

# The 33rd Annual Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

April 3, 2025



Emcee Dr. Matt DeMarinis gets the ceremony rolling. At far left is JHS coprincipal Brian Cummings and at far right, longtime district superintendent Henry Grishman. This year's inductees (and inductors—four JHS seniors): left to right, student Cayden Miu, and inductee Jesse Neuman from the class of 1997; student Haley Scher and inductee Leslie Drogin Sack (class of 1998); student Joseph Cavallaro and inductee Max Motschwiler (2005); and student Bhavika Bhasin and inductee Dr. John Pellicone (1973). Congratulations, one and all!





FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2018, the Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame pre-induction ceremony dinner returned to the landmark Milleridge Inn. Like the lost tribes of Israel wandering in the desert—or, to put a local spin on it, like the lost tribes of West Birchwood shuttling between Robert Seaman and George Jackson elementary schools while waiting for their own building, Cantiaque Elementary, to finally open during the 1962–63 school year, we spent two years at Westbury Manor, which, while extremely nice, felt like being a Yankees fan in Fenway Park. The next two years were lost to the Covid-19 pandemic, then the 2023 and 2024 dinners were held in Jericho, but at the Lisbon Café.

It felt great to be back at the Milleridge, where the ghost of George Washington—rumored to have once spent a night at the 453-year-old inn (whether wife Martha was with him or someone else remains a matter of speculation)—could be seen moving uneasily throughout the room, studiously avoiding making eye contact due to his self-consciousness about those wooden choppers. You can see his apparition in the inset photo above, at far right, leaning in to pilfer dinner rolls off people's plates.

The Milleridge peacocks were out in full force, which has stirred up something of a controversy among the omelet's—sorry, typo: hamlet's—residents, some of whom feel it is time to forcibly retire the venerable Jericho Jayhawk as the school's mascot and replace it with the more flamboyant peacock. If you are a JHS alumnus, you are entitled to vote in this public referendum. Make your voice heard!

# JAYHAWK OR PEACOCK?



## Cast Your Vote!

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# Meet the 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees



**Left:** Dr. John Pellicone, valedictorian of the JHS class of 1973, and his wife, Maria. John, who knew he wanted to be a physician from the age of four, is retiring this spring as chief medical officer of Metropolitan Hospital in Upper Manhattan. Previously, he was the medical director of Helen Hayes Hospital and Nyack Hospital. A pulmonologist, John earned his medical degree at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. It was at Columbia, in 1979, that he met Maria, who was studying at its School of Nursing. The couple married in 1981, just as John began his internship at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. They have two grown sons. In addition to playing ice hockey, John enjoys restoring vintage cars, with a particular passion for manual transmissions. His first set of wheels? A manual Honda Civic.

**Right:** Leslie Drogin Sack (class of 1998) with her mother, Charlotte Drogin, who still lives in Jericho. Soon after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a master's degree in governmental administration, Leslie spent nearly six years working in the federal government: first, in the Executive Office of the President, then as an assistant staff secretary in the White House, and also as a senior policy advisor in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the US Department of Energy. She is currently the managing director, head of government relations, at the Structured Finance Association in Washington, DC. She and her family live in Alexandria, Virginia.





# Meet the 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees



**Left:** The JHS class of 1997's Jesse Neuman (second from right), a musician and music educator, was nominated for the Alumni Hall of Fame by his former senior-year humanities instructor, Nadine Palumbo Vittorino (far left), who retired just last year. She remembers him bringing "energy, insight, and creativity to the course, above and beyond his peers." That's Jesse's mother, Deborah, at far right, and retired teacher Nicholas Maraventano—a member of the HoF nominating committee—second from left. In addition to playing trumpet with artists as diverse as Bobby Bare Jr. and Josh Ritter, Jesse composes and arranges. In 2000 he founded a nonprofit organization, Musicworks, which brings music programs to underserved communities, from nursing homes to nursery schools, and for populations as diverse as children with special needs, women in drug addiction recovery, and homebound students. A recent father, he and his family live in Hopewell, New Jersey.

**Right:** There are two Jericho grads in this photo—Max Motschwiller, class of 2005, and his mother, Amy Jupiter Motschwiller, who graduated in 1976. A venture capitalist, Max studied economics at Harvard University. After stints at Summit Partners and then Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, in 2015 he joined Meritech Capital Partners in Palo Alto, California, and is now a general partner there, leading the firm's consumer, fintech, and enterprise software practices. At Harvard, Max captained the lacrosse team; today he coaches a lacrosse team for disadvantaged youth. An avid cyclist, he lives Palo Alto with his wife, Amber, and their daughter, Lila Belle.







*The current lineup of the Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame Committee: left to right, Dr. Micheala Finlay, Philip Bashe, Ruth Breidenbach, Mr. Bob Hoffman, Nicholas Maraventano, Harish Yerramsetty, Mary Vitale, Brian Cummings, Vicky Silverstein Britvan, Sari Grebstein, and honorary member Dr. Matt DeMarinis, who serves as emcee for the ceremony. Missing: Hall of Famer Joan Baiman Rosenberg, former JHS principal (and former JHS student, class of 1971), who landed on the injured list the day of the event. The committee is composed of current and retired faculty members and administrators, as well as Hall of Fame members.*





**Left:** Kevin Brodsky of the Jericho Teachers Association with Mr. Bob Hoffman. In addition to teaching in Jericho for nearly forty years, Mr. Hoffman is one of the cofounders of the Alumni Hall of Fame. The first induction ceremony was held in 1991.

**Below:** Brian Cummings, coprincipal of the high school, and assistant principal Micheala Finlay.



**Above:** Social Studies, Business and Libraries Curriculum Associate Dr. Eric Sundberg was a member of the Hall of Fame Committee for several years, while Ruth Breidenbach (at right), curriculum associate for fine and performing arts, is a current member. Between them is JHS band director Evangeline Bellon.



**Right:** Jericho superintendent Henry L. Grishman, shown here with Max Motschwiller, is retiring after thirty years. Of this year's four inductees, he remembers three of them as students: Max, Jesse, and Leslie.



**Below:** Leslie Sack bookended by Michael Hartnett of the Jericho Teachers Association and Board of Education trustee Dr. Divya Balachandar.



**Above:** Retired Jericho teacher Nick Maraventano (left) is the longest-serving emcee in the history of the Hall of Fame. Matt DeMarinis (right) has now logged eight appearances behind the podium. They flank longtime committee member Mary Vitale. That's honoree Jesse Neuman behind them.





## Power Couples!

**Left:** Victor P. Manuel, assistant superintendent for business affairs, and David Cohen, assistant superintendent for educational operations and human resources.

**Below:** Brian Cummings and Dr. Ivy Sherman, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

**Bottom left:** Dr. Christopher Foresto, president of the Board of Education, with Matt DeMarinis.







**Above:** Boyz 'n the Hood. John Pellicone grew up on Schuyler Drive. Two of his best friends from West Birchwood came out to celebrate with him and Maria: Jon Friedman (far left), who lives in Manhattan, and Brett Silvers (far right), from Connecticut.

**Right:** Two of the newer members of the HoF Committee are JHS guidance counselor Sari Grebstein (far left) and chemistry teacher Harish Yerramsetty (far right). In the middle are Jill Citron, vice president of the Board of Education, and Divya Balachandar.



**Above:** Committee member Vicky Silverstein Britvan and Ken Greenblatt, both from the class of '79. Vicky, who lives in Jericho, is the school nurse at the Jeffrey Ratner-Robert Seaman Elementary School.







**Left:** Ken Greenblatt, Brett Silvers, Maria and John Pellicone, Jon Friedman.

**Below:** David Cohen, Ivy Sherman, Victor Manuel, Hank Grishman, Jill Citron, Divya Balachandar.



**Below:** Micheala Finlay, Brian Cummings, Matt DeMarinis, Michael Hartnett.







**Left:** Harish Yerramsetty, Sari Grebstein, Vicky Silverstein Britvan, Eric Sundberg, Mr. Bob Hoffman, Leslie Drogin Sack, Charlotte Drogin.

**Below:** Deborah Neuman and Mary Vitale, sitting. Behind them are Ruth Breidenbach, world-language teacher Anthony Vittorino, Nadine Palumbo Vittorino, Nick Maraventano.



**Above:** A few remarks from Coprincipal Cummings.

**Below:** Cake? Of course there was cake. There's always cake. It's in the Hall of Fame's bylaws.





*Yes, it's true: each inductee must sit directly below a giant mounted poster of his or her high school yearbook photo. It's a test—an unconscionably cruel test—in a way: You wanna be in the Alumni Hall of Fame? Well, let's see just how badly you want in, pal!*



*As the audience took their seats in the Jericho Public Library Theater, they were serenaded by a talented string quartet made up of Jericho students, while above them a projection screen displayed a slide show from previous induction ceremonies. As always, the joint was packed.*



*Many different people turn out for this annual event—and if they've been to one, they often return because it is such a memorable, joyous occasion. The audience includes friends and families of the inductees but also alumni, like Gloria Rothstein, from the class of 1975 (far left); retired teachers (Judy Ornstein, with her husband, Joel, middle photo); and (near left) past inductees like Andrew Sausmer (JHS '79), posing with classmate Vicky Silverstein Britvan and retired elementary school teacher Ronnie Horowitz. Lots of current JHS students, too.*





Following opening remarks by (far left) Board of Education President Christopher Foresto, Coprincipal Brian Cummings, and, for the final time as school superintendent, Hank Grishman, it was time to begin the inductions. Each new Hall of Famer is introduced by a member of the JHS class of 2025 who, typically, aspires to a similar career. The student presenters and the inductees speak on the phone beforehand and also meet the day of the ceremony, as all inductees are invited to lunch at the high school and to speak to various classes. In the process, the honorees and the soon-to-be JHS grads usually develop a warm rapport.



Senior Cayden Miu introduced the evening's first honoree, Jesse Neuman. An inductee's accomplishments in life, no matter how impressive, do not ensure a spellbinding presentation, and, to be honest, crickets have been known to chirp on occasion at Hall of Fame ceremonies. But this year, all four recipients were terrific speakers, full of funny and often touching stories about growing up in Jericho.

After graduating, Jesse attended New York University, then went on to earn his master's degree in education at Hunter College, part of the City University of New York. In nominating him for the Hall of Fame, his former teacher Nadine Palumbo Vittorino, who was in the audience, reflected, "Few students in my career have taken what they learned in high school and turned it into a way to serve the community. If anyone embodies the spirit of the Jericho Hall of Fame, it is Jesse Neuman."

Jesse has returned to JHS several times over the years as a guest lecturer and also to run workshops for students.

If you'd like to learn more about his 501©(3) organization, Musicworks, visit its website at [www.MusicworksNYC.org](http://www.MusicworksNYC.org). Jesse also writes a related blog, which can be viewed at [www.Musicworks.Tumblr.com](http://www.Musicworks.Tumblr.com).





*Leslie Drogin Sack, introduced by senior Haley Scher, was recalled by her former middle school teacher Rose Scalera as “a leader from the time she was in eighth grade.” Much of her career has involved promoting clean energy and technology causes, and, to that end, she has developed policies to support energy technologies in the United States as well as in other countries.*

*In high school, Leslie was extremely active in extracurricular activities: public address announcer, candidate for school government, varsity athlete in three sports. Today, even with a demanding job and a family to raise, she’s still big on extracurricular activities, devoting time to various professional organizations as well as serving on the national board of trustees for the League of Minority Voters.*



*Senior Joseph Cavallaro introduced inductee Max Motschwiller, whose speech was especially moving. He recounted how his mother, 1976 Jericho graduate Amy (Jupiter) Motschwiller, suddenly found herself raising a young family on her own and having to defer her own plans in the process. Max got teary-eyed, we got teary-eyed, and we assume Amy was doubly teary-eyed. Amy later graduated from Cornell University.*

*During the Hall of Fame nominating committee’s multiple meetings on selecting this year’s recipients, the teachers who’d had Max in their classes described him affectionately as one of the kindest, humblest students they’d ever encountered. We’re happy to report that, despite his success in venture capital, nothing has changed in that regard.*





**Left:** Bhavika Bhasin introduced the evening's final inductee, Dr. John Pellicone. Incidentally, as you can see, in a very nice touch, this year's honorees received not only a plaque but also a varsity-jacket-worthy Jericho "J." It's good to know that, if you play your cards right, you can skip all the interminable sports team practices, not to mention the aches and pains, bumps and bruises, and still come away with a varsity letter—even if you have to wait at least fifteen years, which is the minimum number of years before Jericho grads are eligible for Hall of Fame consideration.

As John readily admits, "I'm one of those people who have nothing but wonderful memories of growing

up in Jericho." The word outstanding comes up multiple times when he reflects on the education and opportunities he received in the Jericho Public School System. John's family was among the earliest settlers in West Birchwood, moving there from Brooklyn in 1959.



Two other honors were bestowed during the evening.

**Far left:** Mary Vitale of the Jericho Retirees Association hands Andrew Sausmer the Emil Voigt Award, named in honor of the late social-studies-teacher-slash-force-of-nature who also headed the Jericho Teachers Union. The monetary donation goes to a Hall of Famer's pet cause.

**Left:** Matt DeMarinis and Brian Cummings surprise Henry Grishman with a plaque commemorating his thirty years as Jericho superintendent. Hank was always a bigtime supporter of the Alumni Hall of Fame, frequently declaring that the annual induction ceremony was one of his favorite events of the school year.





**Left:** A few closing remarks from emcee Matt, and it's a wrap for the thirty-third annual Jericho High School Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Yeah, baby! Then it's on to the library's auxiliary room for coffee and cookies. Yes, cookies, too, are mandated by the Hall of Fame Committee's bylaws. That's just how we roll.



**Left:** The class of '73's Jon Friedman, Brett Silvers, and Hall of Famer Randye Ringler. (Randye graduated a year early, in '72.)

**Below:** Unless she's away skiing or teaching in China, you can usually count on seeing retired teacher Maureen Tracy's at the Hall of Fame ceremonies. Here she is with new inductee Leslie Drogin Sack (left) and with Andrew Sausmer (right), who joined the Hall of Fame last year.



**Above:** Mr. Bob Hoffman and retired science teacher Mr. David Martin. Both still live on Long Island.



# Kids in the Hall: Inductees, 1991–2025

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), United Nations 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 and 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/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

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**Martha Flanagan Sammartano** (1975), educator/volunteer  
**Alicia Romano Neri** (1977), pediatric endocrinologist  
**Paul Singer** (1964)  
**Glenn J. Winuk** (1979)

#### 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  
**Saundra M. Gumerove, Esq.** (1968), attorney and advocate for Families with Special Needs  
**Lainie Friedman Ross, MD, PhD** (1978), pediatrician, medical ethicist, professor  
**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 Baumoe** (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; drummer in legendary 1960s Long Island rock band the Hassles with Billy Joel

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### 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, 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

### 2020–2021

(On vacation due to Covid-19)

### 30th Induction Ceremony, 2022

**Gail Abbott Zimmerman** (1969), Emmy Award-winning TV producer and news director

**Ellen Barre Spiegel** (1980), Nevada assemblywoman

**Dr. Andrew Greenberg** (1973), specialist in endocrinology, diabetes, and Metabolism, Tufts Medical Center, Boston

**Erica Ross** (2002), attorney, currently assistant to the US solicitor general

**Pam Wasserman-Heath** (1985), clinical psychologist

### 31st Induction Ceremony, 2023

**Dana Arschin Kraslow** (2005), TV journalist, documentarian, historian

**Robert Hahn, PhD** (1970), professor of philosophy, author

**Blake Zeff** (1995), political consultant, journalist, documentarian

**Christopher Kelly, MD** (1992), chief of pediatric emergency medicine, New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital



The JHS Wall of Fame is located in the west wing of the high school, right by the side entrance. Pay a visit, then sneak outside for a smoke, for old time's sake.

### 32nd Induction Ceremony, 2024

**Jordan Cila** (2000), professional soccer player, financial executive at Goldman Sachs and Citadel Securities

**Keith Horn** (1976), businessman, advisor, mentor, member of multiple corporate boards, investment firm founder

**Randy Ringler** (1972), sports executive in baseball, arena football, and Thoroughbred Racing; New York Mets director of marketing and sales.

**Andrew Sausmer** (1979), civic-minded Jericho volunteer fireman, restaurateur

### 33rd Induction Ceremony, 2025

**Jesse Neuman** (1997), musician and teaching artist

**Leslie Drogin Sack** (1998), former White House and staff member, policy advisor.

**Max Motschwiller** (2005), venture capitalist

**Dr. John Pellicone** (1973), pulmonologist, Hospital chief medical officer and clinical associate professor



A burgeoning movement has been sweeping across Jericho recently, as some disgruntled members of the community have suggested—in increasingly aggressive language at school board meetings—that the beloved school mascot, the Jayhawk, be relegated to retirement, while more vocal members of this contingent have lobbied for setting him on an ice floe and shoving him off into the Arctic Ocean.

First, though, some true history about the district's beaky, bird-brained mascot.

The Jayhawk, as well as the school's blue-and-gold colors, were designed by student Gayle Pincus, a talented artist, in 1961, the year of JHS's first homegrown graduating class. (Prior to that, Jericho high schoolers were bused to Carle Place High while the building on Cedar Swamp Road was still under construction.) Gayle went on to become the president of a sweater manufacturing company and eventually retired to Italy.

But here's the thing about the Jayhawk, which also serves as the longtime mascot for the University of Kansas: *No such bird exists.* In 1926 Dr. F. W. Blackmar, the first dean of the university's graduate school, addressed the Jayhawk's origin in a speech:

*The "Jayhawk" is a myth. It has no historical use. It is neither beast, fish, nor fowl. The myth had its rise in the characters of two birds that frequent the Missouri Valley—namely, the blue jay, a noisy, quarrelsome robber that takes delight in pouncing upon small birds and robbing their nests of eggs and young birds, and the sparrow hawk, a genteel killer of birds, rats, mice and rabbits, and, when necessary, a courageous and cautious*

# JAYHAWK OR PEACOCK? YOU Decide!



Place a checkmark in the appropriate box.



Mail this ballot to JHS Mascot, Public Referendum 1, PO Box 174, Liverwurst, OH 74536.

*fighter. Just when, where, and by whom the names of the two birds were joined in "Jayhawk" and applied to human beings, no one knows.*

If the contentious atmosphere at a recent school board meeting is any indication, feelings on both sides of the issue seem to be reaching a fever pitch.

"Why is the school mascot something that doesn't even exist?" demanded East Birchwood resident Ed Nauseam. "It's totally imaginary, like, say, the unicorn, the centaur,



and the theory of evolution!" Another noisy dissenter, Mal Ware, from Princeton Park, piped up from the back, "What association is there between Jericho and the Jayhawk? I'll tell you: *none!* Has anybody here ever even seen a Jayhawk?" Many in the audience Nodded thoughtfully, as if to say, "Point well taken."

"Whereas the proud peacock," he went on, "can he found not only wandering the grounds of Milleridge Inn but also roaming the aisles at Whole Foods [formerly the site of the now-defunct Waldbaum's supermarket], shopping for hundred-dollar heirloom tomatoes like the rest of us." More affirmative murmuring could he heard.

Mr. Ware's mood then softened. "Look," he said, "I don't mean to denigrate the old bird, although, personally, I always thought his expression seemed slightly demented. He's served the community well all these years, with only a few minor scandals. But seeing as how he will reach retirement age in 2026, I propose that now is the time to replace him with a mascot that will inspire our students of the twenty-first century." Riotous applause resounded throughout the room. Followed by an actual riot.

Editor's note: For the record, it was learned later that Mr. Ware failed to disclose that he is a paid lobbyist for the Peacock Mascot Society (PMS), a powerful lobbying group in Washington, DC. PMS membership is believed to include hundreds of bad actors—not only money launderers and foreign spies but also bad actors Paris Hilton, Steven Seagal, Megan Fox, Kim Kardashian, and Gary Busey. We're talkin' scary bad.

Deadline for voting is August 1, 2025. It's time to carry out your civic duty. Jayhawk or peacock? The choice is yours.