The 30th Annual Jericho High School Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Thursday, April 2, 2020!

Thursday, April 8, 2021!

Thursday, April 7, 2022!















In March 2020, with the 30th Annual Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony less than four weeks away, a funny thing happened: The world shut down and hung up a "Gone Fishin" sign.



"No big whoop," thought the Reunion Committee. Surely this Covid-19 virus, which no one had ever heard of before, would wear itself out in a few weeks. "We'll reschedule it for later this spring."

Nope!

Okay, for the fall, then.

Uh-uh!

Spring 2021? Aw, c'mon, certainly this will all be over by spring 2021!?!?

Survey sez: Ah-ooo-ga! Ah-ooo-ga!

So, you can understand why, on April 7, 2022, everyone involved was thrilled to *finally* get to honor the five inductees, four of whom were selected way back in the fall of 2019, before a once-in-a-century pandemic came out of nowhere to upend countless lives. Happily, three of the five alumni, who lived in other states and had to cancel their travel plans in 2020, were able to attend the first induction ceremony in three years.

Below, from left to right: Gail Abbott Zimmerman (class of 1969), Pam Wasserman-Health (class of 1985), Dr. Andrew Greenberg (class of 1973), Erica Ross (class of 2002), and Ellen Barre Speigel (class of 1980).



For the past several years, the dinner honoring the inductees has been held at Westbury Manor. To make it seem less heretical, we've gotten Jericho students to deface—sorry, enhance—the sign out front. This year we enlisted some talented JHS art students, who painted a vibrant mural over the sign, as you can see.





The good folks at Westbury Manor may not know much about art, but they certainly know what they don't like. Law enforcement was summoned, as were the kids' parents. Although no charges were filed, they'll be paying off the cost of a new sign for months to come.



We'd like to think that the unfortunate incident instilled an important life lesson, for which the students involved will come to appreciate one day. No need to thank us, future leaders of tomorrow!

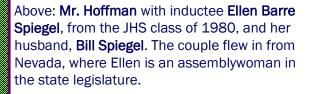


Pretty swanky room, no? Or, as Jerichonians might say, in their musical, lilting patois: gaw-juss!





You can never have too many photos of **Mr. Bob Hoffman**, who co-founded the Alumni Hall of Fame in 1990 while teaching at Jericho High School and has continued to be its driving force. Above, that's him at far left with math teacher **Matthew De-Marinis**, one of our two emcees of the induction ceremony, and retired teacher **Nick Maraventano**, who hosted the event for many years.



Below: Among the early arrivals are **Matthew DeMarinis**, Hall of Fame committee member **Mary Vitale**, and **Ari Kakounis**, vice president of the Jericho Teachers Association. One benefit of getting there early: more hors' d'oeurves for you!



Above: The youngest of our inductees, **Erica Ross**, graduated in 2002. Posed around her are her brother, **Steve Ross**; daughter, **Sydney Ross Golder**; and mother, **Randi Ross**. Erica works in Washington, DC, as the assistant attorney to the solicitor general of the United States.





Above: Inductee **Dr. Andrew Greenberg** (left) with his longtime bud and fellow member of the class of 1973, **Rick Baiman**. Andrew, a specialist in endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, where he is also a professor of nutrition and metabolism *and* a senior scientist at and director of Tufts's Obesity and Metabolism Laboratory.

Below: Mr. Bob Hoffman (right) with the HoF Committee's MVP, Brian Cummings, recently named an assistant principal at JHS. With cool aplomb, Brian arranges, well, pretty much everything.







(Left) Rick Baiman with his sister, Joan Baiman Rosenberg (JHS class of 1971), attending her first induction dinner and ceremony as a civilian in many years. At the end of the 2019–20 school year, Joan retired as principal of Jericho High, where she'd started in the Guidance Department. And not only is she on the HoF Committee, but she's an inductee as well, in 1997.

Right: We complete our **Rick Baiman** photo hat trick with a shot of him and **Mr. Hoffman**, who incidentally, still resides in Jericho with his wife, beloved JHS teacher **Mrs. Dolores (Poltorak) Hoffman**.



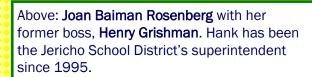


Above: a sweet shot of inductee Pam Wasserman-Heath (class of '85) and son Zach, a student at JHS. Pam, a clinical psychologist, moved back to Jericho from Chicago, Famously community minded, she serves on the Jericho Board of Ed.





Above: "What a coincidence! You're being inducted into the Hall of Fame tonight? So am I!" From left to right are inductee Gail Abbott Zimmerman (1969) with her husband, Albert, and Bill Spiegel with his wife, inductee Ellen Barre Spiegel.



At right, **Joan** and **Mr. Hoffman** flank **Fran O'Connor**, who was being honored for her work with the nonprofit organization she launched in 2020, **Jericho Cares**, of which she is president.





The photos below could be titled "There's Something About Mary." That's Mary Vitale with English teacher Mike Hartnett of the Jericho Teachers Association ...





... and with **Bob Hoffman** and **Jill Citron**, president of the Board of Education ...



Below: Hall of Fame committee members Eric





With the dinner over, everyone hopped in their cars and revved their engines for the drag race up Jericho Turnpike to the Jericho Public Library. (It's an annual tradition; you don't need to know anything further. Leave it alone, Kapish?)

Above, Ellen Barre Spiegel and Mike Spiegel greet Ellen Siber from the JHS class of 1969. In high school, Ellen B. belonged to the Jericho Jewish Centers United Synagogue youth program, which Ellen S. directed. Ellen B. regards Ellen S. as a mentor, and acknowledged her (Ellen S.) influence during her (Ellen B.) acceptance speech.





Left: Always great to see retired teacher Maureen Tracy, a consistent presence year after year. That's Rick Baiman posing with her.



Kudos to the **"Poland Strings Quartet,"** composed of JHS students, who serenaded everyone as they entered the library theater.

The honorees and student presenters are all seated onstage, and emcees Meredith Hynes and Matthew DeMarinis (who could probably make a career out of this, except that they already have careers, teaching at JHS) are ready to start the ceremony.

So sit down in your seat, stop fidgeting, and—Shhhhhhhhhh!—be quiet! And spit out that chewing gum!



But first ... some speechifying!







Introductory remarks and greetings from (far left) Board of Education President Jill Citron, (left) Superintendent Henry Grishman, and (below) JHS's coprincipal, David Cohen.





Each inductee is introduced by a current Jericho star student who is considering possibly entering a similar field. They speak on the phone beforehand and meet the morning of the event, when the inductees come to the high school to speak to the kids in various classrooms. The Jericho alumni and the soon-to-be grads introducing them typically develop a strong connection.

At left, senior **Sachi Sethi** takes the podium to introduce the first inductee of the evening, **Gail Abbott Zimmerman**,



TV producer and news director Gail Abbott Zimmerman, winner of three Emmy Awards, entered television at a time when there were relatively few women in the field. The late sportscaster Howard Cosell, famous for his on-air bloviating, was both incredulous and none too pleased the first time he learned that he'd be recording a sports segment with a female producer.



The 1969 Jericho grad went on to become a longtime producer and senior producer for the popular program 48 Hours. She also worked at ABC-TV's 20/20, directed four Olympics Games, Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve, as well as several soap operas. Her wry sense of humor and story-telling had the entire audience laughing.

(Right) JHS Senior **Sara Chan** introduced the first member of the JHS Alumni Hall of Fame to have graduated in the twenty-first century, the class of 2002's **Erica Ross**.

From Jericho, Erica went to Yale University, graduating magnum cum laude in 2006. Then she headed out to the West Coast, to the Stanford University School of Law, where she edited the prestigious *Stanford Law Review*.

Erica clerked for Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan in 2011 and 2012 and is currently as assistant to the solicitor general of the United States, She has argued a number of cases before the Supreme Court. She lives on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, with her husband **Chad Golder**, a former US deputy associate attorney general who clerked for the retiring Justice John Paul Stevens. Their adorable daughter, **Sydney**, voiced her enthusiasm throughout Mom's speech, cracking up the crowd.

Between Erica and her husband, surely at least one of them could tell us whether the nine justices wear clothes beneath their robes. But we suspect they're probably too discreet to spill the beans.





Each year, the **Jericho Retirees Association** presents a Community Service
Award to a deserving organization with a tie
to Jericho. The monetary award is named
after the late **Emil Voigt**, a force of nature as
a passionate social studies teacher and
president of the teachers union.



This year's award went to **Jericho Cares** president **Fran O'Connor**, who has lived in Jericho for ten years and has two daughters attending district schools. (Her husband graduated from JHS, making her a Jawhawk-by-proxy.) The grassroots nonprofit was established in August 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. JC provides necessities to needy local families (and, yes, they exist, even in Jericho). From its website: "We deliver custom boxes to families and individuals that reach out for assistance. We deliver donations ranging from socks to comforters, dishes to pet food, cereal to toiletries. We are building a network where local residents can fulfill the needs of these families within days."

For more information, visit the JC website: <u>www.jerichocares.org.</u>

Pranav Dendukuri, another impressive JHS senior, introduced Dr. Andrew Greenberg from the class of 1973.

Dr. Greenberg, director of the Obesity and Metabolism Laboratory at Tufts University in Boston, has published well over 120 scientific papers. His



research into the origins of obesity led to the discovery of an human protein that regulates fat storage. Andrew named it perilipin. Two much or too little perilipin can bring about serous health problems.

Andy earned extra credit by presenting a slide show, Because he is extremely tall, at Jericho he played on the basketball team. (That's him in the back row, towering over his teammates.) He and his wife have two grown daughters and live in Newton, Massachusetts.

At right: the 1972–73 JHS basketball team, from the *Imperator* yearbook; wedding photo; and a close-up of the perilipin protein.







Senior Jacob Crossman introduced Nevada assembly-woman Ellen Barre Spiegel from the JHS class of 1980.









One of the people that Ellen thanked from the stage was in the audience: Ellen Siber (JHS '69). The two met in 1976, when Ellen B. (here we go again) joined a temple youth group led by Ellen S., a high school teacher for thirty-four years.

Says Ellen S. of the new Hall of Famer: "Ellen demonstrated natural leadership skills even then. She was unusually mature, calm, and insightful, and had the natural ability to lead and be inclusive with her peers. I knew then that she would do great things—and she is."

Senior Matthew Ingber introduced the fifth and final HoF inductee for 2022: clinical psychologist Pam Wasserman-Heath (1985).

Pam was nominated by her twin sister, **Ellyn**, who wrote touchingly of her: "Although my nomination could pertain to Pam's skills as a psychologist, it is not. My sister is very much dedicated to giving back to where we first began." Pam is a member of the Jericho



Board of Ed and has been president of the Jackson School PTA. "She is warm, thoughtful, and compassionate," Ellyn continued. "People are drawn to her and feel comfortable reaching out to her. In turn, she gains their confidence and becomes a voice for many. She takes tremendous pride in her roles in her community, and I admire her tremendously."



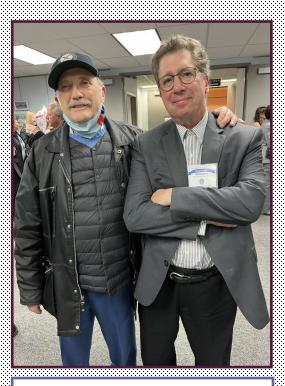


The ceremony over, Sara Chan's mom snapped a shot of her daughter with Erica Ross.





If it wasn't for the bouquet, you wouldn't know who's who. Pam Wasserman-Heath poses with her twin sister, Ellyn, a registered dietician who lives in Locust Valley. As Pam recalled from the stage, in high school the two used to sometimes swap identities for fun. Pam would impersonate Ellyn in one of her classes, and Ellyn would do the same. The practice ended abruptly after Ellyn sat in for Pam in a class she knew little about—and the teacher ambushed everyone with a surprise quiz.



Above: former JHS history and social studies teacher **Mr. Ira Greene** with Hall of Fame committee member **Philip Bashe** (JHS 1972).

And there you have it. It took three years to pull it off, but the thirtieth annual Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony turned out to be one of the best.

Five inductees—five great speeches (which doesn't always happen). And the joint was packed, especially with JHS students (which doesn't always happen).

As the audience moved from the auditorium to the hospitality room for coffee and cookies, you saw *a lot* of smiles. Just a great, great night for everyone.

Kids in the Hall: Inductees, 1991–2022

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), psychiatro nurse

Rose-Ann Schifano (1965), corporate secretary/treasurer

David Starobin (1969), acclaimed guitarist, record producer

Pamela Joan Tropper (1968), doctor

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), directorconsumer 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), councilwoman/community activist Bruce Smoller (1975), chairman of pathology department

Lori Traikos (1974), international photojournalist

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

Saundra M. Gumerove, Esq. (1968), attorney and advocate for Families with Special Needs

Lainie Friedman Ross, MD, PhD (1978), pediatrician, medical ethicist, professor

Continued on next page

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 Baumoel (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

28th Induction Ceremony, 2018

Robert Simon (1972), TV producer

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

Wanna See Photos from Other JHS Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremonies? Of Course Ya Do!

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30th Induction Ceremony, 2022 (!)

Gail Abbott Zmmerman (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.