

THE BRONX CLUB OF VEGAS VALLEY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012

SPORT FIGURES FROM THE BRONX



***Hall of Famer and two-time MVP
Hank Greenberg***

***For more information about the Bronx Club
Of Vegas Valley, please send an email to
<http://bronx.xadar.com>***

If you require any information about the Club, know of anyone interested in joining, or have ideas for upcoming events you would like to host, please contact Leslie or Sue at the following website address <http://bronx.xadar.com/contactus.php>.

I am also the Newsletter Editor. If you have any articles or pictures about The Bronx that you would like to share and have them put in the Newsletter, please forward them to me at the following address: cochair.bronxclub@xadar.com.

WEBMASTERS' ADDRESS:

Any questions about the website, please contact the webmaster at: webmaster.bronxclub@xadar.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sue and I would like to announce a new Host for The Bronx Club of Vegas Valley Ladies Lunch Group. Rita Ort has volunteer to be in charge of the group, setting up our monthly meetings, and take care of any and all questions you may have for the Ladies Lunch Group. Every month it will be on the third Thursday, at 12:30 pm at a restaurant to be announced. See the October invitation in this Newsletter.

We would like to thank Susan Blonder for her efforts as Host of the Ladies Lunch Club since its inception.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 21, 2012 – Dinner will be at Charlie's Lakeside, 8603 W Sahara, which is on the corner of Durango and Sahara. Your hosts for the evening are Ellen and Bob Held, JoAnn Geller. Charlie's has a very varied menu and separate checks will be given. There are stairs and a ramp to access the restaurant. Their website is [Charlie's Lakeside](#). To respond and let the hosts know if you can or cannot attend please send an email to octhost.bronxclub@xadar.com or use the [EZ RSVP Response](#) form on our website.

We will have a special event for Halloween. Vegas Valley Paranormal is a Las Vegas based community-oriented paranormal investigation team. With over 60 years of combined experience among their members, they aspire to assist people who are dealing with a paranormal phenomenon.

***Thanks to Sue Braun for contributing picture.
Can you tell us where this store is located?***



Thanks to JoAnn Geller for the following.



This is a great tribute to all of us with New York in our blood. Enjoy!



***I am a New Yorker.
I do not live in the five boroughs or on the Island or Upstate.
I may live hundreds or thousands of miles away.
Or I may live just over the GW Bridge.
But I am a New Yorker.***

***I am a New Yorker.
Whatever took me out of New York:
Business, family or hating the cold,
did not take New York out of me.
My accent may have faded and my pace may have slowed,
But I am a New Yorker.***



I am a New Yorker

***I was raised on Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Rockefeller Plaza,
The Yankees or the Mets (Giants or Dodgers)***

***Jones Beach, Rye Beach, Orchard Beach or one of the beaches on the sound
I know that 'THE END' means Montauk.***

Because I am a New Yorker.

I am a New Yorker.

When I go on vacation, I never look up.

Skyscrapers are something I take for granted.

***The Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty are part of me, taxis,
noise, subways, and 'get outta heah' don't rattle me.***

Because I am a New Yorker.



I am a New Yorker

***I was raised on cultural diversity before it was politically correct
I eat Greek and Italian food, Jewish, Middle Eastern and Chinese food
Because they are all American food to me.***

***I do not get mad when people speak other languages in my presence
because my relatives got to this country via Ellis Island and chose to stay.
They were New Yorkers.***



***People who have never been to New York have misunderstood me.
My friends and family work in the industries, professions and businesses
that benefit all Americans.
My firefighters died trying to save New Yorkers and non-New Yorkers.
They died trying to save Americans and non-Americans.
Because they were New Yorkers.***

***I am a New Yorker.
I feel the pain of my fellow New Yorkers.
I mourn the loss of my beautiful city.
I feel and dread that New York will never be the same but then I
remember:
I am a New Yorker.***



And New Yorkers have:

Tenacity, strength and courage way above the norm

Compassion and caring for our fellow citizens.

Love and pride in our city, in our state, in our country.

Intelligence, experience and education par excellence.

Ability, dedication and energy above and beyond.

Faith--no matter what religion we practice

Terrorists hit America in its heart, but America's heart still beats strong.

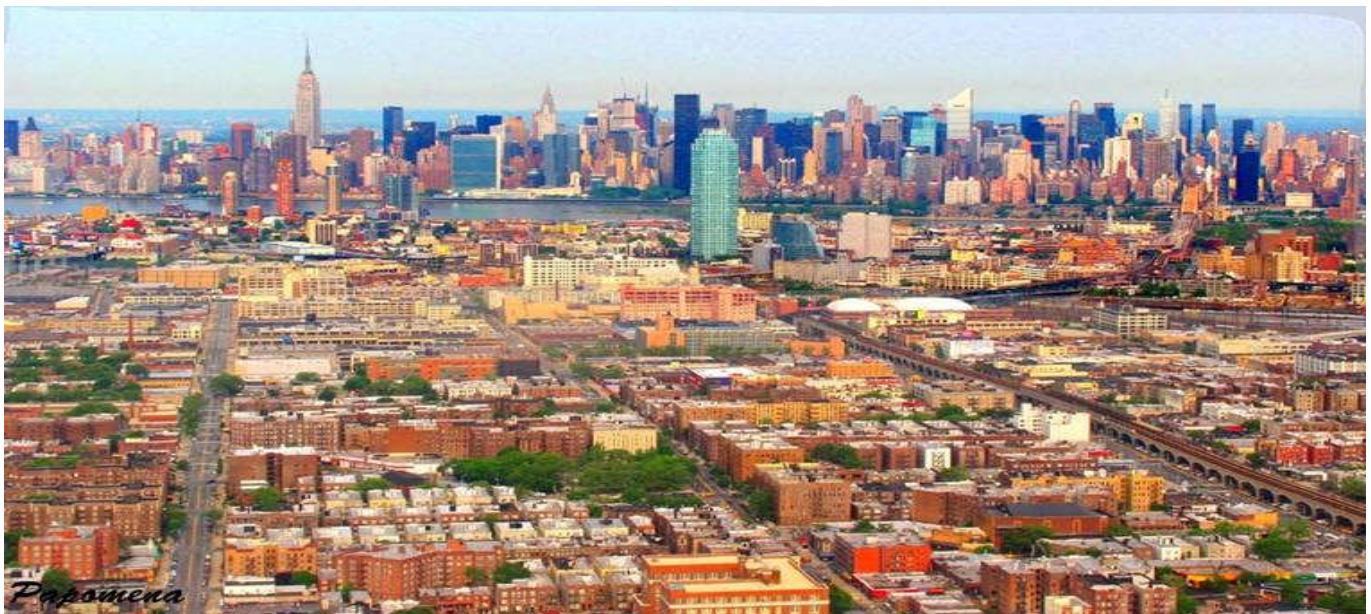
***Demolish the steel in our buildings,
but it does not touch the steel in our souls.***

***Hit us in the pocketbook; but we will parlay what we have left into a
fortune.***

***End innocent lives leaving widows and orphans, but we'll take care of them
Because they are New Yorkers.***



***Wherever we live, whatever we do, whoever we are.
There are New Yorkers in every state and every city of this nation,
we will not abandon our city we will not abandon our brothers and sisters
We will not abandon the beauty, creativity and diversity that New York
represents.
Because we are New Yorkers,
and we are proud to be New Yorkers.***



REMEMBER THE WTC

Author – Vincent Pasquale, Maspeth, NY

Thank you Vincent for allowing us to share this with our fellow New Yorkers all around the world.

Only those that grew up or lived in NYC can understand the meaning of this:

THERE IS NO NORTH AND SOUTH. IT'S 'UPTOWN' OR 'DOWNTOWN.' IF YOU ARE REALLY FROM NEW YORK, YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CONCEPT OF WHERE NORTH AND SOUTH ARE, AND EAST OR WEST IS 'CROSS-TOWN.'

YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN EGG CREAM.

YOU RIDE IN A SUBWAY CAR WITH NO AIR CONDITIONING JUST BECAUSE THERE ARE SEATS AVAILABLE.

YOU KNOW WHAT A 'REGULAR' COFFEE IS.

**YOU MOVE 3,000 MILES AWAY, SPEND 10 YEARS LEARNING THE LOCAL LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE STILL KNOW YOU'RE FROM BROOKLYN, LONG ISLAND, STATEN ISLAND (the other "Island)" OR "THE BRONX",
THE MINUTE YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH.**

**YOU RETURN AFTER 10 YEARS AND THE FIRST FOODS YOU WANT ARE A
'REAL' PIZZA AND A 'REAL' BAGEL.**

A 500 SQUARE FOOT APARTMENT IS LARGE.

YOU WOULD NOT BOTHER ORDERING PIZZA IN ANY OTHER CITY.

**YOU ARE NOT THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED IN GOING TO TIMES SQUARE ON
NEW YEAR'S EVE.**

**YOUR INTERNAL CLOCK IS PERMANENTLY SET TO KNOW WHEN
ALTERNATE SIDE OF THE STREET PARKING REGULATIONS IS IN EFFECT.**

YOU KNOW WHAT A BODEGA IS.

SOMEONE BUMPS INTO YOU AND YOU CHECK FOR YOUR WALLET.

**YOU DO NOT EVEN NOTICE THE LADY WALKING DOWN THE STREET
HAVING A PERFECTLY NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH HERSELF.**

YOU PAY 'ONLY' \$230 A MONTH TO PARK YOUR CAR.

YOU CRINGE AT HEARING PEOPLE PRONOUNCE HOUSTON ST. LIKE THE CITY IN TEXAS.

THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IS A MAJOR TRAFFIC JAM, NOT AN HONOR.

THAT IS NEW YORK, BABY! YA GOTTA LOVE IT!

The following member has a birthday in October

JoAnn Geller

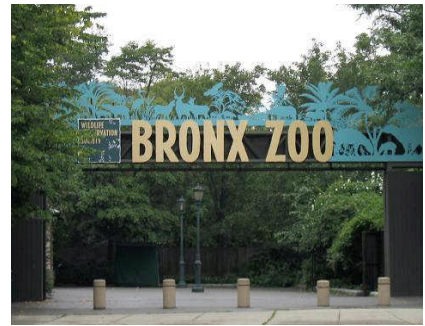
October11

Sad News

Jane Niedelman a member of The Bronx Club, of Vegas Valley, passed away on Thursday September 27, 2012. If you would like to send, a card to her family, please let me know at cochair.bronxclub@xadar.com and I will give you her address.

Happy News

Rita and Ed Ort became grandparents for the first time to Oliver Samuel Ort on September 30. Oliver weighed 6# 2 1/2oz and is 19" long.



THE BRONX CLUB OF VEGAS VALLEY INVITATION TO OUR OCTOBER EVENT

Where: ***Charlie's Lakeside, 8603 Sahara and Durango.***

When: ***Sunday October 21, 2012 at 6:00 PM***

Hosts: ***Ellen and Bob Held, JoAnn Geller.***

RSVP: ***Either send an [EZ RSVP Response](#), or send an email to octhost.bronxclub@xadar.com, by October 18.***

NOTES:

We will have a special event for Halloween. Vegas Valley Paranormal is a Las Vegas based community-oriented paranormal investigation team. With over 60 years of combined experience among their members, they aspire to assist people who are dealing with paranormal phenomenon. Their techniques are scientific in nature using the latest equipment in order to attempt to validate or disprove a client's claim.

Las Vegas immediately brings to mind glitz and glamour as well as the old saying, "What happens in Vegas, Stays in Vegas"? With a state history that ranges from Native American to old mining camps to the Mob, that saying is especially relevant in the case of paranormal investigations. Does Liberace still hang around Carluccio's Tivoli Gardens? Does the original MGM Hotel come alive with activity on November 21 after the 1980 fire that took so many lives? Does Bugsy Segal still roam the halls of the Flamingo Hotel? These are some of the questions that people have asked over the years. They offer the opportunity to discover the answers to those mysteries.



THE BRONX CLUB OF VEGAS VALLEY LADIES CLUB INVITATION

WHERE: [Manons Pastierre Bakery Pastry Bistro](#), 8751 W. Charleston Blvd, #110, 89117, 586-2666 (behind Fleming's).

WHEN: Thursday October 18, 2012, 12:30 pm

HOST: Ronnie Sander

RSVP: email to: ladies2.bronxclub@xadar.com,
or phone: 749-6974

NOTES: To accommodate several members we will be changing the Ladies lunch to the third Thursday of the month. It was agreeable to most of the attendees at the last meeting. This will start with the October meeting.

The restaurant we are going to has salads, sandwiches, quiches, soups, lasagna as well as sweets made on the premises. Everyone orders her lunch at the counter and pays at the same time so everyone gets a separate check. Their website is www.patisseriemanon.com.

SPORT FIGURES FROM THE BRONX

There are too many to give the biography of all of them but I will give a more complete list at the end.

Nathaniel "Tiny" Archibald (born 9/2/1948, New York City) is a retired American professional basketball player. He spent 14 years playing in the NBA, most notably with the Kansas City Kings and Boston Celtics.

Archibald was a willing passer and an adequate shooter from midrange. However, it was his quickness, speed and shiftiness that made him difficult to guard in the open court, as he would regularly drive past defenders on his way to the basket.

High school and college career

Archibald, a playground legend while growing up in a rough-and-tumble neighborhood in the South Bronx, NYC, only played high school basketball for one-and-a-half seasons, and was cut from the varsity squad at DeWitt Clinton High School as a sophomore. He returned to the team as a junior. During his time without basketball, Archibald briefly flirted with dropping out of school after having been largely truant in past years. However, with the help of two mentors, Floyd Layne and Pablo Robertson, Archibald turned it around. Robertson, a former standout at Loyola of Chicago and a Harlem, NY, playground impresario, had seen the gifted, mercurial Archibald in action on the playgrounds and convinced the young man's high school coach to re-instate him on the squad. Despite only playing in blowouts as a junior, the shy, quiet teen managed to blossom into a high-school star, being named team captain and an All-City selection in 1966. Off the court, Archibald began to attend school regularly and worked to improve his poor academic standing, which deterred most colleges from offering him a scholarship. To improve his chances of playing major college basketball, Archibald enrolled at Arizona Western College, transferring to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) the following year. He had three standout seasons at El Paso, from 1967 to 1970 under the legendary coach Don Haskins.

Professional career

Draft

Archibald was selected in the second round of the 1970 NBA Draft (19th pick) by the Cincinnati Royals. The Texas Chaparrals of the American Basketball Association also drafted him.
NBA career

In 1972-73 season, Archibald led the NBA in scoring and assists, becoming the only player to win the titles in both categories in the same season. (In the 1967-68 season, Oscar Robertson led the NBA in points and assists per game. He did not win the titles because they were based on totals rather than averages at the time.) His scoring average of 34.0 points per game broke the NBA record for a guard. His 910 assists that season (11.4 assists per game) was also an NBA record at the time, breaking Guy Rodgers' mark of 1908. He was named the Sporting News NBA MVP that season.

The Kings traded Archibald to the New York Nets for two draft picks and two players in 1976. Injured for much of the 1976-77 season, he was traded by the Nets to the Buffalo Braves before the 1977-78 season. Archibald tore his Achilles tendon and never played a regular-season game for the Braves, who traded him to the Boston Celtics as part of a 7-player deal before the start of the next season.

His career at the Celtics started poorly. He showed up 20 pounds overweight. However, he adjusted and helped guide the Celtics to the best record in the NBA for three consecutive years (1979-1982). Archibald won his first and only NBA championship with the Boston Celtics in the 1980-81 season alongside young NBA star Larry Bird.

Archibald was an All-NBA First Team selection three times (1973, 1975, 1976) and an All-NBA Second Team selection two times (1972, 1981). A six-time NBA All-Star Game selection (1973, 1975, 1976, 1980, 1981, and 1982), he was named the 1981 NBA All-Star Game MVP. Archibald led the NBA in free throws made three times and free throws attempts twice. He competed in 876 professional games, scored 16,841 points (18.8 points per game), and dished out 6,476 assists. He was named to the NBA's 50th Anniversary All-Time team. Nate Archibald was inducted to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 1991.

Post NBA

He completed his bachelor's degree from University of Texas-El Paso just prior to finishing his NBA career. Since then he has added a Master's Degree from Fordham University in 1990 and an additional professional

Diploma in 1994 both in education related fields of study. He began long-distance correspondence work toward a doctorate in 2000 but ceased his studies because of "his lack of funds and the motivation to complete a long-distance correspondence curriculum." He has stated his hope to complete the degree in the future at Fordham. Archibald coached in the National Basketball Developmental League in 2001. He resigned a year later to take a position with the NBA's community relations department.

Rod Carew

Rodney Cline "Rod" Carew (born 10/1/1945) is a former Major League Baseball first baseman, second baseman and coach. He played from 1967 to 1985 for the Minnesota Twins and the California Angels and was elected to the All-Star game every season except his last. In 1991, Carew was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. While Carew was never a home run threat (hitting fewer than 100 career home runs), he made a career out of being a consistent contact hitter. He threw right-handed and batted left-handed.

Early life

Carew is a Zonian (Panama Canal) and was born to a Panamanian mother on a train in the town of Gatún, which, at that time, was in the Panama Canal Zone. The train was racially segregated; white passengers were given the better forward cars, while non-whites, like Carew's mother, were forced to ride in the rearward cars. When she went into labor, a physician traveling on the train, Dr. Rodney Cline, delivered the baby. In appreciation for this, Mrs. Carew named the boy Rodney Cline Carew.

At age 14, Carew and his family immigrated to the United States and settled in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, NYC. Although Carew attended George Washington High School, which MLB star Manny Ramirez also attended, he never played baseball for the high school team. Instead, Carew played semi-pro baseball for the Bronx Cavaliers, which is where he was discovered by Minnesota Twins' scout, Monroe Katz (whose son, Steve, played with Carew on the Cavaliers). Katz then recommended Carew to another Twins' scout, Herb Stein. Herb signed Carew to an amateur free agent contract (at the Stella D'Oro Restaurant in the Bronx) on 6/24/1964.

Starting his minor league career, Carew was assigned to play second base with the Melbourne (FL) Twins in the Cocoa Rookie League and hit .325 over the final 37 games of the season. Promoted to the Single-A Orlando

Twins in the Florida State League the following season, Carew hit .303 with 20 doubles, 8 triples and one home run. Carew would spend the 1966 season back at Single-A, but this time with the Wilson Tobs in the Carolina League.

Major league career

Carew won the AL Rookie of the Year award in 1967 and was elected to the first of 18 consecutive All-Star game appearances. Carew stole home seven times in the 1969 season to lead the majors, just missing Ty Cobb's Major League record of eight and the most in the major leagues since Pete Reiser stole seven for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1946. Carew's career total of 17 steals of home currently puts him tied for 17th on the list with former New York Giant MVP Larry Doyle and fellow Hall of Famer Eddie Collins. In 1972, Carew led the AL in batting, hitting .318, and remarkably, without hitting a single home run for the only time in his career. Carew is to date the only player in the AL or in the modern era to win the batting title with no home runs. In 1975, Carew joined Ty Cobb as the only players to lead both the AL and NL in batting average for three consecutive seasons. In the 1977 season, Carew batted .388, which was the highest since Boston's Ted Williams hit .406 in 1941, and won the AL- MVP award.

Seeing time predominantly at second base early in his career, Carew moved to first base in September 1975 and stayed there for the rest of his career. In 1979, frustrated by the Twins' inability to keep young talent, and after considerable conflict with team owner Calvin Griffith, Carew announced his intention to leave the Twins. On February 3, Carew was traded to the Angels for outfielder Ken Landreaux, catcher/first baseman Dave Engle, right-handed pitcher Paul Hartzell, and left-handed pitcher Brad Havens. Although representing a considerable infusion of talent, the Twins had been unable to complete a possibly better deal with the New York Yankees in January in which Carew would have moved to New York in exchange for Chris Chambliss, Juan Beniquez, Dámaso García, and Dave Righetti.

On 8/4/1985, Carew joined an elite group of ballplayers when he got his 3,000th base hit against Minnesota Twins left-hander Frank Viola at the former Anaheim Stadium. The 1985 season would be his last. After the season, Rod Carew was granted free agency, after the Angels declined to offer him new contract, but he received no offers from other teams. Carew suspected that baseball owners were deliberately colluding to keep him (and other players) from signing.

The suspicion was justified; on 1/10/1995, nearly a decade after his forced retirement, arbitrator Thomas Roberts ruled that the owners had indeed violated the rules of baseball's second collusion agreement, which they had previously agreed to abide by. Rod Carew was awarded damages

equivalent to what he would have likely received in 1986: \$782,036. Carew finished his career with 3,053 hits and a lifetime batting average of .328.

Carew was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991, his first year of eligibility, the 22nd player so elected. In 1999, he ranked #61 on The Sporting News' list of 100 Greatest Baseball Players, and was nominated as a finalist for Major League Baseball's All-Century Team. Carew has also been inducted into the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Hall of Fame.

Through 2011, Carew had the best all-time career batting average of all Twins (.334), the second best on-base percentage (.393; tied with Buddy Myer), was fourth in intentional walks (99), and was fifth in hits (2,085) and stolen bases (271; while second in caught stealing, at 123). He also had the best all-time career on base percentage of all Angels (.393), the second-best batting average (.314), and was sixth in both intentional walks (45) and sacrifice hits (60).

Military service

During the 1960s, Carew served a six-year commitment in the United States Marine Corps Reserves as a combat engineer.

After retirement

Carew moved to the community of Anaheim Hills, California while playing with the Angels and remained there after his retirement. Carew was hired as the Angels hitting coach on 11/5/1991 and served in a similar capacity with the Milwaukee Brewers. He is credited with helping develop young hitters like Garret Anderson, Jim Edmonds, and Tim Salmon. Carew has also worked at various times as a minor league and spring training hitting and base running coach for the Twins and serves as an international youth baseball instructor for MLB.

Rod married second wife Rhonda in December 2001 and they have two children, Cheyenne and Devon. Devout Christians, the family attends Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA. On 1/19/2004, Panama City's National Stadium was renamed "Rod Carew Stadium". In 2005, Carew was named the second baseman on the MLB Latino Legends Team. The Twins retired Carew's number 29 on 7/19/1987. Carew has had his number retired by the Angels in 1986 and was the fourth inductee into the Angels' Hall of Fame on 8/6/1991.

Henry Benjamin "Hank" Greenberg

Henry Benjamin "Hank" Greenberg (1/1/1911 – 9/4/1986), nicknamed "Hammerin' Hank" or "The Hebrew Hammer," was an American professional baseball player in the 1930s and 1940s. A first baseman primarily for the Detroit Tigers, Greenberg was one of the premier power hitters of his generation. He hit 58 home runs in 1938, equaling Jimmie Foxx's 1932 mark for the most home runs in one season by any player between 1927 (when Babe Ruth set a record of 60) and 1961 (when Roger Maris surpassed it).

Greenberg was a five-time All-Star, was twice named the AL MVP, and was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1956. Greenberg became the first major league player to hit 25 or more home runs in a season in each league.

Greenberg is the AL record holder for most RBIs in a single season by a right-handed batter—183 RBI in 1937 (a 154-game schedule.) Only left-handed batter Lou Gehrig's 184 RBI in 1931 surpasses Greenberg in the AL record books. Greenberg was sold to the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1947, became the very first baseball player to earn over \$80,000/year in salary (he was paid \$100,000, (\$1,041,000 today) plus \$25,000 that his contract with Detroit called for in the event they sold or traded him). He was one of the few opposing players publicly to welcome Jackie Robinson to the majors.

Greenberg was the first Jewish superstar in American professional sports. He attracted national attention in 1934 when he refused to play baseball on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, even though the Tigers were in the middle of a pennant race and he was not in practice a religious Jew. Greenberg is widely considered as one of the greatest sluggers in baseball history.

Early life

Hank Greenberg was born Hyman Greenberg on 1/1/1911, in Greenwich Village, New York City to Romanian-born Jewish immigrant parents David and Sarah Greenberg, who owned a successful cloth-shrinking plant in New York. Hank had two brothers, Ben, four years older, and Joe, five years younger, who also played baseball, and a sister, Lillian, two years older. His family moved to the Bronx when he was about seven.

Greenberg lacked coordination as a youngster and flat feet prevented him from running fast. But he worked diligently to overcome his inadequacies. He attended James Monroe High School in the Bronx, where he was an outstanding all-around athlete. His preferred sport was baseball, and his preferred position was first base. He became a basketball standout in high school, helping Monroe win the city championship.

In 1929, he was recruited by the New York Yankees, who already had a capable first baseman, Lou Gehrig. Greenberg turned them down and instead attended New York University for a year, after which he signed with the Detroit Tigers for \$9,000 (\$125,000 today).

Minor League career

Greenberg played minor league baseball for three years. Greenberg played 17 games in 1930 for Hartford, then played at Raleigh, North Carolina, where he hit .314 with 19 home runs. In 1931, he played at Evansville in the Illinois-Indiana-Iowa League (.318, 15 homers, 85 RBIs). In 1932, at Beaumont in the Texas League, he hit 39 homers with 131 RBIs, won the MVP award, and led Beaumont to the Texas League title.

Early Major League career

In seven of the nine years in which he was active, Greenberg was one of the dominant players in the game. He has the seventh-highest slugging percentage lifetime of any ballplayer in major league history, at .605, ahead of such sluggers as Mark McGwire and Joe DiMaggio.

In 1930, he was the youngest player in the majors when he first broke in, at 19. In 1933, he rejoined the Tigers and hit .301 while driving in 87 runs. At the same time, he was third in the league in strikeouts (78).

In 1934, his second major-league season, he hit .339 and helped the Tigers reach their first World Series in 25 years. He led the league in doubles, with 63 (the 4th-highest all-time in a single season), and extra base hits (96). He was 3rd in the AL in slugging percentage (.600) – behind Jimmie Foxx and Lou Gehrig, but ahead of Babe Ruth, and in RBIs (139), 6th in batting average (.339), 7th in home runs (26), and ninth in on base percentage (.404). Late in the 1934 season, he announced that he would not play on September 10, which was Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, or on September 19, the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Fans grumbled, "Rosh Hashanah comes every year but the Tigers haven't won the pennant since 1909." Greenberg did considerable soul-searching, and discussed the matter with his rabbi; finally, he relented and agreed to play on Rosh Hashanah, but stuck with his decision not to play on Yom Kippur.

Dramatically, Greenberg hit two home runs in a 2–1 Tigers victory over Boston on Rosh Hashanah. The next day's Detroit Free Press ran the Hebrew lettering for "Happy New Year" across its front page. Columnist and poet Edgar A. Guest expressed the general opinion in a poem titled "Speaking of Greenberg," in which he used the Irish (and thus Catholic) names Murphy and Mulroney.

The poem ends with the lines "We shall miss him on the infield and shall miss him at the bat/but he's true to his religion—and I honor him for that." The complete text of the poem is at the end of Greenberg's biography page at the website of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. The Detroit press was not so kind regarding the Yom Kippur decision, nor were many fans, but Greenberg in his autobiography recalled that he received a standing ovation from congregants at the Shaarey Zedek synagogue when he arrived. Absent Greenberg, the Tigers lost to the New York Yankees, 5–2. The Tigers went on to face the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1934 World Series.

In 1935 Greenberg led the league in RBIs (170), total bases (389), and extra base hits (98), tied Foxx for the AL title in home runs (36), was 2nd in the league in doubles (46), slugging percentage (.628), was 3rd in the league in triples (16), and in runs scored (121), 6th in on base percentage (.411) and walks (87), and was 7th in batting average (.328). He also led the Tigers to their first World Series title. (However, he broke his wrist in the second game.) He was unanimously voted the AL's MVP. He set a record (still standing) of 103 RBIs at the All-Star break – but was not selected to the AL All-Star Game roster.

In 1936, Greenberg re-broke his wrist in a collision with Jake Powell of the Washington Senators in April of that year. He had accumulated 16 RBIs in 12 games before his injury.

In 1937, Greenberg was voted to the All-Star Team. On 9/19/1937, he hit the first-ever homer into the center field bleachers at Yankee Stadium. He led the AL by driving in 183 runs (3rd all-time, behind Hack Wilson in 1930 and Lou Gehrig in 1931), and in extra base hits (103), while batting .337 with 200 hits. He was 2nd in the league in home runs (40), doubles (49), total bases (397), slugging percentage (.668), and walks (102), 3rd in on base percentage (.436), and 7th in batting average (.337).[4] Still, Greenberg came in third in the vote for MVP.

A prodigious home run hitter, Greenberg narrowly missed breaking Babe Ruth's single-season home run record in 1938, when he was again voted to the All-Star Team and hit 58 home runs, leading the league for the second time. That year, he set the major league record with 11 multi-homer games. Sammy Sosa tied Greenberg's mark in 1998.

After having been passed over for the All-Star team in 1935 and being left on the bench for the 1937 game, Greenberg refused to participate in the 1938 contest. In 1938, he homered in four consecutive at-bats over two games. He matched what was then the single-season home run record by a right-handed batter, (Jimmy Foxx, 1932); the mark would stand for 66 years until it was broken by Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire.

Greenberg also had a 59th home run washed away in a rainout. It has been long speculated that Greenberg was intentionally walked late in the season to prevent him from breaking Ruth's record, but Greenberg dismissed this speculation, calling it "crazy stories." Nonetheless, Howard Megdal has calculated that in September 1938, Greenberg was walked in over 20% of his plate appearances, the highest percentage in his career by far. Megdal's article cited this walk percentage statistic as evidence of AL teams not wanting Greenberg to break Babe Ruth's record due to anti-Semitism. However, an examination of the box scores indicate this spike in walks was due to a few games against Saint Louis Browns' pitchers with horrific control, not a general league tendency.

1938, Greenberg led the league in runs scored (144) and at-bats per home run (9.6), tied for the AL lead in walks (119), was second in RBIs (146), slugging percentage (.683), and total bases (380), and third in OBP (.438) and set a still-standing major league record of 39 homers in his home park, the newly reconfigured Briggs Stadium. He also set a major-league record with 11 multiple-home run games. However, he came in third in the vote for MVP.

In 1939 Greenberg was voted to the All-Star Team for the third year in a row. He was second in the AL in home runs (33) and strikeouts (95), third in doubles (42) and slugging percentage (.622), fourth in RBIs (112), sixth in walks (91), and ninth in on base percentage (.420).

After the 1939 season ended, Greenberg was asked by general manager Jack Zeller to take a salary cut of \$5,000 (\$84,000 today) because of his off year in power and run production. To top it off, he was asked to move to the outfield to accommodate Rudy York, who was one of the best young hitters of his generation, but was tried at catcher, third base and the outfield and proved a defensive liability wherever they played him. Greenberg in turn demanded a \$10,000 dollar bonus if he mastered the outfield, stating he was the one taking the risk in learning a new position. Greenberg received his bonus at the end of spring training.

In 1940, Greenberg was voted to the All-Star team for the 4th year in a row. He led the league in home runs (41; for the third time in 6 years), RBIs (150), doubles (50), total bases (384), extra base hits (99), at-bats per home run (14.0), and slugging percentage (.670; 44 points ahead of Joe DiMaggio).

He was second in the league behind Ted Williams in runs scored (129) and OBP (.433), all while batting .340 (5th-best in the AL). He led the Tigers to a pennant, and won his second AL- MVP award, becoming the first player to win an MVP award at two different positions.

World War II service

The Detroit draft board initially classified Greenberg as 4F for "flat feet". Rumors that he had bribed the board and concern that he would be likened to Jack Dempsey, who had received negative publicity for failure to serve in World War I, led Greenberg to be reexamined, and he was found fit to serve.

Drafted in 1940, the first AL player to be drafted, his salary was cut from \$55,000 (\$912,000 today) a year to \$21 (\$300 today) a month. Greenberg was not bitter, however, stating, "I made up my mind to go when I was called. My country comes first." After most of the 1941 season, however, he was honorably discharged when the United States Congress released men aged 28 years and older from service, being released on 12/5/1941, two days before Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Greenberg re-enlisted and volunteered for service in the United States Army Air Forces, again the first major league player to do so. He graduated from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the USAAF. He eventually served overseas in the China-Burma-India Theater, scouting locations for B-29 bomber bases. Promoted to captain, Greenberg served 45 months, the longest of any major league player.

Return to baseball

Greenberg remained in uniform until the summer of 1945. In Greenberg's first game back after being discharged, on July 1, he homered. Without the benefit of spring training, he returned to the Tigers, was again voted to the All-Star Team, and helped lead them to a come-from-behind AL pennant, clinching it with a grand slam home run in the dark—no lights in Sportsman's Park in St. Louis—ninth inning of the final game of the season.

It came after the umpire allegedly told Hank that he was ready to call the game due to darkness, because the ump—former Yankee pitching star of the 1920s Murderers Row team, George Pipgras, supposedly said "Sorry Hank, but I'm gonna have to call the game.

I can't see the ball." Greenberg replied, "Don't worry, George, I can see it just fine," so the game continued. It ended with Greenberg's grand slam on the next pitch, clinching Hal Newhouser's 25th victory of the season. The slam allowed the Tigers to clinch the pennant and avoid a one-game playoff (that would have been necessary without the win) against the now-second-place Washington Senators. The Tigers went on to beat the Cubs in the World Series in seven games. Only three home runs were hit in that World Series.

Phil Cavarretta hit one for the Cubs in Game One. Greenberg hit the only two homers by the Tigers—one in Game Two, where he batted in three runs in a 4–1 win; the other—a two-run job—tied the game in the eighth inning of Game Six, making the score 8–8, but the Cubs won that game with a run in the bottom of the 12th.

In 1946, he returned to peak form, leading the league in home runs (44) and RBIs (127), both for the fourth time. He was second in slugging percentage (.604) and total bases (316) behind Ted Williams.

In 1947, Greenberg and the Tigers had a lengthy salary dispute. When Greenberg decided to retire rather than play for less, Detroit sold his contract to the Pittsburgh Pirates. To persuade him not to retire, Pittsburgh made Greenberg the first baseball player to earn over \$80,000 (\$833,000 today) in a season as pure salary (though the exact amount is a matter of some dispute). Team co-owner Bing Crosby recorded a song, "Goodbye, Mr. Ball, Goodbye" with Groucho Marx and Greenberg to celebrate Greenberg's arrival. The Pirates also reduced the size of Forbes Field's cavernous left field, renaming the section "Greenberg Gardens" to accommodate Greenberg's pull-hitting style. Greenberg played first base for the Pirates in 1947 and was one of the few opposing players to publicly welcome Jackie Robinson to the majors.

That year he also had a chance to mentor a young future Hall-of-Famer, the 24-year-old Ralph Kiner. Said Greenberg, "Ralph had a natural home run swing. All he needed was somebody to teach him the value of hard work and self-discipline. Early in the morning on off-days, every chance we got, we worked on hitting." Kiner would go on to hit 51 home runs that year to lead the NL.

In his final season of 1947, Greenberg tied for the league lead in walks with 104, with a .408 on-base percentage and finished eighth in the league in home runs and tenth in slugging percentage. Greenberg became the first major league player to hit 25 or more home runs in a season in each league. Johnny Mize became the second in 1950. Nevertheless, Greenberg retired as a player to take a front-office post with the Cleveland Indians. No player had ever retired after a final season in which they hit so many home runs. Since then, only Ted Williams (1960; 29), Dave Kingman (1986; 35), Mark McGwire (2001; 29), and Barry Bonds (2007; 28) have hit as many or more homers in their final season.

Through 2010, he was first in career home runs and RBIs (ahead of Shawn Green) and batting average (ahead of Ryan Braun), and fourth in hits (behind Lou Boudreau), among all-time Jewish major league baseball players.

Fielding

As a fielder, the 6-foot-4-inch Greenberg was awkward and unsure of himself early in his career but he mastered his first-base position through countless hours of practice. Over the course of his career, he demonstrated a higher-than-average fielding percentage and range at first base. When asked to move to left field in 1940 to make room for Rudy York, he worked tirelessly to master that position as well and reduced his errors in the outfield from 15 in 1940 to 0 in 1945.

Baseball style

Greenberg felt that runs batted in were more important than home runs. He would tell his teammates, "just get on base," or "just get the runner to third," and he would do the rest.

Abbreviated career

Starring as a first baseman and outfielder with the Tigers (1930, 1933–46) and doing duty only briefly with the Pirates (1947), Greenberg played only nine full seasons. He missed all but 19 games of the 1941 season, the 3 full seasons that followed, and most of 1945 to World War II military service and missed most of another season with a broken wrist. Had he played in another era uninterrupted by war, it has often been said that Greenberg would have hit between 500 and 600 home runs and driven in 1800 to 2000 runs. As it is, his totals of 331 home runs and 1,276 RBI are remarkable for a 1,394-game career. Greenberg also hit for average, earning a lifetime batting average of .313.

Off the field: Management and ownership

After the 1947 season, Greenberg retired from the field to become the Cleveland Indians' farm system director and two years later, their general manager and part-owner along with Bill Veeck. During his tenure, he sponsored more African American players than any other major league executive. Greenberg's contributions to the Cleveland farm system led to the team's successes throughout the 1950s, although Bill James once wrote that the Indians' late 1950s collapse should also be attributed to him. In 1949, Larry Doby also recommended Greenberg scout three players Doby used to play with in the Negro leagues: Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, and Willie Mays. The next offseason Doby asked what Indians' scouts said about his recommendations. Said Greenberg "Our guys checked 'em out and their reports were not good. They said that Aaron has a hitch in his swing and will never hit good pitching.

Banks is too slow and didn't have enough range [at shortstop], and Mays can't hit a curveball." When Veeck sold his interest, Greenberg remained as general manager and part owner until 1957. He was the mastermind behind a potential move of the club to Minneapolis that was vetoed by the rest of ownership at the last minute. Greenberg was furious and sold his share soon afterwards. In 1959, Greenberg and Veeck teamed up for a second time when their syndicate purchased the Chicago White Sox; Veeck served as team president with Greenberg as vice president and general manager. During Veeck and Greenberg's first season, the White Sox won their first AL pennant since 1919. Veeck would sell his shares in the White Sox in 1961 and Greenberg stepped down as general manager on August 26 of that season.

After the 1960 season, the AL announced plans to put a team in Los Angeles. Greenberg immediately became the favorite to become the new team's first owner and persuaded Veeck to join him as his partner. However, when Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley got wind of these developments, he threatened to scuttle the whole deal by invoking his exclusive rights to operate a major league team in southern California. In truth, O'Malley wanted no part of competing against an expansion team owned by a master promoter such as Veeck, even if he was only a minority partner. Greenberg would not budge and pulled out of the running for what became the Los Angeles Angels (now the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim). Greenberg later became a successful investment banker, briefly returning to baseball as a minority partner with Veeck when the latter repurchased the White Sox in 1975.

Personal life

He married Carol Gimbel (of the New York department store family) on 2/18/1946, three days after signing a \$60,000 (\$715,000 today) contract with the Tigers. The couple had three children—sons Glenn and Stephen and a daughter, Alva—before divorcing in 1958. In 1966, Greenberg married Mary Jo Tarola, a minor actor who appeared on-screen as Linda Douglas, and remained with her until his death. They had no children. His son, Stephen, played five years in the Washington Senators/Texas Rangers organization. In 1995, Stephen Greenberg co-founded Classic Sports Network with Brian Bedol, which was purchased by ESPN and became ESPN Classic. He was also the chair of CSTV, the first cable network devoted exclusively to college sports.

Honors

- ***AL MVP, 1935 and 1940.***
- ***AL All-Star team, 1937–1940.***

- *First Jewish player elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, in 1956. He garnered 85% of the votes. Joe Cronin was also elected that year.*
- *In 1983, the Tigers celebrated "Greenberg-Gehring Day" at Tiger Stadium, honoring Greenberg with the retirement of his uniform number 5 and former teammate Charlie Gehring with the retirement of his number 2. Both players were on hand for the ceremony.*
- *In 1999, despite injuries and wartime service that essentially limited him to half a career, he ranked Number 37 on The Sporting News' list of the 100 Greatest Baseball Players and was nominated as a finalist for the Major League Baseball All-Century Team.*
- *Member of the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame (1996).*
- *Member of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame (1979).*
- *Member of the Jewish American Hall of Fame (1991).*

Hank Greenberg, after his career

Greenberg was traded to the NL in 1947, which was Jackie Robinson's rookie year. Greenberg befriended Robinson and encouraged him; they became good friends and Robinson credited Greenberg with being a good influence helping him through his rookie year.

Jewish fans in Detroit—and around the AL for that matter—took to Greenberg almost at once, offering him everything from free meals to free cars, all of which he refused.

"Class tells. It sticks out all over Mr. Greenberg."— Jackie Robinson

In 23 World Series games, he hit .318, with 5 homers and 22 RBI.

Greenberg was one of the few baseball people to testify on behalf of Curt Flood in 1970 when the outfielder challenged the reserve clause.

Greenberg died of cancer in Beverly Hills, CA, in 1986. His remains were entombed at Hillside Memorial Park Cemetery, in Culver City, CA.

In an article in 1976 in Esquire magazine, sportswriter Harry Stein published an "All Time All-Star Argument Starter", consisting of five ethnic baseball teams. Greenberg was the first baseman on Stein's Jewish team.

In 2006, Greenberg was featured on a United States postage stamp. The stamp is one of a block of four honoring "baseball sluggers", the others being Mickey Mantle, Mel Ott, and Roy Campanella.

Jake LaMotta, Boxer

Giacobbe "Jake" LaMotta (born 7/10/1922), nicknamed "The Bronx Bull" and "The Raging Bull," is an Italian-American retired professional boxer and former World Middleweight Champion. He was portrayed by Robert De Niro in the 1980 film Raging Bull.

Early life

LaMotta is an Italian-American born in New York City in the borough of the Bronx. He was forced by his father into fighting other children to entertain neighborhood adults, who threw pocket change into the ring. LaMotta's father collected the money and used it to help pay the rent. In 1941, at the age of 19, LaMotta turned professional. During World War II, he was rejected for military service because of a mastoid operation on one of his ears.

Boxing career

LaMotta went 14-0-1 (3 KOs) as a middleweight in his first fifteen bouts before losing a highly controversial split decision to Jimmy Reeves in Reeves' hometown of Cleveland, OH. Chaos erupted after the decision was announced. Fights broke out around the ring and the crowd continued to boo for 20 minutes. The arena's organist tried to calm down the crowd by playing the Star Spangled Banner.

One month later, LaMotta and Reeves fought again in the same arena. Reeves won a much less controversial decision. A third match between the two took place on 3/19/1943 in Detroit, MI. The first five rounds were close, though Reeves was struggling in the fourth. In the sixth round, LaMotta floored Reeves, who was only down for a second. Once the fight resumed, LaMotta landed a left on Reeves' chin, sending him down face-first. Reeves was blinking his eyes and shaking his head as the referee counted him out.

LaMotta vs. Robinson I - V

LaMotta fought former Welterweight Champion Sugar Ray Robinson in Robinson's middleweight debut at Madison Square Garden, NY. LaMotta knocked Robinson down in the first round of the fight. Robinson got up and took control over much of the fight, winning via unanimous decision.

A rematch took place months later in Robinson's birthplace of Detroit, MI. The eighth round was historic. LaMotta landed a right to Robinson's head and a left to his body, sending him through the ropes. Robinson was saved by the bell at the count of nine. LaMotta, who was already leading on

the scorecards before knocking Robinson out of the ring, pummeled and outpointed him for the rest of the fight. Robinson had trouble-keeping LaMotta at bay. LaMotta won via unanimous decision, giving Robinson the first defeat of his career.

The victory was short-lived, as the two met again three weeks later, once again in Robinson's former home of Detroit. Robinson was knocked down for a nine-count count in round seven. Robinson later stated, "He really hurt me with a left in the seventh round. I was a little dazed and decided to stay on the deck." Robinson won the close fight by decision, utilizing a dazzling left jab and jarring uppercuts. A fourth fight took place nearly two years after the third in Pittsburgh, PA. Robinson won once again by a unanimous decision.

LaMotta and Robinson had their fifth bout at Comiskey Park, Chicago, IL, on 9/26/1945. Robinson won by a very controversial split decision. The 14,755 people loudly booed the decision in attendance. LaMotta later said in his autobiography that the decision was widely criticized by several newspapers and boxing publishers. Robinson said afterward, "This was the toughest fight I've ever had with LaMotta."

LaMotta vs. Fox

On 11/14/1947, LaMotta was knocked out in four rounds by Billy Fox. Suspecting the fight was fixed, the New York State Athletic Commission withheld purses for the fight and suspended LaMotta.

In his testimony and in his later book, LaMotta admitted to throwing the fight in order to gain favor with the Mafia. All involved agreed the fix was obvious and their staging inept. As LaMotta wrote, the first round, a couple of belts to his head, and I see a glassy look coming over his eyes. Jesus Christ, a couple of jabs and he's going to fall down? I began to panic a little. I was supposed to be throwing a fight to this guy, and it looked like I was going to end up holding him on his feet ... By [the fourth round], if there was anybody in the Garden who didn't know what was happening, he must have been dead drunk." The thrown fight and a payment of \$20,000 to the Mafia got LaMotta his title bout against World Middleweight Champion Marcel Cerdan. LaMotta went 9-1 before he fought for the title. His only loss was a decision to Laurent Dauthuille.

LaMotta vs. Cerdan

LaMotta won the world title on 6/16/1949, in Detroit, MI, defeating Frenchman Marcel Cerdan. LaMotta won the first round (also knocking Cerdan down), Cerdan the second and the third was even. At that point, it became clear something was wrong. Cerdan dislocated his arm in the first round, apparently damaged in the knockdown, and gave up before the start

of the 10th round. LaMotta damaged his left hand in the fifth round, but still landed 104 punches in the ninth round, whereas Cerdan hardly threw a punch. The official score had LaMotta as winner by a knockout in 10 rounds because the bell had already rung to begin that round when Cerdan announced he was quitting. A rematch was arranged, but while Cerdan was flying back to the United States to fight the rematch, his Air France Lockheed Constellation crashed in the Azores, killing everyone on board.

World Middleweight Champion

LaMotta made his first title defense against Tiberio Mitri on 7/7/1950, at Madison Square Garden, NY. LaMotta retained his title via unanimous decision. LaMotta's next defense came on 9/13/1950 against Laurent Dauthuille. Dauthuille had previously beat LaMotta by decision before LaMotta became World Champion. By the fifteenth round, Dauthuille was once again ahead on all scorecards (72-68, 74-66, 71-69) and seemed to be about to repeat a victory against LaMotta. Shockingly, LaMotta hit Dauthuille with a barrage of punches that sent him down against the ropes toward the end of the round. Dauthuille was counted out with 13 seconds left in the fight. This fight was named Fight of the Year for 1950 by The Ring Magazine.

Saint Valentine's Day Massacre

LaMotta was challenged by Sugar Ray Robinson for the final fight in their legendary six-bout rivalry. Held on 2/14/1951, Saint Valentine's Day, the fight became known as boxing's version of the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. In the last few rounds, LaMotta began to take a horrible beating and was soon unable to defend himself from Robinson's powerful blows. However, in an amazing show of courage, LaMotta refused to go down. Robinson won by a technical knockout in the 13th round, when the fight was stopped with LaMotta lying on the ropes. However, Robinson was never able to knock LaMotta down.

Light Heavyweight

LaMotta moved up to light heavyweight after losing his World Middleweight title. He had poor results at first. He lost his debut against Bob Murphy, lost a split decision to Norman Hayes and drew with Gene Hairston in his first three bouts. In his next three fights, LaMotta had rematches with Hayes, Hairston and Murphy and defeated all of them by unanimous decision.

On 12/31/1952, LaMotta had his next fight against Danny Nardico. As the fight went on, it became clear LaMotta was declining as a fighter. LaMotta was knocked down for the only time in his career by a right hand

in the seventh round. Nardico beat LaMotta got up against a corner until the bell rang. LaMotta's corner stopped the bout before the eighth round began. In the mid-1950s, LaMotta sustained a boxing injury and took time off to recover.

When LaMotta returned, he knocked out his first two opponents, Johnny Pretzie (TKO 4) and Al McCoy (KO 1), but a split decision loss afterwards to Billy Kilgore convinced him to finally retire.

Post-boxing

After retirement, LaMotta owned and managed bars, and became a stage actor and stand-up comedian. He appeared in more than 15 films, including The Hustler with Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason, in which he had a cameo role as a bartender. He also appeared in several episodes of "Car 54 Where Are You?" (1961-1963).

He was always interested in baseball and decided to form the Jake LaMotta All-Star team. They played in Sterling Oval, which was located between 165th and 164th Streets between Clay and Teller Avenue in the Bronx.

He also held professional fights at that field, and his brother Joey often fought there. In 1960, LaMotta was called to testify before a U.S. Senate sub-committee that was looking at underworld influence on boxing. He testified that he had thrown his bout with Billy Fox so that the mob would arrange a title bout for him.

Fighting style

LaMotta is recognized as having one of the best chins in boxing. He rolled with punches, minimizing their force and damage when they landed, but he was also able to absorb many blows.

In the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre, his sixth bout with Robinson, LaMotta suffered numerous severe blows to the head. Commentators could be heard saying, "No man can take this kind of punishment!" Nevertheless, LaMotta did not go down. The referee in the 13th round stopped the fight, declaring it a TKO victory for Robinson.

LaMotta was one of the first boxers to adopt the "bully" style of fighting, in that he always stayed close and in punching range of his opponent, by stalking him around the ring, and sacrificed taking punches himself in order to land his own shots. Due to his aggressive, unrelenting style he was known as "The Bronx Bull."

He boasted "No son-of-a-bitch ever knocked me off my feet," but that claim was ended in December 1952 at the hands of Danny Nardico when Nardico caught him with a hard right in the seventh round. LaMotta fell into the ropes and went down. After Bull regaining his footing, he was unable to come out for the next round.

Raging

Hollywood executives approached LaMotta with the idea of a movie about his life based on his 1970 memoir Raging Bull: My Story. The film, Raging Bull, was initially only a minor box office success, but eventually became a huge critical success both for director Martin Scorsese and actor Robert De Niro, who gained about 60 pounds during the shooting of the film to play the older LaMotta in later scenes.

To accurately portray the younger LaMotta, De Niro trained with LaMotta until LaMotta felt he was ready to box professionally. De Niro lived in Paris for three months, eating at the finest restaurants in order to gain sufficient weight to portray LaMotta after retirement. De Niro won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance.

The film depicts a violent and self-destructive LaMotta, who once goes as far as beating his own brother, manager Joey LaMotta, while accusing him of having an affair with his (Jake's) then wife, Vickie LaMotta. (In real life, this altercation was between LaMotta and his best friend Pete, not his brother Joey. The Joey character in the film is an amalgamation to simplify the narrative.)

Later life

In February 1998, LaMotta's elder son Jake LaMotta, Jr., died of liver cancer. In September 1998, his younger son Joseph LaMotta died in the crash of Swissair Flight 111 off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada. His nephew, John LaMotta, fought in the heavyweight-novice class of the 2001 Golden Gloves championship tournament. His nephew, William Lustig, is a well-known director and producer of horror genre films and the President of Blue Underground, Inc.

As of 2007, LaMotta had been married six times and had four daughters, including Christi by his second wife Vikki and Stephanie by his fourth wife Dimitria.

He remains active on the speaking and autograph circuit, and has published several books about his career, his life, and his fights with Robinson.

He is a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame and was ranked 52nd on Ring Magazine's List of the 80 Best Fighters of the Last 80 Years. The magazine also ranked him as one of the 10 greatest middleweights of all time.

LaMotta is the subject of a forthcoming documentary, "Moving Forward, the Untold Story of Jake LaMotta," and has planned to make a sequel to Raging Bull. MGM has filed suit to halt the project, saying that LaMotta does not have the right to make a sequel.

Cus D'Amato

Constantine "Cus" D'Amato (1/17/1908 – 11/4/1985) was an American boxing manager and trainer who handled the careers of Floyd Patterson, José Torres, Vinnie Ferguson, and Mike Tyson. Several successful boxing trainers, including Teddy Atlas, Kevin Rooney, and Joe Fariello, were tutored by D'Amato. He is known for developing a "peek-a-boo" style in which the fighter holds his hands high in front of his face.

Early life

D'Amato was born into an Italian family in the Bronx, New York on 1/17/1908.

Career

When he was 22, he opened the Empire Sporting Club with Jack Barrow at the Gramercy Gym. D'Amato lived in the gym for years. According to D'Amato, he spent his time at the gym waiting for a "champion," but "connected" managers would routinely poach his best fighters. One fighter discovered by D'Amato was Rocky Graziano, who signed with other trainers and managers and went on to become middleweight champion of the world. D'Amato also confronted boxing politics, and decided, along with his friend Howard Cosell, to thwart the International Boxing Club of New York (IBC). Suspicious to the point of paranoia, D'Amato refused to match his fighter in any bout promoted by the IBC. The IBC was eventually found to be in violation of anti-trust laws and was dissolved.

Floyd Patterson

Under D'Amato's tutelage, Floyd Patterson captured the Olympic middleweight gold medal in the 1952 Helsinki games. D'Amato then guided Patterson through the professional ranks, maneuvering Patterson into

fighting for the title vacated by Rocky Marciano. In an elimination bout against Archie Moore, D'Amato's fighter won the heavyweight championship of the world. D'Amato selected Patterson's opponents in order to earn the most money with the least risk.

This resulted in title defenses against Roy "Cut N' Shoot" Harris, Brian London, Tom McNeeley and Olympic champion Pete Rademacher. Legitimate challengers, like Eddie Machen, Zora Folley, Cleveland Williams were passed by. D'Amato also avoided matching Patterson with Sonny Liston, citing Liston's underworld connections, until Patterson finally overruled him and accepted the match. Patterson and D'Amato split after Patterson's second consecutive one round KO loss to Sonny Liston, although his influence over the champion had already begun to diminish.

José Torres

D'Amato also managed José Torres, who won the light heavyweight championship of the world.

Mike Tyson

After Patterson and Torres's careers had ended, D'Amato worked in relative obscurity. He eventually moved to Catskill, NY, where he opened a gym. It was there that he met and began to work with the future heavyweight champion, Mike Tyson, who was in a nearby reform school. He took Tyson under his wing and adopted him after Tyson's mother died. D'Amato trained him over the next few years, encouraging Tyson to use the peek-a-boo approach style of boxing, where the hands are placed in front of the boxers face for more protection.

D'Amato was assisted by Teddy Atlas, who later became a respected trainer himself, and later Kevin Rooney, a protégé of D'Amato, who emphasized elusiveness of movement and took Tyson to the heavyweight championship sixteen months after D'Amato's death. At one point, Bobby Stewart was going to train Tyson after witnessing him getting into a fight, however, he chose not to, leaving D'Amato to continue training Tyson. D'Amato died shortly before Tyson became the youngest world heavyweight titleholder in history at the age of 20.

On how Mike gave him, reason to live

"I often say to Mike, "You know, I owe you a lot," and he doesn't know what I mean....If he weren't here, I probably wouldn't be alive today....Nature is smarter than people think.

Little by little, we lose our friends that we care about and little by little, we lose our interest until finally we say what I am doing around here if I have no reason to go on. You get used to everything. Even the idea of dying is something a person gets used too, and he accepts it. I believe that people die because they no longer want to live; they are not motivated to stay alive. However, I have a reason with Mike here, and he gives me the motivation. I will stay alive and I will watch him become a success, because I will not leave until that happens, because when I leave he not only will know how to fight, he'll be able to take care of himself. I do not succeed when I make a person become Champion of the World. I succeed when I make that fellow become Champion of the World and independent of me.

Legacy

In 1993, the 14th Street Union Square Local Development Corporation named part of 14th street, where D'Amato's Gramercy Gym was located, "Cus D'Amato Way".

Justin Pierce

Justin Charles Pierce (3/21/1975 – 7/10/2000) was an English-born American actor and skateboarder.

Early life

Born in London, England to a Welsh mother and an Australian father, Pierce was brought up in the Marble Hill section of New York City by his mother and his adoptive father, an American of British background.

He attended P.S. 7 in the Bronx for Elementary School and J.H.S. 141 in the Riverdale section of the Bronx for Junior High School. Pierce's parents divorced when he was 15. After his parents' divorce, he began acting out by stealing cigarettes and food and skipping school in favor of skateboarding. Pierce soon quit school and moved out, staying in a basement of a building with fellow skaters. Pierce was later arrested for the possession of marijuana and heroin under his pants in a police road search. The results in the court hearing were found inconclusive which resulted in the release of Pierce. He went back to live with his parents at age 19.

Career

While skateboarding in Washington Square Park, Pierce was discovered by film director Larry Clark, who cast him in his controversial 1995 film Kids. After the success of Kids, Pierce won an Independent Spirit

Award for his portrayal of Casper, the profane and very heavily drug-addicted skateboarder friend of Telly (Leo Fitzpatrick), and relocated to Los Angeles. Pierce would go on to appear in the 1997 film A Brother's Kiss as the young Nick Chinlund. Pierce also appeared in television movies including 1997's "First Time Felon", and the sitcom Malcolm in the Middle.

He also starred alongside Ice Cube and Mike Epps in the motion picture "Next Friday" as the film's tritagonist Roach. Pierce's last on screen appearance was in the 2002 film "Looking for Leonard", which was released after his death. The film was dedicated to his memory.

Personal life

He was of Welsh descent on his mother's side and of Australian descent on his father's side. He was romantically linked to his Kids (1995) co-star Chloë Sevigny.

In 1999, Pierce married stylist Gina Rizzo in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Death

On 7/10/2000, Pierce was found hanging in his room at the Bellagio Hotel by hotel security. It was confirmed that the death was a suicide. The following day, a Catholic memorial service for Pierce was held at St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in Manhattans Little Italy.

Fred Lewis (handball)

Fred Lewis (born in 1947) is an American former handball player.

Lewis is Jewish, and was born in The Bronx, NY. Both of his parents played handball, and he learned to play handball by playing it off building walls in the Bronx. He grew up primarily playing 1-wall handball, and played his first tournament at the age of eight. As a high school student, he competed on the school's swimming team.

He won two U.S. National Collegiate Singles Championships as a University of Miami student. He received a master's degree in education at the University of Miami in 1972.

Lewis is a 6-time U.S. Handball Association National Four-Wall Handball Singles Champion (1972, 1974–76, 1978, and 1981.) He is also a 3-time National Three-Wall Singles Champion (1974, 1977, and 1978). All of those championships were won between 1972 and 1981. Lewis was named "Handball Player of the Decade" for the 1970s by the National Handball Association.

He made the finals of the National Open championship 14 consecutive years. He won 16 titles as a professional. In 1998, he created Yes2Kids, a handball club for children who otherwise would not have access to handball.

In 2003, he was head coach of the handball team at the University of Arizona. In 2008, he remarried his ex-wife, as they had reconciled after 16 years.

Halls of Fame

Lewis was inducted into the Handball Hall of Fame in 1993, as its 25th member. He was inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

Vin Scully

Vincent Edward "Vin" Scully (born 11/29/1927) is an American sportscaster, best known as the play-by-play announcer for the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team on Prime Ticket, KCAL television, and KLAC radio, ever since the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles in 1957. His 63 seasons with the Dodgers (1950 – present) is the longest tenure of any broadcaster with a single team in professional sports history, and he is second by one year to only Tommy Lasorda in terms of number of years with the Dodgers organization in any capacity. He is known for his signature introduction to Dodger games, "It's time for Dodger Baseball."

Early life

Born in The Bronx, Scully grew up in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. He made ends meet by delivering beer and mail, pushing garment racks, and cleaning silver in the basement of the Pennsylvania Hotel in New York City. His father was a silk salesperson; his mother a Roman Catholic homemaker of Irish descent from whom her son inherited his red hair. Scully attended high school at the Fordham Preparatory School in The Bronx. He decided that he wanted to become a sports announcer when he became fascinated with the football broadcasts on the radio.

Broadcasting career

From Fordham to CBS Radio

After serving in the United States Navy for two years, Scully began his career as a student broadcaster and journalist at Fordham University. While at Fordham, he helped found its FM radio station WFUV (which now presents a Vin Scully Lifetime Achievement Award each year.) He was assistant sports editor for Volume 28 of The Fordham Ram his senior year, sang in a barbershop quartet, played center field for the Fordham Rams baseball team, called radio broadcasts for Rams baseball, football, and basketball, got a degree, and sent about 150 letters to stations along the Eastern seaboard. He got only one response, from CBS Radio affiliate WTOP in Washington, which made him a fill-in.

Scully was then recruited by Red Barber, the sports director of the CBS Radio Network, for its college football coverage. Scully impressed his boss with his coverage of a football game from frigid Fenway Park in Boston, despite having to do so from the stadium roof. Expecting an enclosed press box, Scully had left his coat and gloves at his hotel, but never mentioned his discomfort on the air. Barber mentored Scully and told him that if he wanted to be a successful sports announcer he should never be a "homer" (openly showing a rooting interest for the team that employs you), never listen to other announcers, and keep his opinions to himself.

Brooklyn Dodgers

In 1950, Scully joined Barber and Cornelius (Connie) Desmond in the Brooklyn Dodgers radio and television booths. When Barber got into a salary dispute with World Series sponsor Gillette in 1953, Scully took Barber's spot for the 1953 World Series. At the age of 25, Scully became the youngest man to broadcast a World Series game (a record that stands to this day). Barber left the Dodgers after the 1953 season to work for the New York Yankees. Scully eventually became the team's principal announcer. Scully announced the Dodgers' games in Brooklyn until 1957, after which the club moved to Los Angeles.

Scully's view of the game was always wider than what was happening on the field in front of him. In a game in Ebbets Field in 1957, an odd series of game-related events required the Dodgers to use their third-string catcher, Joe Pignatano, in the middle of the game. Scully knew that Pignatano's wife had recently had a baby and she was not at the game – she might not be listening to the broadcast. Not wanting her to miss her husband's major league debut behind the plate, he suggested that any listeners who might know the Pignatano family should pick up the phone and alert them.

Los Angeles Dodgers

Scully accompanied the Dodgers to their new location beginning with the 1958 season, and quickly became popular in Southern California. During the Dodgers' first four seasons in Los Angeles, the fans had difficulty following the action in the very large Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, and it soon became common for them to bring transistor radios to the games to hear Scully and partner Jerry Doggett describe the action. This practice continued even after the team moved to the much smaller Dodger Stadium for the 1962 baseball season.

Radio and television engineers often had difficulty compensating for the sound of Scully's play-by-play reverberating through the stands at Dodger home games. In 1964, the New York Yankees offered Scully the opportunity to succeed Mel Allen as its lead play-by-play announcer. Scully chose to remain with the Dodgers, however, and his popularity in Los Angeles had become such that in 1976 the fans of the team voted him the "most memorable personality" in the history of the franchise.

CBS

Like Red Barber and Mel Allen in the 1940s, Scully retained his credentials in football even as his baseball career blossomed. From 1975 to 1982, Scully announced the televised NFL games for CBS Sports, teaming with several different color analysts including Sonny Jurgensen, Alex Hawkins, George Allen, Jim Brown, John Madden, and Hank Stram.

One of his most famous NFL calls was that of Dwight Clark's touchdown catch in the NFC Championship Game on 1/10/1982 (which Scully called with Stram as his final NFL telecast for CBS), that put the San Francisco 49ers into Super Bowl XVI.

" Montana...looking, looking, throwing in the end zone...Clark caught it! Dwight Clark! It's a madhouse at Candlestick! "

Scully also contributed to the network's tennis and PGA Tour coverage in the late 1970s and early 1980s, usually working the golf events with Pat Summerall, Ken Venturi, and Ben Wright. From 1975 to 1982, he was part of the team that covered the Masters tournament for CBS. Scully's network commitments led to him working a reduced schedule with the Dodgers, who hired Ross Porter to help pick up the slack. In 1977, Scully began his first of two spells calling baseball for CBS Radio, broadcasting the All-Star Game through 1982, and the World Series from 1979–1982.

Departure from CBS

*Scully decided to leave CBS in favor of a job calling baseball games for NBC (beginning in 1983) following a dispute over assignment prominence (according to CBS Sports producer Terry O'Neil, in the book *The Game behind the Game*). CBS decided going into the 1981 NFL season that John Madden, whom CBS had hired in 1979 and who had called games alongside Frank Glieber and Gary Bender his first two years, was going to be the star color commentator of their NFL television coverage. However, they had trouble figuring out who was going to be his play-by-play partner,*

since Scully was in a battle with CBS' lead play-by-play announcer Pat Summerall for the position. At the time Scully was the number two announcer for CBS, a position he had held since 1975, he and was calling games alongside the former Kansas City Chiefs head coach Hank Stram, who had been promoted from CBS' No. 3 broadcast team alongside Curt Gowdy. To resolve the situation, both Scully and Summerall were paired with Madden in four-week stretches, which coincided with each of their respective absences due to other engagements. While Summerall was away calling the U.S. Open tennis for CBS as he did every September, Scully called the first four weeks of the season alongside Madden. After that Scully went on to cover the National League Championship Series and World Series for CBS Radio, as he had done for the past few Octobers, and Summerall returned to the broadcast booth to work with Madden. Scully then teamed with Stram for the remainder of the NFL season.

After the eighth week of the NFL season, CBS Sports decided that Summerall meshed more with Madden than Scully did and it named him to be the announcer who would call Super Bowl XVI for CBS on 1/24/1982, at the Pontiac Silverdome. An angry Scully, who felt that his intelligence had been insulted by the move, was assigned as a consolation prize that year's NFC Championship Game, which he called alongside Stram. Summerall took Stram's place alongside Jack Buck to call the game over CBS Radio.

NBC

Major League Baseball on NBC

Outside of Southern California, Vin Scully is probably best remembered as NBC television's lead baseball broadcaster from 1983 to 1989. Besides calling the Saturday Game of the Week for NBC, Scully called three World Series (1984, 1986, and 1988), four National League Championship Series (1983, 1985, 1987, and 1989), and four All-Star Games (1983, 1985, 1987, and 1989). Scully also reworked his Dodgers schedule during this period, broadcasting home games on the radio and

road games for the Dodgers television network, with Fridays and Saturdays off so he could work for NBC.

The first official night game in the history of Chicago's Wrigley Field (8/9/1988); Kirk Gibson's game-winning home run in Game 1 of the 1988 World Series; and chatting with Ronald Reagan (who said to Scully, "I've been out of work for six months and maybe there's a future here.") in the booth during the 1989 All-Star Game in Anaheim.

On Saturday, 6/3/1989, Scully was doing the play-by-play for the NBC Game of the Week in St. Louis, where the Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs in 10 innings. Meanwhile, the Dodgers were playing a series in Houston where Scully flew to be on hand to call the Sunday game of the series. However, the Saturday night game between the teams was going into extra innings when Scully arrived in town, so he went to the Astrodome instead of his hotel. He picked up the play-by-play, helping to relieve the other Dodger announcers, who were doing both television and radio, and broadcast the final 13 innings (after already calling 10 innings in St. Louis), as the game went 22 innings. He broadcast 23 innings in one day in two different cities.

Laryngitis prevented Scully from calling Game 2 of the 1989 NLCS between the San Francisco Giants and Chicago Cubs. Bob Costas, who was working the ALCS between Oakland and Toronto with Tony Kubek, was flown from Toronto to Chicago to fill in that evening (an off day for the ALCS.)

After the 1989 season, NBC lost the television rights to cover Major League Baseball to CBS. For the first time since 1946, NBC would not televise baseball. In the aftermath, Scully said of NBC losing baseball,

" It is a passing of a great American tradition. It is sad. I truly feel that. It will leave a vast window, to use a Washington word, where people will not get MLB and I think that is a tragedy. ... It's a staple that's gone. I feel for people who come to me and say how they miss it and, I hope, me. "

Scully also served as an announcer for NBC's PGA Tour golf coverage during his time at the network, usually teaming with Lee Trevino.

1990–present (post NBC)

After the ALCS in 1989, Scully's NBC contract was up and he left to focus primarily on his duties with the Dodgers. Scully also returned to being the national radio announcer for the World Series, since CBS Radio gave him the position that Jack Buck had vacated in order to become the

primary announcer of CBS-TV coverage of MLB. Scully's first assignment was the 1990 World Series and he remained in that role until 1997 working with Johnny Bench for the first four years and Jeff Torborg for the final three. After ESPN Radio acquired the World Series radio rights from CBS in 1998, Scully was offered a continued play-by-play role but he declined, saying, "It's been great, I loved it, but free time is better than sitting in Cleveland saying, 'Why am I here?'"

From 1991 to 1996, Scully broadcast the annual PGA Skins Game for ABC, having previously called the event for NBC from 1983 to 1989. He also called the Senior Skins Game for ABC from 1992 to 2000, as well as various golf events for TBS during this period. In 1999, Scully was the master of ceremonies for MasterCard's Major League Baseball All-Century Team before the start of Game 2 of the World Series. Also in 1999, Scully appeared in the movie For Love of the Game.

The Dodgers management announced in February 2006 that it had extended Scully's contract through the 2008 baseball season for about 3 million dollars per year. In recent years, Scully has cut back his work schedule to approximately 110 games a year, with the first three innings via a radio and TV simulcast, and the remainder exclusively on TV. Scully normally does not work non-playoff games played east of Denver. Exceptions to this rule were the 2007 opening series in Milwaukee a series against the Chicago Cubs in 2007, and a series against the Boston Red Sox in 2010. He is not normally scheduled to announce Dodgers games (on either radio or TV) if ESPN is televising it for Sunday Night Baseball or if Fox-TV is showing it on a Saturday afternoon.

The first biography of Scully's life, Pull up a Chair: The Vin Scully Story, written by Curt Smith, was published in 2009.

Although Scully had talked of retiring after the 2009 season, he has continued announcing baseball games in 2012, his 63rd year for the Dodgers. As of 2012, Scully announces Dodgers' home games as well as road games in California, Arizona, and Colorado.

Scully reportedly will not usually attend or watch a baseball game that he is not announcing. It was not until 2004, first, and then again in 2010, that he and the owner of the Dodgers, Frank McCourt, attended a game at Fenway Park, that Scully went to a pro baseball game as a spectator.

Scully missed most of the Dodgers' opening home stand of the 2012 MLB season (the first five out of six games) because of an illness. Scully returned to the announcers' booth on 4/15/2012, which was the 65th anniversary of the great Jackie Robinson's breaking of the color barrier in baseball. It was just the second time in 35 years the legendary sports

broadcaster had missed a Dodger Stadium home opener: The first time was when he was busy broadcasting the Masters golf tournament in 1977.

Awards and honors

Scully received the Ford Frick Award from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, and was honored with a Life Achievement Emmy Award for sports casting and induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1995. The National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association has named Scully as National Sportscaster of the Year three times (1965, 1978, 1982) and California Sportscaster of the Year 29 times, and inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 1991. He was the 1992 Hall of Fame inductee of the American Sportscasters Association (ASA), and was named both Sportscaster of the Century by the ASA (2000) and top sportscaster of all-time on its Top 50 list (2009). Scully was inducted into the NBA Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2009. Scully has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6675 Hollywood Blvd. Since 2001 the press box at Dodger Stadium has been named for Scully, and a street near the team's former Dodger town spring training facility in Vero Beach, Florida was named "Vin Scully Way". On 5/11/2009, he was awarded the Ambassador Award of Excellence by the LA Sports & Entertainment Commission.

There are so many others that I am only going to list their name and the sport in which they were involved.

- ***Elías Larry Ayuso (born 1977) – Puerto Rican basketball player***
- ***Margaret Bailes (born 1951) – Olympic gold medalist***
- ***Iran Barkley (born 1960) – boxer***
- ***Bobby Bonilla – former MLB player***
- ***Willie Cager, Nevil Shed – stars on 1966 Texas Western University NCAA basketball championship team***
- ***Aaron Davis (born 1967) – boxer***
- ***Bizunesh Deba (born 1987) – marathoner***
- ***Art Donovan (born 1925) – former NFL football tackle***
- ***Mike "SuperJew" Epstein (born 1943) – MLB first baseman***
- ***Chris Eubank (born 1966) – boxer***
- ***Lou Gehrig (1903–1941) – Baseball Hall of Famer and New York Yankees first baseman***
- ***Marty Glickman (1917–2001) – athlete and sports announcer***
- ***Mitch Green (born 1957) – boxer***
- ***Nat Holman – Hall of Fame basketball player and coach***
- ***Cullen Jones (born 1984) – swimmer***
- ***Max Kellerman (born 1973) – sports-radio host***
- ***Marie Kruckel (born 1924) – All-American Girls Professional Baseball League player***
- ***Anibal Lopez, (born 1942) – bodybuilder***

- ***Floyd Mayweather, Sr. (born 1952) – boxing trainer***
- ***Doug Marrone (born 1964) – head coach – Syracuse University football team***
- ***Nat Miltzok (1923–2009) – basketball player***
- ***Davey Moore (1959–1988) – WBA world middleweight champion boxer***
- ***Juan Orozco (born 1993) champion gymnast, 2012 Olympian***
- ***Alex Ramos (born 1961) – boxer***
- ***Randy Ruiz (born 1977) – baseball player Toronto Blue Jays designated hitter***
- ***Dolph Schayes (born 1928) – Hall of Fame NBA basketball player and coach***
- ***Amanda Serrano (born 1988) – IBF Female World Super Featherweight champion boxer***
- ***Hilton White (1933–1990) – basketball coach and community leader***
- ***Kemba Walker (born 1990) – basketball player; Charlotte Bobcats point guard.***

There are many more categories of current/former famous Bronxites. Watch next months Newsletter for information about them.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING.

Our September meeting was held at Mimi's on Ft. Apache. It was very different from all past events. Our guest did not show up. Sue was ready with a backup event. She had all the members/spouses tell about their life in the Bronx and after. Following are some pictures from that night.



Members Phyllis and David Selman



Members Edith and David Einhorn



Greg Abbott



Co-chair Leslie Schoenberg and Club Photographer Larry Schoenberg



Co-chair Sue Braun and Web Master Les Braun



Doris Bluth



Marty Gold



Ron Scher



Ronnie Sander



JoAnn Geller