

FALL 2018 / ISSUE 43

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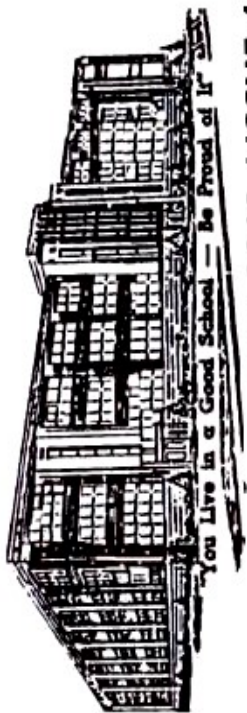
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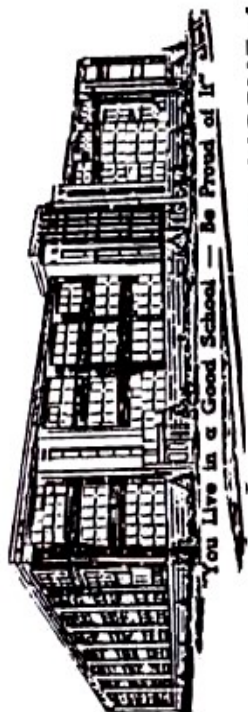
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ALUMNI CALUMNIET



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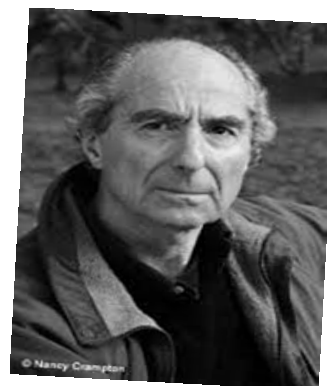
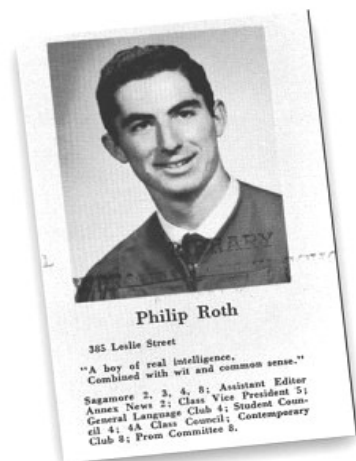
FALL 2018 / ISSUE 43

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The Legacy of Philip Roth

Pulitzer Prize-winning author graduated from Weequahic, January 1950



Philip Roth's Newark Roots Inspired A Lifetime of Extraordinary Storytelling

By Brad Parks with Ted Sherman / for NJ Advance Media

Philip Roth spent just 17 years in Newark, growing up in a succession of rental homes in its Weequahic section, where he came of age among the shopkeepers, bookies and schoolboys who filled its neighborhoods. It was enough to inspire a lifetime of stories and fuel a literary career that ranks among the all-time greats.

Roth, who died in May at 85, set the majority of his novels in the city of his birth, in places familiar to thousands of New Jersey residents, who grew up there with him, snacking at Syds, cruising down Chancellor Avenue, idolizing an athlete named Swede.

More than any American writer, Roth located second and third generation Jewish Americans at the center of our nation's transformation from urban rituals to suburban life and the discontents therein, observed the late Clement Price, a historian at Rutgers Newark, of Roth. "His is an essential voice on what it meant to be a Jewish American at a time when Jews, and indeed other ethnics, were on their way to becoming white," Price said.

During the final years of his life, Roth was widely considered America's premier living novelist. He was certainly its most decorated, having won nearly every major prize in literature, including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award (twice), and the PEN/Faulkner Award (three times). Only the Nobel eluded his grasp.

"He is without doubt the greatest novelist writing in English today," author and critic Linda Grant once said.

He created that fire while living an almost ascetic existence in northwestern Connecticut, writing with a discipline that became legendary in literary circles. He rose early each day and walked to a small writing studio some 50 yards from his house, a cottage with a fireplace, a computer - on which he wrote standing up, due to back pain - and little else.

There, he often spent 10 hours a day writing. He broke for a walk in the afternoon, then would return in the evening. Divorced twice, he lived alone. With no one to entertain, writing



(Continued on page 8)

The Legacy Bricks Highlight The WHS Entrance!

This past summer, the first installation of nearly 200 inscribed bricks took place on the sidewalk leading up to the front entrance of the high school.



**Buy An
Inscribed Brick**



To order a brick, go to:
<http://www.polarengraving.com>
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or call Myra Lawson at the
WHS Alumni Office at
(973) 923-3133

Buying a brick makes a wonderful gift for yourself, family members, relatives, classmates, teachers, and friends. So inscribe your name and the names of others in Weequahic history.

2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

20 Scholarships for \$26,250



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Shellee Alexander
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Latiefa Barrett
Class of 1964 Fund

Isioji Chukwuka
Class of 1963 Fund

Esther Ayomide Otuyele
Class of 1967 Fund

Rassaan Thomas
Class of 1963 Fund



ALUMNI CALUMET

is a publication of the
WHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor, Layout & Design:

Phil Yourish, 1964

Proofreading:

Hal Braff, 1952

Dave Lieberfarb, 1965

Myra Lawson, 1970

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edited.*

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**The WHS Alumni Association is
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incorporated in New Jersey in 2001**

Roger León, Newark's New Superintendent of Schools, is a "Newarker through and through"

Roger León was born in the city of Newark, grew up in the city of Newark, remains a proud product of the Newark Board of Education, dedicated 25 years of service to the children in the Newark Public Schools, and still lives in Newark.

Mr. León attended Hawkins Street School from Kindergarten to 8th grade and graduated from Science High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences at Rutgers University and was determined to remain in Newark to teach and impact lives at both of his alma maters.

For three years, he taught 5th grade at Hawkins Street School and was the Head Coach of the Science High School Debate Team for eight years. His classes won local competitions and his students demonstrated high academic growth. The debate team won local, state, and national championships.

The 8th Grade Algebra Pilot resulted in his move to Rafael Hernández Elementary School. Mr. León taught Algebra I to 8th graders for high school credit and provided intensive professional development in mathematics to Newark teachers across the district. The success of this project resulted in hundreds of 8th graders earning high school credit in Algebra I, teachers earning dual certification in Mathematics, and the district's highest elementary mathematics standardized test scores in years.

Mr. León earned his Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision from Montclair State University and subsequently served as a turnaround principal.

The Weequahic High School Alumni Association congratulates Mr. León as the new leader of the Newark Public Schools. It looks forward to working with him to bring success to Weequahic and all other Newark schools!

Since Mr. León believes that every child is a genius, it was his responsibility to lead and work collaboratively with all stakeholders to improve both schools. With the Accelerated Schools Project model at Horton, he promoted data driven instruction, built a strong culture of achievement, and increased parent and community involvement. Student achievement increased, attendance improved, and discipline referrals decreased.

Under his leadership at University, the school implemented its own whole school reform model, which was a return to the school's original design, a school that is an engine of social change and social justice. As a result, the middle grades standardized test scores ranked #1 in New Jersey and the school



became the top performing high school in the city, one of the top 75 high schools in the state, and ranked one of the top high schools in the country.

Mr. León has served as the Assistant Superintendent in the Newark Public Schools for ten years. His vision was to set high educational standards for everyone in every school and provide all of the necessary time and resources to effectuate change across the district.

The mission was to improve the lives of our students and their families and strengthen the community. In this capacity, he supervised the school leadership team of the high schools and a network of elementary schools, served as the Deputy Chief Academic Officer in charge of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support Services, and directed administration responsibilities district-wide.

This ten-year experience drove national, state, and local education reforms where he led, co-led, and implemented new standards from ESEA to NCLB to now, ESSA. The reforms

influenced early childhood, special education, bilingual education, and elementary and secondary education in the city of Newark. Mr. León spearheaded and organized major initiatives and community conversations influencing change throughout the entire district.

During this time, he led and worked collaboratively with local and state agencies, higher education, foundations, private-public partners, community based organizations, faith based organizations, elected officials, principals, teachers and staff, every central office department, community advocates, parents, and students.

(Continued on page 9)

Dr. Frederick L. Tyson - distinguished scientist

1972 WHS grad and talented football player

Frederick L. Tyson (known to many as Rick) was born in Providence, RI and raised in Princeton and Newark. Dr. Tyson attended the Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ and graduated in 1972 from Weequahic High School in Newark. He was recognized by the Essex County Chapter of the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame as one of the top high school scholar-athletes in New Jersey.

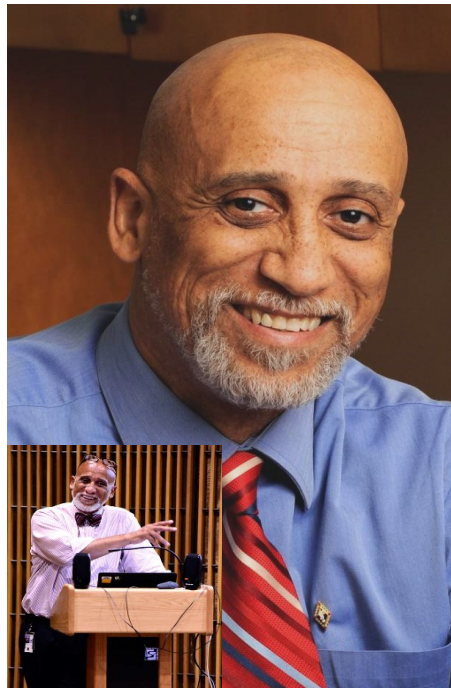
Dr. Tyson is a 1977 graduate of Rutgers University's Cook College with a BS in General Biology. He obtained his PhD in Zoology (Cell Biology and Developmental Genetics) under the mentoring of Dr. Francine B. Essien from The Rutgers University Graduate School in 1983. He is an active member of the Rutgers University Football Letter Winners Association, having participated on Both the Rutgers lightweight and varsity football teams as an undergraduate.

He did postdoctoral research in the Laboratory of Developmental Genetics at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in New York City, where he received state of the art training in the molecular biology of nucleic acids (DNA & RNA) and protein biochemistry. He continued training as a medical oncology fellow at the Duke University Cancer Center (1985-1988) where he studied the molecular biology of human ovarian cancer and published the first observation of the amplification of the Her-2/neu oncogene in human ovarian tumors.

On the professional front, Dr. Tyson is a Scientific Program Director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in the Division of Extramural Research and Training, Cellular, Organ and Systems Pathobiology Branch. Dr. Tyson's research portfolio covers a diverse array of topics. It included programs in basic and translational research focusing on: mouse genomics, K-12 environmental health science education, biological mechanisms of health disparities, breast cancer, environmental justice, and community-based participatory research.

His current research portfolio includes projects on marine toxicology and human health risks, transcriptional regulation, chromatin biology, environmental epigenetics and human epigenomics.

ALUMNI PROFILE



Dr. Tyson serves as the Program Director for the National Institute of Health Roadmap Epigenomics Mapping Consortium which is supported by the NIH Common Fund, is a member of the Executive Committee for IHEC (International Human Epigenomics Consortium), and serves as a review editor for the online journal Frontiers in Epigenomics.

Prior to working in the Division of Extramural Research and Training, he served as a Special Assistant to the Director of Intramural Research (DIR), NIEHS, as well as a Senior Staff Fellow in DIR. He has also been employed as a Medical Oncology Fellow at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC, and as a Senior Scientist at the Sacramento Cancer Research Institute in Grand Junction, CO.

Dr. Tyson is an active member of the Cary First Christian Church in Cary, NC where he sings with the Male Chorus and the

CFCC Mass Choir. He also served for many years as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Boy Scout Troop 137 (supported by St. Joseph AMEC), chaired the promotion committee and as a merit badge counselor for science, communication and cycling merit badges. He assisted in the development of 25 Eagle Scouts in this African American troop.

He is a member of the Durham (NC) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and was initiated at the Eta Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi (Rutgers University) in April, 1975. In 1977, Tyson was recognized by the Northeastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity with that year's award for Undergraduate Academic Achievement for his research on hemoglobin synthesis.

As a member of the Durham Alumni Chapter, he has served on the Board of Directors and chaired the Beautillion Militaire Program for the Kappas of Durham Foundation, a mentoring, scholarship and leadership training program for college bound young men.

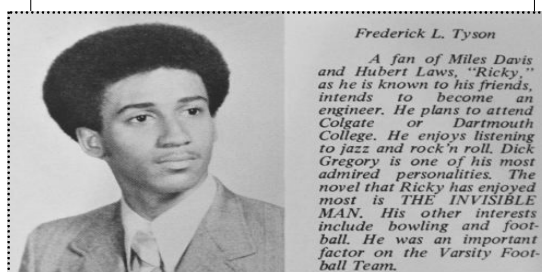
During his six year tenure as chair of this nationally recognized program, over 100 young men completed this training and were awarded close to \$300,000 in college education assistance.

Dr. Tyson currently performs professionally with the Gospel Jubilators, an all-male cappella group, who sing jubilee music with the soulful harmonies popularized in the 1930s and 1940s. He is also an avid bicyclist and holds many trophies from his years in regional Tae Kwon Do competitions in New Jersey and North Carolina.

Always treasuring his fond memories of his NJ schools, he maintains memberships with the Cook College and Weequahic High School Alumni Associations.

He is the proud father of Christopher F. Tyson and Blair C. Tyson both musicians. Rick is married to the beautiful and internationally acclaimed recording artist Barbara Weathers of Atlantic Starr.

His parents were the late Rev. A.D. Tyson, Jr. and the late Marion W. Tyson. His siblings are the Rev. A. D. Tyson, III, Rev. Margaret V.L. Tyson and the late Mark A. Tyson.



ROTH *(Continued from page 3)*

consumed him. He wrote 31 books, including nine that featured the quasi-autobiographical character of Nathan Zuckerman, and remained prolific well into his later years, eschewing any notion of retirement until he was nearly 80, when he said he had stopped writing.

"Philip was always on the job," said Ross Miller, his onetime biographer and one of Roth's few close friends. "He looked at everything differently than an ordinary person, literally experiencing life in a novelistic level of detail. It was really astonishing to be with him sometimes when you realized everything that was happening to him was being stored for later use."

Roth himself was not always viewed as the most likeable of men, at least not to outsiders. He was often dismissive of his public. He was not one for book tours or signing autographs, the kind of things other authors do to patronize their fans. He seldom granted interviews. Mostly, he wanted his work to let it speak for itself. It came at a cost - through the years, Roth's critics accused him of being anti-woman or anti-Semitic.

Still, his genius was widely recognized in literary circles. In 2006, the New York Times Book Review sent several hundred letters to prominent writers, critics and editors asking them to name "the single best work of American fiction published in the last 25 years." Seven of Roth's books were among the top finalists. "If we had asked for the single best writer of fiction over the past 25 years," the accompanying article noted, "(Roth) would have won."

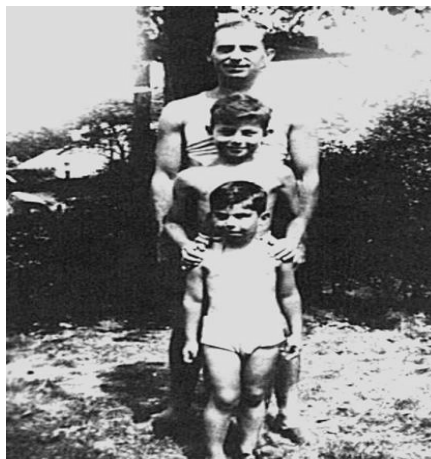
HIS NEWARK ROOTS

By the itinerant standards of Newark, a city that was home to successive waves of immigrants, the Roth family had roots here, having first arrived in the 1890s. The second of two boys, Roth was born March 19, 1933. His mother, Bess, was a homemaker. His father, Herman, first had a failed shoe store, then sold insurance for Metropolitan Life. "The stories he brought back - it was great training to be a writer," Roth once said of his father. "He brought the city into the house. He'd talk about where he'd been and the people he met. He was a very good storyteller."

Roth spent most of his formative years on or near Chancellor Avenue, which he later referred to as "the big, unclogged artery of my life." It was a place full of characters to fill a burgeoning writer's imagination - the shop owners, the hustlers, the numbers runners - and Roth described an idyllic childhood spent with other children in the



PHOTO BY DWIGHT HILCAND
Philip Roth, left, poses with Seymour "Swede" Masin of South Orange, who was the inspiration for a character in one of Roth's novels.



Herman Roth and sons Sandy and Philip at Bradley Beach, New Jersey in August 1937.
Top to bottom:
Herman age 36
Sandy age 9
Philip age 4
Photo from Nat Bodian

neighborhood, playing sports, shooting craps, and bragging about sexual exploits.

As a student, he displayed considerable aptitude, skipping two grades. He attended Weequahic High School, then considered among the finest secondary schools in the nation. Still, his homeroom teacher re-membered Roth's interests lying outside textbooks. "He was very eager for experience, especially sexual," recalled his high school teacher Robert Lowenstein in 2008, when he was 100 years old. "He was very interested in the girls."

Roth was only 16 when he graduated, and his parents did not want to send him away to college immediately. So he spent a year working at the department stores downtown, attending classes at Rutgers-Newark. He then transferred to Bucknell University in rural Lewisburg, Pa., with a primarily white, upper middle class student body.

Roth found the school's homogeneity stifling, though he perceived - or, at least, later imagined - angst underneath the seemingly placid surface, a theme that would later be found throughout his work. He graduated magna cum laude in 1954, then earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago in 1956. After graduation, he got a job at the university teaching writing. But it was as a practitioner of the craft he first earned fame.

AN ANGRY BACKLASH

The short story was called "Defender of the Faith," and it was published in the New Yorker in 1959. The story featured a protagonist who was obsessed by wealth and did not mind conniving to get it. He was also Jewish. That combination - and the implication that Roth was forwarding the stereotype of the money-grubbing Jew - set off a spectacular reaction, most of it negative. The magazine received letters from Jewish readers by the sack full. Rabbis blasted Roth in their sermons. The Anti-Defamation League formally protested it.

There was positive feedback as well: The story was included in a collection called "Goodbye Columbus," which won the National Book Award in 1960, when Roth was just 26, making him something of an instant sensation in literary circles.

Nevertheless, the backlash - in particular, a panel at Yeshiva University where he withstood withering attacks from students - seemed to scare Roth off writing about Jewish subjects for a time. His first novels, "Letting Go" and "When She Was Good" delved far less into Judaic themes.

(Continued on page 9)



But that didn't seem to change his reputation. So, figuring he couldn't please his Jewish critics, Roth wrote "Portnoy's Complaint," an outrageous monologue, set on a psychiatrist's couch, from a Jewish protagonist who recounted his sexual frustration and his fondness for masturbation - most memorably into a piece of liver that was intended to be the Portnoy family dinner.

Published in 1969 and set against the backdrop of the sexual revolution, it was a sensation, selling more than 400,000 hardcover copies and turning Roth into a celebrity. The response stunned Roth, who hated the attention. "I felt visible and exposed."

During the early 1970s, Roth left New York City, seeking the solitude of rural Connecticut. “The reaction to Portnoy really determined the trajectory of his career,” said Derek Parker Royal, president of the Philip Roth Society.

“That was the No. 1 selling book for all of 1969, which is unheard of for a literary novel, and it really made him a celebrity. Those experiences really shaped the rest of his career. I don’t think we would have had the Roth we know today were it not for ‘Portnoy’s Complaint.’”

FINDING HIMSELF AS A NOVELIST

Roth followed Portnoy with a period of experimentation, during which he recovered from Portnoy and began finding himself as a novelist. In “Our Gang” (1971) he caricatured President Richard Nixon. “The Breast” (1972) was considered a nod to Kafka. In “The Great American Novel” (1973) - a farcical work narrated by “Word Smith” - he tackled both literature and

(Continued on page 10)

As a resident, student, teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in Newark, Mr. León has taught thousands and mentored hundreds. He has witnessed generational progress and has inspired outstanding leaders, doctors, social activists, teachers, principals, attorneys, scientists, authors, professors, innovators, business owners, artists, and countless others who he has encouraged to remain in Newark, like he has. ***Mr. León is passionate about education, passionate about Newark, and passionate about progress!***

STILL CRAZY IN LOVE

*75 years of marriage for
WHS and South Side grads*

By Debra Rubin, NJ Jewish News



If not for a game of Ping-Pong, **Harriett and Sandy Krasky** might never have met. In the early 1940s, while he was a student at what was then Newark College of Engineering, student at Rutgers College of Pharmacy, to p

While they were playing, the cousins decided to go on to attend a college basketball game where Harriett Opperman, a cheerleader and student at a junior college in Newark, caught Sandy's eye. After the game, said Sandy, who is now 96, there was dancing. "I approached Harriett and asked her to dance," he said, thus beginning a romance that is still going strong three-quarters of a century later.

The couple, both Newark natives, celebrated their 75th anniversary on Aug. 5 with a party at the Martin and Edith Stein Assisted Living Residence on the Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Senior Living in Somerset, where they now live. The party was attended by close to 50 family members and other residents - in stark contrast to the couple's wedding.

In 1943, Harriett, a Weequahic High School graduate, and Sandy, a graduate of South Side High School, were in Florida. Harriett was staying with her aunt and uncle while visiting Sandy, who was attending the U.S. Army Air Corps navigation school in Coral Gables. When he got his orders to transfer to Chicago, Harriett wanted to go with him, “but in those days to do that you had to be married,” she laughed.

“It was during the war, so we didn’t have a wedding,” said Harriett, who is 94. “He had just got his commission as a second lieutenant. On Aug. 4, they had a big parade. The next day we were married, and on Aug. 6 he shipped out. We had a one-day honeymoon.” The wedding, officiated by an Army chaplain, took place at the Cadillac Hotel in Miami Beach; neither his nor her parents attended the hastily arranged ceremony.

After Sandy was discharged, he attended Rutgers-Newark and earned a degree in management; he went on to have a long career in business. Harriett worked in the retail industry. The couple lived in Irvington, Union, and Clark before moving to an adult community in Manchester Township, then to the Stein residence about two years ago.

They have a daughter, Paula Masciulli of Monroe Township, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Masciulli said the achievement of being married 75 years was driven home to her when she went to buy her parents an anniversary card. "I went to three stores and couldn't find one for a 75th anniversary," she said.

“I remember telling people when we had their 70th anniversary party that most of them will never in their lives attend an event like that, celebrating a 70th anniversary - and here we are at 75.” Masciulli said her parents’ marriage has more than stood the test of time. “After all these years they still really love each other,” she said. “They still walk together holding hands.”

The happy couple had some thoughts on the formula for the success of their long and happy union. Harriett's advice is "Never go to bed angry."

“We both compromised and did not go to sleep angry,” Sandy said, but, he added, “in the end I learned sometimes not to compromise, but to capitulate.”

ROTH (Continued from page 9)

baseball. "My Life as a Man" (1974) was among the first of his quasi-biographical novels.

It also introduced a character named Nathan Zuckerman, although the first true Zuckerman novel - *"The Ghost Writer"* - appeared in 1979. Like Roth, Zuckerman was a Jewish man born in New Jersey in 1933. Like Roth, Zuckerman was a celebrity author who wrote an explosive and sometimes vulgar novel that delved into sexual themes - Zuckerman's was called Carnovsky.

In 1990, Roth and actress Claire Bloom married. For Roth, it was a second marriage - his first ended in divorce in 1962. This one lasted only four years. After the divorce, Bloom wrote *"Leaving a Doll's House,"* an unflattering portrait of Roth as a self-centered, crotchety, mean-spirited and utterly vain man who suffered illness as if no one had ever been sicker. Roth countered in *"I Married a Communist"* by creating the character Eve Frame, an evil, anti-Semitic Jewish woman who seeks to destroy Ira Ringold, the main character.

Despite the private upheaval, Roth kept churning out top-rate fiction throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s. Although the question of when Roth hit his prime is fodder for debate among his fans, many critics say it began with *"The Counterlife"* in 1986 and continued through *"The Human Stain"* in 2000.

"Philip was on an ascending line for a 14 or 15-year period where all he does is write these great books," said Miller. It's really one of the most remarkable runs in the history of American literature." The run included what is perhaps his most critically acclaimed work, *"Sabbath's Theater"* in 1995, and his most popular, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *"American Pastoral"* in 1997.



(Continued on page 11)



MLK Speaks to students at South Side in 1968

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. talking to students at South Side High School (now Malcolm X Shabazz) in Newark on March 27, 1968, seven days before he was assassinated. Sitting in the first row (lower left) are the late Rep. Donald Payne Sr. (D-10th Dist.) and his friend, Harvey Geller. Recently, The Newark History Society had a program, "When Martin Luther King, Jr. Came to Newark," with panelists Rebecca Doggett, Fred Means, and Mark Krasovic.



The class of June 1953 - 65th reunion

May 20th at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club.
The reunion committee from left to right:

Judie Seidman Gold,
Iris Lauer Talesnick,
Mal Fleischer, Cookie Klein Schneiderman,
and Ron Zevin.

Weequahic All-Grades Florida Reunion

Sunday brunch, March 3, 2019 at 9 am

**GLENEAGLES
COUNTRY CLUB
Delray Beach, Florida**

**Ray Kirschbaum
(561) 496-6494**

**Jeanette Hendler
jeanette.hendler@gmail.com**

Through it all, Roth's settings and characters kept returning to New Jersey in general, and Newark in particular. His 2004 *"The Plot Against America"* was a speculative history novel in which a boy named Philip must grow up in Newark under an anti-Semitic and isolationist, Nazi-allied regime led by famed flyer Charles Lindbergh, which some later viewed as eerily prophetic of Donald Trump.

Roth himself came back to the city on occasion, to speak at the library or to accept another honor. In 2005, then-Mayor Sharpe James unveiled a plaque renaming the corner where he once lived, **"Philip Roth Plaza."**

Genuinely touched, Roth - who had recently been spurned by the Swedish-based Nobel Prize for literature - told the crowd, *"Today, Newark is my Stockholm and that plaque is my prize."*



"Old age isn't a battle," he wrote. "It's a massacre." Still, he remained relevant and even inspiring to subsequent generations - and not just writers. He wrote often of death and dying - other than sex and Judaism, they were arguably his favorite topics. In *"Dying Animal,"* Roth wrote, "one is immortal for as long as one lives."

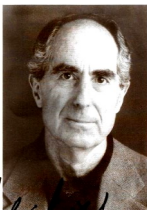
But perhaps his favorite quote on the subject was not one he wrote. It came from the 16th-century mortality play *"Everyman"* - from which he borrowed the title of his 2006 work - where one of the characters mourns:

"Oh death, thou comest when I had thee least in mind."

A Memorial Service
in Honor of

PHILIP ROTH *March 19, 1918 - May 22, 2018*

September 25, 2018



Irvin "Poochie" Hill, WHS 1979

Essex County Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame

By Mike Kinney, NJ Advance Media



Former WHS standout and assistant coach Irvin "Poochie" Hill was inducted into the Essex County Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 14th.

The Halls of Fame that continue to beckon Hill for his commendable work in both high school football and boxing will never match the number of young lives he continues to touch by way of his coaching, his counsel and his outsized sense of caring. But that obviously won't stop them from trying.

Hill was one of four men enshrined in the Essex County Football Coaches Hall of Fame during halftime of the 25th annual Paul Robeson All-Star Football Classic on June 14th at Robeson Stadium in East Orange.

The former Newark Weequahic and Albany State and Ramapo College standout and longtime assistant coach was joined by longtime Glen Ridge head coach Duke Mendez, who retired last fall, legendary East Orange head coach Tom Dean and longtime Belleville assistant Joseph D'Ambola. Both Dean and D'Ambola were honored posthumously.

The 56-year-old Hill is already a member of the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame, Class of 2004, and the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame, along with an armful of other prestigious awards bestowed upon him in recent years.

He was, for instance, named the first Essex County Assistant Football Coach of the Year in 2009, when he served on the staff of former head coach Altarik White. Hill was on the staff when Weequahic went 11-1 and captured the Central Jersey, Group 2 championship.

Hill also collected a number of other citations during a long amateur boxing career that began when he won the NJ Golden Gloves Novice championship while a senior at Weequahic High in 1979. He was at the time also a valued member of the school's wrestling squad.

Clearly, this former boxer, running back, defensive back, and wrestler has some moves he could show to current or aspiring gridders, grapplers and sluggers. But Hill has been just as glad through the years to be a voice of authority to the youngsters on what moves not to make in their lives.

Hill retired recently as a senior corrections officer at Northern State Prison in Newark after more than 25 years both there and at East Jersey State Prison in Avenel. Prior to launching his career with the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Hill had been a Newark police officer for two years and a member of the Essex County Sheriff's Department from 1987 through '91.

He has seen some things. And luckily for scores of youth from the Brick City and elsewhere, Hill has never been afraid to share some things with them. It's a giving-back outlook he developed while playing for legendary head coach Burney Adams at Weequahic.

"I want to talk to the kids about the importance of choosing to do the right things and not becoming a statistic by choosing the wrong things," Hill had said several years ago while working with the Leaders for Life Program, which is affiliated with the Phil Simms North-South High School Football Classic. He was sharing his warnings and his deep commitment to honor and decency with over 300 youngsters from Newark, Paterson, East Orange, Trenton and Irvington.

"These kids are surrounded by some awful things," Hill had said. "But through football and education and guidance they can see that there is a light at the end of the tunnel." There is a light at the beginning of that tunnel, too, whenever Hill is in the picture.

Just listen to what Altarik White said when his trusted sideline sunbeam was named Assistant Coach of the Year: *"Poochie is really a special advisor to the guys; he's a motivational inspiration to the guys on his team and the other coaches, too,"* White said. "The job he has is more important than the one any of our positional coaches have. He does the little jobs no one else wants to do and does them because he wants to."

NOAH CHIVIAN, WHS 1952

Three bar mitzvahs in a lifetime

By the late Robert Wiener, NJ Jewish News

On Dec. 26, 1947, a blizzard left a paralyzing 27 inches of snow on the ground in New Jersey. For Noah Chivian, that meant major complications for his bar mitzvah service scheduled for Shabbat the next day at Oheb Shalom Congregation in Newark.

To complicate matters, the storm prevented the return of the synagogue's Rabbi Louis Levitsky, who was in Latin America on a mission run by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Called in to pinch hit for Levitsky was Rabbi Joachim Prinz of Temple B'nai Abraham, then located in Newark. Prinz wanted to move the service to his own synagogue, which was two doors away from the Chivian home on Shanley Avenue. But the family refused because, Chivian said, "Oheb Shalom was my home."

So, unable to drive to the site through the deep snowfall, "we had to walk two miles from the Clinton Hill area to Oheb Shalom on High Street." When they arrived, they counted only nine men in the sanctuary (women were not included in a minyan at that time). A 10th man, the organist, finally entered the synagogue - but, said Chivian, the cantor reminded them, "He doesn't count. He isn't Jewish." At last, "three of my older buddies from junior high school showed up;" since they had already become b'nei mitzvah, they counted for the minyan, and the service could proceed.

A planned party and luncheon afterward was cancelled due to the weather, but the celebration was held the following day at the Chivian home. "It was a lovely, lovely time," he recalled as he sat on a couch in his West Orange apartment 70 years later.

Bad weather and a low turnout on the day of their bar mitzvahs might have left a bad taste for many boys starting their religious manhood, but Chivian, at 83, still feels the afterglow of that day in 1947 - and of the repeat rituals he took part in in 1998 and again on Dec. 30, 2017, 50 and 70 years after his first rite of passage into Jewish adulthood.

As the 50th anniversary of that first event neared in 1997, Chivian chose to have his second bar mitzvah on Jan. 10, 1998, the date on which the Torah portion for the



Shabbat service would be the same as his original.

As a lifelong member of Oheb Shalom, his choice of venue was obvious (the synagogue had moved to Scotland Road in South Orange in 1958). A celebration was held at the nearby Orange Lawn Tennis Club.

A dentist by profession, Chivian attended Weequahic High School, Franklin & Marshall College, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He retired from private practice after 54 years and now supervises graduate students at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine in Newark. His specialty is endodontics.

In lay people's terms, endodontics means root canal, and many patients consider it the most painful of all dental procedures. What, he was asked, would draw anyone, especially such an outgoing, friendly man as Chivian, to specialize in a practice that is often joked about as bordering on the sadistic? "Why?" he said. "Because there is a preciseness to it. You get instant gratification when a patient comes into your practice full of pain and leaves free of pain."

Influenced by actor Kirk Douglas, now 101, who also became a bar mitzvah three times, Chivian began considering a third ceremony for himself last spring. In June, he committed himself to studying the prayers and passages for the service, and began working with Oheb Shalom's Cantor Riki Lippitz, reinforcing lessons he had learned with her 20 years ago.

He was also assisted by some third-year dental students - Orthodox young men whom he refers to as "my yarmulke boys" - who had spotted him rehearsing his haftorah and offered to help. Unlike his first two experiences at preparation, he also had an assist from Trope Trainer, an on-line program that teaches Torah chanting. As the words in Hebrew and English appear above lines of sheet music, Hebrew-to-English transliteration appears beneath the notes. The student can control the speed and volume of the material.

Despite all of his preparations, there was an unexpected moment of "déjà vu all over again" on Dec. 30, 2017, the date of bar mitzvah number three: It snowed again. With just a few inches of snow on the ground, several of Chivian's neighbors in his apartment complex decided not to venture forth. "I just smiled," he said, thinking back to the blizzard of 1947.

(Continued on page 13)



With Noah celebrating his third bar mitzvah are, from left, Margie Gale and granddaughters Ella and Cara Toback.

CHIVIAN *(Continued from page 9)*

Smiling again, he said his third go-round was the most enjoyable. Thanks to his “yarmulke boys” and his on-line tutoring, Chivian said, “I was able to perform my Torah portion.”

What made the ceremony especially meaningful was the participation of his two granddaughters, Ella Toback, 15, and her sister, Cara, 14, who sang a section of Amidah prayer in two-part harmony from the bimah. “If I hadn’t done the one 20 years ago I don’t think I would have appreciated this one as much,” he said. “I am so pleased that I did this.”

Chivian recommends the experience of a second and third bar or bat mitzvah service for “those who are so inclined.” For him, it provided “a period of study and rededication and feeling a greater understanding of myself as a Jew.”

And he has continued the pursuit of further understanding. “I read the Torah portion on my cellphone, almost on a weekly basis,” he said. “I still participate in my own way.”

Chivian lives with his “significant other,” Margie Gale. He has two daughters, Wendy Chivian, who lives in Manhattan with her husband Ricky Molloy, and Karen Toback, who lives in Fort Lee with her husband, Michael, and daughters Ella and Cara. His sister, Simona Chivian Chazen, is a 1945 WHS grad.

City of Newark honors Larry Josloff, WHS 1962, and the Josloff Glass Company



Larry Josloff, WHS 1962 (right), and his son Ian (left), and grandson Spencer (center) at ceremonies designating part of Meeker Avenue as JOSLOFF WAY in recognition of the dedicated efforts of Larry and his family on behalf of the Newark community for over 100 years.

In 1903, Ezra Josloff, an immigrant from Russia, started a small glass repair business on Prince Street in Newark. Over the years, the business grew and Ezra's son Sollie joined his father. Sollie and his wife Ray Ann continued to expand the family business and in 1962 relocated operations to 149 Meeker Avenue.

Lawrence, a 1962 WHS grad, son of Sollie and Ray Ann, and his wife Alberta became the next generation to operate the company. In 1988, the family completed construction of the current facility at 169 Meeker Avenue.

Shortly thereafter Ian, son of Lawrence and Alberta, joined the company. He is presently the vice president and represents the fourth generation of family ownership.

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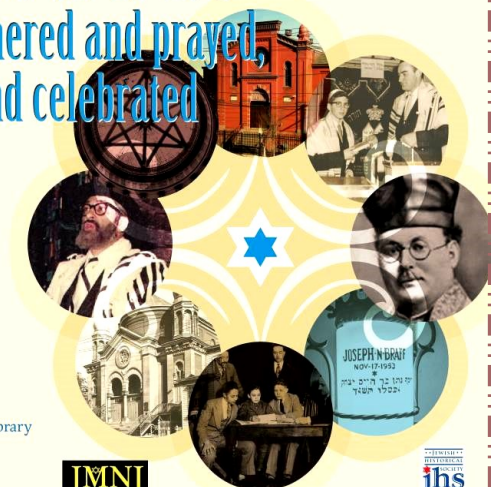
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Dr. E. Alma Flagg

Trailblazing Newark educator passes away at 99

By Barry Carter, Star-Ledger, March 20, 2018



As a child at Hawkins Street School in Newark, Deborah Terrell was in awe of E. Alma Flagg. It wasn't because Flagg had a doctorate in education from Columbia University or that she was the district's first African-American female principal at their integrated school in 1964.

Terrell knew nothing about that. What she saw in Flagg was her intelligence, grace and commanding presence, an enduring image that would be the catalyst for the grade school girl to take up the same profession. "I wanted to be just like her," Terrell said. Terrell became a teacher, vice principal, principal and interim superintendent in the district, holding many of the same positions as Flagg.

She wasn't the only one to walk through the doors that Flagg opened in a 43-year career as an educator. There were many others, some of whom shared similar anecdotes when family and friends gathered to celebrate Flagg's life during her funeral at the Elizabeth Avenue Weequahic Presbyterian Church in Newark. Flagg, 99, died on March 10 in Cherry Hill, but Newark is where her fingerprints remain.

Students, teachers and administrators said Flagg represented a high standard to follow, making her a trailblazer during a time when African-Americans were not in leadership positions in Newark education. "Everything for her was about excellence," said Lu Foley, her daughter and a retired teacher. "She was highly principled and tough as nails."

The school system did not hire Flagg when she graduated in 1940 from Newark State College, now Kean University. So the East Side High School graduate, who was a member of the National Honor Society and voted most likely to succeed, started her teaching career in Washington, D.C.

Flagg returned to Newark in 1943, taking a teaching position at the Eighteenth Avenue School and holding a master's degree from Montclair State. In 1955, she earned her doctorate from Columbia but still encountered obstacles.

Flagg challenged the district in 1959, when she and two other African-American teachers filed a discrimination complaint against promotion practices in the Newark school system. After passing the vice principal's exam, they charged that their rank was lower than what it should have been. A state investigation found math mistakes were made on the oral portion of the exam and results were not recorded. But the report concluded there wasn't discrimination, a result she didn't accept.

"I maintain that discrimination against Negroes in the area of promotions in the Newark school system has existed and, to this moment, has operated to the detriment of the complainants and others," Flagg wrote in 1960 to the Newark Board of Education.

Three years would pass before the board approved Flagg's appointment as vice principal of Garfield Elementary School in 1963. A year later, she became principal at Hawkins Street. Flagg continued her professional climb and was appointed assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum services in 1967, a post she held until retirement in 1983.

As Flagg pushed forward, she was known as a community matriarch who reached back to help others, making sure those she mentored did their best. They said she was no-nonsense and didn't believe in half-stepping. Flagg was the benchmark for current and former school administrators, showing them how to recognize talent.

Anzella Nelms, whom Flagg encouraged to be an assistant superintendent, discovered Terrell and tapped her to be an administrator. "In terms of paving the way for us, it was Dr. Flagg," said Marion Bolden, a superintendent for nine years. "I was such a big fan."

Roger León, the district's current superintendent of schools, said Flagg laid a solid foundation of instruction that he felt 10 years after she had moved on from Hawkins Street School. "The level of rigor that she required of the teachers was still in existence when I was there as a student," León said.

Born Sept. 16, 1918 in City Point, Virginia, Flagg, with her four siblings, was moved by her parents, Hannibal and Caroline Williams, to Newark when she was 8 years old. As she ventured into teaching, Flagg married J. Thomas Flagg Jr. in 1942, a union that lasted more than 50 years until his death in 1994. He was a Newark schoolteacher for 20 years, a college professor and track star.

Their children were destined to be educators. Foley (WHS 1969) taught high school Spanish in Cherry Hill and her late brother, Thomas Flagg, (WHS 1967) was a college professor.

Beyond the classroom, Flagg was dedicated to service. She was twice president of the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., which serves Newark, Irvington and Hillside. She was active in the church, where her funeral was held, and sang with the Newark Choral Society. She found time to write poetry and publish three books.

In retirement, Flagg stayed busy, taking up yoga at 80, said Della Moses Walker, her neighbor at Society Hill, a townhouse complex in Newark. She made her own soap and edited the newsletter at the development.

Flagg established the E. Alma Flagg Scholarship for Newark students to attend college, and her organizational memberships included the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee and New Jersey Historical Society.

Two years after she retired, an elementary school in Newark was dedicated in her name. A street sign on the same block will be, too. Since September, students at the school had been doing monthly projects, hoping to present Flagg with gifts on her 100th birthday this year.

(Continued on page 15)

FLAGG (Continued from page 14)

Pastor Doris C. Peterson said children were close to Flagg's heart, but she asked mourners to think about this question after the dust collects on Flagg's proclamations and the phone calls of condolences wind down.

"Are you allowing God to use you and your gift to serve others?" she asked. That's what Flagg did, and it's the central lesson we all should take from a life well lived.

Jerry Lacker, 1948, revisits Weequahic



Jerry visited the high school this summer with his sister **Doris (Lacker) Tepperman, class of 1953.** They were on a reminiscent tour of the Weequahic area of Newark.

It was very exciting for them as well as other family members with them to see the school for the first time after hearing about their memories of this special school for so many years.

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Hunters Run Reunion - Boynton Beach, Florida



It has been 10 years since Sandy Guritzky (53) mentioned to Don Stickler (51) that there seemed to be a lot of Indians living at Hunters Run in Boynton Beach, Florida. At that time, they decided to have a Sunday wine and cheese get-together at Sandy's home to see how many would show up. More than 39 alumni came and thus started a Weequahic reunion at HR. A few years later there was a dinner for graduates dating from the 1930s to the early 1960s. Only residents and spouses of Hunters Run were invited.

The ranks have thinned in recent years but on March 22 a reunion of 34 Indians met for lunch and to swap old stories and remember places and names. Those attending ranged from the class of 1937 up to 1959. Participants reminisced about times spent on Keer Avenue, Goldsmith Avenue, Aldine Street, Weequahic Avenue, Osborne Terrace and many more. Recollections of teachers from the likes of Miss O'Connor to Mrs. Lappe, Bucky Harris and so many others. A good time was had by all and everyone is looking forward to our next reunion at Hunters Run.

The following alums were at our Hunters Run/Weequahic get-together: Monroe Bierman (48), Bobbi Fechtner Bierman (54), Jean Binder Bolton (50), Blanche Tillis Dorman (55), Nathan Dorman (51), Leah Wachsmann Fleisher (45), Jack Gollin (SS50), Sandy Guritzky (53), Bernie Harris (50), Rochelle Goldman Jacobs (54), Diane Brown Koltun (51), Allen Lox (59), Dotty Fishman Leebow (44), Charles Mandel (37), Stewart Manheim (51), William Pozhak (47), Audrey Schulman Rosenblatt (59), Stuart Rossenblatt (57), Sheldon Schiffman (47), Sandy Schneider Silver (57), Helen Meyers Sine (50), Jean Barack Stickler (54), Don Stickler (51), Bobbi Mooney Susser (HS46), and Barbara Tripp (52).

Burgers, Hot Dogs and Fries on Chancellor Avenue in the 50'S & 60'S

WEEQUAHIC FACULTY IN THE NEWS

New Jersey MONTHLY THE POETRY STATE



Rob Hylton, WHS English teacher and spoken word poet, in NJ Monthly magazine

Rob Hylton (center in above picture), known as the *Godfather of Jersey Poetry*, says in the October 2018 edition of NJ Monthly magazine, that the state's troubled history shapes its verse. "New Jersey has always been a hot seat of rebellion. Think about the Newark riots and what's going on in America," he says. "I think poets speak about what they disagree with, what they want people to be aware of. New Jersey is unique, a hotbed of people who will not stand for injustice, and we're prone to speak out against it, by any means necessary, through poetry."

Bashir Akinyele, WHS history teacher, attends workshop in Berlin, Germany



Weequahic High School history teacher Bashir Akinyele traveled to Berlin, Germany this past summer where he had a fabulous experience attending the Centropa Summer Academy (CSA).

Each summer, more than seventy educators from fifteen countries convene in one of the great cities of Europe to participate in an intense sev-

en-day program focusing on history and its implications for today's society.

The core of the CSA is the active participation of teachers, who share their experiences and good practices with each other, and work on lesson plans and cross-border projects together, which they bring back to their students.

This opportunity came about when the WHS Alumni Association showed the documentary *"Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not Be Silent"* to several classes, including Mr. Akinyele's history class, for Black History Month in February. The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest co-sponsored the event, which led to Mr. Akinyele's successful application to the Centropa Summer



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Digitizing the Jewish News

Jewish Historical Society of NJ

It was a little over a year ago, that the Jewish Historical Society of NJ launched a fund raising effort to digitize *The Jewish News*. The paper began publishing on January 3, 1947. For nearly 70 years, until September 22, 2016, it was published in-house by the Greater MetroWest Federation and its predecessors. It was, and still remains, the newspaper of record for our Jewish community.

Its pages have chronicled the religious, social, and business life cycle of the community, from birth announcements, to bar and bat mitzvahs, engagements and weddings, promotions, anniversaries, milestone events and finally, to obituaries.

The contents of the newspaper has now been digitally scanned in a word searchable format. It is available to all, free of charge, through a link on our Society's website. Please be sure to take a look at this remarkable archive of our community's history.

<https://jhsnj-archives.org/>

NEW SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS



Hilda Lutzke Memorial Scholarship Fund

Hilda Lutzke recently passed away at age 104. She taught English at Weequahic for 38 years from 1937 to 1975. The Lutzke family is establishing a memorial scholarship fund in her memory.

Hannah Litzky Memorial Scholarship Fund

Pearl Rich, WHS 1941, passed away in September. In her memory, her family has asked that donations be made to the Hannah Litzky Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Donations for either fund can be made by check (payable to WHSAA) and mailed to Weequahic High School Alumni Association, P.O. Box 494, Newark, NJ 07101. Please indicate the name of the fund in the memo area. To pay by credit card, call our alumni office at (973) 923-3133.

Newark School of the Arts has always been about nurturing the talent of kids who might have missed out.

Gabriel De Los Santos strode to the microphone in a blue suit, nodded to his accompanist, and launched into "Ici Bas" by 19th-century French composer Gabriel Faure. The audience at the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center was spellbound as De Los Santos sang with great emotion the song of longing for lost summers, kisses and loves.

With his hand placed squarely at his heaving midsection, De Los Santos managed the middle range of notes all great tenors must master. When he was done, he bowed, and walked off the stage as confidently as he entered. Murmurs of "He's only 14?" could be heard rippling through the audience. Had they heard master of ceremonies Ray Chew correctly? Was this kid only 14?

De Los Santos wasn't the star of the Newark School of the Arts 50th Anniversary Gala night. Savion Glover was. But De Los Santos and the other students of the school who took the stage were the focal point - just as alumnus Glover once was.

The point is this: for 50 years, this school has nurtured the artistic talents of kids who otherwise would never have exposure to such things. Along the way, the school teaches life lessons needed for talent to be turned into achievement - especially the discipline and work ethic that success demands.

"You can always tell the difference between a child with arts training and one without," said Kevin Maynor, an opera bass singer who is on the Newark School of the Arts (NSA) board of directors. "They have a buoyancy of personality, a certain sense of caring and sensibility. They have had an introduction to the greater world." And sometimes, the greater world embraces them with stardom. Such is the case of tap dance artist and choreographer Glover, 44, perhaps the most famous of NSA graduates.

He rehearsed for three weeks and performed with a dozen students of the school's Celebration Dance Company in a number called "Din Daa." That partnership of alumni and students, students and teachers, and alumni and former teachers, played out on the stage throughout the night.

50TH Anniversary

NEWARK SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Changing Lives Since 1968

By Mark Di Iorio, Star-Ledger



Saunders Davis and Stella Lass were the co-founders of the Newark School of the Arts in 1968. The late Mr. Davis was also a guidance counselor at Weequahic High School.



Savion Glover



World-class opera singer A-Larenee Davis performed a song from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," accompanied by Nadine Herman, her voice teacher at

NSA when Davis studied there a decade ago. "Without NSA, I wouldn't have known I could become a classical singer," Davis said. "She (Herman) was my voice teacher and unlocked my talent."

Herman, who has taught at the school 40 of its 50 years and is the current musical director, said "nurtured" was the right word. "She came to us when she was 10 years old," Herman said. "I knew she had a gift, but you must bring it along slowly and let it develop properly. Too many young singers are rushed, and that's not good for them." On the other hand, kids are never too young to be exposed to the arts, said Larry Tamburri, the executive director of NSA, who ran the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra from 1991 to 2003.

The school, which faces Lincoln Park in downtown Newark, is developing programs for babies and toddlers. "So much of the brain develops before they are five," Tamburri said.

Glover, for instance, took his first classes there at age 4. While the school has seen its share of prodigies including Glover, who as a child caught the attention of dancers such as Gregory Hines and Sammy Davis, Jr. - it also serves kids who are not destined for stardom. Camille DaSilva, 15, is one of the older members of the NSA Children's Chorus, which debuted the song "Lincoln Park Miracle," written by Henry Rinder, a former board president and trustee of the school.

The Lincoln Park miracle began in the throes of Newark's most tumultuous era, the days after 1967 riots. Two Newark public school piano teachers watched arts programs cut by the school budget ax and decided to start a program of their own.

The late **Saunders Davis** and **Stella Lass** knew the need was there. And the desire. Their first classes drew 75 students, who were taught by 17 teachers on donated instruments. A \$200,000 grant from the Ford Foundation came in. And Prudential was behind it right from the start. "My mother didn't know how the corporate world worked, and wouldn't have cared if she did," said Lass' daughter, Hedy Bressler, who traveled from Florida for the event.

"She walked into the office of (then Prudential CEO) Donald MacNaughton and told him about her idea," Bressler

(Continued on page 18)

NEWARK SCHOOL OF THE ARTS *(Continued from page 17)*

said. "She said she needed money. He asked her how much. She said, 'Well, I have \$60 in the bank.'"

McNaughton gave her enough to get started and Prudential is still involved. Current Prudential Vice Chairman Mark Grier and his wife, Kathy, were co-chairs of the gala, and have made several sizable donations to the school in addition to the company's sponsorship.

"This school changes lives," Grier said before the performance. "It has a positive, lasting impact on the kids who go there, and it's always been like that."

Two Corporate Service Days at Weequahic in 2018



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WELLS FARGO



In Loving Memory

David Schechner, 1946

Distinguished attorney, student of the Talmud, synagogue officer, and WHS Alumni Association trustee



David Schechner, 89, of South Orange, passed away peacefully on April 12, 2018. Born in Newark, David grew up in the Weequahic section and spent his summers in Bradley Beach, where he met his future wife, Norma Nurkin, as a teenager.

After earning a B.A. from Lafayette College and a J.D. at Harvard Law School in 1953, David married Norma and served in the Army. He was an active and industrious alumnus of Weequahic High School and Lafayette throughout his life. David was a lawyer's lawyer, and mentor to many.

A partner in Schechner and Targan, and a member of the ACLU, David took on many civil rights cases pro bono, including those involving children with special needs and the right to protest. He was village attorney for South Orange, Essex County's representative on the N.J. Bar's Ethics Committee, board president of Orange Memorial Hospital, and a lawyer for United Synagogue.

A fourth generation descendant of the founding rabbi of Oheb Shalom, David was active in the Jewish community. He was president of his congregation and vice president of the United Synagogue. For more than 25 years, he ran a weekly Talmud class out of his law office.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Norma; daughter, Sara Jane Schechner (Kenneth Launie); sons, Paul Sheridan Schechner (Amy), and David Sydney Schechner (Lori) and grandchildren, Daniel, Alina, Miriam, Jennifer, Naomi, Sheridan, Benjamin, Jaime, and Ryan. Also surviving are his brothers, Arthur, Richard, and William.

The WHS Alumni Association established a 2018 scholarship in David's memory.

Coach Robin Brown, 1981



Robin F. "Binky" Brown, 54, of Newark, made his transition on Sunday, April 22, 2018. He was the devoted father of Ayeasha Miller, Canzetta Williams, and Aaron Williams.

Robin also leaves a host of other family and friends to cherish his memory.

A 1981 graduate of Weequahic High School, he was an assistant football coach for Weequahic since 2011.

Barry Gimelstob, 1961

Coached Shabazz H.S. basketball teams to three state championships



Barry Gimelstob, 75, passed away on Oct. 26, 2018. Born and raised in Newark, N.J., Barry graduated from Weequahic High School in 1961, where he excelled as a star athlete.

Following his graduation from Long Island University, Barry pursued his love of basketball as the head coach of Newark's South Side High School (now Shabazz). With legendary style and love for his athletes, Barry coached three state championship teams, twice earned "Coach of the Year" honors for metropolitan New York and was elected to the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame. Barry remembered his time as a coach fondly and said his greatest pride was helping to develop great men not just great athletes.

In 1989, Barry formed FBR Group, eager to serve clients with the same passion he brought to coaching. Over almost three decades, Barry and his team of talented, dedicated professionals grew FBR into one of the pre-eminent estate management companies in country. In doing so, Barry became one of Guardian Life Insurance's top agents nationally.

He was a visible and energetic fixture in the lives and athletic careers of his sons, Joshua, Justin and Russell.

Barry is survived by Patricia, his wife of 47 years; his three sons; and his grandson, Brandon. Donations in Barry's memory can be made to The Valerie Fund.

In Loving Memory

Hilda Lutzke passes away at 104

***Taught English at
WHS for 38 years***



At left, Mrs. Lutzke as a young English teacher at Weequahic. At right, she is with her son Arthur, a 1963 grad and Treasurer of the WHS Alumni Association, when she was inducted into the WHSAA Alumni Hall of Fame.

Hilda Lutzke passed away peacefully at her home in Verona on September 1st.

Born and raised in Newark, Hilda always wanted to be a high school English teacher. She received a BA degree from Montclair Teachers College (now Montclair State University) and later received an MA in Education from NYU.

On February 1, 1937, Hilda at age 23, began teaching English at Weequahic High School, where she remained until her retirement in 1975.

She knew her students were bright and her goal was to help them express themselves well. She focused on grammar, sentence structure, and expanding their vocabulary. She tested them on their reading and gave frequent writing assignments.

"I wanted my students to speak articulately and write effectively, and I worked toward those goals until the day I retired," Mrs. Lutzke commented.

Beyond the academics, Hilda always had an interest in her students' well being and their futures. She was happy to help them with decisions regarding college or other plans after graduation. Over the years, she always enjoyed staying in touch with former students. When the WHS Alumni Association was established in 1997, Mrs. Lutzke attended alumni events and was a frequent guest at class reunions.

Her late husband, Maurice, was Vice Principal and then Principal of Hawthorne

Avenue School. She leaves her son Arthur (class of June '63) and his wife Nancy; granddaughter Jessica Gilbert and husband James; granddaughter Melissa Turowsky and husband Jason; and five great grandchildren. Her daughter Eleanor (class of June '59) passed away in 2010 at age 68.

A Memorial Service took place at Temple B'nai Abraham on September 30th.

In Hilda's memory, a scholarship fund has been established by the Lutzke family through the WHS Alumni Association.

In Loving Memory

Marjorie Abrams Bosco, 1963
Lloyd Adler, Social Studies Teacher
Barbara Bauman Bennett, 1952
Marilyn Barnhard Chaiken, 1951
Shirley Belsky Nieburg
Howard Botnick, 1941
Robert Breitbarth, 1942
Marion Buchner, Librarian
Eleta Caldwell, Art Teacher
Carolyn F. Chesney, Math Teacher
Angela Cooper, 1970
Lee Davis, 1964
Marvin Dinetz, 1952
Larry Dubin, 1951
Sonya Fast Facher, 1940
Abraham Friedman, 1946
Seymour Sy Gelbard, 1965
Robert Glick, 1953
Sanford Goldberg, 1950
Sandra Goodman Reinfeld, 1948
Ronald Gruber River, 1965
Seymour Handler, 1949
Ena Hoenig Blumenfeld, 1945
Melvin Holloway, 1970
Steve Kabot, 1963
Sheldon Kahn, 1951
Susan Kessler Martin, 1964
Barry Lesnik, 1962
David Eli Lessin, 1956
Irving Moskowitz, 1960
Joel Moskowitz, 1955
Diane Newmark Denburg, 1948
Beatrice Pickar-Chanin-Kaplan, 1942
Leonard Pivnick, 1955
Florence Pollack Wolfe
Alan Pressman, 1959
Martin Reisberg, 1960
Sheryl Rich Brunswick, 1965
Wayne Richardson, 1962
Brenda Rubin Klein, 1961
Erik Sandberg-Diment, 1958
Herbert Sarwin, 1948
Selma Schiffman Heller, 1942
Mark Schwartz, 1966
Robert Schreiber, 1958
Burton Sebold, 1948
Susan Seigel, 1962
Beate Sondhelm Block, 1943
Irene Spitalny Felsenfeld, 1936
Doris Stockel Weiner, 1947
Jane Straus Wildstein, 1964
Alva Toney, 1972
Hedy Turk, 1964
Martin Vicari Jr., 1962
Daniel Weiss, 1948
James Williams, 1970
Paquita Wilson Henderson, 1970
Irving Yoskowitz, 1960
Steven Zunk, 1960

Lorraine Stein Gordon, 1937

***Owner of the Village
Vanguard Jazz Club in NYC***

By Lara Pellegrinelli, NPR



New York's Village Vanguard may come closer than any other club to embodying the spirit of jazz. For nearly 30 years, the guardian of that spirit has been the Vanguard's formidable impresaria, Lorraine Gordon. A jazz champion since her teen years and one of the music's female pioneers, died on June 9th at the age of 95.

Lorraine Gordon was never hard to find at the Village Vanguard. On most evenings, Gordon shuffled between two points: a table to the left of the stage, and the club's so-called kitchen. That's where she'd hang out with musicians, do the club's books, and take reservations - by hand, on a legal pad behind an ancient desk.

Once called *"the Camelot of jazz rooms,"* the Village Vanguard hosted Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Bill Evans, to name just a few of the legendary talents who've graced its tiny stage.

In 1935, Gordon's late husband Max opened the club on the site of a former speakeasy; she inherited her role as its honored caretaker when he passed away 54 years later. She became almost as much a fixture as the club itself.

"She's a real New York character," the late Bruce Lundvall, the former president and CEO of Blue Note Records, told NPR in 2012. "She's tough, but she's charming and she's wonderful and she's smart as a whip. And she runs the greatest jazz club in the world, period."

(Continued on page 20)



Lorraine with Louis Armstrong

Lorraine Gordon's affinity for jazz arguably ran as deep - if not deeper - than her late husband's, as she said in a 2010 NPR interview. "I loved jazz from the day I was practically a toddler," she said. "I don't know why. I don't question it. I'm glad I do."

As a teenager growing up in New Jersey, Gordon was a member of the Newark Hot Club and an enthusiastic collector of jazz records. Some of the best ones, she thought, were on the Blue Note label.

That was a happy coincidence because Gordon's first love, after jazz, was Alfred Lion, Blue Note's co-founder. They married in 1943. As a war bride and for the seven years their union lasted, she helped with the label's operations, doing the books, promoting artists and helping to select the takes used in the finished albums. Sometimes she took a special interest in a musician, like pianist Thelonious Monk.

After she left Alfred Lion and married Max, Lorraine Gordon traded work for motherhood, although she was also a committed political activist: for Women Strike for Peace, to protest nuclear testing, and against the Vietnam War.

In 1965, she made a daring visit to North Vietnam - an illegal activity during the war. Lorraine Gordon was anything but an unwitting spouse impressed into service.

She reopened the Village Vanguard the night after Max died, continuing his legacy and letting her ears be her guide. As the opinionated Gordon said (semi-jokingly) to the New York Times in 2000, "When I have to make a decision," she said, "I ask, 'What would Max do?' Then I do the opposite."

In 2006, Lorraine Gordon published a memoir titled *Alive at the Village Vanguard*, co-written with Barry Singer. And in 2013, she was recognized as a "Jazz Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts, the only time the honor has been given to a club owner.

Barry Levitt, 1964

"The Maestro"

Talented musician, orchestrator, arranger, and songwriter

by Sandi Durell, Theater Pizzazz



Barry Levitt, a gentle man, a talented musician, orchestrator, arranger, songwriter, a brilliant professional, was known to everyone as the Maestro.

On September 19, 2017 as the Maestro had finished a rehearsal with Dawn Derow for her show *My Ship* at the Beechman Theatre, Barry was standing at the bar, when he suddenly and without warning collapsed and fell to the floor from a massive heart attack. He did not regain consciousness and passed away two days later at the age of 70.

Aside from being the go-to for so many singers, and working with the best of the best, he was also a past President of MAC, (the Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs), a MAC Award recipient and producer of MAC Award shows. He produced and musically directed the Laurie Strauss Leukemia Foundation Annual Concert at Carnegie Hall, gave Master Classes, and was Musical Director for *Catskills on Broadway* (Broadway, 1991).

Moreover, he was orchestrator for *Swinging on a Star* (Broadway, 1995), conceived and wrote with Brenda Levitt and musically directed the revue *Her Song* (Off Broadway, 2006), he produced, arranged and conducted many performer CD recordings, wrote many songs with collaborator Peter Napolitano and they were in the midst of writing a new musical together.

Barry was husband to Brenda, father to Dori and grandpa to 6 year old Thor.

Personally, I can never forget his kindness and creative musicianship as musical director and arranger for ShaRell Productions (Sandi Durell & Shari Upbin) beginning in 2004 for our revues which we collaborated and created together, that included *Timeless Divas*, *Broadway Live*, *Hollywood Live*. He worked tirelessly with

our casts. They loved him as much as we did for his professional, kind and gentle manner. And we schlepped him from booking to booking - to Florida, New Jersey, Long Island and Manhattan. He was a joy to work with and a friend.

The stories abound from singers to musicians. All who worked with Barry Levitt have their own stories, each one filled with warmth and tenderness, each one filled with caring and love. Barry was an integral part of so many lives in the cabaret community. Our hearts are heavy.

Pearl Chasalow Rich, 1941

Passionate educator and mentor made a profound difference in the lives of her students



Pearl Chasalow Rich passed away on August 29, 2018 in Evanston, Ill., at age 94. Born on July 2, 1924 in Newark, she was a 1941 graduate of Weequahic High School, where teachers mentored her and helped her obtain a college scholarship.

Pearl taught history at Arts High School and then at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School before retiring in 1991. As a teacher, she mentored others and made a profound difference in the lives of her students and fellow teachers. After retiring, Pearl taught *English As A Second Language* and welcomed many students to their new country.

She was active in the Democratic Party and the League of Women Voters. While she held strong views, she always encouraged - and actively participated in - lively debates about the issues of the day.

Pearl was the beloved wife of the late Herbert G. Rich. She is survived by her daughters, Abby Rich and Susan Brenner; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Donations in Pearl's memory can be made to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association's Hannah Litzky Memorial Scholarship Fund.

A yearning glance back at Weequahic

By Rosanne Skopp, Exit Ramp column in the NJ Jewish News

It's not just me. Whenever and wherever I meet any Weequahic grads and we discover the link, we can't stop talking and reminiscing.

The other day my husband and I were in a restaurant, and I told him the four men sitting at the table next to ours - all from my generation, none of whom I knew - were from Weequahic. My husband, clueless about all things Weequahic, asked me how I knew. I don't know how I knew; I just knew. Their speech patterns, perhaps? Who can figure these things out?

And so I brazenly interrupted their conversation. These were apparently "guys who lunch" often and probably on a regular basis for the past 50 or more years. "Hey, are you from Weequahic?" Of course they were. And we got started. We began with the graduation years and then the "Did you know?" Then we dashed to the "Where did you live?" So much to talk about. The only demoralizing part was that these old guys were all several years younger than I.

Not everyone has an old neighborhood like Newark's Weequahic. Just about all of us, especially the crop from the '40s and '50s, those who are now retired, are imbued with nostalgia, remembering the old days with love and longing. We know we can't go back. Our houses may still be standing, as are the school and the hospital - the two most prominent anchors of the section. But the heart of our hearths is missing. "We" are long since gone.

We have never replaced that special place. We searched, and we moved: to the suburbs, to New York, even to Israel. And vast numbers to Florida. Nice places all, but just not the same. What is it we're yearning for? Obviously, topping the list is our youth, with its vigor and dreams. I can remember riding my bicycle, as we all did, endlessly, never feeling tired. That young girl is no longer available.

Of course we yearn for our families. Who among us wouldn't thrill to walk into the kitchen and see our moms, decked out in their aprons, stirring the soup? Or see our dads coming in from a hard day at work. Or to re-share life with our siblings - despised or loved, depending on the day. Or to walk our childhood dogs, whose brilliance has not since been seen?



Rosanne is a 1957 graduate of Weequahic High School

We yearn for the love and security that were pretty much universal in neighborhoods like ours. When I occasionally drive over to 83 Aldine St., the house my zayda built, I often stop and think about ringing the doorbell. How I would love to go inside. But what would I see? The ghosts of my memories and a house of strangers. Tormented, I leave. Let the memories go and let the "newcomers" enjoy their home.

It's hard to pinpoint what made our neighborhood so special. Was it a chemical reaction? Mr. Martino, my chemistry teacher at Weequahic, was never impressed with my skills in his special subject, so maybe my compounds don't compute.

But I think if you add a community of similarly minded people, strivers all, and make them safe and comfortable enough so that their children (those of my generation) have plenty of nice clothes; enough money for bicycles, skates, and trips to the movies; a Jewish sensibility; and put them into a high school of similarly minded kids with a generation of incredibly talented teachers - teachers who serendipitously arrived at Weequahic because of historic events like the Great Depression and World War II - then you wind up with our beloved, cherished, and longed-for community.

I have often told my children that my childhood was much better than theirs. I had so much more freedom. I didn't have playdates or carpools. I had wings and I could fly. Alas, for me and all of my friends or would-be friends, we cannot go home again. Weequahic lives in our dreams and memories. Perhaps, one day,

Weequahic shall rise like a phoenix and our descendants will move back into the house that zayda built. Not today. Not today.

About Rosanne Skopp: *Rosanne is a wife, mother of four, grandmother of fourteen, and great-grandmother of one. She is a graduate of Rutgers University and travels back and forth between homes in New Jersey and Israel. She is currently writing a family history.*

Editor's note:

This past summer I was giving a talk with Jac Toporek (Class of 1963 / WHS Note) about Weequahic to seniors from the JCC of Central NJ. Some were born in Newark, some attended the high school, others (to no surprise) were challenged by the pronunciation of the school's Native American name.

In my planning for this program, I was once again confronted with the dilemma of trying to explain to those who didn't grow up in the Weequahic area about that *very special feeling* that so lovingly and powerfully draws us back to the city, neighborhood, and high school of our youth.

How could I convey the essence of that *very special feeling* and put it into words which others could relate to? And then I remembered that a few months before I had read the above article in the NJ Jewish News. So in my presentation I quoted Rosanne, who explains this *special feeling* in such a beautiful way. Much better than I could do. *Thank you!*

With the onset of our Alumni Association in 1997, our grads who were not already home, started to come home again. . . to their class reunions, to Homecomings, to alumni events, for tours of their high school and neighborhood - and to provide opportunity to the young people who attend the high school today.

Some have even rung the doorbells of the houses they once lived in and were welcomed to come inside and visit. Just last weekend, the Class of 1968 celebrated its 50th Reunion with a tour of the high school conducted by Myra Lawson, the Executive Director of the Alumni Association.

They were the first class to see the sidewalk of inscribed alumni bricks at the school's entrance. The tour ended in the Library and Media Center (once our cafeteria) and for the past 17 years the place where our alumni office is located. Myra reported that the group had so much fun looking at year-books, buying merchandise, and just being with each other that they didn't want to leave. I guess it's that *Weequahic magic* at work again that Rosanne describes so well!

- Phil Yourish

2018 WHS CLASS REUNIONS



***Class of June 1958 / 60th Reunion
September 23rd / Crestmont Country Club
in West Orange***



***Class of 1972 / 46th Reunion
July 20th / Galloping Hill Inn in Union***



***Class of 1968 / 50th Reunion
October 20th / Hilton Garden Inn in Edison***



***Class of 1988 / 30th Reunion
July 21st / Galloping Hill Inn in Union***



***Class of 1973 / 45th Reunion
September 29 / Robert Treat Hotel in Newark***



***Class of 1969 Labor Day Party
VFW Post 35 in Cranford***