



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
5 WASHINGTON STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rick Cerone, Larry Hazzard and Li'za Donnell in Conversation with Guy Sterling at the Newark Public Library



On Wednesday, July 27, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. the Newark Public Library will host local author and historian Guy Sterling in conversation with notable Newarkers Rick Cerone, Larry Hazard and Li'za Donnell as part of its continuing series Newark Lifetimes: Recollections and Reflections.

Rick Cerone played basketball at Essex Catholic High School and Seton Hall University before

becoming a Major League baseball catcher in 1975, playing for eight teams over his career, including the New York Yankees. He retired from playing in 1992 with a .245 batting average, with 998 career hits and 59 home runs. In 1998, Cerone founded the Newark Bears, a minor league team in the independent Atlantic League, which he sold in 2003.

Larry Hazzard was a three-time Golden Glove champion in the 1960s, while attending Central High School. He became a referee, an educator and school administrator, and has served twice as Commissioner of the New Jersey State Athletic Control Board. He is widely regarded as a leader and authority in the boxing industry. Under Hazzard's leadership, New Jersey was

regarded as a major world boxing venue, and was recognized for having the most comprehensive rules, regulations and policies for enforcing safe, professional boxing.

Li'za Donnell played basketball at Louise A. Spencer Elementary School and Malcolm X Shabazz High School. She was a standout guard at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill leading the team with 50 steals as a freshman. She later played in the WNBA for the Washington Mystics, in the first year of the league.

All three speakers have been inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame: Cerone in 1989, Hazzard in 1991, and Donnell in 2007.

Guy Sterling is a former *Star Ledger* reporter and the author of *The Famous, the Familiar, and the Forgotten: 350 Notable Newarkers*.

The program will be held in Centennial Hall on the second floor of the Main Library at 5 Washington Street in Newark.

Also, on view before and after the program, on the Library's Third Floor Gallery, is the exhibit *Newark at 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal*, which takes viewers on a journey through Newark's rich history from its founding by the Puritans in 1666 to the present day, and chronicles events that have not only shaped the city and the state, but the nation as well. Curated by librarian Thomas Ankner, the exhibit cases are filled with unique images from the Library's Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center and the Special Collections Division. A dual arrangement of the cases provides both chronological and thematic approaches to the city's people, places, architecture, politics, institutions and education.

The program and exhibit are free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, please call 973-733-7793 or email rsvp@npl.org.

The exhibit, which is supported by the New Jersey Historical Commission, runs through December 31, 2016, and is on view during regular Library hours.

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