

Fall 2008 / Issue #25

ALUMNI
CALLUMIET



THE WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Cordially invites you to
celebrate with us the High School's*

75 Magical Years

**DIAMOND
JUBILEE**

1933 - 2008

*and our first
Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008 AT 3 P.M.

Buffet - Scholarship Fund Raising Event - \$75 donation

Temple B'nai Abraham

300 East Northfield Road

Livingston, New Jersey

TAKE A TOUR OF WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL

When was the last time you visited Weequahic High School? It hasn't changed too much in 75 years. For this milestone birthday celebration, the high school will be open for tours on Saturday, November 1st from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Step back into the glory days of Weequahic once more.

Weequahic's First Class of Hall of Fame Inductees



Alvin Attles, Class of June 1955

Noted career as NBA player, coach and executive



Sid Dorfman, Class of June 1937

Award-winning sports journalist



Les Fein, Faculty (deceased)

Legendary basketball coach, 1955 to 1967



Dr. Max Herzberg, Faculty

(deceased) first Principal, 1933 to 1951



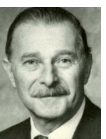
Sandra King, Class of 1965

Celebrated host and reporter on New Jersey Network



Benilde Little, Class of 1976

Best-selling author and journalist



Robert Lowenstein, Faculty

Longtime educator in Newark, Chair of WHS Foreign Languages Dept.



Hilda Lutzke, Faculty

Popular English teacher at Weequahic from 1937 to 1975



Seymour "Swede" Masin,

Class of June 1938 (deceased). One of Weequahic's greatest all-around athletes



Dr. Victor Parsonnet, Class of

June 1941. Pioneer in cardiology at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center



Philip Roth, Class of Jan. 1950

Pulitzer Prize winning author



Ron Stone, Faculty (deceased)

Beloved Principal from 2002 to 2007

New WHSAA Members

Jane Alpert, 1955
Tharien Karim Arnold, 1984
Janice Sprei Balicer, 1945
Leonard Belfer, 1948
Len Belfus, 1939
Martin Blume, 1964
Joel Braverman, 1958
Arthur Buckner, 1948
Doris Solondnz Casper, 1944
Sheila Chasen, 1954
Betty Brebberman Cooper, 1941
Fran Levin Cooper, 1958
Joseph Diamant, 1967
Marjorie Rubin Drubner, 1958
William Eagle, 1948
Michelle Lissek Enochson, 1955
Robert Epstein, 1957
Robert Feinberg, 1968
Miriam Perlman Feldmar, 1957
Fran Fried, 1958
Harold Friedman, 1960
Lew Fromkin, 1958
Norman Frumkin, 1948
Zella Reisman Geltman, 1956
William Ginsburg, 1958
Robert Goldberg, 1955
Sam Goldberg, 1950
Neal Goldman, 1958
Esther Blaustein Gordon, 1952
Irene Graham, 1956
Judith Redlus Greenspoon, 1957
Eugene Grossman, 1944
David Halfen, 1942
Murray Heller, 1958
Hugh Henig, 1946
Rita Meiseles Hepner, 1948
Myra Lieberman Hoffman
Erwin Jacobs, 1942
Carol Ades Kaye, 1964
Martin Karp, 1938
Lois Gottfried Karpel, 1958
Hank Katchen, 1952
Robert Kaufman, 1944
Edie Finn Keller, 1958
June Robins Kent, 1943
Robert Kerner, 1955
Michael Kessler, 1960
Warren Kessler, 1960
Louis Kleiman
Nina Koenigsberg, 1961
Perry Koonce, 1958
Marilyn Israel Kravetz, 1963
Henry Lane, 1976
Vivian Lane Legette, 1970
Myra Hudley Lawson, 1970
Erwin Lehr, 1946
Susan Leon, 1958
Rose Lee Leong, 1958
Pauline Levine, 1948
Donald London, 1938
Milton Luria, 1939
Kelly Nancy Shack Lustig, 1956
Judy Cohen Lutz, 1958
Toby Schuckman Marks, 1958
Robert Masin
Shirley Blackman Masin, 1936
Jerry Max, 1958
Ruth Scholder Meisel, 1949
Phyllis Adler Metz, 1958

Continued on page 7

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alumni.*

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HELP WRITE THE NEXT ISSUE

*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
equipment and uniforms, or any
other interesting memorabilia,
please call us before you discard
any of these items.*

*Our appreciation to Lou
Kleiman, Donald Shachat, 1952,
Mel Sacharow, 1947, Irv
Newman, 1939, Eugene
Blackman, 1943, Norman
Bierbaum, 1944, and Seymour
Heck for their recent additions to
our archives.*

...some tasty morsels from Weequahic's 75 years

The Architect



James Oscar Betelle headed the architectural firm, Guilbert & Betelle, which created many significant public schools

and civic structures in New Jersey, New York and Delaware. Weequahic High School was designed in the "art deco" style by this firm. They also were architects for other notable buildings in Newark such as the Essex County Hall of Records, the Robert Treat and Alexander Hamilton hotels, the Essex Club (now home of the New Jersey Historical Society) and the Chamber of Commerce Building.

First Day Of School

The construction of the high school was completed in 1932 and it opened on September 11, 1933 with 2,056 students.

What's A "Weequahic?"

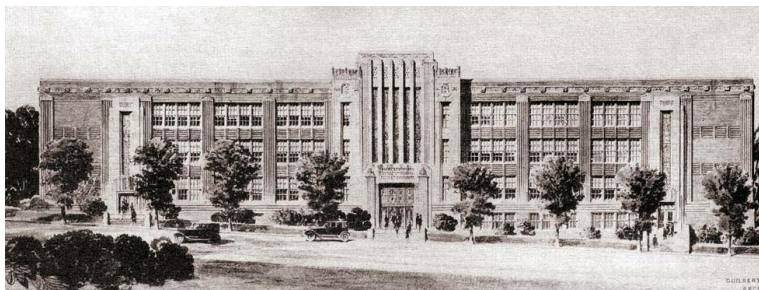
Is it an animal, plant, vegetable or mineral? The name Weequahic refers to the "head of the creek" - the high ground that served as a boundary between the lands of the Hackensack and Raritan and later as the partition between the cities of Newark and Elizabeth, which became Weequahic Park. The school was named Weequahic to honor Newark's native American roots.

Founding Principal

Max Herzberg was the first Principal of Weequahic High School. After 18 years, he retired in 1951. In 1920, he became literary editor of the Newark Evening News and edited the Sunday Book Page. He passed away in 1958.

Number 1 High School in NJ

For nearly 35 years, Weequahic had an outstanding reputation for academics. In 1950, the high school was rated by the Commission of Secondary Schools of the Middle Atlantic States as "one of the most outstanding high schools in the country." In 1960, they praised Weequahic's college program and in 1963, Weequahic was ranked 1st in NJ and 56th in the nation in the number of graduates who had earned a Ph.D during the preceding five years. In



1964, it had more National Merit Scholars than any high school in the tri-state area.

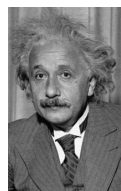
Historic Murals



The high school is home to one of the most important installations of public art in NJ. The *Enlightenment of Man*, a New Deal-era mural, was painted by Michael Lenson, who was the director of NJ mural activities for the Federal Art project of the Works Progress Administration.

The murals were installed in 1939. Today, the Alumni Association is raising funds to restore them.

The Albert Einstein Connection



In 1934, Professor Albert Einstein sent a letter to Weequahic High School entitled "*Thoughts on Education and on American Schools in Particular.*" It was published in the Calumet and printed by 1300 newspapers all over the world.

World War II

Many Weequahic students contributed to the war effort in the 1940's by joining the armed services. On the home front, students, faculty and families raised nearly one million dollars selling war bonds through rallies, drives and shows. A plaque outside the high school auditorium memorializes 57 Weequahic students who lost their lives in World War II.

An Empty Lot

What was once an empty lot near Chancellor Avenue School became Weequahic's home field for football, soccer, track and field, and baseball. In 1949, Untermann Field opened and was named in honor of William Untermann, a Newark attorney and judge. In 2007, the

field received a \$5 million makeover.

Speaking In Tongues

For many years, the high school offered more foreign languages - *French, Spanish, Latin, German, Russian, and Hebrew* - than any other high school in the city. In the 70's, *Swahili* was taught.

"Eleanor" Visits WHS



In 1951, Eleanor Roosevelt addressed more than 1,500 students at an assembly in the Weequahic auditorium. She was introduced as the "*First Lady of the World.*" In 1948, she

played a major role in getting *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* adopted.

Top Hoop Team In The Country

The 1967 basketball team, coached by Les Fein, went undefeated, was the number one team in the country, and was nicknamed the "*Dream Team.*" Over a 2-year period in 1966-67, the squad won 40 games in a row.

Best Band In The Land

Throughout the generations, the high school has always had an outstanding marching band under the leadership of Henry Melnik, Frank Scocozza, Vernon Ross, and Michael Page.

Alumnus And Principal, Too

Claude Scott Bey, a 1964 WHS grad, returned to his alma mater in 1980 as the school's Principal.

Career Academies

Today Weequahic has three career related academies: Allied Health Science; Political Urban Leadership; Business and Fine Arts; also a 9th-Grade Success Academy and a special afternoon/evening program for underachieving students.

Who Says We Can't Play Football

Not known for its pigskin prowess, Weequahic, under the leadership of Altarik White, won the Central Jersey Group II State Championship in 2006 - first time in the history of the high school.

from the voices of some of our scholarship recipients . . .

Appiffany Boston:

"It's so hard to be an Indian, so hard to be an Indian, so hard to be a Weequahic Indian."

This memorable tune races through my mind when I think of what I had to endure in my high school career. The appreciation I feel for these experiences is difficult to describe in words. The numerous opportunities I have had were given to me through not merely the wonderful faculty and staff, but through the outstanding Weequahic Alumni Association. If it were not for your care and support of the school and its students, I would not be where I am today.

Without you I would not have the list of various activities and events that I have participated in because they would not exist without your funding...I cannot thank you enough for what you have done for me in my three years at Weequahic High School. I am extremely proud to be an Indian and can now say that I too am a Weequahic alumna who in the future will help make a difference in other students' lives, just like you have done for me. Thank you.

Brandon Sessoms:

I want to start off by saying thank you for giving me this scholarship. I know you had to work hard to find all that money for 32 future college students to help towards their college materials, books and tuition. You didn't have to do this, but you all did it out of the kindness of your heart. You wanted to see another group of men and women succeed and you wanted to help us in any way possible. And I'm just so thankful for that and I believe all the recipients feel the same way.

Syntyché Dennis:

I am honored to be one of the proud recipients of the 2008 Weequahic High School Alumni Association scholarships. Thank you very much for your generosity. Living in a community such as Newark has presented me with a great deal of financial difficulty. This pushes me to strive to get an education above high school. I also would like to thank the association on behalf of my other colleagues. We have all endured the challenges thrown at us by our community and thanks to the association we will be

able to further our education so that in the near future, we will be able to assist future generations of Weequahic students, because once an Indian, always an Indian.

Barbara Crentsil:

I would like to thank you for donating the funds towards my scholarship award. This means a lot to my family and me. My mother works and attends school throughout the year and I have jobs in the summer, but I don't believe that both our incomes combined could see me through college. As I begin my journey through college, I see myself breaking through the norm in our society. I see myself in this global society addressing today's larger issues and contributing to make the world a better place.

Allen Murray:

...My Principal Mr. Stone always told us to Graduate, Graduate, and continue your education and he will be proud. Mr. Stone, you have inspired me and I am following through with the charge. Again, Weequahic Alumni Association, I say THANK YOU for your support and belief in me...I look forward to contributing back to the Alvin Attles Scholarship Fund and making a difference in someone else's life.

Alisha Roger:

One day I hope to become a part of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and hope that I can help another student like you helped me. I want to be able to see the look on students' faces when I give them a chance to go after their dream like you all helped me go after my own dream.

Shantaie Green:

I would like to start off by stating that my past 4 years at Weequahic High was truly an experience. It was a great experience that will continue to walk with me through my life. Over these past 4 years, I can honestly say that I have learned something from each and every teacher, whether it came from Mr. Hylton, an English teacher who always states *"Never burn any bridges with those who are there to help you,"* or Mrs. Saunders, a Fashion Design teacher, who taught me that *"when the stitching gets rough, sit down, sit back, and analyze the problem, then*

when you are able to get a hold on things, jump back into the thread and continue that great masterpiece," or

from Mr. Timmons, a computer teacher, who instilled in me that it is never too late to fight for what is right...Along with the wisdom and teachings from the staff at WHS, your scholarship will help me to attain my dreams. It, too, is a needed step on my ladder to success.

James Harris:

I have dreamed of attending college ever since I was young and now that I have been named as the recipient of the Morey Bobrow Memorial Scholarship, my dream is becoming a reality. I am glad to have this opportunity to thank you personally for your generosity.

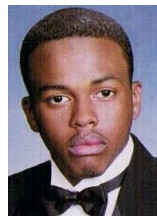
Tiara Montgomery:

Art is my sanctuary, my soul, and most importantly, my life...Not only did art assist me in the rise of my self-confidence, it motivated me in the scariest of times. Art is, and has always been my escape, from a world where I have little control to a world where I am in control. While I am engaged in my art, I am free. I am free to express myself in ways I have never imagined. My art has freed me from the clutches of those who have shown negativity towards me, in hopes of seeing me give up. Art has helped me do the exact opposite; it has encouraged and motivated me to never give up as long as I live. Art is a versatile chameleon that has remained by my side. Without art, I would have nothing, not even my sanity.

Cameron Marshal:

I dream of being successful. I sometimes picture myself as a doctor, lawyer, or successful businessman. While I may have doubts about whether it's a doctor or lawyer that I want to be, there has never been any doubt that success is a necessity, and for me there's no other option. Since I was a child, my parents tried to instill within me the love of knowledge and respect for myself and others. My parents weren't the only people to teach me life lessons. My teachers have had a great amount of influence on me and it's because of the things they taught me that I am able to succeed today...To me life is overcoming challenges. One after another they come, and I try to overcome them. It's this idea that keeps me motivated enough to continue striving for greatness.

Our 2008 Scholarship Recipients - 32 awarded for \$48,000



**Adrian
Dorset**

Attles Fund
Kean University



**Alisha
Rogers**

Attles Fund
Essex County
College



**Allen
Murray**

Attles Fund
Bloomfield
College



**Almond
Hill**

Attles Fund
Univ. Maryland,
Eastern Shore



**Anniyah
Smith**

Masin Fund
Essex County
College



**Appiffany
Boston**

Jellinek Fund
Montclair State
University



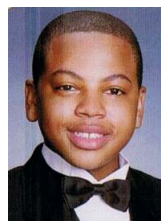
**Barbara
Crentsil**

Women's
Club Fund
Dickinson
College



**Brandon
Sessoms**

Attles Fund
Alabama
State University



**Cameron
Marshall**

McLucas Fund
Seton Hall
University



**Erica
Folks**

Alumni Fund
Shaw
University



**Essence
Priest**

O'Connor Fund
Georgian Court
College



**Hasan
Abdul-
Kabeer**

Osterweil Fund
Kean University



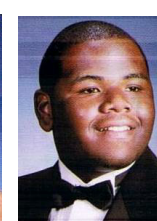
**Ibrahima
Bayo**

Litzky Fund
Essex County
College



**Iesha
Benbow**

Attles Fund
Essex County
College



**James
Harris**

Bobrow Fund
Essex County
College



Jayson Perry

Boatwright Fund
North Carolina
Wesleyan College



**LaTisha
Prophete**

Stone Fund
St. Elizabeth
College



**Love
Brooks**

Attles Fund
Essex County
College



**Melisa
Singh**

Manhoff Fund
St. Elizabeth
College



**Naekena
Green**

Attles Fund
Essex County
College



**Rafiat
Busari**

1964 Class Fund
Dickinson
College



**Samira
Campbell**

Hample Fund
William Paterson
University



**Shaniqua
Robinson**

Griffin Fund
Essex County
College



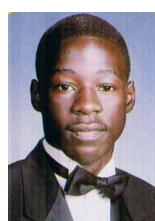
**Shantaie
Green**

Alumni Fund
Bennett College
for Women



**Sharmayne
Fontaine**

Alumni Fund
St. Joseph
College



**Steevel
Corielan**

Roberts Fund
St. Peters
College



**Syntyche
Dennis**

Alumni Fund
Rider
University



**Tanazah
Eason**

Rous Fund
Essex County
College



**Terrell
Hearn**

Alumni Fund
Essex County
College



**Tianah
Chambers**

Pearl Fund
Kean
University



**Tiara
Montgomery**

1963 Class Fund
Hampshire
College



**Tiffany
Hill**

Kalfus Fund

Dr. Victor Parsonnet

WHS June 1941

Music From The Heart: He gives his life to an orchestra and a hospital in Newark

By Peggy McGlone, Star-Ledger

The first things you notice are the polished black dress shoes. When Victor Parsonnet walks into Cath Lab No. 3 at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in dark green scrubs, his shoes are in stark contrast to the prevailing choice of sneakers and clogs.

Parsonnet is about to perform a standard pacemaker procedure. Tall and thin, the 84-year-old surgeon chats with cardiovascular technician Bob Pritchett as he puts on his blue sterile booties, slides a scrub cap over his balding head and ties a surgical mask around his neck. The procedure is straightforward - like the simple sonatas he practices on his grand piano - but Parsonnet is all business. Never chatty, he praises nurse Eleanor Alcudia for her work and thanks Pritchett for his assistance. "He's old school," says Pritchett, explaining to his colleague why she needs to tuck her hair completely under her cap. "He's a giant."

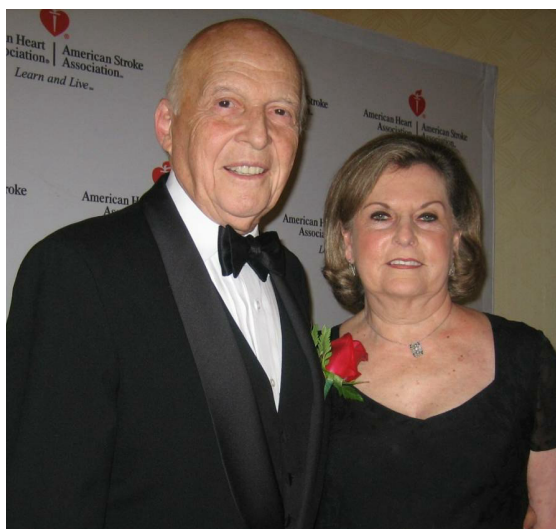
Parsonnet's reputation far exceeds medicine. He also is an amateur pianist whose love of music and loyalty to Newark fueled his volunteer work for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, which will honor him Friday night for his two decades of leadership. His support of the orchestra prompted him to become an early champion of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The arts center's Parsonnet Room is named for him and his wife, Mia, who died in 2002.

He is a man of many interests and few words. He plays tennis at least once a week - singles because doubles doesn't get his heart pumping - and follows the Yankees and Tiger Woods. He's a lifelong Democrat, an avid reader, an impulsive record buyer. He is too polished - too genteel - to be considered a regular guy, but there's nothing smug about him, either.

"You forget, because he's so involved with the orchestra, you forget you're talking to a world-class surgeon," says Andre Gremillet, the orchestra's president and CEO.

NJPAC's president, Lawrence P. Goldman, thinks of Parsonnet as a role model. "He has this openness to new ideas and this inquisitive quality, like he was an undergraduate looking at the world seriously for the first time," Goldman says. Parsonnet is defined by his caring, friends and family say.

He is in constant contact with his three children and five grandchildren, who are scattered in California, Colorado and New Hampshire. And since he remarried in 2004, he has assumed a central role in his wife Jane's family. They live in Whitehouse Station, near her three children and five grandchildren. "He loves to care for other people and to make sure bad things get fixed," says daughter Julie Parsonnet, 50, a professor of medicine at Stanford University. "If things are not as they should be, he works to make them better."



He's also demanding, opinionated, sometimes judgmental. (Though his impeccable manners often blunt the sting of his words.) His standards are high, his expectations great. "He has the quintessential surgeon's personality," says friend and fellow NJSO board member Robert Waggoner. "He's very decisive, very firm in his views. He's a forceful personality, a natural leader willing to take a strong position, to take risks to get something done."

The Family Business

Parsonnet was born in Newark on Aug. 29, 1924, the older of two children of Eugene and Rose Danzis Parsonnet. He attended Maple Avenue School and Weequahic High School before enrolling at Cornell University. He completed his medical degree at New York University in 1947 while serving in the Navy. After completing his

medical training, he joined his father's practice in Newark in 1955.

Newark Beth Israel Hospital could be called the Parsonnet family business. The surgeon's grandfathers, Max Danzis and Victor Parsonnet, founded the hospital in 1901 and his father worked there from 1923 to 1986. In the mid-1950s, 16 members of his family - father, uncle, cousins, wife - were on the hospital's staff. Parsonnet's first memory of the hospital is really a memory of his father. Eugene Parsonnet, then a staff surgeon, brought him to the operating room, and Parsonnet remembers being lifted up so he could peek over the swinging louvered doors and see the surgeons working inside. Parsonnet may be the last person who knows the inside story of the 673-bed facility.

He points out a door at the end of a hall that was once the hospital's main entrance. In one corridor, he stops to knock on the sheet rock, noting that it covers the original marble walls. Over there - he points to a wing of the cafeteria - was the nurses' lounge. "It had a fireplace and a piano," he says with a chuckle as he waits to pay for his lunch - a diet lemon Snapple and strawberry yogurt.

He didn't exactly stumble onto cardiac care so much as he was in the right place at the right time. It was a new field, and techniques that have become commonplace were cutting edge in the 1950s. He was eager to learn. "I was intrigued by it, I loved the excitement," he says. "As a field, it didn't exist. I grew up in it." He was the first in New Jersey to implant a permanent pacemaker, the first to perform an aortocoronary bypass and the first in the state to do a kidney and heart transplant. He holds five patents, has published five books and more than 600 articles.

He could have left Newark, moved on to bigger or more prestigious positions, but he chose to stay. "I have lived here all my life," he says. "Walking down the corridor, down the street or across town, I have memories of previous days."

"He's the only one left," says his son, Jeff, 54, a professor at Dartmouth Medical School. "There was a tremendous exodus of longtime physicians from that hospital. To his credit, he decided that he was not going to leave."

Continued on page 7

PARSONNET continued from page 6

Parsonnet is still active there. A former chief of surgery, he heads the hospital's Pacemaker Center and its surgical research department. He announced his retirement last summer, and then changed his mind a few weeks later. He still goes to the hospital most days, but his shifts are shorter and patients fewer. "The workload has dropped. People are suspicious of sending their patients to a senior citizen," he says. Still, several times a month he is asked for a consult, usually problem cases that others can't solve.

A Musical 'Love Affair'

In terms of passion, music always has rivaled medicine. Parsonnet's mother taught music in a small school just off Lincoln Park, and musicians were always in the house. While he never considered music as a career - "I hated to practice, like every kid" - his knowledge and talent are above average. His father served on the orchestra's board, and his parents would host after-concert parties for the musicians and friends. "He plays the piano beautifully. He has an understanding of music that very few non-professionals have," says Gremillet, a former concert pianist. "He knows what it takes to be a musician, and that's why he admires our musicians. He knows how dedicated they are, and he really respects that."

For years after World War II, the young doctor was a regular page-turner for pianist Myra Hess, a friend of his mother who performed with Tchaikovsky and Isaac Stern. His piano was central to their home life. He and Mia would play four-hand pieces - once even performing together at a medical conference. Each of his children plays several instruments. "As a kid growing up, I went to sleep every night to him playing the piano. Chopin, Brahms, Mendelssohn," says Brian Parsonnet, 51, an engineer and entrepreneur who lives in Fort Collins, Colo.

When Parsonnet's father died in 1986, Parsonnet was asked to fill the vacant seat on the orchestra board. Randy Hicks, the symphony's principal timpanist, remembers the new trustee inviting several musicians to meet him for lunch in his office. They talked about the orchestra over tuna sandwiches. "He really wanted to connect with the musicians on a personal level," Hicks says. "I sensed a seriousness in him in terms of not underestimating our importance."

Parsonnet took on the chairman's role in 1991, a job he held until this year. During his tenure, the orchestra moved into a new, state-of-the-art concert hall and saw its artistic profile rise under the baton of current music director Neeme Järvi. It also purchased a collection of rare, antique

Italian instruments, a bold move that burdened the orchestra's finances but did not boost audiences or donations. The orchestra sold the instruments last year, though it retains the right to play them. "It preoccupied him. It was a source of satisfaction and tremendous anxiety, struggle and disappointment," says Jeff Parsonnet about the acquisition and subsequent sale. Certainly, his dedication has come at a great cost."

In 2002, Mia, his partner of 52 years, died of biliary cancer, and the orchestra mourned with him. They had been a power couple for decades; now alone in his NJPAC box, Parsonnet seemed smaller, sad. He never stayed away, though, and now he's usually accompanied by Jane, his former office manager, a widow who re-entered his life after Mia's death. "He introduced me to the music, opened up a new world to me," she says.



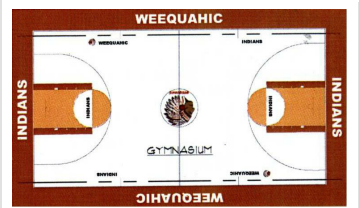
Assessing his own achievements with the orchestra, Parsonnet points to his efforts to elevate the role of the musicians within the institution. Several musicians serve on the board of trustees and on key artistic committees. "We work for (the musicians)," Parsonnet says. "We are working to keep them playing. That concept is difficult to get across. We have a love affair, me and musicians," he says. The musicians are quick to credit Parsonnet for improving the orchestra's finances and culture. "There was a lot of turmoil, a lot of anxiety, and he calmed everyone down," says bass player Martin Sklar. "He opened up the secret processes. We got to know everybody, and he made all that possible."

Their mutual admiration was on view last May, when the orchestra invited Parsonnet to perform during a special, on-stage rehearsal. With Järvi conducting, Parsonnet played several movements from Mozart's Piano Concertos No. 21 and 23 before an invited audience of 50. Parsonnet was critical of his playing - "I made several technical glitches" - but he conceded it was a high point of his life. "I looked around and I could see some of the musicians smiling," he says. "I could hear them thinking, 'He can really do it.'"

New Members - from page 2

Jill Koenigsberg Miller, 1961
Lurine Lane Moore, 1966
Robert Moss, 1950
Howard Nacht, 1958
Donna Norstadt, 1969
Richard Peck
Alan Pressman, 1958
Linda Pollack Rapp, 1958
Herbert Retsky, 1950
Edward Rosengold, 1958
Harold Rudnick, 1954
David Schrob, 1956
Phyllis Schenkel Schwartz, 1958
Ruth Cohan Schwartz, 1948
Beverly Lerner Schuhalter,
Amy Seidman, 1946
Helen Solondz Shane, 1948
Ruth Fein Silverman, 1956
Howard Smith, 1954
Rona Karp Snyder, 1950
Joseph Sobota, 1953
Gary Solomon, 1958
Marilyn Hatoff Spector, 1966
Ruth Fairberg Sperber, 1958
Robert Steck, 1943
Saul Steinberg, 1956
Anita Waldman Strauss, 1956
Regina Davis Thomas, 1972
Patricia Gilmore Taylor, 1968
Jack Usdin, 1949
Irene Weiss, 1950
Gloria White, 1969
Barry Wiernik, 1958
Norman Willis, 1958
Evelyn Feld Wolf, 1958
Silka Carol Kirschner Wolk, 1953
Norman Zegas, 1940

WHS Arena Groundbreaking



It's been a long time since the Weequahic basketball team played on their home court. Soon all of that will change. This summer marked the groundbreaking of a new 2000-seat arena for the high school and community. The sports facility will be built on the site of Chancellor Avenue School playground and the entrance will face Goldsmith Avenue. Construction is to begin this Fall.

LaTisha Prophete **WHS 2008**

Remembers Principal Stone as Award is Given

By David Holmberg, NY Times, 6/29/08

LaTisha Prophete stepped into the spotlight at Weequahic High School when the school's principal, Ronald G. Stone, her mentor and friend, died suddenly seven months ago. Ms. Prophete, 17, a graduating senior at Weequahic with ambitions for law school and beyond, was selected to speak on behalf of the student body of nearly 1,000 at a memorial for Mr. Stone in November of last year. Mr. Stone, a dynamic educational presence who was revered at Weequahic and credited with turning the school around, died of a heart attack on Nov. 4, 2007; he had celebrated his 57th birthday the day before.

Ms. Prophete spoke about her mentor when she accepted a medal and \$500 award last week from Pathways to College, an organization based in Englewood that helps college-bound minority students. The school "felt different" after Mr. Stone's death, Ms. Prophete said in an interview before the awards ceremony. "Something was missing," Mr. Stone, she said, "was like a father, a mentor, to all of us."

In her eulogy for Mr. Stone, which was reprinted in the school newspaper, The Calumet, Ms. Prophete asked: "What now? What will we do now that Mr. Stone is gone?" Her answer: "As students at Weequahic High School, we are going to stand up and do what we know is right. We are going to create an environment where the students have an understanding that we must continue to accomplish the education that was denied to



us before. We need to put aside all our differences and help one another." Yvonne Bolling, the regional program director of Pathways to College who presented the award to Ms. Prophete, said the eulogy was "a factor but not the factor" in the award, which recognized "determination, tenacity and creative action in the face of obstacles; empathy and active concern and caring for others," and a "commitment to excellence." Ms. Bolling noted that Ms. Prophete had maintained a grade point average of 4.0 throughout high school, and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Ms. Prophete will attend St. Elizabeth College in Morristown in the fall on a full scholarship, majoring in pre-law. She was also admitted to the University of Chicago, but decided she would fit in better closer to home and family. She summed up that decision, "How am I going to move from what I've known here?" She said that she might consider law school at the University of Chicago, but that she could make a greater contribution as an undergraduate at a smaller school. "I want to make a mark wherever I go," she said.

She has specific career goals already: She would like to be general counsel for the Newark public school system, and then superintendent of schools. Later, she said, she might consider going into politics. When she thinks of her goals, she said, she thinks of her mother, who has worked hard to help her and her 14-year-old twin stepsisters through school. "I want to help my community," she said. "And I want to accomplish something that my mother couldn't."

Weequahic Writers

Ed Balyk, 1963
Gerald Beatty, 1957
Beryl Lief Benderly
Seymour Bernstein, 1945
Esther Gordon Blaustein, 1952
Beate Sondhelm Block, 1943
Martin Block 1942
Wayne Chen, 1964
Helen Grossman Colton, 1934
Ken Dychtwald, 1967
Martin Edelston, 1946
Norman Frumkin, 1948
Marcia Prince Freedman, 1956
Elinor Miller Greenberg, 1949
Gary Goss, 1964
Stuart Grover, 1962
Warren Grover, 1955
Enid Hinkes, 1960
James Horton, 1961
Erwin M. Jacobs, 1942
Arnold Kantrowitz, 1958
Seymour Kamm, June 1944
Richard Karlen, 1947
David Levinson, 1964
Jay Levinson, 1966
Rabbi Michael Lerner, 1960
Benilde Little, 1976
Paul Lyons, 1960
Jesse Mapson, Jr. 1963
Sibyl Moses, 1967
Iro Newman, 1938
Stuart Oderman, 1957
Sherry Ortner, 1958
Dr. Victor Parsonnet, 1941
Carl Prince, 1953
Philip Roth, 1950
Alan Saperstein, 1961
Calvin Schwartz, 1963
David Shapiro, 1964
Cantor Donald Slonim, 1952
Jane Statlander, 1961
Iro Sternberg, 1947
Arlene Chausmer Swirsky
Jean Rae Turner, 1938
Ted Slate, 1953
Roderick Sells Twyman, 1972
Donald Weckstein, 1950
Sandra West, 1964
Komozi Woodward, 1967
Sharon Levine Yedwab, 1967



David Ginsburg
of Springfield,
a 1966 WHS
grad, has been
wailing away
at the Tuesday
night jam sessions
at Crossroads
Restaurant in
Garwood
since 2000.

In Loving Memory

Phyllis Miller, June 1948
Elisa Kriegsfeld Norris, June 1954
Richard Strauss, 1956
Robert Steinwiess, 1956
Richard Thayer, 1960
Ronald W. Schwartz, 1961
Mills Johnson, 1970



Ina Rudman Golub, WHS June 1956

The Fiber and Beads Serve Jewish Spirituality

By Dan Bischoff, Star-Ledger

The Newark Museum's "*Completing the Circle: The Fiber and Beaded Art of Ina Golub*" is an exhibition of more than 30 beaded and woven textiles by a Newark native who has been making art out of fabrics since the 1960s.

Golub, who was born in 1938, specializes in Judaica, art made to enhance Jewish spiritual life in both the home and synagogue, and this show highlights her sometimes rakish updates of Torah mantles, wedding canopies, tapestries and wall hangings.



"We've shown Golub's work in the museum before, but this will be her first one-woman show here," says decorative arts curator Ulysses Dietz. "She's lived in Mountainside for almost 40 years, and she's won national attention for her work, but she went to Weequahic High School, and this will be sort of a homecoming for her, which is why we call it 'Completing the Circle.'"

"Much of her work involves take-offs on traditional forms, but primarily she's a colorist," Dietz continues. "She started beading in the early 90s, and while she's very much influenced by Matisse

and the Modernists, her work often has a deeply textured, jewel-like quality. There's really no one quite like her in the U.S., or in Israel, for that matter."

Golub has completed more than 40 synagogue installations here and in Israel, including nine monumental ark curtains and more than 450 traditional fabric ensembles, as well as rabbinical garments and tallit (prayer shawl) sets for lay worship. The Yeshiva University Museum in New York mounted a retrospective of her work in 1996, and she won the Spertus Judaica Prize in 1998. She has also completed a major Holocaust memorial in fiber.

Golub studied in the Art Education program at Montclair State University and went to graduate school at Indiana University in Bloomington, where she discovered textiles as a form of fiber art. She graduated from IU in 1965 and began a career as an adjunct art teacher at New Jersey colleges, but all along she pursued her own concept of fiber art. "I was raised in a Jewish family, but we were very secular," Golub says. "I had very little sense of Jewish art growing up, but I think there was something that I needed in the tradition. My work is Modern, based very much in contemporary art, but everything I do harks back to the texts in the Bible; they are what really motivate my art."

One example of Golub's freedom with tradition would be the "spice containers" she makes for Havdalah, a ritual that marks the end of the Sabbath on Saturday evenings. The ceremony is synesthetic, with prayers (sound), candles (light and warmth), taste (wine) and smells, particularly the smells of shaken spice boxes. In Eastern Europe the spice box often assumed the form of a masonry tower, while in the Middle East it was often a fish. Golub has examples of both types here, but made of beaded wire and thread, including one based on Leviathan, the fish that swallowed Jonah and became a symbol of divine protection, that won the Spertus prize. (Devout families eat a traditional Sabbath meal of fish to this day.)

Many of Golub's objects take the form of a pomegranate. Jews say the pomegranate was the fruit eaten by Adam and Eve in the garden before expulsion, and compare its many seeds to the 613 blessings mentioned in the midrash (commentaries) on the Bible. To Golub, it's a symbol of femininity and fertility and a measure of God's abundance for his people.

Dr. Clifford Janey, Newark's New Superintendent of Schools



Dr. Clifford B. Janey, a former superintendent in Washington, D.C. and Rochester, N.Y., was selected as the new Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools this past summer. Dr. Janey headed the 55,000-student school system in Washington for nearly three years

The new superintendent succeeds Marion A. Bolden, a longtime Newark math teacher who rose to become the head of the system. "We have definitely moved the district forward," said Dr. Bolden, who pointed out that the district's graduation rate rose to 79 percent last year from 47 percent when she took over in 1999. "We're hoping that my successor will continue the trend. The quality of life for our young people is very much enhanced, but there's still a lot to do."

State education officials, who also oversee the school districts in Paterson and Jersey City, announced in July that Newark had improved enough to be given control over day-to-day operations like maintaining its buildings and addressing student conduct, health and safety issues.

Janey states that "his vision sets forth a direction for future success, challenges false principles of the present, seeks guidance from the past... with a compelling agenda for educational reform."

John Tanero, WHS Interim Principal



John Tanero, a former mathematics teacher at the high school for 8 years, is the new Interim Principal at Weequahic. He has worked for the Newark Public Schools for the past 36 years.

He follows Elizabeth Haden, who as Vice Principal was elevated to Interim Principal last year, providing strong leadership in a most difficult situation, when the school and community was stunned by the sudden death of Principal Ron Stone. Mrs. Haden is serving as one of three Vice Principals this year.

Prior to returning to Weequahic, Mr. Tanero was the Chair of the Math Department and Vice Principal at West Side High School. He has also taught at Vailsburg and Barringer Prep. In addition to academics, Mr. Tanero coached cross-country and indoor and outdoor track. His teams won 13 state championships.

Mr. Tanero is excited about being back at Weequahic. One of his many goals for the high school is to create "a culture of caring" among students, teachers, counselors and administrators.

Doris Lew Beck

WHS June 1946

*Drum majorette
is the 'cover girl' for
"Jews of Weequahic" book*

By Robert Weiner, NJ Jewish News

A picture of drum majorette Doris Lew, right, adorns the cover of "Jews of Weequahic." She co-led a World War II war bonds parade in 1945 with her Weequahic High School classmate Eunice Sender. Some 62 years after she graduated from high school, Doris Beck picked up a book about Newark and felt "quite a shock" when she spotted a photograph of herself on its cover. There she was, in sepia tone, dressed as a drum majorette, leading a parade supporting a World War II bond drive.

The book is called "Jews of Weequahic," and its author is Linda Forgosh, curator and outreach director at the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest. Forgosh wrote the book in connection with a JHS exhibition "Weequahic Memoirs."

Beck - then Doris Lew - was in her senior year at Weequahic High School when the cover photo was taken in the fall of 1945. "We were too young for the war, but we were all very involved in the war effort," she recalled in a telephone interview from her current home in West Orange. Her involvement in the war effort was an extension of her talents at entertaining the crowds that came to watch the high school's "terrible football team and good basketball team. I started as a baton twirler, but when I became head of the whole squad, I was a majorette," she said.

Her partner on the book cover, on the left side of the picture, was fellow majorette Eunice Sender. "Eunice married a doctor and moved to Philadelphia. That's all I know," said Beck. Growing up in the Weequahic section of Newark during the war years left Beck with memories of "a wonderful neighborhood to grow up in. You knew everybody. It was 90 percent Jewish."

But Beck's earlier days - especially those she spent in her birthplace - were not always pleasant ones. Born in Chehanovietzer, Poland, she can still recall watching several Jews being tortured by some of the town's local anti-Semites in the mid-1930s.



Because she spoke no English when she moved to Newark at the age of eight, Beck was placed in first grade. For awhile, she was teased by her younger, smaller classmates. "Then I skipped a few grades, and later on, I wound up becoming an English teacher," she said ironically.

She met and married Felix Beck, moved to Livingston, and raised three sons. One of them is Bruce Beck, the WNBC-TV sportscaster inducted into the MetroWest Jewish Sports Hall of Fame on June 25. Through the years, she has been an active supporter of State of Israel Bonds and a member of Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston.

Her life of civic activity extended beyond the Jewish community. Beck was president of her local chapter of the League of Women Voters, a board member of Orange Savings Bank and Saint Barnabas Hospital, and an arbitrator at the New York Stock Exchange. Involvement with the LWV gave her the urge to run for office. In 1974, she was elected mayor of Livingston. The town had been a GOP stronghold, but Beck was part of a Democratic landslide after the Watergate scandal that toppled Richard Nixon and many other Republicans from office.

"My three sons campaigned for me, and there were many Weequahic people in Livingston who encouraged me to run," she said. Beck remained in office for eight years, alternating between the mayor's office and a seat on the city council. "I was the first woman mayor in all of Essex County. Men's groups and businesses began taking notice of women, saying, 'Gee, they can do something.'"

Correction: For those who purchased copies of *Jews of Weequahic* there is a correction on page 8 in the fourth paragraph that should read:

"Dr. Murray Belsky, who grew up in Weequahic and still practices Internal Medicine at the hospital is fond of saying that the Beth, or Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, and Weequahic High School are two of the proudest institutions in Newark's South Ward."

In memory of Regina,



*one of God's angels, who
accidentally fell to earth and I
had the good fortune to find
and live with for the 51 best
years of my life.*

Lou Kleiman

West Palm Beach, Florida
1936 grad of Hawthorne Avenue School

Thanks For Your Recent Donations

Alvin Attles, 1955
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Class of Jan. 1958
Class of June 1958
Class of 1963
Columbia HS Student Council
Simona Chivian Chazen, 1945
Steve, 1965, & Lauri Dinetz
Florida: Glen Eagles Alumni Brunch
Dena Gittleman Greenstein, 1964
Keith Henry
Judy Herr, 1964
David Horace, 1987
Lou Kleiman
Arnold Keller, 1952
Swede Masin Family
Union Chapel AME Church

HAPPY 95th BIRTHDAY

Hilda Lutzke

Weequahic gala bridges area's past and present

By Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News

In an evening packed with laughter and nostalgia, past residents of Newark's Weequahic section gathered in West Orange to remember one of America's most notable Jewish neighborhoods. Former "Indians" smiled with recognition at the high school athletic jackets, restaurant menus, vintage street signs, and old photos - one from the Weequahic High School Class of 1950 senior prom includes novelist Philip Roth - on display in *"Weequahic Memoirs,"* an exhibit making its first stop at the Leon & Toby Cooperman JCC, Ross Family Campus, in West Orange.

And while the exhibit, sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest, celebrated the Jewish Newark that was, Newark Mayor Cory Booker and others spoke at the June 18 grand opening about the predominantly African-American city it is today - and efforts to bridge past and present.



"What distinguishes a Jew if it is not that he or she reaches out to help people who have not had the opportunity we've had? If we don't do that, I guess we're like all the other people who don't do that."

Hal Braff, co-president of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, reminded Booker, who was the featured speaker, of the cheer once heard at Weequahic High School games: "Ikey, Mikey, Jake, and Sam. We're the boys who eat no ham. We play football, we play soccer. We keep matzos in our locker." "Believe it or not," he told the mayor, "that is part of the culture of your city, a culture that is disappearing, evaporating, and in many instances, aging."

In his remarks, Booker told his predominantly Jewish audience that "the power of the Weequahic neighborhood has not died. It still endures." As he toured Weequahic after a power outage the previous week, Booker said, he encountered a woman who told him hers was the first black family to move onto her street. "She talked about the glory of the neighborhood and her pride in the black



Exhibit curator, Linda Forgosh, with vintage street signs of Keer Avenue and Clinton Place

community and the Jewish community in Weequahic," said the mayor. "She told me she still believes - despite the difficulties in the '70s and the '80s - that such days are still in our grasp."

Casting aside planned remarks, Booker said he would "prefer to speak from my heart," and proceeded to compare his "roots in a black church and a black family" to his "being blessed" in adulthood by his opportunity "to study Judaism at length."

During his year as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University in England, Booker studied and became friends with Chabad Rabbi Shmuley Boteach - who has since become a well-known author and TV personality - then carried his interest in Jewish culture through his law school years at Yale University. "I discovered a deeper understanding of humanity, a deeper appreciation of the divine, and a deeper understanding of myself," he said. "There are Jewish values and principles that to me are unique and distinct."



Newark Mayor Cory Booker said the suburban Jewish connection to Weequahic will help his city to

Booker said he was pleased that those principles have helped forge a link between Weequahic's past and present residents, "be they still living in Newark or spread out in a diaspora, be they swinging canes or swinging golf clubs, these Newarkers - still connected to their city, still connected to their history, still involved, still active, still keeping alive the calls and the songs of Weequahic High School - they will help us as a city to heal, to grow, to manifest God's justice here on earth."

Much of the connection between today's Weequahic residents and those of yesterday has been through the alumni association that Braff helped form in 1997. Providing links between the Jewish and African-American communities and the current student body, the association offers scholarships and other assistance to those who "frankly, did not have the advantages and opportunities we had," Braff told his audience.

"It is a great relationship," he added, "What distinguishes a Jew if it is not that he or she reaches out to help people who have not had the opportunity we've had? If we don't do that, I guess we're like all the other people who don't do that," he said.

One person who embodies much of the connection is 95-year-old Hilda Lutzke, who taught English at Weequahic High School between 1937 and 1975.

Lutzke received a standing ovation from the audience. She called her career "38 years of joy and hard work," even as she remembered times tinged with tragedy. During World War II, life was "more serious and somber. Some students dropped out to enlist. Soon we were hearing of former students who were killed. It was really very sad," she recalled.

She mentioned more sad moments during the McCarthy era of the 1950s, "when people I knew lost their teaching jobs" through the infamous communist witch hunts. "But overall," Lutzke said, "life was so good and pleasant that it seems like a dream compared to today's world and the problems we face."

Earlier, Linda Forgosh, JHS curator and outreach director, told the audience it had taken her two years to plan the program and collect the material on display. "All we had in our archives were two Jewish community population surveys, a few personal collections, and two copies of Weequahic High School's yearbook, *The Legend*," she said.



Hilda Lutzke at 95 still enjoys attending alumni events and class reunions

Weequahic Memoirs from page 11

"Everything else is courtesy of individuals who have held on to their Weequahic memories," which were stashed away in such faraway places as Berkeley, Calif., and Tempe, Ariz.

"Since there are no formal histories of Weequahic, we relied on your stories and memories to help us put the pieces together," she said.



ALUMNI VOICES

Dottie Richards Fornoff,
WHS 1946, Texas



Dear Phil,

I appreciate the time you spent letting me reminisce about my years at Weequahic High when the family brought me back there recently

in celebration of my 80th birthday. It was a real treat to actually visit inside the school which I doubt would have happened without their advance planning. Your gifts of Weequahic tee shirt, sweat shirt, pin and alumni newsletters are very much appreciated as well. I'm spreading the word of the excellence of the education I got back there. Thanks for your part in making my birthday celebration very special. Congratulations on the success of your alumni group.

Herb Schon, WHS Jan. 1950,
Santa Fe, New Mexico



As always, receipt of the Alumni Calumet is dearly anticipated for news of both past and present. Being 2,000 miles away, items like the Alumni Calumet and the WHS '63 e-mails are

my link to school and the old neighborhood.

As a kindergarten kid with scores of friends on Leslie Street, I cried when the folks found a cheaper (this being 1937) apartment on Harding Terrace. Didn't they know I had roots? Would I never

again be able to sneak on the fields of nearby Hillside farms to run off with a pumpkin? Would I ever again have so many empty lots to build fires in for roasting "Murphy's?"

Alas, the movers came and I was deposited at 44 Harding Terrace, bereft of old friends. But, "Eureka." That one block street that ran from Parkview Terrace to Bergen Street was filled with more kids of all ages that I was soon able to choke back my tears, grief and happily remained on Harding through Maple and Weequahic.

Now, to my chagrin, I return to the Bergen Street article in the last Calumet. I quote,... "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)."

I panicked. Was Harding Terrace no longer between Lyons and Lehigh? Were the two corners that originally housed Tabatchnick's and Piltz's Grocery demolished? Who could I call? Who could tell me what happened to the street that was home to Nuppy and Herbie, Mel and Danny, Ray and Lance(?), Eddie and Dave, Marvin and Bobby, Siggy and Sheldon? Why, even in the same story there was a reference to Bro-darts book covers (where I was employed part-time). Had I imagined that the Brodys lived across the street between the Appels and the Schleins?

So, please, please, since I know of no one who still haunts the old nabe, tell me that Harding remains. Tell me that, though faded, the monuments to my youth continue to exist. Life and journalistic omissions can be cruel.

WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Sam Weinstock

The story behind a scholarship fund from the 60's revealed

Recently, June 1952 grad, Donald Schachat, sent us the above brochure about a Weequahic High School Alumni Scholarship Fund that was established in 1962. Donald is listed as Treasurer. To our pleasant surprise, Hal Braff, the co-founder of our current alumni association, and Sam Weinstock, the Treasurer of our alumni Board, are listed as Trustees. There are also names of other alumni.

According to Don, the first deposit to the scholarship fund came from the class of June 1952 at their 10th reunion. He also remembers having meetings at the apartment of teacher Sadie Rous on Elizabeth Avenue. Loraine White, 1964, recalls car washes to raise funds. Jimmy Schwarz, June 1958, related that Mrs. Rous asked him to become President of the Fund in the middle 60's.

During the intervening years, Jimmy, who is in the investment business, was the custodian of the Fund and put the money into bonds. With higher interest rates back then, the principal accrued. He then made arrangements with the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest to have them disburse the funds to the high school.

In the past, six \$500 scholarships were awarded each year. A faculty committee at the high school selected the students. Today, the Alumni Association chooses deserving students for five \$1,000 scholarships every year. This fund has been active for 46 years and it looks like it will continue for many more.



WALDO WINCHESTER

This popular column from the Calumet first appeared in 1950.

Hal Braff, June 1952, Co-President of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, will be honored by the Union Chapel AME Church on Friday evening, November 16th at the Robert Treat Hotel.

Marshall A. Kasen, Jan. 1961, CPA, CFF, with offices in NYC and Coral Gables, Fla., was elected to the Board of Directors of Mayim Chayim Wazzar Holding, Ltd., a company developing a new hybrid all natural "fermented champagne-like" soft beverage to be distributed worldwide. He continues as a corporate officer and CFO of the holding company.

Amy Toporek, the daughter of **Jac Toporek, 1963**, has hit the big time, landing the lead role in a popular musical show. A few months ago, the 23-year-old was tapped to play the vulnerable and spunky Tracy Turnblad in the national touring company of the smash musical *Hairspray*.

Dr. Larry Feinsod the husband of **Sharon Rous Feinsod, 1966**, was appointed by Gov. Corzine as the Essex County Executive Superintendent of Schools.

Daaimah (Diana) Talley, 1966, was featured in a production at The Theater Project at Union County College in Cranford NJ. The show *Defying Gravity* by Jane Anderson is the story of the *Challenger* and was presented as a tribute to teachers.

Keon Lawrence, 2006, a first-team All-State basketball team selection in 2005-2006, will be entering Seton Hall University after two seasons at the University of Missouri. Keon led Weequahic with a 31-point scoring average and 24-3 record.

Dave Lieberfarb's Smoke Signals



L-R: Harry Katz, Poppy Braunstein, Bobby Braunstein, Gerald Leroy, Aron Wallad, and Ari Niederman - Photo by Dave Lieberfarb

A group of alumni who call themselves the *Weequahic Irregulars* detoured from their usual monthly watering holes to hold their July get-together at the wonderful "*Weequahic Memoirs*" exhibit at the JCC in West Orange. **Aron Wallad (1965)** is the leader of the pack, and he was joined by classmates **Gerald Leroy**, **Arie Niederman** and, just so alumnae wouldn't be entirely excluded, **Poppy (Braunstein) Segal**. Poppy was accompanied by her brother, **Dr. Bobby Braunstein (1962)**. **Harry Katz** represented the class of 1964. Arie was joined by his younger brother, **Meir**, a graduate of Chancellor Avenue School before the family moved out of Newark, and Meir's sons **Bryan**, 29, and **Brett**, 26.

A few fellow Weequahic alums were sighted on an August walking tour of Newark's Central Ward. **Alvin Blumenfeld (1948)** couldn't be missed because he was wearing a Weequahic T-shirt. Alvin was accompanied by his wife **Elaine Einhorn Blumenfeld (1952)**. **Arnold Cohen**, (1965), **Paula Borenstein (1967)**, and **Janet Parhams (1972)** also took part in the tour, as did others.

Sam Weinstock, Alumni Treasurer



Sam Weinstock, Jan. 1955, is the current Treasurer of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association. He has been a board member since 1997. Sam has spent most of his life involved in the Newark and Essex County community.



His family moved to Hansbury Avenue in 1939 and he attended Chancellor Avenue School and then Weequahic, where he was the President of his class. "Moose" or "Big Sam" as he was called by his classmates was a very popular student who was involved in many high school activities. He was also a member of a few sports clubs known as the Cobras, the Jokers, and the Ramblers. He even played "JV" basketball for Coach Art Lustig. But most of his athletic career took place at the Chancellor Avenue playground or Untermann Field playing baseball, basketball, football and softball with fond memories of playground directors Bucky Harris and Joe Esposito.

Following Weequahic, Sam went to the University of Michigan, became President of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity and graduated with a BBA degree in June 1958. After college, he returned to Newark and joined his family business located on Prince Street in the Central Ward. In 1923, his father Max started a wholesale distribution company selling plumbing and heating supplies. For 80 years, the business serviced contractors in Newark and northern New Jersey. Sam vividly remembers the riots in Newark in the summer of 1967. While many businesses left the area, his family stayed until 2003. Occasionally, Sam is asked to speak about his recollections from that period of time.

In 1959, Sam married his Weequahic sweetheart, Ellen Ertag, a 1956 grad. They raised four children, Jill, Cheryl, Steven, and Melissa, and have six grandchildren. They have been happily married for 49 years.

Throughout most of his life, Sam has put his energy into volunteer endeavors. He is the former President and lifetime member of Congregation Oheb Shalom, originally in Newark, and now in South Orange. For 12 years, he served on the Board of Trustees of the Mental Health Association of Essex County and also on the board of the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest.

Sam has worked all of his life to assist the disabled and less privileged. In particular, he has always had a special passion and commitment to Weequahic High School and Newark with its wonderful memories and experiences. Feeling that he has lived a good and productive life, Sam believes in giving back to those who have not been so fortunate. He strongly believes that education with the appropriate supports can only be a benefit to lift one's spirit and hope. Now semi-retired, he and Ellen share time at their homes in New Jersey and Florida. Currently, Sam is co-chairing our upcoming Diamond Jubilee event.

On behalf of the alumni association and the students at Weequahic, we thank Sam for his service, dedication, and efforts.

REUNIONS IN REVIEW

Jan. 1958 Hits 50 With A Bang

By Gerry Beatty

Five years ago, when the class of January, 1958 celebrated its 45-year reunion, the surprise appearance of our award-winning Weequahic High School band stirred deep emotions no one present is likely to forget. For the 50-year event this May, the whole weekend was a high.

Attendees from Vermont and California and 11 states between hugged and talked and talked. Part of the formal program was abandoned so classmates could continue to swap remembrances. Several who ignored previous reunions decided 50 was too important, and were thrilled they came. When the weekend ended, many were reluctant to leave, and continued to write for days afterward.

More than a year ago, some on the planning committee who remain avid beachgoers pushed for a return Down the Shore. Accordingly, the celebration consisted of Saturday dinner at Rooney's ocean-view restaurant in Long Branch and the Sunday reunion at the Oyster Point Hotel, with its scenic riverside setting in Red Bank. Several made the weekend complete by driving around (where else?) Bradley Beach Saturday afternoon.

The committee thought perhaps 75 classmates, spouses and companions would participate. Ultimately 96 people signed up (four became last-day dropouts because of illness and travel problems). Translation: among 146 people pictured in the "Legend" and 20 who skipped to graduate the previous June but retain close ties, nearly half the living classmates joined the festivities.

In reality, the party began with check-ins in the three chosen hotels' lobbies with shouts, hugs and camera flashes. Saturday night was for talking and one table's rendition of "All Hail to Maple's Colors." Sunday highlights included a warm, funny reminiscence by class president **Jeff Schram** of life in the '50s; **Don Kalfus'** slide-show tribute to 23 classmates who've died; and the donation of \$500 to the **Phyllis and Donald Kalfus Scholarship Fund**.



L-R: Gerry Beatty, Sue Schilling Grand, Sam McCloud, Judy Karetnick Rufolo, Bunnie Jacobson Slovickowsky, Ann Klein, Phil Grand, Phyllis Schenkel Schwartz, Betty Jane McCloud.

The Alumni Association supplied the school banner, proudly hung as the decorative centerpiece, and stacks of "Alumni Calumets" and membership cards - word was that a half-dozen people filled them out and sent in their checks. A class directory was distributed. It reported "our typical class member is married; with 2.3 children and 3.0 grandchildren; lives in New Jersey (46 percent; 19 percent in Florida); retired from teaching (every level from pre-school to five professors); and keeps busy with grandkids, friends, exercise, mah jongg, travel, reading and cultural activities."

More than two dozen people helped plan the weekend. Regular committee members included **Don Kalfus, Judy Karetnick Rufolo, Syma Scher Herzog, Larry Orlans, Sue Schilling Grand and Phil Grand, Gerry Beatty, Fran Kimmelman Fried, Sheila Scherer Krell, Arnie Kantrowitz, Jay Amdur, Herb Gomberg, Lynda Koenigsberg Gordon, Al Levine and Jeff Schram**.



By Florence Brockman Seglin

"Three score and ten years" to quote Abraham Lincoln, represents how many years ago we graduated from Weequahic High School. Our 70th reunion took place on Sunday, September 14th at Nero's Restaurant in Livingston. Fifty-six classmates attended the party, one of whom traveled from California to be with us for the first reunion he had ever attended.

The June 1938 class has been celebrating reunions since 1953, the fifteenth year after

graduation and nearly every five years ever since then. When our numbers started to decline, the late Bert Manhoff of the class of January 1938 suggested that we combine our groups. The number of graduates from our combined classes was approximately six hundred and although attendance at the reunion was small, it was very gratifying, with classmates coming to be with us from all over the country.

Many have retired out of state, some are no longer driving so although they are not too far from Essex County they were not able to be with us. Of course, illness and death has also diminished our numbers. But the fun and delight at meeting and greeting each other made up for the smaller size of our group.

The committee members were **Shirley Rubin Rabinowitz, Chairperson, Esther Raznikov Cohen, Stanley Gilbert, Myron Woller, Evelyn Friedrich Reinhard, Jerome Lieb, Ruth Maltz Hendlin, Irene Maroukis Stampoulos and Shirley Tepper Sarasohn**.

We met approximately every six weeks over the last year and a half. Committee meetings were the extra "perk" of work involved in organizing the reunion. Since many of our committee members either vacationed out of state, or live a distance from where the meetings were held, they were not always able to attend.

Our on-site committee chairperson, Shirley, really did a yeoman job of pulling all the details together that resulted in a wonderful day for all of us. Needless to say, we do not project a 75th anniversary of our graduation. We will continue our intermittent committee meetings. We will advise those who are interested, of the date and time of one of the meetings so that they can join us. Not a formal situation.

In closing, I wish to express the feelings of my classmates about our alma mater. We were fortunate to be able to attend a new and modern school for the four years of our high school career. The faculty, chosen for this new school, were especially dedicated and motivated us to continue our studies. Many of us remained in the area and served our community. Some of us are still participating through the alumni association to continue the ongoing success of Weequahic High School.

Weequahic alumni make donation to the families of 4 in school slayings

By William Kleinknecht and Jonathan Schuppe, Star-Ledger



A year after the shootings of four college students in a Newark schoolyard, the one surviving victim, **Natasha Aeriell**, is still waging a battle to recover from the brutal attack, her family said yesterday. The 20-year-old, who is being kept in hiding as the sole eyewitness to the slayings, still faces several major surgeries before she can achieve her goal of living a normal life and returning to college, the family said. And paying for college will not be easy, since the gunshot wound to her head cost her the ability to play the saxophone - and with it her musical scholarship. "She can no longer play the instrument she has played since high school," said Sherry Bradshaw, who is married to Aeriell's father, Troy Bradshaw, "because of the muscle damage from the bullet."

On the anniversary of the massacre in the playground of Mount Vernon School, family members of the four students appeared at a downtown Newark law firm to accept a donation from the Weequahic High School Alumni Association. One of the association's members is **Richie Roberts**, the former Essex County drug prosecutor depicted in the film *American Gangster*. Although the association's fundraising usually goes toward scholarships for Weequahic High School students, Roberts arranged for a private screening of the film earlier this year to raise money for the schoolyard victims.

"It's beyond a donation," James Harvey, the father of shooting victim **Dashon Harvey**, said as he thanked the group for the donation. "It's what's in the heart of individuals like you that keeps us strong." Family members of **Iofemi Hightower** and **Terrance Aeriell**, who also were killed in the attack, and Natasha Aeriell, Terrance's sister, also received checks. Shalga Hightower, Iofemi's mother, asked the group not to remember the victims only for what happened to them on the night of the killings. "They were role models," she said. "They had goals and ambitions."

Roberts told the families that his role in the movie has had many benefits, but he said none had significance when compared with the need to help victims of violence in Newark. "I speak from the bottom of my heart when I say that nothing is more meaningful and more important than being able to donate money to you people," he said.

Among those joining Roberts in presenting the four checks - for undisclosed amounts were - **Hal Braff**, his wife **Elaine**, **Mary Dawkins**, **Phil Yourish**, **Sam Weinstock**, **Myrna Weissman**, **Arnold Keller** and **Larry Bemby**.

MetroWest Sports Hall of Fame inducts alumni for '08

Ron Kaplan, NJ Jewish News

The MetroWest Jewish Sports Hall of Fame just got a little more crowded with the induction of five new members. More than 250 family members and friends attended a dinner on June 26 to honor Bruce Beck, Aaron Chernus, William "Doc" Pollak, and the father and daughter "team" of David Klurman and Danielle Klurman Hall for their athletic accomplishments in a sports-related field.

- **Chernus**, (WHS June 1946) who has won several medals in senior Olympic competition, did not become involved in competitive sports until he hit middle age. In his acceptance remarks, he said he would "keep on doing what I'm doing until my body fails me - or they test me for steroids."

- **Pollak** (WHS Jan. 1953) gave up a chance to play professional baseball to become a dentist, but the septuagenarian continues to play as a member of the Livingston Dodgers, defending state champions of the U.S. Over Thirty Baseball League. Since high school, he has won more than 1,000 games as a pitcher.

- **Klurman** was selected as one of the outstanding basketball players of the 1950s by The Star-Ledger. His daughter, Danielle, was named NJ State Tennis Champion three times during her high school career, winning 100 of 101 matches.

- **Beck**, a Livingston resident, is a multi-award-winning sports broadcaster. He told the audience his personal highlight was getting an exclusive interview with Gal Friedman, Israel's first Olympic gold medalist, by belting out his bar mitzva haftara to suspicious security guards to prove he was a fellow Jew. Beck praised his parents for "setting the example for their sons to embrace a sense of responsibility." His mom, Doris Lew Beck, is a 1946 Weequahic grad.

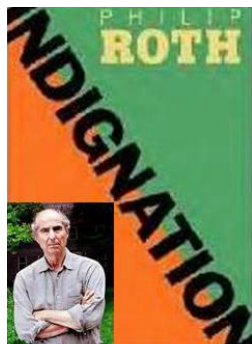
Klurman and Pollak are both enshrined in the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame. Many of the guests had attended Weequahic High School. Klurman related the extent of his alma mater's reach. "When Danielle represented the girls in the Maccabiah games [in 1985], I was jogging in Tel Aviv, and I had my Weequahic T-shirt on.... A guy comes over; I thought I was being mugged." The man was an alumnus from the Newark school. "He was a retired doctor living [there], and he wanted me to tell him about Weequahic and to tell me what the school meant to him. Weequahic has a tremendous tradition."



L-R: Aaron Chernus, Bruce Beck, William "Doc" Pollak, David Klurman, and Danielle Klurman Hall.

Roth's "INDIGNATION"

Interviewed by John Freeman, Star-Ledger



Philip Roth may have become famous for the exuberant carnality of *"Portnoy's Complaint,"* but he still remembers a very different sexual America. When Roth was in college in the '50s, female students had a curfew. Men were not allowed in their rooms. Dances were chaperoned. "That little world was replicated on one campus after another," says Roth, comfortable in khakis and a checked shirt at the offices of his New York literary agent.

Those days are on Roth's mind again because they are the topic of his 29th book, *Indignation*, a short novel set in the '50s about a Jewish man named Marcus Messner, who flees the oppressive anxieties of his family in Newark for a small liberal arts college in Ohio called Winesburg. Marcus should feel liberated, but he discovers he has merely traded the illogic of his parents' surveillance for that of the college administration. "He goes from one overseer to another," Roth says. Marcus clashes with roommates, rages at a college dean and manages to turn his one blessing - a date with a woman sexually ahead of the times - into a source of towering anxiety.

Talking about the changes that came to universities after students like Marcus left, his legs crossed and his tone professorial, Roth is acting less like a literary Gulliver than a man who has watched America change far beyond his own wildest expectations. "The old system was just discarded: Sexual freedom, personal freedom, all the freedoms that have been extended to the generations after mine are extraordinary." One of the key freedoms Marcus lacks - which most American college students enjoy today - is the freedom from fighting. In 1951, the U.S. was at war with North Korea and the draft was on. "With the draft, everybody was involved," says Roth. Marcus' fear of being expelled, called up and sent to die on the battlefield, provides the book with a taut windup - even though Marcus essentially narrates the book from beyond the grave after this very sequence of events occurs.

Like Marcus, Roth is feeling the pull of history, the press of time running out. "I want to have a big, long project that will occupy me until my death," says the 75-year-old Roth, his big eyes shining, his expression so deadpan it may or may not be ironic: "I'm ready for it. I have a 25-year book. And when I'm 100, I will hand it in and then lie down in darkness."

OUR LOVE TO LINDA FORGOSH

Executive Director and Curator of the
Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest

Thank you for a magnificent job commemorating the high school and neighborhood in the *"Weequahic Memoirs"* exhibition and with your book, *Jews of Weequahic*. Your effort and enthusiasm are appreciated by all of our alumni. It is with great pleasure that we bestow upon you the title of *"honorary"* Weequahic alumna. You are now one of the tribe.



WEST COAST REUNION

Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada,
New Mexico, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota,
Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington,
Wyoming. East Coasters are also welcome.

It's on Valentines Day
Show your love for Weequahic

Saturday, February 14, 2009

11 a.m to 3 p.m / Buffet - \$50.00

**San Luis Rey Officer's Club,
Camp Pendleton Marine Base,
Oceanside, California, (Near San Diego)**

For more information, contact:

**Fran Katz Sekela, June 1954,
francat1936@gmail.com / (760) 944-7384**

Please supply your e-mail address when you mail your check.

Bringing The "WEEQUAHIC MEMOIRS" Exhibit to Newark

For November 2008, the Jewish Museum of New Jersey, located at the historic Ahavas Sholom synagogue in Newark, is in the process of making arrangements with the Jewish Historical Society of MetroWest to bring the *"WEEQUAHIC MEMOIRS"* exhibit to the Museum.

If arrangements are completed, this will be a wonderful opportunity to visit the synagogue, a state and national landmark, and view this outstanding exhibit about the city's Jewish community, once the largest in the state.

More information will be available soon.

South Florida East Coast Reunion

Thursday, February 19, 2009 - 6:30 p.m.

**Sugar Cane Island Bistro
353 S. US Highway #1 Jupiter, Florida**

**Mix, Mingle and Dance - \$60
Hors D'oeuvres, Hot Buffet, Beverages & Desserts**

For more information, contact:
**Gayle Frankel Sokoloff, June 1963,
gaylesok@bellsouth.net / (772) 286-0347**

In Loving Memory

Dr. Sanford Lewis, 86

By Jeff May, Star-Ledger



Dr. Sanford Lewis set some kind of example. Most of the things he loved are reflected in the careers of his children. He was a medical doctor with a fondness for classical music and a devotion to Jewish causes.

One of his sons became a dermatologist. Another is an attorney who plays piano professionally. And his daughter teaches preschool at the Jewish Community Center of MetroWest, a group he led several decades ago. *"He was Type-A, but it that way,"* said his son John Lewis, the lawyer. *"He liked his fun, too. I guess you can say he didn't waste a lot of time."*

Born in Newark, he graduated from Weequahic High School and went to the University of Pennsylvania. His father was a dentist, and Dr. Lewis was leaning toward the same profession when he enrolled in New York University School of Medicine. He went on to become a medical doctor, specializing in internal medicine.

He opened a practice in Newark, then moved to East Orange and eventually West Orange. During World War II, he served for a time as chief of radiology for the Pacific Theater. Back stateside, Dr. Lewis picked up work doing forensic medicine for insurance companies and offering expert testimony in workman's compensation and medical cases. *"He was very verbal, articulate, clear-thinking and ethical,"* Mark Lewis said. *"That combination was perfect for that kind of work. He could look at a case, dissect it and report his findings impeccably."*

Dr. Lewis later became chairman of the state Board of Medical Examiners and was also a member of the New Jersey board of hospital supervisors. His busy schedule didn't stop him from taking on other duties, though. During the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War in 1967, he raised a large amount of money for Israel in a single night by feverishly working the phones. He later became president of the local

chapter of the Young Men's Hebrew Association, now known as the JCC MetroWest.

Dr. Lewis loved tennis, and was a longtime member of Orange Lawn Tennis Club in South Orange. He also was a subscriber to the New York Philharmonic and would regularly visit Tanglewood in the Berkshires with his wife to see summer performances. *"His real love outside of tennis was classical music,"* John Lewis said. Later in life, he took up sculpting, working in marble and wood.

In addition to his two sons, John and Mark, Dr. Lewis is survived by his wife, Carol, a psychologist; a daughter Lynn, and three grandsons. Tributes may be sent to the JCC MetroWest or to Doctors Without Borders.

Doris Daun Edelman, June 1955



Doris Edelman, an amazing wife, mother, grandmother and friend, died on September 8, 2008, surrounded by her loving family.

Born in Newark, Doris lived in Union before moving to Springfield. She was a member of the inaugural class of the Hebrew Youth Academy of Newark. She was a graduate and proud alumna of Weequahic High School and attended Newark State Teachers College. She enjoyed many friendships with her contemporaries from these associations.

Doris was a longtime active member of Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield and their Women's League, as well as Hadassah and ORT. She was past president of the Park Place Association and an active participant in the community's development. She and her late husband, Sam, also enjoyed membership in the Couples Club of the JCC in Whippany.

Doris was the beloved wife of Sam Edelman, devoted mother of Abbe and Robin Edelman of Livingston; Alan and Janie Links of Springfield; loving sister of Charlie and Joy Daun of Florida; and devoted aunt to Dana and Michael Zuller and Donna and David Lester; the adored grandmother of Sydnie and Noah Edelman and Zach and Alexa Links, and grand-dog mother of Mo-Jo Edelson and Sumo

Links. She was predeceased by Sushi Edelman, her beloved shih-tzu. Donations may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, 14 Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 1400, NYC, NY 10122.

Eugene Heller, Jan. 1954



Eugene "Gene" Heller, a prominent real estate developer, died at his home in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., at the age of 72. Mr. Heller was diagnosed with melanoma in January 2007.

Mr. Heller was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and moved to Newark at an early age. He graduated from Weequahic High School and attended Rutgers University. He later served as a trustee of Rutgers University and Hackensack Hospital.

Mr. Heller was involved in a family business with his brothers. He then left and went on to pursue a career in real estate development. He joined with Leonard Stern to co-found the Hartz Mountain Real Estate business. At Hartz, he had the vision for the transformation of the Secaucus Meadowlands from swamp to mixed-use development consisting of residential, hotels, retail, industrial and offices. Under his leadership, Hartz developed 40 million square feet of space throughout New Jersey.

In 1991, Mr. Heller went on to establish his own company, G. Heller Enterprises. He is credited with being the driving force behind the rebirth and revitalization of Edgewater, which is part of NJ's Gold Coast, as well as other projects in New Jersey.

Mr. Heller became a Florida resident in 2006, and enjoyed golf, traveling, spending time with close friends and was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan. His greatest joy was being with his family.

He will be deeply missed by his beloved wife, Penny; his son, Todd, and daughter, Bonni Konefsky and her husband Steve. He was also a devoted grandfather to Marisa, Jennifer, and Jordyn. Mr. Heller is also survived by his former wife, Ticia Heller. Donations may be made to Yale Cancer Center Melanoma Unit, Clinical Research Program, 2333 Cedar Street, New Haven, Conn., 06520.

Membership / Merchandise / Scholarship Form

Mail to: **WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101**

You can also make your purchases with a credit card
by calling us at (973) 923-3133 or using our web site at www.weequahicalumni.org

- Please Print Clearly -

DATE: _____ TOTAL AMOUNT: \$ _____

2 Payment Choices:



1. **CREDIT CARD** (mail or telephone): MC VISA - Amount \$ _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

2. **CHECK:** Make out check to **WHSAA** - Amount \$ _____

5 Merchandise Choices (circle your size if applicable:

1. \$20.00 BOOK: JEWS OF WEEQUAHIC (add \$5.00 for shipping & handling)
2. \$15.00 T-SHIRT (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - now in khaki or orange with the WHS logo)
3. \$15.00 HAT (one size fits all - khaki with orange & dark brown lettering)
4. \$20.00 GOLF SHIRT (sizes S, M, L, XL - orange with Indian head and WHS alumni wording)
4. \$25.00 SWEATSHIRT (sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL - now in khaki or orange with the WHS logo)

Weequahic Murals Restoration Project: \$ _____

20 Scholarship Choices:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. \$ _____ ALVIN ATTLES Endowment Fund | 11. \$ _____ PHYLLIS & DONALD KALFUS Fund |
| 2. \$ _____ MAXINE BOATWRIGHT Memorial Fund | 12. \$ _____ HANNAH LITZKY Memorial Fund |
| 3. \$ _____ MOREY BOBROW Memorial Fund | 13. \$ _____ BERT MANHOFF Memorial Fund |
| 4. \$ _____ CLASS OF 1963 SCHOLARSHIP Fund | 14. \$ _____ SEYMOUR 'SWEDE' MASIN Memorial Fund |
| 5. \$ _____ CLASS OF 1964 SCHOLARSHIP Fund | 15. \$ _____ EDWIN McLUCAS Athletic Fund |
| 6. \$ _____ GENERAL ALUMNI Fund | 16. \$ _____ MARIE E. O'CONNOR Fund |
| 7. \$ _____ RONALD GRIFFIN Memorial Fund | 17. \$ _____ LEO PEARL Memorial Fund |
| 8. \$ _____ LES & CEIL FEIN Endowment Fund | 18. \$ _____ RICHARD ROBERTS Fund |
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| 10. \$ _____ READA & HARRY JELLINEK Endowment Fund | 20. \$ _____ RON STONE Memorial Endowment Fund |

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

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Cell: () _____ e-mail: _____

In Loving Memory

Jerry Krupnick, Jan. 1943 Star-Ledger TV critic

By Alan Sepinwall, Star-Ledger



Jerry Krupnick, who wrote about television for The Star-Ledger almost as far back as there was television to write about, died Aug. 14 of complications from congestive heart failure. He was 82.

After serving in the Army in World War II, Mr. Krupnick came to The Star-Ledger in 1950, and within a few years was the paper's go-to man for coverage of that newfangled medium called television. He created TV Time of the Week, one of the nation's first Sunday TV magazines, and wrote about TV for the paper up to, and even after, his retirement in August 1998. "Jerry loved TV and he loved his work, which he executed with charm, wit and wisdom," said Susan Olds, The Star-Ledger's assistant managing editor for features. "It was an incredible career to be sure - for its longevity, yes, but more so for the energy and sense of purpose he delivered day in and day out. The Star-Ledger is richer for his years of service."

Mr. Krupnick had a distinctive flair for language. He referred to public television pledge drives as "begathons" and was fond of explaining the distinction between "trash" (genuinely bad television) and "supertrash" (so-bad-it's-good television). He wrote using the royal "we," and was fond of inserting his wife of 58 years, Phyllis, (WHS Jan. 1945) into the column, referring to her as "Our Favorite Wife," or "OFW" for short. "He always wrote I was his 'OFW,'" said Phyllis Krupnick. "Everybody called me that, because they read his column and they got a kick out of it."

"One of Jerry's favorite words to describe (bad) shows was 'wallow,'" recalled Star-Ledger copy editor David Lieberfarb (WHS 1965), "which was probably less negative than it sounds. He also used to love to run words together, as in something 'camethisclose' to being one of his top picks."

Though he was best known for his television coverage - he was a two-time winner of the New Jersey Press Association Award for Critical Writing, and was named the 1990 Television Columnist of the Year by the International TV Society. Mr. Krupnick also spent 15 years as Sunday editor for The Star-Ledger. He was responsible for assembling all but the Sports and Real Estate sections for each Sunday's paper, often with the help of only a single assistant.

Mr. Krupnick's newspaper career - and his relationship with Phyllis - began at Weequahic High School, where he was editor-in-chief of the school paper. Phyllis' father and brother also worked in the newspaper business. (brother Robert Kalter worked for The Star-Ledger for 50 years.)

Mr. Krupnick enlisted in the Army at age 17 and became a staff sergeant in the 69th Division of the infantry, doing combat patrols in France and Germany during World War II. He also wrote for the Army's Stars and Stripes newspaper, and re-enlisted after the war to become public relations director for a series of "soldier shows" in Europe.

His sons all recall their father working long hours, particularly while putting out the Sunday paper, but never complaining. Though he missed out on family time, he made it up to the boys with special trips, or with VIP treatment courtesy of having a TV critic for a dad.

Eugene Lawson, 1970



Eugene (Gene) Lawson was born February 10, 1953, in Jersey City, NJ, the 3rd child of the late Willadean Burrell and Louis Lawson. Gene graduated from Weequahic High School in 1970 and then enlisted

in the US Air Force and after serving his country, he received an Honorable Discharge. Constantly expanding his knowledge, he received his Associate of Arts Degree from Essex County College and his Bachelor of Science degree from Rutgers University.

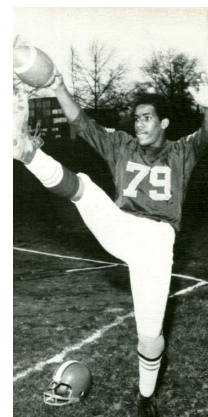
During his life, Gene worked for the City of Newark, taught and coached in the Newark school system and, most recently, worked for Joint Meeting of Essex &

Union Counties. He was always active with various nonprofit organizations and served a term on the Irvington Board of Education. He was an active member of Trinity Lodge #33, Prince Hall Affiliation, Golconda Temple #24, Prince Hall Shriners; Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star #43, Ruth Court #5, as well as many other houses.

He was always doing whatever he could to help those around him. When he made a promise - he kept the promise. He loved God, sports, reading, dancing and having a good time - and had a huge sense of humor and compassion. Gene listened, guided, advised, and held dear everyone he knew. As a result, he was loved by many. Gene headed the WHS Class of '70 Reunion Committee and he organized the 10, 20, 25 and 30 year reunions. He was also involved with the formation of the high school's alumni association. He really loved his alma mater!

Gene leaves his legacy through his family and friends, most especially, his *wife*, Elmira, and *sons* Eugene, Jr., Viktor, Mikal and Bandit, *granddaughters*, Hannah, Kiara, and Kennedy, *brothers*, Ali, Albert, and Anthony, *sisters*, Cynthia, the late Catherine and Luvada, *nieces and nephews*, Cynthia, Jamillah, Rahmiece, Taheerah, Louis, Jr., Stephen, Jaquayah, Shamsuddin, Maryum, Najee, Nyja, and Bryce, *mother-in-law*, Liana, *stepmother*, Carrie, *daughters-in-law*, Kelli and Aliyah, *brothers-in-law*, Leighton and Patrick, *sisters-in-law*, October and Corliss, *cousins*, Esther, James, Gwen, Maurice, and Andre, and many other close family and friends.

Arthur Cartwright, 1970



Arthur T. Cartwright passed away on August 9, 2008. He was the beloved son of Gladys and the late Booker T. Cartwright; loving husband of Helen Cartwright; cherished father of Nicole, Arthur T. Jr. and Harold W. Cartwright, and caring brother of Pamela, Bertha and

Cybelia. He is also survived by a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

REUNIONS

2008

☺ September 12, 2008

1938 - 70th

Sunday, 12 P.M., Nero's Restaurant, Livingston, NJ. *Contact Shirley Rubin Rabinowitz at (973) 736-2637.*

☺ September 21, 2008

JUNE 1958 - 50th

Sunday, 12 P.M., Maplewood Country Club, Maplewood, NJ. Also inviting members of the class of Jan. 1959. To include Philip Roth Tour of Newark and tour of high school on Saturday.

Contact Judy Epstein Rothbard at (973) 467-1037 / judyepster@yahoo.com.

☺ OCTOBER 5, 2008

1943 - 65th

Sunday, 11 A.M., Essex House, West Orange, NJ. *Contact Selma Rosenstock Cohen at (973) 731-4170; Sheldon Denburg at (973) 515-6949; and Arline Gersten Marantz at (973) 763-5824*

☺ OCTOBER 19, 2008

1953 - 55th

Sunday, 11 A.M., Shackamaxon Country Club, Scotch Plains, NJ. *Contact Beverly Greenfeder Levine (914) 693-1266 or lzybones@aol.com.*

☺ NOVEMBER 1, 2008

1968 - 40th

Saturday, 7 P.M., Sheraton Hotel, Eatontown, NJ. To include tour of high school. *Contact Helen Perlman Siegel at HSiegel51@aol.com.*

2009

☺ OCTOBER 18, 2009

1959 - 50th

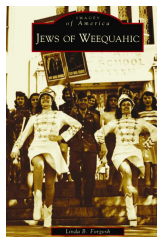
Saturday, 7 P.M., Hamilton Park Hotel, Florham Park, NJ. To include Philip Roth Tour of Newark and tour of high school. *Contact Lillian Friedman Weinstein at lil.weinstein@gmail.com.*



2008 Alumni Scholarship Recipients at Senior Awards Ceremony

WHS ALUMNI STORE

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



WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

Phil Yourish, 1964, Executive Director

Hal Braff, 1952, Co-President

Mary Brown Dawkins, 1971, Co-President

Sam Weinstock, 1955, Treasurer

Myrna Jelling Weissman, 1953, Secretary

Board of Trustees:

Ruby Baskerville, 1961

Larry Bembry, 1966

Judy Bennett, 1972

Sheldon Bross, 1955

Marshall Cooper, 1969

Harold Edwards, 1966

Arnold Keller, 1952

Monroe Krichman, 1955

Dave Lieberfarb, 1965

Arthur Lutzke, 1963

Adilah Quddus, 1971

Gerald Russell, 1974

Dave Schechner, 1946

Vivian Ellis Simons, 1959

Charles Talley, 1966

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