

**THE
WEEQUAHIC
ALUMNI**

WINTER 2007 / ISSUE # 20

You Live in a Good School — Be Proud of It



Weequahic Captures 1st State Football Title



By Mike Kinney, Star-Ledger

Weequahic was gritty and resourceful, it was rugged and unyielding. Its execution was not especially pretty in spots, but there were enough pleasant little surprises to keep the mission intact.

How fitting that Weequahic's first state sectional title would be claimed with a performance that bore a striking resemblance to the city it represents.

Lineman Phillip Smalls pounced on a fumble in the end zone to cap the opening drive, then linebacker Amara Kamara and the hard-hitting defensive corps carried the rest of the day as Weequahic, No. 17 in The Star-Ledger Top 20, edged

scrappy Raritan, 6-0, in the NJSIAA/Gatorade Central Jersey, Group II championship game at Rutgers Stadium in Piscataway.

It was not only the first crown for Weequahic, which earned its 11th straight victory, but also the first for a Newark team since Barringer won in 1975. "We knew if we scored once we were going to win the game because we weren't going to let them score," senior quarterback Jamaal Perry said. "Our defense is real strong."

Perry, also a safety, had an interception to help keep Raritan's offense at bay. But the Monmouth County school's most troublesome figures were no doubt the omnipresent

Kamara, who had 12 tackles and a sack, tackle Dominick Brown and end Obadiah Dykes. Brown and Dykes had seven tackles each and kept constant pressure on Raritan quarterback Brian Kalarjian.

"It was all about not giving up any kind of big play. No matter what, we were going to keep fighting," Kamara said. Weequahic had no alternative because Raritan wasn't giving anything away for cheap. Linebacker Chris Mooney (11 tackles) and tackle Jerome Dean anchored a defensive unit that was well-prepared and brimming with confidence.

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Please Contribute To Our Second "French Class Trip to Paris Fund"

Help us support this exceptionally significant project. Mail your check payable to WHSAA to Weequahic HS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101
(indicate French Trip on the check)

FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL ON THE HILL

WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE

2nd French Class Trip to Paris

Two years ago, French teacher **Lavinia Rogers** organized a trip to Paris for 13 of her students. Funds for that excursion were raised by the participating students and the WHS Alumni Association which donated more than \$23,000. Each of those students are now in college.

For the Spring of 2007, Ms. Rogers is planning another trip to Paris for 10 deserving students. Fund raising projects are taking place at the school and in the community.

As we did so generously in the past, let's support this worthwhile endeavor through alumni contributions. *Make out your check payable to **WHSAA** and mail it to the WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101 (write **French Trip** in the memo area) or use your credit card by filling out the form on page 18 and mailing it to us.*

Mural Restoration

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*.

After 67 years the mural is seriously in need of repairs. The estimate to restore the murals is \$45,000. 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. Help us accomplish our goal.

*Make out your check payable to **WHSAA** and mail it to the WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101 (write **Mural Restoration** in the memo area) or use your credit card by filling out the form on page 18 and mailing it to us.*

Alumni Gatherings

Class of 1976 Reunion Donation:

The **class of 1976** had a fabulous 30th Reunion at the Marriott Hotel at Newark Liberty International Airport in late November. Alumni Director **Phil Yourish** was invited to speak about the alumni association and the class presented him with a generous \$500.00 donation for the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Alumni Board Celebration:

On Sunday, January 14th, Alumni Board member **Arnold Keller**, 1952, hosted a party for more than 50 people at Ristorante de Benito in Union to celebrate last September's successful Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner honoring Alvin Attles and the unique accomplishments of the alumni association during the past 10 years.

Somerset Run, New Jersey

Alumnus **Norman Siminoff** organized a luncheon at Somerset Run for the 55 and over crowd. Alumni were invited from Canal Walk and Renaissance to celebrate the classes from 1943 to 1966. **Arnold Keller**, a Board member of the Alumni Association, spoke of the importance of supporting the current students at the high school.

Delray Beach, Florida

An alumni breakfast for 130 men took place Sunday, January 14 at Gleneagles Country Club in Delray Beach, Florida. **Ray Kirschbaum**, 1946 and **Daniel Stacher**, 1946, were the organizers.

Boca Raton, Florida

1946 grad **Marty Edelson** hosted an alumni luncheon for 270 people on Saturday, January 13 at the Marriott Hotel in Boca Raton, Florida.

Tampa Bay, Florida

WHS grads **Mike Warner**, 1953, and **Rita Bech Ehrenpreis**, 1954, residents of the Tampa Bay area, are interested in organizing a Weequahic reunion for those who live on Florida's Gulf Coast. For more information, contact Rita at chocolatepuddin57@aol.com

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Phil Yourish

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**Dave Lieberfarb, Hal Braff,
Myrna Jelling Weissman**

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CONTACT US

**Weequahic High School
Alumni Association**

**P.O. Box 494
Newark, NJ 07101**

(973) 923-3133

**whs@weequahicalumni.org
www.weequahicalumni.org**

HELP WRITE THE NEXT ISSUE

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.

If you have old photos, newspaper articles, year-books, 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.

Weequahic begins to soar again

Sectional championship signals triumph for the entire Weequahic community - present and past

Excerpts from two articles by Bridget Wentworth, Star-Ledger, 12/04/06

The brown football-shaped balloon, meant to signify *"the Weequahic party is here,"* had taken off into the sky, and Hal Braff was worried people might not be able to find his tailgate get-together in the parking lot outside Rutgers Stadium. But soon enough, fans began gathering, wearing the orange and brown of the Weequahic Indians. Black and white, young and old, they greeted each other warmly, and sampled the coffee, donuts and bagels Braff and his wife, Elaine, had set out on a table next to their car. Just another successful outing for the Weequahic High School Alumni Association.

When the Indians defeated Raritan, 6-0, in the Central Jersey, Group 2 football state championship game to earn their first-ever title and the first in 31 years for a Newark school, it was a triumph not just for the team itself but for the larger school community.

The Alumni Association is a major part of that. Braff, a 1952 graduate and the co-president of the group, wanted to tap into the enthusiasm for the school he felt at class reunions and find a way to help his alma mater. Before the Newark riots of the late 1960s, Weequahic had been an academic jewel in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood. By the time Braff helped establish the Alumni Association about 10 years ago, it had succumbed to the struggles of the poor, black neighborhood around it. Test scores and morale were low.

"I found out the faculty had no idea of our history," Braff said. "And I thought we could take our energy from the past and bring it up to the needs of the kids living in the houses we lived in." It was a poignant mandate, and it has been realized.

In recent years, the Alumni Association has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for everything from new band uniforms and instruments to a trip to Paris for the French class to college scholarships for deserving students.

Perhaps more importantly, according to Bill Belfer, it has helped bring together two groups of people whose only common reality was the name of their high school. Belfer, who lives in Holmdel, attended the game with other graduates of the class of 1963. *"The communities after the late '60s were divided,"* Belfer said. *"Today, there is more involvement and attachment, and a willingness to help and a willingness to accept the help. The people from my generation still have a profound attachment to Weequahic High School and the city of Newark. It's great to be able to have the opportunity to give back and be accepted, even though we come from different communities now."*

Sandy Scheps, another member of the class of 1963 who also lives in Holmdel, is the vice president of alumni at Bloomfield College, which gets its share of today's Weequahic graduates. He's begun to hear of the turnaround at the school. *"At first, it was - 'I'm glad to get out of there.' And now I'm hearing that things have gotten better,"* Scheps said. *"And when they get to know you, they want to hear the stories. It's like telling your children your stories. And they can't believe that's actually their school."*

During the Braffs' tailgate party, Weequahic principal Ron Stone made an appearance before heading to the Indians' locker room to give a pre-game speech. Above all, Stone wanted them to *"remember who you are!"* Weequahic Indians.

Just like the people in the stands, black and white, who watched them win and fall all over each other in their celebration as champions. *"It shows they were*

disciplined and able to accomplish something, and that opens possibilities," Braff said. *"Show the kids the possibilities. Now we just have to work real hard to get all the kids to see that the culture can change, and that education can help them and that feeling good about yourself is possible."*



A QUARTERBACK'S REDEMPTION

Jamaal Perry's lost week seems like ancient times. The Indians' starting quarterback grew up in his grandmother's apartment in Felix Fuld Court, a Newark housing project controlled by the Bloods and beset by the drug trade.

The three-story brick apartment buildings, known as *"Li'l Bricks,"* cover one block in a blighted area of the Central Ward. The complex is bordered by vacant, overgrown lots, the backside of a supermarket and a stretch of abandoned, burned-out apartments. There is garbage everywhere. Perry's mother does not live with him, and his father left the family seven years ago.

When Perry was 14 and a freshman, he skipped football practice for a week and spent the hours after school getting drunk. When he finally showed up, White shocked him by handing him the starting job. The coach also told Perry he knew what he had been doing for the past week. That was the moment Perry's life hit a crossroads.

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If I never played for the football team, I'd probably be doing the wrong thing right about now," he says. "I think about it a lot. I could have been locked up, probably dead. So this football team has meant a lot to me. They're not just my teammates, they're my family. And I consider Coach White my father."



Perry is looking forward to attending a junior college in Pennsylvania and maybe transferring to a Division I school. His coach says: *"I'd love to see these young men go to college and come back and do things for the city. I don't do this for the money. I do this because I get a chance to see a young man like Jamaal, a great young man who was thrown some curve balls in life, swing at those curve balls and maybe even make contact."*



GENIE IN A BOTTLE

Last year, Joe Hines (assistant football coach) took Perry and another player to a fancy restaurant during a gathering of top high school players in Texas. *"We sat down and showed them how to eat dinner,"* says Hines, a

lieutenant with the State Police and the team's academic coach. *"How to order from a menu. Why we left more money than was requested. What a tip is. How to conduct yourself."*

Perry admits he felt stared at, but the lessons stuck when it came time for another dinner, with Chicago Bears defensive line coach and Weequahic 1972 alum Don Johnson at the Hyatt Regency in Jersey City. *"We're used to chicken shacks,"* Perry says. *"All those forks and knives? But I knew to eat from the outside in."* Now Perry wants to treat his own family and friends to such a meal.

"We wanted to stretch the realm of possibility," says Hines, a 1978 Weequahic alum. *"We wanted to get the genie out of the bottle. It's hard to put it back once you do that."*

SEEKING A BALANCE

Football isn't the only sport at Weequahic. The basketball program has become a state powerhouse in recent years. So it's no surprise the school plays host to that age-old American high school drama in which the jocks get all the attention while the scholars fight for recognition. Naomi Adjei is ranked No. 1 in the Class of 2007. She has applied to Harvard, Princeton, Johns Hopkins and Columbia. In July, she won a gold medal in mathematics at a national competition.

Asked whether that was ever announced, Adjei shakes her head, laughing. *"Oh, don't go there,"* she says. *"I think Mr. Stone announced it during a faculty meeting. Teachers have asked me why it hasn't been announced (to students), and I tell them I don't want it announced. If it was going to happen, it would have happened a long time ago."*

Maybe if Adjei was the placekicker on the football team, she would have gotten her due. *"When athletes do well, you hear an announcement every day,"* she says. But she also admits being thrilled by the success of the football team. She serves as a student trainer, helping players with rehabilitation and treatment before practices and at games. *"I know athletics is a major part of the school and I love doing this,"* she says.

AMARA KAMARA Defensive Player of the Year

By Mike Kinney, Star-Ledger

Amara Kamara could barely understand English, except for a few repetitive inquiries of classmates and the colorful catchphrases at Pop Warner practice. But Kamara understood the universal language of approval. So when the ball was snapped and he swooped in from defensive end to promptly immobilize its temporary owner, the seventh-grader knew he had succeeded.



All that hollering and helmet slapping is exactly what had followed his first hard tackle. Then his second and third, and no one even took him out of the game for it. *"I was so quiet and shy in school, I never tried to say anything. I wasn't picking up the language too well,"* Kamara said. *"I didn't know what I was doing in football, either. I'd never saw it before."*

Kamara, now an All-Star senior at Weequahic High School in Newark, had moved with his family from Guinea to flee the civil strife in that West African nation. He generally avoided social contact at first, but found himself drawn to another type of contact at the Pop Warner field across the street from Morton Street Middle School.

"I went over there and got introduced. I joined but had no idea what I was doing," Kamara said. *"Every time the ball was snapped I just moved to the ball. The coaches and all the other players seemed to like what I was doing. I spent two years of Pop Warner just chasing the ball."*

Kamara is now so proficient and so athletically advanced, the ball seems to come directly to him. When he lined up at inside linebacker - a new position for him this season - guards and fullbacks seemed to slide off his chiseled 6-2, 210-pound frame to give him an unimpeded shot at their halfback. When he lined up on the outside, Kamara looked like he made previous all-access backfield arrangements with the opposing coach.

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ALTARIK WHITE

NJ High School Coach of the Year

By Mike Kinney, Star-Ledger

In retrospect, Altarik White may not have actually promised a state championship when he took control of Weequahic's beleaguered football program in 2002. What he promised was the passion and diligence he felt was required of a coach of a successful and highly respected outfit.

Somehow, White must have sensed that this glowing enthusiasm, in concert with his football experience, could translate into a title, which was achieved Dec. 3 when Weequahic defeated Raritan, 6-0, at Rutgers Stadium in the NJSIAA Central Jersey, Group II final. It was the first championship in school history for Weequahic which had constructed only three winning seasons in the 23 years prior to White's arrival.

Anyone who knows White, or even merely watched him run with the football, understands that passion and diligence have been his backfield mates since his Pop Warner days. Dave McCombs, White's coach at Shabazz in the late 80's, knew as soon as White accepted the job, that he would quickly resurrect the Weequahic program. His former rushing star recognized only one direction, and that was forward.

"Altarik won't accept losing," McCombs said in 2002. *"He doesn't understand the meaning of it."* William Paterson fans and teammates sure could relate. They watched the irrepressible halfback set practically every rushing and scoring record during his career from 1990 through 1993. White considered it a personal shame to be tackled. *"I wanted to get to that end zone real bad,"* White said. *"I've always been just a fierce competitor."*

Anyone on the Weequahic staff, hand-picked by White for sharing his ideals, also notices that passion and diligence accompany him each day he struts onto the field for practice - or tiny slice of vacant lot where Weequahic



worked out all season while Untermann Field was being refurbished. *"So many great athletes have come through Newark, but it takes a great man to lead them to their fullest potential,"* Weequahic assistant Irvin "Poochie" Hill (WHS 1979) said. *"Newark has had Frank Verducci (Barringer), Burney Adams (Weequahic), and Jesse Jones (Vailsburg). This year we see the coming of another great Newark coach in Altarik White."*

Coaching a consistent football winner in Newark is one of the hardest jobs in high school sports. Guaranteed, a quick run-through of a team roster each season will produce a dozen impoverished children of broken or unstable homes and too many victims, witnesses and, sometimes, even participants of the city's gang epidemic.

A coach in Newark is not just the man who blows the whistle and designs plays. The idea is you first rebuild a young man, then you get to the part about victories and losses.

KAMARA from page 4

He was in on a staggering 193 tackles this season, helping post three shutouts, and guided Weequahic to its first sectional championship in Central Jersey, Group 2. Kamara recorded 53 tackles and five sacks in three playoff games, in which Weequahic allowed just 19 points. *"No other kid in the state could possibly have the impact on big-time games that Amara did,"* Weequahic coach Altarik White said. *"In all our big situations*

when we needed a huge play he was right there in the middle of things picking us up. He's just a wonderful player."

View a tape of a Weequahic playoff game and one might guess that number 80 was digitally inserted into scrums. He made 21 tackles in the first round, a 34-7 victory over Rumson, recorded 19 tackles and 2 sacks and stopped a pivotal two-point conversion try in the semi-finals, a 14-12 victory over Rahway, and had 12 tackles and a late-game sack in the final against Raritan, a 6-0 triumph.

"I want to be involved in as many plays as possible. I will do anything I can to help my team," Kamara said. *"When I started playing football I played just to play. I was curious. Now I play because I love it. You can tell the difference between someone who likes it and someone who loves it."*

Temple and Akron are two of the schools to have made that distinction and want Kamara to star in their future game films. Kamara's GPA is a solid 3.2, but he must raise his SAT before he can accept a scholarship offer. *"I'm focusing on that SAT now. I'm still going to be lifting to be ready for football, but my SAT is the most important thing right now,"* Kamara said. *"I don't want to be redshirted or anything. I want to play next year."*

Kamara's impatience is understandable. He broke into the starting lineup as freshman defensive back and struggled through a 1-9 season along with then freshman quarterback Jamaal Perry and Weequahic's other youngsters. The new pride of brick city has gone 23-8 since that 2003 season. *"When our class came in everybody was small. I was about 5-9 and real scrawny,"* Kamara said. *"But even then we talked about winning a state championship. We wanted to put Weequahic on the map."*



Ron Stone, WHS Principal Leads a Team, and a School, to New Heights

By Ronald Smothers,
NY Times, 12/03/06

Late in the fourth quarter Sunday afternoon, with his team up 6-0 in its state championship game, the principal of Newark's Weequahic High School, Ronald G. Stone, began shouting from the stands. "Nine minutes to history!" came Mr. Stone's hoarse scream, barely audible amid 3,000 cheering fans at Rutgers Stadium.

Weequahic's brown-and-orange-clad Indians indeed made history Sunday, beating Hazlet's Raritan High School Rockets to become the first team from Newark to win a football championship in 31 years. For Mr. Stone, the history lesson began five years ago, when, as a new principal, he squeezed \$40,000 out of an already tight budget to open a weight-training room for the Indians, which had been the Rodney Dangerfield of teams in the city, and hired a storied former high school running back, Altarik White, as coach to lead them.

In the 1950s and '60s, Weequahic was among the state's top schools academically, with alumni that included the writer Philip Roth. But in recent years its test scores plummeted to the lowest of any school in Newark, and its classrooms were plagued by violence, drugs and gangs. Students cutting class brazenly shot craps in the hallways, sometimes holding the dice up so they could be seen on security cameras.

As he sought academic reclamation, Mr. Stone, a former football and wrestling star himself, went on a quest for athletic glory and school spirit to match. The lesson, Mr. Stone said after Sunday's victory, was that Weequahic's underprivileged students would have to sharpen their natural talent and speed with the hard work of weight training to prevail against larger, better-off teams, like the Rockets.

"There was so much criticism, so much negativity about us, our team," said Jahquill Turner, a 17-year-old senior who does not play football but was among 300 students who showed up Friday at a hip-hop pep rally before the big game.



Jahquill's expression softened as he casually cast sports as a metaphor for life, saying, "So if they win, we all win."

By student, faculty and administration accounts, Mr. Stone's leadership of the school has brought them from worst to first, or at least to being a contender. Not only did the football team post an 11-1 record this season, but in the spring, on the most recent statewide proficiency exams, 62 percent of Weequahic 11th graders were proficient in language arts. That is an increase of 18 percentage points from the previous year, and while it is still below the statewide average of 85 percent, it tops Newark's citywide score of 61 percent.

"The whole culture of the school has changed...Ron Stone is a wonderful leader who has turned the school around." - Marion Bolden, Superintendent of Schools

Despite still lagging math scores, Weequahic's progress in the state exams during the last three years means that in the coming year it will be the only comprehensive high school in Newark not deemed "failing" under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, Mr. Stone said. "The whole culture of the school has changed," said Marion Bolden, Newark's schools superintendent, who was at the game Sunday afternoon cheering the Indians on. "Ron Stone is a wonderful leader who has turned the school around."

Mr. Stone, 56, is part Zen master, with his measured, assured and thoughtful approach to students, and part streetwise homeboy, with his shaved head, muscular physique and stylish suits, not to mention a scar that

creases the length of his left jaw from ear to chin. Mr. Stone, a divorced father of twin 15-year-old boys, is often described as a disciplinarian, and Weequahic's hallways are calm and orderly, though its classes are lively.

But he is not a disciplinarian in the same vein as another urban school principal from New Jersey, Joe Clark, who was immortalized as a bat-wielding practitioner of tough love in the 1989 movie "Lean on Me." For one thing, as a former college football running back, a black belt in tae kwon do and a former wrestler with a 105-5 record, Mr. Stone has no need for a bat.

"He's not the Joe Clark kind of tough," said Eugene Brown, principal of the nearby Chancellor Avenue School and a longtime friend. "He doesn't strong-arm kids. He knows that you have to show them that you care about them and won't give up on them, and every kid, no matter how big, wants to feel safe. Then you just have to be consistent."

Raised in Newark's largely Italian North Ward, Mr. Stone met his father for the first time when he was 15, and afterward had only fleeting contact with him. He said that his stepfather abused both him and his mother, a prominent local Democratic leader, and that school was his "haven" from difficulties at home.

A serious student who played trumpet in the band at Barringer High School, 17-year-old Ron Stone got that intimidating scar in 1968, amid the tense racial aftermath of the Newark riots. He said he had intervened to stop some black youths from beating up one of his Italian-American classmates at Barringer. After flooring his opponent, Mr. Stone said, he hoisted him up and dropped him at the feet of a policeman. But the boy had a razor in his coat and came up slashing. "I learned from that to never ease up on an opponent until you knew you had him beaten," said Mr. Stone, conceding that the scar, like some talisman, symbolized street credibility to Weequahic students and frequently forestalled confrontation.

Mr. Stone earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's in public administration at Kean University in Union, N.J., where he was a running back on the football team.

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A former classmate, Earl Brown, now a financial adviser who lives in Montclair, recalled that Mr. Stone was often behind a lackluster line, relentlessly taking a battering but consistently eking out yards trying to go off tackle or up the middle. No matter what, Mr. Stone kept going, Mr. Brown said, a determination he later witnessed when they played tennis together.

"He got more out of tennis than anyone I ever knew, and there was a cerebral side of him that needed to break down and analyze the physics of putting topspin on a shot," Mr. Brown recalled. *"He could verbalize it in a way you could understand, and it showed an awareness of the often murky mental aspect of the grossly physical."*

It is a short step from that focus to Mr. Stone's decision to create the weight room for Weequahic's football team. He said he hoped it would demonstrate that you have to work hard and prepare yourself in order to get results. And then you realize, Mr. Stone added, that *"you can't be successful on the football field and then be afraid to tackle math."*

Speaking of math, while Weequahic on Sunday earned the title *"state champions,"* it was actually one of 28 teams competing in 14 sectional games played over three days during the past weekend at either Rutgers or Giants Stadium. New Jersey does not have a state football tournament. Instead, the top playoff games were the sectionals; Weequahic, technically, is champion of Central Group 2, the first Newark team in a generation to achieve that honor.

Mr. Stone talks frequently about the fears and insecurities bred in homes with young black single mothers, homes that many of Weequahic's roughly 1,000 students come from. He deplores the absence of a home atmosphere that encourages hard work everyday, much less academic excellence, and the lure of the street gangs that provide rules and structure. Asked if he was positing a *"culture of pathology"* among some blacks that has persisted for two or more generations, Mr. Stone's expression softened.

He said the harsh lives that some Weequahic students faced *"is what it is,*



**Principal Ron Stone
Cheering On His Team**

and you have to accept that reality and meet them there." There is nothing wrong with their brains, Mr. Stone said, but their thinking is often skewed by the *"external conditions and the code of the streets. You have to connect with them emotionally,"* he said. *"Then you have to provide them with a safe place with consistent rules where they can be kids. Then you have to use better pedagogy and better instructional practices. Only then have you made inroads into their personal lives."*

One controversial aspect of Mr. Stone's time as principal is his approach to gangs, which are not banned, but blunted, inside Weequahic's walls. With the help of a vice principal, Ras Baraka, the school walks a fine line with gang members: It prohibits displays of their colors but benignly acknowledges their existence.

"We couldn't ignore them because they won't allow you to ignore them," said Mr. Baraka, a former Newark councilman and a son of the playwright and former state poet laureate Amiri Baraka. *"We set rules, give them a place to resolve problems, and have achieved a détente. We did it by demystifying them."*

During Friday's pep rally in the school auditorium, Mr. Stone stood off to the side as a group of young men on stage, to much cheering, did a dance associated with the Crips. Then another group came and did its dance, a Bloods dance. Mr. Stone said that initially he had been against such displays, but was convinced by Mr. Baraka that it was all right to *"let them represent, but only in a way that the school allows them to represent."*

"Plus, they all now understand that there is only one O.G. at Weequahic," said Mr. Baraka, using the initials for Original Gangster, a title often adopted by a gang leader. *"And that's Ron Stone."*

Principal's Salute To the Team

(Prior to the championship football game, Principal Ron Stone spoke to the football team)

Across the centuries, great men, great thinkers, and some great leaders stood before an assembly of men such as you, to offer words of wisdom and encouragement in times of struggle - and in times of celebration.

Today marks such an occasion. I do not posture as a great man, or a great thinker. However, as it happens this day, I find myself standing in your presence as the Principal, the leader of Weequahic High School, and what I want to say to you before you take the field, is that no matter the outcome today, you have already won. You are already CHAMPIONS!

Today, you are here where none from Newark has been in 31 years. Today, you represent all that is good about you, your hard work and your prowess for the game. You represent the pride of your family, your loved ones and your friends. You also represent all those others who in different ways at different times struggled so that you might have this opportunity.

Honor their sacrifice! So when you take the field today -

...rush with certainty, the way Harriet Tubman walked to freedom

...pass magnificently, the way Dr. King preached,

...tackle tenaciously, like Thurgood Marshall practiced Law,

...punt purposefully like Gerald Levert sang a love song,

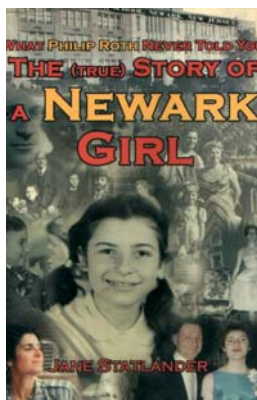
...sack officiously the way Muhammad Ali boxed

but, most of all, stay on your game and remember Who You Are! If you feel me...IP (Indian Pride) holla' back...IP.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Jane Statlander, Jan. 1961

'What Philip Roth Never Told You, The (True) Story of a Newark Girl'



The novel *"What Philip Roth Never Told You, The (True) Story of a Newark Girl,"* written by Dr. Jane Statlander, is a courageous look at her own life, filled with loss, disappointment

and joy. She tells the story of a girl growing up in Newark, her difficult marriage and the blessing of her four children, Stefan, the twins Daniel and Joshua, and youngest daughter Rachael. Readers will be drawn into the descriptions of Jersey City and Newark, which depict the small emerging cities of New Jersey as melting pots of immigrants striving to honor their culture and heritage while embracing the new.

The book took the author four years to write. It was published this past September by Llumina Press and is categorized as a *"bio-fictional novel"* because it can't easily be put into just one genre. It has passages about Philip Roth, with whom the author shares a love of writing and a Jewish faith.

Newark and the surrounding towns are described in such a way that they are very real characters in the novel, at a time when neighborhoods were communities and supported each other.

Although she no longer lives in Newark, Statlander says that a part of her will always belong. *"You can take the girl out of Newark, but you can't take Newark out of the girl."* She says that even now when she meets someone she can tell if they are from Newark.

In addition to describing Newark, the novel also describes the experience of her Jewish faith as the daughter of Holocaust survivors.

The book is a magnificent discovery, it has varied elements like poems, letters, and diary entries mixed in with the prose that make one feel that they have stumbled onto a treasure trove of a life. It opens with a list of the cast of characters in the story that remind one of the character descriptions in plays. The time line is blurry jumping back and forth effortlessly between her childhood and adult life, but the result creates a world that is both carefully observed and beautifully felt. Like all good stories it echoes the way the best stories can trigger memories in the listener that may not follow rational thought patterns but touches on deeper truths nonetheless.

Dr. Jane Statlander is a highly educated and well-traveled woman who received her PhD in American Literature and Culture at the University of New England in Australia. In addition to her latest book, she has also published short stories, poems, plays and literary criticism. *"What Philip Roth Never Told You, The (True) Story of a Newark Girl"* by Dr. Jane Statlander is available at: www.llumina.com.

Marjorie Barnes, 1985

Professor takes poetry to the streets

By Kathy Marques, Star-Ledger



Marjorie Barnes was still in college when a rap song inspired her to become a teacher. She's since become a poet, hip-hop artist, published author and college professor.

Barnes, now an English professor at Union County College's Elizabeth campus, was a junior at Richard Stockton College in 1989, student-teaching a sophomore English class of mostly underperforming students. In an attempt

to get their attention, she wrote the lyrics to Rob Base's rap song: *"It Takes Two"* on the chalkboard and asked them to punctuate it. *"I taught them grammar by showing it to them in their mind frame, and it worked,"* she said. *"It made me realize my calling as a teacher."*

Barnes, who lives in Newark, earned her BA degree in literature from Stockton and her MA in linguistics from Temple University. For the past 13 years, she has been teaching developmental English at UCC. *"I like the challenge behind teaching developmental English. It lets me use my creative ways to get students to understand a verb or a metaphor,"* she said.

During Poetry Month in April, she encourages professors to engage their students with artistic assignments. *"In 2004, posters were hung on doors and students expressed themselves through poetry,"* she said. *"It was called 'Poetry for the People,' and they really enjoyed it."* Barnes holds events where professors and artists speak about poetry and the arts. This year's lecture was called *"All I Need Is One Mic,"* a cross-cultural dialogue about the globalization of hip-hop in Cuba and Greece.

Barnes has also been involved with the Sacred Circle Cafe, a spoken-word and urban theater, and Planet Hip-Hop, a four-day festival showcasing local talent in dance, music, theater, poetry and fashion. She has also been an honorary poet for the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Foundation since 2001. As a Dodge poet, she goes to schools and conducts poetry workshops.

Passionate about helping her community through the arts, Barnes was awarded in 2004 and 2005 with *"The Art Start Grant"* for a neighborhood program called *"The New Ark Mobile,"* sponsored by the Puffin Foundation and the Arts Council. Using a flatbed truck parked on various street corners in Newark, children using an open mic expressed themselves through song and poetry. She also taught a weekly hip-hop poetry workshop at the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center and became known as the *"Poetry Lady"* by the inmates.

ALUMNI PROFILES

WHS Jan. 1956
Richie Roberts

From Foes To Friends and Now On To Fame

By William Kleinknecht, Star-Ledger



Richie Roberts is a respected attorney in Essex County, but four decades in courtrooms have hardly made him famous. He knows what it is to schlep to work every day, scrape up alimony or make a mortgage payment.

He could easily have gone through life without so much as 15 minutes of fame. But the Newark native is now living a fantasy. He lunches with Russell Crowe and Denzel Washington. He sits on a movie set with his name printed on the back of his chair, giving tips to Hollywood director Ridley Scott.

Roberts' prosecution three decades ago of the legendary Harlem heroin kingpin Frank Lucas is the subject of a major motion picture being filmed in New York City, and suddenly the world is a lot bigger than the Essex County Courthouse. *"This is so unreal, it's surreal,"* Roberts said recently as he sat in a hallway at the courthouse. *"I'm just a regular guy from Newark. Why five Academy Award winners would want to make a movie about me is beyond my comprehension."* Hollywood was attracted to the story because of the drama behind Roberts' pursuit of the larger-than-life organized crime figure, but also because an unlikely friendship sprouted between the two men after Lucas began cooperating with authorities.

In the movie, to be titled *"American Gangster,"* Washington plays Lucas, whose criminal reign in Upper Manhattan, with occasional forays into North Jersey, ran from the 1940s to the 1970s. And Crowe is playing young Richie Roberts, a former Weequahic High School football player who was both a detective and

attorney in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office before going into private practice. True to his reputation, Crowe has put intense preparation into the role, seeking to match Roberts' manner of speaking and his body language. He even requested tape recordings of Roberts.

Roberts said he was summoned in June to a rambling estate in Nyack, N.Y., that was once owned by the late actress Helen Hayes. Crowe is renting the property during his stay in the New York area, and it was there that he began his observation of Roberts. Sitting on a terrace overlooking the Hudson River or wandering around downtown Nyack, the two men chatted over two days, and Roberts said he had the distinct feeling of being studied. *"He wanted to know what kind of pants I wore in those days, what kind of belt,"* Roberts said. *"He saw a Star of David I wear around my neck. They made an exact duplicate if it. He got into my Judaism. He wanted to know why I felt the way I did and what it meant to me."* Roberts said he found the scrutiny unsettling.

"It's a very, very strange feeling," he said. *"I'm not one to talk about myself and the past. It makes you very introspective when you look back at your life and you think of all the things you did wrong and could have done better. It's very disconcerting."* Roberts said he has come away with great admiration for Crowe, and not only because of his dedication to his art. Last week, Roberts said, Crowe gave every member of the cast a hooded sweatshirt with the words *"American Gangster"* on the front and *"Weequahic High School"* on the sleeve. *"He said he put Weequahic High School on it because he knew it would mean something to me,"* Roberts said. *"He's a good guy. He really is."*

In an interview at the Essex County Courthouse, Lucas, now in his 70s and in a wheelchair, said Washington has also been doing his homework. He said the two men have met several times, and the actor quickly picked up Lucas' Southern accent. *"Mr. Washington is a great man,"* Lucas said. *"He's got it down. He is Frank Lucas."*

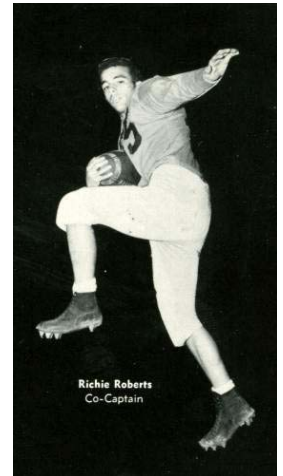
Lucas was a North Carolina native who came to New York penniless in 1946 and ended up as the right-hand man to Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson, the Harlem numbers kingpin who was the inspiration

for the black godfather character in the *"Shaft"* movies of the 1970s. After Johnson's death in 1968, Lucas became the most powerful heroin dealer in Harlem. He bypassed the Mafia and linked directly with suppliers in Southeast Asia, sometimes smuggling heroin into the U.S. in the coffins of soldiers killed in Vietnam.

Roberts, who was an assistant county prosecutor and head of the Bureau of Narcotics in the mid-1970s, obtained an indictment of Lucas for his role in a Newark heroin ring headed by his brother, Vernon Lucas. As the trial got under way in Superior Court in Newark, Roberts learned that Frank Lucas had put a contract on his life.

But he said he believes the trial was a turning point for Lucas. After a woman testified about finding her son dead of a heroin overdose, Lucas summoned Roberts to his cell. There, he was in tears and told Roberts that he had never looked at his crimes in that way.

The trial ended with Lucas' conviction, and he became an informant helping authorities in Essex County and New York City arrest other drug dealers and crooked police officers. *"He flipped to our side,"* Roberts said. *"He made a lot of cases for us here and in New York. Our judges, as a result of his cooperation, cut his sentence."* Despite facing nearly 70 years in prison, Lucas was released in 1981 after serving just six years.



ALUMNI PROFILES

Sibyl E. Moses, 1967

Wrote Book on African American Women Writers in NJ



African American Women Writers in New Jersey, 1836-2000 by Sybil E. Moses is the first and only reference book to identify and document the lives, intellectual contributions, and publications of over 100 African American women writers in the Garden State from 1836 through 2000.

Many, such as Jessie Redmon Fauset, Alice Perry Johnson, Sharon Bell Mathis, Ntozake Shange, Claudia C. Tate, Ruby Ira Williams, and Marion Thompson Wright, were born in the state. Others, like Amina Baraka, E. Alma Flagg, Helen Jackson Lee, Gertrude Williams Pitt, and Dorothy Porter Wesley, although not born there, were residents of New Jersey for more than 15 years, and made significant contributions during that time.

This volume contains biographical information about each author, several of whom discuss the individuals who fostered their interest in reading and writing. There are photographs of the writers as well as citations for their published pamphlets, books, reports, and articles. Sibyl E. Moses has enhanced the text with characteristic excerpts from the poetry and prose of selected writers. The two appendixes highlight the distribution of African American women writers in New Jersey by city, town, and by genre. The book was selected as a

New Jersey Notable Book for 1995-2005 along with Philp Roth's (WHS 1950) *American Pastoral* and Sandra West's (WHS 1964) *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*.

Sibyl E. Moses, Ph.D., a native of Newark and a 1967 graduate of Weequahic High School, is the Reference Specialist in African American History and Culture at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. She resides in Silver Springs, MD.

Ruth Marech Shipman, 1948

The Hadassah Woman of Year

By Carly Rothman,
Star-Ledger



As a child, Ruth Shipman relished the "yiddishkeit," or "Jewishness," of her neighborhood in Newark's Weequahic section. "We loved the sense of belonging, of being a part of a vibrant culture," said Shipman's husband, Richard (WHS 1946), who grew up nearby. "Especially around the holidays," she added.

Although she left Newark more than 50 years ago, Shipman, 75, has retained her rich sense of Jewish community through organizations like the Hillside-Union Chapter of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. Last month they named her Woman of the Year. "Oh, I was shocked!" Shipman said. "There are so many other members who are so wonderful and active."

Chapter president Ilse Frank said Ruth's contributions as past president, fund-raising vice-president and chairwoman of several committees made her an excellent candidate for the honor. Ruth, who lived in Springfield for nearly a half-century before moving to a West Orange apartment two years ago, was honored at a brunch on Dec. 10 at the Short Hills Caterers, where she received a pin. Much of Ruth's work with Hadassah has focused on raising money to support the Hadassah University Medical Center in

Jerusalem. Ruth took this cause to heart after injuring herself on a trip to Israel in 1994 and receiving treatment at the Jerusalem hospital. "I came back with a tremendous pride in their work," she said. Although Ruth would not say precisely how much money she has raised for the medical center, she said, "I have met all my goals. I love the work Hadassah does. I have had a lot in this life. I believe, with all my heart, we must give back."

Ruth keeps busy, not just with Hadassah, but also with organizations including the Brandeis University National Women's Committee, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Jewish War Veterans Ladies' Auxiliary and various teachers associations. Then there are her daily workouts, plus her regular bridge and mahjong games. But Ruth says her favorite activity is the Yiddish club she attends at a nearby synagogue. There, sharing Yiddish songs and jokes with friends, she keeps alive her memories of her childhood in Weequahic.

Ruth graduated from Weequahic High School in 1948 and Rutgers University in Newark in 1952, earning her teaching certification the same year. She taught in the Hillside schools for 31 years, first teaching second and third grade and later serving as a basic skills teacher in reading and math. She and her husband Richard married in 1953, spending two years in Orange before moving to Springfield, where they joined Temple Beth Ahm. The Shipmans, who have three grown children and four grandchildren, lived in Springfield until moving to a West Orange apartment in 2004.

"I grew cactus, flowering cactus, in New Jersey!" she said, recalling her large garden in Springfield. "I had lilacs, tulips, peonies, and lilies of the valley. Those are the things I miss." The Shipmans' apartment is full of artwork - much of it her own, including a colorful painting of a music band and a large framed needlepoint of a bouquet of flowers. Other pieces reflect their Jewish heritage - delicate Stars of David crocheted by an Arab friend, a crystal dreidel and a small painting of a bearded rabbi poring over a Torah scroll. "I am in support of anything pro-Jewish," she said. "I love being Jewish."

ALUMNI PROFILES

WHS June 1956

Paul Tractenberg

Urban Education Advocate Extraordinaire

At WHS, Paul (better known to many as “Yogi”) was an all-state baseball pitcher, co-valedictorian of his graduating class and president of the OBA. The Legend yearbook quote under his picture was “A man so various that he seem’d to be not one, but all man’s epitome.”

Although he had some offers to play professional baseball, Paul decided to go directly from WHS to college. After compiling an outstanding academic record at Wesleyan University and the University of Michigan Law School, he spent several years each at the Wall Street law firms of Sullivan & Cromwell and Fried, Frank, sandwiched around two and one-half years as a lawyer in the Peace Corps’ General Counsel’s office in Washington.

In 1970, Paul returned home, accepting a professorship at Rutgers Law School in Newark. Immediately, he became involved in the effort to equalize educational opportunities of urban students throughout the nation, but especially in New Jersey. The differences between the WHS Paul had known in the 1950s and the WHS of the 1970s were startling and may well explain his career-long commitment to that effort.

Beginning in late 1970, Paul, and a team of law students working under his direction, became involved in the case of *Robinson v. Cahill*, representing the NAACP Newark chapter education committee and the ACLU of New Jersey. By 1973, the New Jersey Supreme Court issued its first decision in the *Robinson* case, ruling that the state’s system of funding public schools was unconstitutional because it under-funded urban school districts, including Newark, and failed to provide their students with a “thorough and efficient” education, the state constitutional requirement. That has been the law of New Jersey ever since.

Also in 1973, Paul founded the Education Law Center (ELC) in Newark with a large



grant from the Ford Foundation and became its first director. In 1980, ELC became the legal advocate for the students in all of New Jersey’s poor urban school districts, now numbering more than 350,000.

In early 1981, it filed the case of *Abbott v. Burke* on their behalf. Building on the earlier *Robinson* case, for the past 25 years *Abbott* has been the driving force behind our state’s unprecedented effort to increase educational funding for students in poor urban districts and to convert that funding into equal educational opportunities. Newark alone has received several billion dollars (yes, that is billions with a “b”) in additional state education aid and tens of millions of dollars in facilities aid during the past eight years as a result of the *Abbott* case.

Deservedly so, *Abbott* has received extraordinary recognition. In 2001, New Jersey judges and lawyers overwhelmingly voted *Abbott* to be the most important state court decision of the 20th century. A year later, the New York Times said of *Abbott* that it “may be the most significant education case since the Supreme Court’s desegregation ruling [in *Brown v. Board of Education*] nearly 50 years ago.”

Having recently attended his 50th WHS class reunion, Paul continues to be heavily involved in *Abbott* and a variety of related efforts to improve the education provided to students in poor urban school districts. Over the years, he has argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court 14 times in *Abbott* and its predecessor case *Robinson*. He chairs ELC’s Board of Trustees and works closely with David Sciarra, ELC’s executive director, to safeguard *Abbott*’s fiscal and educational victories for Newark’s and New Jersey’s urban students.

In 2001, Paul launched another related, but differently-focused effort to improve urban

education. He established, and became the first director of, the Rutgers-Newark Institute on Education Law and Policy (IELP), an interdisciplinary action research center. Since then, IELP has been heavily engaged in research projects and ongoing technical assistance to the New Jersey Department of Education, the state legislature and many other agencies. Its main emphases have been on school funding and related tax reforms, school accountability and especially state intervention in local school districts, school choice, and the replication of unusually successful urban schools.

Rutgers University’s governing body, the Board of Governors, recognized Paul’s extraordinary record of public service in 2002 by naming him the Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor. The law school had previously named him the Alfred C. Clapp Distinguished Public Service Professor of Law.

Somehow, Paul has managed to find time for other activities. He has been an avid long-distance bicyclist for decades, six times completing the Longest Day ride, a one-day, 200-mile ride from High Point to Cape May, the full north-south length of New Jersey. He also plays in a weekly poker game that has survived for more than 30 years.

Paul is a proud member of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and served on the honorary committee for the spectacularly successful Al Attles dinner. Al and Paul are old WHS friends and teammates (Paul rode the bench in basketball and Al rode the bench in baseball).

Most importantly, Paul’s wife Neimah, son Ilan and daughter-in-law Dina, and grandchildren Daniel and Avigayil, keep him young and on his toes.



2006 Weequahic Inductees in the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame

LARRY BEMBRY, 1966



Larry Bembry co-captained with Dennis "Mo" Layton the Group IV State Championship basketball team coached by the legendary Les Fein in 1966. He was selected on the All-Newark and All

Essex County basketball teams and was selected on the 1st team of the All Metro Basketball Team of the NY Daily News.

Following graduation, Larry attended Belmont Abbey College on an athletic scholarship. He was chosen as the captain of the basketball team, and averaged 19 points and 13 rebounds, per game on a team that was 19-5 during his last year at the college before transferring in 1969 to Rutgers University-Newark. There Larry led the basketball team to a winning season and averaged 21 points and 13 rebounds per game.

He received recognition as one of the most outstanding college players in New Jersey by the NJ Sports Writers Association. He was named as honorable mention on the NCAA All-American Basketball Team, Division III. Following college, Larry played on the pro circuit for a number of years before pursuing his goal of becoming an attorney.



Currently, Larry is employed as an Assistant Corporation Counsel of the Law Department in Jersey City. He has served as staff counsel for the NJ Department of Banking and Insurance and the NJ Real Estate Commission for

several years and was the Ombudsman of the NJ Department of Banking and Insurance. He has also served on the panel of Real Estate Commissioners and practiced as an insurance defense attorney for the firm of Timinis, Beachham and Hughes for four years.

In his commitment to give back to his community, Larry has worked with several private non-profit organizations including Newark Fighting Back and the Urban League of Hudson County. Residing in West Orange, he is married to Sandra Bembry and is the proud father of two children, Najee and Mya.

SYD HAYNES, 1968



Mike Sheppard, a baseball coach at Seton Hall University, states that Syd Haynes was "one of the greatest ballplayers of his time."

Sydney Haynes was born in Englewood

but moved to Newark via Hackensack in 1957. He started his athletic career at the age of eight when he became involved with the Newark Boys Club on Littleton Avenue. He excelled in basketball, gymnastics, swimming, and of course baseball and played all these sports very well. Competition was always something he welcomed, never backing down from a challenge. His mom, Alma, always knew where to find him. He would be at the playground or the park playing ball. He played Little League baseball and in 1963, earned the MVP award.

At Weequahic, Syd participated in cross-country, fencing, basketball, bowling and baseball. However, baseball was his passion and he was an outstanding pitcher. In his sophomore and junior years, he was named to the 1st Team All City. He hit his stride in his senior year, when he was 11-2, earning honors including 1st Team All-City, All-County, All-Metro, 1st Team All-State, Group IV, and 3rd Team All-Groups. Syd credits his Weequahic Coach Harold Ginsberg for teaching him the psychological side of the game and how to win. He also was in the YMCA Youth & Government and was class president as a senior.

Syd was invited to try out with several Major League Baseball teams including the Cincinnati Reds and Pittsburgh Pirates, but because his mother wanted him to go to college, he chose to attend Montclair State. After graduating he began teaching and coaching, which has spanned 32 years. He taught at Broadway Jr. High, Clinton Place Jr. High, West Side Evening Adult School, and Bergen St. School, where he spent 14 years. Since 1994 Syd has been at Malcolm X. Shabazz High School where he teaches Construction Technology, one of three curriculums that he assisted in developing.

His coaching career began at Arts High School in March 1975 and he is currently head baseball coach at Malcolm X Shabazz High School. Syd's success and high level of competitiveness are well documented. But if you ask him what are the most important things in his life, he responds "the love of God, the strength and guidance from his parents, John and Alma, the birth of his daughter Nichole, and the greatest gift of all, grandsons, Jalen, Justin, and J'hvier."

TED KURTZ, 1950



Ted Kurtz, while pursuing a college prep curriculum, was very active in sports in high school. He was Co-Captain of Weequahic's baseball team and made All-City. He

was among the top 25 hitters in Essex County during his senior year. He also played two years of varsity football as a quarterback and guard.

Ted started his amateur boxing career at the Newark Boy's Club on Morton Street. He was champion of the boy's club from 1946-1950 and represented them in local competitions and had an undefeated record. On a boxing scholarship, he attended the University of South Carolina where he boxed three years for the varsity and played two years of baseball. He also fought professionally in South Carolina.

Continued on page 12

KURTZ from page 11

Ted received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of South Carolina in 1955 and became a registered pharmacist in New Jersey. He practiced pharmacy for 40 years, owning his own store in Montclair for 30 years. Ted was a member of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association.

He retired and moved to Florida and has remained active by playing golf and tennis. Ted has been married for 47 years, has three children and four grandchildren.

SEYMOUR FLEISHER, 1942



Seymour "Zoom" Fleisher grew up in Newark, attended Peshine Avenue School and then Weequahic High School where he participated in track, basketball, baseball and football.

Distinguishing himself in basketball, Zoom achieved All-City, All-County and Honorable Mention All-State honors. With the advent of World War II, Zoom left college and enlisted in the U.S. Army Aviation Cadet Program where he became a B-29 Bomber Pilot. He served as a pilot then Airplane Commander and Squadron Operations Officer. Zoom and his crew flew ten missions from the Island of Guam to bomb the oil refineries in Japan.

Returning from World War II, Zoom attended Newark College of Engineering where he played 4 years of varsity basketball and captained the team for 2 years. He earned a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering in the Honor's Option Group in the class of 1951. In 1956, he and his wife started a manufacturing company with one employee that became the Pilot Technologies Corporation which grew to employ almost 300 people making precision components and assemblies that served the electronics, telecommunication,

aerospace, aviation, medical and utilities industries throughout North America.

Zoom's business accomplishments seem secondary to his civic and community activities. In civic, professional, charitable and service organizations, he participated on numerous Boards of Directors. At NJIT, Zoom served on many Advisory Boards and was active in fund raising efforts for the University. He and his wife, Estelle, endowed numerous scholarships and are recognized by the naming of the "*Estelle and Zoom Fleisher Athletic Center*" in their honor.

He was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at N.J.I.T., received the Outstanding Alumnus Award and the Edward F. Weston Medal for Distinguished Service by an alumnus. He was named Corporate Citizen of the year by Wayne Township and received the United Way of Passaic Valley Benefactors Award.

Zoom has been blessed with much success and happiness in family, friends, education, athletics, military, business, organizations and health. He attributes much of this to an adage, paramount in his life, written by Mark Twain. "*Always do right; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest.*"

DAVID WRIGHT, 1966



David Wright participated in varsity basketball, football, and track and field at Weequahic. In 1966, not only did he assist his team in capturing the Group IV State Championship in basketball, but also was selected on the All City team in football as a halfback.

After high school, he furthered his education during the next two years at Shaw University where his athletic prowess earned him a football scholarship. He then transferred to Bloomfield College where his athletic talents were recognized in basketball as



he earned CACC All-Conference Honors and NAJA Honorable Mention All American. In 1991, David was inducted into the Bloomfield College Athletic Hall of Fame.

David received his certification in Elementary Education from Upsala College and a BA degree from Bloomfield College in Sociology. He received his Masters in Psychology and Certification in Administration from Rutgers-Newark and Kean University.

In 1977, he utilized his basketball experience to launch his coaching career. After serving as an assistant coach at Montclair State University for one year, David assumed the helm as head basketball coach at Rutgers-Newark. He served as the leader of the Rutgers team until 1984. He also was the head basketball coach at West Side High School. David ended his coaching career at Bloomfield College as an assistant coach for the basketball team.

David's professional career began as a teacher at South 17th Street School. There he became the Basic Skills Coordinator, Vice Principal, and Principal for 9 years until his retirement in 2006. Presently, he works as a mentor for new administrators for the State of NJ. On the home front, Dave is very proud of his wife Sharon, children Kristan and Keisha, and grandchildren Jahson and Brianna.

STATE CHAMPS from page 1

Weequahic did end up rushing for 194 yards - led by junior Rashon Vines with 109 yards on 20 attempts - but Raritan was essentially able to neutralize Weequahic's superior speed. Such a noble effort was hardly a shock to Raritan or anyone else in the section. Weequahic allowed only 19 total points in three sectional games and closed its season with three shutouts.

"Offensively, we didn't get it done today, and we could have done a better job probably from the special teams' standpoint," Generelli said. "But again, when you play great competition, a lot of times your performance is a reaction to their performance."

Other than its missed PAT, Weequahic was surprisingly efficient on special teams. Senior Dawud Hayes was the star of the day with seven punts for an average of 30.7 yards. Only one was returned, for just 7 yards. *"Everybody helped out. It was an overall effort," Perry said. "It's just that the defense happened to help out with a bit more authority than anyone else."*

"That's the way championship football is supposed to be," Weequahic coach Altarik White said. "And that's what we do. We play good football in Newark."

"I'll take that defensive effort from us every day, to hold Weequahic with Division I kids and how explosive they are," Raritan coach Bob Generelli said. "I guess it took a little while for our kids to assimilate to the speed of the football game. But that was it."

Generelli was speaking of Weequahic's first drive, an eight-play, 70-yard march that featured the speed of both Thomas and Vines and the alert instincts of Smalls. Thomas lost the ball charging in from the 5-yard line, but Smalls dived as it bounced away from his teammate to score with 5:14 left in the first quarter. *"I really thought I had crossed the line, but my offensive line did a terrific job of cleaning up my mess," Thomas said. "Everybody took care of everybody today. This is the first time everybody did everybody's job."*

That did seem to be true, though it was clear that the defense was working overtime at its job. It held Raritan to a total 93 yards and just five first downs.

Raritan's opening possession resulted in a punt on a fourth-and-13, and its final play was an incomplete pass on fourth-and-26 from its two with 1:40 to play.

Kamara and Kareem Phelps put their signatures on the victory by sacking Kalarjian on first-and-15 from the 13. *"We knew this wasn't going to be an easy game for us. We just had to come out and play our A-plus game," Kamara said. "Our defense was all about keep making plays."*

ROBERTS from page 9

The film, which is scheduled for release late this year, has been a long time in the making. In 2000, Universal and Imagine, the Hollywood production company, purchased the rights to *"The Return of Superfly,"* a New York magazine piece about Lucas.

Steven Zaillian, who wrote the screenplays for *"Schindler's List"* and *"Gangs of New York,"* was hired to do the script, all but ensuring the film would be made. But the project hit some snags along the way. In 2004, after \$100 million had been spent and the movie was about to begin filming, Universal Studios pulled the plug, blaming director Antoine Fuqua for cost overruns. At the time, Washington was already cast as Lucas and Roberts was to be played by Benicio Del Toro. Then Del Toro was out, and Fuqua was replaced by Scott, whose credits include *"Black Hawk Down"* and the cult classic *"Blade Runner."*

Like Roberts, Lucas was paid an undisclosed sum for his life story, including details of his criminal organization, known as the *"Country Boys."* He will not discuss whether he personally killed anyone, although he boasted of at least one murder in the New York magazine article, and a defense attorney that he had a quarrel with in a Rikers Island visiting room in the 1970s was shot on a Manhattan street the same week.

Roberts said people have asked him how he could be friends with someone who almost certainly has blood on his hands. His answer, he said, is that Lucas is a changed man. *"What do we do, hate these people forever?" Roberts said. "Maybe some people do. I don't."*

A Weequahic Documentary

Have you been noticing camera crews at our events like the Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner, Homecoming 2006, and the football championship game? Filmmaker **Beth Kruvant** of *Good Footage Productions* in Montclair is currently working on a documentary about Weequahic and how the Jewish and African-American communities have influenced each other's lives.

She has already interviewed alumni, former and current staff, administrators, and students. If you have a story, ideas or thoughts about Newark and Weequahic that you would like to share, please contact her at BTkru@aol.com. (By the way, *Beth's dad, Martin Gelber, was a 1939 Weequahic grad*).

A Weequahic Exhibition

Linda Forgash, Curator and Outreach Director for the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest, is seeking your cherished memories for a major exhibition about Weequahic in the Jewish era to the present time entitled **Weequahic: Newark's Legendary Neighborhood** which will open in 2008 at the Alex Aidekman Jewish Community Campus in Whippany.

Would you like your family name and Weequahic address to be included in **The Great Weequahic Map** that will be featured in the exhibition? Send this information along with your current name and current address to lforgosh@jhsmw.org.

Linda is also requesting that you take a look at your shoe box collections for photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts such as restaurant menus, synagogue souvenir journals, prom pictures, football programs, letter sweaters, school jackets, or any items pertaining to the Jewish neighborhood of Weequahic for purpose of exhibition. Please give her the opportunity of first right of perusal, before refusal. If you can scan, that would be a perfect way to forward photographs. Make sure you scan at 300 dpi and save it in a tiff file.



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet first appeared in 1950.

Dr. Julian Orleans, 1942, recently returned from a 300-mile bike trip through Israel, from Jerusalem to Eilat. A physician for more than 50 years, he was one of more than 325 cyclists mostly from the U.S., Canada and Israel, who raised nearly \$2 million for the Alyn Pediatric Rehabilitation Hospital in Jerusalem for the care of children with congenital and acquired deformities and diseases. Dr. Orleans, who retired two years ago, has biked in 15 foreign countries and 22 different states, including a "coast to coast" tour in 1991.

Helen Silver Levine, 1945, is the President of the Atlantic City Chapter of Brandeis University Women's Committee for the past five years. She and her 155 members keep busy in 13 study groups and by raising funds for the library at the University in Waltham, MA. By the way, 1963 Weequahic grad **Jehuda Reinharz** is the President of Brandeis.

Sandy Slotnick, 1953, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Long Beach Island (NJ) Foundation of the Arts & Sciences. She is a lifetime member of the Board of Trustees and most recently served as its President.

Charlotte Angert, 1953, of Monroe Township, NJ, was recently surprised when an orange post card arrived at her home inviting her to join the Weequahic High School Alumni Association. What startled her was the postmark on the card - December 2003. It took three years for her to receive it. So what was her reaction to the post office's ineptitude. What else? She became a member.

Herb Segal, 1959, celebrated his 65th birthday by running the National Trail Marathon Championship in Hendersonville, NC. He is a retired Army physician living in Raleigh, NC and is active in Habitat for Humanity and various retired military and religious organizations.

David Levinson, 1964, the President of the Berkshire Publishing Group in Massachusetts, recently contributed two books that he wrote/edited to the Weequahic library. They are: Sewing Circles, Dime Suppers, and W. E. B. Du Bois, A History of the Clinton A. M. E. Zion Church and African American Heritage in the Upper Housatonic Valley.

Sandra King, 1965, was nominated for four Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards as co-host of the show, "Due Process" on the New Jersey Network (NJN). The program, which explores legal and justice issues, has investigated the war on drugs, the lawsuit to legalize gay marriage in NJ, gangs, and racial profiling at airports. Sandy already has eight other local Emmy awards and many other journalism awards.

Alumni Board member **Charles Talley, Jr. (1966)** and **Diana Morrison Talley (1966)** celebrated their "40th Wedding Anniversary" on November 24, 2006. Diana, known as *Daaimah*, is associate producer for The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company. She played the gypsy/fortune teller in their production "The Skin of Our Teeth" which was recently named one of the 10 Best shows of 2006 in New Jersey by The Star Ledger. *Daaimah* will be directing

Grads back from the armed services in 1946

(sent in by Eugene Blackman)



Front Row: Harold "Heshy" Cohen, '42; Charles "Buddy" Herman, '44; Herbert "Jasco" Jacobson, '41; Sidney "Sid" Zimey, '40. **Back Row:** Lou "Shoe" Klein, '42; Herbert "Hat" Levine, '42; Sidney "Duke" Weiner, '42; Eugene "Red" Blackman, '43; Jordan "Jordie" Wasserman, '42; Samuel "Sammy" Eblonk, '40.

The Theater Projects' performance of "A Step in a Stranger's Shoes" for the New Jersey Theater Alliance Family Week presentation on Saturday, March 3rd at Union County College in Cranford. More information is at <http://www.thetheaterproject.com>.

Paula Borenstein, 1967, is interviewing Jewish Holocaust survivors who settled in Newark after World War II with a focus on their relationship to the existing Jewish community. She is interested in hearing from people who would like to be interviewed, or have documents, pictures, letters, diaries or other information relating to this period of time. Contact her at (908) 289-3584 or at dogday50@gmail.com.

Phyllis Hope, 1980, was elected to the Broward County, Florida, School Board District 6. She is the first Black and the first woman ever elected to that seat.

Bo Porter, 1990, a baseball, football and basketball star at Weequahic, is the new 3rd base coach for the Florida Marlins major league baseball team.



Diana & Charles Talley / Daaimah performing

ALUMNI VOICES

Ellen Bratter Hulme, Jan. 1963 (to Principal Ron Stone)



I am sitting in my office reading the Star-Ledger article about the Weequahic High School football team and the work that you and Coach White have done to bring respect and excellence

to the young men on the team. I am overwhelmed with emotion. My name is Ellen Bratter Hulme and I spent 20 years of my life in Newark, and graduated Weequahic in 1963. I lived on Clinton Place and my brother and I played in the playground in back of Chancellor Avenue School every summer.

My family was not amongst the affluent, yet we gained from the social milieu that we lived in. My brother, Warren, was a star athlete; football, baseball and track, and my father a star football and track athlete at the once South Side High School. My uncle owned SYD'S, the local hot dog/hamburger "joint" across from Untermann Field. My Mom worked all of our life at the Newark Museum, and my father was an Assistant Housing Manager at the Newark Housing Authority. My parents never wanted to move, yet in 1968 it was no longer safe to walk from Lyons Avenue to Chancellor Avenue so they had to leave. It was a very sad time.

I became a psychotherapist, and my brother a professor, and we often talked and told stories about the old days. Now that the Weequahic Alumni Association is so active, the old days are alive again. I always wanted to do something to make a difference for the young men and women who came to Weequahic without the luxuries that were afforded my peers. Through the Alumni Association, I can contribute financially and that is good. My son came to the school last year and bought me a sweatshirt for Mother's Day.

I continue to ponder what I can do, and as yet have not come up with an idea. Today, though, after reading the article an idea popped into my head. My husband was killed in Vietnam three weeks after our baby was born. After many years of emotional suffering and grief, I finally pulled myself together and started on a path to find purpose in life. My real purpose was raising my son. I remained a single parent until he was 19 years old. Today he is a book and film writer and I am very proud of him. Six years ago he set on a journey to find his father. He spent the next four years finding everyone who

knew his father, even the captain who gave him mouth to mouth when he was blown away in Vietnam.

John and I returned to the place he was killed in 2000 and had a meaningful memorial service. In 2004, HBO bought John's movie and every Memorial Day month and Veterans Day month, the movie is aired. John has been invited all over the country to show the film; veteran groups, college and universities and high schools. The topic is relevant today with the Iraq War and the young men and women who are dying and leaving families devastated as ours was 37 years ago.

I was hoping that John and I could come to Weequahic at an assembly or a class and show his film (80 minutes) and have a Q&A with the students and offer some hope. I'm sure there are those students who don't have fathers nor the kind of mother that I was, and they might be able to see that it is possible to succeed if you surround yourself with the right people. To keep your dream alive, or to even begin to dream.

John did the entire film on his own by enrolling people to support him. He would not give up. We would like to help inspire others to do the same. Even if one student found this helpful, I believe this would be worthwhile.

Ken Frieder



KEN - 1963



JAKE - 1935

My dad, Jake Frieder, was the first football hero for the Indians. When the school opened in the early 30's, WHS was already evolving its athletic tendencies. While the basketball program was able to have some early success, the football team under coach Art Lustig had a tough time competing with the more established programs of the existing city schools and some of its other rivals including the Thanksgiving opponent, Hillside. They went winless and scoreless during their first full season!

According to the newspaper accounts of the day, Jake made up in heart and skill what he lacked in size. As a triple threat back, during the next two seasons, he scored the first touchdown in the school history, scored the touchdown that gave the Indians their first victory (over Bayonne, I believe) and scored the touchdown that gave us our first ever win over Hillside on Thanksgiving Day! He received All City and All County Honorable

Mention honors and helped establish the Weequahic athletic tradition.

He remained interested in Weequahic sports and I remember going to the Thanksgiving Day game with him for many years even before I attended Weequahic. At 89, he still remains interested in Weequahic football. Now that he and my mom have moved back to NJ after almost 30 years in Florida, he occasionally gets together for lunch with an old friend and rival from South Side to talk about the Good Old Days and some of the games and their teammates.

Fred Scocozza writes about his brother Frank, the WHS Band Director in the early 60's



Frank was doubtless the most talented and loving person one could imagine. He graduated from Barringer High at age 16 in 1944 and was president of the National Honor Society. He received a scholarship and went to Oberlin. He then received

a scholarship to Juilliard where he studied violin under the world renowned teacher Ivan Galamian, who also taught Perlman as well as many other eminent violinists.

Frank was invited to Tanglewood where he studied conducting with Serge Koussivitsky. Leonard Bernstein was there at the same time. He was offered the opportunity to join the Boston Symphony, the Minneapolis Symphony, as well as other fine orchestras. He did not take these opportunities because coming from an incredibly close knit Italian family made it very difficult for him to not observe my parents' wishes.

When Bill Weiss who was Frank's music teacher at Barringer became chairman of the school system's music department, he asked Frank to go into teaching in Newark. This is how and why Frank was a faculty member at Weequahic. He put his heart and soul into working with the kids and I know that he had a major impact on the music department. Prior to Weequahic, Frank was busy in New York where he made recordings which were conducted by Leopold Stowkowski.

Frank taught me how to drive and also taught me how to be a man. We shared a deep love for each other which will endure forever. Frank was modest and might be uncomfortable in light of this praise, but be that as it may, I can't think of anyone more deserving. I've been very proud of him throughout my life and his memory enriches me every day. Frank passed away in February 1997.

ALUMNI VOICES

Irv Newman, 1939



I was not in attendance at the Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner, but I was certainly there in spirit. While absent from the gala event, the (Alumni) CALUMET did an absolute stellar job in presenting the details and spirit of the celebration. A tremendous occasion by all measures. Absorbing every delightful story in the (Alumni) CALUMET, it didn't take too much imagination to segue into my own productive time matriculating at Weequahic High in the Depression years of 1935-39. As time goes by, the recollections get better than the actual experience.

On reflection, I got to thinking (perhaps erroneously) that my high school experience was the greatest to be had. But reality set in and I realized alumni, especially at reunion time, consider their education and reunions the best in the land. Every high school class has its valedictorian, the more likely to succeed, the most popular, best athlete (I'll stack up Swede Masin and Al Attles against anyone), the class clown, (we skirted with Jerry Lewis) etc. What's the distinction that puts a high school and its reunions in that rare pantheon of the best school around?

It hit me. There's one mark, one word (among others) that validates a school's super specialness. It was uttered by Zero Mostel playing the role of "Fiddler on the Roof." That magic, encompassing word that qualifies Weequahic High as incomparable is *TRADITION*. The Weequahic tradition has lived through circumstances that are unique to our school and perhaps unmatched in the nation while being nationally recognized for producing many doctors, Woodrow Wilson scholars, lawyers, writers (Philip Roth the standout).

We have also had a student inversion that would be hard to equal - predominantly white Jewish kids to a predominantly African-American student body. Add a destructive race riot so memorable in scope that a significant part of the Newark population fled to the suburbs. This flight resulted in huge economic displacement, lower employment opportunities and excessive family stress. For sure these circumstances didn't promote excellence in youthful scholarship or lofty academic achievements. Undeniably, standards and education scores plummeted.

From that low point events and education turned a page. Newark slowly and painstakingly started the healing process. Neighborhoods attempted to bond together. Civic authorities did the best they could in tough situations. Critically, families regrouped and recognized that education for their kids - black and white - was a vital necessity. The community cared about affirmative change. Corrective action included the board of education and the teachers rededicating themselves to educating the children, greater parental input, the alumni installing modest improvements. Scholarship and grades began ascending, improved graduation rates, and aim for that college diploma.

Best of all (to me) is the skill and understanding the (Alumni) CALUMET displays in harmoniously connecting one era with another, solidifying the bonds of disparate generations, and continuing to contribute to Weequahic's excellence in education.

Joe Romero, 1962



As a member of the 1959, '60 and '61 teams, I cannot tell you how proud I am of everyone on the current team and to those who played before them. Playing for the Indians was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I will cherish those memories forever. I honestly believe that the lessons I learned as a member of the football program at Weequahic have served me well in my chosen profession.

As a former coach, teacher and school principal in Michigan and now teaching in Naples, Florida, I am indebted to my coaches, teachers, teammates, and classmates for all their support and direction. To the members of the current football team, Joe Romero (#16) congratulates you! You have made the Orange and Brown proud!

Benjamin J. Quattlebaum, II, 1974 (to Principal Ron Stone)

Congratulations to you and the Weequahic High football team for winning the NJ state championship! I am a 1974 graduate of WHS. I was reading the article in the NY Times about the tremendous work that you are doing at the high school. It was very ironic how I came to get a copy of the news article. I am currently the Executive Director of the Wilmington Housing Authority in Wilmington, NC. An Italian

graduate of Barringer High school, who I met at a public meeting two years ago, came by my office to give me a copy of the article. He remembered and thought I would be interested in reading about my alma matter.

I am extremely proud of the work that you are doing in the high school and I wanted to send you a note of encouragement and support for your efforts. As a former football player (1970-1974), I was very pleased to see the accomplishments of "our" team. I played right guard and linebacker next to Al "Bubba" Baker, a 1974 former Detroit Lions Rookie of the Year and All Pro. Coach Burney Adams was our head coach at the time. Congratulations again, and continue to be a positive role model for our inner city youth. May God continue to bless you and keep you going.

Herb Schon(wetter), Jan. 1950



Last summer as I ended my cycling year with just over 8,000 miles on the bicycle computer and with a 75th birthday coming up in December I gave thought to celebrating the diamond anniversary of my birth. Being an avid cyclist since before moving to Santa Fe in 1997, I knew it had to deal with the sport of cycling. I went home after my ride and looked up biking tours, found a cross-country one with America By Bicycle which covered nearly 4,000 miles from San Francisco to Portsmouth, NH in 48 riding days (plus four rest days) at about 82 miles per day. I signed up and can't wait.

My only concerns are my two torn rotator cuffs, my torn anterior and medial knee ligaments and the flaming neuromas on my left foot. But since braces have kept me going on the 100 mile plus rides of recent years, I figure they'll serve me well for 82 mile days. Living at 7,000 feet and being surrounded by mountains provides a great training ground for endurance sports. I first turned to serious cycling after a lingering groin tear kept me from running marathons.

The ride next summer covers California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont and New Hampshire. I'd love to have anyone interested in doing one day with me on the tour for good old Weequahic to check out the web site www.abbike.com for the towns we stay at and maybe you could e-mail me at schonherb@aol.com to make arrangements. By the way, 12,000 is my mileage goal for the 2006-2007 year.

MEMBERSHIP / MERCHANDISE / SCHOLARSHIP Form

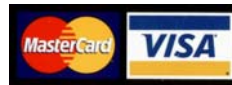
**Send to: WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101
or make your purchases with a credit card at www.weequahicalumni.org**

- 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 WHSAA - Amount \$ _____

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

1. \$5.00 WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI LAPEL PIN
2. \$15.00 T-SHIRT (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - khaki with big W in orange & brown)
3. \$15.00 HAT (one size fits all - khaki with orange & brown lettering)
4. \$25.00 SWEATSHIRT (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - khaki with big W in orange & brown) or white (large only)
5. \$3.00 each BACK ISSUES OF THE ALUMNI CALUMET (issues 1 through 19)

2 Special Fund Raising Projects:

\$ _____ Weequahic High School French Class Trip To Paris

\$ _____ Weequahic Murals Restoration Project

19 Scholarship Choices:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. \$ _____ ALVIN ATTLES Scholarship Fund | 10. \$ _____ MIRIAM HAMPLE Memorial Fund |
| 2. \$ _____ MAXINE BOATWRIGHT Memorial Fund | 11. \$ _____ READA & HARRY JELLINEK Endowment Fund |
| 3. \$ _____ MOREY BOBROW Memorial Fund | 12. \$ _____ PHYLLIS & DONALD KALFUS Fund |
| 4. \$ _____ CLASS OF 1945 - Academic / Performing Arts Fund | 13. \$ _____ HANNAH LITZKY Memorial Fund |
| 5. \$ _____ CLASS OF 1963 SCHOLARSHIP Fund | 14. \$ _____ BERT MANHOFF Memorial Fund |
| 6. \$ _____ CLASS OF 1964 SCHOLARSHIP Fund | 15. \$ _____ SEYMOUR 'SWEDE' MASIN Memorial Fund |
| 7. \$ _____ COLLEGE WOMEN'S CLUB OF ESSEX Fund | 16. \$ _____ EDWIN McLUCAS Athletic Fund |
| 8. \$ _____ GENERAL ALUMNI Fund | 17. \$ _____ MARIE E. O'CONNOR Fund |
| 9. \$ _____ RONALD GRIFFIN Memorial Fund | 18. \$ _____ LEO PEARL Memorial Fund |
| | 19. \$ _____ SADIE ROUS Memorial Fund |

5 Membership Choices:

 Check if change in postal 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: () _____

Cell: () _____ e-mail: _____

In Loving Memory

Marvin L. Phinazee

Jan. 1963, Newark educator



Marvin Phinazee was born in Newark on March 26, 1945, to the late Walter L. and Lucille Phinazee.

He was educated in the Newark public school system and graduated from Weequahic High School in 1963. After graduation, Marvin attended Union County Community College and Emporia State University in Kansas, where he was awarded a bachelor's degree in history. He utilized his education by teaching in the Newark public school system.

After living in California for a period of time, Marvin returned to Newark and worked for Dorf Feature Service that covered high school sports for over 23 years before retiring. He was an avid tennis player and an active member of the Screen Actor's Guild.

Marvin leaves to cherish his memory, his sister, Sharon Phinazee; aunt, Johnnie Mae Corker; uncle, Charles Passmore and his wife, Betty; cousins, Patricia Wilkins, Carl Horton and Thomas Byrd, and a host of relatives and friends.

Jerome S. Shipman

June 1940



Jerome Saul Shipman passed away at his home in Potomac, Maryland on October 27, 2006 at the age of 82. He was a proud June 1940 graduate of Weequahic High School and a loyal

and active alumnus. Jerome was a mathematician who worked on the Saturn and Apollo space missions at IBM. He also wrote jazz criticism.

He is survived by his four children, David Shipman of China, Maine; Deborah Shipman of Lancaster, MA; Jonathan

Shipman of Ossining, NY; and Judith Shipman of Gaithersburg, MA; five grandchildren; one greatgrandchild; and his brother Richard Shipman, a 1946 Weequahic alumnus.

Sanford Rever

June 1955, Auditor

Sanford "Sandy" Rever, also known as "Red," passed away on October 12, 2006. Born in Newark, he lived in Union before moving to Neptune five years ago. Mr. Rever was employed as an auditor for the NJ State Division of Taxation. A Bloomfield College graduate, he also was a Little League baseball coach in Union.

According to his wife Lorraine, he attended his 50th class reunion and was very proud to be a Weequahic graduate. He enjoyed his years there! He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Lisa Sanderson of Hadley, MA; two sons, Scott of Basking Ridge and Ryan of Westfield; a brother, Herman of California; a sister, Estelle Kaslow of Maplewood; and eight grandchildren.

William Goldstein

Jan. 1945, Temple President

William Goldstein, 79, of Bloomfield passed away on September 25, 2006, following a long illness. Born in Newark, William was an Eagle Scout, and a graduate of Weequahic High School. He attended Hamilton College and New York University before joining Famous Comfort Shoes in Newark.

William later became a proprietor of Ideal Hardware in Newark on Bloomfield Avenue, where he worked until he retired 20 years ago. During his retirement, he was a volunteer at a hospice and at Mountainside Hospital.

A World War II veteran, William was a staff sergeant with the 78th Army in Germany. Following the war, he played trumpet in the Army Band. Active on local business and civic committees, he served as President of Temple B'nai Zion of Bloomfield and was a member of the Jewish-American War Veterans.

William is survived by his wife of 53 years, Florence; two sons and daughters-in-law, Steven and Anita of Union and Robert and Mona of Cedar Knolls; four grandsons, Zachary, Craig, Jeremy and Derek; his sister-in-law, Berna Berger, and seven nieces and nephews.

Dr. Elias Levinson, Faculty

Dr. Elias Levinson, Ph.D., 87, of Sarasota, Fla., and Palentown, N.Y., formerly of Newark, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, in Ridgewood. He was the beloved husband of the late Irma (Grunewald) Levinson.

Born in 1919, in Jersey City, Dr. Levinson was an educator for 40 years in the Newark public schools, where he was an English teacher, department supervisor and a vice principal at Vailsburg High School. He also taught at Weequahic High School in the early 1960's.

He received a B.A. from Montclair State University in 1940 and an M.A. and Ph.D. in English from New York University. He saw active duty during World War II with the 8th Fighter Command Group of the U.S. Army in Europe, where he met and married his wife. He was involved in community and Jewish organizations and was a fervent supporter of theater, ballet and musical performance throughout his life.

He is survived by a son, Dr. David Levinson (WHS 1964), and his wife, Karen Christensen; a daughter, Judith Levinson, and her husband, John Horan, and by his grandchildren, Michael Horan, Emily Tenhundfeld, Tom and Rachel Christensen.

Alma Berkowitz Goldberg, 1945

Albert Gross, 1945

Betty Lee Braunstein Katz, 1945

Helene Bacatselos Klein, 1945

Frank Charles LaMota, 1945

Marcia Avergon Lehrhoff, 1945

William Lieberman, 1945

William San Giacom, Jan. 1961

Brett Scott Ryans, Sr., 1978

Reunions 2007:

May 20

Jan. 1952 - 55th

Sunday, 11 AM, Brunch, Somerset Marriott Hotel, Somerset, NJ. *Contacts: Norman Hinkes at (732) 549-6254 / freeariel@erols.com and Paula Tischler Goldfein at ptish34@aol.com.*

May 20

June 1952 - 55th

Sunday, 11 AM, Somerset Hills Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ. *Contact Lois Berg Jacobs at (973) 731-7402.*

June 10

Jan. & June 1947 - 60th

Sunday, 11:30 AM, Crestmont Country Club, West Orange, NJ. *Contact: Janet Goldstein Chernus at (973) 992-0684 / jbachernus@aol.com.*

September 8

Multi-Class: 1966 to 1974

Saturday, 7 PM, Robert Treat Hotel, Newark. *Contacts: Adilah Quddus (1971) at (973) 372-9849, Willie West (1972) at (201) 978-1293, Gerald Russell (1974) at (908) 419-2916, Charles Talley (1966) at (908) 753-1926 & Joseph Foushee at (908) 205-1581.*

September 9

Jan. 1957 - 50th

A reunion is being organized. Site to be finalized. *Contact Frances Letzter Malkin at (201) 704-5064 /letzter@comcast.net.*

October 6

Jan. & June 1962 - 45th

Saturday, 12 PM, Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch, NJ. *Contact Bonnie Zunk Vogel at BonnieV929@aol.com.*

October 28

June 1957 - 50th

Sunday, 12 PM, Maplewood Country Club. A Weekend of Fun. *Contact Bea Austrager Chaiklin at (973) 992-3650 or e-mail at bchaiklin@aol.com.*

CLASS OF 1966 40TH REUNION



WHS ALUMNI STORE

*See page 18 to order
or order from our web site*



WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Established in 1997. The WHS Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in New Jersey.

Phil Yourish, 1964, Executive Director

Harold Braff, 1952, Co-President

Judy Bennett, 1972, Co-President

Sam Weinstock, 1955, Treasurer:

Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953, Secretary

Board of Trustee Members:

Larry Bembry, 1966

Sheldon Bross, 1955

Marshall Cooper, 1969

Vaughn Crowe, 1998

Mary Dawkins, 1971

Arnold Keller, 1952

Dave Lieberfarb, 1965

Arthur Lutzke, 1963

Sharon Price-Cates, 1972

Adilah Quddus, 1971

Gerald Russell, 1974

Dave Schechner, 1946

Vivian Simons, 1959

Ron Stone, Principal

Charles Talley, 1966

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