

MR. ROMANO AND THE 1974 TEACHERS' STRIKE

In September of 1973, the city of Philadelphia was threatened by a teachers' strike. After three days of picketing by the teachers, the PFT (Philadelphia Federation of Teachers) accepted an offer from the School District to hold off until the end of the year. By that time, the Union was assured, a contract would be firmly in place. When the Christmas vacation had ended, and nothing had happened, the teachers failed to return to work. The strike, a long and bitter one, lasted for eleven weeks.

When the teachers failed to return to work, the district grudgingly made an offer to the PFT. Bring the teachers back to the classrooms now, they were told, and give until the end of the term to finalize a contract. The union accepted, and classes resumed. As had been happening for the past few years, Josy was again assigned a student teacher in French to oversee.

Lamberton School had, at the time, an arrangement with St. Joseph's College to help train some of their student teachers, and Josy had already supervised about three or four of them in French. Josy, at that time, taught her eighth grade classes in Lamberton's main building, while the student teacher was put in charge of ninth for her direct teaching.

In the early and mid-1970's, Josy was teaching the first-year French classes at the school's on 75th and Woodbine Avenue. Her each year assigned to teach grade at Beth Tevillah Synagogue, located a block away. (The School District had an arrangement whereby it rented space for its upper grade classes at several churches and synagogues. Ninth grade was housed at Beth Tevillah, tenth at Overbrook Presbyterian Church at City Line and Lancaster Avenue, eleventh at Good Shepherd Church at 65th and Lansdowne, while twelfth started at a church near Haverford and Sixty-fourth Street. Josy eventually got to teach in all of these buildings but the last.)