

The 28th Annual Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

APRIL 12, 2018



Used to be, the preceremonial dinners for the JHS Hall of Fame were held in Jericho: first at the Maine Maid Inn, then at Milleridge Inn. Beginning in 2017, however, the event was moved to Westbury Manor, and while everyone seems pleased with the new venue, we recruited three JHS students to transform the “Westbury Manor” sign out front on Jericho Turnpike and claim it in the name of Jericho High.

Specifically, we wanted three badasses: the kind of kid who gets a full scholarship to only *four* of his eight Ivy League college choices—some less than that, even. We gave the kids paint and brushes, pushed them out of a van at three in the morning, and instructed them to deface the sign however they wanted. “Throw some serious shade at Westbury,” we said. “Something like ‘Jericho Rules, Westbury Drools!’ Y’know, a real profound, anarchic statement!”

So what did we get? Not at all what we expected. One Jericho hoodlum graffitied “*Scientia imperil decus et tutamen*”—an old Latin proverb that translates as “Science is the adornment and protection of the Empire.” The second one scrawled the formula for Sir Isaac Newton’s 1687 law of universal gravitation. Great. *Real* outlaw, dude. And the third, a gothy-artsy type, knocked out a near-perfect replica of the sixteenth-century Italian painter Titian’s *Bacchus and Ariadne*.

Way to go, ya typical Jericho overachievers. Next year, we’ll get some kids from Hicksville to do our dirty work.



The place.



Inductee Adam Felber (class of 1985) with family friend and former neighbor Renee Ritter, who still lives in Jericho. Adam, a TV writer, novelist, and panelist on National Public Radio's Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!, lives in Los Angeles with his wife, actress Jeanne Simpson, and their son.



Hall of Fame committee members Mary Drayer and Brian Cummings. Brian, a former math teacher, is curriculum associate for science and technology; Mary teaches social studies and coaches the debate team. Never argue with Mary.

If you're going to co-emcee the induction ceremony for the third year in a row, ya gotta eat first! Teachers Meredith Hynes and Matthew DeMarinis, who do such a great job, came to the dinner together.



Eric Sundberg, curriculum associate for social studies, business, and libraries, is the newest member of the JHS Hall of Fame committee. Pat Liptak retired two years ago but still videotapes the ceremonies. In fact, Pat has documented all twenty-eight events, going back to the very first one in 1991.



Inductee Susan Sturgess (JHS 1982) with her mother, Ruth, who still lives in Jericho. Susan, a graduate of Cornell University, is the senior dietitian at Hospice Care Network in Woodbury, New York, working with patients and their families grappling with end-of-life issue. A talented photographer, she donates her time to capture the young lives of HCN's pediatric and perinatal patients, creating photo books of memories for grieving families.



Retired social studies and economics teacher Mr. Robert Hoffman (right) is one of the cofounders of the Jericho Hall of Fame. With him is committee member Nick Maraventano, also a former teacher at JHS, as well as the longtime master of ceremonies for the evening.



Pictured above, from left to right, are Barbara Bauer, assistant superintendent for educational operations and human resources; Nick Maraventano and Eric Sundberg, whom you've met already; and Victor Manuel, assistant superintendent for business affairs.



It's always great when family members come out join the inductees. Jeffrey Arkin (JHS 1975), in the middle, is surrounded by his his older sister, Andrea (at far right, with her husband, Mathew Bloomfeld, and his older brother, Marty (second from left, with his wife, Ronni. Marty, who lives in Connecticut, graduated Jericho High School in 1968; Andrea, a resident of Great Neck, was a member of one of Jericho's first graduating classes, in 1963—though you'd never know it to look at her.



Inductee Jill Wagner, who graduated in 1998, brought a whole bunch of family members to the dinner. More, even, than pictured here. Jill, seated at far left, is an award-winning journalist and TV anchor, currently on the video news network Cheddar. Previously, she covered business, the stock market, and consumers issues for CBS News and was a reporter for News 12 Long Island.



Some of the nicest moments come when alumni reunite with their former teachers. One of Adam Felber's favorite teachers at Jericho was music teacher Mr. Ken Pollitt, who recently retired.



School administrators and school board members frequently call the JHS Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony and dinner their favorite event of the year.

Above, left: Mary Drayer and Brian Cummings bookend longtime school superintendent Hank Grishman.

Left: Matt DeMarinis with Ben Ciuffo, the assistant superintendent for educational operations and human resources.

Below left: board of education president William Ferro and vice president Jill Citron.

Photo courtesy of Pam Wasserman-Heath



School board member Pam Wasserman-Heath, a Jericho graduate herself, in between Susan Sturgess and Adam.





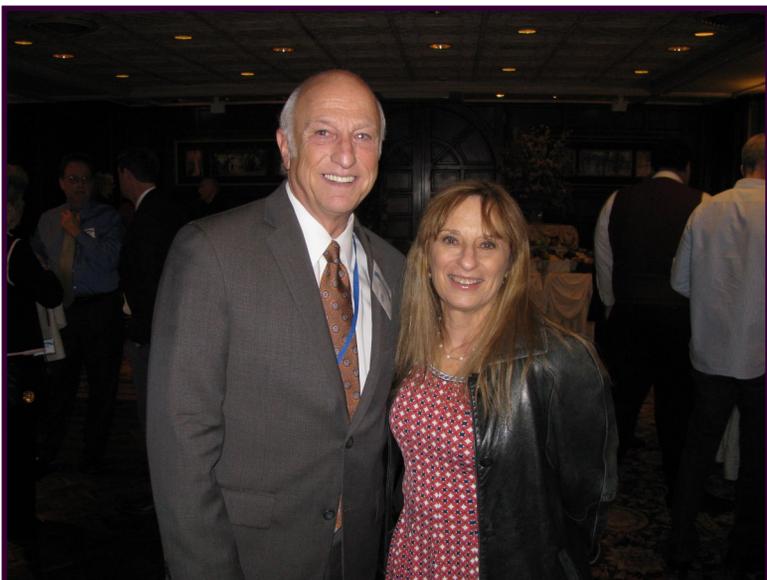
Teacher Mary Benson, representing the Jericho Teachers Association, with Meredith Hynes and Pat Liptak.



Bob Hoffman with school board members Daborah Lee and Barbara Krieger.



(Above) JHS assistant principals Dagoberto Antilles and Jeffrey Ratner; and (below), Jeff with Principal Joan Baiman Rosenberg, class of '71 grad, mother of multiple Jericho grads, and sister of Rick Baiman from the class of '73.



John Castronova, executive director of pupil personnel services.

At right, the four superseniors selected as presenters for the induction ceremony: Alexandria Zakian, Amanda Leong, Amanda Yao, and Jang Hun Choi. We always try to match them with an inductee whose career reflects their own interests. They're so ridiculously accomplished already that the running joke among the Hall of Fame committee is that we should probably just induct them into the Hall of Fame at the same time and save everyone the trouble of reconvening in fifteen or twenty years. Not only are they smart and focused, but they're always really nice kids with big hearts and a sense of community service.

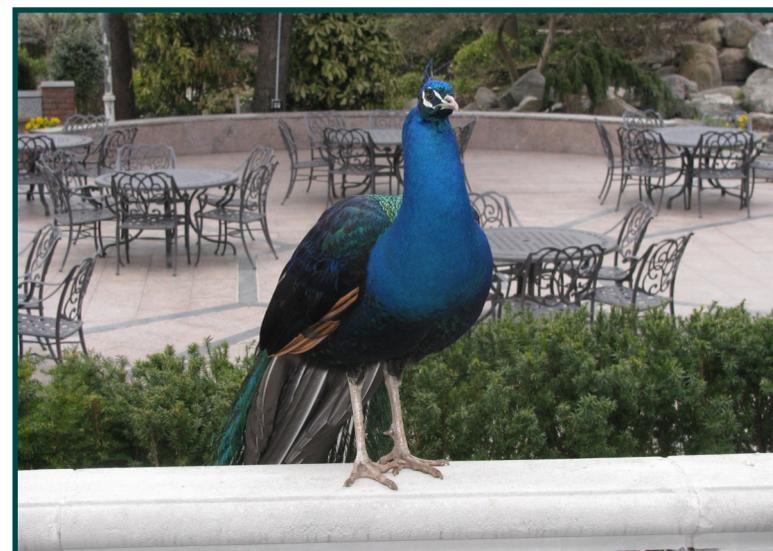




(Above) A few words from Mr. Bob Hoffman and Principal Joan Baiman Rosenberg , and then it's time to cut the cake.

(Below) The twenty-eighth lineup of alumni to enter the Jericho High School Hall of Fame: Adam Felber ('85), Jeffrey Arkin ('75), Jill Wagner ('98), and Susan Sturgess ('82). As part of their initiation, on the count of three, they face-planted right into the cake.

Naw, that's not true. But admit it: You'd love to see that, right? Maybe next year.



(Right) After dinner, everyone hotwired cars in the parking lot and headed over to the Jericho Library for the ceremony. In all the excitement, we left behind Mr. Clucky, a peacock who was to be introduced as the new mascot of Jericho High School. A peacock is far more upscale than a lowly Jayhawk, so the change seemed appropriate. (Have you seen housing prices in Jericho recently?) Unfortunately, Mr. Clucky wandered off, and so the Jericho Jayhawk won a reprieve—at least, for the time being—although his feathers were clearly ruffled by having come so close to a humiliating demotion. If anyone should spot the peacock, please contact the school district el pronto.



... At the Jericho Public Library, and we're under way. Meredith Hynes and Matt DeMarinis get the ceremony started, followed by brief speeches by Superintendent Hank Grishman, School Board President William Ferro, and JHS Principal Joan Baiman Rosenberg. As you can see, the four inductees get to sit onstage beneath giant enlargements of their high school yearbook photos. Most of us, of course, are embarrassed by our yearbook photos. Now imagine that 1 1/4" x 1 3/4" pic (I actually measured) blown up to three by four feet. Truth be told, these days, with so many inductees coming from the late seventies, eighties, and nineties, the old hairstyles aren't nearly as painful to look at they were for Hall of Fame members from the sixties and early seventies. One word: Hotcomb!



Journalist and TV anchorwoman Jill Wagner was introduced by charming Amanda Leong from the class of 2018. Amanda will be headed to SUNY Binghamton in the fall. Hank Grishman then handed Jill her plaque. (A nameplate with each inductee's name, year of graduation, and achievements adorns the wall in the high school's western entrance, next to the cafeteria. Surely you remember it: the place where you used to hang out and smoke.



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Arkin



Jill's acceptance speech was sharp and funny. She'd recently been to Springsteen on Broadway, the Boss's autobiographical performance still in residence at the Walter Kerr Theatre. Reflecting on her days at Jericho High, Jill said that while she loved school, she couldn't wait to bolt for college, which turned out to be the University of Michigan.

Following a TV stint in Lansing, Michigan, Jill returned to Long Island as a reporter for News 12, where she won two Emmy Awards. The Jericho grad also won an Edward R. Murrow Award for a series in which she traveled to the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz, Poland, with Holocaust survivors as well as World War II vets who'd liberated the camp. She considers it her finest achievement to date.

The teenage girl who was born to run from Long Island is now happy to be here—much like Bruce Springsteen's relationship with his New Jersey hometown. As she pointed out, the same guy who wrote "It's a town full of losers / I'm pulling out of here to win," in "Thunder Road," wound up buying a home not far from where he grew up.



Jeffrey Arkin was introduced by Alexandria Zakian, who will attend SUNY Cortland in the fall and plans on working in special education. She was a perfect match for Jeff, whose life has been all about service, both to country and to community.

Jeff spent twenty-two years in the US Air Force, serving in Operation Desert Storm and also working aboard Air Force One. After leaving the military, he worked at the US Post Office. Around Philadelphia, where he lives, he volunteers tirelessly for organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Team Rubicon, helping to build and rebuild homes, including those damaged by disasters.

Jeff told a great, funny story about the day it dawned on him that he was meant to do something other than graduate college. He was attending a college in Manhattan and had worked hard to catch up on all his assignments, which he had in his briefcase and planned on handing in. At the Port Authority building, he ran into a friend, set down his briefcase, and the two caught up briefly. When Jeff reached down for his briefcase, it was gone—in a New York minute, as they say. He took that as a sign that he was destined for other things and, not long afterward, joined the Air Force.

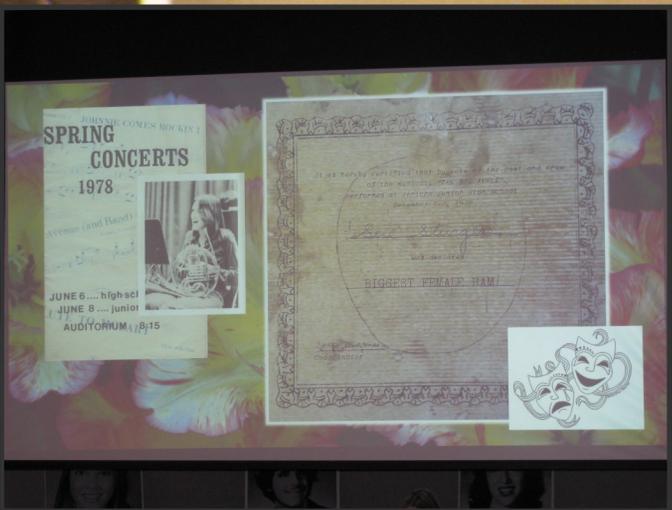
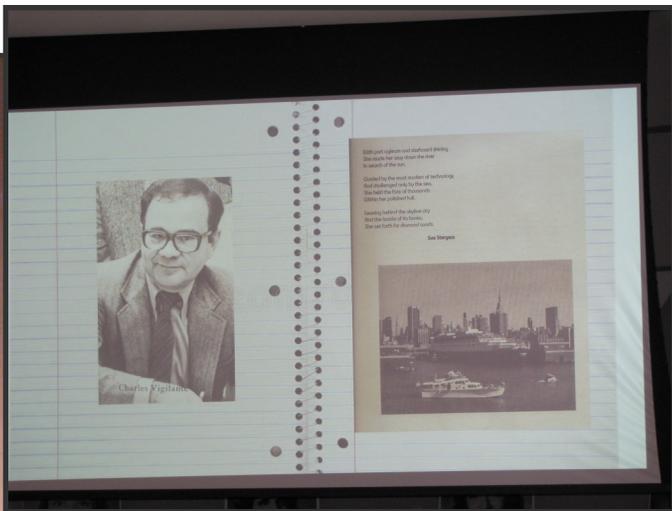


Every year, the Jericho Retirees Association donates money to a worthy charitable cause founded by a Hall of Fame member. This year's recipient of the Emil Voigt Community Service Award, named for the late social studies teacher and teachers' union leader, was Craig Pinto (JHS 1996), a 2017 inductee. Doing the honors was retired social studies teacher Maureen Tracy.

Amanda Yao of the class of 2018 introduced Susan Sturgess. Fittingly, given that Susan is a photographer as well as the chief dietician for the Hospice Care Network, she used photos, projected on a screen, to tell her story. A French horn player, actress, and singer, Susan was extremely active in high school, leading the marching band, directing her class's one-act play in the annual One Act Play Contest, and handling a lead role in a 1982 production of Plaza Suite. Two of her favorite teachers were Mr. Charles Vigilante (inset, top) and Mr. Ray Matienzo (inset, bottom).

The photo inset on the right is one of her photographs memorializing the lives of medically fragile children. She's accompanied families to birthday parties, baptisms, and, yes, funerals as well.

In 2015 Susan won the North Shore-LIJ President's Award for extraordinary service. She's won other awards, too, and, Susan confessed, she wasn't looking to add to her collection. But her mother, Ruth, insisted on nominating her for the Jericho Alumni Hall of Fame, and ... well, now she's got a plaque, too.





Adam Felber, introduced by Jang Hun Choi, might have given the funniest speech in the history of the JHS Hall of Fame. But, then, that shouldn't come as a complete surprise, considering that he is a professional comedian, novelist (Schrödinger's Ball), and longtime writer for Real Time with Bill Maher.



(Left) At the postceremony reception, Adam poses with his younger sister, Susie (JHS 1989), and older brother, Michael (JHS 1983). The whole family is exceptionally creative. Their late mother wrote a highly popular string of romance novels under the nom de plume Edith Layton. Michael, a social worker and artist, lives in New York City. And Susie, like Adam, is a writer and comedian. She's written for Comedy Central, MTV, BBC America, NPR, ABC, and Lifetime, to name a few, and has played a hooker (multiple times, too!) on Conan and voiced the letter O on Sesame Street—which might be her coolest credit of all. She also is global content director for Nokia.



(Above) Marty Arkin spotted a familiar face on the other side of the room. "Is that Ira Greene?!?" Yes it was: the former history teacher turned attorney. (Below) Adam Felber reunites with teacher Judy Ornstein.



Jeff Arkin, brandishing his plaque, had a whole posse show up. In addition to brother Marty and sister Andrea, at left, five friends from the class of '75 were on hand: from left to right, Gloria Rothstein, Lori Kroll LoSchivo, Bonne Paley, Debra Tuccillo Kenney, and Mike Diehl.





Mr. Bob Hoffman and Mr. Ira Greene.



Teachers Mr. Robert Lynch, wife Nancy Lynch, and Dolores Hoffman ...



Maureen Tracy and retired high school English teacher Bonnie Fishman.



... and Mrs. Hoffman again with the class of 1964's Hope Davis Mann and Marilyn Della Vecchia Profita.



Jeff Arkin is pleased to see that his newly installed name plate hasn't been defaced. But knowing the reputation of the young ruffians at Jericho High School, we give it a week at most.



As the official photographer, Philip Bashe frequently forgets to ask someone to take his picture until the end of the night. This time, he forgot altogether, so we described him to a police sketch artist, and this is what the guy came up with. Remarkably lifelike.

Kids in the Hall: Inductees, 1991–2018

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

12

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 Gerschwitz (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

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- ▶ [Hall of Fame, 2014](#)
- ▶ [Hall of Fame, 2015](#)
- ▶ [Hall of Fame, 2016](#)
- ▶ [Hall of Fame, 2017](#)
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27th Induction Ceremony, 2017

Craig Pinto (1996), founder of nonprofit agency

Phil Bildner (1986), teacher, author, speaker

Paula Finkelstein Rosenthal (1984), attorney, entrepreneur, and advocate for others with hearing loss

Dr. Bill Passarelli (1983), cardiologist

Robert Simon (1972), prolific television producer

28th Induction Ceremony, 2018

Jeffrey Arkin (1975), US Air Force pilot, Desert Storm veteran

Adam Felber (1985), TV writer, novelist, NPR panelist

Susan Sturgess (1982), chief dietician, Hospice Care Network, photographer

Jill Wagner (1998), news reporter and TV anchorwoman