

# 2ND CLASS OF HALL OF DISTINCTION HONOREES

## The Weequahic High School Alumni Association **HALL OF DISTINCTION INDUCTEES**

**Warren Grover, 1955** - Author, historian, and co-founder of the Newark History Society.

**Stanley Markowitz, 1955** - Educator, professor, activist for peace and social justice.

**Eli Hoffman, 1956** - President of the Jaqua Foundation in NJ.

**Paul Tractenberg, 1956** - Founder of Education Law Center and Institute on Education Law and Policy.

**Jacob Toporek, 1963** - Executive Director NJ State Association of Jewish Federations, WHS Note newsletter.

**Steven Dimetz, 1965** - A leader in the communications industry. President of the Chancellor Foundation.

**Wilfredo Nieves, 1966** - Educator, President of Capital Community College in Hartford, Connecticut.

**Carrie Jackson, 1968** - Jazz vocalist, producer/arranger, recording artist, CEO of C-Jay Records.

**Honorable Sheila Oliver, 1970** - NJ Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the NJ State Assembly.

**Antoinette Baskerville-Richardson, 1970** - Chief Education Officer for the City of Newark.

**Hisami Dubose, 1971** - Film producer, screenwriter, director and founder of NJ Movie Maker's Network.

**Dr. Frederick Tyson, 1972** - Scientific Program Director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Services.

**Alturrick Kenney, 1995** - Essex County Surrogate, former Deputy Mayor of the City of Newark.

### Deceased

**Dr. Nathan Weiss, 1940** - Longtime President of Kean University, graduate school named after him, and author.

**David Schechner, 1946** - Attorney, leader in Jewish community, synagogue historian, WHS Alumni trustee.

**Hal Braff, 1952** - Attorney, civil rights activist, co founder of the WHS Alumni Association and avid Mets fan.

**Dr. Eleanor Lutzke Lewis, 1959** - Social and consumer justice advocate who worked with Ralph Nader.

**Dr. James Oliver Horton, 1961** - Professor Emeritus, scholar of African American history, and author.

**Sadie Rous, Faculty, 1935-1968** - Popular and well-respected Social Studies teacher for 33 years.

**Coach Burney Adams, Faculty, 1968-2002** - Legendary football coach and mentor for 34 years.



## **BURNEY LEE ADAMS** **(Teacher and Football Coach, 1968 to 2002)**

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 in Newark 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.

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## **ANTOINETTE (GRAUER) BASKERVILLE-RICHARDSON** **Class of 1970**

Antoinette (Toni) is the current Chief Education Officer for the City of Newark, NJ. Toni is a career educator who taught English, Theater and Creative Writing in the Newark Public Schools for over 30 years. She coached an award-winning speech team and directed over 30 musical and dramatic productions. Before retiring from the school district, she was a Coordinator at the Marion Bolden Student Center, developing a core of afterschool programs and university partnerships. She continues to serve as Project Director of Stand & Deliver (a public speaking and leadership program serving hundreds of students).

During her career, Toni was a active member, legislative representative and VP of the Newark Teachers Union. She has also received numerous awards, including the Newark NAACP Freedom Fund Education Award, the NJ Governor's Award in Arts Education and Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver's Shirley Chisholm Education Award. She served as a member and as Board President on the Newark Board of Education from 2011 to 2017, and played an integral part of the return to local control of the public school system to the City of Newark.

*"My years at Weequahic greatly influenced my career choice. The late 1960's was a turbulent time for the City and for Weequahic High School in particular. The school and the school system were forced, as was the City, to respond to the political demands of a changed demographic. Within a 2-year period, Weequahic became a primarily all-Black school. I observed and experienced the negative and positive impact of this phenomenon on my peers. It was within that environment, and as a result of the honors English classes, the drama class, and some excellent teachers, that I found my voice and my vocation - education."*

Toni is married to Essex County Freeholder Wayne Richardson.



## HAL BRAFF, Class of June 1952

In a lifetime spanning 84 years, Hal's personal and professional accomplishments were bountiful. A leader, visionary, humanitarian, and mentor, he was passionate about his family, the law, and volunteer endeavors. And he cared for people who lacked the opportunity to improve the quality of their lives resulting from inequality and intolerance. After a lifetime of giving, Hal died in December 2019.

Hal was born in Newark, raised in the Weequahic section, attended 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 for the current students at his alma mater as the Co-Founder and Co-President of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association in 1997. This was an achievement of which he was most proud. In 1956, Hal graduated from the University of Wisconsin, and upon returning home, he received a law degree from Rutgers University in 1959.

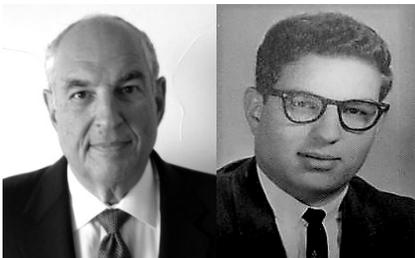
He practiced law for 59 years, first at Braff, Harris and Sukoneck, and then as Counsel to Margulies Wind. He was a well-respected litigator and mediator. In addition, he taught at Rutgers Law School in Newark, at the University of San Diego, and at Peking University in Beijing, China. Earlier in his career, he was active in the civil rights movement and was Counsel for the Congress of Racial Equality. In the American Inns of Court, an organization dedicated to teaching ethics to young lawyers, Hal established a network of 23 Inns in New Jersey, was the national Vice President, and received the organization's highest award, which was presented to him in the U.S. Supreme Court. And for 20 years, Hal and his wife, Elaine, were master teachers for PAIRS, a marriage education course.

Hal was 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.

Hal had varied interests, including community theater, movies, opera, religion, justice, politics - and the New York Mets. He and Elaine were married for 30 amazing years and he was the loving father and grandfather to six children and twelve grandchildren.

In regards to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, he once stated *"If we improve the life of even one kid, who without our help would not have been able to fulfill a dream, it is as though we saved the universe."* As for life in general, Hal would declare *"make the world a better place, that is your responsibility."* And that he did.

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## STEVEN DINETZ - Class of 1965

Beginning in 1963, while still in high school, Steve worked after school in advertising agencies in Newark and New York City, ultimately becoming a copy and account executive. In 1975, he became a sales executive at WOR / WXLO-FM radio in New York City.

Steve has owned and operated radio and outdoor assets throughout the United States, France, Germany and Poland. In 1993 he founded Chancellor Broadcasting Corp., which he led to a successful IPO in 1996 and he met his wife Lauri in Sacramento, CA. Several years later, Chancellor and two other media companies that Steve led merged and became a major part of what is today - iHeart Media Inc.

Currently, Steve and Lauri are Trustees of The Chancellor Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded in 1998, which is focused on the continuing education of students from single parent households. Steve and Lauri's ongoing support of the WHS Alumni Association since 2001 has been instrumental to its success.

Steve, Lauri and daughter Marissa live in San Francisco, northern Nevada and Dallas.



## HISANI P. DUBOSE, Class of 1971

Hisani is an experienced artist, onstage and backstage. During her senior year at Seton Hall University, she wrote the book and lyrics for her first musical, **Different Kinda Blue**, in which she also performed and served as choreographer. Upon graduation with a BS in Political Science, she moved to New York, worked at Dance Theater of Harlem and continued to write and co-produce two more musicals. In May of 2015 she received her MA in Media Studies from the New School in NYC.

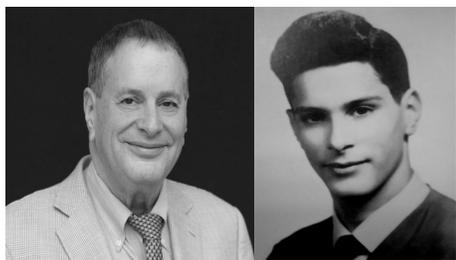
Hisani spent eleven years as an Adjunct Professor at Bloomfield College in the Creative Arts and Technology Division. She has conducted screenwriting workshops at film festivals, and was commissioned to adapt two books into screenplays. Throughout her career, Hisani has been an active participant in writer's workshops and artistic endeavors. She also wrote feature articles for local magazines and a monthly column for an entrepreneurial newspaper. Her documentary, **The Vanishing Black Male**, has been seen in film festivals around the country and won the Broader Vision award from the Garden State Film Festival. One of her screenplays placed as a finalist in Director Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope Screen Writer's Competition.

In addition to publishing her book, **Do I Have to be a Starving Artist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**, Hisani was commissioned to write and produce a documentary, **The Roaring Whisper**, on the history of African Americans in New Brunswick, NJ. She curated an exhibit on the history of African Americans in New Jersey's film industry for the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and she spent six years as an Associate Programmer with NJPAC producing community performances for international artists such as Hugh Masekela, Paquito D' Rivera, Babatunje Olatunji and others.

Hisani currently has a short documentary premiering on YouTube, **It's Time**, that explores the journey of adult children who have parents with dementia. She recently released a book entitled, **BE EPIC**, and is in the process of developing financing for a movie to be shot in Newark called **POPCORN**.

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## WARREN GROVER - Class of Jan. 1955



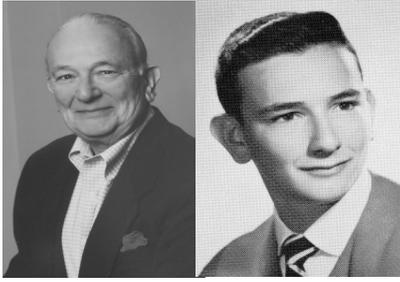
After graduating from Weequahic, Warren went on to earn a BA and an MA in History from New York University. He spent his life as a historian, teacher, and author.

Warren served as President of MDM Technologies, a direct mail company, was a history instructor at the Newark College of Engineering, Executive Director of the Newark Committee on Full Employment, and a visiting Professor of Newark History at Rutgers Newark.

He has held elected positions as Chairman of the West Orange Democratic County Committee and the NJ State Democratic Committee. In addition, he served on the Boards of multiple organizations, including the YIVO Institute for Jewish History, the New Jersey Historical Society, and the Jewish Historical Society NJ. He is also a member of the Newark Congress of Racial Equality and was Chairman of the Newark Archive Project.

Since 2002 when Warren co-founded the **Newark History Society**, the organization has been retelling the story of the City of Newark with more than 70 free public programs for more than 15 years. He was honored at their 15th Anniversary affair.

Warren has authored numerous articles about Newark and politics for the NJ Italian Tribune, the New Jersey Jewish News and the Newark History Society, and is the author of the book, **Nazis in Newark**.



## ELI HOFFMAN - Class of Jan. 1956

In his life after Weequahic, Eli attended Temple University, graduating in 1959 with an Accounting degree.

Eli worked as a Certified Public Accountant for several major accounting firms (J.H. Cohn & Co, Richard Eisner & Co, and EisnerAmper, LLP) before establishing his own practice in 2014.

During his career, he provided financial expertise, conducted forensic audits and served as an expert witness in a number of legal trials. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, NJ Society of CPAs and the NY Society of CPAs.

Eli serves as Chairman of The Jaqua Foundation, a private not-for-profit charitable and philanthropic organization, which has provided grants over the past 35 years to the Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity, the NJ Tap Ensemble, St. Barnabas Medical Center and the Animal Medical Center of NYC, as well as to many colleges and universities.

The Foundation also supports the NJ Performing Arts Center and the NJ Symphony. In the early years of the WHS Alumni Association, Jaqua provided funds for marching band uniforms, musical instruments, and student scholarships.

Eli has served on numerous boards that focus on the arts and issues related to children's education and social development. Eli married Barbara Schapiro Hoffman in 1972 and they have 5 children and 10 grandchildren.



## JAMES OLIVER HORTON - Class of 1961

Dr. James Oliver Horton grew up in Newark. After graduating from Weequahic, he attended the University of Buffalo. He then joined the US Air Force, earned an M.S. degree from the University of Hawaii, and a Pd.D. in History from Brandeis. Dr. Horton taught at the University of Michigan and at George Washington University, where he became the Benjamin Banneker Professor of American Studies and History.

Dr. Horton was a pioneer in the study of 19th century Black Communities and he directed the African American Communities Project at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He was a Sr. Fulbright Professor at the University of Munich (Germany) and held the John Adams Distinguished Fulbright Chair at the University of Leiden (the Netherlands). Dr. Horton lectured throughout the US, Europe and Asia. In 1991, he assisted the German government in developing American Studies programs in the former East Germany.

He taught many summer seminars in history for elementary and secondary school teachers, both locally and nationally, and in 1994-95 he served as senior historical advisor to the Director of the National Park Service. Dr. Horton also advised museums in U.S. and abroad, among them the Underground Railroad Freedom Center (Ohio), the National Civil Rights Museum (TN), Colonial Williamsburg and Monticello. Dr. Horton was a historical consultant to and guest on numerous historical film and video documentaries, among them *The History Channel*, and *Great Minds in American History*.

Dr. Horton published 10 books on African American History, many with his wife, Dr. Lois E. Horton, among them, ***Black Bostonians and In Hope of Liberty*** (a Pulitzer Prize nominated book), ***Hard Road to Freedom, Slavery and Public History***, and ***Slavery and the Making of America***, the companion book to a PBS series. In 2004-05 he was the President of the *Organization of American Historians*, the largest national organization for scholars and teachers of American History.

James Oliver Horton died in 2017 and is survived by his wife, Lois E. Horton.



## CARRIE JACKSON, Class of 1968

Carrie is a New York based vocalist who rekindles thoughts of America's great jazz history. Carrie has performed at many top jazz venues in the NY/NJ metropolitan area, and tours throughout the USA and abroad. She is a song stylist, artist, educator and producer.

Raised in Newark, she attended Peshine Ave. School, Weequahic High School, and the Newark Community School of The Arts. She honed her many talents as an actress and dancer in the musical productions of *Ain't Misbehavin* and *Nunsense* on Broadway, and she's performed for live radio, television and jazz festivals.

She attributes her vocal style to her mentors, the great ladies of jazz, including Sarah Vaughn, Nancy Wilson, Billie Holiday, and Carmen McRae. Carrie has incorporated elements of their styles into her performances and brings joy and well-honed expertise on the stage with her. Her multifaceted style, which includes swing, jazz standards, the blues, ballads and Gospel, make her an engaging and entertaining stage presence.

Carrie has toured and performed throughout the USA and abroad, performed with many different groups, as well as her own and has her own recording company **CJayRecords**. Her latest CD is "*A Tribute to Sarah Vaughn, Newark's Own.*" She has been described in *Jazz Improv* as:

*"...an impressive vocalist and her voice swings with life, and she delivers deep soulful, musical interpretations that are playful...  
Carrie has many talents and is never afraid to use them."*

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## ALTURRICK KENNEY - Class of 1995



Alturrick Kenney is the current Surrogate of Essex County, NJ. In this elected role, he is the Administrative Judge and Constitutional Officer of the Surrogate's Court.

Alturrick is an experienced community leader who has always made it his mission to positively impact the citizens of the City of Newark, and the County of Essex.

In his 20 + years as a public servant, he has served in many roles, including Deputy Mayor, City of Newark, member of the Newark Public Schools Advisory Board, Manager for Port Activities and Business Development for the City of Newark, and Chair of the Port Oversight Committee.

The Howard University graduate studied Political Management at George Washington University. He has received numerous awards including the Excellence in Business and Community Award from Project Re-Direct/ Youth & Family Service, and the Newark NAACP Award for Community Service, and he's been honored by the United Way of Metropolitan DC for his commitment to helping youth continue learning in afterschool programs.

Alturrick is the proud husband of a Rockstar, Jheryn Kenney, and the father of two beautiful children, 5 year old Yasmin and 2 year old Elijah.



## **ELEANOR LUTZKE LEWIS - Class of June 1959**

Eleanor spent her entire life fighting for social justice. As a graduate student at the University of Michigan, she was very involved in improving the status of women on campus, including access to University athletic facilities. During that time, she became a part-time consultant to the Federal government for affirmative action on college campuses.

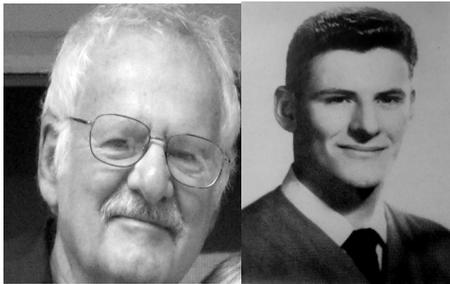
After graduation, Eleanor became the first executive director of the Ralph Nader-supported NJ Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG). The organization's activities ranged from testing NJ streams under the then new federal Clean Water Act, to investigating the composition of the NJ Blue Cross Board of Directors. In response to this work, the state changed the Board's composition to include more women and minorities.

In 1973, Eleanor worked for Brendan Byrne's gubernatorial campaign and transition team. She became NJ Assistant Commissioner of Insurance for Consumer Services, and supervised consumer complaints and consumer related hearings. The Department levied more fines against insurance carriers in the next four years than it had in the previous 50 years combined.

After receiving her law degree, Eleanor entered private practice in Princeton. In 1991, she moved to Washington DC, working with Nader as director of the government purchasing project. She also served as director of the American Association of Legal Publishers, fighting West Publishing's copyright control of legal citations. In 2000, she returned to New Jersey and resumed practicing law, with a focus on consumer fraud.

Eleanor received a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, and an MA in human development from Harvard, a Doctorate in psychology and education from the University of Michigan and later, a law degree from Seton Hall Law School. She passed away in November 2010, after a long battle against ovarian cancer.

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## **STANLEY MARKOWITZ – Class of June 1955**

After Weequahic, Stan earned his BA at Rutgers-Newark. From there, he went on to graduate work at the University of Maryland-College Park.

As a teacher at Howard University, Stan learned more fully the richer and truer history of the U.S. and passed that on to his students. After three years at Howard, he became a professor at Essex Community College in Baltimore County where he taught for 28 years, served as chair of the faculty senate, chaired a committee on increasing student retention and became chair of the Affirmative Action Committee. Over the course of his career, he also taught classes at the Pentagon, the Jessup Correctional Facility and was an adjunct professor at the Maryland Institute of Art.

During the 80s and 90s, Stan was involved in work against housing discrimination, he chronicled the story of the steelworkers union in Baltimore, highlighting how life was for women and Blacks working in the steel industry. He became involved in wide ranging issues such as the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign and the Central America Solidarity Committee. Stan used community organizing as a tactic to drive social change, focusing on economic challenges such as development, gentrification and predatory lending. From these efforts, Stan led training workshops for aspiring leaders of community organizations in Hungary and Romania.

Stan was passionate about standing up against racism in the US and, with his wife, formed Paso Training and Consulting, to help individuals understand the historical impact of racism on current issues of injustice. They also co-founded Baltimore Racial Justice Action, which continues their work today.



## WILFREDO NIEVES - Class of 1966

Dr. Wilfredo Nieves, President Emeritus of Capital Community College, retired after 18 years of service as a community college president in Connecticut, eight of them at Capital.

Dr. Nieves has served on the boards of the National Coalition of Advocates for Students, the Middlesex United Way, Capital Workforce Partners, the Community Renewal Team, the Hartford Stage, Leadership Greater Hartford, Latino Community Services, the Village for Family and Children and the Bradley Home.

He also serves as a Director for Liberty Bank and its Foundation, a Corporator for Hartford Hospital and Middlesex Health, and he is a Past President of the Middletown Rotary Club. He was recognized by the Middlesex United Way and awarded its highest and most prestigious volunteer award, the Community Service Award.

Having a passion for education, Dr. Nieves has served as Chair of the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education, was a Commissioner for the New England Commission on Higher Education, and an evaluator for the Commission on Higher Education for the Middle States Association. He has been a Director on the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges and has chaired the Commission on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity, the Committee on Directors and Membership Services and the Committee on Program Initiatives and Workforce Training.

Wilfredo Nieves received his Doctorate of Education in Counseling Psychology from Rutgers University, and he holds an MA degree in Guidance and a Master of Education degree in Applied Human Development from Columbia University. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Kean University-NJ.

Wilfredo is married to Iris Rivas-Nieves and they have two sons.

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## SHEILA Y. OLIVER - Class of 1970

Sheila Oliver became New Jersey's 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Governor in January of 2018. She is the first woman of color to serve in statewide elected office in NJ history. She was also appointed Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs by Governor Phil Murphy.

Sheila is a native of Newark. After Weequahic, she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Lincoln University (PA). She also

holds an M.S. from Columbia University (NY) and has received honorary doctorates from Lincoln, Montclair State, Berkeley and Essex County Colleges.

She began her career in public service as Director of the office of Youth Services and Special Projects for Newark. Later she became the Development Director for the Newark Literacy Campaign, as well as the Coordinator of Career Guidance in the EOF Program at Caldwell College. Sheila has served on the board of numerous non-profit and social services organizations, including the East Orange General Hospital Board of Trustees, the United Way, the Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods, the Women's Political Caucus of NJ, the NAACP and the Urban League.

First elected to the NJ General Assembly in 2003, Sheila became the Speaker in 2010, the second African-American female in the country to lead a State legislative house. She was Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, and served as a member on many committees dealing with children, education, economics, and equal opportunity.

Sheila has received numerous awards and accolades from organizations across the country acknowledging her lifelong public service and advocacy for women's equality and social justice.



## **SADIE Z. ROUS (Social Studies Teacher, 1934 to 1967)**

**Written by her daughter Barbara (Rous) Harris – WHS 1959**

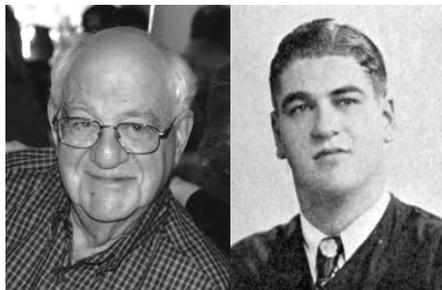
My mother, Sadie Z. Rous, taught at Weequahic High School from 1934 until her early death at the age of 55. She was born in Newark and lived in Newark for her entire life. When I was about eight, we moved from the Clinton Hill section of Newark to Hansbury Ave. I attended Chancellor and then Weequahic before I graduated and left Newark to go to college.

Outside of her immediate family and sisters, Newark and Weequahic were the great loves of my mother's life. Her social life centered on her colleagues - almost all of her closest friends also taught at Weequahic. Their lunch together in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor teachers' room was one of the high points of her day. We heard a great deal over dinner about their political and other discussions as well as about their families. I called many of them Aunt.

My mother always liked her students. Year after year, the members of her homeroom filled our conversation. She spent a great of time helping those who needed it, both academically and personally. Her students obviously returned her affections. After the riots in Newark in 1967, two of her male students came up to her and said they didn't think it was safe for her to walk home alone at the end of the day. They took it upon themselves to accompany her and waited until she was safely in our house.

My mother taught social studies, which gave her the opportunity to educate her classes about current events as well as American history. She always assumed her students were capable of reading their textbooks and the newspaper. She listened respectfully to their views and engaged them in discussion if they disagreed. I can still remember once when she discussed unions in class. She was very critical of the Teamsters for their corruption and violence. A student raised his hand to say that she didn't understand what the union meant to their members and their families. His family was one. He said that his father had never made an adequate living, felt safe against the violence that periodically broke out in his neighborhood until he joined the Teamsters. My mother said it was a real eye opener to her.

Sadie Rous would be immensely pleased with this induction into the Weequahic High School Alumni Association Hall of Distinction, as am I and the nieces she was closest to.



## **DAVID SCHECHNER – Class of June 1946**

David grew up in the Weequahic community of Newark. After earning a B.A. from Lafayette College (PA) and a J.D. at Harvard Law School, he served in the Army. When David he returned to NJ, he founded his law firm, **Schechner & Targan**.

He was Village Attorney for South Orange, Essex County's Representative on the NJ Bar's Ethics Committee, Board President of Orange Memorial Hospital, President of Oheb Shalom and a lawyer for the United Synagogue.

When the NJ Office of the Federal Public Defender was established in 1973, David became a participating attorney, continuing his work from the 1950s on behalf of defendants who could not afford a lawyer.

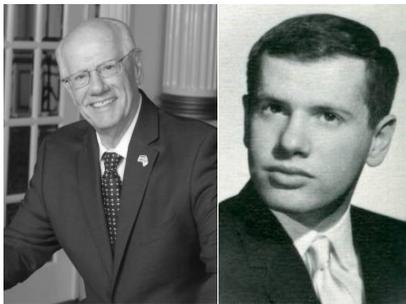
Counselor Schechner was a lawyer's lawyer and mentor to many. As a proud member of the ACLU for 65 years, he took on many civil rights cases and a third of his legal cases were pro bono, many of which included cases involving children with special needs and the right to protest.

David was an active and industrious student and alumnus of Weequahic. He served on its Alumni Board of Trustees, its Scholarship Committee, provided legal guidance, and was featured in *The Heart of Stone* documentary. He also organized his class of 1946 reunions for many years.

***"He is a talker and needs no questioning before he speaks"***

(Quote under David's name in the June 1946 WHS Yearbook)

## JACOB C. TOPOREK – Class of June 1963



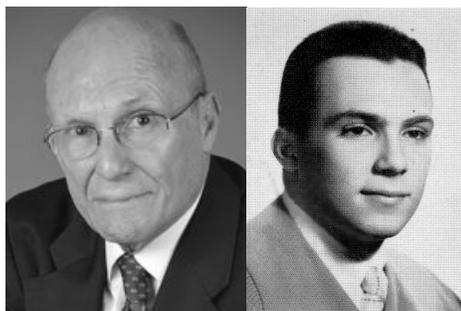
When Jac graduated from Weequahic, he went on to earn his BA degree from Rutgers-Newark, his J.D. from NY Law School in 1970, and an L.L.M. in International Studies, NYU School of Law in 1974.

Jac began his career as Appointments Director to the Hon. Brendan Byrne, Governor of NJ, responsible for directing and coordinating the process of gubernatorial appointments to all the State boards and commissions. In 1982, he became Commissioner of the NJ Victims of Crime Compensation, overseeing the agency and presiding over appeals.

In 2007, Jac became Executive Director of the NJ State Association of Jewish Federations, where he served as a liaison between the State Federations and affiliated agencies. In this position, he served as government affairs and advocacy director for NJ State Jewish Federations and affiliated agencies on behalf of Jewish community concerns at the state and federal level and coordinator of networking and collaboration with faith-based and specific issue interests.

Jac has been a member of the Advisory Committee on Non-Public Schools, the NJ-Israel Commission (founding member), Advocacy Committee, NJ Center for Non-Profits, NJ SHARES, Interfaith Advisory Council and numerous other organizations. Moreover, he is the founder of the **WHS Note**, which reaches thousands of WHS alumni by email every week. He organizes his Class of 1963 reunions, established a class scholarship fund, and raised tens of thousands of dollars for the fund, which is administered by the WHS Alumni Association.

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## PAUL TRACTENBERG – Class of June 1956

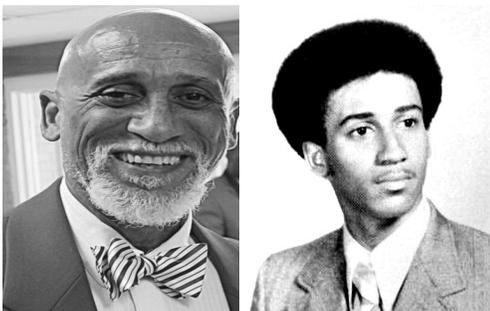
Paul graduated from Weequahic as co-valedictorian, president of the OBA student government and an all-state baseball pitcher. He was a recipient of a National Merit Scholarship and a National General Motors scholarship, among others.

He went on to graduate with academic distinction from Wesleyan University in 1960 and from the University of Michigan Law School in 1963. After a year's post-graduate fellowship in Amsterdam, he was associated with two prominent NYC law firms. In between, he served as associate general counsel of the Peace Corps and as senior counsel of the Governor's Commissioner to Review NY State's Human Rights Laws.

In 1970, he accepted a faculty position at Rutgers Law School-Newark, then known as the "*People's Electric Law School*" because of its singular commitment to using law to advance social justice and equality. In 2016, he retired from full-time law teaching as the Board of Governors' Distinguished Service Professor and Alfred C. Clapp, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Law, but he continues to work on a number of professional projects.

His experiences at Weequahic led him to specialize in education law and policy, and to become a leading advocate for urban students. In 1973, with a Ford Foundation grant he established and directed the **Education Law Center**, which not only has been the lawyer for NJ's 300,000 urban students in the landmark **Abbott v. Burke** litigation, but is today the nation's most prominent public interest law firm representing students and parents. The Abbott case has generated tens of billions of dollars of extra state education aid for Newark and other NJ urban school districts. In 2000, Paul established and directed the **Institute on Education Law and Policy** at Rutgers-Newark. As a lawyer and children's advocate, he has focused on equalizing the funding of education and integrating the schools of NJ.

During his spare time, Paul travels and relaxes with his wife Neimah and tries to spoil his four young grandchildren. For many years, he was a devoted road cyclist until an accident this past fall caused him to put his cycling on hold.



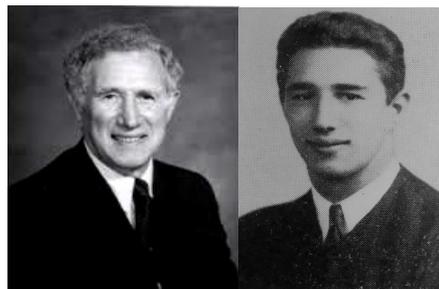
## DR. FREDERICK L. TYSON, Class of 1972

After graduating Weequahic, Dr. Tyson (prefers to be called Rick) earned a BS in 1977 in General Biology from Cook College, Rutgers New Brunswick. He discovered a passion for biomedical research during his college years and went on to earn a Ph.D. in Zoology, specializing in developmental genetics and cell biology from the Rutgers Graduate School. He moved on to postdoctoral training in Genetics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital in NY and developed experience and expertise in molecular genetics and protein biochemistry.

Dr. Tyson held research positions at Duke University Cancer Center, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences/National Institutes of Health and the Saccomanno Cancer Research Institute. He has made solid research contributions in the area of ovarian cancer. For the past 21 years, Dr. Tyson has been a Program Director, Division of Extramural Research and Training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. He has developed Federally funded research projects addressing health disparities and environmental issues in underserved communities. This work has taken him all over the world as a lecturer and researcher. He also leads several research efforts related to the health risks associated with e-cigarettes and vaping.

Dr. Tyson is married to Barbara Weathers and they live in North Carolina along with their beagle, Oliver. He is a father of two and a grandfather. Dr. Tyson sings with his *a capella* church choir, is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, and has been a Boy Scout troop leader for over 15 years. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his scientific and community contributions.

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## NATHAN WEISS – Class of Jan. 1942

Nathan Weiss was a proud graduate of Weequahic and excelled both in academics and in sports. He went on to receive a BA from Montclair State College, after serving three years with the U.S. Army Air Force and an MA from Rutgers University. Dr. Weiss began his career as an educator (*in his perspective, the highest of callings*) at Fallsburgh High School (NY); and while there, he earned a PhD in government from New York University.

In 1961, he joined the Newark State College Department of History and Social Sciences; six years later, he became a full professor and department chair. In 1969, he became President and continued to teach until 1999, ten years after his retirement.

During his tenure, the college was transformed from a teachers college to a multi-purpose institution, becoming the second largest state college in NJ. He committed himself to the college's growth and development through the creation of numerous academic programs, including in the fields of health, technology and graduate studies. Dr. Weiss presided over the name change from Newark State College to Kean College of NJ, and the purchase of the Pingry School which became an integral academic and performance center on campus. On the State level, he was a moving force in the pursuit and development of legislation and governance structure that enabled the state colleges to become more independent and responsible for their own visions and destinies.

Dr. Weiss was inducted in the Montclair State College Athletic Hall of Fame. As football was one of his passions, he created the football program at Kean and was inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame. He was the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from Kean, Montclair State, and Jersey City State. The University also recognized his contributions in 1998 by naming its graduate division the "***Nathan Weiss Graduate College.***"

He wrote a personal life memoir entitled "***The Streets of Newark to the Halls of Academia, An American Story.***" Dr. Weiss has been described as a "*man for all seasons*" as he clearly understood the words of Kipling: "*...we must walk with crowds nor lose virtue, and talk with Kings, nor lose the common touch.*"