



A TRIP TO PARIS, FRANCE

A Teacher's Commitment To Her Grandmother's Memory

By Hal Braff, 1952

It's about 370 miles from the rural streets of Otisfield, in southern Maine to Chancellor Avenue, Newark, New Jersey and few these days design their lives to make that trip. Fortunately for us all in the Weequahic community one dynamic, energetic woman - *inspired by the wisdom and legacy of her grandmother, enthusiastically made the journey* - and has become one of our school's favorite teachers.

After graduating from Gettysburg College in 2000, *Lavinia Rogers* was looking for a meaningful way to both make a difference in the lives of young people and to teach the French language. Through "Teach For America," an organization which helps to find teachers for schools which have some difficulty recruiting, *Ms. Rogers* found the job she wanted and became the school's first French teacher since the early 1970's.

Positive in her approach to her students, confident in her ability to instill the excitement of learning a subject she loves to Weequahic kids, *Lavinia Rogers* has established herself as one of the most exciting teachers in the school - and the teaching of French as a vehicle to instill the joy of learning.

Lavinia will tell you that her mentor and role model was her grandmother, *Constance Cincotti*, who taught her French as a child and who also opened up the world of opportunity for her, changing her life by sending her to Paris. When *Ms. Cincotti* died last summer at 92, *Ms. Rogers* made a

commitment to her grandmother's memory - she would open opportunity for her students by bringing them to France and provide for them a linguistic and cultural experience which they might otherwise not afford.

Providing funding became her first priority. She started by writing a proposal and submitting it to the Newark school system. In the proposal, *Ms. Rogers* indicated that the trip would include 15 students - 8 of whom are the only students in Newark Public Schools who have devoted four years of their lives to learning French - and 7 of whom will have completed French 2 Honors classes before the trip.

Scheduled to leave on March 23 and return April 4, 2005, the students, *Ms. Rogers*, and three other chaperones will spend 3 days in Paris, then travel by train to Nice where they

will be staying with host families, attending school in the mornings and cultural and sporting events in the afternoons. Then they return to Paris and finish their stay before flying back home.



Ms. Rogers (left) with some of her students

The total cost of the trip will be \$39,165.

The Newark Public Schools provided a \$5,000 grant. So far the students have raised over \$7,000 through various school and community projects; the teachers \$1,300; the Alumni Association and individual contributions an additional \$12,000.

More funds are needed, so you can still support this project by sending a check payable to *WHS Alumni Association* (indicate *French trip* on the check) and mail to *WHS Alumni Association P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101*.

We are very excited about this wonderful project and thrilled with the opportunities *Ms. Rogers*, the vibrant faculty, and our principal, Ron Stone, are offering our Weequahic kids.

ALUMNI BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT

By Phil Yourish, 1964

On Saturday, December 3rd, the Weequahic High School Alumni Association Board of Trustees conducted an all-day retreat at the Parsippany Hilton Hotel which also included the participation of some former planning committee members, and some Weequahic faculty and parents.

The following 22 persons attended: **Board Members:** *Marjorie Barnes, Judy Bennett, Hal Braff, Sheldon Bross, Mary Dawkins, Dave Lieberfarb, Art Lutzke, Sharon-Price Cates, Gerald Russell, Vivian Simons, Ron Stone (also WHS Principal), Myrna Weissman, Loraine White (also WHS Coordinator), Phil Yourish.* **Former Planning Committee Members:** *Lois Gilbert, Marshall Cooper.* **Weequahic Staff:** *Rowena Rose (Head Guidance Counselor), Marsha Zak (Teacher, School Coalition).* **Parents:** *Shirley Johnson (President, Parent/Teachers Association), Rasheedah Syed (Parent Coordinator at the high school), Alita Thompson.* **Other:** *Elaine Braff.*

Beth Randall Branigan, a senior consultant with *Cavanaugh-Leahy*, a company that specializes in executive coaching, leadership and management development, and off-site design and facilitation, was our facilitator.

Beth's background was a perfect fit for us. In addition to over 15 years of consulting experience, Beth has worked in the private sector as an HR generalist at Citibank, and the nonprofit sector as NYS Director for the Anti-Defamation League. More importantly, she served on the Maplewood - South Orange Board of Education and as President of the Columbia High School Booster Club. Her experience both in and out of academic settings enabled Beth to help us focus on the challenges that the alumni association must address today and into the future.

What was the purpose of the retreat? As the famous South Side High graduate, Ed Koch, used to say when he was Mayor of NYC, "*How am I doing?*," we decided to spend some meaningful time looking at what we have accomplished, assessing our strengths and weaknesses, appraising our mission statement and goals, and defining the challenges for us as an alumni organization in the years to come.

During the day we participated in a number of large and small group exercises that helped us to identify important issues by looking at the past, present and future of Weequahic. We shared, discussed, interacted, debated, agreed, disagreed,

made lists and made suggestions. For the most part, we focused on the following:

- our backgrounds, relationship to the high school, and current concerns as alumni board or committee members, administration, faculty, parents and friends.
- ways in which the school, the neighborhood and the city have changed through the different generations.
- educational trends and events that have impacted the high school since its inception. What factors made the high school work "*then*" and what can make it work "*now*."
- the challenges facing the high school within the next five years and the specific activities that are needed to effectively address those challenges.
- an evaluation of the committee structure of the board of trustees and its effectiveness.
- respect for maintaining that "*fine line*" between the roles of the alumni association and of the school administration.
- the accomplishments of the alumni association and realistic areas of involvement for the organization as it relates to the high school.

Some of the challenges identified were: academic achievement; facility renovation; family/caretaker involvement; the level of support services; the new high school academy format; school pride and student motivation; and ways for students to "*belong*" in school.

And some of the suggestions for activities to meet the needs of those challenges were: smaller learning communities; new gyms and athletic facility; needs assessments, focus groups, meaningful activities, and more effective coordination for parents/caretakers; the input and involvement of all stake holders; closer relationships with feeder schools; access to the latest technology; collaboration with community agencies and the private sector; anger management/conflict resolution training and values clarification courses; positive role-modeling by individuals on a national and local level and/or by alumni; financial assistance for vocational training; and greater alumni association resources and scholarships.

At the end of the day, we all pretty much agreed that the alumni association has been very successful over the past seven years and has focused on those areas that ultimately benefit the students at the high school, such as *fund raising, scholarships, school-based activities, special events, job opportunities, support for parent/caretaker initiatives, political advocacy for the high school, and volunteer services.*

A little honing here and there, bringing in more alumni who share the "*passion*" and can provide new energy, getting our committees to function on a regular basis, developing an equitable and specific procedure for distributing funds, and finding more creative ways to bring additional financial resources into the organization were some of the suggestions from the group. *So how are we doing? We're doing OK.* And it's nice to be able to confirm that every once in awhile. It was a day well spent. Our thanks to those who participated and to Beth who guided us through this valuable process.

The Alumni Association Story

Our presentation of our first Board of Trustees retreat creates the time and place for us to retell the story of the alumni association.

It's so hard to believe that it was only 1997 when the alumni association made its debut at The Newark Public Library. So much has happened since. Who knew then that the visions bouncing around in the minds of Hal Braff, 1952, and Sheldon Bross, 1955, would capture the hearts of so many Weequahic alumni. Who knew that an idea of fancy would turn into such a viable organization that has made many important contributions.

It's been an incredible journey - so much accomplished in so little time. As we move forward in our 8th year, I can remember vividly how it all began. We were a group built on the intangibles - dreams, visions, faith, trust, enthusiasm and the good intentions of a small group of alumni. And we secretly wondered how far would that take us?

I met Hal and Sheldon for the first time at the Library as they were planning for our big initial event. Like many others, I was skeptical about such an endeavor, but at the same time drawn to its possibilities. My interest was piqued when they assured me that the alumni association was going to be more than just good memories and nostalgic events - that it was going to have a significant impact on the Weequahic High School of today.

I can recall that fabled Friday evening at the Library when more than 300 alumni showed up, elbows touching elbows, in a place too small for such a large crowd, thrilled about reconnecting with classmates and friends from the high school of their youth. That night was the first tangible - *real evidence that this improbable idea might actually have some substance.* We got the attention of our alumni, but could we sustain it? There were still the doubters. Was this just a one-time feel-good occasion or could we build upon it and garner greater interest and participation?

Continued on next page

The Alumni Association Story

Only time would provide the answers. Here are a few:

- a contribution of \$75,000 by Eli Hoffman, 1956, the President of the Jaqua Foundation for new band uniforms and musical instruments. His foundation also provided our initial funds for college scholarships.
- a dinner meeting with Marian Bolden, the Newark Superintendent of Schools and Steve Dinetz, 1965, a highly successful Weequahic graduate who established his own mechanism for "giving back" through the Chancellor Foundation. Steve provides funds for the management of the association and Ms. Bolden has enthusiastically supported our initiatives.
- the publishing of our first newsletter with Hal Braff's "The Sweet Legacy of Weequahic" article on the cover. Since then, 13 more newsletters have reached the homes of more than 1,200 alumni members in the U.S. and abroad.
- being hired as the Executive Director of the Alumni Association and thinking how strange the turns in life take. Here I was after 35 years returning home to be a part of the Weequahic experience as an adult in a way that I was never able to be as a student. This certainly was not on my life's agenda.
- setting up our alumni office in the Library/Media Center at the high school.
- the launching of our new web site at www.weequahicalumni.com where over 1,145 alumni are registered.
- the raising of nearly \$150,000 for college scholarships including our first endowment fund.
- providing financial support for Weequahic High School activities, such as: marching band trips, French class' trip to Paris, graduation reception, celebrations for athletic teams, etc.

So you see, you can never underestimate the power of dreams, visions, faith, trust, enthusiasm and the good intentions of a small group of people. Today, we are one of the most unique and successful urban high school alumni associations in the country.

And why not?

It's in the venerable tradition of Weequahic. And isn't that the way it should be?

An Important Message From Gene Lieberman, class of 1952

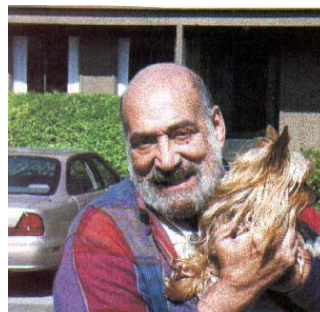
A note from Jac Toporek, 1963 - Gene was the guiding force behind the last WHS West Coast Reunion and wanted to share this message on our WHS '63 Notes monthly e-mail bulletin. Gene's screen name, zygazint18@aol.com, carries with it the message we have for him, that is, be well [translation of Yiddish word "zygazint"] and may you have a long life ["18" when written in Hebrew letters translates into life].

Before The Operation

I decided to share the following only because I am a firm believer that people can help others with good vibes, prayers, etc. All will be accepted by zygazint18. As most of you know I was a 2-carton a day smoker ever since I was 19ish. I did stop in July of 1998 on July 1st at 10:30 am...that was my last cig.

Last year my pulmonary doctor, because of the fact that I have emphysema, decided it would be helpful if we did a Cat scan to see what was going on within my lungs. We did that and within my upper right lung a spot showed up. It was hard to tell if it was scar tissue or something else. They also saw damage from the emphysema in the upper right lobe.

Approximately 9 months went by and they did another Cat scan and the spot had grown. It was now just short of two centimeters but they still were



not sure what it was. I had a PET scan and it lit up the 2 centimeter gizmo and nothing else in the lungs. This was an indication that whatever was there, which they felt was a tumor, was growing slowly in my right upper lung. They then did a needle biopsy and were able to determine that I had a malignancy of small cell cancer in that tumor. Again it doesn't show up anywhere else in my lungs. The doctor advised me that it was operable and should come out.

Sooooooooooooooooooooo, on Oct. 1st at about 10:30 am I will be operated on to remove this tumor from my upper right lobe and since the upper right lobe is heavily damaged with emphysema they will remove that portion of the upper right lobe. My doctor informed me that there is a good chance that my breathing could improve after the operation as the emphysema damage will not be there.

The operation will take 1 hour to prep...2 hours to operate and then I will be in ICU for 24 hours. Then 4 more days in the hospital and then home for 4-6 weeks of R & R. The doctor and my surgeon felt that there won't be any need for chemo or radiation after the

operation as the PET scan did not show anything else to be present. They were 99% sure of this but will test the lymph nodes once they are in there.

I am being very positive about this. These were the cards that I was dealt and I have to play with them. I am letting people know just so the wrong info doesn't get out there. One of my neighbors was told the above by me and within 2 days people were telling me I had a body full of cancer.

I am also in a very positive state of mind...so not to worry...just send me those vibes...I thank you in advance for your thoughts and wish you all the best...If you are still smoking...STOP. Had I not had emphysema, I would not have had the Cat scans ...yeah and I know If I did not smoke I might not have had them either.

After The Operation

I am doing much better...I wasn't sure whether to tell the world about my then upcoming operation...but I felt I needed as many good thoughts etc. coming my way so I let it be known...many people from our Alumni responded throughout my stay in the hospital and rehab and were checking my daughter's web page updates...it was extremely uplifting to know that they were all there for me...many of whom I did not know first hand but being from Weequahic still meant something. It was quite an experience that I shall not forget so thanks to all.

REMEMBERING HOWDY DOODY -



In 1947, the children's TV series with Howdy Doody, a marionette and Buffalo Bob, a real person, appeared on the air. The series lasted until 1960. Howdy Doody was a redhead with 48 freckles - one for each state. Other live characters on the show included *Princess Summerfall-Winterspring*, *Chief Thunderhud*, and *Clarabell Hornblow*, the clown. Marionettes were *Dilly Dally*, *Flub-a-Dub*, and *Phineas T. Bluster*.

Walking the Streets of a Writer's Memory

A reprint of an article by David Carr,
that recently appeared in the NY Times

It is a school day. Kids swarm from Weequahic High School and the adjacent elementary school into an epic October afternoon, shouting plans and see-you-laters into the bluest sky possible. With eyes slightly crossed, you can see what **Philip Roth** saw six decades ago as a young man.

In Mr. Roth's new novel, *The Plot Against America*, the Weequahic neighborhood of the 30's and 40's is a bootstrap paradise - a cultural preserve to some, a ghetto to others. Walk across the street from the school to the tidy block of Summit Avenue today, and you will find almost identical two-and-a-half-story wood-frame houses, topped by gabled roofs and red brick stoops, including the second one in from Keer Avenue, Mr. Roth's old home. Ring the bell and the door opens. "*The lady of the house is not home*," said a polite, somewhat startled elderly black woman. "*Come back when she is and you can talk to her.*"

And Philip Roth? "*I know nothing of him*," she said. Who can blame her? The Weequahic Jews - the conflicted, foot-in-both-worlds strivers of Mr. Roth's fiction and his youth - are gone, propelled first by their own upward mobility and then by the riots of 1967. The neighborhood avoided the worst of it, but the riots wiped out much of the merchant class when stores elsewhere in the city were looted to the walls in a burst of atavistic rage. White people, including the Jews, were scared and left, and black people gradually became the majority.

What remains is still a neighborhood of people with hopes of mobility, but Chancellor Avenue, the heart of the Weequahic neighborhood, no longer has any commercial viability. Turn down the wrong block, some locals say, and commerce of another sort, furtive and transitory, is under way. On the south side of Newark, hard behind the airport, Weequahic was once a place to be attained. The recently arrived Jews scrimped along in the cold-water flats in Newark's old Third Ward and then grabbed at the bottom rung of the middle class by moving up the hill to Weequahic.



In *The Plot Against America*, a dark fantasy of what might have been, their purchase on a version of the American dream is threatened and all but severed when Charles Lindbergh, a trans-Atlantic hero known for admiring Hitler, improbably defeats Franklin Roosevelt for the presidency in 1940. An accommodationist who cuts a deal with the Nazis, Lindbergh keeps America out of World War II and puts American Jewry on the run. Newark, with more than 70,000 Jews and more than 50 synagogues, is immediately imperiled, most notably by one of its own, the fictional Rabbi Lionel Bengelsdorf, who sells out in grand style.

Seen through the wide eyes of a preteen version of Philip Roth himself, his hermetic little neighborhood is beset by fear of a pogrom storming in from those middle places in America, where Jews are often viewed as aliens or worse. In the book, he and his family fight, sacrificing nearly everything, to stay in a neighborhood they love, a place that very much loved them back.

Phil watches much of the grim future unfold at the Newsreel Theater in 60-minute increments. There, sitting in the dark next to his father, he

sees Hitler roll across Europe unopposed in this nightmarish rewrite of American history. The Newsreel Theater was at the nexus of Market and Broad, an intersection that was among the world's busiest in the 30's and 40's. Much of the traffic is gone, and the building has been broken up into three storefronts, the middle of which is host to an array of discounted shoes. Hyo Kang, the owner of *Golden Shoes*, said he had heard it was once a movie theater, but that was before his time.

Most Jews in the city lived on the large, low hill on the southern side, while Italians were in the old First Ward to the north and Irish and German immigrants down in the Ironbound. In the book, Phil sees his Newark unfold as the bus grinds its way up the hill on Clinton Avenue. The Riviera, the fancy hotel where his mother and father had spent their wedding night and where marchers and wise guys cut deals down in the bar, rears into view. It is now a fairly rundown hotel, the *Divine Hotel Riviera*, named after Father Divine, a religious leader who founded a sect in the first part of the last century.

Higher on the hill behind it sits *Hopewell Baptist Church*, but the Torah relief topping the structure suggests the worshipers it once held, the reform members of *Temple B'nai Jeshurun*. Farther up Clinton, *Temple B'nai Abraham* stuns with its size, a massive oval that overpowers even the biggest churches in the neighborhood. Nat Bodian, a dogged historian of old Newark, used to take his wife there when they were courting, making a date out of a night of listening to Rabbi Joachim Prinz. It, too, has been repurposed, now serving as the *Deliverance Temple*.

Up on the edge of Clinton Hill, the *Roosevelt Theater*, a former gathering place for the neighborhood, has become a Christian religious storefront, its marquee gone and its architectural filigree painted over. Across the street, a once-glorious mansion, built by one of the prosperous Jewish merchants and professionals who remade the neighborhood, is a portrait of entropy, its Victorian details gradually being pulled back down to earth by Newton's laws.

Some parts of the neighborhood remain unchanged. *Weequahic Park*, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, has an urban lake and a golf course. At sunset on an autumn day, a few people traced its paths through light dappled by the overhanging trees.

Continued on Next Page

PRESENT- DAY Newark has its charms - a relatively new performing arts center, a minor league baseball team and the incomparable carnivorous feasting in the Ironbound section - but the Newark of Mr. Roth's books is nothing more than a memory held in common by people who once lived there. *"In some places around my neighborhood, I am still able to see what used to be there,"* Mr. Roth said in an interview. *"But the further I get out into the city, it is just a desert. I can only vaguely remember what was there."*

Newark has served as a backdrop for many of Mr. Roth's books - *Portnoy's Complaint*, *American Pastoral*, *I Married a Communist* - and Mr. Roth says its evocation is more than a trick of memory. *"It is part and parcel of each book,"* he said. *"I want those places to seem true, and I want to be as precise as I can in laying out the social landscape."* (The flap for the new book shows the author posed against a map of Newark.)

He succeeds, often to eerie effect, given how profoundly the city and his former neighborhood have changed. Someone retracing the steps of the young protagonist in the book does not have to strain much to hear echoes. *St. Peter's Orphanage*, a Catholic facility that took up almost four blocks in a Jewish neighborhood, is gone, replaced by ball fields and a park. But walk down *Goldsmith Avenue* near where the orphanage stood, and you can almost hear Phil's bitter cousin Alvin, disabled after serving with the Canadian army in the war that Lindbergh's America turned its back on, chanting at the dice in a game of craps. Take a right onto *Hobson Street*, and a scene in the book in which an F.B.I. investigator quizzes Phil about his cousin springs to memory. Stop by the fence on the old orphanage property and you can almost picture the horses that used to graze there.

Elliot B. Sudler (WHS 1947 grad), a retired pharmacist, remembers the Roths, and he remembers those horses. On a dare, he once

climbed the fence and mounted one. *"I couldn't get off,"* he recalled. *"I was on that horse for 15 minutes before I finally slid off."* In one of the book's key inflection points, the young Mr. Roth wanders into that horse enclosure in the dark and pays dearly. Mr. Sudler was a few years ahead of Mr. Roth at Weequahic High School, but he remembers him well. *"He was a dreamy, creamy kind of guy,"* Mr. Sudler said. *"He didn't go by facts, but he always seemed to know what was going to happen."*



At the very top of the hill on *Chancellor Avenue* are the grade school where Mr. Roth's mother served on the P.T.A. and the high school that served as the community's claim on the future. On a recent Saturday, *Joe Komp*, a custodian at the high school, was waiting for some sports teams to come in from the athletic field. He opened the school door and revealed an Art Deco marvel, built in 1932, with W.P.A. murals, marble facing and stunning tile floors. A plaque dedicated to men who died in World War II - men with names like Pollack and Greenberg - testifies that Mr. Roth's novel was a flight of horrid fancy.

The school was renowned for a good basketball team and ferocious scholarship. In its yearbook the, *Legend*, Philip Roth, at 16, was described as *"a boy of real intelligence, combined with wit and common sense."* He is the most famous graduate, but the alumni also include many successful executives, judges, doctors and rabbis.

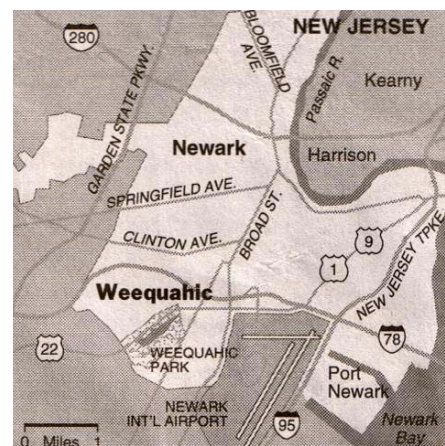
Jack Kirsten (WHS 1949 grad), a retired judge, did well for himself and his family and now lives in Short Hills. But he lived below the Roths when they moved down to Leslie Street in 1942, after their landlord raised the rent on Summit. *"When I read 'Portnoy's Complaint,' everything was familiar to me,"* Judge Kirsten said. *"I gave it to my mother, and she said, 'I can't understand why such a nice Jewish boy would write such a dirty book.' Philip wrote a letter to her and told her that his bark is worse than his bite."*

After Mr. Roth's parents moved to Elizabeth, he used to drive through the old neighborhood on the way to visit them, and he went back for more looks at it before writing *"The Plot Against America."* Mr. Roth said the neighborhood does not cohere the way it used to because massive ribbons of Highway 78 and the Garden State Parkway now dissect its streets. *"The neighborhood was destroyed by the highways as much as anything else,"* he said.

Up on Summit, memory lingers. In *The Plot*, Phil sees

his neighborhood with new eyes after a rain, causing him to pledge a childish fealty that will not last:

"Tinged with the bright after-storm light, Summit Avenue was as agleam with life as a pet, my own silky, pulsating pet, washed clean by sheets of falling water and now stretched to its full length to bask in the bliss. Nothing would ever get me to leave here."



INVEST IN WEEQUAHIC'S FUTURE BY CONTRIBUTING TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Weequahic Principal Ron Stone Keynotes the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame Event



Distinguished Panel, Honored Guests, Family and Friends,

Anniversaries commemorate the longevity of a momentous occasion. An anniversary leverages the history,

the innovation, the accomplishments, the identity, the values, the culture, and highlights the underlying successes. It is also a further opportunity to set the stage for the future. Tonight is such an occasion.

We have gathered this evening to celebrate sixteen years of outstanding accomplishment, and to acknowledge 26 new inductees to the Hall of Fame. I am honored to share the distinction as one of 26 nominees to the class of 2004, the largest class of inductees in the history of the Hall of Fame. I am doubly honored to have the opportunity to speak to you this evening.

Sixteen years ago, the founding members of the Hall of Fame committee gave birth to their vision to honor the achievements of Newark athletes. In their collective wisdom they sought to highlight the mind-body connection that fosters commitment, dedication, discipline and diligence...the grit...and gristle that helps shape champions. They posited that what needed to be recognized was not a set number of years but, rather, the accomplishments, trends, innovations, leaders and influence that those years represented.

They gave credence to the idea that significant amongst the ingredients that separate those who are successful in life, from those who are not, is inextricably linked to how you harness your personal power. Athletics has and continues to serve, as a component that fosters self-awareness, stimulates self-discipline, builds confidence and self-esteem, encourages responsibility, and promotes cooperation and teamwork.

I learned these principles as an athlete, and when you learn these principles, they are yours for life. Athletes who play to win need focus and direction. They need benchmarks and objectives. Most of all, they need the sense of accomplishment that comes from achieving what they set out to do. Performance-enhancement skills are not just applicable to athletics. As an educator, I have utilized these skills to teach team building, leadership, communication, and motivation skills.

Athletes who play to win soon come to understand, that when competition is tight, even though they may be physically fit, if the margin for victory is slim, in order to get ahead, gain that extra edge, they need an added resource, and that resource is a trained mind.

The mind-body connection is a very powerful one. For everything you think in your mind, your body has a reaction. In this regard, and perhaps at another point in time, there needs to be a significantly expanded discussion paralleling student academic achievement and the mind-body connection most often associated with athletics. An articulation, if you will, of the infinite possibilities for maximizing individual talents and opportunities for personal development, analogous to priming a pump.

...Your recognition of Newark athletes is indeed an honor. Moreover, it is an existential acknowledgment of all those coaches, teachers and others, who helped shape the "winner" psychology and the "Yes I Can" behavior, that gave student athletes the knowledge that could be applied day in and day out, on and off the field.

Those role models implemented a form of support that incorporated a unique approach adapted to the needs of both the individual and the team, integrating diverse practices for self-discovery and personal transformation, while encouraging the achievement of peak-performance in all endeavors, personal, professional, academic, and social. In short, against all odds, they encouraged us to take a chance.

Why did we invest on chance? Because they made us believe we could beat the odds. They believed in the possibility of winning, and they instilled that belief in all of us. The mathematical concept that deals with the chances of winning is called probability. With me here tonight, are 25 inductees who factored the probability of their belief, the tenacity of their efforts, and the strength of their convictions into a testament for success.

In this moment...I believe I speak for all of us when I say how proud we are, that we appreciate your recognition, but more importantly...we THANK YOU for this honor... and for this honor... we humbly... give you praise.

In closing, I am reminded that two thousand years ago, the Apostle Paul wrote *"...whatever is true, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things"* (Philippians 4:8).

Be assured...that this moment will dwell with us...forever!

Ron Stone - Hall of Fame Athlete



Ron Stone was born in the Central Ward. However, most of his developmental years, both adolescent and teens, occurred in the North Ward section of Newark. Ron is the eldest son of the late *Dr. Elayne D. Brodie*, a Newark school

activist, who encouraged him to excel in academics, music and athletics. Ron attended Summer Avenue Elementary, Broadway Junior High and Barringer High School.

At Barringer, Ron played First Chair trumpet in the band and was leader of the jazz band (Blue Jackets) in addition to his pursuit in athletics. Under the guidance of *Coach Tony Naporano* and the personal influence of *Coach Frank Verducci*, he became a three-year varsity wrestler as well as a track and field athlete. In 1968 his high school career concluded with Ron going undefeated, winning both the City and District Championships in the 157-pound weight class.

After high school he furthered his education at Kean College (now Kean University) earning a BA in Physical Education and a MA in Administration and Supervision. At Kean he lettered in football as the starting fullback and also began to play lacrosse. In two short years after first picking up a stick, Ron was named Captain of the lacrosse team and earned All Metropolitan honors as a Midfielder.

In 1974 Ron returned to his roots becoming a Physical Education teacher and coach in the Newark Public School System. In the early 1980's he started the first wrestling club for elementary youth at Franklin Elementary School. Ron has influenced the lives of numerous young men while coaching basketball at Peshine, Dayton Street and First Avenue School.

Forever in pursuit of new challenges; to test his physical limits, in 1993 at the age of 43, Ron won the *North American Power Lifting Championship*. In doing so he squatted 680 pounds and set a state dead lift record 710 pounds. Since then Ron has earned a Black Belt in *Ta'wando* and two summers ago placed 10th in the *New Jersey State Road Cycling Criterion Championship*.

Ron and his loving wife Meg reside in the town of Nutley and still lead a very active life style. Nothing makes him more proud than the relationship he has with his four sons, Bobby, Ronnie Jr. and twins Jesse and Jarret.

WHS Alumni Inducted in 2004 Newark Athletic Hall of Fame

Charles Talley, 1966



Charles Talley Jr. was born in St. Augustine, Florida where he graduated from Excelsior Elementary School. Then his family moved to Newark where he attended Clinton Place Jr. High School. He played on the school's

basketball team, which was undefeated for three years and was the *Newark Junior High School Champion*. During his last year he broke the all-time single game and season scoring title.

Charles went on to Weequahic where he had great success in sports. As a sophomore, he started on the varsity football and baseball teams and the JV basketball "undefeated" team (18-0) which won the City League title and the Essex County tournament. During his junior and senior years, he was co-captain of the varsity football and basketball teams - but had to give up baseball to get an afterschool job to help his mother. As a football player, Charles never came out of the game. He played both ways; quarterback, halfback, linebacker and safety - wherever he was needed. During his senior year, he won the award for most touchdowns scored in Essex County.

In his final year of basketball, he teamed up in the backcourt with his buddy, the great Moe Layton. The team won the Christmas tournament, City League, County Tournament, Group 4, N. Jersey, Sect. 2 title, and the Group 4 State Championship. Weequahic was the No. 1 team. "I must acknowledge those who inspired me," Charles states, "Dr. Benjamin Epstein, Al Attles, Reggie Morrison, Leo Bunyan, and my coaches - the late Seth Hicks and the legendary Les Fein."

Charles received over 75 scholarships for football and basketball. He says, "My mother accepted a full 4-year scholarship to Winston-Salem State University for me. I spent one year there, came home, got married and later attended Essex County College and went on to Montclair State University and received my BA in Health and Phys. Ed. and MA in Student Personnel and Counseling."

"I am blessed to be married to my friend and wife of thirty-eight years, Diana Morrison Talley (also a 1966 WHS grad). Together we developed two fine children, La-Rome Charles and Tammy La-von, of whom we are very proud of. We have three

wonderful grandchildren, Nahji Kadir, Autumn Imani and Charles David Talley. All Praises to God."

Irvin "Poochie" B. Hill, 1979



Irvin B. Poochie Hill is proud to be acknowledged as one of the best by the best. He also recognizes and appreciates his fiancée, Carol Jean Groves, who has been a tower of strength to him. After graduating from Robert Treat

School in Newark, he attended Seton Hall Prep, and graduated from Weequahic High School. He continued his education attending Albany State University in Georgia and received a degree from Ramapo College in NJ.

Poochie played 2 years of varsity for WHS, for the legendary Hall of Famer, Burney Lee Adams and 3 years of varsity wrestling. During his senior year, he took the *NJ Golden Gloves' Novice Championship*. While at Albany State University, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and graduated from paratrooper school at Fort Bragg, NC. He also graduated from ranger training school at Fort Henning, GA.

At that time, he began to compete in company, battalion, and brigade boxing competitions. He received an invitation to compete for a spot on the Fort Hood Boxing Team representing the U.S. in military competition in Texas and abroad. He performed under the watchful eye of retired Master Sergeant Kenny Adams, head coach of the US Army Boxing Team. In 1980, Irvin won the *United States Army Military Inner Service Championship* and was the first alternate in the Olympics Trials that were boycotted due to international conflict. In 1981 he was named *Fighter of the Year* in Korea.

Currently, he holds the position of Senior Corrections Officer at Northern State Prison in Newark. Other certifications include: Essex County Police Academy, Newark Police Academy, NJ State Department of Corrections Academy, NJ State Prison Extraction Team Officer. Irvin is an affiliate of numerous civic organizations and has received many awards and commendations throughout the years. He also takes a great deal of pride in assisting with his alma mater's football team.

His mother, the late Mary Dell Sheard (*Lady Sheard*) is his hero. His father who is 101 years of age has passed on his vast vision and

knowledge to him and is his life support. "To my brother, Richard Bell Sheard, you taught me that everyone has rhythm, but you have your own beat. To my son, Devin McCray, you're the GREATEST EVER! Last, to every individual who has been instrumental in my development - I am with you, for you, and about you until death do us part - thank you for being my pillars of strength."

Dr. Elnardo J. Webster



Dr. Elnardo J. Webster is a native of Newark, a former student of Peshine Avenue School and Weequahic High School. After moving to Jersey City, he graduated from Lincoln High School where he was an all-star basketball player.

Dr. Webster received his BA degree from St. Peter's College where he was the most valuable player in the *All MAC Conference* for two years; *All Big East* for two years; a *Helms Foundation All American*; *All NIT* for two years; and *All NIT* record holder (51 points in one game). He played professional basketball for seven years with various teams: New York Nets, Memphis Pros, New York Knicks, and in several European countries: Italy, Spain, and Switzerland. He received his doctorate degree from Seton Hall University in South Orange.

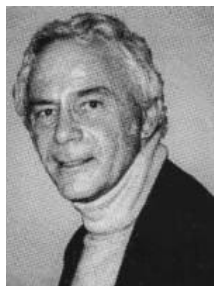
Dr. Webster has been inducted into the *Hall of Fame* at Saint Peters College, the *Hudson County Hall of Fame*, and after playing for the Essex County Old Timers League for many years, was inducted into the *National Old Timers Hall of Fame*.

Currently the Director of the Newark Public Schools Extended School Day Programs, the *After School Youth Development Program* has grown, during his 13 years of supervision, from serving 1,500 students at 25 sites to serving over 10,000 students daily at over 70 sites. His after school programs are considered to be a national model. As Director of the Office of Extended School Day Programs, Dr. Webster can boast of countless achievements, but he is most proud of the fact that some of the best academically performing and improved schools in the district frequently attribute their success to participation in his programs. He was recently selected to serve as a *National Ambassador of After-school Programs*.

Dr. Webster experienced as much success during his eight years with the New Jersey Department of Corrections when the program that he developed as *Director of Recreational Services* was recognized as "Program of the Year". He is also a former Freeholder of Hudson County.

Athletic Hall of Fame Cont.

Lester Fein - A Special Tribute



The name Lester Fein is synonymous with the word *champion* in the state of New Jersey.

From 1941 through 1967, Fein coached championship

basketball and/or volleyball teams at four high schools, 3 in New York and Weequahic in Newark, as well as at a U.S. military air base. His most successful year was the 1966-67 season, when his Weequahic basketball team went undefeated (26-0) on their way to capturing the New Jersey State Championship. Weequahic was named the *No. 1 high school team* in the United States and Coach Fein was honored as *USA Coach of the Year*.

In 1968, Fein answered a U.S. State Department request to coach, teach and counsel basketball in the State of Israel. The four-month undertaking, headquartered at the Wingate Institute for Physical Education in Netanya, took him throughout the country and led to a lifetime commitment to supporting Wingate's programs and activities; in particular, the campus' *Nat Holman School for Coaches*. He has served many years on the *Board of Maccabi USA/Sports For Israel*.

Fein is celebrated most for his incredible 12 years of coaching success at Newark's Weequahic High where he was both Chairman of the Athletic Department and Athletic Director. Between 1955 and 1967 his Weequahic basketball teams won *three State championships* - 1962, 1966, 1967.

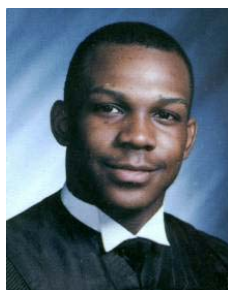
Following successful college basketball careers, five of his high school players went on to play in the National Basketball Association: *Al Attles* (Philadelphia and Golden State Warriors), *Jerry Greenspan* (Philadelphia 76ers), *Dennis Mo Layton* (Phoenix Suns), *Dana Lewis* (Philadelphia 76ers), and *Bill Mainor* (New York Knicks). In all, more than 50 of his players were recipients of basketball scholarships to major universities.

Fein is author of the articles in the Athlete Journal: *The Tall & Short of It; Third Quarter*

- *One To Go; and Everyone Can Play Volleyball*. Among the many honors he has received, his alma mater, New York University (MA in 1941) bestowed its prestigious *Arch Award for Leadership* upon Fein: and, in 1988, he was one of the original inductees to the *Newark Athletic Hall of Fame*, which this year, in his honor, created the *Les Fein Scholarship* which was received by 2004 WHS grad, Tahri Marshall. Most recently, Fein received the *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the *International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame* and was inducted into the *JCC MetrolWest (NJ) Athletic Hall of Fame*.

Tahri Marshall, 2004

Les Fein Scholarship Recipient



According to Weequahic's Head Basketball Coach Frank Gavin, **Tahri Marshall** is an outstanding individual in terms of his ability to impact

and motivate other young people. He has demonstrated leadership in the classroom, on the basketball court and in the community. Tahri maintained a "B" average throughout high school and averaged just above 15 points per game during the 2003-04 basketball season. He was chosen by The Star-Ledger as the state's best rebounder for players less than six feet, four inches.

Tahri, also was selected as the team captain for the 2003-04 season and was named to the *Newark Public Schools All Tournament Team*, the *Iron Hills Conference Team* and the *Essex County Team*. Furthermore, Tahri received the *Essex County Scholar-Athlete Award* and the *New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete Award*.

He has enjoyed a very successful basketball career. He was involved with the state playoffs in each of his four years. At graduation, he received the *Maxine Boatwright Memorial Scholarship* from the Weequahic High School Alumni Association.

Tahri is currently attending Florida Memorial College as he continues the fine legacy of Weequahic High School student-athletes.

ALLEN GARFIELD, (Allen Goorwitz, WHS 1957) From WEEQUAHIC to HOLLYWOOD



New Jersey-born Allen Garfield was trained at the Actors Studio in New York City. He had a prolific career on the stage before making his screen debut in 1968. His stocky build and nervous, jumpy mannerisms fit well with the

weasely criminals, lecherous villains and corrupt businessmen and politicians he excels in playing - a perfect example of which is the Beverly Hills police chief in 1987's *Beverly Hills Cops II*.

Garfield was a supporting player in such irreverent counterculture films as *Greetings* (1968) and *Putney Swope* (1969), cast often as pushy, antiestablishment ethnic Jewish types. He was a boxer and a journalist before entering films. He is best remembered for his standout supporting role in *Nashville* (1975) as Ronee Blakley's husband and manager. In the 1970's, some of his films were *Bananas* (1971), *The Candidate* (1972), and *The Conversation* (1974), but he was seen less frequently in the 1980's. In the late 70's, he decided to be billed under his real name, Allen Goorwitz, but later had a change of heart. In 1993, he played the title role in the low budget, independent effort, *Jack and His Friends*.

He has appeared in over 60 films. Some of them are as follows: *The Owl and the Pussycat* (dress shop proprietor), *You've Got To Walk It Like You Talk It Or You'll Lose Your Beat*, *Taking Off*, *Get To Know Your Rabbit*, *Slither*, *Gable and Lombard* (as Louis B. Mayer), *The Brink's Job* (a hilarious supporting role), *The Stunt Man* (as the paranoid screenwriter), *Get Crazy*, *Teachers*, *The Cotton Club*, *Desert Bloom*, *Cry Devil*, *Dick Tracy*, *Until The End of the World*, and *Family Prayers*.

In addition to his work in the movies, he has made numerous appearance in various television productions.

BE AN ERGO MEMBER

WEEQUAHIC HOMECOMING

Our 2004 ALUMNI HOMECOMING on Saturday, October 9 was a big success. Touring the school, feasting on good food (from Barry Rozansky, 1965 grad and his company, *Feed Your Imagination - FYI*), purchasing Weequahic alumni merchandise, viewing the slide show of Weequahic past and present in the Library/ Media Center, listening to Principal Ron Stone speak about the challenges of the high school today, watching the marching band perform, and cheering for Weequahic in Untermann Field as they won their 4th straight football game were the highlights of the day. We also sold more merchandise than ever before and many alumni became new members of the association. There was an enthusiastic turnout from the class of 1964, who had their 40th Reunion in the evening.



**Former Science teacher
Harry Lutzke and his wife Pearl**



**1964 grads Wendy Kaufman Nowak
and Howard Horn**



**1964 grads Marilyn Greenfeder
Pomerantz and Murry Rozansky**

Beverley Snyder Bettmann, WHS 1947

A Bat Mitzvah As A 75th Birthday Present



FROM THE MOM

I am a late bloomer. I started college in the evening at the age of 30 at Baruch College of the City University of New York. I went straight through seventeen semesters all in the evening, summer, winter, fall and spring and graduated at the age of 35. I met Jimmy and we were married when I was forty (life did really begin at forty).

When we married, Jimmy gave me the two greatest gifts he had, (his daughters) Jessica and Joen. I became an instant mother and how grateful I am that they accept me. Then I found the best job of my life and now I am a *bat mitzvah* and in ten days will be 75. I wonder how much I would have accomplished if I started younger. I think I have been very fortunate and I am happy and grateful for everyone on my journey who has been part of it.

Now my new goals are to meet the Rosh Hashonna resolutions I made this year. When Rabbi Glazer handed out my resolutions from last year I was pleased I met one, but the other four still needed work

Now for some new goals: Continue with my Hebrew so maybe one day I can keep up with rabbi and I think I might pick up the flute again. To continue working and to take better care of myself so I stay healthy.

Once more I am truly honored to have all of you share this day with me. *Shabbat Shalom.*

FROM DAUGHTER JOEN

It is typically the parents who speak about their daughter at this momentous time, to share how proud they are of her accomplishment. It is an honor to be a daughter, and witness the unfolding of Beverley as a fully-committed member of this Temple and an embracing of her Jewish faith.

Look how many of you have come to celebrate with Beverley. This is a tribute to how she builds and sustains relationships. And not only that, how unusual, how special that Beverley's friends range in age from young adults to people of her own generation. She is selective about who she brings close, but when you are in, you are in! She is a loyal Scorpio, and will stand by anyone to whom she has a close allegiance. Remember her commitment and intense focus on my father; he

needed her, and each of them was each other's world for many years.

Beverley is a romantic. She is sentimental. Music touches her heart; she can sing as sweetly as her early flute playing. She is comforted and cheered by song. When I asked her to sing one of her prayers to me over the phone, she did, bringing me to tears, but then upon hearing my compliments, she quickly responded with, "*Oh, but you should hear Mark (Rabbi Glazer).*"

Here is a woman who has never been afraid to set high goals and then to reach them. She spoke about her own perseverance as a late-bloomer, but I want to add that when she decides to do something, there is no stopping her. She approaches life with HUMOR (best laugh besides my husband) and with a desire for adventure. She is still a youthful girl of thirteen, waiting to see what is next, and eager to contribute her part.

Years ago, when she lived in NYC, she applied for a position with Amnesty International. Not surprising that this work would have interested her; when we met, I was a hippie and she was clearly Bohemian, alternative, and most importantly to sum it up: progressive. Isn't she, in her own way, an activist?

Welcome this new woman into the congregation of gathered friends and family. We are proud of you, Beverley, and know that you will continue to laugh, love, study, practice and extend yourself to those around you, near and far.



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.

The Weequahic Boys, class of 1968



Michael, Jay, Larry and Marty

The Weequahic Boys, class of 1968, failed to honor their yearly tradition of making plans to meet and not showing up by actually getting it together this year by meeting in Santa Rosa, California wine country for a week of biking and wine tasting. Michael Botnick referred to it as *"biking and whining."* A wonderful time was had by all.

There was a lot of reminiscing and airing of grievances. It took us a full week and all of our collective energy to remember 1968. Larry Plitch still wonders where 1967 went and claims that he wasn't there.

Michael Botnick is a psychotherapist in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. He lives with his wife of 30 years, Susan Fabrikant, in Spokane, Washington. They share two adult children. Michael, who specializes in domestic violence issues, has a private practice working with individuals, families and couples. He also is an avid scuba diver, skier and boater.

Jay Hodes lives in Bedford, New Hampshire with his wife of 30 years, Margie. They share two adult children. Jay is an attorney with a general practice. In our group, he is the *"political"* one and still harbors aspirations of becoming Newark's Morning Mayor before his career has ended. He is also a wine maven and golfer.

Larry Plitch is an environmental attorney who lives in Boston with his wife, Carol, of 27 years. They have two children. Recently, Larry has come out of forced retirement to explore windmill energy as an alternate energy source. He has a small consulting firm and is looking toward developing wind farms in the Northeast. In addition, Larry is a biker and is as obsessive as ever.

Marty Sussman lives in Maine with his wife, Janet, and their child. He has an internationally known company that helps people rid themselves of eye glasses by improving eyesight through exercise and nutrition. Marty is the *"guru"* of the group who kept us focused and balanced by periodically chanting the Weequahic fight song when tensions were high and the wine tasting got out of hand. He enjoys biking and traveling.

Ad-Lo-Ho girls - friends for life

By Carrie Stetler, Star-Ledger

As Newark third-graders, they called themselves the Ad-Lo-Ho girls. *"It stood for 'advancement, loyalty and hope,"* explained Rita Altman, now of West Orange. Seventy years later, the name hasn't changed and the eight alumnae of Peshine Avenue School are still friends.

This week, seven of them gathered in Atlantic City to celebrate their 80th birthdays (the eighth member couldn't make it because her husband was ill). *"We meet every year,"* said Altman. *"We sit around talking about the old times and the new times. We go back to being girls again."*



L-R: Dorothy Schweitzer Plotz, Tess Friedman Constantin, Selma Rosenstock Cohen, Marilyn Newman Schneider, Rita Lipkin Altman wearing T-shirts with "Friends Forever" on the front and "We are better than ever" on the back. Not present are Vivian Whitfield Sharp and Harriet Rubenstein Richter.

The group - five of whom still live in New Jersey - can remember when a teacher scolded them for wearing Tangee lipstick and where they were when they heard Pearl Harbor had been bombed. *"We were at a Sweet Sixteen party for (member) Dottie Schweitzer,"* recalls Selma Cohen, who also lives in West Orange.

Altman remembers their first trip to Radio City Music Hall when they were 12. *"We saw Gunga Din,"* she says. *"This was during the Depression and not everyone could do things like that."* Why did the girls become friends? *"We respected each other,"* says Cohen. *"We weren't jealous of each other. None of us were becoming beauties and we liked sports. We liked to skate at Weequahic Park."*

Altman knows why the friendship has endured. *"We have the same values,"* she said. *"I like the fact that I feel comfortable with these friends. We don't have to hide anything. We know where we come from and who we are."*

Adds Cohen, *"You may not speak to each other for months, and then all of the sudden, they call you up and it's like yesterday."*



1939 photo of classmates at Peshine Avenue School



1965 WHS grad Dave Lieberfarb with cookie maven (Famous Amos) and literacy advocate, Wally Amos

A GOOD SPELL FOR STAR-LEDGER TEAM

By Lisa Irizarry, Star-Ledger

Kitta MacPherson's mother says it's the family's Scottish heritage that sealed her daughter's fate as a champion speller. Memory was highly prized in the ancient clans and the tradition has been passed on. Some of Anne-Marie Cottone's fondest childhood memories are of her late father - and his challenging her to spell difficult words he'd pick from a huge unabridged dictionary. David Lieberfarb (WHS 1965) came to love the word game of Scrabble so much that he just never got around to letting it catch dust on a closet shelf. As an adult he has become an expert who for more than a decade has competed in nationwide tournaments.

How can anyone compete with all of that? It's tough, as eight teams of challengers found out Thursday night when, for the fifth consecutive year, The *Star-Ledger* won first prize in the Newark Literacy Campaign's annual *Leaders for Literacy Spelling Bee*.

MacPherson is a science writer, Cottone is assistant features editor and Lieberfarb is a copy editor. Joel Pisetznier, also a copy editor, was the team captain. The team ruled in the approximately two-hour 16th annual event, held in the ballroom of the New Jersey Institute of Technology Campus Center in Newark - sinking challengers including Prudential, the Rotary Club of Newark, United Way of Essex and West Hudson, the North Jersey Chapter of The Links and Leadership Newark.

The Star-Ledger team correctly spelled these head-scratchers:

quandary, senescence, zeppelin, toponymic, siccative, tazza, tichodrome, zarzuela, velleity.

Then the team's toughest challengers, Prudential Rocks, fell off the mountain by misspelling the word

gallinae. The *Star-Ledger* then took the trophy with MacPherson's correct spelling of *dystocia*. "I think The *Star-Ledger*'s on a streak, they're excellent spellers and that takes a lot of work," said Dale Harris, local initiatives director for Prudential, after the company's defeat.

"How do you spell winner? T-E-A-M-W-O-R-K," says Lieberfarb. Noting that each team is given the list of words ahead of time to memorize and that the team members can help each other to give the correct answer, he explains, "We divide the list up three ways, and each takes responsibility for (memorizing) a third of the list." "Each of us had over 180 words," Lieberfarb adds. "Frankly, one of us knew just about every word given to every team."

Wally Amos, founder of Famous Amos cookies and a literacy activist for the past 25 years, was the keynote speaker for the spelling bee. He says the key to improved literacy rates is found in parents reading to their children and passing on the tradition.

"Read to a child for 10 minutes a day," Amos suggests, and not only a gift for spelling, but other gifts like a love of books and better success in life will follow. It's never too early, he adds. He says he and his wife, Christine, began reading to their 21-year-old daughter, Sarah, when Christine was still pregnant. "Sarah became an avid reader."

Note: 1959 WHS grad, Irene Daniels, is the Executive Director of the Newark Literacy Campaign and is featured in this edition. Alumni Association Director and Alumni Calumet Editor, Phil Yourish, a 1964 WHS grad, is the former Executive Director of the Campaign.

DAVID SHAPIRO, WHS 1964

Our Poet Laureate



David Shapiro

It's the birthday of poet David Shapiro, born in Newark, New Jersey (1947). He was a child prodigy. By the time he was sixteen years old he had played the violin for the *NJ Symphony Orchestra*. When he was thirteen years old he began writing and publishing poetry. Music, math, painting and architecture were among his inspirations, and he believed poems should have movements in them the way Mozart had movements in his music.

He enrolled in Columbia University, and during his freshman year there he published his first book of poetry and won the *Breadloaf Writer's Conference Robert Frost Fellowship*. His book was well received by many notable writers including Jack Kerouac and Kenneth Rexroth and also the New York Times Book Review. His third book of poems, *A Man Holding an Acoustic Panel* (1971) was nominated for a National Book Award.

While at Columbia Shapiro protested the war in Vietnam and his photograph was published on the cover of Newsweek magazine "occupying" the president of the University's chair and smoking one of his "liberated" cigars. He continued to win many fellowships including one to Cambridge University in England and a *Book of the Month* creative arts fellowship as well as a *National Endowment for the Humanities*, and a *National Endowment for the Arts*.

During his early years David Shapiro became acquainted with many well-known poets and artists of the era. He knew Marianne Moore and Allen Ginsberg, and Kenneth Koch was a lifelong friend. He also had friendships with musician John Cage and the painter Jasper Johns. He is considered a member of *The New York School of Poets*, which was an avant-garde arts movement started in the 1950's following the earlier beat generation of poets and artists. The *New York School* included the painter Jackson Pollock, and the poets Frank O'Hara, Barbara Guest, John Ashbery and Kenneth Koch. In 1970 David Shapiro co-published *An Anthology of New York Poets* with Ron Padgett.

David Shapiro says that before he goes to sleep he will ask for lines of poetry to come to him, and in the middle of the night they come to him in dreams and gets out of bed and begins to write. A lot of his poems take place in front of paintings, and once in a dream it was revealed to him that poetry is a form of painting. David Shapiro said, "Next to Dante we are all just writers."

Don't Forget To Register At Our Interactive Web Site at www.weequahicalumni.org Over 1,140 Alumni Already Have

Irene Daniels

WHS 1959

Urban League Woman Of The Year



Irene Daniels, the Executive Director of the Newark Literacy Campaign, a nonprofit organization that leads literacy programs for adults, teenagers and children, was named the *Woman of the Year 2004*

by the Urban League Guild of Essex County. Irene, who grew up and resides in the Weequahic section of Newark, is a 1959 graduate of Weequahic High School. She has a BS degree from Rutgers University in business management, was a member of the Charter Class 2000 of Leadership Newark, and recently served as President of the Newark Rotary Club.

After a career in management at AT&T and eleven years of teaching at New York University, Daniels started two reading clubs on her own: the *Little/Big Readers* and the *South Newark Literary Society*. The *Little/Big Readers*, for kindergarten through eighth grade, and the *South Newark Literary Society*, for adults, meet once a month at

the Weequahic Branch of the Newark Public Library.

"I came to the Newark Literacy Campaign in 2000 because it was a continuation of what I was doing at the library. It was a job I would do for free," Irene Daniels explains. The *Little/Big Readers* and *South Newark Literary Society* joined, too, and are now two of the programs that the campaign offers. In the free adult programs, students meet with their tutors once a week for two hours at a time. Many adults come in on their own after hearing about the organization. Each brings a particular reason for wanting to overcome illiteracy.

"We help people achieve specific goals," said Daniels. Adults come in to learn how to pass a driver's test or a licensing exam, or to get their GED, or to find employment or a better job. Some adults want to better understand their child's homework, or learn how to register to vote. Some come for much simpler, but equally important reasons. "We have people who come in who want to read a story to their child," Daniels said.

"Reading Changes Lives" is the Newark Literacy Campaign's motto, and Daniels believes it. "Every day we have the opportunity to help someone," she said. "There aren't that many jobs you can say that about. This is a service that has an impact on someone's life."

"People often get into difficult situations because of low literacy, she says, but learning to read can change that. "If you can read, you can do anything. Anything you need to learn to do, you can read about it." For Daniels, it is what

happens to someone after they learn to read that makes literacy so important. "I've seen so many examples where someone who has learned how to read has improved their lives. They gain self-confidence; their self-esteem is raised."

Daniels was honored to be named Woman of the Year. "It was quite humbling," she said. The recognition was also important for the Newark Literacy Campaign, since so much of its work is based on volunteer interest and community awareness. "I saw it as an opportunity to talk about literacy and get the message out," Daniels said. In November 2004, she was honored with a special recognition from *The Newark Public Library* for her work to overcome illiteracy; and in December, became a member of the *Workforce Investment Board of the City of Newark*.

Her plan for the Campaign is to "raise more funds," said Daniels. The Newark Literacy Campaign depends on grants from companies such as Prudential and PSE&G, the African American Fund for New Jersey and the City of Newark Community Development Block Grant, but also on donations from individuals.

To this end, the NLC holds fund-raisers, such as its annual *Leaders for Literacy Spelling Bee*, scheduled for October 20, 2005. The organization is also planning a golf outing for June, 2005. The Newark Literacy Campaign offers a wide range of programs aimed at different goals and different levels of literacy. Volunteers who would like to become reading tutors and individuals in need of literacy assistance should call (973) 623-4001 to set up an appointment.

Class of January 1958 Cruise

By Phyllis Wulkan Kalfus, 1961
(wife of Don Kalfus, Jan. 1958)

From December 5, 2004 to December 12, 2004, twenty people boarded the Celebrity Cruise ship, *The Millennium*. Twelve of those people were graduates of Weequahic High School, class of January 1958, and three more were WHS grads who were spouses. We all embarked on the most fun-filled, glorious vacation, and instead of waiting another five years for such a great experience, everyone agreed we can hardly wait for this to happen every two years.

Five years ago, four alumni couples went to the Western Caribbean. They were: Phil & Sue (Schilling) Grand, Bunnie (Jacobson) & Nick Slovikowsky, Marilyn (Meiselman) & Freddy Kaufmann, Phyllis (Wulkan) & Don Kalfus. This

reunion group to the Eastern Caribbean included the original four couples as well as: Herb & Sandy (Chinman) Gomberg, Larry & Mary Orlans, Linda (Savin) & Jeff Schram, Syma (Scher) Herzog, Linda (Koenigsberg) Gordon, Renee (Lehrhoff) Fromkin, Judy (Karetnick) Rufulo, and Frank & Terry Danziger.

The elegance of the ship, the fine dining and fabulous excursions to very beautiful places were the icing on the cake. The real joy and sheer delight was the commradity of all. The days were filled with basking in the sun, playing Mah Jongg, traveling, shopping and getting to know each other for the first time or for "catch up" time. The evenings were spent, for the most part, together at cocktail parties, dinner, lavish shows and gambling in the casino for those who just didn't want to "call it a day."

The new or renewed friendships were what this trip was all about and



everyone would agree that was a huge success. We looked forward to getting up in the morning to see each other, spend time with as many as we could, and with two tables set for 10 people each in the dining room, we were all able to be together for dinner. It couldn't have been nicer.

We all so fondly recalled our years growing up in Newark, the pride we had in attending WHS, and the

appreciation of where we are today. We all value life and our life experiences and have learned to laugh a little at life and even at ourselves.

Each of us is hoping that there will be an even bigger response to the next cruise. The class of 1958 extends an invitation to its other class members to make the next cruise an even bigger and better experience for all.

About The Children Of Our Alumni

DAVID JAVERBAUM,

the son of Tema Yeskel Javerbaum,
WHS 1964, and Ken Javerbaum

By Bob Braun, Star-Ledger



Debra & David Javerbaum

Consider this a snapshot of the artist as a young man about to become a lot more. David "D.J." Javerbaum, this kid from Maplewood, is either on the brink of extraordinary success, or maybe already just a little beyond that brink. "It's crazy," says Javerbaum, 33. "I know I have some skill and talent, but I never expected all this to happen so quickly. It's amazing. I've been so lucky."

In the near future, he will not answer interview questions that way, talking about the luck and craziness of first success because, in all likelihood, that part of his life will be behind him. Just as the part of his life when he was not a father ended last month. "So many good things happening at once," he says, his wife and laughing coach (he's a comic writer who doesn't smile easily), Debra Bard Javerbaum, by his side in their Chelsea two-bedroom, in which their new daughter Kate, age one-month, lies sleeping.

The other good things: In September he won two Emmys as head writer and producer of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart - he won another one in 2003 as a writer. His book with Stewart and Ben Karlin, *America (The Book)*, has been # 1 on the **New York Times** best-seller list for 15 straight weeks. And now, he's writing lyrics for a musical - a new Broadway musical - taken from John Waters' film, *Cry-Baby*, which starred Johnny Depp. Another Waters film became the Broadway hit *Hairspray* - with the same producer, Adam Epstein. The book is by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, who won a Tony for *Hairspray*. It's directed by Mark Brokaw, currently on Broadway with *Reckless*, and choreographed by Rob Ashford, who won the Tony for *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

Like a best-selling book and multiple Emmy awards, this is no drill. And no accident. Javerbaum has taken on the accouterments and coteries of success in entertainment - "the small army," he calls it, that includes an agent, a manager, a theatrical agent and attorney. Representation got him the *Cry-Baby* spot. But friendships got him his first breaks - work for the satirical Internet journal *The Onion*, a year as a writer with David Letterman, the chance to write lyrics for a musical, *Suburb*, that ran Off-Broadway (and soon will appear in Bloomfield) and West Orange), that won Javerbaum a Richard Rodgers development grant and the chance to meet his model, Stephen Sondheim. (Others include Mike Nichols, G.K. Chesterton and Jonathan Swift).

...His day job is *The Daily Show* - "I'll never have a better job with a better boss," he says. Nor a better opportunity to use what he calls "brutally ironic" humor. *The Daily Show* is a parody of a newscast - although an increasing number of people report they get their news from the show. Javerbaum compares such viewers to alcoholics locked in a room where they can't get booze. "So, they drink shampoo. We're shampoo. No one should be drinking shampoo, just like no one should be watching us for serious news. But it's all they have."

America (The Book) is a parody of a high school civics text book, complete with a stamp on the inside cover suggesting it was distributed by a public school district. "It provided us with the opportunity to parody all of government and the media," he says. The book is beautifully designed, giving it both the punch it deserves and a realism it doesn't: A civics book with (fake) nude pictures of Supreme Court justices.

...The written satire can often be wonderfully biting, even if little can be printed here - punch lines are often blue. The Internet is "a magnificent new technology combining the credibility of anonymous hearsay with the excitement of typing." The work of legislative conference committees: "The two chambers then reconcile their versions of the bill in one last round of compromise and underhanded patronage. The bill is now ready to be sent to the lobbyists." The president "is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, a power vested in him whether he is a veteran of the military (Washington, Grant, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Bush Sr.) or a veteran of running away from the military (Clinton, Bush Jr.)."

It's likely D.J. will look back at this moment as the best of times, when it all began to come together and the opportunities were there. For that reason - and another:

Kate is the cutest baby ever!

MIKE BASKIN,

the son of Alan Baskin, WHS 1964



1st Lt. Mike Baskin, a U.S. soldier won Afghanistan's first marathon, battling the country's thin mountain air for more than three hours before crossing the finish line, where he promptly burst into tears

remembering four

comrades killed in recent fighting. "I just thought about those four guys when I crossed, that they won't be going home with us, and it kind of hit me," Baskin, a native of Santiago, California, told an Associated Press reporter.

He labored across the finish line after five long laps of the airstrip to cheers and handshakes in 3 hours, 12 minutes and 15 seconds - an impressive time for the conditions.

A total of 184 soldiers and civilians working for the U.S. military took part in the race at Firebase Ripley, a remote camp near Tirin Kot in central Uruzgan province, facing high altitude and a bumpy track as well as the threat of attack. Helicopters flew troops in from across Afghanistan for the race. Before the start, the assembled runners cheered as two military jets thundered low over the base, which lies 1,400 meters (4,500 feet) above sea level, and into the surrounding mountains.

The competitors, shorn of their guns and flak jackets, toiled around the circuit in shorts and T-shirts under cloudy skies and in temperatures of about 13 Celsius (55 Fahrenheit). Some of the course was gravel, but most was covered by fine dust that a rare overnight shower had turned to mud in patches.

A young Afghan working for the military, apparently the first to compete in such a race on Afghan soil, pulled up after one lap, complaining that regular soccer games were no way to prepare. "These people are very fit, but this is not for an Afghan who only gets tea and bread for breakfast," Mohammed Anwar said, sitting on the ground and looking with concern at his knees. He was the only Afghan competitor.

A large brown dog called Dunny, loping alongside a group of civilian contractors, also completed the regulation 26.2 miles.

Aaron Chernus WHS 1946, Experiences “Thrill of Victory” in Senior Games

“You too, can be an Olympic champion,” says Aaron Chernus of Livingston, a 75 year old semi-retired businessman who has experienced *“the thrill of victory”* as a competitor in the state and national Senior Games. Most recently, Chernus competed in the *New Jersey Senior Olympic Games*. He won a gold medal in the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes, as well as a gold medal in the javelin throw. In addition, he took home a silver medal in the 400 meter race and the shot put, and a bronze medal in the discus throw. Less than a month later, he won a gold medal in the games’ men’s singles tennis tournament after nearly four hours of continuous match play. These athletic achievements have qualified him for six events in the *2005 National Senior Games*, to be held in June in Pittsburgh.

For the past ten years, he has been competing in the senior state games and the *National Senior Games*, also known as the *Senior Olympics*. Chernus shares the story of his late-in-life athletic rebirth in the October 2004 issue of *BottomLine/ Tomorrow* magazine.

It began in 1994, when Chernus read an article about the Games. *“I was immediately intrigued with the prospect of being able to compete against people of my own age, which at the time was 65,”* he said in his *Bottom Line* interview. *“I played football and went out for track in high school and stayed fairly active after that, chiefly through tennis. But I was inspired to get away from routine. Senior games seemed to be the type of new challenge that I needed. And I knew it would be fun to associate with peers who were also interested in sports and fitness.”*

With the state summer games just two months away at that point, Chernus worked to *“improve my tennis and get back into some of the track activities that I enjoyed earlier in life, especially javelin throwing.”* Although, Chernus said, *“I hadn’t even picked up a javelin in more than 40 years,”* he found the challenge inspiring. *“State senior games used to be called ‘Olympics,’ but most states have changed the name so as not to intimidate newcomers. Actually, I didn’t find the games intimidating at all.”* He attributed most of this *“to the cordial officials and friendly*



competitors. You’ll find this welcoming attitude throughout the country.”

Chernus’ wife, Janet, is also an avid tennis player, and she joined him in practice so the two could compete in mixed doubles at the games. In addition to that, Chernus signed up for singles tennis, softball accuracy throwing (at targets from 30, 40 and 50 feet away); basketball foul shooting; and basketball accuracy shooting. *“Unfortunately, at the time, New Jersey didn’t have a javelin throw.”*

In state games throughout the country, Chernus said, competitors are grouped in five-year age categories, beginning with 50 to 54. *“Perhaps surprisingly, the fiercest competitors are those from ages 80 to 84,”* he said in his interview. But Chernus was to know the *“agony of defeat”* as well as the *“thrill of victory”* in his very first senior Olympiad. *“The outcome was mixed,”* he said. *“My wife and I won a gold medal in tennis doubles. In singles tennis, I was eliminated in the semifinals, yet still won a bronze medal. But I performed poorly in softball throwing and only respectably in the basketball events. Except for the tennis doubles, I was disappointed.”*

But that first competition became the motivation to redouble his efforts. *“My performance clearly showed that I hadn’t participated in serious competition in many*

years, and that I had unrealistically high expectations. These were failings that I set out to overcome,” he said. *“After the state games, I sought out tougher competitors in tennis and worked hard on javelin and other track events.”*

In 1995, he entered the Summer National Senior Games, which were held in San Antonio, Texas. *“Competition in San Antonio was much stronger than I had expected,”* Chernus recalled, *“and I was knocked out of every event I entered. Still, I thought the experience was great. Janet and I socialized with some of the most interesting people we’ve ever met, people who are as eager to make new friends as they are to compete.”*

Through the years, Chernus has continued to enter state events. He took a silver medal in javelin throwing at the 2000 Connecticut state games, and placed eighth in the national games in 2001, held that year in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. *“I consider that a victory,”* he said of his eighth ranking among the 271 competitors, *“because I’m five feet, eight inches tall and weigh 155 pounds. Most competitors were over six feet and about 50 pounds heavier.”*

Chernus also found that his opponents offered not just competition but inspiration as well. *“If I ever needed inspiration, I got it from watching an 85-year old pole vaulter clear the bar at six feet, six inches. I later discovered that this competitor didn’t get back into sports until he was in his 70’s. Since then, he’s won the shot put, discus, pole vault, 100 yard dash, and javelin.”*

But it comes down to more than just winning. *“Apart from medals, competition gives you a healthful dose of reality,”* Chernus explained. *“Like it or not, our strength and coordination decline as we age. When I first picked up the javelin, for instance, I felt as strong as I ever did. In fact, however, I couldn’t throw it as far as I used to. Once you pass 50, each five years can make a big difference.”*

He continued, *“The key is making up your mind that this type of competition is something you genuinely want to pursue. Then start slowly, and whenever you have doubts, remind yourself of the commitment you made. You’ll soon discover that after a workout, you’ll feel better. Once you feel better, motivation becomes much easier. In conclusion, Chernus said, “the competition is more than just physical challenge. Ninety percent of training is mental.”*

Class of 1964 40th Reunion



Members of the Class of 1964 Reunion Planning Committee. In back, L-R: Robert Clark, Phil Yourish, Marilyn Molk Kantrowitz, Susan Kessler Martin, Tema Yeskel Javerbaum, Zaudria Mapson, Richard Brotspies, Ronald Sharpe, Harvey Ritter. In front, L-R: Barbara Bierbaum Schrob, Wendy Kaufman Nowak, Susan Bardack Sirkin, Lorrie Axelrad Cohen. Not pictured: Peter Hercky, Sandi Wasserman Enfield, Loraine White, Norma Mark, Harlee Colin, and Claire Knapp.

A Night To Remember

By Zaudria Mapson

Saturday evening, October 9, 2004 was a *Night to Remember!* It was not only the theme of our 40th Reunion, but also the consensus of those who attended. The Class of '64 reunited at the *Marriott Hotel - Newark Liberty International Airport*. Classmates journeyed from across the United States including *Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington and Washington, DC*. Three classmates and their spouses traveled from *Israel*. More than 200 classmates and more than 70 guests attended this unforgettable affair. Wayne Chen, our class president in 1964, made the welcoming remarks.

Conversations, hugs, kisses, laughs, and tears were abundant during this momentous occasion. Classmates related childhood experiences and recalled memories of families, neighborhoods, teachers, and other topics. Conversations that began during the reunion planning stage as well as those that started or continued during the morning's Alumni Homecoming advanced throughout the night.

For those who had not communicated with classmates during the years, feelings of anxiety and anticipation were aroused upon arrival at the Marriott. Making eye contact, reading name tags, and being introduced to spouses, significant others, and friends stirred many emotions. Sharing tales with elementary, junior high, and high school friends and acquaintances was exhilarating.

The reminiscing continued on Sunday morning during a brunch at the hotel. Posing for photos, exchanging phone numbers and e-mail addresses, promising to keep in touch, and planning visits lasted throughout the afternoon. The reunion committee was urged to consider planning another gathering for five years from now instead of ten. There is no doubt that the Class of '64 is a remarkable class as evidenced in the planning of this gala event, the support of members of the class, and the culmination of this *Night to Remember*.

In the tradition established by other classes who have made donations to Weequahic High School and some which have set up ongoing scholarship funds, the class of 1964 has created a new scholarship fund in its name with an initial \$2,000 contribution. Over the next few months, additional funds will be solicited from classmates who attended the reunion and from those who were unable to do so. It is our hope that this scholarship will be supported by classmates in the years to come.

Our thanks to - *Noah Hercky*, who with his dad *Peter*, created and maintained the class of 1964 web site. The photos of the reunion are at the site: <http://www.angelfire.com/stars4/weequahic64> - and to *Debbie Hercky* for the clever words to the song, the *Class of Sixty-Four*, based on the Beatles' original hit.

Phil Yourish will create a CD of the 1964 yearbook, to include other Newark and Weequahic pictures, which will be given as a gift to those who make additional scholarship contributions. *Steve Rohde* is putting together a video on CD of the 40th Reunion, the Homecoming event, and the Sunday morning brunch which should be available in the Spring.

*So how about another
reunion in 5 years?*

Class of Sixty-Four

By Debbie Hercky

*Back in the days of Mantle and Mays
Weequahic was our home
Sock hops, the Senior Prom, friendship rings
Roll-up collars - were the in-things.*

*Bennett, Martino, Seltzer, Feitel
Birnbaum, Pearl and Weiss.
They were our mentors,
opened our minds' doors
Class of Sixty-Four*

*Hmm----mmmmmm---mmmmh
We were not mall raaaaaaaats.
Still we would shop at Bam's
Woolworth's, Kresge's, Klein's*

*Petticoat Junction, Gilligan's Isle
Skelton, Dick Van Dyke
Prime time TV always was a Fam'ly Affair
Language content wasn't a care*

*Drifters, Temptations, Bobby
Rydell, Elvis, Leslie Gore
We Twisted, we Fruged,
we Strolled, and we Flied
Class of Sixty-Four*

*Every year we fought to be state champs led by
the great Les Fein - beating Central High
We would scream and yeeeeeeeeeeell
Cheering the team along
Oy, how we would kvel.*

*Hatloff's, Margie's, Bunny Hop,
Mings, Burgerama, Syds
Fifteen cents for hot dogs -
seemed expensive then
We won't see those prices again.*

*Calumet, Chancellor,
Untermann Field, Legend, Sagamore
We're painting the town all Orange and Brown
Class of Sixty-Four*



Zaudria Mapson, Judy Herr, Dolores Mayberry Trimiew



On left: Steve Duchon, Lisa Zimetbaum, Gary Goss
On right: Larry Hellring, Edwin Marshall

NEWARK NEWS

The following excerpts are from articles written by Star-Ledger staff

A Jewish Museum in Newark

By Jeff Diamant

Congregation Ahavas Shalom was never a focal point of Newark's once-thriving Jewish community of nearly 60,000 people...But the temple at 145 Broadway is poised to house a small museum that organizers hope will educate Jews and non-Jews alike about Jewish history in Newark and the rest of the Garden State.

Ahavas Shalom plans to lease about 1,450 square feet of second-floor space to a new nonprofit group, the New Jersey Jewish Museum. *"We do see a need in New Jersey,"* said Robert Kaplan. New Jersey has the fourth-largest Jewish population in the country, an estimated 440,000.

...Eric Freedman, president of Ahavas Shalom, and a museum board member, said it's important that non-Jewish residents visit. *"It's not just about housing the old kiddush cup in the state of New Jersey to have people ogle it,"* he said, referring to the wine cup that accompanies a Sabbath prayer. *"Our goal is to have 50 percent of the people who come through the doors be non-Jewish."*

The museum's opening is at least a year away, and what will be on display is unclear. But board members say options for exhibits include photographs of Newark's Jewish community, which in the mid-20th century had 50 synagogues; Jewish migration from NJ cities to the suburbs; the phenomenon of Jewish farmers, who once constituted the bulk of the state's chicken farmers; effects of the Holocaust on NJ; anti-Semitism in NJ and Jewish immigration from Europe through Ellis Island.

(The Museum) will overlook the temple's massive 132-year-old wood carved ark, which holds Torahs - scrolls containing the first five books of the Jewish Bible - on the temple's first floor. They hope to raise \$250,000 to renovate the space and hire a curator, executive director and parking attendant so the museum can be open four or five days a week.

Hobby's Deli Gives Back

Star-Ledger News Item

Want to do something for poor residents in Essex County who need legal help? *Eat a turkey sandwich.* For one day - December 6, 2004 - **Hobby's Delicatessen & Restaurant** in Newark donated 15 percent of its proceeds to the *Volunteer Lawyers for Justice*, a free legal-services program in Essex County.

Hobby's has donated plenty of food and services to groups in the area. But *the "eat for justice"* event marks the first time the deli has agreed to donate some of its profits to a cause. *"We just wanted to give something back to the community. When they approached us, we thought that it was a great idea and something we could do. If it can make it better, we'd like to do it,"* said Michael Brummer, an owner. Michael's mother is *Rose LaLinga Brummer*, a January 1951 graduate of Weequahic High School.

Remembering Ward's Coffee

By Brooke Tarabour, *Taste of New Jersey*,
WHS 1965 grad

...After interviewing Robert and Jeffrey Stommer at T.M. Ward Coffee, ...I got to wondering what downtown Newark would have been like in 1869, the year the T.M. Ward shop first opened its doors. Of course it didn't hurt my imagination any that I had just spent an hour inside a store that looks and feels like it could be used as a movie set for a century-old general store.

Things haven't changed in 135 years: wooden barrels filled with coffee beans line the floor; large, wooden bins of loose tea cover the walls behind the counter; there is food literally from floor to ceiling in bins, in barrels, in baskets - everywhere you look - and it's a fight to sniff out which heady scent is stronger: the coffee, the mountains of fresh roasted peanuts or the hot apple cider you can sip by the cup as you browse. Wards sell about 3,000 pounds of peanuts every 10 days...As for coffee, there are 60 to 100 varieties of beans from Ethiopia, Jamaica, Brazil, Vietnam and several other countries that can be ground in-store or at home.

...Just use your imagination a little and think of Ward's as a lesson about yesteryear that's still making history in today's downtown Newark.

Ironbound On Cruise Control

By Jenifer Braun

They came from far, far away - Hollywood, in fact. They blew up the windows of *Andros* restaurant. They knocked down half the *Payless Shoe* store on Ferry Street. They tore up the road in front of *St. Stephan's Church*. And folks in the Ironbound section of Newark are happy to see these alien invaders at work. Why? Two words: *Tom Cruise*.

The filming of Cruise's new science fiction film, *The War of the Worlds* is slated to wrap up...after spending six days turning bustling *Ferry Street* into an intergalactic war zone. But in addition to acting up a storm, Cruise - who grew up in nearby Glen Ridge - has spent his time charming the socks off Ironbound residents by signing autographs, posing for pictures, and smiling and waving at fans...Director Steven Spielberg is on the set daily as well, bundled against the cold in a gray-green coat.

...The film updates H.G. Wells' 19th century short story of a Martian invasion to the present day...The famous 1938 radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*, which touched off a national panic when it aired on the night before Halloween, was also set in New Jersey - in the Mercer County hamlet of Grovers Mill.

25 Years Of JAZZ In Newark

By Fran Wood

...When public radio station **WBGO (88.3 FM)** (*formerly the Newark Public Schools' station that we listened to as kids*) launched its all-jazz format from its Newark studios back in 1979, more than a few people were skeptical. ...WBGO's mission was more ambitious: to become the best, most comprehensive jazz station in the nation, and to ensure the survival of the uniquely American art form through education.

It has done well enough on both counts to richly deserve the 25th anniversary celebration it's tossing at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Manhattan's Battery Park. The station's current listenership is estimated at 345,000 to 400,000 a week...by jazz standards impressive. Its paying membership is expected to surpass 20,000 by year's end.

So its silver anniversary is not only a victory for jazz, but for New Jersey as well.

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL ON THE HILL

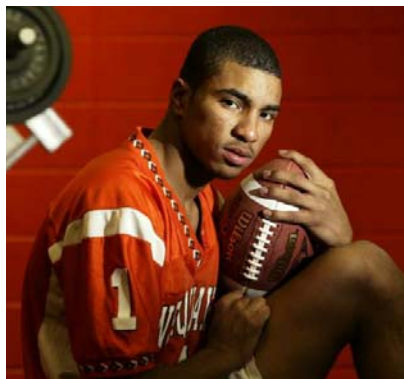
GRIDIRON

After three straight one-victory seasons, it's been a long time coming. How about 1979 since the Weequahic High School football team made it to the post season. After compiling an impressive 7-3 record, the team reached the semifinals of the NJSIAA/ Coca-Cola North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 playoffs before losing a thrilling but controversial contest to Caldwell 27-26. Star-Ledger reporter Mike Kinney stated that *"the game was probably 20, 25 seconds too short from achieving magical status."* Weequahic coach Altarik White said, *"The kids were fantastic. They played their hearts out to the end. I couldn't have asked any more of them."*

Although the game was played in Caldwell, throngs of enthusiastic Weequahic fans drove up from Newark, outnumbering the home team boosters, to support their team - including Mayor Sharpe James. And the Weequahic cheerleaders, under the tutelage of new coach Keya Sanders, generated excitement with their cheers and dance routines. Weequahic concluded the year as the 10th best school in Group 2 and 6th best in Essex County.



Two of the team's exceptional players this past year were seniors Amos Crudup and Bobby Curry. Crudup, a 5-5, 160 pound running back, highlighted his season with 31 carries for 250 yards in the mud against Hackettstown in the first round of the playoffs. During the season, he rushed for 1,506 yards and seven touchdowns. He also played cornerback on defense. Amos was selected to the First Team All-Essex for offense. In addition to his pigskin prowess, Amos long-jumped 20-7 last spring and also excels in the 200 and 400 meter runs. He says that *"track really helps his balance and explosiveness for football."*



Curry, a 6-3 safety on defense and wide receiver on offense, made 69 tackles, prevented some touchdowns, and intercepted nine passes while setting a career school record of 15 interceptions. If that wasn't enough, he also caught 27 passes for 695 yards and eight touchdowns. He was selected *First Team All-Essex* and *All-Group 2* for defense. Other standouts were Omara Kamara and Al-Quan Green.

Principal Ron Stone attributes Weequahic's football success to the opening of the new state-of-the-art exercise facility at the high school a couple of years ago. He says that it creates greater parity with suburban schools that have superior facilities - and the benefits are now being seen.

The Weequahic High School Alumni Association honored the team with a breakfast celebration at the International House of Pancakes in Newark.

MARCHING BAND

On Saturday afternoon, October 30th, the question being asked by many sitting in Untermann Field waiting for Weequahic's football game to begin was *"Where is the marching band?"* As all alumni know so well, at Weequahic football and the marching band go together. But on this particular day, the band was not in Newark or New Jersey. They had been invited by Delaware State University to participate in their Homecoming Parade, which featured the University's marching band and eight other high school bands from Delaware, New Jersey, and South Carolina.

According to Band Director Michael Page, the Weequahic band *"thrilled the crowds in Downtown Dover, Delaware with their performance and exhibited a high level of showmanship and exemplary behavior."* And in the parade competition, Weequahic's marching band was selected as the first place winner.

Mr. Page emphasizes the importance and value of these experiences for the members of the

band. He points out that the trip *"provided an opportunity to visit and experience a college campus; it allowed students to socialize with students from other places; and it enabled students to view and compare musical and marching styles of other bands."* University of Delaware Band Director, H. Wade Johnson, plans to visit Weequahic and conduct a workshop for the music department and he invited band members to attend their summer band camp.

Transportation for this trip was provided through the generosity of Mayor Sharpe James.

TESTING PROGRESS

Weequahic is not only making strides on the football field, but in the classroom as well. For 2003, the high school was the only comprehensive high school in the City of Newark to meet its yearly progress goal. It increased by 10% the number of students who passed the High School Proficiency Test (HSPA) in language arts and mathematics.

In an article by Quaneesha Mincy in the December issue of the Calumet, the following was stated: *"The results were made by a large effort from both the students and teachers throughout the building. Moreover, the recognition should go to the now senior class, the class of 2005. Along with the students' and teachers' efforts, after-school activities supported them. These activities include after-school tutoring, study hall for the football team, and the HSPA Academy on Saturdays for Juniors. Students who are taking the HSPA in April are taking advantage of these resources now."*

Passing of a Math Teacher

By Lenzy Renolds, Calumet staff

As a freshman I had Mr. Boyah for Algebra. I can't speak for all of his students, but to me he was a very helpful teacher...Mr. Boyah was a teacher who made things clear and dedicated himself to student achievement...He made learning fun and very exciting. Mr. Boyah even committed himself to helping students most teachers would consider troublesome.

One of the things that really proved to me that he was a dedicated teacher was even after I didn't have him anymore as a teacher, he still went out of his way to make sure to ask if I was still doing well. He cared a lot about his students and wanted to make sure that they succeeded. I'm glad I had him as a teacher. He will be dearly missed.

MEMBERSHIP / MERCHANDISE / SCHOLARSHIP Form

Send to: WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101 - (973) 923-3133

- Please Print Clearly -

DATE: _____ **TOTAL AMOUNT \$** _____

2 Payment Choices:



1. **CREDIT CARD** (mail or telephone): MC VISA - Amount \$ _____

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

2. **CHECK**: Make out check to **WHS Alumni Association** - Amount \$ _____

7 Merchandise Choices (circle size of T-shirt and sweatshirt):

1. \$5.00 WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI LAPEL PIN
2. \$5.00 PENNANT (18" - with orange logo on brown background with white lettering)
3. \$12.00 TOTE BAG (ivory bag with Weequahic logo)
4. \$12.00 T-SHIRT (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - white or khaki with big W in orange & brown)
5. \$15.00 HAT (one size fits all - tan top, brown brim, orange & brown lettering)
6. \$25.00 SWEATSHIRT (sizes M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - white or khaki with big W in orange & brown)
7. \$3.00 each / 13 for \$33.00 BACK ISSUES OF THE ALUMNI CALUMET (issues 1 through 12)

16 Scholarship Choices:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. \$ _____ ACADEMIC / PERFORMING ARTS Fund | 9. \$ _____ PHYLLIS & DONALD KALFUS Fund |
| 2. \$ _____ BRENDA IRIS BARNES Fund | 10. \$ _____ HANNAH LITZKY Memorial Fund |
| 3. \$ _____ MAXINE BOATWRIGHT Memorial Fund | 11. \$ _____ EDWIN McLUCAS Athletic Fund |
| 4. \$ _____ MOREY BOBROW Memorial Fund | 12. \$ _____ MARIE E. O'CONNOR Fund |
| 5. \$ _____ COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ESSEX Fund | 13. \$ _____ CAROLYN PARM Memorial Fund |
| 6. \$ _____ GENERAL Alumni Fund | 14. \$ _____ LEO PEARL Memorial Fund |
| 7. \$ _____ MIRIAM HAMPLE Memorial Fund | 15. \$ _____ SADIE ROUS Memorial Fund |
| 8. \$ _____ READA & HARRY JELLINEK ENDOWMENT Fund | 16. \$ _____ CLASS OF 1963 SCHOLARSHIP Fund |
| | 17. \$ _____ CLASS OF 1964 SCHOLARSHIP Fund |

5 Membership Choices:

 Check if change in address

 \$25 ALUMNI \$50 ORANGE & BROWN \$100 ERGO \$500 SAGAMORE \$1,000 LEGEND

Class (Month/Year): _____ Current or Past Occupation: _____

Name: _____ Last Name at Weequahic: _____

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

Phone: () _____ Business: () _____

Fax: () _____ e-mail: _____

In Loving Memory

Graduates:

Lila Rubinfeld Korngut, 1948

Lila Rubenfield Korngut passed away after a long illness at age 73. Born in Newark, she was a former resident of Cranford for 38 years. Mrs. Korngut was a graduate of Weequahic High School in 1948 and Rutgers University in 1952, where she earned a bachelor's degree in natural sciences.

During the time she maintained an active family, Mrs. Korngut was employed for over 20 years as a medical technologist with the Summit Medical Group and later worked for a physician in Westfield.

She was an avid tennis player and an equally zealous sports fan. In addition, she enjoyed watching her children play sports and babysitting for her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Irving; two sons and daughters-in-laws, Lew and Michelle Korngut, Hank and Joan Korngut; and four grandchildren.

Michael Tepper, 1963



A Celebration of Life for *Michael R. Tepper*, 59, of New York City, a former New Jersey resident, was held at New Jersey City University (formerly Jersey City State College). Mr. Tepper passed away in December 2004.

He was a college administrator at NJCU for 30 years before retiring in 2002. He was 1967 graduate of Rutgers University. He received a master's degree in art history from the University of California in Berkeley in 1968, and a master's degree in guidance from NJCU in 1976.

Mr. Tepper served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Front Runners Club and the Men's Book Club, both in NYC. A native of Newark, he lived in Elizabeth before moving to NYC 15 years ago. Surviving is a brother, Sheldon.

Joseph Brenner, 1963



Joseph Brenner, 57, died at home in December 2004. He worked at NBS Associates in Berkeley Heights for 10 years as an electrical engineer. Earlier, he had worked

at Esterline Angus in Bergen County, Sediver Inc. and Schoefel Instruments. In the 1960s, he worked for Grumman Aerospace and NASA in Long Island.

He was a member of the Fort Lee Jewish Center, where he was director and basketball coach. He also was a member of the Livingston Young Businessmen's Softball League and the B'nai Brith in West Orange. Mr. Brenner earned a bachelors degree in engineering from the Newark College of Engineering and a masters degree from Adelphi University in Long Island. Born in the Bronx, he lived in Newark and Fort Lee before moving to Livingston 25 years ago. Surviving is his wife, Gertrude.

Robert E. Pradke Sr., 1963



Robert E. Pradke Sr., 59, of Lebanon Township, died at home in December 2004. A general contractor, Mr. Pradke was the owner-operator of Robert E. Pradke Alts, Lebanon Township.

Born in Newark, he lived in Sergeantsville before moving to Lebanon Township 28 years ago. Surviving are his wife, Susan; a son, Robert Jr.; a daughter, Audra Luce, and brothers, Erwin, Jr. and John.

Edward Roy Semer, 1964



Edward Roy Semer, 57, of Succasunna passed away in September 2004 in Saint Clares Hospital, Denville. He was president of Four Sun Inc., Succasunna, for 14 years before retiring in 2000. Born in

Newark, he lived in Cedar Grove before moving to Succasunna 27 years ago.

Surviving are his wife, Joyce; a daughter, Jeanette; sons, Adam, Logan, Dillon and Preston, and a brother, Ronald.

Lois S. Levine, 1964



Lois S. Levine, 57, of South Hackensack, passed away on Sunday, October 10, 2004, at her residence. She was the devoted mother of William Kagan, dear sister of

Barbara Gray and loving grandmother of one grandson.

Anthony Simmons, 1987

Anthony Tyrone "Jake" Simmons passed away in July 2004 at age 35. He was the beloved son of the late Deacon Jake Simmons and his devoted mother Deaconess Mary Simmons. Anthony was baptized in the New Born Baptist Church and attended the Christian Love Baptist Church. He graduated from Weequahic High School in 1987.

In 1991, he became a Newark police officer who served his community with valor and dedication for more than twelve years. Though Anthony never married, he realized his dream of true love with the birth of his daughter Deja, who gave him continual joy.

Anthony leaves his daughter; his mother; brothers, Leroy, Abraham, Edward, Jeremiah, and Shawn; sisters, Elizabeth, Markutia, Lucretia Perry, Joyce Yeadon, and Barbara Reid; and a many nieces, nephews, relatives, co-workers, and close friends, who all shared their own individual and special bond with him.

Abraham Golum, 1938

Seymour Basen, 1941

Tessie Kaselman Dultz, 1945

Eleanor Greenstein Goldfarb, 1945

Jack Birnholz, 1949

Eileen Blum Berger, 1950

Leonard Fox, 1951

Judith Cahn Trisker, 1955

George H. Arbuckle

Community:

Henry Warshawsky, Past President of the South Ward Boys & Girls Club

REUNIONS 2005

May 15

Jan. 1955 - 50th

Sunday, 11:30 PM, Grand Summit Hotel.
Contact Sam Weinstock at (973)
467-9332 / etobyw@aol.com or Bonnie
Sher at (973) 992-2054

September 18

1945 - 60th

Sunday, 12:00 PM, Headquarters Plaza
Hotel, Morristown, NJ. Contact
Dave Horwitz, (973) 539-5158

September 24

1960 - 45th

Saturday, 7 PM, Woodbridge Sheraton
Hotel, Woodbridge, NJ. Contact Harold
Klein at (609) 655-3778 or Lois
Blumenfeld Gilbert (732) 462-4808

October 8

1965 - 40th

Saturday, 7 PM, Woodbridge Hilton
Hotel, Woodbridge, NJ. Contact
Dennis Estis at (732) 549-5600

ALUMNI CALUMET

is a publication of the
WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor, Layout & Design:

Phil Yourish

Editing:

Dave Lieberfarb & Hal Braff

Contributors:

Star-Ledger & Alumni Photos

Printing:

Village Press of Orange, NJ

HELP US WRITE THE NEXT ISSUE

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

CONTACT US

WHS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 494 Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 923-3133

WHS@weequahicalumni.org
www.weequahicalumni.org

WHS ALUMNI STORE

SEE PAGE 18 TO ORDER



**GET
BACK
ISSUES
OF OUR
NEWSLETTER**



WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Established in 1997

Executive Director:

Phil Yourish, 1964

Co-Presidents:

Harold Braff, 1952

Judy Bennett, 1972

Treasurer:

Sheldon Bross, 1955

Secretary:

Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953

Board of Trustees:

2 year terms:

Judy Bennett, 1972

Harold Braff, 1952

Sheldon Bross, 1955

Mary Dawkins, 1971

Faith Howard, 1982

Dave Lieberfarb, 1965

Adilah Quddus, 1971

Gerald Russell, 1974

Vivian Simons, 1959

Ron Stone, Principal

Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953

1 year terms:

Yvonne Causbey, 1977

Arthur Lutzke, 1963

Bert Manhoff, 1938

Sharon Price-Cates, 1972

Dave Schechner, 1946

Charles Talley, 1966

Sam Weinstock, 1955

Loraine White, 1964

Marjorie Barnes, 1985

Committee Chairs:

Scholarship: Arthur Lutzke

Mentoring/Tutoring: Judy Bennett

Events: Faith Howard

Finance: Sheldon Bross

Publicity/Fundraising: Harold Braff

Nominations: Myrna Jelling Weissman

Weequahic High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 205
Orange, NJ 07050