

THE WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI



CALUMET

FALL 1999
ISSUE # 2

WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Kim Gaddy '82

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Events:

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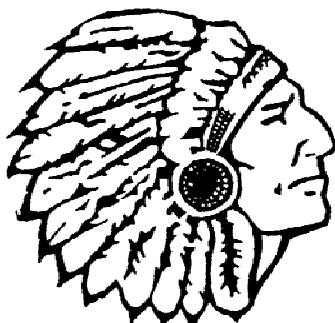
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Reuben Alston '82
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Marshall Cooper '69
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Denise Muhammad '72
Kevin Scindian '98
Charles Talley '66
Sam Weinstock '55
Abdur-Rahmaan A. Wadud '71
Lorraine White '64



Weequahic High School Alumni Association 1999 Homecoming Events

* Friday, October 29 at 7 PM

ALUMNI RECEPTION

Rutgers Law School
15 Washington Street, Newark

* Saturday, October 30 at 10 AM & 3PM

TOUR OF WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL

* Saturday, October 30 at 1 PM

WEEQUAHIC / MORRIS HILLS

FOOTBALL GAME at Untermann Field
Chancellor Avenue in Newark

* Saturday, October 30 at 7 PM

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME

Columbia High School
17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood

Hotline #: (973) 923- 7003

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 1999 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



- ☆ **KRISTI CULBRETH**
Kean University
- ☆ **LAWANDA DAUGETT**
Benedict College, SC
- ☆ **SAMANTHA JACKSON**
FDU - Madsion
- ☆ **ATIYA McCALLUM**
FDU - Madsion
- ☆ **SHERRY McKOY**
Bloomfield College

GIVING BACK!

The Alumni Calumet is proud to acknowledge Eli Hoffman, class of January 1956 and the Chairman of the Board of the JAQUA Foundation, for his role in contributing \$5,000 in scholarship monies for Weequahic students who graduated in June 1999.

Many of our current Weequahic students who have earned the opportunity to go to college do not go because they cannot afford to. A primary goal of the Alumni Association is to ensure that all Weequahic graduates who succeed academically have the chance to further their education at an institution of higher learning.

We also want to thank other alumni who have sent in contributions for this purpose. If you have access to foundation grants, would like to set up a scholarship fund, or wish to honor a relative, friend, or teacher by making a donation in their name, contact Phil Yourish at (973) 674-7003 or at weequahic3@aol.com.

BROTHER AND SISTER 1 & 2 AT WHS

Excerpts from of a June
1999 Star-Ledger article
by Jeffrey C. Mays



It's no surprise that everyone at Weequahic High School thinks Chidi Duru, 16, and his sister Chinwe Nmaezi Duru, 17, are involved in a heated sibling rivalry. Both are seniors at the Newark public high school. He's valedictorian and she's salutatorian. His grade point average is 4.1; hers is 3.8. They'll both attend Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken in the fall.

"Some teachers try to make us battle, but it's not of our free will," Chidi Duru said yesterday. The students' mother, Beatrice Duru, concurs. "It's the strangest thing," she said. "They take joy in each other's success. There is no competition. They even help each other out." So when they both accept their scholarships at tonight's Project Pride awards ceremony, there will be no hard feelings, only joy.

He is the Larry Doby Super Scholar and will get a check for \$5,000 to help with his mechanical engineering studies next year. She is the Project Pride Scholar and will take home \$2,500 to help her get a degree in computer programming.

The Durus aren't the only ones benefiting from Project Pride. More than 50 college-bound Newark high school students

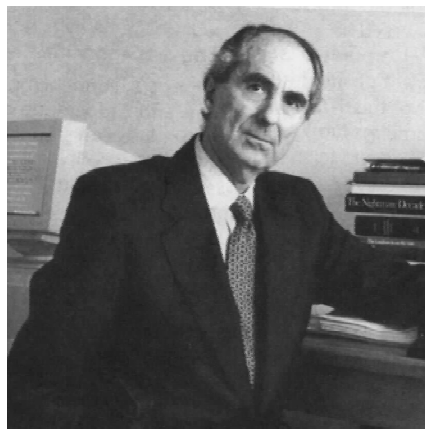
will receive almost \$100,000 in scholarship money from Project Pride, a 20-year-old organization that this year alone provided tutoring, scholarships and recreational programs for 5,100 Newark kids age 5 to 18. During the past two decades, almost 700 students have received scholarships.

For the Durus, every bit of money counts. In addition to Chinwe Nmaezi and Chidi, Beatrice and Theo Duru have a son at Temple and a daughter at Princeton. "That was one of my goals - to save my parents some money," Chinwe Nmaezi Duru said. The future looks equally bright for Chinwe Nmaezi and Chidi Duru. After living in Nigeria for 10 years and coming to the United States to go to high school a few years ago, the pair had to study hard to get up to speed, and that wasn't always easy.

Less than a month from graduation with her salutatorian status firmly in place, Chinwe Nmaezi Duru was at the public library for several hours after school working on a term paper. Asked if one of the reasons why she was working hard was to do better than her brother, she quickly responded: "I'm trying to do good for myself." Then with a smile, she said, "It's just a friendly competition."

Welcome Home Philip Roth - Weequahic's Famous Author

Roth has written 23 novels including *Goodbye Columbus*, *Portnoy's Complaint*, *Zuckerman Unbound*, *Partimony*, *Operation Shylock*, *Sabbath's Theatre*, *American Pastoral* and his latest book, *I Married A Communist*. In the 90's he won the Pulitzer Prize for literature and three other major literary awards



Excerpts from articles written by Carrie Stetler in the Star-Ledger.

Familiar Faces Surround Roth at NJPAC Event

... A throng of childhood friends and neighbors showed up Monday night to welcome Philip Roth home to Newark at the NJ Center for the Performing Arts (NJPAC), which is featuring a series on his works entitled *Newark Through the Prism of Philip Roth: Artistry, Imagery, Reality*. Roth, 66, hadn't seen some of them since he was a boy in Newark's Weequahic section. But for 40 years, they had been following his literary career, and if they hadn't spotted themselves in his books, they know someone who had.

Jay Krafchick was there to say hello for Ba-ba-lu Mandel, the bongo-playing Jewish delinquent from *Portnoy's Complaint*... "His real name is Jerry Greenfield," now a Livingston resident. He used to play bongo drums on the corner of Chancellor and Leslie, just like in the book.

... Roth stood nearby surrounded by a crush of former Weequahic residents

hoping to say hello. A sold-out crowd of nearly 500 was there to see the writer, who came to NJPAC to inaugurate a three-part series on the Newark of his literature.

After two documentaries on Roth were shown, the author emerged from backstage to say a brief "thank you," then circulated at a cocktail party in the Prudential Hall lobby, where he mingled and posed for photographs, looking cheerful and at ease. "There are people here going back to grade school," said Roth, who now lives in Connecticut. "I remember all of them."

For Seymour "Swede" Masin, there was even a greater shock of recognition. A star athlete at Weequahic High School, he never knew Roth back in the old neighborhood. But in Roth's 1997 novel, "American Pastoral," the main character is Seymour "Swede" Levov, a blond-haired blue-eyed high school sports hero.

On Monday, the 79-year-old Masin introduced himself to Roth. "You put me on the map," said Masin, a retired liquor salesman from South Orange. "You put ME on the map," answered Roth. Both of them were right. Roth won a Pulitzer Prize for the novel last year. And at NJPAC, Masin was a celebrity, too. "I autographed a number of people's programs," he said.

Roth In His Own Words

Q. How do you feel these days when you return to Newark? What are your hopes for the future of the city?

A. My immigrant grandparents came to Newark in the 1890's and Newark was our family home through the first two-thirds of the 20th century, so my

attachment is a strong one, though it has more to do with the past than the present. When I return to Newark these days - and I do drift in and out - I seem constantly to be seeing both what is and what was, and it's the dual nature of my perception that mostly determines my thinking about the city and, needless to say, my writing about it.

Q. How do readers from your neighborhood in the Weequahic section respond to your work? Do they recognize themselves as characters?

I hear sometimes from my old neighborhood friends and, I think, by and large, that my fictional chronicling of our shared past strikes them as being not too far off the mark. My closest old Newark friends I still see regularly. We talk about the Weequahic past a lot of the time - recollect it and try to understand its special power over us still - and it's often just this stimulation that gets my imagination going.

Q. In recent books, you seem to be increasingly returning to the Newark of your childhood. Why?

A. If I have returned to Newark it hasn't been in a spirit of nostalgia. I'm interested not in using Newark as fictional backdrop but in taking it on as a subject. Newark as depicted in *Goodybye Columbus*, say, is not much more than an atmospheric aspect of the story.

The Newark portrayed in *American Pastoral* is very much a character in the story, a tragic character. It's precisely the tragic dimension of the city that's brought the city back so strongly into my fiction. How could I fail to be engaged as a novelist by all that's been destroyed and lost in that one place on earth that I know most intimately?

Hal and Elaine Braff invite members and their families of the class of 1952 for a tour of the high school immediately following the Homecoming football game



Hannah Litzky Captured The Hearts of Her Students

A Weequahic Teacher and Counselor for 39 years

A reprint of an article by Diane C. Walsh, Star-Ledger Staff

When Howard Cooper was told that Hannah Litzky, his beloved English teacher from Weequahic High school, faced fines and jail time for participating in the Newark teachers strike in 1970, he wanted to help. So, he paid the \$200 fine. It didn't keep her out of jail. But in a letter she wrote him, Mrs. Litzky said his generosity erased "all the anger, the frustration, the despair, I have felt in recent months."

"These are difficult times in every segment of society," she wrote, adding, "the schools seem to be the most vulnerable. Teachers have been so demeaned, so mistreated, at least here in Newark, that many of us had begun to feel our efforts were useless. You can therefore understand why your fond reminisces and your generosity renewed my faith in what I had accomplished."

Casper, a retired builder in Philadelphia, keeps Mrs. Litzky's letter in his office. Since his graduation in 1948, he regularly corresponded and exchanged books with the adored teacher, who whetted the literary appetite of scores of students. To many of these students she became known as "Aunt Honey."

Mrs. Litzky died on Tuesday, August 24th from congestive heart failure.

She was 86. She was the youngest of five children born to Rebecca and Pincus Ginsberg, Jewish immigrants from the Ukraine, who settled in Newark in 1889. The Ginsbergs made sure all their children went to college. Hannah and a sister became teachers. Louis was a writer, whose son Allen, became one of the premier writers of the Beat Generation.

Mrs. Litzky's daughter, Paula, said yesterday that there was a strong intellectual bond between her mother and Louis and Allen Ginsberg. "My mother was extremely open to new ideas and I always felt she was very much in synch with a wide range of thought," said Litzky.

Larry Litzky recalled that books were everywhere in their house when they were growing up. He said his mother never watched television, preferring instead to read and write to her friends and former students. Acclaimed author Philip Roth is among her most celebrated students.

Mrs. Litzky worked at Weequahic High School from 1934-73, as an English teacher and guidance counselor. She earned her bachelor's degree from Montclair State College, her Master's from New York University and spent a year in graduate study at Oxford University.

She met her husband, Leo Litzky, as a teenager, while playing tennis in Weequahic Park. Dr. Litzky retired as principal of South Side High School. They lived for many years in

Newark before moving to West Orange. He died in 1994 at age 80, three months before their 60th wedding anniversary.

Aside from her dedication to teaching and family, Mrs. Litzky also had a strong social conscience, often writing letters to newspaper editors to express her views.

She was active in the American Jewish Congress, serving two years as President of the Business and Professional Women's Chapter. She belonged to Temple B'nai Abraham and was also involved with the Jewish Community Center, Amnesty International, NOW, Common Cause and the Sierra Club..

Her niece, Essex County Freeholder Patricia Sebold, said Mrs. Litzky was her role model. "She stood tall against social injustices. Much of what I am today, an English teacher and an Essex County freeholder, I attributed to my Aunt Honey."

Throughout her life, Mrs. Litzky also practiced yoga. Her daughter Ruth, became a yoga instructor and Paula Litzky said until only a few years ago her mother would perform the exercises in Ruth's class when visiting her.

Mrs. Litzky is survived by three children, Ruth Litzky Willets of Australia, Larry of Paris and Paula of Manhattan; and seven grandchildren.

.....
: Want To Play in the Alumni Basketball Game on Homecoming Weekend?
: Call Gerry Greenspan at (732) 562-8600 or Lorraine White at (973) 705-3922
:
:

Charles Meadows, Former Weequahic Principal Retires

After 36 years in The Newark School System including tenures as Vice-Principal and Principal of Weequahic High School, Charles Meadows retired with a celebration at the Newark Club on Friday, June 11, 1999.

A graduate of Boston University, Mr. Meadows was also a former pro football player with the Philadelphia Eagles. In addition to WHS, he served as the Principal of Malcolm X. Shabazz High School, Broadway Middle School, and was the Associate Superintendent of Schools from 1989 to 1993.

A brilliant educator who was known for getting things done, Mr. Meadows was tough on the outside but soft on the inside. His doors were always open to students and staff and he made a big impression on those who knew him well. He was loved by many, which was clearly evident at his retirement party where he was roasted by friends and colleagues who presented him with plaques.

The best of luck in your future endeavors. You Deserve It!



Weequahic Graduate is Outstanding Teacher

Excerpts from a Star-Ledger article
by Kate Coscarelli

Jules Geftic, a (1968 graduate of Weequahic High School) 22-year veteran educator from Livingston, was tapped as tops in the state by his peers when he was named the outstanding teacher by the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

On a recent morning, the gym at Collins Elementary School in Livingston throbbed to the sound of second-graders'

feet as they ran up and down the hardwood floor bouncing basketballs. Dressed in sweat pants and a T-shirt with a silver whistle dangling from his neck, phys-ed teacher Geftic wove between the students offering advice on the finer points of dribbling the ball.

Geftic grew up in Newark with dreams of becoming a professional athlete and even played semi-pro football in Wisconsin after graduating college. However, the 5-foot-7 lineman quickly realized that he probably didn't have a shot playing professionally and turned to teaching. He taught in Newark and Ramsey before filling in as a substitute in Livingston, a gig that quickly turned into a full-time job more than 20 years ago.

"I have always liked sports. It is just a great way to express yourself. It is fun and it gets rid of the tension and lets you use your aggressiveness in a nice way," said the North Caldwell resident. The goal of his lessons, which range from

gymnastics to football to dancing to basketball, are all the same: "To let children enjoy moving and if they enjoy moving they will move for the rest of their lives," he said. "I just love kids and to see the look on their face when they accomplish something they could never do before."

Collins School Principal says about Geftic, "If you are talking about people who are really able to balance the toughness with the nurturing, he does it. And while offering lessons to his youngest students, like comparing the techniques of dribbling a basketball to petting a cat, he never talks down to the kids."

Second-grader Joshua Riback doesn't particularly like sports because "it is just not his strength," said his mother Valerie. "But he never complains about going to gym and he even looks forward to it."

There is no competition in Geftic's class. Everybody gets a round of applause at the end of the period and children get more credit for showing good form than finishing first. The idea is to give them the tools so they don't have to be afraid to get involved.

HERE'S A WONDERFUL PLAN....

By Hal Braff, Co-President,
Class of 1952

Join the members and friends of the Weequahic Alumni Association at our Third Annual Homecoming Weekend, Friday evening, October 29th and Saturday, October 30th. ***We promise you a remarkable time.***

On Friday evening we gather for an all Weequahic Open House at the old Rutgers Law School at 15 Washington Street, next to The Newark Public Library. Festivities begin at 7 PM. We will honor former Weequahic Principal and former Newark Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Benjamin Epstein. Come with your families and memories. Plenty of parking.

On Saturday at 1:00 PM, watch our Indians play the Morris Hills Scarlet Knights at Untermann Field. Come join us and the band in a rousing "We're On Our Way", as we pay tribute to fellow graduate and famed Star-Ledger columnist Sid Dorfman.

Parking for the football game is easy - in the Chancellor Avenue School playground lot. Enter from Chancellor Avenue between the stadium and the school.

Both before and after the game, Weequahic High School will be open for guided tours. Bring your family. Show them where you grew up, where your homeroom was located, how beautiful the mural and the auditorium have remained through the years.

Meet our principal Edna Bailey and the terrific faculty and some great kids who really appreciate what your Alumni Association is doing.

The Saturday night special will be an all alumni basketball game to be held at Columbia High School in Maplewood starting at 7 PM. The teams will be coached by Les Fein and Gerry Greenspan. Did you play at Weequahic? Sign up to play in the game. Come out and hear the cheers once again! Were you a cheerleader for Weequahic? Join us. The current cheerleaders will be whooping up support for the Orange and you will lead us in bellowing for the Brown. To enlist, call:

Gerry Greenspan at (732) 562-8600
Lorraine White at (973) 705-3922

We can't wait to see you.

September 22, 1999

Dear Weequahic Alumni,

Welcome back to what I am sure will be a successful and rewarding year. In keeping with the district and state mandates, we will identify a whole school reform model for implementation during the 2000-2001 school year. The model selected will inform and guide the operations of Weequahic High School for years to come.

I look forward to our continued partnership and joint efforts to provide the students at Weequahic High School with meaningful opportunities to develop and become productive citizens of whom we can all be

proud. To that end, I invite, you, the alumni, to become mentors and tutors for our students. Your individual and collective knowledge and expertise would be immeasurable in assisting us in achieving our goals of improving academic achievement and success.

Thank you for your interest, commitment, and dedication to Weequahic High School. Together, we can and will make a difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,
Edna Bailey
Edna Bailey,
Principal

More Memories of Weequahic Faculty:

Leroy Abrams
Joanne Accardi
Bernie Adams
Albert Adler
Donald Applebaum
James Barrett
Gary Barr
Claude Scott Bey
Clyde Blackshear
Michele Blanchet
Morris Brinn
Norma Fair Brown
Rosie Broxton
Louis Dultz
Nick Falzarano
Marilyn Feitel
Burton Finklestein
John Fasano
Lester Fusco
Hal Ginsburg
Charles Gottlick
Goldie Grindlinger
Doris Henderson
Robert Hollander
Miriam Hample
Herman Holtzman
Robert Jackson
Leslie Jenkins
Patricia Joyner
Sylvia Klosk
Harold LaPenna
Dave Lieberfarb
Ceile Loquet
Art Lustig
Harry Lutzky
Hilda Lutzky
Heathern McCloud
Gwen McClendon
Lennie Moore
Joyce Murray
Joseph Nerenberg
Ben O'Neal
Carolyn Parn
Mabel Patton
Mary Pallante
Robert Pourchal
Fred Ramson
Harvey Ritter
Robin Phifer Scipio
Frank Scocoza
Clarence Seltzer
Gwen Sherman
Sidney Sperber
Pearl Tatum
William Tyler
Sanford Williams
Joelle Zois

THREE FROM NEWARK SHOW THE WAY

A Star-Ledger Editorial



They are three young men, black, from Newark neighborhoods where drugs and crime seduce all too many young people and school can look a lot less attractive. When they were students at University High School (*formerly Clinton Place Jr. High School*) in Newark, they made a pact to stick together and become doctors. And they did.

Rameck Hunt, George Jenkins and Sampson Davis were transformed into two physicians and one dentist by a short walk across the stage at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey commencement - and by 13 long years of dogged determination to stay with their books and turn their backs to the influences that might have led them to a different future.

Perhaps only someone their age, from their place and time, can fathom this accomplishment. Perhaps they themselves must reflect, and shed the weight they had to carry to journey this far, before they can fully comprehend it themselves.

They brought each other through. The ties that all too often bind young men to violence, or make them do harmful things no one of them might dare to do alone, were their lifeline. It takes nothing from their accomplishments to say that there are many like them who either wholly reject or somehow recover from the negatives of their environment. They get jobs, raise

families, and whether they are professionals or laborers, each quiet success is important in its own right.

However, no one should underestimate what it takes to get in and through medical or dental school. Nor should anyone

policies that remove the barriers confronting those trying to improve their lot.

These three young men were inspired by a science fair, helped along by a physician who took them under his wing, by a Seton Hall University program providing mentoring to minority students who want medical and dental careers and by parents who worked double time. These three tell us there might be many more who would follow them to success if only they were given the help to reach their goals.

These three young men know what it takes because the rest of their plan is to open a practice in Newark and help others do what they did.

Congratulations, Drs. Hunt, Jenkins and Davis. And thank you.

Dr. Hunt and Dr. Davis Inspire WHS Students

The students attending Weequahic High School's 1999 Senior Awards Day Ceremony were treated to a unique and inspiring message of perseverance, commitment and achievement from two June 1999 graduates of UMDNJ.

Dr. Rameck Hall and Dr. Sampson Davis quickly captivated the interest of the assembled students when they gave an account of their remarkable journey from University High School sophomores to medical school graduates. The doctors recalled the many obstacles they encountered on their road to success. They emphasized the need for determination, discipline, desire and faith.

The unscheduled visit was arranged by Weequahic Alumni Committee members Adilah Quddus ('71) and Sylvester Allen ('71) from South Ward Councilman Donald Bradley's office.

EDITORS NOTE:

Thank you for taking time to write and offer feedback and suggestions about the first issue of the Alumni Calumet. Your responses were positive and encouraging. It made us all feel that our efforts were well appreciated.

However, I do want to remind all of our alumni that the newsletter is a volunteer production. The first issue took months to put together. It was time consuming, but a very gratifying endeavor. With limited monetary and human resources, we do our best to put together an

issue that addresses the interests of alumni representing seven decades. We have also tried hard to maintain a balance between the old and new, but this has not been an easy task.

As we get older, our memory chips begin to wear down. They just aren't as good as they use to be. For instance, we don't know all of the faculty members and basketball players over the past 67 years. So please be understanding if our lists are not complete. They aren't meant to be. They are ongoing.

With your input, we will be able to add more names in each successive issue. Over time, we hope that the Alumni Calumet will truly reflect the different generations that make up our large and diverse alumni group.

Continue to communicate with us by mail or through the Internet. Send us interesting information about your time at Weequahic - stories, anecdotes, poems, articles, names, trivia, etc. We want you, our alumni, to become the writers of the Alumni Calumet. *No One Can Do It Better!*



BASEBALL IS BACK

By Phil Yourish, Class of 1964

I was a generation too late. When I was a kid growing up in Newark, there were the Yankees, Dodgers, Giants and later the Mets on the other side of the Hudson, but the greatest minor league team in history, the *Newark Bears*, played baseball at Ruppert Stadium in the same city where I played "running bases" and "stoop ball" - and I missed them by being born at the wrong time.

So for me this past summer on July 16th with my aging eyes ablaze with childlike fantasy, I experienced the thrilling debut of the new Newark Bears. There they were in sparkling purple and white uniforms in a new stadium called the Riverfront in downtown Newark - only blocks away from where I was born. And there I was in a state of amazement sitting with Weequahic Alumni Committee members Hal Braff, Adilah Quddus, Faith Howard, and Yvonne Causbey and our special friend Rabbi Israel Dresner (with Sheldon Bross and Marshall Cooper nearby), thinking how exciting and wonderful it is to be watching professional baseball in the city of my youth for the first time.

It may be a generation later, but the Bears have come back home with all of the rich memories of their fabulous history from the 1930's and 40's. Can you imagine 6,000 people in downtown Newark on a Thursday evening watching a baseball game? What an incredible site to see - a full house on opening night with fans from the greater Newark area cheering on the home team as Ruppert (named after Ruppert Stadium) the mascot entertained us all.

Celebrities abounded. Phil Rizzuto was there. Yogi Berra threw out the first ball. Mayor Sharpe James of Newark was wearing his baseball uniform. The Newark Eagles, one of the best teams ever from the Negro National League, were honored during the pre-game ceremony. And there I was sitting in my field of dreams, soaking up the magic of the moment, with screams of "play ball" bouncing through my head.

It took 50 years for a homecoming, but Rick Cerone, the former major league catcher for the Yankees and Mets, has brought baseball back to Newark as the owner of the new Newark Bears. Rick, who spent 18 years in the majors, grew up on Clifton Avenue in the North Ward of Newark and earned All-State honors in baseball, football and fencing at Essex Catholic High School. At Seton Hall University, his team made two College World Series appearances.

Across from the Passaic River between McCarter Highway and streets named Broad, Division, and Bridge stands Riverfront Stadium

(nicknamed the "Den") on seven acres of reclaimed land. Although construction is still not completed, the Bears have played all of their homes games there since the middle of July. The building of this \$30 million ballpark is the result of a joint partnership between the City of Newark and Essex County.

The new Newark Bears have no major league affiliations. They compete in the Atlantic League which General Manager Kevin Reynolds states "is equivalent to a level between Double A and Triple A ball." The league consists of seven teams (*two others in NJ - Atlantic City and Somerset*) and has some former major league ballplayers like the Bears' Hensley "Bam Bam" Meulens, a top Yankee prospect, and Manager Tom O'Malley, a former Giants and Mets infielder.

In the team's yearbook, Mitch Halpern, relates some of the history of the original Bears: "the club reached its apex in the 1930's when it became the Yankees Triple-A affiliate. In that decade the Bears won three pennants and two Little World Series.... The 1937 Bears were ranked as one of - if not the - greatest minor league team ever. Their playing field, Ruppert Stadium, was a city landmark. Along with the Newark Eagles, the Bears helped make Newark a baseball hotbed."

Renowned Star-Ledger sports columnist, Jerry Izenberg, writes about what the new stadium means to Newark. *"Today's groundbreaking is about the healing of an emotional hole in the soul of a city.... The void was deep and so wide and so measured by time that the memory of its impact belonged to fewer and fewer each year. Even that memory was becoming a wake with nobody left to mourn."*

"Without memories to build upon from the ballfield to the classroom, generations of kids have grown up in this city, believing that the garbage isn't supposed to be picked up regularly, that education has to be second rate and that because of where they live there is nothing that belongs to them - whether it's dignity, identity or even their own ballclub for which to root. There used to be a ballpark in this town. Today, they will start to build another. If you don't understand why, then you don't understand what has happened to this city."





Former Weequahic Teacher Robert Lowenstein Takes Up POETRY in Retirement

By Mark McGarrity - Star-Ledger Staff

Poetry was something that Robert Lowenstein always wanted to write while he was teaching at various Newark high schools, but he never managed to find the time until he retired. For the past 25 years the West Orange resident, who holds a Ph.D from Johns Hopkins in Romance languages, has been writing four or five poems a month. "Around 100 have been published in small magazines," the 91-year-old poet says.

His subject? "Whatever strikes my fancy and is triggered by recollection, remark, or...say, a scene observed in the street. Life is so multifaceted. It's easy to cover a wide range of topics. I write mainly free verse, which is the most accepted poetic form today. I like the free flow of simple ordinary verse heightened by emotion." He said he constantly rereads Montaigne and the "Divina Comedia" by Dante.

Born in Newark, Lowenstein resided there until 1973. He and his wife, Zelda, are the parents of three children, (Amy, Martha and James - all Weequahic graduates in the 60's.)

The Hollow Orbs

She beat me to the phone
and all I heard was yes
and then a weaker yes
and finally a lip-end echo
yes. No more
She held
the phone up to her face
as if it were a novelty
that thawed and baffled her.

I spoke her name. Her head
swung at sundial speed,
and when it was aligned
with mine, I saw the holes
behind her eyes like fingers
of the blind that groped
to make contact.
They told me
what we longed had feared:
the jewel of our lives
was lost

Remember When Chancellor Avenue Was Pot Pie Lane

An excerpt from an article by Charles F. Cummings

Pot Pie Lane was the original name of Chancellor Avenue, based on the tradition that local housewives prepared chicken pot pies at the time of the Revolutionary War for the troops when General George Washington visited the Old School House now located in the Newark Museum garden. Because the name was considered undignified by some, it was changed to Prospect Avenue in 1834, when the area was incorporated as Clinton Township.

In 1902 it became Chancellor Avenue in honor of Chancellor Oliver Spencer Halstead, whose house stood on the present-day site of Weequahic High School. Halstead, a Princeton graduate, studied law in the offices of Governor Ogden, served in both houses of the state legislature, and helped draw up the Newark City Charter of 1836. He was a delegate to the 1844 New Jersey Constitutional Convention and was elected Newark's fourth mayor.

In the 20th century the area was developed into a residential section by Frank J. Bock. It became known as the "Weequahic Tract," home to many of the city's prominent Jewish families.

Top Minor League Prospect Bo Porter Played For Weequahic

Star-Ledger Staff



(Marquise) Bo Porter is an exceptional outfield prospect for the Chicago Cubs. This year he had a short stint in the majors in May. Last year, the 6-2, 195-pound outfielder led the Southern League (Double A) in triples (11) and stolen bases (50).

In college, Bo played football and baseball at the University of Iowa where he was an All-Big Ten selection in both sports. He was selected in the 40th round of the 1993 Free Agent Draft by the Cubs. He graduated with a degree in communication studies.

At Weequahic High School, Bo was a four-year letterman in football, baseball, and basketball. He had a career pitching

Newark city title game, he pitched a no-hitter.

FROM THE VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI

From Les Fein (former WHS faculty) -

My congratulations and compliments on the Calumet issue #1 which I have just received. I think it's a terrific job and should delight the alumni everywhere. The use of the photos make the issue so much more personal and interesting. What a wonderful cross section of articles the issue contains.

From Marc Tarabour, Class of 63 -

Just a few words of thanks for the absolutely super alumni newsletter. Great reading and a class piece of work.

From Lester Fusco (former WHS faculty) -

Congratulations on your first newsletter which I have read several times. I was a faculty member for 23 years (63-86) and after reading your letter I am now making plans to attend two reunions, 69 & 80. As a life long Newarker, I was just fascinated with all the facts and lore about Weequahic and Newark. Keep up the excellent work.

From Linda K. Merling, Class of 1957 -

For all my adult life the standard of excellence has always been my years at Weequahic. I would often ask myself: "Is this as good as Weequahic?" "Is this better than Weequahic?" Having children is better than Weequahic. My second marriage is better than Weequahic. Owning and driving a '99 silver Corvette is as good as Weequahic. Managing winning political campaigns is as good as Weequahic. How lucky we were to have a high standard set for us so early in life.

From Fred R. Decter, Class of 1960 -

Just a quickie note to let you know I received the newsletter about two hours ago and could not do anything else until I had read every last word. It was great!

From Linda Sarnow Boginsky, Class of 1956 -

I very much enjoyed both memories and seeing how the new population and the old population are mixing so well in the Alumni Association. I am very impressed at the idea of the old population helping the new.

From Bert Polow, Class of 1935 -

I believe I am the only alumnus in a class before the late '30s on this mailing list. I was in the class of January 1935, the second graduating class after Weequahic opened. I sure would like to hear from someone in my generation - polow@prodigy.net

From David Schechner, Class of 1946 -

Really a great job. Just the arrival brought back some of those thoughts of the good old days. Just keep up the mixture of some of the old with the new so we can all continue to feel that it still exists somewhere and it is still alive and going forward. Maybe a few lines about "famous" alums and what they are doing now, etc. Maybe if you ever get caught up a column where you can list those who have passed away so we can reach out to family and friends to let them know we really care. I really think the real job is to keep it simple and yet relevant. Maybe a reminiscence column created from letters from alums which will retell those old stories and help us all to remember what was. It isn't bad to read something which begins, "I remember when..." Thanks again for a wonderful hour or so of reading.

From Lenor Reaves Reese, Class of 1968 -

Thank you for the newsletter. I really enjoyed reading it. such memories from my days at Weequahic. Keep up the good work! I will continue to support our alumni association. I look forward to our future activities and projects. Thanks again to those of you who had this vision and made it happen!

From Sidney Silber (former WHS Faculty) -

I graduated from WHS in June 1935. I was there the first day it opened. I taught at Weequahic for 20 years. I had Al Attles, his sister, and Lorraine White who is presently a teacher there.



WEEQUAHIC CRUISES, 39-16

The Weequahic High School football team beat Parsippany High School 39-16 on October 1st. It's been a long time since we've seen a headline like the one above. In fact, it's been over 10 years since Weequahic had a similar game when they beat Barringer 40-12 in 1988.

According to Star-Ledger reporter Mike Kinney, "It was a game that Parsippany would hope to forget and Weequahic would probably like to bottle. While Parsippany struggled through a first half of mistakes and failed opportunities, Weequahic last night exhibited offensive firepower that hadn't been seen on Newark's Chancellor Avenue in more than a decade."

"Senior halfback Curtis Wharton (in above photo) carried 17 times for 161 yards 124 in the first half) and scored three touchdowns while senior fullback Tajuan Myles ran seven times for 120 yards and two touchdowns to pace the rare outburst."

WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI CALUMET STAFF

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Faith Howard '82

Dave Lieberfarb '65

Adilah Quddus '71

Irv Newman

Alumni Letters

Star-Ledger Articles & Photos

Career Day Inspires Weequahic Students

By Faith Howard, Class of 1982

On May 19th, Weequahic High School students participated in Career Day activities that were sponsored by the WHS Alumni Association. As the events chairperson for our alumni group, I coordinated the well organized event with Michele Fleitell, the Head Guidance Counselor. The morning began with a continental breakfast. Student monitors then escorted the 12 guest speakers to the classrooms where they made their presentations.

Hal Braff, President of the Alumni Association, and I invited individuals who would be informative and motivating to the students in a variety of career areas. They were as follows: Carl Sharif - former President of the Newark Board of Education, Dwayne Ross - local entrepreneur, Elaine Braff - art therapist and counselor, Leslie Ford - a jazz composer and lyricist and the President of the Jazz Institute in New Brunswick, Raven Morrisson - engineer with the Newark Department of Engineering, Pernel Motley - a social worker with the Division of Youth and Family Services, Derek Holloway - Newark policeman, Mr. Rasool - attorney, Dr. Velez - a physician, Mr. Trappani - cosmetology, Captain Ziyad - Newark Fire Department and Weequahic alumni Mansa Mussa - photographer and Dave Lieberfarb - copy editor for the Star-Ledger.

Michele, Hal and I visited the different classes to observe the responses of the students. They all seemed to be having a marvelous time listening to the guest speakers and asking a lot of good questions. Many thanks to our special guests who took time from their busy schedules to come and share their professional experiences with some of our current Weequahic students.

TUTOR OR MENTOR A WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

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.

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.

Can you 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 Phil Yourish at (973) 674-7003 or send an e-mail message to weequahic3@aol.com.



Joseph Murphy, Professor and Ex-Chancellor of CUNY



Joseph S. Murphy, the son of a labor organizer and a champion of the working class who became Chancellor of the City University of New York, died in an automobile accident near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on January 17, 1998. He was 64.

Born in Newark in 1933, Dr. Murphy, who was an alumnus of Weequahic High School, attended the University of Colorado and received his BA degree from Olivet College in Michigan in 1955. A recipient of a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, Dr. Murphy received his doctorate from Brandeis

University in 1961 and was an assistant professor at Brandeis until 1965.

Known for his genial manner and visceral sympathy for the plight of students, Dr. Murphy was able to rebuild and even extend academic programs during his tenure as CUNY Chancellor from 1982 to 1990, despite the system's financial woes.

Dr. Murphy, who learned to speak Yiddish from his mother, a Polish Jew, and Gaelic from his father, an Irish longshoreman, was a political scientist and the author of two books, The Theory of Universals in Eighteenth Century British Empiricism (1961) and Political Theory: A Conceptual Analysis (1968). He was known for his ability to combine a practical knowledge of politics with an enduring commitment to the poor and the working class.

Dr. Murphy is survived by his wife, Susan Crile, three children, five grandchildren and his mother, Doris Murphy of the Bronx.

From Hanette (Weinberg) Allen, Class of 1952 -

My husband, Myron, and I both went to Weequahic. He graduated in the class of June 1950. We often reminisce about the wonderful education we received there, and remember many of the teachers keenly.

One unforgettable lady who stands out in our memories is Miss Marie O'Conner. A true eccentric, who always dressed in purple (including her glasses) and had the class terrified most of the time. She invented all kinds of gimmicks to force knowledge into our dumbfounded heads.

We will never forget her "Word for the Day" featured on the blackboard every day - which every day a different embarrassed kid had to use in a sentence. Of course, no one ever knew what any of her words meant; we had to go home and look them up in the dictionary, and God help anyone who showed up the next day without knowing the definition of the word. ("There he sits, stolid, stunned, brother to an ox!")

One day she asked all of the girls to come after school for something special. Everybody was buzzing. "She's going to get married!" Not a chance. She wanted us to make tissue paper flowers to be awarded each day to whatever unfortunate boy had won the "sartorial splendor" award.

...I could go on about the many other wonderful teachers and memories that I was fortunate to experience at Weequahic. It's great to get a chance to reminisce about all this again.

THE STREETS WE LIVED ON

Aldine Street
Badger Avenue
Bayview Avenue
Bergen Street
Bock Avenue
Bragaw Avenue
Chadwick Avenue
Chancellor Avenue
Clinton Place
Conklin Avenue
Crescent Avenue
Custer Avenue
Custer Place
Demarest Street
Dewey Street
Eckert Avenue
Elizabeth Avenue
Fabyan Place
Goldsmith Avenue
Goodwin Avenue
Grumman Avenue
Hansbury Avenue
Harding Terrace
Hawthorne Avenue
Hillside Avenue
Hobson Street
Homestead Park
Hunterdon Street
Huntington Terrace
Irving Avenue
Jelliff Avenue
Johnson Avenue
Keer Avenue
Lehigh Avenue
Leslie Street
Lyons Avenue
Mapes Terrace
Maple Avenue
Maple Place
Meeker Avenue
Mulford Place
Nye Avenue
Osborne Terrace
Parker Place
Parkview Terrace
Peshine Avenue
Pomona Avenue
Porter Avenue
Porter Place
Renner Avenue
Ridgewood Avenue
Schley Street
Schuyler Avenue
Seymour Avenue
Scheerer Avenue
Shaw Avenue
Shephard Avenue
Stengel Avenue
Summit Avenue
Van Velsor Place
Vassar Avenue
Wainwright Street
Watson Avenue
Weequahic Avenue
Wilbur Avenue
Willoughby Street
Wyndmoor Avenue
Wolcott Terrace
Yates Avenue

PLAN FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND - OCTOBER 29 & 30

A 60th High School Reunion

By Irv Newman, Class of 1939

Everything was right with the world. Bright sun, a calm breeze and blue skies greeted the Weequahic High school alumni for their 60th high school reunion held at the Lincoln Room in the **Newark Airport Marriott Hotel** on **Sunday, June 6, 1999.**

With our Weequahic "....bannner waving high," chairlady **Mickey (Geffner) Lublang** welcomed the assembled throng (80 strong) with a special acknowledgment to chairlady emeritus **Helen (Leshins) Golden. Gene Kesselman** commented that alumni greet each other with "...My, you look well!" rather than "How're you feeling?" You're liable to get the whole litany.

Dr. Milton Louria, a three sport (track, baseball and football) star athlete told interesting stories about his team players and some great rivalries and high school games. **Alice Saltman**, sole returning teacher, remarked that she was thrilled to be in attendance, to greet former students and considered her tenure at Weequahic one of her life's greatest experiences. **Helen (Yaeger) Gottlieb** gave a biographical insight to our former distinguished principal, **Max J. Hertzberg**. Clearly, Helen stated, it was Hertzberg who was responsible for Weequahic High School achieving greatness through their faculty (his selection), the student body, and Hertzberg's meaningful curricula.

A portable microphone was passed around to the classmates who briefly and succinctly conveyed parts of their journey over the past 60 years. For over 50 years the January and June class of 1939 confirmed that wherever you may be in this wide world there was always someone who came from WHS.

Milton Louria was studying medicine in Melbourne, Australia for three years and his wife reveled in the fact that no one from Weequahic had shown up in Aussie land. Not until Milt and his family were attending a traveling aquatic show. "Gert, I don't know how to tell you this but that guy on the super high diving board is **Eddie Rose**, a fellow I graduated from Weequahic with."

That was the mantra until **David Harrsion** got to the microphone and said, "Milt, I don't like to be a top-you-story guy but I was flying a bombing mission over Germany in a B-17 and got shot down. I parachuted to safety but was captured and thrown in a prison cell where six Americans were previously captured by the Germans. When we got around to telling where we came from, sure enough one of the guys said, "I went to Weequahic High School, too." That's a story that may never be topped for another 50 years.

Irv Newman concluded the reunion with the story of his group of friends from Peshine Avenue School who maintained their friendship for over 70 years. Now most of the men are in retirement awaiting the next group meeting which will be a three day cruise in the next millennium.

The stalwarts in the January and June 1939 class anticipate more reunions well into the year 2000 proving author Tom Brokaw's premise that we of WHS are part of THE GREATEST GENERATION.

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, ext. 554

1969 - 30th Reunion

will take place at the Appian Way in Orange on November 26, 1999. Call Cherry Bellamy at (973) 313-9513

1960 - 40th Reunion

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

1959 - 40th Reunion

will be on October 17 at the Hamilton Park Conference Center in Florham Park.

Robert L. Hollander, Educator in Newark

Robert L. Hollander, 71 of West Orange, passed away on September 27, 1999. He was head of the social studies department at Weequahic High School before retiring in 1993 after 36 years with the Newark School System.

Mr. Hollander was a 1952 graduate of Rutgers University in Newark with a BA degree. In 1956 he received an MA degree in history from Columbia University in New York City. During World War II, he served in the Merchant Marine. He was also the principal at Temple Shalom in Cedar Grove in the 1970's.

Born in Newark, he lived in Verona before moving to West Orange 15 years ago. Surviving are his wife Miriam, and two sons and two daughters, two brothers and three grandchildren.

1949 - 50th Reunion

took place on October 3, 1999 at the Cedar Hill Country Club in Livingston.

Mike Mirabella Inducted Into The Newark Athletic Hall of Fame



Mike Mirabella lived most of his life not only as a very active participant in the world of Newark athletics, but also as a dynamic leader. As team member, team captain and coach, he was an excellent athlete and a true sportsman.

While at Weequahic High School, Mike "lettered" across the years in two sports, gymnastics and track.

In gymnastics, Mike participated and won in many events, including long horse, tumbling, rings and horizontal bar. In his senior year, he was elected by his teammates as captain of the gymnastics team.

In both his junior and senior years, Mike also served as captain of the track team. It was here, as a pole vaulter, that he truly excelled. In his last two years of high school, he was the city, county and state champion pole vaulter - and both years was chosen to the New Jersey All State Track Team.

Starting with a jump of 11 feet 7 1/4 inches in a Board of Education tournament during his junior year at Weequahic, Mike became a record breaker. By the time he was a senior, the only pole vaulting records left for him to break were his own. His highest jump was 12 feet 1 1/8 inches, the best in the state.

Following his graduation from Weequahic in 1936, he attended Panzer College where he received a double major BA degree in Special Education and Physical Education /Recreation. Later, he received two MA degrees in Physical Education/Health and Administration.

After completing his education, Mike returned to the Newark School System as a Special Education teacher. He also taught

sports and athletics skills to the city's youth in afterschool recreation programs.

In 1962, he became a Physical Education and Health teacher at Vailsburg High School where he stayed for the remainder

to reach the greatest number of students.

At Vailsburg, he became coach of the Track and Field and Soccer teams. In 1965 and 1967, his teams won the State Soccer Championship and in 1974 his track team won the NJ State Championship.

After years as a teacher and coach, Mike became a Vice-Principal at Vailsburg and Central high schools. He remained dedicated to his work in Newark until heart disease

wife Rosina, eight children, and many grandchildren.

When his family remembers Mike it is as a husband, father and grandfather, but when other people remember him, it is the athlete, coach and sportsman that comes to mind. On a bus trip to Atlantic City last year, Mike's wife, Rosina, ran into a man who had grown up in the Weequahic section of Newark. This man recalled knowing Mike. He said, "Mike was always an athlete. I remember him hanging clothes lines between the houses to practice his pole vaulting. And he was always trying to encourage all of the kids in the neighborhood to stay out of trouble and to play sports. He was always organizing some kind of game or another. Mike Mirabella was a great guy...a true leader."

On Friday, October 15th, 1999, Mike was enshrined in the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame in the "performer" category at their 11th Annual Induction Dinner. His family was present to accept this prestigious honor.



1951 - Homeroom 215 - Miss Marger -
Sent in by Anita Blumer Cohen

From Jack Feins, Class of 1944 -

I graduated in 1944 and was a member of a great basketball team during that period. Of course, we always had great basketball teams!! We won the City championship and the Group 4 State championship. Three of us were 1st team All-City and All-County and a couple of us were All-State. Henry Donn was our coach. Some of the players were Len Sobo, Herb Krautblatt, Yussie Kasper, Alvin Rosenberg, Gerry Ostrowsky, Babe Shapiro, Aaron Green, and Len Palmarozza.

JOIN THE WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

\$25.00 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.



WHS Students Win 1st & 2nd Place Awards in Jazz Competition

More than 500 students, family, community members and educators packed Arts High School's auditorium in April to enjoy the music of the Second Annual Connie Woodruff Jazz Competition for Newark Public High School students. About 30 young artists vied for prizes totaling more than \$5,000 in cash. The \$500 First Place and \$250 Second Place winners in the vocal category were Weequahic High School's Trent Sutton and Desiree Middleton respectively.

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://school.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/renunions.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.

WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI MERCHANDISE

HAT \$18.00 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: _____

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ORDER MERCHANDISE: ☐ T-SHIRT: \$15.00 ☐ HAT: \$18.00 ☐ SWEATSHIRT: \$35.00

Delivery will be 3 weeks after your check is received and deposited

MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00 Annually ☐ New ☐ Renewal Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP AS OF THIS MAILING, PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY.

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 - (973) 923-7003

Weequahic High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 8039

Hillside, NJ 07205

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