2003 ALUMNI CELEBRATION



OCTOBER 10, FRIDAY, 7-11 PM NEWARK MUSEUM

FOOD, DRINKS & GOOD MEMORIES

Circle The Date On Your Calendar

Make Plans With Your Classmates & Alumni Friends Now

Space is limited to 350 People - \$25.00 Admission Fee

OCTOBER 11, SATURDAY, 10 AM TOUR OF SCHOOL

Refreshments Will Be Served

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ALUMNI CALUMET

is a publication of the WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 279 Chancellor Avenue Newark, NJ 07112

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WHS ALUMNI STORE

Order on Page 14

Photos by Peter Herckey, 1964





GET BACK ISSUES OF THE ALUMNI CALUMET

HALL OF FAME

In furtherance of
our effort to acknowledge
with appreciation those
Weequahic graduates who have attained
significant stature in their fields and/or have
served their community with distinction, the

Alumni Association has established a Weequahic High School Hall Of Fame.

The recipients of
the annual awards will be
memorialized with a plaque in the
first floor hall and honored at an assembly
each May. We welcome your nominations.
Please submit a detailed statement
describing the individual graduate and the
reasons she or he merits
the honor.

Recommendation
letters must be received by
January 15, 2004. The winners for
next year will be announced on
March 31, 2004. So many of our graduates
have led distinctive lives. Let us praise
them appropriately in the High
School On The Hill.

HELP US WRITE THE NEXT ISSUE



Send letters, articles, stories, memories, poems, recipes, photos, cartoons, trivia, obituaries, reunion information, etc. to

whs@weequahicalumni.org

Register at WWW.Weequahicalumni.org - our new WEB SITE



② just click on the WHS logo to enter ③ click on register ③ get a screen name & password ⑤ bookmark this site ⑤ view lists of classes ⑥ tour the photo gallery ⑥ e-mail your classmates ⑤ share your favorite memories ⑥ check out the calendar of events ⑥ look for the latest reunion information ⑥ find out what's happening at Weequahic ⑥ learn more about the important work of the Alumni Association

2003 ALUMNI CELEBRATION

By Phil Yourish, 1964



It was only last year when over 600 alumni and friends gathered at Oheb Shalom in South Orange on a beautiful Sunday in the fall to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Weequahic High School and the 5th birthday of the WHS Alumni Association. What an outstanding event - bringing together alumni from seven decades in one place. It was a huge success!

Though we heard so many positive comments about the alumni affair, we also heard the disappointment expressed from alumni who did not attend or had not heard about the celebration. So here's another opportunity.

And a special invitation to the graduates of the classes of January 1943 and 1963, who are having their reunions, to make it an all-Weequahic weekend by attending our Friday night and Saturday morning activities.

This year the **2003 CELEBRATION** returns to the **NEWARK MUSEUM** on **FRIDAY**, **OCTOBER 10TH** from **7** to **11 PM**. In 1998 when we celebrated our 2nd anniversary at the Museum, we had a full-house. For this affair, there will be food and beverages, music to entertain you, exhibits, displays, and a slide show of Weequahic past and present. If you should hear the sounds of bass drums, then the "surprise" of the night will be the award-winning *Weequahic High School Marching Band*.

Hats, T-shirts and sweatshirts will be available for purchase (check or credit card only - no cash transactions are allowed) and the popular Alumni Calumet newsletter will be given out to those who haven't received it. If we have nice weather, we will be able to

mingle outside in the beautiful Museum garden. The Alumni Association will make a short presentation honoring two distinguished alumni, *Bert Manhoff* from the class of 1938 and *Loraine White* from the class of 1964.

But the big attraction of the evening will be YOU - hob nobbing with each other, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends - and remembering those wonderful (and sometimes difficult) moments from years gone by. So join us on OCTOBER 10TH at the majestic NEWARK MUSEUM for a spectacular time. The museum is one of Newark's greatest treasures and a part of our Weequahic legacy - many of you visited the museum in your youth.

Tickets for the event are \$25.00. The museum provides parking at \$5.00 per car - so carpool with friends. There will also be street parking supervised by our security staff. Invitations will be mailed out in early September. The museum has a capacity of 350 - so please respond as soon as possible. There is a section on the application form on page 14 in this issue for obtaining tickets.

TOUR OF HIGH SCHOOL



Once you make it to the Friday night affair, you will want to continue your Weequahic sojourn at the high school on **SATURDAY**, **OCTOBER 11TH**. Take a drive to 279 Chancellor Avenue to see the school of your youth. How many years has it been?

The tour of the high school will begin at 10 AM. Enter through the front door and once again experience the historical murals in the lobby, stroll through the halls, visit classrooms, search for old lockers, sit on the wooden seats in the auditorium, wander through the gymnasiums, and look through old yearbooks.

Although it's more than 70 years later, the high school looks very much as it did in its early years. Current students will serve as

tour guides, merchandise will be sold (cash, check and credit card are OK) and refreshments will be served.

COME ON HOME -

By Hal Braff, 1952

From the moment you and your family enter the building for the annual tour on October 11th, you will be filled with a cascade of vivid memories - so come with old friends. Remember when that happened there. Remember when we did this here. We equalic High School still holds a piece of you - and that piece has helped to share its history. Come visit our wonderful old friend. She misses you.

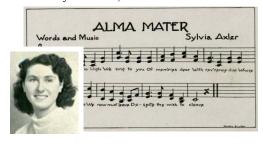
And take the opportunity to see, as an adult, some of Newark's glorious structures from the exciting NJ Performing Arts Center opened under Mayor Shape James in 1997 to the beautifully refurbished Penn Station opened in 1935 under Mayor Meyer C. Ellenstein.

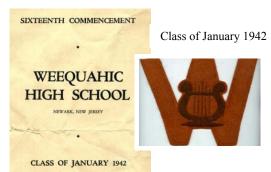
Though deep in the depression, Newark, with a population of over 500,000, was the heart of a community of 2 million people living within 10 miles of its borders. It earned the 42 million rail center because it was the major manufacturing and transportation hub of the area - known throughout the world for the diversity of it products - paints, leather, chemicals, silver, flatware, jewelry, and electrical appliances. Newark Airport and Port Newark were the busiest in the world. All of the important state and national highways ran through Newark or directly communicated with its thoroughfares and contributed to its thriving vibrancy

So it was appropriate that the new station be and remains elegant. Its waiting room is 175 feet long and its 46 foot-high blue ceiling, encircled by panels symbolizing products originating here and moving out by rail, cover red terrazzo flooring - graceful and stately - even today.

There is much to do and see in your hometown. Look at it again. You'll be impressed!

Sylvia Axler, Class of June 1936







Aerial View of Clinton Place Jr. High

FROM THE VOICES OF SOME OF OUR 2003 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The following are excerpts from personal statements and thank you letters.

STEVEN BYERS

While in school the young man was teased about being a member of the marching band, but it didn't discourage him from continuing. This young man wouldn't let ignorant people come between him and his music. Music was the key to his problems, no matter what type they were.

Whenever he faced a problem he'd just think of what to do in order to still have music in the end... Whenever he put air through his horn, beautiful music came out and it was his happy ending to a bad situation...As long as he involved music in his life, this young man would be balanced and focused.

Being involved with music kept him from fighting in school, from going to jail and from being in the streets...This young man dealt with many issues and by dealing with them correctly he did wonderful things.

He emerged as a horn line captain, led his band to three national championships and became Assistant Horn Instructor. Later he learned what a great musician he was and could become. He also learned that his joy came from music altogether and not just playing the trumpet. He loved to teach music, write music, play other instruments, and listen to music of all types.

When the young man became a senior and his teachers began to ask him what he wanted to pursue as a career, it wasn't a hard decision. He found that if he didn't have music in his life now as well as in the future that he would not be complete. Music is what he knew he wanted to do... He'd play in hope...that his playing would allow him to go to college.

ASIA BUTLER

Thank you so much for the alumni scholarship. I really appreciated it. I didn't even apply for any scholarships, but when I received this one it made me feel very special that my school had acknowledged my academic standing. This scholarship will help me out a lot because as we all know college is expensive.

DERRICK AFFRAM

Having come to America at age sixteen from my native country (Ghana), I received a cultural shock. In Ghana, we had a uniform code of dress;

however, in America, there is freedom of choice and emphasis placed on materialism.

..(I) rely on the teachings of my grandparents and parents. I remember my mother said to me that my thoughts and obligation are to gain something valuable in terms of education... I feel encouraged by my parents in doing the right thing and making the right choices with my education.

While at Weequahic, I played forward and was the captain of the soccer team. My leadership skills helped my teammates to practice and get ready for a winning game. Game strategies also helped me to plan and outline poems, putting words together to form persuasive messages. My goals are clearly defined...Being a dentist is my ultimate goal in life.

CHARLINE STUBBS

...Education has always been an important part of my life, and I have always strived to do my best in all academic pursuits. I am a popular, well-adjusted teen. I know that a high school diploma is not enough, so I decided to seek higher education. I have a special interest and ability in biology and health related sciences. Ultimately, I want to study nursing. I get a real sense of satisfaction when I am caring for others.

I plan to enter a Nursing program and obtain a Bachelors degree. After working for awhile I will pursue a Master's degree and go on to be a Physician Assistant. I believe that the field of nursing will be wide open to receive me and I believe that I will succeed.

YOLANDA HEGGINS

...Caring for people has made into the person I am today. I care for my peers and my community...I am the kind of person who will take action where action is needed...My goals are to make something better for me and to follow in my mother's footsteps by serving the community. I have set aside the things that aren't necessary and kept my eye on the prize that awaits me.

Attending Lincoln University will help me pursue my dreams as well as my beliefs. Dreams to become a powerful educated woman. Dreams to become the best in whatever I put my mind, heart, and spirit to.

I believe that a good education is not worth missing out on...I have learned that you have to create a path to follow, and you have to believe that you can follow that path to be the best you can be and receive the best out of life.

DOMINIQUE HARRIS

...Being the only child of a single parent, I have always strived to attain my goals, even if I have to achieve them alone. I know that with determination and hard work all things are possible. I always did what was expected of me.

...Over the years, many people told me that I have grown stronger. I've been through hardships with my mother while she has battled her illness. My high school years have been most difficult because she has spent so much time in the hospital. Yet, despite these adversities, I have endured.

NICHOLAS BARKER

On behalf of my family and I, I would like to thank the Weequahic High School Alumni Association for the tuition assistance you have provided for me. Without the kind benefactors that provided the scholarship to make my tuition payments lower, I know for certain my family would have had a difficult time in assisting me through college.

With your help, I plan to further my educational goals at Pennsylvania State University and major in Financial Business. Once again I would like to express my gratitude for the help that I have received from the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

TAQUAN BOYD

...I would like to speak about my family. My family means a lot to me because without them there is no me! I would like to fulfill my dreams as well as a dream my family has. This dream was that I would be the first out of 22 grandchildren to graduate high school and attend college. I feel that attending college will allow me to fulfill this dream and prepare me well to become an Elementary School Teacher.

During high school my favorite subject was history. I found learning about my past was very informative. I gained an understanding of how the United States originated, and the role of the African-American in its development. Our contribution to the success of the United States is indeed an achievement that encourages me to pursue my goal.

...I feel that at college I would have the chance to engage in wonderful and adventurous activities. I am ready and open to pursue new and different things. I will be appropriately challenged to do my best.

















Not Pictured Steven Byers Yolanda Heggins Jamaal Wilkens Nicholas Barker

2003 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 20 Scholarships / \$21,000 Awarded

Academic & Performing Arts Fund

Steven Byers - Bloomfield College

Maxine Boatwright Memorial Fund

Charlene Stubbs - Essex County College

College Women's Fund Of Essex County

Grace Akoentry - Rutgers University

Reada & Dr. Harry Jellinek Fund

Joi Nash - Fairleigh Dickinson University

Hannah Litzky Memorial Fund

lantha Gardner - Rutgers University

Leo Pearl Memorial Fund

Derrick Affram - NJ City University Geneva Brown - Shaw University - NC Ibn Dinkins - Johnson C. Smith University - NC Sanjay Spence - NJ City University

Sadie Rous Memorial Fund

Nicholas Barker - Penn State University Taquan Boyd - Cheney University - PA Shaquana Jackson - North Carolina State University Shanta Powell - Ramapo College of NJ Jamaal Wilkens - Johnson C, Smith University - NC

WHS Alumni General Fund

Patrick Annett - Kean University Asia Butler - Delaware State University **Dominique Harris** - Caldwell College Fatima Irving - Felician College Yolanda Heggins - Lincoln University - PA



Going To The Weequahic Prom



Geneva Brown



Patrick Annett



Sanjay Spence



Shaquana L. Jackso



Domimique Harris





Isaiah Evans



Joi Nash



Asia Butler



Derrick Affram



Ibn Dinkins



lantha Gardner







SHERRY ORTNER Writes About The Class of '58

In the past month, articles about anthropologist Sherry Ortner's new book, New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58, have appeared in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Newark Star-Ledger, and NY Times. Her article in the Star-Ledger follows and excerpts from the other two articles are on page 7.

Weequahic Class of '58: Success Stories

I am an anthropologist who spent years in the Himalayas studying the Sherpas of Nepal. I am also a Jersey girl who graduated from Newark's Weequahic High School. After three decades with the Sherpas, I decided it was time to turn my anthropological skills on my own culture - the Class of '58 of Weequahic High School.

What sparked my professional curiosity was how well my classmates have done, many of them moving far beyond their largely lower- and middle-class backgrounds. What I found was how much the political and cultural climate of the time influenced that success. The civil rights movement, the feminist movement, the fight for Jewish integration into the American fabric - all these shaped the landscape of possibilities into which the Class of '58 entered in the decades after graduation from high school.

I tracked down all but 40 of the 304 members of the class. I traveled around the country, interviewed about a hundred classmates in person and spoke to most of the rest by phone. I asked them about their lives growing

up, and their lives since Weequahic. Almost everyone in the Class of '58 of Weequahic High School has moved up the social ladder. Growing up in the late '40s and early '50s, some 73 percent of the class was middle- and working-class. Today, 58 percent of the class is involved in professions and/or the income bracket that would make them "upper middle-class."

One factor in this upward mobility was the era in which we grew up. In the decades after World War II, the GI bill and other social programs boosted large segments of the working class. In addition, the postwar economic recovery turned into a long-running economic boom. Many of the parents of the Class of '58 themselves did quite well in those years and were in a position to give their children a good start, particularly in terms of sending large numbers of the class to college.

The idea that personal success should be looked at against a backdrop of one's political and cultural history is important...

What about differences in the group? While most of the class moved up the ladder, some obviously did better than others. Here there is what would appear to be a simple explanation: Most of the class was Jewish, and there is a popular notion that Jewish culture emphasizes values necessary for success. But while there may be something to the "cultural values" explanation for success, much more could be explained by looking at the way in which the collective career of the class intersected with the larger patterns of American culture in the second half of the 20th century.

It was a peculiarity of the class that every group -- Jews, African-Americans, other ethnics (Italian-American, Irish-American, etc.), and women of all groups -- had previously been shut out of opportunities to better themselves, educationally and otherwise. But over the course of the 20th century, those groups succeeded, to varying degrees, in breaking down some of those barriers. For three of the groups - Jews, African-Americans and women - this was accomplished largely through social movements that made increasingly strong demands for equality.

The Jewish "movement" came first, historically. In the decades before World War II, Jewish immigrants and their children sought to counteract anti-Semitism and make a legitimate place for themselves in American society. Hard work and increasing affluence began to bring them into the mainstream.

This began to pay off in the '50s, as institutional doors began to open. This is precisely the time that the members of the Class of '58 were moving through high school. When the class was ready to go to college, they were able to go to colleges that only one generation earlier had been closed to Jews. Beyond that, many more professions were opened to them as well.

Other groups in the class showed a similar pattern. African-American classmates did well, partly by their own hard work and partly because of the achievements of the civil rights and black power movements. Women did well, partly by their own hard work, and partly by sharing in the creation of the women's liberation movement.

The classmates I talked to tended not to think in terms of the relationship between their own personal success and their group's political history. But I heard traces of those connections in some interviews. For example, one African-American woman talked about receiving professional training through Manpower, a program established in the wake of the civil rights movement and the urban riots of the late '60s. My job was to put these kinds of pieces together. The postwar liberation movements on behalf of African-Americans and women were different from the earlier Jewish movement against anti-Semitism - more political, less cultural.

Yet in the end they can all be seen as working for the same ends: against prejudice, for social acceptance as equal human beings and for legitimate access to opportunity. The group in the class that did least well (though again, this is relative, since virtually the whole class moved up to some degree) is the non-Jewish, non-African American, white ethnics - the only group in the class that never really had a political or cultural identity movement in the last century.

The idea that personal success should be looked at against a backdrop of one's group's political and cultural history is important for a number of reasons. It counteracts simplistic

Continued on Page 7

Sherry Ortner Continued

cultural explanations- like "Jewish (or South Asian, or Chinese) culture accounts for high degrees of Jewish success" - which suggest that other groups are doing less well due to defects in their own cultures.

It also counteracts simplistic "bootstrapping" explanations for success - "I pulled myself up by my bootstraps, and they can too" - which suggest that the relative lesser success of others is due to their own laziness. And finally it reminds us to be sufficiently grateful to our cultural and political, as well as familial, forebears, who laid much of the groundwork that allowed us whatever degree of success we have attained.

High-School Confidential

By David Glenn, The Chronicle of Higher Education

High-school yearbooks are endlessly rich sources of anthropological data. Almost all the classic elements are there: ritual (the prom committee and the football team), costume (from bow ties to Jheri curls), and language ("2 Cool 2 B 4gotten"). So it seems apt that Sherry B. Ortner, one of the most prominent anthropologists of her generation, was once the 17-year-old editor-in-chief of the Legend, the yearbook of Weequahic High School, in Newark, N.J., Class of 1958.

For more than 30 years, Ms. Ortner kept her distance from Newark. She studied at Bryn Mawr College and the University of Chicago, did long stints of fieldwork among the Sherpas of Nepal, and wrote several landmark essays on anthropology and gender. Around 1990, however, Ms. Ortner began to search for a way to study the operation of social class in the United States. She considered revisiting one of the classic sites of early-20th-century American ethnography - perhaps Muncie, Ind., the subject of Robert S. Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd's 1929 Middletown.

"But I decided," she says, "that I didn't want to do a conventional localized ethnography, sitting in a, quote, community." She feared that it would be difficult to provide much



historical or political depth if she worked in that mode. Then one day, it struck her: She could study the lives of the people she had first documented as yearbook editor during the

Eisenhower administration. The project would allow her not only to write a thick description of a particular time and place, but also to trace social processes through subsequent decades by examining what became of her cohort in adulthood

Newark to Nepal and Back

By Felicia R. Lee, NY Times

When Sherry B. Ortner was a bookish, secretly rebellious student in high school in Newark in the 1950's, she says, "I didn't even know what anthropology was. "I thought it was about insects. But I looked at a description in the Bryn Mawr catalog as a senior, and it sounded really interesting."

...For 30 years she has studied gender and social and cultural theory, helping invent the field of feminist anthropology, winning a MacArthur "genius award" and traveling to the Himalayas to produce major works on Nepal's Sherpa culture and Mount Everest.

And now, after much journeying, Ms. Ortner, 61, has returned professionally to the place she once dreamed of leaving to explore the world: her alma mater, **Weequahic High School**. In her new book, "New Jersey Dreaming: Capital,...Ms. Ortner dissects the familiar contours of her graduating class.

She said she wanted to explore how her classmates were formed by the world of the 50's, with its rigid demarcations of class, gender and race, as well as how they "moved through history and made something else out of it," whether by burning their bras or marching for civil rights.

A short woman with short, blond hair, and a straight-forward manner, Ms. Ortner speaks with an unaffected New Jersey twang. Last month she was named chairwoman of

Columbia University's anthropology department, where she has a spare office in a dreary corner of a scruffy building. She is married to a Columbia colleague, Timothy D. Taylor, a music professor, and has a 23-year-old daughter.

The idea for "New Jersey Dreaming" came to her after she was invited to her 30th-anniversary high school reunion. She had long been fascinated by the way class shapes people's lives, but did not know how or where to examine that idea. She decided to use her own high school class. Her classmates had managed largely to shuck their working-and middle-class origins to become part of the "white overclass," as she says in the book: doctors, lawyers, college professors.

From 1977 to 1995 she taught anthropology, then women's studies at the University of Michigan, where she also did a three-year turn as chairwoman of the Anthropology Department, hiring more women and shoring up its national standing. During those years she was back and forth to Tibet, producing two of her three books on Sherpa culture.

The MacArthur award in 1990 gave her \$295,000 over five years and "changed my life," she said. It eased the way as she worked half-time for eight years and raised her daughter, Gwendolyn Kelly, now a graduate student in archaeology.

In 1996, after two years at the University of California at Berkeley, Ms. Ortner was lured to Columbia by Nicholas Dirks, an old Michigan colleague who was rebuilding the faltering anthropology department. "She is a major force in the field," said Mr. Dirks, her immediate predecessor as head of the department. "Her name and work is at the forefront of many fields, from the Sherpas to practice theory to feminist theory and now American culture. To be so approachable. so modest, so unassuming is extraordinary. She has always been critical in translating complicated debates in social theory in ways that are sustained and important. Her use of practice theory became so influential that generations of graduate students referred to

Sherry B. Ortner's book, <u>New Jersey</u>
<u>Dreaming: Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58</u>, is available from Duke University Press.

REUNIONS

Sept. 19, 2003, 1983 - 20th

Friday, Galloping Hill Inn, Union, NJ Contact Janice Jones (973) 273-1887 / jahaadnasir@hotmail.com or Roz Samuels at crs@ntuaft.com.

Oct. 11, 2003, 1963 - 40th,

Saturday, 7 PM, Hilton Hotel, East Brunswick. Contact Jac Toporek at (732) 388-8699 / whsalum63@aol.com

Oct. 12, 2003 - Jun. 43 - 60th

Sunday, 11:30 AM, Orange Lawn Tennis Club, South Orange, NJ. Contact Alan Brookman at (908) 221-0578 / ahbdds@optonline.net or Sarah Doppelt at (973) 992-7488 or ssd92@aol.com

Oct. 25, 2003, Jun. '53 - 50th

Saturday, 5 PM, Marriott Hotel at Newark Liberty International Airport, Newark, NJ. Contact Beverly Greenfeder Levine at (914) 693-1266 / b.levine@fordfound.org.

Oct. 9, 2004, 1964 - 40th

Saturday, 7 PM, Marriott Hotel at Newark Liberty International Airport, Newark, NJ. Contact Wendy Kaufman Nowak at (908) 722-1874 / weequahic1964@aol.com.

Reunions Being Planned

Jan. 1954 - 50th

Month of April or May 2004. More details coming. Contact Charlie Bernhaut at (908) 217-1358 / chasjew@aol.com

Jun. 1954 - 50th

Oct. 2nd, 2004 at the Headquarters Plaza Hotel in Morristown, NJ. Contact Sheila Dishell at sheiladishell@msn.com



Class of January 1958



Ann Murray with Don Kalfus & Renee Lehrhoff

Reunion Reviews

45th Reunion, January 1958By Gerry Beatty

What rain? Who cared? The class of January, 1958 was coming home. One-third of our members returned from Vermont and California, from Florida and Wisconsin for a weekend of multiple hugs, long reminiscences and a bit of catching up. More than two dozen out-of-staters and locals got through the downpour for Saturday dinner at II Vicolo in Livingston, then endured more water for the reunion at Hamilton Park Conference Center in Florham Park.

There were various archeological finds: old candids and OBA cards, the school banner, a Weequahic Diner menu, a varsity sweater, and enough orange and brown to keep workmen busy for a day retrieving balloons from the ceiling.

Old social divides were ancient history. Girls who probably laughed at me in school are now grandmas who hugged me and stroked my back. Even deeper are ties from Chancellor and Maple and the other elementary schools. Emotions were strong among friends since age six.

The organizing committee delivered two surprises. Our honored guest was Ann Murray, for many our favorite biology teacher. Now 91 years young, she hiked up a flight of stairs to pose for the class picture.

Then the crowd was invited to the doorways to see the national champion Weequahic High School Marching Band and Color Guard high-stepping up the corridor with drums and horns creating enough sound to rouse two counties. The stunned crowd quickly reacted with cheering, dancing, laughter and tears. Rarely does one experience such emotion. Generations, culture, economics were forgotten - Weequahic is our common heritage and pride. Ovations punctuated the half-hour

performance, followed by personal thank yous and photo ops linking generations of twirlers and color guard. The band members ate, band director Michael Page received our class' check for the scholarship fund, and the group left to a final round of thanks.

We're already beginning to think about our big 50. What on this Orange and Brown earth can we do to top 45?

63rd Reunion, June 1940 By Sonya Fast Facher

We just celebrated our 63rd Reunion on June 29, 2003 at the Hanover Marriott. This class began in September 1936 with an enrollment of over 400 students.

Some went to an annex but I was lucky to go directly to Weequahic. Because of the huge class we went on a split session our Freshman year. To the class of 1970 you were not the first ones.

In June 1940 we graduated 401 students in the grandstand of the racetrack at Weequahic Park. The podium was on the racetrack and the students in the center section of the grandstand. There was no problem with tickets, parents and friends sat on either side.

Over the years we celebrated several reunions but in June 1990 we celebrated our 50th with the January 1940 class with a brunch at Mayfair Farms. With money left over I had the opportunity to come to Weequahic with Jack Kamen to present two scholarships. The school looked the same just a bit older. It was also the first time I entered from the front.

A successful 60th Reunion was held in June 2000 at the Marriott at Newark Airport. Again we sent to the school money for two scholarships.

Watch for the announcement of our next reunion and please keep us posted as to your change of address. We do have a list of 190 classmates.

50th Reunion, January 1953 By Beverly Schulman Kass

A special round of applause goes to the reunion committee of the January 1953 class. Barbara Nerenberg Kass and I greeted everyone as they arrived full of excitement and anticipation. We also worked hard on the mailings and kept the paperwork up to date. We were a great team and enjoyed all the hours spent.

Judy Feintuck Citron, Myrna Jelling Weissman and Harvey Cohen did a lot of work in the overall planning. Stanley Lewis, (no relation to Jerry) did a fabulous job as our MC. Marvin Siegel, Billy Pollack and Ed Freedman brought back the wonderful memories of high school. They spoke about sports, the clubs, teachers, and things of the past. An alumni book with pictures that were taken at the Reunion will be mailed out in late September.

65th Reunion, 1938 By Bert Manhoff

The class of 1938 challenges all other classes to match or better our "perfect record" of never missing a five-year reunion in 65 years. During World II, the ladies ran the show.

On Sunday, June 8th we had 109 classmates and guests at the Essex House in West Orange. Hal Braff, the Alumni Association's Co-President, was the speaker and did a great job. By unanimous vote, it was decided to have annual reunions starting in Spring 2004.

Thanks goes out to our committee members:

Murray Brooks, Irv Charles, Esther Cohen, Ed Denholtz, Stan Gilbert, Ruth Maltz Hendlin, Elmer Konwiser, Ruth Kohn Landsberg, Jerry Lieb, Donald London, Bert Manhoff, Shirley Rabinowitz, Florence Ryan Reichler, Evy Reinhard, Dorothy Rowe Scott, Shirley Sarason, Florence Brocklin Seiglin, Al Steiner, Myron Waller and Manny Yeskel.



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet first appeared in 1950. Please let us know about how our alumni have distinguished themselves in their lives after Weequahic.

Sharon Pogash, 1965 grad, heads up special summer school project in Newark

Excerpts from an article by Barbara Kukla, Star-Ledger

If there's anything you want to know about sea creatures, dinosaurs or robots, the boys and girls taking part in the Newark Public Schools' five-week summer school program at the Louise A. Spencer School may have the answers. By studying such things - common themes at all 20 elementary summer school sites - they also are deriving a wealth of other benefits, according to **SHARON POGASH** (Weequahic alumni, 1965), their principal.

"Our emphasis is on enrichment," said Pogash, Spencer's vice principal during the school year. "But we also see to it that the children have lots of fun." All classes, Pogash said, also get to take a field trip or have an agency or individual expert in their course of study visit their classroom. The overall intent, said Pogash, is to widen learning opportunities while, at the same time, helping students to improve their skills in language arts, math and science. Multi-cultural activities are the focus of students in the middle grades. Those in the sixth through eighth grades are learning how to build a robot.

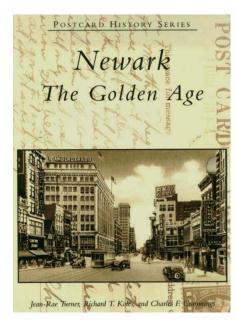
...At Spencer, 200 children from preschool pupils to those in the eighth grade are taking part. Their ranks include two special education classes for handicapped children, two classes for autistic children and special-ed students who have been mainstreamed into regular classes for their age group. "Just about everyone involved has taken steps to assure a variety of learning experiences that children find enjoyable and will benefit them when they enter the next grade," said Pogash.

Joseph Brown, a 1966 Weequahic alumni, is the longtime principal at Spencer during the regular school year.

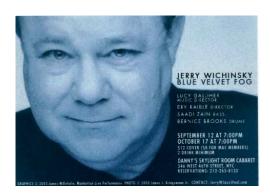
Asbury Park Revisited

LARRY FISHMAN, the son of 1952 Weequahic grad, DOROTHY ELBERGER FISHMAN, 1952, is the developer of the \$1.3 billion waterfront revival in Asbury Park, NJ. The redevelopment plan - approved by the council in June 2002 - is to build 3,000 homes and 450,000 square feet of commercial space along 56 acres of the waterfront. "We are trying to show the city and the state and the world - because everyone is looking to Asbury right now - that this project is moving forward," Fishman said. "We are setting the table for a major breakthrough in the winter...and the spring of '04." The state is investing in the city's future with \$500,000 in Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres funds to help rebuild the boardwalk, plus a \$1.5 million low-interest loan to the developer from the NJ Economic Development Authority, and infrastructure improvements made by the Department of Transportation.

Dorothy, by the way, lives nearby in Bradley Beach.



JEAN-RAE TURNER'S, (class of 1938), new book with Richard Kane and Charles Cummings. A signing will take place at The Newark Public Library on October 23, 6-8 PM



JERRY WICHINSKY grew up in Weequahic, attended Hawthorne Avenue School and Clinton Place Jr. High, and was very involved with the South Ward Boys & Girls Club. In 1964, he graduated from Arts High School.

On Friday, September 12, 2003 at 7 PM, Jerry will bring his show "Blue Velvet Fog" to Danny's Skylight Room in NYC. He promises that it will be an evening of great song, and he would love to have his old friends share this time with him.

Danny's, which is one of New York's premier jazz/cabaret rooms, is located at 346 West 46th Street (Restaurant Row) between 8th and 9th Avenues. The club is in the back, and there is a wonderful sea food restaurant in the front, if you choose to dine. There is a \$12 cover, (this goes to pay for his musicians), but he is going to give all of his Weequahic and Hillside friends a \$4 discount.

If you would like to see Jerry perform, contact him by e-mail at **JerryW50@aol.com**.

A Review Of

Warren Grover's Nazis In Newark

By Nat Bodian, Old Newark Web Site



Author Warren Grover is a 1955 graduate of Weequahic High School.

Turn back the clock to the early 1930s, when Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

Repression of the Jews in Germany had begun with a government policy of discrimination and exclusion of Jews from German life, and Jewish life and property were now at risk. Here in the United States, Hitler had appointed a personal propagandist, with the title "Leader of the Hitler Movement in the United States."

And in meeting halls in places like Newark and Irvington that had populations of German aliens and recent émigrés, rallies were held by groups, first calling themselves "Friends of New Germany" and later, the "German-American Bund." Their leader was Munich-born Fritz Kuhn, who referred to himself as "the American fuehrer". His followers wore Nazi uniforms, brown shirts, or swastika lapel pins, gave the Nazi salute, waved swastika banners, and sang the German national anthem.

In Newark, one of the nation's largest Jewish population centers at that time, one Newark Jewish group organized to stop such pro-Nazi meetings at Schwaben Hall on Springfield Avenue, and at Montgomery Hall in Irvington, just over the Newark border. Other Newark Jewish organizations worked together to mount boycotts against the import of goods made in Nazi Germany.

The story of this piece of Newark history, and what Newark's Jews did to stop this pro-Hitler encroachment in the Newark area is now meticulously detailed and documented in an exquisitely-written book "NAZIS IN NEWARK" by Warren Grover, a Newark native, who devoted seven years to research and interviewing individuals and their heirs on

these 1930s happenings in the Newark area, and how they were quashed by Newark Jews.

Grover makes clear, early on in "Nazis in Newark", that the supporters of the Hitler regime, although they operated in American cities with large German populations, were never large in number, and were made up of about 60 percent aliens, and the rest Americans of recent German descent. They represented a very small portion of the larger population of Americans of German ancestry who were loyal Americans.

The efforts to quash the Nazis in the Newark area and to organize boycotts involved multiple Jewish groups. However, the major efforts were exerted by a muscular organization - The Minutemen - who resorted to every means possible, inside and outside the law, to crush the proliferating Nazi activity in their backyard.

They had the guiet, but unguestioned. backing of Newark's crime boss, Longy Zwillman, one of America's major bootleggers during the recently-ended Prohibition era. and a recognized leader in nationwide organized crime. Most of the Minutemen funding, however, came from donations from Jewish businessmen through paid memberships and dues in the organization. The core of the Minutemen organization seemed to have been drawn from ex-prizefighters, taxi and truck drivers, movers, basketball players, and young college students. Some had helped run booze for Longy from boat-offloading to warehouse during the earlier Prohibition years.

The leadership of the Minutemen was taken over by Nat Arno, a onetime prizefighter and a former associate of Longy Zwillman, in 1934, and he actively led the group for six years until 1940. Their main occupation seemed to be breaking up meetings of the Hitler-followers with fists, baseball bats, newspaper and rubber covered iron pipes, and stench bombs. Their attacks at Nazi meetings often resulted in the Nazis panicking and running away. As one participant recalled: "We chased them and beat them up...Nazi arms, legs, and ribs were broken and skulls were cracked, but no one died."

A portion of "Nazis in Newark" deals with how such Newark groups such as the Jewish War Veterans joined with other Jewish fraternal and welfare groups, and how they worked together to convince the owners of Newark's department stores, and other merchants or food distributors not to import or sell merchandise made in Nazi Germany, and of some of the 'arm-twisting' and monitoring that was done by the membership to make the boycott 100 percent effective.

The book "Nazis in Newark" covers, essentially, the period from Hitler's ascension to power to the eve of World War II, when the 'commander' of the Minutemen, Nat Arno, was drafted into the Army, and at about the same time, the German-American Bund was outlawed.

In the course of "Nazis in Newark," author Warren Grover delves into and describes, in illuminating ways not previously seen in print, Newark's vibrant Jewish life, and the evolvement of Newark's Jewish community as one of the largest and most active in America. Among its approximately 65,000 Jews, there were, in the 1930s, 140 Jewish fraternal and family associations, Newark branches of 16 national organizations, eight athletic clubs, and three political clubs.

He provides details, previously little-known, of Newark's Jewish leaders, especially in Newark politics where Newark had a Jewish mayor from 1933 to 1941 - Meyer C. Ellenstein - and how he was aided in snaring that post.

Continued on Page 11





From The Principal's Office

Ronald G. Stone, Principal

Dear Alumni.

On behalf of the students, faculty, parents and Weequahic community, let me be the first to say welcome to the 2003-2004 academic year. One year into the inaugural implementation of our Small Learning Communities Model, I am motivated and excited and I hope you are also to meet the challenges and opportunities this new school year presents.

Your enthusiasm and devotion to maintaining the integrity as well as high academic standards that has long been Weequahic's tradition is overwhelming. I consider it an honor more than a responsibility to unite in our collective pursuits to restore Indian pride and academic excellence to what it was during your glory days.

As building principal, I am committed to providing the best educational opportunities possible for our students and keeping you informed of the initiatives that guide education today.

For those of you who may not be aware, Newark is a State operated school district. As a result, Weequahic is subject to legislative mandates designed to provide some (not all) of the resources that made receiving an education such a wholesome experience during your era. The most noticeable change in Abbott Implementation - Phase II is the shift from the selection of mandated nationally developed whole school reform models to voluntary use of such models.

The new principles of Abbott Phase II Implementation are: * Every teacher is engaged in standards - driven improvement of teaching and learning * Every child is a strong, grade level reader by grade three; * Every student masters the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

This shift also recognized the collaborative, shared and instrumental role of the central office to support and guide school-based

improvement. Landmark changes are also occurring at the federal level with the re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

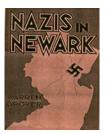
The new federal legislation enacted in January, 2001, introduces "No Child Left Behind" which emphasizes these key components: early literacy based on scientifically based reading research; high academic standards in reading, math and science as measured on annual assessments; enhancement of the quality of teaching staff; parental choice, flexibility and accountability.

It is in the context of these state and federal changes that we invite you to remain active participants in the renaissance of Weequahic High School. Love of learning, confidence to succeed, and the belief that there is a support system in place to assist our youth in overcoming the many obstacles that impede success can not be legislated.

I am asking you to extend a hand, because you know first hand what it meant to be a part if a community bonded in pride and the prestige associated with being a Weequahic Indian.

Warren Grover

Continued From Page 10



He also talks about leaders in the clergy, in business and in industry...in medicine and the professions ...and how they reacted individually and collectively to area Nazi incursions that

were harmful or upsetting to Jews. "Nazis in Newark" is thus as much a detailing of Newark's Jewish history as it is of Newark's pro-Nazi activities. And because it was assembled with the aid of scores of personal interviews, it has the read and feel, for the reader of hearing it from insiders who were there and lived through it.

My Personal Reaction to Book

I, for one, thought to give "Nazis in Newark" a quick glance when I brought the book home. However, when I opened it and got started, I didn't put it down until four hours later. It's that kind of a book.

As a son of Jewish immigrants who grew up in Newark, in the heavily-Jewish Third Ward, and was familiar with many of the book's locales and participants, I marveled at how meticulously author Grover had pieced together the various strands of Newark's divergent Jewish life, while never losing focus of the main object of his work -- the Nazi encroachment in the Newark area.

"Nazis in Newark" embraces a telling not only of Jewish history, but of Newark history, and American history. It provides expertly-written coverage of the Newark area from 1933 to 1941 in a clear way, while dealing with topics not previously touched upon in print.

Credit to the Publisher

It is to the credit of Grover's publisher - Transaction Publishers - based on the Rutgers University campus, that they have undertaken to publish this monumental history by a native Newarker who was also a former Newark history teacher and a well-connected Jewish community leader -- a man who knew all the right buttons to press, whom to interview and what archives to search to create this exceptional and fascinating work. "Nazis in Newark" serves yet another

important function. It marvelously augments and fills in many gaps in an earlier book from the same publisher: "The Enduring Community: The Jews of Newark and Metrowest" by Professor William Helmreich, published in 1999.

Warren Grover is a native Newarker who graduated from Weequahic High in 1955 and is a founder of the Newark History Society. He also serves on the boards of the New Jersey Historical Society and the Jewish Historical Society of Metrowest (which includes Newark), of which he is the ex-President.

You can hear Warren speak about his book at the NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place, in Newark on Wednesday, September 24th at 4:30 PM. RSVP by calling (973) 596-8500. Also, at the Jewish Community Center of Metrowest, 901 Route 10, in Whippany on October 20th at 8 PM. RSVP at (973) 929-2995

The book is published by Transaction Publisher, New Brunswick NJ 08903; Cloth edition: \$49.95 / Paper edition: \$24.95;

Available in Bookstores or from Transaction Publishers at (732) 445-1245

Living Inside The Weequahic Park Racetrack

By Anthony Wereta

I grew up in Newark near *South 10th Street*, and in 1941 married a girl who had attended and graduated from Central High School the same year that I did. During World War II, I served in the *Seabees (Construction Battalion)* and after the War I lived inside the *Weequahic Park* racetrack for five years. It doesn't sound believable at this time, but I was able to live inside of Weequahic Park because of the atom bomb.

Apparently, in anticipation of heavy casualties in the last stages of the Pacific war, the Government built hospital barracks buildings in four locations inside of *Weequahic Park*, in anticipation of using them to accommodate those that would be evacuated from an impending invasion of Japan.

Then with the atom bomb canceling the invasion, the buildings stood empty at the end of the War. They were rented out to veterans with families. Each barracks building had six four-room apartments, each with kitchen, dining room, and two bedrooms. The apartment came with a kerosene stove. Electricity was included as was front-door garbage pickup by horse-drawn garbage wagons from the Newark Department of Sanitation.

I paid \$37.50 a month rent. The rent was payable to the State of New Jersey. They had a maintenance office inside the Park where I paid my rent. All told, there were 578 apartments for veterans with families in four locations within Weequahic Park, each location named after the site of a World War II battle. The barracks buildings inside the racetrack were I lived were located in *Anzio Square*. The other three locations inside the Park were *Corregidor Square*, *Oran Square*, and *Bastogne Square*. I lived inside the *Weequahic Park Racetrack* from 1949 to 1954.

For recreation, we traveled outside the park to *Sabins* and *Millmans* for hot dogs, or occasionally to the *Tavern Restaurant Pastry Shop* for one of their great coconut cream pies. We all went nuts for it. Looking back, the accommodations may not have been that great, but for a young married family like ours, it was like living in your own private home and we loved it.



HOBSON ST

By Susan D. Wagenheim

I grew up at *261 Hobson Street* in the 50s and 60s, right next to the orphanage (I think it was St. Peter's, but not sure). *Hobson Street* runs between *Goldsmith* and *Chancellor Avenues*.

The entire street consists of 4 unit apartment buildings separated by concrete or asphalt alleyways which lead into the backyards where there are the 4 unit storage/garages. There were no fences between buildings, so we kids ran and rode our bikes freely up and down the block in the back by the garages.

Our moms (none of whom worked outside the home) used to bring out folding chairs and sit and gossip together while we kids played. It was like one big extended family. If you had to pee when you were all the way down the end of the block, you used *Mrs. Rackenberg's* bathroom. If you were hungry at *Mrs. Weisser's*, she'd give you a piece of buttered matzoh. Thickly buttered, as this was when most people would think "Cole Esterol" was a freshman at Weequahic High!

Just as Betty Smith wrote in "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn", a child's world is bounded by the neighborhood stores. My world on *Hobson Street* was bounded by the stores within walking distance. The *Chancellor Deli,* where we'd go to eat monumental corned beef and pastrami sandwiches, the "corner store" where'd I be sent to pick up a loaf of Wonder bread, the kosher butcher, with the sawdust on the floor, and the pharmacy, with that long wondrous glass display counter filled with penny candy that really DID cost a penny!

We kids either walked or rode our bicycles everywhere. We were lucky to have *Bernheim's* funeral parlor at the corner of *Hobson* and *Chancellor*, because we could ride our bikes freely in the parking lot. A really big deal would be to walk with Mom to the *Pik-N-Pay* for the big shopping order, or to *Two Guys*, a store that surely had everything! I used to get my Keds sneakers and my summer sun-suits there.

Both my grandparents lived in Newark as well. My maternal grandparents (*Max and Anna Ehrenkrantz*) lived on *Wainwright Street* in an apartment over some stores. Their windows looked out over Lyons Avenue. I was allowed to walk there to visit, and did often. Once a week, my Mom and I would walk to *Ming Toy's* Chinese restaurant on Lyons Avenue and have the usual fried rice, wonton soup, spare ribs, and chicken chow mein. It seemed so......exotic!

My other grandparents (*Nat and Bess (Bornfeld) Wagenheim* lived on *Vermont Avenue*. We drove to their house once a week for a family dinner. On occasion, my Nanny Bess took me by bus to downtown Newark, where we would shop the "fancy" stores *S. Klein* and *Bambergers*. I can still remember the unique smell of the *Bamberger's* store wood polish, glass cleaner, and wool. A special treat would be coffee and a doughnut at *Chock Full O' Nuts*. Yes, I was given coffee to drink, nobody thought it would stunt my growth, and it didn't. I'm a very female 5'8" tall!

I went to Chancellor Avenue School. We walked up Goldsmith Avenue and through the playground. My kindergarten teacher was named Mrs. Herman, and she was very petite. The first day of school I remember that Todd Applebaum's mother had to drag him in kicking and screaming. Poor Todd. Poor Todd's mother! Mrs. Herman was a wonderful teacher. Being so petite, she couldn't reach the classroom phone. It had a mouthpiece that was part of the wall unit and a receiver that you held separately to your ear. Mrs. Herman had to bring a step stool to answer the phone, and we used to laugh at her for that. She told us, "It isn't how big a person is outside that counts, it's how big they are inside." As you can tell, Mrs. Herman's lessons stuck.

I also had the good fortune to have *Mrs. Duchin* for second and third grades. I just adored her! She was so patient, so kind, and so effective. My dad (*William Wagenheim*) had a business downtown called Parts Unlimited, which was at *260 Washington Street*. I used to help out when I was a teenager. When I worked with him, he would take me to lunch at Ray's Delicatessen on *Branford Place*.

Like many families, we spend summers at *Bradley Beach*. We stayed in a cottage on *Beach Avenue*, and I have many fond memories of the 4 summers we spent there. My dad would take the train from Newark on Friday and stay the weekend, then return to work. My pediatrician was *Dr. Seymour Charles* whose offices were on *Lyons Avenue* across from *Beth Israel Hospital*. He was my pediatrician for many years.

In my 20s, I went to medical school at *UMDNI-New Jersey Medical School* on *Bergen Street*. As a third year medical student, I did my pediatrics rotation at *Beth Israel*, and lo and behold, who did I meet, still making his rounds there? My pediatrician, *Dr. Charles* still dedicated, still serving, still committed to caring for the children of Newark. The day I ran into him was Halloween, and to cheer up the hospitalized kids, he was dressed as a clown with a GIANT red nose. I still recognized him. And he, bless his heart, remembered me as a kid.

Arthur Brody

1939 Grad Changed the Look of Library Books

By Nat Bodian, Old Newark Web Site

In 1939, the Bro-Delle Book Shoppe at 1049 Bergen Street, between Lehigh Avenue and Harding Terrace in Newark's Weequahic section, was running a thriving lending library out of their book store premises. The only problem was that after a relatively short time, the thin paper jackets on the rental books frayed and tore easily, shortening the book's lending life.

The shop owners, Ruth and Samuel Brody, had talked about this jacket problem with their 19-year old son, Arthur - a recent Weequahic High School graduate (Feb. 1939). After some thought, he came up with an idea that he believed might be able to get his parents' bookshop a longer rental life for their books.

He went to a place that manufactured sheets of clear plastic and experimented with various thicknesses, eventually finding a thin sheet that he found to be foldable without special tools. He cut the sheet down to book jacket size and made the folds in the plastic by using the rubber wringer rollers from his grandmother's wringer washing machine. He then placed the resulting protective plastic cover over the paper covers of a number of rental book jacket covers in his parent's book rental library.

Nineteen-year old Arthur Brody's idea worked. The paper book jackets, when protected by the plastic covers, were virtually indestructible. Excited by the success of the plastic jacket covers in the Bro-Delle Book Shoppe, Brody decided he would gamble his modest

savings by placing an advertisement for the covers in a publication that reached librarians. He found that Library Journal, based at 1180 Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue) in New York City, reached nearly every public and high school library in the United States. He went to Library Journal, obtained a meeting with their longtime advertising manager, Les Cooley, and told Cooley what he had done. Brody said he thought Libraries might be interested and asked Cooley to create an ad in Library Journal for his covers for the amount of money he had available.

The ad ran in Library Journal. It brought in orders from scattered libraries, and Brody kept repeating the advertising, using the income from library orders to buy repeat ads. Thus was born the Brodart Company in 1939, and the birth of a new industry -- the plastic book jacket industry. Today, it is a multi-divisional company which Arthur Brody still heads as its active CEO. It has headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and well over 1,000 employees.

And today, plastic book jacket covers are manufactured in plants worldwide, and there is hardly a public library in the United States -- or, for that matter, in any large library in any country of the world, where at least some of the books are not protected by a variation of the plastic book jacket covers created by Arthur Brody on Bergen Street in Newark in 1939.

Currently, in addition to book jacket covers, for which all of Arthur Brody's early patents have long since expired, Brody's company, The Brodart Company, sells a complete line of library supplies, equipment, and systems, as well as books, to libraries worldwide.



Weequahic Diner Salad Recipe

(later called Clairmont salad)

- * 3 pounds cabbage, shredded. (The shredding can be done in a food processor or by hand.)
- * 2 carrots, sliced into disks about ½ inch thick
- * 2 green peppers, cut into bite-size pieces
- * 2 cucumbers, peeled and sliced
- * 2 large Vidalia onions, sliced (If Vidalia onions are not available, use regular ones.)
- * 4 teaspoons sugar dissolved in ½ cup warm water (You can substitute 4 packages of Sweet and Low.)
- * ³/₄ cup of white vinegar
- * ½ cup of canola oil
- * About 1½ teaspoons salt
- * Garlic powder, celery salt, and pepper to taste

Marinate the above ingredients in the refrigerator. This salad can last for many weeks in the refrigerator.

BE A MENTOR TO A WEEQUAHIC HIGH STUDENT

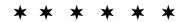
For More Information, Contact: JUDY BENNETT, class of 1972 at *jjdbennet@aol.com*

MEMBERSHIP / MERCHANDISE / EVENT / SCHOLARSHIP Form Send to: WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101

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In Loving Memory





Dr. Myron Denholtz, 77, WHS Grad From 1943

By Jonathan Cheng, Star-Ledger

Whether on the road or in the air, Myron "Mickey" Denholtz was a doctor who took the time to care. Dr. Denholtz, a behavioral psychiatrist, always stood by his patients, a dedication that occasionally took him to extraordinary lengths - and heights.

Marcia Denholtz said her husband of 56 years "would go out of his way to do things for people - and for patients, too." She recalled one incident in the early 1960s when he helped deliver a baby not far from their Maplewood home. "There were two policemen in a car, and the light was on," Marcia Denholtz said. "I said, 'That lady looks like she's in labor,' so we pulled over. He talked to the two policemen and delivered the baby."

Dr. Denholtz died Friday at the Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, Fla., where he and his wife had lived since he retired in 1999. He was 77. A general practitioner for 15 years, Dr. Denholtz later became a pioneer in behavioral therapy, concentrating on behavioral modification, Marcia Denholtz said.

He helped countless people overcome their fear of flying, putting together tapes to help them relax and even accompanying them on airplanes. "He took some trips with patients, where they would fly from Newark to Boston and back," his wife said. "He had a sign in his waiting room: 'Do the thing you fear and it will disappear."

Mervin Binder of West Orange met Dr. Denholtz in 1948, and the two remained close friends ever since, even serving together in the Korean War. "We got together weekly," Binder said. "We would play bridge and get a sack of White Castle hamburgers every Monday night."

Dr. Denholtz also had a close relationship with his two daughters. "One time when I was 19 or 20 years old, I hitchhiked across the country and ended up in Colorado with no money," said Ruth Denholtz, a reflexologist who lives in Tucson, Ariz. "I called him and told him I just needed to come home and of course the ticket was there in an hour. I just knew he was the safety net - no matter what, he would always be there for me."

His younger daughter, Nancy Denholtz of Maplewood, agreed, recalling how her father realized early on that there was something wrong with his grandson. "My son is autistic and my father was one of the first people to pick up on it," she said. "Then, when everyone else was emotional and didn't know what to do, he was always encouraging me to get help for him. He knew what to do."

A Newark native, Dr. Denholtz received officers training at Weequahic High School before entering the Navy during World War II. He attended Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., completing his four years of undergraduate work in just two years. In 1949, he earned his medical degree from the New York University School of Medicine and later completed his internship at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Dr. Denholtz joined the New Jersey Air National Guard during the Korean War, serving as a base radiologist in Albany, Ga., and at Fort Knox. After the war, he opened a general practice in Newark. In 1965, he decided to switch specialties and took up a three-year residency at the Metropolitan Hospital in New York City after which he began a private psychiatry practice from his home in Maplewood.

From 1978 to 1982, Dr. Denholtz was director of psychiatry at Elizabeth General Hospital, and from 1982 to 1985, he served as chief of the outpatient clinic of psychiatry at New York Beth Israel Medical Center. He was also on staff at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark during the 1980s and director of the behavioral research and training units at New York Medical College and Metropolitan Hospital.

Even in retirement, Dr. Denholtz staved involved with medicine and with his friendships, working with the Social Security Administration in New York and doing consulting work. Dr. Denholtz also had a number of hobbies, including photography, box collecting, gardening, golf, trains, computers, jewelry and model airplanes. He approached all with equal vigor, his wife

"His father died at 43 and he always felt he was going to die young," she said. "Maybe that's why he did so much while he was alive."

Besides his wife and daughters, Dr. Denholtz is survived by a brother, Edward, of Verona, and three grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the home of Nancy Denholtz and Sheldon Melnitsky in Maplewood.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the National Alliance for Autism Research, 99 Wall St., Research Park, Princeton, N.J., 08540.

Shani Baraka

Excerpts from a Star-Ledger article by Kasi Addison and Katie Wang

On August 16th, Shani Baraka, 31, the sister of Ras Baraka, Weequahic High School's Vice Principal and Newark's Deputy Mayor, died as a result of a shooting in Piscataway. Her friend Rayshon Holmes also suffered fatal injuries.

Ms. Baraka was a teacher and assistant coach for the girl's basketball team at Malcolm X. Shabazz High School in Newark which won the state championship this past year. She was the daughter of Newark poets Amiri and Amini Baraka.

During a three-hour joint service at Metropolitan Baptist Church, friends, poets and politicians gave moving tributes to the women who were described as loving, selfless, and full of life.

Vanessa Wilson, head coach of the Shabazz girls basketball team, spoke of Shani Baraka's significant role in the team's success. Of Ms. Baraka, Newark Mayor Sharpe James said: "This outpouring of love is a testimonial of her great gift to communicate with young people. She was Newark's native daughter who poured love into the city's youth and tried to make them better."

The Shabazz girl's basketball team, outfitted in the school's colors, gold and black, huddled together, clutching hands in a circle and holding back tears. They vowed to play hard and to never forget their coach.

The Weequahic High Alumni Association expresses its deepest sympathy to Ras Baraka and his family - and to the many friends, educators and students whose lives were touched by Shani Baraka.

SCENES FROM THE 1939 YEARBOOK



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For more info, contact:

Judee Slatnick Horel at <u>judee.sh@juno.com</u>

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2003 ALUMNI CELEBRATION



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Make Plans With Your Classmates & Alumni Friends Now

Space is limited to 350 People - \$25.00 Admission Fee

OCTOBER 11, SATURDAY, 10 AM TOUR OF SCHOOL

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- Living Inside The Weequahic Park Racetrack
- Hobson Street Memories

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