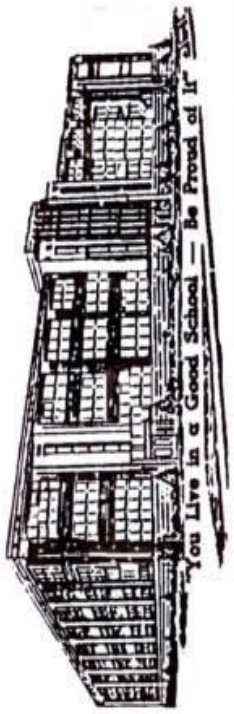


SPRING 2020 / ISSUE 44

ALUMNI CALUMET

As we celebrate our 22nd Anniversary,

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

So please ***JOIN*** the Weequahic High School Alumni Association or ***RENEW*** your membership.

We look forward to the next 22 years of providing opportunity to the students at Weequahic High School.

ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Alumni - $25

Orange & Brown - $50

Ergo - $100

Sagamore - $500

Legend - $1,000

BY CHECK

Send a check (made out to WHSAA) to:

WHS Alumni Association

P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101

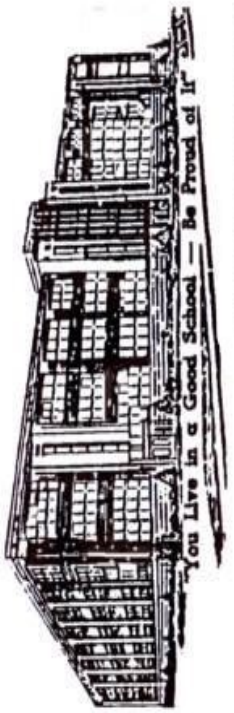
BY CREDIT CARD

To pay by credit card, call our Executive Director Myra Lawson at (973) 923-3133

Please enjoy reading our 44th edition - Spring 2020

Alumni Calumet

Newsletter



SPRING 2020 / ISSUE 44

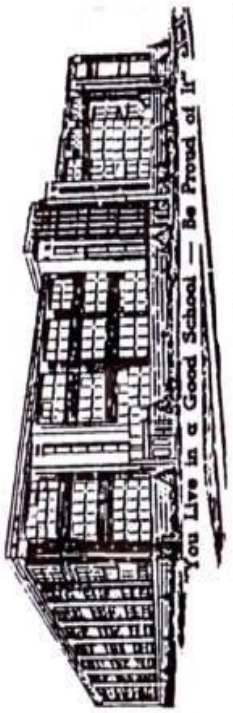
ALUMNI CALUMET

WEQUAHIC

ON THE INSIDE:

- Alumni Association 22nd Anniversary / Hall of Distinction Ceremony
- Remembering Hal Braff, Co-Founder, WHS Alumni Association
- 2019 Weequahic High School Alumni Scholarship Recipients
- Alumni Association, Vision, Goals and Accomplishments
- Ruby Baskerville, 1961, elected new Alumni Co-President
- A Son Pays Tribute to His Dad: Alvin Attles, Basketball Hall of Fame
- Weequahic High School's new Allied Health Academy
- Victor Parsonnet, 1941, Inducted into NJ Hall of Fame
- Brian Logan, 1982, inducted into Newark Athletic Hall of Fame
- Larry Layton, 1963, Inducted into NJ Boxing Hall of Fame
- Jacob Toporek, 1963, Impact on the Jewish Community in NJ
- Two Weequahic Centenarians: Philip Agism and Thelma Gottlieb
- 2019 Alumni Association Highlights
- Lenny Wallen's Pleasantdale Kosher Market in West Orange
- The story of Mildred's Corset Shop, originally on Bergen Street
- 2020 Reunion Information and 2019 Reunion Pictures
- The Passing of Newark's Mayor Kenneth Gibson
- "In Loving Memory" of alumni who recently passed away
- 2019 Hall of Distinction Ceremony Collage Page

SPRING 2020 / ISSUE 44



ALUMNI CALUMET

Celebrating our 22nd Anniversary with Hall of Distinction Ceremony

On the evening of October 17, 2019, 250 alumni and friends gathered at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and the induction of 20 distinguished alumni into its Hall of Distinction.

Mary Dawkins, 1971, former Co-President, and **Ben Wolfe, 1955,** Board of Trustee, chaired the event. Nearly $23,000 was raised for college scholarships and school activities.

It was in 1997 when **Hal Braff, 1952,** and **Sheldon Bross, 1955,** founded the WHS Alumni Association, which has become one of the largest, most active, and successful alumni groups in the city of Newark, the state of New Jersey, and across America. *And, most of all, it's the students at Weequahic who receive the benefits!*

2019 Hall of Distinction Honorees:

Coach Burney Adams

Antoinette Baskerville-Richardson, 1970

Hal Braff 1952

Steven Dinetz 1965

Remembering Hal Braff, 1952

(1934 - 2018)

Hal Braff learned early in life that being Jewish meant more than just religious observance. *"Going to service was not sufficient"* he said. *"Make the world a better place, that is your responsibility."* That statement became the mantra reflecting his remarkable life. On December 1, 2018, Hal peacefully passed away following a long illness.

WHSAA Co-Founder

In a lifetime spanning 84 years, Hal's personal and professional accomplishments were bountiful. A leader, visionary and humanitarian, he was passionate about his family, career, and volunteer endeavors. And he cared for people who lacked the opportunity to improve the quality of their lives resulting from inequality and intolerance.

Phil Yourish, the founding director of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and a close friend, described Hal as *"a kind, generous, thoughtful and dynamic individual, always available to help those in need. He was a "doer," not afraid to take on challenging situations, and always addressed difficult issues creatively with enthusiasm and optimism. As a mentor, advisor and friend, he impacted the lives of others in so many wonderful and meaningful ways."*

(Continued on page 6)

Hisani Dubose 1971

Sheila Oliver 1970

Warren Grover, 1955

Wilfredo Nieves 1966

Eli Hoffman 1956

Sadie Rous Faculty

James Oliver Horton, 1961

David Schechner, 1946

Carrie Jackson 1968

Jacob Toporek 1963

Alturrick Kenney, 1995

Paul Tractenberg 1956

Eleanor Lutzke Lewis, 1959

Frederick Tyson, 1972

Stanley Markowitz 1955

Nathan Weiss 1940

18 Awards / $28,500

2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

$13,500 was also awarded to previous scholarship recipients

Tim Ajiboye-Kafor
Edwin McLucas Fund

Amajane Crumbley
Nancy & Linda Small Fund

Joseph Falayi
Yada Mgmt.

Oluwasehuan Falayi
Class of 1964 Fund

Samuel Falowo
Marvin Gibson Fund

Teyana Howard
Hilda Lutzke Fund

Joyce Ikedife
Lenore & David Beckerman Fund

Shalom Jimoh
Hal Braff Fund

Kadiri Mubaraq
Class of 1965 Fund

Jessie Obeng
Swede Masin Fund

Emmanuel Ogbonnaya
Lewis & Dora Prag Fund

Timuri Scott
Reada & Harry Jellinek Fund

John Sopong
Hannah Litzky Fund

Hassatou Sow
Ronald Stone Fund

William Ukoh
Class of 1967 Fund

Zeinab Yinusa
Gloria & Walter Hastreiter Fund

Not Pictured:

Justin Thompson
Class of 1963 Fund

Tyrel Pearson
Ronald Griffin Fund

ALUMNI CALUMET

is a publication of the WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor, Layout & Design:

Phil Yourish, 1964

Proofreading:

Dave Lieberfarb, 1965; Myra Lawson, 1970; Marc Tarabour 1963.

Our thanks for articles and photos from The Star-Ledger, NJ.com, San Jose Mercury News, and NJ Jewish News. Some of the articles have been edited.

CONTACT US

WHS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101

(973) 923-3133
Email: weequahicalumni@gmail.com
Website: WeequahicAlumi.org

CO-FOUNDERS:

Hal Braff, 1952 *
Sheldon Bross, 1955

STAFF/TRUSTEES:

Myra Lawson, 1970
Executive Director

Phil Yourish, 1964
Founding Director, Advisor

Officers:

Ruby Baskerville, 1961, Co-President
Karim Arnold, 1984, Co-President
Arthur Lutzke, 1963, Treasurer
Benjamin Wolfe, 1955, Secretary

Trustees:

Yolanda Bogan, 1988
Mary Brown Dawkins, 1971 **
Catherine Johnson, 1984
Brian Logan, 1982
Craig McDaniel, 1979
Keith Salters, 1985
Corey Rogers, 2009
Marc Tarabour, 1963 **

*** Deceased ** Past President*

The WHS Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization n incorporated in New Jersey in 2001.

Since 1997, our vision ands goals realized beyond all of our expectations!

OUR VISION

It was not from our differences, but from the traditions that we have in common, that gave birth to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association in 1997 – a unique opportunity to bring people together - people who seemed so far apart yet who have shared something significant and precious: ***their lives were shaped in their Weequahic years.***

OUR GOALS

- To recapture the spirit and memories of Weequahic High School that were so meaningful to many of us.
- To transcend the generational and cultural differences spanning ten decades from 1933 to the present by bringing together our graduates, teachers, administrators and friends for reunions and special events.
- To remember and honor those Weequahic High School graduates and staff who have made important contributions to the high school and our larger community.
- To utilize the resources of our alumni to support the current students at Weequahic High School through scholarships, activities, tutoring, mentoring, cultural events, and job opportunities.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created a diverse organization in 1997 with nearly 10,000 alumni from 1933 to the present time.
- Set up a non-profit organization with an alumni office/museum at the high school and a part-time salaried director.
- Publish an Alumni Calumet newsletter, an email Alumni Bulletin, and maintain a website at *weequahicalumni.org.*
- Raised more than one-half million dollars for student scholarships and activities.
- Organizes Homecoming and alumni events on a regular basis.
- Sponsored student trips to Paris, France; Montreal; Washington, DC; New York City - and ski outings in NJ and PA.
- Provide support for academic programs, student activities, athletic teams, and the marching band.
- Participated in the making of *"Heart of Stone,"* an award-winning documentary about the high school.
- Provided the technology to broadcast the inauguration of President Obama to the entire high school.
- Celebrated the 75th birthday of the high school with a grand affair.
- Established the Weequahic High School Alumni Hall of Distinction (formerly Hall of Fame).

RUBY BASKERVILLE, 1961

New Alumni Association Co-President

At the Annual Meeting of the WHS Alumni Association Board of Trustees in November 2019, Ruby Baskerville, a trustee for the past 10 years, was elected Co-President, replacing Marc Tarabour, 1963, following five years of dedicated service.

Re-elected were Co-President, Karim Arnold, 1984, and Treasurer, Art Lutzke, 1963. Ben Wolfe, 1955, was elected as Secretary.

In the Weequahic community, Ruby served for 22 years as Founder and Executive Director of the Union Chapel AME Church Community Development Corporation, which provides activities for seniors and youth.

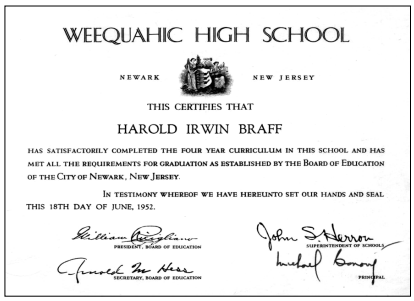
She is a graduate of Wilberforce University in Ohio with a BA degree in Psychology and a year of study at the University of Hull in England. She has an MA in Social Work from Rutgers University.

Ruby worked for the Essex County Department of Welfare and for Union Township as a School Social Worker. She and her husband Clifton have been married for the past 50 years and they have two children and five grandchildren.

"Make the world a better place, that is your responsibility!"

BRAFF *(Continued from page 1)*

Hal was born in Newark and raised in the Weequahic section, attending Weequahic High School, which he described as *"one of the best times in my life."* His love for his high school inspired him later in life to provide opportunity to the current students at his alma mater.



WEEQUAHIC HIGH SCHOOL

NEWARK NEW JERSEY

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

HAROLD IRWIN BRAFF

HAS SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED THE FOUR YEAR CURRICULUM IN THIS SCHOOL AND HAS MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF WE HAVE HEREUNTO SET OUR HANDS AND SEAL THIS 18TH DAY OF JUNE, 1952.

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF EDUCATION — SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SECRETARY, BOARD OF EDUCATION — PRINCIPAL

Longtime Weequahic classmate and friend, Dr. Noah Chivian, said Hal Braff *"was erudite, articulate, and totally committed to the many missions of repairing the world he adopted."*

He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1956, was an active alumnus, and ardent Badger football fan. Returning home, he received a law degree from Rutgers University in 1959.

Hal practiced law for 59 years, first at Braff, Harris and Sukoneck, and then as Counsel to Margulies Wind, where he was a well-respected mediator. Bob Marguiles explained that *"Hal lived his daily life helping all comers. He was selfless. He was the ultimate professional and the consummate mensch, a man for all seasons. He unconditionally gave of himself, his talents and love to all whom he touched."*

In 1997, Hal and his friend and colleague, Sheldon Bross, established the Weequahic High School Alumni Association. He served as Co-President for 18 years, and the organization grew to be one of the largest and most successful high school alumni groups in New Jersey.

Sheldon declared that its greatest achievement *"was raising more than one-half million dollars for scholarships and student activities."* He added that *"the word love was a part of Hal's everyday vocabulary. He was one of kind! Everybody loved Hal. You're not going to find another person like him."*

Hal mentored two Weequahic students, Rayvon Lisbon and Corey Rodgers. Both are college graduates and are grateful for his assistance.

He was an adjunct professor of negotiations at Rutgers Law School, the University of San Diego Law School, and at Peking University in Beijing.

Hal was a Past President of Temple Sha'arey Shalom in Springfield and developed a lifelong friendship with Rabbi Seymour Dresner. They both marched in civil rights demonstrations in the South in the early 1960s. He also served as Counsel for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

For over 20 years, Hal and his wife Elaine, were master teachers for PAIRS, a marriage education course.

Hal was literally a Johnny Appleseed in the American Inns of Court movement, an organization dedicated to teaching ethics, civility, and professionalism to young lawyers. He established a network of 23 Inns in New Jersey, as well as Inns across the country. In 1994, as a national officer, Hal received their highest award which was presented to him in the United States Supreme Court.

Hal was a member of the IOLTA Fund Board of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation serving as President. Among the numerous awards he received, was the Daniel J. O'Hern Professionalism Award conferred by the NJ State Bar in 2013 and Richard K. Jeydel Award for Excellence in ADR in 2015 from the Justice Marie L. Garibaldi American Inns of Court. He was also recognized on the New York Magazine's list of top lawyers.

He was involved with many other organizations including the boards of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey and the Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris Counties.

Hal had varied interests including community theater, opera, religion, justice, politics - and the NY Mets.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Elaine; his children, Adam and (Michelle), Joshua and (Jill), Zach, Shoshana (deceased), Jennifer Gellman, Jessica Kirson (Danielle Sweeney-Kirson); 10 grandchildren; and his sister Susan Sayers (Gary).

Donations in his memory can be made to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association which has established a scholarship fund in his memory.

Hal and Sheldon Bross, 1955

Hal and wife Elaine

Hal with Miss O'Connor, his favorite WHS English teacher

Hal with students at Weequahic High School's 75th Anniversary Affair

A son pays tribute to his Dad on the occasion of his induction into the basketball Hall of Fame

By Alvin Attles III, The Mercury News, San Jose, CA - September 6, 2109

Al Attles is synonymous with the Golden State Warriors, and Friday night he will be immortalized here as a member of the basketball Hall Of Fame.

Many people see only his accomplishments as a player, coach, and executive. All my life, my family and I have seen a Hall of Fame man. His wise counsel, his unwavering loyalty, his great sense of humor, his deep compassion for others.

"One half of one percent of people looking to play professional basketball will even get the opportunity to try out."

I remember this mantra from the time I was five years old, when my father would caution kids at his numerous basketball camps to keep their heads in the books as opposed to betting it all on a professional career. Although I never quite understood the one-half-of-one-percent phrase, at five years old I understood that my father was a practical man.

"And Al Attles' Golden State Warriors have just won the NBA championship!"

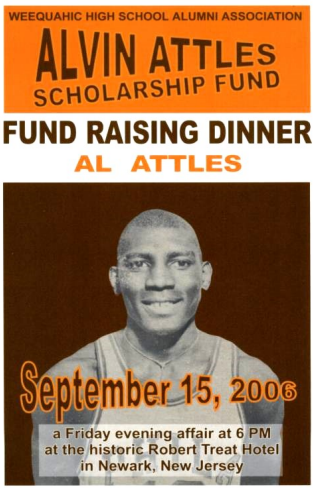
The voice of the iconic Bill King rang out. In our Oakland home, thousands of miles away from my father's ultimate coaching triumph, I hugged my little sister, Ericka and did a happy dance with my mother. We couldn't share this moment in person with my father, because the game was played in Washington, D.C, and in 1975, teams did not fly families and friends to road games.

The family has always felt that my father's basketball contributions have been Hall of Fame worthy. But it has been his standing in our family that has always held the most meaning for us.

"Alvin, wake up! While you're asleep, there is someone on the other side of the world trying to figure out a way to steal your ideas and take your money."

I heard that message on more Saturday mornings than I can recall. I hated to hear it then, but I grew to understand, my father was extolling the value of hard work.

My father is a true example of hard work, commitment and unwavering integrity. His career was built on maximizing his ability and working to become efficient in areas he wasn't comfortable. It was the same at home.



- **1955: Weequahic High School graduate.**
- **1960: North Carolina A&T graduate.**
- **1960-1971: NBA basketball player, Philadelphia and San Francisco Warriors.**
- **1975: NBA Championship coach, San Francisco Warriors.**
- **His number 22 retired by North Carolina A&T.**
- **His number 16 retired by the Warriors.**
- **2006: Honored at WHS Alumni Fundraising Dinner that raised $125,000 for student scholarships.**
- **2008: Weequahic High School Alumni Hall of Fame.**
- **2014: John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award.**
- **2019: Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.**

My mother, Wilhelmina, worked full time as a schoolteacher (almost forty years). She also did the cooking, the cleaning, paid the bills, helped with homework, carpooled us to our various activities and even taught me how to play basketball, as more and more of my father's time was spent at work. One day, my mother came home from a full day to find my father napping. *"What's for dinner?"* he asked.

Rather than voice her displeasure about her day in comparison to his relatively short day, she instead took her frustration out on the pots and pans in the kitchen. The racket she caused made my father get up to ask her what was wrong. My mom explained that her day was exhausting, and she was tired. My dad asked how he could help, and my mom suggested he help by giving her a break and cooking every now and then.

My dad agreed and the next day, he promptly burned a can of franks-and-beans for dinner. It wasn't good, but my mom ate it like it was steak and lobster. Encouraged by her reaction, my father soon became the primary cook in our family. His steaks were tender, his gumbo was excellent, and his breakfasts were legendary.

He hadn't known how to cook, just as he hadn't known how to coach when Franklin Mieuli asked him to take charge of the Warriors. But he committed himself, learned and he became great.

My father's nickname was "*The Destroyer,*" because of his willingness to finish a fight. I've talked to the late Maurice Lucas, Lenny Wilkens, Oscar Robertson and countless other players from his era. To a man, they all said my father was not a man you wanted to cross.

His toughness stemmed from loyalty. As kids, my sister once told my dad about a boy who was messing with at her at school. My dad paid the boy a visit. I won't detail the rest, because I am not sure if my father is still protected under the statute of limitations.

I remember attending an NBA all-star game one summer at The Forum. I was 10 years old or so and ran around playing tag in the locker room with my cousins

(Continued on page 8)

ATTLES *(Continued from page 7)*

Bernard and Kevin. An armed policeman spotted us running around and forcefully grabbed hold of me. My father was being interviewed some 20 feet away and saw the guard grab me. He rushed from his interview and was soon nose -to-nose with the policeman.

"Don't' EVER touch my son. Ever! Do you understand me?" he barked at the trembling guard, who apologized and slunk away. My dad never looked for trouble, but he would fight for his family.

The boy bothering my aunt found that out the hard way. As did the policeman. And most famously, so did Mike Riordan of the Washington Bullets. In Game 4 of the 1975 Finals, Riordan walked up to Rick Barry and shoved the Warriors star. Riordan was looking to give his team a spark, or worse yet trying to get Barry thrown out of the game for retaliating.

It never happened because The Destroyer rushed to Barry's defense, leisure suit and all. Dad got ejected, not Barry, and the Warriors completed the sweep.

A little-known story is that after winning the championship in '75, my father was a hot coaching commodity. Several teams came looking to throw big money at him, hoping they would lure him away with more than Mr. Meuli could offer.

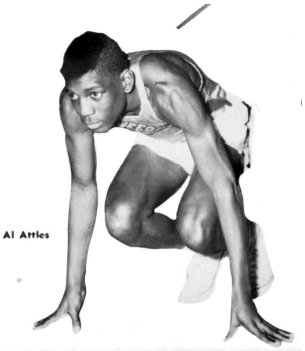
My mother fielded many of the phone calls from other NBA teams' executives, and watched the offers come in. But my father never seriously entertained any of those offers. He believed he owed the franchise that believed so much in him.

The bigger picture to my father was always his family, and the Warriors had become his family. So instead of a substantial financial increase and a promise of more executive control in a new city, my dad settled for lifelong season tickets, a small salary bump and a familiar seat in his office in the Oakland Coliseum. *"What are the similarities between money and potential? You can waste them both."*

In 1991, Oakland suffered a devastating Hills fire. I vividly remember racing to my parents' home under ashen clouds, sirens filling the air. I ran into the house and asked my mom what I should rescue from the house.

My mom suggested I gather all of my father's trophies and mementos, so I grabbed as many as I could and began rushing back and forth to the car. *"Alvin," my father yelled, stopping me in my tracks."* "Yeah, dad." *"Leave all that. Those trophies and basketballs don't mean anything. Get the family photo albums."* I ran and collected all the family photo albums and put them in my car. Our house didn't burn; we were among the fortunate. But my dad's priorities even in a potentially life-changing situation, left a deep impression on me.

Al Attles
Captain



"Everybody makes a mistake." This is my father's playful response when people ask how he feels about being inducted into the Hall of Fame. My father is as humble as they come. Although celebrities such as Wilt Chamberlain, Jesse Jackson, and Bill Cosby were friends of his, he never took on celebrity airs.

I remember walking to the house one day to find Marvin Gaye sitting in our living room. Marvin Gaye! One would think, such brushes with greatness might change a person. But it never changed Al Attles.

"Work to make people respect you, even if you can't do something for them."

My father is now 83 years old. He walks a little crookedly, and he struggles with his memory sometimes. Although his role has greatly changed, we now happily assume the role of caregivers to the man who has given so much to so many.

Originally, we thought this piece was going to speak to his victories, his winning percentage, his accolades, and his achievements with the Warriors. But the more we thought about it, the more we knew we wanted to tell people about the things that make my father special to us.

He is an awesome husband, a great father, a super uncle, the best Pop-Pop, and a one-of-a-kind friend.

Friday, the basketball Hall Of Fame will confirm what we've all known all along. I am excited to be in Springfield. I look forward to meeting so many idols from my youth. I greatly anticipate my father becoming immortalized. I can't wait to see his Hall of Fame ring and Hall of Fame blazer.

But I know once we return home, he'll just put the ring and blazer somewhere in the back of his closet. *"It's just stuff,"* he'll say. And we'll just smile, because that's so him.

Editor's Note: The WHS Alumni Association proudly congratulates one of Weequahic's outstanding alums - who has "given back" by helping to raise funds for scholarships for the current students at the high school.

NBOE, Rutgers School of Health Professions, & RWJ Barnabas Launch Allied Health Academy at Weequahic High School

Weequahic High School
Allied Health Services Academy

RUTGERS School of Health Professions

RWJBarnabas HEALTH

By Devna Bose, Chalkbeat

Inside their school building, students will learn to take blood pressure, analyze blood splatter, and give physical exams. Their classrooms have been set up like clinics, with mock crime scenes and patients. Science labs have been outfitted with microscopes and incubators.

Welcome to Weequahic High School, where a new allied health services academy will give high schoolers skills they can use in fields, such as physical therapy, exercise science, and health administration.

Students at Weequahic will soon train through a combination of in-classroom education, off-site learning, and specialized courses to earn industry certifications that could help them land internships in Newark and beyond.

Weequahic students will get support from Rutgers School of Nursing, Rutgers School of Health Professions, and RWJ Barnabas Health. The academy is partnering with Science Park, a science magnet and one of the district's top-performing schools. Berkeley College School of Health Studies is among several other local organizations providing additional support.

Editor's Note: *The new health program is using the classrooms that were once used for Home Economics, cooking, sewing, typing, etc.*

The Allied Health Services Academy at Weequahic High School will provide an outstanding opportunity for students to attain real-world skills in healthcare that are aligned to industry standards. The program will focus on students taking on the roles of Allied Health professionals to solve real-world medical cases via project based learning.

It will include investigations into the delivery of health related services pertaining to identification, evaluation, and prevention of diseases and disorders; dietary and nutrition services; and rehabilitation and health systems management.

Designed by Rutgers University, the goal of the program is to prepare students for careers in the healthcare industry through a curriculum emphasizing science, human and organizational elements. It will offer the opportunity to earn up to 22 college credits with career oriented experiences.

More specifically, the Academy will

- Provide appropriate patient-care while performing medical processes and diagnostic procedures in actual and simulated clinical environments.
- Use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle development, reflex and voluntary action, and respiration.
- Investigate how to diagnose, and optimize patient outcomes using scientific principles and evidence-based practices.
- Explore how to detect, screen and evaluate the code in human DNA.
- Apply healthcare administration and health systems management skills.
- Explore the many career options found in Allied Health through practical lab experiences.

While in high school, students can earn stackable industry *Health Science Career Certifications* in Home Health Aide, Clinical Medical Assistant, Surgical Processing Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Patient Care Technician, Medical Insurance Billing Specialist, CPR / First Aid / EMT-B / Basic Life Support.

<u>The four-year curriculum will focus on:</u>

Human Body Systems in grade 9.
Medical Intervention in grade 10.
Biomedical Intervention in grade 11.
and Capstone and Internships in grade 12.

NJ HALL OF FAME

Dr. Victor Parsonnet, 94, a cardiac surgeon and professor from Newark who achieved several firsts.

In 1961, the former director of surgery and surgical research at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center became the first surgeon in the state to implant a permanent pacemaker. He was also the first to perform a heart transplant in 1985.

In more recent years, he helped develop the da Vinci surgical system, a robot that is used to insert probes through the abdomen or chest while a surgeon uses a remote control device from across the room.

Dr. Parsonnet is a 1941 WHS grad and was inducted into its Alumni Hall of Fame in 2008. He was also an avid tennis player, a pianist, and a patron of the arts, who devoted much time and philanthropy to the NJ Symphony Orchestra, whose chairmanship he held for 12 years.

In Loving Memory

Marc Abramson, 1960
George Austrager, 1954
Larry Barsher, Jan 1952
William Bash, 1956
Sandra Bass, 1956
Monroe Bierman, 1948
Leonard Birnbaum, Jan. 1953
David Breitkopf, 1945
Herbert Bresky, 1936
Florence Brodsky Morgenstein, 1953
Harriet Brooks Flamm, Jan. 1961
Gerald Coopersmith, 1944
Veronica DiChiara, 1939
Elaine Epstein Blumgart, 1938
Sonia Ehrich Rosenberg, 1944
Sylvia Fertig Levin, 1937
Stanley Finkelstein, 1961
Edie Finn Keller, 1958
Martin Fox, 1941
Herman Friedman, 1951
Martin Friedman, Jan. 1951
Leonard Garrett, 1952

(Continued on page 15)

From Weequahic to the State Capitol

How Jac Toporek, 1963, impacted our Jewish community

By Max L. Kleinman,
NJ Jewish News, May 8, 2019

If change is the only constant in our hyperventilated lives, then change was necessary for the circa 2007 NJ State Association of Jewish Federations. At the time the association was adrift, dabbling in too many issues with few effective results.

Led by President Roy Tanzman, then-Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey executive director Stanley Stone, myself, and others, we simplified the State Association's mission to focus on securing the maximum number of public grants for our system of agencies and supporting legislation on critical issues facing our communities.

And, more importantly, we chose the right professional leader to lead the charge: Jacob "Jac" Toporek. Armed with two law degrees, Toporek had extensive governmental experience, having served as Governor Brendan Byrne's appointments secretary and as chair of the Crime Commission's Victims Compensation Board.

As a lay leader, he served on the board of the former Jewish Federation of Middlesex County, UJA, and AIPAC Young Leadership Cabinets, and was the mainstay of the pro-Israel Garden State PAC. He also descended from N.J. "nobility," in a sense, having graduated from Weequahic High School in Newark.

During his 12-year tenure as executive director of the State Association, Toporek worked closely with partner federations and its network of agencies to elicit the most critical priorities. And then he went to work, always in collaboration with colleagues.

The association's record of accomplishments over the past decade is remarkable. Federations and agencies received hundreds of thousands of dollars from federal and state grants to help provide in-home services for the elderly, preventing premature institutionalization. Working with nursing homes, the association helped prevent cuts in the Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Many hundreds of thousands of dollars were granted for security grants for agencies and synagogues, and training workshops were convened with the N.J. State Police and Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) security experts.

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of the State Association, New Jersey was one of the first states to allocate grants for needy survivors of the Holocaust with over $2.6 million committed. To build and nurture relationships with lawmakers, over 30 legislators participated in association-sponsored study missions to Israel; participants included arguably the most powerful politician in the State Capitol, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney (D-Dist. 3).

Harnessing these relationships, the association, led by Toporek, helped secure legislation prohibiting the state treasury from considering contributions and board services of out-of-state residents in determining state residency for N.J. tax purposes. This was a critical win for the entire not-for-profit sector in New Jersey, as it enabled out-of-state residents to give and serve on boards of the state's non-profits without their residencies being questioned.

...Most recently, New Jersey was one of the first states to enact anti-BDS legislation, which prohibited the investment of state pension funds in companies engaged in boycotts of Israeli companies.

As the State Association is dissolved and the new Jewish Federations of NJ takes the helm on July 1st, I wish its leaders much success. However, it's important to remember the legacy of its predecessor organization. Beginnings are not created in a vacuum, but built upon the foundations of the past.

And so I celebrate Toporek and all the lay leaders and professionals who worked with him over these past dozen years. Like the Boy Scouts of America, they left the "campsite" in much better shape than they found it.

As Elie Wiesel reminded us, "Without memory there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future."

Newark Athletic Hall of Fame

Brian Logan, 1982

West Side HS Head Football Coach
State Championship Coach in 2007.

Weequahic High School
Head Football Coach since 2011
State Championship Coach in 2016.

Trustee, WHS Alumni Association
Weequahic Fathers Club.

Football captain, graduate, and
football coach at Kean University.

Newark Police Officer for 26 years.

NJ Boxing Hall of Fame

Larry Layton, 1963

Larry is 2nd from right

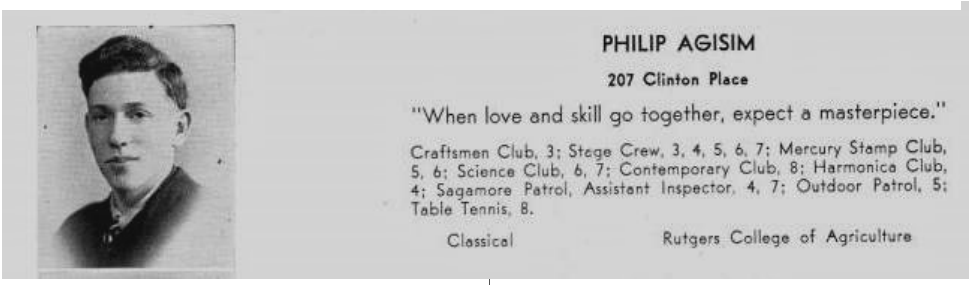
Lawrence "Larry" Layton was inducted into the NJ Boxing Hall of Fame on November 14th, 2019. He has worked as a licensed professional judge in the boxing industry for over 30 years.

Larry began his career in the Amateurs and worked his way through the ranks. He was one of the first to work in the NJ Correctional facilities as a referee and judge. He has been judging with the NJ Boxing Commission, the International Boxing Federation, and the World Boxing Organization for over 25 years. He has judged over 22 championship fights.

TWO WEEQUAHIC CENTENARIANS

Philip Agisim, 1937, celebrated his 100th birthday at a hockey game at Madison Square Garden

By Phil's nephew, Gary Miller, WHS 1957



Phil Agisim, one of the first full term graduates of Weequahic High School (1933-1937), celebrated his 100th birthday on January 19, 2019. His family gathered from many parts of the country to participate in his noted achievement. Phil is a remarkable man as he still continues to exercise, do pushups, jog and keep a fond eye out for the ladies.

At a Madison Square Garden Rangers-Islanders game, Phil's 100th birthday was celebrated at breaks between the game. He was given signed items by the players, a team hat and team jerseys; one of which had the number 100 on its back. They noted his service to the country and presented him with a mega birthday cake commemorating the occasion. The event was so touching that fans came out of the stands to get their picture taken with Phil.

As a member of Weequahic's graduating class in January, 1937, Phil made his parents proud by helping his father in the family grocery business and succeeding in school at the same time. Of all the birthday gifts Phil received on his 100th birthday, he was most thrilled with an original copy of his January, 1937 yearbook, compliments of the WHS Alumni Association.

After graduation from Weequahic, Phil attended Rutgers, New Brunswick on a scholarship and married his bride of 70+ years, Blanche Tedlow of Maplewood. The two were inseparable until her untimely passing.

Phil served in the Army during World War II and achieved the rank of Sergeant, specializing in radar. During part of his military career, Blanche followed him from post to post until their first child, Les, became more than a figment of their imaginations. Their second son, Elliot, followed a few years later.

After the war Phil found a job with Colliers Magazine, utilizing his college developed skills in research. After two years, *Look Magazine* came calling and offered Phil a chance for browner pastures, guaranteed to turn green. In the middle 1950s, the brother of Phil's wife was invested with a college chum in an important pharmaceutical company in Manhattan; poised to acquire J.B. Williams, a major toiletry company in Connecticut and a small appliance manufacturer, Landers, Farary and Clark.

Based on Phil's overall experience, he was hired to run their in-house advertising agency named Parkson Advertising. Through Phil's ingenuity and knowhow, he grew the success of their product lines, and eventually the overall company was acquired by Nabisco Foods. Phil retired with Nabisco and planned a life of travel and leisure with his beloved Blanche.

As the cliché goes, nothing happens as planned. Les, their eldest son expanded his investment firm and sought Phil's experience to help him grow the business. Nearly forty years later Phil is still on the march, helping his son achieve success. A remarkable man has surpassed the century mark and is still going strong.

Phil Agisim, a man who got his start at Weequahic High School, credits his alma mater with the educational opportunity to launch his career in the right direction.

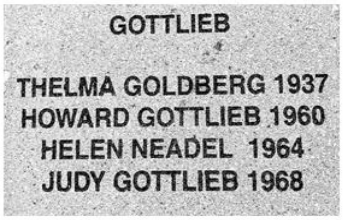
Also, Phil was the first member of his family to graduate college. He is a joy to his family, an honor to Newark and assuredly one proud alumni of Weequahic High School.

Congratulations to

THELMA GOTTLIEB

Class of 1937

First 4-year graduation class at WHS



The Gottlieb Family Legacy Brick at the entrance to Weequahic High School

on her 100th birthday

The Gottlieb Family

Howard and Judy Helen and Thelma

2019 Alumni Association Highlights

WHS NOTE
Class of 1963 Association

For more than 30 years, **Jacob Toporek**, through the *Class of 63 Association,* has been e-publishing the *WHS Note* every week - sharing the stories sent to him by different generations of alumni about growing up in the Weequahic section of Newark and attending Weequahic High School. He now has more than 3,000 subscribers.

For the past year, the WHS Alumni Association has been assisting Jac by emailing the *Note* through Constant Contact, its bulk emailing service. The *Note* can also be found at the Alumni Association website. Moreover, the ***Class of 63 Association*** has raised more than $30,000 for alumni scholarships.

1950 to 1990 yearbooks are now digitized

Through a grant received by **The Newark Public Library** with assistance provided by the **Newark Public Schools Historical Preservation Committee**, Weequahic High School's yearbooks, from 1950 to 1990, are now digitized.

Only a few yearbooks during that period of time are missing. Weequahic and East Side High School were the first high schools selected for digitizing yearbooks.

To access these yearbooks, go to our website at ***weequahicalumni.org***, go to the MENU at the top, click *PUBLICATIONS*, and select *DIGITAL YEARBOOKS*. This will take you to the NPL website where the yearbooks are located in order by years.

$18,000 Beth Israel Grant for Mural Restoration

Were you born at the Beth? The hospital, where many Weequahic alumni were born, is providing funds to help restore the high school's historic mural - noted as *"one of the most important installations of public art in New Jersey."* Recently, the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center made a grant of $18,000 to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association to be used for this purpose.

The Enlightenment of Man, a New Deal-era mural painted by **Michael Lenson**, who was the director of NJ mural activities for the Federal Art Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), was installed in the lobby of the high school in 1939. Lenson also painted the murals at Newark City Hall and at a few other venues in Newark and elsewhere.

A fundraising campaign, established by the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and Michael Lesson's son, Barry, to restore the mural is ongoing. It is estimated that between $45,000 to $55,000 is needed. To date, Weequahic alumni have donated nearly $20,000 in addition to the Beth grant.

If you would like to contribute, write a check made out to WHSAA (write *Murals* in the note area) and mail to WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101.

WELLS FARGO

Alumni Association receives $25,000 Wells Fargo Grant

With a $25,000 Grant from Wells Fargo, obtained by the WHSAA, the school will be implementing a new program called **WHS Lift**. It will focus on providing students with cultural activities and academic support to develop competencies in communications, teamwork, sportsmanship, and service learning. The program is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2020.

$23,000 Raised From Alumni 22nd Anniversary Affair

Through ticket sales, donations, and the souvenir journal, the Weequahic High School Alumni Association's 22nd Anniversary Affair and Hall of Distinction Celebration raised $23,000 that will be used for scholarships and student activities at the high school.

Weequahic beats Shabazz in Annual Thanksgiving Day *Soul Bowl* Football Rivalry

In the annual Thanksgiving Day game. the Indians took the neighborhood trophy with a victory over rival Shabazz High School

One of those upperclassman, junior running back Donovan Wadley, a 1,000-yard rusher, scored two first-half touchdowns, and several other players anchored a stifling defense that guided the Indians to a 14-0 victory over Shabazz in the annual Soul Bowl on Thursday morning at Shabazz Stadium in Newark.

Weequahic (6-5) had lost three straight shutouts to Shabazz, including the last two Soul Bowls, 6-0 last year and 7-0 in 2017. The Indians tightened the series deficit to 18-17-2.

Wadley rushed for 69 yards on 13 carries to pace a balanced ground attack that had to toil to churn out 149 rushing yards against a rugged Shabazz defense. Meanwhile, juniors DeAndre Harrison, Maxwell Counts and Dylan Wadley, and seniors Zaire Williams and Anthony Aponte directed a defense that limited Shabazz to 105 total yards.

"We were gonna pound them, get them tired, then they wanted me to come in and be shifty and score," said Wadley. *"But I couldn't have done it without my team. That's what got me in the end zone."*

Weequahic prospects for 2020 look real good with approximately 70 percent of the starting lineup returning.

(Continued on page 13)

Highlights *(Continued from page 12)*

Alumni sponsor student outing to see *To Kill A Mockingbird* on Broadway

On October 16th, more than 30 students from Mr. Hylton's English class attended an afternoon showing at the Shubert Theatre in NYC of the play *To Kill A Mockingbird,* based on the classic novel by author Harper Lee. It was an outstanding performance enjoyed by all.

New electronic drum set for the Music class purchased by the WHS Alumni Association

Alumni HOOPS Contest

On Sunday, June 9th, the Weequahic High School Alumni Association sponsored an alumni fundraising event at the high school's gymnasium. It featured a basketball game between Weequahic alumni and a team from the Newark fire and police departments. Moreover, there was music by DJ Rock Anthony, performances by the Weequahic marching band and cheerleaders, a slide show of WHS alumni scholarship recipients, and activities for neighborhood kids.

The highlight of the day took place on the basketball court in the Coach Les Fein Arena when WHS alum, **Naeem Gayles** - 2008, made the winning shot to give the alumni a 69-68 victory in a nail-biting contest where the lead kept changing throughout the game.

The alumni coach was Derrick Butler and the players on the Weequahic team were:

Hakeem Bryant - 1998
Ike Annele - 2001
Alsharick Bennett - 2001
Donnell Bey - 2001
Andrew Jones - 2001
Joe Perine - 2001
Sadique Gaddy - 2002
Rasheed Huggins - 2003
Dashawn Eagle - 2005
Jashon Mixon - 2006
Dajuan Jenkins - 2007
Naeem Gayles - 2008
Abdullah Crosby - 2012
Messiah Stewart - 2012
Salhudine Simmons - 2013
Taj Jones - 2015

More Banners for the Coach Les Fein Arena

The Weequahic High School Alumni Association contributed to the purchase of additional banners for the 2000-seat Coach Les Fein Arena at the Ronald G. Stone Community Gymnasium, that was opened in 2010.

A sandwich named *The "Weequahic"* at Hobby's

How did this happen? A couple of years ago, Phil Yourish and Marc Tarabour, of the WHS Alumni Association, asked **Marc and Michael Brummer,** the owners of the iconic Hobby's Deli in Newark, if they would name one of their sandwiches *Weequahic* after the high school.

And they did! The Weequahic sandwich is listed Number 1 on the menu. Their mom, Rona LaLinga Brummer, is a Jan. 1951 Weequahic grad. Wonder if that might have influenced them. Thank you guys.

HBO, Philip Roth, and Weequahic

The sign above was used by HBO in the filming of the miniseries based on Philip Roth's novel, ***The Plot Against America,*** at Weequahic High School this past summer. *The Plot Against America is* a 6-part miniseries written by David Simon and Ed Burns - currently showing on HBO.

Roth's story imagines *"an alternate American history told through the eyes of a working-class Jewish family in Newark, New Jersey, as they watch the political rise of Charles Lindbergh, an aviator-hero and xenophobic populist, who becomes president and turns the nation toward fascism."*

The actors in the miniseries are Winona Ryder, Zoe Kazan, Morgan Spector, John Turturro, Anthony Boyle, Azhy Robertson, and Caleb Malis.

Although the HBO filming crew is gone, the Weequahic sign remains on the lawn near the entrance of the high school.

Lenny Wallen's, WHS 1955, Pleasantdale Kosher Market in West Orange, closes after 63 years

By Johanna Ginsberg, NJ Jewish News, 12-27-2017

Pleasantdale Kosher Meat & Poultry Market, a presence in West Orange since 1954, will close its doors by the end of the month. Owner Lenny Wallen, almost 80, said that even though it wasn't by choice, it was necessary. "It's very sad," he said. "But it's about time."

Late in the afternoon on Dec. 21, the shelves were still filled with fresh meat, and Mike Mignone, a butcher who has worked at the store since the 1970s, was cutting fresh turkeys while Ruthie Goldinner, who has been wrapping the meat and cooking all the prepared foods since 1985, took orders over the phone.

But the dry goods on the shelves were dwindling, and Wallen said they won't be restocked before the store closes. Much of the frozen inventory was reduced in price.

Some longtime customers are mourning the loss. Sharon Edelberg, who has shopped at Pleasantdale since she moved to town in 1995, stopped in. She turned pale after hearing the news about the closing from Wallen, and for a moment, was speechless. "I'm shocked! I seriously don't know where to go for my meat now. Don't get me wrong, you deserve to retire," she told Wallen when she recovered from the news.

Noting that her most frequent purchase there is the ground turkey, Edelberg headed over to the refrigerated shelves and quickly scooped up all but one of the packages of ground turkey. "I don't want to be a chazer," she said.

As they worked in the back of the shop, Mignone, Goldinner, and Wallen shared stories from the past six decades, from the car that drove right through the front window one Father's Day (the driver put her foot on the gas instead of the brake, according to Mignone) to their 1997 mention in The New York Times, which called the store's cooked chickens "the most flavorful poultry in New Jersey."

But mostly, they joked. Goldinner told Wallen she's worked at the store for so long "because you're a lousy boss, Lenny." Mignone said he remained because "I guess I kind of liked it here. We're like a family. We have arguments and discussions, but we've all been through a lot together. We go to each other's parties and bar mitzvahs and everything."

Customers, too, have become part of their lives, including some who attended the funerals for Wallen's parents and later his wife, and the funeral for Goldinner's husband.

Wallen started working at the store in 1955, after he graduated from Weequahic High School in Newark. His father, Joseph, who had opened the store the previous November just across the street from where it stands now on Pleasant Valley Way, showed him how to tie roasts and manage various cuts of meat. Even though he said he didn't have a great love for the profession at first, he "grew into the business."

For decades, he had other gigs on the side - his love for sports led him to serve as referee/umpire for baseball, softball, and soccer games. In the early years, Wallen recalled, his mother, Miriam, taught young, newly married women how to cook the meat they bought in the shop. "Now I sell to their children and grandchildren," he said. "I have three generations of customers."

The shop moved to its current location, in a strip mall next to Mark & Julie's Homemade Ice Cream, in the 1970s and started selling pre-packaged meats, as well as deli and groceries. His parents continued to work behind the counter, taking orders and chatting with customers.

"Back then, everything was done by hand," he said. Now, there are machines for most of the butchering, although in the back of the shop there is still a metal runner, now rusted out, where the meat used to hang for cutting.

Over the years, the kosher butchers in the area have closed one by one, leaving just Pleasantdale Kosher and Maple Kosher Meats in Vauxhall. None are Glatt kosher, though Cedar Market, a kosher grocery store in Teaneck, has plans to open a branch in West Orange sometime in 2018.

(Continued on page 15)

Mildred's Corset Shop opened on Bergen Street in 1947

By Johanna Ginsberg, NJ Jewish News, 06-05-19

There are few stores left where a woman of a certain age whisks the customer into a curtained room, whips out a tape measure to confidently measure the bust, and then, voila, returns with the perfect bra. Since at least 1947, Mildred's has been one of a handful of go-to places offering "everything for underneath it all," as the store reportedly once advertised.

But at the end of July, Mildred's will go the way of the peignoir - the once popular nightgowns with matching robes usually in sheer fabrics like chiffon - when current owner Suzanne Passero, 71, of Bayonne, closes the doors forever.

The shuttering marks yet another severing of the local Jewish community's ties to businesses that began in Newark. Mildred's Corset Shoppe opened on Bergen Street in the Weequahic section of Newark in the mid-20th century. Other recent Essex County institutions gone forever include the menswear store Sam's, closed in 2018, and the Helen Hirsh Store, which specialized in swimwear and lingerie, sold to Great Shapes in 2001. Both were Newark originals that moved to the suburbs with the Jewish community.

Incorporated in 1947, Mildred's opened a second location in Livingston by 1955, according to an ad in the West Essex Tribune, and boasted two locations in a 1958 ad in The Jewish News, one of NJJN's previous iterations - *"Exciting new figure flattery from the country's leading manufacturer of girdles, bras, etc."*

(Continued on page 15)

PLEASANTDALE *(Continued from page 14)*

While he acknowledged that the influx of Orthodox shoppers who only buy Glatt kosher meat "didn't help," he said, a bigger issue is that people can buy their meat at ShopRite and Costco. "Can you imagine? You can walk into ShopRite on a Saturday and buy kosher chickens," he said, recalling, "Years ago, a person had to buy their chopped meat, chicken, liver, everything from a butcher. Now they get it elsewhere."

But what really sealed the store's fate, Wallen said, was Hurricane Sandy in 2012. From a financial standpoint, the store never recovered from the insufficient insurance that left him with $80,000 in losses after being shuttered for eight days.

Wallen said that at its peak, he sold about eight times the goods he sells today. In those days he had a larger staff. "I had four butchers, two meat wrappers, two cashiers," he said. Today it's just Wallen, Mignone, Goldinner, and Natalie Silveira, the cashier. A relative newcomer - she's only worked at Pleasantdale for 19 years - Silveira said, "I've been here half my life. It's the end of a chapter."

Still, their customers remain loyal. Aviva Tucker brought a bottle of champagne earlier in the day to mark the moment. "I'm heart-broken," she said in a telephone conversation with NJJN. She said she's shopped at the store since moving to West Orange 26 years ago.

"They taught me how to cook. They're like my family. It feels like there's a death in the family. I've been coming every week for years and years and years and now poof. "I told them I'd become a vegetarian after they close."

MILDRED'S *(Continued from page 14)*

Irene Huckman, daughter of the original owner, ran the store for 20 years with her mother before starting her own uniform business in Livingston, and then returned after 10 years to run the store when her daughter, Lynn Slotnick, took over. In the 1980s, a series of ads in the West Essex Tribune hailed three generations in the business, but Slotnick's daughter never took ownership.

In 1995, Slotnick sold the business to Passero, marking the end of the family's involvement. At that time, the store had sewing machines and seamstresses who could custom fit anyone; a large part of the revenue even then came from breast forms and bras for women who had undergone mastectomies.

To this day, post-mastectomy fittings comprise 50 percent of the business, according to Passero. Other specialty services include sewing cups into dresses and selling garments known as "shapers" and "all-in-ones," as well as tops for underneath suits, and "tons" of strapless bras, Passero said.

Passero, formerly an ultrasound technician, knew nothing about lingerie when she bought the business. Suffering from back and eye issues, she sought a career change and thought owning Mildred's was perfect. It involved limited travel as lingerie shows took place a few times a year in New York City. Slotnick even stayed on to teach her everything, from how to fit bras to tips for stocking merchandise.

A full 90 percent of women are wearing the wrong size bra, according to Passero. "Every woman is different, and every bra is different," she said. "Over time, you know your bras, and you know your customers." What Passero has loved most is interacting with her "very pleasant" customers. "I've enjoyed socializing with them," she said.

Over the years, she acknowledged, styles have come and gone, from thongs and contour bras to, well, peignoirs. "We used to sell peignoir sets for brides," she said. "We used to sell tons of them. No more. They don't wear them anymore. They were beautiful." Now it's baby dolls, satin slips, and two-piece sets.

Online retailers have cut into her business significantly, she said. But two other details led to her decision to close Mildred's: First, her two sons don't want the shop, and secondly, the mastectomy side of the business has become mired in paperwork required by Medicare. Passero appreciates the need for licensing and store inspections, but remembers simpler days without the hassle of certification.

On a recent Monday, one customer greeted Passero warmly as she came in and expressed sadness that the store is closing. She and the rest of Passero's customers who come from nearby towns of Caldwell, Short Hills, Verona, Summit, and faraway places such as the Jersey Shore and Florida, will have to find somewhere else where they can head to the room behind the curtain to be measured, and have someone fit them with the perfect bra.

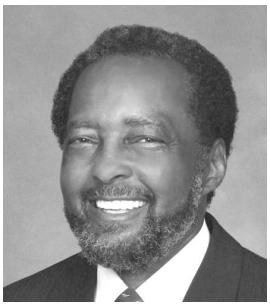
In Loving Memory *cont. from page 7*

Richard Gillman, 1948
Mel Glucksman Frank, 1955
Gerald Gohd, Jan. 1944
Sanford Gold, 1953
Phyllis Goldstein Weingarten, 1956
Allen Goorwitz Garfield, 1957
Bernice Gotkin Poll, 92 yrs.
Howard Gottlieb, 1960
Hugh Henig, Jan. 1946
Barbara Herbstman Isaacson, 1952
Judith Horwitz Wolf, 1964
Raymond Jackson, 1970
Myron Katz, 1948
Anita Klein Straussberg, 1949
Burton Klein, 1946
Natalie Klein, 1955
Charlie Klestadt, 1962
Howard Krusch, 1952
Heidi Lambek, 1964
Sanford Lampf, 1940
Robert Lapidus, 1950
Nancy Leon Herman, 1949
Ruth Lerner Smith, 1957
Carole Levine Rothman, 1944
Saul Lemkowitz, 1960
Linda Lieb Tieger, 1962
Sandra Lipkin-Russack, 1955
Duane Little, 1970
Irma Loeb Kenter, 1954
Charles Arthur Lubetkin
Lillian Mantell Freundlich, 1949
Karl Maling, 1952
Harvey Morganstin, 1954
Harold Osman, 1952
Renee Paul Kaplan, 92 yrs.
Roberta Pilchman Lynn, 1956
Doris Pogash, 94yrs.
Juliette Quattlebaum-Green, 1973
Marvin Reichenstein
Norton Rice, 1943
Joel Rinsky, 1956
Beverly Grossman Robbins, 1948
Arthur Rosen, 1962
Doris Rothseid Dresdale, 1941
Norma Schactel Stein Silverman, 1954
Milton Schaeffer, English teacher
Marta Seagull Schreier, 1951
Nancy Seelenfreund Zinberg, 1953
Bernice Sigmon Slade, (46/47)
Alvin Simon, Jan. 1949
Seymour Simon, Jan. 1943
Sanford Shapiro, Jan. 1943
Frances Siminoff Feld , 1947
Melvin Stempler, 1946
Judy Tallerman, 1950
Carl Tasch, 1950
Charlie Tenner, 1968
William Thomas, 1970
Pearl Wachs Lazar, 1936
Steven Wallerstein, 1963
Sandy Warner Luftig, ,Jan. 1951
Marty Wasserberg, 1956
Seymour Weiss, 1948
Marc Wiener, 1966
Doris Wolfe Goodman, 1939
Olga Wus Burns, 1961
Dolores Yadkowsky Dakelman, 88 yrs
Leo Zuckerman, 1950

In Loving Memory

BURNEY LEE ADAMS

Teacher and Football Coach, 1968 to 2002



Burney Lee Adams, Weequahic's legendary football coach, passed away in January 2019 at age 81.

Coach Adams grew up in Savannah, Georgia. After high school he served in the US Military as a paratrooper and then attended Florida A&M University, where he played football. In 1962, he was named Team Captain, made the Southern Interscholastic Athletic Conference First Team and was an All American Nominee.

After college, Coach Adams signed with the professional football team, the Hamilton Tigercats in Canada. However, his football playing career ended with a serious leg injury. He came to Newark to visit his brother and was offered a teaching and coaching position. He coached at Weequahic for 34 years, 30 years as Head Coach.

He built up a football program at the high school which was second to none. He was a great motivator, respected and admired by his players, students and the community. In the early 1970s, he along with the Honorable Don Bradley with the late Judge Irvin Booker founded the Father's Club to offer opportunities and experiences to his players beyond football.

He made history when he hired the first on the field female football coach. Because of their success, the WHS football program was featured in both the NY Times and the Newark Star-Ledger and many schools modeled their programs after Weequahic's.

Coach Adams was also the visionary for "The Soul Bowl," the annual Thanksgiving Game rivalry between Weequahic and Malcolm X Shabazz (formerly South Side) high schools, which draws thousands of alumni.

He retired in 2003, but remained a role model for many students for whom he was a coach, father, teacher and mentor. In 2016, he was honored by the Father's Club - and the Field House at Untermann Field was named after him.

Coach Adams is survived by the love of his life, Marlene. He was the devoted father of Maxine (Keith) McNair, Cindy Ross, and Anthony Adams; cherished grandfather of Kile McNair, Sharon, Samaada, Soraija, Sayyid, and Gladys Ross; great-grandfather of Saleem Ross; and Donald Bradley, dear and devoted brother/best friend for over 58 years - and an extended family of over 4,000 students.

GERALD GREENSPAN

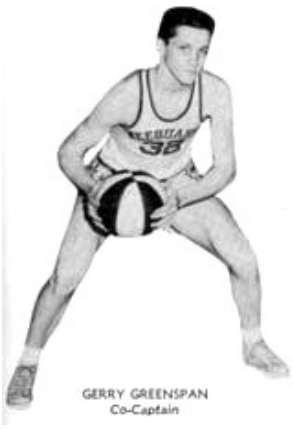
WHS 1959, Indian basketball star who played in NBA

Gerry Greenspan, 77, passed away at home on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019.

Born and raised in Newark, Gerry spent most of his life in Livingston, before moving to Florham Park three years ago.

A graduate of Weequahic High School and University of Maryland, Gerry played with the NBA for the Philadelphia 76ers from 1963 to 1964 and was honored by the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame and the MetroWest Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Gerry was the loving father of Jamie and Jill Greenspan, devoted grandfather of Taylor, Sydney, and Lindsay, and cherished brother of Barbara Drucks and Adele Harris.



RITA K. WALDOR, 1948

Shared 'heartfelt love' for Jewish community, generous donor, active volunteer

Excerpts from an article by Johanna R. Ginsberg, July 10, 2019

Rita Waldor, 89, of South Orange, whose name is synonymous with "giving," died July 5, 2019.

In April, the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ honored her with the President's Bamberger Award in recognition of her leadership, philanthropy, and dedicated service to the Greater MetroWest community. It was the last of many philanthropic awards she received, including federation's Muriel Walter Volunteer of the Year Award in 2009. In 2008 she was the local recipient of the National Women's Philanthropy's Kipnis-Wilson/ Friedland Award from Jewish Federations of North America.

Rita's husband, Jerome Waldor a 1945 WHS grad, who died in 2005, was a retired two-star major general in the Air Force and founder of the Waldor Agency, an insurance business. In the early 1990s he served as president of United Jewish Federation of MetroWest, a precursor to today's federation.

Together they were founders of the Lester Society (for endowments of $100,000 and up), members of the Achim Society (for annual giving of $100,000 and up), hosts of major gift events in their home, leaders of missions to Israel and around the world, and advocates on behalf of Soviet Jewry in the 1980s.

They created in 1992 the Waldor Memorial Library on the Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus in Whippany; the library was dismantled in 2014. A long-time member of federation's board of trustees and major gifts cabinet, Rita was instrumental in establishing the Women's Philanthropy's Lion of Judah endowment - for gifts of $100,000 and up - was a longstanding board member of Women's Philanthropy, and helped establish the Jerry Waldor Institute, an endowment in

WALDOR *(Continued from page 16)*

her husband's memory for leadership development programs in Greater Metro-West. She also served on the board of the JCC MetroWest in West Orange.

Waldor's many other interests included bridge, tennis (she apparently had a great backhand), collecting and displaying antiques, and dogs. A founder of the Jersey Animal Coalition, a no-kill shelter in South Orange, she helped lead its campaign to build a state-of-the art facility.

Waldor also had a passion for gardening that was ahead of her time, said her son Peter, who recalled that they had a "giant compost heap" in their South Orange backyard when he was growing up. For some 40 years, beginning around 1965, she had a flower business with partner Gloria Einhorn, called GloRiTree Studios. They did floral arrangements and plantings from out of their homes.

The Waldors were long-time members of Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills.

Rita K. Waldor, the daughter of Gertrude and Max Kaden, was born Aug. 23, 1929, and grew up with her brother, Melvin, in the Weequahic section of Newark. She graduated from Weequahic High School and studied zoology at George Washington University (GW) in Washington, D.C.

Rita is survived by her sons, Marc (Nancy Long) of Manhattan; Matthew (Lori Olans) of Newton, Mass.; and Peter (Jody Miller) of Telluride, Colo.; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

ROBERT BARISH, 1964

Physicist, Musician, Author, Photographer, Radio Personality

Robert John Barish passed away at home in Manhattan late August 2019. According to his brother Larry, "*Robbie lived a full and remarkable life, refusing to allow struggles with hemophilia to define his abilities or limit his accomplishments."*

Robbie was born in Newark in 1946 and graduated from Weequahic High School in 1964. He earned a BS in physics and a Masters of Engineering in radiological health from New York University and a Ph.D. in Medical Physics from the University of London's Institute of Cancer Research.

In his long career as a medical physicist, he worked as an Associate Professor of Radiology at NYU Medical School, as chief radiotherapy physicist at the Cancer Institute of St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centers of Brooklyn and Queens, and did clinical research at the Lenox Hill Heart and Cardiovascular Institute.

In recent years he specialized in designing radiation shielding for medical facilities, with over 650 projects completed. A leading advocate for education of flight crew members and frequent flyers, he was the author of *The Invisible Passenger: Radiation Risks for People who Fly.* He was certified by the American Board of Medical Physics, a Fellow of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, and a Fellow of the Health Physics Society.

A gifted musician, Robbie played oboe and English horn with the Riverside Orchestra, the Doctors Orchestra Society, and the Mannes College of Music Community Orchestra in New York City. In the past, Robbie was a producer and program host on Capital Radio in London, England and for many years was part of the live radio team at Pacifica Radio in New York City, WBAI-FM.

He also served on the board of the National Hemophilia Foundation. A talented photographer and extensive traveler, Robbie visited much of the world and, in the face of serious lifelong medical challenges, lived a life of great courage, energy, and joy and shared his many gifts and accomplishments with and for the benefit of so many.

A person of great intellectual curiosity and passion for many endeavors, Robert Barish shared his knowledge and generously supported the education of many young people. He will be greatly missed. In his memory, a donation can be made to the National Hemophilia Foundation or to a charity of your choice.

Robbie was predeceased by his beloved parents, Naomi and Louis Barish, and by his beloved sister, Maxine Barish Halem. He is survived by his loving family, brother, Larry (Sharon) Barish of Madison, Wisconsin, nieces and nephews, Lauren (David) Barish Handelman, Daniel (Michele) Halem, Amy (Eric) Halem Gottesman, grandnieces and nephews, and cousins, and his companion, Kelly Sixt.

MALVIN SUMKA, 1943

Made impact on generations of students

Malvin "Mal" Sumka died on Aug. 30, 2019, surrounded by his devoted family. He is survived by his loving wife of over 63 years, Myra (Diener) Sumka, and his four kids, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mal was born in 1925 in Newark, N.J. He left Weequahic High School to enlist in the US Army and fought in Europe during World War II. In his early years, Mal was a dedicated Boy Scout and became Scout Master of Troop 96 in Newark's Weequahic section for 13 years.

He loved to teach kids and Mal became a teacher in the Parsippany School District. During his tenure (1960 to 1988) he was a high school math teacher, director of vocational education where he launched the district's first work-study program, director of data processing where he created and ran the district's first-ever computer center, and a Parsippany Hills High School computer teacher.

Mal inspired his students to come to school before school hours to work with him on a cutting-edge project in 1963 and 1964, building a digital electro-mechanical computer. In 2016, after more than 70 years of teaching and volunteering, at age 91 he decided it was time to retire. This past year Mal was inducted into the Parsippany High School Hall of Fame.

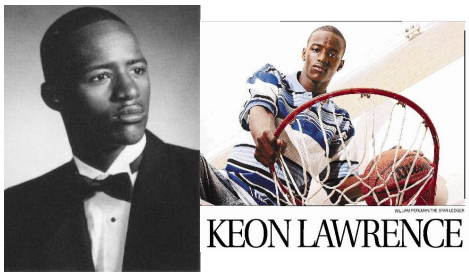
Mal was an active member at Lake Hiawatha Jewish Center and Pine Brook Jewish Center and was a past president of Men's Club. One of his great joys was staying connected with his lifelong friends from Weequahic High School. He was an honored committee member of the Sunday Morning Group.

Above all, Mal Sumka was a family man. His legacy no doubt will be that he nurtured, taught, led, loved, and was loved dearly by his family throughout the decades of his life.

In Loving Memory

KEON LAWRENCE, 2006

WHS Basketball Wizard



Keon Lawrence, the former Weequahic High School basketball star, passed away on November 27th as a result of a virus. He was 32.

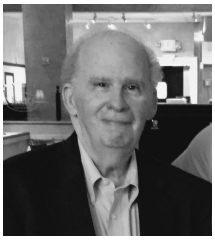
Lawrence is survived by a 7-year-old son, Muhammad. *"I'm very saddened and sorry to hear the news,"* former Seton Hall coach Bobby Gonzalez told NJ Advance Media by text. *"He was a very nice kid deep down with a good heart and great smile and engaging personality."*

Nicknamed the *Human Pogo Stick* for his acrobatic dunks and athleticism, Lawrence starred at Weequahic High, where he earned first team All-State recognition by The Star-Ledger and was ranked among the Top 101 players nationally by Rivals.com. He averaged 31.2 points as a senior in 2006 and scored more than 2,000 career points in his high school career.

The 6-foot-2 Lawrence played for the University of Missouri and Seton Hall University. His highlight was a 25-point performance during ESPN Big Monday telecast at Kansas. In recent years, Keon played basketball in Europe.

ALVIN MILLER, 1967

By Ken Music, 1967



Alvin Miller passed away on August 9, 2019 at the age of 70. He was a person with a big heart who was always willing to help others.

While a student at Weequahic, Alvin played on the junior varsity and varsity football teams (#65). He also sang in the school's chorus, the All-City chorus, the Rutgers-Newark chorus and, in his senior year in high school he sang at Carnegie Hall with American Youth Performs.

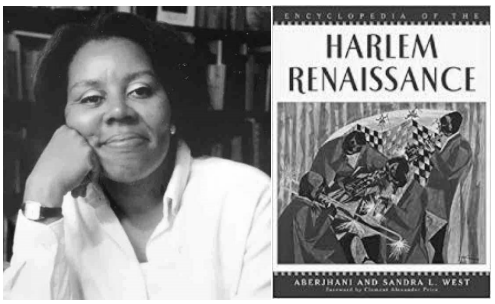
As a student at Rutgers, Alvin was a news reporter and the assistant sports editor. He also had his own column, *Al's Alley*. Alvin was also an avid theatre goer, taking advantage of the proximity to Broadway, seeing 64 shows.

A few years ago, Alvin donated four years of his Calumet collection to the WHS Alumni Association archives.

Al's biggest assets, though, were his kind, helpful nature, his sense of humor, his amazing memory and his loyalty to his family and his friends. He will be sorely missed. *Rest in Peace, dear friend. I love you.*

SANDRA WEST, 1964

Librarian, Author, and Community Activist



Sandra LaVonne West was born on Jan 16, 1947 in Newark to Willie Andrew West and Ruby Ester Marie Jackson West, both now deceased. In 1964, she graduated from Weequahic High School and in 1988 from Rutgers University in Newark.

In the late 1970s, Sandra worked as a journalist for the City of Newark's Information newspaper during the historic administration of the city's first black mayor, Kenneth A. Gibson. She also worked as a technical writer for the Montclair Board of Education, then as typesetter, and Theatre Reviewer for Aquarian Newspaper.

In Savannah, GA where she lived for 6 ½ years, she was an assistant editor for The Savannah Tribune, and a staff writer in public relations at Savannah State College/ University. In Richmond, VA where she spent an equal amount of time, she taught English at Virginia Union University and at Virginia Commonwealth University and wrote for both of their alumni magazines.

Moreover, she free-lanced for magazines and newspapers such as Metro-Newark, Essence and Emerge and won an Honorable Mention for her short story, *Boogie & Sarah Leigh*, from Ebony Magazine. She wrote short stories for Obsidian Literary Magazine in North Carolina and for Savannah Literary Magazine, maintained a radio interview show on WSOU-FM in South Orange and won a Fellowship to the Virginia Creative Arts Center.

She co-founded the Newark Writers Collective, founded the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society and the WE.B. DuBois Reading Circle at The Newark Public Library, and was a member of the Harlem Writers Guild.

Her book, *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance* (2003) won several honors. And, during the late 1980s, she inaugurated and edited an independent publication: *Testimony: A Journal of African-American Poetry.* In partnership with the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, she published *Libraries, Landmarks,& Literacy*, a commemorative booklet of memories of the Weequahic Branch Library written by Weequahic Alumni for the 85th anniversary of the branch in 2014

When she returned home to NJ in 2003, she worked as an Instructor at Rutgers, in the English and African-American Studies departments. She also worked at The Newark Public Library where she initiated the Sandra L. West Book Collection, consisting of black classics at the Weequahic Branch Library, served as manager of the James Brown African American Room, and was curator of the library's Black Studies programs.

Sandra was also a community person. She was President of the Chadwick Avenue Block Association, inaugurated the West-Milton Neighborhood Garden on Chadwick Avenue and Hawthorne Place, was a member of two political action committees, and was a member of the South Ward Police Community Relations Council. She received several awards and citations from Newark Municipal Council for her work.

Although she dearly loved and believed in Newark, she was fortunate enough to have seen a bit of the world. She traveled to Senegal, West Africa, Barbados, Bermuda, Aruba; Bahamas; Haiti; Jamaica; Mexico; Brazil, Cuba, and South Africa. Yet, her favorite place in the world was Harlem.

Sandra married twice. From her first marriage Ghana Jane Whiteurs was born, now Ghana-Imani Hylton. Surviving are her sister, Ivy Patricia West Davis; son-in-law, Wilfred Charles Hylton; three grandchildren, Adanna Marcela, Zuri Andrew, Osaze Charles; and nephew William Hayes Davis, Jr.

Kenneth Gibson

Newark's 'trailblazer' mayor passes away
First African-American to lead a major Northeast city

By NJ Advance Media staff

Ken Gibson, Newark's first black mayor and the first African-American to lead a major Northeast city, died March 29, 2019 at age 86. Propelled to leadership after the Newark riots tore apart the city in 1967, Gibson helped establish a foundation for black political power. He served as the city's mayor from 1970 to 1986.

"Mayor Ken Gibson was our beloved, unflappable, trailblazer hero who never sacrificed principles for political expediency. With that warm and friendly cheeky smile, Ken was a man's man," former Mayor Sharpe James, who succeeded Gibson said. *"He wore Newark with honesty, integrity and courage on his sleeves. As my friend, confidant and mentor, Mary and I will miss him dearly."*

Gibson was married to his wife, Camille, for 15 years. He leaves behind four daughters and a brother. Gibson's first wife, Muriel, a nurse, died in December 1983. *"He always thought that if you could help somebody, then that's what you should do,"* Camille Gibson told NJ Advance Media. *"That's what he thought being the mayor was. He was very happy to do that."*

Newark's current mayor, Ras Baraka, said Gibson *"set the stage for every African American elected official in this state. We stand on his accomplishment and grow from his challenges,"*

Elected in 1970, just three summers removed from Newark's devastating 1967 riots, Gibson served for 16 years, during an era that was difficult not only for Newark, but for American cities in general. And while he was sometimes faulted for lacking the dynamism of his successor in City Hall, Sharpe James, history later came to view Gibson as a competent and well-meaning civil servant who stabilized Newark's finances, improved the health of its citizens and fought the good fight during difficult times.

"In the aftermath of the Newark Uprising, Mayor Gibson restored stability, promise, and pride to a city that needed all three," Gov. Phil Murphy said in a statement.

A Spokesman For Cities

He became a national spokesman for the plight of America's cities, appearing on the cover of Newsweek magazine and becoming the first African-American elected president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in 1976. Although the quote was not originally his -

he freely admitted borrowing from former City Hall spokesman Donald Malafronte - Gibson became famous for saying,

"Wherever the central cities are going, Newark is going to get there first,"

which became a rallying cry for those who would fix the ailing city. By the time Gibson departed City Hall in 1986, he was the longest serving mayor in the city's history.

"He cultivated a vision of what Newark needed during a difficult time," the late city historian Clement Price once said of Gibson. "He stands among Newark's most important mayors in the 20th century."

Born In Alabama

Born in 1932, Gibson grew up in Enterprise, Alabama. He came to Newark with his family when he was 8 years old. He lived in the Central Ward with his mother, a seamstress, and his father, a butcher. While attending Central High School, he picked up extra money playing a saxophone in a local band.

He later attended the Newark College of Engineering, now the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and worked as an engineering aide for the New Jersey State Highway Department. He then began working as an engineer for the Newark Housing Authority and began getting a taste for politics as the treasurer of the United Essex Civic Association.

He would quickly rise to local prominence, running his first mayoral campaign in 1966. He lost but finished with 15,000 votes - a total that stunned everyone, no one more so than Gibson. Then came the riots.

Leading in 'A DIFFICULT TIME'

The election of a black mayor then seemed almost inevitable. Even more white voters were leaving Newark and certain influential whites realized the city needed a black leader.

"Ken Gibson is part of Newark's history. He led the city during a difficult time, worked hard to find common ground among the city's diverse population and his contributions laid the foundation for Newark's recovery," Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo Jr. said in a statement. *"Ken was a true Newarker who influenced me as a public servant and, most importantly, he was a friend."*

In the 1980s, Gibson's political ambitions expanded statewide. He ran for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1981 and 1985, but lost both times. Soon, he found himself in trouble. In 2002, Gibson pleaded guilty to tax evasion based on charges that he bribed Irvington school officials to get a $5 million contract to manage the district's $50 million school construction project. He was also accused of overbilling the district in the process. Gibson vigorously defended himself and was never convicted of a crime relating to his time in office. He received three years of probation.

Speaking to NJ Advance Media in 2017 during the 50th anniversary of the Newark riots, Gibson said he was seeing the city's reputation finally recover. *"The city's rep really got to be bad because of the disturbances in '67. Trying to overcome that is very difficult. It never goes completely away. It gets better, though,"* he said from his home.

His wife said he may be remembered as a historical figure, but he was a sweet man at heart. *"I think he was probably the best, sweetest and nicest man that anybody could know and love. He was a good father, a good husband,"* she said. *"I haven't spent a day without that man in 40 years. I just don't know how I am going to get through it, either."*

Florida All-Grades Reunion

2020 REUNIONS

Class of 1965
55th Reunion

October 3, 2020, 7 pm
Hilton Garden Inn
Springfield, NJ

Contact: ***Dennis Estes - destis@greenbaumlaw.com***

Class of June 1960
60th Reunion

October 18, 2020, 11 am
Old Mill Inn
Basking Ridge, NJ

Contact: ***Harold Klein - HMKlein42@gmail.com***

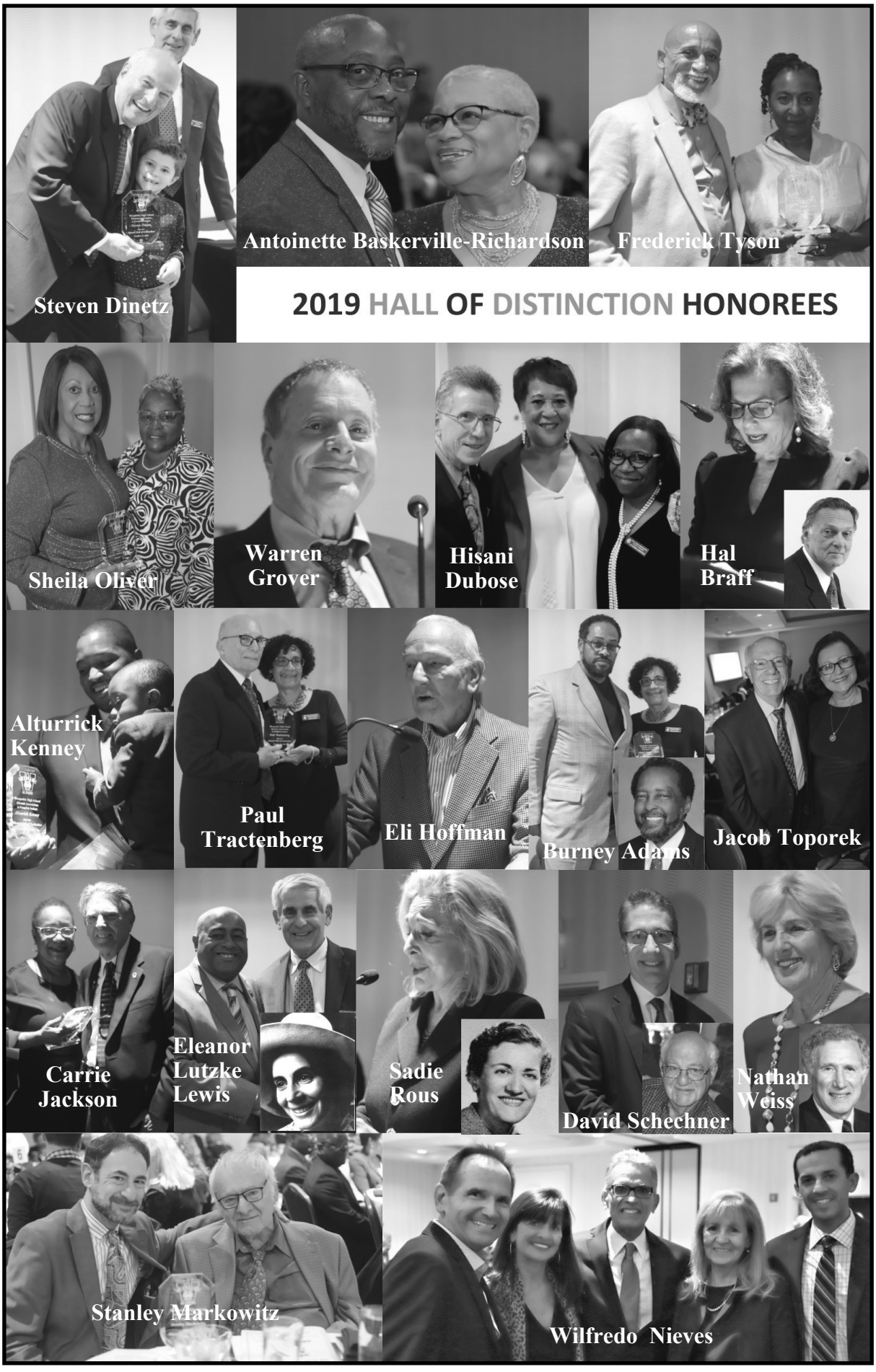
WHSAA 22nd Anniversary Event

ALUMNI SNAPS

Class of 1959 / 60th Reunion

Class of 1969 / 50th Reunion

Class of 1979 / 40th Reunion



Burney Adams
WHS Football Coach.

Antoinette Baskerville-Richardson, 1970
Teacher, Newark Chief Education Officer.

Hal Braff, 1952
Attorney, Co-founder WHS Alumni Assoc.

Steven Dinetz, 1965
President, Chancellor Foundation; Leader in Communications.

Hisani Dubose, 1971
Author, Filmmaker

Warren Grover, 1955
Author, Co-founder Newark History Society.

Eli Hoffman, 1956
President, Jaqua Foundation.

James Oliver Horton, 1961
Professor, Author, African-American History Scholar.

Carrie Jackson, 1968
Jazz Vocalist, Music Producer.

Alturrick Kenney, 1995
Essex County Surrogate, Newark Deputy Mayor.

Eleanor Lutzke Lewis, 1959
Social & Consumer Justice Advocate.

Stanley Markowitz, 1955
Professor, Peace & Social Justice Activist.

Wilfredo Nieves, 1966
Educator, College President.

Sheila Oliver, 1970
NJ Lieutenant Governor; Speaker, NJ Assembly.

Sadie Rous, Faculty
Social Studies Teacher.

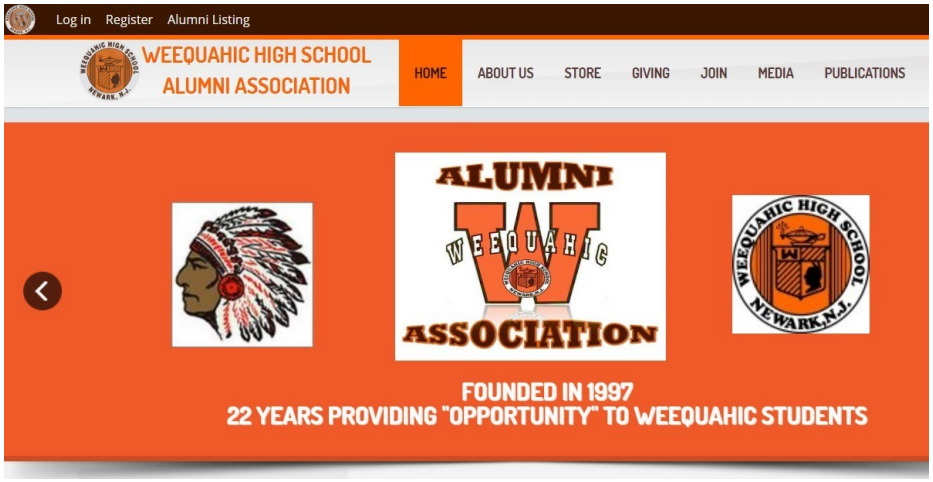
David Schechner, 1946.
Attorney, Synagogue Historian, WHS Alumni Trustee.

Jacob Toporek, 1963
Director, State Association of Jewish Federations; *Editor WHS Note.*

Paul Tractenberg, 1956
Founder, Education Law Center & Inst. of Education Law & Policy.

Frederick Tyson, 1972
Scientific Prog. Director Nat. Inst. Envirm. Health Serv,

Nathan Weiss, 1940
President, Kean University; Author.



VISIT THE WEEQUAHIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

WeequahicAlumni.org

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Alumni - $25

Orange & Brown - $50

Ergo - $100

Sagamore - $500

Legend - $1,000

Check:: Write check to WHSAA and mail to:

WHS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 494
Newark, NJ 07101

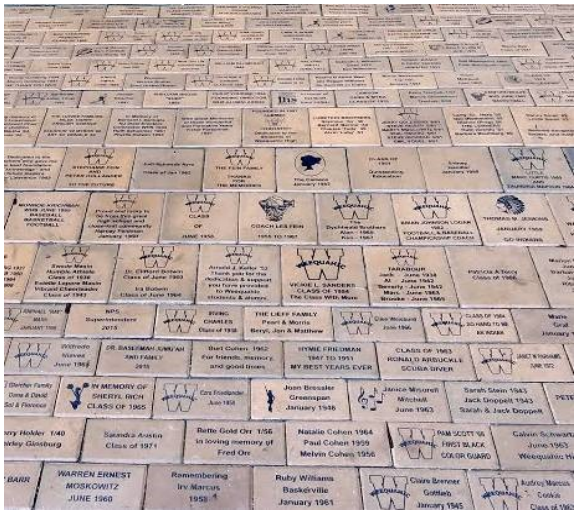
Credit Card: Call (973) 923-3133

22 years of providing opportunity to the students at Weequahic High School

Legacy Bricks enhance the entrance at WHS!

The first installation of 200 inscribed bricks is in place on the sidewalk leading up to the front entrance of the high school.

If you haven't already done so, please consider inscribing your name and the names of others in Weequahic history.



To purchase a brick, go to

http://www.polarengraving.com//weequahicalumni

or call (973) 923-3133

(100 bricks are needed for the 2nd installation)

Buying a brick supports scholarships and student activities at the high school!