



**THE
WEEQUAHIC
ALUMNI**

SUMMER 2006 / ISSUE #18

You Live in a Good School — Be Proud of It



Weequahic High School Alumni Association

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISING DINNER

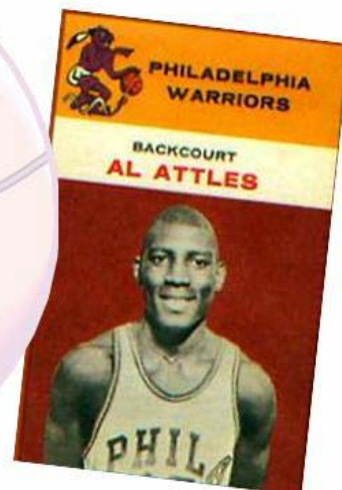
For The Alvin Attles Scholarship Endowment Fund

Friday, September 15, 2006
at the historic Robert Treat Hotel in Newark



Hosted by
**ALVIN
ATTLES**

1955 Weequahic grad
and NBA basketball
player, championship
coach and executive



Make Your Reservation Now!

Tickets: \$150 / Table of 10: \$1,500

Contact Phil Yourish, Executive Director, WHS Alumni Association at
(973) 923-3133 / whs@weequahicalumni.org

The WHS Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in New Jersey

OUR *GOAL* IS TO RAISE *\$100,000*

LET'S *MAKE* IT HAPPEN!

*Invest in Weequahic's Future By Providing Students
With The Opportunity For A Higher Education*

More information on next page



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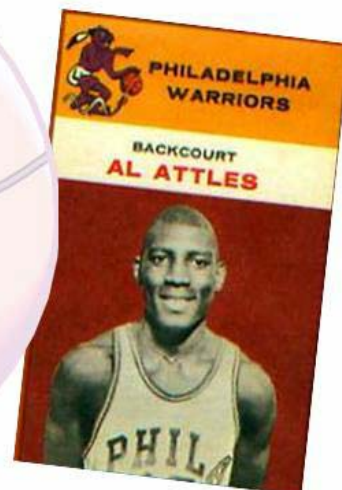
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Please return this form with payment

The WHS Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in New Jersey. The cost of tickets is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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By Alvin Attles:

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Hon. Donald Bradley
Newark Council President

Zach Braff & Donald Faison
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President, Chancellor Foundation

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Harvey Dock

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Lester Fein
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Hon. Sharpe James
Mayor of Newark, 1986 - 2006

Sandra King, 1965 Grad
New Jersey News

Monroe Krichman, 1955 Grad

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Hon. Calvin West
NJ Governor's Office

Rev. Levin B. West, Sr., Pastor,
Grace Reformed Baptist Church

Benjamin Wolfe, 1955 Grad

Lois Attles Wyatt, 1953 Grad

ALUMNI CALUMET

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

SEND US YOUR WEEQUAHIC / NEWARK MEMORABILIA

We are creating an archive
of all items relating to Weequahic
and Newark for exhibitions at our
events. So if you have old photos;
newspaper articles; yearbooks;
films, Calumets; Ergo magazines;
books; schedules; rosters;
certificates; letters; hats; jackets,
sweaters; WHS athletic equipment
and uniforms; or any other
interesting memorabilia, please
call us before you discard any of
these items.

MARSHALL E. COOPER

*1969 Grad and
Alumni Board Member*

By JahJah Shakur,
Weekly Visions Metro

Marshall E. Cooper is currently the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment and Training (MOET) and is responsible for the oversight of the Newark One Stop Career Center, as well as serving as Executive Director of the Newark Workforce Investment Board.

Under Cooper's leadership, MOET has become known in the Employment and Training industry as one of the fore-runners in One-Stop system operation. Cooper also works very closely with the Workforce Investment Board to create and implement policies that will put Newark on the map for Workforce Development.

Born and raised in Newark, Cooper was educated in the local school system and graduated from Weequahic High School, where he ran cross-country for then-coach and current NJ State Senator and Newark Mayor Sharpe James. He went on to attend Kansas Wesleyan College, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree with a dual major in History/Political Science and Secondary Education. He then obtained a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from Wichita State University, also in Kansas. Cooper currently resides in Newark's North Ward with his wife, son and three daughters.

Throughout his tenure with the city, Cooper has worked to maximize efficiency and revenues. At Neighborhood Services, he helped generate \$2.2 million through successful prosecution of code violators. With Property Management, he modernized the administration of 400 city-owned structures and 4,500 vacant lots with a computerized inventory.

Prior to his appointment to MOET, Cooper held the position of Aide to Mayor James, serving as the liaison with the Newark Municipal Council, the



Newark's Home Grown Renaissance Man

public, and governmental agencies. He coordinated redevelopment projects with the City of Newark Business Administrator and worked with major developers to develop market rate housing, office and other commercial buildings, including hotels.

As Newark's Director of Neighborhood Services, Cooper oversaw municipal operations that touched the lives of thousands of Newarkers each day. His department, which maintained a \$26 million budget and more than 450 employees, was responsible for solid waste disposal and collection, demolition of dangerous structures, enforcing the city's housing and commercial codes, sweeping and snow removal on 322 miles of roadway, and maintaining Newark's green spaces.

From the time that he became Director in 1994, Cooper oversaw a number of innovative programs aimed at carrying out the public's mandate to improve the local quality of life. He implemented the Graffiti Eradication Team that tackled vandalism on a daily basis. He developed the Illegal Conversion Task Force designed to stabilize the city's residential districts. And he created the city's Illegal Dumping Task Force that helped to significantly reduce the amount of trash and debris illegally dumped in Newark, much of it by out-of-towners.

Cooper joined Newark's city government as manager of the Division of Property Management in 1987. There, he directed the assembly of sites for nearly \$1 billion

in redevelopment projects that include the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Courthouse, 1,500 units of new housing, a major shopping center, a multiplex movie theater and an industrial park.

The fiscal management information system he implemented there was instrumental in increasing rental revenue by 20 to 30 percent as well as raising revenue from property taxes. He also generated \$28 million in sales through auctions of surplus municipal property, a figure that was increased by making improvements to those properties prior to sale.

Cooper is a giant in terms of assisting city residents in getting employment and training services. His staff is supportive and encouraging in helping him to fulfill his multitasking position as director at the Newark One Stop Career Center. His number one cheerleader is his wife of twenty plus years.

Cooper said, *"My wife is my number one supporter. She stands beside me in this journey called life to fulfill the reason of my being. She is an educator who has achieved her own level of success. My wife is such a phenomenal understanding woman. She is studying to become an ordained minister which helps to keep myself grounded in the foundation of my family and career mission."*

Cooper continued, *"My children also support my career and family success accomplishments. I am proud of my daughter's college and career achievements, and my only son is the joy of my life."*

Marshall Cooper then explained Newark's Urban Renaissance by saying, *"Sharpe James' urban renewal plan is for the entire city. He is building Newark to become an urban world-class destination city - second to none. Everyone in the city is going to benefit from the Newark Renaissance. We are looking to build up Newark, [and] Newark's most prized rebuilding is its investment in the rebuilding of its indigenous peoples. Not since the Newark rebellions of 1967 has Newark seen such a vested concern in its city and people."*

Continued on page 8

Class of June 1956 / 50th Reunion Committee



Howard Botnick's 83rd Birthday Celebration



Howard Botnick, 1942, (*far left*) in Colorado with sons, Michael, 1968, of Spokane, Washington; Robin (Robert), 1966, of Lafayette, Colorado; and brother-in-law, Donald Corson (1950) of Palm City, Florida. Not pictured are Howard's wife Lila Ferster Botnick, 1944, and sister-in-law, Joan Ferster Corson, 1950.

Los Angeles, California "LA CALUMETTE" Group



Back Row: Leon Ninburg, Ed Berman, Les Safier, Kenny Brookman, Debby Schwartz, Herb Schaeffer, Barbara Hammer, Charlie Hammer, Jean Greenstein. *Front Row:* Charlotte Laufer Goldstein, Selma Brookman, Ruth Blumer Greenstein, Sherman Ninberg.

Newark News

A New Mayor For Newark

Katie Wang & Jeffrey Mays, *Star Ledger*



With his political nemesis on the sidelines, **Cory Booker** swept to victory in the Newark mayor's race by a historic margin, collecting more than 70 percent of the

vote from an electorate that rejected his candidacy four years ago. Booker's closest challenger, State Senator Ronald L. Rice, finished with less than 25 percent.

The election of Booker, a 37-year-old Rhodes scholar and Yale-educated lawyer who moved to Newark just a decade ago, opens a new chapter in the city's political history. A self-proclaimed reformer, he is Newark's first new mayor in 20 years and just the second since 1970.

The easy victory yesterday was made possible by Mayor Sharpe James' decision to not seek a 6th term. Four years ago, James defeated Booker by less than 3,600 votes, or 6 percentage points, in a vitriolic race that left the young challenger fighting the perception he wasn't experienced enough, local enough, or "black" enough to govern the state's largest city.

Booker, a former Central Ward councilman, hadn't stopped running since. On victory night, as he ascended the stage in an Essex County College gymnasium for his victory party, hundreds of supporters greeted him with the chant, "*Cory, Cory, Cory,*"

Surrounded by his mother, father, and brother, he proclaimed a new day for Newark. "*Today, Newark, New Jersey has embraced change,*" Booker said. "*Change did not come easy. This change was born from the commitment and sacrifice of thousands of Newark residents...We have made a statement that will reverberate around this city that we demand change.*"

A New Athletic Center & Arena For WHS

By Phil Yourish, 1964

They say patience is a virtue...

One of the constants at Weequahic over the past 73 years has been the basketball team. In each generation, Weequahic students have always excelled in hoops. The names of *Indian* legends like *Irv Keller, Swede Masin, Harold Cohen, Herb Krautblatt, Herb Jacobsen, Bert Geltzeiler, Charles Lubetkin, Alvin Attles, Sandy Salz, Gerry Greenspan, Tom Boose, Mike Cohen, Chris Pervall, Charles Talley, Dana Lewis, Dennis Layton, Lou Grimsley, Dwayne Talley* (to name just a few) and coaches *Art*

more. So Weequahic has played its home games at George Washington Carver, an elementary school on Lyons Avenue.

During this period of time, every comprehensive high school in the city had new athletic facilities constructed, except for Weequahic despite its impressive basketball resume.

When the alumni association came into being in 1997, we started lobbying school officials to build a new state-of-the-arts arena for the high school.



Lustig, Les Fein, Dave Klurman, and Frank Gavin bring back sweet memories and the joy of watching some of the best basketball talent in the city, county and state.

After many years of coming close, Weequahic won its first Group IV State Championship in 1962. Then during a two-year span in the middle 60's, the team, coached by Fein, won 40 games in a row bringing state honors to the high school in 1966 and 1967. The latter team went undefeated (26-0), was ranked number one in the country, was nicknamed the *Dream Team*, and Fein was the USA Coach of the Year. The high school won the states again in 1972 and 2002, but had many other fine teams in between.

However, during the last 30 years, Weequahic no longer was able to play its games at the high school. Its small gym (*where sitting in the bleachers made you feel like the 6th man on the court*) just didn't meet official specifications any

A new facility was long overdue and we wanted to be able to see it in our lifetime.

Sometimes good things happen in bunches. Lately, the school's prospects have been more promising. It has a principal with new energy and vision. Test scores have been improving. Its accreditation was renewed by Middle



States. New exercise and band rooms were built. A new intercom system is being installed and, hopefully, the murals will be restored.

And now after years of waiting, there are plans and a design for a new athletic facility and arena to showcase the high school and its athletes. The proposed site is at the back end of the Chancellor Avenue School playground. The facade will face Goldsmith Avenue.

It will have a 2,000 seat gymnasium which will be suitable for tournament basketball. In addition, there will be rooms for lockers, exercise, dance, programs, classes and offices. We have also been told that there will be an alumni lounge. The construction will be done in four phases beginning in the summer of 2007. An athletic field and parking area will be built across from the arena

Our thanks to The Newark Public School officials for providing future students at Weequahic with an outstanding new facility that will not only engender school spirit and pride but will also serve as the centerpiece of the Weequahic community. And for providing alumni with a "*dream come true.*"

The Dream Team - Number 1 Team in the Nation



IT'S TIME TO RESTORE THE WHS MURALS

We Need Your Assistance

Weequahic High School is home to one of the most important installations of public art in New Jersey: the "*Enlightenment of Man*," a New Deal-era mural painted by Michael Lenson, who was the director of NJ mural activities for the *Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA)*.

Recently, we had the murals evaluated by a firm in New York City. We received a report that detailed the present conditions of the murals and the treatments that are required. The conclusion was that after 67 years the murals are in need of serious repair. Their estimate to restore the murals was \$45,000 with a time period of 3 to 4 weeks to complete the work.

During the next few months, we will continue to receive other proposals and then make a decision on the best way to proceed. In the meantime, we want to begin seeking funds from a variety of sources: government, foundations, corporate - and the generosity of our alumni.

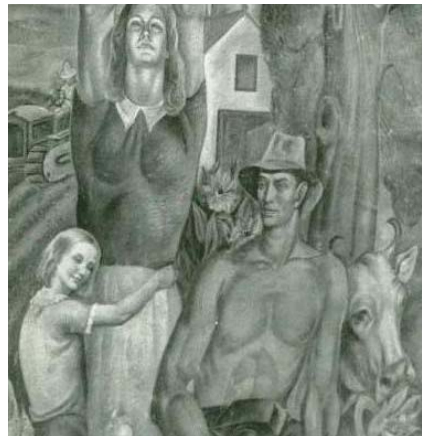
We urge you to begin making donations NOW so that we can raise the funds that are needed for this restoration. When the work is done, we plan to apply for local and state historic landmark status.

Please send checks to WHS Alumni Association (write mural restoration in the memo area), P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101.

The Story of the Weequahic Murals

Excerpts from an article by Barry Lenson, the son of artist Michael Lenson.

People who pass through the Weequahic lobby often pause to wonder where the murals came from. I'm happy to provide a closer look. *The Newark Evening News* reported that my father stood up and



remarked, "*We of the WPA are of the people and we are painting for you, the people.*" He personally painted murals for the Verona Sanitarium, the City Council Chambers in Newark City Hall and the New Jersey Pavilion of the 1939 World's Fair, along with other locations. The 1999 edition of *Who Was Who in American Art* calls my father "*Jersey's most important muralist.*"

He was also art critic of the *Newark Sunday News* from 1956-1971 and director of the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts for a time. His paintings are in the Newark Museum and many major institutions across the country.

The Weequahic murals are only loosely tied to actual events and places. This gave him more freedom to create highly personal images of mankind's progress from ignorance to enlightenment. The story is easy to follow on the walls. As you stand inside the lobby, face the entry doors and start with the panel just to their left. As you move leftwards around the room, you'll find the story clearly delineated:

○ **PREHISTORY:** *Early women and men seek a cave's protection against a sabertooth tiger, lightning and other natural threats. Ignorance makes these primitives fearful, yet they have created cave paintings to lend order to the world around them. In art, the spark of enlightenment has been struck.*

○ **EARLY CIVILIZATIONS:** *Images of ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece depict the social progress of mankind. The forces of Sparta and Rome, starkly shown, will recede from philosophy and humanism.*

○ **THE DARK AGES:** *Monks preserve the scholarly classical tradition. A scientific experiment represents the dawn of modern science.*

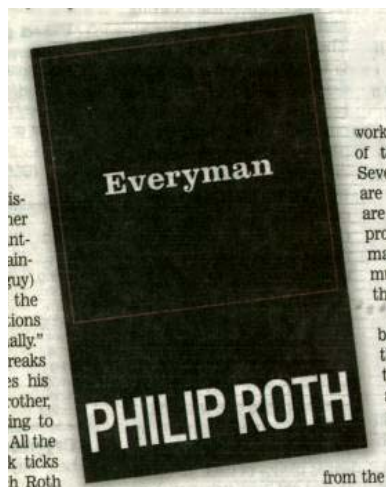
○ **THE RENAISSANCE:** *Savonarola, the fanatical Italian monk, is preaching for the destruction of art and science. Yet Michelangelo, Leonardo, Erasmus, and Dante are there too - a strong starting lineup on any team. Enlightenment will win out in the end.*

○ **THE ENLIGHTENMENT:** *An austere-looking scholar sits in his study, surrounded by thick books.*

○ **THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:** *Workers operate a cotton gin, reflecting the Depression-era belief that automation would liberate mankind from demeaning physical labor.*

○ **MODERN TIMES:** *The entire West lobby wall depicts contemporary society in a very positive light. We see an airplane, a dam, a bridge, skyscrapers and girders. A farm represents America's natural resources. A mine disaster is also in progress.*

○ **THE FUTURE:** *In the final panel, a man and woman, enlightened at last, lift their arms heavenward. It's one of the most moving images in my father's entire output. A shattered cannon wheel expresses the hope that man will one day put an end to militarism.*



**By John Freeman, President,
National Book Critics Circle**

No American novelist knows his craft better than Philip Roth. But in the past decade, as he delivered an unbroken string of prize winners, from Sabbath's Theater to his recent bestseller The Plot Against America, the Newark-born writer quietly apprenticed himself to a literary form that was new to him: the eulogy. "It's not a genre I wanted to master," says Roth, dressed in a black sweater and blue oxford shirt, at the offices of his literary agent. "I've attended funerals of, let's say, four close friends, one of whom was a writer."

He wasn't prepared for any of them. "The plan goes like this: Your grandparents die. And then in time your parents die. The truly startling thing is that your friends start to die. That's not in the plan." Roth says this experience prompted him to write Everyman, his latest novel, a stunning meditation on the meaning of mortality. The action opens at the funeral of its unnamed hero, then backtracks to give us the man's life story.

In many ways, Everyman is an unusual Roth character. He works in advertising, and remains a faithful father for long stretches of time. "I wanted a man who was in the mainstream," says Roth. "So (this guy) attempts to lead a life within the conventions, and the conventions fail him, as they do conventionally."

Over time, as his body breaks down, Roth's character leaves his marriage, falls out with his brother, and ultimately quits advertising to spend his retirement

painting. All the while, his internal body clock ticks away. In fact, the novel, which Roth once called "The Medical History," could be read like a well fleshed-out physician's chart.

"As people advance in age," says Roth, who turned 73 in March, "their biography narrows down to their medical biography. They spend time in the care of doctors and hospitals and pharmacies, and eventually, as happens here, they become almost identical with their medical biography."

Physician Jerome Groopman, a medical columnist for The New Yorker and a professor at Harvard Medical School, says Roth "clearly did his homework when it came to many of the clinical aspects." Several operating scenes are described in detail, as are the technicalities of procedures. But Groopman believes there's much more to the novel than that. "The meat of the book, the heart of it, is the story of this man and the human condition, and the mistakes we make through life how these then come back and fail to protect us from the fear and loneliness facing mortality."

Roth has written of mortality before. He addressed the topic with pathos in his National Book Critics Circle Award-winning memoir Patrimony, and with hysterical humor in his novel Sabbath's Theater, winner of the National Book Award. The last line of that book: "How could he leave? How could he go? Everything he hated was here."

Everyman, however, has none of these hyperbolic flourishes. "It's extremely dark," says Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mark Strand, a friend of Roth for more than 40 years. "And really unalleviated by the usual high jinks and humor that Roth is able to inject into novels."

Novelist Paul Theroux, who read the book "in one sitting," and then again "with even more pleasure and admiration," says Roth's ability to work without his usual stunts is what makes the novel so impressive. "Its power arises from...its persuasive detail, its fully realized and recognizable people, their weaknesses especially."

Continued on page 8

Newark News

A Bear in Newark?

At 4:47 AM, motorist Herbert Williams spotted a bear as it darted in front of his station wagon at the intersection of Ivy Street and Kerrigan Boulevard. Then the bear ran into the backyard of a vacant corner house at 386 Kerrigan Boulevard in the Vailsburg section of Newark.

At 4:49 AM, nearby, a bear was seen by a woman near the backyard of her home at the intersection of Richelieu Terrace and Lenox Street.

Is this science fiction or maybe a Disney movie? Everybody knows that in New Jersey bears can be found in the Northwestern part of the state where mountains, forests, rivers and lakes paint the landscape. Bears don't hang around urban areas. Not usually anyway!



But on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 9 and 10, a bear was seen throughout Essex

County in Livingston, West Orange, Orange, South Orange Irvington and Newark. The 250-pound female bear was finally apprehended in the backyard of an Irvington home by local police. A week before, a bear showed up in the state capital at Trenton. And a week later, a bear was roaming around Millburn/ Short Hills.

The black bears, which abandoned New Jersey for many years, are making a comeback and their population is increasing. Estimates indicate that there might be more than a thousand bears roaming the state. They are now in 11 of 21 counties.

With all of the new housing developments and highways being constructed in the Garden State, bears are wandering far from home, as their normal habitats disappear, into areas where humans abound.

COOPER - from page 3

Cooper is a maverick and leader who is aiding Mayor James in the resurrection, rebirth and rise to assure all Newark inhabitants that their investment in America's number one city is assured. He returned to Newark from the Midwest after his college days to invest his time, energy, skills, and abilities in the city that he so dearly loves, Newark, New Jersey.

There is no other person that Mayor Sharpe James could have selected for the Directorship of MOET and the Newark One Stop Career Center, Director Marshall Cooper.

ROTH - from page 7

...Everyman has its share of Roth moments - the hero is remarkably virile well into his 70s - but they tend to be of a tender biographical note. The opening scene alludes to the funeral of Roth's close friend and literary mentor, Saul Bellow, who died last year.

In another scene, the character visits the grave of his parents and meets the man who probably dug their grave. *"That is almost certainly based on Roth's experience,"* says Strand. *"Nothing is lost on Philip, whatever he can use, he'll use."*

But it would be a mistake to think Roth is contemplating the end with shaky hands. ...Death still does not frighten him. *"(This book) wasn't on my mind because of my own death, which I don't think is imminent,"* he says. Even when Roth had open

heart surgery in 1988, he didn't worry. *"Well, I never believed I would expire. I was pretty sure these guys knew what they were doing, that they would fix me up, and they did."*

Strand relates that *"when I met him he was a terrific ball player, he could hit the ball a mile. I still think of him as vigorous. And intellectually, he's one of the most alert people I've ever met. He serves up stories that are just mesmerizing and hilarious and he just tosses them off in casual conversation. When you listen to him, you know you're just in the presence of a natural storyteller."*

During the interview, Roth recalled a statistic he learned when he was younger. *"When I was a kid,"* says Roth, *"because my father was in the insurance business, he had actuarial booklets, and I knew women lived to be 63, men to be 61. Now I think it's 73. It hasn't changed dramatically when you think of all the medical progress of the postwar era."*

In his reading of *Everyman*, Groopman sees a certain sad truth in this. *"There is a very prevalent illusion with all the technology we have, all the advances we have made in medicine, there is this sense that we should have control over our clinical outcome."* But as Roth's hero finds out - as we all do - that's not the case. *"The contract is a bad contract, and we all have to sign it,"* Roth quips.

Roth was recently honored for his life's work. PEN, the international literary organization, gave him the PEN/Nabokov Award for lifetime achievement, worth \$20,000.

Newark News

Library Has New Director

Wilma J. Grey, the former Assistant Director of Community Library Services, has been selected as the 10th Director of the Newark Public Library replacing Dr. Alex Boyd, who retired after 16 years.



In her new position, she is responsible for the administration of the Main Library and ten Branch Libraries, the development and implementation of a multi-million-dollar operating budget, supervision of nearly two hundred staff members, oversight of eight departments, as well as interaction with the Board of Trustees, City officials and community agencies and groups.

Ms. Grey has served the Newark community for more than thirty-five years in various roles at the Newark Public Library. Currently, she is the President of the Board of Trustees of the Newark Literacy Campaign.

A graduate of Newark Arts High School, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Howard University and a Master of Library Science from Rutgers University.

Library Lobby Renovation

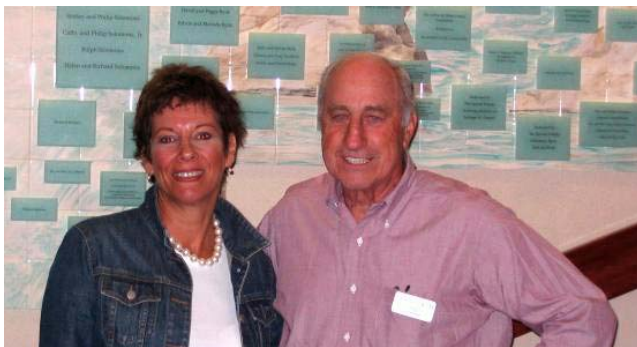
By Carmen Juri, Star-Ledger

New wood entry doors have replaced the originals. The formerly narrow, dark vestibule is now a wider, brighter space with illuminated glass and wooden display cases.

The ceramic tile ceiling and marble walls and floors of the 118-year-old structure have been cleaned. The circulation area has been wired with the latest technological equipment.

As part of a \$1.3 million renovation to the Newark Library's lobby, all 108 windows of the building have been removed and restored. Each was stripped, refinished, reglazed and reinstalled.

And the Media Room now resembles a music and video store, with 6,000 DVDs, 6,000 CDs, and a smaller number of VHS tapes and books on tape - all free to borrow.



**Aileen Resnick
Marcus, class
of 1968
meets
Arnold Ram,
class of 1948
in Savannah,
Georgia**



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet first appeared in 1950.

Irv Newman, 1939 writes: *I was so inspired by the recent issue of the CALUMET, I feel compelled to write and compliment the entire staff for their outstanding effort (particularly Phil Yourish). Within this vast country of ours, I'd stack the excellence and thoroughness of our CALUMET against any alumni publication. My recollection of the Weequahic High School alumni experience is a grand reminder of the loyalty I had for my high school, some of it great teachers and the superb preparation I acquired for my later life. Enduring student friendships were readily cultivated at Weequahic High.*

Elaine Ratner, 1945, was appointed by the Mayor of Union Township, NJ to serve as a Mayor's Aide. She has also been serving as a member of the Township's Board of Health for a 3-year term as well as the Community Relations Board.

Philip Seidman, 1949, was named Rutgers College of Pharmacy Alumnus of the Year in 2002 and was honored by Franklin Township, NJ for his 40 years of dedicated service to the community.

Judith Nusbaum, 1957, who received a donated kidney from Martin Filla of Australia in December, urges people to consider saving a life by becoming an organ donor.

Richard Kuperman, 1966, the President of the African-American Jewish Coalition, organized a Freedom Seder for more than 100 people at the historic Ahavas Sholom synagogue in Newark.

David Wright, 1966, is retiring as Principal of South 17th Street School in Newark after 9 years. Previously, he was a teacher, Title I Coordinator and Vice Principal at the school. Overall, he has provided service to The Newark Public Schools for 34 years.

Fred Chatman, 1995, the new Vice Principal at Miller Street School in Newark, was the keynote speaker for the WHS National Honor Society.

thank you for donating to the high school security system project

In the last issue of the Alumni Calumet, **Brooke** and **Marc Tarabour** urged alumni to make contributions for a new intercom system at the high school. The old one had been broken for many years and was creating a safety issue. Marc planned to obtain the equipment at cost and oversee the project gratis and Brooke was going to do the fund raising. As a result of our alumni's generosity, over \$3,500 was raised for this purpose. Recently, we were informed by Principal Ron Stone that the Newark Public Schools decided that they will install and fund the new system. Maybe our good intentions had something to do with that decision!

Our sincere appreciation to **Brooke** and **Marc** for spearheading this effort and to the 39 alumni who made donations to support this important endeavor.

News From The High School On The Hill

Boys Basketball Team

Keon Lawrence, First Team All State basketball player, led Weequahic to a 24-3 record in the 2005-06 basketball season under first-year coach Derrick Butler. The team was rated number six in Group 2 and number seven in Essex County.



Lawrence, a 6-2, 165 senior guard, does it all on the court. He drives to the basket, pulls down rebounds, passes to his teammates, sinks three-pointers, plays defense and makes show-time dunks. On numerous occasions, he had double figures in scoring, assists and rebounds.

This past year, he scored 843 points for the season, averaging 31.2 points, with almost 7 assists and 9 rebounds per game. In a contest against Summit, he scored 48 points. His 2,109 career points makes him only the 3rd player in Essex County to pass the 2,000 threshold.

In the NJSIAA All-Star Classic, playing with and against the best players in the state, he won the slam-dunk contest, was the game MVP, and scored 30 points to lead a 138-128 North victory. Next year he is headed to the University of Missouri.

Girls Basketball Team

For the first time in many years, the girl's basketball team ended the season with a very respectable 13-12 record under coach Amiri Baraka, Jr.

Editor's Note: The alumni association sent both the boys and girls basketball teams to basketball camp last summer and celebrated their successful seasons with a buffet at the Southern Smoke House in Linden.

From the Voices of our Alumni, Faculty and Friends...

From Jack Liebowitz, 1952 Augusta, Georgia

As usual I enjoyed reading the last issue of the Calumet, #17, that I recently received. This issue was especially interesting since it featured several individuals that brought back many memories, (all good): Philip Roth who was my neighbor on Summit Avenue. Alvin Attles who graduated after me and I had the pleasure of seeing in Atlanta when he was coaching the Warriors. Alvin Lubetkin who was in my 1952 class. I will now think of him when I shop at "the Sports Authority." Like Alvin I was also involved in coaching youth league sports, and now enjoy telling my grandchildren how good it was growing up in Newark and attending WHS.

The great Swede Masin, who even though being older than us, was a frequent visitor at our baseball practices and games. Arthur Blank, owner of Home Depot, was mentioned briefly on the opening of a store in Newark. He is also the owner of the NFL Atlanta Falcons. And of course, as in every issue, there is something that my classmate Hal Braff is involved in.

I don't get back to Newark very often. In fact, the last time I visited the old neighborhood was several years ago after I ran the New York marathon. We have several WHS graduates living in Georgia, including my sister Sandee, and we always enjoy reminiscing about the good old days in Newark. I often think about how great it would be living in New Jersey now, but that thought leaves me when I realize that by living in Augusta, Georgia, I can play golf 12 months a year. In fact, I better close now so that I can make my 1:15 tee time.

From Harriet Freeman, 1960 Whippany, NJ

I haven't had a chance to read the Calumet - actually my dad who is 97 and lives with me has been reading it first. He really enjoys it too. It brings back memories of the "gold ole days" as he puts it! I was

sorry to see the passing of Jean-Rae Turner. I was glad that I had the chance to speak with her last year when the article appeared about her then. She lived right across the street from me on Hansbury! My dad used to drive her late daughter, Margaret Ann, to school (Maple Ave) with us in the morning. She was quite a woman. Keep those Calumets coming!

From Barry Ringold, 1972 Atlanta, Georgia

It is great to read all the wonderful articles on the city, the people, and the high school where I was born and raised. Believe me, it brings back some powerful memories of my high school days. Memories that are hard to forget after reading the Calumet: a total nostalgic piece of work. I feel like I floated back in time reading about the places I have been and the people I personally have known. It is happy to see all is well at Weequahic High School.

I am more than sure that the current students who are enrolled and graduating are creating their own legacy. Let us pray that they have a safe, healthy and wonderful life that will encourage them to create a web site and/or other projects of this manner that give honor to Weequahic and all students who attended this wonderful school with some great people. *Keep Up the Good Work.*

Philip Bennett, January 1959 Hamden, Connecticut

Reading Barry Adler's piece in the Winter issue, prompted the thought: well, maybe some people will find it interesting to know whatever became of Benji Bennett and, whatever that is, did it have something to do with Weequahic? Of course; how could it not? I too can trace some of what has stood out in my life back to Jeanette Lappe. I remember writing a long report on Langston Hughes and the Scottsboro Boys; she in turn got me a seat on the Mayor's Committee on Human Relations, an anti-racist civic

group - this in the mid 50s. This (then) scared white boy definitely felt like he didn't belong, but attending those meetings in City Hall made a lasting impression.

While living in Baton Rouge, LA, (94-99) I was the head of the Racial Justice Program for the local YWCA. I also joined a predominantly black Kiwanis, which met weekly up at Southern University, the traditionally black university in Baton Rouge.

After Weequahic, Rutgers, New Brunswick; from there to NYU, where I got my Ph.D. in Philosophy. I then began my career as a university professor (17 years at the State University of New York at Cortland), which I left, giving up tenure, to be a full-time peace activist in 1987. At that point I was working for the Center for Religion, Ethics and Social Policy (CRESP) at Cornell.

In 1987, I went to the former Soviet Union as part of my peace work, and got the bug, returning 13 times in a seven year period. I marched into Red Square during the last official May Day; Gorbachev was on the platform above Lenin's tomb. While working at CRESP, I was hired part-time by Cornell's Student Health Services and ended up becoming a trainer, working with students on how to avoid date rape. This work would later serve as an entry point to working in Student Health, which I did as a consultant at St. Lawrence University and elsewhere, and then a temporary job as a Wellness Educator at LSU.

But I couldn't stay away from teaching. I began again as an adjunct at LSU. From there, I followed my spouse, Wendy Kohli, to the Big Apple, where I was an administrator at Eugene Lang College, part of the New School. After 9/11, the program that Wendy was chairing for the New School closed and she took a job at Fairfield University, a Jesuit school, where I now teach, full-time, half in the Graduate School of Education and half in Applied Ethics.

I'm half retiring in the Fall, but will continue to teach my graduate classes. I love teaching teachers and thinking of the impact I might have on them as Jeanette Lappe, may she rest peacefully, had on me and so many others.

WAR and REMEMBRANCE

By Irv Newman, 1939, Sarasota, FL.

Is my group of 14 boys/men/warriors the luckiest assemblage of veterans in the World War II American Expeditionary Forces? If not, we, the Orioles AC (athletic club) and Gamma Sigma Chi, feel we qualify, at least, as exceedingly fortunate former soldiers.

We 14 kids from Newark joined the Army, Air Corps, or Merchant Marines after Pearl Harbor. By 1941 we had been together for some 15 years. Miraculously, we have remained in close touch to this day - continuity for more than 75 years.

The club was started in 1926 when I, at the age of 5 would get lox and bagels at

duty and administration aside from the gaggle of genuine heroes. Our gang did acknowledge that the capricious luck factor had a lot to do with survival.

The stalwart heroes, in the eyes of the club, included Mort *Buffalo* Rosenstein, whose older brother joined the Canadian Air Force in 1940 as a fighter pilot. Simon Rosenstein was shot down and Mort promptly became an A-20 gunner, successfully completing 65 missions. With 65 missions under his belt, Mort earned the nickname of *Buffalo*.

Bob Bierman, flush bucket and all, completed 25 missions over Italy and Germany in the 8th Air Force. More than once, Bob was called upon to be deputy leader on B-17 air raids. He persevered and conquered his aversion to early morning and high altitude missions.

Len Belfus managed to complete many missions as a fighter pilot, later becoming an Eastern Airlines commercial pilot.

Jack *Jake* Kamin flew as a flight engineer in the 442nd Airborne Troop in the 305th Squad. He has related horrific stories of Holocaust survivors whom his squad rescued from the Dachau concentration camp before being taken to Greek dispersement centers.

Seymour Altscheler, frozen feet and all, was in the infantry. His duty was exceedingly stressful but he survived the battlefield struggles.

With most of the group dispersed and retired throughout the country, we manage out-of-state visits and keep close contact through an assigned monthly letter from one man to the 11 surviving men plus only three widows.

Vulnerable to twice the armed forces' mortality rate, our group can attest to luck and great good fortune which make our current aches and pains a thing of relative insignificance.



Pictured above in 1964 front are: Marvin Tinsky, Bob Bierman, Jack Kamin, Sy Altscheler, Irv Newman, Monroe Greene. *Pictured in fraternity sweaters in 1941 are: Front Row, (L-R):* Milt Cooper, Norman, Aronchick, Bob Galinkin, Mort Rosonstein, Len Belfus. *Back Row (L-R):* Jerry Marlis, Arnold Marcus, Dan Klein, Irv Newman, Herb Jacobson, Marvin Tinsky, Bob Berman. Nine of the original 14 members are currently living in NJ, CA, and FL.

Jerry Marlis' (Merchant Marine) father's corner grocery store. Every one of the 12 boys who joined the club thereafter went to the same Peshine Avenue Grammar School and Weequahic High School.

Between the draft and volunteering, all of us were in uniform by 1943. Our sampling of soldiers included the inevitable support staff of an Army that saw only one out of four soldiers confront the enemy in combat. We were involved in medic duties, signal corps, POW guard

Newark Authors

Black Women of Newark



Barbara Kukla says that her whole life "*has revolved around Newark.*" This past year she published her 2nd book: **Defying the Odds: Triumphant Black Women of Newark.** She provides

extended articles about eight black women who have been influential in the life of Newark - educators, a doctor, a state legislator, an artist and other major civic figures. In the 55 page appendix, she offers shorter profiles of influential Newark black women in 14 fields.

Her previous book, **Swing City: Newark Nightlife, 1925-50,** was published in hardcover by Temple University Press in 1991 and as a paperback by Rutgers University Press in 2002. Kukla graduated from North Arlington High School. She worked for The Star-Ledger for 37 years. From 1979 until her retirement, she was editor of the **Newark This Week** section.

The Old Jewish Cemeteries of Newark



Early retirement gave **Alice Perkins Gould** the leisure to pursue her avid interest in genealogy. After becoming members of the Jewish Genealogy Society of North Jersey, Alice and her husband, Bob

Gould, learned of a project of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies to document every Jewish cemetery in the world.

Since they were both born in Newark, they volunteered to document the old Newark cemeteries. This included finding where the cemeteries were, researching when and by whom the cemeteries were started, and recording the information engraved on the gravestones.

Alice has spent the last 10 years leading groups of volunteers in documenting the Newark cemeteries. Her years of research led to the writing of a book, **The Old Jewish Cemeteries of Newark,** about the cemeteries and the Jews buried there from the middle of the 19th century to the end of the 20th century.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Murray Belsky, 1949

Vice President of Medical Affairs At The Beth

The neighborhood has changed a lot since I was young, but Newark Beth Israel still feels like home to me. It is no surprise that so many young doctors today want to begin their medical careers here. There is a great deal of depth in terms of clinical expertise, research and compassion at Newark Beth Israel.



Dr. Murray Belsky's ties to the Beth run deep, since he himself, his wife, Janice Van Poznak Belsky, and their three children were all born at The Beth. His wife holds a nursing degree from

Newark Beth Israel and worked for many years at the hospital.

After graduating from Tulane University and Chicago Medical School, Dr. Belsky served a rotating internship at Newark Beth Israel. He performed his military service in the Navy as a lieutenant/medical officer attached to the U.S. Marine Corp and returned to the Beth for a residency in medicine followed by a fellowship in gastroenterology at the Brooklyn VA Hospital.

In 1964, he became an attending physician in Medicine and Gastroenterology at Newark Beth Israel and has maintained a private practice ever since. At the same time, Dr. Belsky has had a distinguished record of service to the Medical Center both as Director of Endoscopy Services from 1986 through 1997, and in a multitude of administrative capacities.

Since 1997, a year after Newark Beth Israel became part of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, Dr. Belsky has been Vice President for Medical Affairs. He also served the Medical Staff as President (1991 to 1993), and prior to that as Vice President, Secretary and two stints as Treasurer. He was also organizer and chair of the Physician's Hospital

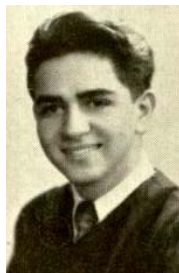
Organization from 1993 to 1997. In addition, Dr. Belsky still teaches at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

His colleagues at the Medical Center speak of him with warmth, respect and friendship - a genuine tribute to his many years of service.

Dr. Belsky and his wife have lived in Maplewood since 1964. Their son David resides in Massachusetts with his wife and child. Their daughter Susan and son Joshua each live and work in NYC.

Donald Hersh, 1945

Pioneer in Contact Lenses



Throughout his professional career, Dr. Donald Hersh has been involved in the research and development of new contact lens technologies. Most notable is the invention of the Hersh Palpebral Traction Lens, which

facilitates tear flow in patients with inadequate tear circulation or dry eyes. In addition, he was one of the early investigators in the use of monovision contact lenses for improvement in reading vision in older patients.

At the Cornea and Laser Eye Institute and its Center for Keratoconus, Dr. Hersh concentrates on specialized contact lens fittings. He is expert in caring for keratoconus and other corneal diseases, and for fitting patients after other eye surgeries (like LASIK and corneal transplants). Dr. Hersh has extensive experience with and access to the newest state-of-art specialty contact lens technologies for the treatment of a variety of difficult corneal problems.

Dr. Hersh began his undergraduate studies at Rutgers University and received his degree from Columbia University. He continued at Columbia School of Optometry where he earned an MA degree and obtained his Doctor of Optometry degree at the Philadelphia Optical College. He is certified by the Cornea and Contact Lens section of the American Academy of Optometry.

Phyllis Moskowitz Frakt, 1963

Vice President at Rider University



At a reception in her honor, Dr. Phyllis Moskowitz Frakt was feted for her 32 years of service to Rider University in NJ. Retiring from Rider June 30, Dr. Frakt, vice president for academic affairs and

provost, will continue to serve the University over the next year as a consultant to play an important role in Rider's Middle States Accreditation visit next spring.

Dr. Frakt's career at Rider began in 1974 when she joined the political science faculty. She has subsequently served as associate dean, Liberal Arts and Science and associate vice president of academic affairs and associate provost. She was appointed the University's top academic officer in 1995.

"Phyllis has made a magnificent impact on Rider and leaves us with an invaluable living legacy that is the academic foundation of our renewal," said President Mordechai Rozanski.

Her numerous accomplishments include: introducing 15 new degree programs, and more than 30 minors; championing the merger of academic and student affairs; overseeing the assessment project to improve student learning - a project that has grown to include 29 academic departments and programs; initiating faculty development day and programs to support the scholarship of teaching and learning; establishing the Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards; and spearheading Rider's highly successful and growing partnership with Sanda University.

Knowing of her love for gardening, the arts, and her pursuit of relearning French, Frakt was surprised by a host of gifts from scores of her colleagues and friends that reflect her passions - one of which was a trip for two to Paris with her husband, Alan Hershey. One of her greatest passions, however, is Rider University.

Moving to Weequahic

By Beryl Goldberg, Jan. 1960

I was happy at Irvington High School. I didn't know what I didn't



know. The summer after my sophomore year in high school I went to visit my father's family in England and when I returned my parents informed me we were moving to

the Weequahic section of Newark and that I would be transferring to Weequahic High School.

In retrospect, Irvington was OK academically and I was doing well there but I quickly came to understand that Weequahic was a whole other kind of environment. Looking back, I realize that Irvington had more of a working class identity and I knew Weequahic was predominantly Jewish but I didn't know much else about my new school.

I soon discovered that there was a spirit of intellectual inquiry and achievement that didn't exist in Irvington. Certainly it was not in every class at Weequahic but at the best there were some true intellectuals who were also excellent teachers. My fellow students were discussing poetry and classical music which had not happened in Irvington.

I took advanced placement classes with Max Pollack and Sol Ostrin. They both seemed to me to be gentlemen scholars. Probably in later years, given the sad lack of respect our society has for teachers, these men would have become lawyers or college professors.

One memory stands out. I must have been doing a class assignment for Mr. Ostrin. I was sitting in the school library reading a magazine article about the countries of Africa that were becoming independent. I was fascinated by these reports.

What was a given could change very quickly. Colonies were suddenly free of their rulers. This began a long term interest in the countries of Latin America and Africa. In college much of my course work was focused on these regions.

And since then I've traveled frequently to Latin America and Africa to photograph and write about them. That interest all began in Weequahic's school library. As part of my work, I travel around the world (including NY and NJ).

And the classes also brought me through a difficult time. My mother was diagnosed with cancer and was often in the hospital. I think the challenges of my school work held me together. Between going to the hospital and going to school and the library, I was too busy to face the reality that my mother was dying, which finally happened in February of my junior year. These high school years were my first act at Weequahic.

My second act was as the sister of the star football player, Mark Goldberg. I came home from New Brunswick where I was in college to see my brother play. I sat at my father's side and helped him to absorb the blows each time my brother was tackled. This was a whole other experience since I had little involvement with sports when I was a student at Weequahic.

But I came to appreciate the goal driven (literally and figuratively) life of the athlete and was proud of my brother's achievements. In my days at the school the football team was not known for winning many games. I enjoyed having some connection to this other side of high school life.

I am proud to be a graduate of Weequahic. As a New Yorker today, when joking with friends I occasionally point to "*mi tierra*" (*my land*) across the Hudson River in New Jersey. It was another world. Moving to Newark probably changed my life though of course I can't prove it.

News From The High School On The Hill

WHS Accreditation Renewed

During the month of March 2006, the entire Weequahic High School program was reviewed by the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools. The actual visit was one week, but the total assessment took more than one year as high school personnel prepared comprehensive documentation to support each of the 12 standards and indicators that were being evaluated.



Yvonne Blake, WHS Chair of physical education, health, music and art, spearheaded this time-consuming and consummate effort. And the results were very positive. Accreditation was renewed for the next 10 years. The team was impressed with the school's leadership,

staff, students, activities, support systems, and the alumni association.

The visit by the four-person validation team was launched with a dinner and presentation at the Gateway Hilton Hotel in Newark. Representing the alumni association were Hal Braff, the Co-President, and Phil Yourish, the Executive Director, who both spoke about the involvement and impact that alumni have had on the high school today. Yourish also put together a history of the high school.

The 12 standards assessed were as follows:

Philosophy/Mission/Beliefs/Objectives; Governance and Leadership; Organizational Design and Staff; Educational Programs; Learning Media Services and Technology; Student Services; Student Life and Student Activities; Facilities Health and Safety; Finances; Assessment of Student Learning; Planning.

A report, detailing the school's strengths and identifying areas in which improvements need to be made, is currently being prepared by the validation team.

Student Honors:

- The high school boys varsity track and field team won the Newark City Championship. Senior **Devonish Murphy** won three of the team's five 1st place events.
- Senior Alvernia Starks was nominated as a Star-Ledger Scholar.
- 22 art students in Ms. El's class had their art work displayed at the ALJIRA gallery in Newark.

Simona Chivian Chazen

Jan. 1945 grad and her husband Jerry share their art collection

By Nancy A. Ruhling, *Lifestyles Magazine*

We're on the 48th floor, so high that you can almost pinch the fluffy white clouds as they float lazily by. Here the views of Manhattan's skyline are legendary, to say the least: the verdant green of Central Park, the shiny brown-blue of the East River, and the shimmering silver of the Chrysler Building straight ahead. But we barely notice them as the early morning sunshine streams in, spotlighting the collection of contemporary sculpture that is lined up along the walls of windows that encase the Upper East Side apartment like a vitrine.

There's the yard-high delicately balanced glass vase by Lino Tagliapietra, whose curvaceous red-incised form tapers to a point that reaches skyward like a long-stemmed rose blossom brazenly luring a bevy of hungry honeybees. In the adjoining bank of windows is the bold, ruby-red architectonic glass work by Czech artists Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtová that looks like a block of ice and whose color, like a mood ring, gradually changes as the light of the day turns to deepest night. And, in the dining room, centered on a simple square black granite table like the Hope Diamond on a velvet pillow, sits Dale Chihuly's "Macchia Basket," one of his signature wave-like creations.

Jerry and Simona Chazen pause by the two-foot-diameter basket-shaped piece, watching the light play around its apple-green rim then skip in circles around the round, shiny baby-blue and hot-pink body until it highlights a set of squiggly lines at the base, where America's glass master has inscribed his name and the date. "It is," declares Jerry "a perfect piece of art." Adds Simona, as if she's really seeing the piece for the first time, "It's the energy and thrust that get to me."

Every time Jerry looks at the piece, he marvels anew at the fusing of technology and art. "Chihuly is the Louis Comfort Tiffany of our age," he declares. "I

always wonder, 'How did he do that - getting all those colors?'" For more than four decades, the Chazens have been entranced by the beauty of 20th-century paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts and now, for the first time, they are sharing their vision with the rest of the world.

Ninety-six pieces from their extensive collection, considered one of the top in the country, will be exhibited at the Museum of Arts & Design (formerly the American Craft Museum) in Manhattan through mid-September and then will be on display at the Elvehjem Museum at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



"We decided to loan our pieces to the museum because we're trying to make the point to the world that so-called traditional art and so-called 'craft' art - and I really don't like that word - can live together very nicely," Jerry says. For Jerry, the chairman of the private investment firm Chazen Capital Partners and a founder and chairman emeritus of Liz Claiborne Inc., and Simona, a psychotherapist, the exhibition is a chance not only to share their love of art but also to get more people interested in the love of contemporary art and the passion of collecting.

Their collecting roots go way back: Jerry collected baseball cards when he was a boy and still has an extensive collection of jazz books and photos in the apartment; Simona grew up in a Victorian house, where she learned to appreciate the beauty of living with antiques, and has always felt what she calls the "fun of the find."

When they married, they wedded their collective collecting experiences and found common ground in the field of contemporary art. Their first piece, which they bought with their wedding

money, was a woodcut from Brentano Books. "In the beginning, we bought what we could, and we couldn't afford very much," Simona says.

They concentrated on contemporary art and then later on American Studio Glass, which they began collecting early in the 1980s when the genre, started in the 1960s, was just starting to come into its own and artists like Chihuly were just beginning to make their mark. "We were seduced by glass," Jerry says. "We became very attracted to the molten glass and the colors. And one day when we were in the Berkshires, we were passing the Holsten Gallery and saw some pieces in the window."

The works, two by the legendary movement founder Harvey Littleton and one by pioneer Mark Peiser, caught Simona's eye because of "their outstanding fluidity," as well as the gorgeous colors that sparkled in the sunlight. They bought those pieces. "We shocked ourselves by spending thousands of dollars that day," Simona says - and began searching out other artists and other collectors.

"Everybody had empty shelves, and when new pieces were made, it was like a feeding frenzy because there were relatively few artists at this time," Jerry says. "We own more pieces of glass than any other type of art, but we have spent a lot more money on paintings and sculptures, and the exhibit will include paintings and sculpture and works in glass, ceramics, and fiber."

American Studio Glass was a particularly exciting collecting area, the Chazens say, because in addition to the great beauty of the pieces, it was and is a young movement. "Harvey Littleton and a lot of the artists who were working in the 1960s are still alive," Jerry points out. Simona says that "the movement is all about American creative energy, which influenced the rest of the world" and reflects the can-do spirit of the country.

With its off-white walls and plush beige carpeting, the Chazens' apartment, which is wrapped in windows, has the look of a modern-art gallery.

Continued on next page

Chivian Chazen

The focal point of the living room, for instance, is a 12-foot by 6-foot Stella painting *Double Scramble*, whose two colorful squares look like shooting-range targets. "If you look closely," Simona says, *you'll see that the colors in each of the two big squares are reversed*," which produces a stunning optical illusion.

On the opposite wall is a Roy Lichtenstein painting, *Two Figures*, whose stark white canvas is punctuated by primary colors and a cartoonish blue eye topped by a mane of wavy femme fatale blonde tresses. Around the corner is *Wow Too*, a ceramic bust that is a 1990 self-portrait of Robert Arneson, whose most prominent feature is a pair of mirrored sunglasses that reflect the images of onlookers. "This was made right before he died of cancer," Simona says. "He was a leader in the funk world in California."

In the dining room, hanging on the wall over the sideboard, is a glass sculpture by William Morris, one of the genre's biggest stars. The three-foot-tall depiction of a sun-bleached animal skull with delicate blood-red veins and massive, soaring horns is one centerpiece of the Chazen glass collection.

"I like this piece because it expresses who the artist is," Jerry says. "He's a woodsman and hunter - he hunts with a bow and arrow - and understands animals." Simona interjects, "There's a fragility in what's left of the head." "It's got this lonely quality," Jerry adds. "It looks like something you would come across in the desert."

As their comments illustrate, the works are more than art to the Chazens. Each piece has a story and a place in time and memory. Like good parents - they have three grown children who also love to collect art - they don't have favorites. "We've never sold

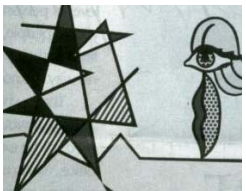
anything in all the years we've been collecting," Simona says. "But we have donated some pieces to museums. We have commissioned work, and we get requests from museums all over the country to donate or loan."

Through the years, the Chazens have given tours of their collection to groups of dedicated collectors. They enjoy their roles as amateur curators, and even if you're simply stopping in for dinner, it's impossible to walk through their 5,500-square-foot sky-high apartment without talking about the art, which is arranged for easy viewing and contemplation.

For instance, in the master bedroom, hanging in the center of the window, is *Hanging Series Water-White, #3*, an elegantly simple Mary Shaffer sculpture composed of clear slumped glass trapped in a square metal-wire cage. And on the way out to the front door, Simona directs attention to an almost eight-foot-tall colorful ceramic *Amazon* by Viola Frey. Jerry points out a Jim Dine sculpture of headless female torsos in blue, red, green, and black that look as though they have just finished a trip to the guillotine.

"This looks like wood," he says, tapping the piece with his finger, "but it is all bronze." The apartment may seem filled, but the Chazens say there always is room to add a few more great pieces. Jerry, for instance, would like to have a piece by the French Cubist painter Fernand Léger, while Simona wistfully says the collection could profit from a work by painter Egon Schiele.

The Chazens are eager for others to see their collection, and they hope that all who visit will get involved if not in collecting, at least in appreciating what today's artists are creating. "The show is a feast for the eyes," Simona says. "It's a good cross-section of the art world as we see it," Jerry adds.



Newark News

Mike Kinney's Star-Ledger All-Time Best Basketball Players in Newark

All-Newark Team

1st Team:

Cleo Hill, South Side, 1956
Ron Kornegay, South Side, 1965
Drayton Bembry, Central, 1964
Randy Foye, East Side, 2002
Dennis Layton, Weequahic, 1967

2nd Team:

Alvin Attles, Weequahic, 1955
Eric Williams, Shabazz, 1990
Lonnie Wright, South Side, 1962
Lou Grimsley, WHS/SS, 1972
J.R. Smith, St. Benedict's, 2004

3rd Team:

Dana Lewis, Weequahic, 1967
LeRoy Smith, Central, 1947
Anthony Avent, Shabazz, 1987
Jerry McMillan, Barringer, 1980
Grover Woolard, Central, 1973

Honorable Mention:

Walt Bakum, South Side, 1933
Devonne Giles, Shabazz, 2000,
Lance Thomas, St. Benedict's, 2006
Richie Regan, West Side, 1948
Willie Hurst, South Side 1937

All-South Ward Team

Top Team: **Weequahic, 1967**

1st Team:

Cleo Hill, South Side, 1956
Ron Kornegay, South Side, 1965
Alvin Attles, Weequahic, 1955
Dennis Layton, Weequahic, 1967
Eric Williams, Shabazz, 1990

2nd Team:

Walt Bakum, South Side, 1933
Lonnie Wright, South Side, 1962
Lou Grimsley, WHS/SS, 1972
Dana Lewis, Weequahic, 1967
Anthony Avent, Shabazz, 1987

3rd Team:

Devonne Giles, Shabazz, 2000
Mike Smith, South Side, 1969
Willie Hurst, South Side, 1937
Seymour Masin, Weequahic, 1938
Ray Clark, South Side, 1971

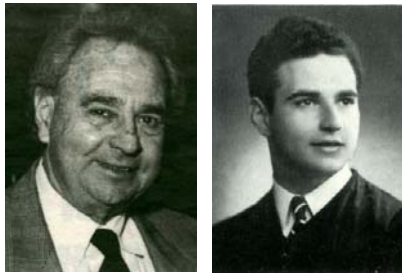
Honorable Mention:

Jackie Baker, South Side, 1965
Irving Keller, Weequahic, 1936
Rahim Williams, Shabazz, 1979
Keon Lawrence, Weequahic, 2006
Larry Jenkins, Weequahic, 1961

In Loving Memory

Herbert Iris,

Jan. 1948, Class President



By Wayne Woolley, Star-Ledger

When Herbert M. Iris made a friend, it was for life.

In 1947, when Mr. Iris and Lester Lieberman were students at Weequahic High School in Newark, they opened a joint account at Howard Savings Bank, each socking away 25 cents a week from their part-time sales jobs at A.S. Beck Shoes.

The plan was to open a cab company some day. Both of their fathers were cab drivers. The cab company never materialized, but it was the beginning of a friendship and partnership in both real estate development and philanthropy that lasted 63 years. *"We were partners for all of those years and never had an argument,"* Lieberman said.

Mr. Iris, who lived in South Orange, suffered a stroke on a trip to Florida and died April 4 at in West Palm Beach. He was 76.

"He was bigger than life," Lieberman said. Another longtime friend, Charles Hirsh, said Mr. Iris had a way of making people feel special. *"I never heard him say 'I.' He always said, 'We're doing this,' even though he led everything,"* Hirsh said. *"He was as close to being a perfect man as you will find."*

Mr. Iris served in the Navy after graduating from high school and then received an undergraduate degree from the Newark College of Engineering and an MBA from Rutgers University. Mr. Iris and his wife, Milly, were married for 53 years.

He started Iris Construction Co. in 1959, building industrial and office complexes across northern New Jersey. He and Lieberman later became partners in Dowel Associates, a real estate development firm. The success of Mr. Iris's business ventures enabled him to contribute generously to construction projects for the United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Community Foundation of Metro West NJ. He served on the executive boards of both organizations.

Max L. Kleinman, executive vice president of the United Federation of Metro West NJ, said Mr. Iris had a hand in the construction of nearly every building on his organization's 41-acre campus in Whippany. He said that Mr. Iris not only contributed to Jewish causes, he was also a prolific fundraiser. *"I'm in a business where I deal with many amazing people who are willing to give of themselves,"* Kleinman said. *"Herb was in a league of his own."* In addition to projects in New Jersey, Mr. Iris was dedicated to raising money for the resettlement of Jews from Russia and Ethiopia to Israel, Kleinman said.

His generosity extended to his place of worship, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange. Rabbi Daniel Cohen said Mr. Iris was the rock of the congregation. *"Whatever he said was said with the best interest of our community at heart,"* Cohen said. *"Knowing that Herb was there if I needed him meant more than I can ever put into words."*

In addition to his wife, Mr. Iris is survived by two daughters, Kerry Iris of Chevy Chase, Md., and Roree Iris-Williams of Haddonfield; sisters Gerry Spieler and Ruth Waldstein, and five grandchildren.

Sanford Amdur, 1963



Sanford Amdur, who passed away in February 2006, was an attorney with a private practice in East Rutherford. He earned a bachelors degree and masters degree from Rutgers University and a law degree from Rutgers Law School.

Born in Newark, he lived in Tenafly, Livingston and Clifton before moving to West Milford. Surviving are a son, Seth; a daughter, Alicia; a brother, Jay, and a sister, Francine Rein.

Alan C. Jacobs, 1953



Alan Carl Jacobs, who passed away in February 2006, owned with his wife, Myrna, Relocorp International, a relocation management company in Edison, NJ for 14 years before retiring and moving to

Sedona, Arizona. He was a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University and served in the Army National Guard. He was one of the founders of the North Brunswick Recreation Department and organized many activities for children. In 1971, he was named Young Man of the Year by the Jaycees. Also surviving are a son, Larry; daughters, Lauren Marshall and Monica; a brother, William, and seven grandchildren.

Harry Laufer, June 1939

Eugene Malkin, Jan. 1947

Maurice Fenichel, June 1948

Melvin Bernhaut, June 1948

Jerry Fineman, Jan. 1950

Daniel Zipkin, 1966

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In Loving Memory

Reada Jellinek

*School librarian, docent,
association president, tour
guide and volunteer*

Reada Jellinek, 97, died on February 2, 2006, in Sandwich, MA. The cause of death was old age.



Mrs. Jellinek was born on the Lower East Side in New York City and spent most of her life in Newark, NJ, and environs. She graduated from South Side High

School and entered New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass College) at age 15. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Mrs. Jellinek began a 40-year career as librarian in Weequahic High School, Newark.

Professionally, she was known for her keen intellect, respect for knowledge and serious approach to media and studying. *"She would spend as much time as necessary, teaching students to find the answers to the most obscure questions. But she had no patience with students not willing to work,"* said her daughter, Jean Jellinek Carol.

She was also known for her razor-sharp memory and inquisitiveness for details. *"In our intense family games of Trivial Pursuit, she was always the most sought after team member,"* said her grandson, Dr. Nathaniel Jellinek.

At a time when working women were a rarity, she was able to very successfully balance family and career. She was independent, as well as nurturing and caring. Her distinguishing characteristics were her energy and vitality.

Following her retirement in 1972, she launched a second career as a volunteer

in educational and cultural activities. She served six years as president of the Essex County Retired Teachers Association and as a board member.

She was on the volunteer boards of the Bloomfield, NJ, Friends of the Library, the Bloomfield Historical Society and the Newark Museum. There she also served as docent, conducting gallery tours, as well as raising funds.

She also taught reading and English as a second language to immigrants, served six years on the Advisory Council of RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Essex County) and participated with the Bloomfield Friendly Visitors in assisting homebound individuals.

"She really blossomed in the last 15 years," said her daughter-in-law Marie Jellinek. *"She became interested in people's stories and in building relationships."* Even while suffering with dementia, she took on the role as nurturer and caregiver for fellow patients.

With her late husband, Harry Jellinek, she organized Tours for Teachers, leading educational and cultural trips to destinations in the US, Europe and Asia. In the last several years, Mrs. Jellinek lived on Cape Cod.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Theodore Jellinek and Marie Jellinek, of East Sandwich, MA, a daughter, Jean Jellinek Carol of Allschwil, Switzerland, two grandchildren, Nicole of Barrington, RI and Nathaniel of Providence, and their spouses Jason Knight and Molly Heller, as well as three great-grandchildren.

If you would like to make a contribution in her memory, please contact *Doctors Without Borders*, 6 East 39th St., 8th floor, New York, NY 10016 / (888) 392-0392.

Editors note: Two years ago, Dr. Theodore Jellinek (1956 grad) and his wife Marie established a scholarship endowment fund under the auspices of the WHS Alumni Association in honor of his parents, Reada and Harry Jellinek

News From The High School On The Hill

Shanea Dandridge Weequahic Scholar

By Brian Finnegan, Star-Ledger

Senior **Shanea Dandridge** was selected as a New Jersey Rising Scholar. This new competition was created by a collaboration between the Department of Education and the New Jersey Amistad Commission.



The program is aimed at students interested in attending historically black colleges and universities, and recognizes academic, community and leadership achievements by these students. New Jersey Rising Scholars are provided with potential scholarship opportunities and meet with college recruiters.

Dandridge's excellence in the classroom also has garnered her a nomination to the National Society of High School Scholars, a national organization that celebrates academic achievements. Last month, she attended another nationwide program: the National Young Leaders Conference. She joined other promising students from across the country in Washington, D.C., where they visited monuments and met with lawmakers.

It was a fitting conference for Dandridge to attend, as she is truly a young leader. She values her accomplishments, and the recognition she has received, because she believes her success can inspire others. And, of course, with these last few months of high school, she will continue to work hard and excel in the classroom.

With her impressive high school career winding down, Dandridge acts like any other teenager. She is a member of the cheer leading team, and has been cheering for 10 years.

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In Loving Memory

Jean-Rae Turner, 85, 1938 grad, pioneering journalist

By Jennifer Golson, Star-Ledger



Jean-Rae Turner had a lifelong love of history and was a part of it in her own right. She was the first woman at the Elizabeth Daily Journal to work nights, and the first to cover the police and fire departments. After her days of chronicling the news, she spent countless hours with her colleague, Richard Koles, documenting history around Elizabeth, Newark, Hillside and other communities.

"You were almost scared at first to talk to her because she was the authority on things historical," said Lester Sargent, president of the Union County Historical Society and chief warrant officer for the Union County Sheriff's Office. But she was willing to impart whatever she could, he said. *"She was extremely knowledgeable about Elizabeth and her hometown of Newark and freely shared this knowledge with others,"* Sargent said. *"If ever there was a walking encyclopedia of the area, it was Jean-Rae."*

Ms. Turner died at age 85. She earned a master's degree from Columbia University's Teachers College. She taught briefly, but didn't enjoy it, said Koles, who was a photographer at the Daily Journal and later collaborated with her on several history books. *"She loved to write, especially history,"* Koles said. She stayed with the paper from 1945 to 1979, and developed a reputation as a

woman who did not let her gender hinder her.

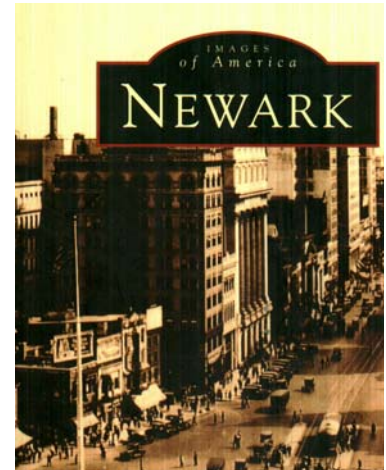
"That was an early time for women in the field, and it was not an easy time, but that didn't mean Jean-Rae Turner wouldn't jump in with both feet," said Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich, who was then an Elizabeth police officer. *"As much as a lady as she was, she was a very, very strong person who would not give in to what was appropriate and inappropriate for a woman in those times. She would just do her thing."*

It wasn't an easy task to be a female reporter at crime scenes and fires, said her friend Barbara Moss, a photo librarian at The Star-Ledger. She would go to scenes in her high heels and recalled that *"they would not quite laugh at her, but almost,"* Moss said. *"She would just put her head down and just go for it."*

As a secretary in The Newspaper Guild, she was among the union leaders on the picket lines and left after a strike in 1979. The Daily Journal is now defunct. Over the years, several trade organizations honored her work, including the North Jersey Press Association and New Jersey Daily Newspaper Women.

She was divorced from Neilon Stark Phillips of Maplewood, who died in 1995. Her only child, Margaret-Ann Phillips Adams Richter Zelger, died in 1996. Ms. Turner's grandson, William Roberts Richter, credits her for raising him and trying to enrich his experiences. *"She tried to show me the world, so to speak,"* he said. *"A lot of times, it was almost a learning experience for both of us."*

Her love of learning and sharing history was evident in her first book, Along the Upper Road: The History of Hillside. Later she collaborated with Koles and Charles Aquilina on Elizabethtown and Union County: A Pictorial History. Ms. Turner and Koles penned several books in the Images of America series published by Arcadia Publishing. They also wrote Elizabeth: The First Capital of New Jersey, and worked with Charles Cummings on Newark: The Golden Age.



"She was a person who would go out on lectures and, off the top of her head, give you dates and everything else that pertained to any question," Koles said. *"She could go on for hours on any subject."* She was known for her walking tours of Evergreen Cemetery, which spans Newark, Elizabeth and Hillside.

"She had a wonderful amount of lore about that," said Douglas Eldridge, executive director of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee. *"She knew a lot about the people who were buried there, and also compiled the material that would ultimately land the cemetery on the state and national registries of historic places,"* Eldridge said. *"She could tell you all their life stories."*

Eldridge also knew Ms. Turner from his days as a leader of The Newspaper Guild unit at the now defunct Newark Evening News. She was a longtime secretary for the county historical society, Sargent said. *"She was a curious person, and just enjoyed kind of knowing why things evolved the way that they did,"* he said.

Ms. Turner is survived by her grandson, Richter, and three cousins, Kathleen McGowan of Florida, Emily Louise Reeves of California and Elizabeth Jane Townsend of New York.

Editor's Note: Jean-Rae Turner wrote an article for the Alumni Calumet in an earlier issue about growing up on Hansbury Avenue where she was still living when she passed away.

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Reunions 2006:

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Jan. & June 1961 - 45th

Saturday, 12 PM, Ocean Place Resort and Spa in Long Branch, NJ. *Contact Anne Kramer at (505) 984-8380 or weequahic1961@comcast.net.*

October 14

Jan. 1956 - 40th

Saturday, 7 PM, home of Harvey and Sandy Belfer, 6019 East Indian Bend, Paradise Valley, AZ. Brunch on Sunday morning. *Contact Harvy Belfer at 415-641-4036 or hbel4@cox.net.*

October 28

1966 - 40th

Saturday, 7 PM, L'Affaire, Route 22, Mountainside, NJ. *Contact Seymour Mullman at (973) 376-5929. For hotel reservation with special rates, call Holiday Inn in Springfield.*

Planning Reunions:

JUNE 1957 - 50th

The class of June 1957 is organizing a 50th Reunion in 2007. Many classmates have already responded. If you would like to serve on the planning committee or need more information, contact *Bea Austrager Chaiklin* at (973) 992-3650 or *bchaiklin@aol.com*.

JAN. & JUNE 1962 - 45th

The classes of January and June 1962 are jointly organizing their 45th reunion for 2007. *Contact Bonnie Zunk Vogel at Bonniev929@aol.com or Cookie Wax Gulkin at lgulkin@verizon.net*

Chancellor Get-Together

Alumni from Mrs. Chesney's accelerated class from Chancellor Avenue School graduating in 1961 will be gathering for events on the weekend of June 9, 2006. For more information, contact *Jonathan Krasney* at (973) 543-9101 or *Marv Schlanger* at (609) 320-1159.

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