

WINTER 2016 / ISSUE 40

ALUMNI  
CALLUMMET



## More than \$30,000 raised for WHS marching band



The power of the press can sometimes produce wonderful results. It was early November when Star-Ledger columnist Barry Carter wrote an article about the Weequahic marching band and their urgent need for new uniforms and instruments. He did a follow-up article in December. Since then, there has been an amazing response from alumni, the Newark fire and police departments, and the Weequahic community.

In addition, there was a pep rally for the band, a “shake the boot” campaign, and a TV appearance by Daryl Taylor (WHS 1987), the assistant band director, on the Meredith Vieira Show, where a check for \$15,000 was presented from the Life is Good Apparel Company.

So, thank you Barry Carter for shedding light on the plight of the band and helping to “awaken the force” that has captured the attention and generosity of so many people, both near and afar.

(Continued on page 5)

## Weequahic is Open For Business

See the letter on **page 3** about Weequahic High School from Christopher Cerf, Newark Superintendent of Schools, who attended our February Board of Trustees meeting.

## A street corner named Sandy Grossman Way



Sandy Grossman, a 1953 WHS grad, was the eight-time Emmy award-winning director of NFL football, NBA basketball, and NHL hockey games on the CBS and Fox sports television networks. On September 5, 2015, a new street sign was placed at the corner of Bergen Street and Scheerer Avenue with the name “Sandy Grossman Way.”

(Continued on page 12)

## Creating a Future

### Rayvon Lisbon, featured in the “Heart of Stone” film, seeks a better life



It was 2009, when many Weequahic alumni were first introduced to Rayvon Lisbon through the “Heart of Stone” documentary by Montclair filmmaker Beth Kruvant. This award-winning film chronicled the vision of Principal Ronald Stone, the impact of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, and the volatile lives of Weequahic students in the 76<sup>th</sup> year of the high school.

(Continued on page 6)

## Boys Track Team Captures 1st State Title in 24 years

After Weequahic’s James Jean crossed the finish line first in the meet-concluding 4x400-meter relay, an emotional celebration went down on the track at the Bennett Center in Toms River.

(Continued on page 12)

## 2015 Alumni Scholarship Recipients - 23 more students are on page 4



Jeddah Cousar  
Valedictorian  
Stone Fund



Muneerah Thomas  
Salutatorian  
Stone Fund



Shontia Council  
#3 in class  
Jellinek Fund



Michael McGibbon  
#4 in class  
Jellinek Fund



Ameerah Felton-Godbolt  
#5 in class  
Class of 1963 Fund

**Deadline for purchasing bricks is May 31, 2016**

# LEAVE *YOUR* LEGACY!



**HOW:** You have an opportunity to leave a wonderful legacy of your time and memories spent at Weequahic through a fundraising initiative of the *Weequahic High School Alumni Association* that will raise funds for scholarship and student activities for the current generation of students. Donate towards a personalized brick that will be placed as a paver on the front walk to the high school's main entrance for all to share and admire.

**LEGACY BRICK OPTIONS:** Your brick will be laser engraved with your name, graduation year, special messages, and logos. Two sizes of bricks will be offered:

**4 x 8 brick** can be personalized with an inscription of your choice with up to 1-3 lines of wording (18 - 20 spaces/line).

**8 x 8 brick** will have 1-6 lines of wording (18 - 20 spaces/ line).

*A logo or clip art can be added if you choose (from a list provided or you can upload your own!)*

These tribute bricks are perfect for honoring your family's name, celebrating a precious memory, remembering your graduation class, memorializing a loved one - or it can even make a wonderful graduation gift. This brick will forever preserve your legacy at Weequahic High School while helping raise funds to make scholarships and activities possible for the current generation of Weequahic students. If not a member, your brick purchase includes a one-year membership in the Weequahic High School Alumni Association.

Brick Size	Price Member	Price Non-Member
4" X 8" Text Only	\$85.00	\$110.00
4" X 8" Text with Artwork	\$110.00	\$135.00
8" X 8" Text Only	\$260.00	\$285.00
4" X 8" Text with Artwork	\$285.00	\$310.00

If you would like to have a 4" by 4" Replica with the same inscription as your brick, you can purchase one for \$30.00.

## BUY A BRICK at

<http://www.polarengraving.com/WeequahicAlumni>

or if you are not "Internet savvy," contact  
Executive Director Myra Lawson at (973) 923-3133  
for assistance in ordering your brick.

## ALUMNI CALUMET

is a publication of the  
WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Editor, Layout & Design:*

**Phil Yourish, 1964**

*Proofreading:*

**Dave Lieberfarb, 1965; Myra Lawson, 1970; and Hal Braff, 1952**

*Our thanks for articles and photos from  
The Star-Ledger, NJ.com, NJ Jewish  
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## CONTACT US

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[weequahicalumni@gmail.com](mailto:weequahicalumni@gmail.com)  
[weequahicalumi.org](http://weequahicalumi.org)

## RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

**\$200 or more**

**American Pastoral Productions**

**Francis Batlan (friend)**

**Marilyn Bobrow (friend)**

**Class of 1963**

**Class of 1965**

**Class of 1970**

**CBS & Fox Sports**

**Joseph Dombrowski, 1962**

**Sharon Levine Corzine, 1963**

**Steven Dinetz, 1965**

**Steven Edwards (friend)**

**Dennis Estis, 1965**

**David Fink, 1966**

**Dena Gittleman-Greenstein, 1964**

**Sandy Grossman Family**

**Gloria Shapiro Hastreiter, 1946**

**Judy Herr, 1964**

**Harold Hodes, 1960**

**David Horace, 1987**

**Arnold Keller, 1952**

**Ira Kent, 1953**

**Warren Kessler, 1960**

**Janet Krusch, 1958**

**Masin Family - Bob & Patty**

**Marion Roberts (friend)**

**Marvin Schlanger, 1965**

**Carole Heller Shapiro, 1963**

**Nancy Small, 1962**

**Newark Fire Department**

**Eunice Talbot, 1973**

**Larome Talley (friend)**

**Donald Wilks, 1953**

**JoAnn Williams, 1984**

# Letter from Christopher Cerf, Newark Superintendent of Schools

February 16, 2016

To The Weequahic High School Alumni Association,

Thank you for inviting me to attend your recent meeting. I have long admired the work of WHSAA and appreciated the opportunity to let you know first-hand of my continuing support. I was also grateful for the opportunity to reaffirm that Newark Public Schools is committed to Weequahic High School and has no plans to close it. Rumors are difficult things to control some times, so I am pleased to be able to address this directly.

Please let me know how I can support your work. As we discussed, your fund raising efforts make an enormous difference. I look forward to further conversations about how your commitment and passion can continue to improve educational opportunities for WHS's students.

Best,

Chris

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## Please Renew Your Membership Now!

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Mail: WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101 / Call: (973) 923-3133

Please print clearly: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2 PAYMENT CHOICES:**

1. ☐ CREDIT CARD ☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC. - Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

2. ☐ CHECK: Make out check to WHSAA - Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### **5 MEMBERSHIP CHOICES:** ☐ check if change in postal address

☐ \$25 Alumni ☐ \$50 Orange & Brown ☐ \$100 Ergo ☐ \$500 Sagamore ☐ \$1,000 Legend

Class (Month & Year): \_\_\_\_\_ Current or Past Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name at WHS: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_



# 2015 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

***28 students / \$29,000 / 18 funds***



**Naa Adei Kotey**  
*Class of 1964 Fund*



**Dominic Agyeman**  
*Class of 1964 Fund*



**Shakyia Alford-Cole**  
*Bobrow/Pearl Funds*



**Chayne Allen**  
*Attles Fund*



**Langi Allen**  
*Roberts Fund*



**Jeffrey Aponsah**  
*Hastreiter Fund*



**Briana Bernard**  
*Attles Fund*



**Isaha Boone**  
*Attles Fund*



**Brianna Brown**  
*Attles Fund*



**Saborrah Cooper**  
*Small Fund*



**Aminah Danmole**  
*Rous Fund*



**Unique Daves**  
*Attles Fund*



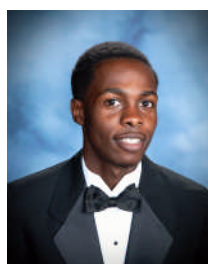
**Christina Frederick**  
*Attles Fund*



**Rondell Hamer**  
*Class of 1964 Fund*



**Chevelle Hunte**  
*Attles Fund*



**Yves Michael Jean**  
*Small Fund*



**DeAndre Johnson**  
*Krichman Fund*



**Taj Jones**  
*McLucas Fund*



**Daisha Kearney**  
*O'Connor/Braff Funds*



**Joseph Oduro Tweneboah**  
*Griffin Fund*



**Daireny Pena**  
*Class of 1964 Fund*



**Yaminah Smith**  
*Masin Fund*



**Jada Solomon**  
*Litzky Fund*

# Campaign is music to Weequahic High marching band's ears

(Continued from page 1)

Below is the 2nd article by Barry Carter entitled "Campaign is music to Weequahic High marching band's ears"

The pep rally on Friday wasn't for the football team. The season has already ended. And it wasn't for the basketball team, either, even though its first game was just days away. This midday celebration was for Newark's Weequahic High School marching band, which was led into the gymnasium by the fire department's Pipes and Drums band.

"I feel appreciated," said Aryc Cuello, a 15-year-old sophomore who plays the bass drum. "I feel like people finally care about us."

The band learned that the city's fire and police departments, and the office of emergency management are joining a \$30,000 fundraising campaign to help them get new uniforms and replace worn-out instruments.

All of this started after I wrote a column last month about the band. The football season was seven games in and the band had not yet performed on the field because their instruments were in disrepair and there weren't enough orange hoodie sweatshirts and brown sweatpants for the members to wear. This attire, some of it faded, has been the kids uniforms for the past five years after the actual band uniforms fell apart.

But despite their situation, the young people still wanted to play, encouraged by Darryl Taylor, the assistant band director who has been volunteering to teach the kids how to do so for 28 years.

Many of the band members were recruited by Taylor, some while they were still in elementary school. The students - most from schools without a band program - show up faithfully after school at 4 p.m. every day and practice for two hours. They could have quit, but they didn't. They see themselves as a family and no one lets members' bail on the group, even if they felt like leaving.

*It's a good thing they stayed.*

Myra Lawson, executive director of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, said graduates have been calling and giving money after reading the story. "They were horrified," Lawson said.

Since then, \$6,000 in donations has rolled in. "It's been heartwarming because our kids feel the stress of budget cuts around the arts and after-school cultural programs," Lawson said.

Readers also called, wanting to know how they could help. Many were directed to Taylor, who was a Weequahic band member during the 1980s.

He's been the glue for the current band, helping director Michael Page keep the students focused on music, reminding them to be appreciative of the support coming their way. Taylor said his cellphone hasn't stopped ringing. One reader, he said, purchased \$3,000 worth of new drum equipment and had it delivered to the school.

"They have yet to experience what it's like to have on real uniforms," Taylor said. "We want them to experience it."

Momentum for the band campaign received its biggest boost when Newark's fire department pledged to get involved with four fundraisers. One of its employees, Patricia Bradford, a program development specialist in community relations, got things moving because the band's troubles resonated with her.

In the 1980s, Bradford said West Side High School had the same problem when her kids were band members. She helped raise funds back then, and even though she's not a Weequahic graduate, Bradford said she wanted to do something for those students. "I couldn't let it go and not try to do something," Bradford said. "I have love for children and life."

All of this fuss has the students giddy, smiling and relieved that someone is finally recognizing them. "We've been working so hard," said Stephon Waddell, 16, who plays the trumpet. "Usually, the band doesn't get this much attention."

The spotlight was on them twice Friday. There was the pep rally to start and producers from "The Meredith Vieira Show" were at the school all day to do a story about the band and the dedication of its directors, Taylor and Page. Surprised. Wowed. Shocked. That's how they're feeling right about now.

This past weekend, the fire department pitched in with the first fundraiser. Four engine companies hit the streets collecting money from motorists in fire boots. You



may have seen them on McCarter Highway and Murray Street, Route 280 and First Street, Springfield Avenue and Irvine Turner Boulevard, and Broad Street and Raymond Boulevard.

"Anything you can do to help a kid is a home run," said Fire Chief John Centanni.

After the pep rally, the band retreated to the band room, where some of them continued to play, not letting up. They were singing and playing drums. One of them was on the tuba, blowing hard. The dancers practiced dance steps.

**This is what they do. They play with Indian - the school's mascot - pride, making as much musical noise as they possibly can, even though they didn't think anyone was listening. Somebody heard them and that's why good things are happening.**



# Creating a Future

(Continued from page 1)



In the article below, Rayvon shares how he has transformed his life from a devastating childhood to graduating from college with honors.

## My Childhood

I was born on February 4th, 1989 in Newark. As a young child I was raised in the Hill Manor apartments on 611 Martin Luther King Boulevard (formerly High Street). The building was in horrible condition and my childhood was extremely dysfunctional as well as impoverished.

My mom was a severe drug addict with illicit men coming in and out of our home. I never had the opportunity to meet my biological father. I grew up with two brothers, one older and one younger. We barely had anything to eat at night unless it was vegetarian beans and boxed macaroni and cheese. That was the only meal I ever grew up looking forward to.

As a result of my mother's addiction, no father, and lack of outside family assistance, it was basically up to me and my oldest brother to look after my younger sibling and ourselves. The only members of my biological family that I every met were my grandmother and uncle. Everyone else is a mystery.

This destructive cycle of poverty, drugs abuse, mistreatment, and physical abuse lasted until I was about seven. This is when the Division of Youth and Family Services intervened. They took my siblings and me away from my mother

and I ended up in a foster home with my younger brother.

At that time, I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade attending Hawthorne Avenue School. My stay in the foster home was extremely difficult. I was not used to being beaten and severely scolded by total strangers. The family was cruel towards my brother and me, constantly abusing us, verbally and physically.

I persevered through this mistreatment until I was 16. My mother relinquished her parental rights and my foster family kicked me out, while my little brother was adopted by my foster mother.

I was once again placed back into the "system." I moved to the Spires for one year, then another foster family, then to a YMCA youth shelter. From there, I ran away to stay with my friend's family in Irvington.

## At Weequahic High School

In high school at Weequahic, I had some good teachers - Mr. Healy, Mr. Zahir, Mr. Akenyelle, Ms. Ingram, Ms. White and Ms. Hayden - who took an interest in me and I developed a good relationship with the principal, Mr. Stone.

A movie was being made about the high school and Mr. Stone asked me if I would be willing to talk with the film director about my experiences. I agreed, but never thought that I would become an integral part of the film. Being featured in "*Heart of Stone*" brought positive changes to my life.

My senior year in high school was important because I was offered the opportunity to attend Seton Hall University on a scholarship through the EOF program. I recall Principal Stone speaking with me about my decision, trying to convince me to not be apprehensive, and to take the opportunity in front of me by making the call and enrolling.

Mr. Stone saw something special within me, lying dormant, that I was unable to see for myself. However, as a result of my circumstances - lack of parental guidance, lack of a strong foundation, and the overall stress from being a ward of the state - *I chose not to make the call.*

(Continued on page 7)

## Nancy Ellen Small, 1962

### Weequahic Scholarship Donor Passes Away

By Ezra Tessler, Nancy's son



Many from Weequahic probably remember Nancy as one half of the Small Sisters duo, the quieter and more studious counterpart to her beloved sister Linda. But the community Nancy found at Weequahic helped launch her into a prestigious career in psychotherapy that spanned over 40 years. During this time, she published and taught extensively while maintaining a private practice aimed at supporting young women and girls.

After Weequahic, Nancy attended the University of Connecticut for her BA and the University of Florida for a PhD in psychology. While she continued to publish in professional journals, Nancy sought to reach people beyond the confines of academia. She shared her expert voice in weekly advice columns and as host of her own radio call-in show.

Nancy's achievements outside of her profession were just as impressive: in recent years she became an accomplished artist, dancer, and international adventurer. In addition to showing her own paintings, she curated shows around Philadelphia and supported young artists in the area. She also revived her earlier days as a Weequahic twirler, winning accolades in dance competitions around the country. And her adventurous spirit led her to volunteer in Vietnam, Ghana, China, Brazil, and elsewhere.

Nonetheless, Nancy's proudest achievement was her family. After her sister's tragic death at an early age, Nancy honored her legacy at WHS with the *Linda Marcia Small Fund*, to be renamed the *Nancy and Linda Small Fund*. She also honored her father Sollie with a lifetime of advocacy on behalf of ALS research.

Meanwhile, she encouraged her children to pursue their own creative careers. Her daughter Manya is a jewelry designer and I am a painter living in New York City, inspired by my mother's creative spirit. Scott Rockfeld, Nancy's nephew, lives in Seattle with his wife and two children, Tyler and Ryan. It was one of Nancy's great honors to grandmother them on behalf of her sister Linda.

# Creating a Future

(Continued from page 6)

After graduation, armed with an alumni scholarship, I enrolled in Essex County College. Although my living situation continued to be precarious, I put effort into my schoolwork and did very well - and was accepted at Rutgers-Newark.

## Influences in my life

For the first time in my life, a number of people came forward to offer me support. A few months after the premiere of *"Heart of Stone,"* I was flown out to Utah to the Slamdance Film Festival by director Beth Kruvant. This was where I met my dear friends, Hal and Elaine Braff, who became my mentors. Hal is the co-founder of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and an attorney.

Ever since that day in Utah they have remained in my corner, guiding me, providing me with sound advice, and showing me examples of what real success actually looks like. They have treated me just like a son and have been rooting for me every step of the way. And they have exposed me to theater, classical music, as well as fine art.

Hal has encouraged me to take my talents more seriously, to think about wonderful possibilities, and to use my abilities to



attain a better life. He has simply just cared for me and showed me through direct experiences of what my life could be like if I followed a blueprint for success. I look at Hal as the father I've never had in my life, an advisor, and best friend all wrapped in to one.

Through a contact of Hal's, I was able to intern at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Newark. This opportunity allowed me to meet yet another phenomenal individual and great mentor of mine, Jose L. Linares. He is a U.S. District Court Judge who has taken me under his wing and has provided me which much inspiration and guidance.

It's been nine year now that Hal and Elaine have been a part of my life and during that time they have never missed my birthday. Their faith in my ability has never wavered. Even when I sometimes didn't believe in myself, they have always picked my spirits up and inspired me to continue striving for greatness. Through our relationship, I have been able to tap into my inner potential and have been constantly motivated to chase my dreams and become a positive influence in my community.

## What success looks like

At Rutgers University, with diligence, dedication, and focus, I made a lot of progress, while maintaining a part-time job. I was on the Dean's List four consecutive times and graduated in May of 2015 with Magna Cum Laude honors and a 3.77 GPA.

I was also a member of the Tau Sigma National Honors Society, as well as the Golden Key International Honors Society. Now I am setting my sights on preparing for Law School and taking the LSATs in 2016.

I'm now 27. With hard work on my part and with the help from a few good people, I have been able to turn my life around and my future is more hopeful and promising.



CLASS OF 1970 / 45-YEAR REUNION



# As demographics change, message of inclusion stays the same

By Barry Carter, Star-Ledger

Folks are folks, right? That means universally, we're more alike than not.

Marc Tarabour, 70, believes life is as simple as that. It's how he was raised in Newark's South Ward, back when he and his diverse group of friends sang a little doo-wop somewhere on the corner, or in the bathroom at Weequahic High School.

*"Some of the greatest acoustics in the world are at Weequahic High School,"* Tarabour said, laughing, the other day. The smile doesn't last long, however, when he thinks about the intolerance that fills today's racial and religious climate, one laced with anti-Islamic rhetoric and fear.

You see, his good friend, Karim Arnold of Newark, is Muslim. Tarabour, who lives in Livingston, is Jewish.

They grew up years apart in the same Newark community - Arnold, who graduated from Weequahic in 1984, on Bayview and Weequahic avenues; Tarabour, a 1963 graduate, on Peshine Avenue and Voorhees Street.

But together, they are co-presidents of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association, an organization, they say, that is all about inclusion and educating a community that now appears far different from its Jewish roots.

*"The school today does not resemble Marc,"* Arnold, 49, said. While that is true - Weequahic students are primarily African-American - alumni from both cultures continue to feel an attachment to the school thanks to the camaraderie and education they experienced during the school's glory years as an academic powerhouse.

It's a special relationship they want to cultivate in today's students, a sense of loyalty to their alma mater, bolstered by scholarship. In its 18-year history, the alumni organization has raised more than \$500,000 in scholarships to help kids with college costs and other financial needs.



**Marc is Jewish; Karim is Muslim.  
Together, they have the same goals**

A student's nationality, religion or race is never part of the consideration. And that's also something they hope to exemplify for Weequahic students.

*"There's so much fighting around the world with Muslims and Jews. We have been able to show how people of different faiths, different colors can work together,"* Arnold said.

Tarabour said he has never thought about Arnold as being inherently different from him. Of course, he knows Arnold is Muslim and, just looking at him, he can see the color of his skin. But he doesn't consider either of those things as a reason to act differently around Arnold. *"I'm thinking we should treat folks the way you want to be treated,"* Tarabour said. *"The fact that they happen to be a Muslim, that doesn't automatically make them a terrorist."*

Tarabour said that the rancor of the presidential election season, with candidates spewing anti-immigrant rhetoric, makes him think back to a time in Nazi Germany when Jews were forced to identify themselves by sewing yellow cloth patches bearing the Star of David to the outside of their clothing. And that Donald Trump's call for a temporary ban of all Muslim immigration conjures up visions of when Japanese-Americans were forced into internment camps during World War II.

*"I'm getting nervous for the American Muslim,"* Tarabour said. Islamic extremists are driving American furor, not Arnold or Muslims like him. *"I love this guy,"* Tarabour said. *"We love each other,"* Arnold said.

Arnold and Tarabour have known each other for five years and have much in common. They remember egg and milk deliveries in the South Ward and the garbage man collecting trash from the rear of homes. It was so safe at one point, they said, people could leave their back doors unlocked. Aside from the nostalgia, including a well-rounded school curriculum, both men served this country after graduating from high school.

Tarabour, who was a Marine from 1964 to 1968, did a tour in Vietnam. He is president of an alarm security business in New York. Arnold, an Army man from 1985 to 1991, spent his time stateside and is a property investment owner.

In the effort to support Weequahic, they're an organized duo. The high school, which was scheduled for closure under the district's "One Newark" plan, remains open and alumni are digging in to make sure it stays that way.

Raising funds, however, is always taxing. Much of it comes from the older Jewish alumni, but it is an aging group that is diminishing in size. Arnold said it's up to African-American alumni now to bolster donations.

Just as important, Arnold said: *"I hope people see our relationship and how we treat each other, and how well we work together."* The same is true for Tarabour, but he circles back to the face of religious indifference. *"I wish somehow, some way, people would start to say, 'If I was a Muslim, how the hell would I feel having people treating me like that,'"* he said.

He pauses, holding onto the simplicity of his beliefs. *"Folks are folks,"* he said.

Yes, they are. It's too bad not all of us can see that.



# NEWARK NEWS

(Excerpts from articles in the Star-Ledger and NY Times)

## City's 350th Anniversary



The past 350 years in the state's largest city have been busy, to say the least.

Newark's history, which begins with a 1666 settling by a group of Puritans, includes an industrial and manufacturing boom, racial tensions, crippling riots, and a renewed focus on rebuilding. All of the aspects of Newark's past, and all of the hope for its future, will be commemorated and celebrated during Newark Celebration 350, a yearlong tribute to the city's birthday.

The group putting on the yearlong commemoration, the *Newark Celebration 350 Committee*, launched the multi-event, \$3 million celebration of the city with a preview event this past October. The other approximately 200 events that will make up NC350 are taking place in 2016, exactly 350 years after Puritans founded Newark.

Junius Williams, the Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute at Rutgers University-Newark, is the chair of the Committee.

Newark's history has been filled with advancements and challenges. Some scholars and activists have argued that the city has begun efforts that could be a turning point into a period of revitalization, while others argue that poverty and crime continue to plague it.

An entire consideration of Newark's past, and conversation about the possibilities for its future, will be a part of the anniversary event, organizers said. Events will vary from festivals and parades that take place every year, to civic discussions on issues and opportunities in Newark.

## Wilma Grey, Library Director, Retires - 46 years at NPL

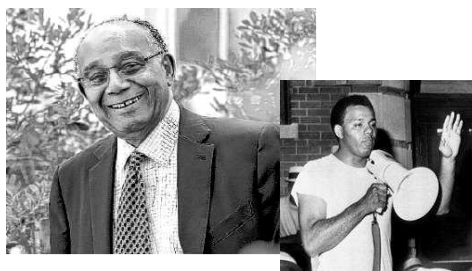


Wilma Grey, Director of the Newark Public Library, has retired after 46 years of service at the library. She held the post of library director since 2005. *"Wilma has been a passionate and tireless advocate for the Library, and we are grateful for her years of dedicated service and inspired leadership,"* stated Timothy Crist, President of the Library Board of Trustees.

Grey, a Newark native and graduate of Arts High School, joined the Library staff in 1969, after graduating from Howard University and working for two years at Boston University's School of Education. She received her Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University.

During her tenure at the Library she provided literacy programs for children and adults, introduced services for sight- and hearing-impaired patrons, and expanded the Library's outreach to diverse cultural and ethnic groups. She also oversaw the renovation and refurbishment of eight neighborhood branches.

## Robert Curvin, civil rights leader and historian, passes away



Robert Curvin, a fiercely loyal advocate for Newark who never gave up on his troubled city and devoted a scholarly career to alleviating urban poverty, died in late September at his home in the Vailsburg section of the city. He was 81.

Dr. Curvin was a co-founder of the Newark chapter of the Congress of Racial

Equality, successfully lobbied to integrate construction jobs in the early 1960s, earned a doctorate from Princeton, helped make Kenneth A. Gibson the first black mayor of a major Northeast city when he won election in Newark in 1970, and was a Ford Foundation official. He also served on the editorial board of The New York Times for nearly six years and was a dean at the New School in Manhattan.

Dr. Curvin was realistic about the outlook for Newark, including the educational and employment challenges it faced, and he was frank about his disappointment in the city's mayors.

As he recalled last year in his book *"Inside Newark: Decline, Rebellion and the Search for Transformation,"* no other American city except Detroit and Gary, Ind., had experienced a faster or more tumultuous racial turnover after World War II - from two-thirds white to two-thirds black within a decade. But he expressed hope that violence and corruption could be tempered, and that over the long term the city's fundamental problems could be overcome.

In the summer of 1967, when cities across the United States were erupting in racial violence, Dr. Curvin took his civil rights advocacy to the streets of Newark.

When rumors circulated that a black cab driver had been beaten to death by white police officers, Dr. Curvin was among the witnesses invited inside the station house to verify that the cabby, though injured, was still alive - and he also attempted to calm the angry crowd outside of the police station.

In a Star-Ledger interview, Dr. Curvin insisted that better education was the key to the city's recovery. *"If you are turned out of school without basic skills to read, write and compute, and to have civil and effective relations with people,"* he said, *"then you're out there with nothing to lean on."*

## Lecture - Newark's Jewish Frontier: Weequahic and its High School

As a part of Newark's 350th anniversary, NJPAC and the Newark History Society will sponsor a talk on March 14th entitled *Newark's Jewish Frontier: Weequahic and its High School*, journeys to the 1930s to the 1960s, when the Weequahic

(Continued on page 10)

## NEWARK NEWS (Continued from page 9)

neighborhood was home to 35,000 Jewish



residents – including celebrated author Philip Roth. Homes built on farm lots, known as Lyons Farms, attracted the city's upwardly mobile Jewish families. Weequahic High School still remains at the heart of the community, drawing generations of alumni for annual reunions and events.

The speaker will be Linda Forgosh, the Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of NJ, the curator of the popular *Weequahic Memoirs* exhibit, and the author of *Jews of Weequahic*. The co-founder of the Newark History Society is Warren Grover, WHS 1955.

### Springfield Avenue Marketplace



ShopRite is officially open in the city's Central Ward on Springfield Avenue. Officials gathered in Newark in October for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the 70,000-square-foot supermarket, which developers say will serve as the anchor for the new "*Springfield Marketplace*." Once finished, the mixed-use development will include retail shops, restaurants, and apartments.

The new supermarket is owned by the Greenstein family, which owns and operates the nearby Brookdale ShopRite in Bloomfield. Neil Greenstein said, "*We are privileged to be part of this community and all the great new development that is happening in Newark right now.*"

City officials have lauded the opening as a big win for Newark. The store is set to bring about 360 jobs to the city, 85 of which will be full-time. In addition to groceries, the location includes an in-store café, pharmacy, and on-site dietician, who will offer shoppers free one-on-one consultations.

### A New Prudential Financial Tower



From a fifth floor outdoor patio in the new Prudential Financial tower, a small group of company executives gathered, listening to the sounds wafting up from Military Park below.

The buzz of the park's weekly farmers market, complete with a throng of local shoppers and melodic tunes being played in the square, could be heard in the background as state and local officials joined Prudential to formally welcome its new building. The environment, Prudential Financial executives said, was exactly as it should have been.

The new \$444 million glass office building on Broad Street is located just a stone's throw away from the company's headquarters at 751 Broad Street. The 740,000-square-foot, 20-story building has been in the works for about four years, Prudential executives said. In that time, the financial company has added about 1,000 positions to its Newark-based operation, many of which are now housed in the new building.

In conjunction with the tower, the company said it has invested in about \$150 million worth of revitalization projects surrounding the new building, including restoration projects at the former Hahne & Co. building (which will include a new Whole Foods), and in Military Park. The project also includes 47,000 square-feet of retail development.

The finance company traces its beginnings to a basement office on Broad Street in

1875. Throughout its 140-year history, the company has remained in the state's largest city. About 3,000 of the company's nearly 48,000 employees will be located in the new tower.

### Rutgers-Newark \$83M renovation to iconic 15 Washington St. skyscraper



For decades, the cavernous 1920's skyscraper adjacent to The Newark Public Library opposite Washington Park, has been an unsuccessful landlord - first as home to the insurance company that abandoned it and, more recently as home to Rutgers Law School, which moved to new quarters in 2000. It remained without purpose or use until October 2015 when its transformation, an \$83 million dollar renovation, was revealed in a major ceremony.

The crumbling structure has been redesigned and overhauled from its basement to its ornate cupola. Now a luxury building, its 17 stories serves as a residence hall, housing undergraduate and graduate students, as well as University Chancellor Nancy Cantor.

In it are studio and multi-bedroom apartments with kitchens and oversized bathrooms. Students also have access to a basement gym, yoga studio, study lounges and meeting spaces. The vast, marble-lined "*counting hall*" where the insurance company's customers once paid their premiums has been restored and serves as a student lounge and event space.

### Samuel Brummer, owner of Hobby's Deli, passes away

The corner of Branford and Halsey will never be the same. Samuel Brummer, the longtime owner of *Hobby's Deli* and a much-loved figure in the city, died at age 93.

(Continued on page 11)





**Samuel Brummer**

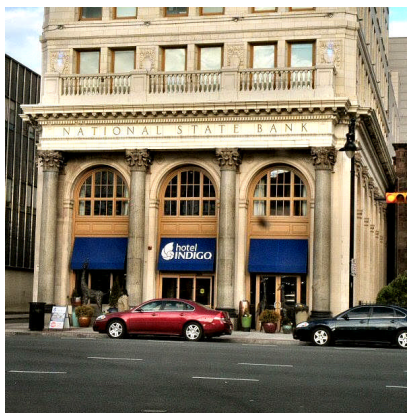
Brummer, a Polish immigrant who moved to Newark in the 1930s and fought in World War II before taking over the famed eatery in 1962, died at his North Caldwell home. *"He lived the American Dream,"* Marc Brummer, who runs Hobby's with his brother, Michael, said of their father. *"He built a life here, and a business here, and a family here. He watched his kids and his grandkids grow up...and he never took any of it for granted."*

Hobby's, the Brummer family says, has been a family-run institution in the city since Sam and his wife, Rona, bought it 53 years ago. Under Sam's leadership, family members said the lines between friends and customers blurred.

At a ceremony last year the corner of Branford Place and Halsey Street, was named *"Hobby's Plaza."*

(Editor's Note: Sam's wife, Rona LaLinga Brummer, is a Jan. 1952 Weequahic HS grad).

## Hotel Indigo Opens on Broad Street



This past September in a renovated building on Broad Street, the Hotel Indigo opened - a block away from another new hotel the Courtyard Marriott. The new boutique hotel occupies the former National State Bank, which was erected in 1912 and designed by Cass Gilbert. The hotel honors its roots with a front desk created

from reclaimed teller desks and by integrating the original bank vault into the restaurant's design. It also has a rooftop bar, the *Skylab*.

## 'Creed' star Michael B. Jordan awarded key to his hometown



Newark-raised actor Michael B. Jordan cracked the Hollywood A-list. Last year, he joined another exclusive list - of people who have a "key" to the Brick City. Jordan received the key from Mayor Ras Baraka at the Newark Citiplex 12.

Jordan, whose numerous acting credits include *"The Wire," "Friday Night Lights,"* and *"Fruitvale Station,"* also was in Newark to introduce a special showing of his new boxing movie *"Creed,"* which also stars Sylvester Stallone.

Raised in the Weequahic section, Jordan studied drama at Arts High School, where his mother is still a teacher, city officials said. Baraka coached Jordan as a teen in summer basketball, and at one point Jordan wanted to become a basketball star.

## Martin Luther King Statue



It has been 51 years since Martin Luther King Jr. received the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize, and a new statue will forever commemorate the anniversary. In October, Essex County officials unveiled an 8-foot bronze statue of the civil rights leader. Placed on a 3-foot-tall granite pedestal and located in a plaza next to the county Hall of Records in Newark, it is engraved with *"I have a dream"* and other inspirational words.

## Jay Z's mom, Gloria Carter, opens Diamondz N Da Ruff Café



A new cafe and lounge in the shade of Newark's Stickel Bridge became news when a photo surfaced of Beyonce and Jay-Z at the grand opening.

The power couple made their appearance at *Diamondz N Da Ruff*, because Jay-Z's mother, Gloria Carter, co-owns the restaurant, at 71 Clay St., with partners Peggie Miller of Newark and Debra Holmes of Jersey City.

The restaurant, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day except Monday, features panini, crab cake sandwiches, salads and sliders, with a small stage for live music, open mic, and karaoke nights.

And as for the name of the cafe, Carter says they were inspired by a diamond's humble origins. *"A diamond comes from coal,"* she says. *"Once coal is pressured, it becomes beautiful. We all know struggle. We're coming from struggle to make this a beautiful thing."*

## Newark Power Broker Carl Sharif passes away



Carl Sharif, a former city school board president and famed political strategist, passed away in late September. The longtime South Ward power broker, who former mayor Cory Booker once called his *"political sensei,"* had battled a lengthy illness. He was 72.

Sharif's deep roots in city politics dated back decades, beginning with a job on the staff of an aide to Mayor

(Continued on page 12)

## NEWARK NEWS *(Continued from page 11)*

Hugh Addonizio in the 1960s. The civil rights movement was in full swing, and before long, racial tensions would thrust the city into full-blown chaos.

Longtime local organizer and attorney Junius Williams said that while others in his age group hoped to spur change through outspoken demonstrations, Sharif preferred to work in the background.

### **Basketball legend, Cleo Hill Sr. passes away**



Cleo Hill Sr., who graduated from South Side High School in Newark and was acclaimed as one of the best basketball players during the late 50's and early 60's, died in August at age 77.

After a stellar high school career, Hill went on to Winston-Salem University in North Carolina where he led his team to back-to-back conference championships and became the second-leading scorer in the school's history.

Cleo was drafted in the first round in 1961 by the St. Louis Hawks - only the fifth African-American from a historically Black college and university to be taken in the first round of an NBA draft. He encountered racial issues and played for only one year.

He later became a successful college coach at Essex County College (ECC), winning 489 games and three Region 19 championships in 24 years. In 1975, Cleo became the athletic administrator at ECC.

In 2008, he was profiled in the ESPN documentary Black Magic, which chronicled legendary African-American basketball stars from historically Black colleges and universities. Cleo was inducted into the South Side High School Hall of Fame, the Winston-Salem State University Hall of Fame, CIAA Hall of Fame and the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame.

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WEEQUAHIC STUDENT  
BY DONATING TO OUR  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

## BOYS TAKE STATE TRACK TITLE *(Continued from page 1)*



Weequahic's 4x400 win in 3:31.48 clinched the NJSIAA Group 1 Relay title, ending a 24-year championship drought for the boys, and they were enjoying every moment of it. The state relay title is the first for the Weequahic boys since winning back-to-back crowns in Group 3 in 1992 and 1993 and its third state relay title overall. *"All of us and our coaches have worked so hard and so long for this,"* said James Jean, a senior, after he and his team took an entertaining and spirited victory lap. *"Man, it's just such a great feeling to see it all pay off with this championship. This is what it's all about right here."*

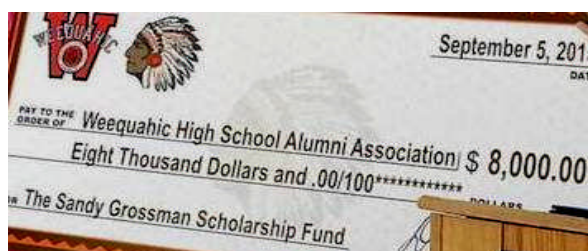
Since then, the Weequahic boys track team edged St. Benedict's Prep to win the Essex County Track and Field Championship at the Jersey City Armory 50-49 and continued its historic season by winning the Central Jersey, Group 1 trophy with a 65-60 victory over runner-up New Providence.

In 2015, it was the Weequahic girls who won the Essex County Track and Field title, the state Group 1 Relays, and the state Group 1 championships, all for the first time in school history, and also won its second Central Jersey, Group 1 title.

## SANDY GROSSMAN

*(Continued from page 1)*

At a ceremony with the Grossman family, friends, and alumni, his son Dean announced that in his father's memory CBS and Fox sports networks were donating \$8,000 to the WHS Alumni Association to be used for a scholarship for a deserving student from Weequahic High School. A new scholarship will be awarded each year.

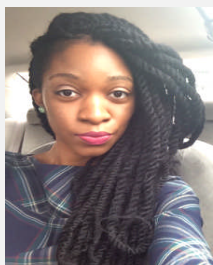


Sandy passed away in Florida after a battle with cancer last year. His wife, Faithe Lurie Grossman, is a 1957 WHS grad.



## NEW ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

### Ayomipo Bajomo, WHS 2009



Ayomipo Bajomo, known to friends as Ayo, is a Weequahic High School graduate, class of 2009. She is the first WHS Alumni Association scholarship recipient to serve on the Board of Trustees

and also the youngest at age 25.

Ayo graduated from William Paterson University with a BA degree in Psychology and a minor in Public Health. She is currently working for a nonprofit organization, the *Statewide Parent Advocacy Network*, which empowers families as advocates and partners in improving education, health, and mental health outcomes for infants, toddlers, children and youth.

In her free time, Ayo likes to read, cook, watch movies, hang out with friends and travel.

She is very excited to be serving on the Board and looking forward to many new possibilities.

### Eleanore Ofosu-Antwi, WHS 2002



Eleanore graduated from WHS in 2002. She was class valedictorian and a member of the Calumet staff and Close Up Club.

In 2006, she graduated from

Colgate University with a double major in African Studies and Political Science.

Seeking a career in law, Eleanore graduated from Seton Hall Law School in 2009 where she was a member of the Seton Hall Law Review. Currently, she is an Associate at Connell Foley, LLP in Newark.

When not writing law briefs, she enjoys traveling, reading, and music.

Eleanore would like to see the WHSAA focus on making WHS one of the top public high schools in Newark and to provide support (whether financially or through mentorship) to increase the rate of graduation from high school and college.

## Newark lighting invokes city's Jewish past

By Robert Wiener,  
NJ Jewish News

Moments before lighting a candle on the Newark City Hall Hanukka menorah, Mayor Ras Baraka spoke of the vital role the Jewish community played in his city's past, and asserted that it is still important to its present and future.

Speaking on the third night of the holiday, Dec. 8, in the building's rotunda, Baraka told the 50 people in a largely Jewish audience that when he was born in 1969 there were more than 100,000 Jews in the city of Newark.

*"The number has of course dwindled since then," he said, "but the impact is still felt, and those who are still around continue to have a serious, committed relationship to this community and to this city, and those who have left still have a serious, committed relationship to this city and this community. Over and over again it surprises me that the Jewish community is connected to the development and the progress of this city since then and is still here today."*

Baraka noted that he grew up down the block from the original home of Temple B'nai Abraham (now in Livingston), whose religious leader for close to four decades was Rabbi Joachim Prinz, the refugee from Nazi Germany who became an outspoken civil rights activist. Baraka spoke of Prinz and his proximity to his late father, poet and black nationalist Amiri Baraka.

Although the mayor did not refer to his father's sometimes contentious relationship with members of the Jewish community, he said:

*"God is very mysterious in that my father and his activism would be reared on the block that Rabbi Prinz was on and [that Prinz] tried to get the Jewish community*



**At the menorah-lighting ceremony, Miles Berger presents Mayor Ras Baraka with a photograph of President John F. Kennedy speaking on the steps of Newark City Hall on October 12, 1962.**

*heavily involved in the civil rights movement in this city and around the country."*

Prinz, a friend of Martin Luther King Jr., introduced the civil rights leader at the 1963 March in Washington.

Prinz *"probably had the second-best speech in the March on Washington next to Martin Luther King,"* said the mayor. *"I don't think that's by accident; I think there is an inextricable relationship - a tie between our communities here in this city that cannot be broken by space or time or generations...."*

*"The histories we share in this country and this world are similar for very specific and very real reasons, and the things that we have in common go beyond the differences that many people try to provoke and delineate,"* Baraka said.

Newark, he said, *"has the opportunity to not just bridge that gap economically but socially and spiritually, which is more important than anything else."*

The menorah-lighting ceremony on the City Hall lawn was presided over by Rabbi Levi Block of Newark's Chabad Torah Center. The Newark Boys Chorus School Apprentice Choir performed at the event.

# HAVE AN AMAZING 2016

# NOBELS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

By Elinor Miller Greenberg, 1949



Nobel Peace Prize winners don't show up locally very often. But, as I watched and listened last night, in Denver, to diminutive and articulate Malala Yousafzai speak about her journey from the Swat Valley of Pakistan to the front page of the Denver Post, I was reminded of a similarly short and articulate Nobel Peace Prize winner who was here more than fifty years ago.

And the messages of Malala, at age 17, in 2015, and those of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at age 35, in 1964, were remarkably similar: *We must all speak up for freedom and opportunity for everyone and then, together, we will succeed!*

In 1963, in the unlikely town of Littleton, Colorado, an almost all-white suburb of Denver, a small, but vocal, group of citizens held a discussion about discrimination in housing. It had been learned that a new local industry had hired its first Negro engineer and that he had been unable to buy a home in our area, close to his place of employment. In fact, as the story unfolded, his fair-skinned wife had looked at a particular house and made an offer to buy it. But, when he, a darker-skinned person, showed up to see it, the locks on the doors had been changed and they could not get in.

As a result of this and other stories of discrimination, and as the Civil Rights Movement had gained momentum and ugly stories began to come out of the South, a group of us who lived in the suburban Littleton Public School District had organized the Littleton Council for Human Relations. Discussions had begun in the Committee on Housing at the United Church of Christ and were also under way at other churches and synagogues in the community. Soon, more than 100 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish families had become members of the Council and were meeting regularly.

We worked together to organize conferences on "*Prejudice and Discrimination*" and on "*The Spanish-Surnamed People of Colorado*", which brought together clergy, realtors, community leaders and citizens to help "*create a climate of understanding*" among various constituencies in our community. We went to court to observe housing discrimination trials and support the litigants. We listened to the debates of the Colorado legislature and urged our legislators to strengthen our then-weak Colorado Fair Housing law. We organized committees on housing, employment and education.

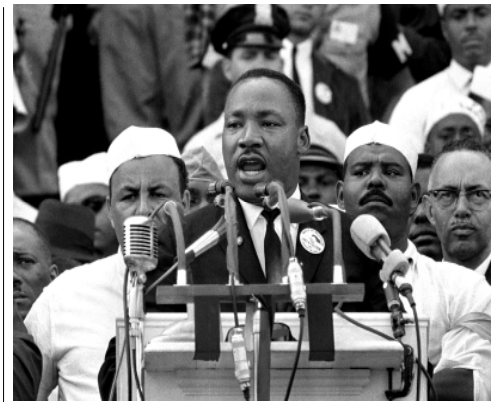
We marched in candlelight parades and sang "*We Shall Overcome*," as we crossed arms and clasped the hands of our unfamiliar fellow marchers. We began an unprecedented series of inter-racial pot luck suppers with families who lived in other parts of the Denver metropolitan area. We became personal friends across racial lines and we worked together as active participants in all aspects of the Civil Rights Movement.

In late 1963, we learned that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was coming to Denver to meet with the Black Ministerial Alliance and the real estate agent-beleaguered Park Hill Action Committee, our fair housing allies in the city of Denver. During his brief weekend visit, we would be given a few hours with Dr. King on Saturday afternoon, January 25, 1964. We were very excited about hosting this pre-eminent Civil Rights leader, who had been named Time Magazine Man of the Year in 1963 and would soon be the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1964.

My late husband, Manny, and I offered to pick up Dr. King and his party downtown



Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., left, with Rev. Robert Gilmore, center, and Rev. L. Sylvester Odom in Littleton, Colorado on Jan. 25, 1964



Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech in Washington, DC in 1963

at the then-Hilton Hotel. Dr. King and his bodyguards were standing in a group when we ascended the escalator to our agreed-upon meeting place on the registration level of the hotel. All the men wore formal hats and heavy winter overcoats, anticipating a cold Colorado winter day, which, as usual, was warmer than they had expected.

As we got off the escalator to greet Dr. King, I realized how surprisingly short he was. Often hidden behind a podium and microphone, I had always thought of him as tall and towering, but that was not the case. In truth, he was not much taller than I was. A careful of plain clothed officers followed our car to the site of his address, the Grace Presbyterian Church in Littleton, a twenty- minute drive from downtown Denver.

Two bodyguards sat in the back seat of our car with Dr. King. During the drive, I told Dr. King about our Council, our efforts in Fair Housing, and our expectations for attendance at his talk by relatively unfriendly local realtors and skeptical business people. He remained calm and continued to ask questions about why we had started a Human Relations Council in a white suburban community. He was pleased with my answers.

When we reached the church, we found a "standing room only" crowd. All the pews were full and people were lined up around the walls of the round church sanctuary. Dr. King took his seat on the stage in the midst of a row of clergymen, each of whom later would make a too long welcome and introduction. Then, in his unforgettable sonorous voice, Dr. King's long-awaited remarks began.

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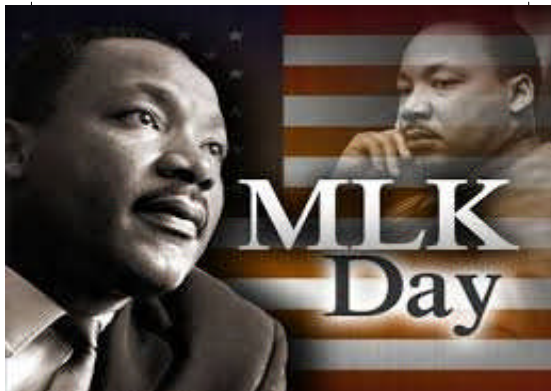


"Thank you for inviting me to meet with you here today", he began. "It is not usual, but not unprecedented, for me to be invited to address a largely white, suburban audience. And, as I understand it, many of you have been working together with other organizations in Denver to address the issue of Fair Housing," he continued. After he reviewed a brief summary of the Civil Rights Movement and gave us some insight into his role as its leader, he told us a very personal story.

"We were in the car driving to the airport, as I often have to do, when my little daughter, Yolanda....we call her Yokey....said to me, as she often does when we pass the ferris wheel and the roller coaster, 'Daddy, when can we go to Fun Town?' Then, I saw the tears well up in her little eyes. I'd often avoided answering this question when she posed it to me because I really did not know how to answer her.

"But, this time, I knew that I had to answer her. 'Yokey', I said, 'right now, little Negro children like you cannot go to Fun Town. But, Daddy is working very hard every day to change that. And, I promise you that some day you and other Negro children will be able to go to Fun Town.'"

He continued, "Since that conversation, and for many years now, I have been working unrelentingly to fulfill the promise that I made to my little daughter...And I want you to know how much I appreciate



*all that you are doing, here in Littleton, to fulfill the promise of freedom and opportunity for all Americans..."*

Dr. King's spontaneous remarks were followed by a candid Question and Answer period. Realtors addressed property values. Teachers asked about integration in the schools. Chamber of Commerce members identified concerns about losing business if our neighborhoods were to become integrated.

Dr. King responded patiently, candidly and articulately to every question for about a half hour. Then, he was reminded that our time was up and that he had another meeting to attend in Denver. The audience remained seated while Dr. King and his entourage left the church to meet their waiting cars and police escort.

The next day, our local newspaper headline read, modestly, "Dr. King Speaks at Grace Presbyterian Church." Our newspaper editor had been careful to write

about our Council and its various activities in a very straightforward manner. I believe that the role of our newspaper as an unemotional reporter of fact and a steady editorial supporter was key to the acceptance of "fair housing" and other civil rights matters in our suburban community.

Yes, there were some members of Grace Church who did not approve of Dr. King's presence and, in fact, resigned from the church in protest.

Yet, the minister, at that time, stood his ground and made his church available to the Council and to Dr. King. The passage of the U.S. Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act of 1964 were to prove him right.

It's hard for me to believe that all that took place more than fifty years ago. I can still see, in my mind's eye, the round sanctuary of Grace Presbyterian Church in Littleton, Colorado, filled to the brim with local white community members with their arms crossed, as a small group of Black men, dressed in formal hats and heavy overcoats, walked to the stage.

And I shall never forget the sonorous voice of thirty-five-year-old Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as he told the true story of segregated Fun Town to his little daughter, Yokey, as they drove to the airport so that Daddy could continue his work bringing *freedom and opportunity* to all Americans....just as seventeen-year-old Malala is doing today, all across the world.

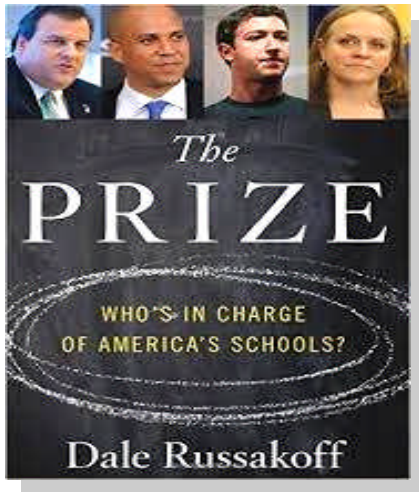


**CLASS OF JUNE 1960 / 55-YEAR REUNION**

# WHAT ZUCKERBERG LEARNED FROM NEWARK

Reporter Dale Russakoff writes about the Newark Public Schools in her book, "The Prize"

The following article was written by Dale Russakoff in the Washington Post



When Mark Zuckerberg announced, at age 26, that he was giving \$100 million to turn around Newark's deeply troubled schools, he was disarmingly open about how little he knew about philanthropy. He said in an interview at the time that he hoped not only to help the city's children but also to become a better philanthropist in the process.

It quickly became clear that he had a lot to learn. When Zuckerberg made the announcement on "Oprah," Newark's then-Mayor Cory Booker effused - unrealistically - that they would turn the city's downtrodden public schools, where fewer than 40 percent of children were reading at grade level, into "a hemisphere of hope" in just five years.

Booker, a Democrat, and Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, hoped to increase the number of charter schools, close failing district schools and overhaul the teachers' contract so as to lay off the weakest teachers and pay merit bonuses to the best.

But the reform effort proceeded largely without the input of teachers or parents, triggering a public uprising so intense that it helped elect city Councilman Ras Baraka as mayor on a platform of stopping the reforms in their tracks. From 3,000 miles away, Zuckerberg read about rallies where Newark residents railed at him as an uncaring billionaire.

Some good did come of the fortune spent in Newark: expansion of the city's high-performing charter schools, a new contract

that increases accountability for teachers, improved management systems inside a long-dysfunctional bureaucracy. But district schools attended by 60 percent of Newark children have been plunged into a financial crisis, largely because of the exodus to charters. Student performance on the state standardized test in those schools has dropped.

On "Oprah," Zuckerberg said he hoped Newark would become a national model for how to transform failing urban school districts. Today, multiple philanthropists use it as a case study in how not to relate to communities they seek to help. Still, Zuckerberg emerged as one of the more serious students of the missteps, determined not to repeat them.

In a letter he and his wife, Priscilla Chan, wrote to their newborn daughter, Maxima, pledging to give away 99 percent of their Facebook stock in their lifetimes, they laid out six guiding principles for what they called the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. Principles No. 1 and 2 are clearly drawn from what went wrong in Newark.

The first one calls for investing for the long term - 25 years, even 100 years, certainly not five years, the Newark time frame. "Short-term thinking," they wrote, will not begin to solve the great challenges of their time, including poverty, disease, educational inequity, broken communities.

Their second principle is to "engage directly with the people we serve. We can't empower people if we don't understand the needs and desires of their communities." In Newark, largely bypassing the community was not only politically calamitous; it produced an agenda that didn't equip schools to address profound emotional needs children bring into classrooms every day - needs about which parents and teachers could have offered powerful insight.

Hours before Zuckerberg and Chan recently revealed their \$45 billion initiative to the world, the foundation dispensing the couple's gift in Newark announced it was committing \$10 million to help develop a network of community schools there - a priority of Baraka's - schools that are to offer wraparound services for students, as well as for adults and neighborhoods.

In the aftermath of the uprising that fueled Baraka's election, the foundation has made other visible investments in the community, including the mayor's summer youth employment program and a citywide campaign to increase the proportion of college graduates in Newark.

Booker and Christie have left behind the education reform struggle they launched with fanfare in 2010 - Booker for the U.S. Senate, Christie for the presidential campaign trail. Zuckerberg, alone among the men who sat on Oprah Winfrey's stage that day, appears to have been changed by the experience.

As he and Chan wrote to their baby daughter, it will be decades, perhaps even a century, before their new, far grander initiative reaches fruition. But if it bears even some of the fruits they hope for Maxima and her generation, it will be in part because of the lessons her parents learned the hard way in the tough educational precincts of Newark.

## Cerf appointed Superintendent of Schools with deal for local control



Christopher Cerf, a former New Jersey education commissioner and vocal supporter of Cami Anderson, is the new state-appointed superintendent of Newark Public Schools. Cerf, 60, of Montclair, was approved by the state Board of Education on the same day Anderson's tenure as Newark's school chief officially came to a close.

His arrival - if a deal brokered by Gov. Chris Christie and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka holds up - could mark the beginning of the end of two decades of state control over New Jersey's largest public school district.

Cerf, a former history teacher, White House lawyer and CEO of a global technology company, takes the helm in Newark with a clear directive from the state: Guide the school district back to local control (after 21 years.) A newly formed Educational Success Board, a panel of community members and educational experts created by Christie and Baraka, is charged with developing a specific pathway with appropriate timelines and benchmarks for ending the state takeover.



## IN LOVING MEMORY

### Rev. Ronald B. Christian, 1982

Prominent Newark-area pastor

By Steve Strunsky, Star-Ledger



The Rev. Ronald B. Christian, a former corrections officer who fell from grace into drug addiction and prison then rose to beloved status as a compassionate and charismatic minister, was remembered lovingly by 2,000 mourners during a rousing memorial service in Newark.

Love for the 51-year-old pastor was too big for a church sanctuary, even one as solid as the red brick Christian Love Baptist Church he led on Lyons Avenue in Irvington. So it was held in the gymnasium of Essex County Newark Tech High School.

One thing Christian was known for doing was ministering to those truly in their darkest hours. He was sometimes contacted by criminal suspects seeking spiritual guidance in the face of legal woes. In those cases, he would try to broker a peaceful surrender.

A Newark native who was a standout in track at Weequahic High School, Christian's memberships included the Newark Board of Education School Management Team, the Center for Urban Education, the Irvington Chamber of Commerce, the Weed and Seed Program, Integrity House and others.

He served as chaplain to Beth Israel Hospital, the Essex County Youth Detention Center, the Irvington Police Department and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

Often dressed like an outlaw himself in his signature jeans and cowboy boots, Christian may have been trusted by those in trouble because he had been there

himself. In the 1990s, he started using heroin, and after more than a dozen failed attempts at rehab, he lost his job as a sergeant at Northern State Prison, his home in Newark, and many of his friends. Eventually, he found himself on the wrong side of prison bars, sentenced to prison in 1996 for stealing from the Department of Corrections.

But rather than hardening as a criminal, Christian turned to family and faith. Upon his release in late 1997, he joined the Clearview Baptist Church in Newark, where his father, a retired pastor, was doing work. The younger man began helping out at rehab centers and homeless shelters, and on someone's suggestion that he follow in his father's footsteps, took courses and became a licensed minister. In 2000, he took over the run-down and financially strapped Christian Love Baptist Church, and eventually multiplied its membership from about a dozen to 6,000.

Attending the funeral were The Rev. Al Sharpton, U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli, Rep. Donald Payne Jr. former Gov. Jim McGreevey, and others - all who offered fond, funny and teary remembrances of the politically and socially active pastor.

Ron is survived by his wife, Tami Christian; his children, Radeyah Terrell, Ronald B. Christian Jr., Chloe Christian, Josiah Christian, and Ryan Christian; his parents, Rev. William Christian and Willie Mae Christian; five grandchildren; his siblings, Everett and Althea Christian; his in-laws, Joy and Colin Stanton, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, relatives, many friends, and the entire Christian Love Baptist Church family.

### Dr. Milton Luria, 1939

#### Physician, Educator, Athlete, and Coach

Milton Luria, M.D., passed away in October 2015 at age 93. He was born in 1922 in Newark to his parents Elias and Sarah Luria.

He was a proud alumnus of Weequahic High School, class of 1939, where he was an avid athlete and scholar. Milton lettered in multiple sports, but his love was football. He was a lineman for the Weequahic High School varsity football team, and he earned recognition for being the first lineman to ever score a touchdown for Weequahic.



Milton served in the United States Army during World War II. He played football for the Army and also provided medical assistance to servicemen. He attended the University of Maryland on a football scholarship. After graduating from college, he was a high school teacher in New Jersey, during which time he taught science and coached sports.

After teaching for several years, Milton attended the Alfred Hospital Melbourne Clinical School at the University of Melbourne, Australia, from which he earned his medical doctorate, was first in his medical school class, and won the Alfred Hospital Melbourne Clinical School Old Residents' Award in Medicine and Surgery for the Fourth Year.

Milton was a general practitioner in Verona for over 30 years. He also completed a residency in anesthesiology at Mount Sinai Hospital. He retired from private practice in 1990, but could not stay away from medicine for long. In lieu of retirement, he worked for Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital for 18 years, where, for over a decade, he held the title of chief of medicine until June 2011.

Milton was also an avid art dealer and voracious reader. He also loved to travel, listen to classical and Big Band music, and go out to dinner for a fine French meal. But, more than anything, Milton loved his family, especially his cherished wife and best friend, Linda Luria, to whom he was married for 36 years. Together they lived an extraordinary life, filled with laughter and love. He also delighted in his two grandchildren, Vivienne and Danica.

He is survived by his wife Linda; three children, Amy Luria (and her husband, Thomas DuBarry), Linda Kovaric, and Andrew Luria; his two grandchildren, Vivienne and Danica DuBarry, and his many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

## Enid Silverman Rudd, 1946 Actress, Playwright



Enid Silverman Rudd was an accomplished actress and playwright as well as a writer for television. As a young actress, she starred in the movies *So Young So Bad* (with Anne Jackson, Rita Moreno, and Paul Henried), and in *Crowded Paradise* (with Hume Cronyn). She also starred as Ophelia in *Hamlet* at the Cherry Lane Theater in New York and performed on numerous television shows, including the *Kraft Television Theater*.

After turning down a contract with Paramount Pictures in Hollywood, Enid became a noted playwright. *Peterpat*, which starred Dick Shawn and Joan Hackett, was performed on Broadway in 1964 and in several European countries. The play toured the United States under the title, *The Marriage Gambol*, starring Patty Duke and John Astin.

Enid's other plays included *The Other Side of Newark*, *Does Anybody Here Do The Peabody?*, *Rumours in the Palace*, *A Step Out of Line*, and *Dearest Cousin*. *The Ashes of Mrs. Reasoner* was produced on Hollywood Television Theater and starred Charles Durning. Enid was also a staff writer for the television soap opera, *One Life to Live*.

Enid was born in Newark to Pauline and Meyer Silverman. She lived most of her life in West Orange with her beloved husband of over 60 years, Judge Bernard Rudd. Enid and Bernie always had a home filled with family and friends. They had a wonderful life together and loved to entertain and travel.

Enid was predeceased by her husband, Bernard and by her son, Charles. She is survived by her son, Matthew, his wife, Jann and her grandchildren, Maxwell and Ivan.

## Harold "Hesh" Cohen, 1942 Newark Athletic Hall of Fame



Harold "Hesh" Cohen died peacefully at home in Springfield, N.J., surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Newark and also maintained a residence in Aventura, Florida

A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Harold actively worked in his own practice for the past 62 years as a certified public accountant. During his years at Weequahic High School (Class of 1942), he was voted All-City, All-County, and All-State, in both basketball and baseball.

Harold maintained membership at Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael, Springfield, and at Shackamaxon Country Club, Scotch Plains, where he was past president. In 1991, he was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame, and in 2005 he was inducted into the JCC-Metrowest Sports Hall of Fame.

He was the devoted husband of 66 years to Rita (Blumenfeld); loving father to David, Lori (Barry) Ress, and the late Bruce; and he was a cherished grandfather and uncle.

## Irving Newman, 1939 A devoted Weequahic grad



Irving Newman of Sarasota, Fla., died in November, 2015, after a long illness at age 94.

Born, raised and educated in Newark. Irv had previously lived in Verona, North Caldwell, Roseland,

and Long Beach Island, prior to retiring to Sarasota in 2008.

He graduated from Weequahic High School and after service in World War II as 2nd bombardier on a Flying Fortress B-17. Irv graduated from Rutgers-Newark on the G.I. bill. He was in the printing/packaging business for 60 years, spending the last 20 years as president of Newman Packaging Company.

Irv was a past president of the Jewish Community Center of Verona, now Temple Beth Ahm, as well as an author of a self-published book "*Living on House Money*," a humorous memoir.

He leaves his wife Bea of 68 years, two sons, Leonard of Los Angeles and Jeffrey of Cedar Knolls, and a granddaughter.

## David Horwitz, 1945 Organized Class of 1945 Fund



David Horwitz, 88, passed away in Sept. 2015. He worked in furniture sales, for himself (owned three Castro Convertible stores) - and then for Max Blau and Co. of Newark before retiring in 1998. He was

a veteran of the U.S. Army and was an honors graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University - late in life.

Dave organized the reunions for the Class of 1945, published a class newsletter, and managed the fund established by his class for WHS students

Surviving are his wife, Phyllis; sons, Ken (Sheri) and Alan (Barbara); daughter, Ellen Rose, and grandchildren Marli, Nikki, Alyssa, Shayna, and Michelle.

## In Loving Memory

Diane Benowitz  
Burkowsky, 1951

Norman Bierbaum, 1944;  
Zelda Brody Baum, 1945  
Howard Brody, 1950  
Kenny Brookman, 1948  
Harold Castelbaum  
Ken Carfagno, 1963  
Allan Chlowitz, 1962  
Dorcas Clark Crosby, 1969  
Sandra Gerson, 1954,  
Judy Davis Gross, 1961  
Herbert Goldman, 1939  
Nate Granger, 1973  
Marty Greenfield, 1947  
Sheldon Halper, 1953  
Eli Heller, 1961  
Larry Hirschorn, 1964  
Barry Jackson, 1972

Gloria Kessler  
Weber, 1944  
Richard Kivowitz, 1963  
Leonard Kriegman  
Richard Lazar, 1944/45  
Gerald Lechter, 1950  
Felice Lefkowitz  
Blank, 1952

Gale Leibenhaut  
Wolkstein, 1960

Sara Jane Lifer, 1952  
Arnold Lubasch, 1950  
Richard Maglin, 1957  
Melvin Marech, 1956  
James McIntyre III, 1964/65  
Irwin Bud Miller, 1945  
Tony Nobles, 1970  
Norman Panter, 1948/49  
Samuel Penn, 1940  
Arthur Perelman, 1945  
Herbert Perr, 1937  
Lenny Quint, 1950  
Helga Rose Franklin, 1944  
Charles Rosenblatt, 1952  
Paula Rudnick  
Polinsky, 1957

Morton Skoler, 1942  
Bernard Steele, 1953  
Jerry Stern, 1953  
Henry Warner, 1945  
Roberta Weiner Lazar, 1948  
Irene Weiss, 1950  
Beatrice Wetscher  
Sande Wische, 1945  
Jerome Ziering





## WALDO WINCHESTER ALUMNI NEWS

### Paul Tractenberg, WHS 1956



Rutgers School of Law professor Paul Tractenberg was awarded the Education Law Center's Morheuser Humanitarian Award for his dedication to the advancement of the educational rights of students in New Jersey's public schools. Paul, a West Orange resident, has waged court battles since 1970 to assure that inner-city public schools were funded as adequately as those in the affluent suburbs.

### Cynthia G. Pierre, Ph.D, WHS 1970



As Chief Operating Officer for the *U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)*, Cynthia manages all aspects of the day-to-day operations, providing leadership to improve the EEOC's performance and providing advice and assistance to the Chair in the full range

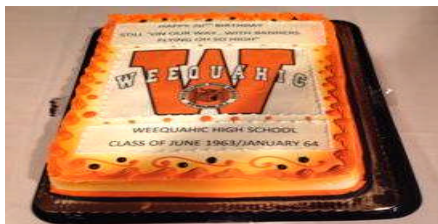
of operations including administration, policy and program development and execution. She has a BA in urban studies from the University of Pennsylvania; an MA from Antioch University; and a Ph.D. in public administration from the George Washington University.

### Richard Trechak, WHS 1963



Rich is an avid racing fan. For the past 10 years, he has also been an owner and a breeder of horses. He has had more than 20 winners, but he says has lost more races than he wants to remember. If you haven't already guessed, his stable silks are orange and brown and one of his horses is named *Indian Defence*.

### Class of 1963 - 70th Birthday Party



This past October, 50 member of the Class of 1963 collectively celebrated their 70th birthday at Rod's Seafood Steak & Grille in Morristown.

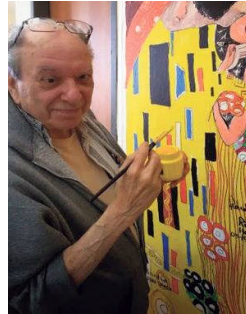
### Street corner named after the late Williams D. Manns, Jr., WHS 1967



In memory of William D. Manns, Jr., an attorney and entrepreneur, the corner of Court and Nevada streets in Newark was named *William Manns Jr. Way* on September 29, 2015. One of Bill's successful business ventures was the construction of the Nevada Court Street Mall, the largest project ever built by African Americans in the City of Newark. He passed away in 2008.

### Richard Hoffman, WHS 1963

On a recent trip to Israel, Richard Hoffman, an artist and cartoonist from New Jersey, gladly accepted an invitation to adorn the walls of a senior day care center near Sde Nahum, a kibbutz in northern Israel near the Jordanian border.



### Walter Alina, WHS 1949



Walter Alina, has received citations from the NJ State Legislature and Gov. Chris Christie, not to mention a place in the *Guinness World Records* and the state's *Inventors Hall of Fame*. His discoveries have made a major impact on things as large as America's space program and as small as the transistor radio. His accomplishments are even more noteworthy because Alina is a survivor of the Holocaust.

### Norman Barr, WHS 1954

On a trip from California to Weequahic, Norman Barr donated his Indian jacket to the WHS Alumni Association, which was accepted by Phil Yourish, '64 and Myra Lawson, '70.



### Talley Family Donation



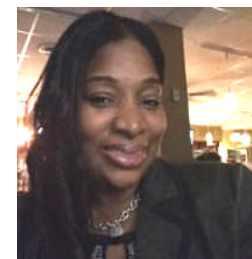
For the WHS Girl's Athletic Teams Charles Talley and Harold Edwards from the Class of 1966 presented WHSAA with sports apparel for the Weequahic High School girls sports teams on January 8, 2016. The gift was donated through Mr. Larome Talley, Controller of Wacoal Industries, a leading manufacturer of women's apparel. This was the sixth year of his generosity!

### Thanksgiving Day Football Game



Alumni Hal Braff, Harold Edwards and Phil Yourish with former Mayor Sharpe James, a South Side grad.

### Lisa McDonald, WHS Principal



Mrs. McDonald comes to Newark via Ohio where she was a science teacher, vice principal and principal and worked in the Cleveland Public Schools. She is in her 2nd year at Weequahic High

School. Her BA and MA degrees are from Bowling Green State University.

### Washington State Connection



J. Paul Blake, '68, (seated) and his wife Robin (right) recently enjoyed dinner and conversation with Michael Botnick, '68, and his wife, Susan in Federal Way, WA.



## **2016 REUNIONS**

**Sunday, March 6, 2016, 9 a.m.**  
**Florida Reunion - all classes**

Gleneagles Country Club  
Delray Beach, Florida

Contact: Ray Kirschbaum at  
(561) 496-6494

**Sunday, May 22, 2016, 12 p.m.**  
**Class of June 1951**

65th Reunion  
Maplewood Country Club  
Maplewood, NJ

Contacts: Sheldon Greenholtz at  
(973) 379-3200 / kjinc105@aol.com  
Janet Checkman Greenhill at  
(973) 379-5525

**Fri. Aug. 12 - Sun. Aug. 14, 2016**  
**Class of 1966**

50th Class/Community Reunion  
Weekend of Events

Contacts: Charles Talley (908) 753-1926  
Pam Scott Threats (973) 676-6964  
Harold Edwards, Sr. (973) 856-5039

**Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, 12 p.m.**  
**Classes of 1956**

60th Reunion  
Cedar Hill Country Club  
Livingston, NJ

Contacts: Jan. Class: Barbara Jelling  
Margulis barbamarg@prodigy.net  
Jun. Class: Ellen Ertag Weinstock  
etobyw@aol.com

**Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, 7 p.m.**  
**Class of 1966**

50th Reunion  
Grand Summit Hotel  
Summit, NJ

Contact: Sy Mullman at (973) 376-5929  
David Wright at (201) 214-8476 /  
dave7221@aol.com

*Weequahic High School Alumni Association*  
P.O. Box 494, Newark, N.J. 07101

**If you haven't done so, please renew your membership!**

As a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, your tax-exempt donation makes  
a difference in the lives of our students, school, and community.

### **ALUMNI STORE**

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Awards Trophy - Hillside  
Bragman's Deli - Newark  
Budget Print Center - Bloomfield  
Dominick's Pizza - Hillside  
FYI Food Service - East Rutherford  
Hobby's Deli - Newark  
DG3 Mailing Service - Jersey City  
Printing Delight - East Orange  
Robert L. Horn Accounting - Clark  
Schechner Lifson Insurance - Summit

### **WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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

#### **Staff:**

Myra Lawson, 1970, Executive Director  
Phil Yourish, 1964, Consultant

#### **Board of Trustees:**

Marc Tarabour, 1963, Co-President  
Tharien Arnold, 1984, Co-President  
Arthur Lutzke, 1963, Treasurer  
Ruby Baskerville, 1961, Secretary

Ayo Bajomo, 2009	Eleanore Ofosu-Antwi, 2002
Yolanda Bogan, 1988	Adilah Quddus, 1971
Hal Braff, 1952	Gerald Russell, 1974
Vaughn Crowe, 1998	Keith Salters, 1985
Mary Brown Dawkins, 1971	David Schechner, 1946
Harold Edwards, 1966	Charles Talley, 1966
Brian Logan, 1982	Pamela Scott Threats, 1966
Lisa McDonald, Principal	

#### **Co-Founders:**

Hal Braff, 1952 & Sheldon Bross, 1955

