

Life



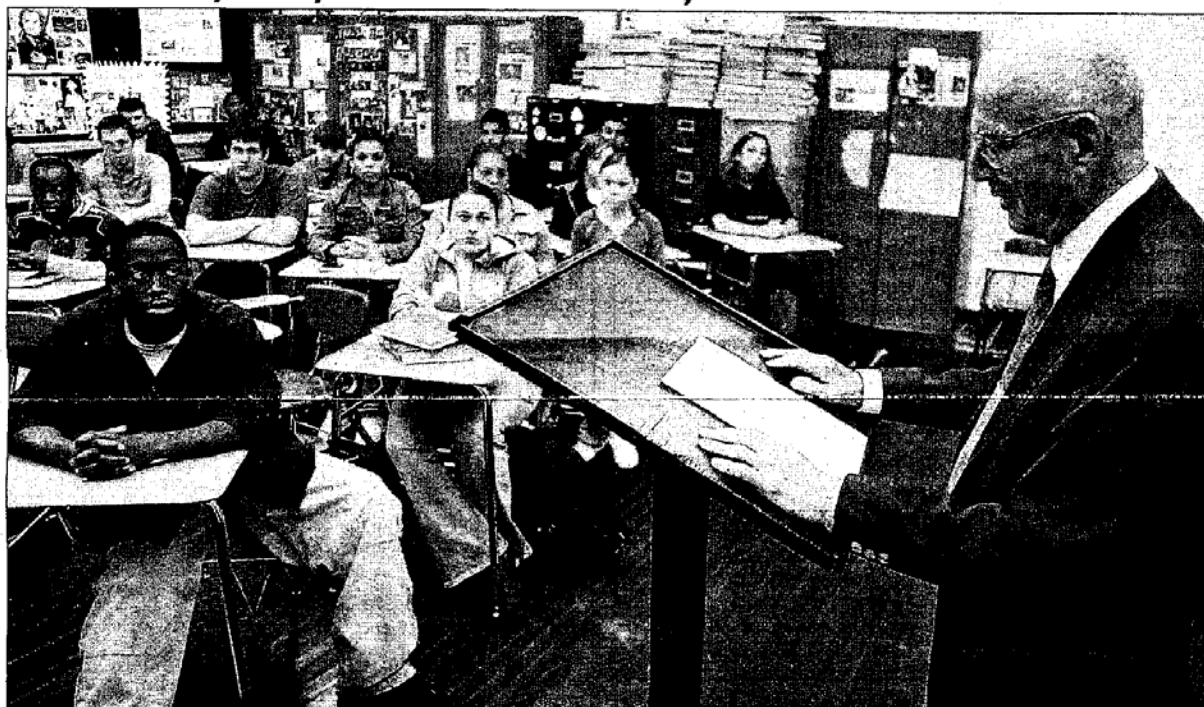
DONATION FOR CARDIAC CARE AT CHRIST HOSPITAL

The Christ Hospital Auxiliary presented a \$43,261 check to the Christ Hospital Auxiliary to help cardiac patients receive a state-of-the-art intra-aortic balloon pump to help cardiac patients. Presenting the check were: chairman of the CHF, Eileen Videtti, president of the Christ Hospital Auxiliary; and Peter A. Kelly, president, CEO of Christ Hospital.

SENIORS

A LIFE OF ART

Goldman, 88, shares his art, continues to create



REENA ROSE SIBAYAN JOURNAL PHOTO

IN his late 80s, Ed Goldman has seen it all. A composer, pianist, poet, painter and sculptor, Goldman shares his poetry with a class at Bayonne High School.

By **RONALD LEIR**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

"Don't talk about it — do it." As he approaches his 89th birthday, Bayonne's Edward M. Goldman can look back on a life that reflects his motto.

Improvisation has also been a consistent theme for Goldman, who settled in Bayonne in 1959 with his wife, Fritzi, a city resident, and has morphed from professional musician, composer, teacher to Army medic, poet, painter and sculptor.

Goldman's odyssey began in the Boston suburbs where his brother formed a jazz band to play at political events.

"When I was 16, I wrote my first song for dance orchestra — B-flat augmented was my reach into modernity," he said, smiling.

At age 18, during his senior year at the Boston Latin School, Goldman won a New England

high school music competition and among his rivals was a budding pianist/composer Leonard Bernstein — who later became music director of the New York Philharmonic and wrote the scores for the Broadway shows, "West Side Story" and "On the Town."

While taking courses at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge on a partial scholarship — he studied with the internationally-known Nadia Boulanger — Goldman worked as a rehearsal pianist at the old Boston Skating Club.

"They did an ice show with music every year for the blue bloods," he said. "One day, the club asked me to conduct the 11-piece orchestra — I was 21, I didn't know beans about conducting, but I learned on the job and the show was a huge success."

As a musician struggling to

make a go during the Depression years "I scraped by on \$15 a week."

In 1944, Goldman was drafted into the Army and, sent overseas, he served as a hospital orderly in England and as a medical technician in Belgium where he watched Army doctors operate on wounded soldiers. Then, with the 115th Infantry in Germany, as the only one around with any experience, he was pressed into service as a medic.

As a civilian, Goldman took four and a half years of piano classes at the Juilliard School in New York under the GI Bill. Among the 200 or so works he's written since then are religion-themed pieces — like the cantata, "The Creation," and a "Hebrew Rhapsody," which was performed by the old Bayonne Little Symphony — and light-hearted ones.

One of his songs, "Shalom Aleichem," has been included in a "vocal repertoire" for Bayonne's public schools' use.

Joan Rosen, music/art director for the city school system said: "The Bayonne community truly has benefited from his willingness to share the products and process of his creativity and that of his late wife Fritzi."

Goldman said he's had 60 poems published on themes of "love, love poems to my wife who died of Alzheimer's in 2002 and about my relationship with God."

Fifteen years ago, when arthritis in his hands began cutting down his piano time, he converted his garage into a workshop, took up welding and began shaping materials like wood, metal and even "washed up trash" into interesting pieces of art.