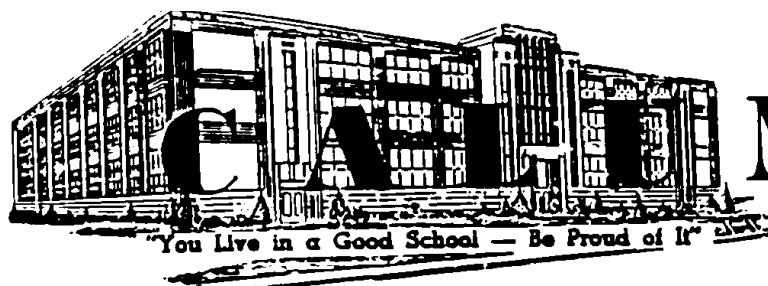


THE WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI



CALUMET

FALL 2001 / ISSUE # 5

WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Co-Presidents:

Harold Braff, 1952
Faith Howard, 1982

Treasurer:

Sheldon Bross, 1955

Secretary:

Adilah Quddus, 1971

Executive Director:

Phil Yourish, 1964

Committee Chairs:

Membership:

Adilah Quddus, 1971

Events:

Faith Howard, 1982

Tutoring / Mentoring:

David Lieberfarb, 1965

WHS Liaison:

Loraine White, 1964

Committee Members:

Reuben Alston, 1982
Edna Bailey, (WHS Principal)
Yvonne Causbey, 1977
Marshall Cooper, 1969
Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert, 1960
Gerald Russell, 1974
Abdur-Rahmaan A. Wadud, 1971
Sam Weinstock, 1955



A LEAP FORWARD

MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

It has been only 4 years since the WHS Alumni Association made its debut to 400 graduates at The Newark Public Library with an exciting vision and an ambitious agenda for the upcoming years. And now our dreams are blossoming. Since that auspicious evening, we have become an integral part of the Weequahic High School community.

Through our alumni, we have raised funds for scholarships and have purchased uniforms and equipment. We have sponsored events at the school for students. We have provided mentoring and opportunities for employment. We are a meaningful presence at the school.

The past few months have been busy and fruitful. We:

- received approval to function as a non-profit organization from the Internal Revenue Service;
- set up our office at Weequahic High School;
- wrote a proposal to receive funding for operating expenses;
- hired Phil Yourish as the first Executive Director of the Association;
- received our first operating grant from the Chancellor Foundation. Steve Dinetz, a 1965 alumnus, is the President;
- received encouragement and support from Marion Bolden, Newark's Superintendent of Schools;
- developed plans for designing a new web site similar to Classmates.com and Planet Alumni;
- increased our mailing list to over 2,000.

As we continue to experience "growing pains," we are fortunate to have Phil Yourish managing our alumni activities. For the past 3 years he has been the

volunteer editor of the Alumni Calumet and is the former executive director of two non-profit organizations in Newark - Independence High School and the Newark Literacy Campaign. For more than 30 years, he has distinguished himself as a teacher, administrator, consultant and volunteer.

ALUMNI POWER!

So they say you can't come home again. Weequahic alumni have defied this notion. You have returned home to the city of your youth, to the streets on which you lived, and to your beloved High School on the hill in many different ways. You have come home in person, through telephone calls, through postal mail, through e-mail, through visits to our web site, by reading the Alumni Calumet, by attending reunions, by purchasing merchandise, by becoming members of the *WHS Alumni Association*, and most importantly, by showing an interest in the Weequahic of today.

We want to continue to capture your interest and transform your fond memories, the nostalgia, and the good feelings that you have about Weequahic into something special and enduring that will

benefit Weequahic High School students in the new millennium. We want to encourage you to keep "giving back." So far, your response has been a resounding **YES!**

Our potential is boundless. Continue to help us raise funds through alumni contributions. Our motto: *We Have Enjoyed A Wonderful Past, Support Weequahic's Future* - is what we are really all about. Soon our vision of "alumni power" will be spreading to other Newark high schools - and the students of Newark will receive the benefits.

Imagine the impact of having tens of thousands of alumni supporting the Newark Public Schools.



Phil Yourish, First Executive Director



The Day That Changed Our Lives

By Hal Braff, Co-President, WHS Alumni Association

From an opened seventh floor window behind my office desk, six blocks from the World Trade Center, on September 11th, I watched and photographed the calamity, framed against an inappropriately beautiful sky, and heard the shrieking of the terrified people below as, to our amazement, the buildings gave way.

So much anguish is impossible to process - even now. No one here is separated by more than three degrees from victims or the remaining family members of victims. Indeed, we are all victims - and like New York City itself - badly scarred.

Evacuated from my building I was a refugee - the police shunting us North - my car remained a hostage, south on Reid Street. I could not help but look back - literally, to stare at the horrible tower of black smoke leaping to the eastward sky and, also, figuratively, to the life in America I knew an hour before.

I wondered how a civilized country could respond to such maniacal behavior. Will freedom and democracy ever mean the same to us? Are we going to have to live in fear? But mostly, as I walked up Broadway, I thought about the chaos and pain that sudden unexpected death and loss leave behind.

Now, as November approaches and we've seen life continue - as it always will - we find prayer is as ubiquitous as are American flags - everywhere people seeking comfort and hope and unity. We are Americans. Nothing will stop us from protecting our right to be free - and we will fight as necessary to secure our safety and improve the potential for all - the poor as well as the wealthy among us.

Clearly breakdowns are opportunities for breakthroughs - and we of the Alumni Association see vividly what our role must be. We are dedicated to providing funding so that lack of family funds will not be barriers to our Weequahic students getting a post high school education.

For education is the key to the American dream - the dream so many of us have lived - the dream that was so challenged on September 11. *America needs our kids to succeed now more than ever.*

TARGET: HOPE

**Out of the towering acrid smoke
Let there arise - the essence of HOPE
For prayer and peace and unity
A pattern for humanity

Let revenge be not our creed
For it sows an ugly seed
Violence takes a terrible toll
And will not return a single soul**

**Let us erect spires three: a holy trinity
To celebrate the lives of our dear departed
Who one September day were martyred**

**Let the mantra - that we daily say
Be the words, "Let Us Pray"**

*By Marie E. O'Connor,
Former WHS English Teacher, September 13, 2001*

Excerpts From Principal Edna Bailey's Message to the Class of 2001



I challenge you to set meaningful goals and strive hard to reach all of them. Your future achievements will be based upon your efforts and commitment. Through your faith and your deeds, you shape your life, and eventually, the lives of others as well.

Remember, I'm depending on you to become our great leaders of the future. Continue to be life-long learners and experience a full life, rich with rewards and accomplishments.



The Maxine Boatwright Memorial Scholarship Fund



To honor the memory of Maxine Boatwright, a popular English teacher and class advisor at Weequahic for 20 years, the WHS Alumni Association established *The Maxine Boatwright Memorial Scholarship Fund*. Ms. Boatwright passed away in February 2000.

During the past year, more than \$2,000 was raised from relatives, colleagues and friends. Our thanks to the many individuals who made contributions. A \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Lauren Dukes, President of the class of 2001. She is attending Montclair State University. A 2nd scholarship will be awarded next year.

VALEDICTORIAN

Soriah Hippolyte
Montclair State University



SALUTATORIAN

Christopher Denham
College of New Jersey



CLASS

PRESIDENT
Lauren Dukes



THE CLASS OF 2001

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

Jaqua Foundation - \$4,000

- Soriah Hippolyte
- Lauren Dukes
- Kyannah Culver
- Tequila Johnson
- Ronald King



**Kyannah
Culver**

Baltimore
Culinary
Institute

Sadie Rous Scholarships - \$400.00

- Rasheedah Fuller
- Kamil Horton
- Linda Oppong
- Laquana Walker



**Ronald
King**

Norfolk
State
University



**Laquana
Walker**

Kean
University



**Tequila
Johnson**

Morgan
State
University



Rasheedah Fuller
Kean University



Kamil Horton
NJ City University



Linda Oppong
Keystone College

A NEW MODEL FOR WEEQUAHIC

By the Small Learning Communities Planning Committee

Weequahic High School is trending up. We adopted our Whole School Reform Model, Talent Development High Schools (TDHS), a research based model that has demonstrated its success in other school districts. This school year is a very important one, because it will be a planning year for doing the things we need to do in order to transition into TDHS.

The most dramatic change will be that Weequahic High School will be broken up into Smaller Learning Communities or Academies that will offer career driven themes. Instead of operating as one big school, we will have 3-4 smaller schools within the school.

One advantage will be that students will be housed in an Academy with a team of teachers that will work with these students throughout their Career Academy days. This will allow for more personalized instruction, enhanced opportunity for team teaching and ultimately more success and higher graduation rates for our students.

Over the last three months of the 2000-01 school year, teams of teachers and administrators have been attending workshops on the structure of Smaller Learning Communities (SLC). In addition we had the opportunity to visit schools that operate as smaller learning communities to see how they run their programs and what we can possibly adapt from their experiences to use here at Weequahic.

Our primary charge as committee members has been to write an Implementation Grant for federal funds that could give us the necessary

resources to implement programs here at Weequahic that would not be funded through regular channels. We are in the process of completing this work and hope that we are successful.

In addition, we have conducted student and staff surveys that will be utilized in helping us to identify our final career academy choices. We know that we will have a Freshman Success Academy, which has specific programs in place to help our ninth graders adjust to high school more easily and set them up with a good foundation for success in a career academy. We also know that one of our career academies is Allied Health and Science. This program will be expanded as we move forward.

This shift in our school will require much assistance from students, staff and administration and we are hopeful that everyone will see this as an opportunity to really help our students succeed.



Weequahic Student To Attend National Youth Leadership Conference

Kingsley Kordie, a senior at Weequahic, has been invited to attend the National Youth Leadership

Conference in Washington, DC. The cost of the trip is being funded by the Jaqua Foundation, which is headed by 1956 graduate Eli Hoffman. Kingsley, an honors student, is the vice-president of the senior class, a participant in a Business Law program at Rutgers University, an intern with the Metropolitan Golf Association at Metuchen Golf and Country Club, and a member of the Golf Club, Scholars Club and Computer Club.

Excerpts from a letter written by Kingsley to Mr. Hoffman follow:

Words I believe wouldn't be enough to express my sincere gratitude for your wondrous gesture. However, these are

the few things I came across when I was thinking of writing a thank you note to you on behalf of my family. We are very grateful to you and the foundation as a whole for your assistance.

It gives me much pleasure and privilege to be nominated to participate in the National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington this fall. This honor is not to myself alone but to my great school Weequahic High School as well. I am greatly delighted to use this opportunity to serve my school and my community as well.

...Academic excellence has always been my major priority, so an opportunity to partake in the upcoming conference will not only be beneficial but a dream come true...An opportunity to witness and meet some of the members will be a memorable event in my life. Nothing makes me prouder than the fact after the conference I can really talk about what goes on when the leaders of our nation meet to discuss and debate issues concerning the welfare of this country. However, one thing I won't forget to mention is that this has all been made possible by the Jaqua Foundation. I am highly privileged.



Weequahic High possesses many astonishing assets - its illustrious grads, athletic achievements and current crop of eager young students. As if that weren't enough, Weequahic is also home to one of the most important installations of public art in New Jersey: "Enlightenment of Man," a New Deal-era mural painted by my father Michael Lenson, who was the director of NJ mural activities for the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

People who pass through the Weequahic lobby often pause to wonder where the murals came from. I'm happy to provide a closer look. The dedication ceremony for the murals took place at Weequahic High on the morning of April 4, 1939. Among the speakers were Max J. Herzberg, Weequahic's Principal; Arthur F. Egner, president of the Newark Museum; and Lorene Trainor, director of the Federal Art Project for New Jersey. The *New York Times* wrote up the event. The *Newark Evening News* reported that my father stood up and remarked, "Remember, we of the WPA are of the people and we are painting for you, the people."

Michael Lenson (1903-1971) emigrated from Russia in 1911 with his parents, six brothers and one sister. The whole family lived in the back room of a tailor shop on Manhattan's Upper East Side. All the kids pursued professions except my dad, whose calling was art. (My dad's kid brother, Sam Levenson, became a Spanish teacher and later won fame as a humorist and raconteur.)

By the late 1920s, success still eluded my dad. At age 25, he was sorting mail in the Post Office by night, studying at the National Academy of Design by day, and sleeping in a drafty hovel on East 116th Street with other art students. But in 1928, he entered the prestigious Chaloner competition and won a \$10,000 prize that would pay for four years of study in Europe.

When he returned home in 1932, he had a string of one-man shows in New York that won strong critical praise. But the Depression was on and my dad was soon broke again. That's when the WPA came in - the remarkable New Deal project initiated by FDR to put people back to work on government-funded projects. My father was barred from participation in New York because one of his brothers was a physician (you had to prove poverty to be put on the payroll). But he found his way to New Jersey's WPA headquarters at 361-369

The Weequahic Murals

by Barry Lenson



Halsey Street in Newark and was soon painting murals and directing mural activities across the state.

He personally painted murals for the Verona Sanitarium, the City Council Chambers in Newark City Hall and the New Jersey Pavilion of the 1939 World's Fair, along with other locations. The 1999 edition of *Who Was Who in American Art* calls my father "New Jersey's most important muralist." He was also art critic of the *Newark Sunday News* from 1956-1971 and director of the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts for a time. His paintings are in the Newark Museum and many major institutions across the country.

The WHS lobby murals, which were probably painted in WPA headquarters on Halsey Street before transfer to Weequahic, offered my father the kind of mural assignment he loved the most. Like his "History of Newark" panels at City Hall, they afforded him a savory opportunity to engage in historical study and research, which he loved. But since the Weequahic murals are only loosely tied to actual events and places, they gave him more

freedom to create highly personal images of mankind's progress from ignorance to enlightenment. The story is easy to follow on the walls. As you stand inside the lobby, face the entry doors and start with the panel just to their left. As you move leftwards around the room, you'll find the story clearly delineated:

- **PREHISTORY:** Early women and men seek a cave's protection against a sabertooth tiger, lightning and other natural threats. Ignorance makes these primitives fearful, yet they have created cave paintings to lend order to the world around them. In art, the spark of enlightenment has been struck.
- **EARLY CIVILIZATIONS:** Images of ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece depict the social progress of mankind. The forces of Sparta and Rome, starkly shown, will recede from philosophy and humanism.
- **THE DARK AGES:** Monks preserve the scholarly classical tradition. A scientific experiment represents the dawn of modern science.
- **THE RENAISSANCE:** Savonarola, the fanatical Italian monk, is preaching for the destruction of art and science. Yet Michelangelo, Leonardo, Erasmus, and Dante are there too - a strong starting lineup on any team. Enlightenment will win out in the end.
- **THE ENLIGHTENMENT:** An austere-looking scholar sits in his study, surrounded by thick books.
- **THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:** Workers operate a cotton gin, reflecting the Depression-era belief that automation would liberate mankind from demeaning physical labor.
- **MODERN TIMES:** The entire West lobby wall depicts contemporary society in a very positive light. We see an airplane, a dam, a bridge, skyscrapers and girders. A farm represents America's natural resources. A mine disaster is also in progress.
- **THE FUTURE:** In the final panel, a man and woman, enlightened at last, lift their arms heavenward. It's one of the most moving images in my father's entire output. A shattered cannon wheel expresses the hope that man will one day put an end to

Please visit the Web site of the Friends of Michael Lenson at www.michaellenson.org or write to Barry at 9 Myrtle Ave., Millburn NJ

FROM THE VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI

From Les Fein, Former Teacher & Basketball Coach

Read every line of the Alumni Calumet and it was delicious. Loved it. And got chuckles, sighs, and revitalized memories. Keep up the good work - congratulations to all involved. Sent a congratulatory telegram to Frank Gavin, basketball coach, and his state championship team. Brooklyn is my home town - but Newark and Weequahic are deep within me - forever. Best regards to Hal & Sheldon, Lois, Dave, Loraine, Gerry, Charles and Sam.

From Carol Miller, Class of 1956

I always enjoy the newsletter. At our get together in Florida we talked about Miss O'Connor and I'm sure everyone who received the newsletter was happy to read about her. Also, Coach Les Fein was there. Being so far away for so long, it's a very comfortable feeling for me to read about Newark and Weequahic and remember my younger days! Thanks for all your work on the newsletter and the alumni association.

From Samuel Wasserson, Class of 1952

Received my Calumet yesterday and read it from cover to cover. The article on Miss O'Connor was excellent and caught the flavor of her as a teacher and the feeling of those who revere her as "The Most Unforgettable Person I've Ever Met" as well as reflecting our gratitude to her for that which she gave us.

From Anita Forgash, Class of 1962

Received my issue last night and had to read it immediately. As always, it is outstanding.

From Linda Wymiser, Class of 1967

Great job! I'm not only a Weequahic alum, but also a faculty alum. I taught Phys. Ed. from 1972 until 1977 with Lorraine White and Gwen McClendon. Wish I was back there to help with the Alumni Calumet. Wish I was back there to get some good pizza! Colorado is great, but the pizza isn't. Keep up the great work!

From David Moskowitz, Class of June 1959 Fran Klurman, Class of January 1960

Wow! You made my day. How happy I was to receive the Alumni Calumet. Great idea. I imagine plenty of work.

From Naomi Flecker Gustafson, Class of 1959

Thank you for my glimpse of the Alumni Calumet. What a thrill and chill to discover the Weequahic High letterhead. If it weren't for the good old orange, I probably would have discarded it along with other advertisements!! If only.....we could have reached back in time to let our teachers know the impact they had on our lives. I still hear the voices...Does anyone remember the dedication of Untermann Field and the laying of that enormous rock just outside the entrance? Banner and bands and Morrie Amsterdam.

...We weren't latch key kids then when my mother worked in downtown Newark. My brother, David, and I survived it. We had the playground and Mr. Barone and Mr. Harris. We played sports and knew how to occupy our time. We had wonderful friends and neighbors. We had the clubs and the Y and a community of caring people. My mother left me in charge to buy rye bread from Baker's Bakery on Lyons Avenue, pick up the filled prescription at Slonim's and get fruit and vegetables from Goldenberg's market and admonished me to "get right back home to do your homework." Love your photo gallery (at the web site) and hope you can share more with us!

From Abdur-Rahmaan A. Wadud, Class of 1971

You really outdid yourself on this one. I could not put it down once I started reading it. I was most touched by two stories. The story of the band receiving their new uniforms was exciting. Being a former band member myself I can relate to how they felt when they received them. Also, the story of the basketball team winning the Group II championship and the support that Shabazz gave them before the game. Thank you again for another great edition.

From Mark Tarabour, Class of 1963

Received my Alumni Calumet the other day and had to let you know how terrific it is. I especially liked the articles about Miss O'Connor, and our Linda Whittle Reiningier from class of 1963. Thank you for giving us a window into today's Weequahic activities. That's really neat. The newsletter is first class and we really appreciate the time and effort that must go into turning out such an outstanding piece of work.

Alumni Profile:

Sandy Kraus, Class of 1955



Hi, those of you, who like me, were born shortly after once upon a time, may remember me as Sandy Kraus, class of 1955. In my junior and senior years I became involved as a stage hypnotist. Studying at the Ethical Hypnosis Training Center with Harry Arons, I teamed up with Alan Jacobowitz as the team of Kross and Jason. Though his cards read Jason and Kross.

We managed to supplement our income quite handsomely, performing at swim clubs, civic groups, sweet 16 parties and for anyone else who was willing to pay us \$150. Not a small sum in the 1950's. When it came time to go off to college, Alan, felt it ill behooved an academic to be a performer. I had no such feeling, loved the stage and spotlight. And basically paid my way through college by performing/Adding Psychic Entertainment to my hypnosis skills during that period.

Over the course of the years, I've appeared on Oprah, Geraldo, Joan Rivers, Jackie Mason and other national TV shows. In addition from 1975-1983 I hosted and produced two cable TV series. I have been a consultant to the Psycho-physical Research laboratory, which before its closing was the largest parapsychology research lab in the U.S. I've also been Director of Haunt Hunters, a psychic investigative group that studies ghosts and related phenomena. And have been on the Board of Directors of the Psychic Entertainers Association and the International Association of Psychic Entertainers

While age and recent health considerations limit my travel, I still perform regularly as a Psychic Entertainer and Hypnotist. I probably should mention that I always used the stage name of Kross and about 15 years ago decided I was too old to be a Sandy and changed my first name to Ford. So if any of you remember me and wondered what I've been doing, now you know, Kross Psychic Services.



Alumni Profile:

Johnny Alexander, Class of 1998

Johnny Alexander, native of Newark, has continued to prove that poverty does not determine success! A graduate of the class of 1998, Johnny attends Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia where he is a candidate for a Bachelor of Science degree, May 2003. He is majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. At Morehouse, he is an Honor Roll and Dean's List Student.

He is also a member of the *Gates Millennium Scholars Program*, which is a \$1 billion philanthropic initiative, created by Microsoft Chairman and Co-founder Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda that provides financial assistance to high-achieving individuals from the African American, Native-American, Hispanic American, and Asian American communities; the *National Society of Collegiate Scholars*, which is a not for profit organization that recognizes and celebrates high achievement among first and second year college students in all academic disciplines; *The Morehouse Business Association*; and *The Morehouse-Spelman Pre-Law Society*.

Johnny also volunteers in the Atlanta community. He is involved in: *Aid Children of Imprisoned Mothers, Inc.* where he chaperones children to prison to see their mothers; *Best Buddies, Inc.* where he establishes one-on-one relationships with people afflicted with mental retardation; and is a *Morehouse Mentor and Elementary Tutor*. Throughout his college breaks, Johnny interns with *New Community Corporation* in Newark as well as volunteers for the *Newark Literacy Campaign*, *Newark Do Something*, and *10,000 Mentors*.

After graduating from Morehouse, John plans to attend law school and become a Corporate Attorney. Asked about his career goals, Johnny responded, "I always wanted to be an attorney, in particular a Corporate Counsel because of my interest in Mergers and Acquisitions."

David Shapiro, Class of 1964, Remembers Weequahic Park

By Joe White, Weequahic Park Newsletter

On a recent trip to Rhode Island, I met a poet named David Shapiro, who is known in certain literary circles. His actual claim to fame is that as a very young aspiring poet, he was allowed by burgeoning literary giants like Jack Kerouac, Amiri Baraka, Joel Oppenheimer and Gregory Corso to hang around with them in New York's Greenwich Village.

We started talking about what he did for a living and I mentioned my work in Weequahic Park. "You work for Weequahic Park?" David said. "I was practically raised there. I've written poems about the park. The park's in the books that I've got here." He pulled three slim volumes of poetry from a briefcase and begun turning pages rapidly. "Here's one about the lake," he said. "I used to sit for hours on the bank of the lake and write poetry."

There were 15 of them in the beginning - all boys, and they were neighborhood friends even before they started kindergarten in the late 1920s at the yellow brick Peshine Avenue Grammar School in Newark's old working class, then mostly Jewish Weequahic section on the city's southwestern boundary. As their lives evolved in the classrooms, on the boisterous streets and stoops and in the gravel schoolyard that was their second home, a sort of alchemy transformed their friendship into something more like brotherhood.

On they went to Weequahic High School where, in their junior year of 1938, they pledged to be comrades forever under the banner of Gamma Sigma Chi, for "*Know Thyself*." Earlier, they had dubbed themselves the "*Oriole Athletic Club*," or more informally, *the Peshine Avenue Boys*.

Never out of contact, meeting every other Friday whenever possible, their friendship has remained steadfast for some 70 years - through high school, college for some, World War II service for 13, marriage, careers, children, grandchildren, retirement and, finally, ripening old age. Through all this, the fellowship among the 12 who survive continues unwavering and unstopable.

"If the question is asked, 'How do you make and keep friends?,' I guess we should have the answers," said **Irv Newman**, 76, of Roseland, a printing business representative. "Certainly, we had a lot going for us - similarity of heritage, commonality of schooling, a terrific social life. For most of our lives we also had the good fortune to live within a 25-mile radius of one another. But we needed more. The ingredients that have held us together are honesty, communication and good humor."

When some of the gang began to drift to retirement homes in other states, it was Newman's idea that everyone be assigned a month of the year in which to write a newsy letter about himself and family that would be photocopied and distributed to the others. Five still reside in New Jersey, four are in Florida, and one each in Arizona, California and Pennsylvania.

"It's a great way of keeping in touch," said **Dan "Chuck" Klein**, 75, a retired vice president of a container business in Union, now living in Sarasota, Fla. "We do it religiously, two or three pages, typed or in longhand. Some of us now use computers." Writing from his home in Clearwater, Fla.,

STILL TOGETHER AFTER 70 YEARS



From left: **Irv Newman, Chuck Klein, Jack Kamin and Herb**

Bobby Bierman told of taking his 2-year-old granddaughter ice skating on a local rink and "falling on my backside. Needless to say, some smart aleck 15-year-old had to help me get upright."

When Klein and his wife Vera came north recently, their called for a mini-meeting of some of the Peshine Avenue "boys" still in New Jersey. The site was the Retreat lounge of the Hilton of Short Hills where the Kleins were staying. Also at the table were Newman; **Jack "Jake" Kamin**, 77, of Union, a tool company operator, and **Herb "Jasco" Jacobsen**, 75, of Jamesburg, a retail furniture salesman.

In keeping with the gang's age-old exclusion of wives from their sessions, Vera Klein cheerfully absented herself to a far table, and when a twinge of guilt drove one of the men to invite her to join them, she replied without rancor that she was very comfortable where she was, thank you. Newman explained, "No Women!" had been the group's "rallying cry" since regular meetings were begun during the high school years.

The talk gravitated to the war that 13 of the group survived. Newman and Bierman flew in B-17's, the former a bombardier, the latter a lead navigator. Jacobsen, an airman, guarded a stockade of American prisoners in Italy. Klein was an army communications specialist. Kamin was a flight engineer in a 9th Air Force C-47 cargo plane that flew

survivors out of the German concentration camp at Dachau. "Normally, we transported 16 fully equipped paratroopers," said Kamin. "On this run, I had to load 102 live corpses. They were alive, but barely. Their eyeballs were popping out...you could see all their bones. I'll never forget it."

After lunch, someone suggested a visit to the old neighborhood, which some had not seen for many years. They were pleasantly surprised to find Peshine Avenue School in good condition and bursting with children. "Growing up, we spent all our time in the playground, every day after school, and all day on weekends and summer," recalled Klein. "It was open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. At 7 we'd gather on Bobby Bierman's stoop, playing fantasy baseball dice until his mother yelled, 'Get those bums out of here.' Then we'd head for the playground.

"There were no mitts, but we had bat and a big softball with stitching on the outside. We had teams, Fishers, the Shamrocks, the Orioles and Comets. We'd go home for lunch and supper, then come right back until the fence was locked for the night. Our folks never worried. They knew where we were."

Someone recalled a red headed neighborhood roughneck called "**Red**" **Lebzelter**, who became a prize fighter, a World War II paratrooper, and an actor who renamed himself Jack Warden. "If I saw him coming, I'd cross the street," said Newman. Other notables who came out of the Peshine Avenue neighborhood included **Vivian Blaine** and **Mort Lippman**. Blaine, born Vivienne Stapleton in Newark in 1921, became a singer and actress who appeared in Hollywood musicals, starring in the Broadway and film versions of "Guys & Dolls." Lippman, a pianist, became bandleader for Merv Griffin.

A hero to the gang to this day is **Allie Stoltz**, who as a skinny kid clever with his dukes, was often called upon to make short work of playground bullies. Stoltz, who today lives in Irvington, entered the ring and fought Sammy Angott for the world lightweight championship in Madison Square Garden in 1942. To the crowd, Stoltz was the victor, but the decision after 15 rounds went to Angott.

Other members of the group were: **Norman Aronchick, Milt Cooper, Monroe Greene, Jerry Marlis, Mendy Frieder and Marvin Tinsky.**

*A piece of the old sod still stands up high on Hawthorne Avenue. One of the few remaining establishments of the neighborhood where the tastes and treats were many is Bragman's, a deli of some note. Noted enough to capture the interest of Star-Ledger feature writer, WHS's own **Brooke Tarabour (1965)** in her **Taste of New Jersey** column on July 11, 2001. Reprinted below for your nostalgic pleasure and corn beef and pastrami sweet tooth is Brooke's recent entry bridging the 60's and the 21st century.*

Jac Toporek, Class of 1963

BRAGMAN'S DELI - A Landmark on Hawthorne Avenue

There's a lot to be said for the last man standing. When all the other Jewish delis in the Weequahic section of Newark moved to the suburbs along with their customers in the mid-to-late 1960s, the Reisner family thought about it for about 30 seconds, then kept on slicing the corned beef. While businesses in their Hawthorne Avenue neighborhood struggled to rebuild after the 1967 riots, the Reisners opened their doors every morning, letting the pungent aroma of hot pastrami fill the air with a message that implied "Life goes on."

And so it has. By 11 a.m. most days, there is a line of people waiting for mother-and-son Janice and Larry Reisner to make their favorite sandwiches, just like in the old days, in the heyday of Jewish Newark. And while these folks may too have grown up on sloppy joes and chopped liver, it's only because Bragman's has been a fixture in their neighborhood for 80 years, and no one who loves food could possibly pass by and not be swayed inside at some point by that promising scent.

You see, Bragman's serves its neighborhood. It always has. And while that customer base was predominately Jewish for decades, it changed as the community changed. Now, the Reisners serve mostly African Americans, who passionately debate the virtues of Charlie Specials vs. Janice Specials or boast how long they've been eating here or how far out of their way they have to come just to negotiate a thick mound of meat on rye with Russian dressing dripping on their hands.

As a new culture embraces the bounties of an old one, the break in the continuity of how business has always been done at Bragman's is so small it is startling. Orders for large

holiday catering meals are still written on sides of brown bags - at least five to a bag so there's no wasted space. Daily take-out orders are scribbled on scraps of paper. The cash register is the kind where you punch each number, as in 1 - 0 - 7 - 5, for \$10.75, then push a button so the drawer opens. Many of the multi-colored linoleum tiles are original; the ones that have been replaced are set in the midst of the old ones so it all looks ancient.



There's a double-decker square steam table with latched compartments in back of the counter where the pastrami and corned beef are kept warm - I have never seen one like it and figure it's got to be at least 40 years old, probably more. But every time Larry Reisner gets ready to make a sandwich, he opens one of the doors to take meat out so it's fresh and hot for every order; when that spicy smell hits you full in the face, you stop marveling about "how old" and start appreciating the way things used to be.

It all started when Charles "Charlie" Reisner bought Bragman's from the original owner in 1951; at that point, the Bragman family had already been in business for more than 30 years. A Holocaust survivor from Czechoslovakia, Reisner had come to the U.S. in 1947 and worked at another local deli for a few years before buying Bragman's. Business was good from the start, and one night in 1954

to let off a little steam and maybe meet a nice girl, he went to a singles group at nearby B'nai Jeshurun synagogue. He really got lucky that evening, meeting Janice Rubinfeld, a young college graduate with a degree in dietetics, who would come to understand his drive and work ethic. They married and raised three children, Larry, Ellen and Roberta. Janice Reisner came to work every day with her husband, even working up till closing one day when she gave birth to her son the next. Charlie Reisner passed away six years ago, and at that time, she gave ownership of the store to her son, Larry.

Still, she comes to work every day. "I help him out now," she says. Together, they greet customers by name, share a pleasant word and manage to thank every last person, even if they're in the middle of another conversation.

During my visit, so many customers ask to be in this story so they can say something nice about the Reisners and their food that it is more like a tribute than a food article. But that's after they've been served - lunch is, after all, the priority. I notice that everyone waiting for sandwiches is chewing something, and I realize that Larry Reisner hands them each a piece of meat as he slices - when was the last time you saw that?

Charlie Specials are the store's biggest sellers (hot corned beef, pastrami, cole slaw and Russian dressing, \$6.47), followed by Janice Specials (a triple decker of hot pastrami, corned beef, turkey, cole slaw and Russian dressing, \$6.75). There are more than 20 "specials," regular roast beef or single meat sandwiches, hot dogs, chili, salads, chopped liver, homemade chicken noodle or vegetable beef barley soup and as a nod to the neighborhood, banana pudding and sweet potato pies.

Come holiday time, old-time customers drive in from the suburbs to pick up large catering orders. "They all come back for the holidays," says Janice Reisner, who now finds herself cooking for a third generation of Bragman's customers.

And while things definitely pick up at the high holy days and Thanksgiving, every day is busy enough to think about the next leg of a very long, successful run. In March, the Reisners celebrated their 50th anniversary in business and they're proof positive that the last man standing can always give life lessons to the new kids on any block.

FROM THE VOICES OF OUR ALUMNI

From Suzanne Wallis, Class of 1960

WHS Nickname & Logo Issue

As I am sitting in my office writing the check for the renewal of my Weequahic Alumni Association dues, I cannot help but wonder If I am the only alum who is uncomfortable with the school logo of the Native American. It took my moving to the Northwest some twenty-five years ago to make me aware that Native Americans (like any other ethnic, racial or religious group) certainly do not like to see themselves caricatured (think of the controversy surrounding the Atlanta Braves logo and their idiotic tomahawk chop).



INDIANS

I have never been able to wear any of the Indian-blazoned Weequahic clothing I received at various reunions because to do so would be to offend the very real Native Americans who live here. Can you imagine a school without any Blacks having a Black person on their logo? Or how about a school with no Jews having a caricature of a Jew as their trademark? I am sure that you all get the picture. Indians are people, too, with the same sensitivity about being caricatured as you or I. I know that growing up in Newark I had absolutely no first hand acquaintance with any Native Americans, but now that I do I am as offended by the Weequahic logo as they are. Has there been any attempt made to change the Weequahic logo to a non-offensive one.

(Ed. Note: This issue has been discussed at recent Alumni Association meetings and at the High School. As yet, no decision has been made. After 45 years, Parsippany High School dropped its Redskins nickname and the student body voted on a new nickname. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has urged all non-Native American schools to do away with Native American mascot names. Alumni, we are anxious to hear from you about this issue.

From Michele Gelayder Berman, Class of 1960

Congratulations to everyone involved in putting the Alumni Association and the Calumet together. It was great fun to read the latest issue and even better to go to the web site. I've been living in Washington, DC for 37 years and I am always amazed at how many people (from all over the country) know about Weequahic ...which I'm always asked to pronounce. I really never understood as a student the power of its reputation. My 2 most vivid memories of high school are (1) cheerleading for our championship basketball team at the Camden game in my Senior year and (2) the class party at my house in my Junior year when 1/2 the school showed up...boy, did I get in trouble!

From Paul Lyons, Class of 1960

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed issue # 4 of the Alumni Calumet. I teach at Stockton College near Atlantic City and have published three books (4th on its way) on aspects of modern U.S. History. I've been out of Newark for 35 years and yet still feel passionately loyal to it and WHS - apparently I'm in lots of good company. Thanks for your efforts and those others who have created the Association. A special hello to Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert if you run into her.

From Rita Mittleman Jamnik

Just read your Weequahic Alumni newsletter which my husband receives - Herman Jamnik, class of 1967. It was nice to see my father's bakery mentioned, Mittleman's (not el). I grew up in Hillside, graduated in 1968, and always was around in Newark when it was the place to be. My husband still keeps in contact with friends from Weequahic, his class and others before him. Again, it was nice to see the bakery mentioned. It was some Jewish bakery! I remember people waiting in line out the door to purchase rolls and rye bread that my dad made.

From Charles Bressel, Class of 1953

I now live in Massachusetts, but in Newark I lived in the apartment house at 691 Elizabeth Avenue, corner of Goldsmith Avenue, right across from Weequahic Park. A year ago, I visited Newark and actually toured our high school. Another day I did the same at Maple Avenue School. They still have the same seats in the auditorium. They feel exactly the same, even though I have grown. The staff are very friendly. They are delighted to see alumni. The only changes are: much wear and tear on our gym lockers at Weequahic and some wonderful new computer labs. There is now a guard at Weequahic. He was very happy to let me in. We reminisced at some length. The principal and assistant principal asked me to let them know when I would be coming again and to arrange a talk on my career. That would be nice. I spent two evenings in Weequahic Park. It is even more beautiful than I remembered it.

From Jack Gersten, Class of 1941

I recently received the winter/Spring 2001 issue of your 'Calumet' and though no members of your committee go as far back as 1941, I thought you might be interested in knowing about us. I have been involved in our class reunions since 1960. We have about 20 of them and I know of no other class from Weequahic that has met more often. From a class of 359 I still have current addresses for 155 of my former

classmates. This past March we had a reunion in Florida just for the Class of June 1941 and it was the best ever. On June 10th at the Woodbridge Hilton in NJ we are having our 60th and classmates are coming from all over the country. We have a Weequahic Orange and Brown banner that we hang at each reunion; we have the music and words to our school songs and we fondly remember the years we spent on Chancellor Avenue, a long time ago.

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Ginsburg, Recreation Director and School Administrator



Former Weequahic High School Athletic Director, Hal Ginsburg, passed away in September.

He was employed by the city of Newark for 12 years before retiring as its Director of Physical Education and Recreation in 1986. Earlier, he had been the Physical Education Department Chair and baseball coach at Weequahic High School, and before that, a Physical Education teacher at Dayton Street School.

Mr. Ginsburg was 1951 graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles. He earned a master's degree in 1955 and a doctorate degree in 1958, both from New York University. He served in the Army during the Korean War.

Mr. Ginsburg was a member of the NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the Young Men's Hebrew Association of Union and the Council of Administrators and Supervisors Association. Born in Hoboken, he lived in Newark and Union before moving to Bradley Beach five years ago. Surviving are his wife Frances; a daughter, Mrs. Randi Elman; brothers George and Donald, and three grandchildren.

William R. Steiner, Trade Center Victim and 1962 Alumnus



Mr. Steiner, 56, was working on the 97th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center when a hijacked plane crashed into the building on Sept. 11. Mr. Steiner, who was known as Bill, was a managing director of information technology at Marsh Inc., an insurance company that is a unit of Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc. Mr. Steiner had worked for the parent company for more than 30 years.

Born in Newark, Mr. Steiner graduated from Weequahic High School in 1962 and later attended St. John's University's branch in Manhattan, earning degrees in business administration, computer science and reinsurance.

He met his wife, Russa, at a friend's wedding in 1966. The couple married in 1969 and lived in Edison, Los Angeles and Hamilton Township before settling in Solebury Township, Pa., in 1987. Mr. Steiner continued to commute to Lower Manhattan from Pennsylvania. Mr. Steiner was the father of three children: Meredith, 23, Jordan, 21, and Darren, 18. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his mother, Wilma E. Steiner of Bethlehem, Pa.; his brothers, George W. Steiner of Toms River and Robert Steiner of Bethlehem, Pa.; and his father, George H. Steiner of Hackettstown.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the attention of Beth Geibe, William R. Steiner Children Memorial Fund, First Union Bank, 336 W. Bridge St., New Hope, Pa. 18938.

Lois Menkes, Newark Teacher and WHS 1944 Grad



As a teacher, Lois Menkes knew better than anybody how hard it can be to motivate pupils. So she devised ways to get their attention.

Mrs. Menkes, who taught for 34 years at Madison Elementary School in Newark, recorded tunes on a cassette that she would bring to class every day. As students lined up outside the classroom door, Mrs.

Menkes would hit the "play" button for the "The Hustle" while the kids hustled into their seats, hands neatly folded. They would then wait for the theme song from the movie "Rocky III," "Eye of the Tiger," which was their cue to frantically get out their materials for class.

According to her brother, Star-Ledger sports columnist Jerry Izenberg, Mrs. Menkes found ingenious ways to keep students interested. She and her husband Marvin would take children to NY museums on weekends, invite them to their home for barbecues, and play baseball with the kids in the local schoolyard. Mrs. Menkes taught 3rd grade and later became a reading specialist.

Mrs. Menkes, who was born in Newark and most recently lived in Verona, passed away in September from breast cancer. She was 74. Growing up in Newark, she graduated from Avon Avenue School and Weequahic High School before attending Newark University (Rutgers-Newark) for one year. She then transferred to Ohio State University, where she graduated with a degree in theater arts. Mrs. Menkes also earned a master's in education from Kean University and a Ph.D. from William Paterson University.

She is survived by her husband, Marvin; brother, Jerry; daughter, Nancy Clayman; son Neal; a son-in-law Andrew Clayman; a daughter-in-law, Joan Menkes, and five grandchildren.

Rev. John Sharpe, Newark Minister and WHS 1963 Grad



On Friday, May 25, 2001, Rev. John Sharpe, the minister at Shiloh Baptist Church in Newark and a 1963 graduate of Weequahic High School, died of a ruptured artery at age 56.

Community outreach was the trademark of the Rev. Sharpe's tenure at Shiloh. He reached out to the city's large Latino community and invited neighborhood Latinos to worship at his parish with a congregation of predominantly

African-Americans. He made it clear that the church does not have a specific nationality or creed. His personality captured the heart and attention of young people. He instituted a tutoring program, organized a basketball league, and started a day care center. He also ministered the sick at Columbus Hospital, set up substance abuse counseling, and started a prison ministry. He also owned V & S Southern Cuisine on Chancellor Avenue in Newark.

Rev. Sharpe was born in Autaugaville, Alabama and is survived by his wife Audrey, his son, John, Jr.; and two grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

Stanley Herr, 1963 Grad, Law Professor and Advocate for the Disabled



Stanley S. Herr, 56, a University of Maryland law professor whose work on behalf of the disabled included landmark cases establishing their right to public education in the District of Columbia and a 1989 Maryland ban on the execution of retarded criminals, died Sept. 24, 2001 at his home in Baltimore. He had cancer.

Since 1983, Dr. Herr, who was president of the American Association on Mental Retardation, had taught courses in human rights, disability rights and civil rights at the law school in Baltimore. In his law practice, he specialized in the rights of the disabled and the homeless.

As a Kennedy fellow at the White House during the Clinton administration, he was an adviser to the Domestic Policy Council on issues of disability and homelessness.

Dr. Herr was a 1963 alumnus of Weequahic High School. At WHS, he served as senior class president and captain of the cross country team.

He graduated from Yale University and received a law degree. He received a doctorate in law from Oxford University and was a Rockefeller fellow for human rights at Columbia University, a Kennedy fellow at Balliol College, Oxford, and a Fulbright senior research scholar at Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

He also taught law at Harvard and Catholic universities and was a consultant to the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. He served on the Maryland governor's Commission to Revise the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Law. He was author of "Rights and Advocacy for Retarded People" and co-author of "Legal Rights and Mental Health Care," both textbooks. He also wrote for law reviews. Among his honors were the American Bar Association's Paul G. Hearne Award for Disability Rights and the University of Maryland Regents' Award for community service.

Dr. Herr was a member of the boards of the American Jewish Society for Service and Special Olympics Maryland. He was co-founder of the Homeless Persons Representation Project in Baltimore.

Survivors include his wife, Raquel Schuster-Herr, and three children, David Louis Herr, Deborah Ann Herr and Ilana Ruth Herr, all of Baltimore; and a sister, Judith N. Herr of Bethesda.

Donations can be made to: Stanley S. Herr Fund for Disability Rights and Social Justice, University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, 515 West Lombard Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

Other Alumni Who Have Recently Passed Away

Rona Mink Smith - 1958

Jeffrey Davis - 1964

Lawrence Webb, Firefighter and 1978 Grad, Dies While Fighting Blaze



Tributes poured in for fallen Newark firefighter Lawrence Webb, 37, a 15-year veteran on the force, who died after battling a two-alarm blaze in the city's North Ward on May 22nd.

One of the tributes came from his cousin and Newark native, Shaquille O'Neal. "My cousin was a heroic firefighter who died on the job," the NBA star said. "Ever since we were little boys, he always wanted to be a fireman. I come from a family of fireman and police officers." City flags on all municipal buildings flew at half-staff to

honor Webb, a second generation fireman. It was the first time in seven years that a Newark fireman was killed putting out a fire.

Webb joined the department on April 21, 1986. He was a 1978 graduate of Weequahic High School and the NJIT Institute of Technology, where he studied electrical engineering. He was a motorcycle enthusiast, kept snakes as pets, and devoured motivational and spiritual books.

"He was a great firefighter, a really class act," said Dave Giordano, president of the Newark firefighters union. "He was just like his father, a prince." "We extend our profound and heartfelt sympathy to the family of this courageous firefighter," said Mayor Sharpe James. "His father was a distinguished member of the fire department, and the entire family has a legacy of service to the city of Newark. I join with the city and his family in mourning this tragic loss of life."

More than 2,000 firefighters, trembling and weeping, were still shaken by Webb's death as his coffin was raised onto Engine Company's 13 firetruck in front of St. James A.M.E. Church and joined a convoy that took him for a final ride past his North Ward firehouse on Mt. Prospect Avenue where his fiancée, Andrea Chapman, dropped a single red rose across his charred helmet. An old firehouse bell rang 16 times - four stanzas of four rings - the department's century-old code for a firefighter killed in a fire.

Woody Eig - 1962



Woody Eig, a 1962 graduate of Weequahic High School passed away on October 2, 2001.

Mr. Eig was the owner of Snacks Unlimited for many years. Previously, he worked in real estate and insurance, had an ice-cream distributing business, opened up a donut and ice-cream shop, and was a bar tender. He lived in Boston Massachusetts for 10 years and most recently in Ocean and Wall Townships.

Mr. Eig is survived by his wife Donna; sons, Brian and Jonathan; father, Herbert Eig; sister, Robbie Henry and her husband Samuel Henry; a step-daughter, Rachel Stone; and a step-son, Michael Stone.

REUNIONS

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

1941 - 60th Reunion

June 10, 2001

Woodbridge Hilton Hotel in Iselin, NJ

Jan. 1951 - 50th Reunion

Sunday, April 22, 2001

Somerset Hilton Hotel in Warren, NJ

June 1951 - 50th Reunion

Saturday, May 5, 2001.

Twin Brooks Country Club in Watchung, NJ

1961 - 40th Reunion

Saturday, October 20, 2001

Fairfield Radisson Hotel & Suites

1966 - 35th Reunion

Saturday, October 27, 2001

Sheraton Hotel in Edison, NJ

1981 - 20th Reunion

Saturday, August 18, 2001

Pines Manor in Edison, NJ

1991 - 10th Reunion

Saturday, October 27, 2001

Iberia Restaurant in Newark, NJ

1st Annual Get-Together Scholarship Reunion Party

Saturday, September 22, 2001.

Terrace Ballroom in Newark, NJ

West Coast WHS Alumni Reunion For All Classes

Sunday, November, 11, 2001, 11 AM

Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA

It was a huge success! Almost 200 alumni. An article and pictures will be in the next issue.

Class of 1964 is planning its 40th Reunion for 2004

We want to have the biggest reunion ever. We already have more than 300 addresses. Need to hear from classmates. Contact: Cheryl Alterman Elblonk at (561) 795-4443 or E-mail at irataxman@aol.com

**Send REUNION Announcements
to weequahic3@aol.com**

**How About Establishing
A Scholarship Fund
For Your Class?**

1st Annual Get-Together Scholarship & Reunion Party

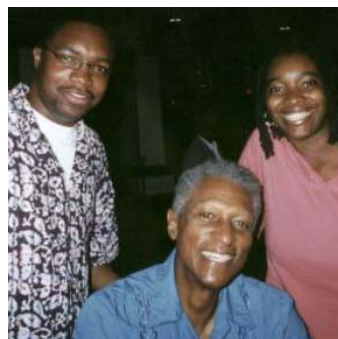


By Adilah Quddus

The Weequahic High School Alumni Association held its 1st Annual Get-Together Scholarship & Reunion Party at the Symphony Hall's Terrace Ballroom in Newark on Saturday, September 22, 2001 to raise funds for scholarships for Weequahic High School students. It was a beautiful sight, seeing alumni and friends shower each other with hugs and kisses. Most of them had not seen one another for fifteen or twenty-five years. They came from near and far and all had a good time. An established jazz singer, Douglas (Willie) West, a 1971 WHS alumnus, sang a few tunes. He had a well-known pianist, Professor Robert Banks, play for him with Fred Brascomb as back up.



Ron, Rabiyyah, and Sharon



Morey, Saunders Davis & Shirin

Even with the horrific tragedy that took place in New York City and Washington, DC and the heartbreaking news of lost lives the week before, we were still hopeful that this reunion would take place. We had to be strong, pray a lot, and move on as planned with this affair to bring closeness among friends and to show that we would not be paralyzed, afraid to travel, socialize and enjoy life. Unfortunately, some people couldn't make it because of transportation difficulties, but still supported the cause. Now we have a critical mission, so let's look in the mirror and make that positive change within ourselves. Helping with our children's education through scholarships is a way of helping our country. The 2nd Annual Get-Together Scholarship & Reunion Party will be scheduled for October 2002.

1961 - 40th Reunion - By Jill Graifer Watkins

Our reunion was just the most incredible experience....everything was absolutely perfect---over 200 people! We had approximately 40-50 folks from out of the state (Israel, South America included!)---and, despite current events, we had just 1 cancellation...amazing.....In fact, we'd announced a hospitality room for the evening before, anticipating that a few people plus the hotel guests would come---well, we had over 100 classmates just at that!!! We had so many people that we spilled out into the hallway---and we were hooting and hollering so that the police came!! (a sure sign of a successful bash!) The reunion was magical---and uplifting....and restorative....and just plain wonderful....There is definitely something very special about our high school days and friends at WHS.

June 1951 - 50th Reunion - By Marilyn Barnhard Chaiken

We did have a great time. There were approximately 100 graduates coming from California, Maine, Florida, Arizona and good old New Jersey and New York. The table decorations consisted of places we hung out at during our high school years, i.e., Hales, Syd's, Weequahic Diner, the Park, Roosevelt, and Hawthorne theaters, and the Bergen Sweet Shop, just to mention a few favorites. It was a very memorable evening for all and we look forward to the 55th.



Faith Howard &
Lloyd Underwood

1981 - 20th Reunion

Reggie Price and Kim Wilson Shareef chaired the 20th Reunion for the class of 1981. Charles Hall, a 1981

alumnus was the guest speaker. He is the President of a labor union and he appeared in Ebony Magazine in 1999 in the Man of the Year section. The affair was a huge success. Those who were unable to attend missed out on a real treat. Faith Howard, Co-President and Adilah Quddus, Secretary, represented the WHS Alumni Association and spoke about what the Association is trying to accomplish.



Marty Friedman Speaks To His 1951 Class At 50th Reunion

I embrace you all. Thanks to the committee. Thank you so much **Eddie Bond, Lenny Karp, Carol Osterweil, Eddie Goldstein, Carolyn Katz, Barbara Horowitz, Doris Horland, Sy Grossman, Ethel Bohrer** and **VERY** special kudos to **Roz Klinger** for the tremendous effort that they have all made putting this wonderful gathering together. Without their dedication, this afternoon never would have happened.

When first approached to be your Master of Ceremonies it was suggested that I do some comedy routine or shtick. This time is too valuable and momentous to cheapen and waste with probable bad jokes and poor taste. Please allow me a moment of reflection. Do you remember 1951 when gas was twenty cents a gallon and first class postage was three cents? Can you remember Tony Bennett's "*Because Of You*", Nat Cole's "*Too Young*" or the Four Aces doing "*Tell Me Why*"? Willie Mays became a Giant and Joe DiMaggio retired. Bogart won the Oscar for "*The African Queen*". What brings us together here today? What great strange bond do we have? (other than Eddie).

We are here to share memories and to try to recapture for just a few hours the sweet recollections of a time gone by. A time in which we were all brought together by a wonderful school in an age of discovery and awakening. We shared our youth together at Weequahic. For many of us we discovered our first love, and experienced our first kiss; for some our last and only love, and for some of us our first heartbreak.

Hopefully those loves are still with us here today. It was a time when we were asked questions of ourselves for the first time. We established friendships that have lasted half a century. Some of those friendships have been strained through the years

by omission or neglect. But now is the time to renew them and to forgive. We may not pass this way again. We have survived 50 years since our graduation.

We have had in that 50 years many successes and joys. We have had tragedies and disappointments. We have lost many dear ones in that time, but we have brought forth a multitude of new cherished loved ones. I hope that they will be able to create amongst their friends the same feelings of belonging, admiration and warmth that we hold for each other.

The catalyst for all of this was a unique High School and educational system. That kind of school comes down the road very rarely. It was a mix of very special people from a very special neighborhood in a very special era. We owe a lot to Weequahic High. It served us well in a very special time of our life. And we are very special people from a very different generation.

We were born into the depths of the depression. 1932 and 1933 were not good years for America. As a result of that terrible economic problem, our numbers were few and most of our families were poor. In the early 1940's our first recollections of the world around us were probably the air raid drills in school and little starred flags in windows. We planted victory gardens and bought savings stamps. We knew who were the bad guys and who were the good guys. 1947 arrived and we started a new life in High School. It was a wonderful time. It was an age of discovery while we were coming of age.

We were taught well by teachers who cared. We were taught and we knew right from wrong. We grew up between the end of the Swing Era and the beginning of rock 'n roll, so we didn't even have our own distinctive music. John McLaughlin put it well: "*We were too young for Jazz and too old for Rock and Roll.*" In the '50's we looked for jobs, rather than careers, and once we got them we tended to keep them. We were the last generation to be imbued with loyalty to

institutions, religion, political parties, baseball, labor unions, and marriage. You went to school, you got married, you bought a house, you raised your kids, and every year you hopefully made more money. Most of us were drafted in our youth, and when we were, we went without question just as the kids after us who were sent to Vietnam did.

When the '60's came, we were in our solid citizen 30's, minding our own business, getting on with our lives. Then Vietnam, hippies, beatniks, Watergate, and suddenly, the attitudes and values of our youth and the WW II vets were challenged. All of us changed some and some of us changed a lot. So we learned from the generations both before us and after us. We are the better for it.

And the 70's and the 80's came and went. And our lives went on, molded by our friendships and relationships and what we were taught and experienced. And here we are 50 years later still friends. We were two hundred and six in January of '51. Too many of that number have passed on.

So now I take the opportunity to say good-bye to Sonny and Ruth and Fred and Herb and all the others. I regret not staying closer to all of them and to all of you through the years. For you have all helped to shape in some way each of our lives and all of our destinies. And I am sorry that I never had the chance to say thanks to you before and to tell you that I love you all.

My brief little message to you today is simple. Without it a void is too often created. Never be afraid to say either I love you or I'm sorry. How many times have we regretted not saying those words. Let your dear ones know how you feel. Life goes and passes us too quickly. As John Lennon wrote: "*Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.*"

So take that person's hand sitting next to you, whether spouse or friend and say: *I love you and I will be your friend forever. Thank you all for being here.*

HOW MANY DO YOU REMEMBER?

- Candy cigarettes
- Wax coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside
- Juke boxes
- Party lines
- Lincoln Logs
- Fuller Brush man
- 45 RPM records
- Roller skate keys
- P.F. Flyers
- Butch wax
- Home delivery of milk in bottles
- Blackjack, Clove & Teaberry chewing gum
- Drive-in movies
- Peashooters
- Blue flash bulbs
- Wash tub wringers
- Tinkertoys
- 5 cent pack of baseball cards with bubblegum
- Reel-to-reel tape recorders
- 15 cent burgers
- Penny candy
- 35 cent per gallon gasoline
- Telephone numbers with a word prefix like Bigelow-22088
- Cork pop guns
- Newsreels before the movie
- Studebakers
- Underwood typewriters
- Fountain pens
- White bucks
- Erector sets
- Lionel trains

It's Great To Be Back **My Memories From Bradley Beach**

**By Gail Greenfeder Saks,
Class of 1962**

Remember what it was like to get up in the morning, meander to the front porch, look east and see the ocean? Remember what it was like to spend the day lounging around Brinley Avenue beach and then walking the boards each evening, killing a few hours in the Penny Arcade and then topping off your night with a dog and fries from either Syd's or Mike & Lou's?

Well, if you remember any of these then you probably spent your summers in Bradley Beach, treasure by the sea. Many of us Weequahicites were lucky enough to spend the summer in a "*kuchlein*" in one of the old houses in Bradley, or make day trips, as we got older. Many of you haven't returned in too many years. Well, I've been blessed. Now, as a grown up, I get to wake up each morning, look east and see the glorious ocean, because I now live here all year long.

Although there are many changes, Mike & Lou's, Syd's and even the Penny Arcade are long gone, there are still some symbols of our childhood still standing. The Miniature Golf course on the boardwalk and McCabe Avenue and the

fountain that used to sit in front of our favorite hot dog places, between LaReine and Brinley, have been restored. Actually, there is no more boardwalk, except for a small stretch between Evergreen and 3rd, thanks to the storm of 1992. The boards have been replaced with pavers, very functional, but not the nostalgia of our youth.

For those of you who haven't been back in many years, you will be pleased to see that Bradley Beach has become one of the most beautiful beachfronts in all of the Jersey Shore area. Now with our beach replenishment, new sand dunes, and new gazebos, you can still stroll down the "boards" each summer evening and enjoy the entertainment, or just take a stroll and recall all the good old memories from your youth. Many people can be seen strolling and reading the plaques on the benches, and counting how many names they know. (See if you can find the one my husband and I have in memory of our fathers).

It has truly been a dream come true to replicate my summers as a kid from Newark into an adult who gets to do this every day. It certainly keeps me young at heart. *Come visit!!*

Some Of Our Old Swimming Holes:

**Boylan Street Pool
Bradley Beach
Fabyan Swim Club
Forest Lodge
Hanover Swim Club
Lake Hopatcong
Olympic Park
Rotunda Pool**



***Valley Fair is still
in business at
Fabyan Place
and Chancellor
Avenue***



A Reunion Worth The Wait

By Susan Dear Levin

I am grateful to classmates.com even though I do not use their service anymore. I am (among many others) disappointed in their change of format. However, they did help me reunite with many of my former classmates from Maple Avenue School and Weequahic's class of 1966 and for that I am thankful.

I recently met with one of the girls that I remembered well even though we had not seen each other in decades. We kept in contact through many e-mails and instant messages for months. We both were anticipating the reunion and we were both a bit unsure of how the reunion would go, however, as soon as we saw each other and hugged we knew it was so right!

Nadine Parnes Lipson recently wrote to me saying that "writing e-mails in anticipation of the meeting was the prelude to the symphony. It was a wonderful time." She has a great way with words.... Nadine is still the same sweet and wonderful person I had remembered. My main interest was in seeing if life was good to her. She looked great and was happy. Nadine is married to a really wonderful person, Allan, and has been blessed with two fantastic children. They have recently celebrated their 30th. wedding anniversary.

I have also been married to my husband (Jake Levin), a Weequahic class of 1963 graduate, for over 35 years and we have one great son.

Our husbands got along very well and entertained each other as Nadine and I went through the 1966 Weequahic yearbook that she schlepped out to Las Vegas with her. It was so much fun to look at all of the faces of people from my past. Nadine did her best to catch me up on what happened to everyone she knew about. It was a wonderful evening with us sharing lots of stories and laughs, and we both left knowing that we had that "something special" - a special bond that only us lucky people that attended those schools in the gentler days of the 50's and 60's in Newark could share. Who says you can't go back? We did for at least a little period of time and we will share the memories forever.

Memories of good times, old friends, teachers - some we liked and some let's just say we didn't care for, of shopping in familiar old stores and eating at places that were a part of our childhood. *Going back in time is so heartwarming. If any of you get the opportunity - don't pass it up. Trust me - it's worth it.*

Newark's Jewish History

New Jersey was one of the first states to grant freedom of religion in 1665 and the Provincial Assembly granted full freedom of worship in 1776. Because of these early attempts to foster religious tolerance, New Jersey became a desirable destination for immigrants from around the world. In 1666, Robert Treat arrived with a group of Puritans from Connecticut and settled along the Passaic River, which became the City of Newark.

The true founders of the Jewish community in Newark were German and Bohemian Jews. There is evidence that Sephardic Jews preceded them but they left behind no known descendants, no synagogues and no Jewish organizations. German Jews began immigration in 1836 with Louis Trier. The



Congregation Oheb Shalom

influx lasted through the 1800's. Newark was chosen because German speaking Christians were already here and because the city was close to New York.

These first German immigrants came from farms and small towns. The area they chose to settle down in was downtown Newark and Down Neck. Later they moved to South Orange and Springfield Avenues. Abraham Trier, son of Louis Trier, was the first Jewish child to be officially registered as being born in Newark.

Other important Jewish families were the Newman brothers and the Cohens. Abraham Newman was a successful merchant and was instrumental in founding Congregation B'nai Abraham, which was named after him. Isaac S. Cohen, who immigrated from England, was the organizer and first

president of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun. By 1855 there were 200 Jewish immigrants in Newark.

Polish Jews found life difficult in Newark. They were unable to communicate with anyone (unlike the German Jews who communicated with the German Christians), they lived in poverty in the area around Mulberry and Canal Streets. Abraham Newman, a German Jew, befriended them and allowed them to worship at his home.

The Oheb Shalom Congregation formed in 1860 to perpetuate Judaism and help community members maintain their German culture. By the 1880s, the congregations were becoming more Americanized. For example in 1882, the B'nai Jeshurun Congregation eliminated the need to wear a hat during services.

Prince Street was settled by Eastern European Jews from Russia, Hungary, Poland and Romania. The German and Irish population, which originally moved there from Down Neck, moved out as this new group moved in. The abundant supply of jobs attracted them to the area. In 1877, there were 3,500 Jews living in Newark. By 1907 there were 30,000.

Newark's answer to New York's Orchard Street was Prince Street. The street, filled with pushcarts, was paved with wooden blocks. There were live carp swimming in big glass tanks, corned beef, pastrami, pickles, herring, St. John's Bread, sugar cane, fruits and vegetables. Colorful scarves, dresses, suits, clothing of every description, hung from the racks. Most houses were wooden tenements heated by coal. Yet, heat, electricity, and toilets were luxuries that very few apartments had.



Temple B'nai Abraham



Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Many Jews took advantage of the bathhouses on Broome, Charlton and Mercer Streets. The Jewish Y was the major source of social and cultural life. It was located at the corner of High and Kinney Streets. Dramatic clubs, glee clubs, literary clubs, theater, lectures, and sports could be had with a visit to the Y.

Louis Bamberger, who settled in Newark in 1892, with his partner and brother-in-law Felix Fuld, opened Bamberger's Department Store, which became the largest department store in the state. When he retired, he gave more than \$1 million in cash to his 236 employees, just one example of his many philanthropic gifts in Newark.

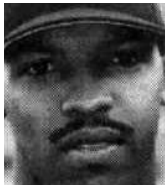
As soon as the Jewish immigrants saved up enough money, they too moved on. The German Jews moved to the Clinton Hill section and the European Jews on to both the Clinton Hill and the Weequahic sections. The Weequahic area consisted of 1 & 2 family houses with luxury apartments near the park. Successful German Jews also moved into the Forest Hills section.

The mid-1930's brought the influx of refugees from Germany. In 1948 Newark had more than forty synagogues. Today there are but two, Ahavas Sholom on Broadway in the North Ward and Mt. Sinai Congregation at the Ivy Hill Apartments in Vailsburg. Also, in 1948, Newark with 56,800 people, was the seventh largest Jewish population in the United States. By the 1960's, Newark's viability as a Jewish community was nearing its end.

By 1967, very little was left of the once vibrant Newark Jewish community. In the end, it was America's love affair with the benefits of the suburbs, the automobile, along with the highways, that provided the impetus for the migration of Newark's Jews.

KUDOS!

Marquis "Bo" Porter Enters Newark Athletic Hall Of Fame



Bo Porter, who was a baseball, football and basketball star at Weequahic High; was on the All-City, All-County and All-State baseball teams; and won All-County honors in football,

was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame. Bo graduated WHS in 1990. He played college football and baseball at Iowa on a four-year scholarship. Porter was drafted by the Cubs in 1993 and spent seven years in the minors. Before this season the 29-year-old had only 39 at-bats in the major leagues, but was recalled by the Rangers on July 25 after Andres Galarraga was traded to San Francisco.

Although he hasn't soared to the big leagues he said he isn't giving up "until someone tears the uniform off my back." Porter appears destined to have a positive impact on the lives of young people. In the off-season he does motivational speaking to high school kids in Texas and Newark. He has worked at his old high school as a substitute teacher and at Central High over the past few years, talking to kids about the importance of staying in school to pursue their dreams. "I've seen a lot of the things kids have to deal with today - drugs, crime, truancy," Porter said. "I want to show them there is an alternative and show them how to get there".

Fellowship Named For Sheldon Wolff, WHS Alumnus, Who Passed Away In 1994

The National Institutes of Health has created a fellowship in honor of Sheldon Wolff, a Newark native who became a leading researcher on infectious diseases. The Sheldon M. Wolff Fellowship on International Health will give scientists the opportunity to work on programs, policy and planning initiatives at the NIH's Fogarty International Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Wolff, who died in 1994 at age 63, has an auditorium and a chair bearing his name at New England Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine. He graduated from Newark's Weequahic High School. A drummer, he entered the University of Georgia on a music scholarship. On the strength of an IQ test, a guidance counselor persuaded him to switch to medicine.

After graduating from Georgia and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Wolff became an expert on infectious diseases. He authored more than 300 scientific papers.

Wolff was the central figure in the development of treatments for a number of enigmatic diseases including Mediterranean fever. He frequently testified before Congress on biomedical research and was co-chairman of a committee that devised an early national strategy for battling AIDS. He was among the first to warn of the great toll that AIDS eventually would take.

Linda Reaves - 1973 Grad Volunteers With Children In Crisis

Some are victims of violence, psychological torment or sexual abuse. Others are neglected or abandoned by their parents. And, because of these circumstances, they often become part of the state's child welfare system. Linda Reaves is among approximately 400 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) across the state who help make sure the abuse and neglect these children originally suffered at home doesn't continue.

The CASA volunteers spend time with the child interview individuals involved in the child's life, and make recommendations regarding the child's needs to a Family Court judge. Their involvement often means working with the state Division of Youth and Family Services to help youngsters find new homes. Reaves, an East Orange resident, said she derives pleasure from helping the youngsters find "a permanent home and healthy environment in which to grow."

WHS Alumnus Philip Roth Wins PEN Award For His Latest Novel



Philip Roth, class of 1950, has won a second PEN/Faulkner award, this time for his novel "The Human Stain." The award amounts to \$15,000, the largest U.S. Prize for fiction awarded by a jury. Newark-born Roth, 68, best known as the author of "Portnoy's Complaint," won the award earlier for "Operation Shylock." He has also twice won the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. The "Human Stain" completes a trilogy about American lives affected by war and politics. The first novel in the trilogy, "American Pastoral," won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The second novel was "I Married A Communist."



Peyton Place at the Park Movie Theater

A youthful tale by Sandy Scheps, Class of 1963

The Park was one of the first theaters to show "Peyton Place" which was one of the first movies you needed to be over 18 to see. Needless to say, I put on a black leather jacket over a white tee-shirt and jeans with cuffs rolled up and brown penny loafers with my hair slicked back into a "Chicago Box" with the slinky in front, sun glasses, a cigarette behind one ear and one dangling from my mouth and...that got me in without proof.

Boy, did I think I was cool. I walked in and the movie was packed. With sunglasses on, it was even darker inside. I found a seat in the dark and sat down. When the movie came on, I looked to my left and realized I was sitting next to a neighbor from Hansbury Avenue and I shouldn't have been there. I hid my face the whole time, but I did see the movie.



Remember ROCCA at the Laurel Gardens in Newark

NEWARK NEWS

Were You Born At The Beth?



The Beth Israel Medical Center celebrated their 100th Anniversary this year. The hospital began modestly, opening in an old house costing \$4,000 on High Street in Newark,

one year after receiving its charter in 1901. It had 21 beds, a staff of 12 doctors and "donation in kind" that included a coffee grinder and nine bottles of raspberry syrup. Today, the Beth serves 33,000 in-patients and same-day surgery patients. It receives 70,000 emergency room visits and 260,000 outpatient visits. It delivers close to 3,000 babies annually. The annual operating budget is \$360 million and 3,347 people are employed at the hospital.

Newark Beth Israel, meaning "House of Israel," was founded by the Daughters of Israel Hospitals Association at a time when the practice of health care in the city was limited. The hospital soon outgrew its wooden building on High Street and moved to Lyons Avenue and Osborne terrace, a site that is the highest elevation in the city. Two of the founders were surgeons Max Danzis and Victor Parsonnet.

The Beth has recorded the first living donor kidney transplant, first implantable cardiac defibrillator, the first heart and lung transplants, and the first septuple bypass surgery performed off-pump.

Have A Bud!



Remember all of the breweries in Newark? Well, there

is only one remaining. This summer Anheuser-Busch, the makers of Budweiser beer and its famous

Clydesdale horses, celebrated its 50th year in the City of Newark. When the plant opened in 1951, it marked the company's emergence as a national brewer. In a city that boasted more breweries than any other in the country, the Anheuser-Busch Newark brewery is the sole survivor. By 1878, Newark had 26 breweries and the city was clearly the capital of the state's brewing industry, with names like Hensler, Wiedenmayer, Krueger, Feigenspan and Ballantine, and, later, Pabst.

Shabazz Has A Stadium - South Side A Field House



In early October, the new 14 acre, 4,500-seat Shabazz Field, part

of a \$12.3 million complex, was opened after 10 years of promises. It's the first new football stadium in Newark since Untermann Field in 1949. The complex also has an eight lane track, three tennis courts, two softball fields. The facility will be used by other high schools in Newark which previously used Untermann Field after Ironbound and Schools stadiums were closed. The field house was named the South Side High School Field House as a way of recognizing the high school's history. A plaque reads: "dedicated to the growth and development of the children of Newark and the athletes past, present and future who through their efforts here bring pride to the community."

Amealia Steward, Owner Of Lyons Avenue Restaurant, Passes Away



In a little shop on Prince Street in Newark in the late 1940's, Amealia Nelson Steward started on her road to success, becoming one of the city's first self-made black millionaires.

Selling hosiery was boring for Mrs. Steward, so she began

selling her food. According to her son, family and friends encouraged her to take her recipes to the public. In the late 1960's, she opened a second Steward's restaurant on Lyons Avenue, which is still there today. Born March 15, 1917 in Albany, Georgia, Mrs. Steward passed away this past September after a long illness.

Baseball In Newark



The Newark Bears made it to the championship series in the independent Atlantic League. Unfortunately, they were beaten by the

Somerset Patriots. It was, however, the team's best record in its three year history.

Pleasuring the Palate



On New Street in Newark, across from the famous McGovern's Tavern and not far from the Rutgers Law Center, there is a quaint and charming

restaurant and food boutique called *Palate Pleasure* that has some of the tastiest soups, salads, sandwiches, platters, drinks and desserts in the downtown area. What makes it even more special is that it is owned and run by two Weequahic alumni, Michael James (1970) and Ameila Rocto-James (1968).

Newark City Hall



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\$25.00 - Annually

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Your MEMBERSHIP Will Provide Funds For:

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And your membership will enrich the lives of students at Weequahic by helping them to gain new experiences, strengthen their skills, and explore new opportunities.

• • • • •

ALUMNI CALUMET STAFF

Editor

PHIL YOURISH

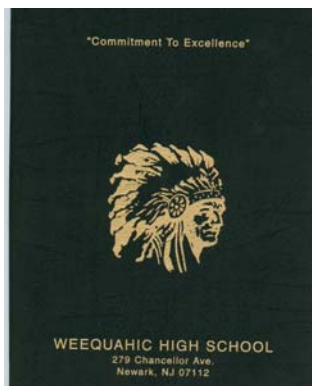
Contributors

Hal Braff

Faith Howard

Dave Lieberfarb

Adilah Quddus
Alumni Articles
Alumni Letters
Star-Ledger
Articles/Pictures



New Item:

**Weequahic
High School
2002 Executive
Desk Planner**

\$6.00

BERGEN STREET MERCHANTS FESTIVAL

On Saturday, August 18th, the Bergen Street Merchants held their 6th Annual Festival. There were all kinds of vendors, entertainers, games and rides for children, and plenty of food. Angie Stone, a well-known R&B vocalist, and Olivia performed at the event.



On left: WHSAA Secretary Adilah Quddus with her grandchildren. On right: NJ State Senator Ronald Rice with WHSAA Co-President Faith Howard.



Newark's Mayor Sharpe James with Weequahic High School Cheerleaders



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: _____ **MEMBERSHIP** _____ **EVENTS** _____ **NEWSLETTER** _____ **TUTORING/MENTORING**

MERCHANDISE: _____ **PLANNER: \$6.00** _____ **T-SHIRT: \$15.00** _____ **HAT: \$18.00** _____ **SWEATSHIRT: \$35.00**

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Weequahic High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07102

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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- ⦿ NEWARK'S JEWISH HISTORY
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