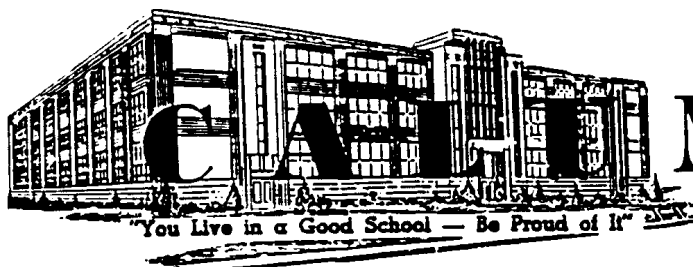


THE WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI



CALUMNET

SPRING / SUMMER 1999
ISSUE # 1

WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Co-Presidents:

Harold Braff '52
Kim Gaddy '82

Treasurer:

Yvonne Causbey '77

Secretary:

Lois Attles-Wyatt

Committee Chairs:

Membership:

Sheldon Bross '55
Adilah Thomas Quddus '71

Events:

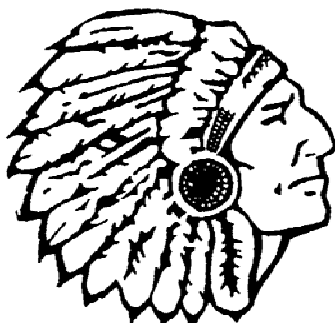
Faith Howard '82

Newsletter & Tutoring / Mentoring:

Phil Yourish '64

Committee Members

Rita Adams '73
Edna Bailey, (WHS Principal)
Marshall Cooper '69
Nona Davis '77
Joseph Foushee
Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert '60
Gerry Greenspan '59
Eugene Lawson '70
Myra Lawson '70
David Lieberfarb '65
Aileen Marcus '68
Charles Meadows, (Ex-Principal)
Denise Muhammad '72
Vanessa Pressley-Napier '76
Kevin Scindian '98
Charles Talley '66
Sam Weinstock '55
Lorraine White '64



THE SWEET LEGACY OF WEEQUAHIC

*It was not from our differences, but from the
traditions that we have in common, that gave birth to the
Weequahic High School Alumni Association in 1997*

Editorial by Hal Braff, Class of 1952

In his fascinating reflection on Newark in the first half of the 20th century, William B. Helmreich in his book The Enduring Community reminds us that: "*Weequahic's primary claim to fame, and justifiably so, was its student body and its faculty. It achieved a reputation as one of the best high schools in the country...*"

Our school - our neighborhood! No matter where we now live or what we've accomplished, we are, all of us, Newarkers - products of that special place and time.

Weequahic High School, age 67, is still the grand *Wigwam on the Hill*, stately and aging remarkably well, although an eyewitness to the dramatic shift in cultures and economics that has taken place over the years.

For the first half of its life, it housed an overwhelmingly Jewish student body. Today the same seats in the auditorium, the same apartments and houses we lived in, and the same streets where we played are now occupied by African-Americans.

It was not from our differences, but from the traditions that we have in common, that gave birth to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association in 1997 - a unique opportunity to bring people together - people who seemed so far apart yet who have shared something significant and precious: their lives were shaped in their Weequahic years.

Our motivation was to tap into both the vast energy which brings so many of us back to reunions and the warm nostalgic pleasure we feel whenever we see, anywhere, orange and brown things together.

Our goals are profound:

- To recapture the spirit and memories of Weequahic High School that were so meaningful to many of us.
- To transcend the generational and cultural differences spanning seven decades from 1932 to the present by bringing together our graduates, teachers, administrators and friends for reunions and special events.
- To remember and honor those Weequahic High School graduates and staff who have made important contributions to the school and our larger community.
- To utilize the resources of our alumni to support the current students at Weequahic High School through scholarships, tutoring, mentoring, job opportunities and cultural events.

With the Alumni Association we re-form and join with those who followed us through the halls of Weequahic to preserve our history, to build new friendships and to rebuild the trust so essential to a healthy society.

With you added to our membership list we can provide educational grants to some wonderful young men and women who lack only financial aid to be able to attend college.

In 1998 the Alumni Association presented four scholarships at the June graduation. We made a difference in those four lives.

We urge you to join with us. You have very little to lose and, I assure you, we all have a great deal to gain.

*Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar
All those for Weequahic
Stand up and holler*

WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI CALUMET STAFF

Editor

Phil Yourish '64

Contributors

Rita Adams '73

Hal Braff '52

Sheldon Bross '55

Les Fein

Lois Gilbert '60

Faith Howard '82

Dave Lieberfarb '65

Sherry Ortner '58

Adilah Quddus '71

Jacob Toporek '63

Star-Ledger Photos

WE'RE ON OUR WAY
TO MEET THE FOE
THIS IS THE DAY
FOR US TO GO
AND WITH OUR
BANNERS FLYING
OH, SO HIGH
AND WITH SPIRITS
SOARING TO THE SKY
NOW HEAR OUR
ROUSING CRY
RAH, RAH, RAH
WHEN WE COME BACK
YOU'RE SURE TO SEE
THAT WE HAVE WON
OUR VICTORY
CHEERS RING
WE BRING
MORE HONOR
TO WEEQUAHIC HIGH

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 1998 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



☆ **MAURICE CRAWFORD**
NJ Institute of Technology

☆ **JORDAN KPELI**
Ramapo College

☆ **KEVIN SCINDIAN**
Essex County College

☆ **VICTOR SEBRES**
Seton Hall University

*Let no one put a
limit on what you can
achieve or a label on who
you are. You all possess
immeasurable talent and
unlimited potential.*

*The words of Johnny Turner
from his valedictorian speech at
the 1998 graduation. He is
currently a student at the NJ
Institute of Technology and a
volunteer reading tutor with the
Newark America READS
Partnership.*

A CHRONOLOGY OF WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1997

- ⊙ 1st Alumni Affair at The Newark Public Library
- ⊙ Alumni Basketball Game
- ⊙ Honored Al Attles, former Weequahic All-State basketball player and current Vice President of the Golden State Warriors NBA basketball team.
- ⊙ Homecoming Dinner and Dance

MAY 1998

- ⊙ Weequahic & South Side (Shabazz) Alumni Basketball Game

JUNE 1998

- ⊙ Alumni scholarships at graduation ceremony

OCTOBER 1998

- ⊙ 2nd Alumni Affair at the Newark Museum
- ⊙ Weequahic & West Essex Homecoming Football Game
- ⊙ Tour of Weequahic High School
- ⊙ Honored Les Fein, Former Weequahic Basketball Coach and Teacher

FEBRUARY 1999

- ⊙ At WHS - Rabbi Israel Dresner: *Marching With Dr. King*
- ⊙ At WHS - Jayson Williams, NJ Nets Basketball Player

MARCH 1999

- ⊙ At WHS - Teresa Weatherspoon, NY Liberty Basketball Player



At left: Weequahic Alumni Association Committee at the Newark Museum: Sheldon Bross, Adilah Quddus, Yvonne Causbey, Kim Gaddy, Hal Braff, Faith Howard, Kevin Scindian, Phil Yourish, Lorraine White, Sam Weinstock, and Marshall Cooper.

Alumni Association Debuts at The Newark Public Library

By Faith Howard
Class of 1982

As the Chairperson of the Events Committee, I helped to organize the first Weequahic High School Alumni Association affair at The Newark Public Library in October of 1997. When you're planning a special event, you "hope" and "pray" that's it's going to be successful, especially when you put in a tremendous amount of effort in contacting people, sending out mail, putting up posters, and getting articles in the newspaper. But there is no way to guarantee results.

As we moved closer to the date of the event, the questions became more vexing. Would our alumni respond? Would they come to downtown Newark at night? Would the concept of an alumni association interest enough people? Would the memories, bonds, and friendships from the past be enough? Would curiosity capture their imagination? Would the Weequahic mystique magically draw people into

the Library's majestic atrium? Who could know what to expect? Why would people come? With all of our enthusiasm and sanguinity, we just didn't know.

The scene at the Library on Friday evening was hard to believe. The anxiety of many months disappeared almost immediately. The doubts just melted away. Gushing optimism replaced all of the uncertainty.

THEY CAME! More than we could have anticipated. The numbers surpassed all of our expectations. Too many people to count. So many people that it was difficult to get around. Elbows touching elbows. Faces with perpetual smiles. Hands hurting from all of the shaking. Voices parroting similar sentiments. Laughter heard everywhere. Alumni catching up on old times with conversations beginning with "Do you remember" echoing throughout the large assemblage.

Weequahic alumni from the 30's to the 90's. Oldtimers and newcomers, from New Jersey and beyond. Generations transcended - a gathering of different cultures, dreams, and life stories. Friends, acquaintances, and strangers with a common affection for their very

special high school. It was a spectacular evening of togetherness, pride and love. We were all classmates once again, brothers and sisters united in the folklore of Weequahic.

In a spare moment, standing in the atrium, I gazed at the stained glass dome above. It was just celestial. Below the dome, the balconies were overflowing with alumni enjoying each others' company. And I thought - The Newark Public Library - what a beautiful building to host our first alumni reception.

How nice it was to see some special people like Ben Epstein, Les Fein, Elizabeth Birnbaum, Al Attles, and Swede Mason.

Why did 400 alumni come? Probably, for many different reasons. Will they return again? We sure hope so, but who knows? However, for just a few hours on a Friday night in September, the spirit of Orange and Brown returned and stirred emotions in many of us that had been packed away too many years ago.

*We now know that the legacy of
Weequahic continues.*



Alumni committee members Faith Howard, Sheldon Bross, Adilah Quddus, Kim Gaddy (Co-President) and Keith Reid look at an old Weequahic yearbook in front of the high school.



Dr. Benjamin Epstein, former Principal of Weequahic and former Newark Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools, speaking at the October 1998 alumni affair at the Newark Museum.

Coach Fein's Memories Of Weequahic

Hardly a day goes by that some thought or reference to Weequahic doesn't come to mind... You just can't know where or when Weequahic will find its way back into your life.



Charles Talley and Les Fein with Mo Layton in the background.

I don't know how it happened that a kid from Brooklyn found himself as a teacher, basketball coach, and chairman of the Physical Education Department at Weequahic High in Newark, New Jersey; but it did happen and I was the kid, and I consider myself very lucky to have found my way to Weequahic.

Out of my twenty-six years of teaching my last twelve years were at Weequahic. They were the most fulfilling and happy years for me. Hardly a day goes by that some thought or reference to Weequahic doesn't come to mind. It could be a phone call or a letter, or meeting some former student, or bumping into someone who heard about Weequahic, or some basketball fan who followed our team. You just can't know where or when Weequahic will find its way back into your life.

I'm very fortunate that so many former students and players have the interest to find the time to contact me. That is always a wonderful moment in time for it brings back happy memories, and I am able to enjoy the nostalgia, well-being and success of the many young men and women who

have fared well and in a sense have become friends. I love that feeling.

The question has occasionally risen - what was it that made Weequahic High School so special? For me the answer is easy, and I think those who know Weequahic would agree. First, it was the student body made up of mostly enthusiastic, eager to learn, ambitious, intelligent and happy youth with spirit and a zest for life. Their vibrance and pace in and around school was so apparent and so wonderful.

Secondly, it was the incredibly talented faculty with strong backgrounds, experience and motivation. The faculty was liberally sprinkled with strong intellects, and men and women who took education as a means to developing and helping young people prepare for their future. The faculty was serious, professional, caring and wise. The interplay was magic!

The final piece that made Weequahic so special was the community. The streets, the houses, the neighborhoods, and the people made up a sort of village with a small town atmosphere. The ambition and desire that you found in the community was clearly demonstrated by the students. Their camaraderie and warmth enveloped us all. Yes, Weequahic was very, very special. Don't you agree?

I still believe that I'd feel just as I do now even if my years at Weequahic did not have the success in basketball between 1955 to 1967. However, it is hard to simply put aside the remarkable record that the students and the basketball teams recorded in the twelve years that I was there. Lots of thrills and excitement was the order of the day.

The students earned numerous academic honors each year.

Weequahic ranked very high in the country for achieving scholarships and awards in science, math, language and English. The sound and sight of the marching band, the dynamic antics of the cheerleaders, and the loyal student body built a sense of pride and a reputation of excellence that carried far and wide, and is remembered to this day. Yes, Weequahic was special.

Now forty-four years from the year that I started, my memories and more importantly the communication and contact that I still enjoy with Weequahic alumni make it all as if it were only yesterday. That is wonderful. It is my pleasure to let you the Weequahic alumni and your families and friends know what a former teacher and basketball coach thinks of the school that you were so fortunate to have been a part of.

To all the students between 1955 and 1967, I thank you for making my twelve years so memorable. I do hope your years were memorable, too, and that they came back to you - often with joy.

The goal of the Weequahic Alumni Association calls appropriately for your input and cooperation. It is to help Weequahic High School, its student body, its faculty and community regain the former glory that is the legacy of Weequahic High School. Rise up to support that goal. Join your alumni association. Get back that remarkable spirit that was. I intend to do all I can to help.

I wish you all good health, success, happiness and peace.

Les Fein's 1966-67 team with a 26-0 record was rated No. 1 in the nation. In 12 years of coaching at WHS, his achievements were as follows: 3 state group 4 titles (1962, 1966, 1967), 7 state sectional titles (1958, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1967) and 8 Newark City League titles (1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1962, 1963, 1966, 1967). Overall, he had a 210-69 record and a .753 winning percentage.

How About A 'Dog' At SYD'S

Recently, the NJ Online Munchmobile went searching for the best hot dog in the state. They visited *"12 of the most famous hot dog joints in Jersey"* and rated Syd's the best. Yes, it's the same Syd's from Chancellor Avenue in Newark - **the hot dogs we grew up with.**

The following is an excerpt from an article by Star-Ledger reporter Mark Di Ionno:

Next stop was Syd's in Millburn Mall on Vauxhall Road in Union. Proprietors Robert and Beth Grossman are the seventh owners. When they bought the place in 1996, they also purchased a 56-year-old legacy.

"When we took over, I had people coming up to me saying, 'Don't change a thing'...There are some little things I'd like to change, but my customers wouldn't stand for it," Robert Grossman says.

Grossman should know. He was once one of the customers. "I grew up in Maplewood and I came here all the time," he says. "I love the food."

Syd's began as a small restaurant on Chancellor Avenue in the Weequahic section of Newark. Through all the changes and a move to the current location in 1967, Syd's is still important to the old order from Weequahic. A notice for a Weequahic High reunion (classes of '63 & '64) hangs in Syd's entrance, and Grossman is planning to decorate the store with old photos from Syd's.

The hot dog Grossman uses is a giant, kosher-style, Best's brand 5-count (five to a pound). "Those hot dogs are of the utmost importance to me," he said, "I buy top-quality hot dogs, and that's never going to change."



(Note: Dr. David Grossman and Marilyn Rosansky, parents of current owner Robert Grossman, were Weequahic graduates.)

WALKING THE HALLS OF WEEQUAHIC ONCE AGAIN

By Adilah Quddus
Class of 1971



On a beautiful clear and brisk day in October, the Weequahic High School Alumni Association sponsored the Homecoming football game with West Essex High School at Untermann Field and a memorable alumni tour of the old high school on the hill. Although we didn't win (an ongoing tradition), we scored the first touchdown and the game brought back familiar memories from the past.

It was a meaningful day for those who attended the game and toured the school. The tour was organized by Lorraine White (class of 1964) who is a counselor at the school. She recruited and trained a group of current students to serve as guides for the alumni as they walked once again through the hallowed halls of Weequahic.

As we entered the high school, most of us were overwhelmed with warm feelings of excitement rushing through our blood. There were screams, laughter, and tears. In each room everybody would sit, talk and reminisce. How often did we open our conversations with "Do you remember?"

We visited the places where math, English, history, science and foreign languages now take place and also the specialty areas - computers, art, music, sewing, shop, cooking, and physical education. We also met some of the current staff who came in on their own time to open their classrooms to the alumni.

Imagine our surprise when we realized that the school was basically as we remembered. The office still looks the same with the old switchboard and bells, but we recalled it as the "punishment place," knowing that trouble was lurking if a teacher said "go to the office."

The wooden floors, desks and radiators have been kept in immaculate condition. The fall-out shelter areas haven't changed. The auditorium has the same fold down wooden seats as well as the waxed wooden floors. During the tour, some of the alumni even went on stage and acted out scenes from their past.

The murals on the walls looked amazingly beautiful after all these years. In the cafeteria which is located in the new addition, alumni had the opportunity to browse through old yearbooks from 1935 to 1997. At the front entrance of the building, the trophy cases were full of memorabilia and evidence of our athletic achievements during the years.

Yes, many wonderful feelings were generated by walking the halls, finding old classrooms, searching for our lockers, sitting in the bleachers - stepping back into time and reliving the moments that impacted our young lives. The very successful tour ended with lots of hugs, exchanged phone numbers, and pleasant recollections about a special place called Weequahic.



Class of 1947 Reunion - Judge Burton J. Ironson, Janet Goldstein Chernus, and David Block



Class of 1945 Reunion - Dr. David Weingast, former Weequahic Principal, his wife Beatrice, Phyllis Krupnick and Renee Eisenberg.



Class of 1938 Reunion - Edith Hirschcoff Glick and Bernard Scharf at their 60th class reunion.



Planning the 40th reunion for the Class of 1960 are Marcia (Shindelmann) Trechak, Ronald Rosen, Lois (Blumenfeld) Gilbert, Gary Kaplan, Olivia (Currin) Howard, and Harold Klein.

Interviewing The Class of 1958

The main reason we enjoy attending reunions and participating in assorted alumni activities is the pleasure in seeing once-familiar faces and catching up on old times. For anthropologist Sherry B. Ortner, a member of the Class of 1958, interviewing classmates and their families is a labor

members of my class and some of their grown children," Ortner informed the Weequahic Alumni Association.

'social class' is a factor in this society, even though Americans don't like

lives since Weequahic. In the case of their kids, I asked about their lives had changed since their parents' generation.

funds to do everyone, and I hope no one feels slighted.

moved my family around the country twice, ... which was hell.

"The second was that I had to finish my final book on the Sherpa people of Nepal before I could start this one. The Sherpa book (Life and Death on Mt. Everest: Sherpas and Himalayan Mountaineering) is finished and

works."

And we're all looking forward to seeing it.

1968 REUNION

On October 10, 1998, the class of 1968 celebrated its 30th class reunion at the Woodbridge Hilton in Woodbridge, NJ. The alumni came from as far

Also present at the reunion were seven members of the 1967 City

Davis, William Jacobowitz, and Dewey Ferguson. The alumni also attended the Weequahic Homecoming football game at Untermann Field and toured the high school.

The class of 1968 is already planning to celebrate its 35th year reunion in 2003. For more information, call (732) 752-0421.

1938

60th Reunion

celebration was at the L'Affaire restaurant in Mountainside. 148 (20 from Florida) of the 600 graduates attended.

1947

50th Reunion

took place at Mayfair Farms in West Orange on May 4, 1997.

1949

50th Reunion

to be held in Livingston on October 3, 1999 at the Cedar Hill Country Club. Contact Seymour at (973) 994-0255

1959

40th Reunion

is scheduled for Oct. 17 at the Hamilton Park Conference Center in Florham Park. Contact Lil Freidman Weinstein at (732) 542-8856

1960

40th Reunion

is being organized for next year. Contact Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert at (732) 462-4808

1969

30th Reunion

is now being organized. Call (973) 313-9513

1980

20th Reunion

planning has begun for an affair next year. Contact Michelle Meachum at (973) 313-0294 or Carolyn Dilliard at Home: (973) 374-0226 / Work: (732) 819-7272,

THE MAKING OF A REUNION: THE CLASS OF 1963

By Jacob Toporek, Reunion Committee Chairperson

"Hi, is your name **Wilmette Brown**?" "Yes."

"I'm **Jac Toporek**. We graduated from Weequahic High School, class of 1963." "I remember you. It's been 35 years. Your brother's name is **Norbert**, right?"

A chance meeting proved an act of fate, the motivational force for the WHS class of 1963's 35-year reunion. It had been 15 years since the 20th gathering of these alumni. The idea of reuniting once again was a thoughtful flirtation for me. The unexpected meeting with Wilmette, a London, England resident for the last 20 years who was in New Jersey for a short period of time to assist her mother, turned reunion daydreams into positive action.

Within a short period of time, phone calls were made to classmates, promises of assistance were secured, and the initial steps were taken to make the reunion a reality.

The fifteen member Reunion Committee included **Allan Brief, Eileen Foner Stoller, Beverly Lauer Scharago, Clark Lissner, Susan Manchyk Friedman, Steven Novom, Marvin Schaab, Sanford Scheps, Jeff Schulman, Calvin Schwartz, Richard Shaller, Jay Silverstein, Marc Tarabour, Norbert & Jacob Toporek, and Judy Wilson Schwartz.**

From the outset, the chemistry of the Committee was a perfect blend of orange and brown in the form of cooperation, commitment and friendship.

Meeting for the first time in early 1997, the Committee determined to include the January classes of 1963 and 1964. Along the way, Reunions International was contracted as the party planner. The date and location of the reunion were set for October 10, 1998 at the Hyatt Hotel in New Brunswick. All that remained was to find those dispersed fellow graduates.

Using word of mouth, direct contact with those who remained in touch with high school chums, recollections of other chance sightings, addresses and phone numbers used for the 10th and 20th reunions - the list of found classmates started to grow. Internet directories provided a treasure of information. On the day invitations were mailed, more than 450 graduates of the three classes were located.

As October 10th neared, enthusiasm increased. Periodic e-mail updates, notices and anecdotes about alumni kept interest high. Tying the reunion to scheduled WHS Alumni Association homecoming activities, including a reception at the Newark Museum on Friday evening and the Weequahic and West Essex football game at Untermann Field on Saturday afternoon, promised to make the weekend full and eventful. A Sunday morning brunch at the Hyatt added to the festivities.

One hundred eighty-five graduates and their spouses responded to the nostalgic

beating of the reunion tom-toms. A wonderful evening for hugging an old friend, catching up on personal histories, and reinforcing that truism: *the best friends one makes are those made while growing up.*

As **Sandy Scheps** noted in his welcoming remarks, *Who says you can't go home?* For one night we were all teenagers again and walked the halls of WHS.

Some alumni quips were as follows:

Phyllis Moskovitz Frakt - *Nice ride on the time machine.*

Judi Moss Rabinowitz - *What a wonderful memory. I will carry it with me forever.*

Beth Susin Meltzer - *The reunion was special and magical...we lived the wonder years...our class was superb.*

Ken Frieder - *It was great that for at least one weekend, I was 'Kenny' again.*

Sandy Greenberg - *Congratulations to the entire committee for organizing a spectacular reunion! Seeing the old crowd (mostly for the first time in 35 years) was fun; I look forward to renewing long-ago friendships.*

Calvin Schwartz - *Tender was our night...yes tender, loving and passionate.*

Jack Dorn - *In the 35 years I never thought to evaluate how much my four years at Weequahic meant, but the feelings I experienced when seeing people I haven't touched base with in so long made me realize what a wonderful time it was.*

From Newark To The NBA

Weequahic's Al Attles

Has A Great Career



*Former Weequahic basketball coach
Dave Klurman, Herbie Siegel, and Al Attles*

Only Boston's Red Auerbach and Philadelphia's Harvey Pollack have been with their respective franchises longer than Al Attles has been a member of the Golden State Warriors basketball organization. Now entering his 38th season, the revered Attles has been the vice president and assistant general manager since 1987.

Although many still remember him for his tenacious play on the court and his tremendous success as a coach, Attles has become a key advisor to the basketball operations office and a highly sought-after motivational speaker. In addition, he serves as an integral link between the Warriors and the community as a frequent guest speaker at charity and neighborhood oriented events. The only thing deeper than Attles' commitment is his trademark baritone voice.

Because of his continuing work in the community and his tremendous past success on the court and on the sidelines, Attles last year received the great distinction of being inducted into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.

Attles joined the Philadelphia Warriors in 1960 as a fifth round draft pick out of North Carolina A&T. For 11 seasons his hard-nosed style earned him the respect of players throughout the league and the nickname of "Destroyer."

In 712 regular season games, Attles averaged 8.9 points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists, but he made it into the NBA record books by being a part of basketball's most outstanding performance in a single NBA game. On March 2, 1962 in a game against the New York Knicks, Attles teamed with Wilt Chamberlain to score 117 points. Attles had 17 of them. On

February 10, 1977, Attles became one of only four Warriors players to have his number (16) retired.

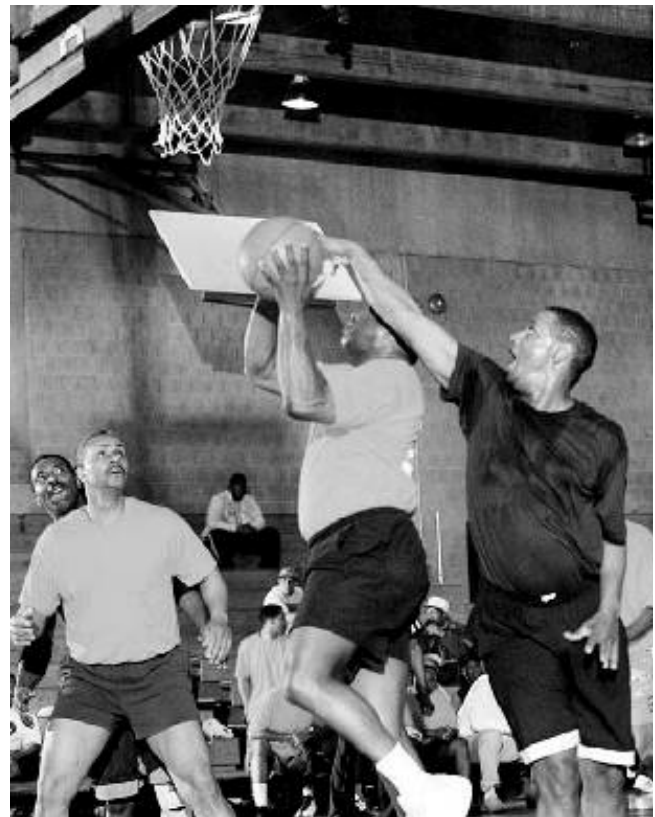
Attles spent two years as a player coach before moving

of coaching, Attles compiled a 555-516 (.518) record making him the 13th winningest coach in NBA history. In 1975 Attles guided the Warriors to a 48-34 record and their only NBA Championship, a sweep of the Washington Bullets.

The following season the Warriors finished with a franchise best 59-23 record, but lost in the Western Conference finals in seven games to the Phoenix Suns. Attles coached the Western Conference All-Star team both years.

A native of Newark, Attles was a four-sport athlete in football, baseball, track and basketball at Weequahic High School. He was voted into the New Jersey Sportswriter's Hall of Fame in 1991. Attles earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and history at North Carolina A&T, then added a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of San Francisco in 1983. He currently co-teaches a sports law class at Stanford University.

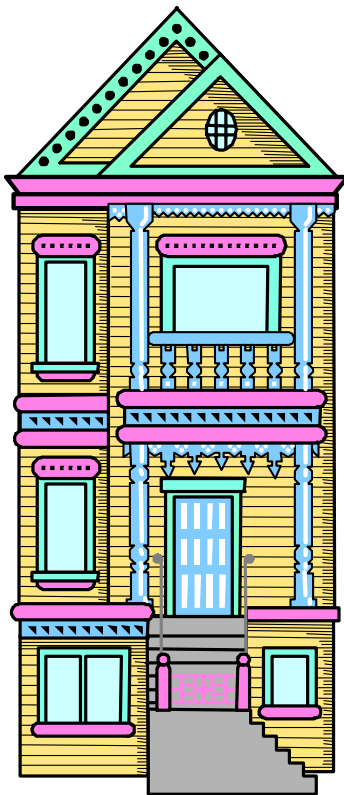
Al Attles and his wife Wilhemina have two adult children, Alvin III and Erica, and live in Oakland.



*Wilbur Ross and Lou Grimsley shooting hoops
at Weequahic-South Side (Shabazz)
Alumni Basketball Game*

That House On Custer Avenue

By Rita Adams



discussion caught my attention and I decided to join the conversation.

The woman then informed me that she had graduated in 1959. My curiosity was getting the better of me, so I asked her where she lived. She told me on Custer Avenue. This revelation piqued my interest even more. You see I lived on Custer Avenue, too.

The next series of questions and answers proved to be uncanny. I lived at 119 Custer Avenue. So did she. I lived on the third floor - and so did she. With a look of surprise and delight on both our faces, we realized that we lived in the same apartment ten years apart. She then gave me a detailed description of the house. What a wonderful coincidence. For a few moments, we just grinned at each other.

With feelings of kinship, we shared some more information about ourselves. Then this Jewish woman of the late 50's and this African-American woman of the late 60's gave each other a giant hug - and she said, "Well, this means we are sisters."

It was October 21, 1998 at the Newark Museum, an evening that I remember so well. But it wasn't the Weequahic Alumni Association's 2nd Annual Alumni Affair that made this night so significant.

I was working at the registration desk, trying to convince alumni from so many different years to become members of our new alumni association. I didn't know it then, but within a few minutes I would take a step back in time and be a part of one amazing story.

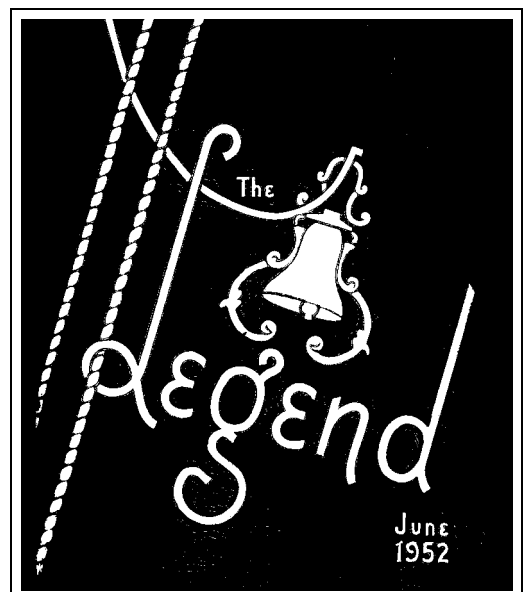
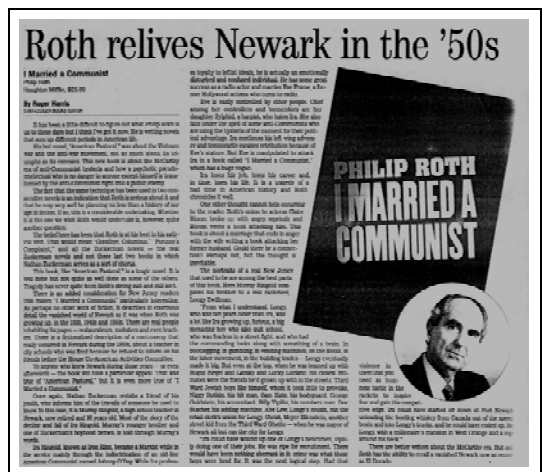
All of a sudden, I heard a woman nearby telling her friend that she had met the Principal of Peshine Avenue School at Bloomingdales. The woman had attended Peshine as a child. Since I was also a Peshine graduate in 1969, this

It was the strangest feeling I have ever encountered, but a beautiful one. When I arrived home that night, I realized that in all of the excitement, we forgot to exchange names and telephone numbers.

I wonder who lives at 119 Custer Avenue today. Did he or she graduate from Weequahic? Will I meet them at another reunion some day? Will there be another chapter to this unusual story? Stay tuned.



Robert Lowenstein (former Weequahic teacher), Philip Roth (award winning author and 1950 Weequahic graduate), Charles Cummings (library and City of Newark historian), and Phil Yourish (director of the Newark Literacy Campaign) view the Paul Robeson exhibit at The Newark Public Library.



MEMORIES OF FACULTY:

Julius Bernstein
Bessie Bingham
Elizabeth Birnbaum
Maxine Boatwright
Morris Brenman
Charles Brodsky
Joseph Bruder
Marshana Chapman
Simon Chasen
Arthur Coles
Michael Conovitz
Saunders Davis
Walter Eisenberg
Isaac Ellis
Benjamin Epstein
Les Fein
Janice Findley
Martin Greene
Leonard Gross
Max Herzberg
Raeburn Higgins
Devator Hooks
Bruce Jacobs
David Janowitz
Reada Jellinek
Marion Jennings
Milton Kapstadder
Dorothy Keith
Dave Klurman
Edward Kobetz
Janice Lanier
Jeanette Lappe
Hannah Litsky
Robert Lowenstein
George Martino
Al Mattia
Edwin McLucas
Leon Mones
Sharon Northcutt
Marie O'Conner
Sol Ostrin
Leo Pearl
Max Pollack
Sidney Rosenfeld
Vernon Ross
Sadie Rous
Alice Saltman
Charles Schneider
Meyer Spike Schwartz
Morton Seltzer
Nyoka Stackhouse
Dave Stamelman
Lou Stamelman
Helen Stevenson
Charles Stewart
Peter Trunk
Edward Tumin
Esther Tumin
Jennie Twardus
David Weingast
Seymour Weiss
Lorraine White
Annie Williams

TUTOR OR MENTOR A WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

By Phil Yourish
Class of 1964



When most of us think about alumni associations, we think of reunions, homecomings, and special events. But sometimes an alumni group has a larger purpose. For the coming year, one of our objectives is to begin a tutoring and mentoring project for current Weequahic High School students - and we're hoping that the tutors and mentors will be Weequahic alumni.

According to Weequahic Principal Edna Bailey, a large number of students need to strengthen their academic skills and/or are in need of more counseling. Although Newark is experiencing its "renaissance," it is still a city challenged by a troubled school system now

under state control. And it is challenged by too many adults and children who don't have adequate basic reading and writing skills.

A 1998 report from the National Institute for Literacy estimated that 52 percent of the adult population in Newark is at the lowest level of literacy. According to the 1997 edition of Newark Kids Count, almost 40% of the 11th grade students didn't pass the reading section of the State High School Proficiency Test.

*A 1998 report
from the National
Institute For
Literacy estimated
that 52 percent
of the adult
population in
Newark is at the
lowest level of
literacy.*

Unfortunately, the problem of literacy is widespread throughout the city, but at Weequahic we have an opportunity to do something about it. By developing a tutoring and mentoring project to supplement classroom instruction, students will have a better chance to improve their skills, attitude towards school, self-esteem, grades, test scores, and overall school performance.

As the Executive Director of the Newark Literacy Campaign (NLC) and a 1964 Weequahic graduate, I will be coordinating this project for the Weequahic High School Alumni Association. We will utilize the resources of my organization in setting up a literacy site at Weequahic - and we have a lot of experience in doing this.

For more than 14 years, NLC has addressed the problem of low literacy by providing one-to-one and small group reading tutorials and other literacy services to children and adults in the greater Newark area using trained volunteer tutors.

In order for the tutoring and mentoring project to be successful, we need lots of VOLUNTEERS to participate for a minimum of two hours every week at the high school on Tuesday and/or Thursday evenings. The Newark Literacy Campaign will provide training and technical assistance. The students will be identified by the Weequahic staff.

I can't think of a better way to give something back to a community that played such an important role in our lives during our youth. Become a volunteer tutor and mentor NOW! To sign up or get additional information, please call me at (973) 623-4001 or send me an e-mail message at philyour@aol.com.

ORANGE and BROWN ASSOCIATION

MEMORIES OF PLACES PAST

B'nai Abraham
B'nai Jeshurun
Ballantine Brewery
Bambergers
Bergen Bake Shop
Beth Israel Hospital
Bradley Beach
Bragaw Avenue School
Bragman's Deli
Branch Brook Park
Bunny Hop
Chancellor Avenue School
Clinton Place Junior High
Clinton Manor
Cohen's Knishes
Essex House
Good Humor
GW Carver School
Hahnes
HarJays
Hawthorne Avenue School
Hawthorne Theater
Henry's Sweet Shoppe
Hillside High School
Howard Savings Bank
Kartzman's Deli
Keils Bakery
Kresges
Laurel Gardens
Lyons Lanes
Maple Avenue School
Millmans
Mings Chinese Restaurant
Mosque Theater
Mt. Freedom
Newark Bears
Newark Eagles
Newark Museum
Newark Evening News
Newark City Subway
Newark YM-YWHA
Olympic Park
Orbachs
Park Theater
Peshine Avenue School
Peterman's Deli
Roosevelt Theater
Rubin's Pharmacy
S. Kleins on the Square
Sabin's
Silver's Bakery
South Ward Boys Club
Stash's
Syd's
Tabatchnick's Deli
Talmud Torah
Tavern Restaurant
Untermann Field
Watson's Bagels
Weequahic Diner
Weequahic Branch Library
Weequahic Park
Young Israel

Excerpts From

THE JEWS OF NEWARK AND METROWEST **The Enduring Community** William B. Helmreich

To look at the lives of the Jews of Newark and the surrounding communities is to take a trip through American Jewish history. Their dreams, hopes, aspirations, and the lives they led typify the experiences of Jews in cities throughout the country. In the same way that every human being is unique by definition, there were aspects to the community that were special, but when all is said and done, the similarities to Jews elsewhere outweigh the distinctions. For this reason, students of American Jewish life in general can benefit from an understanding of Newark Jewry's history.

Naturally, to those who lived out their lives in this community, it is special, very special. When they reminisce about their lives, they think in specific terms. They recall walking through parks, attending community schools, praying in their neighborhood synagogues, eating in certain restaurants, and frequenting different movie houses and theaters. And most of all,

they see their lives in terms of friends, relatives, and even acquaintances, those who were with them when they did all of these things.

In the end, however, Newark's Jewish community was unable to survive, and in this sense it resembled the urban patterns of cities across America. The trek to the suburbs and the desire for a house with a little bit of green in front of it overcame the strongest bonds of communal life. As the tax base eroded, services deteriorated, accelerating the movement outward. By 1967, the year Newark's riots occurred, the Jewish community was already largely gone.

Gone but far from dead, Newark remained alive in the minds of those who had spent their youth there. A substantial number of former Newarkers stayed in the same general area, joining other Jews to build new communities. They settled in places like West Orange, South Orange, Maplewood, and Livingston, towns in Essex County.

Newark's Jewish community, and Weequahic in particular, was one extended family. Everyone knew one another. Thus, when its residents moved to the suburbs, they lost something irretrievable.

The homes were private, the synagogues further away, the stores not within walking distance. True, some communities forged new identities, but they were smaller in size and did not have nearly as many synagogues, Hebrew schools, and shops. As a result, the rhythm of life changed forever and the connections were lost.

Whatever success Jews achieved in fields such as law, medicine, architecture, education, the arts, and even business, they owed in large part, to their education. Learning was clearly an avenue to success in America, and Jews, by virtue of their age-old emphasis on this area, were well equipped to take advantage of the opportunities offered by their new homeland.

Weequahic's primary claim to fame, and justifiably so, was its student body and its faculty. It achieved a reputation as one of the best high schools in the country....The faculty at Weequahic High was outstanding by all accounts. The staff had terrific raw material to work with. In its halcyon days, Weequahic students were among the best in the land. To speak about Newark without taking note of Weequahic is impossible, for it represents much of what Newark Jews loved about their city.

MARCHING WITH DR. KING

By Dave Lieberfarb
Class of 1965



**An Alumni Association
Black History Month Event
at Weequahic High School**

How many people alive today can say they actually met Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

How many can say they met him in a Georgia jail? How many can say they were about 10 yards away from Dr. King when he delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech?

Rabbi Israel Dresner can, and did. A guest of the Weequahic Alumni Association, Rabbi Dresner addressed a pair of U.S. History classes on February 10th in the school's new media center.

Retired after many years leading synagogues in Springfield and Wayne, the rabbi was an activist in the civil rights movement in the 60's. "That's how I spent my summer vacations," he quipped.

Rabbi Dresner gave the students a quick history lesson that put into perspective some of the freedoms we take for granted today. He reminded them that U.S. history is marked by 250 years of slavery that ended in 1865 followed by a century of legal segregation; that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded on February 12, 1909, the centennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln; that before World War II about 80 percent of African-Americans lived south of the Mason-Dixon Line (the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland), and that waves of northward migration since the war have changed that demographic ratio to about 50-50.

It was the years of segregation in the Jim Crow South that Rabbi Dresner and many other Christian and Jewish northern clergymen sought to end. "I met him in a jail in Albany, Georgia., said the rabbi. "That's about as Deep South as you can get.

Three black churches had been burned in the area, he explained, and when "the law didn't ride roughshod over the

rights of "coloreds," the Ku Klux Klan did. "All the tactics developed by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference began in 1962 in Albany." Although Rabbi Dresner towered over the diminutive Dr. King, the northerner was inspired to "follow him around like a pussycat." "Dr. King embodied all the ideals that the Bible at its best tries to teach," the rabbi said.

Dr. King asked the rabbi to return to the North and recruit more clergymen for the civil rights movement, and so he did, returning with a flock of some 75 ministers and 10 rabbis. Many, including Rabbi Dresner, were arrested. Turning the tables on their first meeting, "he came and visited me in jail," said Rabbi Dresner.

Dr. King visited Rabbi Dresner's Springfield synagogue in 1966. He preached the power of non-violence. Quoting India's Mahatma Gandhi, he said "the pen is mightier than the sword."

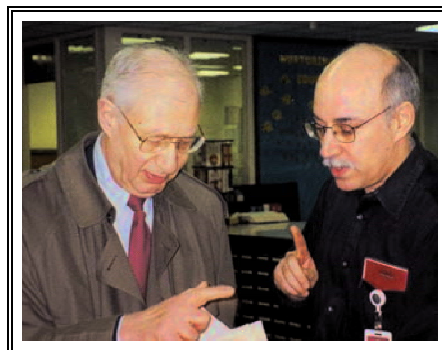
Weequahic's English Department Chairwoman, Princess Towe, informed the students that shortly before his assassination Dr. King paid a visit to Newark. What turned out to be his last appearance at a school was at South Side High School (now Malcolm X. Shabazz High School).



Rabbi Israel Dresner

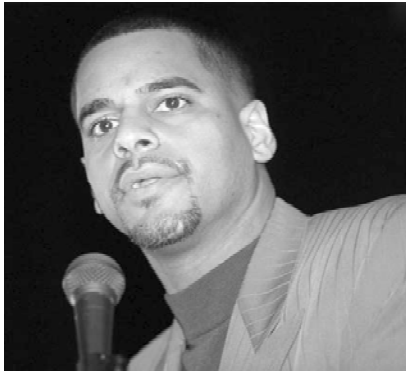


*Rabbi Dresner with Adilah Quddus,
Alumni Association Committee Member*



*Rabbi Dresner and Weequahic
alumnus and former history
teacher Dave Lieberfarb*

NETS' JAYSON WILLIAMS CHALLENGES WEEQUAHIC STUDENTS



An Alumni Association Black History Month Event at Weequahic High School

By Dave Lieberfarb
Class of 1965

Jayson Williams of the New Jersey Nets basketball team may be the NBA's most "voluble" player, but he puts his money where his mouth is.

Less than 12 hours after the conclusion of the Nets' February 16th victory over the Detroit Pistons, Williams appeared in the auditorium of Weequahic High School to deliver a motivational speech.

The 6-10 all-star center drew a standing ovation from the all-male assembly when he promised new uniforms for the Weequahic basketball team, Nets game tickets for all in attendance, and \$5,000 for a year-end party if the students demonstrate a good attitude and improved attendance.

The students also responded strongly when Williams asserted that the Nets would be moving to Newark someday and when he stated, "I want to run for Mayor of Newark when I retire."

One of basketball's best rebounders, Williams told the group about how he bounced back from a traumatic childhood on Manhattan's Lower East Side. When he was 14, his beloved sister was savagely attacked by a drug addict. The assailant netted \$2.00, but Williams' sister was permanently disfigured. Her self-esteem ruined, she began taking heroin and soon contracted AIDS.

Another sister, trying to help out, instead got dragged into the drug culture and also came down with AIDS. Both

sisters were among the first victims of the AIDS epidemic, and Williams, just a college student at St. John's, became responsible for their children.

Now he's earning some \$14 million a year as a basketball player, and he and family members own a construction company that is building homes right here in Newark.

Admitting that it's ridiculous to be earning so much money for playing a game he loves, Williams said, "I'm not gonna give it back, but I am gonna give it out."

Weequahic students will be grateful.

According to Vice Principal Bruce Bengivenni, "when Jason told us about the tickets to the game, the kids were doing high-fives. I don't think many of them have ever been to a pro game."

Note: Members of the Alumni Association were most impressed by Williams' commitment to "adopt" a section of Interstate 78 and to lead Weequahic students and alumni in an all-out cleanup effort. He noted that cleanup crews remove debris from suburban sections of the highway, but as soon as you get to Newark, debris and graffiti blight the area.



At left: Jason Williams in front of WHS with basketball players Chris Butler, Lawrence Finney and Tarmorris Jiggets.

SOME BASKETBALL MEMORIES:

Al Attles
Larry Bemby
Tom Boose

Jack Charwin
Leroy Cobb
Mike Cohen
Sonny Corbett
Danny Enzer
Dave Evelyn
Al Friedman
Barry Gimelstob

Gerry Greenspan
Lou Grimsley
Phil Hickson
Gary Jenkins
Larry Jenkins
Dennis Layton
Larry Layton
Dana Lewis

Alvin Lubetkin
Bill Mainor
Bert Marech
Swede Mason
Jim McIntyre
Alan Merkin
Chris Pervall
Wilbur Ross

Les Shofferman
Nick Swerdloff
Charles Talley
Dwayne Talley
George Watson
Art Woliansky
Dave Wright

Liberty's Teresa Weatherspoon

Speaks to 300 Young Women at Weequahic

By Dave Lieberfarb, Class of 1965

Teresa Weatherspoon, the point guard for the New York Liberty of the WNBA, scored a few points with the young women of Newark's Weequahic High School yesterday.

The arrival of the two-time *WNBA Defensive Player of the Year* triggered a fast break by members of the Weequahic girls' basketball team to greet her. Moved by "the warmest welcome I've had anywhere I've been," *Spoon* proceeded to deliver an inspirational talk to an all-girls audience of about 300 assembled for the Women's History Month event.

Patience, persistence and power were the themes of Weatherspoon's talk. The 33-year-old native of Texas displayed plenty of patience between 1989 and 1997. The college player of the year and an Olympic gold medalist in 1988, *Spoon* was forced to ply her trade in Italy for six years and Russia for two years because there was no pro basketball league for women in her home country. "You have to be persistent to succeed," she told her high school audience. "It's important to set goals for yourself."

Spoon said she started playing basketball as a 4-year-old, but her goal of playing in the Olympics took shape when she was 11. The journey faced many obstacles, including the temptations of drugs, alcohol and men. But the test in life is "how well do you move that obstacle?"

One young man, a talented athlete, was her idol. He could have been a pro football player, she said. Then one day he confessed to her that he had a drug

problem. That young man was her older brother. Now she welcomes the opportunity to speak at schools and participate in anti-drug crusades to help prevent other talented youngsters from getting sidetracked.

Another obstacle can be doubters. "When I was an eighth-grader," *Spoon* said, "a coach came up to me and said, 'You'll never be a great player.' When I won the gold medal in 1988, the first person I ran to with that gold medal was that coach."

Empowering women was a recurring message. *Spoon* exhorted the girls in the audience not to need "a man to make you feel complete."

She stressed the importance of being "dedicated, committed and disciplined: Believe and you'll achieve."

Spoon said she has always looked to her family for inspiration. "My dad always said, 'Whatever you start you have to finish.'"

She also listened to career guidance from basketball legends like Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Isaiah Thomas. And because she is interested in pursuing an acting career after her basketball days are over, *Spoon* mentioned Bill Cosby and Gregory Hines as mentors.

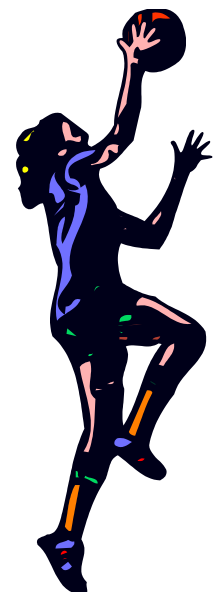
The all-girls assembly was a response to an Alumni Association program last month in which New Jersey Nets star Jayson Williams addressed an all-male assembly.



Teresa Weatherspoon



*Teresa and Hal Braff,
Co-President of the Weequahic
Alumni Association*



JOIN THE WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TODAY

\$20.00 ANNUALLY

Now in our adult years, it's our turn to give back. Your membership in the Weequahic High School Alumni Association can provide scholarships and support for our current Weequahic students.

Moreover, in addition to money, we need your interest, your energy, your time, and your commitment to make our projects a success.

Create some space in your life to volunteer as a tutor or mentor. Employ a student if you own a business. Serve as a role model. Come to Weequahic and talk to students about your work and your accomplishments in life.

For us to realize our goals, we need your help. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved. You will feel rewarded through your involvement in our activities and by helping others.

Students at Weequahic will be able to enrich their lives by gaining new experiences, strengthening their skills, and exploring new opportunities.



Weequahic in Cyberspace

WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI WEB SITE & E-MAIL:

Through NJ Online, the Weequahic High School Alumni Association now has a web site full of recent and exciting information about our purpose, activities, and events. The web address is:

<http://schools.nj.com/cc/weequahicalumni>

Send e-mail for the Weequahic HS Alumni Association to Phil Yourish at weequahic3@aol.com

CLASSMATES ON THE INTERNET: Want to find a classmate; let alumni know about upcoming reunions; post a message to an old friend; announce marriages, births, anniversaries, and jobs; or just recall old memories?

Check out the following web sites:

<http://www.classmates.com>

http://www.infophil.com/New_Jersey/Alumni/WHs

<http://forums.nj.com/forums/get/reunions.html>

See our Weequahic HS Alumni Association messages at the above sites. You can register for free, have your name listed in the Weequahic HS directory, and post information.

SURFING NEWARK IN VIRTUAL REALITY:

In 1966, Newark celebrated its 300th birthday, making it one of the three oldest major cities in the country. From the time Robert Treat discovered Newark on the banks of the Passaic River, Newark has been a city rich in history, culture, education and industry. And today it is being touted as "America's Renaissance City." Take a look at the following sites:

<http://newarknj.org/>

<http://www.ci.newark.nj.us/index.html>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~genepool/newark.htm>

<http://www.npl.org/>

<http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/>

<http://community.nj.com/cc/newarkliteracycampaign>

WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI MERCHANDISE

HAT \$18.00

POLO \$20.00

SWEATSHIRT \$35.00

T-SHIRT \$15.00

ORDER NOW

Use Membership Form On Back

***Weequahic High School Alumni Association* MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Date: _____ Class of _____ Weequahic Street: _____

Name: _____ Last Name at Weequahic: _____

Street: _____ City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Business: () _____

Fax: () _____ e-mail: _____

VOLUNTEER? ☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, in what areas are you interested?

☐ Membership ☐ Events ☐ Newsletter ☐ Merchandise ☐ Tutoring/Mentoring

ORDER MERCHANDISE: Check the item(s) below and we will contact you:

☐ T-SHIRT: \$15.00 ☐ HAT: \$18.00 ☐ POLO: \$20.00 ☐ SWEATSHIRT: \$35.00

MEMBERSHIP: \$20.00 Annually Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE, SEND US ARTICLES, REUNION INFORMATION, BEST MEMORIES, AND THE NAMES OF YOUR FAVORITE TEACHERS.

Weequahic High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 8039, Hillside, NJ 07205

Weequahic High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 8039

Hillside, NJ 07205

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ☆ THE SWEET LEGACY OF WEEQUAHIC
- ☆ DEBUT AT THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
- ☆ HOW ABOUT A 'DOG' AT SYD'S
- ☆ WALKING THE HALLS OF WEEQUAHIC ONCE AGAIN
- ☆ FROM NEWARK TO THE NBA
- ☆ COACH FEIN'S MEMORIES OF WEEQUAHIC
- ☆ THE MAKING OF A REUNION
- ☆ INTERVIEWING THE CLASS OF 1958
- ☆ THAT HOUSE ON CUSTER AVENUE
- ☆ TUTORING & MENTORING AT WEEQUAHIC
- ☆ MARCHING WITH DR. KING
- ☆ NET'S JAYSON WILLIAMS AT WHS
- ☆ LIBERTY'S TERESA WEATHERSPOON AT WHS
- ☆ WEEQUAHIC IN CYBERSPACE