

WINTER 2018 / ISSUE 42

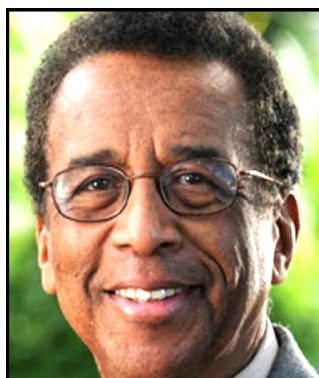
# ALUMNI CALLUMIET



## Dr. James Oliver Horton, Jan. 1961

### *History professor remembered as pioneer for African American research*

By Monica Mercuri, GW Hatchet, February 26, 2017



Family and colleagues say James Oliver Horton will be remembered for pushing boundaries and fighting to keep African American history intact. Horton, an emeritus American Studies and history professor, died February 20, 2017. He was 73 years old.

Born in Newark and a 1961 graduate of Weequahic High School, Dr. Horton taught at George Washington University from 1977 to 2008 as the *Benjamin Banneker Professor of American Studies and History*. He began his teaching career at the University of Michigan, where he taught history until 1977. He became the Senior Fulbright Professor at the University of Munich in 1988.

His wife, Lois Horton, an emeritus professor of history at George Mason University, said she and her husband met as college students at the State University of New York at Buffalo and were married in 1964. He earned his bachelor's degree in history there the same year. "He was a singer and had a band and I was on the cheerleading squad," Lois Horton said. "We were married for 53 years."

Dr. Horton and Lois Horton co-authored four books together, including the Pulitzer Prize-nominated book, *In Hope of Liberty: Culture, Community and Protest among Northern Free Blacks* in 1997. Lois Horton said they made memories traveling and doing research together on African American history.

"When we first started doing research together on the black community in Boston, everyone said 'Oh that's not possible, there was no community and the documents aren't there,'" she said. "So we took it as a challenge and managed actually to recreate that community from before the Civil War."

Horton served on the White House Millennium Council as a historical expert for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, traveling with her *Save America's Treasures* bus tour during her time as first lady. In the fall of 2000, Horton was one of two historians appointed by former President Bill Clinton to serve on the *Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission* - a federal committee that worked to commemorate Lincoln's 200th birthday.

(Continued on page 22)

## Newark school district expresses support for Weequahic

On December 12, 2017, Robert Gregory, Newark's Deputy Superintendent of Schools, sent a letter to the WHS Alumni Association announcing plans to reinvigorate the high school. Below are some excerpts:

*"The Newark Public Schools is about to enter and launch a phase of planning and implementation of the redevelopment of curricular programs and options at Weequahic High School to ensure it is one of the premier secondary schools in Newark."*

*"...In January, we will survey staff, students, alumni, and parents to gain a deeper understanding of the areas of improvement they would like to see, in addition to their preferences of programs of study and career pathways...Our goal is to create several college and career readiness academies...We are committed to providing the alumni (association) monthly status reports through Weequahic High School's Leadership team."*

## ANDRE HOLLIS

### *New WHS Principal*



Andre Hollis, who was born and raised in Newark and has over 20 years experience in education, was appointed Principal of Weequahic High School in October.

He began his career in education serving as a teacher-leader and school leadership team and technology coordinator for the Plainfield Public Schools and was named teacher of the year for Barlow Elementary School in 2001.

(Continued on page 3)

## SHEILA OLIVER

*1970 grad is elected  
NJ's Lieutenant Governor*



On Election Day, November 7th, Democrat Phil Murphy won the New Jersey governor's race, making his running mate, Sheila Oliver, the state's first Black lieutenant governor. She is now the second highest-ranking official in the State of New Jersey.

Oliver, 65, is a native of Newark and the first African-American woman Assembly Speaker in New Jersey. She has more than a dozen years of legislative experience, serving in the lower house of the New Jersey Legislature since 2004. She also served on the Essex County Board of Freeholders from 1996 to 1999.

A Weequahic 1970 alum, Oliver graduated cum laude with a B.A. in Sociology from Lincoln University in 1974 and was awarded an M.S. degree from Columbia University in Planning and Administration in 1976.

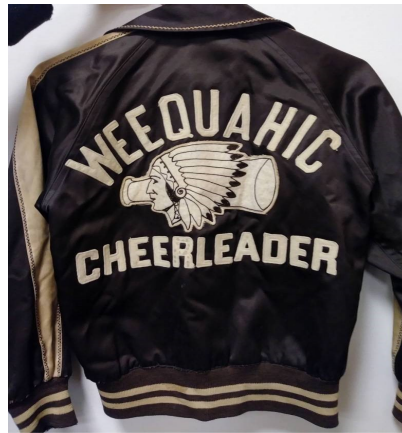
In addition to being second in command, the new governor announced that he will be nominating Oliver to serve as the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, a cabinet appointment.



## "Our Heart of Stone"



This past November 4th marked the 10-year anniversary of the passing of our beloved Principal Ronald G. Stone.



Paula Borenstein, from the class of 1967, donated her cheerleading jacket to the WHS Alumni archives. She was the captain of the cheerleader squad.



Purchase your inscribed legacy brick to be placed at the entrance of Weequahic High School. To order a brick, go to

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

or call Myra at (973) 923-3133

Installation is projected for

## ALUMNI CALUMET

is a publication of the  
WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor, Layout & Design:  
Phil Yourish, 1964

Proofreading:  
Dave Lieberfarb, 1965  
Myra Lawson, 1970

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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## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

COREY  
ROGERS

Class of  
2009



BEN  
WOLFE

Class of  
1955

## RECENT CONTRIBUTORS

*\$200 or more*

Steve Bogner, 1966  
Class of 1951, Class of 1958  
Class of 1962, Class of 1963  
Marvin Gibson Family  
Dena Gittleman Greenstein, 1964  
Judy Herr, 1964  
Jewish Historical Society NJ  
David Horace, 1987  
Warren Kessler, 1960  
Arnold Keller, 1952  
Janice Krusch, 1958  
Billi Marcus, 1955  
Patricia Masin  
Howard Nacht, 1958  
Neil, 1964, and Leni Salkind  
Pamela Scott-Threets, 1966  
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LaRome Talley  
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## LOCAL CONTROL RETURNS TO NEWARK SCHOOLS

A new chapter is beginning for the state's largest public school system. The state Board of Education voted on September 13th to end its takeover of the Newark school district and begin the transition to return control to the city after 22 years.

The move comes after decades of fierce battles with the state and boiling frustrations among Newarkers who had little leverage over their schools. Key in the power shift: The local school board will now have the ability to hire its own superintendent. Mayor Ras Baraka said: *"We now have control over our own children's lives."*

### NEW WHS PRINCIPAL

*(Continued from page 1)*

In 2006, Mr. Hollis was selected as the Director of New Horizon Community Charter School, a K-5 elementary school in Newark.

Among his accomplishments, Mr. Hollis earned a Master's degree in Education and Supervision from Cambridge University in Massachusetts, and a BA from Rutgers University. He was accepted to Harvard University's Principal's Institute where he trained alongside educational leaders from around the world.

A Vailsburg High School grad, Andre is one of the founding members of Black Nia FORCE, the Newark chapter-based organization that initiated citywide feedings and clothing, voter education and registration, cultural programming, mobile health screenings, and rental assistance.

Mr. Hollis has made numerous professional presentations, including workshops on establishing school and community partnerships, providing extra time and support for students, and integrating technology into education.

He has also served as a coordinator with The Coalition to House the Homeless, an initiative that provides overnight shelter to the underserved population.

Mr. Hollis seeks to provide the kind of leadership that will create a school environment that offers rich instruction, promotes the exploration of new ideas, and fully meets the needs of all students.

He feels truly honored to be the Principal at Weequahic and looks forward to new challenges and many successes in the coming years. Finally, on a personal note, his greatest joy is being husband to Jackie and father to 3 children, Travis, Danielle, and Adjua.

### WHS alumni reassured

By Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News, 11-29-17

After several years of serious concern, students, educators, parents, and alumni of Newark's esteemed Weequahic High School are breathing sighs of relief. The school, which opened in 1933, was once an iconic center of what was Newark's thriving Jewish community. But in recent years, and now with a predominantly African-American student body, it had been threatened with closing.

That had been the intention of Cami Anderson, whom Gov. Chris Christie appointed as superintendent of Newark Public Schools in 2011, at a time when the state government controlled operations of the system. The state returned operation of the schools to the city government in September, and Anderson resigned in June 2015.

Despite those plans, "we have fought it, and it is not going to happen," said Marc Tarabour, a member of the class of 1963 who serves as co-president of the Weequahic High School Alumni Association. "It was the activism of our alumni association that prevented closure from happening," said Phil Yourish, the retired executive director of the association.

"We had a presence at every single board meeting," Tarabour added. "Every event that had to do with the Newark public school system, we were there, speaking our minds." Alumni were concerned after the installation of separate boys' and girls' academies in one wing of the school.

Then rumors began circulating in 2014 that the academies would replace the high school entirely. The rumors "cost us dramatically in terms of fund-raising," Tarabour said. "Alumni have said, 'Why should I give you money when you are going to close?'" The alumni association has had more than 1,500 paid members, but in recent years, membership has been declining.

The school had been showing signs of being in trouble. When Tarabour graduated in 1962, there were 520 students in his class. In 2016 the student population for the whole school was less than 300. In 2017, however, it has risen to 360. Tarabour said the

immediate goal is to get the enrollment of the school up to 750.

Optimism set in after the state returned control of Newark's schools to the city this year. Robert Gregory, Newark's deputy superintendent for high schools, assured an alumni meeting on Oct. 18 that "the school is on its way to being upgraded," according to Tarabour.

Yourish and Myra Lawson, the current alumni Executive Director, "look forward to a Weequahic High School that has outstanding leadership, ample resources, a solid academic program, a caring staff, the full support of the Newark school district, and most important, a learning environment where students can be successful." Lawson added, "We are very optimistic. The whole climate has turned around."

"Tarabour hopes that a strengthened school will lead to a strengthened alumni association. "Our job now is to provide the dollars for scholarships and student activities. Right now, financially, we cannot do things like that," he told NJJN. A Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, Tarabour considers himself "a conservative Republican who is a very liberal person when it comes to education and other social issues."

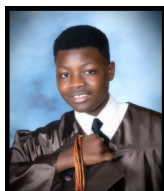
He said he believes the ability to get an education - "the most important thing anyone needs in this country - was taken away from African-Americans. The Alumni Association is made up of people who care about those kids and want to make a difference."

He views Weequahic's current students as "just amazing kids who have nowhere near the same advantages that we had as white Jewish kids growing up in the Weequahic section of Newark did."

The other co-president of the alumni association, Karim Arnold of Newark, graduated from Weequahic in 1984. A Muslim, he sees the interfaith and interracial cooperation at Weequahic as a model for how the world should behave. "There's so much fighting around the world with Muslims and Jews," he told The Star-Ledger in 2016. "We have been able to show how people of different faiths, different colors can work together."

*Editor's Note: The above article has been edited.*

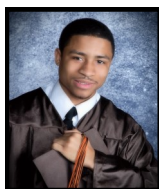
# 22 Weequahic Students Receive 2017 Alumni Scholarships



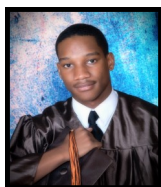
**Prince Abruquah**  
*Class of 1963 Fund*



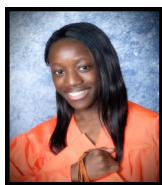
**Jahid Alexander**  
*Edwin McLucas Fund*



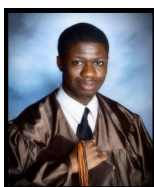
**Hassan Bouchet**  
*Ronald Griffin Fund*



**Isaiah Brown**  
*Class of 1971 &  
Charles Sarver Fund*



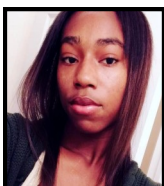
**Eloise Djilan-Yekple**  
*David & Lenore  
Beckerman Fund*



**Samuel Dwumfour**  
*Hannah Litzky Fund*



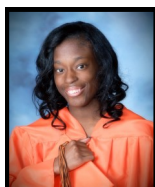
**Delainyiah Florence**  
*Reada & Harry Jellinek Fund*



**Zahniyah Heath**  
*Class of 1965 Fund*



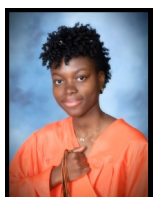
**Otavia Howard**  
*Walter Hastrieter Fund*



**Fabiene Jean-Baptiste**  
*Class of 1964 Fund*



**Chelsea Julner**  
*Sadie Rous Fund*



**Ayele Kassouagni**  
*Seymour "Swede" Masin Fund*



**Davionah Laberth**  
*Class of 1962 Fund*



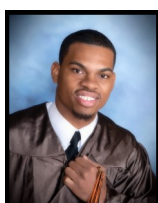
**Olivia Moore**  
*Nancy & Marcia Small Fund*



**Ghanee Muhammad**  
*Herbert & Dianne Lerner Fund*



**Albertine Pierre**  
*Reada & Harry Jellinek Fund*



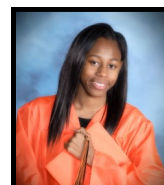
**Tymen Sampson, Jr.**  
*Class of 1964 Fund*



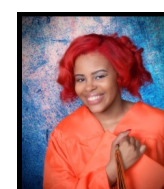
**Ihmir Smith-Marsette**  
*Marvin Gibson Fund*



**Philip Etemma Ukoh**  
*Nancy & Marcia Small Fund*



**Heaven Williams**  
*Ronald G. Stone Fund*



**XiAsia Wright**  
*Ronald G. Stone Fund*



**Ty'yon Foster**  
*Class of 1956 Fund*

## \$25,000 Awarded For Scholarships

At the WHS Alumni Association's Annual Scholarship Banquet at the Solid Rock Baptist Church in Irvington on June, 22 scholarships were awarded - totaling \$25,000. Also, \$6,000 was awarded to previous scholarship recipients that are in college. The keynote speaker was Corey Rogers, a 2009 WHS grad and alumni scholarship recipient, who recently graduated from Seton Hill University in Pennsylvania. He is planning to become an attorney.



# Hal Braff makes a “lasting impression”

*Alumni Association co-founder and WHS 1952 grad honored for devotion to black and Jewish communities*

By Robert Wiener, NJJN Staff Writer, May 18, 2017

Hal Braff credited his father with teaching him a valuable civics lesson: In 1946 during a minor-league baseball game at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, the hometown Giants played the Montreal Royals in a game that marked the professional debut of Jackie Robinson, who would break the color line a year later in the major leagues.

“My father wanted me to see what an amazing moment in American history that was, with blacks and whites together in a stadium,” Braff told an audience gathered for the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey’s Lasting Impressions Gala on May 10th.

It was a lesson that’s stayed with him all his life, and something he related to inherently having grown up Jewish in that era. Jews, like blacks, were judged by something “they had no control over at all.” The similarities showed that both groups “were victims of the same prejudice, humiliation, and torture, and death.”

Ever since his birth at Newark Beth Israel Hospital in 1934, Hal Braff has maintained deep connections with his native city, its once-vibrant Jewish community, his alma mater - Weequahic High School - and the African-American student body that replaced the predominantly Jewish one of his youth.

For his enduring commitment to Newark, Braff - now a resident of North Caldwell - was honored with the *Jewish Historical Society’s 2017 Lasting Impressions Award*

at a dinner and ceremony at Crystal Plaza in Livingston.

Over the decades, his ties to Newark’s black community - most notably with Weequahic High School students - have been equally strong to his Jewish communal ones. He was vice president of the Jewish Community Council of Springfield; served three terms as the president of Springfield’s Reform synagogue, Temple Sha’arey Shalom, during the 1970s; and was chair of the Springfield UJA.

At the May dinner, attended by 140 people, Braff’s two daughters, Jennifer Elman and Jessica Kirson, stood on the podium together, praised their father, and then introduced Hal’s son, Zach Braff, star of the long-running sitcom “*Scrubs*” and director of several movies, including the critically renowned “Garden State.”

“He cares so very deeply about his community,” his son said. “It has always boggled my father’s mind that the Jewish community that fled Newark for the suburbs so many years ago has allowed Weequahic High School to deteriorate into an environment where those kids who have the grades and the determination to go to college have no access to the means.”

To halt the decline, Braff teamed up with a high school friend and fellow attorney, Sheldon Bross, to found the Weequahic High School Alumni Association in 1997. The association has enabled hundreds of young black and Latino Weequahic grads to attend college with the aid of scholarships.



Demonstrating the comedic flair that was a major factor in his rise to fame, Zach said his father - at age 83 - “looks like a 55-year-old Hugh Hefner,” and “while most sensible 83-year-old Jews are lying back in Boca Raton playing golf, eating lox, and hurling their slippers at (White House press secretary) Sean Spicer on the television,” the elder Braff has dedicated his time to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and its scholarship program.

Taking a more serious tone, his son said people can “take comfort that there are people like Hal Braff making a difference in their communities...people whose sole gratification is hearing that one more kid who dreams of getting out of their unfortunate situation might just have that chance.”

Following a 20-minute video biography, the honoree came on stage to address the audience. Braff noted that when he grew up there were 70,000 Jews and some 50 synagogues in Newark. “It wasn’t really that we had so much in common religiously or politically, but what we did have was the sense of safety,” even with pro-Nazi, German-American Bund chapters in the nearby cities of Irvington and Union, and until the civil unrest of the 1960s, “we were safe there.”

He credited his late father, Joseph, for helping him feel comfortable both in and out of the Jewish community and for refusing to use derogatory language in reference to their neighbors. “He never ever participated in some of the ugly business - that ‘schvartze’ business - that we know Jews have done to humiliate themselves. Never.”

In addition to praising his father, Braff saluted his rabbi, Israel “Sy” Dresner, “who had the courage to travel to Florida as a Freedom Rider with ministers who



L-R: Corey Rogers, 2009; Myra Lawson, 1970; Marc Tarabour, 1963; Hal Braff, 1952; Arthur Lutzke, 1963; Elaine Braff; Sheldon Bross, 1955; and Rayvon Lisbon, 2007 at the “Lasting Impressions” dinner in honor of Hal Braff.

(Continued on page 10)

# The Synagogues of Newark

By Phil Yourish, WHS 1964, Vice-President, Curator, The Jewish Museum of NJ

For the 350th Anniversary of the city of Newark in 2016, The Jewish Museum of New Jersey, located at historic Congregation Ahavas Sholom at 145 Broadway in Newark, curated an exhibit entitled *The Synagogues of Newark - Where we gathered and prayed, studied and celebrated*. During this past summer, the exhibit was at the Jewish Historical Society of NJ and will be displayed at The Newark Public Library in 2019.

Based on extensive archival research in partnership with the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey, this first-of-its-kind exhibit presents information on more than 15 synagogues that served as centers of Jewish life in Newark during the first half of the 20th Century, when the Jewish population of Newark numbered more than 50,000. The exhibit traces the lineage of each of these synagogues, their founders, their rabbis, key events, and the architectural features of the buildings.

The installation consists of 17 large panels of Newark synagogues; a timeline of synagogue history in Newark; a chart of the 24 synagogue buildings still in existence; a chart of the current locations of 17 synagogue memorial plaques; a biography on Nathan Myers, the Newark-born architect who designed three Newark synagogues; a stained glass window from Rodeph Sholom on Clinton Place; and a Young Israel service plaque.

In addition, two slide shows - *The Rabbis of Newark* and *Jewish in Newark* - complement the installation. For the initial exhibit only, there were two large panels on the history of The Hebrew Academy, on loan from the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy in Livingston, arranged by Rosemary Steinbaum.

At the opening reception in November 2016, attended by more than 100 people, we were honored by the presence of family members representing six Newark rabbis. The exhibit concluded with the film, Joachim Prinz: *I Shall Not Be Silent*. Filmmaker Rachel Nierenberg Pasternak and Prinz' daughter, Deborah, were guests.


Individuals providing major assistance on creating this noteworthy exhibit were Max Herman, President of the JMNJ; Harold Kravis; Tim Lee, WHS 1974; Paula Borenstein, WHS 1967; Beth Zak-Cohen and Mark Gordon. Linda Lobdell was the graphic designer. Articles on the exhibit appeared in the *NJ Jewish News* and the *Jewish Link*. Our thanks to Weequahic grad Warren Grover, 1955, for his generosity and our appreciation to Linda Forgosh, Executive Director of JHSNJ, for her ongoing support.

THE SYNAGOGUES OF NEWARK  
Where we gathered and prayed, studied and celebrated

## ANSHE RUSSIA

ANSHE ISRAEL EIN JACOB, BETH HAMEDRASH HAGADOL,  
ISSERMAN SYNAGOGUE

110 PRINCE STREET  
224 WEST KINNEY STREET  
882 BERGEN STREET




224 WEST KINNEY STREET

Anshe Russia (People of Russia) was founded by refugees from Russia in 1885. It became the largest Orthodox congregation in the city. From its founding to 1900, it held services at a few different buildings on Prince Street and purchased a cemetery on Grove Street.

In 1901, it moved to a large new building on West Kinney Street designed by Newark-born architect, Nathan Myers. The main sanctuary seated 1,100 people. The basement, which was used for daily services, seated 600. In 1910, the synagogue had a membership of 200 people. The building was fully used, seven days a week, from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., with worship services conducted three times a day.

Hyman Brodsky served as rabbi from 1899 to 1923, a period of 24 years, followed by Joseph Konvitz for the next 13 years.

In 1945, Anshe Russia closed its West Kinney building and moved to 882 Bergen Street. The former was sold to the Abyssinian Baptist Church. Then in 1949, it merged with Anshe Israel Ein Jacob (founded 1884 on Mercer Street) to form Knesseth Israel at the Bergen Street address. It also appears that Anshe Israel Ein Jacob had previously merged with Beth Hamedrash Hagadol and Isserman Synagogue.




ANSHE RUSSIA CEMETERY ON GROVE STREET IN NEWARK

RABBI HYMAN BRODSKY, BORN IN BIALYSTOK, POLAND, STUDIED THEOLOGY AT THE FAMOUS YESHIVA OF VALODZNA. HE CAME TO NEW YORK WHERE HE BECAME THE RABBI FOR THE TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL AND FOUNDED THE HEBREW SHELTERING SOCIETY.

HE LATER WENT TO PHILADELPHIA AND SUBSEQUENTLY TOURS 35 STATES TO OBTAIN MATERIALS FOR BOOKS WHICH HE PUBLISHED IN HEBREW, LATER TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.

IN NEWARK, HE ESTABLISHED A HEBREW FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION WHICH PROVIDED LOANS WITHOUT INTEREST AND EASY REPAYMENT TERMS TO INDIGENT PERSONS. HE WAS ALSO A PART OF THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOUNDED OF THE BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL.



Above is a sample panel from the exhibit. In 1901, Anshe Russia built its synagogue, a significant edifice designed by Newark-born architect Nathan Myers, at 224 West Kinney Street in Newark. Herman Brodsky was the rabbi for 24 years. Abyssinian Baptist Church purchased the building in 1947 and has occupied it since that time.

## 1911 Newark Census

The 1911 census reveals over 70 percent of Newark's population is foreign-born or children of immigrants..

### Greater Newark's Ethnic Populations:

Italian-Americans	50,000
Jewish-Americans	50,000
German-Americans	40,000
Irish-Americans	30,000
Slavic-Americans	20,000
African-Americans	11,000
All Other Ethnicities	34,000

**TOTAL = 235,000**

By 1924, approximately two million Jewish persons had arrived on U.S. soil with 45,000 settling in Newark, which is dubbed the "Workshop of the Nation" by the national media.

## The Jewish Population of Newark by Neighborhood

The Jewish Historical Society  
May 1948

Weequahic	30,400
Clinton Hill	13,400
Vailsburg	6,100
Third Ward	2,000
Uptown	1,750
North Newark	1,500
Roseville	800
Down Neck	520
Downtown	330
	<b>56,800</b>

*Number of Jews living in Newark in 1948*





**Temple B'nai Jeshurun** - 1st Jewish congregation established in 1848. Above on Washington Street in 1868. Moved to 783 High Street in 1915. Left Newark in 1968 after 120 years. Now home to Hopewell Baptist Church.



**Temple B'nai Abraham** - 2nd oldest congregation started in 1853. Above built on High Street in 1897. Moved to 621 Clinton Avenue in 1924. Left Newark in 1973 after 120 years. Now home to Deliverance Evangelistic Ctr.



**Oheb Shalom** - 3rd oldest congregation founded in 1860. Above on Prince Street built in 1884. Moved to High Street in 1911. Left Newark in 1958 after 98 years. Also home to Adas Israel and the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Current home of the Greater Newark Conservancy.



Entrance gate at Grove Street Cemetery in Newark

## Newark Synagogues

### Adas Israel & Mishnays \*

32 Prince St., 248 Shephard Ave.

### Agudath Israel \*

112 Custer Avenue

### Ahavath Israel \*

209 Wainwright Street

### Ahavath Zion \*

153 16th Avenue

### Ahawas Achim B'nai Jacob \*

391 Avon Avenue

### Anshe Linetz

217 Avon Avenue

### Anshe Oestreich Unagarn / Tifereth Israel

269 Belmont Avenue

### Anshe Roumania \*

198 Chadwick Avenue

### Beth David Jewish Center \*

828 Sanford Avenue in Vailsburg

### B'nai Israel \*

608 Belmont Avenue

### B'nai Moshe \*

19 Ross Street near Dayton Street

### B'nai Zion - 545 W. Market St.,

\* 215 Chancellor Avenue

### Knesseth/Congregation Israel

882 Bergen Street

### Kehilath Israel (Brisk) \*

242 Prince Street, 152 Osborne Terrace, 100 Chancellor Ave.

### Kesser Torah \*

7 Bragaw Avenue

### Mount Sinai \*

250 Mt. Vernon Place in Ivy Hill

### Rodfei Shalom

337 Clinton Place

### Talmud Torah

182 Osborne Terrace

### Tifereth Zion

176 Clinton Place

### Toras Emes \*

79 Jefferson Street in Ironbound

### Torath Chaim Jewish Center

221 Schley Street

### Young Israel \*

181 Weequahic Avenue

### Zichron Moishe \*

927 Bergen Street

• Extant building / The above is not a complete list.

## Selected Rabbis of Newark



### Meyer Blumenfeld

Agudath Israel,  
Ahavath Zion



### Hyman Brodsky

Anshe Russia



### Mordecai Ehrenkranz

Ahavath Israel



### Herman Kahan

Torath Chaim  
Jewish Center



### Louis Levitsky

Oheb Shalom



### Joachim Prinz

B'nai Abraham



### Zev Segal

Young Israel



### Saul Zin

Kesser Torah



### Samuel Bogmilsky

Mount Sinai -  
since 1964



### Hershel Cohen

Ahawas Achim  
B'nai Jacob



### Shalom B. Gordon

Ahavath Zion



### Oscar Kline

B'nai Zion



### Ely Pilchik

B'nai Jeshurun



### Israel Turner

Adas Israel,  
Cong. Israel



### Louis Weller

Kehilath Israel  
(Brisk)

**Ahavas Sholom**, founded in 1905 as an orthodox congregation, is Newark's only surviving synagogue.

Originally established for Jewish merchants in the area, the synagogue is now conservative egalitarian. Active with a growing congregation, it houses the oldest known Holy Ark in NJ and a Jewish museum. The building, built in the early 1920s, is an historic landmark.

With a mission of *tikun olam*, it has built two public school playgrounds in the city and provides support for a Jewish community in Uganda.

## The miracle at 145 Broadway



## SYNAGOGUES OF NEWARK

(Continued from page 6)

### Nathan Myers - Architect of Three Major Synagogues in Newark



Newark-born architect **Nathan Myers** designed three major synagogues in Newark: **Anshe Russia**, **B'nai Abraham**, and **Ahavath Zion**. Born on February 25, 1875, he received his early education in the Newark public schools.

A graduate of Cornell University's College of Architecture in three years, Myers opened an office at 24 Walnut Street and proceeded to establish a stellar reputation as a master architect. He lived his entire life in the city of Newark.



Daniel Neuspiel's Bar Mitzvah in 1965 at Ahavath Israel (Wainwright Street Shul).



A stained-glass window from Rodfei Shalom (Clinton Place near Lyons Avenue) donated to the Jewish Historical Society of NJ by Donald Kalfus, WHS 1958.

## The legacy of Jewish life in Newark lives on in Israel

By Aharon Bejell, born in Newark, now residing in Israel

Close to fifty years ago, and after more than a hundred years of active communal life, the presence of Jewish communities in Newark came to an end by the 1970s. This was a glorious period for the Jews of Newark as they made significant contributions to the cultural and economic development of the city.

### A unique path forward

Many of the synagogues in Newark, which were the centerpieces of these communities, relocated or merged with others, and found their places in new surroundings, in neighboring towns outside of Newark. However, one of them, Congregation Kehilath Israel, known to many as the "*Brisk shul*" at 100 Chancellor Avenue and other previous addresses, chose a unique path for the future of its communal energies.

The affiliation of the congregation's membership was Orthodox, Religious Zionists. Their love and dedication to the building of Israel and fostering the Jewish state was boundless. With all this in mind, the board of directors decided to sell the synagogue building and send the proceeds to build a synagogue and yeshiva study center in Israel. A committee was formed around 1970 and sent to Israel to meet with government officials to discuss the options available for this venture.

### Donating their assets

The committee presented their findings to the board upon return, and a decision was made to create a partnership with the recently founded **Yeshivat Har Etzion** in Alon Shvut, Gush Etzion. The yeshiva was housed then in temporary facilities and was in search of



partners to give it the opportunity to expand and create the environment for educating generations of students, dedicated to the Torah and the Jewish people.

### The dedication of a yeshiva in Israel

The sale went through and the funds were transferred to the yeshiva to build its permanent synagogue and study center. The center was opened in the spring of 1977, and on March 21st there was a festive dedication ceremony, which I attended, in the presence of the President of Israel, the Chief Rabbis of Israel, the founding heads of the Yeshiva, and members of the board of Kehilath Israel. Sam Stein, the long-time president of Kehilath Israel, was a keynote speaker at the event.

As part of this unique partnership, the yeshiva committed to help preserve the heritage of the Newark Jewish community. At the entrance to the yeshiva's center there is a large sign recognizing Kehilath Israel of Newark and its generous support for constructing this building. Also, all the memorial plaques and silver Torah ornaments and other items which had been moved from the synagogue in Newark were put on perpetual display at the yeshiva's campus.

(Continued on page 8)

### The evolution of the "*Brisk shul*" - founded in 1895

L-R: Brisk D'Lita at 242 Prince Street (1895) became Brisk Beth Joseph Lev Tov (1946) at 282 Osborne Terrace, and then Kehilath Israel (1962) at 100 Chancellor Avenue. These buildings eventually became Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Zion Baptist Church, and Good Neighbor Baptist Church.







Kehilath Israel represents much more of the history of the Jews of Newark than its actual membership at the time of its closure. This congregation was a conglomeration of a number of other synagogues which had reorganized to keep Jewish life active in the Weequahic section of Newark.

The silver Torah ornaments displayed at Yeshivat Har Etzion attest to this with the names of the individual congregations engraved on them. Some of them go back as far as the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

#### **The desert continues to blossom**

The yeshiva is now about to enter its 50th year with an amazing record of accomplishments. The dreams of the founders, which the leaders of Kehilath Israel

connected with more than 45 years ago, have been fulfilled.

The yeshiva has evolved into a very important Torah educational institution, continuing to make its mark on Israeli society and serving the needs of Jewish communities worldwide.

With a current student body of more than 450 students, mostly Israeli and about 25% foreign students, the study hall is abuzz from morning till late night with young men deeply engaged with the Torah, its teachings and traditions.

#### **An honor to be telling this story**

I have been connected with Yeshivat Har Etzion for almost 42 years - first as a student, and for the past 35 years as the director of the yeshiva's grand Torah and Judaica library, where the Torah ornaments are preserved.

When I think back to my youth, and my decision to study in this yeshiva, I can't but relate that decision to my viewing this institution as a continuation of my roots in Newark and its Jewish communities. It's amazing for me to contemplate how what the yeshiva is today is greatly due to the living energies of the Jews of Newark, and their trust that their drive for Jewish continuity would be nurtured there.

It is so gratifying to know that the yeshiva also continues to serve the Jews of greater New Jersey. Hundreds of our alumni have come from Jewish schools and communities in New Jersey - and many serve as educators and rabbis throughout the state.

#### **Returning home to Newark**

I recently met with Phil Yourish, the founding director of your alumni association and vice-president of the Jewish Museum of Newark, and we are now partnering to revive the connection between the yeshiva and the heritage of the Jews of Newark.

He also provided my wife and me, and my cousin Howard Mandelbaum, (WHS'58), with a tour of Ahavas Sholom in Newark and the *Synagogues of Newark* exhibit that was installed this summer at the Jewish Historical Society of NJ.

Some of you may have memorabilia of Congregation Kehilath Israel or personal stories and family history relating to it. If you are able to share them with us, please contact Phil at [philyourish@gmail.com](mailto:philyourish@gmail.com).

This will help us enrich the archives at the Jewish Historical Society of NJ and strengthen the bond between Yeshivat Har Etzion and the Jewish communities of New Jersey.

### *In Loving Memory*

#### **Jack Korbman, 1954 Cantor, Newark Educator**



Jack Korbman, a cantor for 55 years at four synagogues and a Newark educator for 34 years, passed away on Oct. 8, 2017. Born to Rabbi Abraham and Celia Korbman of Newark on March 30,

1936, Jack graduated from Weequahic High School in 1954 and earned a BA degree from Upsala College and a MA from Seton Hall University.

He retired as an administrator in the Newark Public Schools in 1998 and as cantor of Adath Shalom in Morris Plains after 30 years in 2015, when he and his wife, Barbara, sold their Livingston home and moved to Boynton Beach, Fla.

Surviving are his wife Barbara (nee Kopf); sons Jeffrey (Dana) and Barry (Melinda); stepson Mark Jiorle (Amy); brother Harry; grandchildren Aviva, Sam, Aaron, Hannah,

Sammy, and Shayna; and sister-in-law Mildred Korbman. He was predeceased by his brother Rabbi Meyer Korbman.

#### **Fred Rosenberg, Jan. 1948 Public Relations, Photography, Navy**



Frederick Martin Rosenberg passed away at age 87 in October 2017. Fred was born into a modest family with strong roots in Newark. His father, Abraham, was the owner and pharmacist

of Eckert's Pharmacy on Ferry Street in the Ironbound section of Newark, while his mother, Ida, when not caring for her three children, was a staple at the storefront.

An inherently impish child with a compassionate nature, Fred made a big impact on all those that he encountered, a constant throughout his life. He attended Weequahic High School, where he starred on the football team, playing offense and defense.

After graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. While in the Navy, Fred kept his

love of sports kindled as a boxer, but it was here that he developed his love of literature and photography that would shape much of his life.

Following service, he accepted a football scholarship at Upsala College, and starred on the varsity football team. After college came graduate studies at Rutgers, marriage to his beloved wife, Frances, and an entry level advertising job.

Fred owned his own advertising and PR agencies and spent much of his spare time as a creative and journalistic photographer, armed with his Leica M3. His pictures captured hardscrabble street life, politicians (JFK, Eisenhower) and artists (Allen Ginsburg, Ornette Coleman) of the day. His photography has been displayed at the National Arts Club in New York and is on permanent display at several museums.

Surviving are his wife, Frances; children Jane Saidenberg and Glenn Rosenberg; grandchildren, Lucas and Nicholas Saidenberg, Isabela Betances and Jack Rosenberg; his older brother and sister-in-law, Jerome and Lee Rosenberg, and his son and daughter-in-law, Andrew Saidenberg and Leah Hill.

## BRAFF *(Continued from page 5)*

were black and white” in 1964. They were jailed in Tallahassee, and it taught Braff that being a Jew means more than just religious observance. “Going to services was not sufficient,” Braff said. “There is a lot more to it. Make the world a better place. That is your responsibility.”

Another strong influence, he said, was the late Robert Curvin, co-founder of the Newark chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality. Together, they worked to desegregate the public golf course in East Orange and integrate the once lily-white construction unions in New Jersey.

Braff said the racism in the United States is a “cancer.” “Just as I would have been prejudiced against as a Jew in Germany, [African-Americans] - good people - have been prejudiced against in my country.” He pointed out that since the late 1960s,

most students at Weequahic High School “grow up without any contact with the white kids who are the same age, and are the same people.” Beyond its scholarship fund, Braff said the association “brings a Jewish presence into the school” and has given “hundreds and hundreds of kids the opportunity to become what we have become.”

Two of those alumni joined in saluting Braff onstage. One was Cory Rogers, a Weequahic graduate who received a bachelor’s degree at in psychology at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Penn. and a master’s in public administration at Seton Hall University in South Orange. He is now working as a mental health advocate at Catholic Charities in Newark.

Rogers joked that after being part of the evening’s predominantly Jewish audience he would “give up pork and Santa Claus to convert” to Judaism. He called Braff a

“marvelous and remarkable person” who has “propelled disenfranchised and disillusioned urban high school youth to achieve lofty scholastic feats.”

The other alumnus was Rayvon Lisbon, who Braff encouraged to complete his undergraduate studies at Rutgers University in Newark. Lisbon graduated with honors and plans to attend law school.

In his remarks, Lisbon recalled a conversation in which Braff assured him that even though he would be around people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds in college, “they are not better than you. You can compete on any level.”

These words “brought me out of darkness,” said Lisbon. “I climbed out of the abyss myself, but if it wasn’t for his influence, I don’t know what my life would be...He will always be a hero to me.”

## *In Loving Memory*

### **Gloria Shapiro Hastreiter, 1946**

#### ***Established Alumni Scholarship***



Gloria Shapiro Hastreiter passed away on October 18th in her home in New York City. A 1946 Weequahic grad, she established a scholarship fund at Weequahic in memory of her late husband, Walter - a 1942 alum, seven years ago.

She leaves behind her daughters, Kim Hastreiter and Laurie Rippon, grandsons Max and George, and her great-granddaughter, Zoe Mila.

Laurie states, “She was the best mother and nanny anyone could wish for; we hit the jackpot with such a loving, empathic, (and classy) role model. We will always hold her in our hearts. Her spirit lives on in the memory of all those whose lives were touched by her comfort, laughter, and wisdom.

“As kids, we grew up steeped in the lore of Weequahic and our parents always spoke about Weequahic with such fondness.”

### **Alan Schreiber, 1959**

#### ***Professor emeritus of medicine***



Dr. Alan D. Schreiber, 75, of Philadelphia, professor emeritus of medicine, researcher, and former assistant dean for research at the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine,

died Monday, October 2, 2017.

Dr. Schreiber spent his professional life as a physician-scientist at Penn, where he ran a laboratory and saw patients with blood disorders. He attained the rank of professor of medicine with tenure at the relatively young age of 42.

His research centered on the role of blood cell types in disease that has had major

implications for scientific understanding of thrombosis. Dr. Schreiber made significant contributions to the science of leukemia and was honored for this work each year from 1975 to 1980 by the Leukemia Society of America. He authored over 250 scientific publications and filed several dozen patents.

Born in Newark, Dr. Schreiber graduated from Weequahic High School and with honors from Rutgers University in 1963 with a bachelor’s degree in biology.

He earned his medical degree in 1967 from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y., attending the school on full scholarship.

He is survived by his wife Pamela; daughters, Dr. Courtney A. Schreiber and Rebecca W. Schreiber; four grandchildren; a sister, and a niece and nephew.



**2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AT ALUMNI BANQUET**



# NEWARK NEWS

## After 30 years, the Hahne's building reopening signals a rebirth in Downtown Newark



For 86 years the Hahne's Department Store was one of the prominent faces of Newark's Downtown. Closed in 1987 and empty for the next 30 years, the Hahne's site reopened last January, refashioned as a center for residential, retail, education, arts, nonprofit, social, and performance activities.

According to *Business Wire*: "Located across the street from Military Park and adjacent to Prudential's new 20-story office building, the rehabilitated 400,000-square-foot Hahne's building serves as a hub for artistic and technological innovation and connects the diverse communities located in the downtown area.

The hallmark of this effort is Express Newark, an arts incubator conceived by Rutgers-Newark faculty, staff, and students, with community arts leaders. The 50,000-square-foot facility designed by KSS Architects fosters creative collaboration, and features state-of-the-art learning spaces, including a 3D printing studio, a photographic portrait studio, video production teaching facilities, smart classrooms, and galleries. The space also serves as the new home for Rutgers' Department of Arts, Culture and Media.

In addition, there are 160 new residences with amenities that include a fitness center, billiards lounge, bike storage, concierge services, and 24/7 security.

The retail centerpiece of the Hahne's building is Newark's first Whole Foods Market, which occupies the ground floor. The store, which opened in March, puts a large emphasis on healthy eating education and community partnership through a variety of events. A parking garage serves both the residents and Whole Foods.



Other tenants include a Barnes and Noble Rutgers bookstore, City National Bank, New Jersey Citizen Action, and Marcus B&P restaurant, owned by celebrity chef Marcus Samuelsson.



## A Grammy Museum in Newark

Since the Prudential Center opened in 2007, there's been a lot of hockey, basketball, concerts and other events at the "Rock." Now a new show has come to town, making the Center its newest home.

The East Coast incarnation of the Grammy Museum - a.k.a. the GRAMMY Museum Experience Prudential Center - unveiled its 8,200-square-foot location on October 20th with a bounty of exhibits and rare historical artifacts.



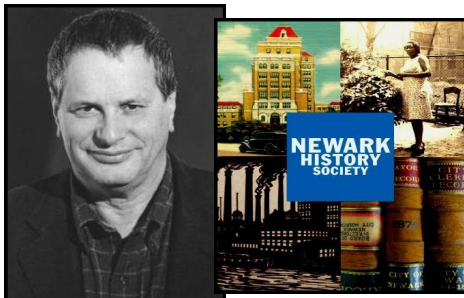
Dedicated both to celebrating the legacy of the greatest musicians in history and inspiring musical education, the museum features interactive exhibits as well as items including clothing worn by Michael Jackson, Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez, Amy Winehouse, and many others.

The museum also features a section that pays tribute to many artists from New Jersey, including Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen and Whitney Houston. It will be open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., with tickets ranging from \$9 to \$12.

## Warren Grover, WHS 1955, honored by Newark History Society at its 15th anniversary event

A graduate of Weequahic High School in 1955, native Newarker and historian **Warren Grover** is the co-founder of the Newark History Society, a former president of the Jewish Historical Society of New Jersey and has served on the board of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research - and the author of the book, *Nazis in Newark*.

(Continued on page 11)



At its 15th anniversary program on the evening of November 14th, the Newark History Society honored Grover at The Newark Public Library.

Founded in 2002, the **Newark History Society** aims to expand knowledge of Newark's past to better understand the present. To date, 70 free public programs have been presented. It believes that Newark's history is worth studying and knowing not only for its intrinsic interest, but for insights into the social and intellectual forces that have shaped the American experience - including industrial innovation, political controversy, and the immigrant experience, as well as urban development, decay, and rebirth.

NHS organizes regular public programs, encourages new research, and sponsors the **Newark Archives Project**, directed by **Gail Malmgreen, WHS 1961**. Its programs are free and open to the public and usually held at NJPAC, the New Jersey Historical Society or the Newark Public Library. Events are videotaped and later posted on YouTube.

### Newark-born icon, Jerry Lewis, passes away at 91



Jerry Lewis, the comedian, actor and filmmaker who was adored by many, disdained by others, but unquestionably a defining figure of American entertainment in the 20th century, died on August 20th at his home in Las Vegas. He was 91. Jerry had success in movies, on television, in nightclubs, on the Broadway stage and in the university lecture hall. His career had

its ups and downs, but when it was at its zenith there were few stars any bigger. And he got there remarkably quickly.

Barely out of his teens, he shot to fame shortly after World War II with a nightclub act in which the rakish, imperturbable Dean Martin crooned and the skinny, hyperactive Lewis capered around the stage, a dangerously volatile id to Martin's supremely relaxed ego. After his break with Martin in 1956, Jerry went on to a successful solo career, eventually writing, producing and directing many of his own films.

As a spokesman for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Lewis raised vast sums for charity. As a filmmaker of great personal force and technical skill, he made many contributions to the industry, including the early adoption of a device - the video assist, which allowed directors to review their work immediately on the set - still in common use.



Jerry Lewis was born in Newark Beth Israel Hospital on March 16, 1926. His parents, Danny and Rae Levitch, were entertainers - his father a song-and-dance man, his mother a pianist.

In 1944, Lewis married Patti Palmer, a former singer. They divorced in 1980 and he remarried SanDee Pitnick in 1983, a 32-year-old Las Vegas dancer. Between both marriages, he had six sons and one daughter. His son Gary was known for his 1960s pop group, *Gary Lewis & the Playboys*.

Some of Jerry Lewis' well-known movies were: *The Delicate Delinquent*, *The Sad Sack*, *The Geisha Boy*, *The Bellboy*, *The Nutty Professor*, *The Disorderly Orderly*, and *The King of Comedy*. He is also the author of *Jerry Lewis: In Person*; *Dean & Me*; and *The Total Film-Maker*.

He received several awards for lifetime achievement from the American Comedy Awards, Los Angeles Film Critics Association, Venice Film Festival, and Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. He

was also honored with two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Moreover, he was inducted into the Légion d'Honneur, awarded by the French government and was officially recognized as a "towering figure in cinema" at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival. In 2015, the Library of Congress announced that it had acquired Mr. Lewis's personal archives.

*(Editor's note: WHS alums still debate about what streets Jerry lived on, who knew him, did he go to WHS, was he thrown out of WHS, etc.)*

### Linda Forgosh receives Charles Cummings Award



At a ceremony at the First Baptist Peddie Memorial Church in Newark on September 25th, **Linda Forgosh**, the Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of NJ, was the recipient of the

prestigious Charles Cummings Award, presented by the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee "for her efforts to research, showcase, and preserve Newark's history."

NJ Jewish News writer, Robert Wiener, in a recent article wrote "to her everlasting regret, Linda Forgosh was not born at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center or educated at Weequahic High School... But for 19 years her spiritual home has been in Newark, its Weequahic section, and her inspirations have been two of its most prominent citizens, Louis Bamberger and novelist Philip Roth."

Linda, an honorary WHS alum, curated the *Weequahic Memoirs* exhibit - and is the author of *Jews of Weequahic* and *Louis Bamberger: Department Store Innovator and Philanthropist*. As for Philip Roth, she received two letters from him congratulating her on the Bamberger book and on receiving the Charles Cummings Award. Kudos!

### Elizabeth Del Tufo, a John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecturer

The Friends of The Newark Public Library honored **Elizabeth Del Tufo**, Newark historian and activist, as the 2017 John Cotton Dana Distinguished

(Continued on page 12)



## NEWARK NEWS (Continued from page 12)



Lecturer on October 18th at an event at the Library. Known to most as Liz, she presented a slide presentation on Newark's history from 1666 to 2017 through landmark buildings, statues, and historic districts.

Liz served as the first Director of Cultural Affairs for the County of Essex; created an on-going concert series in the Essex County Parks, and was the driving force in the thriving Riker Hill Art Park. She founded The Newark Arts Council and served as its first director.

Liz became the first Executive Director of the Newark Boys Chorus School; and she was a founding member and later appointed the first chairwoman of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Commission, a position she held for 16 years.

In her position as a trustee and president, she has overseen the nomination of 70 buildings and five neighborhoods to the National and State Register of Historic Places. Liz has also established an ongoing, "Newark Tour" program in cooperation with the landmarks committee and the Newark Museum which organizes up to 35 tours a year. She was also awarded an honorary doctoral degree from NJIT for her work. She is currently the longtime President of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee.

### Newark Nut Company roasting at the Prudential Center



If you're a lifelong Newarker, you might have wondered, "Whatever happened to the Newark Nut Company?" After 88 years, it's still roasting and selling peanuts, now at a new venue in Newark.

Started in 1929, Sol "Poppy" Braverman opened the Newark Nut Company shop in downtown Newark. Since then, Newark Nut has survived three generations of Newark history, each time landing on Mulberry Street - first in a freestanding shop at number 99, then in a shopping center at numbers 147-169, and now at the colossal building at number 165.

In 2007, the Newark Nut Company opened its doors again in a new location that felt a lot like home. The third-generation family business became the exclusive vendor of nuts for the New Jersey Devils hockey team at Newark's Prudential Center - literally right on top of the store that the city bulldozed two years before, and just two blocks south of the old nut shop! In addition, its online nut business (nuts.com) has grown into a multimillion-dollar national sensation.



### Mulberry Commons

Many Weequahic alums from the elder generation remember Mulberry Street for its fruit and vegetable stands, the Newark Nut Company, Chinese restaurants, the New Jersey Law Journal, etc. Today it is more known for the Gateway business complex and the Prudential Center.



Soon there will be the **Mulberry Commons**. Once known as Triangle Park, this transformative project, that has been on the city's wish list for more than a decade, came one step closer to life on October 2nd at the ceremonial groundbreaking.

City officials and developers say the 22-acre central district project will bring new residences, businesses, a park and a pedestrian bridge to the area outside of the Prudential Center to McCarter Highway, effectively linking that part of the city to both Newark Penn Station and its culturally diverse Ironbound neighborhood.

The first phase of the project, a 3-acre park along Mulberry Street and Edison Place, is scheduled to open next summer. Edison Properties, J&L Cos. Inc. and the

Prudential Center will help develop the 22-acre project, which will be financed with more than \$100 million in private investment and \$10 million in public funding.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka said, "Today is the day we turn the corner. Today is the day the renaissance becomes real, that our city is not a pass-through spot - but a destination."

### One Theater Square

One Theater Square, located in downtown Newark will be the first mixed-use residential tower in the city in more than 50 years.

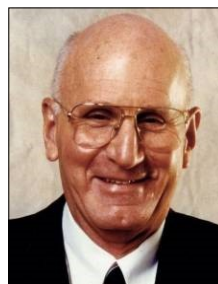
The long-awaited 22-story **One Theater Square** apartment tower in Newark across the street from the New Jersey Performing Arts Center is rising steadily and on schedule for completion next year.



The \$116 million project with 245 rental units has climbed above the adjacent 12-story Robert Treat Hotel, its nearest neighbor on Park Place in the city's Military Park Commons Historic District.

The One Theater Square tower fulfills a requirement by the state that housing be developed in the area surrounding NJPAC, though it's now 20 years since completion of the performing arts center.

### Parking lot magnate Jerry Gottesman passes away



Jerome W. "Jerry" Gottesman, the longtime Newark property developer and noted philanthropist, died at the age of 87.

Gottesman, the chairman of Edison Properties and a philanthropist who focused on expanding Jewish education, passed away in Israel with his wife and family at his side this

(Continued on page 13)

## NEWARK NEWS *(Continued from page 13)*

past September. Edison Properties, which he co-founded with his brother, Harold, is the parent company of ParkFast garages and lots, as well as Manhattan Mini Storage.

Gottesman, whose company is restoring the old Central Graphic Arts building, stated in a recent opinion piece before his death, that he was betting heavily on Newark's resurgence.



### Mars candy returns to Newark

The chocolate company behind M&M's, Snickers, and Twix, is officially expanding in New Jersey. Mars Wrigley Confectionary announced its decision to open its U.S. headquarters in the Garden State.



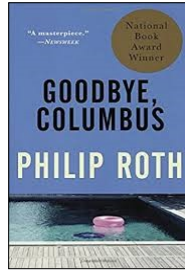
The HQ will have two locations, one in Mars' existing offices in Hackettstown, and another in a new space in Newark, the company said.

The move that will bring about 500 jobs to the Brick City. Mars Wrigley has said it plans to move 113 jobs from Chicago and 370 jobs from Hackettstown to Newark. The Hackettstown location will retain about 1,000 jobs, the company said. It has been reported that the headquarters would be located in the IronsideNewark building, being restored by Edison Properties in Downtown Newark.

The move is a return for Mars, which was located in Newark from 1941 through 1958.

*The above information uses excerpts (with some edits) of articles in the NY Times, Star-Ledger, NJ Jewish News, and online sources.*

## Philip Roth Book Club



WHS school psychologist, Jeffrey Ruttner, started a Philip Roth Book Club at the high school with a donation of multiple copies of *Goodbye Columbus* from The Newark Public Library.

### Honoring Mal Sumka (1943)



Mal Sumka received a plaque from fellow alumni for his longtime work as a troop leader for the Boy Scouts of Newark.

### Sue & Ed Goldstein (WHS 1951)



Founders of The Valerie Fund. Inducted into the NJ Hall of Fame and the recipient of the *Unsung Heroes Award* for their charitable work in the field of cancer.

## 2017



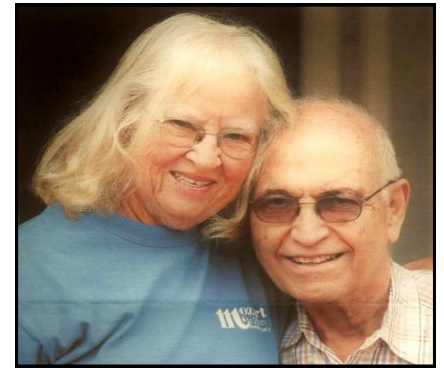
Although the WHS football team ended its season with consecutive losses on Thanksgiving Day and in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 finals to rival Shabazz High School, the future for Coach Brian Logan's (WHS 1982) overachieving young squad looks very promising. Quaison Horne and Tyler Phillips were selected to the Star-Ledger's First Team, All-Group 1: Defense.

## The Blooms of La Jolla host salons for starving artists

By Pam Kragen, San Diego Union Tribune

In 18th-century France, groups of men and women would gather in private homes for events known as "salons" - evenings of music, poetry and cultural exchange presented for mutual enlightenment.

Today, that tradition carries on in San Diego, where a handful of North County chamber music-lovers are regularly opening their living rooms for private concerts.



Among those modern-day salon hosts are Marty and Sherry Bloom of La Jolla. For the past 12 years, they've invited fellow music-lovers into their living room for food, fellowship and first-rate chamber music. Marty said he loves the intimacy of the gatherings and enjoys supporting artists, who have hard times paying the bill as professional musicians and singers.

"How can you not feel good about it?" he said. "They need a place to play, and I have a good piano, so why not?"

On a recent Sunday afternoon, more than 50 patrons packed the Blooms' piano room for a program of French and Italian art songs and arias, Latin cello suites and a Rachmaninoff sonata for cello and piano.

Audience members donated money to attend the concert, which was split up among the artists, who generally make \$300 to \$500 apiece. The Blooms underwrite the cost of wine and cheese before the show and a buffet dinner afterward.

...Marty Bloom, 80, (a 1954 WHS grad) isn't a professional musician, and in fact only discovered his love for music in his mid-40s. Now it's his all-consuming passion. The Blooms met in college in Antioch and married 57 years ago. He worked as a lawyer and then in real estate before focusing his energy on music.

A San Diego Opera subscriber since 1970, Bloom said he was always fascinated with how opera singers project their voices without amplification. So as a surprise

*(Continued on page 18)*



## WHS Grads in Newark Athletic Hall of Fame

Hasson Arbubakrr, 1979  
 Alvin Attles, 1955  
 Al "Bubba" Baker, 1972  
 Joe Baker, 1966  
 Ernie Barron, 1968  
 William Belfer, 1963  
 Larry Bembry, 1966  
 Darryl Black, 1977  
 Steve Bleier, 1962  
 Steve Bogner, 1966  
 Tom Boose, 1959  
 Hal Braff, 1952  
 Warren Bratter, 1960  
 Victor Brown, 1973  
 Harold Cohen, 1942  
 Mike Cohen, 1960  
 Sid Dorfman, 1937  
 Ronald Ferry, 1972  
 Seymour Fleisher, 1941  
 Burt Geltzeiler, 1945  
 Lloyd Glicken, 1949  
 Barry Gimelstob, 1961  
 Gerry Gimelstob, 1967  
 Mark Goldberg, 1964  
 Nate Granger, 1973  
 Henry Grant, 1963  
 Carl Gregory, 1966  
 Gerald Greenspan, 1959  
 Lou Grimsley, 1973  
 Syd Haynes, 1968  
 Irvin B. Hill, 1979  
 Joe Hines, 1978  
 Ronald Howard, 1971  
 Luther Howard, 1969  
 Herbert Jacobson, 1941  
 Larry Jenkins, 1961  
 Reggie Jones, 1969  
 Irving Keller, 1937  
 Herb Krautblatt Kay, 1944  
 Ted Kurtz, 1950  
 Dennis Layton, 1967  
 Alvin Lubetkin, 1952  
 Charles Lubetkin, 1949  
 Robert Mack, 1959  
 Bert Manhoff, 1938  
 Seymour "Swede" Masin, 1938  
 Mike Mirabella, 1937  
 Dennis Mosley, 1968  
 Sheila Oliver, 1970  
 Chris Perval, 1962  
 Bill Pollack, 1953  
 Marquis "Bo" Porter, 1990  
 Robert Hockaday Robinson, 1974  
 Wilbur Ross, III, 1973  
 Sandy Salz, 1957  
 Charles Talley, 1966  
 Daaimah Talley, 1966  
 Dwain Talley, 1970  
 George Watson, 1967  
 Elnardo Webster  
 Loraine White, 1964  
 Dave Wolff, 1942  
 David Wright, 1966

1966-1967 boys basketball team  
 1962 boys basketball team

## 2017 sports hall of fame inductees from Weequahic

On Thursday evening, October 26th, at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark, six alumni from Weequahic High School were inducted into the 29th class of the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame.

Since 1988 when the Hall of Fame was established, 63 grads have been enshrined into this distinguished group. The WHS 2017 inductees are as follows:

### FRANK GAVIN, Coach



In 2001, Frank Gavin led the Weequahic basketball squad to a Group II state championship with a record of 26-3. It was the first state championship for the Indians since 1973 and 5th overall.

He coached the WHS hoop team for 19 years with an impressive record of 302 victories and 167 losses. In 2005, he was inducted into the NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Frank began his teaching career at Maple Avenue School and then taught history at Weequahic through 2005, when he retired. Unable to completely stay away from the high school on the hill, Frank can be seen at some of the football and basketball games.

### MELODY LINTON - 1989

In the late 1980's, playing under the tutelage of Coach Sara Sweeny, Melody Linton was the star of Weequahic's girls basketball team. In her senior year, the team was undefeated. She received

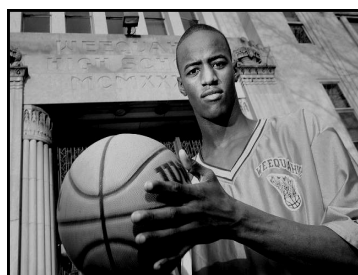


All-City and All-County honors and she was chosen as one of the top 25 girl basketball players in the state. She completed her high school career with more than 1,000 points and 500 assists.

Graduating in 1989, Melody was highly recruited by Division I and Division II colleges, but followed her long-time best friend, the late Shani Baraka, to Johnson C. Smith University. She continued her education at Shaw University.

In 1996, Melody joined the Newark Police Department, where she has served with distinction for the past 21 years. She is currently in the Elite Unit, providing protection for Mayor Ras Baraka.

### KEON LAWRENCE 2006



Watching Keon Lawrence launch jump shots beyond the three point line and listening to the swish of the basketball falling through the hoop, was an act of pure magnificence. As a 6'2" guard from 2002-2006, he averaged 30 points, 9 rebounds, and 7 assists per game.

In his senior year, he led the Weequahic basketball team to 23-2 record and he became the first player in the Newark Public

Schools, third player in Essex County, and 67th player in the state, to score 2,000 points in his high school career.

Graduating in 2006, he attended the University of Missouri, where he played basketball for two years. He then transferred to Seton Hall University and graduated with a BA degree in Criminal Justice.

Following college, Keon played in the Norwegian Basketball Association, the Eurobasket League for the Tromso Storm. Awarded the Most Valuable Player and Best Offensive Player titles, he led his team to a silver medal in 2015-16.

Keon has a son and is still pursuing his career in basketball.

### PHIL HICKSON, 1968



Phil Hickson honed his athletic skills under the mentorship of the late Charles Johnson, Leo Bunion, and many other gifted athletes. Beginning his hoops career at West Kinney Jr. High School, his team won the city championship.

At Weequahic, he was a member of the basketball team from 1965-68. His squad in 1967 went undefeated, won the Group IV state championship, and was the number one team in the country.

In his senior year, Phil was named the MVP of the Newark City League - and received 1st team All-City and County Honors. He was also selected to the All-State team.

(Continued on page 17)

# Oldest living Weequahic graduate tells all

By Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News, 10-25-17



activity. I went to school, went home, and went to work," she said, reminiscing from her room at The Chelsea at Bridgewater, an assisted living facility where she has lived for the past 11 years.

Her teenage years came at the height of the Great Depression. Her family had

no money to send her to the prom or to college, or even to buy a copy of the yearbook, which was called "The Wigwam." After she received her Weequahic diploma, Roddy became a secretary at different offices in Newark.

Throughout the decades she maintained a close-knit circle of eight girlfriends who kept in touch with one another until they began dying off. They referred to themselves as the "Cosmos Girls," a nickname for their self-described clique, the Cosmopolitan Club. "I used to see them all the time," she said, recalling several of their names, such as Florence Ganek, Jill Rosenthal, and Eleanor Leavitt. "They were lovely."

Being Jewish "was what was expected in our neighborhood, but we had our candy store, Savad's, in a gentile neighborhood in Maplewood. I was outnumbered," she said jokingly. "But it didn't matter to me, I got along with everybody."

In 1952, Roddy married Benjamin Shill, a gynecologist with a practice in Newark. He had two daughters, Susan and Nancy, from a previous marriage, and later the couple had another, Paula. They moved from the Clinton Hill section to Van Velsor Place off Chancellor Avenue so that the two older girls could attend WHS.

Susan Shill Gardos, who graduated in the class of 1958, now lives in the Boston area. She attended the University of Wisconsin and is retired as a librarian at the Russian Research Center at Harvard University. She said she remembers Weequahic as

"very Jewish," and the school as "fairly competitive. "Everybody seemed to be smart," Gardos said."

Her sister, Nancy Shill, graduated from Weequahic in 1961. "It was a big Jewish neighborhood and it was the only high school in the world as far as I was concerned," said Shill. "It was beautiful and we had very high scholastic standards. Everyone went to college. But when Roddy went there they didn't expect the women to go to college, just the men."

Nancy lives in Wrightstown, Pa., and has worked as a computer programmer. She is also a painter, violinist, and guitarist who enjoys playing the music of early American composers "as well as the military songs and college anthems my father enjoyed," she told NJJN.

Paula Shill Nicolai is the daughter of Roddy and Benjamin. Her family had moved to Springfield by the time she was a teenager and she graduated from Jonathan Dayton High School. She now lives in Califon, where she is a retired teacher of hearing-impaired children.

While geography limits Gardos's visits to her stepmother, Shill, Nicolai, and some of Roddy's seven grandchildren visit her on a regular basis.

Asked whether she considers her life to be a happy one, Roddy shrugged. Nowadays, everything in the world has changed," she said. "Some of it I like. Some of it I don't. But I don't follow politics too much." "Don't get her started," warned Nicolai, sitting by her side, fearing that her mother might launch into a diatribe about current times.

For her 100th birthday last December, "I didn't get too excited, and nobody else did," Roddy said. "I don't know about that," said Shill. "We had a big party. We had about 60 people. They came from all over. They came from Maryland. They came from California." Roddy smiled. "I was happy. I saw people I hadn't seen in years. It was great."

*Editor's Note: Less than one month after this article appeared in the NJ Jewish News, Rosalind Savad Shill passed away on November 15th.*

Roddy Shill studied an enlargement of her photograph from the Jan. 1935 Weequahic High School (WHS) yearbook. Her hair was neatly set in waves, and she was wearing a blouse with a ruffled, high collar. She smiled and said, "That's a very nice picture. I wish I looked like that now."

It has been 84 years since that photo from Weequahic's first graduating class was taken, and at the age of 100, she can be forgiven for not having a clear memory of the moment. After all, "I only went to Weequahic for a year," she said. "Before that I went to Central."

Shill was born Rosalind Savad on Dec. 17, 1916, and grew up in the Weequahic section of Newark before there was a Weequahic High School. She said it was an hour-long bus ride from her home to Central High School on High Street in the city's Third Ward. When she transferred to WHS for her senior year on the school's opening day, the long commute became a 12-block walk. She said the first day at her new school was "very exciting. Everybody there had something to say, but I can't remember what I said."

The words beneath her high school photo list a variety of extra-curricular activities: president of the Photoplay club and membership in several others, including Swimming, Domestic Science, and Business. She was also listed as a Patrol and an Usher at graduation. But Roddy remembers her after-school life much differently.

"I used to work with my father when I came out of school so I didn't do too much

Below are a few more WHS grads from the 1930's who are still with us. We also know of 1937 grads - Mendel Bernstein, Irwin Taurig, and Thelma Goldberg Gottlieb. If you know of others, contact us and we will acknowledge them in a future edition.



Pearl Wachs Lazar

Jan. 1935



Lola Robins Oremland

Jan. 1935



Leslie Felmy, Jr.

June 1935



Harold Weinberg

June 1935



Ruth Karl Haber

Jan. 1936



Irene Spitalny Felsenfeld

June 1936



## Adenah Bayoh, WHS 1996, reopens Newark IHOP

When West African refugee Adenah Bayoh landed in Newark 26 years ago, the city was "literally heaven on earth" for her. She arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport at the age of 12 after the civil war pushed her from her Liberian village into a refugee camp in Sierra Leone.

"Coming from somewhere with no toilets or running water... When I heard people say Newark is this dangerous place, I didn't know what they were talking about," said Bayoh.

Now a successful businesswoman and developer, Bayoh is opening her third IHOP restaurant in the same city she spent her childhood, and hopes to be part of what officials are calling "Newark's renaissance."

Under its previous owners, Bayoh said the pancake house - located on Bergen Street - was on the verge of closing when she decided to step in to purchase the property in March. She said dozens of employees would have lost jobs, but instead, she plans on hiring 40 new workers.

After walking away from initial negotiations in 2012, Bayoh returned when she saw the restaurant in disarray. The acquisition and renovations combined, she said, totaled more than \$1.5 million and included a redesign, new furniture and a conference room.

The project was personal for Bayoh, who attended Weequahic High School and volunteered at University Hospital as a teenager. She now lives in Englewood, but said her roots are in Newark.

Above all, Bayoh hopes the new restaurant will shift the focus from revitalizing



Newark's downtown area to less developed parts of the city. "Right now, the focus is on the downtown area. But if you look up here, businesses are closing," she said. "I just want to spark something in this community with this project."

And if anyone can turn the restaurant around, friends and city officials say it's Bayoh, who has experience working in inner cities. Ten years ago, Bayoh opened her first IHOP in Irvington in 2007 after realizing the closest franchise at the time was more than an hour away. "I scheduled a meeting with the mayor because I was a citizen and needed to let him know," she said.

At 25-years-old, Bayoh bought an Irvington diner (the former Kless Diner) that was on the market and began her journey as the youngest African-American franchisee of IHOP. Her restaurant application was denied seven times and she struggled to find a bank willing to fund her vision, but she said the setbacks fueled her.

With a \$225 million real estate portfolio under her belt, Durham-Mallory called Bayoh a role model for young girls who aspire to become business owners.

*Editor's Note: Adenah recently opened "Cornbread" in Maplewood.*

## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

(Continued from page 15)

Upon graduation in 1968, he attended the University of Rhode Island, where he was a four-year starter and a member of the 1,000 Point Club. Ranked number 12 in the nation in his senior year, his team won the Yankee Conference and he was chosen to the 1st team All-Yankee Conference - and named as one of the best all around players in the East.

Following graduation, Phil competed professionally in the French Federation League. After winning the division, his team played in the Cup of Europe competition.

Phil, who has a daughter who graduated from Harvard, is retired from Chanel Cosmetics, and resides in Somerset, NJ.

## TONY MANLEY, 1979



At Wequahic, Tony Manley was a 3-sport athlete - football, baseball and track. On the gridiron, he was a standout defensive back and tailback. He also led the state in kickoff and punt returns for touchdowns.

Tony made the All-City and All-County first teams as a running back, the All-City first team as a defensive back, and the All-Group III teams.

In track, Tony was first in the long jump and second in the quarter-mile hurdles. He placed first and second respectively in the City and County 100 and 200 yard dashes - and anchored the sprint relay teams. In his senior year, the track team won the Penn Relays in the 4x100 and placed first in the sprint medley with the fastest time in the country.

Following Weequahic, he attended Pasadena Community College for two years and was an "All-American" in the Southern California Football Association. From 1982-84, he attended Michigan State University on a full scholarship and was selected the "Defensive Player of the Week" four times.

Upon his return to Newark, Tony coached at Weequahic, Montclair Academy and Newark Academy and also served as President of the South Ward Little League. He has worked for the City of Newark and the Newark Housing Authority for over 20 years and is the founder of Jerrahi Construction. Tony has two sons and a daughter.

## Newark Athletic Hall of Fame 2017 Scholarship



## Ihmir Smith-Marsette

Now attending  
the University of Iowa

# Naseeb Washington, WHS 2005, "gives back"

## Firefighter's birthday is a gift to city's homeless

By Kevin Shea, Star-Ledger 03-25-2017



Trenton firefighter Naseeb "New" Washington and a group of friends from the public safety community will fan out in Trenton Saturday morning, March 25th, with hundreds of home-cooked meals and deliver them to the homeless.

They will go to them: alongside railroad tracks, in vacant buildings, and under bridges. The five-year city firefighter has nothing against soup kitchens, but he and his friends like to meet those in need on their turf.

The food is important, Washington said, but he wants to look in their eyes and say, "People are thinking about you."

Saturday is also Washington's 30th birthday - and that's not a coincidence. For a few years now, Washington has decided to give back on his birthday. "I am not a partier," he said. "It's just my way to celebrate."

He's also been there - homeless.

Washington grew up in Newark and struck out on his own at the age of 17, after graduating from Weequahic High School. He struggled and at times didn't know when, or where, he'd get his next meal. "I have lived in my vehicle - a 98 Windstar," he said.

About 10 years ago, he moved to Trenton for a fresh start, and took the police and fire department entry exams. In the meantime, he worked for an armored car company and initially sought to be a Mercer County sheriff's officer. He was really close to moving to Virginia for a police officer job.

Then, the Trenton Fire Department hired him. "And it ended up working out for me."

He's now a deckhand on Ladder 4 and doing well financially.

But as he rises, he said, he believes he has an ongoing duty to use his gains for others - so others might see the path. "As I excel, it's my job to give back," he said.

Washington says his bigger paychecks won't be funding fancy cars or expensive liquors. "We misconstrue success," he said. "And we're so blinded by these materialistic things." It's not just saying it, but living it, he said. "I mean, I drive a Buick, with a hubcap missing," he laughed.

Washington says Ladder 4 is the more important wheels that he needs now, and plans to bridge the societal gaps he sees every day. "There's a disconnect between those of us who have, and those who do not," he said.

Last year, when he set out with the group, the shared experiences were great, Washington said. It was his birthday, and Good Friday.

The group made over 200 meals with Vinnie Mannino, of Mannino's pizzeria in Morrisville, Pa., who opened his restaurant, donated time and supplies and has become a close friend.

Saturday will start out again at Mannino's and they plan to make and deliver 250 meals. He's been touting the day on his Facebook page, and gathering volunteers. Many who joined him last year will be along again.

Many who show up will be city firefighters, active and retired, their friends, and some law enforcement officers - a family who will drop everything to help anyone.

Trenton is now his adoptive town. It gave him his career, and he has perpetual plans on paying the city back. But he also has plans to branch out to Newark, too.

With a wry smile, he's already planning "big things" for his 35th birthday. "I will never forget where I came from," he said.

*Editor's note: Naseeb Washington was an Alumni Scholarship recipient. After graduating from Weequahic, he attended Bloomfield College.*

## BLOOMS *(Continued from page 14)*

wedding anniversary gift in 1985, Sherry arranged for her then-48-year-old husband to take vocal lessons with retired opera tenor Robert Schmor. Bloom ended up joining several community choirs and in 1989 made his San Diego Opera debut in the chorus for the Russian classic, "Boris Godunov."

The Blooms started by hosting singers who came to perform with the San Diego Opera, and Marty gradually amassed one of the region's largest opera research libraries, which he opened free to singers and conductors. He also volunteered his expertise to the San Diego Opera as a proofreader for their programs.

The salon began a dozen years ago when the Blooms met Daniel Wnukowski, a fast-rising Polish-Canadian pianist in his early 20s who was looking for opportunities to play for an audience. At the time, the Blooms had "an old broken-down, out-of-tune" piano, but they made Wnukowski an offer. If he could help them locate a high-quality used concert piano, they would arrange house concerts for him whenever his travels brought him to San Diego.

Today, Wnukowski is based in Europe, but the piano he found for the Blooms - a 1920s 6-foot Baldwin Artist's Grand - is the centerpiece of concerts that have drawn hundreds of fans and dozens of musicians over the years.



One of the concert regulars is Joan Henelmann of Bonita, who ran the local Metropolitan Opera Auditions for 11 years and heads up legacy giving for the San Diego Opera. She said the Blooms' generosity of spirit is much needed in the competitive and economically challenged classical music industry.

Soprano Priti Gandhi, who performed at the Blooms' home, said singing at house concerts offers her a rare opportunity to connect with an audience again. "Nothing compares to the feeling of performing in a small room for an appreciative audience. You feel it viscerally, you see the musicians breathe, and you can't help but be a part of the experience in a very profound way."



# 50th Anniversary of the "1967 Dream Team"

## The number 1 basketball team in the nation

By Marc Little, Class of 1969



The words of the song were straight and to the point; *Run, run, pass, pass. Tell me how long will this game last. Weequahic can run, Weequahic can pass. Tell me how long will this game last. When you see our boys so fine, all in a line. Oh, you know we're getting' down, all dressed in Orange and Brown, gotta go, gotta go to a ball-game, hey, hey, ain't gonna be no show.*

The names were well known; **Layton, Lewis, Mainor, Watson, Cobb, Hickson, Gimelstob, Summerfield, McLeod, Childs, Morrell, Hooper, Mosley and Randolph.** They were led by the legendary **Les Fein**, who some dubbed "The Silver Fox" because of his uncanny coaching method that saw his teams often snatch victory from the jaws of defeat during his twelve years as coach of the Weequahic High School basketball team. His teams were eight-time champions in the highly regarded Newark City league, three-time winners of the Essex County Tournament, and state champions in 1962, 1966 and 1967.

I was not one of those guys who dressed in an orange and brown basketball uniform during the magical 1966-67 season when the Indians were one of the two teams that

was rated number one in America. I was one of three student managers of the team. Martin Davis was the manager who supervised Marcus Hinton and me.

But I had the toughest job as I had to sit next to Mr. Fein on the bench, always between him and the scorers' table. It was my job to relay the number of fouls on each player on both teams and our timeouts to Seth Hicks, Mr. Fein's assistant and our junior varsity coach. I also got my share of elbows from Mr. Fein and heard a greater proportion of harsh words aimed at referees and opposing coaches, as well as statements such as "*Marc, why did he do that?*" when one of our players made a questionable decision on the court.

It was, however, a great time for an impressionable tenth-grader whose understanding of basketball was as good as some of the players, mainly due to being at all of the practices (a mandate by Mr. Fein to everyone associated with the team) and soaking up the knowledge imparted at each session. I was in my second year as one of the managers, having served as junior varsity manager as well as working with the varsity as a ninth-grader.

For me, 1966-67 was special. While only a precious few knew it before the announcement was made official in February 1967, this would be the last season Mr. Fein would guide his precious Indians from his perch on the bench. What also made this particular season special for me was the pride I recognized that swelled inside the school for the athletic teams and athletes who populated the squads due to Weequahic's competitiveness in many sports in Essex County.

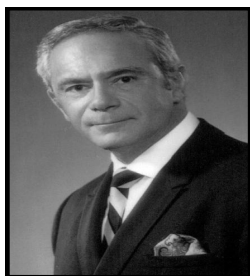
But as special as this season was, dark clouds hovered over the city of Newark; a committee of civic leaders deemed the city as one in "educational crisis" due to overcrowded classrooms and the personal practices of the Newark Board of Education that discouraged talented and imaginative teachers from coming to the city. The controversy over the placement of the medical center in the city's Central Ward continued to escalate, and the issue of unfairness within city government and law enforcement began to reach a boiling point.

Nonetheless, the Weequahic High School basketball team rolled over its first seven opponents, averaging more than 80 points per game with an average of close to 25 points per game in their margin of victories. These contests led to the championship game of the Essex County Coaches Holiday Tournament against the nation's twelfth-ranked Boys High of Brooklyn, New York, a team that had been considered one of the best in country since the mid-1950s because of the number of players it sent to major colleges and professional basketball.

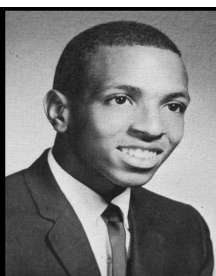
The reputation meant little to the Newarkers from the far end of the South Ward as Weequahic crushed Boys High, 85-57, leading the Boys coach to say, "*There's no doubt in my mind that they are the best around. I haven't seen a team in New York comparable to them.*"

While attitudes toward the power structure in Newark were hardening, Weequahic continued to raise eyebrows across the country with its overpowering victories

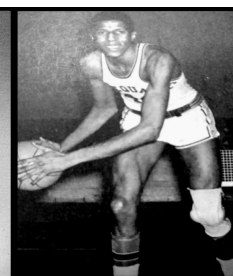
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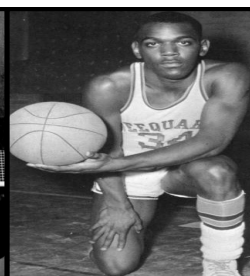
Coach Les Fein



Marc Little  
Student manager



Leroy Cobb



Dennis "Mo" Layton



Bill Mainor



Dana Lewis



The NY Giants football team donated \$10,000 in sports equipment to the WHS football team in October.



In October, students, staff and families participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in Downtown Newark.



The new WHS twirling team with coach, Portia Johnson, and alumni director, Myra Lawson. The batons were donated by alumni board member, Pamela Scott-Threets (inset), from the class of 1966.



WHS and Shabazz football players provide food for the homeless at Penn Station in Newark before Thanksgiving. The annual event was led by alumni board member, Keith Salter, 1985.

## 50th Basketball Anniversary *(Continued from page 19)*

over extremely capable opponents in north and central New Jersey. Our Monday afternoon meetings that included watching film of other teams and enjoying Mrs. Fein's sugar-free cakes (imagine that in the 1960s) were educational and enjoyable, especially when all of the team could get a good laugh from some of their mistakes, which of course were not very funny during the times they were committed.

As managers, Marty, Marcus and I had our individual responsibilities; Marty kept the statistics and he presented them to Mr. Fein and Mr. Hicks before each game. Marcus compiled the shot charts, which he gave to Mr. Hicks, who reviewed them. I had the task of going to the A&P on Bergen Street to purchase Mr. Fein's "magic potion" before every game; Coca-Cola and oranges, which the team drank from cups that Marcus and I prepared at halftime.

As you can probably tell, I was proud to be a student manager of the 1965-66 and the 1966-67 Weequahic High School basketball team and not just because we won forty games in a row over that two-year period, while capturing two Newark City League titles, two state regional and sectional championships, two state championships and earning the distinction of being Scholastic Magazine's number one team in the country.

While we beat Hackensack in the state championship game in 1966, to my mind no victory was sweeter than the one in which we whipped Camden High School in the 1967 title contest, 80-60. I knew how personal that one was to Mr. Fein because as the time began to expire indicating the game was almost over, he wrapped his right arm around my shoulders and said, "*Congratulations.*"

I had to write this piece for the Alumni Calumet to remind readers of the impact the Weequahic High School basketball team of 1966-67 had on the city of Newark. Just four months later after the season ended, our hometown was torn apart physically by a rebellion that left psychological scars for fifty years. But just like that Weequahic team and its marvelous coach, Newark refused to merely lie down and die, though it faced tremendous challenges.

Today, its rise from the rebellion is garnering nationwide attention for the steadfastness and strength that came from the sum of its parts; the remarkable citizens that never deserted it, whether they remained within the borders or left for various reasons but remained connected in one way or another.

I also had to write this piece to put into context the importance of that high school basketball team to the history of Newark. Where else but Newark could a group of overachieving African American youths follow a rich Jewish man to high school basketball immortality, even though he convinced them that they looked cool with collared shirts and ties when they traveled to gyms with no air conditioning less than two or three miles from their school.

I will always remember my teammates from the 1966-67 Weequahic High School basketball team. We were more than "Run, run, pass, pass." We were men of a different time.



**Marc Curtis Little** is the author of *Faithful Servants: Rescue from the Rebellion* (MLPR Books, 2017, [www.marclittlewrites.com](http://www.marclittlewrites.com)), a novel loosely based on the relationship between African Americans and Jewish Americans in the aftermath of the 1967 Newark Riot/Rebellion.



# In Loving Memory

## Allen Friedman, 1962

*Starred on 1st state  
championship basketball team*



### *Editor's Note:*

On April 26, 2017, Allen Friedman, one of the stars on WHS' first state basketball championship team in 1962, passed away. We were unable to locate an obituary.

Allen also played basketball at Rutgers University and in Israel - where he coached youngsters on a kibbutz and was a soldier in the Israeli army.

He lived in Cedar Grove, was a member of the WHS Alumni Association, attended alumni events and the high school's basket-

## Herbert Wolkstein, 1939

*Expert in space communications*



Herbert Joseph Wolkstein, 96, passed away on August 28, 2017 in West Orange. Born in Newark, he moved to Livingston in 1959 where he lived until 2015.

A graduate of Weequahic High School and Newark College of Engineering, he

started his professional career in 1953 as an electrical engineer in the Microwave Tube Division of the RCA Corp.

Over the next 34 years at RCA, Dr. Wolkstein rose to become the head of Space Communications and Electronic Counter Measures at the RCA Laboratories David Sarnoff Research Center in Princeton.

He was awarded 25 patents, authored 44 technical papers and contributed to the development of numerous communications satellites.

In 1983, he received RCA Corporation's highest honor, The David Sarnoff Research Award for outstanding technical achievement.

After the sale of RCA to General Electric in 1987, Dr. Wolkstein left the company to become an independent consultant to the Aerospace and Defense Electronics Industry where he was active until 2014.

He was considered one of the world's leading experts in Travelling Wave Tubes and Satellite Communications.

Dr. Wolkstein is predeceased by his wife Doris Eckel Wolkstein; and survived by his daughter Marianne; sons William and John; daughter-in-law Amy; and grandsons Eric, Jordan and Zachary.

## In Loving Memory

Ronald Allen, 1966  
Harriett Atlas Allweiss, 1955  
Joan Brandmeyer Heilenday, 1945  
Alan Brookman, 1943  
Eleta Caldwell, Art teacher  
Carl Clawans, 1948  
Joyce Coffey Heller, 1948  
Barry Cohen, 1954  
Jack Denholtz, 1941  
Milton Dunst, 1945  
Eve Enfield Epstein, 1945  
Ronald Estis, 1962  
Alan Farbman, 1955  
Anthony Fasano, 1954  
Mildred Fast Friedman, 1940  
Rudolph Feuerstein, 1953  
Samuel LeRoy Frankel, 1944  
Allan Freund, 1949  
Burton Gimelstob, 1964  
Gerald Gimelstob, 1967  
Maxine Goldflies Bussell, 1960  
Sanford Gurtov, 1952  
Ruth Handler Goodman, 1947  
Seymour Helderman, 1952  
Myrna Herman Slatin, 1947  
Donald Hoffman, 1954  
Howard Jacobs, 1948  
Bruce Delaine Johnson, 1966  
Aria Jones, 1975  
Harvey Kane, 1954  
Milton Kaufman, 1945  
Frances Kimmelman Fried, 1958  
Lynda Koenigsberg Gordon, 1958  
Sanford Kramer, 1947  
Samuel Kriegman, 1949  
Larry Lasher, 1955  
Ronald Lauer, 1948  
Murray Lieb, 1957  
Meyer London, 1945  
Amy Lowenstein, 1962  
Robert Lowenstein, 1939  
Janet Manchyk Klein, 1961  
Eloise Marks, 1948  
Marcia Marks Jones, 1948  
Joseph Murphy, Jr., 1976  
Gabe Nevola, music teacher  
Norman Pokras, 1950  
Martin Prince, 1953  
Ronald Reynolds, 1973  
Linda Rosenthal, 1956  
Gloria Rubin Krauss, 1952  
Shirley Rubin Rabinowitz, 1938  
Dennis Ruckel, 1967  
Gerald Safier, 1950  
Donald Shachat, 1952

Herbert Schulman, 1947  
Howard Schiff, 1958  
John Shpunder, 1960  
Erwin Sloan, 1953  
Rhonda Slobodien Wilentz  
Irvin Solondz, 1952  
Seymour Some, 1939  
Marilyn Stern Freedman, 1959  
Dorothy Suchman Cohen, 1942  
Marvin Stoloff, 1950  
Ellis Taffet, 1951  
Jerome Tannenbaum, 1947  
Rosalind Teitelbaum Kleinwax, 1944  
Fred Tarnofsky, 1955  
Dorothy Walton Zahner  
Harold Wasserman  
Lenore Wilson, 1965  
Sylvia Morein Yourish, 1948  
Wendell Zahn, 1949

## Burton L. Geltzeiler, 1945

*Businessman, Army veteran, Athlete*



Burton L. Geltzeiler passed away in August 2017. He was born in Newark, lived in Hillside, and then settled in West Orange. He graduated Weequahic High School in 1945 and became a

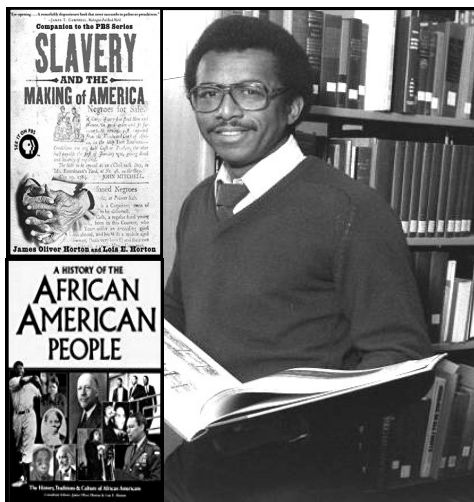
Newark Hall of Fame inductee.

Burt played college basketball at Rutgers University in Newark from 1945-1950. He was third in the nation in scoring in 1950. He was the first player in Rutgers history to score over 1000 points in a career.

Burt was a member of the Rutgers-Newark Athletic Hall of Fame and the JCC MetroWest Sports Hall of Fame. He was drafted by the Tri-City (now Atlanta) Hawks in 1950 by Hall of Fame coach Red Auerbach.

He served in the US Army stateside in the Korean War in Fort Eustis, Va. Burt was the president and CEO of Auto Body and Service in Newark and ABS Appraisal Service in West Orange. He also was a founding member of Auto Body Distributing Co. in Irvington, N.J. He served as president of Auto Body Distributing for many years.

Burt was the beloved husband of Barbara Geltzeiler (Levy) for 62 years. He was the loving brother of the late Lewis Geltzeiler; father of Bruce Geltzeiler, Barry Geltzeiler, and Brian Geltzeiler. and their wives, Susan, Sayre, and Jamie; and grandfather of Montana, Hunter, Amber, Lexi, Meadow, and Jason Geltzeiler.



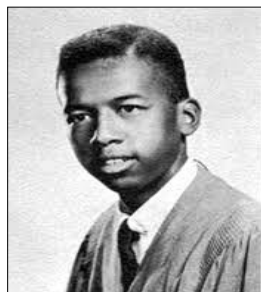
While serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, Horton took courses at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, where he received a M.A. in American studies, before getting his Ph.D. in history from Brandeis University.

Dr. Horton received honors at GW, including the Trachtenberg Distinguished Teaching Award and the President's Medal for scholarly achievement and teaching excellence. The Carnegie Foundation named him the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's Professor of the Year for the District of Columbia in 1996.

Lois Horton said her husband's favorite part about teaching was spending time with students. "He kept up with them through their whole lives, knew their families," she said. "He was very proud of them.

Dr. Horton was also the director of the African-American Communities Project at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. He also served as the senior adviser on historical interpretation and public education for the Director of the National Park Service in 1994.

In addition to his wife Lois, Dr. Horton is survived by their son Michael.



**Horton's graduation picture from the Class of 1961**

## *In Loving Memory*

### **Lenore Goldman Beckerman, 1949**

*Interior Designer, Alumni Donor*

Lenore Goldman Beckerman died on August 15, 2017 at the age of 85, in Boca Raton, FL. She had been inflicted with Alzheimer's Disease for the last eighteen months.

Lenore was born in Brooklyn but moved to Newark when she was three and lived in Short Hills for over 40 years. She was a 1949 alum of Weequahic High School and a graduate of The New York School of Interior Design where she also did graduate work. She worked in that field for over 50 years, decorating homes in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.



Lenore was always regarded as one of the most beautiful women in New Jersey. The entire family's main sport was skiing. While the children were in pre-college mode they owned a ski house in Vermont, where they spent every winter weekend. Thereafter, Lenore and David regularly skied Europe and out west until hindered by age. They were also both avid tennis players and golfers. Their favorite endeavor was traveling throughout the world.

They loved walking in Paris and other wonderful destinations. They made many friends worldwide. They also would drive into New York City, the best city in the world, and experience what it had to offer. They had such a delicious beautiful life together. Lenore was very much involved in Jewish charities.

She was married to David, 92, who survives her, for 60 years. They had two children, Jeffrey (Wendy) of Short Hills, and Suzanne of Menlo Park, CA and seven surviving grandchildren.

Lenore and David were longtime contributors to the WHS Alumni Association and recently established a scholarship fund.

### **Arthur M. Greenbaum, 1943**

*Distinguished leader in real estate law*



Arthur M. Greenbaum, a seminal figure in New Jersey's real estate and legal communities for over six decades and a founding member of the Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith &

Davis law firm, passed away on April 11, 2017, at the age of 91.

Broadly regarded as a dean of real estate law in New Jersey, Arthur and his late brother, Robert S. Greenbaum, joined their father, William L. Greenbaum to establish one of New Jersey's most prominent and enduring business law practices and a family legacy.

Arthur was born on April 26, 1925, in Newark, where he graduated from Weequahic High School. He served as a naval communications officer in the United States Navy during World War II, stationed in London, England.

He earned his bachelor of arts in political science at the University of Pennsylvania in 1947. He received his juris doctor from Rutgers Law School in 1950 and passed the bar that year.

The Greenbaum law firm, at its origin a small Newark-based general practice, grew into a statewide real estate powerhouse with Arthur and Robert at its helm. Arthur represented many prominent builders and developers of residential and commercial real estate, real estate brokers, commercial landlords and tenants, lending institutions and title companies.

Throughout his exceptional career, Arthur functioned as a lawyer, confidant, counselor and advocate on behalf of his many real estate industry clients. He was justifiably proud to have served for nearly five decades, beginning in 1962, as General Counsel to New Jersey Realtors the 45,000-member real estate trade association.

For his ardent commitment to the welfare and highest principles of the legal profession, Arthur was named a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Arthur is survived by his wife, Dorothy; his daughter, Nancy L. Greenbaum; a son, David Greenbaum and his wife, Joann Wells Greenbaum; and his cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren.





Top from left: Paula Borenstein, Gloria Dixon Smith, Steve Saible, Rita Bierbaum Gray, Barbara Slade Dessasau, Gideon Kantorowitch, Regina Marshall Adesanya, Fred Marcus, Jeff Haveson, Bottom from left: Gail Parson Cooper, Lenore Baxman Drucks, Carol Kaplus Eisman, Joy Schulman, Joan Frieder Smith.

The reunion took place at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark on Saturday, October 14, 2017.

From L to R: Yvonne Causbey, Chris Canady, Julie Freeman, Willie Warren, Nona Davis, Dexter Adams, and Belinda Flanigan. (Committee member Andre Daniels passed away in November 2016.)

The reunion took place on Friday, June 9, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield, NJ.



#### NEWARK RENAISSANCE RIDE

On November 5, 2017, the first-ever Newark Renaissance Ride took place. It was co-organized by WHS alum, Clinton McDonald, class of 1970.

The "vintage dress-up" bike ride was a 5-mile trip through Downtown Newark, finishing at City Hall.

The CAMEOS, a club of women from the class of 1952, celebrated with their spouses their 69th Reunion during the weekend of October 20, 2017.

From L to R: Lois Levine Fink, Marcia Kahan Rosenthal, Paula Katz Clupper, Leatrice Friedman Minzter, Avis Dresdner Weeks, Natalie Confield Tublitz. Not pictured are Barbara Smith Tripp and Joanne Rosen Friedman.

They also celebrated their classes 1952's 65th reunion at Don Pepe II in Pine Brook, NJ.



THE CAMEOS FROM THE CLASS OF 1952



## 2018 REUNIONS

Friday, May 18, 2018

**CLASS OF JAN. 1958 - 60TH REUNION**

Lambertville Station,  
Lambertville, NJ

Contact: Susan Grand  
[susanschillinggrand@gmail.com](mailto:susanschillinggrand@gmail.com)

Sunday, May 20, 2018

**CLASS OF 1953 - 65TH REUNION**

Orange Lawn Tennis Club  
South Orange, NJ

Contacts: Judie Seidman Gold,  
[goldjegold@aol.com](mailto:goldjegold@aol.com)

Ron Zevin, [ronzevin@comcast.net](mailto:ronzevin@comcast.net)

Friday, July 20th at 7 p.m.

**CLASS OF 1972 - 46TH REUNION**

Galloping Hill Caterers, Union, NJ

Contact: John Howard at  
(732) 815-1413

Saturday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m.

**CLASS OF 1963 - 55TH REUNION**

APA Hotel, Woodbridge, NJ

Contact: Jac Toporek  
[whsalum63@aol.com](mailto:whsalum63@aol.com)

Saturday, October 20th at 7 p.m.

**CLASS OF 1968 - 50TH REUNION**

Sheraton Hotel, Eatontown, NJ

Contacts: J. Paul Blake  
[jpaulblake@hotmail.com](mailto:jpaulblake@hotmail.com)

Sharon Schiffman  
[schiffman@rocketmail.com](mailto:schiffman@rocketmail.com)

### SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Donations for student scholarships can be made by check to the WHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101. A listing of scholarship funds can be found at our website:

[www.weequahicalumni.org](http://www.weequahicalumni.org)

*Weequahic High School Alumni Association*

**P.O. Box 494, Newark, N.J. 07101**

**We thank our  
alumni for all  
that you do for  
the students at  
Weequahic!**

### The Weequahic All-Grades Florida Reunion

**Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 9 a.m.**

Gleneagles Country Club  
Delray Beach, Florida

**Contacts:**

Ray Kirschbaum  
(561) 496-6494

Jeanette Hendler,  
[jeanette.hendler@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.hendler@gmail.com)

### 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, *Advisor*

#### Board of Trustees:

Marc Tarabour, 1963, *Co-President*  
Tharien Arnold, 1984, *Co-President*  
Arthur Lutzke, 1963, *Treasurer*

Ruby Baskerville, 1961	Gerald Russell, 1974
Yolanda Bogan, 1988	Keith Salters, 1985
Hal Braff, 1952	David Schechner, 1946
Mary Brown Dawkins, 1971	Corey Rogers, 2009
Brian Logan, 1982	Charles Talley, 1966
Eleanore Ofosu-Antwi, 2002	Pamela Scott Threats, 1966
Adilah Quddus, 1971	Benjamin Wolfe, 1955

#### Co-Founders:

Hal Braff, 1952 & Sheldon Bross, 1955



**Class of June 1957 - 60th Reunion**  
Sept. 17, 2017 at Cedar Hill CC in Livingston