

You Live in a Good School - Be Proud of It!
WINTER 2017 / ISSUE 41

ALUMNI CALLUIMIET



WHS WINS STATE FOOTBALL TITLE and goes undefeated at 12-0

By Jim Lambert, The Star-Ledger



In a clash between crosstown Newark rivals that was fueled by civic pride, Weequahic's stifling and opportunistic defense scored two second half touchdowns to spark an 18-8 victory over Shabazz in a historic backyard battle in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 final on Saturday, December 3rd, at Kean University's Alumni Stadium.

Leading 6-0 late in the third quarter, Weequahic scored two defensive TD's within 17 seconds. Senior defensive back Jahid Alexander returned

an interception 34 yards to the end zone with 2:19 left in the third, and then Ali Beh scooped up an incomplete lateral and ran 10 yards for the score to put Weequahic ahead 18-0 with 2:02 left in the third.

Weequahic, which finished the season 12-0, had six turnovers in a game that marked the first ever matchup between Newark schools in a sectional football final. Tyler Phillips had two picks and Ihmir Marsette also had an

(Continued on page 3)

2016 Alumni Scholarship Recipients - see Pages 3 & 4

1



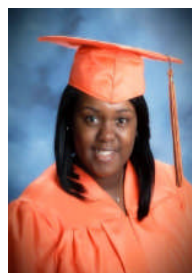
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Stone Fund

2



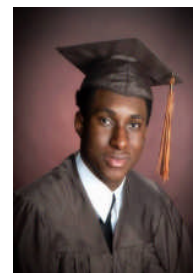
Navlene Vasquez
Salutatorian
Stone Fund

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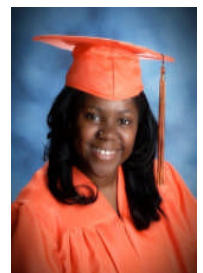
Tatitonnah Jacobs
Small Fund

4



Kelvin Adjei-Adusei
Class of 1965 Fund

5



Sajaida Carswell
Masin Fund

Deadline for purchasing bricks is May 31, 2017

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 scholarships 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.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW MEMBERS

\$99 one year Alumni level membership with a free Legacy Walk Brick (3 lines of text, additional charge for graphics).

To take advantage of this offer, please call the alumni office between 11 & 3 during the week at (973) 923-3133.

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

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
News, and NJ Monthly Magazine. Some of
the articles have been edited.*

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weequahicalumi.org

RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

\$200 or more

Class of 1960

Class of 1963

Class of 1956

Class of 1971

David Beckerman, 1943

Lenore Beckerman, 1949

Steve Bogner, 1966

David Fink, 1966

Dena Gittleman-Greenstein, 1964

Dana Gleicher Kissner, 1963

Judy Herr, 1964

David Horace, 1987

Arnold Keller, 1952

Warren Kessler, 1960

Lawrence Kirsch, 1956

Herbert Lerner, 1955 &

Dianne Prag Lerner, 1956

Maria Piacente Galeota, 1959

Patty Masin

Robert Masin

Warren Melamed, 1963

Howard Nacht, 1956

Sharon Price-Cates, 1972

Robert Russell, 1962

Gloria Shapiro Hastreiter, 1946

David Steiner, 1947

LaRome Talley

CHAMPIONS *(Continued from page 1)*

interception for Weequahic. Phillips also proved pivotal in the field position battle with two punts over 40 yards, including a 49 yarder in the first half.

The victory for Weequahic, which also defeated Shabazz, 22-8, in the Thanksgiving Day Soul Bowl, is its first sectional title since defeating Raritan 6-0 in 2006, and was its fifth appearance ever in a sectional championship.

Shabazz, which also made its fifth appearance in a state final, was seeking to win its second title in three years. Shabazz defeated Dunellen, 14-6, in the 2014 North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 title game.

Weequahic's defense, which held Shabazz to 192 yards of total offense, was the difference in the game

In addition to four interceptions and two fumble recoveries, Weequahic also made a huge defensive stand early in the third quarter when the Indians denied Shabazz a TD on five plays inside the 10 yard-line. On fourth-and-goal from the five-yard line, Shabazz QB Prince Olubakinde fumbled the shotgun snap and fell on the ball to give Weequahic the ball back on downs.

Shabazz got down to the Weequahic 10-yard line when Olubakinde lofted a 31-yard pass to Justin Johnson, which came one play after Shabazz's Cyrus Harbin recovered a fumble by Weequahic's Marsette on a punt return.

"Defense wins championships," said sixth-year Weequahic coach Brian Logan, a running back for Weequahic in the early 1980's. "Jahid (Alexander) had a couple rough games for us, but he's a big

playmaker for us. He was due for a big game and came through for us today. His pick six really got us going and the rest of the defense played lights out for us like they've done all year." Alexander said there was no way Weequahic was losing this game.

"We have been working hard for this for a long time and we were determined to bring this title back to Weequahic and finish the season undefeated," said Alexander. "We knew that our defense would come up big for us, and on that pick six I just saw where he was looking and took it to the house."

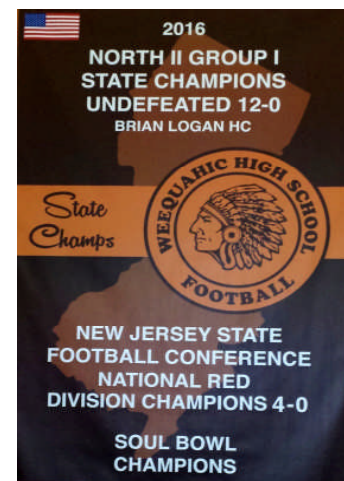
Logan, fighting back tears as he spoke, said being part of the first ever meeting between Newark schools in a sectional final is something he and his team will never forget.

"This was a great, great day for the city of Newark," said a choked up Logan. "I couldn't be more proud to be from Newark. We made history today. This is something none of us involved in this game will ever forget."

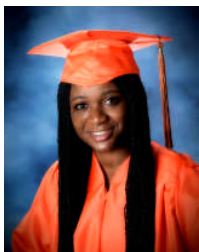
Weequahic nearly shut out Shabazz, but Shabazz's got on the board with 54 seconds left in the game on a 5-yard run by Nysir Smith.

Shabazz coach Darnell Grant, whose team limited Weequahic to 108 yards of offense, was proud of the effort by his players and honored to be part of the historic matchup.

"It was an awesome experience," said Grant. "We wish it would have turned out another way, but it is what it is. Both teams played hard. They came out on top and I take my hat off to Coach Logan and his staff. I'm happy Newark has a champion."



First Sandy Grossman Fund Scholarship awarded to Emmanuella Asare



In 2016, the Sandy Grossman Scholarship Fund was established. Sandy, a 1953 WHS grad, who passed away in 2015, was an

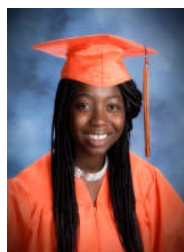
eight-time Emmy-award winning director of football, basketball, and hockey games for CBS and Fox television.

At the Alumni Scholarship Celebration Banquet in June, **Emmanuella Asare** was awarded the first Sandy Grossman Fund scholarship in the amount of \$7,000.

Emanuella, who was vice-president of her senior class, a member of the National Honor Society, and a participant in the Math Olympics, is attending Montclair State University. She plans to become a pediatric surgeon.

2016 ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

23 students / \$31,000 / 15 funds



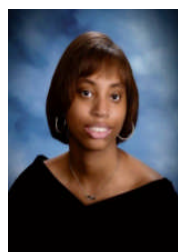
Jacqueline Abruquah-Ivanir
Class of 1963 Fund



Nathaniel Ageyman
Rous Fund



Sadaqah Balaam
Attles Fund



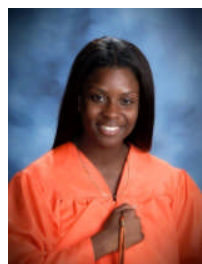
Towana Bland
Griffin Fund



Morissa Bristow
Litzky Fund



Jasmine Bruton
Attles Fund



Rebecca Cadet
McLucas Fund



Ibina Cooper
Jellinek Fund



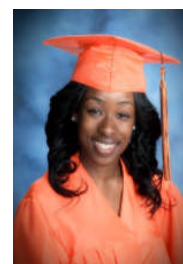
Jameshia Charlton
Attles Fund



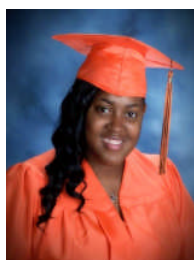
Zoria DeVaughn
Class of 1964



Khaia Diouf
Jellinek Fund



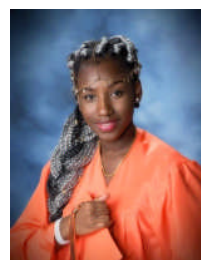
Dechea Howard
Class of 1964



Juwel Smith-Person
Small Fund



Keyshawna Smith-White
Class of 1963



Aisha Swary
Class of 1964



Isiah Wallace
Hastreiter Fund



Derrick Washington
Bobrow Fund



Scholarship Students at 2016 Scholarship Celebration Banquet

Weequahic band steps out in style

More than \$30,000 raised for uniforms & instruments

By Barry Carter, The Star-Ledger, October 11, 2016



All they wanted was to look like a band - and to feel like one, too.

On Friday night in Newark, the Weequahic High School marching band finally got a chance to experience the musical tradition of Indian nation. They had extra bounce in their step and played a little louder as they debuted new uniforms during a home football game at Untermann Field.

"We looked good for the first time," said Stephon Waddell, a 17-year old senior and trumpet player. "We looked like superstars out there."

What's the big deal? Why should we care about what a bunch of high school musicians are wearing? Well, those stylish orange and brown outfits - which filled the band members with pride and confidence - exist because of you, the reader.

I wrote a column last year about the dedication of these kids to stay in the band despite their less-than-ideal appearance. Many of you read the piece and opened your wallets - to donate \$30,000 - so the band could look like a million bucks and play instruments that didn't appear as if they were held together with tape and glue. For five years, they had resembled anything but a band. "They looked like a bunch of kids playing instruments walking up the street,"

said Darryl Taylor, the assistant band director.

After the official uniforms fell apart, band members wore track suits, then orange jumpsuits that resembled prison gear. Khaki pants and polo shirts were a little better, but they were replaced with orange hooded sweatshirts and brown sweatpants that quickly faded.

The band, however, stuck together and continued to practice - even when they hadn't performed in seven games. There weren't enough uniforms for everyone to wear and several instruments needed to be repaired. The students leaned on Taylor, who has been the force to keep them from quitting.

An alumnus of the band, his 29 years of volunteering shows that he cares. His commitment is a gift for band director Michael Page, who leads the music



program that steers these kids off the streets. Both men spend two hours, sometimes more, after school practicing with the young people, who also receive coaching from Taylor's son, Darryl Jr.; and his brother, Jamal Littles; and other alumni who were in the band.

When the story appeared, the Weequahic High School Alumni Association was stunned to learn about the band's struggles. Its members immediately started a campaign that gained support in a hurry. Joanne Williams, a 1984 graduate, hit up Newark bodegas, collecting \$1,700 on her own in a weekend. The Newark Police Department jumped in and the city fire department raked in funds at busy city intersections and highway exits.

One reader paid the \$3,000 bill for new drums and harnesses. The band also had appeared on "The Meredith Vieira Show" to talk about their situation. "Look at them," Williams said Friday night. "They look beautiful."

They were sharp. Gold and white plumes stood upright on their gold and white hats. Fastened to the front of their brown jackets, with gold buttons, was an orange and white overlay bearing the letters WHS. An orange stripe ran down the side of brown pants that stopped at white spats covering their shoes.

"These uniforms look so dope," said Nadiyyah Smith, a 17-year-old senior who plays clarinet. "Dope" is a good thing, in case you were wondering. Beverly Thomas, class of 1982, had a one-word review, too. "Fabulous," Thomas said. "I just pray they take advantage of this opportunity and take care of them," she said.

It's probably a safe bet that these uniforms stand a greater chance than the last ones, considering what the band has been through, and, for instance, Taylor's rules on what cannot be eaten when they are worn. No chocolate, no soda, no mustard, ketchup or hot sauce - and absolutely nothing with grease.

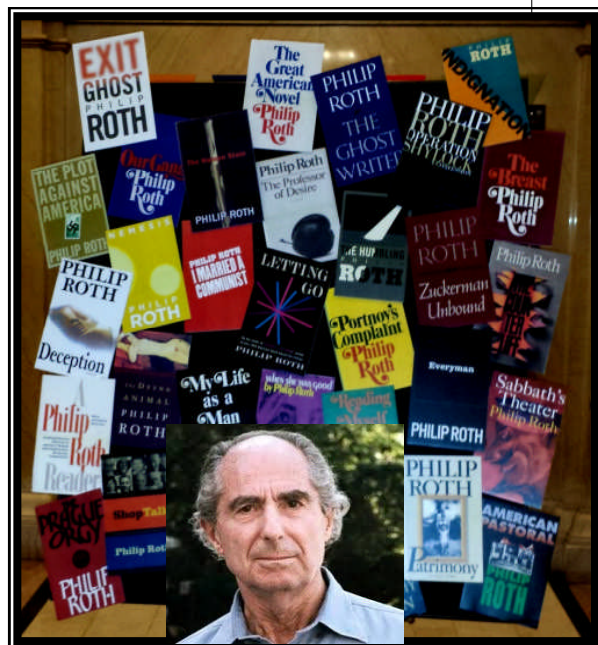
Taylor is so meticulous about their appearance that he is having capes made and looking for shoulder chords. He

(Continued on page 6)

Read like Roth: Author donates books to library

By Jessica Mazzola, The Star-Ledger

The volumes, many of which are annotated with Roth's notes and underlinings, have never before been seen by the public. As such, the library is planning an unveiling befitting the impact it hopes the collection will have on library patrons.



It is building a new second-floor room, designed by architect Henry Myerberg, that will be the dedicated home of Roth's books.

In addition to the texts, Roth is donating his custom-made writing desks, reading chairs and large refectory table. So library visitors there to read Roth's books can also experience where he read them, and where he wrote his own novels.

In celebration, the library is also launching the "Philip Roth Lecture," an annual public lecture series meant to honor Roth and his legacy. The inaugural event featured acclaimed British novelist Zadie Smith, who talked about Roth's influence on her writing.

He considered it "my other Newark home" when he was a college student seeking a refuge of learning and solitude, and now a literary lifetime later, famed author Philip Roth has designated the city's main library as the future home for his personal collection of about 3,500 books.

Roth, a Newark native and Pulitzer Prize winner, has given his entire private collection to the Newark Public Library, in a move that he said was partly a way to have the books preserved and appreciated by the public, and partially a way to say "thank you" to the city.

"My decision to locate my personal library in Newark and, specifically, in the Newark Public Library, was determined by a longstanding sense of gratitude to the city where I was born," Roth said in a statement about the donation.

"During (my) first year at Newark Rutgers, during the many hours each day when I didn't have classes, the stacks and the reference room and the reading rooms of the main library were where I camped out when I wanted a quiet place to be alone to read or to study or to look something up. It was my other Newark home."

"The Philip Roth Personal Library is an extraordinary gift that will touch vast numbers of people now and in the future," said Timothy Crist, the library's board president.

"Just as Mr. Roth found inspiration for his writing at the Newark Public Library, we know that his extraordinary gift will inspire others to do the same."

A 1950 graduate of Weequahic High School, Roth has often credited his childhood in Newark, and his time at the library, with fostering his passion for writing. The protagonist in his first novel, "Goodbye, Columbus," is a Newark Library employee. And Roth conducted much of the research for his award-winning "American Trilogy" books in the library's New Jersey Room.

"I'm 83, and I don't have any heirs," Roth told The New York Times, which first reported the story of his donation, as to why he chose to give the books away now.

"It's not a huge library, but it's special to me, and I wanted it preserved as it was, if only for historical interest: What was an American writer reading in the second half of the 20th century," he told the Times.

UNIFORMS *(Continued from page 5)*

ran around all day before the game, looking for white gloves to make the uniform as complete as possible.

Every detail goes a long way to achieve a certain look. In the stands, the band was poised and disciplined, their attitude soaring. "They're sitting like they supposed to sit," Page said. "They are aware that they are looking right."

The seniors couldn't wait for this moment. None had ever worn a uniform; some weren't even sure how to put it on. But now, they get to finish their last year in style. Brianna Bell, 17, soaked it all in, pushing past her bothersome sinus problems. "It (playing) took my mind off of it," said Bell, a senior and baritone horn player. "I enjoyed it." Everyone had a good time.

The football team routed Cedar Grove High School, 42-0, to stay undefeated at 4-0. After the game, the band continued the celebration. The drummers marched around cars stopped at a nearby traffic light. The rest of the band marched on the sidewalk until everyone came together at the high school entrance.

There, they danced their way down a "Soul Train" line. It took five years for them to feel this kind of joy, to feel like they finally belonged. *The truth of the matter is that they were legit all along.*

Lerners create new scholarship fund

The *Dora D. and Lewis D. Prag Memorial Scholarship Fund* has been established with a \$20,000 grant from The Herbert J. and Dianne J. Lerner Foundation. Herb and Dianne are WHS 1955 and 1956 grads, respectively.

For each of the next five years, two students, who plan to become teachers, will receive \$2,000 scholarships.

Dianne's mother, Dora, taught at Morton Street School and her father, Lewis, was a math teacher at West Side High School.

Living monument in need of salvation

Former synagogue and current church in need of major repairs

By Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News, June 15, 2016

With hopes that the “Jewish community is going to look at this place and see their connection with it,” a Newark pastor led a New Jersey Jewish News reporter on a sad tour of her church’s crumbling interior. Between its opening in 1924 and its sale in 1972, the stately round-domed and pillared edifice in Newark, designed by city architect Nathan Myers, was Temple B’nai Abraham, one of the major synagogues in New Jersey’s largest city.

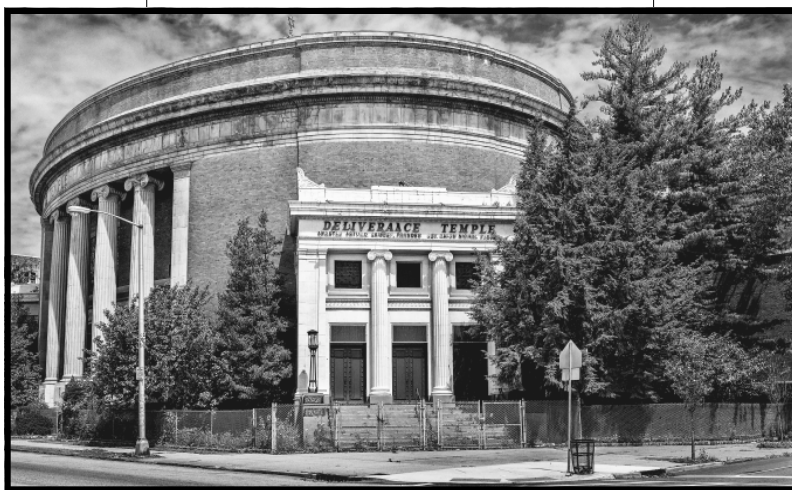
Since 1972, when the congregation moved to Livingston, the historic building on the corner of Clinton Avenue and South 10th Street has served as a house of worship of a different stripe: most recently the Deliverance Evangelistic Center, an African-American rotestant church, whose existence is now in jeopardy.

Its pastor, Dawn Nichol, estimates that it will cost \$3 million to fix up the building’s run-down infrastructure. As she toured the premises with *NJJN* on June 6, she detailed a litany of structural problems in dire need of repair. “There has been no electricity for several years. The slate roof has been a problem since the temple was built,” she said.

The dome above the sanctuary, topped with a stained-glass star of David, “needs to be patched up from time to time,” she said. “The plumbing is ancient, and the only way we can find out where to repair piping is when one part bursts. A lot of walls need to be sheet-rocked. You can see cracks in the ceiling that need plastering. The bathroom facilities in the main sanctuary totally need repair.” At least one inch of water covers the floor in the basement, and “to keep it from flooding we use a generator to keep sump pumps going. “It is an astronomical amount of money that is going to be needed,” Nichol said.

“Every person who walks through these doors is awed, despite all of the deterioration. They say, ‘Wow. This is so beautiful.’ They feel a spiritual connection when they enter.”

That connection dates back to its days as a synagogue that began as Orthodox in the mid-19th century, became Conservative, and is now a “traditional progressive” congregation in Livingston, operating independently of the organized streams of Judaism.



In June 1939, the Berlin-born Rabbi Joachim Prinz, an outspoken foe of the Nazis who fled Germany, became its religious leader. In the years to come he dedicated himself with equal fervor to the American civil rights movement, and invited the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to address his congregation on Jan. 17, 1963. Eight months later, Prinz introduced King to a crowd of 250,000 at the March on Washington, where the civil rights leader delivered his famous “*I Have a Dream*” speech.

Nichol said those moments and that legacy still resonate with her and the 30 senior citizens who regularly attend the church’s Sunday services, held in a meeting room serving as a worship space instead of the severely damaged sanctuary. As she stood near a showcase filled with memorabilia

from the B’nai Abraham era, Nichol said she and her congregants feel a strong connection with their church’s Jewish heritage.

The building was added to the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places in 2007. In May it was named one of the Top 10 Most Endangered Historic Sites by Preservation New Jersey. But neither listing guarantees the church’s survival.

Asked what might happen if her congregation cannot raise the money to repair their historic house of worship, Nichol said, “I’m not thinking like that. This place has been consecrated as holy ground on many levels, so I have no doubt it is going to be OK.”

She said she is hoping for “an interfaith effort” to save the building and is “reaching out to philanthropists and people who have a heart and understanding for the magnitude of buildings which offer so much to the community, as well as their historical meaning. “But we need help,” she said.

In a June 13 e-mail, Rabbi Clifford Kulwin, who has been religious leader at Temple B’nai Abraham since 1999, told *NJJN*, “The

iconic building on Clinton Avenue was our home for half a century, and we are saddened by the hard times into which it has fallen. We have already been in touch with the leadership of the Deliverance Evangelistic Center to see if there are resources we can help them secure and strategies we can help them explore to maintain the glory of this Newark landmark.”

“We want to open this facility to schools, because it is mandatory that we talk about the Holocaust and slavery and civil rights and segregation and genocide so we can be aware of them, so we don’t repeat them,” Nichol said. “This place would be very instrumental” in helping spread those messages,” she said. “It is a living monument. It tells a story. The walls speak.”

Gruning's

Ice Cream Parlor

For many WHS alumni of a certain age, Gruning's was the greatest ice cream parlor there ever was.

By Eric Levin, NJ Monthly Magazine, January 8, 2016

Mention the name Gruning's, and North Jerseyans of a certain age will exude wistful sighs. They will speak rhapsodically of the darkest, thickest hot fudge in history cascading over scoops of legendary flavors like peach, strawberry, mint chip and a vanilla bound for Valhalla.

Anyone who knew the pleasure of a Gruning's sundae - hot fudge or wet walnuts, always a tough choice - should be grateful that 16-year-old Wilhelm August Grüning arrived in New York from his native Germany in 1902. Becoming William and dropping the umlaut, he and a partner started a business making cake cones.

By 1914, Gruning and another partner had opened a confectionery in Harlem, down 125th Street from what would become the Apollo Theater. Fortunately for us, in 1923 Gruning and his partner bought an ice cream parlor in the Roseville section of Newark (Orange Street) that became the

first Gruning's. In 1925, they converted another, in South Orange village, into what became the Gruning's flagship.

The partner downshifted to manager; later his son came aboard and stayed for years. Gruning treated his workers well and even built a vacation house in Lavallette for their use.

The business grew to seven locations, adding Montclair, Caldwell, Plainfield, Short Hills and a famed hilltop location in Maplewood. Gruning outfitted his people's palaces with red leather booths, murals and mirrors, glass cases filled with handmade chocolates and granite counters with spinning stools attended by men in white uniforms with dark neckties. A luncheonette-style menu was served at all locations.

"William loved people," says his niece, Marilyn Schnaars. He delighted in greeting children, whom employees happily

fussed over. Teenagers turned their tables into clubs bubbling with giggles and gossip. Families slid into booths as if into royal carriages.

Maplewood, called "*At the Top*" for its scenic perch, was rustic. Its back dining room had picture windows and a porch with a vertiginous view of the valley below. On a clear day, you could see the skyscrapers of Manhattan.

In its heyday, roughly the '40s through the '70s, Gruning's was an empire built on ice cream and hot fudge. William and his brother-in-law, Henry Schnaars, for many years the head ice cream maker, cut no corners. From walnuts for the wet-walnut topping to Van Houten's Cacao Rona from Holland for the hot fudge, every ingredient was premium.

In peach season, they bought peaches from Georgia, pitted them and cooked them down to make the peach ice cream. Gruning's ice cream was 16 percent butterfat, a level virtually unknown in the commercial market until Häagen Dazs came along in 1960.

In the early 1950s, William's older son, Herman, a Princeton grad, left his position at the venerable New York law firm Sullivan and Cromwell to join Gruning's. This freed his father to winter in Florida, playing golf. William kept tabs on things, never fully retiring. He died in 1966 at age 83 while visiting relatives in Germany.

(Continued on page 10)



NEWARK NEWS

(Excerpts from articles in the Star-Ledger)

New President for the BETH



Darrell K. Terry, Sr., has been named President and Chief Executive Officer for Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (NBI) and Children's Hospital of New Jersey (CHoNJ) in Newark.

Since 2011, he was the Chief Operating Officer where he was responsible for clinical and non-clinical departments, as well as overall operations.

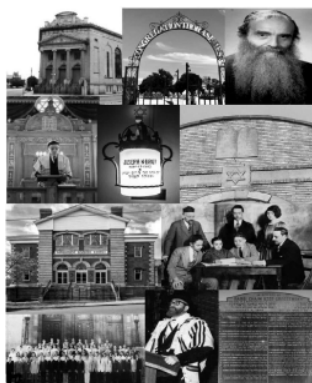
Mr. Terry has rendered 18 years of service to NBI and CHoNJ and one to the system, and has more than 30 years of experience in health care administration at three major NJ health care companies.

Mr. Terry has strong, personal ties to NBI. He was born at the 673-bed medical center, as were his brother and two of his children.

His work in healthcare advocacy has garnered him awards from Steve Aduabato's Stand and Deliver, NJBIZ Healthcare Hero Finalist recognition, as well as Community Leadership Awards from the National Council of Negro Women and the Jewish Renaissance Family of Organizations, and a Humanitarian Award from the Jamaicans Abroad Helping Jamaicans at Home Foundation.

Mr. Terry received his BA degree and a certificate in business management from Rutgers University. He received a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from Seton Hall University, a Master of Public Health degree from the School of Public Health at Columbia University and a Certificate of Participation from Harvard University's School of Public Health for Leadership Strategies Program.

The Jewish Museum of New Jersey Presents THE SYNAGOGUES OF NEWARK *Where we gathered and prayed, studied and celebrated*



November 27, 2016 to February 15, 2017

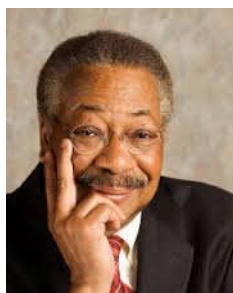
145 Broadway in Newark / jewishmuseumnj.org / jewishmuseumnj@gmail.com

On November 27th, The Jewish Museum of NJ opened a new exhibit titled *"The Synagogues of Newark: Where we gathered and prayed, studied and celebrated."*

Based on extensive archival research in partnership with the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, this first-of-its-kind exhibit presents information on over 15 synagogues (there were more than 40) that served as centers of Jewish life in Newark during the first half of the 20th century, when the Jewish population reached as high as 60,000.

The exhibit traces the lineage of each of these synagogues, their founders, their rabbis, key events, and the architectural features of the buildings. The exhibit is funded by a grant from the Newark 350 Committee.

Rutgers to honor late historian Clem Price's work



It is not only the memory of renowned scholar and beloved city historian Clement Price that will live on at Rutgers-Newark. Now, his work and scholarship will continue, as well.

The Board of Governors at the university, where Price served as a professor and history scholar for 40 years before he died in 2014, voted in December to create the "Clement A. Price Chair in Public History and the Humanities," in his honor.

The position will produce scholarship on the revitalization of Newark and cities like it, and oversee the Rutgers Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience, which Price founded. Since his death, the institute has been renamed in his honor, as well.

A Cardinal in Newark



Cardinal Joseph Tobin was installed on January 6th as leader of the Newark archdiocese's 1.2 million Catholics. He previously served as archbishop in Indianapolis.

Born in 1952, he is the youngest of 13 Irish Catholic kids raised in Detroit. He speaks five languages, has held high-profile positions in Rome and has traveled to more than 70 countries. He replaces archbishop John J. Myers, who served in that position for the past 15 years.

Son of the city becomes 2nd African-American fire chief

He grew up on the streets of Newark's South Ward, bought toy firetrucks as a kid at the supermarket with his mother, and played little league at St. Peter's Park on Lyons Avenue.

One of the South Ward's own, Rufus L. Jackson, became the second African-American sworn in as Newark's Fire Chief. Jackson, 45, will lead a department of more than 600 uniformed members as the fire division's 35th chief.

Jackson quickly moved up the ranks after joining the fire division. He was promoted to captain in 2004, battalion fire

(Continued on page 10)



chief in 2009 and deputy fire chief in 2012. He also earned the highest score in the state on his civil service exam.

"I am proud of this moment," said Mayor Ras Baraka. "That you are from our town, our city, this community, this neighborhood, these people. You are from here and it makes me feel good and warms my heart to know that we're able to do this."

A Carousel in Military Park

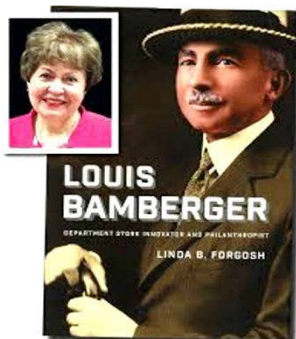


It's the history of the state's largest city, as told through 16 horses. That's the concept behind a \$450,000 custom-made carousel installed in Newark's Military Park last year - and funded by an anonymous donation to the Military Park Partnership, which completed a multimillion-dollar redevelopment of the historic park in 2014 and now operates the community space.

It features 16 rideable horses that depict real-life steeds and events that played a role in the development of Newark over its 350-year history. At 20 feet tall from base to finial, the carousel has nine sections, a 26-foot diameter and weighs between 12,000 and 14,000 pounds.

The design includes eagles and other patriotic mini-statues and mural panels depicting historical scenes. All of the horses - each unique - were hand-carved from original patterns and cast in fiberglass to withstand outdoor operation.

Book on Louis Bamberger



Linda Forgosh, an honorary WHS alum and the Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, has authored a book on the founder of Bamberger's department store in Newark.

Despite his significance as business innovator and philanthropist, historians of the great department stores have paid scant attention to Louis Bamberger.

This full-length biography will interest historians as well as general readers of Jewish history nationally. A companion exhibit on Louis Bamberger curated by Linda Forgosh is at the NJ Historical Society in Newark.

Hal Braff to be honored by Jewish Historical Society



On Wednesday evening, May 10th, The Jewish Historical Society of NJ will be honoring Hal Braff, a distinguished attorney and co-founder of the WHS Alumni Association, at its "Lasting Impressions" Fundraising Gala at the Crystal Plaza in Livingston.

Hal, a 1952 WHS grad, has been a practicing trial attorney in New Jersey since 1960. Since 2008 he has been included in New York Magazine's list of the New York Area's Top Lawyers.

Tickets can be purchased through JHSNJ at (973) 929-2703.

GRUNINGS (Continued from page 8)

Herman soldiered on, selling the last of the shops in 1984. "At the Top" was replaced in 1989 by high-rise condos called The Top.

Herman, 98 and lucid, still lives at home in Maplewood. His granddaughter, Amanda Hembree, 48, like every member of the family, still uses the German pronunciation, "grooning."

"I don't think I ever ate a piece of actual cake until I went to college," she says. "Because every cake was always an ice cream cake. Every birthday party growing up, we went to South Orange and got our own ice cream in the back, and the candy dipper let me sit on her lap and dip my own caramels."

Back in 1984, partners led by Jack Harkavy, a Caldwell real estate broker, bought the shuttered South Orange restaurant and the ice cream factory behind it. They reopened the flagship in 1985, using the ingredients and recipes that had made Gruning's famous. In 1990, they sold the property to new owners, who closed the business in 1991, ending the Gruning's era.

Well, almost. "When we closed, we donated several tons of ice cream to the food bank," says Harkavy, 76. "We sold all the equipment, except for a few things I kept for myself."

These included the bowl-shaped copper pots used to make the hot fudge. Armed with the pots, Harkavy, who lives in Caldwell, licensed a commercial kitchen to follow the fudge recipe that had been in use since at least 1985.

"People have been trying to make it for years," Harkavy says. "But it's the ingredients - which are very expensive, especially the cocoa - and it's how you cook it. That's as far as I'm going."



Though the fudge lives, it lives under another name - *Original 1910 Fudge Sauce* - since Harkavy has lost the rights to the Gruning's name. He sells it online for \$15 a pint at

original1910fudgesauce.com.

Two mayors, one fascinating night

By Barry Carter, The Star-Ledger, May 17, 2016

The road to Newark for Kenneth Gibson and Sharpe James was as interesting and similar as the men who became the city's first and second African-American mayors. They were young boys, four years apart in age, when their families left the South, like many blacks migrating north, looking for opportunity.

"Teachers cared," James said. "They'd yell at you, they'd scream at you, they kept you after school. You had homework, and they would hit you and throw things at you." The audience cracked up, but understood where he was going. "They treated you like you were their own family," James said.



Gibson grew up in Enterprise, Ala., but the family house had an amenity that upset his father's white employer in the 1930s. "The people that he worked for got jealous because we had an indoor bathroom and they didn't," Gibson said. Because of that, his father's pay was cut, forcing him to leave and find work elsewhere. When he settled in Newark, Gibson said, the family joined him in 1940.

Four years later, James' mother, Beulah James, fled segregation and an abusive boyfriend in Jacksonville, Fla. She packed up Sharpe and his brother, Joe, in the middle of the night with a plan to board a freight train headed this way. "Mother built a fire on the track, and the train stopped," James said.

In an evening of intimate storytelling and conversation last week, two of Newark's most engaging political figures traded tales at the Newark Public Library. The event was one in a series of notable Newark icons reflecting on the city as it celebrates its 350th anniversary. The discussions, organized by former Star-Ledger reporter Guy Sterling, continued through 2016 and some included WHS graduates.

On this evening, James and Gibson were entertaining and inspiring. They opened windows into their lives, shared the highs and lows of their mayoral tenure, and praised Newark's school system for providing them with a top-notch education.

The Centennial Room in the library was filled with men and women of the former mayors' eras, so they could relate to Gibson when he talked of his determination to pursue college instead of learning a trade, something many blacks were encouraged to do. "I decided that anybody who told me that I couldn't do something, that was the reason I was going to do it," he said.

James graduated from South Side High School and Montclair State University, then earned his master's degree in physical education from Springfield College in Massachusetts. He became a teacher once he realized a career in professional sports was not in the cards.

Gibson, analytical and scientific, started as an engineer after graduating from Central High School and the Newark College of Engineering. Both men, however, said they felt compelled to seek office following a governor's commission investigating the 1967 civil disturbances. This was a time when the city was in bad financial shape and its government was perceived as corrupt. Gibson, who was elected in 1970, said there were deep racial and economic divisions.

"What people don't understand is that segregation didn't just exist in the South," Gibson said. He said blacks couldn't sit downstairs in Newark movie theaters and they were not allowed into the private

Downtowner Club restaurant at Bamberger's department store.

James said black political leadership was necessary because it was practically non-existent in Newark. But one way blacks could change their plight was to get involved with the United Community Corporation, a Newark organization in charge of federal antipoverty funds. With the money, James said, the UCC was required by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to fund neighborhood programs and elect local community boards with officers to address local concerns.

Years later, at the Black and Puerto Rican Convention, more progress was made when local leaders put together a candidate slate with James running for the South Ward council seat and Gibson vying for mayor.

In four mayoral terms, Gibson said, he was proudest of creating health centers to lower Newark's high rates of tuberculosis and venereal disease, but disappointed that the quality of the school system began to decline.

After 16 years as a councilman, James defeated Gibson in 1986 and took over a city beset with crime and poor public housing. He reduced crime, ushered in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and built 30,000 new housing units.

Gibson and James had contrasting styles, but both were effective in office. Now that they are not, the two still have much to offer. The audience remained riveted for two hours listening to Gibson, his cadence measured, his thoughts methodical and humorous at times.

James' delivery gained speed with each idea, his voice growing loud to make a point. Fiercely defensive of Newark, James often wrote letters to The Star-Ledger objecting to stories he thought were negative. As a councilman, James demanded and received an apology from talk show host Phil Donahue for criticizing Newark.



(Continued on page 12)

TWO MAYORS *(Continued from page 11)*

Both men talked about their difficulties as mayor trying to meet the public's expectations, how they struggled with their vision to move Newark forward. Gibson didn't have a supportive council. James was more fortunate, but, he said, the council he worked with was politically astute and challenged him often.

After their time leading the city, each man had his trouble with the law. Gibson pleaded guilty to tax evasion in 2002 after bribery and fraud charges were dismissed. James, who was Newark's mayor for 20 years, served an 18-month jail sentence after a federal jury convicted him on fraud charges.

In 50 years, Gibson hopes Newark's educational future has improved. James is worried about the city, given the state of today's national politics and divisive rhetoric.

They had much insight to offer on their own lives, as well. James, 80, credits the perseverance of his 101-year-old mother for how he turned out. And he honors Gibson, his "hero," for leading the way and showing him the ropes.

Gibson said his path almost ended before it began. When just 5 years old, he accidentally swallowed a whistle that lodged in his chest. Doctors told his father he would die. But a Philadelphia physician managed to remove it.

Gibson turned 84 on Sunday. "How many years are left for Ken Gibson and Sharpe James to sit on a stage together?" James asked.

Who knows, but their historical treat last week was recorded for others to enjoy in years to come.



Newark City Hall

THEY CALL HIM MR. NEWARK

By Mark Di Ionno, The Star-Ledger, October 2, 2016

If Ras Baraka seems to be everywhere in Newark, it's because he is. Bagging groceries at the new ShopRite for a hunger drive. Handing out free back-to-school supplies at Abyssinian Baptist Church. At the St. Lucy's pulpit, promoting police brass. At the new Essex County Vo-Tech, swearing in a new police chief. He swelters at public pool openings, swimming in perspiration in his business suit. He walks the streets in his version of the Occupy movement - to show his face, reach out his hand and make residents aware of city services.

He once read his poetry at the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival. He reads the riot act to Port Newark unions about not hiring minorities. "He's always around," said John Schreiber, president and CEO of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. "He is present in the city. He's a guy who is dedicated, heart and soul, to what's best and next for Newark."

Baraka is there when the cameras are rolling, and when they are not. Every park reopening, every groundbreaking, every ribbon-cutting. At all these places, as speeches are given and plaudits delivered, the 40th mayor of Newark looks at times shy, at times bemused, at times tired.

When he is on the streets of the city in which he was born and raised, his eyes dart around to the faces of the people there to greet him, as well as those who are just part of the urban landscape. He shakes the dirty hands along with the clean ones. Sometimes, his eyes get fixed on some faraway point, as if he were daydreaming. He is asked what he sees when his eyes wander off like that. "I see all the things that are wrong," he said. "I see all the things we've got to fix."

For Ras Baraka, Newark is not a political steppingstone. He felt the lure of national attention as a teenager at Howard University in Washington when he helped lead the protest to remove Republican National Chairman Lee Atwater from the school's board of trustees. Thousands joined in. The big press - the New York Times, the Washington Post and TV - followed. So did the riot police. Atwater stepped down.



Baraka formed his own student "racial enlightenment" organization. He was a youth leader for the Commission for Racial Justice, led by civil rights leader Ben Chavis, who worked with both Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy.

There was no question young Ras Baraka could find a place on the national stage, but he came home to Newark. "I always planned on coming back," he said. There was the family enterprise to attend to. As the son of the late Amiri Baraka - Newark's most influential black activist, writer and the voice of black consciousness - Ras Baraka wanted to start his own like-minded legacy. "I was trying to be an activist, teacher, writer - effecting change in that way," said Baraka.

But he soon realized that "challenging power" might be better done from the inside than the outside. He ran for mayor against two-term incumbent Sharpe James in 1994. "I was 24, and I almost did it on a dare," Baraka said. "I was challenging power. Every time we rallied or marched on City Hall (as an activist), I thought, at some point, we needed to get inside."

So he ran for City Council twice, in 1998 and 2002, losing in close run-offs. But James saw Baraka's political momentum growing, so he pulled him close and made him a deputy mayor in 2002. Ras Baraka was inside. He became the principal of Central High School, the South Ward councilman, and then the mayor.

A NATIVE SON

"I'm the first Newark mayor in five decades who was actually born here," Baraka said. "Ken Gibson (elected in 1970) and Sharpe (James) were both from the South." And, of course, Cory Booker.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Baraka understands Newark can be rough on outsiders, be they developers, hockey team owners, police directors or mayors. Newark is funny that way.

Baraka knows that because he's from the city he gets a longer honeymoon. But Baraka, 46, also knows that nobody - not even Amiri Baraka's son - gets a pass for long. Newark is funny like that, too. It's his job now to turn around the stubborn cultures of crime, street despair and government incompetence.

Last winter's blizzard left Newark roads unpassable for days - a disaster for an administration promising better services. In an August department head meeting, Baraka was exasperated that he still didn't have a count of workable plows or contracts with plow companies in place.

'LET'S GET IT DONE'

At the same meeting, he showed similar frustration with condemnation proceedings of derelict buildings, which hamstring redevelopment. "I keep telling people, 'We're getting it done, we're getting it done,'" he said. "And two years later, now, we're not getting it done. So let's get it done."

The biggest issue, of course, is crime. As of Sept. 25, crime in the city was down 16 percent from this time in 2015, according to Newark police statistics. There have been 72 homicides, down from 76 at this time last year. Auto thefts were down 23 percent. Burglaries were down 30 percent and robberies were down 20 percent. A good start, but Baraka acknowledges "there is more work to be done."



Amiri Baraka, Sr.

The same is true about education and poverty levels. According to Newark Kids Count, an advocacy group that studies the health, education and welfare of Newark's children, high school graduation rates are close to 70 percent, as opposed to 63 percent in 2012.

The number of children living in poverty or extreme poverty is dropping, but the percentages remain staggering - 58 percent of Newark children live below the poverty line.

These improvements aren't substantial enough for some activists, however. You can find longtime activist Donna Jackson still on the City Hall steps each week, haranguing Baraka with the same passion she aimed at Booker over crime, education and lack of government responsiveness to residents.

CHANGE AGENT

Baraka knows change comes hard. And it might even be harder for him to force change because he's not an outsider. "People here knew me as a child. They knew my parents," said Baraka, whose mother, Amini, still lives in the city. But such engagement seems to be the growing strength of his first term.

His Occupy movement brings representatives of city agencies into the streets, with brochures and information on everything from job counseling to health services. He is usually along.

He holds monthly leadership meetings with kids from ages 10 to 18 before they are lost to the streets. He started the Newark Street Academy at the Marion Bolden Center, which offers GED courses and job training to high school dropouts. He created a Street Team program that enlists people of influence in neighborhoods to defuse brewing tensions.

"This has always been his thing, to cut down on the street violence," said Newark Public Safety Director Anthony Ambrose. "When it comes to public safety, he's second to none. He'll do whatever it takes to make the people safe, like when he (brokered) the gang truce (in 2004)." He has opened nine Centers of Hope, at which residents can find an array of



enrichment programs - from the arts to healthier living. Schreiber said NJPAC now brings programming and classes to these centers, spurred by Baraka.

"I think the arts center is much more engaged in the community now because of Ras' leadership," Schreiber said. "And he uses the arts center itself for how it was intended: to be a place of forums and gatherings to bring the community together."

Another institution Baraka has embraced is Rutgers University-Newark. Chancellor Nancy Cantor and Marcia Brown, the vice chancellor of external relations and governmental affairs, are on Baraka's short list of advisers, said Marjorie Harris, the mayor's press secretary.

"Rutgers is vital in what they bring to the table," said Harris, specifically citing the work of Rutgers criminology professor Todd Clear for the Safer Newark Council. The council is just one example of how Baraka has brought many city factions together to solve problems.

Ron Beit, developer of Newark's Teachers Village and the planned Four Corners Millennial Project, is a member, as is Larry Hamm, founder of the People's Organization for Progress, one of Newark's historic activist groups.

"He (Baraka) has the ability to bring dissenting voices together and find common ground," said Bashir Akinyele, a charter member of the Newark Anti-Violence Coalition (a history teacher at WHS), which was co-founded by Baraka after a series of street killings in the summer of 2011.

Baraka said it's all about getting the community to invest in itself. "Government is supposed to be responsible and held accountable," he said. "But the community has to be part of the solution."

(Continued on page 15)

REMAKE OF THE PARAMOUNT

Retired Newark teacher wages fight to save historic theater

Mark Di Ionna, The Star-Ledger, May 28, 2016

Carmine Cicurillo has two plans to save Newark's historic Paramount Theater.

- Plan A has him winning the lottery. "Then I'd refurbish it and build a penthouse on top, and live there like 'Phantom of the Opera,'" he said.

- Plan B is to get officials and developers to see what he sees: a majestic part of Newark's glory days. A community gathering place that could again be a downtown entertainment anchor, if only people had his passion and belief - and the millions of dollars he doesn't have. Cicurillo admits Plan A has a better chance.

But it would have to be a hefty lottery, the Powerball or Mega Millions kind. The theater is a wreck inside. Side doors pried open by vagrants and vandals left it exposed to weather. Last week, workers sealing an underground basement along Market Street offered to give Cicurillo a peek inside. But the floors were too rotted and strewn with fallen boards and plaster to proceed.

Still, it can be done, Cicurillo believes, so the 69-year-old retired Newark teacher can dream. And nudge. And nudge again and again. "Yeah, I guess I can make a pain of

myself," he said. "But I intend to hammer away at this."

He does that by bringing his "research" to City Council meetings and various Newark economic development offices. The research is in two shopping bags. Copies of articles, books on historic theaters, binders filled with more copies of programs and ticket stubs.

He recites the history of the theater in a stream-of-consciousness soliloquy: Opened, 1886 by H.C. Miner of Brooklyn as a vaudeville house. Sold to Edward Spiegel, 1916. Billie Holiday performed there. Jerry Lewis ushered there. "*Ben Hur*" and "*El Cid*" played there.

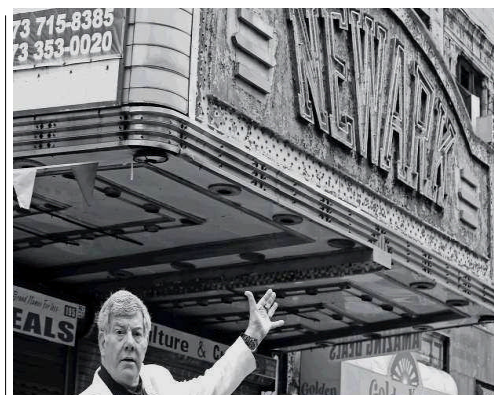
"There's an important history here," he said. "If this theater goes, the history of industrial Newark goes with it." That's the Newark of blue-collar and office workers at the turn of the 20th century, back when vaudeville was family entertainment.

All along Market Street, east of Broad, are architectural landmarks of the day. The nearly illegible rusted sign of Superior Stamp and Die is on one building. The Bonnell Building, built in 1895, is boarded up. So is the Spingarn Building. Peeking out from the gaps in the buildings across the street is the roof of the Prudential Center and the upper floors of the new Indigo Hotel. New apartments are coming to the Victorian buildings, with retail on the ground floors.

And not the kind of retail from the past few decades. Not chicken or tortilla joints, or bargain stores, where broken signs remain, atop locked metal gates and doors. That Newark history, too, is being shuttered.

The marquee of the Paramount, still intact, sits above two such armored doors. Dees Amazing Deals and an Afrocentric store called Culture & Culture are long gone. They were opened in the lobby space sometime after the theater closed in 1986 and didn't last long. On the marquee are "For Rent" signs, no longer applicable. Change is coming.

The theater building is in the architectural footprint of the Four Corners Millennium Project by RBH Group, which will trans-



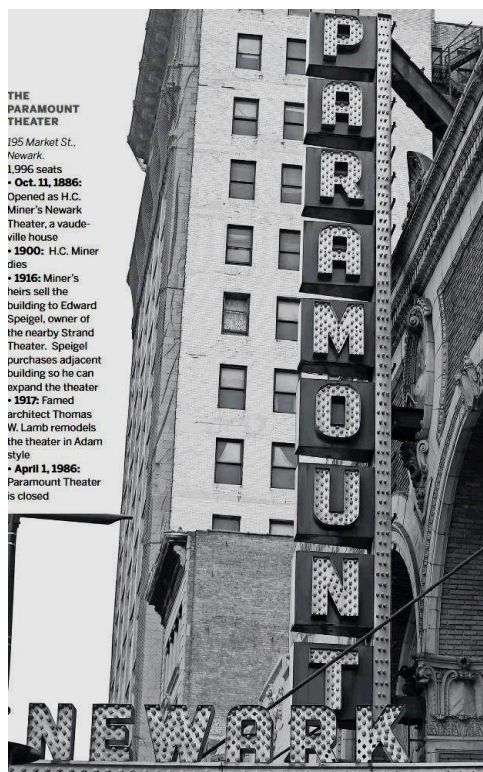
form the intersection of Broad and Market into something for the 21st century. Luxury apartments, a hotel, retail stores, but no theater. In all, it's a \$410 million project winding its way through the morass of approvals.

Cicurillo wants a renovated, refurbished Paramount Theater to be part of it. "This is the last of the great mother theaters," he said, naming those that are gone. The Lyric. The Adams. The Luxor. The Branford. "If this goes, it's all gone. We can't let that happen."

In his bags of "research" is a notebook with all the names and phone numbers of people he has tried to enlist to help, written in large letters. Liz Del Tufo - Mrs. Newark - the president of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, and a persistent, echoing voice of all that is good about Newark, historic or otherwise. Matt Gosser, the vice president of the group, and a professor of architecture and design at NJIT. Marion Bolden, former superintendent of Newark Public Schools. Councilwomen Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins and Mildred Crump. My number. Colleague Barry Carter's. Anybody who can get anybody to listen.

"His persistence is certainly admirable," Del Tufo said. "But you have to be realistic. No one is going to raise the money needed to renovate it the way it was and there's no market for it in downtown Newark, not with the Prudential Center, NJPAC and Symphony Hall. "If they save the marquee, that would be great, and that would be all I could wish for," she said.

For Cicurillo, that's not enough. "At the very least, they should keep the marquee," he said. "It says 'Newark' on the front. It's a celebration of this great city. But why can't we have a majestic downtown theater again? If people believe it can happen, it can happen."



THE
PARAMOUNT
THEATER
195 Market St.,
Newark.
1,996 seats
• Oct. 11, 1886:
Opened as H.C.
Miner's Newark
Theater, a vaude-
ville house
• 1900: H.C. Miner
dies
• 1916: Miner's
heirs sell the
building to Edward
Spiegel, owner of
the nearby Strand
Theater. Spiegel
purchases adjacent
building so he can
expand the theater
• 1917: Famous
architect Thomas
W. Lamb remodels
the theater in Adam
style
• April 1, 1986:
Paramount Theater
is closed

BARAKA *(Continued from page 13)*

It can't just sit back and blame government. It has to be responsible and held accountable, too. We've got to get in the trenches with them."

Those front lines are especially important in law enforcement. His effort to improve police and community relations has gained national attention.

After the Dallas police shootings in July, Baraka was invited to the White House by President Barack Obama to talk about Newark's innovative policies, which include meet-and-greets during quality-of-life sweeps, bringing clergy into the community on patrol and using social services instead of handcuffs on the mentally ill and the drug-addicted.

When Baraka ran for office, his opponents and many people in the business community confused his activism for radicalism.

FAMILY LEGACY

Perhaps his father's legacy contributed to that. But the things Ras Baraka values for his community - good education, livable-

wage jobs, safe streets, ample recreation, grocery stores, Main Street-type small businesses - are as middle class as middle class can be.

"That's what he wants," said Earl "The Street Doctor" Best, who has worked with Newark kids for decades. "He wants people to have a good life. "And, let me tell you, he takes it personally. We had a kid killed in a hit-and-run. Ras did the eulogy.

Baraka wants something else, too. He wants to add another dimension to his father's legacy. Amiri Baraka brought attention to the problems. Ras Baraka wants to solve them. "People saw my father as leftist or a radical. I have no issue with that. They were turbulent times," he said. "Now we are trying to create stability. We want to bring quality of life, quality of goods into the community."

It's a new narrative, but formed from old ideas and handed down from father to son.

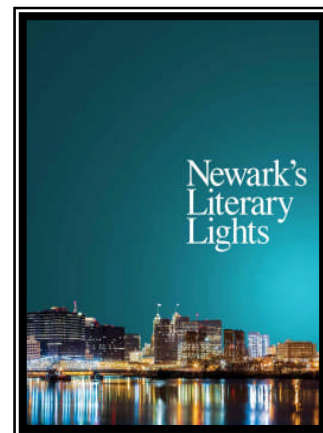
"For me," Baraka said, "the question is, how do we write an ending where we actually win?"



Class of 1966 Reunion - Jazz Celebration

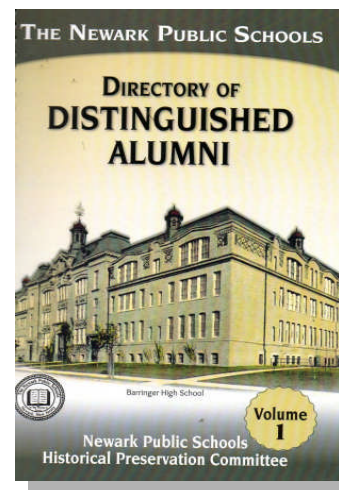


Class of 1969 / 65th Birthday Party



(WHS alumni listed in the above Newark Public Library publication)

Sid Dorfman-1937; Warren Grover-1955; Max Herzberg-Principal; James Oliver Horton-1961; Dave Klein-1959; Moss Klein-1968; Benilde Little-1976, Joy Magezis-1964; Sibyl Moses-1967; Sherry Ortner-1958; Philip Roth-1950; Jean-Rae Turner-1938; Sandra West-1964.



(WHS alumni listed in the above publication)

Janet Lippman Abu-Lughod-1945; Alvin Attles-1955; Susan Klein Bordo-1964; Sid Dorfman-1937; Ken Dychwald-1967; Muriel Fox-1945; Allen (Goorvitz) Garfield-1957; Sanford Grossman-1953; James Oliver Horton-1961; Sandra King-1965; Allen Klein-1950; Dennis (Mo) Layton-1967; Mort (Lippman) Lindsey-1940; Benilde Little-1976; Seymour (Swede) Masin-1938; Sheila Oliver-1970; Sherry Ortner-1958; Victor Parsonnet-1941; Milton Perlmutter-1945; Marquis (Bo) Porter-1990; Jehuda Reinhartz-1963; Philip Roth-1950; David Shapiro-1964; Margery Tabankin-1965; Paul Tractenberg-1956; Loraine White-1964.

Reggie Jones, former Olympic fighter from WHS, sees gold in young Newark boxer's future

By Barry Carter, The Star-Ledger, August 16, 2016



Reggie Jones, (L) and Shakur Stevenson (R) two honored Newark Olympic boxers

Reggie Jones sat quietly in the living room, his eyes fixed on the laptop live-streaming Olympic boxing from Rio de Janeiro.

He was watching Shakur Stevenson, as the talented 19-year-old Newark fighter carved out an impressive debut victory on Sunday. "He's comfortable and confident," Jones said. "He doesn't seem like he's worried about this guy."

Stevenson picked his shots, displaying poise in front of a hostile crowd. He dissected his Brazilian opponent much like another talented Newark boxer did when he got the best of a Russian fighter during the 1972 Olympics in Munich. The difference is that Stevenson won his fight. Reggie Jones didn't.

He lost a controversial decision 44 years ago that almost caused a riot in the Olympic boxing arena. Jones, a then-21-year-old Marine lance corporal, did everything right against Valeri Tregubov in their light-middle weight bout. He was in shape. He was aggressive. He cut off the ring, demonstrating how he did it before we watched the Stevenson fight at his home in Summit.

Reggie Jones, a former Newark Olympic boxer, lost a controversial decision in 1972 in Munich to Valeri Tregubov of Russia. Many observers thought Jones won the fight. He didn't sit down between rounds then, nor did he now. He was hyped up, ready to go for broke and keep the pressure on. Jones was prancing around, his fists clenched as if he had on gloves.

He's was working up a sweat in his blue suit. But no need to worry - at 65, Jones remains fit. He runs five miles a day, sometimes twice after he hits the road at 4:30 a.m.

He still has the robe - with the letters "U.S.A." embroidered across the back - that he wore in the ring, his tank-top jersey and the number 356 that was attached to it.

Newspaper accounts reported that Jones opened a cut above Tregubov's right eye, an injury that caused the bout to be delayed in the last round so the ring physician could inspect the wound. After the fight, Jones and Tregubov stood with the referee. And then the crowd went nuts when the official didn't raise Jones' hand. They began to throw stuff in the ring - a banana, a can, sheets of paper. "I dropped my head," Jones said. "I think a cried for second."

One newspaper headline later read *"Biggest Steal Since the Brink's Job."* Sixteen judges would receive warnings from the International Amateur Boxing Association that they would be dropped if their erratic officiating continued through the tournament.

Days after the fight, Jones received letters and phone calls, mostly from German fans, expressing utter disgust and sympathy. Some observers said he was robbed, but concerns about the bout would be lost amid the horror of a Palestinian terrorist group taking 11 Israeli Olympic team members hostage and eventually killing them.

Months later, however, the Olympic Boxing Committee gave Jones a good sportsmanship award for the dignity he showed when he didn't complain about his loss, hugging Tregubov in defeat. The damage was done, though. Jones' chance for a medal was gone and the decision overshadowed his incredible rise into international competition.

Unlike Stevenson, who's been fighting since age 5, Jones didn't get into the game until he joined the All Marine-Marine Boxing Team. Let's think about that for a minute. He graduated from Weequahic High School in 1969 and, three years later, he was in the Olympics. "I came a long way in such a short time," Jones said.

Jones won the Marine and all-Armed Services championships twice. He was the two-time North Carolina AAU and Golden Gloves champion before snagging a bronze medal at the 1971 Pan-American Games. Until his rapid success, Jones had only taken a few boxing lessons at the South Ward Boys Club.

And before he joined the Marine boxing team, Jones had merely mimicked his idol, Muhammad Ali, in his spare time. While stationed in Guantanamo Bay, he'd dance around the barracks, throwing punches in boxing gloves and boxing shoes he had purchased from the PX store.

After the Olympics, Jones spent eight years as a professional, taking on notable fighters Bobby Czyz and Mustafa Hamsho. His career, with a 16-9-1 record, ended in 1982, but he picked up a new one when he became a caseworker for the Essex County Division of Welfare, followed by 31 years with the state's Division of Youth and Family Services. About the time he retired in February, Jones said he heard about Stevenson, how he had a great chance of doing well at the Olympics.

Jones is thrilled that Stevenson has better than a fighter's chance to be on the podium, hearing "The Star-Spangled Banner" being played. Had he been able to meet Stevenson, Jones said he would have told the young man that before he left Newark for training camp. "I wanted to give him encouragement and tell him a little bit of what I went through," Jones said.

Editors note: In the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, Shakur - age 19, 5'8" & 123 lbs - won the Olympic silver medal as a bantam-weight for the USA, losing to Robeisy Ramirez of Cuba in the gold medal match.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Cecile Katz Fein

weightwatchers



A woman for the ages

Cecile Katz Fein passed away in June 2016. Born on July 20, 1920, in Brooklyn, she was the youngest of three children and raised by a single, divorced, working mother before single working mothers were acknowledged.

She graduated early from Thomas Jefferson High School, and was accepted by and graduated from New York University with a bachelor's degree in teacher's education; she also earned two master's degrees, one in teacher's education and one in psychology.

When she was just 16 years old, Cecile met Les Fein at a friend's party, and went home to tell her mother she would marry him. Not having entirely smooth sailing and several serious beaus during the interim, Cecile and Les were married on April 11, 1943. Being told she would probably never have children, giving birth to their daughter and son in 1944 and 1948 were miracles they treasured - especially Ceil.

She had a part-time job teaching at Caldwell High School, which she was particularly proud of. She taught sex education long before it was acceptable or fashionable.

Then she accepted a full-time position traveling among several elementary schools in Newark. She taught corrective physical education and health. Most important to her was testing children for postural defects and spinal curvatures.

While teaching, Cecile tapped into her special baking talent. She started baking cookies for Les' basketball teams when they won. The cookies were very special, so the teams were highly motivated to win even more than usual. Soon the teams were winning so many games that Ceil had to cut back and only baked for every other win. But she couldn't be more proud of those boys, some of whom came to call her "Mom."

Having fought the battle of weight, she took one day off a week at no pay to attend Weight Watchers on Long Island, and lost over 100 pounds. Following her success, she and Les bought a "franchise" (not really knowing what a franchise was) in 1964 in New Jersey and retired from teaching. Without any business training or experience, they built one of the largest and most successful single franchises for Weight Watchers in the country. They retired and sold the company in 2002.

Cecile was a woman before her time. She was a feminist before it became a formal term, a down-to-earth human being who had the uncanny ability to inspire others through word and deed and end up having them love her. She was a true "Mother" in every sense of the word to all she came in contact with, and made a dramatic difference in their lives without any fanfare. Instead, she showed a lot of selflessness, generosity, sharing, humor, and vision. She was the happiest person and her smile was always your greeting.

Editor's Note: In 2008, the Les and Ceil Fein Endowment Fund was established at the Weequahic High School Alumni Association by the Fein family.)

Norbert P. Gaelen

WHS 1944



Entrepreneur, philanthropist and art collector

Norbert Gaelen of West Orange, philanthropist, art collector, industrial engineer, and third-generation leader of his family



business, died August 10, 2016, just a few weeks before his 90th birthday.

Gaelen was a benefactor of the local Jewish community; his alma mater, Penn State University; and the Montclair Art Museum. The Gaelens, longtime members of B'nai Jeshurun, were benefactors of the Gaelen Gallery East and West, located, respectively, at the Leon and Toby Cooperman JCC of MetroWest in West Orange and the Aidekman Jewish Community Campus in Whippany. He was also a founding member of the Jewish Historical Society of NJ.

Norbert Gaelen (Goldstein) was born in 1926 in Newark, where he attended Weequahic High School. He earned a degree in industrial engineering from Penn State in 1947 and joined the family business, O. Berk, located at that time in Newark.

Norbert took over the company in 1951, when there were six employees, and led it for 59 years, changing and growing the enterprise to keep up with changes in the industry. A past president of the National Association of Container Distributors, Norbert was inducted into the Packaging Hall of Fame in 2003.

When he retired in 2006, his company employed over 100 people, and O. Berk had grown from a small glass bottle redistributor to an international packaging company with thousands of containers on offer, including glass, plastic, and metal designed to hold everything from kitchen spices to hazardous liquids. Today, his children, Marc Gaelen and Meryl Japha, are the fourth generation to run O. Berk.

In addition to his wife, Audrey, and children, Marc (Debbie) and Meryl (Ron) Japha, Norbert Gaelen is survived by his grandchildren, Jordan, Jonathan, Adam, Alex, Sara, and Hana, and his great-grandson, Henry.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Alvin Picker

WHS 1950

The Star-Ledger
sportswriter and
public school educator



Alvin 'Al' Picker, a 1950 WHS grad, passed away May 27, 2016. Al was a sportswriter and tennis editor for The Star-Ledger and a Newark Public Schools educator.

Writing sports for New Jersey's largest newspaper since 1946, Al covered all high school and professional sports throughout his career, concentrating on the rise of U.S. tennis, providing tournament stories, features and columns until his retirement in 2005.

He provided radio coverage early in his career and on-site coverage of Wimbledon, the French Open, the US Open, the Davis Cup, and other local events. He shared press boxes with journalist and television sportscaster Bud Collins.

Al received the New Jersey Sports Writers Association Award for Journalistic Achievement in 1997 and was inducted into the Eastern Tennis Writers Hall of Fame in 2011.

He also received the *Key to Newark City Hall* from Mayor Sharpe James in 1990 for outstanding tennis coverage. Al was also named Writer of the Year in 1977 and 1983 by Tennis Week Magazine and received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994 from the U.S. Tennis Writers Association.

Al was a voting member of the media for over 20 years in selecting the annual inductees to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, R.I. Many referred to Al Picker as the "*Dean*" of tennis writers and "*Mr. Tennis*."

For his entire career, he worked in journalism with his brother, Gene Picker, who predeceased him. Al was also an educator in the Newark Public Schools, finally serving as an administrator after a career of 39 years.

Al grew up in Newark and was a graduate of Montclair State University. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mrs. Anita Picker; his son, Michael (Debbie) Picker, and his daughter, Susan (Andrew) Lupu. Mr. Picker also leaves five grandchildren, Zachary (and Alissa), Daniel, and Shayna Lupu, and Jeffrey and Gregory Picker, and one great-granddaughter, Emilia.

In Loving Memory

Evelyn Albaum Greenstein
Ronnie Altuch Rauch, 1963

David Ash, 1962

Shelley Belfer, 1951

Carol Bell, 1966

Martin Block, 1942

Jay Bloom, 1950

Rosemary Bradshaw Paschall, 1970

Sydell Bressman, 1962

Joyce Brodsky Unger, 1960

Marvin Corwick, 1951

Frank Danziger, 1958

Diane Dargon McLean, 1966

Virginia DeRose Nesta, 1939

Joseph Dombrowski, 1962

Jaclyn Drazin Spinner

Ruth Ann Drill Eisenberger

Albert Dworkin, 1938

Jerome Fechtner, 1937

Ruth Feickert Gordon

Joel Fielo

Jerry Finn, 1950

Tom Flagg, 1967

Jim Freedman, 1952

Leonard Furer, 1958

Lester Fusco, Faculty

Murray Gaby, 1953

Charles Gelfond, 1952

Seymour Geller, 1939

Phyllis Goldberg Toland

Arlene Goldie Kravis, 1948

Donna Goldman Kibbel, 1963

Leonard Goldrosen, 1951

Gladys Gordon Blum, 1944

Rena Greebel Birnbaum, 1953

Natalie Haiken

Sharyn Herman Siefert, 1959

Evans Herman

Joseph Kahn, 1949

Edward Kaiser, 1961

Josephine Katz Nost, 1954

Florence Kaufman Epstein, 1954

Sandford Kepniss, 1960

Marilyn Klimko Niethe, 1960

Joseph Kleinman, 1952

Lynn Konecke Weinick, 1961

Rabbi Meyer Korbman

Larry Lasher, 1955

Julian Lewitt, 1949

Jerome Lieb, 1938

Gilbert Linn, 1944

Pearline Mallard, 1963

Ruth Marech Shipman, 1948

Jerome Marsh, 1940

Harlan Martin, 1961

Pamela Meadows Gadson, 1966

Barbara O'Boyle Wisener, 1956

Dorothy Panzer Kurzweil, 1953

Jerry Peterman, "Bunny Hop"

Lois Peterman Zimmer, 1947

Elaine Pirehesky Scheckner, 1946

Murray Plishtin, 1952

Morton Poznak, 1942

Harvey Rein, 1955

Irving Reingold, 1938

Jerry Rosenfeld, 1944

Stephen Schnur, 1963

Sylvan Sarasohn, 1947

Julia Scholder Tabowitz, 1938

Seymour "Babe" Shapiro, 1945

Larry Silberman, 1962

Jack Silverman, 1945

Murray Sklar, 1942

Marvin Solomon, 1956

Betsy Spiro Ochs, 1940

Seymour Spiegel, 1951

Seymour Stein, 1951

Sandy Tanenbaum Sternberg, 1956

Alverta Thomson McElvoy, 1966

Harvey Warner, 1952

Martin Weich, 1950

Susan Wildman Schneiderman, 1958

Richard Wilks, 1948

Sanford Wolfe



2017 REUNIONS

Sunday, March 5, 2017, 9 am

Florida Reunion - all classes

**Gleneagles Country Club
Delray Beach, Florida**

Contact: Ray Kirschbaum at
(561) 496-6494

Sunday, May 7, 2017, 12:15 pm

Class of Jan. 1951

**66th Reunion, Marriott
Hotel at Newark Airport
Newark, NJ**

Contact: Ed Goldstein at (908) 872-5948
edwincg142@gmail.com

WHSAA FUNDRAISER

Philip Roth's



SOPAC

(South Orange Performing Arts Center)

**Sunday
April 2, 2017 at 2 pm**

Tickets are \$25

They will be available for purchase
soon through SOPAC online,
by phone, or at the box office

*In support of WHS scholarships
and student activities*

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

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2017, 12 pm

Class of June 1957

**60th Reunion
Cedar Hill Country Club
Livingston, NJ**

Contact: Miriam Perlman Feldmar at
mfeldmar11@verizon.net

We Thank You For

Joining the Alumni Association
Renewing your membership
Donating to our scholarship funds
Raising funds for band
uniforms and instruments
Supporting educational
activities at the high school
Celebrating our state
championship football team
Buying a brick for our
"Legacy Walk"

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
Ayo Bajomo, 2009, Secretary

Ruby Baskerville, 1961	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
Cleopatra Jones, 2011	Charles Talley, 1966
Brian Logan, 1982	Pamela Scott Threats, 1966
Lisa McDonald, Principal	

Co-Founders:

Hal Braff, 1952 & Sheldon Bross, 1955

Class of 1971



45th Reunion