The Newark Public Schools
Historical Preservation Committee
MISSION

The Newark Public Schools Historical Preservation Committee is a 501 (c)(3) organization formed in 2009 to chronicle the district’s rich heritage by preserving its documents, artifacts and school buildings. It is our intention to share the history of the Newark Public Schools with students and the greater community at a permanent historic site.

This Distinguished Alumni Directory is the first in a series of publications that we hope will help to inform and instill a sense of pride in our Newark history.
The Newark Public School District Historical Preservation Committee

GOALS

≈ To establish a policy and guidelines for the preservation and archiving of historically valuable artifacts of the Newark Public Schools.

≈ To establish repositories within the schools for the collection and preservation of valuable documents and materials relating to the history of the school district which otherwise would be lost.

≈ To develop and keep current a chronology of significant events in the Newark Public Schools.

≈ To identify and nominate public schools for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

≈ To establish a permanent Newark Public Schools museum.

≈ To have students become involved with the archiving and chronicling process. To develop collaborative working relationships with alumni associations and other preservation organizations.
JANET LIPPMAN ABU-LUGHOD

(Weequahic/1945)

(1928–2013) Urban sociologist; expert on the history and dynamics of the World System and Middle Eastern cities; taught for twenty years at Northeastern; retired in 1988 as professor of sociology and historical research on the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research; her thirteen books include the classic work: Cairo: 100 Years of the City Victorious.
HARRIET STRATEMEYER ADAMS

(Barringer/1910)

(1892-1982) American juvenile mystery novelist and publisher who wrote many of the Nancy Drew books; penned more than 200 volumes; CEO of Stratemeyer Syndicated Publishing, a family-owned business founded by her father, which brought the world Nancy Drew, The Bobbsey Twins, The Rover Boys, Tom Swift and The Hardy Boys.
MATEE AJAVON

(Born 1986) Current WNBA player, Atlanta Dream; spends the off-season playing overseas. Led the Shabazz girls’ basketball team as the first statewide to win back-to-back victories in the New Jersey State Tournament of Champions (2003 and 2004); key member of the Rutgers squad that reached the 2006-07 NCAA finals.
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

(Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts)

(Born 1938) American painter and sculptor known for his low-country landscapes, figurative paintings and cutting-edge scenic work; created dozens of sets for Martin Scorcese, Steven Spielberg, Spike Lee and Woody Allen movies.
ALVIN (AL) ATTLES JR.

(Born 1936) One of the first African-American coaches in the NBA (1970-83); guided his team to the 1975 NBA championship, becoming the second African-American coach to win the title. Played 11 years with the Warriors, first in Philadelphia and then in San Francisco; with Wilt Chamberlain, a member of the team that made the 1964 NBA finals.
AMIRI BARAKA

(Barringer/1952)

(Born Everett LeRoi Jones, 1934–2014) Black nationalist and political activist; writings include poetry, drama, fiction, essays and music criticism. Taught at the University of New York’s Buffalo and Stony Brook campuses; short-term New Jersey poet laureate stripped of the title following the release of a poem that stirred controversy; created the music/poetry group BluArk.
RAS BARAKA

(Born 1970) Elected as Newark’s 40th mayor on July 1, 2014 after serving the city as an at-large council member (2005-06) and deputy mayor; former Newark Public Schools teacher and principal of Central High School (2007-13). Holds a B.A. degree in political science from Howard University and M.A. degree in educational supervision from St. Peter’s University. Editor of In the Tradition, an anthology of young Black writers; also a poet. Son of poet/activist Amiri Baraka (1934-2014) and writer Amina Baraka.
HILDA BELCHER

(Barringer/1902)

(1881-1963) Early 20th Century artist known for her paintings, watercolors and portraits depicting individuals and landscapes, both in formal portraiture and in casual scenes of daily life. Memorial Window finalist for the Metropolitan Museum of Art; won the New York Water Color Club prize early in her career.
MADELINE BELL

(Born 1942) Soul singer known for her hits with *Blue Mink* and solo chart-topper *I’m Gonna Make You Love Me* (1968); starred on Broadway at age 19 with the Alex Bradford Singers in *Black Nativity* (1962); received the Music Heritage Foundation’s Lifetime Achievement Award (2003).
MORRIS (MOE) BERG

(1902-72) Major League catcher with the Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians and Washington Senators (1926-34). Often described as the brainiest guy in baseball; spoke several languages; regularly read 10 books a day. Magna cum laude graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Law School. World War II spy for the U.S. government’s Office of Strategic Services.
ANDY BEY

(Born Andrew Wideman, 1939) Jazz singer and pianist; baritone with a four-octave range. Voted 2003 Jazz Vocalist of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association. At age 17, formed Andy Bey and the Bey Sisters with siblings Salome Bey and Geraldine Bey (de Haas); noted for his work with Horace Silver.
VIVIAN BLAINE

[(South Side)]

(Born Vivienne Stapleton, 1921; died 1995) Hollywood and Broadway actress and singer; got her start in vaudeville while still in school. Appeared on film in Laurel and Hardy’s *Jitterbugs* (1944); *Nob Hill* (1945) and *State Fair* (1945). Broadway roles included *Guys and Dolls* (1950).
MARION ALEXANDER BOLDEN

(Born 1946) State District Superintendent, Newark Public Schools (1999-2008); dramatically improved the graduation rate; stabilized business and finance; implemented a $1.6 billion facilities plan; focused on academics and improved student quality of life; Marion A Bolden Student Center named for her (2008); founding president, Newark Public Schools Historic Preservation Committee (2009).
ALBERT BONI

(Barringer)

(1892-1991) Flamboyant publishing legend; co-founded the Modern Library to provide American readers inexpensive reprints of European modernist titles (1917); brought out the works of Thornton Wilder, Theodore Dreiser and Leon Trotsky. Formed the Readex Microprint Corporation (early 1940s); published and preserved thousands of historic documents in partnership with the Library of Congress.
SUSAN KLEIN BORDO

(Weequahic/1964)

(Born 1947) Modern feminist philosopher noted for contributions to the field of contemporary cultural studies, particularly in the area of “bodily studies;” professor of English and Gender and Women’s Studies; holds the Otis A. Singletary Chair in the Humanities at the University of Kentucky.
WILLIAM J. BRENNAN JR.

(Barringer/1924)

(1906-97) Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court (1956-90), serving thirty-three years, nine months and four days. Leader of the court’s liberal wing; known for progressive views, including opposition to the death penalty. Justice Antonin Scalia describes Brennan as “probably the most influential justice of the 20th Century.”
STEPHEN BURROWS

(Arts/1961)

(Born 1943) One of the first African-Americans to become famous as a fashion designer; four-plus decades in the industry kicked off in 1973 as co-host of the Metropolitan Museum of Arts’ celebration of models at the Versailles Fashion Show; counts First Lady Michelle Obama, Diana Ross, Cher, Lauren Bacall and Mick Jagger among his clients.
EUGENE C. CAMPBELL

(Central/1956)

(Born 1938) The first African-American born in Newark to become Executive Superintendent of Newark Public Schools (1984-95); focused on building positive relationships among students, teachers, families and the community and modernizing academic materials.
TISHA CAMPBELL-MARTIN

RAY CHAMBERS

(West Side/1960)

(Born 1942) Philanthropist whose efforts focus mostly on at-risk youth and redevelopment of the City of Newark. Retired chairman of Wesray Capital Corporation of Morristown, NJ, which he co-founded with former Treasury Secretary William Simon. Founder: Amelior Foundation, New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Points of Light Foundation. With Colin Powell, founded America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth, Newark; United Nations Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Malaria.
WALTER D. CHAMBERS

(East Side/1948)

(Born 1931) Assistant Vice President, New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, where he was employed from 1964-88; trustee board chairman, The College of New Jersey (2003-06); honorary doctoral degree, Lincoln University (2003); chairman emeritus of Lincoln’s American Academic Leadership Institute.
JOE LOUIS CLARK

(Central/1956)

(Born 1938) Nationally known motivational speaker; became famous for the tough and unconventional disciplinarian measures he instituted as principal of Eastside High School in Paterson; inspired the lead character in the 1989 film *Lean on Me*; inspired Denzel Washington’s character in the film *Hard Lessons*. 
WILLIE COLE

(Born 1955) Contemporary sculptor and visual artist known for assembling and transforming ordinary domestic and used objects such as steam irons, ironing boards, bicycle parts and discarded appliances into powerful works of art; winner of the David C. Driskell Prize in 2006, the first national award to honor contributions to the field of African-American art and history.

(Arts/1972)
VINCENT J. COMMISA

(Barringer/1939)

(1922-90) Lawyer and First Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (1984-90); bankruptcy court referee (1967-84); served in World War II; brief career as a professional football player and coach followed; chief of the Civilian Division, United States Attorney’s Office (1961).
CARDELL COOPER

(West Side/1970)

(Born 1952) Executive director, National Community Development Association, a non-profit group of more than 500 municipalities and counties; former Assistant Secretary for Community and Planning, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; two-term mayor of East Orange (1989-97), followed by appointment as Essex County administrator.
JAY EVERETT CRANE

(Barringer/1910)

(1891–1973) Board chairman, New York Federal Reserve Bank (1953); Vice President, Standard Oil of New Jersey (1951); Director, Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company and French American Banking Corporation.
DOLORES CROSS

(Born 1938) Educator, marathoner and author. Chairperson, American Association of Higher Education; first female president of both Morris Brown College and Chicago State University. Former vice president for student affairs and special programs, City University of New York; president, New York State Services Corporation; avocation chronicled in Breaking Through the Wall: A Marathoner’s Story.
(1931–2004) Versatile artist adept in areas including design, portrait painting, graphic arts, illustration, lettering, sculpture and realistic drawing; taught at his alma mater, the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, at the height of its professional instruction; his grandmother, Elenita Roloff, who designed jewelry, studied at the school when it was the Fawcett School of Industrial Arts.
ANNE MARIE deJONY

Contemporary fine artist specializing in oil painting and water colors; began exhibiting throughout the United States and internationally in 1993; celebrates color, form and energy in non-traditional paintings considered aesthetic journeys which reflect her “Inner Odyssey.”

(Barringer)
KATHLEEN (KAT) DeLUNA

(Born 1987) Pop singer of Dominican heritage; debut single *Whine Up* reached the Top 40 on Billboard’s Hot 100 and topped the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play Chart; won several Best New Artist awards, including MTV Latino America (2007) and TMF (2008).
J O S E P H  N. D i V I N C E N Z O  J R.

Executive of Essex County since 2002; widely known as “Joe D.” Began his political career in 1990 as a member of the Essex County Board of Freeholders; subsequently served eight terms as the board’s president; worked previously as a county parks supervisor and teacher and athletic coordinator for Newark Public Schools. Played football at Barringer High School and Jersey City State College, where he graduated in 1976 with a degree in public health.
LI’ZA MONIQUE DONNELL

(Born Side/1985)

(Born 1967) Basketball standout; All-City, All-County and All-State selection at Malcolm X Shabazz High School; represented the University of North Carolina at the Olympics World Festival; toured China (1996); played in the WNBA with the Washington Mystics during the team’s inaugural season; currently a triathlete.
SID DORFMAN

(Weequahic/1937)

(1920–2014) Veteran sports columnist; joined the Morning Ledger in 1935 as a fifteen-year-old high school correspondent; established Dorf Feature Service, 1939; expanded coverage of high school and college sports statewide and introduced coverage of girls’ athletics; also introduced an “all-state” ranking system for schools and individual athletes.
CARLA DUNLAP

(Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts)

(Born 1954) World champion bodybuilder; Grand Slam titlist in 1983, when she won every major title, including Ms. Olympia, the Wimbledon of her sport; with partner Tony Pearson, two-time winner of the World Professional Mixed Pairs (1984 and 1988).
Ken Dychtwald

(Weequahic/1967)

(Born 1950) Ph.D; gerontologist/psychologist; author of sixteen books on aging-related issues. Founder and CEO of AgeWave, a research and consulting firm that services businesses and non-profits worldwide on issues relating to aging populations. Produced and hosted the 2007 two-hour Channel 13 PBS special, *The Boomer Century: 1946-2046*. 
(University/1991)

REV. DR. LEAH GASKIN FITCHUE

(South Side/1959)

Ordained Minister; First woman to serve as president of a historically black seminary- Payne Theological Seminary, a 160-year old institution sponsored by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church (2003-present); first African-American woman president of the 224-member Association of Theological Schools (ATS).
DR. E. ALMA FLAGG

(East Side/1935)

(Born 1918) Barrier-breaking educator; led a 10-year struggle with the State of New Jersey and Newark Public Schools to integrate administrative positions within the district; first African-American principal (1964-67) of an integrated Newark public school (Hawkins Street); Newark teacher and administrator (1943-83); rose to position of assistant superintendent.
MURIEL FOX

(Born 1928) Feminist organizer, speaker, writer, editor and events chair; co-founded the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966; led the communications effort that introduced the modern women’s movement to the media of the world; co-founder and ongoing leader of the NOW Legal Defense Fund and Education Fund.
RANDY FOYE

(East Side/2002)

(Born 1983) Professional basketball player with the Minnesota Timberwolves (2006-2009), Washington Wizards (2009-10), Los Angeles Clippers (2010-12), Utah Jazz (2012-13) and Denver Nuggets (2013-present) and New Jersey Player of the Year (2002); scored 28 points for Villanova in the NCAA Tournament finals against North Carolina (2005); Big East Player of the Year (2006).
CONNIE FRANCIS

Arts High School (1951/52)

(Born Concetta Franconero, 1938) Pop singer (1950s and 1960s) of Italian heritage whose chart-topping tunes include *Where the Boys Are*, *Stupid Cupid* and *Who’s Sorry Now*?; began singing and playing accordion at talent shows, pageants and festivals at age 4. Belleville High School salutatorian (1954).
ALLEN GARFIELD

Selected four years in a row to the CIAA basketball team as the leading scorer for Morgan State; led the conference in scoring for three years (1951-53); top scorer ever in a single game (48). Graduated No. 1 in his college class before going on to Howard University for his medical degree; practiced privately in Newark, where he also was associate professor of gynecology and obstetrics at the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; was a member of the Newark Board of Education.
HENRY GASSER

(1909-81) Watercolorist and oil painter known for his coastal scenes; works represented in 28 museum collections including Newark, Philadelphia, Boston. Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (1957); director, Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts (1946-54).
GLORIA GAYNOR

(South Side/1961)

(Born Gloria Fowles, 1943) Grammy Award-winning disco queen made famous by her 1979 hit recording *I Will Survive*; gained initial success with the 1975 release of her album *Never Can Say Goodbye*. The title song single was instrumental in introducing disco music to the general public; nominated for second Grammy in Spoken Word category for her book *We Will Survive* (2015).
KENNETH A. GIBSON

(Central/1950)

(Born 1932) First African-American mayor of a major Northeastern city; became the spokesman for troubled American urban communities following the riots of the 1960s; served four terms as mayor of Newark (1970-86). Former civil engineer credited with bringing harmony to the racially torn city following Newark’s 1967 civil rebellions.
JOSHUA GLENN

(South Side/1944)

(Born 1926) The second of three Newark men who graduated from the Tuskegee Institute as pilots during World War II; the others were Claude Govan and Calvin Johnson. The heralded group of African-Americans who combatted overt racism to heroically serve their country were known as Red Tails because of the colorful paint on their planes.
SAVION GLOVER

(Born 1973) Tap dancing prodigy, teacher and choreographer; appeared on Broadway as *The Tap Dance Kid* at age 11 (1985); *Black and Blue* (1989); *Jelly’s Last Jam* (1989); *Bring in ‘Da Noise, Bring in ‘Da Funk* (1996) and in the movie *Tap* as a teenager; dedicated to restoring African roots to tap in a contemporary black context; operates a Newark dance studio.
FRANK GRAD

(1882-1968) Austrian-born founder of the internationally acclaimed architecture firm Frank Grad & Sons (1906), whose sons Howard and Bernard succeeded him as head of the firm; their notable buildings include One Newark Center, Beth Israel Medical Center, 1180 Raymond Boulevard, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Courthouse, Newark Liberty International Airport (Continental Airlines Terminal) and Atlantic City International Airport.
SANFORD M. (SANDY) GROSSMAN

(Weequahic/1953)

(1935-2014) Pioneering TV sports director who directed 10 Super Bowls, 18 National Basketball Association finals, five Stanley Cup finals and Olympic hockey matches; won eight Emmy Awards for his work. Studied broadcasting at the University of Alabama; began his lengthy career (1962-2010) with CBS-TV as a production assistant for CBS-Sports; chief broadcasting director for NBA games, early 1970s; subsequently elevated to main National Football League director. In 2015, Newark’s elected officials named the intersection of Scheerer Avenue and Bergen Street “Sandy Grossman Way.”
LAWRENCE NICHOLAS GUARINO

(Central/1940)

(1922–2014) United States Air Force pilot credited with shooting down three enemy planes during World War II; also served in the Korean and Vietnam wars; shot down in 1965 on his 50th combat mission; spent nearly eight years as Hanoi Hilton prisoner of war; roommate of future Arizona senator and presidential candidate John McCain. Received the Air Force Cross for his heroism. Authored *A P.O.W.’s Story: 2801 Days in Hanoi* and *Down in Flames*. 
GEORGE HAIGHT

(1905-84) Broadway and Hollywood producer/writer (1930s and 1940s). Most prominent works include *Golddiggers of 1937* (1936); *The Goldwyn Follies* (1938); *The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle* (1939) and *Lady in the Lake* (1947); also produced nine television episodes for *Four Star Playhouse* (1954).
LARRY HAZZARD

(Central/1962)

(Born 1944) Internationally known boxing official; former three-time Golden Gloves boxing champion who went on to referee forty world title fights and serve as New Jersey State Boxing Commissioner (1985-2007); credited with creating the sport’s most comprehensive rules, regulations and policies; inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame (2010).
(South Side/1959)

(1938 – 2015) One of New Jersey’s top 10 high school basketball players (1950s); considered the best player in the country when he graduated from Winston-Salem Teachers College (1961). Often described as the Michael Jordan of his day; played in the NBA (1961-62) with the St. Louis Hawks. Won 489 games during his 24 years as head coach at Essex County College.
JAMES OLIVER HORTON

(Weequahic/1961)

(South Side)

(Born 1933) Grammy Award-winning soul and gospel singer; before going solo sang backup for Elvis Presley, Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin. Lead singer of the Drinkard Singers, a family contingent that made history as the first gospel group to perform at the Newport Jazz Festival (1957). Mother of the late singer Whitney Houston and aunt of Dionne Warwick.
CHARLES EVANS HUGHES

(1862-1948). Eleventh Chief Justice of the United State Supreme Court (1930-41); Republican candidate for President (1916), losing narrowly to Woodrow Wilson; two-term Governor of New York (1907-10); United States Secretary of State (1921-25); World Court Judge (1928-29). Attended Lafayette Street and Oliver Street (1860s-70s).
(South Side/1954)

(Born 1936) Five-term mayor of Newark (1986-2006), following Kenneth A. Gibson to become the second African-American to hold that position; served simultaneously (1999-2006) as a New Jersey state senator; brought the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and New Jersey Devils to Newark; former Newark high school teacher; professor and athletic director at Essex County College.
WYCLEF JEAN

(Vailsburg/1987)

(Born 1969) Haitian-American singer, musician, record producer and politician; founding member, with Lauryn Hill and his cousin Prakazrel (Pras) Michel, of the Fugees; went solo with Wyclef Jean Presents the Carnival (1987). Failed to meet residency requirements to run for President of Haiti (2010).
JOHN JENKINS

(South Side/1970)

(Born 1952) Won election (1995) as the first African-American to serve as a state senator in Maine’s 176-year history; former two-term mayor of both Lewiston, Maine and Aubern, Maine; first person in Maine history to serve as mayor of two cities; first person in United States history to win a mayoral write-in campaign; martial arts expert; won the karate world championship in Japan (1977); inducted into International Black Belt Hall of Fame (2015); business executive and public speaker.
DIANE J. JOHNSON

(West Side/1967)

(Born 1949) Longtime Field Office Director, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; managed a portfolio of HUD programs totaling $1.9 billion; responsible for HUD’S $4 billion multi-family and single-family mortgage insurance program. HUD’s liaison to New Jersey’s Congressional delegation and Governor; retired.
MICHAEL B. JORDAN

(Arts/2005)

(Born 1987) Got his start as an actor in television on *The Cosby Show* at age 12. Best known on television for his roles on *The Wire, All My Children, Friday Night Lights* and *Parenthood*; movies include featured role in *Red Wings* (2012), the story of the Tuskegee Airmen; co-star of *Chronicle* (2012); starring roles in *Fruitvale Station* (2013) and *Creed* (2015).
STEPHEN WATTS KEARNY

(1794-1848) One of the foremost antebellum frontier officers of the United States Army; remembered for his significant contributions in the Mexican-American War (1846-48), especially the conquest of California; the Kearny Code, which sought to regulate government behavior toward California, is named after him. Attended Newark’s common schools.
MARGARET SLADE KELLEY

(Arts High/1967)

(Born 1949) Artist whose vivid images portray the spirit that is uniquely New Orleans; recognized as a major artist of our times in the book Gumbo YaYa: An Anthology of Contemporary African American Female Artists.
(Barringer/1903)

(1885-1945) Composer of musical theater and popular music; wrote more than 700 songs including Ol’ Man River, Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man, A Fine Romance, Smoke Gets in Your Eyes and The Way You Look Tonight. Often cited as one of American musical theater’s greatest songwriters.
SANDRA KING

(Born 1947) Emmy award-winning producer/director of news and public affairs programs focused on issues of race, class and justice; launched New Jersey Network’s *Due Process* (mid-1990s). Journalism professor at Harvard University (1998-99); longtime journalism professor, Rutgers-Newark.
(1932-2009) One of the most powerful figures in the music business (1960s); controversial businessman who first managed soul singer Sam Cooke (1963) and went on to sign the Rolling Stones and the Beatles; supposedly inspired John Lennon’s bitter 1974 song *Steel and Glass*. 
EDWARD IRVING (ED) KOCH

(South Side/1941)

(1924–2013) Lawyer and political commentator; three-term mayor of New York City (1978-89); credited with saving the city from bankruptcy and putting it on firm financial footing; created 150,000 new units of affordable housing financed by the city over a ten-year period. Member of the United States House of Representatives (1969-77).
DOUGLAS KOLK

(Ne wark School of Fine and Industrial Arts)

(Born 1963) Artist known for his drawings, collage work and mixed media; works shown internationally and in collections including the Falckenberg Collection and Saatcchi Gallery.
(Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts)

(1915-2003: Born, Bremen, Germany) Acquired an early love of the world of art in his native country; leading New Jersey painter of his day; realist known for his “American scene” oil paintings; taught at Newark State College. Newark Museum offers an Artist-in-Residence program in his name.
DENNIS (MO) LAYTON

(Weequahic/1967)

(Born 1948) One of New Jersey’s top high school players (1960s); played pro basketball for five seasons in the NBA and ABA. Played on Weequahic High School’s “Dream Team” in 1967. The team was undefeated and rated number one in the nation.
MORT LINDSEY

(Born Morton Lippman, 1923-2012) Conductor, arranger and composer best known as Judy Garland’s music director (1960s); pianist and former staff conductor for CBS and ABC (1950s); music director for Merv Griffin (1962-86); won an Emmy for *Barbra Streisand in Central Park* (1969).
BENILDE LITTLE

(Born 1958) Author of five books including *The Itch* and *Good Hair* and *Welcome To My Breakdown*. One of the first authors to write edgy stories about class and relationships among contemporary African-American men and woman that challenge entrenched stereotypes; former senior editor at *Essence* magazine and reporter at *People* magazine; also wrote for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *The Star-Ledger*. (**Weequahic/1976**)
BERNARD (BERNIE) MARCUS

(South Side/1947)

(Born 1929) Co-founder of Home Depot (1979); served as company’s first Chief Executive Officer for nineteen years until his retirement in 2002; benefactor, board chairman and chief operating officer of the $290 million Georgia Aquarium; philanthropist whose Atlanta-based Marcus Foundation has given more than $50 million to causes that focus on medical research, children and Jewish life.
DONALD (DON) MARTIN


(NEWARK SCHOOL OF FINE AND INDUSTRIAL ARTS)
SEYMOUR (SWEDE) MASIN

(Weequahic/1938)

(1920-2005) Legendary high school and college athlete known for his versatility; cited by The Star-Ledger as one of New Jersey’s top 50 high school athletes of the 20th century; excelled in shotput and discus, soccer and basketball. Inaugural inductee of halls of fame for Weequahic High School, Panzer College and JCC Metrowest.
(1923-71) Noted medical doctor and researcher who joined the pharmaceutical giant Hoffmann-LaRoche, Inc. (1957) and advanced meteorically through the ranks to become president and chief executive officer (1966); revered community servant in Nutley, New Jersey, his hometown and his company’s home base. Appeared on cover of *Life* magazine.
REV. STEFANIE MINATEE

(Born 1957) Artistic director for Jubilation, Inc., a 100-voice ensemble that was, at its start, the in-house choir for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; appearances outside the United States have taken the choir to countries including Russia, Japan and Jamaica. Associate minister at Community Baptist Church of Englewood, New Jersey.
JAMES MOODY

(1925-2010) Legendary jazz saxophonist and flute player known for his hit Moody’s Moody for Love, a catchy tune with vocalese lyrics based on I’m In the Mood for Love; began a long recording career with Blue Note (1948); bebop innovator; played with Dizzy Gillespie (1946-48); received United States Army diploma (1944); New Jersey Performing Arts Center’s annual James Moody Democracy of Jazz Festival honors his memory.
MELBA MOORE

(Born Beatrice Hill) Singer/actress; Tony award-winner for Best Performance by a Featured Actress for Purlie (1970); made her Broadway debut in the cult classic Hair (1967). Also appeared on Broadway in Timbuktu (1978); four-time Grammy-nominated artist; headlined the television sitcom Melba; co-star of the Melba Moore-Clifton Daniel Show, a variety show.
FRANKIE NEGRON

(Born 1977) Salsa singer whose songs are a blend of pop, rock, gospel and R&B tied to his Puerto Rican roots; gained fame with a group called Base Harmony; sings almost exclusively in Spanish, but converses with his audiences in English as well; two of his seven albums went Gold.
HAZEL ROLLINS REID O’LEYARY

(Born 1937) President, Fisk University (2002–2012); appointed first woman to serve as United States Secretary of Energy by President Bill Clinton (1992); general counsel of the Community Services Administration under Gerald Ford (mid-1970s); president, Natural Gas Division, Northern State Power Company (1989-1992).
(Weequahic/1970)

(Born 1952) As speaker of the New Jersey Assembly (2010), first African-American woman to lead a legislative house in New Jersey and the second in American history. Assistant Essex County administrator; previously served as director of the Essex County Department of Citizen Services and Department of Economic Training and Employment. Served on Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders (1996-99); former non-profit administrator.
(Born 1941) Cultural anthropologist; Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at UCLA since 2004. Received a MacArthur “Genius Grant” (1990); early work focuses on the Sherpas of Nepal and the relationship between Hollywood films and American culture. High school classmates were subjects of her 1990s study of working class America.
VICTOR PARSONNET, MD

(Weequahic/1941)

(Born 1924) World-famous cardiac surgeon at the Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark; well-known philanthropist; major contributor to the evolution of cardiac pacemakers. Served many years as New Jersey Symphony Orchestra board chairman.
DONALD M. PAYNE

(Barringer/1952)

WILLIAM T. PECORA

(Barringer/1929)

(1913-72) Chief of the Branch of Geochemistry of the United States Geological Survey (1957); named director of the survey by President Lyndon B. Johnson (1964); the mineral pecoraite is named for him; member, 1936 Summer Olympics fencing team in Berlin.
(1927-78) Co-founder, president and chief executive officer, Supermarkets General Corporation (1956-78); firm includes Pathmark Supermarkets, Rickel Home Centers, department and catalog stores; widely known for civic and philanthropic activities; received State of Israel Prime Minister’s Medal (1977).
JOSEPH FRANK (JOE) PESCI

(Abington Avenue)

(Born 1943) Actor, comedian and musician known for his collaborations with Robert DeNiro; roles range from violent mobsters to comedic leads to quirky sidekicks. High profile films include Goodfellas, Casino, My Cousin Vinny, JFK, Home Alone and Lethal Weapon series; won 1990 Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor role in Goodfellas; nominated in the same category a decade before for Raging Bull.
SAM J. PORCELLO

(Barringer)

(1935 – 2012) American food scientist known as “Mr. Oreo,” spent thirty-five years at Nabisco; developed five patents on the world-famous cookie, including the one for the white cream filling; also developed a line of Oreos enrobed in white and dark chocolate; created other products including SnackWells; began his career working for the Charms candy company.
RALPH RAINGER

(Barringer/1919)

(Born Ralph Reichenthal, 1901; died 1942) Composer; won Academy Awards for Love in Bloom (1934) and Thanks for the Memory (1938). Best-known songs include Moanin’ Low, Easy Living and Blue Hawaii; lost his life in a plane crash (1942).
(Born 1946) Award-winning photographer and journalist; first African-American photographer employed by the Magnum Agency; author of several books, including Black in America. Former Neiman Fellow at Harvard University (1982-83); currently the clinical professor of photojournalism, The University of Texas at Austin.
JEHUDA REINHARZ

(Born 1944: Haifa, Israel) President of Brandeis University (1994-2010); director of the university’s Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry (1982-90); Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (1991-94); president of the Mandel Foundation (2011); author of more than 100 articles and 25 books in various languages.
GEORGE REYNOLDS

(Born 1947) High school basketball standout, who played college ball at the University of Houston and Imperial Valley Junior College; part of the Houston Cougars’ 1967-68 team fronted by Elvin Hayes that beat the Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul Jabbar)—led UCLA Bruins in what became known as the Game of the Century. Played one season with the Detroit Pistons.
RONALD L. RICE

(Born 1945) New Jersey State Senator since 1985, representing the 28th Legislative District; U. S. Marine Corps veteran; leadership roles include Associate Minority Leader, Assistant Deputy Minority Leader and Assistant Majority Leader; former Newark Deputy Mayor (2002-06) and West Ward councilman (1982-98).
BEATRIZ RODRIGUEZ

NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

(arts/1969)

Principal ballerina with the Joffrey Ballet for 21 years; retired in 1997. Debuted with the company in *Deuce Coupe* (1973); honored by *Dance Magazine*, the largest and oldest publication in America devoted exclusively to dance, as “a one-woman portrait gallery presenting the indelible images of women” (1993); began her career with the Newark-based Garden State Ballet under Fred Danieli.
SEYMOUR ROSENFIELD

(1912–2005) Trumpeter with the Philadelphia Orchestra for forty years; principal with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo (1943-44); taught for four decades at Temple University’s Esther Boyer College of Music; considered by his peers as the premiere master of his instrument; privately taught hundreds of top musicians.
PHILIP ROTH

(Born 1933) Pulitzer Prize-winning author for his 1997 novel *American Pastoral*; rose to fame with his novel-turned movie *Goodbye Columbus*. One of the most honored authors of his generation: two-time winner of both the National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award; three-time winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award.
(Central/1923)

(1905-80) Motion picture director, writer and producer; became head of production at Metro-Goldwyn Mayer (1948) and eventually president of the studio. Won Academy Award for co-writing screenplay for Boys Town (1938).
H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF SR.

(Barringer/1913)

DAVID SHAPIRO

(Weequahic/1964)

(Born 1947) Poet, literary critic and art historian; has produced 23 volumes on those subjects; first published at age 13. Shapiro has taught at Columbia University, Brooklyn College, Princeton University and the Cooper Union School of Architecture. He is a tenured professor of art history at William Paterson University.
WOODY SHAW

(1944-89) American trumpeter, composer and bandleader credited with revolutionizing the technical and harmonic vocabulary of the instrument; also played flugelhorn and cornet; considered a musical genius of jazz.
Wayne Shorter

(Born 1933) One of the most unique and influential jazz saxophonists of his day; multiple Grammy Award-winner; came to prominence in the late 1950s as a member of, and eventual primary composer for, Art Blakey’s Jazz Messengers. Considered the “idea man” behind Miles Davis’s 1960s quintet; co-founder of Weather Report, a jazz fusion band (1960s).
BILL SIENKIEWICZ

(Ne­wark School of Fine and Indus­trial Arts)

(Born 1958) One of the great­est inno­va­tors in the his­tory of se­quen­tial art; has won every major com­ic book award. Best known for his work with Mar­vel Com­ics’ The New Mu­tants, an X-Men spin­off, and Elek­tra: Assassin; two­time Emmy Award win­ner. Also pro­duced The Illus­trated His­tory of Jimi Hendrix.
WILLIE (THE LION) SMITH

(1893-1973) Usually grouped with Thomas (Fats) Waller and James P. Johnson as one of the greatest practitioners and masters of the stride style of jazz piano. Attended Morton Street and the Baxter School, which supposedly served bad children. (c1911)
TYSHAWN SOREY

(Born 1980) Composer, drummer, trombonist and pianist heralded for the originality of his work. Faculty Fellow in Columbia University’s Doctor of Musical Arts Program with a concentration in composition; private instructor in composition and improvisation for The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music.
JOSEPH MAY SWING

(Barringer/1911)

(1894-1994) Army Lt. General; commanded the 11th Airborne Division during the World War II campaign to liberate the Philippines; West Point classmates included Dwight Eisenhower and Omar Bradley; commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Immigration & Naturalization (1954-61) during Eisenhower’s presidency.
MARGERY TABANKIN

(Weequahic/1965)

(Born 1947) Executive director of both Steven Spielberg’s Righteous Persons Foundation and The Streisand Foundation; executive director of Hollywood Women’s Political Caucus (1988-94); director of the Arca Foundation (1981-88) and director of Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) under President Jimmy Carter (1977-81); first woman president of the National Student Association.
GRIFFITH (GRIF) TELLER

(1899-1993) Best known for his paintings of the Pennsylvania Railroad; created the railroad’s calendar scenes (1928-42) and (1947-59); Grif Teller Memorial Fund at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania devoted to displaying his work and personal effects. Attended Barringer for three years and the Fawcett School of Industrial Arts.
THE THREE DOCTORS
RAMECK HUNT, SAMPSON DAVIS
and GEORGE JENKINS

(University/1991)

(All born in 1973) Authors and motivational speakers. As high school students they made a pact to get through high school, college and medical school successfully, hence their book: The Pact, a 2002 New York Times and Essence best-seller.
(Barringer/1978)

(Born 1959) NFL Hall of Fame (2008); linebacker for 12 seasons (1980s and 1990s) for the New England Patriots; became the Patriots’ Director of Community Affairs. Football/soccer field in Newark’s Branch Brook Park named for him by Essex County officials (2009).
(Weequahic/1956)

(Born 1938) Lawyer, educator and author. Distinguished Service Professor and Alfred C. Clapp Distinguished Public Service Professor of Law, Rutgers University; established the Education Law Center at Rutgers-Newark (1973). Involved in many landmark constitutional law cases, especially Abbot v. Burke, considered the most important state case in New Jersey during the 20th century.
FRANKIE VALLI

(Born Francis Castelluccio, 1934) Gained fame as the frontman for The Four Seasons; his powerful falsetto resulted in 29 Top 40 Hits for the group, including Sherry (1962), Big Girls Don’t Cry (1962), Walk Like A Man (1963), and Rag Doll (1964). Valli and the other original Four Seasons’ members, Tommy DeVito, Nick Massi and Bob Gaudio, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990.
(1924-1990) Grammy-award winning jazz singer described as having one of the most gifted voices of the 20th century; received the National Endowment for the Arts’ Jazz Masters’ Award, its highest honor (1989). Signature songs include *Send in the Clowns* and *Misty*. Attended East Side High School.
CHARLES WATERHOUSE

(Born 1924) Painter, illustrator and sculptor; noted for using United States Marine Corps themes as his motifs; former Marine (1943-46); wounded on Iwo Jima during the Pacific campaign; received the Purple Heart medal. Served three tours in Vietnam as a civilian combat artist; only person to be named USMC Artist in Residence (1992); Colonel Charles Waterhouse Historical Museum in Toms River, New Jersey named for him.
(South Side/1976)

(Born 1958) One of the most winning coaches in the nation in girls’ high school basketball; more than 600 wins to her credit, including four Tournaments of Champions (top team statewide) during a career that spanned more than 30 years at her alma mater, Malcolm X Shabazz High School; one of four coaches selected for USA Basketball’s Women’s U17 and U19 National Team Trials (2012).
JOSEPH WEINTRAUB

(Barringer/1924)

(1908-77) Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court (1957-73). Among the landmark decisions he authored was Robinson v. Cahill, which declared that the constitutional rights of urban school children were being violated by the state’s failure to provide an equitable system of educational funding.
RICHARD WESLEY

(East Side/1963)

(Born 1945) Playwright/screenwriter for television and cinema; wrote the scripts for Hollywood’s Uptown Saturday Night (1974) and Let’s Do It Again (1975). Chairperson of the dramatic writing program at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts.
LORAIN W. WHITE

(Born 1946) One of the first women in the United States, as well as the first in Newark and in New Jersey, to coach a high school football team; member of the coaching staff at Weequahic High School, her alma mater (1977-82); Weequahic faculty member for forty-one years; inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame (1988).
(Born 1939) President of the Washington, D.C.-based Police Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting innovation and improvement in policing nationwide (1985-2012); previously served twenty-three years with the Newark Police Department, rising from the rank of patrol officer to director (1973-85); graduate of Rutgers Law School and the FBI National Academy.
LAWRENCE (LONNIE) WRIGHT

(South Side/1962)

(1944-2012) Only Newark Public Schools athlete to play two sports professionally: football and basketball; played in the American Football League with the Denver Broncos (1966-67) and in the American Basketball Association with the Denver Rockets (1967-1971). Longtime Director of Students at the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.
(1902-62) Noted historian of African Americans in New Jersey; first African-American historian to receive doctoral degree from Columbia Teachers College. Caseworker for the Newark Department of Public Welfare before joining the faculty of Howard University; became a full professor (1950).
(Born Larry John McCoy, 1940; died 1978) Hard bop jazz organist and Blue Note recording artist noted for his sophisticated harmonic and chordal structure; initially studied classical and jazz music on the piano; worked with Lou Donaldson, Kenny Dorham, Hank Mobley and Tommy Turrentine before heading his own units; classic albums include *Unity* with Joe Henderson and Woody Shaw (1965) and *Lawrence of Newark* (1973); also known as Khalid Yasin (Abdul Aziz).
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Directory of Distinguished Alumni Index by School

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Andy Bey (1957)
Albert Boni
Stephen Burrows (1961)
Tisha Campbell-Martin (1986)
Willie Cole (1972)
Dolores Cross
Kathleen (Kat) DeLuna (2003)
Connie (Concetta Franconero) Francis (1951/52)
Savion Glover (1991)
Frank Grad
Michael B. Jordan (2005)
Margaret Slade Kelley (1967)
Stefanie Minatée (1975)
Melba Moore (1958)
Frankie Negron (1995)
Hazel Rollins (Reid) O’Leary (1955)
Beatriz Rodriguez (1969)
Seymour Rosenfeld
Woody Shaw (1962)
Wayne Shorter (1952)
Tyshawn Sorey (1999)
Sarah Lois (Sassy) Vaughan (1942)
Larry Young Jr.

**Barringer High School**
Harriet Stratemeyer Adams (1910)
Amiri Baraka (1952)
Hilda Belcher (1902)
Morris (Moe) Berg (1918)
William J. Brennan Jr. (1924)
Vincent J. Commisa, (1939)
Jay Everett Crane (1910)
Anne Marie deJony
George Haight (1922)
Charles Evans Hughes
Jerome Kern (1903)
Virginius (Barney) Dante Mattia (1940)
Donald M. Payne (1952)
William T. Pecora (1929)

**Central High School**
Eugene Cambell (1956)
Joe Louis Clark (1956)
Kenneth Gibson (1950)
Lawrence Nicholas Guarino (1940)
Larry Hazzard (1962)
George Reynolds (1964)
Isadore (Dory) Schary (1923)
Frankie (Francis Castelluccio) Valli Hubert Williams (1958)

**East Side High School**
Walter D. Chambers (1948)
Alma E. Flagg (1935)
Randy Foye (2002)
James Moody (1941-43)
Richard Wesley (1963)

**Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts**
William Armstrong
Leo Dee
Carla Dunlap
Henry Gasser
Douglas Kolk
Adolf Ferdinand Konrad
Donald Martin
Eli Reed
Bill Sienkiewicz
Griffith (Grif) Teller
Charles Waterhouse
Other Newark Schools
Stephen Watts Kearny –
Newark Common School
Joseph (Joe) Frank Pesci –
Abington Avenue School

South Side/Shabazz High School
Matee Ajavon (2004)
Madeline Bell
Vivian Blaine
Marion Alexander Bolden, (1964)
Li’za Monique Donnell (1985)
Leah Gaskin Fitchue (1959)
Gloria Gaynor (1961)
Joshua Glenn (1944)
Cleo Hill (1959)
Emily (Cissy) Houston
Sharpe James (1954)
John Jenkins (1970)
Edward Irving Koch (1941)
Bernard (Bernie) Marcus (1947)
Ronald L. Rice (1964)
Vanessa Watson (1976)
Lawrence (Lonnie) Wright (1962)

University High School
Ras Baraka (1986)
Sampson Davis (1991)
Faith Evans (1991)
Rameck Hunt (1991)
George Jenkins (1991)

Vailsburg High School
Wyclef Jean (1987)

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

West Side High School
Ray Chambers (1960)
Cardell Cooper (1970)
Ernest Wyman Garrett (1961)
Diane J. Johnson (1967)