

Spring - Summer 2008 / Issue #24

ALUMNI
CALUMET



Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark's Legendary Neighborhood

Exhibition Opens June 18th at the West Orange JCC

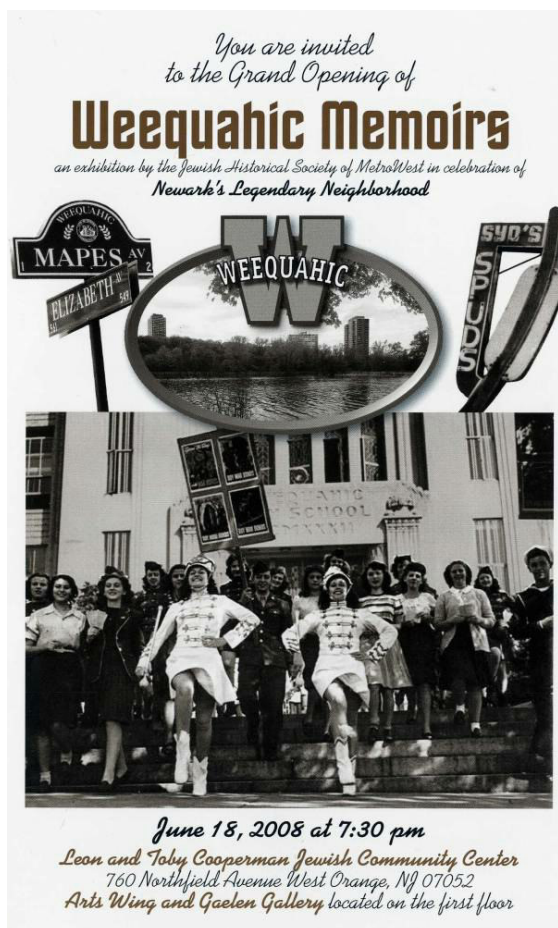
By Linda Forgosh, Curator & Outreach Director, Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

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The fact that I did not grow up in Weequahic instantly stopped being a stumbling block once I explained where I worked and what the Jewish Historical Society's interest was in finding, preserving, and exhibiting the neighborhood's history. The conversation usually concluded by my asking "What do you have to represent your connection to the Weequahic neighborhood?"

This is how the photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia featured in our exhibition "Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark's Legendary Neighborhood" were found.

For all concerned, the Jewish Historical Society's "Weequahic Memoirs" is more than an exhibition. It is an attempt to capture the flavor of Newark's legendary neighborhood during the decades of the 1930s, 40's, 50's, and 60's. The exhibition is by no means a complete account of



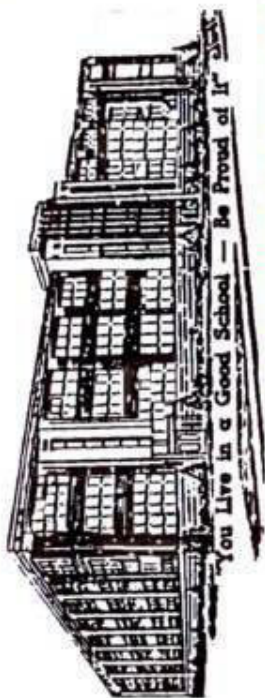
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The individuals responsible for this exhibition are those of you reading this issue of the Calumet. You are the ones who have held onto items such as restaurant menus, postcards from Weequahic Park and Bradley Beach, letter sweaters, fraternity and sorority jackets, cheerleading and twirling uniforms, winning game balls, prom programs, street signs, first

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COMING FALL 2008:
WEEQUAHIC'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY



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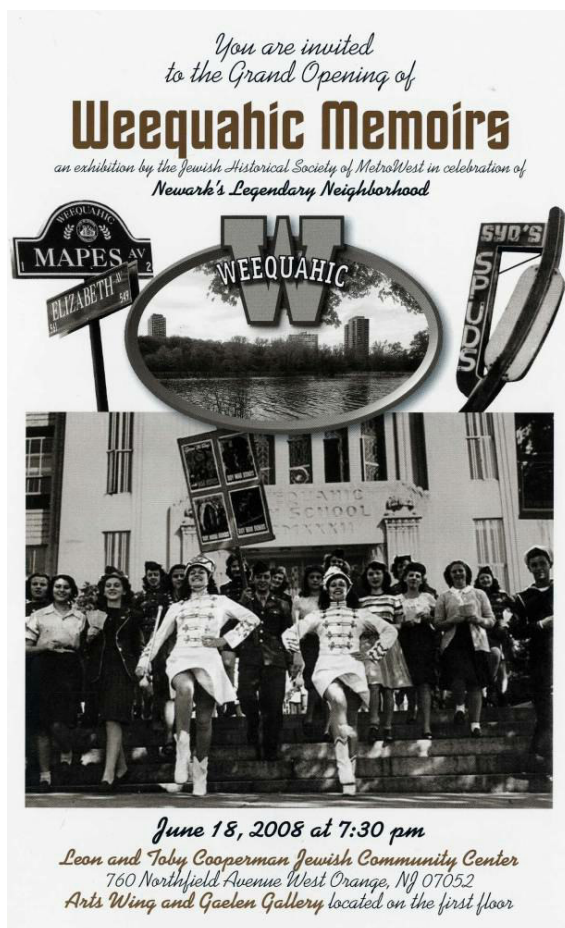
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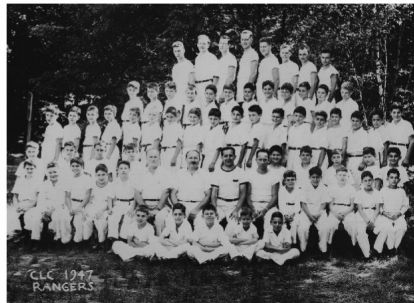
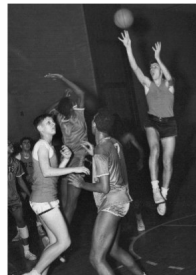
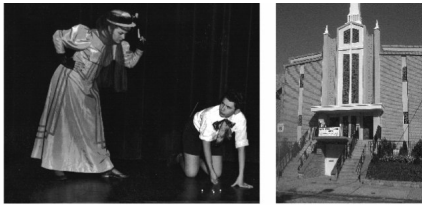
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**COMING FALL 2008:
WEEQUAHIC'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

WEEQUAHIC EXHIBITION continued from page 1

you believe, mother and daughter gym suits, one from the 1940s and the other from 1960! We have learned to have a healthy respect for the unheralded “shoe box” collections in which these items have been preserved.

Until now, we’ve relied on native son and Weequahic graduate, Philip Roth, to describe Jewish life in the neighborhood. This exhibition takes into account that four generations of Weequahic graduates have their own spin on what was great about being “born at The Beth,” finding a “ball” game on an elementary school playground, eating a hot dog at Syd’s, or signing a permission slip to play football in hopes that a nervous mother wouldn’t call the coach to remove her son’s name from the list.



“*Weequahic Memoirs*” was assembled in cooperation with the Weequahic Alumni Association. The articles and feature stories written by **Phil Yourish** and other contributors that are published in the Weequahic Alumni Association’s *Alumni Calumet* have been indispensable to finding the history.

Finally, the weekly e-mail newsletter maintained by **Jac Toporek** that arrives each and every weekend that always holds the promise of some new story about growing up proud and safe has provided inspiration beyond explanation. Without *these* memories, we wouldn’t have even known the questions to ask. Thank you one and all.

Join Mayor **Cory Booker**, alumni co-presidents, **Hal Braff** and **Mary Dawkins**, English teacher **Hilda Lutzke**, and the Weequahic High School’s Jazz Band among others on the opening night of our exhibition - *Weequahic Memoirs: Celebrating Newark’s Legendary Neighborhood*.

Other related events at the

West Orange JCC, 760 Northfield Ave., are: **June 26, 7 PM** - showing of the **American Gangster** movie with special guest **Richie Roberts**; **August 11** - a slide show of the works of **Michael Lenson** will be presented by his son, Barry. Michael Lenson is best known for painting the murals at Weequahic High School and Newark City Hall.

For tours of the exhibition and more information contact:
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Send us letters, articles, stories,
memories, poems, recipes,
photos, cartoons, trivia, obit-
uaries, 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 equip-
ment and uniforms, or any other
interesting memorabilia, please
call us before you discard any of
these items.

In *DEFENSE* of Weequahic

*In the February 4th issue of The New Yorker magazine, a negative reference was made about the Weequahic High school of today in Peter Boyer's article, The Color of Politics, about Newark's newest mayor, Cory Booker. Below is the response by **Phil Yourish**, our alumni association's Executive Director.*

Dear Mr. Boyer,

Recently, I read your very interesting article about Cory Booker and the City of Newark entitled, "*The Color of Politics*." I found the article to be very thorough and informative. However, as the Executive Director of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, I was very disturbed by your reference to the "state" of the high school today as described below:

"The Weequahic Indians still play ball on the vast playing fields adjoining the school, but, according to a 2007 study, Weequahic High is now deemed a drop-out factory; a designation accorded schools with a dropout rate of forty percent or higher. There are about seventeen hundred such schools in the United States, and three of them are in Newark, the worst being Weequahic High."

Your unfortunate statement has sparked anger in our high school and alumni family. Although you took your conclusions from a John Hopkins University study (I have been informed), the validity of the findings of that study has been questioned by Newark Public Schools officials.

Presenting Weequahic in such a negative way only reinforces the long-held stereotypes of failing education and hopelessness in urban schools - especially at a time when the high school is making considerable progress. What you probably didn't realize is how the above statement can have such a dire impact upon our community - past and present. If you had done further research and inquiry, you would have discovered that many wonderful things are taking place at Weequahic.

What the study doesn't tell you is that since 2002, under the dynamic leadership of Principal Ron Stone, until his untimely death last November, the school had made significant advancements. This includes creating an atmosphere for learning and success; instilling school pride; the renewal of the school's Middle States accreditation; the implementation of the Talent and Development model; higher standardized test scores; a larger number of students receiving better grades and making the Honor Roll; an increase in students graduating and attending college; the creation of a parent liaison position to encourage more parent participation; the use of conflict

resolution as an alternative to gang violence; improved facilities for special services, the marching band, and athletic teams; the renovation of the football stadium; the approval of plans for a new physical education and basketball complex; and the establishment of a unique working partnership with the school's active alumni association. Mr. Stone would have described the high school as the "*most improved in the city*." Your statement (although unintended) serves to negate the ongoing progress that the high school made during his tenure.

The Weequahic of today is alive, vibrant, and making headway. This year the student with the 3rd highest GPA in Newark is from Weequahic. A 2007 Weequahic student won gold medals in a statewide Math and Biology competition. In 2006, a

"Weequahic is a Gem in the Middle of Newark,"

From an article by Alan Kreda: For Marie White and her classmates, Merrill Lynch executives were welcome visitors during the annual "Principal for a Day" event in Newark. Ms. White, a senior at Weequahic High School, said the offer to the school of outside assistance is especially welcome since the void created six months ago by the unexpected death of the school's popular principal, Ron Stone, at age 57. "*It means a lot that important people from Merrill Lynch are interested in us and want to feel the vibe of our school*," Ms. White said. "*We are a family here*."

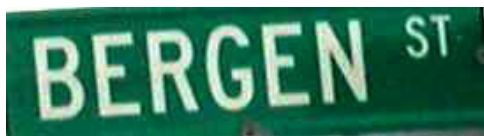
On May 2, she and her business management class greeted two honorary principals from Global Wealth Management's Newark complex: **AVP Lola C. West**, a senior financial advisor, and **Ian Fuller**, a financial advisor. "*Having Merrill Lynch guests visit makes us want to work even harder*," Ms. White said, as five of her classmates nodded in agreement. "*We're inspired!*" Ms. West and Mr. Fuller, like many Merrill Lynch Principals for a Day in cities across the United States, plan to continue their relationship with their school long after memories of the day have faded.

"*Weequahic is a gem in the middle of Newark*," Ms. West said. "*The principal and staff I spoke with have an authentic love and commitment for the success of these students. Ian and I have adopted the school. We have them for Investment Challenge as well. What resonates is how enthusiastic the youngsters are and that so many of their questions were career-oriented*," Mr. Fuller said. "*They are thinking big at a young age, and we want to help them*."

Weequahic student was selected as a Star-Ledger scholar. Last year, at the time when Weequahic won the state championship in football, an article about the high school and its Principal appeared in the New York Times. Currently, a documentary is being filmed about the high school, its Principal, and its alumni association.

What the study also doesn't reveal is that Weequahic has one of the largest, most active, and successful alumni associations in the state. This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. Our major accomplishment has been in the area of college scholarships where we have raised over \$350,000. Since 1998, we have awarded 248 scholarships totaling \$253,000.

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Jewish Weequahic's 1940's - 1950's Shopping Center

by Nat Bodian,
from the Old Newark.com web site

Just as Prince Street had served as the main shopping street for the struggling immigrant Jews of the old Third Ward in the 1920s and 1930s, by the 1940s and the 1950s, the second and third generations of Newark's middle-class and lower middle-class Jews were clustered in the Weequahic section.

The Jewish inhabitants of the Weequahic section relied for their neighborhood needs on a five-block strip of approximately 100 small businesses, starting at Lyons Avenue (No. 1079), and proceeding north past Lehigh, Mapes, Shepard, Scheerer, and Renner to just beyond Custer Avenue (No. 943).

The northern end of this five-block shopping strip, Custer Avenue, was just a short walk up from Elizabeth Avenue and the famous posh Jewish dining favorite - The Tavern Restaurant, on the corner of Meeker and Elizabeth



Avenues. At the southern end of the shopping strip is Lyons Avenue and the Lyons Avenue entrance to Weequahic Park. From Bergen and Lyons down to Weequahic Park is less than a quarter of a mile.

Bergen Street Strip - A Self-Contained Community

The Bergen Street shops along this shopping strip from Custer Avenue in the low 900s, to Lyons Avenue in the 1080s, were a veritable self-contained community where the merchants knew and dealt with many of the shoppers on a daily or frequent basis. One former Bergen Street shopper, Hannah Litowitz, recalled it as *"a neighborhood of people knowing each other."*

My friend, Elliott Sudler, associated with Kay's Pharmacy on Bergen Street, recalled the fraternity of the people who came to Bergen Street to shop: *"It might be for three rolls at the Bergen Bake Shop, but they rubbed elbows uninhibitedly with the more affluent shoppers."* He added: *"It was a stable community, but there was always an open door for newcomers."*

Many area residents of limited means frequented only the stores that provided their everyday necessities. However, the more upscale specialty shops attracted patrons not only from the immediate Weequahic neighborhood, but also from outlying neighborhoods, and from the 4,000 Jewish population of adjacent Hillside, many of whom came to Bergen Street attracted by the available high style fashions.

Types of Stores

The stores, which totaled from around 100 to 150, offered virtually everything a neighborhood resident wanted or needed from everyday necessities to upscale high-fashion clothing, art, antiques, and pianos. Most were mom-and-pop establishments, utilizing family help, but many also relied on either part-time or full-time extra help.

My older brother, George, and his wife, Ruth, at various times were part-timers in Bergen Street establishments - he in various shoe stores, and my sister-in-law in a store that specialized in camping supplies.

A Selection of Choices Available:

There were many and varied men's and women's clothing stores - many very upscale ... men's and women's shoe



stores ... and for the ladies, a corsettier, millinery and hat shops, lingerie, hosiery, furriers galore (8), women's sports wear, and more...and for the children - student apparel ... also dry-cleaners ... hand laundries ... a shoe repair shop.

Children: A baby-carriage store ... baby needs store ... kiddie furniture ... toys ... children's shoes ... and for the musically talented, pianos.

Household Supplies and Furnishings: A quilt shop ... a curtain store ... a linen shop ... a dry goods store ... a 5 & 10 cent store.

Food and Dining: Assorted food stores, including an A&P ... a dairy-grocer ... fruit and vegetable store ... live fish markets ... butcher shops (kosher and non-kosher) ... Jewish delicatessens ... an appetizer store ... several bakeries ... luncheonettes, sandwich shops, and restaurants ... two ice cream parlors.

Continued on next page

Personal Services: Barber shop and numerous beauty parlors ... miscellaneous shops such as: a tobacconist ... greeting-card shops ... two book stores ... four drug stores ... jewelry stores ... a movie theatre.

Selected Bergen Street Shopping Memories

From Jacqueline Klein: ... frozen dough cookies from the Bergen Bake Shop ... the smell of the shoe repair shop near the Bergen Street firehouse ... black patent leather Mary Jane shoes from Brody's Shoe Store ... and looking at the beautiful hats in Nettie's Millinery shop.

From Marc Levy: ... as a child, I remember Breslow's Toy Store. It had quite a large mechanical children's ride that stood parked by the door. It was not far from Sid Miller's meat market with sawdust on the floor. I went often to Henry's Sweet Shop, and sometimes my Dad took me to the Lion's Den across from the Park Theatre, where I sat at the counter, or in a booth, and drank milk shakes.

From Barbara Rothschild: ... as an eighth-grader in the 1950s, Friday nights we went to the Park Theatre. Many boys of the seventh and eighth grades enjoyed tormenting us girls by tossing candy wrappers down from the balcony ... After leaving the Park Theatre, we would go to Henry's Sweet Shop nearby for malteds and other goodies.

From Katie Klein: ... Belov's Fish Market with live fish swimming in its huge live-fish tank ... the friendly Dalmatian in the firehouse at the corner of Lehigh ... the magnificent doll house in the window of the men's barber shop near Custer Avenue.

The Smells of Bergen Street

Bergen Street was not only a street of food and specialty stores - it was also a street of 'smells'. In discussions with former Bergen Street shoppers, the subject of smells came up, whether it was the smells of the Jewish delis or the shoe repair shop, there was aroma in the Bergen Street air. One told me *"You could walk along the street and smell what was in the store."* Another

 Shop BERGEN ST. Quality Street! 				
THIS SPRING IT'S PROPER TO POINT Bright Feminine Shoe Fashions With the Gift of Slim Flattery FRANCINE BOOTERY 1072 BERGEN STREET NEWARK (at Lyons Ave.)	PORTNOFF'S SPORTSWEAR FOR SPRING & SUMMER ... • Fashionable shirtmaker dresses in cotton or silk solids, prints, plaids sizes 8 to 20. • New styles in swim suits and play togs. 1008 BERGEN STREET NEWARK WA 6-1114 <i>Open Fri. 10 P. M.</i>	SCHULTZ BROS. FURRIERS 1064 BERGEN STREET NEWARK To complete your Spring wardrobe, see our fine collection of STOLES - JACKETS and SHRUGS at Reasonable Prices WA 6-1385	CONTINENTAL PASTRY SHOP 1052 BERGEN STREET (near Lyons Ave.) Top off your Passover meals with fine bakery products specially prepared for the holiday. Enjoy our imported Passover chocolate from Israel. Pastries & Cakes from the Eclair, N. Y.	FRANCES BRESSMAN for the finest in high quality name brands • LINGERIE • BLOUSES • HOISERY <i>Free Alterations & Hemstitching</i> 1042 BERGEN STREET NEWARK WA 6-0144
BERKLEY SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOC. Proudly joins the Bergen Street Merchants in their Merchandising Program. 88 LYONS AVE. (Main Office) 437 CHANCELLAR AVE. Home Mortgage Loans Insured Savings 3% Compounded quarterly	JACK TABATCHNICK "THE HERRING KING" CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY BUY CARMEL WINE Kosher for Passover Product of Israel We carry a complete line of imported & domestic wines & liquors 1073 BERGEN STREET (at Lyons Ave.) NEWARK	DID YOU KNOW THAT HENRY'S MAKE THEIR OWN CHOCOLATES? LARGE SELECTION OF CHOCOLATES & CANDIES FOR PASSOVER HENRY'S SWEET SHOP 1071 BERGEN STREET WA 9-9727	PROM DRESSES Just in time for your high school and college prom. Starting at \$29.95 We also carry a full line of street dresses, suits and coats ELSIE STONE DRESS SHOPPE 1077 BERGEN STREET NEWARK WA 9-9540	CHECKING and SAVINGS ACCOUNTS You are invited to make use of the friendly services available at our offices Bank of Commerce NEWARK, N. J. Springfield Ave. & High St. Hazlet Ave. & Clinton St. Lyons Ave. & Bergen St. St. George Ave. & Bergen St. Market St. (opposite Penn. Station) *DRIVE-IN BANKING SERVICE Free Parking at all offices <i>Member of Federal Reserve</i>
CARVEN'S MA GRIFFE MISTIFIER \$2.00 SPECIAL Euyan's WHITE SHOULDERS COLOGNE with free atomizer \$5.00 KAYE'S CUT RATE DRUG STORE Louis H. Kaye, Reg. Pharm. 1069 BERGEN ST. NEWARK	HOLLYWOOD CURTAIN SHOP Offers a complete line of BATHROOM LINEN and GIFT ACCESSORIES 1067 BERGEN STREET	SID MILLER'S MEAT MARKET 1065 BERGEN STREET PRIME MEATS AND POULTRY We go your way Delivery to Newark, Maplewood, the Oranges, Millburn & Short Hills	FAMOUS KARTZMAN'S ON BERGEN STREET Serving the Finest in delicatessen Fine Imported Israeli & Domestic Wines, Liquors & Schwartz for Passover 1059 BERGEN STREET NEWARK WA 3-4558	RENNET SHOPPE QUALITY LADIES' SPORTSWEAR ON A QUALITY STREET 1057 BERGEN STREET NEWARK WA 9-9794
WORD IS GETTING AROUND THAT LEHIGH DRUG STORE IS THE PLACE FOR PRESCRIPTIONS • Latest and most modern drugs and medications • Fairness in price Free Delivery - WA 3-6836 1036 BERGEN STREET NEWARK	JUST IN TIME! The new Chemise Look in beautiful Spring styles ... PAPPAGALLO MARGARET JERROLD reg. 14.95 to 24.95 now only 9.99 and 12.99 CANCELLATIONS LTD. Name Brand Shoes at Drastic Savings 1060 Bergen St. Newark	SUIT YOUR OWN DECOR BY CHOOSING FROM OVER 4,000 CARPET COLORS and PATTERNS ALLEN FLOOR COVERING CO. Rugs • Carpets • Broadloom 995 BERGEN STREET NEWARK WA 6-3904	FOX HARDWARE 977 BERGEN STREET WE DELIVER A Full Line of Garden Supplies, Housewares SAPOLIN PAINT BLUKO THE WONDER CLEANER gal. 1.69 EDMUR SILVER POLISH BONNIE BRITE WAX 2.98 gal. BRING THIS AD WITH YOU AND GET A 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL PURCHASES. Repairs on All Appliances	TEITELBAUM'S Delicatessen & Restaurant Only prime meat Delicatessen Lunch & Dinner Served See us for your party needs. Special rates for larger orders Meat Platters - Sloppy Joes FREE DELIVERY 988 BERGEN STREET NEWARK WA 9-9774

remembered the appetizer store and recalled to me *"I can still smell those barrel pickles."*

Where the Bergen Street Shoppers Lived

Bergen Street catered to the middle class and lower middle class. While there was a scattered mix above and below Bergen, generally, the moneyed Jews lived below Bergen going toward Weequahic Park. The less-affluent usually were found in the 2-1/2 family houses in the streets above Bergen.

The shoppers from below Bergen lived in either finely fashioned one-family homes, or in one of the two high class luxury apartments - one at 19 Lyons Avenue and the other at 25 Van Velsor Place. In these two apartment buildings with uniformed doormen and lavishly furnished suites with sunken living rooms lived the wealthiest and most successful Newark Jews.

As one former employee of a Bergen Street drug store told me, *"These were the Jews who had made it. When I made a delivery to someone in these two apartments, it was like going into a museum...and they were big tippers."*

Bergen Shopkeepers' Children

The children of the mom 'n' pop shop-owners of Bergen Street nearly all attended Weequahic High School, which, by the late 1940s was at its saturation point.

As a group, they were instilled by a love of education and a desire for success and were achievers in the various professions - medicine, law, education, accounting, pharmacy, and more. Still others started small businesses which ultimately evolved into large-scale chains doing business in the millions, and even billions.

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Cross-country ride embraces cowboy history

By Jared Kaltwasser, Home News Tribune Online, 09/17/07

Miles J. Dean is a cowboy to the core. A cowboy, that is, who no longer can resist the call of the West. Dean, 57, a Piscataway resident and former Newark schoolteacher (Chancellor Avenue School), is about to embark on a cross-country horseback ride across the United States. The journey starts Saturday in Manhattan and ends next February in Los Angeles. Dean said his story is one about a man and his horse, and the history the two share. *"This journey is a journey that takes a look at our African-American ancestors, how they contributed greatly to the expansion and development of the United States,"* Dean said.

To some, Dean might seem a contradiction. He was born in Brooklyn and raised in New Jersey - more "urban jungle," he said, than cowboy country. But at a young age, Dean's imagination was captured by the wide-open spaces, the mystery and adventure of the Old West. *"Like any other child, I was absorbed in television, and the characters on television, and in my time they were cowboys,"* Dean said. *"And so I spent my childhood emulating the cowboy and aspiring to become one. And I never lost that."*

Dean said Sidney Poitier's portrayal of a black wagon master in the 1972 western *"Buck and the Preacher"* awoke in him the possibility of becoming a true black cowboy. *"When I saw Sidney, knowing his history and seeing a man of his stature portraying some of the characters he portrayed, it gave me an idea that there must be some measure of truth to this,"* he said. Dean began to study the history of blacks in the Old West and found his forefathers had a tremendous impact on the westward migration. *"History says about one-quarter of cowboys on the range were African-Americans,"* Dean said. *"They weren't educated because the system wasn't set up to educate these men. But they were skilled - blacksmiths, wagon drivers, cattlemen."*

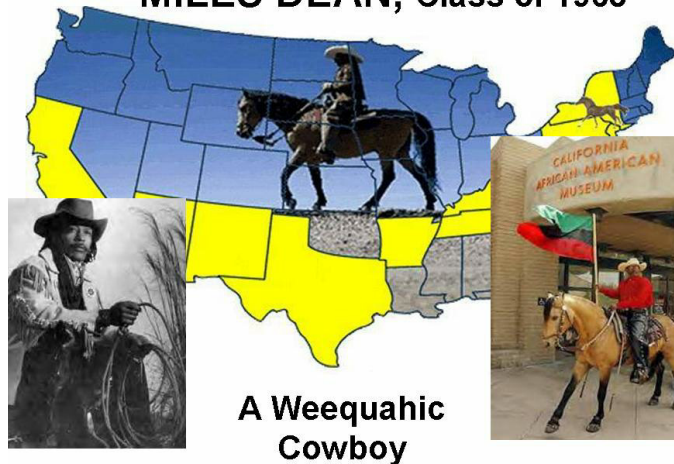
In his 20s, Dean traveled out West. He moved to Vancouver in 1979, where he lived for five years before coming back to New Jersey. It was that experience that solidified Dean's love of the West. *"It was just a whole different attitude,"* Dean said. *"I kept that, and I took on a different aura and kept it."* When he returned to New Jersey, he bought some horses, and he stopped being concerned about what other people thought. The idea of riding cross-country on horseback first came to Dean seven

years ago. A benign brain tumor forced him to reconsider and take some time to heal. But the idea never left Dean's mind. He began saving money for the journey, buying supplies and a horse trailer with living quarters. Dean, who is single, also prepared his horses for the training, getting them used to walking on roads and building his own relationship with the animals. *"Psychologically, it makes sense to bring us together,"* said Dean, who stables his horses in his backyard in Piscataway. *"I have to depend on him, and he has to depend on me."*

Dean won't be alone on the trip. He's bringing two horses - Cankofa and Blaze - so he can rotate them. Crew members will follow Dean in a truck, one driving, the other chronicling the trip in photos and video. Along the way, Dean plans to stop for school assemblies and to meet other groups of horse riders who have volunteered to help escort him through various legs of the trip. *"I have the commitment of up to 400 riders at one spot at the Arizona border,"* he said.

"I have Buffalo Soldiers coming to get me through Texas."

ALUMNI PROFILE MILES DEAN, Class of 1968



A Weequahic
Cowboy

Even with the help, Dean said he has no illusion that the trek will be a joyride. But, *"God willing and the creek don't rise,"* he said, Dean will arrive in the Golden State by February. From there, he's not sure where he'll head or what he'll do. He's not yet worried about that. *"All of the sudden the educational value or the educational objective became primary, and the journey became secondary,"* he said.

Lionel Oliver, who has known Dean since college, will be there Saturday when Dean leaves on his adventure. *"He was always adventurous, but I'm surprised he even got into horseback riding,"* Oliver said. *"(After college) we kind of lost contact. Then back in the early '90s, we got in touch with each other again, and that's when I found out he was really involved in horses. I was truly impressed."*

Oliver said he's glad to see his friend finally making his dream trip a reality. His only concern, he said, is that Dean gets donations and speaking engagements to help defray the cost of the trip. *"I see the commitment on his part,"* the New Rochelle, N.Y., resident said, *"because he's been involved in a number of organizations trying to expose people to the history of the black cowboys and what life was really like in the Old West."*

Dean sees himself as the continuation of the legacy of black cowboys, and by doing what he is doing, he hopes to ignite the imaginations of the next generation, just as Poitier did for him.

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Elinor “Ellie” Miller Greenberg Class of June 1949

Writing: My Shadow Career

I can't remember a time when I was not writing.

Do you remember those diaries we had in elementary school? We wrote poetry and short essays for each other. Most of them were of the “*Roses are red...*” variety, but it got us started in expressing ourselves in writing. Then there were the reports in elementary school and high school. I remember my report on ancient Egypt. I even made a sketch of the temple at Karnak. I've loved ancient Egyptian history ever since.

In college, my most memorable paper was “*My Philosophy of Life*” for Philosophy 101. I still have it and re-read it from time to time. It's not very good. During those baccalaureate years, I fancied myself to be enough of a poet to enter a few poetry contests. I didn't win. But, my two-volume Independent Study on the speech problems of kids with cerebral palsy spurred me on to graduate school, where I wrote my Master's thesis on an articulation test I had designed for children with brain injury, which then launched my first career in Speech Pathology.

As the years progressed and I became involved in the Civil Rights and Women's Movements, I was called upon to write and give many speeches. My “*Roses are red...*” poetry morphed into tributes to organization colleagues, introductions of VIP speakers, and commemorative poetry for special events.

As I transitioned into my second career in higher education, writing became an everyday activity. There were hundreds of presentations at conferences and dozens of articles for various publications. Some of these writings were



co-authored a hardback book entitled, *In Our Fifties: Voices of Men and Women Reinventing Their Lives* (1993).

When I turned sixty, my writing began to focus on the issues of that very different decade. I began to use the language of “*the third trimester of life*” and “*the third-third of life*”. I began to think and write about what I still wanted to do “*Before I Go...*”.

I published more articles as each discrete issue appeared: retirement, health issues, insurance, the death of friends, a third career, shifts in community activities, volunteer boards, inter-generational relationships and the lengthening of our lives.

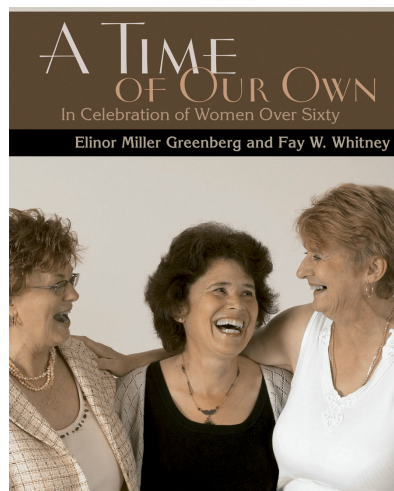
How would we deal with a period of, perhaps, thirty years of older life? How long could we work and earn money? How should we invest our assets to ensure that we have sufficient funds for our longer lifetimes? How shall we reinvent this now healthier, more energetic and more upbeat time of our older lives? Would some of us just play golf for thirty years? What would be a meaningful way to spend our new-found time? But, these articles did not turn into a book. Instead, I accepted a new job.

After an unexpected decade of work on a new online Master's degree program and other projects at the medical center, I began work with a new colleague on a new book, *A Time of Our Own: In Celebration of Women Over Sixty*, which is due to be published by Fulcrum Books in August 2008.

Over the past three years, we have been interviewing and convening small groups of women from sixty to almost ninety-three. Out of our analyses of these interviews and discussions, and rooted in our lifelong work in adult development, we have written about the third-third of life; reinvention and redefinition of this time of life; new roles, responsibilities and relationships; work, money; health; losses, regrets and gains; inter-generational possibilities, especially with the Baby Boomers; and the future.

“*academic*” in style, but others needed to be more “*journalistic*.” Using my more academic style, I edited and contributed to two paperback books: *Educating Learners of All Ages* (1980) and *New Partnerships: Higher Education and the Non-Profit Sector* (1982). A hardback book, written with two co-authors, *Designing Undergraduate Education* (1981), was a high point of my academic writing. Interspersed among the books were many pamphlets, research studies and manuals that resulted from various projects that I had designed and administered in adult learning, education, human rights and leadership.

As my work in adult development and learning in higher education began to merge with my non-academic interests, for more than two years I wrote regular columns for our local newspapers in Littleton, Colorado called, “*Notes from the Everyday*”, which were later compiled into a soft cover book, *Weaving: The Fabric of a Woman's Life* (1991). Working with two male colleagues and finding the adult development literature wanting in regard to the decade of our fifties, we



Continued on page 8

IN DEFENSE cont. from page 3

Last year, 2007 - the year of the study noted in your article - we gave out 38 scholarships. In addition, we have sponsored two trips to Paris, France for selected students in the French class; purchased uniforms and instruments for the marching band; provided resources for the marching band's competitions in Florida; sent football and basketball players to summer sports camps; and have funded many other academic and athletic activities. In September, we will be celebrating the high school's 75th birthday.

Is the Weequahic of today the same high school that Philip Roth attended 60 years ago when it was the best high school in the state? No, but it is making strides at recapturing the academic excellence of earlier years. As is true of many urban schools, Weequahic faces difficult challenges. However, its progress has been steady and encouraging. And it has its alumni - representing eight decades - "giving back" generously to a new generation of young people, helping to provide opportunity and hope for a promising future. So as you can see, the results of a study on dropouts just doesn't tell the whole story.

BERGEN ST. cont. from page 5

One Child's Success Story

I was personally acquainted with the son of one Bergen Street shop owner, Arthur Brody, whose father, Samuel Brody, owned Brodelle's Book Shoppe at 1049 Bergen at Harding Terrace. Young Arthur, age 20, helping out in his father's store, discovered and ultimately patented a new way to protect book covers. He fathered an entirely new industry - the plastic book jacket industry - a product now found in virtually every library in the world. His success led to Brodart Industries, a major supplier of books and services to libraries, as well as a leading manufacturer of library furniture.

Shopping Connections to Bergen

Many shoppers were attracted to Bergen Street from outlying neighborhoods. As

a resident of Hillside in the 1950s, just over the Weequahic-Newark line, I recall seeing mothers from my street walking baby carriages down to Bergen Street on shopping excursions. Bergen Street was also serviced by several bus lines that shoppers used, among them the No. 9 Clifton, the No. 8 Lyons Avenue and the No. 48, Maple Avenue.

Historic Recognition

The five-block strip of shops covered in the above Bergen Street "Memory" all fall within the 2003-designated "Weequahic Park Historic District #03000013". In the list of Significant Historic Functions of the Weequahic District are the architectural styles of single and multiple dwellings, and specialty stores, virtually all of which were on Bergen Street.

DEAN continued from page 6

"I believe that images are very powerful, and when you have images that are positive, then it helps a child not only to identify, but to use that image to help cultivate their own character," he said. *"It's a self-esteem builder when you see a positive image you can look at."*

By Rudy Larini, Star-Ledger

After six months and more than 4,000 miles, Miles Dean ended his cross country journey by horseback in Los Angeles. And Dean was feeling every saddle-sore mile of it as he neared the African-American Museum in Los Angeles. *"Tired - physically and emotionally,"* he said in a telephone interview. *"I still haven't absorbed what it is I've accomplished."*

...He was escorted by three other local riders along the last leg of the trip through the busy streets of downtown Los Angeles. He said he plans to spend a couple of weeks on the West Coast, but has not given much thought to what he will do when he returns to NJ given the intensity of the trek he's been on.

By Andre' Alporter, On-line

Today I witnessed Miles J. Dean's arrival to Los Angeles, California... The end of

his 6,000-mile cross-country journey on horseback. When Miles arrived at the California African American Museum, it was a moment in history that only the ancestry could have made possible. Children, adults and people from all walks of life stopped to express their love and wonderment of this historical feat.

Today history was made. For this to happen in my lifetime again, I didn't think so. There is only one way to wrap this up, and that is to continue to support and give homage to Miles J. Dean, because he didn't make the ride for himself. He did it for African history that is to be shared with people from all walks of life.

GREENBERG cont. from page 7

This book has been a wonderful journey into the fast-changing final decades of our lives. We are witnessing and living through a virtual revolution of our elder years. Never before have so many of us lived such long and healthy lives. We have unprecedented freedom and well-being.

We, of The Greatest Generation are, indeed, setting the pace and behaving as role models for the 78 million Baby Boomers who are following us into the third-third of our lives. What a gift of time we have been given!

In looking back over my lifetime of writing, I am aware that what was once merely a school assignment and a private pleasure has become a more central part of my life. Perhaps writing is emerging from being my shadow career to being my real third career, now, in the middle of the third-third of my life.

Ellie lived at 66 Keer Avenue in Newark, went to Maple Avenue School, and graduated from Weequahic in 1949. She received a BA from Mount Holyoke College (1953), an MA from the University of Wisconsin (1954), and an Ed.D from the University of Northern Colorado (1981). She has also received two honorary doctorates. Ellie has lived in Colorado since 1954, has been married for almost 53 years, has three grown children and four grandchildren.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Sandra West Class of 1964

Curated Black History Month Exhibition at Newark Public Library

By Lori Varga

When the Newark Public Library asked historian and author Sandra West to guest curate its Black History Month exhibition, she immediately suggested the legacy and impact of African-American literary societies as its theme. As the founder of the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society, which has been in residence at the library for more than 20 years, she is closely connected to the rich history of “black America’s love affair with books.”

The exhibition, which took place from January 23 to March 22, was titled “*Entrusted to Our Keeping: The Legacy of African-American Literary Societies in Newark, the Nation, the World.*” On the second-floor gallery of the main library, there were 12 display cases and wall hangings that showcased photographs, books, letters, memorabilia, and other documentation and writings about the history and proliferation of these reading organizations.

History in the Making:

“Oh, it seems like forever,” West says with a hearty laugh when asked how long she’s been working on this exhibition. Responsible for decorating many walls and display cases, she says: “*You have this history, but you have to make it accessible to the public.*” Explaining how she illustrated facts and figures with books, photographs, and other artifacts, West continues: “*When I wrote about the Treble Clef and Book Lovers Club that started in 1908 on the campus of*



Virginia Union University, I put down some of the first books that they read, and some books by James Baldwin to surround a blurb about his visit to that campus.”

Valuable Correspondence:

The exhibition showcased original letters from the late Ann Petry (author of *The Street*) to West, suggesting possible names for the literary society that West founded in 1988. “*I loved her work because she had these feisty women in her novels. And as I was putting together my reading group in Newark, I wrote her and asked for permission to call the book club the Ann Petry Book Club,*” West explains.

“*She wrote back to me, and she said, 'Heaven's no. I'm still alive, and I don't want this sort of thing.'... Long story short, we became friends and corresponded for years... We eventually settled on Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society.*” According to West, the original letters are worth money, though

she has never had them officially appraised.

A Book-Loving Beginning:

While West was still a student at Rutgers-Newark, she and all her friends were reading *Beloved* by Toni Morrison and other books that were popular at that time. “*We were burning up the telephone wires talking about the books. So I said, why don't we get together, and y'all come over and we'll have a book club. By that time, it was 1988, and we met in my apartment.*” At that first meeting, the late James Brown of the Newark Public Library encouraged them to apply for a community programs grant from the library. “*We have been in residence there ever since,*” West notes.

Once a Writer:

West co-wrote *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance* (2003) and has penned essays about the history of literary societies and book clubs for numerous publications. While at Rutgers-Newark, she was the first African-American female editor of The Observer student newspaper, as well as editor of both literary magazines on campus and editor of the first-year student orientation handbook. “*I was the kind of person, if the professor said, 'We're going to write a 10-page paper on Ida B. Wells,' I would write 30,*” West shares. And as a child growing up in the South Ward of Newark, she was student editor of the community newspaper.

Reading Matters:

James Baldwin, Richard Wright, and W.E.B. DuBois are the authors that West believes young people need to be reading. She says: “*Reading matters in my life. [Those authors] taught me how to deal with racism, it taught me my place in life, and it taught me to keep pushing.*”

Weequahic Writes: We are compiling a list of Weequahic alumni who have written and published books. Please add to this list:

Ed Balyk, 1963; Seymour Bernstein, 1945; Esther Gordon Blaustein, 1952; Helen Grossman Colton, 1934; Ken Dychtwald, 1967; Martin Edelston, 1946; Elinor Miller Greenberg, 1949; Warren Grover, 1955; Seymour Kamm, June 1944; Richard Karlen, 1947; David Levinson, 1964; Jay Levinson, 1966; Rabbi Michael Lerner, 1960; Benilde Little, 1976; Sibyl Moses, 1967; Enid Hinkes, 1960; Stuart Oderman, 1957; Sherry Ortnier, 1958; Carl Prince, 1953; Philip Roth, 1950; David Shapiro, 1964; Jane Statlander, 1961; Irv Sternberg, 1947; Jean Rae Turner, 1938; Roderick Sells Twyman, 1972; Sandra West, 1964; Komozi Woodward, 1967; Sharon Levine Yedwab, 1967.

SOME ALUMNI SUPPORTED HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



Columbia HS and Weequahic HS Student Councils



Jackets for Championship Cross Country Team



Weequahic Student Nadir Williams with Alumni Board Member Vivian Simons



WHS Students Going To NYC To See "THURGOOD"



Basketball Teams at Southern Smokehouse



Weequahic Students Skiing at Mountain Creek

Invest in Weequahic's Future

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS on page 18



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet first appeared in 1950.

Larry Bembry, class of 1966 and a **WHSAA Board member**, has been appointed by the New Jersey Public Defender as the State Coordinator for the New Jersey Drug Court Program. The State of New Jersey has Drug Courts in the State Superior Courts of all 21 counties. He will oversee the attorneys who represent the Office of the Public Defender and assist the State in its efforts to improve and expand the Drug Court Program.

Sybil E. Moses, 1967, a member of the Phyllis Chapter of the international society, *Order of the Eastern Star*, has been recognized for her achievement in research and literacy. A Newark native and editor of *The Phyllis* magazine, she received the Brice E. Simmons Award last month at the chapter's 25th anniversary conference.

Alumni Support for the High School on the Hill

Columbia High School Visit: The Columbia High School Student Council visited with the Weequahic High School Student Council at the high school in February. **Hal Braff**, alumni association co-president, spoke to the students and **Phil Yourish** presented a slide show on the history of the high school. Both groups conducted their regular Student Council meetings and the students from Columbia also toured the building and sat in on classes. Weequahic T-shirts and lunch were provided by the alumni association.

Ski Trip: The alumni association sponsored a ski trip, organized by Board member **Vivian Simons**, to Mountain Creek in Vernon Valley. More than 30 students and two staff persons participated. For most of the students, it was their first time skiing. By the end of the day many of them, who spent the earlier hours learning how to ski, were skiing down the big mountain course without falling.

Hoops: Congratulations to the Weequahic High School Girls and Boys basketball teams for their successful seasons. The girls' team was 13-10 and the boys' team was 21-6. To celebrate their success, the alumni association treated the teams to a buffet dinner. Kudos to coaches Baraka and Butler. The association will also send members of the girls and boys teams to summer basketball camps.

Pigskin: The alumni association is providing funds to send 7 football players to Greg Schiano's summer football camp at Rutgers University.

Thurgood: Alumni Association **Co-President Hal Braff** organized a trip to Broadway to see Laurence Fishburne's outstanding portrayal of the late Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, in a one-person performance. Our thanks to **Co-President Mary Dawkins** for providing some of the funds for bus transportation. Forty students, staff and alumni attended. After the show, Fishburne, a Tony Award nominee, spoke with the students.

Career Awareness Day: WHS alumni and others shared their career experiences with 9th to 11th grade students. The high school serves as Newark's premier **Allied Health Science Academy**. It also has academies for **Political and Urban Leadership** and **Business and Fine Arts**.

Elizabeth Haden, Interim Principal

By Brent Farrand

"Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another; it is the only means." - Albert Einstein



Whether on line in the cafeteria, or at the chalkboard in the classroom or in the chair of the vice principal's office Elizabeth Haden has always rejected the excuse *"do as I say not as I do!"* She has lived the life of an educator knowing that actions speak louder lessons than words.

Her public school education began in Jamaica and was completed in Walton High School of the Bronx, New York where she earned a Regents-Honors diploma. In 1989 she graduated from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland with a major in Mathematics and a triple minor in Political Science, Physics and Computer Science. Four years later she received a masters degree in Applied Mathematics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Mrs. Haden began her teaching career in September 1994 at Weequahic High School. Her power not just as a teacher in Mathematics but an educator of the whole child was quickly felt by her students and recognized by the entire school district. She was awarded *"Rookie of the Year"* by the Newark Public Schools Office of Mathematics.

Her example and its power to influence others received notice beyond Newark. At the end of her first year of teaching, Mrs. Haden was honored nationally as the New Jersey recipient of the *"Sallie Mae Teacher of the Year"* award and was selected by the NJ Department of Energy to participate at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab as a teacher assistant during the summer of 1995.

After receiving a masters from St. Peter's College in Educational Administration and Supervision, Mrs. Haden was appointed in 1998 as vice principal at Central High School and a year later moved to University High School in the same position. Since 2004 Mrs. Haden has been a vice principal at Weequahic High School, becoming the interim principal in November 2007 after the untimely death of Principal Ron Stone.

Speaking again to Albert Einstein's wisdom that action is the only way to influence another, Elizabeth Haden lists her proudest accomplishment as her vibrant family; husband, David and two children Dalila and David Elijah. An adage older than Einstein's is that *"the parent is the last teacher a child sees before sleep and the first teacher upon waking."* Clearly, Dalila and David Elijah are in the hands of a master teacher as are the youth of Weequahic High School.

At the April Board of Trustees meeting of the Weequahic High School Alumni Trustees Association, Mrs. Haden became a member of the Board.

New eatery is serving up a taste of hope in Newark

WHS Football Coach Altarik White Opens a SUBWAY Restaurant

By Ali Winston, Star-Ledger Staff

The intersection of Frelinghuysen Avenue and Forster Street in Newark's South Ward is a mix of dilapidated industrial buildings, fast-food restaurants, and the sprawl of the Seth Boyden housing projects. Far removed from any transportation or commercial hub, the neighborhood has long been devoid of commercial investment.

In April, however, city officials were on hand to open a new SUBWAY restaurant owned and managed by Weequahic football coach Altarik White. The eatery is located in a brand-new strip mall built on a former industrial site by Westrock Development of Yonkers and funded by the Brick City Economic Development Corp.

In his State of the City address this February, Newark Mayor Cory Booker touted White's franchise as a cornerstone of his economic development plans to encourage local investment and get national corporations to team up with Newark entrepreneurs. *"What we have here is a courageous, enterprising entrepreneur from our community,"* said Booker. *"He's creating wealth within our neighborhoods; he's creating a model of excellence."*

At the podium, White singled out his business as a healthy and affordable alternative to the greasy fare sold at nearby restaurants. *"You don't have to eat hamburgers and chicken all the time,"* said White. *"You can enjoy a healthy meal at a low price."*

Flanked by his four children, White paused for breath several times as tears of joy coursed down his face. *"I've got every rushing record in New Jersey state football and I can't even do this,"* White laughed as he wiped his eyes. The project was funded in part by a \$191,500 loan from the City National Bank and the Brick City Economic Development Corp.'s "Grow Newark" fund.

Headed by Darryl Gates, the Brick City EDC provides financing to small minority- and women-owned businesses that would not be able to meet traditional eligibility

A crowd of neighborhood residents attracted by the unusual fanfare mulled over the implications of the new eatery. Ed Stewart, a West Ward resident, called the Subway a "much needed" development headed by an admirable man. *"He's someone to be proud of, a local boy making good,"* Stewart said. *"We needed something like this to get the ball rolling."*

Others were skeptical about the development. *"In 44 years of living in this area, I've never seen anything like this round here,"* said Jeffrey Brookings, who lives in the Seth Boyden homes.

Citing rumors that the housing complex will be emptied and torn down, Brookings opined that the strip mall was not really intended for residents. *"This is for the airport workers, probably,"* Brookings said.

Councilman Oscar James II, who represents the South Ward, lauded White for creating job opportunities for Newark residents. *"This is the story we all dream of,"* James said. *"If we do more of this, we can turn this city around."*

The Seth Boyden houses are considered among the most dangerous housing projects in the city. In November, a 9-year-old boy was shot and wounded on Thanksgiving Eve while buying eggs for his mother. In October, a drug dealer and member of the Brick City Bloods was sentenced to 30 years in jail for shooting two police officers at the complex in 2005.

When asked if he was concerned about safety, White said that bringing quality food to underserved, impoverished Newarkers superseded any unease on his part when selecting a location. *"(The crime rate) doesn't matter to me - I told Subway I want to do this in the community,"* White said, citing his own upbringing in rough Newark neighborhoods. *"Who's to say these people don't deserve good food?"*



requirements to obtain small-business bank loans. A Family Dollar discount store and a Laundromat occupy the other storefronts in the Frelinghuysen Avenue strip mall.

"This is the way to create a strong city," said Gates, an alumni of West Side High School, which succeeded Weequahic High School as state football champions this year. Gates could not pass up the opportunity to rub West Side's victory in, as White smiled.

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI PROFILE

Sylvia Perlmutter Voorheis

Class of 1937

*At 89, she is
dispensing wisdom*

By Barry Carter, Star-Ledger

Everybody seems to know Sylvia Voorheis at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The doctors, the staff, the patients on the phone who are scheduling appointments.

Around the Newark hospital complex, she's also the mother figure, a mayor of sorts and an outspoken voice of honesty with a lifetime of experience to back it up.

Experience says she's 89 years old, experience she doesn't mind sharing with others to make life better for them in her role as a patient service representative at the Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School.

Need advice on money or how to manage a credit card, and she talks about the importance of saving for a rainy day. If there's a discipline problem with kids, she has a remedy that always involves talking to young people. And if she overhears that someone in the office has a specific interest, a Sudoku puzzle might appear. Compliments of the smallest variety are constant, and just about everybody in her department has received a hat, scarf or gloves that she has knitted. *"It takes so little to make somebody's day,"* she says.

And the people she touches haven't forgotten her kindness or the time she takes to care. She has received plenty of letters and phone calls from those she has befriended, people who tell Sylvia what she has meant to them.

Marlene Ifill will never forget what Sylvia did when the two became friends



in 1987. Ifill, who now lives in Atlanta, was a receptionist at UMDNJ. She says she was struggling financially, but Sylvia got her on track, showing her how to budget, get out of debt and obtain a credit card. *"She called the bank and demanded they give me one,"* Ifill says of a credit card. *"That's Sylvia."*

Sylvia loves to be around people, young adults mainly, the ones trying to figure out life as they raise children, hold down a job, balance responsibility. She's feisty, doesn't hold her tongue and she has a sense of humor that can't help but make you laugh. *"I can't believe how old I am,"* she says. *"People ask me and I say I'm in my 70s."* She has no special diet and doesn't take medication, a revelation she says bewilders doctors. To meet her, you may think she's younger, but who's counting? *"If you retire,"* she says, *"you are retiring from the world. I'm not ready to leave this Earth yet."*

Sylvia, who still makes the drive to Newark from Essex Fells, managed an office for a plastics and industrial company for years, but didn't want to stop working, a complaint she aired to her eye doctor when she was 79. It's been a decade since Dr. Larry Frohman helped her get a volunteer office position. In that time, she's become a paid employee, making her the oldest worker in the UMDNJ system.

She's a native of Newark, a 1937 Weequahic High School graduate who remembers the Great Depression, years she calls the best of her life. The soup lines, the people wandering the streets looking for food, taught her what was important in life. She recalls her family huddled in the kitchen around the coal burning stove where it was warmest in

their rat-infested apartment. She says that era made her the woman she is today.

Sylvia valued her secretarial job after graduating from high school, realizing she was lucky to be earning \$3 a week. She says she spent her money wisely, budgeting 17 cents a day - 5 cents each way on the trolley and 7 cents for a cream-cheese-with-nuts

sandwich from Chock Full of Nuts. During World War II, she was a Navy Wave and became an X-ray technician who helped doctors fill out paperwork to administer penicillin.

She has seen the world, enjoying her life first with one husband, and later with a second. She also had two sets of twin sons, but one of the sons died at birth. Sylvia tells these stories and people listen, even the ones on the phone when she's scheduling appointments. Whatever they might complain about seems to disappear after she has a moment with them.

Teshana Moody, 34, is among the people she has helped. Sylvia stopped her from filing for bankruptcy and lent her the money instead. *"Every day is a pleasure knowing that she's here,"* Moody says. *"I don't know what I would do without her."* Barbara Andrews-Jenkins, a colleague who has known Sylvia for years, says she has watched in amazement how she relates to others, setting them at ease, dispensing advice about life.

Her acts of kindness moved Andrews-Jenkins to nominate Sylvia for the humanitarian award from the Garden State Woman Magazine. Sylvia couldn't believe she had won in that category, but it was only fitting. She thrives on personal contact, the opportunity to impart valuable lessons and morsels of common sense.

"Don't be like somebody else to be popular," she says. *"That's not important. The most important thing is what you think of yourself. You can't get away from yourself. You have to respect yourself and like yourself."*

ALUMNI PROFILE

Seymour Mullman, Class of 1966

Mullman a man of diamonds

By Sid Dorfman, Star-Ledger and 1937 WHS Grad



Kids dream. Put a baseball or a football or a basketball in their hands and the fantasy of glittering stardom overtakes them. In my own illusion, I was Babe Ruth. You can laugh. At least my legs were as thin as his.

Sy Mullman, a former three-time mayor of Springfield, who with his wife Cheryl received a rousing honor from the Millburn-Springfield Kiwanis people May 7 at the Maplewood Country Club for service to their

community, went through the various stages of initial growth with his fingers wrapped around a baseball. In his reveries, he pitched many a no-hitter for the Yankees.

Actually, Sy was a decent pitcher. His adult life has been mostly business and politics, rather than the mound in Yankee Stadium, but he's still in baseball as a major influence on the little dreamers who play in the Springfield leagues, one of the reasons the Kiwanis will pay tribute to him.

Mullman did become an All-City and All-County baseball player at Newark's Weequahic High, then carried his own illusion to Kent State, the Ohio school of critical renown, where he was present, if uninvolved, on May 4, 1970, when the Ohio National Guard shot to death four students, left a fifth permanently paralyzed and wounded eight others. The students were protesting the U.S. invasion of Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

Earlier, in 1967, Sy Mullman had been a soph pitcher at Kent. His catcher was a fellow named Thurman Munson, and among his good friends were Steve Stone, another Kent State pitcher, and Gene Michael, an alumnus who went on to the Yankees as a shortstop, coach, manager and general manager. So thin you could see through him, he was known as the "Stick."

Thurman, if it need be retold, joined the Yankees in 1968, became the starter in 1969, and for his 11-year career was trumpeted as one of the game's greatest catchers.

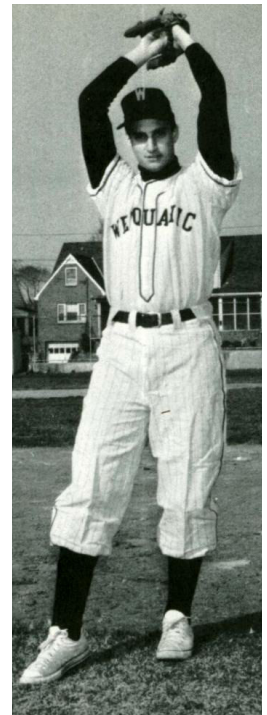
"And one of the nicest guys," reflects Mullman, on his historic role of having pitched to him and socialized with him. "He was all business. He played as hard in an intrasquad game as in one in the regular season. One time I was left off a traveling team as a soph, but Thurman insisted the coach take me. And he won out. That's the kind of respect he commanded as a mere student." Munson died Aug. 2, 1979, when he crashed his new Cessna while practicing landings. He was 32.

Steve Stone also pitched to Munson at Kent State. He was drafted by the Giants, played for the Cubs for years and didn't hit his peak until 1980, when he suddenly went 25-7 for Baltimore and took home the Cy Young Award. "We remain in touch by phone," says Mullman. Stone, who has been a restaurateur, a published poet, a chess player and table tennis whiz, became a Cubs broadcaster in 1983. He is now with ESPN.

Gene Michael, a most prominent name in Yankees history, has a field named after him at Kent State. The Pirates signed him as a free agent out of Kent State in 1959, and sent him to the Dodgers in 1966 for Maury Wills. A year later, the Yankees bought him.

He played seven years in pinstripes, became a coach with the Bombers, then a manager of the 1981 and 1982 teams. In 1990, he was named general manager. He built up the farm system, and during his tenure as GM he drafted Derek Jeter and signed Andy Pettitte. He also traded Roberto Kelly for Paul O'Neill, who became the cornerstone of the team.

Mullman, who has a degree in municipal management and recreation, coached Little League and American Legion teams in Springfield for 20 years. He is sales manager for a Millburn jewelry store. His wife stood with him before the Kiwanis as president of the library board in Irvington. On hand were their three sons, Jason, Brad and Ross.



In Loving Memory



Daniel J. Hladney

Social Studies teacher at Weequahic High School for 25 years before retiring in 1992.

ALUMNI:

Thelma St. Lifer Schneider, Jan 1943

Rubin Belinkoff, 1945

Marie Braelow Bickford

Charles Fried, 1945

Alan Gale, 1945

Frances Kobre Marx, 1945

Inge Reiner Mecurio, 1945

Jack Liebowitz, 1952

Eugene Heller, 1954

Arnold Rudominer, 1956

Harriet Bloom Chudnoy, June 1957

ALUMNI PROFILE

Tajiddin Smith

Class of 2002

Trying Out for the NFL

By Zach Schonbrun, The Daily Orange

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center will always be there, but right now Taj Smith isn't focused on any backup plans. He's hunched over, catching his breath inside a dimly lit Manley Field House on a April afternoon, before the other Syracuse teams spill in and congest the former SU wide receiver's workout space.

Thousands of miles away, prospects mold NFL-ready physiques in cushy Arizona or Florida retreats with professional staffs, five-star facilities, Plex programs and hyperbaric chambers. Others flash bowl-game credentials, championship rings and household names as advertisements for a promise at the next level.

Smith grabs his jump rope and begins another set, with nobody helping, nobody watching and no chambers. There are about a dozen others ambling through their own routines in the gym. But they hardly notice when Smith sprints another full lap around the track, his black Dri-Fit NFL Combine T-shirt trying to keep up with the rest of him.

The NFL draft looms large on the horizon three weeks away, and Smith's been working out, daily, in hopes he may hear his name as one of the 223 players selected by an NFL team. It's been more than three months since he announced he was leaving Syracuse early to jump to professional football. Due to graduate in May, Smith has spent five years in college (he transferred to Syracuse from Bakersfield (Calif.) Junior College in 2006), and despite having one more year of eligibility left, he decided he was ready to turn the page.

"I've been in school for five years, and I'm pretty much exhausted by the whole situation," Smith said. "I'm finishing up in May so I wanted to take the chance and go after my dream and see how far I can go with it."



through his routines in Manley Field House, in hopes of answering the same question his detractors have posed: Why?

Why, after a solid - if not dubious - 2007 season, in which Smith finished second on the team with 822 receiving yards and second in the Big East at 18.7 yards per catch. Why, when at times he looked like a dominant playmaker, and other times like a lost and unfocused freshman, dropping passes and sinking into defenses.

Why, since Syracuse's 6-18 record the past two seasons drew snickers from Smith's own peers at the NFL Combine in February and couldn't possibly help a wide receiver trying to get noticed amongst the nation's elite.

For Smith, though, the opportunity to move forward outweighs the forces holding him back. At 24 years old (he turns 25 in September), the junior college transfer in reality had a fairly easy decision to make in joining seniors Jameel McClain, Joe Fields and Dwayne Davis as NFL hopefuls. *"I always felt I was just as good as anybody on any given day,"* Smith said. *"Just the opportunity that (other NFL prospects) had was different than mine."*

But Smith didn't hastily jump into a rash pronouncement. He secured his future with a degree (he will graduate as a child and family studies major in May) and a career (he plans to be a family counselor at the Children's Hospital at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center) if the whole football thing doesn't work out.

Though at this point, Beth Israel may have to wait. Smith said he made the right decision, and lately his performances suggest the same. He posted a 4.39 in the 40-yard dash at Syracuse's Pro Day in March and finished seventh among wide

Since that decision, there's been criticism and disapproval from SU fans, all of which Smith has heard. And all of which Smith has used to motivate him

receivers in the vertical leap at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis in February. At 6-foot, 187 pounds, he has physical tools that are certainly pro-ready, and most scouting services have him listed as a late-round pick in the April 26-27 NFL draft.

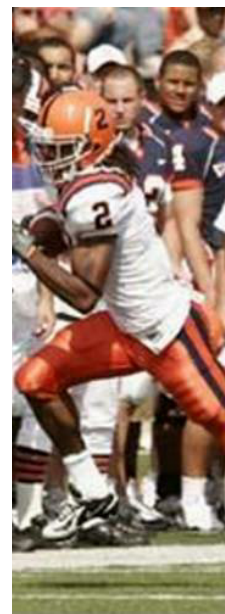
If that's the case, he will be the first SU receiver drafted since Johnnie Morant in 2004.

"First of all, he has work habits that he will not be outworked by anybody," SU head coach Greg Robinson said. *"I believe that. He's worked as hard as anybody I've been around. He's got great work habits; that's important. Two, he can run. And three, he can catch the ball and get deep."*

In fact, it was Robinson who first came to Smith in December and told him he might want to think about taking the next step. *"I thought it was definitely worth his while to find out where his status was,"* he said. *"He's been five years to college. I think it's important that he find out where he's at."*

As Smith made sprint after sprint around the Manley Field House track, it was clear to see he's in peak condition. Will Hicks, SU's strength and conditioning coordinator, works with him in the weight room daily to bulk up.

"We just had to give him a little more meat on his bones so he would look the part a little bit," Hicks said. *"That's half the battle - they view everything you do. How you look, how you run, how you jump, how you lift, how you do everything."* Aside from Hicks' regular help and a few weeks spent at a facility near Newark before the Combine, all of Smith's workouts have been entirely self-imposed. The calisthenics routine he devised himself. The daily effort is regulated by his will only.



Continued on page 16

TAJ SMITH continued from page 15

He need only look down at the black NFL Combine T-shirt, now ripped and tattered along his rib cage, to remind him why he's pushing himself. *"A lot of people say I wasn't going to make it and say I wasn't as good as people in the league"* Smith said. *"And, you know, they aren't out here doing what I'm doing every day, putting forth the effort. ... And I feel I do have a chip on my shoulder."*

Indianapolis, Smith said, was an interesting experience. He was anxious and nervous before the running drills. And talking with coaches he had seen on TV his whole life was a thrill. But the mental tests, aside from the well-known Wonderlic (on which he scored an above-average 37 out of 50), were like nothing he'd imagined.

"They ask you crazy questions," Smith said. *"Like you take a Giants test, they've got 680 questions of yes and no answers but pretty much the same questions just worded differently."* Another was a geometric exam. *"They give you four circles, and there's something wrong with one of them and you've got to find out which one,"* Smith said. *"I mean, it was crazy."*

When he got back to New Jersey after the six-day episode, after the 4 a.m. wake-up calls for drug tests and ongoing interview sessions, Smith said he slept for an entire day. Aside from the vertical leap test, the Combine hadn't gone as Smith hoped. His 4.59 in the 40 was surprisingly slow, and he blamed the time on being sick.

But he did notice the other receivers also testing their skills all week. Unlike in past years, the draft doesn't have a real dominant pass-catcher, and Smith said his skills were very comparable to others with bigger names. *"When I did the drills, as far as catching the balls, and seeing other players, I knew that I could be with them and doing everything,"* Smith said. *"To me, I looked pretty good, better than some of them that were out there. That made me feel good."*

What will make Smith feel better about his decision to flee Syracuse early would be if he gets selected in the draft two weeks from now. Smith, along with Davis, Fields and McClain, are trying to prove that despite SU's record the past few seasons, there can be individual accomplishments stemming from the program.

Let the other prospects flash their bowl stats, win-loss records and passes to exclusive training facilities. All Smith wants is an opportunity to prove others wrong and prove to himself he was right. *"I just want a look,"* Smith said. *"If I get a look, I'm going to give it my all."*

Editor's Note: Taj, who graduated in May, was not drafted but signed a free agent contract with the Green Bay Packers. At Weequahic, he starred in football, basketball and track. He was a member of the Weequahic High School 2002 Group II State Championship Basketball Team. He credits current Weequahic boys varsity basketball coach Derrick Butler with helping him to get where he is today. Taj states, *"Coach Butler always stayed on me and told me that I needed to get my act together and to not waste my potential out there in the streets."*

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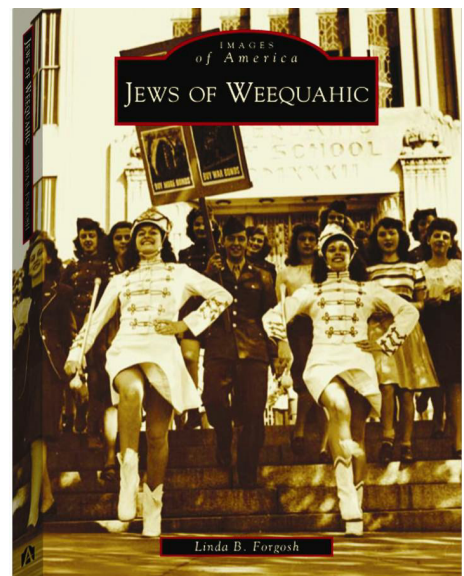
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ALUMNI VOICES

Evanne Geltzeiler, Jan. 1952



To the editor:

I would not have known of this extraordinary man if not for you, Phil, and I am still reeling from the sad loss of WHS Principal **Ronald Stone**. Your heartbreaking story (*Calumet Issue #23*) of the man and his enormous accomplishments was a wonderful tribute to a magnificent, bold and passionate individual who improved the quality and set the direction of many young lives through his work and his personal standards. The documentary, *Heart of Stone*, shared with the WHS audience on the Richie Roberts movie night (*American Gangster*), is a precious and lasting story which can be thankfully shared.

"The persistence of sound after the source has stopped," defines the meaning of ECHO, (ref. Mitch Albom's book *"For One More Day"*). Ronald Stone has created a powerful ECHO which will reverberate and be heard by all those whose lives he touched and even beyond.

Sandy Guritzky, June 1953



The community I live in, Hunters Run in Boynton Beach, Fla. has 57 alumni from the years 1936 to 1959. We try to have a get-together within our community each year. This year we had 54 members including

spouses. There always seems to be something to reminisce about. We had trivia questions about the school and the neighborhoods. It was amazing how many remembered the good old days.

Our community is well aware of Weequahic High School. Although there are people living here from all over, the community is only aware of Weequahic. There is a camaraderie among us that goes on and on forever. The committee consisted of **Ruth Huberman Bogen, Sandy Feins Ehrenberg (46), Len**

Gilbert (47), Sandy Guritzky (53), Dave Holder (39), Alvin Schneider (50) and Don Stickler (51). A great time was had by all. We hope to continue this each year.

Bernie Lubetkin, June 1943



The photo of the 1942 football team on page 5 of the latest Alumni Calumet awakened a lot of memories. I see **Ira Wool**, (front row, 4th from left) and, believe it or not, I am at the right end of the second row. I was the Manager (Water Boy)

next to **Burt Geltzeiler**, who was my assistant before he suddenly started to grow and switched to the basketball team. I recognize **Skip Sobo** with the football and **Iggy Bornstein** next to him as well as **Herb Zuckerberg** in back of Iggy. He played a mean set of drums. A lot of other faces are familiar but, alas, I can't put names to them.

Philip Lustig, Jan. 1946



I was quickly drawn to the article on Page 8 with the headline "Where did the Rock come from?" I have a different memory and I knew my memory was correct, but I e-mailed my brother Ted (WHS

1942) to confirm, which he did.

"The Rock", without any doubt whatsoever, came from the vacant lot next to our house on Hedden Terrace. We lived there for several years (now some seventy years ago) and all the neighbor kids played on and around the rock with great joy. In a winter storm, we built a "fort" next to it and enjoyed snowball fights.

It was a true 'landmark' in our neighborhood and we were surprised when it was removed, and even more surprised (and pleased) when we saw it installed at the corner of the Untermann Field. We even discussed later how odd that a rock in an obscure part of the city would be sighted by someone with the foresight to use it for that purpose. I regret to have to differ with what Irwin Steinberg took to be true about "The Rock."

Ted and I, on the other hand, have no doubts whatsoever that "The Rock" came from Hedden Terrace and not Peshine Avenue.

Barry Wiernik, June 1958

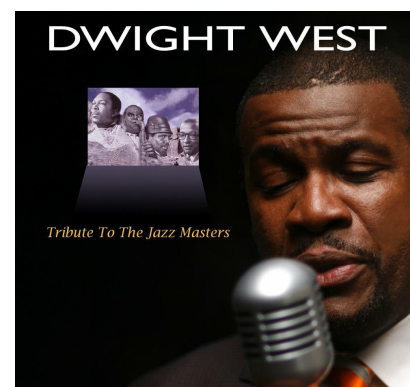


Enclosed is a **\$500.00** donation from the following WHS Alumni who attended a brunch on January 20, 2008 at the Glen Eagles Country Club in Delray Beach, Fla.

They are: **Bill Bass, Don Beck, Rich Diamond, Seymour Friedberg, Lew Fromkin, Barry Gold, Jack Gollin, Bob Heyman, Bob Kerner, Ray Kirschbaum, Stewart Lehman, Jack Lippman, Ray Mark, Jerry Pill, Milton Sabin, Sheldon Satler, Joe Schoefel, Ted Sobo, Stuart Stark, Martin Stoewsky, Steve Tollin, Perry Trechak, Sy Weiss, Gerry Weiss, Barry Wiernik, Herb Zuckerberg.**

The funds will go to the Monroe Krichman Football Kicking Project and Booster Club. Good luck to Weequahic High, their football team, and the City of Newark. Our love for you never dwindles.

Willie "Dwight" West, 1972



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CECIL'S - 364 Valley Road, West Orange, June 1st at 6 pm

THE NUYORRICAN POETS CAFE - 236 East Third, NYC, June 7th, 7 pm

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In Loving Memory

Dr. Marvin L. Bierenbaum, June 1943



Dr. Marvin L. Bierenbaum died on January 28, 2008 after a prolonged struggle with Parkinson's disease. Born in Newark on Aug. 30, 1926, he was a graduate of Weequahic

High School. After serving in the Army during World War II, he received a summa cum laude degree from Rutgers University.

He earned his medical degree from Hahnemann Medical School and did his post graduate training at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Brooklyn. Shortly after establishing an internal medicine and cardiology practice in Montclair in which he served patients for over 30 years, he founded the Kenneth L. Jordan Heart Research Foundation.

For 40 years and with the publications of over 150 journal articles, Dr. Bierenbaum directed epidemiologic studies around the world, which produced original findings leading to a better understanding of arteriosclerotic heart disease and its underlying risk factors. He was among the first to call attention to the harmful effects of cigarette smoking, obesity and high cholesterol. In addition to his medical practice and research, he worked for more than 25 years for the Soc. Sec. Admin. as NJ State and Northeast Regional director in charge of adjudication of medical disability claims.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Nettie; his daughter, Dr. Michele Reichstein and her husband, Robert; a son, Robert, and grandchildren, David Reichstein, Matthew Reichstein, Jonathan Reichstein and Annah Bierenbaum.

Daniel Stacher, June 1946

Daniel Stacher, 79, formerly of Upper Montclair, died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, in Boca Raton, Fla. Mr. Stacher was born in Newark and lived there, in Montclair and



in Boca Raton, Fla., since 1986. He was a graduate of the Weequahic High School, Class of 1946, and graduated from Upsala College in 1951, receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration. He

received his master of arts degree in 1984 from Montclair State College.

Mr. Stacher began as a partner with his father, Jacob Stacher, in the family business, Stacher Insurance Agency, and worked there for many years before retiring in 1986. Mr. Stacher is survived by his beloved wife of 33 years, Helen (nee Libas); his son, Barney; three daughters, Karen, Nancy and Jane, and two granddaughters, Emma and Macy.

Milton W. Satz, Jan. 1937



Milton W. Satz died on March 16, 2008. He was 88 and resided in Monroe Township. Born in Newark, Mr. Satz graduated from Weequahic High School and attended Upsala College and New York University.

His studies were interrupted when he was drafted in 1941. He rose to the rank of captain in the North African and European theaters of the war until 1945. He was assigned to the 13th Field Artillery Brigade Headquarters and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service. Milton married Blanche Silverman in 1945. He was senior vice-president of Jaydor Corporation in Millburn, an importer and distributor of wine and spirits, until his retirement.

Milton is survived by his wife, Blanche; his son, Steven and daughter-in-law Diane Pincus and their children, Juliann and Stephanie; his daughter and son-in-law, Margery and Stephen Swigert and their children, Edward and Caroline, and daughter-in-law, Lauren.

Elliot M. Weiss, 1966

Elliot M. Weiss, 59, of Los Angeles, passed away on April 7, 2008 after a courageous battle with ALS. Born and raised in Newark, Elliot lived in Los Angeles for the



33 years. He was a 1966 graduate of Weequahic High School and attended Rutgers University, Newark. Elliot was predeceased by his father, Irwin Weiss and brother, Ted Weiss. He is survived by his mother, Jean Weiss

Deutsch of Westfield; sister and brother-in-law, Susan and George Kocses of Fanwood; and sister-in-law, Michele Weiss of Springfield.

He also leaves nieces and nephews, Kenneth and David Kocses and Jared, Stephanie and Jacqueline Weiss, and many devoted friends. Donations in Elliot's memory can be made to Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, Coastal Cities Program, 900 W. 190th Street, Suite 120, Torrance, Ca., 90502.

Faculty:

Saunders Davis



Saunders Albert Davis, a man with a 14 karat gold personality, passed away on March 9, 2008. He was 76 years old. Mr. Davis was born on November 3, 1932 in Montclair, NJ.

He was an Army Veteran, Specialist 3rd Class, and earned his BA degree from Northwestern University and his MA degree from Seton Hall University. After working for the Newark Public Schools (Weequahic included), he retired in 2000.

Saunders was the co-founder of the Newark School of the Arts in 1967. He has received numerous awards, including the key to the city of Newark in 1988, the Black Achievement Award in 1989, and the "Counselor" award of NJ in 1997.

He is survived by his daughter, Lori Davis; his grandson, Lamont, and his stepmother, Versare, as well as a host of other relatives and respected friends and colleagues.

On June 19th at 7:30 PM, a Tribute, organized by the Newark Community School of the Arts, will take place at Essex County College.

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