West Babylon
Alumni Foundation



Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony
November 7, 2026
Gemelli's at Bergen Point

Program

Presentation of Colors
Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 of the American Legion

Pledge of Allegiance
Noreen Lico Wood, Class of 1979

Welcome
Robert Weaver, Class of 1983, President
West Babylon Alumni Foundation

Acknowledgment of Dignitaries

Message from Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly
Superintendent of West Babylon School District

Buffet Lunch

2026 Board of Director's Award

James Lynch
Presenter – Dr. Robert Manley

WBJHS Stitchin' Witches
Presenter – Marge Intreglia / Patricia Boyce

2026 Hall of Fame Inductees

Brian Sozzi, Class of 2000
Presenter- Joanne Ferrara

Dr. Dorsey Spencer, Class of 2002
Presenter- Nicole Leon

Michael Sweeney, Class of 1982
Presenter – Thomas Curran

Robert Szymanski, Class of 1965
Presenter – Dennis Nee

Closing Remarks - Robert Weaver
Coffee and Cake

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation was established in 1997 and then re-organized in 2008. The Foundation is comprised of graduates from over 60 years of students.

The purpose of the Foundation is to perpetuate the "*tradition of excellence"* in the West Babylon School District.

The Foundation has set goals of awarding scholarships, creating a "Hall of Fame" and establishing a website, as well as a grant program for student clubs and organizations.

THE MISSION

The West Babylon Alumni Foundation, Inc. is a broadly based, non-profit organization whose purpose is educational and charitable to secure and distribute contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations for the benefit of the students in the West Babylon Public Schools and by doing so, perpetuate the unique experience and traditions.

Officers and Board of Directors

Robert Weaver (Class of 1983) – President
Ralph Rienzo (Class of 1964) -Executive Vice President
Chris Connors (Class of 1976) – Vice President
Noreen Lico Wood (Class of 1979) – Treasurer
Joanie Datena Weinschenk (Class of 1964) – Secretary

Patricia Boyce (Class of 1970);
Barbara Burrows (Class of 1973); Robert Congiusta (Class of 1967);
Rosemary Rizzo Menendez (Class of 1973); Jerry Owenburg (Class of 1969)
Louise Pastore Scelza (Class of 1979);
Ralph VanBomel. Deceased (Class of 1970);
and Anthony Cacciola (Class of 1979), Emeritus Trustee

Foundation email: wbalumni@wbschools.org
Foundation Website: www.westbabylonalumni.org

West Babylon Alumni Foundation
Hall of Fame Board of Directors' Award

2010
Dr. Robert J. Manley

2011
Martin P. Kennedy
Dr. Anthony Capone
Mathew Wilensky

2012
Frank Taplin

2013
Margaret (Peggy) Ehrensperger

2014
Phillip Ames

2015
Wally Alesse
Barry Titone

2016
Melvin Noble
Margaret Jon Haugen
Emanuel Campisi

2017
Jon Link

2018
Christopher Haug
James Egbert

2019
Douglas G. Hassell Jr.
Patricia Martin Farrell

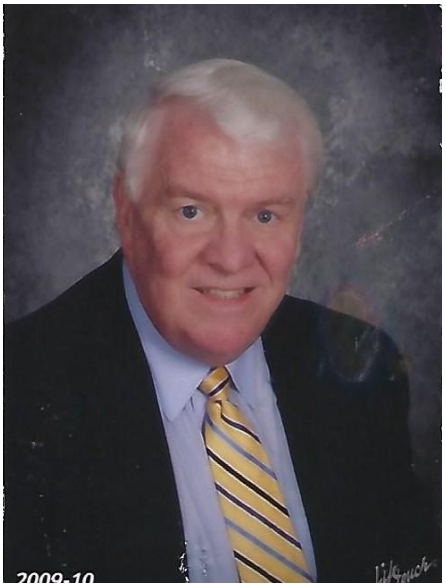
2021
Charles Volpe

2023
West Babylon Fire Department

2024
Linda Kronenbitter
West Babylon Lion's Club

2026

James Lynch
WBJHS Stitchin' Witches



James Lynch

Teacher / Coach

West Babylon Alumni Foundation

2026

Board of Directors' Award

James Lynch began his teaching career in West Babylon during the 1964-65 school year as a student teacher from Hofstra; then as a leave replacement; and then a permanent position teaching History. He retired in 2012 after 48 years.

Coaching Career – Jimmy coached Football, Lacrosse; and Varsity Basketball Coach for 24 years.

His milestones included: His team won over 300 games; playoffs 20 times; 4 leagues and 4 championships; West Babylon ranking second in NYS for 1979; WB playing at the Meadowlands and defeating Lakewood; National League 4 Coach of the Year 5 times; Suffolk County Coach of the Year (1979); Long Island Coach of the Year (1978-79); and creation of the Jim Lynch Unsung Hero Award given each year by the Coaches Association.

Finally, and most importantly, West Babylon honored Frank Taplin and Jim Lynch by renaming the gym in the High School after them.

Teaching Career– Taught History for all grades (7-12); wrote the 100 Program for Students at Risk; worked on the 8th grade Transitional Program; the Regents Improvement Program, and Chairman of West Babylon's application for Governor Cuomo's Excelsior Program (which WB received in 1992).

Jim received the Babylon Town Teacher of the Year award (1982); appointed to the Town of Babylon Supervisor's Educational Council; and was elected President of the West Babylon Coaches Association and served for 7 years.

Administration (1995-2012) – Began as a Dean; became Assistant Principal at the High School; Summer School Principal; and served five years as President of the Administrators' Association.

In 2012, Jim was elected Administrator of the Year, by the Suffolk County Administrators Association.



WBJHS STITCHIN' WITCHES

Community Group

West Babylon Alumni Foundation

Board of Directors Award 2026

Janine Augustine; Heidi Birr; Diane Carozzo; Georgia Cava; Debbie Goodwin; Amy Kohler; Linda Kronenbitter; Joann Lamantia; Coreen Loeffler; Patti Parisi; Valerie Pecan; Julie Powers; Margie Oneill Santora; June Shepard; Pat Tomeo; Jamie Vogel; and Lorraine Zemba

What began about 20 years ago as a fun way to connect with colleagues over fiber art, crochet and knitting, the WBJHS Stitchin' Witches has grown in size and purpose. Today, we number over 16 retirees who gather weekly in friendship and a shared purpose of giving back to our community.

We've created 'Homemade Hugs' blankets for West Babylon Schools and families in need as well as various local Veterans' organizations and nursing homes. Each year we're happy to participate in the WBJHS St. Baldrick's fundraiser selling handmade hats and scarves. As our lives were touched more personally by those experiencing the challenges of cancer, we set our sights on creating various items – mastectomy and port-a-cath pillows, slip masks, blankets, hats and scarves, to provide a bit of comfort to those undergoing treatment at the Babylon Breast Cancer Coalition and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. The Stichin' Witches create and donate more than 1500 items each year. We are forever grateful that West Babylon Junior High School brought us together and that we are able to serve our community.



West Babylon Alumni Foundation
Hall of Fame Inductees

2009
Erica Crespi ‘88
Jonathan Reese ‘86
Mozelle Thompson ‘72
Judy Skillen
Senator Owen H. Johnson
Helmer Petersen (posthumously)

2010
Thomas C. Teufel ‘88
Dr. Charles Thompson ‘72
Thomas McAteer ‘71
Justice Ralph Costello ‘59
H. Austin Sheldon, Jr. (posthumously)

2011
Dr. William G. Hawkins ‘87
Lawrence Doyle ‘76
Dr. Christopher Proto ‘72
Dr. Daniel McCally ‘64
Major Melvyn Kloor ‘59

2012
Dr. Debra Viti ’77 (posthumously)
Eric Kraft ‘61
Silvio Impagliazzo

2013
Patrick M. Farrell ‘73
Michael J. Rizzo ‘67
Dominick Varrone ‘67
Dr. John Bernardo ‘64

2014
Shannon Smith ‘08
Harold Dieterie ‘95
Patrick Halpin ‘71
Vincent DiMartino ‘66
Russell D. Van Brunt (posthumously)

2015
Dr. Mark Thompson ‘79
Anthony Cacciola ‘79
Constance Campanella ‘73
Eileen Naughton Roberto ‘70
John Zaruka ‘69

2016
Suffolk County Legislator Thomas Cilmi ‘82
Benedict Reyes ’64 (posthumously)
Mary Myers Bruckenstein ‘63
Leroy Douglas ’60 (posthumously)

2017
Shannon Romanchuk Saturno ’01 (posthumously)
Christine Mowbray Manzi ‘96
Jeffrey Mintz ’75 (posthumously)
Glenn Drewes ‘ 67

2018
Robert Weaver ‘83
Panela Vaughn Valdez ‘75
Richard Scheinberg ‘71
Joseph Germano ‘64

2019
Dr. Jennifer D’Amico ‘98
Justin Davies ‘94
Thomas H. Weidemeyer ‘65

2021
Dr. Mitchell Bellucci ‘73
Commander Brian Kudrle ‘01
William A. Miller ‘02
Laurie O’Gara ‘71
Jerry Owenburg ‘69
Dr. Vito Rizzo ‘74
Mark Scheinberg ‘74

2023
Regina M. Dooley ‘80
Kimberly Skillen ‘90
Dr. Scott L. Weiss ‘96

2024
Lieutenant Colonel Steven Harrington ‘65
Lieutenant Colonel Keith Ross ‘82
Thomas Wesley ‘73

2025
Robert Brennan ‘72
Lucy Campasano
Rich Hoffman – ‘90
James Regan, Jr. ‘95

2026
Brian Sozzi – ‘2000
Dr. Dorsey Spencer, Jr. – ‘02
Michael Sweeney – ‘82
Robert Szymanski – ‘65



Brian Sozzi

Class of 2000

West Babylon Alumni Foundation's

Hall of Fame 2026

Brian Sozzi is Yahoo Finance's Executive Editor. He hosts Yahoo Finance's flagship live morning show, the Power Players With Brian Sozzi podcast and leads interviews with some of the biggest names in global business. Over the course of his time at Yahoo Finance, he has interviewed everyone from the likes of former President Joe Biden, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Microsoft Co-Founder Bill Gates and Alex Rodriguez. Sozzi was previously the Executive Editor of publicly traded financial media company TheStreet.

He led editorial direction for multimedia publications The Street, The Deal, several subscription news and data services, video and the company's conference business. He was a member of TheStreet's executive management team and reported directly to the founder, CEO and chairman.

Brian began his career on Wall Street as a sell-side stock analyst covering retailers, banks and numerous other sectors. He won the 2011 FT | StarMine Analyst Award for No. 3 Earnings Estimator in the Textiles Apparel and Luxury Goods Industry. Sozzi graduated from West Babylon High School in 2000.



Dr. Dorsey Spencer Jr.

Class of 2002

West Babylon Alumni Foundation's

Hall of Fame 2026

After moving to West Babylon at the age six, Dr. Dorsey Spencer Jr. attended Tooker Avenue Elementary School, the WB Junior High School, and then graduated the High School in 2002 with a Regents diploma, having also studied video production at Wilson Tech. He participated in cross country, track and field, and football, earning several awards. He credits West Babylon teachers, including Mrs. Squicciarini, with helping to shape his career in education and love of learning. Their influence continues to guide his commitment to ensuring students feel seen and experience a sense of belonging and community.

Dr. Spencer Jr. earned a bachelor's degree in sport and recreation management from Temple University, a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a doctorate in higher education from Florida State University. He is also completing his MBA at Alcorn State University.

Dr. Spencer serves as associate vice president for campus life and dean of students at Brown University, overseeing student support, accessibility, activities, and community standards. His career has focused on student success, leadership development, and strengthening campus communities. At Bucknell University and the American University of Nigeria, he supported student engagement and leadership development, serving as the founding director of AUN's Office of Student Activities and Involvement. At Florida State University and Colgate University, he helped shape institutional priorities, secure resources, strengthen programs, and expand opportunities for historically marginalized students.

His services include Temple University alumni leadership and mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Takeoff Institute. He is a member of Alpha Pi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. His honors include Temple's Gallery of Success, NASPA's African American Knowledge Community Stella 50 recognition, ACUI's Daniel M. Maxwell Dissertation of the Year award, the Tallahassee Network of Young Professional's' Top "20 Under 40" Young Professional recognition, and Colgate's Torch Medal.

Dr. Spencer owns See Us Fly LLC., a book publishing company, and authored the children's books Worms Are a Yummy Snack: A Story of Patience, Anger, and JOY and Queen Cara and the Kingdom of Jama'a. He and his wife, RaJhai, are the parents of Chase, Cara, and Caleb.



Michael Sweeney

Class of 1982

West Babylon Alumni Foundation's

Hall of Fame 2026

Michael Sweeney served in the United States Navy and achieved the rank of Mechanist Mate (MM2E5) A West Babylon High School Graduate, Michael proudly served in the Navy from 1986-1996, including during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1990-1991). His decade of service instilled in him a deep sense of duty and perseverance.

Transitioning to civilian life fought its own battles. After facing hardships, including a period of homelessness, Mr. Sweeney found hope and healing through the support of fellow veterans and local organizations.

At Beacon House, he began his journey to sobriety – now five years strong. It was there that he connected with Paws of War, whose mission to support both ends of the leash deeply resonated with him. The organization matched Mr. Sweeney with a loyal service dog he named Storm, in honor of his military service during Desert Storm. Their bond has been life-changing, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

Mr. Sweeney now serves as a passionate volunteer with Paws of War, playing an active role in its programs that rescue animals, provide service dogs to veterans and first responders, and help build a bridge to healing. He speaks freely about his story from sobriety, to homelessness, to the amazing turnaround of purchasing his first home. He also volunteers his time with several other veteran-focused organizations, including General Needs, Island Harvest, Long Island Cares, the Vietnam Veterans Chapter, and Operation VEST. As a mentor, Mr. Sweeney offers support, guidance, and hope to fellow veterans and civilians navigating their own journeys.

Mr. Sweeney's service and dedication have earned him notable recognition, including being selected as a 2026 NYS Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee by Senator Monica Martinez. He was also honored as the Military Hero of the Game at a New York Islanders game. In September 2024, his name was added to the Wall of Honor at Eisenhower Park. He also has a hometown service banner proudly displayed in West Babylon. In November of 2025, Mr. Sweeney as recognized once again at a NY Jets game, where he proudly held the American Flag on the field.



Robert Szymanski

Class of 1965

West Babylon Alumni Foundation's

Hall of Fame 2026

Robert Szymanski is one of the most successful Track and Cross-Country coaches on Long Island. During his years at West Babylon (1961-1965) he was a member of the Cross-Country and Track teams and served as Captain during his senior year.

After graduation, he accepted an athletic scholarship to Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia. During his four years there, he competed in both Track and Cross-Country.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, he stayed in Emporia, working as a graduate assistant in the Athletic department. In 1970 he had the position as a PE/Health instructor in the Amityville school district, and after that in 1972 he took the position of Health and PE instructor in the Center Moriches school district and took over the cross-country and track programs with immediate success.

In the 1974-76 school year he returned to WB to take over the teaching and coaching duties vacated by the sudden death of Don Bohlinger. During this time, his cross-country team finished 2nd in the league championship. In 1976 he returned to Center Moriches where he continued to teach Health and PE until retiring from teaching in 2002. During his tenure, he successfully inaugurated a girl's cross-country program.

In 1981 Bobby took the opportunity to coach indoor and spring track at Shoreham-Wading River High School. His career has had many successes: His teams have won over 200 dual meets in Cross Country and 130 Track and Field; In an 11 year span, his teams have won 9 Suffolk country championship, one NYS championship and twice were State runner-up; six boys to individual NYS championships, and most recently one girl to three straight NYS championships in Cross-Country and 4th place in the US National HS Championships; and in 2016 he coached a girl's relay team to a National Championship in both indoor and outdoor track. To this day, Bobby continues to successfully coach at Shoreham-Wading River High School.

He personal awards include: 2007 & 2008 named Long Island Cross Country coach of the year; in 2016 named Sort Coach of the year in Suffolk County; in 2018 he was named Tract coach of the year by the NYS Coaches association; and finally, one of his proudest accomplishments was the raising of $10,000 for Cam Aquatic in 1987 by running 55 miles from Montauk Point to Center Moriches High School.

Sponsors

In Honor of James Lynch & Frank Taplin – Michael Brennan
Jon Link
Robert Weaver
Mike Honahan – Donation of flowers

Donors

Jerry & Kathy Alonso
Marge Intreglia – James Lynch
Lucy Campansano – Robert Szymanski
Richard Champa – Class of 1975
Emmuel Campasi – Phil Ames
Louise Kennedy – 99th Birthdays of Dr. Anthony Capone & Doris Puglisi
Dr. Robert & Mrs. Kay Manley – Scholarships
Dr. John Bernardo
Judy Skillen – Robert Szymanski
Arthur Valugh, Jr.
Terry McKenna – James Lynch
Melvin & Ruth Noble – James Lynch & the WBJHS
Dennis Nee – Robert Szymanski
Walter Stoeber
Thomas Wesley – James Lynch
Joan Weinschenk – Ralph VanBomel

A very special Thank You to the West Babylon School District

Superintendent of Schools, Yiendhy Farrelly, Ed. D.
Mr. Shawn Hanley, Deputy Superintendent for Human Resources
Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Karen Horoszewski, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Mr. Michael LoGiudice. Director of Facilities
Mr. Steve O'Leary, Principal, Senior High School

West Babylon Board of Education

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Mr. John Evola, Trustee
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Mr. Michael Rosenberger, Trustee
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