

ALUMINI



CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Home Coming Weekend

6:30 p.m. Friday October 19

FOOTBALL GAME:

WEEQUAHIC VS MORRIS HILLS

CEREMONY:

RE-DEDICATION OF
UNTERMANN FIELD
AND A NEW PLAQUE
FOR THE "ROCK"

10:00 A.M. SATURDAY OCTOBER 20

BUFFET BRUNCH
TOUR OF SCHOOL
SLIDE SHOW
MERCHANDISE SALE
MEET THE PRINCIPAL
HEAR THE MARCHING BAND
SEE THE TWIRLERS AND
CHEERLEADERS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOMECOMING AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR THE MOVIE, CONTACT US AT

(973) 923-3133 whs@weequahicalumni.org

WE ACCEPT CASH,
CHECKS AND CREDIT CARDS

WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER
AND SNEAK PREVIEW OF

THE EXCITING NEW FILM

"AMERICAN GANGSTER"

STARRING DENZEL WASHINGTON & RUSSELL CROWE

BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF 1956 WEEQUAHIC GRAD

RICHIE ROBERTS







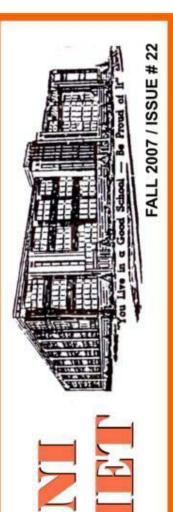
7 P.M.
TUESDAY
OCTOBER 30

LOEWS
MOUNTAINSIDE
10 CINEMAS
ROUTE 22



Тіскетs \$25.00

Reception to follow with special guest Richie Roberts



CALUMIET



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Capital \$\$ Campaign

At the beginning of 2008, the WHS Alumni Association will launch a multi-year capital development campaign. The goal of this endeavor is to raise two million dollars over three years. The project is being chaired by Sam Weinstock, 1955, Treasurer of the association. This effort is intended to insure the long-term financial and organizational viability of the alumni association. Moreover, the program opportunities and additional scholarships will continue to enhance the quality of education at the high school in the years to come. Updates on the progress of the campaign will appear in this newsletter. All alumni and friends will be invited to participate. Other committee members are Arnold Keller, 1952; Judy Bennett, 1972; Arthur Lutzke, 1963; Hal Braff, 1952; Vivian Simons, 1959; Charles Talley, 1966; and Phil Yourish, 1964.

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 nearly \$9,000. 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 your check payable to **WHSAA** and mail it to the WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101 (write <u>Mural Restoration</u> in the memo area) or use your credit card by filling out the form on page 18 and mailing it to us.

Alumni Gatherings

Class of 1977 / 30th Reunion

A Friday evening affair on June 22nd at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance in Scotch Plains. A cookout was on Saturday, June 23, at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield. 80 people attended. Committee members were *Nona Smith Davis, Dexter Adams, Yvonne*

Causbey, Andre Daniels, and Belinda Flannagan.

Les Fein Memorial Tribute

200 people attended a memorial tribute for Weequahic's legendary basketball coach, Les Fein, on June 24th at the Jewish Community Center in West Orange. The tribute included an exhibition of memorabilia from the Fein collection; the showing of a documentary film entitled, *Tribute to Mr. Fein*, directed by *Beth Kruvant* and produced by *Paul Bartick*; and speakers: *Hal Braff*, 1952; Mike Cohen, 1960; Charles Talley, 1966; Alvin Attles, 1955; and Ceil Fein.

At the event, The Les and Ceil Fein Endowment Fund was established to provide funds for Weequahic High School students and for projects in the Weequahic community. Those who make a contribution of \$200 or more will receive a DVD of the Fein documentary. Our thanks to the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest. Committee members were Phil Yourish, 1964; Sandy Salz, 1957; Charles Talley, 1966; Hal Braff, 1952; Linda Forgosh, JHS; Stephanie Fein; Peter Hollander, Beth Kruvant and Paul Bartick.

Multi-Class Reunion: 60's & 70's

A Saturday evening affair on September 8th at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark. A tour of the high school took place in the afternoon. More than 300 people attended the evening event. A jazz ensemble with Branford Hayes, Michael Logan, Greg Searvance, and Gomoko Ohno provided the entertainment with vocals by Dwight West. Alumni came from far and near - California, Texas, Colorado, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Many alumni had not seen each other in 30 to 40 years. Committee members were Adilah Quddus, 1971; Charles Talley, 1966; Gerald Russell, 1974; Willie West, 1972, Sylvester Allen, 1971; and Abu Baka Sahku, 1970.

Class of Jan. 1957 / 50th Reunion

Sunday afternoon, September 9, at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township. Included a Philip Roth Tour of Newark and a tour of the high school on Saturday afternoon. 71 people attended. Alumni T-shirts were given to all the attendees. Committee members were Frances Letzter Malkin, Beryl Baranker Garb, Martin Hoffman, Janice Allison Cholminsky, David & Gladys Wakstein, Elaine Cohen Ames, Linda Marion Israel, and Gary Miller.

The ALUMNI CALUMET

is a publication of the WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor, Layout & Design:

Phil Yourish, 1964

Masthead

Rich Brospies, 1964

Proofreading:

Dave Lieberfarb, 1965; Hal Braff, 1952; Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953; Vasco Jardim.

Our thanks for articles from The Star-Ledger, NJ Jewish News, other publications, and our WHS alumni.

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CONTACT US

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Alumni Association

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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.

Some Thoughts

From Hal Braff, Co-President



The one day you can count on the Temple being full is Yom Kippur - the holiest day in the Jewish year - a day for reflection, evaluation, remembrance and continuity. We revisit our experiences with our parents and school mates and

warmly greet "shul" mates who, once again, have survived with us another year.

At the heart of the service, repeated every year that day, is the recitation of the words of God from the prophet Isaiah, found in every version of the Bible, and my personal inspiration:

This is My chosen fast: to loosen all bonds that bind men unfairly, to let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke. Share your bread with the hungry, take the homeless into your home. Clothe the naked when you see him, do not turn away from people in need.

If you remove from your midst the yoke of oppression, the finger of scorn and the tongue of malice, if you put yourself out for the hungry and relieve the needy, then shall your light shine in the darkness, and your gloom shall be as noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually.

This year I spent much of my day contemplating how grateful I am for the life with which I've been blessed and, in particular, the friendships which have developed with the extraordinary people who make up the Weequahic High School Alumni Association Board of Trustees.

Though all of us are Newarkers, some of us are young, some are old. Some are black. Some are white. But it is the common denominators that bring us together which so fill my heart with love and with hope. The

road to success is through education. Our vow is that no Weequahic student who earns the right to post high school training will be denied that chance because of lack of funds.

In the ten years of our inspired work, honoring the many whose successes have "brought honor to Weequahic High" and providing opportunity where it otherwise would not exist to the many who have joined us through graduation in this last decade, I have seen the clearest evidence that Jews and African Americans can accomplish so much good working together. I have seen kindness and respect and generosity in action. And I have seen that our Chancellor Avenue roots are very deep. We learned good things while we were there.

The weekend of October 19-20 we celebrate our Homecoming and the Weequahic High School Alumni Association's 10th birthday. We urge you to join us - to see what we're about - to meet our students - to be inspired by what we are doing. We play Morris Hills High School in football at the beautifully refurbished Untermann Field, first built in 1949 and to be rededicated before the game Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. A new plaque will be ready for placement on the "Rock." Our Orange and Brown Indians are coming off of a State Championship season in 2006. And our band will thrill you, I assure you, when it reintroduces our fight song "We're On Our Way" to its wonderful repertoire. Wear your orange and brown.

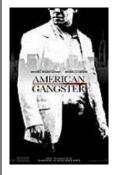
On Saturday from 10 a.m. we will welcome you and your family back to the school. You will be pleased to see it. Show your kids and grandkids where you grew up and developed. Meet Ron Stone, our principal, and learn what your Alumni Association and your faculty and administration are accomplishing. You will be proud.

I wish each of you a joyous, healthy, loving year and invite you to assist us in providing a chance for the good life for the kids living in the same houses from which we left each day for the Wigwam on the Hill. *And the Lord will guide you continually.*

At the Annual Newark Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner on Thursday, October 18th, the following Weequahic grads and faculty will be honored: Steve Bleier, 1962 (basketball); Steve Bogner, 1966 (football and track); Joseph R. Baker, 1966 (basketball and football); Reggie Jones, Jr., 1969 (boxing); Amara Kamara, 2007 (football); Lester Fusco (former faculty) and Gary Westberry (current athletic director).

Richie Roberts and the American Gangster Connection

Excerpts from an article by William Kleinknecht, Star-Ledger



Richie Roberts is a respected attorney in Essex County, but four decades in courtrooms have hardly made him famous. He could easily have gone

through life without so much as 15 minutes of fame. But the Newark native is now living a fantasy.

Roberts' prosecution three decades ago of the legendary Harlem heroin kingpin Frank Lucas is the subject of a major motion picture being filmed in New York City, and suddenly his world is a lot bigger than the Essex County Courthouse. "This is so unreal, it's surreal," Roberts said recently as he sat in a hallway at the courthouse. "I'm just a regular guy from Newark. Why five Academy Award winners would want to make a movie about me is beyond my comprehension."

Hollywood was attracted to the story because of the drama behind Roberts' pursuit of the larger-than-life organized crime figure, but also because an unlikely friendship sprouted between the two men after Lucas began cooperating with authorities.

In the movie, Denzel Washington plays Lucas, whose criminal reign in Upper Manhattan, with occasional forays into North Jersey, ran from the 1940s to the 1970s. And Russell Crowe is playing young Richie Roberts, a former Weequahic High School football player, who was both a detective and attorney in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office before going into private practice.

We Need You!

he Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest seeks support for an exhibition that we certainly can call our own. It is about us and the com-

munity in which we lived. And, given the commentaries appearing over the years in this newsletter, it is a community that keeps living on in our hearts and minds. The exhibition is titled, Weequahic: Newark's Legendary Neighborhood, and

will open in mid-2008. Imagine an exhibition

with memorabilia from the folks of Weequahic: photos of clubs and events and neighborhood establishments we all

high school sports memorabilia; an 8th-grade autograph book signed with remarks from Philip Roth; even a Great Map of Weequahic where you will be given an opportunity to

participate with your one-time Weequahic address!

Please support your exhibition by sending a donation with the coupon below. For further information -or if you have memora-

bilia you would like included in the exhiMC LINTOCK

bition - contact Linda Forgosh, JHSMW Curator at 973-929-2994 or e-mail lforgosh@jhsmw.



THS Exhibitions:

Who's Minding The Store

Dedicated to the mom-and-pop stores that grew into major supermarkets

Born At The Beth

Paying tribute to Beth Israel Hospital's 100+ year history and the families that made it happen

One More Night at Elvings

Celebrating New Jersey's Yiddish theater that opened in 1922

One Hundred Years of Caring

Chronicling the formation and growth of Daughters of Israel Geriatric Center

For information on these exhibitions and other events go to jhsmw.org

Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest • 901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07981

YES. I would like to support the exhibition: Weequahic: Newark's Legendary Neighborhood."

Enclosed find my donation as follows:

\$25

\$50*

\$100**



* \$50 donation will enroll me as a General member in JHSMW and I will be notified of all society events. \$100 donation will enroll me as a Sustaining member in JHSMW and will entitle me to be included in the "Great Map of Weequahic."

WEEQUAHIC ADDRESS

Make checks payable to the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest and mark them Weequahic Exhibit.

WHS 1990 Marquis "Bo" Porter

Bo Grows Quickly in Major-League Role

By Gerry Beatty, 1957



Bo Porter is unique. Our 1990 graduate is the third-base coach for the Florida Marlins, and he's only 35 years old. Among the tens of millions who play baseball, only 150 are majorleague coaches.

Among the men who signal from the third-base box, the average age is 52 and the next-youngest is 42.

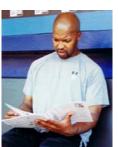
Porter's rapid rise is no accident. He's regarded as intelligent, hard-working and organized. Some managers during his career took notice. "When I was blessed enough to play, I played the game the right way," explained Porter during a dugout interview before the Marlins played the Mets in August.

"Bo played for me in 2002 in Richmond (Atlanta's top farm team)," concurred Fredi Gonzalez, now the Marlins' manager. "He always asked the right questions; he always wanted to learn. He loves to work, and I think the kids (the young Marlin players) have responded to him. 'I don't know' is not in his vocabulary." Thus, when Gonzalez got his current job late last year, he'd already made up his mind to bring in Porter. In fact, the manager also made Bo the instructor for outfielders and base

runners, and left him on his own to multi-task. "I trust him and I know how much he prepares," said Gonzalez. Is managing a big-league team in Bo's future? "Yes, absolutely," said Gonzalez. "He's what you want" in a leader. From Porter's perspective "as a young coach, it's a great situation. We have so many young players and I can help in their development. The experience I had, I can bring (to them) because I'm not so far removed in age."

Porter credited much of his success to his formative years in Newark. He lived on 14th Street north of Clinton Avenue and entered West Side, but switched to Weequahic after a year. "Bill Hicks, my baseball coach, was a huge reason I transferred," said Porter. "He was my Little League coach." And Leon Grove, who ran the football program, had been his coach in the East Orange Pop Warner League. "Weequahic was the right move at the right time, not just sportswise, but academically," recalled Porter.

His athletic success attracted college recruiters by the end of his sophomore year. He praised his coaches, including Frank Gavin in basketball, for sorting through the offers and counseling his family. When he visited Iowa, he was convinced. A counselor there already had his program mapped out when he matriculated: baseball and football, academics, graduation in 3 1/2 years. Iowa is where he met his wife, Stacey. The Chicago Cubs drafted him, and he was grateful for their patience. Being an all-star in multiple sports was not an asset as a professional. "When I made a decision to play baseball, I was behind," he said. Ultimately he played in five organizations, including three majorleague teams, making his debut on May 9,



Bo Porter reading the Alumni Calumet in the Florida Marlin's

1999 with the Cubs.

"The best experience of my life" was the 2000 American League playoffs with Oakland. Another highlight was playing for Texas alongside Alex Rodriguez, Ivan

Rodriguez and Rafael Palmeiro, three future Hall of Fame candidates. Late in his career, he joined the Atlanta organization, "one of the best decisions I ever made." That's where he played for Gonzalez.

When Porter's playing days ended, he spent a year away from baseball with his family, recharging and contemplating his future. He also worked as a campus manager at Houston Community College, starting an athletic program. Among the baseball offers he received, Porter decided Florida's "was a good fit for me. I'm glad I went to the lower levels first," he said. Last year, as a roving instructor, he covered all levels of player development. "The way I played the game in its entirety helped me in my transition from player to coach," he added.

Now he and Stacey live in Frisco, Texas, a Dallas suburb. His mother, Beverly, and his brothers, Otiz and Edward, have joined him in Texas; his father, Irving Johnson, is still a Newark resident. But Porter still returns periodically to Newark. "I told (football coach) Altarik White I'd come back and talk to the team," he said. "I get back a couple times in the offseason - I usually get to the Christmas tournament."

Dedicated in Memory of Judge William Untermann October 15, 1949

Rededicated by the Weequahic High School Alumni Association October 19, 2007

> Marion Bolden, Newark Superintendent of Schools

Ron Stone, Weequahic High School Principal



Friday, Oct. 19th 6:30 P.M.

Rededication of the newly renovated

UNTERMANN FIELD

and placement of a new plaque on the

"ROCK"



WHS vs Morris Hills Football Game

Words from and about our scholarship recipients

Kiesha Bridges: College of Saint Elizabeth, NJ

Words cannot express how grateful I am to be a recipient of your alumni scholarship. Your generosity will aid me in achieving my goals for the future. Because you have helped me, I plan to do the same with other young promising students like myself. I want to someday either become part of Weequahic's scholarship (project) or establish my own for the school. What you are doing is a great thing. Continue to be a part of the Weequahic family and continue to be the loving, caring individuals you are.

Cheron Jackson: Tuskegee University, Alabama

Your contribution to the Weequahic High School students of 2007 is nothing short of amazing. Only God knows how much I appreciate things that have been given to me out of love, kindness, or just plain consideration. There's nothing more appreciated in this world than giving a helping hand to those who need it. You made me and others feel so special to be nominated for such a phenomenal award. Now that I know that I have help, I can continue to take my journey to another level and show what a phenomenal woman I can be.

Naomi Adjei: Cornell University, NY Weequahic HS Valedictorian

By Timothy Healy, English Teacher

Naomi is very, very special, I can't stop saying it. She is one of the most capable, most charming, most sincere and most determined young ladies I have ever had the pleasure to work with. I can't imagine a world that will fail to recognize and foster the exceptional talents embodied in this finest of young ladies. Meet Naomi and you will understand. Meet Naomi and you will want to work with her. Meet Naomi and you will be reminded of why teachers teach. Meet Naomi and you will be renewed in the very purpose of your program. Meet Naomi and you will be impressed. She is simply the brightest star in the sky. She holds the world's promise and its hope in her heart and in her hands. Support Naomi in any way

possible. Do it now. She will make you extremely proud.

Moses Griffin: Rutgers University, NJ

To better understand who I am, you must know what my name means to me. Moses the man of legend was born a slave, raised as a prince, and led his people to the promised land. ...I take pride in my name and my dreams of what I want to accomplish as I walk down the road of life...So I can say when I get to the age of 70, I made a change in the world around me. I made a difference in the way people live their life. That I, Moses Griffin, was born in poverty, rose to be a man that gives back to his community, and became a leader for his people.

Dominick Brown: William Paterson University, NJ

I would like to express my gratitude for the generous donation you have given me to continue my education at an institution of higher learning. You have my word as a fellow "Indian" that these funds will not go to waste. I was a member of our state championship football team, and hopefully I will help bring the same greatness to the William Paterson football team on my way to greatness in the classroom.

Sharnae Williams: St. Peter's College, NJ

Attending college is very important to me. I come from two parents whose highest education level is high school. Every day I see them working hard at jobs that they don't really enjoy. I don't want that to be me in the future. It's hard out there at the present time when you do not have a college degree. My father has always said to me, "No matter what you want to do in life, continue your education because that is the ticket to a better life." I strongly agree with him. I am a strong-minded and self-motivated young lady and I'm ready for the social and academic challenges that I will face in college.

Tierrah Badger: Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina

I believe that life is a big map full of paths. You have paths of success, failures and more, but it's up to you which one you want to choose. So far my path to success has not been completely fulfilled.

But slowly and surely I am climbing up the steps of success with bumps, potholes, detours and roadblocks a lot of the way. Yes, I have come across the signs of life such as "yield" and "do not enter." The path has not always been clear, but I've kept my eyes open, focused on the road ahead, and the experience has made all the difference.

Sharee Davis: Clark Atlanta University, Georgia French Class Trip to Paris Student

I struggled to pull my four extra large duffel bags up the stairs. After the exhausting ordeal, and what seemed like forever, I finally made it up the last step. I stood in the middle of the top of the staircase watching people rushing by to their destinations. Then, suddenly, everyone seemed to disappear. While slipping off into a daze, I breathlessly looked around at hundreds of billboards that I barely understood...Just then I was snatched back into the reality of the chaotic train station by a lady who had almost knocked me right back down the stairs I'd just worked so hard to climb. "Excusez moi," she said. Then I took my first step onto the train station platform, the first step of many I would take during the next two weeks that I would be spending in Paris, France. "This is it," I thought. "I'm really here."

Brittany James: Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ

By Michael Smith, Guidance Counselor

It is no secret that the city of Newark has been bombarded with many social and economic issues that have created (at times) a difficult environment for some students to thrive, and, even survive. Because of her focus, Brittany has been able to overcome "typical" obstacles, while achieving the honor roll and a 3.0 G.P.A. Students like her revitalize a school's climate, culture and reputation. Brittany is simply a delight, a teacher's pleasure and a counselor's dream. She has an addictive well-mannered personality, with "lady-like" maturity to match. She has never had any disciplinary issues, and is thoroughly involved in extracurricular activities in and outside of school. She is goal-oriented and driven, which are two rare commodities amongst teens of this day and age.

Phyllis & Donald Kalfus Fund



Naomi Agyei



Alvin Attles

Fund

Shakirah Amos



Alvin Attles

Fund

Tierrah Badger



Alvin Attles

Fund

Jasmine Banks



Essex Woman's

Club Fund

Iesha Bell



Class of 1963

Fund

Keisha Bridges



Alvin Attles

Fund

Mekka Brooks



Edwin

McLucas Fund

Dominick Brown

Ronald

Griffin Fund

CLASS OF 2007 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Alvin Attles Fund



Brielle Callahan





Shonella Cameron Mikaelia Cook





Alvin

Janay Davis



Alvin

Reada & Harry



Swede

Sharee Davis Raymond Edmonds Tiffany Garris



Alvin

Attles Fund

Alvin

Attles Fund



Moses Griffin

38 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS / \$40,000

June 1940 Fund



Clarissa Hayer

Alvin Attles Fund





Maxine





Morey



WHS



Miriam

Cheron Jackson Gabriel Jackson Brittany James Charlston Manning Mysia Patterson Tashana Pickens Shaynea Sanders

WHS



Leo



Hannah

19 SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDS

Alvin Attles Fund



Shahidah Shabazz Aliah Sheffield Shakirah Tanksley



Alvin





WHS



WHS

Ashley Stith



Antwanette Walker



Aliya Wood





WHS

Alumni Fund

Sharnae Williams Rhondaline Wright

Not Pictured: Lachelle Adams, Marie O'Connor Fund; Khiry Crosby, Bert Manhoff Fund; Imane Jones, Class of 1964 Fund; Rayvon Lisbon, Sadie Rous Fund; Corey Mosley, Alvin Attles Fund; Claudette Onunu, Alvin Attles Fund.

THANK YOU! To All Of Our Alumni, Faculty And Friends Who Have Made Donations To Our 19 Scholarship Funds, Your Ongoing Generosity Provides Current Weequahic Students With The Opportunity For A Higher Education. You Have Helped Make Their Dreams Come True!

WEEQUAHIC WRITERS

Benilde Little, WHS 1976





Benilde Little is the author of the best-selling novel *Good Hair*, which examined class distinctions among African-Americans through a love relationship between a third-generation Harvard educated surgeon and the book's protagonist, Alice Andrews, a newspaper reporter and the daughter of working-class parents. James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, called it "an important book to read for anyone who has ever been in love...a superb debut."

Selected as one of the ten best books of 1996 by The Los Angeles Times, *Good Hair* spent six months at number one on the Blackboard Bestseller list. Little was nominated for an NAACP Image Award for her work and was awarded Best New Author by the Go On Girl Book Club, a nationwide reading group.

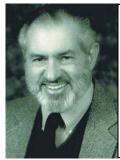
Little's follow-up novel, *The Itch*, was published in 1998. Set among the world that W.E.B. DuBois called, "*The Talented Tenth*," she examined the privileged lives of the black elite in Manhattan and Los Angeles, and their struggle to find a sense of purpose amidst overwhelming material success.

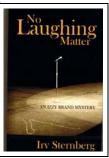
Benilde's critically acclaimed third novel, *Acting Out*, asked the question of how someone maintains their course when their world is turned upside down unexpectedly. Little's heroine, Ina West, struggles with how to remain true to herself after becoming a wife and mother when her husband announces that he is leaving her. The themes within this powerful novel are universal and are issues that Little admits to coming to terms with personally. Her latest novel, *Who Does She Think She Is?* was published in May 2005.

Little was formerly a senior editor at *Essence* and a contributing editor at *Heart and Soul*. She has been a reporter for *People, The Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *The Star-Ledger* and has written for *In-Style, Allure* and other publications.

Born and raised in Newark, Little graduated from Howard University with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She also attended graduate school at Northwestern University. Benilde Little lives with her husband and their two children in Montclair.

Irv Sternberg, WHS 1947





Irv Sternberg has mined careers in journalism and public relations to author three regional best-selling and award-winning novels and co-author a best-selling nonfiction book. His third novel, *No Laughing Matter*, was released in April 2007. Sternberg's debut novel, *Deadly Passage*, an international thriller, won the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers prize for mystery fiction and was published by Severn House in 1994. It was later optioned for film by Diva Entertainment in Denmark, released as a large-print Dale's Mystery in England, and reprinted by Kodansha in Japan in 1997.

His second novel, *Sakura's Stratagem*, the sequel to *Deadly Passage*, was cited by Writer's Digest. Both were published under his pen name, Mark Irving. His latest novel, *No Laughing Matter*, is an amateur sleuth mystery set in Denver and published under his real name. The nonfiction book, *How To Run Your Business So You Can Leave It In Style*, was a collaborative effort with Denver attorney John H. Brown, published by Amacom Books in 1990.

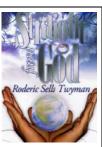
A graduate of Rutgers University, Sternberg served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War and was a reporter, bureau chief and political columnist at the Newark Evening News before joining the Bell System, where he worked as a speech writer and media and community relations manager. He worked in Iran prior to the revolution there in 1979 and used that experience to develop the main character in his Clint Jagger series of international thrillers. His freelance articles have appeared in national periodicals and various newspapers.

He is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, the Colorado Authors League and the Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers. He and his wife live in Arvada, Colorado.

Roderic Sells Twyman, WHS 1972

Patricia C. Turner, Star-Ledger





Although he was born in Alabama, Roderic Sells Twyman, 52, has lived in Newark since 1960. He attended Bragaw Avenue School and graduated from Weequahic High School, class of 1972, before entering Kentucky State University, where he studied social work.

He works in that field as an attendance counselor at Vailsburg Middle School, and previously for Speedway Avenue School. He started working as a counselor in 1995. He took his first job as a substitute teacher with the Newark Public Schools in 1977, then did a variety of things - selling computers, serving as a city property maintenance inspector, managing a pharmacy, and selling cable TV.

Throughout, though, his love was poetry and, later, his religious faith. Twyman said he remembers writing his first poem when he was seven. The subject was Abraham Lincoln. His mother, Myrtis Sells Twyman, now retired to Illinois, taught at Bragaw Avenue School, and helped him overcome a speech defect by instilling love of words, Twyman said. "She would say, 'write it down, say it, spell it, know what it means."

Twyman Continued

Because of his passion for poetry, his sister, Gwen Clark (WHS 1974), always gives him a journal for Christmas.

Poetry comes easy to him. "It doesn't take long to write a poem," he said. "I write every day." Twyman met his publisher, Deborah Smith, of Deborah Smith Publications in Irvington in 2005. Smith, Twyman said, is also an evangelist. He sent her some of his poems three days after they met, and had many more waiting, more than 1,000.

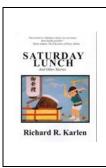
What resulted is "Straight from God," a collection of Twyman's faith-based poems, illustrated with wonderful photos by R.M. Graphics of Newark. The book, which costs \$12.95 in paperback, is available for sale through his e-mail at roderictwyman@yahoo.com or by calling him at (862) 371-9260. He offers readers the chance to receive the book postage-free or contribute to its cost.

Twyman received his certificate as a minister from Gilgal Bible School in Paterson. He was valedictorian of his class. He founded "It Is Written Ministries" this year. "I minister the word of God in poetry, art, and the spoken word," Twyman said. Almost every poem in the book, except in a few cases, concludes with a passage from Scripture. He says "It is God who inspires me."

Twyman credits the Rev. C.G. Washington as "the man who led me to Christ," on April 20, 1991. They have been friends since age 12. And there were other influences in his spiritual development. "I came up through Everlasting Life Ministries, Teen Challenge, and Pivot Ministries. I'm now at Metropolitan Baptist Church."

Richard R. Karlen, WHS 1947

Richard R. Karlen, the author of *Saturday Lunch* and six other works of fiction, grew up in the Weequahic area. He attended Maple Avenue School and three years at Weequahic High School, spending his senior year at the Pennington School, where he graduated in 1947. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1951 and NYU Dental School in 1957.





Following dental school, he spent three years in the Air Force, during which he was stationed a year in Korea and two years in Japan, where he met and married Hiroko Iwano in 1959. This past July was their 48th anniversary. They have four children and six grandchildren. Upon returning to NJ after being discharged from the Air Force, Dr. Karlen practiced dentistry on Ferry Street in the Ironbound section of Newark for 35 years, retiring in 1995.

Since his retirement, he has written and published seven novels. He is currently working on his 8th novel, "Devil's Dance Redux" which will be published in the winter of 2008. Detailed information about his novels can be found at www.ironboundpress.net. His books can be purchased either through his web site or at Amazon.com or any Barnes & Noble bookstore.

In addition to writing novels and spending time with his family, Dr. Karlen is an ardent musician. He has played the violin in the Bound Brook Symphony and the NJ Intergenerational Orchestra and the clarinet in the Westfield Community Band. Currently he devotes most of his musical energy to playing chamber music at the Stirling Duo Chamber Music Workshop in Maplewood.

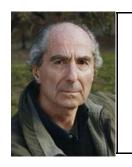
When he finds the time, Dr. Karlen can usually be located on a tennis court. He is the past president of the Netherwood Tennis Club in Plainfield and had at one time owned a decent ranking in the Eastern USTA. ("I will sit down at the computer and begin working on a novel in progress when the phone will ring. In 15 minutes, I am changed and on my way to the tennis court.")

And if you ask him what was the best year of his life, he will tell you it was in 1974 when he handed over his practice to a

young associate and spent ten months in a small fishing village on the Costa Del Sol in Spain and two months in the mountains in Switzerland with his wife and four children. "If school teachers can take sabbaticals, why can't a dentist." From the experience, he wrote "Murder at the Sexi" which he revised and published 26 years later. Dr. Karlen has been living for the past 32 years in Scotch Plains. He doesn't plan to move to Florida.

Philip Roth, WHS 1950

By Sam Anderson, NY Magazine





With Exit Ghost, the ninth (and apparently last) novel starring his alter ego, Nathan Zuckerman, Roth guarantees that, if he does win the Nobel anytime soon, it'll be on his own terms. Zuckerman has always been a swaggering, randy, impulsive taboo-hurdler, and here - despite being 71 years old, impotent, incontinent, and increasingly forgetful - he's just as fierce and unbearable and sexually obsessed as ever.

He gets lured off his mountain retreat in the Berkshires - where (like Roth) he's locked himself away for years in a kind of existential quarantine - for the most mundane reason possible: (unsuccessful) penis surgery by a New York specialist. He's immediately swept away on a big Rothian riptide of lust, rage, and envy.

He ends up stuck in a hopeless sexual quest for a big-breasted 30-year-old short-story writer, and battling a strapping young intellectual over the legacy of his dead literary hero, and having an incestuous dream about his mother's corpse.

Zuckerman may be old, Roth wants us to know, but he's not cute or doddering or detached or even wise: "I did what I did that's all one knows looking backward."

The Original Dedication of Untermann Field

From the Calumet

On October 15, 1949, 5,500 people thronged to Untermann Field for the Weequahic-East Side football game. But of the 5,500, few knew very little of the Dedication Ceremonies planned for the day. The stadium chairman, Mr. William Ricigliano, was the Master of Ceremonies and introduced the distinguished personages present: Dr. Joachim Prinz, Rabbi of Temple B'nai Abraham, gave the Invocation. An address was then given by Mayor Ralph A. Villani. Honorable Meyer C. Ellenstein and Honorable Leo P. Carlin then gave speeches. Mrs. Esther Untermann and Mr. John Untermann were next on the program. Mr. Benjamin Steinberg of the Chancellor Avenue Men's Club, gave a short address. A moment of silence in honor of the Weequahic boys who died in World War II followed. Msgr. M. Thimmis of St. Peter's Orphanage gave the Benediction. Due to the restlessness in the stands the ceremonies were shortened considerably and the game began.



By Robert Lapidus From the June 1950 Yearbook

A fanfare of trumpets, a thunderclap of drums, and the Orange and Brown stepped out on the field. Amid the brassy blare and thrills of another football season, Weequahic's colors came to a pause. On October the fifteenth, 1949, Untermann Field was solemnly dedicated, not only to the distinguished judge and citizen after whom it was named, but dedicated to and hallowed by those of Weequahic who had given their lives in the battle for freedom.

Just 18 months before, the site of the proud stadium was a wind-blown, rock-studded sand lot. But on the first Saturday of the autumn season of 1949, an overflowing crowd of six thousand exuberant spectators pressed into the grandstands as the familiar figure of *Principal Herzberg* officially opened the stadium. The multitude watched as the gridiron warriors trampled upon the virgin turf; the autumn sun splashed brightly in the stands; and the bands and cheerleaders performed studied routines.

This event signified the start of a new era for Weequahic athletics in Newark's newest and finest sports center. To the thousands who were there, to our classmates both on the playing field and in the stands, went the pride of being part of the moment, part of the thrills and groans, victories and defeats of Weequahic's new addition to the tribal grounds.

THE LOST PLEASURES OF STOOP SITTING

By Evanne Schreiber Geltzeiler, Jan. 1952

Especially on hot days of summer, I am drawn with the warmest pleasure by the memory of our shared stoop at 375 Belmont Avenue in Newark where I lived until I was 13 years old. We didn't have a lake to escape to and cool off in and air conditioning was in the fantasy realm of Buck Rogers and space exploration. On hot summer days, the stoop seemed to catch every breeze. Those memories, warm and enchanting, belong to things we do not experience anymore.

Stoops, if they exist at all, are vacant. Neighbors don't sit there and talk. Coming out to sit with neighbors on the stoop made it a central part of our social life. It was there we exchanged stories, learned the news and spread the gossip. Now, neighbors zip by in their cars. Air conditioning, television and computers have negated the need and pleasantries of stoop sociability.

For those who were fortunate enough to live in a house, usually shared by two or three families, the front porch was a central part of life. The milkman set his bottles there, each with a wire twisted around the waxy cap, and the cream, all on top, was poured over our cereal in the morning. Cholesterol hadn't been invented. There was always a key under the mat in case someone forgot theirs, but the door was rarely locked.

A rocking chair was part of the front porch decor because our grandmas and grandpas often lived with us back then. Their exodus to Miami Beach came much later. Sometimes, there was a squeaking porch swing where you could sit with a boyfriend. You can still see young lovers, leaning for a kiss in such a swing in some old movies from the 1930's and 1940's.

Today, there are no stoops, just steps to the front door and no key under the mat. Rather, a special key to the security system. The porch has been relegated to the rear of the house,



privacy being of primary importance. We live behind tightly closed doors, securely locked. I live in a beautiful borough and I have never met my neighbors beyond two doors up and two doors down.

I loved the stoop life in our beautiful Newark. Back in the 1930's and 1940's, the stoop reigned supreme. After dinner, we all met there. We could sit and talk, play hopscotch on the sidewalk or front path, or make plans and share dreams. Our lives were in balance and our hearts were shaped very much on the front stoop. It strengthened our sense of community.

On the stoop you had a sense of the lives of the people and the way your life intersected with theirs. For years I inhabited the stoop with my friends and neighbors. The wonderful, marvelous stoop was an experience pure and simple. Wisdom was imparted as mothers and children mingled.

As we storytellers are growing older, the fate of the wonderful stoop has eerily declined and someday, it will be a distant memory of a vanished culture, merely a relic of another time. To some extent, the stoop formed me and so the marvelous, invaluable experience of the stoop will remain part of me forever. I love, thinking now, how I hold the memory of that friendly meeting place, neighbors soaking in the energy of each other and returning home miraculously improved.

A slower, closer look at the ordinary stoop reveals that in fact, it was nothing short of extraordinary. And I wonder if today - there were stoops - harried, hyperdriven and so buried under the pressures of to-do lists, would we take the time to sit there? I would - just to recapture the magic.

P.S. When I was 13, my family movedon-up to the Weequahic section of Newark and into our very own home -WITH A BACK PORCH.

ALUMNI PROFILES

Jacob Toporek, WHS 1963

by Marilyn Silverstein, NJ Jewish News



An attorney with broad experience in governmental relations, pro-Israel activism, and Jewish communal affairs has been tapped for the role of executive director of the NJ State

Association of Jewish Federations, the umbrella organization of 12 federations throughout the state. Jacob Toporek of North Edison, who retired in August after 25 years as a commissioner on the New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Board, is scheduled to take up his new responsibilities on October 8. He replaces Jeffrey Maas, who left the position earlier this year.

As executive director of the State Association, the 61-year-old Toporek will represent the consortium of Jewish fund-raising and planning groups in public policy issues and governmental relations. "It's a pretty wide agenda, but basically it's to allow for the effective participation of the Jewish community in the state," Toporek said during a recent interview at the South River offices of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County. "This position gives me the opportunity to do two things I like to dogovernmental affairs and pro-Israel, pro-Jewish community advocacy."

"The first thing I'd really like to do is to meet all of the executive directors and also the [community relations] directors and staff people," he said. "And it's going to take some time to get educated on some of the issues that have been priorities for the association. It's a heavy, heavy schedule."

For Toporek, the appointment to the State Association is a kind of homecoming. He was one of its founders in 1982 and was

active with the organization during its first dozen years, serving as a vice president and as a member of its governmental affairs committee. A graduate of Rutgers University and the New York University School of Law, he served as appointments counsel to former Gov. Brendan Byrne for close to eight years before becoming a commissioner on the Victims of Crime Compensation Board in 1982.

In the policy arena, he has also served as chair of the executive committee of the Garden State Political Action Committee, a pro-Israel advocacy organization; as a member of the national council of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee; as a member of the New Jersey-Israel Commission; and as a campaign activist for a number of Democratic candidates on the state and national levels.

Max Kleinman, executive vice president of UJC MetroWest, said he is delighted with the selection of Toporek. "With his knowledge of government, his contacts on both sides of the aisle, and his commitment and passion for the Jewish community and Israel, he brings a lot to the table," Kleinman said. "I think that, working together with our federations, with Jac as executive director and Roy as president and MWW as our lobbying firm, we're ready to take it to the next step."

This is not the first time Toporek has been asked to take on the role of executive director of the State Association. The association first asked him in 1982, just after its founding, but at the time, Toporek decided to accept an offer from the Victims of Crime Compensation Board instead.

Toporek and his wife, Vivian, a former president of the JCC of Central New Jersey in Scotch Plains, are members of Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains and former longtime members of Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah in Clark. They have two grown daughters.

(On the Weequahic front, Jac heads up the reunion committee for the class of 1963, puts out a very popular weekly e-mail newsletter, and has been a valuable support for the alumni association).

Ruth Lerner Smith, WHS June 1957



The Board of Trustees of the Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation announced the recognition of performance excellence by Ruth B. Smith, executive director,

through the presentation of two prestigious awards. At the 76th annual meeting and exhibition in Atlantic City, May 30 to June 1, of the New Jersey Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Smith was the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Services Award.

With over 30 years of dedicated service, Smith, who was recognized as a statewide leader in the field of affordable senior housing, is a powerful force in the development of innovative programs and services. She has also been a mentor, confidante, and trusted friend for countless current and emerging professionals throughout the state. Her coworkers and colleagues have drawn on her expertise which she is always ready to share with her peers.

Additional honors will be forthcoming at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla, October 21 to 24. Smith has been selected to receive the 2007 Dr. Herbert Shore Outstanding Mentor Award which is given in recognition of her commitment, and compassion for mentoring persons working in senior housing.

Smith has received strong support for this award from those who benefited from her mentoring and continual efforts to motivate, advise, support and challenge. Her enthusiasm for recruitment and developing new senior housing talent has encouraged dedicated new leaders in the field.

Smith has been Executive Director of Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation's housing facility for the past 17 years, performing at a high level of excellence in her lifelong mission to promote the highest quality of life for the senior citizens of New Jersey.

Coast To Coast Bike Trip At Age 75

Herb Schon(wetter) WHS Jan 1950

By Todd Bailey, The New Mexican

It's not about how old you look, but about how old you feel. And 75-year-old Herb Schon feels like he's in his 20s. The former New York City bakery owner, turned retired Santa Fe, New Mexico bicycle enthusiast was the oldest of 26 bicyclists from around the world who spent almost two months this summer biking across the United States.

He dipped his front wheel into the Pacific Ocean in San Francisco on June 3 and on July 24, Schon dipped his wheel into the Atlantic Ocean in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. And the 52 days in between show Schon what kind of person he is. "The experience has taught me to believe in myself more," he said. "I have said this before, but you to have the knowledge that your mind is so strong, that it can control your body."

His mental strength was tested early and often during the 3,900-mile trip. On the second day, the bicyclists entered Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada Mountains west of Truckee, Calif. It was there, at over 7,000 feet, that they were met with a "raging blizzard." Mother Nature wasn't kind at times along the trip. Schon faced 30-mile per hour headwinds, torrential rains and 105-degree heat. He also had to endure his "lousy knee pain." The group's schedule called for 90-mile rides on 17 of the 52 days. "I have always had a good work ethic and that translates into making myself endure so much more," Schon said.

Earlier in his life, Schon ran in marathons. Various injuries forced him to commit to biking. And to him, a true bike ride is anything over 30 miles. And the pace he keeps while he rides means everything. That's why he wouldn't stop for lunch during his rides, he would always eat as he biked. Along the route were SAG (Support and Gear) stops where trucks that carried the group's gear would stop every 30-35 miles to offer snacks and drinks. "Other people were so amazed that I wouldn't stop when I rode," Schon said.



"It wasn't that I wouldn't stop for a sandwich and a cup of coffee. I just liked to keep rolling. So the mental aspect drives the physical."

Most of the hotels the group stayed at featured hot tubs for the riders to relax their bodies, and scattered throughout the nine-week event were five rest days. "I wish I had the use of a hot tub each night," said Schon, who often stretched to help his body. "Somehow, my body always recovered by the next morning. But my knee continued to bother me. It would be full of pain at times and I would have to pedal with one leg, but I fought through it. I had to."

Schon spent most of his life in New York City. He had a television production company that made commercials. Then Schon had, what he calls, a "serendipitous journey into baking." He baked some Rugelach for a party and the people there encouraged him to become a baker. His food was shown on CNN, the Food Network and QVC. "I started a wholesale bakery that was really successful," Schon said. "But I sold it in 1997 when I was ready to move out here."

Schon spends his retired life being active. He is involved in several area bike clubs and enjoys biking in the mountains of Northern New Mexico. "I think all the training that I did in Northern New Mexico really helped me with the cross-country bike ride," Schon said. "I would always ride with the younger guys in my group because I enjoy the challenge of keeping up with them. It makes me train harder. Both with my mind and my body."

Which is why he was able to fight through the pain in his heavily-wrapped bad knee and sore shoulders. Schon considers



himself mistake-prone, which is why he was so thankful to never endure a wreck, but he did get three flat tires. He also gained 8 pounds during the trip as well. He believes it came from the eating along the trek - and not from the lobster dinner with champagne, followed by ice cream in York, Maine, after the trip concluded.

Schon thought of the idea to bike across the country while looking for a 75th birthday gift to give himself. He recalled a conversation with a fellow bicyclist who wanted to ride cross-country. "I thought she was nuts," Schon said. The memory of that conversation was the selling point in his dream. In March, he planned a three-month training program that had him biking daily to reach a weekly total of 250 to 400 miles. The rides ranged from distance (70 to 100 miles daily) to hill climbing.

"I don't ever want to say I can't do something because I am too old," Schon said. "I want to say I can do it because I try. You're only young once, but can be immature all your life."

Some additional comments from Herb:

We rode 47 days (5 days rest) and 17 of them covered distances from 95 to 121 miles. Regarding stopping to eat - at my age, with arthritis and torn ligaments - stopping for more than 5 to 10 minutes would mean 15 minutes of stretching, or at least ingestion of two percocets accompanied by a very chilled Pinot Grigio.

The ice cream at Brown's in York, ME is the best I've ever tasted. Worth a visit. Getting home to my wife Irene was the best part of the trip. The ride was completed on July 24 in Portsmouth, where I was greeted by my son, Peter, his wife, Amanda (carrying my first grandchild), and a stranger to me, a 1967 WHS grad, Joe Diament, who had heard about the ride and felt the old Weequahic ties.



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet first appeared in 1950.

Julian Kramer, 1936, was driving past the high school on September 8 when he saw people gathering at the front of the building. There were two tours of the school taking place. He introduced himself as one of Weequahic's oldest graduates and then related tales about playing ball with two great athletes from the early era, **Swede Masin** and **Irv Keller**.

Dr. Robert Lowenstein, former Chair of the WHS Foreign Languages Dept., celebrated his 100th birthday. Donations (with our love and gratitude) in honor of Dr. Lowenstein to the alumni association scholarship fund were made by the following members of the class of Jan. 1950: **Fred Billet, Jack Brooks, Marty Castelbaum** (June 1950), Jack Chaiklin, Barry Kolton, Norman Krueger, Bob Lapidus, Eileen Lerner Greenberg, Al Picker, June Selesner Fischer, Sanford Simon, Marv Stoloff and Len Strulowitz.

Jerry Finn, 1950, has pursued careers in law and in professional theater. After arriving in Sarasota, Florida as a full-time resident in 1991, he and his wife Terri founded the *Banyon Theater Company* in 2002. He has performed in a number of plays over the past years and serves as the executive director. Jerry was also a partner and chief trial lawyer for the NJ firm of Schneider, Goldberger, Cohen & Finn for over 30 years.

Arnold (Aronowitz) Keller, 1952, was the recipient of the *Norman Tanzman Memorial Award* for Jewish Community Leadership, presented by the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County. He will also be honored on October 19 at the *Grace Reformed Baptist Church* in Newark.

Hannah Buchalter Litowitz, 1952, has been has been selected to be a 2007 recipient of the *Grinspoon-Steinhardt Award for Excellence in Jewish Education*. She retired in June of this year after 21 years as a teacher at the Neve Shalom Hebrew School in Metuchen, and more than fifty continuous years in Jewish education.

David Gilbert, 1965, the Miami-Dade Assistant State Attorney General, was honored by the Florida Cabinet for receiving the *Gene Berry Award*. He was commended for his work in the prosecution of major crimes and traffic homicides and assisting crime victims and their families.

Ronald Ferry, 1972, the captain of the 1972 basketball team which won the city and county championships (*first-team all city and county*), wrote to inform us that his wife **Debi Garcia Ferry** published her first book, "*Steppin Stones*," a 31-day journal towards victory for the abused and rejected. It is a spiritual book filled with fresh and humorous insight into the trials and tribulations of life.

Jerry Enis, 1956, writes that *The Newark Museum* will be opening the refurbished original Chancellor Avenue schoolhouse, which was moved to the museum campus in 1938. Ceremonies on October 25 at 10 a.m. include opening a time capsule placed in the building 69 years ago. If you have memories of this era, the museum wants to hear from you and to invite you to the ceremony. Contact Jerry at *hganj@aol.com* or 732-446-5400.

Taj Smith, 2001, made touchdown receptions of 79 and 60 yards to lead Syracuse University (a 36-point underdog) to a 38-35 upset victory over a high-ranked Louisville football team, ending their 20-game home winning streak, which was the second longest in the nation. He finished the game with four catches for 173 yards.

The Jewish Museum of New Jersey, located at historic synagogue, Ahavas Sholom, at 145 Broadway in Newark, will present its first exhibit in November entitled, *L'Chaim, Celebrating the Variety of Twentieth Century Jewish Life in New Jersey*.

JCC MetroWest Jewish Sports Hall of Fame Inductees



Sandy Salz was a Weequahic High School alumnus who excelled on the basketball court, becoming the Newark school's first athlete to receive a full scholarship to a Division I college when he attended Syracuse University from 1959 to 1961.



The Watchung resident, who was inducted into the Newark Sports Hall of Fame in 1995, stated, "It's hard to describe it, but to be recognized by the Jewish community not only for sportsmanship but for civic responsibilities is something special. At

this point in your life, it's like a last hurrah, and it's nice to be remembered."

The dapper Salz sported a unique lapel button: a Syracuse basketball pin. "I only take it out on special occasions," he said. Like several other inductees and guests, Salz wanted to talk about the late Les Fein, Weequahic's legendary basketball coach, and the influence he had on Salz's development both as an athlete and a person. (Fein died March 2) "[Fein] was very special in my life, and I was friends with him for 50 years," Salz said, "so this has particular significance for me. I wish he was here and I hope he is here, looking over me."

Bucky Harris played football and baseball for Newark Central High School, winning All-City and All-Essex County honors as a guard in his senior year. He received a football scholarship to Seton Hall University and also played at Upsala College. After his graduation in 1935, Harris became the football coach at West Side High School, leading his team to a Newark City League Championship in 1943. He also served as head coach for Weequahic High School and later became the recreation director of Newark's Chancellor Avenue School Playground.

Harris' son, Brian, a WHS 1959 grad, remarked: "It was a wonderful night for all of us, a great honor. We've always cherished my father's memory, and this is wonderful for him. The Weequahic neighborhood was all Jewish, and sports was very important, so guys like (Max) Novich and my father served as an example. Everyone looked up to them, and when they passed, someone took their place."

ALUMNI VOICES

Stephanie Fein, Les & Ceil's Daughter

Dear Friends,

Whether or not you were able to join us for the Les Fein Tribute on June 24th, I just wanted to once again reach out and thank you all for being a part



of my life - and that of my family.

The tribute to Dad was awesome. Mom was spectacular, and charmed everyone. All of the guests loved looking at Dad's photo gallery, as well as all of his honors and the State Championship trophy. It just went really well, and at least twenty of his former players were able to attend. I heard so many wonderful stories I had never heard before. And it is always so special to renew the "relationships" we have formed over all of these years.

I want to thank everyone on the committee who worked with me from the bottom of my heart. It was a labor of love - and like so many things that come from the heart - it was special and wonderful. Well Done!

If you were there, I hope I got to at least welcome you with a hug and kiss, and tell you how much it meant to us to have you with us. If I didn't get to speak to you personally, I hope you will forgive me. If you could not make it - we missed you.

I hope you all continue to treasure your relationships, and widely spread the humanity that makes life a true wonder.

Carol Miller, 1956, California



Just want to tell you, the last issue was the greatest! The articles about Les Fein sure showed what a terrific person and coach he was. Many memories came to me just looking thru the list of names!

I remember Monte Krichman and several of the 1955 graduating seniors in the

picture. How refreshing to read what he is doing with the kickers on the football team now. I know he will remember Sandy Dreskin, who we called the terrific toe or some name like that in the 50's.

How sad that Marty Scher is gone; he was at our reunion in April of 2006 and it was so good to see him with all the others. Glad that there was an article in the Calumet.

I think I remember when Untermann Field was born. Who was Untermann, anyway?? Maybe it could be renamed after someone many of us remember. I know I will re-read this issue of the Alumni Calumet. Not sure if you know or not but Sandy and Faithe Grossman hosted a get-together of several WHS alumni at their home in Boca Raton, Florida maybe 9-10 years ago. Les drove up to their home and joined us. What a pleasant time was had by all. Thanks again for the memories.

Theodore Lustig, 1942, Texas



I was saddened to read of the death of Dr.
David Weingast in your Summer issue, as he was one of many fine teachers I had during my tenure at Weequahic (1938-1942). But I also remember him for

giving me and a busload of my classmates one of the most memorable days of our young lives, a trip to the 1939 World's Fair in Flushing Meadows, New York. If not for him, we, the children of the Depression era, would have been denied the chance to glimpse a future we might attain.

A quarter of a century later, employed in the public relations department of the chemical company, American Cyanamid, I had the responsibility of managing their international division's section in their exhibit at the 1964 World's Fair, at the same site. One of my perks was a supply of free passes, and I saw an opportunity to return Dr. Weingast's favor. Through the Newark Board of Education, I located him in Connecticut and sent him four passes, and added a postscript to my letter saying, "You were the best English"

teacher I ever had." Dr. Weingast wrote me a note of thanks, and always the educator, he added his own humbling postscript, "By the way, I taught History, not English."

A final note: With the information in the Alumni Calumet, I was able to contact Dr. Weingast's son, Jeremy, to obtain his mother's address so I could send her a belated note of condolence. During our conversation, I told him the story of that 1939 World's Fair trip, and of the passes I had sent 25 years later. He replied, "Was that you? Those passes gave me and our family one of the most memorable days of our lives, to visit the World's Fair of 1964 on its opening day." It was gratifying for me to hear that, as I thought "What goes around, comes around, and sometimes it's for the good."

Lynn Cohen Jones 1972, PA



A friend of mine, Paula Copeland from Philadelphia, sent me the information below: Paula's cousin, Lanuel J. Ferguson, is a Weequahic alumnus.

The NEA (National Education Association) had their 150th Conference in Philadelphia from 6/30 - 7/5. There were appearances and speeches by the Democratic Presidential candidates. I always seek out attendees from New Jersey (particularly Newark). There were 14,000 delegates from all over the country, and of course, from sections of each county.



I met Essex County delegates and to my pleasant surprise one of them was **Herb Levitt** (class of 1959), who grew up around the corner. I lived at 718 South 12th Street and he resided in the 700 block of South 11th Street.

Herb is a Conference Coordinator for the National Council of Urban Education Associations. The NEA organizers reported that this was their best convention!

The Weequahic Adult School

By Lou Dultz, Former Adult School Director and WHS Faculty

"As a beacon in the night"



Most Weequahic High School alumni would not recognize that the above quotation appeared on the Weequahic Adult School bulletin for more than 75 consecutive terms. I was the director of the

Weequahic Adult School from the late 60's until the mid 70's.

Prior to my coming back to Weequahic, I had taught at Union High School and Kawameeh Jr. High School. I also taught at Clinton Place Jr. High School from 1957-1960, when after passing an exam, I transferred to Weequahic. Thus, some lucky or unlucky students had me for a science teacher in both their junior and senior high schools!

Shortly after I assumed my duties as Director of the Weequahic Adult School, I was informed by veteran adult school board members that our school had the longest continuing education program in New Jersey. I soon realized that this accomplishment was due to the depth, experience, and dedication of its volunteer board members. *Dr. Sam Konwiser*, a retired dentist, and his wife *Bert*, served as co-chairs.

Some of the other veteran board members were: Abe & Rita Chinoy, the Briefs, Lee & Max Shipman, Ruth Grudin, Mr. & Mrs. Charles King and the Mayers. Bill Mayer was a retired printing teacher at Weequahic. Mildred Leeds served as treasurer and Esther Untermann, Judge Untermann's widow and a retired Newark teacher, were active board members.

It was my job to prepare each term's bulletin with input from members of the executive board. I arranged for the printing of the bulletin, and in my early years, as the director, I brought the bulletins to the post

office for bulk mailing and assumed the responsibility for distributing them to neighboring schools, banks, and libraries. I hired the teachers, subject to sufficient class enrollment.



In some terms we had an enrollment of over 300 students. *Naomi Barish*, who was a member of the Weequahic High School office staff, served as the adult school part-time secretary. I depended upon the volunteer board to help me run the school. They assisted in registration, fielded numerous curriculum questions, and directed the students to their classes. The treasurer was in charge of all financial matters and Newark Board of Education reports.

I frequently drove board members to school, especially on registration evenings. On occasion, I would drive board members home. I distinctly remember driving Esther Untermann to her apartment at the Robert Treat Hotel. We discussed some of the accomplishments of her late husband and the dedication of Untermann Field. For safety concerns, I escorted a number of teachers to their cars at the end of each session.

On the last hour of each term, I would ask all of the faculty members and students to join me in the cafeteria for punch and dessert. I would introduce the board members who were present and call upon the teachers and students to display some of their musical skills. We offered piano and guitar courses. Some instructors asked students to display their needlepoint or art drawings. Also, some students won certificates of accomplishment for their typing and stenographic skills.

In conclusion, the Weequahic Adult School could not have existed for more than 75 consecutive terms without a talented and dedicated board. They showered me with encouragement, appreciation, and love. I, in turn, couldn't do enough for them. As I look back, this part-time job which required full-time effort, was one of the highlights of my career.

ALUMNI VOICES

Myron Katz, WHS 1948



My wife Paulette Wiener Katz, (WHS June 1956) and I were honored this past Memorial Day in our home town of Springfield. During the last two years, I have been commander of the Jewish

War Veterans Post 273, Elin-Unger, and will be this coming year.

I was chosen grand marshal for the township parade. The program started at Town Hall. I made a speech with other officials. The point of my speech was for grandparents and parents to teach their children to respect veterans and remember the various veterans holidays.

Richard Shipman, the commander prior to me, was also a Weequahic graduate. We can be very proud of other Weequahic graduates who served our country. While I was a combat veteran in Korea, I saw Seymour Butan and Bob Posnack and we must always remember Jerry Soprano, who made the supreme sacrifice and is still listed as MIA (missing in action).

Here's another story related to veterans: Prior to moving to Springfield, Paulette and I lived on Lake Hopatcong. I was a member of a JWV Post in Dover. When we moved to Springfield four years ago, I wanted to change posts, and went to a meeting. I introduced myself to the commander, Richard Shipman, whom I met for the first time.

The Post also has a ladies auxiliary and his wife, Ruth Marech Shipman, was standing next to him. We looked at each other and realized we graduated Weequahic High together. I had not seen Ruth for over 50. We all became very friendly. So last year I decided to show Paulette the picture of Ruth in our yearbook. We had 278 graduates. I was able to get all but 19 autographs. She was one of the 19 that did not sign. I had her sign my yearbook 58 years later!

10 YEARS OF ALUMNI PROGRESS

By Phil Yourish, Executive Director, 1964

It's been one decade since we launched the Weequahic High School Alumni Association at The Newark Public Library in September of 1997. That evening was the harbinger for great things to come. And what a glorious 10 years it has been. In the grand tradition of Weequahic, we have become one of the most unique and successful urban high school alumni associations in the country.

Our sincere thanks to all of our alumni, faculty, friends and our dedicated Board of Trustees who collectively have played a major role in our success throughout the years with memberships, contributions to our scholarship funds and school activities, and volunteer assistance. In particular, our appreciation to Steve Dinetz, 1965, and the Chancellor Foundation, and Eli Hoffman, 1956, and the Jaqua Foundation, for their ongoing and generous financial support. We could not have done it without you!

At this time, it's appropriate to present once again the four principles that this organization was founded upon:

To recapture the spirit and memories of Weequahic High School that were so meaningful to many of us.

To *transcend* the generational and cultural differences spanning eight decades from 1933 to the present by bringing together our graduates, teachers, administrators and friends for reunions and special events.

To remember and bonor those Weequahic High School graduates and staff who have made important contributions to the school and our larger community.

To *utilize the resources* of our alumni to support the current students at Weequahic High School through scholarships, tutoring, mentoring, job opportunities and cultural events.

During the past decade, we have been true to our words. We now have more than 7,000 alumni on our mailing list and more than 1,300 are members. Our graduates reside in almost every state and in 12 different countries. Our successful events have attracted alumni from near and far. The newsletter is our alumni grapevine, chock full of wonderful articles and information about the high school past and present. Through our interactive web site, you can view class lists, communicate with other alumni, take a nostalgic trip into the past, see wonderful pictures spanning the generations, and stay abreast of current alumni projects and high school news.

But our biggest accomplishment has been providing additional resources to the high school and its students, offering opportunities that might not otherwise be available. We have awarded hundreds of scholarships and raised more than \$350,000 for this purpose. We have helped fund two French class trips to Paris. Through the Jaqua Foundation, instruments and uniforms were purchased for the marching band. And on an ongoing basis, we support a variety of academic and athletic activities. *This is our legacy!*

In Loving Memory

Betty Frankel Kirschner, WHS 1954

Kent State Professor and Activist



Betty Frankel Kirschner, an emeritus Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at Kent State University, died on June 15, 2006. She is survived by her daughter, Cindy Kirschner Grygo, and grandchild Mackenzie Ware.

A devoted teacher, Betty began her career by teaching social studies at West Kinney High School in Newark. In 1969, she became a member of the faculty at the Trumbull Regional Campus of Kent State, where for 30 years she

taught courses in social problems, social stratification, gender, and family. Betty was the epitome of a politically concerned activist-scholar. As a teaching assistant in graduate sociology at the University of Alabama (1965-67), she participated in the civil rights movement and received the Citizenship Award from the National Council of Negro Women (1965).

At Kent State, Betty was deeply interested in the events of May 4, 1970, when the Ohio National Guard fired into a protesting crowd killing four students and wounding nine others. She participated in jury selection studies associated with the civil cases brought by families of the May 4 victims. As part of the protest against building a gym near the site of the shootings in the late 1970s, Betty conducted a survey of the "Tent City Protestors" resulting in a professional paper at the 1978 Southern Sociological Society conference. She regularly attended and provided a "home base" for others to attend the annual vigils and programs associated with the remembrance of May 4.

Throughout her career, Betty was an active member and a national, state, and local officer of the American Association of University Professors. Whether helping to organize a second bargaining unit for NTT faculty or supporting research about gender equity, she enthusiastically worked to better the working conditions of all faculty.

For many of her dearest friends, Betty's greatest legacy is as a feminist sociologist who was a powerful and articulate defender of women's rights in national organizations and at Kent State. As a founding mother of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), she served on the Steering Committee (1971-73), was an SWS secretary (1972-74), and organized the first two annual conferences (Denver 1971; New Orleans 1972).

Betty was an active member of various committees of the Sex and Gender section of the ASA. At Kent State, she was one of the first teachers of the Sociology of Women, and an early researcher about "The Invisibility of Women" in introductory textbooks. Betty helped to develop both the Women's Studies program and the Women's Center at Kent State. She was an invaluable mentor to women students and faculty alike - willing to support individual struggles, to share her knowledge and experiences, and to gently nudge other women to stay true to the vision of an empowering feminist scholarship.

In Loving Memory

Bernard Goldwater, WHS 1951

Legendary baseball coach Goldwater dies at age 74

By Tony Graham, Asbury Park Press

Eric Salkin, who roamed center field for coach Bernie Goldwater's Freehold Township High School baseball teams in the mid 1970s, said he could always be certain of one thing. "We always felt like we were more prepared when we took the field than any other team."

But Salkin was unprepared to learn Friday morning that Goldwater, 74, had passed away Thursday in Florida. "It came as a shock," said Salkin, owner of Salkin's Jewel Case, Freehold Township, who described himself as a "dear friend of the family."

Goldwater amassed 331 coaching victories in 24 seasons at Southern Freehold High School (now Howell) and Freehold Township. He also served as an athletic director in the school district. The 12th winningest high school baseball coach in the history of the Shore Conference, he retired from coaching in 1988.

"I think people learned more under him in the two years they generally played for him, than they did in all their other years (playing baseball) combined," Salkin said. "I've heard other people say that. Bernie was tough but he was fair. Personally, I was more afraid of disappointing him than I was of losing the game."

Losing was something that was never a habit under Goldwater. According to Asbury Park Press reports he began coaching at Southern Freehold High School in 1965 and left the school seven years later with a 75-57 record.

Patricia Brant Joyner, WHS 1962

Patricia Ann Joyner passed away on May 4, 2006 at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Pat attended the Newark Public schools and graduated from Weequahic High School. She went on to earn her Associate's degree in 1989 from Essex County College and her BA degree from Kean College in 1991.

Pat was married to Robert Joyner. She was the mother of the late Twana Joyner, who had two children, Patrice and Jerome Joyner. She was a devoted grandmother and caregiver for her greatgranddaughters, Tawana, Chyna and Yanayjah. She also loved traveling, music and people. Until her illness, Pat had been working as a Program Administrator for the Technical Training Project, Inc. at Essex County College since 1980. With her entrepreneurial spirit, Pat launched Joyner Enterprises, Inc., manufacturing her "Clocketbook."

Harvey M. Sklaw, WHS 1946

Seton Hall Law School professor emeritus, 78



Harvey M. Sklaw, devoted husband, loving father and brother and cherished grandfather, died on June 16, 2007, after a brief illness. He was 78. A resident of Maplewood for 36 years, Professor Sklaw moved to Long

Branch in 2006, where he resided at the time of his death.

Professor Sklaw was born Feb. 8, 1929, in Newark. He was Professor Emeritus of Law at Seton Hall University School of Law, where he taught generations of future attorneys for 35 years and was an authority on consumer protection and products liability law.

He was a graduate of Rutgers University and Seton Hall University School of Law. Professor Sklaw lectured widely and was a member of the adjunct faculty at Rutgers University Law School and a visiting professor at the universities of Milan and Parma, Italy.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Renee Sklaw of Long Branch; his sister, Barbara Sender of Short Hills; two sons, Kenneth Sklaw of Purcellville, Va., and Laurence Sklaw of NYC; daughterin-law, Faavale Sklaw, and four grandchildren, Rebecca, Sarah, Matthew and Ella. He was predeceased by his sister, Gloria Fantl of Coconut Creek, Fla. Donations may be made to the Harvey M. Sklaw Scholarship Fund, Seton Hall School of Law in Newark.

Jacob Frieder, WHS 1936



Jacob Frieder, 89, passed away suddenly on July 1, 2007. A longtime resident of Newark, Mr. Frieder lived in Clark and Delray Beach, Fla., before moving to Lakewood in 2005.

"Jake" was a January 1936 graduate of Weequahic High School, where he is remembered as the athlete to score the first touchdown in school history, and the winning touchdown to give Weequahic its first football victory.

He was a World War II veteran rising to the rank of sergeant. He retired from the Newark Post Office after 33 years of service as a clerk and a supervisor.

Mr. Frieder was a past president of the Jewish Civil Service Fellowship, an organization of postal employees, a member of the Knights of Pythias, and was instrumental in organizing the Clark Tenants Association in the mid 70's, prior to moving to Florida.

He is survived by his beloved wife Lenore of 66 years; a daughter and son-in-law, Joan (WHS 1967) and Donald Smith; a son, Kenneth Frieder (WHS 1963); and grandchildren Jonathan and Elliot Frieder, Lesley Wolf and Allison Smith; a sister, Esther Frieder; and four great-grandchildren.

Alan Abrahamson Bernard Berger Murray Perlman Philip Spiegel, June 1949 Solomon Ostrin, Faculty

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In Loving Memory

Arnett Lieb, WHS 1960

(Sent in by Eileen Diakunczak)



Artie (Arnett) Lieb passed away on June 24, 2007. Arnett resided in Ocean and Monmouth counties for many years. Arnett was head drummer at Weequahic High School in his senior

year and continued making music his career with different bands, one of which was the *Salvations*. They were very well known at the New Jersey Shore. For many summers he played down the shore at *The Osprey* and up until just a few months ago the *Salvations* had their second reunion at *The Osprey* and all their loving fans came and packed the club.

After the band split up, Arnett was a booking agent in the music industry. When he decided to give up his career as a musician, he opened up a Dunkin' Donuts store in Long Branch which he had for many years. He retired a few years ago.

Arnett remained very close to a couple of Weequahic High School friends. Steve Wax, who passed away a couple of years ago, his high school sweetheart Ronnie Schecter (she was a cheerleader), who also passed away, and Marty Green and his family, who resides in Florham Park.

Arnett loved basketball, and was a big fan of the Monmouth basketball teams. Coach Les Fein stopped in his store on occasion and Arnett always talked about his fond memories playing basketball on Coach Fein's team. How sad, they both passed away on the same day. Arnett will always be remembered by his family and friends for his love, character, inspiration and leadership.

He left behind his wife Nelma, his sister Eileen Diakunczak, a WHS grad, two daughters, Mrs. Jaime Schultz and Mrs. Casey Leeder, their spouses Steven and Mark, and two grandchildren Matthew and Jackie Schultz.

Herb Jacobson, WHS Jan. 1941



Herbert N. Jacobson, 84, of Monroe Township, died July 15, at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Born and raised in Newark, Mr. Jacobson lived in Union for 35 years before moving to Monroe Township 12 years ago.

Herb was employed as a salesman for the Mart Furniture Galleries, Union. He was an Army Air Force veteran of World War II and a standout athlete at Weequahic High School where he received an all-around sports athlete award. He received a basketball scholarship to Ryder College, from where he graduated with a B.A. degree in accounting. In 2004, he was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Jacobson is survived by his wife, Paula (Weitzman); two daughters, Jeri Jacobson and Tracy Reinhardt of Bedminster, and Lanie and Jim Bilenker of Basking Ridge; one sister, Rita Resnick of Freehold, and three grand-children, Laura, Julie and Benjamin. Donations can be made to the American Heart and American Diabetes foundations, and to the Atlantic Hospice.

Frances Kram Slifer, WHS 1965



Frances R. Slifer 59, passed away in July at her home. She was born in Germany, came to the United States as an infant, and lived in Newark, Maplewood and in Livingston since 1973.

Fran was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women and ORT. She was the beloved wife of Arnold; devoted mother of Shari Slifer and Richard Slifer; dear daughter of Bronya Kram and the late Philip Kram and loving sister of Dr. Harry B. Kram and the late Dr. Joseph A. Kram. Contributions may be made to the Jewish National Fund or United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

From Dennis Estes, class of 1965

On behalf of the entire class, I want to express my sincere condolences to Sid Slifer of our class, who was Fran's brother-in-law, and Arlene Music Levitt of our class, who was Fran's cousin, on this terrible loss. Of course, we express our deepest condolences to our good friend, Fran's husband Arnold, also a Weequahic graduate and to Fran's mother and her two children.

While in high school, I really didn't know Fran very well. That changed significantly over the past 40+ years while we both had a labor of love in steering our reunion events. I have been nominally the titular head of the committee, but Fran was the "heart" of the committee and she will be sorely missed by all of us. Fortytwo years ago I considered Fran merely another graduate of our class. At the time of her death, I was so happy that I was able to consider Fran a really good friend. I and the other members of the Reunion Committee, (especially Poppy Braunstein Segal) have suffered a great loss, as have we all.

Marilyn Gulkin Einzig, WHS 1962



Marilyn A. Einzig, 62, of Springfield died June 2. Born in Newark, she lived in North Caldwell before moving to Springfield 12 years ago. Marilyn retired as vice president of sales for Paragon

Mills, a wholesale carpet and floor company in Union, after 26 years with the company.

A June 1962 graduate of Weequahic High School, she attended Jersey City State College. Marilyn is survived by her husband, Gary Grossman; two daughters, Staci Santucci and Robin; a brother, Stanly Gulkin; and two grandchildren.

REUNIONS 2007/2008:

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

© January 12, 2008 Florida West Coast Reunion

Saturday, 2 P.M., at the home of Rita Bech Ehrenpreis, 1954, in Odessa, Florida (off of the Veterans Expressway). This is a reunion for grads living on the West Coast of Florida (or those willing to travel to the West Coast). Cost will depend upon the number of people coming. R.S.V.P by November 30th or sooner. Call (813) 926-0099 or e-mail at choclatepuddin57@aol.com.

May 18, 2008June 1948 - 60th

Sunday, 12 P.M., Suburban Golf Club, Union, NJ. *Contact Alan Kampf at* (973) 758-9573 / (973) 699-6808

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Sunday, 12 P.M., Ramada East Hanover. Contact Dave Horwitz at (973) 539-5158 / phylanddaveh@yahoo.com

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Harold Braff, 1952, Co-President Judy Bennett, 1972, Co-President Sam Weinstock, 1955, Treasurer: Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953, Secretary

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