

The 31st Annual

Jericho High School

Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

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The first JHS Alumni Hall of Fame Induction ceremony was held in 1991. The preceremony dinner to honor the inductees was held in Jericho—first at the Maine Maid Inn and, later, at Milleridge Inn—until 2017, when it was moved to Westbury Manor, in, well, Westbury. Now, Westbury Manor was great. Still, it was wonderful to return to Jericho for this year’s dinner at the Lisbon Café, located at the corner of Jericho Turnpike and Merry Lane. Terrific food, extremely accommodating staff, and a bartender who mixes a particularly mean martini. And its short distance from the Jericho Public Library—right around the corner—permitted consumption of multiple martinis (or other spirits), getting the evening off to a pretty damn great start!





The stars of the evening: the inductees. (Above left) Robert Hahn, PhD, from the class of 1970, with his wife, Amy; (above right) Blake Zeff (JHS 1995), flanked by his parents, Rota and Larry Zeff.

(Above left) Dana Arschin Kraslow, (JHS 2005), the youngest inductee to date, with her parents, Sharon and Arthur Arschin; (at right) Christopher Kelly, MD (JHS 1992), second from right, with his parents, Linda and Paul Kelly. At far left is Nick Maraventano, a retired teacher who, for many years, emceed the HoF induction ceremonies and is now a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame Committee.





(Left) The Hall of Fame's braintrust: Selection Committee members Mary Vitale and Brian Cummings (who also happens to be a high school assistant principal), and in the middle, the man who started it all—retired teacher Robert Hoffman, a cofounder of the JHS Alumni Hall of Fame.



(Above) Dropping in for some sustenance before assuming the awesome duties of emceeing the ceremony later that evening are Matthew DeMarinis, PhD, and Meredith Hynes, MS. If they weren't such gifted teachers, they could hit the road as a stand-up comedy duo.

(Right) Joan Baiman Rosenberg graduated from Jericho High in 1971, raised her children in Jericho, worked as a JHS guidance counselor and served as principal until retiring in 2020. She also is a Hall of Fame inductee and member of the Selection Committee. And if Jericho were governed by a mayor, she probably could've added that to her impressive resume, too. With her is one of her successors, coprincipal David Cohen.



(Above) Hank Grishman, longtime superintendent of the Jericho School District, with Assistant Superintendents Victor Manuel and Ben Ciuffo.





(Left) Mr. Hoffman with Ivy Sherman, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

(Below) Brian Cummings and popular teacher Mary Drayer, another member of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

(Below left) patented atmospheric room pic.



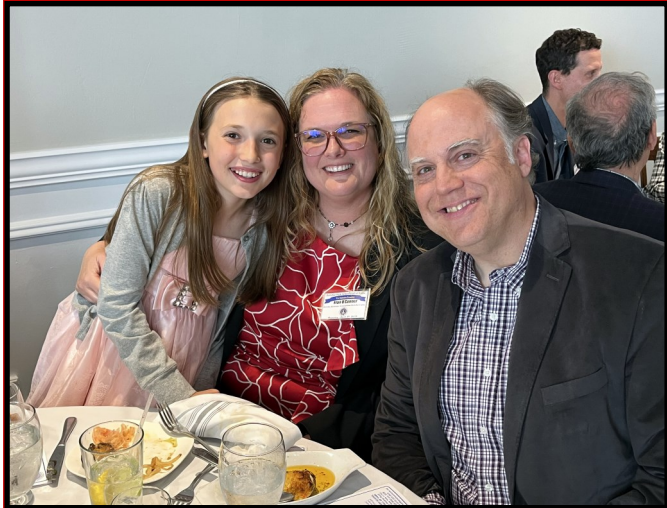
English teacher Michael Hartnett, PhD, of the Jericho Teachers Association poses with (left) Dana Arschin Kraslow and her husband, Michael Kraslow, and (above) with Jill Citron, president of the Board of Education. Two weeks later, she would win reelection by a 2-to-1 margin.



(Above, left to right) Assistant principal Michaela Finley, Coprincipal David Cohen, Assistant Principal Brian Cummings, and math instructor Matthew DeMarinis. Funny, but I don't remember teachers and administrators seeming to have this much fun back in the day...



(Above) Kim Conger, director of pupil services, and Curriculum Associate and Hall of Fame Selection Committee member Eric Sundberg.



(Left) Fran O'Connor, surrounded by her younger daughter, Sammie, and her husband, Thomas, was being honored by the Jericho Retirees Association for her work with the local nonprofit Jericho Cares, which she founded and heads as president.



(Right) Who wants cake? The inductees get ready for the pistol to sound in the now-traditional cake-eating contest! Nah, that's a lie. Every year, we take the same picture of the cake. It's always fascinating how different one is from the other. Guess it's true what they say: cakes are like snowflakes—no two are exactly alike.



Then it was time to make the arduous journey to the Jericho Public Library for the seven o'clock ceremony. Thanks to a team of sherpas and their Himalayan sheepdogs, we pulled in—exhausted, battered, but ebullient—in about sixty seconds.

Lots of teachers—both current and retired—turn out for this popular event, as well as alumni. **(Below)** Blake Zeff with retired teacher Maureen Tracy. **(Below right)** Michael Hartnett and Judy Ornstein, a JHS teacher since 1994.



(Above) So many close friendships forged in Jericho are everlasting. Here are Marilyn DellaVecchia Profita and Hope Davis from the class of 1964, which will be celebrating its sixtieth reunion next year!



(Above) Two from the class of '79: Andrew Sausmer and the newest member of the HoF Selection Committee, Vicky Silverstein Britvan.



It's ... showtime! And now [drum roll], the comedic stylings of Hynes and DeMarinis! Meredith and Matthew have been cohosting the induction ceremony since 2016. This is no snoozefest high school assembly. The two of them make the evening lively, inspiring—not to mention funny. Meredith has been teaching at Jericho High since 2001; Matt, a New York State Master Teacher, was named Nassau County Teacher of the Year in 2015.



First, some brief introductory speeches by Board of Ed President Jill Citron (**left**), Coprincipal David Cohen (**right**), and (**below**) Henry Grishman, Jericho's superintendent since 1995. Every year he remarks how the annual Alumni Hall of Fame is one of his favorite events.



HALL OF FAME

-JERICHO HIGH SCHOOL-

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Yes, it's true that each inductee must sit directly below a GIANT mounted poster of his or her high school yearbook photo. It's a test, in a way: You wanna be in the JHS Alumni Hall of Fame? Let's see *just how badly* you want in.

Each inductee is introduced to the audience in the Jericho Public Library Theater by a standout Jericho senior who shares some of the same attributes and career interests as the alumnus he or she has been paired with. The day of the ceremony, the student presenters escort the inductees around the school (each alumnus being honored speaks to a few classes), and it's common for the seniors and their designated oldsters to develop a warm rapport.

For instance, senior Andres deGrasse (**below**), who introduced pediatric physician Dr. Christopher Kelly, will be attending Columbia University on a premed track in September and hopes to become a surgeon.





Chris, whose parents still live in Jericho, is the chief of pediatric emergency medicine at New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, where he's practiced since 2005. In high school, he excelled in academics and also captained the swimming team and ran track. He loves treating children, he said, because "kids happen to be awesome patients; they want to get better." Though his speech was engaging and full of humor, he turned serious when discussing the hardest aspect of his work:

"Sometimes the headache that they've been suffering from for a few weeks isn't due to having too much screentime but to an inoperable brain tumor that I have to tell a parent about in the ER." Sometimes he faces the agonizing task of imparting the sorrowful news to parents that, despite all of his best efforts, their child has died. "These moments, thankfully, are very infrequent," he reflected, "and are not when I need to be a good doctor but rather a good human being."

"One story comes to mind from early in my training at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, in the Bronx. I had just left my apartment on the Upper East Side when I was approached by a man. He asked, 'Are you Dr. Kelly? Do you remember me? You took care of my daughter.' Now, I see a lot of kids, and I usually can remember some of their faces, but I'm not always the best with the parents' faces. I said, 'I'm sorry, you don't look familiar. But I hope your daughter is doing better.' To which he responded, 'Oh, no, you would remember me. She died that day.' Everything went still. The noisy city street suddenly went silent. My heart sank into my chest, not knowing what was about to happen. The gentleman must have seen the distraught look on my face and quickly reassured me, 'No, Dr. Kelly, I wanted to thank you. See, she had been sick for a really long time. You and your team allowed her die peacefully and gracefully. At a very difficult time in our lives, you made things a little bit easier for me and my family.' And I realized in that moment that it's not always the medicine that makes the difference, but simply being kind."

Chris left the audience (and any aspiring pediatricians) with some practical advice: "Never underestimate the value of a Spiderman or Peppa Pig sticker," he said. "They work wonders."



(Left) The next student presenter, Ava Thanus, commanded the microphone like a natural, exuding energy and a big personality. Like the alumna she was introducing, journalist Dana Arschin Kraslow, Ava had a background in writing, for the student newspaper, the *Jer-Echo*, although come the fall, she'll be heading off to New York University to study biology.



Dana, from the graduating class of 2005, knew early on that she was destined to work in journalism due to her fascination with telling people's stories. At JHS, she was athletic as well as academic: playing varsity softball, basketball, and volleyball. After working locally at Cablevision's News 12, she reported on-air for Fox 5 News New York. There, in 2018, she produced three short films about the Holocaust: *The Forgotten Camps*, about the most notorious death camps in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II and the years leading up to it; *A Community Reborn*, which examined the thriving Jewish community today in Krakow, Poland; and *March of the Living*, for which she followed thousands of marchers as they walked from the death camp in Auschwitz to the extermination center known as Auschwitz-Birkenau on Holocaust Remembrance Day. The latter film earned an Emmy Award nomination, while *The Forgotten Camps* won an Emmy.

The inspiration came from her now-101-year-old maternal grandfather, a survivor of both camps. Other members of her family perished in the Holocaust. Today Dana is a storyteller at the Nassau County Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center (HMTTC) in Glen Cove.



For the halftime show, the Jericho Retirees Association traditionally presents a monetary award in honor of the late JHS teacher Emil Voigt to a community-service organization with a local connection. The JTA's Joan Baiman Rosenberg (far left) introduced Jericho resident Fran O'Connor (immediate left), president and founder of nonprofit Jericho Cares, which delivers free supplies to those in need—and, yes, they exist, even in Jericho. (For more information, visit www.jerihocares.org.)

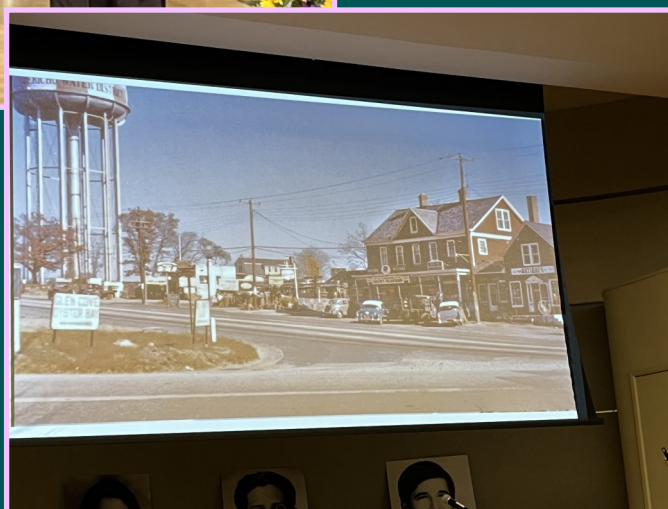
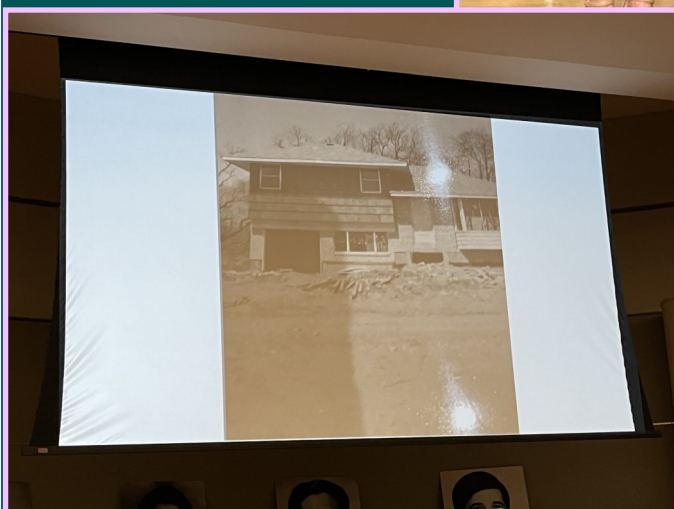


(Above left and center) Time for another jaw-droppingly impressive Jericho senior: Kathryn Weinberger, who heads off to Yale University come the fall. Upon learning that she would be introducing the class of 1995's Blake Zeff (above center and right), she Googled him. "To be honest," she admitted, "I was a little intimidated." Who wouldn't be? The accomplished Zeff, a graduate of Brown University, has straddled the worlds of politics and media. He worked on the presidential campaigns of both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, served as New York senator Chuck Schumer's communications director, and also was senior advisor to New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. He then turned his attention to media, landing at the online news source Salon as politics editor. After seeing his wife, Patricia, mired in college debt, Blake was inspired to direct a documentary about America's student debt crisis. Titled *Loan Wolves*, it premiered to glowing reviews in 2022.

Incidentally, Blake was one of the JHS student presenters at the 1995 Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Of his time growing up in Jericho, he observed, "Being a student at Jericho High School gave me the courage to believe that we could achieve anything." The school system instilled in him the confidence that he could "do something with my life to make my family and community proud." Mission accomplished.



(Left) Cleanup hitter Robert Hahn (JHS 1970), an author and a professor of philosophy and Greek studies at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, was introduced by senior Breanna Crossman, vice president of the Jericho Environmental Club.



(Above) Robert, whose older brother, historian and author Steven Hahn (JHS '69), is also in the Hall of Fame, put together a PowerPoint presentation full of fascinating photos from his dozens upon dozens of trips to Greece, Turkey, and Egypt with his students. But equally riveting were photos from ancient Jericho. The Hahns moved into their home on Bounty Lane in East Birchwood in A.D. 1956, when Robert was four years old. Back then, he explained, "The houses were just being built. All the roads were dirt. There was no pavement." No mail delivery, either. "We had to go up to the general store," which also served as the local post office.

From Jericho, Robert went to Union College, graduating in just two and a half years as valedictorian. He then attended a new program that Yale University had just launched in classics, philosophy, and ancient sciences on a full scholarship. In short order, he earned not only his master's degree in philosophy but also his doctorate—all by the age of twenty-three.

After spending four years teaching at Brandeis University, Robert landed at SIU in 1982 and has been there ever since. While at Brandeis, he organized his first trip for students to Crete. By 2014, he had led some fifty more excursions.

Robert married when he was forty-eight to a former student turned professor. He and wife Amy have two daughters, the youngest of whom, like the four presenters onstage, was preparing to go off to college.



(Above) ... And that's a wrap. Final photo, from left to right: Andres deGrasse ('23), Christopher Kelly ('92), Ava Thanus ('23), Dana Arschin Kraslow ('05), Kathryn Weinberger ('23), Blake Zeff ('95), Breanna Crssoman ('23), and Robert Hahn ('70).



(Left) Afterparty.

(Right) Philip Bashe (JHS '72), inducted in 1996, and a member of the Alumni Selection Committee. Next to him are Ira Greene, a social studies teacher who left to become an attorney in the mid-1970s, and Mr. Bob Hoffman. Both Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Greene began their careers at Jericho the same year: 1966.



Kids in the Hall: Inductees, Inductees, 1991–2023

The Brief Descriptions Below Convey Only Part of What Makes These Alumni Hall of Famers, but You'll See How Eclectic Jericho Grads Are: Doctors, Lawyers, Firemen, Photographers, Dancers, Teachers, Musicians, Authors, Businessmen, Builders—Even an Opera Star

1st Induction Ceremony, 1991

Larry Grobel (1964), author
Arthur Kaminsky (1964), attorney
Maureen Byrnes O'Reilly (1969), psychiatric nurse
Rose-Ann Schifano (1965), corporate secretary/treasurer
David Starobin (1969), acclaimed guitarist, record producer
Pamela Joan Tropper (1968), doctor of perinatology, obstetrics and gynecology

2nd Induction Ceremony, 1992

Paul Altesman (1970), UN delegate
Wendy Chin Parise (1971), special education instructor
Dr. Ellen Cooper (1965), assistant professor at Boston University and virologist for AIDS
George Gilson (1967), business/concrete slip forming company and author
Martin A. Lee (1971), political activist, journalist, and author
Marc Miller (1965), attorney, author

3rd Induction Ceremony, 1993

Barbara Block Goldstein (1966), social worker and public education coordinator
Mitchell Goldman (1968), attorney and founder of drug education program
Ronald Irving (1969), professor and director of graduate studies, University of Washington
James Mansberger (1964), fire commissioner, Jericho Fire Department
Susan Sternberg Raff (1964), vice president/regional director, Macy's East

4th Induction Ceremony, 1994

Sharon Becker Markovics (1968), physician and leader in the field of pediatrics and adult allergies
Lorraine Huzar (1968), teacher and community activist
John Innelli (1973), attorney specializing in securities fraud and antitrust violations, political leader
Stuart Shalat (1968), researcher in occupational and environmental science
Michael Soupios (1967), college professor and administrator, author, lecturer
Jay D. Tarnow (1965), child psychiatrist, medical school professor

5th Induction Ceremony, 1995

Diane Freedman (1973), college professor and author
Steven Gittelman (1967), president of Vanderbilt Museum and entrepreneur
Roberta Grobel Intrater (1962), photo journalist
Randi Kramer Fox (posthumously) (1971), geneticist and founder of National Marfan's Syndrome Foundation
Peter Miller (1968), Emmy Award-winning sound engineer and editor
Steven Shimberg (1971), lawyer and environmentalist
Sanford Sylvan (1972), opera singer

6th Induction Ceremony, 1996

Philip Bashe (1972), author
Carol Fein Ross (1968), chief attorney, Warner Books
Robert A. Kaplan (1963), pediatrician
Robert Raiber (1964), dentist
Jonathan Santlofer (1963), artist
Gary Strudler (1973), early childhood educator
Ilise Zimmerman (1972), executive director, Northern New Jersey Maternal/Child Health Consortium

7th Induction Ceremony, 1997

Joan Baiman Rosenberg (1971), educator
Elizabeth Bernstein, (1970), attorney, educator
Robert F. Fischer (1965), psychiatrist
William Herskowitz (1964), educator
Steven Molina (1971), musician

8th Induction Ceremony, 1998

James F. Davis (1963), financial analyst
Brad Spencer (1975), attorney
Robin Samuel Twerdahl (1967), educator
Bonnie Siber Weinstock (1971), labor relations attorney
Heather West Werthessen (1967), educator

9th Induction Ceremony, 1999

Bruce Browner (1964), professor of orthopedic surgery
Ira Goldman (1969), gastroenterologist
Edward Green (1969), musician, educator

Steven Hahn (1969), professor of history, author
Lesléa Newman (1973), author

10th Induction Ceremony, 2000

Mark Jay Friedman (posthumously) (1973), cardiologist
Michele Innelli Cox (1976), director of human resources
Neil Minikes (1969), pediatrician/allergist and immunologist
Geoffrey Touretz (1969), educator

11th Induction Ceremony, 2001

Debra Esernio (1974), pediatrician, child advocate
Elizabeth Nicolosi (1980), international entrepreneur
Sharon Press (1979), attorney
Leslie Shalat Katz (1967), award-winning educator

12th Induction Ceremony, 2002

Sharon Chalkin Feldstein (1973), TV fashion designer, fund-raiser for children's causes
Martha Flanagan Sammartano (1975), educator/volunteer
Alicia Romano Neri (1977), pediatric endocrinologist

13th Induction Ceremony, 2003

Jennifer Armstrong (1968), director-consumer bank programs for Citicorp
Joel Flatow (1982), senior vice president, Recording Industry Association of America
Edward Mardovich (posthumously) (1977), stockbroker/volunteer, Make a Wish Foundation
Paul Pellicoro (1974), dance instructor to the stars
Wendy Schack Forrest (1976), attorney/volunteer for Meals on Wheels

14th Induction Ceremony, 2004

Walter Bachman (1968), teacher/coach
Susan Winston Berland (1979), council-woman/community activist
Bruce Smoller (1975), chairman of pathology department
Lori Traikos (1974), international photo-journalist
Arlene Lori Wasserman Weiss (1976), toxicologist, environmentalist

15th Induction Ceremony, 2005

Ellen Friedland (1976), documentary film maker
Diane Krencik (1975), dentist/environmentalist
Howard Lutnick (1979), CEO, Cantor Fitzgerald
Michael Milner (1969), elite firefighter
Richard Zimmerman (1976), medical director, Mayo Clinic

16th Induction Ceremony, 2006

Jon Carin (1982), recording artist, keyboardist with Pink Floyd, Roger waters, Bryan Ferry, others
Celia A. Felsher (1972), attorney/school board president
Bruce Friedman (1976), chiropractor
Geraldine Kalfus-Gurman (1964), dance and drama educator
Jill Seelig (1979), publisher of *O, The Oprah Magazine*
Matthew D. Lynch (posthumously) (1997), first lieutenant, US Marine Corps

17th Induction Ceremony, 2007

Fred A. Bernstein (1974), journalist, educator, attorney
Paula Flatow (1980), freelance musician and teacher
Leslie Prichep (1964), associate director of brain research labs at NYU Medical Center
Peter Saunders (1967), civil engineer, US Naval Captain
Jeffrey Weinstock (1978), international marketing executive, Carnival Cruise Lines

18th Induction Ceremony, 2008

Joann Ferrara (1974), founder of Dancing Dreams Ballet
Bonni Retzkin (1978), Olympic skating coach
Neil Schechter, MD (1965), pediatrician
Adrienne (Levine) Shelly (posthumously) (1984), actress/director/filmmaker
Ronnie Steinberg (1965), sociologist/women's studies

19th Induction Ceremony, 2009

Marvin Schwartz (1969), CEO of Jarro Building Industries
Jessica Pincus Gerschitz (1970), president/COO of Abilities Inc.
Robin Bergman (1973), fashion designer/entrepreneur/political activist
Daisy Khan (1975), executive director, American Society for Muslim Advancement
Adam Levy, MD (1986), pediatric oncologist

20th Induction Ceremony, 2010

Mark S. Zaid, Esq. (1985), managing partner, attorney, litigation, National Security
Lori Greene (1978), executive producer, BBCAmerica.com and vice president of New York Women in Cable Telecommunications
Sandra M. Gumerove, Esq. (1968), attorney and advocate for Families with Special Needs
Lainie Friedman Ross, MD, PhD (1978), pediatrician, medical ethicist, professor

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Jay S. Winuk (1976), president, Winuk Communications, Inc., cofounder and vice president of MyGoodDeed

21st Induction Ceremony, 2011

Neil Goldberg (1981), graphic artist
Larry Licht (1972), senior staff engineer, General Dynamics
Les Scheinfeld (1973), associate director of Habitat for Humanity
Gail Sider (1977), fourth-grade elementary teacher
Stephen Spencer (1971), attorney, labor and employment law

22nd Induction Ceremony, 2012

James Greco (1973), president, Long Island K-9 Service
Patricia Monk-Eichner (1980), guidance counselor
Peter Shulman (1964), CEO of Pediatric Associates
Richard Slater (1978), girls' basketball coach
Benita Zahn (1972), TV news anchor/health reporter

23rd Induction Ceremony, 2013

Douglas Baumel (1974), family-business consultant
Cliff Forziat (1966), teacher, wrestling coach
Dr. Robert Martin (1964), pediatric dentist
Janet Penn (1972), founder and executive director, Interfaith Action (IFA) Youth LEAD
Judy Reisman (1967), founder, Guanacaste Animal Welfare Foundation, photographer

24th Induction Ceremony, 2014

George Haggerty (1977), member of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's transition team, real estate attorney
Edith Lutnick (1977), cofounder, executive director and president, the Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund
Lori Meyers Peterzell (1978), developer of social-media strategy for A&E (*Storage Wars*, *Hoarders*, *Duck Dynasty*, others)
Cary Siegel, MD (1977), attending physician, assistant professor at Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Jonathan Small (1965), award-winning TV/concert/video producer and director

25th Induction Ceremony, 2015

Ken McLaughlin (1969), Emmy Award-nominated journalist, *San Jose Mercury News*
Louis Nicolosi (1984), FDNY firefighter, 9/11 first responder, three meritorious awards
Steve Noviello (1992), Emmy Award-winning TV investigative reporter
Bonnie Schneider (1987), meteorologist, Weather Channel personality, and author
Glenn Stoller (1982), ophthalmologist

26th Induction Ceremony, 2016

Teresa Murray D'Amato (1984), attending ER physician, North Shore Hospital
Dr. Robert Pappalardo (1982), scientist, NASA and Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Eric Shaw (1991), Emmy Award-winning television writer
Billy Jay Stein (1988), Grammy Award-winning musician and record producer
Michael Winston (1969), business executive, corporate whistle-blower

27th Induction Ceremony, 2017

Phil Bildner (1986), author
William Passarelli (1983), physician
Craig Pinto (1996), fund-raiser
Paula F. Rosenthal (1984), attorney, patients' rights advocate
Robert Simon (1972), TV producer

28th Induction Ceremony, 2018

Jeffrey Arkin (1975), military veteran
Adam Felber (1985), TV comedy writer
Susan Sturgess (1982), senior dietitian and photographer
Jill Wagner (1998) TV news reporter and anchorwoman

29th Induction Ceremony, 2019

Kenneth B. Bobis (1967), environmental architect and college professor
Ira S. Lerner (1969), photographer, eyeglass designer and inventor
Logan Levkoff-Cortes (1994), sexuality educator and author
Dr. Dorothy F. Scarpinato (1976), orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports-related injuries

30th Induction Ceremony, 2020

30th Induction Ceremony, 2021

30th Induction Ceremony, 2022

Gail Abbott Zimmerman (1969), Emmy Award-winning television producer and director.
Erica Ross (2002), Lawyer, solicitor general of the United States and former clerk to Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan.
Dr. Andrew Greenberg (1973), physician, scientist, Robert C. and Veronica Atkins professor in nutrition and metabolism at Tufts University.
Ellen Barre Spiegel (1980), Democratic assemblywoman in the Nevada State Legislature.
Pam Wasserman-Heath (1985), clinical psychologist, clinical director of Therapy My Way & Psychological Services of Long Island, and Jericho UFSD Board of Education Trustee.

31st Induction Ceremony, 2023

Dana Arschin Kraslow (2005), TV journalist, documentarian, storyteller-historian
Robert Hahn, PhD (1970), professor of philosophy, author
Christopher Kelly, MD (1992), chief of pediatric emergency medicine, New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital
Blake Zeff (1995), political consultant, journalist, documentarian

