried more passenger traffic than any other airline in the world.

PARSONNET *(Continued from page 11)*

Parsonnet estimates he has performed some 3,000 surgical procedures, from a hernia operation on a baby when he was a "terrified" intern to what would be his last procedure, installing a pace-maker three years ago.

He said many operations, especially in his field of cardiac surgery, have made the Beth "the busiest hospital in New Jersey."

"They accounted for the Beth Israel's ability to succeed in Newark in the late 1960s and '70s despite the bad reputation of the 1967 Newark riots" and the rising popularity of suburban medical centers, he wrote.

In 1996, Newark Beth Israel Hospital was sold to Saint Barnabas Healthcare System; proceeds were used to establish the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, which retains strong ties to the Greater MetroWest Jewish community.

Parsonnet said he has no personal sense of the "God complex" that some surgeons feel when they literally hold another person's life in their hands. "I am helping somebody," he said emphatically. "I have a job to do."

GOLDSTEIN

(Continued from page 12)

Had anyone ever told me when I was growing up in Newark that I would embark upon this road or even write a book, I would have told them they needed to have their head examined. So, my road continues trying to help people reverse their illnesses without synthetic chemicals and/or surgery.

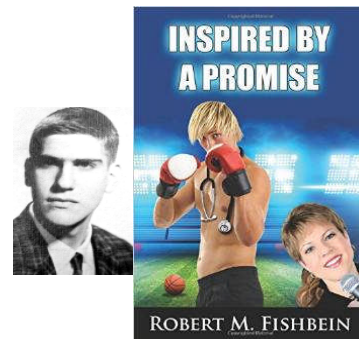
In my personal time, at 76, I enjoy being with the love of my life, playing ball in three softball leagues, doing stand-up paddling, swimming, hiking, doing cardio and weight training, and teaching women's self-defense classes, specifically to give them the element of surprise, based upon twenty years of Wing Chun martial art training.

I do this year round in Hawaii, my home now for 40 years. Oh yeah, I take no meds and have no illnesses and if I can do it, anyone can do it. I am so thankful for finding that incredible door.

Aloha!

WEEQUAHIC WRITERS

Robert Fishbein, 1964



An extraordinary athlete, Klaiyten La Spada doubles as an exceptional student achieving high academic accolades. Just when all may be perfect, a tragic accident leaves him as head of the family. Suddenly his path of success leads him on a new journey.

With a shift of goals and a new road map he is forced to take his extraordinary reputation to another level. His map is intertwined with a flourishing sportscaster. Klaiyt has many balls to dodge as he is inspired by a promise...only he can keep.

This is a sports passionate love story that will need a follow up book to keep the inspiration going in the many different directions that Klaiyt and his family wind up taking. A different kind of excitement, drama and emotion that you normally do not see from an exceptional athlete, student and humanitarian.

About Bob: Bob Fishbein spent 34 years as a public educator in New Jersey as a teacher, counselor, administrator, grant writer and athletic coach. He also was an adjunct professor at a NJ university for three years and spent three years in education as a counselor in Florida and one year as a leader for opening a charter school.

He is presently a writer, school athletic official, and a stop tobacco use coach in Florida. This is his first book with two more books completed and several more in process. The motivation comes from his wife, adult sons and daughters and his grandchildren.

A son of Newark seeks to recover its past

By Robert Weiner, NJ Jewish News

Step inside the top-floor office of attorney Donald Karp and you'll see a wide panoramic view of his beloved city of Newark. But Karp need not gaze out the window to view Newark. His two-room suite is chockablock with many types of memorabilia, reflecting a lifelong fascination with his native city, its history, and its strong connections to the Jewish community.

His office is jam-packed - with photos covering the walls depicting him with a host of politicians (including Hillary Clinton and the late New York Gov. Mario Cuomo). There are souvenirs from the minor league Newark Bears baseball team, yellowed front pages from *The Newark Star-Ledger*, and an assortment of collectibles that range from a brass doorknob to a windup Victrola record player to a trove of piggy banks.

It was in Newark - at Beth Israel Hospital - that Karp was born 77 years ago. At 13 he became bar mitzva at Temple B'nai Abraham - now in Livingston, then still in the city - after attending Hebrew school with Jonathan Prinz, the son of Rabbi Joachim Prinz, the German-Jewish refugee and Temple B'nai Abraham rabbi who became a leading civil rights activist.

"We had the bar mitzva party at the Essex House" in Newark, a now defunct hotel, said Karp. Among the guests was former Mayor Meyer Ellenstein, whom Karp had befriended. Ellenstein, who served from 1933 to 1941, was Newark's first and only Jewish mayor. "He was a neighbor of mine, and he got me interested in politics," Karp said. That interest led to Karp's becoming a congressional page for Peter Rodino, the Newark congressman who later chaired the impeachment hearings of Richard Nixon.

Karp drew his visitors' attention to a large black-and-white photograph on the wall of the House of Representatives taken while President Dwight Eisenhower delivered his 1953 State of the Union speech. Karp pointed with pride to a place on an aisle where, he said, he was seated - only a few spots away from a 30-year-old representative from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy.

After a two-year stint as a page, Karp considered running for Congress. "Then I got into the banking business," eventually be-

coming an executive of the Broad National Bank in 1964. But he remained active in the Democratic Party because, he said, "*the Jews were very much involved in politics.*"

Karp and his wife Marjery moved from Newark to East Orange to Maplewood, then to their current home in Short Hills. But he remained in close touch with his hometown, "*especially after the 1967 riots, when we realized the city had to be rebuilt.*" The six days of rioting - sparked by rumors of the death in police custody of an African-American taxi driver - resulted in 23 dead, hundreds of injured, and widespread damages.

Karp is also interested in his extended family's story in the city. In late December, he sent a letter to the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, a beneficiary agency of Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ. "*It contained a crisply laminated half of an article from the Jewish Chronicle,*" a forerunner of the New Jersey Jewish News, said JHS director Linda Forgosh.

The clipping was part of an article about Bernard Miller, a cousin of Karp's who died when Karp was a small boy. "*I am doing genealogy and trying to get my family in shape,*" Karp told Forgosh and another visitor to his office on Jan. 2. "*I knew a few things about Bernie Miller - we used to call him 'Barney'; I know when I was born he gave me a bank book with \$10 in it. It was a nice gesture. He was the guy who brought my grandmother to the United States from Poland. He sponsored her. I just remember him as an old guy, but his life intersects with mine.*"

Karp recalled that Miller's company, Economy Auto, was on the property of the Broad National Bank across the street from Newark City Hall. Miller was a member of the board of Newark Beth Israel when it was struggling to remain open in the 1930s during the Depression. "*Miller sat on all of the boards of Jewish organizations that you could imagine,*" said Forgosh.

But a technological problem impeded their research, Forgosh said. "*The article he sent had been cut in half,*" she explained. Although the JHS stores back copies of the Chronicle on microfilm, "*We have a very old microfilm reader, and I can't give you*



Don Karp and his Newark collectibles



JHSNJ's new microfilm reader

the full article because it can't be repaired anymore," she said she told him. "*It is just too old, and I can't print anything out.*" But Karp offered a solution. "*I asked her what a new one cost and she said, '\$3,000,' so I sent her a check,*" he said. A brand-new state-of-the-art microfilm reader was delivered to the JHS office on the Aidekman campus in Whippany a week later. Its installation will help two people who share a love for Newark's rich Jewish past and a hope for its future.

"I like Newark," said Karp. "*I think it is a great city. It is not going anywhere and it was a great place to grow up.*"

It is a sentiment that Forgosh appreciates. "*Don Karp loves Newark and shows his love as one of the city's greatest preservationists,*" she said. "*He is well respected in and outside the Jewish community for his many contributions to its civic and historic life.*"

Editor's Note: Don grew up in the Weequahic section of Newark, but graduated from Montclair Academy in 1954. However, he is a longtime member of the WHS Alumni Association. He is also a graduate of the University of Vermont and Cornell Law School. Don is a member of the N.J. Bar and was Chairman & CEO of Broad National Bank.

Remembering David L. Warner and the South Ward Boys and Girls Club



Alan Paul (Wichinsky), DAVE WARNER, and Kenny Frieder.

From Harvey Warner (a 1952 WHS grad, son of Dave Warner, the founder of the South Ward Boys & Girls Club)

Dave, by friends, or Pops as he liked to be called by me, his son Harvey, found his greatest joy in helping all children regardless of their heritage or even troubling background. Although he passed away about 35 years ago, the fact that so many Weequahic alumni consistently refer to him in their alumni comments is proof that all he strived for was not in vain.

I still meet with men who tell me that they were troubled youths who straightened out their lives as a result of Dave's guidance. If anyone would ask him how many children he had, he would answer "*about a thousand.*" Yet, he always had time to make sure my mother Bea, sister Rita (Cookie) and I never felt neglected.

He was the president of the South Ward Boys Club on Hawthorne Ave, an organization he founded in the 1950's in our home on Shephard Avenue. It was a little known fact that at the age of 15 he was president

of the General Pershing Boys Club in Newark's Central Ward.

Among his many awards were *Man of the Year* from Boys Club of America, *Citizen Citation* from B'nai Brith, *Meritorious Service Award* from American Legion and Jewish War Veterans, and a *Special Service Citation* from the State of Israel for his work with youth.

His hard work was displayed in other organizations where he was a leader, such as president of Congregation Knesseth Israel in Newark, Congregation Israel in Springfield, chairman of Newark Zoning Board and Irvington Planning Board, and the Warshawsky Family Circle, a charitable family organization.

He changed his name from Warshawsky to Warner when I was only 9 years old. He was my idol. I think about him every day and his never ending energy which he told me comes from one's love of others. He really loved everyone

From Jerry Wichinsky (who grew up in the Weequahic section, attended Hawthorne Avenue School, Clinton Place Jr. High, but graduated from Arts High School in 1964)

I was going through some old pictures and came across a picture taken in Washington, DC in 1960, with Dave Warner and members of the South Ward Boys Club. It brought back many happy memories to me. I was wondering how many Weequahic alums out there also have fond memories of the Boys Club.

I first joined in the mid 1950's. It really wasn't officially a "*Boys Club*" then. My mother was a childhood friend of Dave's, and we used to get together in his basement and go on trips. There were probably 20 members then. I also remember playing on

a Boys Club baseball team in Weequahic Park.

After the membership reached 50 or so, and too large for Dave's basement, we would meet at Tunis Mansion on Bergen Street (and then go to Jo-Ray's for pizza afterward). This was years before they would move into their building that was formerly the Hawthorne movie theater on Hawthorne Avenue.

What I remember most about the club in those days was all of the wonderful trips we used to go on - the boat ride up the Hudson to Rye Beach, Palisades Park, countless Knick and Yankee games, visits to the Normandy Beach Yacht Club (how many kids from Newark went to a yacht club?) and many other trips, all for no or little cost.

Dave Warner was a really wonderful man, and it is sad that he is not remembered more. I know my brother, Alan (Manhattan Transfer singer Alan Paul), has said that he owes his entire career to Dave and all of the support that he gave him when he was a child. In the above picture, the trophy my brother is holding is the Governor Meyner Award for the most talented youth in NJ, a contest he won at age 10 while representing the South Ward Boys Club.

Unfortunately, the Boys Club building is now closed down, but I'd like to think that Dave's real legacy is all of the wonderful memories that we have, of all the trips we took that we could never have made, Sundays at the Littleton Avenue Boys Club, and all of the lifelong friends many of us have made because of our membership in the Boys and Girls Club.

From Barry Warner (Dave's nephew and a Jan. 1961 WHS grad)

I recall the trips to the White House in Washington, DC, American Bandstand in Philadelphia, the Willows Hotel in Lakewood, Major League baseball games and other sporting events. And in the summer, it was fun at Camp Brady in Pottersville.

At its inception, the Boys Club accepted girls and eventually included "girls" in the name. My uncle also started the South Ward First Aid Squad and was one of the founding members of the Seymour Feldman Leukemia Fund.

Editor's note: On Hawthorne Avenue adjacent to the old South Ward Boys & Girls Club building is the **David L. Warner Playground.**



The Sunday Morning Group honors the memory of Morton “Lefty” Leiwant



The *Sunday Morning Group*, at its bi-annual “*Get Together*” which was held on the evening of Thursday, May 21, 2015 at the Maplewood Country Club, honored the memory of a distinguished WHS alumnus who recently passed away, **Mort “Lefty” Leiwant** - from the class of **January 1947**.

If you don’t know who “Lefty” was or who the Sunday Morning Group is, you have missed a good chunk of Weequahic High School Indian lore.

Briefly, “Lefty” was a Weequahic sports legend and a revered leader to all of us who were fortunate enough to be associated with him. His leadership qualities, personal charisma, and sense of humor, evolved into him becoming the “CEO” of the *Sunday Morning Group*, which is now in it’s 46th year of holding reunions every two years. He was a “Chieftain.”

The Sunday Morning Group was started by a number of mostly Weequahic guys who met every Sunday morning just to play ball. It included some top athletes and many others who just enjoyed competing with each other.

Later, through the years, when the reunions were held, several hundred guys would show up mainly for the camaraderie, seeing old buddies, and the lively conversations. It was always a night to remember.

Through the years, the Group was also quietly providing occasional help if they learned that someone was in need. Nobody talked much about it, but you knew that these guys would somehow be there if needed - and they were. These people were the “Braves.”

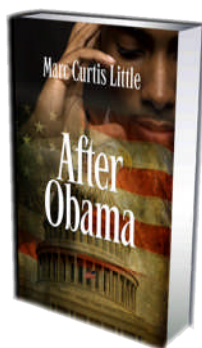
The Sunday Morning Group has always welcomed new people to its reunions. Coming to one of these special “get-togethers” offers a chance to see many friends from your days at the “Wigwam on the Hill” that you may have lost touch with. You also have the opportunity to meet a wide range of WHS alumni.



Author Marc Little, WHS 1969, donates 100 “After Obama” books to high school



At a ceremony in the Library/Media Center at Weequahic High School, author Marc Little, spoke to a group of students about his latest book “*After Obama*” and donated 100 books to the high school.



“*After Obama*” is a fast-paced, emotion-packed novel about the seedy side of partisan politics, revived romance, recycled friendships, reinvigorated criminality which includes murder, and the uplifting consequences of deep spirituality challenge the curiosity of what life in America could look like after President Obama leaves office.

This is Marc’s fourth novel. He has also written *Don’t Blink When God Calls* (2008), Indie Excellence Award-winning *Angels in the Midst* (2010), and the Next Generation Indie Book Award-winning *Magnificent Redemption* (2012).



In Loving Memory

Naomi Sisselman Wilzig, Class of June 1952

**A supporter of Jewish causes and
built a famed museum of erotic art**

Excerpts from an article
by Elaine Durbach, NJ Jewish News



Naomi Sisselman Wilzig's philanthropy covered a range of causes in both New Jersey and Florida, beginning with the Jewish community - and reaching, perhaps most singularly, to erotic art.

Wilzig, 80, who died on April 7, grew up in Newark and lived for many years in Clifton before moving to Miami Beach. She was married to the late Siggi B. Wilzig, an oil magnate and banker who died in 2003. They were supporters of a number of Jewish federations, including what is now the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.

Naomi, who was a founder of the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, endowed the Chabad Lubavitch Camp Gan Israel on the Rabbinical College of America campus in Morristown in honor of her daughter Sherry Wilzig Izak of Livingston. She also supported the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and the Florida Holocaust Museum.

In addition to her daughter, Wilzig is survived by her sons Ivan, also of Miami Beach, and Alan (Karin), who lives in New York City, and four grandchildren.

Speaking after her passing, Ivan Wilzig told the Miami New Times, *"I feel like the luckiest man alive - certainly the luckiest son - to have had a mother who genuinely cared for people and made them happy, always putting others before herself. I'm proud that against all odds she helped the world become more loving and through art helped it be a better place."*

His mother began collecting art in the 1980s, and her interest in erotic works gathered steam in the 1990s after she went in search of a "conversation piece" for Ivan's new home. It was an unusual choice for someone who grew up, as one of six children, in a strictly

observant home that she described as filled with prohibitions.

In 2005, she established the World Erotic Art Museum in Miami. She ended up amassing around 4,000 pieces - the largest privately held collection of erotic art in North America and putting her 12,000-square-foot museum in a league with those in New York, Berlin, and Paris, and attracting a flow of tourists. That earned high honors from the city fathers of Miami.

Naomi, who graduated from Weequahic High School in Newark and attended Montclair State Teachers College, married Siggi when she was 18. She was a member of the WHS Alumni Association.

Stuart Allen Edelman, 1964



Stuart Allen Edelman of South Orange died suddenly on Saturday March 21, 2015 at home.

Stu was born in Irvington and lived in Newark, attending Weequahic High

School where he ran cross-country and track. He attended his 50th class reunion this past October and was a member of the WHS Alumni Association.

Stu attended American University in Washington DC where he also ran track. He worked in property management for many years before becoming a manager at Acme Check Cashing in Edison.

He was a passionate runner for most of his adult life and realized his dream to run in the New York City Marathon in 1999. He was a member of B'nai Shalom in West Orange.

Stu was the consummate fan and derived untold pleasure watching his five grandchildren participate in their various sporting events. He could not have been more proud of each one of them and their accomplishments.

He is survived by his wife Hannah, his son Justin and his wife Ellen, his son Ari and his wife Patty, and his five grandchildren Daniel, Samantha, Brian, Darren and Eric.

He is also survived by his sister Bobbi Ostrowsky and her husband Barry, his niece Allison Weisberg and her husband Steve, and his nephew David Ostrowsky.

Lillian Abramson Applebaum, 1936
Evalyn Adelman Geftic, 1938
Elaine Beck, 1952
Robert Bonda, 1944
Dorothy Blackstone, 1944
Corrine Blitzman Friedman, 1948
Norman Blum
Bernice Bressman
Philip Brody, 1952
Shirley Burns Hoenig, 1944
Stanley Camche, 1944
Marilyn Cooper Reingold, 1943
Joan Cress Shapiro, 1962
Sheldon Denburg, 1943
Seymour Drill, 1945
Edith Dubovsky Jaffe
Arnold Ehrich, 1946
Lila Ferster Botnick, 1944
Norman Fleischner, 1951
Robert Furst, 1964
Gilbert Glass, 1935
Sarah Glassman Franzblau, 1938
Martin Gilbert, 1952
Della Graben Shapiro, 1941
Devin Lamar Grimes
Sarah Lempert Horowitz, 1939
Cynthia Harkavy Plishtin
Elaine Harris Treuhaff, 1941
Daphne Haygood Benyard, 1967
Marilyn Israel Kravitz, 1963
Eli Katz, 1953
Eleanor Krim Barchanowitz
Nathan Kupperman
Sanford Kuvim, 1947
Raymond Lear, 1964
Harold Lefcourt, 1941
Stuart Lehman, 1950
Sarah Lempert Horowitz, 1939
Bertram Levinstone, 1938
Raymond Liebeskind
Alvin Lofton, 1967
Jerome Miller, 1951
Harold Morgan, 1951
Steven Novom, 1963
Ruth Perl Fox
Marilyn Perlov Laster, 1942
Carolyn Schornstein Dornfeld, 1947
Jane Seid Raff
Helen Solondz Shane, 1948
Sybil Rapaport Levine, 1942
Charles Rosen, 1946
Robert Rubin, 1949
Alfred Siegler
Victor Silverman, 1943
Marvin Simon, 1957
Samuel Sirota, 1949
Bernice Spielvogel Rotberg, 1943
Jerome Stein, 1953
Fred Umschweis, 1957
Pearl Waldman Berman, 1943
Arthur Watkins, Jr. 1963
Harold Weinberg, 1935
Gary Weinstein, 1956
Evelyn Weinstein Stier
Ira Winarsky, 1960

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- ◆ \$10.00 KNIT CAP: - (one size fits all in orange or tan with "W" on front)
- ◆ \$12.00 T-SHIRT: - (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL - (dark brown or orange with WHS logo)
- ◆ \$15.00 "ALUMNI" HAT: - (one size fits all in khaki with "Alumni" lettering)
- ◆ \$17.00 "W" HAT (dark brown with orange "W" on front - 2 sizes)
- ◆ \$20.00 GOLF SHIRT: - (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL - orange or tan with Indian Head /WHS alumni lettering)
- ◆ \$25.00 SWEATSHIRT: - (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL - (brown or orange with WHS logo)
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* In Memory



CHANCELLOR AVENUE SCHOOL GROUP AT THE
CLASS OF 1964 / 50TH REUNION



CLASS OF 1969 / 45TH REUNION COMMITTEE

2014 CLASS REUNIONS & EVENTS

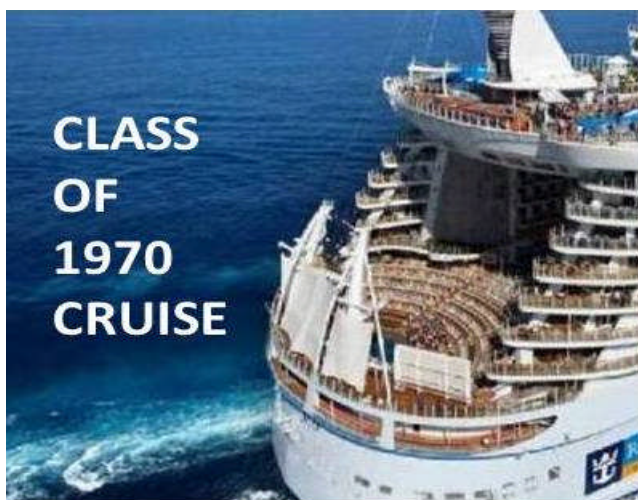
Pic on left. (l-r)

Ivory Wise
Shirley (Bowers) Lunsford
Deborah Smith
Deborah (Davis) Harman
Maxine (Flagg) Hardges
Robert Poteet
Dorcas (Clark) Crosby
Marc Curtis Little

Pic on right

1970 alumni:

Pat Price
Anthony Best
Leroy Simmons III
Evelyn Pashall Motley
Paquita Henderson Wilson
with family and friends



2015 REUNIONS

Saturday, June 27, 2015 - 7 p.m.

Maple Ave School

Class of 1965 - 50th Reunion

Hotel Woodbridge (at Metropark)

Contact: Mark Sarver
(202) 338-7678

Saturday, Aug. 1, 2015

Class of 1988 & 1989

26th & 27th Reunion, 7 p.m.

Costa Del Sol, Union

Contact: Karimah Williams
(973) 391-3980 karimahkay@yahoo.com

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015

Class of 1965

50th Reunion, 6:30 p.m.

**L'Affaire Catering Hall,
Mountainside**

Contact: Dennis Estis (732) 476-2510

Friday, Oct. 9, 2015

Class of 1985

30th Reunion, 7 p.m.

Renaissance Hotel, Elizabeth

Contact: Keith Salter
(973) 477-6558 / ksaltkeith@aol.com

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015

Class of June 1960

55th Reunion, 12 noon

**Cedar Hill Country Club,
Livingston**

Contact: Harold Klein
hmklein42@verizon.net

Friday, Nov. 27, 2015

Class of 1970

45th Reunion, 8 p.m.

Costa Del Sol, Union

Contact: Patricia Price
(757) 377-2940 / cordi27@aol.com

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