Beachvood Buzz February 2025 Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month. MAGAZINE

# EATON FRAMES CULTURAL AWARENESS AROUND ART

Also inside:

Beachwood City Insider Beachwood City Schools State Rep. Eric Synenberg We Are the World Remake SugarTown Follies Celebrating Black History Month at Beachwood Art Gallery Brad Goldberg Continues to Strike It Big Hope Heroes: Unleashing the Healing Power of Dogs Beachwood Bison's New Head Football Coach Summer Camp Section (starting on page 37) ... and so much more!

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# **Genesis of Brunswick**

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ver the past several months, I've been deeply inspired by Mel Robbins' podcasts, which are relatable, thought provoking, and motivational. Mel is a true powerhouse of practical wisdom, sharing both the struggles and triumphs of her journey – from being \$800,000 in debt to being featured on Oprah's podcast.

"People only change when they're ready to change," Mel explains. "When you push someone, it creates pressure, not motivation. Real change happens when a person feels it's *their* idea, not someone else's demand." In her latest book, *Let Them*, Mel explores a transformative approach to relationships, personal growth, and achieving peace: letting go of control over others and focusing instead on your own path. During Mel's interview by Oprah (a lifelong dream), she broke down her powerful *let them* theory, which is a game changer for how we live and interact with others.

This theory is about recognizing the futility of trying to control others and, instead, embracing the natural flow of life. According to Mel, humans are hardwired for control – it gives us a sense of safety. But when we attempt to control others, whether by pushing for change or forcing outcomes, it often backfires. People resist, creating resentment, distance, and frustration.

"People only change when they're ready to change," Mel explains. "When you push someone, it creates pressure, not motivation. Real change happens when a person feels it's *their* idea, not someone else's demand."

Instead of pushing, Mel encourages us to *let them* – let them be who they are, do what they do, *and* face the natural consequences of their actions. This approach fosters acceptance rather than judgment, allowing people to feel capable and self-reliant.

By stepping back, we create space for them to learn, grow, and tap into their potential on their own terms. It's not about indifference or abandoning care for loved ones. "Worrying about someone is an act of love," she says. "But how we go about it makes all the difference. Pushing others doesn't create change. It prevents it."

Mel also shed light on the destructive impact of jealousy and comparison. She reframes jealousy as a reflection of our own blocked desires. When we see others achieve what we want, it's not about them – it's about us. Their success doesn't block us from being successful, it provides inspiration and a roadmap of what's possible for ourselves.

"They're lighting the way," she said, "if you let them."

The *let them* philosophy also applies to relationships. Mel urges us to pay attention to behavior, not just words, when assessing how someone values us. "Behavior reflects who someone is and where you stand in their life. Don't rationalize or cling to a fantasy. See the reality with clear eyes," she advises.

Mel also addresses the *let* us theory, which empowers us to respond to circumstances in ways that align with our values and goals. There are three things we can always control: our actions, thoughts, and attitude. By focusing on proactive behavior, reframing the narratives we tell ourselves, and maintaining a positive or resilient attitude, we can transform obstacles into opportunities, reclaim our personal power, and live a more intentional and fulfilling life.

Allowing others to be who they are doesn't mean accepting mistreatment. Instead, it empowers us to acknowledge their behavior for what it is and decide how to respond. We hold the power to choose – whether to stay, leave, or establish clear boundaries – while honoring our own wellbeing and self-respect.

At its heart, the *let them* theory is a call to stop making others the problem and to instead focus on our own energy and actions. "Our lives can be so much more peaceful when we stop living like we're against someone or need to fix them," Mel said. "When we let go, we accept the peace that's within us."

Oprah called this book "a game changer." By adopting the *Let Them* mindset, we free others to grow, while unlocking our own potential for peace, resilience, and personal transformation.

## Beachwood Buzz Contributors

#### Gratefully showcasing our amazing team





#### **Elaine Cicora**

Elaine, a stellar proofreader with an eye for perfection, has been an invaluable asset to our team since 2020. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking, exploring the Cuyahoga

Valley National Park, and volunteering with the Portage County Park District. Among her goals for 2025 is resuming her yoga practice.

#### **Ryan Kennedy**



Ryan, graphic designer for the City of Beachwood, brings creativity and precision to every visual project to effectively communicate the city's messages and enhance its public image. Ryan enjoys

golf, Cleveland sports, and spending time with his family. In 2025, he will continue elevating the city's visual communications strategy.

#### **Scott Morrison**



Scott, photography director, has been bringing stories to life with his unique vision and expertise since 2013. Scott also serves as vice president of the board for Beachwood Chamber

of Commerce and participates in producing independent films. A top goal this year is to travel and capture epic images of nature.

#### **Senator Kent Smith**



Kent is the Ohio Senate Democratic Whip for the 21st District, who hosts a weekly video update about state government called *In Case You Missed It: Statehouse Edition.* Additionally,

he is a roller derby announcer for Cleveland's Burning River Roller Derby team, a cat dad, an apple farmer, and an art and music fan.



#### **Arlene Fine**

Arlene, a creative, resourceful journalist, has been a team member for eight years. She continues to live life to the fullest by enjoying family, friends, good books, and the great

outdoors. Her top goal for 2025 is to laugh easily, be a good listener and treat others with kindness, empathy and respect.

#### **Ben Lombardi**



Ben, communications manager for the City of Beachwood, is the dynamic force behind the city's public messaging and community outreach efforts. He enjoys going to Cleveland Guardians

games and exploring the Metroparks with his family. A top goal is to strengthen community ties and engagement.

#### Ananya Rao



Ananya, a Beachwood resident and Hathaway Brown sophomore, is new to our team in 2025. Her column, *Moments That Matter*, features diverse topics that coincide with monthly

events. Ananya enjoys reading, watching films, and spending time with her family. A top goal this year is to become a better writer.

#### **Jennifer Stern**



Jennifer, LISW, a loss and bereavement specialist, has been empowering readers by presenting optimistic perspectives on challenging circumstances since 2015. She loves cooking, gardening,

reading, photography, and time shared with family and friends. A top goal is to focus her energy on what brings peace and fulfillment.

#### Adam Jacob



Adam, our director of sales and a senior account executive at the Cleveland Jewish Publication Company, is attentive to customer needs and plays a key role in driving our

continued success. Adam enjoys playing pickleball, and spending time with his wife and two cats. He plans to travel more in 2025.



#### Lauren Meade

Lauren, director of communications for Beachwood City Schools, strategically advances two-way communication between the schools and community. Outside of work, she enjoys

spending time outdoors with her family. A 2025 goal is to continue serving as an advocate for public education.

#### June Scharf



June, an intrepid, resourceful journalist who delivers insightful, revealing feature stories, has been a driving force on our team since 2015. She travels frequently with her boyfriend, reads

three newspapers daily, and enjoys hanging with family members. A top goal for 2025 is to continue crafting compelling articles.

#### **Stephen Valentine**



Stephen, our art director and the creative director at the Cleveland Jewish Publication Company, is the driving force behind advertising designs and striking cover-story layouts. He enjoys

watching stand-up comedy, playing golf, and making memories with his family. One of his top goals is to visit the Pacific Northwest.

## Beachwood MAGAZINE Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.



Cover photo by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo, and Howard Tucker. Story photos by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo.

Artwork, titled Tondo, by Nick Cave, a Chicago artist, features found beaded garments, wool, and wood. Nick is a multi- and inter-disciplinary artist (not to be confused with the musician of the same name). His work appears in museums nationwide, including the Akron Art Museum, and he has enjoyed exhibitions dedicated to his work in the nation's top contemporary art museums. He calls himself a sculptor, dancer, performance artist, and professor. Story by June Scharf begins on page 6.

#### **Important Phone Numbers**

City of Beachwood • 216.464.1070 Mayor's Office • 216.292-1901 City Council Office • 216.595.5493 Beachwood Recreation • 216.292.1970 Beachwood City Schools • 216.464.2600 Beachwood Library • 216.831.6868 Beachwood Chamber of Commerce • 216.831.0003 Beachwood Arts Council • 216.595.3400

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Deachwood

## Who We Are

#### **Debby Zelman Rapoport** Editor/Publisher

Adam Jacob Director of Sales

**Scott Morrison** Photography Director

> **Elaine Cicora** Proofreader

**Stephen Valentine** Art Director

See Opposite Page **Contributing Writers** 

#### **Calendar Section**

Please send information about clubs, organizations, events and meetings to beachwoodbuzz@ gmail.com. The deadline is the 10th of each month.

#### Article Submissions

If you have a story idea or photos you would like to share, email beachwoodbuzz@gmail.com.

#### **Subscriptions**

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#### General Information

Beachwood Buzz is a privately owned, independent community magazine that supports the City of Beachwood and Beachwood Board of Education. We reserve the right to accept or decline any advertising or content.

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# EATON FRAMES CULTURAL AWARENESS AROUND ART

#### By June Scharf

A rt transcends language, yet it can still speak volumes to its viewers, with messages that may have widespread impact and appeal. With these factors in mind, Eaton has adorned its office halls and walls with around 100 pieces of art, spread throughout its 635,000-square-foot primary office in Beachwood. The objectives are to stir thoughts and emotions, as well as raising awareness and appreciation among the approximately 750 people who work or visit the office.

Eaton's decision to display contemporary art in its various forms was the brainchild of



former CEO Sandy Cutler, who oversaw the construction of the building, completed in 2012. Employees had been spread across different facilities in the Cleveland area, so the new building offered great proximity and new elements such as a gym that rivals most commercial options and an "Eaton University" to provide continuing education for employees.

Sandy retired in 2016 and was succeeded by Craig Arnold who will retire in May. Eaton is a global intelligent power management company with 95,000 employees worldwide, serving the data center, utility, industrial, commercial, machine building, residential, aerospace and mobility markets.

In a recent interview, Sandy reflected on his original vision for the collection: "It

**Above:** *Unique: 97*, by Yvette Kaiser Smith, Czechoslovakia (crocheted fiberglass with resin)

**Left:** *Sway*, by Amy Casey, Chicago (acrylic on panel)





is, in part, meant to help people see and understand a range of cultures in the more than 175 different countries in which Eaton conducts business."

The secure facility is not open to the public, with entry granted only to employees and their guests.

Since installing the art more than 12 years ago, Eaton has continued to leverage its collection to celebrate the diverse cultures of its employees. With this in mind, Eaton regularly highlights certain cultures, communities and heritages by tapping into its collection and featuring art created by those populations in its monthly employee newsletter. Spotlights have included work created by Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, women, African Americans and LGBTQ+ artists.

Over the years for Black History Month, Eaton has raised awareness of a piece created by the nationally renowned Black multi- and inter-disciplinary luminary Nick Cave (not to be confused with the musician of the same name). His work appears in museums nationwide, including the Akron Art Museum, and he has enjoyed exhibitions dedicated to his work in the nation's top contemporary art museums. He calls himself a sculptor, dancer, performance artist, and professor.

**Above:** *Mairaj*, by Sana Arjumand, Pakistan (digital print on canvas)

**Left:** Construction shot: Howard Tucker, Cleveland



*Fuscopanari*, by Rex Ray, Germany (painted paper over stretched linen)



*Crystal Fantasy I*, by Carson Fox, Brooklyn, NY (cast resin)



#### **ART FACTS**

The collection contains work by 51 artists from 22 countries. Cleveland artists include:

T.R. ERICKSON photography/silkscreen

DANA OLDFATHER sculpture

**GUY-VINCENT RICKETTI** mixed media

HOWARD TUCKER photographer

**ROYDEN WATSON** 

sculpture/painting/photography

- Established goals surrounding art acquisitions: • Reflect Eaton's commitment to diversity in
- the global diversity that is Eaton
- Works should draw from a variety of media
   Art chould reflect Exten/cuplues
- Art should reflect Eaton's values
  Art should stimulate thought, imagination
- and creativity
- When possible, art should connect with Eaton's businesses



*Top: Flow,* by Erika Harrsch, Mexico City (hand-cut, hand painted and shaped Giclee prints on archival cotton paper, mounted on acrylic rods).

*Middle*: Erika, a multidisciplinary artist, employs traditional mediums along with new media and technologies to articulate her concepts and interests.



Nick Cave at the Akron Art Museum during an exhibition of his work (*artwork on front cover*). Photo courtesy of the Akron Art Museum.

His piece at Eaton, titled *Tondo*, draws from global cultures and borrows its name from the Renaissance term for a circular work. It's a round, ornate textile composition with beads and woven fabrics, adding textures and patterns (see photo on the cover). African and Caribbean aesthetics are present, layered with Cave's own sensibility that focuses on "the vastness and interlocking beauty of our shared humanity," as stated in the *Art at Eaton Center* guidebook.

According to the highly regarded contemporary art consultant and curator Joanne Cohen, "Nick is an important artist who has very much embraced the spirit of our times. He often works with found objects, in both small- and large-scale installations, in a very creative and innovative way." She also notes how he is influenced by African art and has gained tremendous respect in the contemporary art world.

n reflecting on the collection, Sandy says that the emphasis was not on buying the most expensive, trendy or popular art. It was more about scale, material variety, cultural diversity and beauty.

"It's important to create an attractive work environment to draw and retain top talent," he explains, adding, "You not only need to give employees the resources to do their job well, you also need to create environments that foster collaboration and innovation."

Thus, the art.

Sandy assigned the job of spearheading the acquisitions to Sue Cook. After stepping out of a human resources role, she was appointed to become Eaton's Vice President of Facilities Planning, which was a multi-year assignment to build Eaton Center, as well as lead the art program. She contacted curators around the world, with additional advice provided by art consultant Linda Warren from Chicago.

Another angle on the prominence with which the art is featured relates to an interest in promoting mental and emotional health. According to Drew Horansky, Eaton's Senior Manager of Corporate Communications, the art makes audiences perceive the world in novel ways.

"You can take a little break from your day and think about something completely different," he points out.

Outdoor trails surrounding the Eaton building complement this concept, with enhancements found in the form of sculptures



No. 2, by Joseph Kohnke (pencils and adhesive)

along the way. Two prominent pieces include bronze benches and sculptures of Albert Einstein and Benjamin Franklin, created by Gary Lee Price, which overlook a large reflecting pond with a fountain in the center. Gary was inspired by Einstein's thought, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." The work is appropriately placed in a setting where the imagination can wander.

On the ground floor, there are two particularly striking pieces of art with highly purposeful prominence. One is the stone flooring that greets visitors directly inside the front entrance. It creatively portrays a world map reflecting all the continents on Earth (see photo above).

"Eaton wants to send the message that this is a global enterprise, and we felt people should see that right when they entered the building," Sandy states.

According to David Meehan, Project Executive, A.M. Higley Co., which handled the construction of Eaton Center, the stone material is Vals Quartzite which was quarried and fabricated into rectangular



Flooring, created with Vals Quartzite, quarried and fabricated into rectangular pieces in Switzerland. The stone was shipped to Creative Edge in Fairfield, Iowa, where it was cut into the world map pieces and stainless steel edging was installed outlining the continents. The fabricated pieces were shipped to the Beachwood project site and installed by Corcoran Tile.

pieces in Switzerland. The stone was shipped to Creative Edge in Fairfield, Iowa, where it was cut into the world map pieces. Stainless steel edging was installed outlining the continents. The fabricated pieces were shipped to the Beachwood project site and installed by Corcoran Tile.

Further executing on that theme is *Flow*, by Erika Harrsch from Mexico (see photo, opposite page). The large colorful image artfully portrays butterflies made from global currencies. They represent all the different countries where Eaton conducts commerce. Plus, their size and number are proportional to the number of people employed by Eaton in each country. The butterflies are hand-cut giclées and mounted on acrylic rods. The artist intended to reflect the butterflies' migratory flight, but also the energy that flows around the world.

With so many multicultural aspects to the company's workforce and work product, the art collection is a perfectly comprehensive approach to the merging of art and commerce.



Eaton continues to leverage its art to celebrate the diverse cultures of its employees and regularly highlights certain cultures, communities, and heritages by featuring art created by those populations in its monthly employee newsletter. Spotlights have included work created by Native Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders, Hispanics, women, and LGBTQ+ artists.

Sandy Cutler, former Eaton CEO, reflecting on his original vision for the collection: "It is, in part, meant to help people see and understand a range of cultures in the more than 175 different countries in which Eaton conducts business."

# From Beachwood City Council to the Ohio Statehouse

Fric Synenberg, former Beachwood City Council member, was officially sworn in as a member of the 136th Ohio General Assembly on Jan. 6 at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.

As a Beachwood City Council member, from January 2018 through December 2024, Eric has taken pride in representing his constituents and helping to make our community a better place to live, work, go to school, raise a family, and retire. On Council, he served as Chair of the Economic Development, Finance, Safety, and Legal and Personnel Committees, demonstrating a deep commitment to local governance and public service.

Eric chose to take his talents to Columbus when constituents planted the seed. Although he had thought about taking this step when he was younger, it was on the back burner at this time because he had settled into his roles as husband, dad, City Council member, and lawyer.

"I've always been compelled toward public service and stepped up to better represent our district," he said. "It's been about 10 years since a Beachwood resident represented us at the state level and I'm proud to again fill that role.

"As a leader in Columbus, I will work toward protecting our right to choose, and championing the rights of women, workers, minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and all Ohioans."

Eric represents the people of Euclid, Beachwood, Lyndhurst, South Euclid, University Heights, and parts of Cleveland. He aims to tackle urgent challenges facing Ohioans, including affordable housing, property tax reform, fair school funding, workforce development, and supporting working class families.

"It was both an honor and a privilege to be sworn in as the representative of the 21st House District," he said. "I'm proud to join my colleagues, across both parties, as we work to address critical issues. Additionally, I am committed to focusing on strategies that will make Ohio a more competitive and dynamic state, ensuring that more of our young residents choose to build their futures here."

Eric, a Democrat, transitioned from working alongside six colleagues living within a fivemile radius to collaborating with a team of 99 members, some from towns he has never heard of. Unlike his previous role on the nonpartisan council, he now works with a partisan group consisting of 65 Republicans and 34 Democrats. This shift underscores the necessity of fostering bipartisan cooperation to advance democratic legislation effectively.

Eric and his wife, Jamie, are the proud parents of three boys. Professionally, Eric is an associate at Nager, Romaine & Schneiberg; and for the past five years, he has volunteered in the Cleveland Public Schools through the 3Rs program, mentoring students on rights, responsibilities, and real-world career opportunities.

Eric is dedicated to addressing the concerns and needs of his constituents, and invites all residents of the district to reach out to him or Jackie Mulvain, legislative aide, for assistance or to share their thoughts. Eric and Jackie can be reached at Rep21@ ohiohouse.gov or 614.644.5079.

"I'm grateful to be working with Jackie. She is a highly experienced, dedicated legislative aide and I am confident that, together, we will best represent our district," Eric said.

"I'm also grateful to have had the opportunity over the past seven years to work with my City Council colleagues, Mayor Horwitz, Mayor Berns, administrators, and city employees," he added. "I know that residents are in good hands with this very able Council and leadership team."



*Above:* State Rep. Eric Synenberg and his family at the Ohio Statehouse, pictured after he was sworn in.

*Right:* State Rep. Eric Synenberg proudly takes his seat at the Ohio Statehouse.



#### Responsibilities of an Ohio State Representative

Constituent service, legislating, and budgeting are core pillars.

#### **Constituent Service**

Constituent service is the most important aspect of the job. Residents can reach out with anything – from ideas for new legislation to help with personal or community issues. Our goal is to treat every individual with dignity and respect, actively listen, and provide assistance to the best of our ability. With the support of Jackie, we work as a strong team to address concerns, provide solutions, and ensure everyone feels heard.

#### Legislating

A key responsibility is voting on legislation that comes up on the House floor, representing the interests of the 125,000 constituents in our district. This includes proposing new legislation that benefits the district and state, or co-sponsoring bills introduced by colleagues. I've already co-sponsored two bills, reflecting my commitment to advancing impactful policies.

#### Budgeting

This responsibility includes collaborating on the development and approval of the state's operating and capital budgets, as well as allocating funds to essential public services. It also involves advocating for the cities and organizations within our district to ensure they receive equitable access to these resources. In this role, I am dedicated to securing the funding and support needed to help our communities grow and thrive.

# Safe Snow-Shoveling Tips

eavy, wet snow is often called *heart attack snow*, because the great effort required to move it can increase your risk of having a heart attack. Repeatedly lifting a shovel full of heavy snow can be more strenuous than running on a treadmill.

Unlike conventional exercise, shoveling is usually done without a warm-up and can cause sudden increase in blood pressure and heart rate. Additionally, cold air may cause constriction of blood vessels, including coronary arteries, and decrease oxygen supply to the heart. Together, these factors can increase the heart's workload and cause a heart attack.

#### Six Ways to Prevent a Heart Attack While Shoveling:

1. Don't shovel first thing in the morning. Most heart attacks occur first thing in the morning, when your blood is most likely to clot. Give yourself time to get up and moving before going out and grabbing the shovel. You'll also give the sun a chance to warm up things a bit.

- Warm up before shoveling. Shoveling snow is hard work. Take a few minutes to stretch and move about beforehand.
- 3. Use a smaller shovel. A shovel full of wet snow is especially heavy when the shovel is big. It may take a little longer, but many small loads will be easier than fewer heavy ones.
- 4. Dress appropriately. Cover your hands, head, and mouth. Covering your mouth with a scarf will help you inhale warmer air and can help avoid respiratory problems.
- Shovel in shifts. If you need a rest, take a rest.
   Watch for warning signs:
- chest tightness, lightheadedness, and dizziness are heart-attack signs.

If you suspect you're having a heart attack, call 911.

Beachwood





A variety of camp opportunities start on page 37. Check them out!



## Balance Solutions Physical Therapy







# **The Truth About Neck Pain** Why Ignoring It Can Lead to Bigger Problems

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Neck pain is a common issue that many people brush off as a minor inconvenience. After all, who hasn't woken up with a stiff neck or felt the tension after a long day at the desk? While occasional discomfort might seem harmless, ignoring persistent or recurring neck pain can lead to bigger health problems down the road. Let's uncover the truth about neck pain, what causes it, and why addressing it early is essential for your long-term well-being.

### Call to Schedule YOUR Evaluation Today!

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BalanceSolutions.com BalanceSolutions@sbcglobal.net 23175 Commerce Park - Beachwood - Ohio

### The Truth About Neck Pain: Why Ignoring It Can Lead to Bigger Problems



What Causes Neck Pain?

Neck pain can stem from various sources, ranging from poor posture to serious medical conditions. Here are some of the most common culprits:

- Poor Posture: Spending hours hunched over your phone or computer strains the muscles and ligaments in your neck, leading to what's often called "tech neck." Studies show that up to 70% of adults experience symptoms of tech neck, making it a growing concern in our technology-driven world.
- Stress and Tension: Emotional stress can cause you to unconsciously tighten your neck & shoulder muscles, leading to pain.
- **Injuries:** Whiplash from a car accident or sports injuries can damage the neck's soft tissues.
- Degenerative Conditions: Issues like arthritis or herniated discs can cause chronic neck pain.

Ignoring these causes can set off a chain reaction of problems that affect your entire body.

#### Why You Shouldn't Ignore Neck Pain

Neck pain might seem isolated, but it rarely stays that way. For example, what starts as a minor strain from poor posture can lead to headaches, shoulder tightness, and even lower back pain as your body compensates for the imbalance. Here's what can happen if you leave it unaddressed:

- Worsening Pain and Stiffness: What starts as mild discomfort can escalate into chronic pain that limits your mobility.
- Headaches and Dizziness: Neck pain often contributes to tension headaches or cervicogenic dizziness, which can disrupt your daily life.
- Nerve Impingement: Untreated issues like herniated discs can press on nerves, causing numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms.
- **Compromised Posture:** Persistent neck pain can lead to compensatory movements, throwing off your body's alignment and increasing the risk of back pain.

The good news? Physical therapy offers effective solutions for addressing the root causes of neck pain and preventing these complications.



#### How Physical Therapy Can Help

At Balance Solutions Physical Therapy in Beachwood, Ohio, we specialize in treating neck pain with personalized care plans tailored to your needs. Here's how we can help:

- **Targeted Exercises:** Strengthening and stretching exercises improve neck stability, mobility, and posture.
- Manual Therapy: Hands-on techniques relieve tension, reduce pain, and restore proper function.

- **Postural Training:** Learn how to sit, stand, and move in ways that protect your neck and prevent future pain.
- Advanced Treatments: Therapies like deep tissue laser therapy and dry needling can accelerate your recovery.



# Simple Tips to Protect Your Neck Today!

While professional care is essential for persistent pain, integrating these everyday habits into your routine can go a long way in preventing neck issues:

- 1. **Take Breaks:** Avoid sitting in the same position for extended periods. Stand up, stretch, and move around.
- 2. Adjust Your Workspace: Keep your computer screen at eye level to reduce strain.
- 3. **Practice Relaxation:** Deep breathing and mindfulness exercises can reduce stress-related tension.
- 4. **Sleep Smart:** Use a supportive pillow and avoid sleeping on your stomach.

Neck pain is more than just a nuisance, it's a signal that your body needs attention. Don't wait until it disrupts your daily life. At Balance Solutions Physical Therapy, we're here to help you move better, feel better, and live better. Schedule a consultation today and take the first step toward a pain-free future.

> - Kelly Beaudoin, CEO Balance Solutions Physical Therapy, Inc

## Cleveland's Voice of Unity: The Remake of *We Are the World*

groundbreaking new arrangement of the iconic 1980s song *We Are the World* was recently brought to life at Voracity Studios, in Beachwood. This ambitious project was the brainchild of Allan Licht, an award-winning composer, lyricist, and producer who specializes in R&B, country, pop, rock, jazz, gospel, and broadway. Allan shared, "I have always wanted to re-record *We Are the World* with the best artists in and around Cleveland."

The original song, created to support USA for Africa, is a beloved anthem of unity. Allan has rewritten many of the lyrics to reflect a modern message of hope, equality, and coming together as "one people." While the musical arrangement retains the spirit of the original, it has been completely updated to resonate with today's listeners.

This monumental project is funded and executive produced by Coda Max, with production and orchestration handled by Grammy Award-winning musician Pete Tokar. "Pete makes all the magic happen," Allan said with gratitude. "Without him, nothing I've done in the past 12 years would have been possible."

The new recording features a diverse lineup of talent, including some of Cleveland's finest vocalists, members of the Singing Angels, and international artists. Local singers contributing to the project include Beachwood residents Dianne Palmer and Ananya Yadati; along with Maria Jacobs, Dave Georges, Kendall Guthrie, Tara Hawley, Danni Elise, Jim Taylor, Esther Fitz, Ed Callahan, Cassidy Johnson, and the Singing Angels. Additional standout voices, such as gospel singer Latonia Wilson, powerhouse vocalist Pete Figueroa, and 16-year-old phenom Brooke Peterson add to the song's dynamic range.

Tara starts the song. "Her voice brings a timeless quality to the track," Allan shared. "We've worked together on several projects and her talent continues to inspire."

The production has been a labor of love, requiring months of planning and coordination. Allan detailed the complexities of scheduling recording sessions for 27 different vocalists and piecing together the "musical puzzle" in post-production. Despite the challenges, Allan's vision remained clear: "I wanted it to sound as current as possible, blending pop, rock, soul, and country styles."

"The importance of this song is to hopefully make a difference in a divisive world: to inspire people to accept and love one another as one." he explained. Music has been a lifelong passion for Allan. He describes his work as a way to bring joy, healing, and inclusivity to others.

We Are the World is set to release on ABL Records this month and will be available on digital platforms and select radio stations. The project's cover art will feature the song title prominently, surrounded by the names of the participating artists, symbolizing the collective effort behind the production.

For Allan, this is the culmination of a longtime dream. "I grew up with the original song and for a while have wanted to replicate it, making it more relevant for today," he said. "It's the biggest project I've ever undertaken and I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together." To learn more, visit

www.allanlichtmusic.com.

"If you have a dream, develop your craft as finely as possible and allow yourself to go after whatever opportunities are available.

"To succeed, you have to get out of your head, visualize where you want to be, and go for every decent opportunity that will lead you there. It takes passion, hard work, and determination to reach your goals."

– Allan Licht

Right: Allan Licht and Pete Tokar

*Middle:* Beachwood resident Ananya Yadati

Bottom: Beachwood resident Dianne Palmer and Tara Hawley; We Are the World cover









BRAD JOHNSON BILLY SULLIVAN JAN LAWRENCE AMELIA KAMERMAN KATYA BEDERMAN TABITHA MINER ANANYA YADATI DANNI ELISE DIANNE PALMER MICHAEL WILLIAMS HEIDI LICHT **KENDALL GUTHRIE** CINDY SMITH

#### **About Allan:**

Allen built much of his music career in California, prior to moving back to Cleveland. He has been performing for the past 40 years, during which time he composed more than 250 songs, many of which have been recorded and released nationally and internationally. He's also composed numerous songs for nonprofit organizations and corporations, and has songs licensed through Crucial Music out of Los Angeles, California, for movie and TV placements.

Allan has worked as musical director for TV and stage productions such as the 1993 Michael Whitely film production of *Shooting Star*, and has also

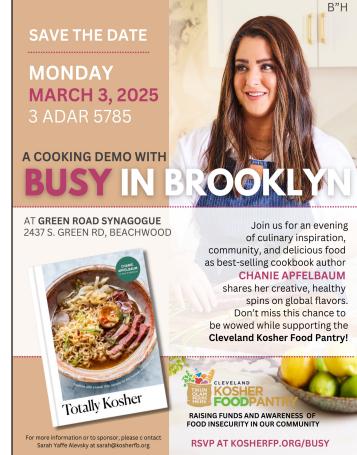
Everything for the Windov

AT-HOME SERVICE | RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL

acted as a judge for several singing competitions, such as The National Singing Star, Shining Star CLE, and Heights Got Talent, held at Cain Park.

Since moving back to Cleveland in 2009, Allan has been teaching pop voice and piano. He is currently writing and producing for many local and national recording artists. To date, he has had 25 of his songs in rotation on local, national, and international radio programming. His original songs *Baby I Love You* and *Let Peace Rise Up*, by Ezre, are but a couple of his notable recordings.

Allan is currently writing and producing single releases on his own ABL Records label.



Earl R. Agin & Associates has been a family-run business for over 55 years. We sell everything for the window and more, including custom-made draperies, valances, cornices, bedding and pillows. We sell all Hunter Douglas blinds and shades, as well as custom shutters.



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# From Beachwood Arts Council

"Rakhis for Friendship" Bracelet Making Workshop

Sunday, Feb. 9 • 1-3 p.m. Beachwood Community Center \$5/BAC member, \$8/non-member Supplies are included This event is appropriate for kids as young as 3 years old; adults will enjoy it, as well!

Join us in making *Rakhis*, or friendship bracelets, for those you cherish. Based in the Hindu celebration of *Raksha Bandhan*, the occasion means *the tie or knot of protection*, where *Raksha* stands for the protection and *Bandhan* signifies the verb "to tie." Together, the custom symbolizes the eternal love of the brother-sister relationship.

Sisters tie beautiful amulets made of strings adorned with ornate decorations on the wrists of brothers to express affection. Brothers, in return, pledge to uphold the sibling bond by protecting their sisters



from any difficulty that comes their way in life. This custom has evolved in modern times to connect communities of different religious and cultural backgrounds. Through this guided activity, these beautiful creations will help you express your love and friendship for the persons who hold a special place in your heart.

Reservations and checks are required by Wednesday, Feb. 5. Call 216.595.3400 to make your reservation. Send checks (payable to Beachwood Arts Council) to Beachwood Arts Council, 25225 Fairmount Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122.



#### lleen Kelner Juried High School Art Show

Sunday, Feb. 23 – Saturday, March 29 Beachwood Community Center Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday • 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Weekends: Call 216.292.1970 for available hours

This special exhibit will feature inspiring artwork from students representing 22 high schools in Northeast Ohio. Judges will be professional local artists Joyce Morrow Jones, Stuart Pearl, and Susan Cone Porges.

Megan Sullivan and Dave Kasper Concert Sunday, March 9 • 2-3 p.m. • Beachwood Community Center Free and open to the public • Refreshments following the concert Sponsored by grants from Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Please join us for an entertaining performance of violinist Megan Sullivan and saxophonist and woodwinds musician Dave Kasper, who are musicians in residence at the Marble Room restaurant in downtown Cleveland. Megan has

performed at over 500 weddings and private events, with music ranging from classical to rock to pop to R&B. She has played for many prestigious events and at venues including the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She has also had numerous performances with award-winning artists Michael

Bublé, Josh Groban, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Il Volo, and the Playhouse Square Orchestra. Dave has



"Jimmy Dorsey"), Tito Puente Jr., and Either/Orchestra, and has opened up for Ja Rule, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Pancho Sanchez, and Tony Bennett. Active on the local scene, Dave enjoys teaching saxophone, clarinet, and flute, and is often performing at community events, like the Cleveland Browns halftime show.

#### Upcycled Mini Bird Collage Workshop

Saturday, March 15 • 10 a.m. – noon • Beachwood Community Center All Skill Levels

\$20/BAC member, \$25/non-member • Supplies are included

Led by artist and art instructor Mandy Spisak, from Mindfully Made Arts, participants will learn to create a bird from upcycled textiles and wallpaper. They will have a selection of bird templates from which to cut the materials and form them into a unique and whimsical collage.

Reservations (limited capacity) and checks are required by Friday, Feb. 28. Call 216.595.3400 to make your reservation. Send checks (payable to Beachwood Arts Council) to Beachwood Arts Council, 25225 Fairmount Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122.



# SugarTown Follies, A Sweet Production!

Beachwood Community Theater proudly presents *SugarTown Follies*, an original production written and directed by Julie Matthews, with musical direction by Debi Lewin, co-directors of Marquee Showcase Productions. This charming youth production will transform the Beachwood Middle School stage into a candy-coated wonderland filled with ice cream cones, lollipops, and other mouth-watering treats.

In SugarTown Follies, the Mayor of SugarTown is thrilled to welcome a very special guest - Mr. Willie Wonka himself. Together, they'll oversee the annual sweet-treat competition in the most delightful showdown yet. From lollipop lovers to chocolate connoisseurs, neighbors will come together to celebrate their shared passion for all things sugary. Picture the aroma of freshly baked cookies, vibrant sprinkles adorning the streets, and creative confections ready to dazzle. It's a celebration of community, creativity, and camaraderie, wrapped up in one deliciously entertaining event.

This sweet production will take place on Saturday, March 1, and Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m., at Beachwood Middle School. Admission is free.

Julie said, "This script was specifically written with tailored roles for our young performers, ensuring that every child has a part that allows them to stand out and shine." "Our goal is to provide a fun, exciting, and educational experience for each participant, complete with memorable moments that celebrate their individuality," added Debi.

The Candy Land theme was inspired by Derek Schroeder, director of Beachwood Community Services, so props created for last year's February Freeze could be repurposed, adding a sustainable and whimsical touch to the show.

Beachwood Community Theater, under the leadership of Julie and Debi, has delighted audiences with *The Wizard of Oz, Wolf Gone Good, Decades, Broadway Babies,* and *Magic Toy Chest* since 2022. This sweet production will take place on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2, 2 p.m., at Beachwood Middle School, Admission is free.

Now, they are proud to add SugarTown Follies to the mix. Come see why this growing program continues to bring joy and creativity to the Beachwood community! For more information about SugarTown Follies, call Julie at 216.258.4884 or visit www.beachwoodrec.com.



These talented *SugarTown Follies* actors invite the community to attend their sweet productions on Saturday, March 1, and Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m., at Beachwood Middle School. Admission is free.

### Friends of the Beachwood Library Scholarship Opportunity

Friends of Beachwood Library invite graduating high school seniors, who are residents of Beachwood, to apply for a scholarship.

Three scholarship prizes will be awarded: first place is \$1,500; second place is \$1,000; and third place is \$750.

Applicants must write an essay, not to exceed 1,500 words, on one of the following topics:

- As you may be aware, the Beachwood library will be receiving a total makeover, meaning a new building(s). How do you envision the new library buildings and their interiors to reflect the changing community needs and the constantly evolving library role within the Beachwood community?
- 2. What are your thoughts and feelings about the recent trend of banning books from the school curricula?

Complete directions and guidelines are available at the library's teen desk. The deadline for all entries is Friday, April 4, by 5 p.m.

Complete directions and guidelines are available at the library's teen desk. The deadline for all entries is Friday, April 4, by 5 p.m.

## Celebrating Black History Month at The Beachwood Art Gallery

hree talented artists have transformed the walls at Beachwood Art Gallery, inside the Beachwood Community Center, to honor and recognize Black History Month. This exhibit runs through Friday, Feb. 14. Artists include Alsie Clay, LaSaundra Robinson, and Gary Thomas (deceased).

#### Alsie Clay

Alsie was born and raised in Cleveland. She is a registered nurse and a certified teaching artist. Her background includes diversity management psychology and Gestalt psychology, with the specialization of working with groups. Through her extensive background and experience, Alsie assists others to create their own art treasures.

Alsie is self taught as a multi-media artist, using several modalities. Her works include watercolor, acrylic, digital, and kinetic sand paintings. Alsie provides opportunities for community-level energetic art experiences, using colored artist's sand, at various locations.

Alsie is the owner of Artisans' Treasure, Studio of Exquisite Designs, Jewelry, and Healing Through the Creative Arts, Symposia, located at The Shore Cultural Centre, in Euclid, where she offers services and classes.

Alsie provides opportunities for community-level energetic art experiences, using colored artist's sand, at various locations.

For more information, email alsieclay@ gmail.com. Her art may be viewed at www.alsie-clay.pixels.com/#sectionDivAbout.

#### **Gary Thomas**

Gary (1936 -2022), a lifelong Cleveland resident, was a proud graduate of Glenville High School. He then studied art at Syracuse University and The Cooper School of Art.

Gary started his career as an advertising illustrator in 1958. He began specializing in sports art, and became the dominant artist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Over 50 years, he drew 171 of the 273 action drawings that accompanied the busts of the enshrined players.

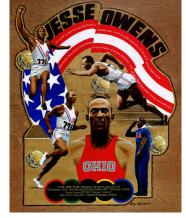
Gary was also commissioned to create works of art for the Bowling Hall of Fame, U.S.; Olympic Hall of Fame; and various universities. Plus, he was selected to paint players in the Football Hall of Fame for Goal Line Art; and he was the artist for Dominion Power Company's "Strong Men & Women – Excellence in Leadership" series, each year painting portraits of prominent African-American men and women in the areas serviced by the company.

For his own pleasure, Gary created documentary art, which documented athlete achievements. He also enjoyed creating works of his favorite interests: his grandchildren, African-American History, landscapes, and animals. His medium of choice was acrylic paints. He also used charcoal pencils and pastels for landscape paintings.

Gary's work may be viewed at www.garyt.com.



*Carrying the Light,* by Alsie Clay Digital Art



*Jesse Owens*, by Gary Thomas Acrylic on wood



#### LaSaundra Robinson

LaSaundra is a Cleveland-area artist who studied fine arts painting at Ohio University, and works mostly in oil and acrylic. A lot of her work is figurative or portraits of black women. Her work is about finding yourself and being comfortable in your own skin, while letting your inner self and a light show through.

LaSaundra feels a lot of people hide their true selves, and stereotypes keep us from reaching our true potential. Her art helps her to uncover her true self and open up to the world. She uses portraits of women, flowers, and rainbows, along with line, color, and pattern to help express her ideas. The women are a reflection of herself. The flowers give us growth, beauty, Mother Nature, and divine femininity. The rainbows represent God's promise, weathering storms in your life, and finding the pot of gold at the end of your journey. The lines and patterns simply represent finding your way. She wants to make paintings that allow you to feel the person you want to be.

LaSaundra's more abstract portraits are about the strength and beauty of black women, letting their inner light come through. Her goal is to make works in which women can see themselves and be a shining example of the beauty and strength of Black women.

LaSaundra's art may be viewed on Instagram, @lasaundrapainting.



*So Close*, by LaSaundra Robinson Acrylic on canvas

# Moments that Matter

by Ananya Rao

B lack History Month, celebrated annually in February, honors the contributions and resilience of African Americans throughout U.S. history. Its origins date back to 1926 when Carter G. Woodson, often called the Father of Black History, established Negro History Week to recognize the achievements and struggles of Black individuals.

Woodson chose the second week of February to align with the birthdays of two prominent figures in African American history: Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and Frederick Douglass (Feb. 14). Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States and he issued the Emancipation Proclamation which declared the freedom of slaves. Frederick Douglass was a former slave who was a civil rights activist and writer.

Initially a weeklong observance, the movement gained momentum during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, which emphasized the importance of Black history in fostering racial equality. In 1976 during the U.S. Bicentennial, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month, urging Americans to honor the often overlooked contributions of African Americans in shaping the nation's history.

Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), founded by Carter G. Woodson, selects a theme for Black History Month. Past themes have included Black Health and Wellness and Civil Rights in America, providing a lens to reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the Black community. The month also celebrates iconic figures, from George Washington Carver, whose innovations revolutionized agriculture, to Maya Angelou, whose poetry and activism inspired generations.

Black History Month is not limited to the United States. Canada observes it in February and the United Kingdom commemorates it in October. This global recognition highlights the universal significance of honoring Black history and culture.

While the months have helped bring Black history to the forefront, some argue that these contributions should



be integrated into yearround education rather than confined to a single month. This perspective displays the idea that Black history is American history and deserves continuous exploration and appreciation.

Black History Month remains a cornerstone for conversations about race, justice, and equality. By reflecting on the past, we can better understand the present and work toward a more inclusive future. It encourages everyone to stay educated, engaged, and appreciative of the diverse voices that have shaped American history.



# BHS's Brad Goldberg Continues to Strike It Big

#### By Arlene Fine

Beachwood High School baseball legend continues to make his hometown proud. After rising through the Cleveland Guardian's coaching ranks, Brad Goldberg, BHS class of '08, has been named the team's assistant pitching coach.

From breaking pitching records at BHS under the guidance of Coach Steve Barona, to being an All-Big-Ten player at the Ohio State University, to pitching for Team Isreal, and ultimately making it the White Sox pitching mound in 2017, Brad's career has been unstoppable. And at 34, he is still at the top of his game.

Brad's latest promotion with the Guardians is a dream job for the lifelong fan. His family, including parents Marla and Bryan, and twin brothers, were always supportive of Brad's passion for baseball and had season tickets to the Guardians (formerly the Indians) for years. "As a young kid I got a chance to watch my baseball heroes, Jim Thome and Sandy Alomar Jr.," Brad said. "Now I feel so fortunate to work closely with Sandy, the Guardians' first base and catching coach."

Along with his family, Brad credits the excellent coaches who believed in his talents and helped him excel. Greg Beals, the coach who recruited Brad to OSU, and is now head baseball coach at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, said, "when I brought Brad to OSU from Coastal Carolina University he had some transfer issues with class credits, but that didn't stop him





### "My goal is to bring the World Series to Cleveland." – Brad Goldberg

from persevering and focusing on being an outstanding, competitive pitcher."

After his professional pitching days were over, Brad returned to OSU in 2019 to help Coach Beals and was named director of pitching development. "Besides being a talented and intelligent athlete, Brad brought cutting edge technology to OSU which helped the analytic side of our game," said Coach Beals.

The respect Coach Beals has for Brad is mutual. "I learned so much from Greg about the importance of being a great human being," Brad said. "I'm in touch with him often; I hope his way of coaching and encouraging talent has rubbed off on me."

Reflecting on the time he pitched for the Chicago White Sox organization and his role as coach now, Brad said the essential premise of the game has not changed. "Players are still running between baselines and pitchers are still throwing the ball from the mound to home plate," he said. "Some of the ways we now train and prepare pitchers relies on the information we receive using technology. But once the first pitch is thrown the goal is to compete and win. That's never going to change."

Having coached so many young athletes over the years, Brad's advice to aspiring pitchers is to "be a great teammate and throw hard."

As he looks to the future, Brad, an avid golfer, said he wants to continue to enjoy going to work every day and to surround himself with a team of people he respects, "and my goal is to bring the World Series to Cleveland," he said.

# Student Entrepreneurs Unleash the Healing Power of Dogs to Uplift Hospitalized Children and Caregivers

iant inflatable balloon dogs will be making surprise appearances in parks, city centers, and shopping areas across Northeast Ohio. The traveling installation, which aims to brighten the day of critically ill children, is the creative vision of students from 10 local high schools participating in the Excel TECC Marketing/Junior Achievement program at Beachwood High School.

The students are building off of the success of the 2023-24 Beachwood Marketing/Junior Achievement Hope Heals campaign that was able to place over 2,000 Medi Teddys in pediatric hospital rooms across northeast Ohio. The Medi Teddy is a teddy bear sleeve that covers an IV bag to help reduce children's fear during medical treatments.

Determined to make an even more profound difference, this year's Marketing Junior Achievement students launched Hope Heroes, a campaign aimed at unleashing the healing power of dogs by adding additional facility dogs to University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and Cleveland Clinic Children's. Proceeds from Hope Heroes will also enhance the volunteer therapy dog programs at Akron Children's Hospital and MetroHealth. Students are raising funds by selling sponsorship packages and balloon-themed merchandise, all while managing the campaign's budget, organizing events, and promoting their cause.

"Hope Heroes makes a difference in the lives of critically ill children through facility and therapy dogs, whose unconditional love and presence bring light into the darkest times. These special animals create hope and joy for children by offering companionship and hope," says Kelsey Cohen, a Beachwood High School senior.

"This class is like no other. Our teacher, Mr. Perry, gives us so many opportunities to grow and learn in a hands-on environment giving us real world experience that can't be found in a traditional classroom," says Chagrin Falls High School senior Will Asplin. "Our collective dedication in the program allows us as teens to channel our creativity into initiatives that uplift those in need."

In developing the Hope Heroes campaign, students collaborated with District Gallery in the Van Aken District to enlist world-renowned artist Josh Mayhem to design a "Blown Away Balloon Dog" to serve as the campaign's mascot. The balloon dog is featured on all branding and merchandise. Four giant, inflatable balloon dogs, along with a dog house, will be on display as part of the Hope Heroes traveling installation this spring, which will make stops at:

- Pinecrest, Orange Village
   April 11-21
- Crocker Park, Westlake April 25-May 5
- Additional locations
   coming soon

The Hope Heroes campaign will conclude with a dedication ceremony at District Gallery. Students will present the proceeds to each pediatric hospital and recognize top sponsors with original, limited edition Blown Away Balloon Dog sculptures.

Greg Perry, the marketing/ Junior Achievement teacher, commented on the campaign's impact: "The power of hope is immense," he said. "It not only aids children in need but also empowers our students with invaluable life skills."

For students in the marketing/ Junior Achievement program, organizing Hope Heroes has been a rewarding way to give





Marketing students wearing balloon dog costumes for guerilla marketing.

back while learning practical business and management skills. "Hope Heroes inspires me because it is truly the most creative way to make a difference in our very own community. The power of helping critically ill children is something so special that makes this class all the more creative and fun," Gabe Guiler, CEO of Hope Heroes, said.

Radha Pareek, VP Corporate Responsibility, said, "Hope Heroes embodies heroism by extending the feeling of being a hero through small acts of kindness that accumulate to transform life experiences. Our mission to raise awareness about the healing power of dogs helps restore individuals who feel hollowed out, using conversation, communication, and compassion."

To learn more about Hope Heroes, to buy merchandise, and/or to become a sponsor, please visit www. hopeheroesohio.com.

For more information, please contact Greg Perry at 330.524.0759 or gwp@beachwoodschools.org.



I feel this rapid-fire fierce intensity when I think of this past year. My personal list is loudly and forcefully playing in my head, which I will not share as it would serve as a distraction rather than reinforce my message: And now what?! What can I control?

Yes, **this** and **This** and **THIS**! My mind is blown. My heart is heavy and in some circumstances even broken. And now what?! What can I control?

I can sit and spin cycle down into the depths of despair but this won't change reality. It won't undo, change, restore or repair my spirit, much less our world.

# Serenity, Now

by Jennifer Stern

am going to date myself here, but there is a part of Billy Joel's song *We Didn't Start the Fire* from the 80s that I am feeling in my core: the part where he rapidly, and with fierce intensity, lists moments or experiences that defined that era.

Can control. Cannot control. I can control me. What do I do with these feelings? What can I do to bring more compassion, respect, consideration to my interactions? Is there something that I can do to feel more in control of how I choose to respond (wise mind) and not react (emotional mind) to what/who triggers me? In what ways can I be more intentional? How can I prioritize differently? What boundaries do I need to put in place more consistently? Who brings peaceful and healthy energy to my life? Who does not? Where do I choose

to focus my time and energy? What brings me comfort? Peace? Purpose?

I can make a vision statement for myself for this year and practice healing, strengthening, and crystalizing the life that feels good to and for me. This is how I slow the rapid intensity playing in my head. This is how I will practice creating a quieter calm.

#### The Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. I can make a vision statement for myself for this year and practice healing, strengthening, and crystalizing the life that feels good to and for me.

Jennifer Stern, LISW, is a Loss and Bereavement Specialist at Ellen F. Casper, PH.D and Associates in Beachwood. For more information, call 216.464.4243, or visit www. transformativegrief.com and sign up for monthly posts.

# From the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce

he Beachwood Chamber of Commerce's mission is to connect and engage the Beachwood community through business development, networking, and monthly signature events. One of the biggest reasons businesses join the chamber is to interact with other businesses in the area.

BCC offers member-only benefits for businesses, nonprofits, non-business residents, and government agencies, all at a reasonable cost. Plus, members are eligible for discounts in health insurance, workers compensation premiums, office supplies, energy savings, marketing, FedEx shipping, payment system services, and technology services.

#### Women of the Beachwood Chamber Coffee Hour

Thursday Feb 13 • 8:30-9:30 a.m. • Mandel JCC Members: No charge • Non-members: \$10 Register at www.beachwood.org, Events

Guest speaker Pat Schultz, MBA, Success Coach, will speak on the topic Transform Your Fear into Freedom. Pat transformed her own fear into freedom and now helps women over 40 do the same. By leveraging her expertise and experience, she overcame her own challenges and now guides others to break free from their fears, embrace their dreams, and live the life they truly want. Through her dedicated coaching, Pat empowers women to gain confidence, achieve their goals, and lead a fulfilling, purpose-driven life. Additionally, being a chamber member brings credibility to your business as research shows that a consumer is more likely to purchase goods and services from a chamber member.



#### Beachwood's State of the City Address

Wednesday, Feb. 19 • SITE Centers • 3300 Enterprise Pkwy. 8 a.m., Light Breakfast • 8:30-9:30 a.m., Mayor Berns' Presentation Members: \$20 • Non-members: \$25 Register at www.beachwood.org, Events, by Friday, Feb. 14

Join Mayor Berns as he presents a comprehensive overview of 2024 accomplishments and an outline for the city's vision for 2025. This event provides an opportunity to reflect on our community's progress and explore opportunities for growth in the year ahead.

For additional information and programs, visit www.beachwood.org.



Inspired by Pete Buttigieg's 2020 presidential campaign's *Rules of the Road*, last month I announced our *Rules for the Road* Ahead.

These 10 principles indicate what we stand for and how we will do our job because Ohio is worth fighting for. These values are both internal – how we interact with our staff and colleagues in the Ohio Capitol – *and* external – how we will best attempt to serve the citizens of the 21st Senate District and everyone across Ohio.

So here are our ten *Rules for the Road Ahead*:

1. **Integrity:** We will do the right things for the right reasons. We

# Announcing Our Rules for the Road Ahead

By State Senator Kent Smith

hio has begun its 136th General Assembly term so perhaps it is a good time to not just change our direction, but also change how we will conduct ourselves.

will stand for substance and evidence-based policymaking for the benefit of all Ohioans.

- 2. **Curiosity:** Ohio's future problems will need new answers. The best answer may not be the present course of action.
- 3. **Teamwork:** We will put our heads together to find solutions. More smart people will always know more than one smart person.
- 4. **Persistence:** Ohio is worth our best efforts. While we seek a quick fix, we will play the long game. Our best efforts today may lead to future breakthroughs.
- 5. **Learning:** A function of government is to seek truth and spread it. We will be teachable, and will seek and share understanding.

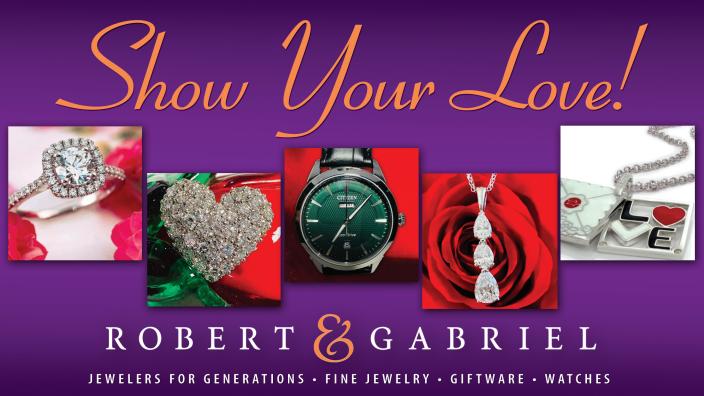
- 6. **Inclusiveness:** We will welcome all Ohioans. Opportunity is not owned by any one gender, demographic, income level, or zip code. Anyone can plant the seeds of progress and this crop can grow across the state.
- 7. **Hope:** We will not discount the possibility of progress simply because it has not happened before. All can be accomplished, therefore our work has purpose and joy because our hope has no limits.
- Accountability: There are a multitude of ways we can help. Therefore, we will be thorough and diligent. The opportunity to help others is not to be wasted.
- 9. **Trust:** Trust is what makes teamwork possible. Great ideas can come from anywhere in

the state and from anyone on the team.

 Action: We will show up, do the work, and fight for Ohio. We are not in the theory business. We are here to make people's lives better.

By publicly announcing these rules, we are hopeful that other government, nonprofit, and business leaders across Ohio will undertake a similar process to determine what principles and values will be their North Star.

State Senator Kent Smith represents Ohio's 21st Senate District which includes most of the East Side suburbs of Cuyahoga County and about 33% of the City of Cleveland.



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Keeping you connected to The City of Beachwood!

#### February 2025

### The Mayor's Message Building Connections: Events and Initiatives

Looking ahead, I

encourage you to attend

Freeze, a winter highlight

our annual February

that promises fun for

all ages. This year's

event, presented by

Crestmont, will occur

on Thursday, Feb. 13,

2025, from 6:00-8:00

p.m. at the Beachwood

#### Dear Beachwood Residents,

As we settle into February, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on our city's progress, share exciting upcoming events, and introduce new initiatives.

First, I thank Public Works Director Chris Arrietta and his exceptional team for keeping our streets safe and accessible during the challenging winter months. Snow removal is no small task, yet our Public Works Department consistently exceeds expectations, ensuring that residents and visitors can travel safely. Their dedication to maintaining our city during even the harshest conditions is a testament to their professionalism and commitment to service.



Mayor Berns with Chief Holtzman, Asst. Chief Domonkos, and Olaf at last year's Feb. Freeze.

**Community Center**. Alongside an exciting mix of indoor and outdoor attractions, including immersive glow experiences and entertainment, the event will feature a pajama donation drive in partnership with Sweet Dreams for Kids. Attendees are encouraged to bring a new pair of kids' pajamas to donate at the entrance, helping to provide comfort and a sense of home to pediatric hospital patients. This is an excellent opportunity to come together as a community, enjoy creative programming, and make a positive impact. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Another significant upcoming event is Beachwood's **State of the City** address. Join me on **Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at SITE Centers** (3300 Enterprise Pkwy.) as I provide a comprehensive overview of our 2024 accomplishments and outline our vision for 2025. This event is a chance to reflect on our community's progress and explore opportunities for growth



in the year ahead. Please register through the Chamber of Commerce by Feb. 14 to secure your spot. I'm excited to share how our collective efforts have shaped our city.

Lastly, I want to announce a new program tailored to our senior community: **Breakfast Bites and Insights**. This monthly breakfast series, created by Jayme Jirousek, Beachwood's Senior Adult Manager, will foster meaningful dialogue between residents and city leaders, offering a platform to discuss ongoing initiatives and explore how we can better serve Beachwood's seniors. I'm honored to be the guest speaker on **Friday, Feb. 28, 2025**. This program is part of our commitment to creating more inclusive spaces for engagement and collaboration with residents. Preregistration is required at no cost; call Community Services at 216.292.1970.

As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. Beachwood thrives because of the dedication and involvement of its residents, businesses, and city staff. I look forward to connecting with many of you at our upcoming events and continuing to work together to make our community an even better place to work, live, learn, and thrive.

Sincerely,

Mayor Justin Berns MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com

How To Email A Council Member: FirstName.LastName@BeachwoodOhio.com

#### **Beachwood City Council**



Alec Isaacson Council President 216.291.2797

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Danielle Shoykhet Council V.P. 216.212.9212



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#### AUDITOR 216.595.3712

BUILDING DEPARTMENT 216.292.1914

**CLERK OF COUNCIL** 216.595.5493

COMMUNITY SERVICES 216.292.1970

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 216.292.1915

FINANCE 216.292.1913

**FIRE & RESCUE** 216.292.1965

**LAW** 216.595.5462

MAYOR'S OFFICE 216.292.1901

POLICE 216.464.2343

**PUBLIC WORKS** 216.292.1922

**EMERGENCY** Dial 9-1-1 or 216.464.1234

# **City Council Updates: New Rules and Search for New Member**

The Beachwood City Council has implemented new rules for 2025 and is nearing the conclusion of its search for a new council member to fill a recent vacancy.

#### New Council Rules for 2025

Effective this year, new rules govern resident remarks during council meetings. While the total time allotted for public comment remains at 30 minutes, individual speaking times have been reduced from five minutes to three. These changes, approved during a Committee of the Whole meeting on Dec. 2, 2024, aim to enhance meeting efficiency and allow more residents to participate in the public comment period.

Residents with comments or questions requiring more than three minutes are encouraged to contact council members, department directors, or city staff directly. Beachwood leadership is committed to being a responsive government and values ongoing communication with residents.

#### Update on the Search for a New Council Member

The council is also finalizing its selection of a new member to fill the vacancy left by Eric Synenberg, who recently departed to represent the 21st District in the Ohio General Assembly. Nine residents applied for the position, and interviews with each candidate have been completed.

The City Council plans to announce its decision at an upcoming meeting and introduce the new member in the March issue of *The Beachwood Buzz*. This new appointee will help guide Beachwood's continued growth and progress. They will fill the city council vacancy for Mr. Synenberg's unexpired term, which ends Dec. 31, 2025.



# STAY ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

Meeting agendas, minutes including legislation, live and recorded meetings are available on our website at BeachwoodOhio.com or please attend an upcoming meeting.

## **Changeable Copy Sign at Fairmount & Richmond**

We're excited to announce the installation of a new changeable copy sign at the corner of Richmond Road and Fairmount Boulevard. This 105-square-foot sign serves as a communication tool, keeping residents informed about upcoming community events, meeting announcements, and important city updates.

While the final design of the sign's façade is still being completed, the messaging displayed is current, accurate, and updated regularly. This new resource is part of our ongoing efforts to enhance city engagement and improve the flow of information within our community.

Thank you for your patience as we finalize the finishing touches. We look forward to seeing this sign strengthen the city's communication with the community.



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS **City Council:** Feb. 3 at 7:00 p.m. Feb. 18 at 7:00 p.m. Planning & Zoning: Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Architectural Board of Review: Feb. 3 at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 18 at 4:30 p.m.

# Work - Live - Learn - Thrive

### A Proactive Approach to Policing: Chief Grispino's First 100 Days

Since stepping into his role as Beachwood Police Chief in mid-September, Dan Grispino has committed himself to thoroughly understanding the Beachwood Police Department from all angles. In his first few months, he has spent considerable time analyzing the department's operations, identifying strengths, areas for improvement, and opportunities to enhance efficiency.



Upon leading the Beachwood Police

Dan Grispino, Chief of Police

Department, Chief Grispino has worked closely with Mayor Berns to ensure public safety remains a top priority for the city. Their consistent collaboration has created a unified approach to addressing challenges, enhancing security, and building a safer community for all residents.

#### A Leadership Style Rooted in Trust and Building Relationships



Chief Grispino's leadership philosophy centers on building relationships, trust, and accountability. He emphasizes the importance of personal connections within the department and the community. "The foundation of any successful organization, whether public or private, is trust and relationships," he said. "My officers need to know and believe that I am here to support them."

Chief Grispino has held one-on-one meetings with every department employee to build this trust, encouraging open dialogue and a shared investment in the department's mission. His approachable leadership style also extends to the broader community, prioritizing attendance at local events and engaging with residents.

"Having a servant's heart is the most important thing I have learned from those who have mentored me throughout my career," Chief Grispino shared. "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

#### **Collaboration for a Safer Community**

Recognizing the unique safety concerns of Beachwood's Jewish community, Chief Grispino has taken a proactive stance to enhance security. "We have ongoing communications with the Jewish Federation

of Cleveland (JFC) and the FBI to address safety concerns and to strengthen collaboration with these organizations."



Chief Grispino assigned one officer

to work full-time on the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), and he volunteered to serve on the executive board of Cleveland's JTTF. The department also conducts joint training with JFC staff. These efforts allow us to stay ahead of local and national trends while creating stronger partnerships.

#### Focus on Officer Training and Community Engagement

Chief Grispino has prioritized officer training and education to equip the department with the skills needed to meet modern policing challenges. He has outlined ambitious initiatives, including obtaining re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), a mark of excellence in policing standards. "This accreditation is not only about recognition but also about ensuring we deliver the best possible service to our community," he says.

Chief Grispino has collaborated with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, naming Beachwood the first Store It Safe City. The "Store It Safe" program promotes responsible gun storage to improve public safety, protecting children and adolescents from firearm injuries. Chief Grispino's commitment to collaboration and preparedness remains central to his plan of moving the department forward. He prioritizes joint training and inter-agency coordination, as exemplified by the department's work during the Oct. 7 remembrance event. "All of these partnerships are important to keep our community safe," he affirmed.



National Walk to School Day at Hilltop Elementary, Oct. 2024

Community engagement remains a cornerstone of Chief Grispino's vision, with plans for programs like the relaunch of "Coffee With a Cop" to encourage informal and open communication between officers and residents.

Chief Grispino's proactive approach and dedication to collaboration, trust, and community engagement promise to leave a lasting impact on Beachwood. As he leads the department into 2025, his commitment to fostering strong partnerships and enhancing public safety continues to set a high standard for the city.



## Nominate A Hometown Hero

The Beachwood Historical Society and the City of Beachwood announce the return of our Hometown Heroes celebration in 2025! We're calling on the community to help us honor those who make a difference. Nominate your hero online today by visiting BeachwoodOhio.com/HeroNominations. Submissions are open online through Feb. 28 — here's your chance to shine a spotlight on someone extraordinary!





The 2024 Class of Hometown Heroes

### **Power Outages**

If your power goes out due to an accident or force of nature such as high winds, lightning or storms, call First Energy at 888.LIGHTSS (888.544.4877), not 911. This will allow the power company to track and repair outages while leaving our dispatchers free to handle emergency calls. You may also report outages by texting REG to 544487 (LIGHTS). You will need your account number and ZIP code.



### New Hire Announcement: Staff Engineer, Gary Yelenosky



The City of Beachwood proudly welcomes Gary Yelenosky as our new Staff Engineer. A licensed Professional Engineer (PE) and certified land planner (AICP) with over a decade of experience, Gary has led major infrastructure projects as City Engineer of Broadview Heights and Township Administrator for Olmsted Township.

Gary Yelenosky

Gary will oversee Beachwood's infrastructure, including streets, sewers, and stormwater systems, ensuring efficient project management and long-term improvements. His leadership will streamline key initiatives such as the Richmond/Chagrin I-271 Corridor and Chagrin Boulevard repaving, saving time and costs by reducing reliance on outsourced oversight.

"Beachwood is a vibrant community, and I am excited to contribute to its growth and sustainability," says Gary. "I look forward to working with a dedicated team to enhance infrastructure and support residents, businesses, and visitors."

With Gary's expertise, Beachwood is well-positioned for continued success in infrastructure development. Welcome aboard, Gary!

#### HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION:

Due to **Presidents Day** on Monday, Feb. 17, rubbish and recycling collection will be delayed one day. For questions, contact Beachwood Public Works at 216.292.1922.

## **Residents Make a Big Impact with Composting Program**

Beachwood residents are leading sustainability efforts through the city's innovative partnership with Rust Belt Riders. In just nine months since the launch of this free food scrap composting program, 274 Beachwood households have signed up and diverted 41,578 pounds of composting material from local landfills. This milestone emphasizes the community's commitment to reducing waste and protecting the environment.

The program, which provides 24/7 access to food scrap collection bins, is free for all Beachwood residents and can accept 100% of kitchen-generated food scraps—no liquids, plastics, or trash, please. The collection bins are conveniently located behind the Beachwood Community Center alongside the public recycling bins. Residents who sign up receive a unique four-digit lock code for access, making composting easy and secure.

To surpass 100,000 pounds of composted material in 2025, the city invites more residents to join this impactful initiative. Not only does the program reduce landfill waste, but it also aligns with Beachwood's ongoing sustainability initiatives.

#### Let's work together to keep food waste out of landfills! Signing up is quick and easy:

- Visit BeachwoodOhio.com/composting.
- Complete the online registration.
- Enjoy 24/7 bin access, which is free to residents, and cancel anytime.

We encourage more residents to join this green initiative and help Beachwood reach its 2025 sustainability goal—sign up now and start composting today!





# February Recreation Guide



Bring new kids pajamas for pediatric hospital patients.

### **Upcoming Programs**

- Crayola Imagine Arts Wild World: The Art of Conservation Mon, Feb. 10-Mar. 10 Grades K-2, 3:15-4:15 p.m., Bryden Grades 3-5, 2:40-3:40 p.m., Hilltop Residents \$90, Non-Residents \$108 \*No class on Feb. 17.
- Belly Dance Fitness (Adults) Wed, Feb. 19-Mar. 19, 6:30-7:25 p.m. Beachwood Community Center Residents \$81, Non-Residents \$97
- Beat Busters Hip-Hop (Ages 3-5) Tues, Feb. 25-Mar. 18, 3:00-3:45 p.m. Fairmount Early Childhood Center Residents \$78, Non-Residents \$94
- Pottery for Kids (Ages 7-11) Sat, Mar. 1-Mar. 29, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Beachwood Ceramic Guild Residents \$206, Non-Residents \$247
- The Business of Babysitting (Ages 11 & up) Sun, Mar. 2, 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Beachwood Community Center Residents \$90, Non-Residents \$108

• Adult CPR Course Tues, Mar. 4, 8:30-11:00 a.m. Beachwood Public Safety Center Residents \$35, Non-Residents \$50





or KIDS'

More Thrills. More Prizes. More Excitement.

**Thursday, February 27** 6-8 PM, Beachwood Community Center

17 Years & Under - \$2 | Adults - \$5 | 60 Years & Better - \$2 **Register:** BeachwoodRec.com





### **Beachwood Summer Camp: Fun Awaits!**

Looking for the ultimate summer experience for your child? Beachwood Summer Camp has it all! Whether it's Kidz, Bison, Sports, Teen Travel, or Theater Camp, your child will enjoy endless summer fun with exciting field trips, daily activities, games, and more.

The time is now! **Resident early bird rates end Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m.** Non-residents can begin registering Mar. 3 at 9:00 a.m. Registration can be completed online at BeachwoodRec.com or in-person at City Hall.

#### How To Register Online:

- Online registration is found at BeachwoodRec.com on the homepage and the Summer Camp page.
- You must have an online account set up. If you do not, please call us and we will set it up for you over the phone at 216.292.1970. Please do not duplicate accounts.
- If you forgot your account password, click "forgot password" and follow the prompts.
- Once you are logged into your account, you can then find Summer Camps and begin your registration.
- Residents must upload a current utility bill to their account as proof of residency.

Video tutorials are available on our Summer Camp webpage offering a step-by-step guide for the registration process. The deadline for camp registration is May 23 or until full.







# **Beachwood Seniors**

## **Upcoming Programs**

• Sanctioned Duplicate Bridge Fridays Beginning Friday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Beachwood Community Center

New! This is an open game for all to play from 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. occuring weekly at the Community Center beginning Feb. 7. Master points are available. Cost is \$10 cash at the door.

Bingo Bonanza

Monday, Feb. 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Beachwood Community Center

Join us for a friendly and fun game of bingo! Enjoy the excitement, win prizes, and connect with friends. Just \$5 per person. Registration required in advance at BeachwoodRec.com or call 216.292.1970.

 Breakfast Bites & Insights - State of the City Edition with Mayor Berns Friday, Feb. 28, 10:30 a.m.
 Beachwood Community Center

You're invited to join Jayme Jirousek, Senior Adult Manager, for a light breakfast with special guest, Mayor Justin Berns. Mayor Berns will give a recap of his 2025 State of the City Address and answer your questions.

### Feb. Meet & Eat

Nod to Nat King Cole Thursday, Feb. 20, at Noon Beachwood Community Center

Residents \$13 Non-Residents \$16 Program Only \$5

#### Register by Feb. 13.

Debbie Darling, singer/songwriter, and David Strieter, pianist, introduce you to the Nat King Cole you didn't know: How he started his singing career, how he bridged the gap between Blacks and whites in the entertainment industry and helped with the Civil Rights Movement.

Meal choices include macaroni, beef and cheese casserole or quinoa stuffed pepper. All entrees include a side salad, beverage and dessert.

Mar. Meet & Eat (3/20): Discover Julia Child's recipe for success with Ruth Pangrace from Women in History. Register by March 13.

**Register for events at BeachwoodRec.com,** City Hall or call 216.292.1970.



### WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING! THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Now Available: Beachwood Business Compass Podcast

The Beachwood Business Compass, a podcast created by the City of Beachwood's Office of Economic Development (OED) is now live! The OED created the podcast with local entrepreneurs and small businesses in mind. The city's One-Stop Business Resource Center and this podcast series are a comprehensive guide providing resources to navigate the hyper-local business community. Whether you're an established enterprise, a growing startup, or a small-business owner, the Beachwood Business Compass supplies the insight and inspiration you need to chart your path to success.

The first episode of the Beachwood Business Compass is streaming now, and we invite you to listen and subscribe to stay connected. Don't miss out on valuable insights and resources for your business. The Office of Economic Development will release the next episode the week of Feb. 24, so be sure to subscribe and stay tuned for more exciting content to help you and your business succeed.





### Female Entrepreneur Networking Event

Join us for a Female Entrepreneur Networking Event at the new Anne Cate retailmakers space in Beachwood. This networking event is focused on bringing intentional connections to each attendee and will occur on Feb. 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; make reservations by calling the Office of Economic Development at 216.292.1915. This event, held in collaboration with the Female Entrepreneurs Summit (FES), is an wonderful opportunity to connect and grow networks with other women-owned businesses.

### **One-on-One Business Consulting**



Beachwood's One-Stop Business Resource Center now offers a One-on-One Business Consulting Program to empower local entrepreneurs and small-business owners with the tools and guidance they need to grow, innovate, and succeed. This program, which is aligned with the Small Business

Development Center (SBDC), is tailored to serve the unique needs of each business and combines mentorship, education, and direct consulting.

Whether starting a business, scaling your operations, or navigating complex challenges, there are consultants ready to provide personalized support to help achieve your goals. To take advantage of this resource, schedule an initial onboarding meeting at either your office, Beachwood City Hall, or in one of our coworking spaces here in Beachwood, including OC2, CoHatch, or Regis. Contact Catherine Bieterman, Economic Development Director, at 216.292.1915 or Catherine.Bieterman@BeachwoodOhio.com to make an appointment or contact the CSU SBDC at 216.687.6902.

### **Networking & Education**

Tri-C Goldman Sachs: The 10K Small Businesses Program is accepting applications for May 2025, with no cost for Beachwood businesses to participate. For more information, please call 216.987.3162 or visit www.10KSBapply.com

The Center for Entrepreneurship at Corporate College: A convenient, four-track program to help you launch or grow your business. Full scholarships are available. Classes run for six weeks. Learn more at the One-Stop Business Resource Center or email entrepreneur@tri-c.edu.

**2025 Forbes Under 30 Summit:** An exclusive nationwide event returns to Columbus, Ohio, for young professionals to convene with top leaders! Visit their website at forbes.com/connect/events.

**Beachwood Chamber of Commerce:** Membership with the Chamber of Commerce brings you access to multiple networking opportunities within the community. Visit beachwood.org to learn more and explore the benefits.

## Always Be An Insider, Stay Connected!

Official Social Media Pages



Facebook Pages: @BeachwoodOH @BeachwoodPolice @BeachwoodFire @BeachwoodOHRec @BeachwoodPublicWorks @BarkwoodDogPark X Accounts: @BeachwoodOH @BeachwoodPolice

Instagram Account: @BeachwoodOhio

LinkedIn Account: @CityOfBeachwood

## Jonathan Gonell Named Head Football Coach for Beachwood Bison

Beachwood High School has named Jonathan Gonell as the new head football coach for the Beachwood Bison. With a distinguished athletic and coaching career spanning high school and collegiate levels, Gonell brings a wealth of experience, passion, and leadership to the Beachwood football program.



A native of Davie, Florida, Jonathan developed his love of football as a standout student-athlete at Nova Southeastern University School, where he excelled in football, baseball, and track under the guidance of respected coach Roger Harriott. A three-year varsity letter winner, Jonathan served as football team captain for two seasons, where he earned First Team All-County honors and led his team to a state runner-up finish and a top-25 national ranking.

Jonathan continued his football career at the University of Mount Union, where he played in all 60 games over four years, contributing to a 58-2 record and two national championships. Under Hall of Fame coach Larry Kehres and his successor Vince Kehres, he developed his skills both on and off the field. Jonathan's athletic achievements earned him multiple All-Conference and All-Region honors, including First Team All-Ohio Athletic Conference and Second Team All-Region

honors. Off the field, Jonathan demonstrated his commitment to community service by mentoring a young cancer survivor through Team Impact, a nonprofit organization that connects student athletes with children facing serious illnesses.

Following his playing career, Jonathan joined Mount Union's coaching staff as an assistant football coach, where he contributed to a 41-3 record, another national championship, and coached several All-Americans. He later held key coaching roles at Avon High School and Shaker Heights High School, where he served as defensive coordinator and helped guide Shaker Heights to its best record in 15 years.

In addition to his coaching experience, Jonathan is a dedicated educator who currently serves as a physical education teacher at Shaker Heights High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in healthcare management with a minor in economics from Mount Union and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Ohio University. His teaching experience spans elementary physical education, high school strength and conditioning, and health education.

"I am honored and thrilled to join the Beachwood community as the head football coach," Jonathan said. "Football is a powerful tool for teaching life lessons, and I am committed to developing our student-athletes both on and off the field. I look forward to building a program that embodies teamwork, resilience, and excellence, reflecting the values of this exceptional community."

Beachwood Director of Athletics Ryan Peters expressed his enthusiasm for the new hire. "Coach Gonell's proven leadership, championship experience, and passion for mentoring young athletes make him the perfect fit for Beachwood. We are excited about the future of Bison football under his guidance."

Beachwood High School welcomes Jonathan Gonell and invites the community to join in supporting the program as it embarks on this exciting new chapter.



# BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

**Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience** 

### Engineering Club Sparks Creativity and Innovation at Beachwood High School

In the summer of 2023, three high school students set out to build a robot capable of solving a Rubik's Cube. Inspired by a YouTube video, Alex Rabochii, Dotan Dana, and Shamith Murthy envisioned a machine that could scan the cube's configuration, calculate the solution, and turn the puzzle faces with precision. They spent weeks designing mechanisms, testing motors, and writing code.

But their ambitious project soon hit a wall. They realized they lacked the advanced knowledge of electronics and programming needed to bring their vision to life. Rather than giving up, they turned their frustration into an opportunity. The students founded the Beachwood High School Engineering Club—a community for like-minded innovators to explore new skills and knowledge not typically taught in the classroom. "We decided to create that space of learning, ourselves," Alex says.

Advised by design teacher Brian Hill, the club's 23 members meet weekly to work on student-led projects, from constructing a mini electronic piano to repairing a broken lightsaber. As they tinker and puzzle out solutions to engineering challenges, they develop skills in circuitry and basic programming. Club members also gain hands-



**Lunar New Year Celebration** Feb. 2, 5 - 8:30 p.m. Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.

#### Black History Month Celebration & Senior Recognition Night

Feb. 7, 6 p.m. Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.

#### **ElderClass**

Feb.13, 12 - 2:15 p.m. Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.

**BHS Band & Orchestra Collaboration Concert** 

Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m. Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.





on experience with soldering, Arduino programming, and working with components like breadboards, capacitors, resistors, and LEDs. Beyond technical expertise, the club fosters leadership and collaboration as students take turns researching topics and teaching their peers.

For the founders, one of the greatest rewards is sharing their passion for STEM with others—especially those who might not have otherwise explored these fields. "There are many people who go through high school without ever being exposed to the beauty within STEM and the satisfaction you can get by building things yourself from scratch," says Shamith.

The club also inspires members to appreciate the engineering in everyday objects. "A lot of things we throw away, like a broken toy or an old gadget, can be repurposed or rebuilt into something amazing," says Dotan. "Engineering doesn't have to be intimidating."

So agrees Alex: "I truly believe that the most valuable thing that students take from this club is the confidence and inspiration to be creators, themselves."

As for the robotic Rubik's Cube solver that started it all? Alex, Dotan, and Shamith, now armed with new knowledge and skills, are in the final stages of testing to make their design fully functional.



#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS**

Megan Walsh, President • (216) 287-4657 • mwalsh@beachwoodschools.org Kim Allamby, Vice President • (216) 533-3358 • kimallamby@beachwoodschools.org Dr. Josephine Chan • (216) 235-1129 • jchan@beachwoodschools.org Rini Ghosh • (631) 629-9441 • rghosh@beachwoodschools.org Wendy Leatherberry • (216) 409-2211 • wleatherberry@beachwoodschools.org



### Choir Students Celebrate Broadway with Annual Cabaret Night

Beachwood Schools showcased the musical talents of choir students in grades one through 10 during its annual Choir Cabaret Night, held Dec. 10. This year's theme, "A Night on Broadway," featured toe-tapping performances from beloved musicals, including *Hairspray, The Wiz*, and *MJ: The Musical*. Nearly 120 students united to open the evening with "You Can't Stop the Beat" from *Hairspray*. The event was organized by choir directors Carolyn Farley and Shelley McKenzie. "This concert is always an exciting event that students look forward to, and it's a great opportunity for all of our choir students to collaborate," says Ms. McKenzie.





Highlights included the Bryden Choir's rendition of "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" from Annie and a combined middle and high school choir performance of "Ease on Down the Road" from *The Wiz*. Three high school students—Juan Coz, Bawitha Lian, and Moses Yarngo delivered heartfelt solo performances from *Motown: The Musical* and *Let It Be*. They also served as Masters of Ceremonies alongside London Buckner, Ava Forward, Emily Linick, Rafaela Machado, Charli Rahmon, Bayla Socher, and Aura Turner.

Now in its eighth year, Cabaret Night continues to serve as a confidence builder for young performers. For many Bryden students, it marks their first time singing on stage, while older students often debut as soloists or emcees. "Many people come together to make this event possible," says Ms. McKenzie, expressing gratitude to staff, parents, and students for their hard work in creating a night to remember.

### **Beachwood Schools Launches MagicSchool AI**

Artificial intelligence is transforming teaching and learning. To prepare students for a future where AI skills are an integral part of daily life, Beachwood Schools has launched MagicSchool, a generative AI platform tailored specifically for education.

In recent months, staff and administrators have undergone training to use MagicSchool to create engaging classroom experiences that address the varied learning needs of students. The platform offers dozens of tools that enable educators to create differentiated teaching materials aligned with academic standards, develop authentic assessments, and translate materials into multiple languages.

MagicSchool not only supports teachers but also provides a host of innovative features for students. They can build their own chatbots, create skits, engage in rap battles with authors and historical figures, receive personalized tutoring, and get tailored writing feedback. "These tools allow students

to apply classroom concepts in unique and meaningful ways while fostering critical thinking and creativity," says Jeremy Hunter, director of educational technology.

The platform is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to ensure the safety and security of users. Staff and students are trained never to input personal or confidential information into the AI system, and teachers can monitor students' activity to ensure they are following the district's technology-use guidelines. Training also focuses on fostering digital literacy, including verifying the accuracy of AI-generated information, identifying biases, and integrating AI as a collaborative tool that enhances—rather than replaces—critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

"Bringing MagicSchool to our students is an exciting opportunity to build a strong foundation for responsible AI use and show them how it can be a helpful partner in their learning journey," says Mr. Hunter.

# **BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS**

**Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience** 

### What's for Lunch? Food Services Team Dishes Up Care and Connection

School meals do more than fill students' bellies. They create moments of care and connection.

"Kids are all about hand foods. They want to grab it, eat it, and have time to hang out with their friends," says Lucy DuHaime, resident director of AVI Foodsystems. "Lunch is as much about socializing as it is about eating."

Ms. DuHaime's commitment to school nutrition stems from personal experience. Growing up on free and reducedprice lunches, she recalls how the cafeteria staff made her feel valued. They took the time to learn her preferences and treated her with the same dignity and care as her peers. Her favorite childhood meals—pasta, green beans, and mashed potatoes—now inspire her mission to provide comforting, nourishing meals for Beachwood's roughly 1,500 students.

Superintendent Dr. Robert Hardis calls Ms. DuHaime "as much a Bison as any of us" for her deep commitment to the school community. In 2021, Ms. DuHaime was recognized with a Beachwood Schools service award for her leadership



#### **Recent Resolutions**

- Appointed Board President and Vice President
- Adopted Tax Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026
- Approved the Hiring of High School Varsity Football Coach
- Heard Presentation on Trauma-Informed Practices
   and Mental Wellness Grant Spending

#### **Upcoming Board Actions**

- Hear K-5 Literacy Curriculum Review
- Approve 2027-2028 Calendar
- Hear Presentation on Grow Your Own Program for District Staff

#### **Board Meeting Calendar**

- Monday, February 10 @ 7 p.m.
- Monday, February 24 @ 7 p.m.



### VIEW AGENDAS & MINUTES

www.beachwoodschools.org/BOE



throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, the food services team made free bagged breakfasts and lunches available to all students.

#### **Balancing Taste and Nutrition**

Balancing nutrition and taste is a challenge Ms. DuHaime embraces daily. Using tools like the PrimeroEdge software system and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation food calculator, her team ensures all meals meet strict federal guidelines for calories, sodium, and portion sizes. Popular items like pizza, tacos, and breakfast foods remain staples, but Ms. DuHaime also introduces variety with scratch-made options, including guacamole, hummus, croutons, and granola.

Behind every meal is a small-but-mighty team of 14 food services professionals who handle everything from cooking and prepping to cashiering and tracking food data. Being a small district allows them to personalize the program in ways that would prove more challenging for larger systems. Ms. DuHaime regularly rotates menu items based on feedback from students, staff, and families. "We're constantly experimenting with new products and combinations to find the perfect balance between meals kids enjoy and those that meet their nutritional needs," says Ms. DuHaime.

This year, new equipment—including a steamer and a tilt skillet—will allow the team to cook more from scratch and expand the menu to include student favorites like mashed potatoes and homemade macaroni and cheese. Says Ms. DuHaime, "It's the little moments like watching a student light up over their favorite meal that make it all worthwhile."

### Ready, Set, Kindergarten!

Kindergarten registration opens Feb. 5, 2025. Families with a child entering kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year should visit www.beachwoodschools.org/registration to complete the enrollment form.

A kindergarten parent orientation is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Bryden Elementary. Questions? Contact district registrar Grace Perryman at gperryman@beachwoodschools.org or (216) 464-2600, ext. 2107.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Robert Hardis, Superintendent · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2201 · rph@beachwoodschools.org Matthew Brown, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer • (216) 464-2600 ext. 2211 • mbrown@beachwoodschools.org Diana Maher, Assistant Treasurer (216) 464-2600 ext. 2210 · dmaher@beachwoodschools.org Dr. Ken Veon, Assistant Superintendent · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2202 · kev@beachwoodschools.org Dr. Jennifer Polak, Director of Pupil Services · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2215 · jpolak@beachwoodschools.org Kevin Houchins, Director of Equity & Community Engagement · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2207 · kth@beachwoodschools.org Dr. Linda LoGalbo, Director of Curriculum & Instruction · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2208 · Ihl@beachwoodschools.org



### Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Aaron Wolkoff (Class of 2002)

Dr. Aaron Wolkoff has built a distinguished career in sports medicine, dedicating himself to helping patients lead active, pain-free lives. He credits the rigorous coursework and supportive teachers at Beachwood City Schools for laying the groundwork for his success.

"Beachwood gave me a great foundation for working hard to get to where I am today," Dr. Wolkoff says. "The classes and teachers set me up to succeed in college and then in medical school."

After graduating from Beachwood High School, Dr. Wolkoff pursued his undergraduate studies at Kenyon College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 2006. He then attended the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, graduating with his medical degree in 2010. His extensive training included a residency in family medicine at South Pointe Hospital, followed by a primary care sports medicine fellowship at Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Wolkoff began his career as a family and sports medicine specialist at Southwest General Hospital. He treated a variety of conditions, including injuries, arthritis, and concussions, and provided regenerative medicine therapies. The COVID-19 pandemic brought unexpected challenges, as the closure of schools and gyms dramatically shifted patient needs. In response, Dr. Wolkoff pivoted to frontline urgent care at Lake Health. In 2022, he joined QC Kinetix, where he now focuses on natural, regenerative methods using patients' own cells to alleviate pain and promote healing.



"I love that I'm doing something I'm very passionate about," he says. "I can take care of people who are in pain, who don't want or need surgery, and who want to get better naturally using their own cells."

Outside of his medical practice, Dr. Wolkoff is a lifelong sports enthusiast. He fondly remembers playing on the Bison soccer team with his brothers and cousin during his senior year. His passion for soccer continues as he cheers on Manchester United. Dr. Wolkoff also enjoys supporting the Cleveland Guardians and the Cavaliers. He resides in Pepper Pike with his fiancé Danielle.

Dr. Wolkoff's advice for current students? "You will always miss 100% of the shots you don't take," he says. "Work hard and never give up on what you want to do. Be passionate about what you do and what you want to be."





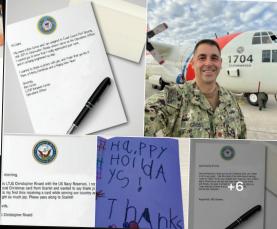
Beachwood Schools

December 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM · 🚱

This holiday season, Ms. Margulies has once again organized a heartfelt project to spread joy and cheer to our brave men and women in the military  $lpha_{\pm}$ 

Bryden students have been busy making beautiful holiday cards that were sent to service members stationed in Florida

The best part? Many of the officers took the time to write back to us, sharing their stories and thanking us for our thoughtful gestures. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with those who sacrifice so much for our freedom! Here are a few of the letters we already received.



Beachwood Schools December 11, 2024 at 10:30 AM · 🕲 (

Last Wednesday, Jennie Becker and Otis, a robot dog, visited the fifth grade from MAGNET, a nonprofit organization that supports Northeast Ohio manufacturers with workforce programs, advanced technology consulting, and innovation services.

During the visit, students learned about manufacturing and the engineering design process before getting a chance to meet and pet Otis. The robot dog dazzled our fifth graders with his impressive tricks, including tip-toeing, running, begging, and even dancing!





### **ON VIEW NOW THROUGH APRIL 20**



# HITLER'S WAR ON MODERN ART

Explore how artwork was used as propaganda to sway public opinion by the Nazi party. The exhibition features nearly 100 famous works by world-renowned artists labeled as "degenerate" by the regime.

Bring this ad with you for \$2 off of general admission, Oct. 30, 2024—Apr. 20, 2025. Good for up to 4 visitors. Not valid on programs. Cannot be used with any other offer.

DEGENERATE! Hitler's War on Modern Art, an original exhibition created by and on loan from the Jewish Museum Milwaukee. Image courtesy of Jewish Museum Milwaukee: Na Title (Yellow, Red, Black, White Astract), 1975, Wassily Kandinsky, Monograph. From the collection of Kevin and Meg Kinney.

### maltzmuseum.org

## Events at the Maltz Museum

Although it's cold and dreary outside, the Maltz Museum's event calendar is heating up with several free or low-cost events to fight the winter blues, including programs on its latest special exhibition, *DEGENERATE! Hitler's War on Modern Art*.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 5 • 7-8:30 p.m.

#### Lecture: Art, Modernism, Degeneration, and Jews

Learn about the history behind the 1938 *Degenerate Art* (Entartete Kunst) exhibition in Munich led by Professor Kenneth Ledford, the Hiram C. Haydn Professor in History at Case Western Reserve University. This enlightening lecture examines the nexus of cultural and political events that polarized attitudes toward modernity, prompting many to long for a fictional placid past that ignored the changes of modernity. Register for the lecture.

#### Saturday, Feb. 8 • 7-8:30 p.m.

#### A Taste of TRYmester: Jewish Fertility Journeys Out Loud

Experience a night of artistry and empathy as musician, educator, and performance artist Naomi Less amplifies the hidden stories of people struggling with fertility in the Jewish community. Based on real interviews, TRYmester opens up to the Jewish community and beyond to learn how to better support the most vulnerable. This taste of Naomi's three-act show will be followed by a discussion on the inspiration behind the production. Register for the performance.

#### Sunday, Feb. 9 • 2-4 p.m.

#### Tu Bishvat Family Concert at the Mandel JCC

Join the Maltz Museum and the Jewish National Fund in partnership with the Mandel JCC for the Tu Bishvat Family Concert. Musician and educator Naomi Less will light up the stage with a performance that fuses music, storytelling, and spiritual depth. As a beloved artist and co-founder of Lab/Shul, her original compositions and innovative projects invite audiences into a journey of connection, creativity, and meaningful expression. Register for the concert.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 18 • 7 p.m.

#### Cleveland Jewish Filmfest: Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round

Join the Maltz Museum and the Cleveland Jewish Filmfest for a bonus screening of *Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round*, a rare intimate lens on one protest in the early Civil Rights Movement. Telling the story of one amusement park, one group of individuals, and one moment in time, the laser focus allows for deep understanding of the non-famous individuals whose efforts, sacrifices, and personal awakenings fueled the Civil Rights Movement. Register for the screening.

#### Wednesday, March 5, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

#### JCC Book Festival: Jonathan Santlofer discusses The Lost Van Gogh

Join celebrated artist, legal counterfeiter, and award-winning Jewish author Jonathan Santlofer at the Maltz Museum to discuss his latest book, *The Lost Van Gogh*, a spellbinding thriller of masterpieces, masterminds, and the mysterious underbelly of the art world.

Space is limited and reservations for events are always recommended. For more information on these and other Maltz Museum events and exhibitions, or to register for programs, call 216.593.0575 or visit www.maltzmuseum.org.

# S CAMP

# **IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR CAMP!**

There are many camp and educational options in and around Beachwood. Please review offerings that are displayed below and on the following pages. If you select one of these camps, please say you saw it in *Beachwood Buzz*!



# Fairmount Center for the Arts

reate a summer of fun and creativity for your child at Fairmount Center for the Arts! Fairmount offers summer camps incorporating dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. Children have the opportunity to grow over the summer and explore the arts through thoughtfully curated half- and full-day camp options.

Camps are designed for children in preschool through 8th grade. Whether your child is a budding artist, an up-and-coming actor, an inspiring dancer, or simply looking to dig into the arts, we have a camp for them. Don't miss out – registration opens Monday, Jan. 27, at www.fairmountcenter.org.



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means a stronger, more confident start to the school year!

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- Convenient Scheduling around vacations, sports and other activities.
   Schedule tutoring sessions during one week, one month or spread throughout the summer.
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Sign her up for a lifetime of memories this summer at Girl Scout Camp.

To learn more visit gsneo.org/summercamp

# Beachwood Children's Author Has the Magic Touch

#### By Arlene Fine

rowing up in a military family, Jason Lady was often on the move. He attended seven different schools from K-12. Luckily, Jason's outgoing personality helped him make friends at each school; his active imagination and writing skills sealed the deal.

Jason, an avid reader of comic books, fantasy, and science fiction, filled notebooks with stories whose characters mirrored his school friends. His classmates were eager to read the adventure stories and comics he wrote, especially since they were often the main characters. He wisely used his pen to make pals.

"If you write a full-length comic that is a parody of Robin Hood staring members of your crosscountry team, it's sure to grab their attention and generate a bonding friendship," said Jason, 48. "Some of these kids, now adults, have kept the comics I wrote way back in middle school. I find that very touching."

The ability to write and entertain his readers has remained a constant in Jason's life. As an adult, he continues to work his day job in talent development at Key Bank, while using his spare time to write fantasy and science fiction books aimed at middle schoolers. So far, Black Rose Writing has published three of Jason's books, including *Monster Problems* and two books that are part of his Magic Pen Adventure series, *Super Problems* and *Time Problems*.

The Magic Pen Adventure series features middle-schoolers who have a magic pen that makes everything they draw become real. "The fun of the Magic Pen Adventure stories is that the kids have no clue that, when they use their magic pen, what they draw will become real – until after it happens," said Jason. "This creates a problem they must solve. These books ask kids to consider the guestion, 'What if I had a magic pen, and everything I drew became real?"

His fourth book, *The Pure Shore Club*, has just been released. Jason's book launch will be on March 1, from 2-4 p.m., at the Beachwood Library. This book focuses on kids who are trying to discover the secret surrounding a mysterious school club.

The Beachwood resident aims his books at middle school age kids because "there are lots of books for little kids and voung adults, but there is a definite need for humorous books that touch on the unique sensitivities, active imaginations, and life experiences of middle school age children," he said. "I remember what it felt like to keep changing schools as a kid, where I dreaded the first day, got into trouble, and anxiously tried to make new friends. By using my own experiences, and my super-charged imagination, I'm able to make my books relatable. My wife said I'm still a middle school kid at heart."

The feedback Jason has gotten from kids and parents who read his books has been very gratifying. "I love it when kids tell me my books make them laugh, and adults who read the books to their children tell me how much they enjoy the content," he said. "These books appeal to preteens and teens as well as adults who are kids at heart."

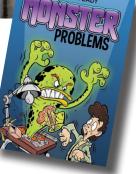
Jason is not finished with the characters in *The Pure Shore Club* and is currently working on a sequel. His books have been accepted to the Ohioana Book Festival, the Kentucky Book Festival, The Heartland Book Festival, and the Columbus Book Festival. *Super Problems* was a Maxy Awards finalist and is IndieReader Approved. An avid reader, Jason can often be found at the Beachwood Library.

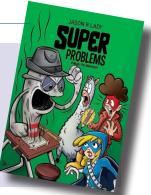


Author Jason Lady, pictured with the covers of his published books, enjoys writing books for middle school-age children and adults who are kids at heart.

By using my own experiences, and my super-charged imagination, I'm able to make my books relatable. My wife said I'm still a middle school kid at heart.

Author Event at the Beachwood Library: Jason Lady will introduce *The Pure Shore Club* Saturday, March 1 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served





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# Forever Friends: 50 Years of Bonding and Laughter

#### By Arlene Fine

Close friends forever" describes the eight Beachwood High School grads who spent four memorable days together in upstate New York at the end of October.

The women, BHS class of 1972-73, all Cleveland-area residents, have stayed in touch for over 50 years. "Although several months can go by before we see each other individually or as a group, we make sure we are always connected," said Sunny Lurie. "Our bonds have lasted so long because of our mutual respect and the support we have given each other through all types of life events."

The eight friends who went to New York together include Karen Berk Hiller, Elise Malin Kopit, Jan Rowse Lewis, Sunny Klein Lurie, Barbara Rowse Miller, Pam Neides, Bette Goldstein Rini, and Laurie Simon Terkel.

The idea for the New York gettogether was sparked at a group dinner last summer by Barb. "We decided it would be so much fun to plan a getaway," said Sunny. "Initially I thought maybe five of us would be able make it, but in the end I was thrilled all eight of us were there. We all enjoyed the camaraderie and talking about our teenage years and so many unforgettable memories we all share."

The friends rented a sixbedroom home in Kingston, New York. They traveled to quaint and historic little towns throughout upstate New York, ate at interesting restaurants, and spent many hours talking, laughing hysterically, reminiscing, relaxing, and enjoying each other's company.

Pam noted how easy it was for the eight women to be together in one house. "Having been friends for decades, we felt at home from the moment we walked in the door," she said. "We were sensitive to each



other's needs and interests every step of the way. It was fine if some of the girls drove to a nearby town to shop and others sat on the couch talking. Most of our parents are gone, so it was wonderful to spend time together like an extended and nonjudgemental family, relaxed and comfortable together."

"Our bonds have lasted so long because of our mutual respect and the support we have given each other through all types of life events."

#### – Sunny Lurie

Pam said the trip made her realize how lucky she is to have gone through her teen and adult years with the support of her friends. "Life has its inevitable ups and downs, and I feel so fortunate that we have always been there for each other, through thick and through thin. I don't take that for granted. And now that most of us are 70, or approaching that age, we are even more grateful to have each other."





*Top:* Enjoying dinner in Woodstock are Pam Neides, Elise Kopit, Bette Rini, Laurie Terkel, Karen Hiller, Sunny Lurie, Jan Lewis, and Barb Miller.

*Middle*: Going shopping are Elise Kopit, Bette Rini, Barb Miller, Jan Lewis, and Karen Hiller.

*Bottom:* Pam Neides, Laurie Terkel, Bette Rini, Sunny Lurie, and Jan Lewis at Rough Draft Books in Kingston, New York.

# 'The Tree of Life' Fifth Annual Musical Tu B'shevat Celebration

Please join us for the "Tree of Life" Fifth Annual Musical Tu B'Shevat Celebration, which celebrates the Trees Jewish New Year, on Feb. 12, 7 p.m., at Waxman Chabad Center, 2479 S. Green Rd., Beachwood. The evening, open to woman and girls, ages 10 and up, will feature a light dinner buffet, many fruits and treats of the land of Israel, inspiring spiritual insights, music, singing, and dancing.

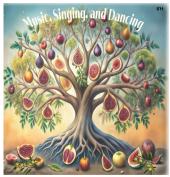
A candle lighting dedication, led by Ella Caspi, will honor the hostages, injured and fallen soldiers, displaced families, Nova victims, and acting soldiers and their families.

Music leaders include Dr. Laura Rabinowitz, violin; Karen Bardenstein, guitar; and Chavi Miller, guitar.

Local speakers will include Dena Rappaport, Yocheved Belsky, and Tsilla Greenburg. Dena's topic is *Hidden Roots of Spiritual Strength*, Yocheved's is *The Tree and the Strength Within*, and Tsilla's is *Fruit of Life*. Together, they will explore the spiritual component of the various parts of the tree: roots, body, branches, leaves, and fruits. They will also provide personal and Chassidic insights as to how we can incorporate these lessons into our lives. Celebrating trees can inspire us to nurture our own roots, our branches, and our fruits.

Doors will open at 6:45 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. To RSVP, visit www.chabadcle. com/15shevat. The price is \$20 by Feb. 4 or \$28 after and at the door.

This event is a project of Waxman Chabad Cleveland, Women's Division. Event planners are Chemda Jacobs, Sue Polster, Sarah Alevsky, Mazal Cohen, and Rivkah Levy.



For questions, sponsoring, or volunteering, please text Mazal Cohen at 330.524.1952

#### Hometown Heroes Nominations

The Beachwood Historical Society and City of Beachwood are celebrating our Hometown Heroes! For additional details, see page 27 or scan the code.



# Find Your Voice Now Celebrates Remarkable Success in Empowering Women

Find Your Voice Now, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women, is thrilled to announce a series of successful milestones achieved over the past year. The organization, which provides workshops, support groups, education, and resources designed to build selfconfidence and inner strength, has made significant strides throughout 2024. Through the commitment of their dedicated facilitators, volunteers, and partners, they have empowered more than 1,091 individuals to discover and develop their unique voices. Sessions and initiatives throughout the year have created a strong network of women within a supportive and compassionate community.

A highlight of this year's impact includes the successful launch

of their community outreach program. They have partnered with local women's shelters, homeless agencies, and mental health organizations, which have been instrumental in reaching underserved communities.

"We plan on extending our outreach to elementary schools and universities to educate and hopefully prevent young women from being victims of abuse," Annie Roth, co-founder, said. "We provide a series of interactive workshops and one-on-one coaching to many participants, all at no cost, because we feel strongly that nobody should be turned away from help, due to lack of funds."

The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with 95% reporting a notable increase in self-confidence.

Erika, from Mexico, has attested to the impact of the

group: "I discovered through this group that *I am enough!*"

Since Find Your Voice Now is a virtual network, its sessions, held once a week, reach women from all over the world who are struggling with a toxic relationship (partner, parent, sibling, friend, or coworker) and feeling alone.

"We plan on having keynote speakers and seminars to help make more women aware that you do not have to bear this challenge alone," Annie added.

"We are incredibly proud of what we've accomplished and are grateful to everyone who contributed to our success, especially our donors and supporters. It's inspiring to see so many women discover their true potential and use their voices as a force for positive change."



Looking ahead, Find Your Voice Now has plans to expand its reach and impact. In 2025, it will launch its educational program, which is a tool that can be utilized by women and men of all ages to recognize what a toxic relationship is and how to set boundaries.

They will also be hosting Pickleball for Change, a fundraiser, which will take place on Sunday, Aug. 24, at Highland Heights Community Park.

For more information about Find Your Voice Now, upcoming events, and how you can get involved, please visit findyourvoicenow.org. Finding your voice can make a difference!

# At the Beachwood Library

To view the library's full list of events and to register, visit https://cuyahogalibrary.org or call the library at 216.831.6868. All programs require registration unless otherwise noted.

#### Community Singing With Emergence

Thursday, Feb. 6 • 7-8:15 p.m.

Join Emergence Ensemble for a session of group singing and a chance to be in community with your neighbors. No experience required. Register at https:// attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/ event/12529915.

#### **Tuesday Book Chat**

Tuesday, Feb. 11 • 7-8 p.m. A discussion of *The Art of Power*, by Nancy Pelosi. Registration is not necessary.

#### Through the Eyes of the Artist: Great Artistic Love Stories and Affairs

Friday, Feb. 14 • 10-11 a.m. Art Historian Felicia Zavarella Stadelman looks at famous couples whose intense passions sparked each other's best

artworks. Register at https:// attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/ event/11795784.

#### Knit & Lit

Monday, Feb. 17 • 6:30-8 p.m. Join us for fiber arts and informal chats about what everyone is reading. Register at https://attend.cuyahogalibrary. org/event/11009710.

#### Third Wednesday Book Discussion

Wednesday, Feb. 19 • 2-3 p.m. A discussion of *The Berry* 

Pickers, by Amanda Peters. Register at https://attend. cuyahogalibrary.org/ event/11733058.



#### The Music of Bing Crosby With Debbie Darling

Friday, Feb. 21 • 2-3 p.m. Debbie Darling performs the hits of Bing Crosby. Register at https://attend.cuyahogalibrary. org/event/11819093.

#### **Blood Drive**

Saturday, Feb. 22 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Donate blood. For more information or to make an appointment, visit www. redcrossblood.org or call the American Red Cross at 800.RED.CROSS (800.733.2767).

#### **Smart Financial Habits**

Wednesday, Feb. 26 • 2-3 p.m.

U.S. Bank joins us to share tips about budgeting, saving, credit building, fraud, and debt. Register at https://attend. cuyahogalibrary.org/ event/11955508.

#### Volunteering in Greater Cleveland

Tuesday, March 4 • 2-2:30 p.m. Greater Cleveland Volunteers will present information about many opportunities to share your time and talents to help others. Register at https:// attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/ event/11921479.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The Beachwood Library's Digital Navigators service offers you one-on-one tech assistance, from device setup to internet access troubleshooting. Sessions are tailored to your needs. To make an appointment, call 216.749.9420.



#### StoryWalk

StoryWalk for February/ March will be *How to Have a Birthday*, by Mary Lyn Ray, illustrated by Cindy Derby, in honor of some very important birthdays in February and March, including some U.S. presidents, Black history leaders, women's history leaders, and many more.

#### **Children's Storytimes**

Storytimes are back with a new schedule that will run through April 30.

#### Family Music & Movement

Mondays, 10 a.m. All ages with caregiver

#### Baby & Toddler Storytime

Wed. 10 a.m. and Thurs. 11 a.m. Birth-35 months with caregiver

#### Hebrew Language Storytime

Wednesday, Feb. 5 • 4:30-5 p.m. Families

Join us for stories, songs, movement, and rhymes in Hebrew and English. Presented in collaboration with Cleveland Shin Shinim and the Mandel Jewish Community Center.

#### Read & Wonder Book Club

Tuesday, Feb. 4 • 4-4:45 p.m. Grades 1-4

Join us for a fun chat and themed activities about a different chapter book genre each month.

February: Explore the possibilities of technology, space, time travel, and more in science fiction titles like *Abby in Orbit: Blast Off!*, by Andrea J. Loney, illustrated by Fuuji Takashi, or *The Wild Robot*, by Peter Brown. Registered event.

#### Kindergarten Countdown

Thursday, Feb. 6 • 4-5 p.m. Children entering kindergarten next fall and their caregiver

Join us as we help your child build kindergarten readiness skills in a program aligned to Ohio's Early Childhood Standards. This month's theme is community. Registered event.

#### STEAM Club

Tuesday, Feb. 18 • 4-4:45 p.m. Grades 2-5

Each month we will have a fun STEAM activity to learn about science, technology, engineering, art, or math. Registered event.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Kanopy, an on-demand streaming video platform, offers films, TV shows, educational videos, and documentaries. The service is free when you register at www.kanopy.com with your library card.

**Art Explorers** 

Thursday, Feb. 20 • 4-4:45 p.m. Grades K-5

Get creative while learning something new! Hear about the life of a famous artist and get inspired to create your own works of art. Registered event.

#### Yes Chef!

Tuesday, Feb. 11 • 4-5 p.m. For children grades 3-5

Roll up your sleeves, tie up your aprons, and try out some fun and super simple recipes. Supplies provided. Registered event.



# The Gathering Place's Wellness Passport

Kick off the New Year with The Gathering Place's Wellness Passport

Support through The Gathering Place is available for anyone coping with cancer in their lives, including the person with the diagnosis, their friends and family, and those grieving a loss.

Specialized support is available for families with school-aged children and teens. Programs are available at The Gathering Place's Beachwood (23300 Commerce Park) and Westlake locations, virtually and throughout the community, to ensure access to all.

For anyone impacted by cancer, The Gathering Place's Wellness Passport 2025 is a perfect way to kick off the New Year in the healthiest way possible. The World Health Organization defines health and wellness as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease." The goal of the Wellness Passport Program is to have individuals participate in as many of the designated 25 programs as they can involving exercise, nutrition, education, art, music, and meditation to support their overall wellness throughout the season.

"When I initially went to The Gathering Place, I was surprised to see how many services they offered," remarked participant Priscilla Dann. "One of the first things I did was take part in a exercise group. I'm so lucky to have found TGP in my own backyard."

Any participant of The Gathering Place is eligible and can join the program anytime. Passport booklets are available electronically or at the front desks in Beachwood and Westlake. After attending a designated program in the booklet, participants receive a stamp. For every five stamps collected, they can enter a raffle and at the end of March, three names will be drawn for prizes.

By participating, participants are actively building healthy lifestyle behaviors and coping strategies to help support their health while impacted by cancer.

#### **Examples of Wellness Passport Program Offerings Include:**

- Moving Forward Mondays and Wednesdays, Feb. 19 through March 31 4 -6 p.m. • TGP East This six-week program is for individuals currently in treatment or who have finished treatment in the last year. It involves a weekly support group, twice-weekly fitness training, and four healthy nutrition sessions. Full schedule provided upon registration. Orientation for the program will be held February 5, from 4 -6 p.m., at TGP East.
- Valentine's Self-Love Brunch Friday, Feb. 14 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

#### **TGP Beachwood**

For many, Valentine's Day is known as the day for love, but it is also critical to take time to offer the same love and care to yourself. Good nutrition is a form of selfcare. This program will guide participants through delicious and nutritious brunch recipes. Daily self-care practices will also be covered.

 Coping with Fear and Anxiety Thursday, Feb. 20 12-1 p.m.

#### **TGP Westlake**

It is common to experience fear and anxiety once you have been diagnosed with cancer. Sometimes these feelings are manageable and sometimes they are overwhelming. Learn to identify emotions and manage stress to better cope with them.

 Virtual Book Group Wednesday, March 12 6-7 p.m. Virtual A continuation of The Well-

Gardened Mind, by Sue Stuart-Smith. We will examine the healing power of nature in Chapters 2 and 3. Pages will be sent to you when you register.

For anyone impacted by cancer, The Gathering Place's Wellness Passport 2025 is a perfect way to kick off the New Year in the healthiest way possible.

As usual, one-on-one support, nutrition consults, medical librarian services, wig salon



appointments, and more are offered daily. A wide variety of support groups are also offered for participants of all ages to ask questions, share hopes, fears, and concerns, and connect with others who just "get it." To learn more, visit touchedbycancer.org or call 216.595.9546.

The mission of The Gathering Place is to support, educate and empower individuals and families currently coping with the impact of cancer in their lives through programs and services provided free of charge. To make a gift to ensure that programs like these remain available for all in the community at no cost, please visit www.touchedbycancer.org/ annualfund.

# **Beachwood Community Book Club**



You are invited to join the Beachwood Schools Foundation and students from Beachwood High School for a Community Book Club.

The club's first selection is The Hate U Give, the 2017 debut novel by Angie Thomas. Beachwood community members, school and city employees, students, alumni, and members of the business community are invited to read the novel and then join us on Wednesday, April 2, at Beachwood High School, for a community dialogue led by Beachwood

High School students.

To sign up, scan the QR code below and you will be notified of the date and location for the book club dialogue. Happy reading!

BSF's primary mission is to obtain funds from individuals, families, and corporations to provide scholarships to graduating seniors who are continuing their education. Additionally, an "Above and Beyond" program has been initiated to raise money to enhance educational programming in the Beachwood School District.



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