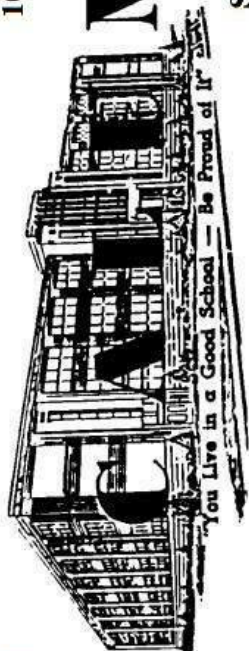


10TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATING OUR



ALUMNI

SUMMER 2007 / ISSUE # 21



Coach Les Fein

A Weequahic Legend Passes

Within a span of five years in the 1960's, Les Fein's basketball teams won three state Group IV basketball championships and the 1967 squad was the best in the nation

By Phil Yourish, 1964



I thought he was invincible. And why not? After all, he was the COACH. When I heard in February that he had a heart attack and a stroke, I believed, even at age 88, this would be just another challenge that he would overcome.

As the Executive Director of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, I got to know Les Fein over the recent years in a way that I never knew him when he was my physical and health education teacher at Weequahic in the early 60's.

For the past few winters, when I made my annual trek to Florida, I always looked forward to having lunch with Les at his country club. Although he thought the attraction for me was the huge and tasty buffet, it was really only about being with Les Fein.

I always enjoyed getting together with him. My time with him was very precious. I could sit and listen to his stories for hours. He was mesmerizing. In his soft-spoken and expressive manner, he could relate a story in the most engrossing way. I would be

totally absorbed, always wanting to hear more.

To a Weequahic guy who grew up in the bleachers of our tiny gym watching the magical moments of basketball unfold on the court before me, his stories about his teams and his players were riveting - and he provided the emotion with the details.

As an ardent fan, the highlight of my high school years was the Weequahic basketball team. Could there be a finer moment than when Weequahic beat Westfield to capture its first state basketball championship in 1962?

For a man in his late 80's, Les' memory was sharp and his recall of facts was remarkable. Considering that he left coaching and Weequahic in 1967, there wasn't much that he couldn't remember.

Not only did he speak about the highlights of his 12 golden years at Weequahic and the exploits of his exceptionally talented teams and players, but he shared with me the more personal side of his life - his growing up in Brooklyn, his time in the Army, his marriage

to Ceil, his coming to Newark, tales about his kids, his coaching career, and the success he and his wife had with Weight Watchers.

It needs to be noted that Les was more than just sports and basketball. He was a very well-rounded individual with a wide variety of interests who was an avid reader, enjoyed music, art and theater, and was very knowledgeable about local and world affairs.

Recently, he sent me an article that he wrote and wanted me to critique. In it he stated that for him the most important factor in coaching was "relationship." And his life reflected that credo.

He knew his players well beyond the basketball court. He could recite their experiences and achievements in life during and after Weequahic. He always had their names, addresses, and telephone numbers nearby, and even after all these years, he made a concerted effort to stay in touch by telephone, letter, and an occasional lunch when they came to visit him in Jersey or Florida.

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LES FEIN MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

1:30 PM, Sunday, June 24, 2007

Jewish Community Center, 760 Northfield Avenue, West Orange

FUND RAISING

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 mural is \$45,000. So far, we have raised more than \$8,000. We urge you to begin making donations NOW so that we can quickly 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

HUNTERS RUN, FLORIDA

On March 18th, 38 Weequahic graduates and their spouses met for the 3rd Hunters Run Reunion. Hunters Run is a community in Boynton Beach. The gathering took place with perfect weather at the home of **Alvin Schneider, 1950**.

For two hours stories were shared about their days at Weequahic and **Sandy Guritzky, 1953**, challenged aging memories with trivia questions from the past. The camaraderie was just amazing. Two grads volunteered their homes for future reunions which will be every year or every two years.

With \$250 left over from the event, the group decided to donate the money to the WHS Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund in the name of Hunters Run. The committee members for the affair were **Sanford Guritzky, Ruth Huberman Bogen, Sandra Feins Ehrenberg, 1946, David Holder, 1939, Alvin Schneider, and Don Stickler, 1951**.

18TH GALA GET-TOGETHER

The Sunday Morning Group organized their "*18th Gala Get-Together*" at the Maplewood Country Club on May 17th. More than 300 persons attended. Many were Weequahic athletes from the 40's and 50's. The committee members were: **Stubby Barris, Iggy Berger, Ed Berman, Phil Barone, Sid Dorfman, Art Drucks, Zoom Fleisher, Sam Fromkin, Eddie Fradkin, Burt Geltzeler, Rich Halpern, Herbie Jacobson, Marty Karzmur, Dan Klein, Ted Kurtz, Morty Leiwant, Stan Levy, Kalf Maltz, Norton Millman, Don Mopsik, Bill Pollack, Stan Rubin, Mike Scher, Jeff Schullman, Sam Solomon, Nat Stokes, Dave Suitovosky, Phippy Siegel, Mal Sumka, Artie Walsh, Len Weiss, Sandy Wischne, Marty Zwillman, and Micky Edelman**.

1952 CLASS REUNIONS

On May 20th two Weequahic reunions, representing the classes of January and June 1952, celebrated their 55th anniversaries. The January reunion was at the Somerset Marriott Hotel, Somerset, NJ. **Norman Hinkes and Paula Tischler Goldfein** were the organizers. The June reunion was at the Somerset Hills Inn, Basking Ridge, NJ. **Lois Berg Jacobs** was an organizer.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LUNCH

In early February, **Fran Katz Sekela, 1954**, put together a reunion lunch at the Belle-Fleur Restaurant in Carlsbad, California for some Weequahic gals from the Los Angeles to San Diego area. They were: **Beverly Bank Feiger, 1955, Rhoda Gold Canter, Anita Goldstein Blutinger, 1954, and Marlene Sattler Bartel, 1955, Adele Gordon, 1954, Ina Marcus Gelfound, 1961, and Barbara Fishman Stein**.

BRAGAW SCHOOL GET-TOGETHER

Since kindergarten, a small group of friends from Bragaw Avenue School have been meeting throughout the years. Recently, they celebrated their 50th year since graduating from Bragaw. Some of them are: **Bruce Rosenthal, Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert, Natalie Rich Eisenberger, Maxine Wasserman, Stuart Glucksman, Alan Schuman, Cliff Botwin, Ronnie Slate, Janice Lipsker, and Lester Barnett**.

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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.

Les Fein, 88, WHS Basketball Coach

By Laura Johnston, Star-Ledger - 03/10/07



Ceil and Les Fein

To all of Newark, Lester Fein was the famed coach who led the Weequahic High basketball team to three state championships, seven state sectional titles and a 26-0 season in 1966-67, when Weequahic was ranked first in the nation.

To his family, the Verona resident was the perfect tango partner, a voracious reader, a dapper dresser, a wonderful listener. He was a mensch.

"It means he was just a good soul, a good person with a good heart who wanted to do things the right way and who appreciated others who did," said his daughter, Stephanie Fein of North Caldwell. *"It was never just winning for the sake of winning. ... It was always for the pride in doing it well."*

Mr. Fein - Les to his countless fans - died Friday in Boca Raton Community Hospital, in Florida, where he had a second home, after suffering a heart attack and stroke last month. He was 88. The father of two and grandfather of three coached for 12 years at Weequahic, in Newark's South Ward, and kept in touch with his players ever since. A reserved man, he cheered on the Knicks and the Giants, played golf and tennis, collected art and ran a Weight Watchers franchise with his wife and daughter.

"I could talk forever about Lester," said Stephen Bleier of Morristown, team captain during Weequahic's 1961-62 season. *"I just wanted to be near him,*

and I guarantee a lot of people felt the same way. There was a goodness from him."

Mr. Fein met his wife, Cecile, at a Sweet 16 party in Brooklyn. Cecile was 15 1/2; he was a year older. *"I told my sister I was going to marry that guy,"* Cecile Fein said after 63 years of marriage. *"I felt it."* The couple dated all through New York University, where they earned bachelor's and master's degrees and doctoral equivalency in physical education and health.

After they married, they moved to Woodridge, N.Y., until Mr. Fein was drafted into the Army Air Force during World War II and stationed at Fort Jackson, S.C., Cecile Fein said. After the war, they moved to Union, where Mr. Fein began teaching physical education at Weequahic.

And then he began coaching. Mr. Fein made sure his team felt like part of the family. He invited his players over for pre-season lunches, rewarded them with cookies his wife and daughter baked and stressed that relationships were the key to winning in basketball.

"That's how his life was," said his son, Kenneth Fein, 58, of Monroe, Conn. *"He had many dear relationships."* In 12 seasons at Weequahic, Mr. Fein was 210-69, won the City League title eight times, the Essex County title three times and the state Group 4 championship three times. He was twice The Star-Ledger Coach of the Year. He was inducted into the JCC MetroWest Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

Alvin Attles, who played for the NBA's Philadelphia Warriors, and later the Golden State Warriors, met Mr. Fein on the Avon Avenue Playground before he was in eighth grade. It was 1951, said Attles, 70, who remembers Mr. Fein's 1951 Chevy. *"As great of a coach as he was, he was a much better person,"* Attles said. *"There was something about him that reached everyone."*

In addition to his wife, Cecile, and children, Stephanie and Kenneth, Mr. Fein is survived by three grandchildren: Jennifer Rebecca Fein, Danielle Lauren Fein, and David Hunter Fein.

WHS Legend Passes

from page 1

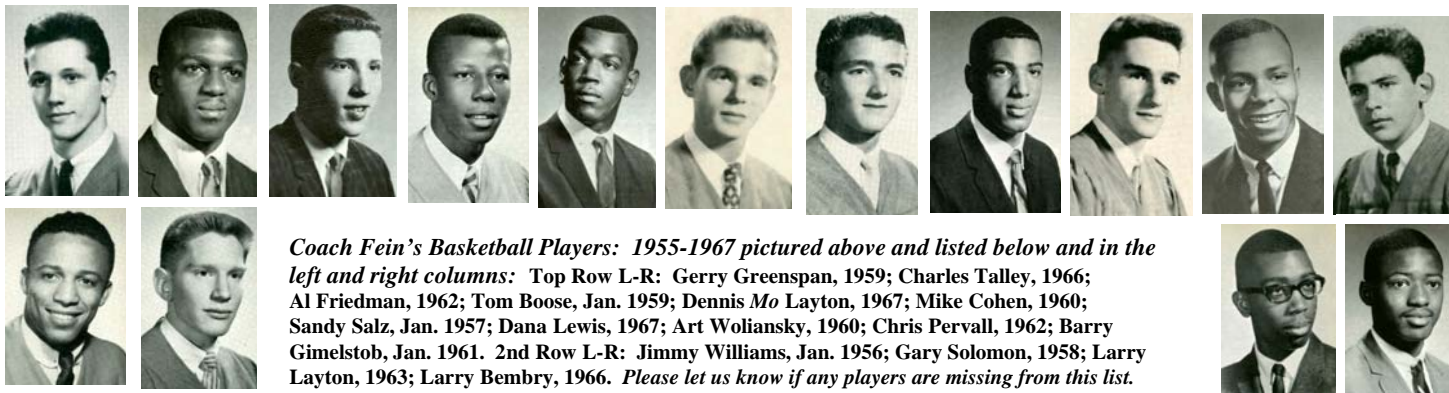
This past September, at our Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner, as he spoke eloquently about Alvin Attles (*whom he did not coach*), he took time to introduce his 17 basketball players who were present. Les Fein was always about creating relationships.

Three of the qualities that I admired in Les were his authenticity, modesty, and sense of humor. When you were in his presence, you felt like he was genuinely interested in who you were. He made you feel comfortable and special. In addition, his success in sports and business was always kept in perspective. Although he received many honors and awards, he was the most humble person I knew. He had no need to broadcast his accomplishments. Most of all, Les could make me laugh. His humor was subtle, but he brought a smile to my too serious face many times.

When we started the alumni association in 1997, Les was one of our biggest supporters at a time when many doubted our capacity for future success. He always made himself available and he served as the honorary chairperson of our Scholarship Committee. My favorite days were the ones when he called to tell me how much he enjoyed the latest Alumni Calumet newsletter, what a wonderful job the alumni association was doing, or to just chat for a few minutes. In the ensuing years, he would be very generous, providing funds for the French class trip to Paris and for the Alvin Attles Scholarship Fund.

The Coach didn't grow up in New Jersey. He attended school in Brooklyn. He never knew much about Newark until he applied for a teaching job. From hearing him talk about his life during that time, I always got the feeling that although coming to Newark was fortuitous, it was also his destiny.

Les was an intelligent, kind, generous, caring, courageous and engaging individual. I appreciated his friendship and I feel privileged to have known him. He was truly a Weequahic legend! We will miss him very much.



Coach Fein's Basketball Players: 1955-1967 pictured above and listed below and in the left and right columns: Top Row L-R: Gerry Greenspan, 1959; Charles Talley, 1966; Al Friedman, 1962; Tom Boose, Jan. 1959; Dennis Mo Layton, 1967; Mike Cohen, 1960; Sandy Salz, Jan. 1957; Dana Lewis, 1967; Art Woliansky, 1960; Chris Pervall, 1962; Barry Gimelstob, Jan. 1961. 2nd Row L-R: Jimmy Williams, Jan. 1956; Gary Solomon, 1958; Larry Layton, 1963; Larry Bemby, 1966. Please let us know if any players are missing from this list.

Fred Anderson
Joe Baker III
Jerry Bardin
Michael Baskin
Steve Berkowitz
Ernie Bethea
Sandy Bleier
Steven Bleier
Cliff Carter
Tom Chakeres
Lucious Childs
Leroy Cobb
David Coffey
Bert Coppock
Fred Dale
Joe Daniels
Willis Dargon
Julian Decter
Bobby Denard
Jeff Elson
Danny Enzer
Robert Epstein
Billy Ertag
Barry Feldman
Jerry Field
Dave Flecker
Sam Fromkin
Bill Fruchter
Gerry Gimelstob
Harvey Glassman
Larry Hellring
Phil Hickson
Lonnie Hill
Harold Hooper
Don Iasillo
Garry Jenkins
Larry Jenkins
Ken Jones
Walt Karney
Al Kershner
Judd Kessler
Larry Koonce
Lenny Levine
Artie Lieb
Milton Litt



RELATIONSHIP

A Reason For My Success In Coaching

By Les Fein

(This article was written by Les just prior to his illness in February, 2007)

"IT IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIP,"

I said to Isiah Thomas one night before game time at Madison Square Garden. It was the year before he took over from Larry Brown as Head Coach of the New York Knicks. He was in his usual place, standing right beside my season's seat, to watch the Knicks play. It was a bad year for the Knicks and Larry Brown would lose his job as a result. During a brief conversation with Isiah, I told him what I believed. I told him what I would start my lectures with at coaching clinics around the country, that "it's all about relationship."

Of course there is conditioning, pre-season preparation, teaching skills, individual play (offense and defense), new techniques, team play (offense and defense), special game situations, team and player strategy, scouting reports, general game philosophy and more. But to make it all work, to get the maximum value of each phase of the game and the players (team), there was an ingredient necessary to bond it together. For me (and for others), it was and will always be *relationship*. So, beyond teaching, motivation, practice, there is *relationship*.

When Isiah Thomas was given the Knicks coaching job, it was the caveat that he had to improve on the Knicks' record or "*he was gone*." The next season when Isiah was interviewed, he told the sportswriter that "*last year a wise fan told me it's all about*

relationship." I believe he was quoting me. What I learned about Coach Thomas is that he not only listened, but he heard me. I was impressed.

Relationship is somewhat elusive. It can be explained, defined, discussed in a variety of ways and words. I started coaching basketball, baseball and football in 1942. Eventually it was exclusively basketball, and ended in 1967. My last twelve years, 1955-1967 were spent coaching basketball at Weequahic High School in Newark, New Jersey. They were the most successful, the most dramatic and the most satisfying, the happiest time in my coaching career.

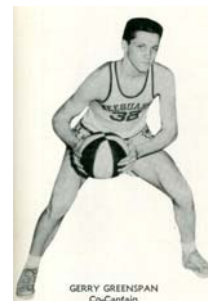
Relationship, how did it start? Was this a conscious effort on my part, a deliberate plan to a philosophy for coaching? No, no, no! I wasn't even aware of doing something beyond the usual teaching, practicing and motivation. It was just my way. I couldn't teach or coach young people any other way. Every coach has his or her way. As people are different, so coaches' "*ways*" are different, and results (winning) are different.

How could I get my players to believe in what I was trying to teach, to believe I was coaching them to reach heights they dreamed of? I knew they had to trust me, respect me, support me, even like me if I wanted them to believe me. And as important, they had to know that I trusted, respected, supported and liked them. Finally that thread of *relationship* had to go three ways; coach to player, player to coach, and player to player.

When that *relationship* can be built, then the opportunity for success becomes more attainable. It is then that acceptance by the team for the coach's plans takes hold. Without that acceptance, the players' passion, the team's fervor is not at its highest level.

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Bill Luper
Rich Magliacano
Bill Mainor
Ira Marcus
Frank Marshall
Al Mayo
Jim McIntyre
Richie McLeod
Steve Medwin
Harold Morrell
Arni Moskowitz
Dennis Mosley
Tex Murray
Charles Myers
Will Penn
Elliot Ponchick
James Randolph
Arnie Rudominer
Robert Russell
Joel Samitt
Les Schofferman
Claude Scott
Robert Scott
Salome Scott
Howie Sharenow
Al Simkowitz
Marvin Soloman
Larry Stewart
Frank Summerfield
Nick Swerdloff
Henry Thayer
Richie Thayer
Ken Thompson
Paul Trachtenberg
Walter Uhrman
John Wakefield
George Watson
Alex White
Barry Wiernik
Marion Wiley
Lucius Williams
Ray Lefty Wilson
David Wolkstein
Dave Wright
Danny Wuensch



GERRY GREENSPAN
Co-Captain

RELATIONSHIP *from page 4*

The apex of success happens when a kind of “brotherhood” wraps itself around the team. It often encompasses the entire school, students, faculty, the community and everything connected to the team.

A school varsity team holds a unique position. They play for the love of the game. They perform before their peers and the public, they are on exhibition. The school, fellow students, family, friends and the world see them, praise them, condemn them, glorify them and ignore them. For young people that’s a lot on their plate. The coach shares in all of this and more. The coach has the responsibility to try to have it all happen and end in the joy of accomplishment.

The young athlete can take it quite well. The benefit of youth, energy, strength, spirit of competition, desire, determination, motivation, camaraderie, joie de vivre helps to overcome all adversity. As a coach it wasn’t quite so easy, but I confess, I loved it.



Coach Fein being honored at an Alumni Homecoming with Charles Talley from the 1966 Group IV State Championship basketball team

When the team and the coach have that mutual belief in each other (love), the road before them is straight to success and fun. It is a heady, glorious, happy, ever memorable experience. Just ask the players, ask the coaches.

How I got to this exhilaration I felt as a coach and how I managed to do what it is I did is not easily explained. For now the simplest explanation is, that is the way I

saw life and how to live it. (Not to say that I haven’t slipped here and there along the way). But, that is how I see life, in sports, family, business and day to day. Surely there have been those times I failed the “relationship” test. For the 25 years I taught and coached, those years I tried to live my *relationship* philosophy, those years especially.

Weequahic High School was so special. I attribute much of the success and the accomplishments to an outstanding student body, the faculty (extraordinary), the community (caring), and the coming together of talented young men and opportunity.

So, how is it done? *Relationship*. How did I do it? Can it be taught, packaged, marketed? Will it work at the college level, the pro level? How does *relationship* fit in family, business, politics, everyday life? These are questions for another time, another writing.

It’s all about *relationship*. I believe that. Do you believe it? I know it was the foundation for my success and happiness.

MY FATHER

By Marcia Kahan
Rosenthal
Jan. 1952



From Vignettes of a Newark Childhood

Marcia is the former director of the Skirball Cultural Center (Jewish Museum) in Los Angeles. The 2003 West Coast reunion took place there. We have previously published two of her stories "The Stoop" and "The Butcher."

I remember two particularly wonderful sounds from my childhood...sounds that would make my heart leap each time I heard them. One was my father’s whistle, which announced, from the vestibule of 42 Tillinghast Street, that he was, at long last, home...and the other was the sound of his footsteps as he came bounding up the stairs to our apartment.

My father was rarely home during my early growing-up years in Newark. His work, in those years, took him away for months at a time, to cities such as Milwaukee, Green Bay, Madison, Chicago, Des Moines and to other parts of the Midwest.

He was working, at first, for Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and then for the Jewish National Fund, to do his part in helping to establish the state of Israel. (It was to become a reality in

1948, when I was 14 years old - 3 years after our move from Tillinghast Street to Schley Street in the Weequahic section of Newark). But, though my father may have been ‘out of sight,’ he was never, ever, ‘out of mind.’

We adored him, from near and from afar, and he adored us. From the time I was seven years old, I would write him daily notes, always including little bits of information about the family and my friends ... reminding him of whose birthday was coming up or that he had forgotten to write to someone.

My two-year-old baby sister Frannie’s scribbles were often part of each letter, too. My mother would write him words of encouragement and love to assuage the depression and loneliness he felt as he spent week after week, month after

month, in the small towns of America, so far away from his beloved family.

We really grew up, my sister and I, without his physical presence, but somehow he influenced us tremendously and was, always, a great, positive and loving force in our lives. And, he remains so, to this day, even though he left us, for the last time, in March of 1987.

But, oh, when he was home...what fun we had! He took me to the Bronx Zoo (one of his favorite places to be) and to the Metropolitan Opera, where I saw “Carmen” and “Madame Butterfly.” He took me to hear Edith Piaf (he adored the French language and we would learn it together) and, occasionally, we went to his office in Manhattan.

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ALUMNI PROFILES

WHS June 1965 SANDRA KING

*In an era of fluff, 'Due Process'
host gives news its due*

By Jennifer V. Hughes, Star-Ledger



Newark native and Weequahic High School grad, Sandra King is the co-host of the New Jersey Network program "Due Process" which explores legal and justice issues. Its shows have investigated the war on drugs, the

lawsuit to legalize gay marriage in New Jersey, gangs, and racial profiling at airports.

King was recently nominated for four Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards for her work on the show, which airs on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and is rebroadcast on Sundays at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays at 11:30 p.m.

At the awards ceremony last September, King lost - mostly to programs that reflect lurid fascinations in pop culture. One of her nominated shows focused on inmates who represent themselves in criminal cases. It featured the story of a man who spent more than 12 years in prison convicted of rape before he was cleared by DNA evidence. "That show lost to a piece on women wrestlers," King said.

Another nominated episode explored the issues raised by family members of those injured and killed when terrorists drove and explosive-laden truck into the parking garage of the World Trade Center in 1993. The lawsuit, which was recently allowed to proceed, hinges on a Port Authority survey that identified the garage as the complex's most vulnerable point.

Still, King said it can be frustrating to host a serious new program in a sea of reality TV and entertainment posing as news. There is no commercial vehicle for doing what I do. Literally, it does not exist," she said. "Due Process," is watched by about 200,000 people every month - a drop in the bucket compared with commercial hits - but King said she doesn't mind. "It may not be the biggest audience, but...you are reaching those people with something that really matters to their lives, that matters to the way they think," she said.

King was raised in the South Ward of Newark and she now calls the Forest Hills section of the North Ward home. Her early roots are less in journalism than in social activism. As an eighth-grader, she organized a walkout to protest racial conditions in her junior high school. She majored in philosophy and religion at Bard College in New York, but dropped out after money dried up. She then studied sociology and English at Rutgers-Newark.

"I like to write and I'm obsessive about issues and current events. I thought I could go work for a newspaper," King said. It was the early 1970's and King went looking for a job at The Star-Ledger. She was told, she recalls, "We don't hire girls for entry-level positions because it requires working at night, and we don't

like girls working at night." King was offered a job typing the television pages. She did that - and turned in news stories, too. "I was off the TV page in six months." For the next eight years, she covered the city of Newark and eventually started doing work for public television Channel 13, which cemented her position in broadcast news.

"I live by newspapers, but I love working on television," King said. "I love what you are able to accomplish one sound, one picture." While King feels that she is doing something important for her community, she also gets a lot back in return. "I learn something new every day," she said.

King said she has remained in Newark while many other successful professionals fled because leaving would make her "part of the problem." Some of her work has focused on the city, including a documentary that reflected on the 1967 Newark riots 20 years later. "I've always thought from the time that I was a pretty small kid that part of my life was to make a positive difference in this troubled place where I grew up," she said.

About 15 years ago, something happened to King that, in retrospect, solidified her ties to the city and to her work. She was working on a documentary in the Iron-bound section and by chance ate a piece of fish that was tainted with a neurotoxin. King was hospitalized for three months and out of work for more than a year.

"I was really feeling there is a reason why every day has to be used in a meaningful way and not just tossed away," she said.

MY FATHER

from page 5

He didn't have to take me anywhere, however, for me to enjoy myself. I was so happy just to be in his company, wherever we were, because I always felt his unconditional love and because I wanted to learn from him and to make him proud of me.

He had a most engaging and charming way about him... he

told wonderful stories in his rich, beautiful baritone voice...and with his hearty, infectious laugh. He walked into a room, any room, and he, immediately, was a shining, striking presence...a light. He had a thirst for knowledge and instilled in me a love of language and history and politics and people and animals.

He often talked to us, with great pride, of our heritage and of his youth spent in Jerusalem, the city of his birth. I remember

how I loved to walk with him, to be by his side...this handsome and radiant man whom everyone we met responded to with a greeting and a smile.

And then, off he would go again, for another two or three months, But the letters came regularly as did my responses to them. Sixty years later, I continue to reread some of his letters to me and, since he saved quite a few of mine to him, I have those here, too, I read

them, with a smile and a tear, remembering how desperately I missed him and how full of love and longing was my little seven year old heart.

I am 72 now, and it is almost 20 years since my father is gone. And yet, at times, it still seems to me that he is only away on one of his longer trips and that we will soon, again, hear his familiar whistle and that joyful sound of him running up the stairs to come home.

“Still In The Hood... Neighborhood That Is...”

By Harold Edwards
Class of 1966

*(Harold is the newest member of the
WHSAA Board of Trustees)*



Since 1962, when my family moved to the Weequahic section of the City of Newark I have been in a love affair with Weequahic.

From what we know, we were the first African American family to live south of Chancellor Avenue, at 121 Hansbury Avenue to be precise. There may have been a Black doctor who lived in the Hansbury House at 801 Elizabeth Avenue down at the bottom of Hansbury Avenue *(if anyone has any information to clarify this point, please feel free to contact me)*. In any event, we came from the Watson Avenue area - 293 Johnson Avenue (Peshine Avenue School) in the summer of 1962.

Here in 2007 I can probably live just about anywhere I desire, but I choose to maintain my primary domicile here at 1 Weequahic Avenue with

my wife and two children because *I am still in love with Weequahic*. That's right I still live in the 'hood'... neighborhood that is...fancy cars, no more bars, brand new lights, plenty of new sights.

I am a 1966 graduate of WHS. We just had our 40th year class reunion. It was a great event - lively, well attended, and reflective of the 1960's era Weequahic section population.

I am a living witness to the shifts in population and the corresponding cultural changes - the highs - the lows and the current status of the neighborhood. I don't just come to Weequahic for meetings once a month, football games and basketball games during the seasons, or Beth Israel when someone is sick, or stroll through the park during walkathons or distance runs. **I still live here...and I love it!!!**

Don't make any mistake about it I (we) welcome everyone who comes back, even if it's only for a meeting or game and we give big props to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association who have led the charge back to the hood.

I personally will accompany anyone interested on a modern day tour of the hood and further invite you to partake in our neighborhood cookouts, Annual Bergen Street Festival, our prayer services at any of the many places of worship, or just engage in some historical reverberations.

*The neighborhoods needs you.
It's built on your foundation.
It welcomes your return.*

One of the community groups I founded **The Elizabeth Avenue Corridor Improvement Association** wants you to come see what our hard work, perseverance, and lobbying efforts produced with the revitalization of the *Elizabeth Avenue Corridor from Meeker Avenue to Grumman Avenue* (\$10 million worth of new lighting, new sidewalks and curb improvements).

We would love to play *golf or tennis* with you in beautiful Weequahic Park, or use the new “*state of the art*” rubberized walking and running track surrounding the lake, courtesy of the efforts of another community based group, the Weequahic Park Association (WPA).

We sure could use your support for the successful community groups that provide recreation and guidance for the thousands of youth who still live in the area: *Newark Youth Golf Club, The Althea Gibson Tennis Foundation, Above the Rim, Inc. (More Than Just Basketball), The First Class Championship Development Center (Boxing) and the Clinton Hill Community & Early Childhood Center.*

So remember there are still some of us in the hood... neighborhood, that is.

*Thanks to
Myrna Weissman,
Phil Yourish,
Clarence Baker,
Ricky Herring,
and Robert Curry,
for inspiring me to
contribute this article.*

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@jhsnw.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.

Who are the two Weequahic HS graduates, considered “Urban Legends” who founded Mark IV Disco in the 1970's???? They can be found along with Dave Warner, Sheldon Bross, Dave Wright, Hal Braff, Leo Pearl, and Phil Yourish in an upcoming book entitled “*Newark's 1000 Urban Legends Series.*”

ALUMNI PROFILES

Harvey, WHS June 1944, and Muriel Lowy, are the King and Queen of Swing

By Cathy Schwarzenbek, Star-Ledger

Muriel and Harvey Lowy, of Jackson, formerly of North Brunswick met through mutual friends on a blind date in 1949. "We hit it off right away" Harvey said, "I must have impressed him because he asked me not to go out with anyone else after our first date." Muriel said. The former Muriel Weber and Harvey Lowy were married on Feb. 23, 1952, in Newark. Fifty years later they celebrated their golden anniversary with family and friends at L'Affaire in Mountainside and five years later, had a small family dinner to commemorate the occasion.

Harvey was born on July 30, 1927, to Isadore Lowy, a Polish immigrant, and Mae, a New Yorker, and along with his sister, Dorothy he grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. At the age of seven or eight, the family moved to Dewey Street in Newark. Harvey is a graduate of Weequahic High School in Newark, where he was a pitcher for the school baseball team. He was graduated in 1944 and entered Rutgers College in New Brunswick and continued to play baseball, but was drafted into the Army after only two years.

He took his basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas, where his love of swing dancing was born. He attended the USO canteen dances and says he found it was a good way to meet girls, especially when they saw he could dance. He was not a combat veteran, but while stationed at Fort Bliss, was part of the weekly all-soldier radio show "Serenade in Khaki." He later auditioned and was part of the cast of "On Target" while stationed at the now-closed Fort Ord in central California.

The GI Bill of Rights introduced by Congress in 1944 allowed Harvey to finish his education free at Rutgers College and he was graduated in 1948



with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. He went on to earn a master's degree in business at Columbia University in 1949 and later took education courses at Seton Hall University where he earned a teaching certificate, "The nation rose up and became a great education power because of the GI Bill," Harvey said.

The Lowys were able to purchase their first home in 1958 in North Brunswick without a down payment because the government guaranteed the mortgage. He started out as a math teacher and seven years later, became a guidance counselor for the North Brunswick Public Schools. He retired in 1982 after working 25 years.

In June 1999, Harvey was interviewed for *The Rutgers Oral History Archives of World War II*, a web site of Rutgers graduates who served on the home front or overseas. He told his life story, focusing on the war years and ending with a discussion of postwar life under the G. I. Bill.

Muriel was born on July 19, 1926, to Ida and Benjamin Weber, was raised in Irvington with her sisters, Mildred, now living in Florida and the late Sylvia, and is an Irvington High School graduate. She worked as a secretary for Rhone-Poulenc, a chemical company in North

Brunswick, and retired in 1985 after working 15 years.

She, along with Harvey is addicted to dancing. They were part of the featured entertainment at Muriel's 55th high school class reunion. "Your participation made it extra special." Gloria Wurtzel Sherman, a classmate, said. "It was a pleasure watching you dance, You made it appear so effortless." Muriel never took dance lessons. She and Harvey were a natural on the dance floor. "In my prime I couldn't sit still. I loved Benny Goodman's 'Sing, Sing, Sing' and Glenn Miller, but especially the swing music of the 1940s," Harvey said. Muriel agreed and also said she enjoyed the rumba and other energetic dances.

Harvey and Muriel have danced and entertained at three of their favorite places, The Taj Mahal in Atlantic City; Atlantis at Paradise Island, Bahamas; and the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., and won many dance awards. In 1999, they were voted King and Queen of Swing - at the Rutgers Oral History Archives of World War II dinner dance.

They are the parents of Professor of Periodontics at University of Louisville Dental School Dr. Douglas Lowy; Michelle Cartmill, married to Barry Cartmill of Wappinger Falls, NY, a second-grade teacher in Arlington, NY; and the late Keith Ira Lowy, who died at the age of four.

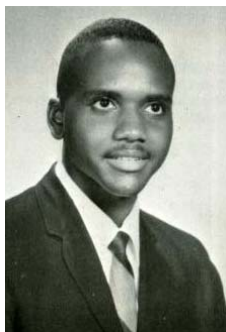
They are more than excited and proud to talk about their three grandchildren, Keith Cartmill, a fourth-year medical student at New York Medical College, Valhalla, graduating in May with his medical degree; Kimberly Cartmill, a first-year medical student at Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, N.H., and Jeremy Lowy, a first-year student at University of Louisville and a part-time male model. You can see him in the Papa John's Pizza advertisements.

Because of ill health, Harvey Lowy can no longer participate on the dance floor, but he and Muriel enjoy watching "Dancing with the Stars," reminiscing about their swing dance days and listening to the old tunes on their stereo.

ALUMNI PROFILES

WHS 1967 KOMOZI WOODARD

*Community Activist,
Professor, and Author*



Komozi Woodard was born Kenneth Woodard at Beth Israel Hospital in July 1949. Before college, he was educated in Newark at 18th Avenue School, Cleveland School, Waverly Avenue

School, West Kinney Jr. High, and ultimately Weequahic High School. At Weequahic, Komozi Woodard joined his uncle Edwin Woodard, a football champion, and his cousin, Maureen Woodard.

In 1965, Ken was selected by Weequahic teachers for the Princeton Cooperative Schools Program (PCSP). Through that enrichment program he was educated at Princeton University and Andover Academic in the summers of 1965 and 1966. This PCSP was the prototype for Upward Bound programs throughout the country.

Always interested in politics, Ken ran for the president of the Orange & Brown Association but lost to Herman Rosenfeld, who he is still friends with today. It was in high school that Woodard first heard about the heroic leader, Fannie Lou Hamer in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

At Weequahic, Woodard joined a number of political organizations, including a high school chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). SDS organized against the draft in the War in Vietnam

and SNCC organized against racial terrorism and for civil rights.

Through Newark's SNCC office in 1968, Woodard organized a SNCC liberation school to teach African American history in the summer of 1968. That summer, he also assisted Nikki Giovanni in a poetry workshop in New Jersey. While he was an undergraduate, Woodard began teaching a lecture course in Sociology, "*Perspectives on Race*" at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA.

In 1968 and 1969, Woodard worked with many Newark youths to found the Chad School. Around the same time, another Weequahic alum Cliff Carter founded the Black Youth Organization (BYO). Woodard also organized the statewide Congress of African Students in Pennsylvania, with branches from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh.

By 1969, Woodard was renamed Komozi Woodard as he worked with Amiri Baraka to build several black power groups: the *Committee for a Unified Newark*, the *Congress of African People*, the *African Liberation Support Committee*, the *Black Women's United Front* and the *National Black Political Assembly*. Newark became a leading center for black power politics during those years.

After graduating from Dickinson College, Woodard edited two newspapers during that period: *Black Newark* and *Unity & Struggle*, one local and one international. He directed an urban renewal planning agency, the Project Area Committee, in the early 1970s and the controversial Kawaida Towers project that was halted by mob violence.

In addition to housing development, Woodard also directed economic development in the Congress of African People. After editing a magazine in Manhattan, Woodard returned to teaching in 1984 when a Weequahic alum, Phil Yourish, hired him as a history teacher at Independence High School and as the editor of "*Children's Express*."

By 1985 Komozi Woodard was the Managing Editor of *Children's Express*, an international program for youth journalism, headquartered in Manhattan. At the same time, Woodard was attending Rutgers University-Newark pursuing a Master's in the Art of Teaching degree in history.

By 1986, Woodard was awarded a fellowship to study history at the University of Pennsylvania. He began teaching college at Rutgers University and then was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at Northwestern University in Urban Policy & Public Policy as well as in African American Studies.

Since Northwestern is located in Evanston, a suburb of Chicago, Woodard began working in Chicago's Algebra Project with Bob Moses of civil rights and SNCC lore. And he assisted Bob in writing the history of the Mississippi Movement and in preparing the television movie, "*Freedom Song*." Since then Woodard has worked on such documentaries as "*Eyes on the Prize*" and "*America's War on Poverty*."

Today Komozi Woodard is a professor of American History, Public Policy and Africana Studies at Sarah Lawrence College and a professor of Urban Studies at Eugene Lang College of the New School University. He has published numerous articles and five books, including *A Nation Within a Nation*, *Freedom North* and *Groundwork*. He also put together the microfilm documentary, *The Black Power Movement, Part 1, Amiri Baraka from Black Arts to Black Radicalism*.

In addition to a Black Power documentary, "*NewArk Rising*" (Tambua Productions), Woodard is currently working on three books: one with Jeanne Theoharis, *The Jim Crow North*; a second with Jeanne Theoharis and Dayo Gore, *Women in the Black Revolt: Want to Start a Revolution?* and a third with Mary Dillard on *Black Liberation, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*.

Join Us at our annual ALUMNI HOMECOMING on Saturday, October 20, 2007

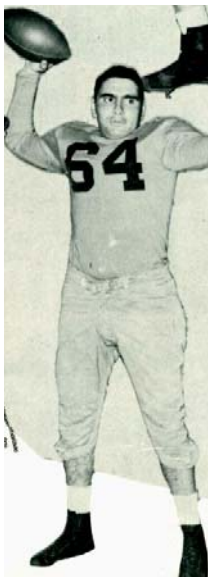
See our *State Championship Football Team* and the
Re-Dedication of the newly renovated Untermann Field

You'll Get A Kick Out Of This!

By Phil Yourish, 1964

A couple of months ago the telephone rang in my office. It was Monroe Krichman. He had a new idea and wanted to share it with me. I met Monroe for the first time about a year ago when he was on the class of June 1955's reunion committee. Subsequently, he volunteered to assist us in the planning of our first Scholarship Fund Raising Dinner. Now he has become an alumni association Board member. I hear from Monroe often. You see, he's an idea man and he's never short on ideas.

Back in 1955, he was the quarterback of the Weequahic football team. In those days they called him Monte. One of his teammates was a guy named Alvin Attles, who was an All-County receiver. That team won only 4 games, but beat Thanksgiving Day rival Hillside for the 2nd year in a row. According to Krichman, *"that was our legacy."*



Like all good quarterbacks, even at age 70, Krichman is always thinking on his feet. And it's the "feet" that has spawned his new interest in Weequahic football after 52 years. With the excitement about Weequahic's first state football championship still echoing in his head, Krichman with some help from his magic pigskin came up with an idea that he believes will give

the high school football team a competitive edge in the years to come and will help them continue their success.

So the former quarterback and successful entrepreneur is now in the *kicking* business. He convinced Coach Altarik White, with much persistence, that the difference between winning and losing could be the ability to make an extra point



or field goal with consistency. And he knows most high school teams do not have accurate kickers. According to Krichman, *"punting and place kicking control 50% of field position."*

Never willing to let a good idea wither, Krichman, a man of action and positive thinking even off the football field, started making arrangements for a kicking program. He brought his idea to the alumni association, made phone calls and wrote letters to former Weequahic athletes, and started to raise funds to make this happen.

Then on Saturday, May 5th, the *"Coach Krichman Kicking Academy"* opened to a small group of Weequahic football players at the newly renovated Untermann Field. (By the way, the field looks *fantastic* - check it out). The football players received lessons on the art of kicking from guest instructor George Jakowenko, a former kicker for the Buffalo Bills and Oakland Raiders in the National Football League.

The first session was a very classic before-and-after situation. At first, the football just dribbled off of the tees. The kicks hardly left the ground. For a time it looked like a hopeless endeavor. To their credit, the players never became discouraged. And by the end of the initial 2-hour lesson, they were kicking 20-yard field goals. The turnaround was amazing. And all of this was captured on film by Beth Kruvant, who is doing a

documentary on Weequahic.



Krichman feels that the players need at least five sessions to become proficient at kicking. For this to happen, additional arrangements have to be made with Jakowenko - and he gets paid for his services. Also, some equipment needs to be purchased such as practice football holders, a snapper's target, special kicking shoes etc. Coach Krich has already put together a manual on kicking and plans to have the sessions videotaped.

The next workshop is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 9th. Come and join us. And if you would like to make a donation to support this program, send in a check made out to WHSAA with *"kicking"* in the memo area and mail it to the WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101.

Meanwhile, in the office of Coach White the telephone rings. The coach scans the caller ID with a look of recognition and some apprehension. *"This is Krichman,"* the robust voice on the other end says, *"I have a another fantastic idea. You'll just love it! I'm coming over to tell you all about it."*

Stay tuned for the next chapter in the ongoing saga of volunteer kicking coach Monroe Krichman, former Weequahic High School quarterback.



1955 Football Team Graduating Seniors - L-R Front Row: Alvin Attles, Bill Krim, Dave Matthews, Harvey Waldman, Back Row: Chuck Grossman, Bob Goldberg, Bob Lynn, Monroe Krichman.

ALUMNI PROFILES

WHS June 1944 MURIEL FOX

Co-Founder of the National Organization for Women



Born and raised in Newark, Muriel Fox has had a distinguished career as a public relations executive and a co-founder of the National Organization of Women (NOW).

Currently, Muriel is the Honorary Board Chair of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now called Legal Momentum). She served as Board Chair of NOW from 1971 to 1973, and as a member of the NOW National Board from 1966 until 1974. She headed NOW's public relations during its first two years, beginning before the founding conference in October, 1966, and was the communicator who first introduced the new women's movement to the media of the world.

A former executive vice president of Carl Byoir & Associates - one of America's three largest public relations firms, Muriel was on Business Week Magazine's list of 100 Top Corporate Women and described in June 1976 as the "top-ranking woman in public relations."

In 1991 the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund created the Muriel Fox Award for Communications Leadership Toward a Just Society. The first winner of the "Foxy" was Muriel Fox herself. In 1996 the Fund surprised her with an "Our Hero" award "For a Lifetime of Dedication to the Cause of Women's Equality."

She also was the first recipient of New York State NOW's Eleanor Roosevelt Leadership Award in 1985; and that same year Barnard College selected her to receive its Distinguished Alumna Award. She is listed in "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who in the World" and "Foremost Women of the Twentieth Century."

Moreover, Muriel was the first public relations executive to win the Achievement Award of American Women in Radio & Television, and first woman to receive the "Business Leader of the Year" Award from Americans for Democratic Action. She received the Matrix Award from New York Women in Communications and the Woman of Accomplishment Award from the Wings Club.

She has lectured frequently throughout the world on such topics as Communications, Family Trends, the Women's Movement, and "Moving Women Up the Corporate Ladder."

In 1948 Muriel graduated with a B.A. degree from Barnard College, where she was summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. In 1955, she married Dr. Shepard G. Aronson and they have three children, Eric, Rolf, and Lisa. Today, she resides in Tappan, New York, and is president of the Rockland Center for the Arts.

WHS 1945 JACK SILVERMAN

*If you don't know what to do
when you retire, ask Jack.*

By Patricia Harris,
The Item of Millburn



At age 78, township resident Jack I. Silverman has the distinction of being the oldest riding member of the Millburn-Short Hills Volunteer First Aid Squad. (MSHVFAS) and one of its longest-standing members.

Yet Silverman is not resting on his laurels, nor does he have any intention of quitting. He said this week his current certification as a squad member runs through 2008, when he will be 80 years old, and he is working on his certification for the following years by taking continuing education courses.

For his volunteer efforts, the Audubon Court resident received a Community

Service Award at Tuesday's Township Committee meeting. Presenting the award were Leonard Morvay, a member of the township's Service Award Committee, and Karl Becker, president of the MSHVFAS. "I'm so honored," Silverman said, noting that whereas he has been volunteering for 31 years, several other members of the first aid squad have longer tenures. Silverman, who has lived in the township for more than 40 years, joined the squad in 1974 after seeing the squad's Cadillac ambulance parked in Taylor Park for July 4th festivities. He said he was looking for an outlet for his free time and decided joining the squad would be a way to contribute to his community.

In the following years, Silverman has served in almost every capacity for the squad, including as president in 1998. He has been a vice-president, trustee, first lieutenant, training officer, and crew chief. Before retiring 15 years ago from a family-owned business that produced solar materials, he rode in the evenings. Now he rides most Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Silverman said he is proud of the squad and the service it performs for the community. Although many area squads are hurting for volunteers and have had to hire professionals or partner with other squads, the township's organization has been operating for nearly 50 years continuously and manages to draw a corps of nearly 70 crew members who can provide 24/7 service, he pointed out.

In addition to serving on the squad, Silverman has been serving as a mediator in Small Claims Court in Newark and in Essex County Municipal Courts, including in the township's court for the past six years. Silverman said he volunteered for the position after reading that the Superior Court System of Essex County was looking for volunteers with business experience. Following training, he spends two mornings a week working in Newark on legal cases in which claims up to \$15,000 have been made.

Several other days a month he works in the Nutley and Irvington municipal courts. He meets with litigants and seeks to facilitate settlements that will keep the case out of court.

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ALUMNI PROFILES

SILVERMAN *from page 11*

Cases run the gamut from property disputes to visitation rights to consumer complaints, Silverman said, noting he manages to get the parties to agree to a settlement in approximately three out of four cases he mediates. *"It's very interesting and rewarding."*

Also in his retirement, Silverman sings bass with the Rahway Valley Jerseyaires Barbershop Chorus and has served as the group's president. His barbershop quartet, TLC, performs at senior citizen facilities and nursing homes around the area. Silverman quips he is writing a book, *"How to Retire Happily without Golf or Tennis."*

Other community service activities for which he was honored include serving as Cub Scout troop leader in Wyoming Church in the 1960s and a listener in Wyoming Elementary School from 1998 to 1999.

He has been married to his wife, Geraldine, also known as Gerri, for 44 years and has six children and seven grandchildren. Gerri Silverman received a Community Service Award from the township last year.

WHS June 1952 Lawrence I. Lerner

State leader elected president of U.S. support group for Meretz

By Elaine Durbach, NJ Jewish News

Lawrence I. Lerner, chair of the New Jersey State Association of Jewish Federations and a longtime leader in the Central New Jersey Jewish community, was elected president of the progressive Zionist organization Meretz USA. He succeeds filmmaker Lilly Rivlin.

Actor, musician, and civil rights activist Theodore Bikel, perhaps best known for his role as Tevye in stage productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, was chosen as the



group's chair - the position previously held by Lerner.

The organization known in full as Meretz USA for Israeli Civil Rights and Peace, is a nonprofit organization

affiliated with the World Union of Meretz and with Meretz-Yahad, the Israeli social democracy party led by Yossi Beilin. It currently holds six seats in the Knesset.

Lerner, a retired patent attorney living in Warren with his wife Beverly, is also national vice-president of the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union and a member of the board of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

In a February 2 interview, Lerner said that he hoped as president to see the Meretz USA position gain ground among American Jews. He characterizes its approach as a willingness to look at the good and the bad in Israel, as the Israelis themselves do, rather than a *"my Israel, right or wrong"* approach. *"We have confidence that the country can be better,"* he said.

Lerner described Meretz as the party that traditionally has taken the lead in championing policies that later have been adopted by those in power. Israeli party leaders *"certainly control their own destiny, but we support their policies and what they have been trying to do as a minority party,"* he said, referring to the role of the American support group.

Among the party's actions, Lerner cited its *"involvement in peace initiatives and in efforts to reform the economic system that has allowed the disparity between rich and poor to become so great."*

Lerner welcomed the recent contacts - supported by Meretz - between Israel and Syria leaders, despite his skepticism about the outcome. *"It's a long shot, but that's no reason not to try. The Syrians are playing a key role,"* he said.

Lerner, who belongs to the Reform Temple Sha'rey Shalom in Springfield, also touted Meretz support for non-Orthodox religious streams in Israel. *"We believe in religious pluralism and ending the control the Orthodox group has over marriage and divorce and citizenship,"* he said. *"We would like to see the other streams have a voice in what happens in the country."*

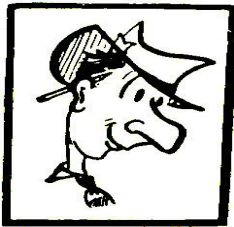
According to its web site, Meretz USA has *"18,000 friends and constituents"* across the country. Lerner would like to see the organization increase its national presence and establish new chapters in places like Boston and Philadelphia, where, he said, it already has a substantial number of members. As part of its growth, he would like to see its role on the college campuses expanded through its affiliation with the Union of Progressive Zionists, an umbrella group that also includes Habonim Dror, Hashomer Hatzair, and Ameinu.

Recently, UPZ won a struggle with the right-wing Zionist Organization of America, which sought to have it excluded from the Israel on Campus Coalition because it cosponsored a tour of North American campuses by pro-peace veterans of the Israel Defense Forces.

Lerner said Meretz USA's aim is *"to promote the peace process with an exploration of ideas - not just in the Jewish community but in the wider population - in a way that supports a greater vision for Israel."*

In his new capacity, he has already been doing that - as he has for so many years in other roles. On February 4, addressing the men's club of the Summit Jewish Community Center, he said, he argued for fairer treatment of Israel's Arab population.

"The division between Arabs and Jewish citizens of the state must be lessened. This can only be achieved when discrimination and exploitation are ended. Then it may be possible that the true Zionist dream of a free and democratic state for the Jews and all of its citizens will be on the path to achievement."



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet first appeared in 1950.

Ira Melon, 1963, let us know that his wife Ruth Bernadette Melon published her first book, *Journey to the White Rose in Germany* in January 2007. It is a non-fiction narrative of resistance against Hitler and the Nazi regime during the Third Reich. In 2003 Ruth was awarded a Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation grant to continue her research in Germany for this book.

An article appeared in The Star-Ledger on Jamie Cohen, the daughter of **1964 WHS grad Lorrie Axelrad Cohen** and her husband Howard. Jamie saved the life of girl who was drowning in a swimming pool using her training and three years of experience as an EMT. She is a pre-med junior at the University of Michigan and is majoring in psychology with a biology minor.

Alumni Co-President **Hal Braff, 1952**, and Executive Director **Phil Yourish, 1964**, have been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest. Phil is also the new President of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Museum of New Jersey.

Richard Kuperman, 1966, was one of the speakers at the Jewish Museum of New Jersey event: *Jews and Blacks in Conversation: Civil Rights and Civil Unrest*. He is the President of the African American-Jewish Coalition.

If you saw the public television special "*The Boomer Century 1946-2046*," host **Ken Dychtwald**, a psychologist and gerontologist, introduced himself as a native of Newark. But Ken is also a **1967** graduate of WHS. In the documentary, those in the "*boomer generation*" look at their past, present and future. Rob Reiner, Julian Bond, Lewis Black, Oliver Stone, Erica Jong, Tony Snow and Andrew Weil also participated.

Alumni Co-President **Judy Bennett, 1972**, and her staff at the Newark-based Clinton Hill Weed and Seed Partnership, a U.S. Department of Justice Initiative, sponsored a DMJM Aviation job shadowing experience for 20 Weequahic students.

Principal Ron Stone and other Newark educators were honored by the Benedetto Croce Educational Society at a dinner at Mayfair Farms. Ron's mother, **Elayne Brodie**, was also honored by this organization in the past.

Former Weequahic foreign language teacher **Florence Misurell** celebrated her 95th birthday this past March. She is living very happily at Seabrook, a retirement community in Tinton Falls, NJ. Still full of energy and enthusiasm, she is taking classes in Spanish, Shakespeare, music appreciation, and meditation. She helped found a Yiddish club, a French speaking group and an over 90's club. If anyone wants to get in touch, it is (732) 922-1790; her address is 202 Harbor Lights, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753

Congratulations to Weequahic High School **Coach Kcyied Zahir** and his **Track and Field Team** for winning its 2nd straight city championship.

Trip To France

Thank you for your generous contributions. The students had a grand time!

What a way to spend Spring vacation. Once again, French teacher **Lavinia Rogers** organized a trip to France for a small group of students from the high school - the 2nd trip in three years. Funds for this excursion were raised by the participating students and the WHS Alumni Association, which donated more than \$30,000.



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? Filmmakers **Beth Kruvant** and **Paul Bartick** are 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 Beth at **BTKru@aol.com**.

Correction:



In the last newsletter Herb Schonwetter didn't recognize the high school picture accompanying his letter. So we're trying again. Is this the real Herb in 1950?

ALUMNI VOICES

Bill Belfer, June 1963



I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Les Fein. Les had a policy of not allowing anyone in the gym while he coached his teams. However, after track practice he let me sit up in the bleachers

and watch the team go through drills.

I remember the patience he had showing Mo Layton, then a freshman, how to play point. I learned a lot about basketball from those moments, and though I was not physically gifted to play the game, I was mentally equipped to teach my boys about it and even coached little ones myself.

Les had an important impact on me. I remember his policy regarding parents and teachers who tried to influence him to play their own kids. Any teacher who approaches me to get their kid to play is surely going to see their kid cut, he would say. I saw the fairness in him when as a parent I had kids that had to battle their way onto basketball teams with coaches who played politics more than coaching.

Two years after leaving Weequahic, Les was in my corner when I petitioned the US Maccabiah Games Committee to review my college discus records for a chance to make the team. Les, being on the US Sports for Israel Committee, endorsed me and I made the team. Bill, he told me, *"I thought you wanted to play basketball, not throw a discus!"*

Les was truly a great teacher and wonderful person who influenced and benefited so many kids. We really need to see that new arena in his name.

Selma Rosenstock Cohen, Jan. 1943

Remembering Weequahic High School during the years January 1939 to January 1943 brings back floods of memories. It was a traditional time, Some boys still



wore knickers. Girls always wore skirts or dresses, bobby socks and saddle shoes. Sneakers were for gym only. We walked to school, took buses if we could make connections, but we

were never afraid to travel alone, even late at night.

It was also a time of separation. We had to take courses that separated us from our grammar school friends. Boys went off to war, never to return. We still remember their names. We attended class reunions when they were held, hoping to see those we lost touch with.

Luckily I have been able to keep in touch with Peshine Grammar School friends, the Ad-Lo-Hoc-Girls. We all meet at least once a year. Some of us see each other more frequently because we live close by. We all talk of those *"good old days"* and chuckle and laugh. All of our families know of those days and wish that they had the same memories.

Enclosed in the envelope is a check for the Leo Pearl Memorial Fund. I remember Leo from Panzer College, now a part of Montclair State University. He later became my supervisor of Physical Education at McKinley in Newark. I returned to teaching when my oldest daughter began college and remained at McKinley until my retirement in 1990.

It's been a wonderful life

Irma Franzblau Goldstein, June 1947

I thought the following might be interesting to print in the Calumet. It is a nice story. I graduated in June, 1947 (in 3 1/2 years) but most of my friends graduated with the February, 1948 class. I chose to attend the reunions where I could meet with my friends.

I always asked if anyone had located a girlfriend from the class but was told that she was on the *"missing"* list. Her name was **Rita Jobrack Lipton**. The last we had seen each other was when her daughter and my son were about 6 months old, which is about 55 years ago.



L-R: Irma and Reida

I decided to play detective and got on the Internet. Knowing her marriage name and that she had lived in New York, I found nine people with the same name, but the ages were not right. I then searched for *"anywhere"* instead of New York and came up with four more. I double checked using her husband's name to see if I could come up with a match. Sure enough, I found a match, but there still were three other people it could be.

I decided to write a letter to the person I thought it could be, stating who I was and asking if she was that person. I mailed the letter on a Thursday. On Saturday, I received a phone call from Reida (new spelling of her first name) Jobrack Lipton! She was thrilled when she received the letter from me and we had a very nice conversation.

Now, the surprise ending is this: Reida has lived in North Ft. Myers, Florida for the last sixteen years. That is just about one hour from where I have lived for over 30 years!!!!

On Saturday, November 4th, I went to her home to visit with her and we had a great time together. I brought my yearbook and borrowed a yearbook from a friend who graduated with Reida and it was so much fun going through them.

I have advised the committee from the 1948 class of Reida's address. She also took the application for membership in the Alumni Association from one of my Calumets and you should be hearing from her soon. We are all looking forward to the 2008 class reunion, which we plan to attend.

*Note: The class of
Jan. and June 1947 Reunion
is on Sunday, June 10th
at the Crestmont Country Club
in West Orange.*

ALUMNI VOICES

Owen T. Wilkerson, Jan. 1961 (to Phil Yourish, Alumni Calumet Editor)



The winter 2007 issue #20 of the Calumet is a masterpiece! Keep up the outstanding work. It was great meeting you (again) back in October at the classes of January and June 1961's 45th Reunion in

Long Branch. Little did we know that during our tenured days at West Kinney Jr. High School (both of us were on the faculty) that we were WHS alumni.

From time to time - during my lecture travels - I run into Weequahic alumni - and have conveyed to them of your "dedicated and professional leadership initiatives" as WHS Alumni Executive Director. WHS, unquestionably, has a profound and historic legacy of academic excellence, of which we all should be proud.

It was a shocker to say the least - to learn of Les Fein's passing. He was a compassionate human being...full of vim and vigor as my health education and gym teacher, back during 1958, 1959, and 1960. I vividly remember his favorite motto: a winner never quits...a quitter never wins - illustrative of his extraordinary basketball acumen as a coach. He was also an impeccable dresser (Bohemian avant garde with a Brooks Brothers - Paul Stuart flair).

I was just as terribly startled to learn of "Gerry" Lee's passing. He and I both were on the WHS varsity indoor and outdoor track teams (under Coach Joe Nerenberg). Girard was a hell-of-a hurdler. He also played varsity football with such WHS gridironers of that era - Eddie Barker, George Foster, Warren Bratter and Lenny Gibbons.

William Newman, 1942 (Sent in by Paul Newman, Bill's son)

Bill lived in Margate, Florida. He attended Weequahic for one year. He has written

numerous article about the Weequahic section. (Many of them appear at www.oldnewark.org)

Some of his Old Newark Memories I read again and again for the wonderful recollections they evoked. There was so much of Newark still in his heart. Take a few minutes to read some of Bill's "Memories" and you will find them all reflecting his love of the city and his earlier life there. He will be missed.

Bill's story about the neighborhood grocer follows:

Looking back one must conclude that the neighborhood grocer was a combination human calculator and computer. It seemed that the grocer instantly knew the answer to any question about his business. If you asked where a certain item was, such as Campbell's pea soup, you might get an answer like this, "I sold out last night, but more is coming in tomorrow at 2:30. Come back then." He knew the location of every item, the price, whether or not it was his stock and if not, when it would be.

At the completion of a sale, before bagging any items, all the retail prices were written on a bag. The grocer added up the figures faster than most people can do on a calculator. A pencil stub about two inches long was part of a grocer's standard equipment. As each column was added, he would write the figure down and put the pencil point in his mouth and spin it about. My mother checked the addition on every bag from the grocer. I don't believe she ever caught an error.

It was seldom that anyone paid the grocery bill at the time of the sale. The grocer had a black and white blank book. Customers' names were written on the various pages. It was a simple matter to enter a date and the amount of the charged items. When a bill was paid he simply crossed the amount off. There is no doubt the neighborhood grocer had more people owing him money than the neighborhood bank did.

There were many items that were carried in the grocery store that were called bulk items. Butter, cheeses, many brands of coffee, cakes, candies, and pickles were some of the many bulk items. If you asked for 1/4 pound of butter, the grocer opened a refrigerated compartment in which was a large tub of butter, he would cut off a piece and catch it on a waxed paper and weigh it.

Usually it weighed exactly what was asked for.

Coffee beans were first weighed and then ground to your order. It was a thing of beauty to watch the grocer extract a pickle from a vat of brine. There was sometimes a doubt as to whether or not a short grocer would fall into the vat when the pickle supply was low.

Many kinds of cookies, candies and nuts were delivered to the grocer in large burlap bags. A bag usually weighed about 50 lbs. Many times if the grocer was busy the customer reached into the bag and took a handful of the contents. If too much was taken, the excess was thrown back.

If any grocer operated today as they did in the 30's, they would have untold health department violations and be facing a multitude of lawsuits. I cannot ever recall anyone getting sick and blaming it on unsanitary conditions at the grocery store. Today we frequently read of a food store being sued because someone got sick from an item purchased there.

Beverly Farber Cook, 1954



This donation is in memory of Morris Brenman, who was Chairman of the Foreign Language Department and a super French teacher while I was a student at WHS.

We students never realized how much he was cramming into our heads. The class was always interesting and, much of the time, fun.

He's been gone such a long time that very few people remember him, but those of us who do will always have him in our hearts.

Helen Gans Hines, 1937

I send this check to honor the students who have brought this school to the fore. How proud I am of Weequahic High School and what it has become since I graduated in January 1937. I read your newsletter with joy and happiness.

ALUMNI VOICES

Vic Silverman, June 1943



Thanks for the great job of keeping the torch lit! I have been enjoying your newsletter for several years. I turned 80 this year and have fond memories of the "wigwam on the hill."

One of them is: Max Herzberg, our Principal, calling us into his office individually just before graduation and asking us, "Victor, what nationality are you?" Without hesitation I replied, "Jewish." "That's not right, Victor, you are American. Jewish is your religion." This at the height of WWII. What a great leader he was! Another memory is eating potato knishes across from the school at a kosher deli.

Since Weequahic, I served in the Army of occupation of Japan, graduated from UC Berkeley, and taught history and government in high school in Lakewood, Ohio. (I was President of my teachers' association when we went on strike). Being an activist came easy after my social studies teacher David Weingast got me thinking!

I'm still in touch with an old Weequahic buddy Marvin Eisler, who gets your newsletter in Palm Harbor, Florida. Keep up the good work. Enclosed is a contribution to the Swede Masin Scholarship Fund.

William Ertag, 1956



Thank you for your great efforts in organizing the gala event honoring our distinguished alumnus, Alvin Attles who hosted and energized the special evening of activities dedicated to

obtaining contributions to establish in his name a much needed scholarship endowment fund. It is my privilege to make a donation on behalf of Alvin since he is a

real Weequahic Indians super hero alumnus and an extraordinary human being.

I have had the distinguished opportunity of meeting him upon occasion, once at a professional basketball game. In retrospect my most memorable occasion occurred 50 years ago when I had the opportunity of briefly guarding him when I was on the high school basketball team, and he was a college star who returned to play in an alumni game.

Over the passing years, I have read several articles about his accomplishments and great achievements on the basketball court, but even more importantly, his outstanding contributions as a caring, philanthropic, dedicated human being who has attempted to offer assistance to many worthwhile causes throughout the years.

I feel it is a privilege to honor him by making my donation to his scholarship fund and I hope enable other motivated young students to be able to successfully continue their educational endeavors, achieve their goals, have their dreams come true, become productive contributing members of their community, and who knows, become the next super hero.

Periodically I return to New Jersey to visit my family and on other occasions I meet with a handful of special friends from Weequahic who love to reminisce and share wonderful stories and nostalgic memories of our youth in the neighborhood. From these interactions and through other connections, I have kept abreast of the great success and achievements of the Alumni organization and I hope it will continue to grow and progress from strength to strength.

In Loving Memory

Harvey Rein, 1955, sent us his thoughts on two classmates who passed away.

Robert Goodman, Jan. 1955

Robert "Bob" Goodman (or "BG" as he was called by his close friends) class of January, 1955 passed away last April 14, 2006. Bob was an Army veteran. He attended NCE in Newark on his return



from the armed services. After graduation he worked for Sperry-Rand and then went into the real estate business for a number of years. This was followed with a venture into the car rental business, and finally back into real estate.

Bob was married 45 years to Bobbi Yablon Goodman, had four children: Jeff, Frann, Jaime, and Donna, and three grandchildren. He lived in Metuchen, and most recently in Piscataway. While at Weequahic he was an outstanding bowler, receiving many awards, as well as being recognized for his scholastic achievements. On a personal note "BG" was a close friend of Stu Jason and myself for over 60 years. We shared a lot of good times, as well as the bad. His friendship will be deeply missed.

Ivan Wyden, Jan. 1955



On March 10th 2007, I learned of the passing of another classmate, and friend, Ivan Wyden, Class of January, 1955. He lived for many years in Hollywood, Florida, with his wife Iris. Ivan

had two sons Michael, and Adam. He was a 1959 graduate of Rutgers University. Ivan owned a printing business in Florida, and was active in youth sports for over 40 years in Florida.

While at Weequahic, he was a catcher on the varsity baseball team, and was a member of Upsilon Lambda Phi. I last saw Ivan one month ago at the Weequahic reunion in Delray Beach, Florida which I attended with Stu Jason. Sadly we were the only ones there to represent our class.

* * * * *

Sonia Holzman Gaffney, 1940
Estelle Davis Schlossberg, 1941
Dr. Herbert J. Fisch
Peggy Bernheim, 1946
Rita Rubin Matlin, Jan. 1951
Dr. Philip Jay Hodes, Faculty

In Loving Memory

DAVID E. WEINGAST

Former Weequahic Principal

(from the Ridgefield, Connecticut newspaper)



Dr. David E. Weingast, a lifelong educator who was superintendent of Ridgefield, CT schools for 10 years and the author of four books, died Thursday, April

12. He was 94, the husband of Bea Weingast for 65 years.

The most scholarly of Ridgefield's superintendents and the only one to settle permanently in town, Dr. Weingast was born May 5, 1912, in Newark, N.J., the son of Lena and Nathan Weingast. His father was a plumber.

He graduated from New York University and began his career teaching elementary school in Newark in 1931 at \$1,300 a year. He received his master's from Columbia University in 1936 and moved to teaching history at Newark's prestigious Weequahic High School, where he became department chairman and Principal. In 1961, he was appointed as assistant superintendent for secondary schools in Newark, responsible for nine high schools and six junior highs.

Dr. Weingast received his doctorate in 1948 from Columbia University. He wrote four books for middle and high school students: *Walter Lippman: A Study in Personal Journalism* (1949), *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Man of Destiny* (1952), *This Is Communism* (1959), and *We Elect a President* (1962).

The last two have appeared in several editions, and the Roosevelt book was once chosen one of The NY Times best books for young people. Before coming to Ridgefield he received a Ford

Foundation grant for study in Europe, concentrating on political systems and the rising tide of communism in Italy.

Dr. Weingast, the second longest-serving of some 17 superintendents, worked through some tough times, a decade of turmoil with one crisis seeming to come on the heels of another: school building debates, problems with overcrowding, battles over books and budgets, an unhappy teachers' union, and many lesser issues.

But, he said, it was also a period of accomplishment: the creation of a modern, balanced program of studies, the introduction of greater emphasis on writing, the expansion of fine arts offerings, the increasing use of community resources, the hiring of capable staff, rewriting the whole curriculum from kindergarten through 12th grade using teams of teachers, and the improved management of money. *"I think we've achieved a good balance between teaching the basics and promoting student creativity,"* Dr. Weingast said.

He retired here when he reached 65, and became a consultant on education, working out of his Main Street home. Asked at the time if he might ever run for a seat on the not-always-cordial school board under which he worked, he laughed. *"Never! I couldn't be dragooned or seduced or bought!"* True to his word, Dr. Weingast in retirement was an active citizen but seemed content to remain on the sidelines of Ridgefield politics and the town's educational debates. Occasionally he wrote letters to the newspaper on issues that interested him - opposing condominiums on north Main Street, supporting expansion of the library.

In 1981, with characteristic thoughtfulness, he opposed a zoning variance to allow an expansion of hotel uses on West Lane. *"The people who ask for exceptions to the zoning rules mean Ridgefield no harm,"* he wrote. *"But each applicant wants what he wants. The sum of their wants is more cars, more blacktop, more congestion, more noise, more dirt, more pollution..."*

Beautiful towns don't decline overnight; they surrender, one building at a time."

"He was an inspiring teacher," his family said, *"whose students would meet him years and decades later and recall the passion he conveyed to them about history, social studies and politics."*

Besides his wife, he is survived by four children and their families: Beth Weingast Halperin and husband Dr. Edward Halperin of New Rochelle, N.Y.; Erica Weingast of New York City; Jeremy Weingast and wife, Francene, of West Hartford; and Victor Weingast and wife, Diane Moore, of Montclair, N.J. He also leaves six grandchildren, Alexander Halperin, Anna Halperin, Anthony Halperin, Lila Weingast, Jay Weingast and Andrew Weingast.

MORTON SELTZER

Former Math Teacher and Chair



Morton Seltzer, educator and author of mathematics books, died on March 21. Born in Newark, Mr. Seltzer was a longtime resident of West Orange before moving to Maplewood recently.

He obtained B.A. and M.A. degrees from Montclair State College and received grants for advanced study at other colleges and universities. He served as Chairman of the Mathematics Department of Weequahic High School as well as Director of the College Review Center.

In addition, he was the author of several books on modern mathematics, as well as *Mathematics of the Gun Data Computer*, which he wrote for the Army Coast Artillery when he served during World War II. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; sons, Lyn of NYC and Donald of Arlington, Mass., and a grandson, Matthew, of NYC.

MEMBERSHIP / MERCHANDISE / SCHOLARSHIP Form

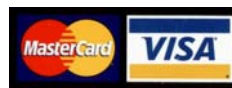
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- Please Print Clearly -

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

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Exp. Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

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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 20)

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| 3. \$ _____ MOREY BOBROW Memorial Fund | 13. \$ _____ HANNAH LITZKY Memorial Fund |
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| 9. \$ _____ LES & CEIL FEIN Endowment Fund | 19. \$ _____ SADIE ROUS Memorial Fund |
| 10. \$ _____ MIRIAM HAMPLE Memorial Fund | |

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Class (Month & Year): _____ **Current or Past Occupation:** _____

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

Phone: () _____ **Business:** () _____

Cell: () _____ **e-mail:** _____

In Loving Memory

Bertram Polow, 1935

Bertram Polow, 88, of Morristown, VT., died on January 30, 2007 from congestive heart failure. Bert lived in Irvington, Newark and Morristown, NJ for many years before moving to Vermont.

He was an avid musician, playing the piano and the accordion throughout his life. He had a band called Buddy Polow and The Rondoeliers during his younger days. In World War II, Bert served as a staff and combat intelligence officer.

Following the war, he received a law degree from NYU Law School in 1948, and a master's in law degree from Rutgers University in 1952. Bert practiced law in New Jersey privately and as a prosecutor in Morristown, NJ from 1948 to 1963. He began his judicial career, first as the Morris County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judge, then as the Chancery judge.

He was then appointed as an appellate judge in the Appellate Division of the NJ Superior Court, where he wrote 700 decisions from 1979 until his retirement in 1983. Bert also served as chairman of the American Bar Association's Family Court and Family Law Section during the 1970's.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Betty Krohn Polow; his brother, Leonard Polow; and his three children, Abby Craig and her husband Todd Craig, Dr. Sara Polow and her husband Mark Heidt, and David Polow and his wife, Bridgett Polow. He is also survived by his six grandchildren.

Murray Forman, 1946

Murray Forman died on February 22, 2007 at age 78. He was a graduate of Weequahic High school and received a degree from Rutgers University. He was a navy veteran of World War II and belonged to the Mason Masada Lodge. He had a happy and successful life, founding Sherri's Cookery, a company that makes deli salads, named for his beloved daughter, who died in 1985.



Murray is survived by his loving wife, Arlene; his daughters, Hildy Forman of Arlington Va., and Ellen Forman Obstler, of San Anselmo, Ca.; his stepdaughters, Vikki Reiser,

Debby Stewart and Stacy Kochanowski, all of New Jersey; his sons-in-law, Peter Obstler, Rob Reiser, and Tom Kochanowski; and his eight grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Program at Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark.

Dr. Gerard W. Lee, 1960



Dr. Gerard William Lee Jr., 64, an educator and civic leader, passed away on March 7, 2007, at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Dr. Lee was born on August 25, 1942 in Newark to Gerard W. Lee Sr. and Willa Mae Sidney Lee. He attended Newark public schools, graduating from Weequahic High School in 1960. He received his Bachelor's degree from Shaw University in North Carolina and in 1963 participated in the March on Washington led by the Dr. Martin Luther King. He returned to Newark and met Wilma J. Lee who became his wife.

In 1971, he earned his MA degree from Newark State College in guidance and counseling and received his doctorate in education in 1980. Dr. Lee had a long and fulfilling career in education and community service. He was a teacher in Newark, the director of counseling at Roselle High School, the director of the EOF program at William Paterson University, dean of Student Affairs at Essex County College, senior guidance counselor in the Plainfield school system,

and supervisor of guidance for the East Orange school district.

Dr. Lee co-founded the LST Group Inc., a consulting firm that provided among other things law enforcement sensitivity training, rites of passage programming targeted at middle school African-American boys, and family management training for low-moderate-income housing residents. Among his most important values was his passionate belief that African-Americans identify with their cultural African heritage and he organized trips to countries in Africa.

He also served as past president of the NJ Association of Black Psychologists and NJ chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. He also was a Democratic Committee member and the first chairman of the Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority, a position he held for 10 years.

Dr. Lee is survived by his wife Wilma of 39 years, his only son, Bakari Gerard Lee, Esq., his sisters, Janice Hill-Lee and Dorian Douglas; his brother-in-law, Edward Macklin, and his sisters-in-law, Alice Cheatham, Sylvia Johnson and Donna Macklin.

Martin Scher, June 1956



Martin Scher, 68, passed away on May 17, 2007. Born in Newark, Mr. Scher lived in Cranford before moving to Green Brook 20 years ago. He was the co-owner of Scher Brothers, a window

covering and upholstery company, in Green Brook and Cranford. He attended Seton Hall University in South Orange and was a member and past president of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim in Cranford, and past president of the Men's Club. He is survived by his wife, Connie (Burgess) Scher; four sons, Steven and his wife, Jennifer, of Portola, Calif., Andrew and his wife, Michele, of Morganville, Roger of Edison and Todd of Egg Harbor City; and four grandchildren. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or Lung Assoc.

REUNIONS 2007:

☺ 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.

☺ June 22

1977 - 30th

Friday, 8:00 PM, Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance,
Scotch Plains, NJ. Contact: Nona Smith Davis at
(201) 341-3215 and Dexter Adams at (864)
877-1104. Class Cook Out on Saturday.
Register at WEEQ1977@charter.net.

☺ September 8

Multi-Class: 60's & 70's

Saturday, 7 PM, Robert Treat Hotel, Newark.
\$50.00 per person. Send in your money NOW.
Reserve your hotel rooms (alumni discount).
Visit the high school, local attractions and
points of interest.

For more information, contact:

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.

☺ September 9

Jan. 1957 - 50th

Sunday, 11:30 AM, Forsgate Country Club.
Monroe Township, NJ. Contact Frances Letzter
Malkin at (201) 704-5064 / letzter@comcast.net.

☺ October 28

June 1957 - 50th

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

PLANNING:

☺ Jan. & June 1962

HELP is needed to organize a reunion for the
classes of January and June 1962. Please contact
Bonnie Zunk Vogel at BonnieV929@aol.com.

CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH US!

HOMEcoming 2007

10 AM, Saturday, October 20, 2007

Tour of School, Buffet Brunch, Slide Show,
Meet the Principal, Alumni Merchandise,
Neighborhood Parade with the Marching Band
and Cheerleaders, and Football Game

Untermann Field Re-Dedication Ceremony

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or order from our web site



WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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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

Harold Edwards, 1966

Arnold Keller, 1952

Monroe Krichman, 1955

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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