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Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame

Your Teachers — April 2013

A number of your former teachers attended the 23rd annual Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Jericho Public Library on April 11, 2013, and the dinner beforehand at the Milleridge Inn. We thought you'd like to see their photos, and so we muscled our way in to intrude upon intimate conversations between people who hadn't seen each other for thirty, forty years, barking "Can I take your photo?!" in a menacing tone of voice. Compliance couldn't have been better.



(Left) Among the first to arrive at the Milleridge Inn (where the regular octogenarian crowd was wrapping up its late-night dinner at 4:00 p.m.) were inductee Doug Baumel from the class of 1974 (right) and his brother Mitchell ('73). Both live in Massachusetts.

(Right) Cliff Forziat ('66), pictured with his wife, Lillian, has been an inspirational teacher and head wrestling coach at Herricks High School since the 1970s. His teams have won fifteen league or divisional championships.





(Left) Dr. Rob Martin ('64), with his wife, Suzanne, is a pediatric dentist and orthodontist in Sommerville, New Jersey. He's the older brother of Michelle Martin Gonzalez ('69) and Neil Martin from the class of '72.

(Right) Inductee Janet Penn ('72) and husband Mark Finkelstein drove down from their home in Sharon, Massachusetts. She is the founder and director of Interfaith Action (IFA), a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing understanding and cooperative action among diverse groups of people.



(Above) Inductee Judy Reisman ('67) is shown here with fellow inductees Doug Baumoel and Dr. Rob Martin. After a lengthy career as an interpreter for the United Nations and the World Bank, she has gone on to a second act as an acclaimed commercial and fine-art photographer.



(Right) Here's Doug again, with his proud mom, Flo—who, incidentally, still lives in Jericho.



(Left) Who da man? He da man! Mr. Robert Hoffman (right) founded the Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame in 1990. Next to him is selection committee member Jeff Ratner, a former Jericho district principal.

(Right) Three other members of the Hall of Fame selection committee, from left to right: Joan Baiman Rosenberg ('71) is not only a JHS grad and a 1997 Hall of Fame inductee but also an assistant principal at the high school. What's next? Mayor! Janet Kesner Hopf graduated in the class of 1978 and still resides in West Birchwood. Mary Moran is a JHS teacher.



(Left) Two more folks without whom there would be no Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony: Mary Vitale (left) has a one-word job description: e-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g. And Pat Liptak (right) videotapes every ceremony for posterity.



(Left) One of the nicest aspects about the Hall of Fame induction dinner and ceremony is that inductees' friends and family attend. Carol Forziat DiLeo ('71) and her husband, George, came down from Massachusetts to support her brother, Cliff.

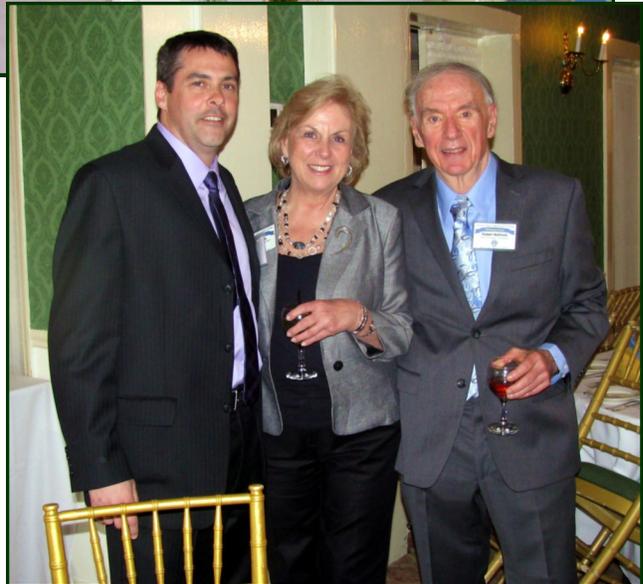


(Right) Judy Reisman's friends included JHS grads Peter Saunders ('64, at right) and Robin Samuel Twerdahl ('67, in middle). The friend at left had the misfortune of attending some other high school.



(Left) Dr. Rob Martin's guests, in addition to wife Suzanne at right, included his brother-in-law Dr. Howard Buckwald and sister-in-law Helene Buckwald.

(Right) Doug Baumel's guests included not only brother Mitchell (right) but also Mitchell's wife, Nancy (middle), and, at left, Catharine Baumel.



(Above) There are still two more Hall of Fame committee members you haven't met yet. In the photo at left, that's Judy Ornstein bookended by Jeff Ratner (right) and school administrator Eric Sundberg (left). And in the photo at right, standing next to Mary Vitale and Mr. Hoffman is Brian Cummings, a longtime JHS math teacher and administrator.



(Left) Each new member of the Hall of Fame is inducted by one of JHS's outstanding seniors from the class of 2013. These kids are so ridiculously accomplished—batting away acceptances from Ivy League schools as if they were flies—they should probably be inducted themselves at the same time, just to save everyone the time and aggravation twenty years from now. From left to right: Chandler Kirby, Meredith Coleman, Amanda Ritter, Colleen McCormack, and Noah White.



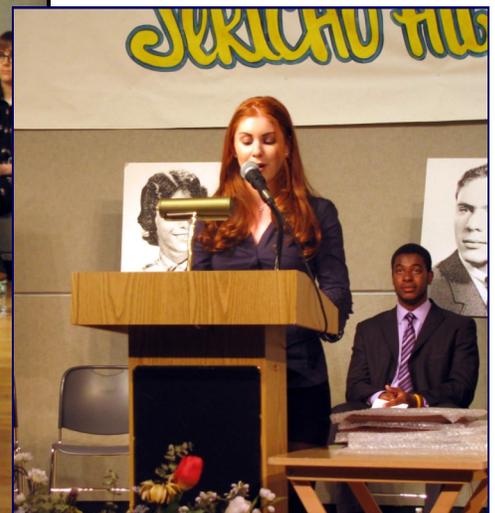
(Above) This year's staging at the Jericho Public Library auditorium was truly spectacular. Picture it: first you're looking at an empty stage. Suddenly the lights go black. Lasers shoot like arrows as "Also Sprake Zarathustra" blares over the PA and the stage fills with dry ice smoke! Then the smoke clears, and the lights come back on to reveal the inductees, their student presenters, and, at the podium, teacher Nick Maraventano, who always does a fantastic job as the evening's emcee!

Okay, okay: we didn't have the budget this year. But next year, for sure!

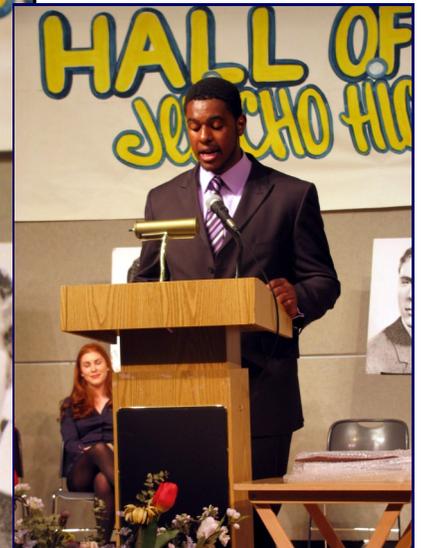
At the far left is Jericho High principal Mr. Joseph D. Prisinzano; and at far right, Superintendent Mr. Henry Grishman and Mr. Joseph Lorintz, president of the Board of Education.



(Above) Judy Reisman was inducted by JHS senior Colleen McCormack (inset). In addition to her work as a photographer, Judy and her husband established the Guanacaste Province Animal Welfare Foundation, which supports low-cost spray and neuter clinics in Costa Rica, where the couple maintains a second home.



(Above) Doug Baumel, inducted by Amanda Ritter (inset), attended Cornell University and the Wharton School of Business. In 2003 he started his own highly specialized company, Continuity LLC, which consults for family-owned businesses. He and his wife, who live in a home almost as old as the Milleridge Inn (built in 1723), have two children, ages nine and eleven.



(Above) Dr. Rob Martin's 1964 JHS yearbook picture seems to be listening intently to his acceptance speech. As you can see, inductees must suffer the mild embarrassment of sitting under poster-size photos of their teenage selves. In years past, the stage has been a veritable cavalcade of awful hair styles from the sixties and seventies, but this time around, not too bad! Rob and his wife have two grown sons. He was inducted by Noah White (inset).



(Left) Each year, the Jericho Retirees Association makes a generous donation to a charity with Jericho ties. This year's Emil Voigt Memorial Award went to Les Scheinfeld (class of '73, and a Hall of Fame inductee himself), director of development at Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk County. Presenting the award is his former teacher Mr. Kenneth LeCluse, a longtime volunteer with Habitat of Humanity.



(Above) Meredith Coleman (inset) inducted Janet Penn, whose nonprofit organization, Interfaith Action, was recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as one of fourteen good practices in interfaith youth work in the United States and Europe. She and husband Mark have two grown daughters.



(Above) Based on all the letters to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, Herricks High School wrestling coach Cliff Forziat (inducted by current JHS basketball star Chandler Kirby, inset) seems to be about as beloved an educator as there is. As one parent, the father of four Herricks alumni, wrote about Cliff, "I have not met a more influential teacher, coach, or person who has given so much for so long. I am amazed at the number of lives Mr. Forziat has touched."

Now for the best part of the evening: the reception, with cookies! It's always nice how many teachers and other alumni turn out for this annual event.

(Right) Larry Licht ('72), Andrew Sausmer ('79), and Patricia Monk-Eichner ('80) with Mrs. Karen Schwartz.

(Below) History-and-social-studies teacher Mr. Ira Greene, now an attorney, with Lisa Saitz Sokol from the class of 1970.



(Above) Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth LeCluse.



(Left) Ms. Maureen Tracy (right) with (at left) Ms. Carol Spielberg, president of the Jericho Retirees Association and a former junior high math teacher. (According to Ms. Tracy, "She's also one of the first Jericho teachers to have taught AP computer.") The man in the middle is English teacher Dr. Michael Hartnett, secretary of the Jericho Teachers Association.



(Top left) Nice shot of Gloria Rothstein ('75).

(Above) Janet Kesner Hopf ('78) with Mrs. Schwartz.

(Left) Two of your favorite teachers: Mr. Jack Latham and Ms. Phyllis Mandell.

(Below) That's Brian Cummings of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee with Mr. Henry Grishman, longtime superintendent of the Jericho School District.



From the unforgiveable oversight department: Somehow managed to miss getting a shot of Mrs. Dolores Hoffman. It won't happen again, promise!