

Beachwood

December 2023

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EMBRACING THE



GIFT OF GIVING

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

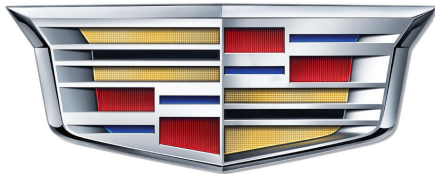
By Debby Zelman Rapoport



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Here's to the next 50!

EMBRACING THE GIFT OF GIVING

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Debby Zelman Rapoport
Editor/Publisher

With the holidays just around the corner, let's take time to reflect on the past year, envision the new year, and focus on what we can do to make the season brighter for others and for ourselves.

When we focus on gratitude, we set the foundation to recognize what is good in our life. Dr. Benjamin Hardy, an organizational psychologist, suggests we start and end each day by writing three things for which we're grateful. When we establish a regular gratitude practice, we train ourselves to focus on the positive aspects in our life. And since what we focus on expands, we attract more of what makes us feel grateful, which provides energy to spread goodness.

Let's take extra time this month to spread kindness and make someone's holidays brighter. Whether volunteering, donating, creating cards, visiting someone, inviting someone to join you for a holiday meal, or focusing on random acts of kindness, our support and love help others.

And, if you need support, please reach out. People and organizations within our community are here to help you.

Listed throughout this issue are available opportunities through the holidays and beyond. Whether with these businesses and organizations or others, Let's work as a community to shine our light, today and always.

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Beachwood Buzz

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Buzz
MAGAZINE

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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

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CITY OF Beachwood

Recycle Broken Holiday Lights and Power Cords

The Public Works Department accepts broken holiday lights and power cords dropped off for recycling in January, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Recycle Christmas Trees

The City will collect Christmas trees (real – not artificial) from tree lawns and deliver them to the compost facility on Shaker Boulevard. We recycle 100% of trees, brush, and leaves by shredding and utilizing them on city grounds and for the planting program. Please call Beachwood Public Works at 216.292.1922 to advise the Christmas tree has been placed on the tree lawn for collection.



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Beachwood Buzz
Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

Messages to the Community

Over the past several months, the following Beachwood citizens devoted their time and energy to campaign for public office.

Beachwood Buzz commends each of them for their interest and dedication to put themselves out there to make Beachwood stronger.

Congratulations to Jillian DeLong, June Taylor, Danielle Shoykhet, and Ali Stern who were elected to serve on City Council; and Josephine Chan and Megan Walsh, who were elected to serve on the Beachwood School Board.

City Council electees will be sworn in on January 8, 2024, and School Board members on January 22, 2024.

Mike Burkons



Losing an election stings. While disappointed in the results, I'm incredibly proud of the issues-based campaign I ran with my slatemates, Howard Darvin, Matt Hildebrand, and Karen Tindel, and we can't control or dictate the type of campaign run against us.

We remain rooted in Beachwood and plan to continue to be involved in making our voices heard.

We focused on the issues that mattered most to us: wasteful and unfocused spending, unnecessary and unplanned expenditures, and First Amendment protected speech. We remain rooted in Beachwood and plan to continue to be involved in making our voices heard. We can and should expect more from our elected officials. To those of you who supported us, thank you. Please continue to use your voice and your vote to communicate the need for thoughtful, purposeful, and intentional change.

Jillian DeLong



Thank you, Beachwood residents, for your trust and support in electing me to City Council. Thank you to my supporters and volunteers who worked diligently to connect me with residents. Thank you to my family and friends who provided me daily support that allowed me to refuel each day with your encouragement. Congratulations to the other

elected Beachwood officials on their victories and thank you to all of the candidates for your energy, courage, and voices throughout the campaign.

I am beyond grateful to my running mates, Danielle Shoykhet, Ali Stern, and June Taylor. From the beginning, we were committed to having open communication, achievable goals, and most importantly, mutual respect. I will continue with these commitments to move Beachwood forward.

Over the past several months, I was fortunate to have had conversations with many residents who share their love of Beachwood's Senior Services, Youth Programs, Aquatic Center, Dog Park, Community Gardens, Pickleball Courts, and Public Works Services.

At the end of the day, I ask that we all come together to appreciate what Beachwood has to offer and continue to look for ways to better serve you, the residents.

School Board Vacancy

Application Deadline: January 8, 2024

The Beachwood Board of Education is now accepting applications to fill a vacated School Board seat due to the resignation of Jillian DeLong. The appointed candidate's term will run through December 31, 2025. Interested parties are to submit a notice of their interest to bdvacancy@beachwoodschoools.org. Each individual who submits this notice will receive an application to complete and submit by January 8, 2024.

For additional details, please see the ad on page 8.

Howard Darvin



I would like to thank the residents of Beachwood for the privilege of letting me into your homes and lives as I campaigned these past six months.

I was pleased to encounter residents robustly engaged and inquisitive regarding the issues at the forefront of

this election cycle.

A big thank you to my slatemates, Mike Burkons, Matt Hildebrand, and Karen Tindel, who displayed professionalism, propriety, reverence, loyalty, and class throughout our campaign.

I would especially like to thank my wife, Dana, who tolerated hundreds of hours of my campaigning and whose unwavering support sustained me through the campaign process.

Clearly, I would have preferred an alternative outcome, however I remain confident that Beachwood's newly elected representatives to City Council will strive to make Beachwood a better community for all of us.

Matt Hildebrand



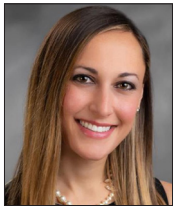
I am the "youngest by residency" candidate to run this fall as we moved to Beachwood in July 2021. I am so proud of the "Team Yellow" campaign and my slatemates: Mike Burkons, Howard Darvin, and Karen Tindel. We ran a campaign on issues but, unfortunately, these issues did not resonate with you, the electorate.

I wouldn't take anything back in how we ran our campaign, the issues we ran on, or how we conducted ourselves. I ran because I believed (and still believe) Beachwood needs more Orthodox Jewish representation in our elected government.

I ran because I believed (and still believe) Beachwood needs more Orthodox Jewish representation in our elected government.

To those of you who supported us, my heartfelt appreciation. To those of you who supported the other slate, I respect your decision. I have made new friends and saw the true colors of others. While I concede this election and wish Beachwood's elected government success, I plan to continue speaking up for the betterment of all of us, the residents of Beachwood.

Danielle Shoykhet,



It is a privilege and honor to have earned your support to elect me to my first full term on Beachwood City Council. Being able to continue serving our community means so much to me as a third generation Beachwood resident. Throughout my appointment to City Council, I have learned how city government operates, how decisions are made, and how all departments

work collaboratively for the greater good of our city. I am excited to bring fresh ideas and perspectives to move Beachwood forward. I promise to do my very best to ensure that Beachwood remains a community of choice for all residents, businesses, and employees.

My top priority is continuing to keep Beachwood the safest for our children, residents, employees, and visitors to our city. It is critical to maintain high property values while keeping taxes low through business retention and attraction. Lastly, I want to ensure all residents' voices are heard – *you* make our city what it is!

I would like to thank my family, friends, Beachwood voters, everyone who contributed to my campaign, all public officials, organizations, and unions that endorsed me and my running mates, as well as our employees. I could not have done this without you. Thank you for your unwavering trust, support, belief, and encouragement. I have walked every street in Beachwood over the past six months, and as I have been both serving the community and campaigning, it has been enlightening to listen to your feedback. We are a team!

Karen Tindel



Special thank you to everyone who believed in us and supported our campaign for City Council. I am proud of the collaborative team I ran with consisting of Mike Burkons, Howard Darvin, and Matt Hildebrand. We ran a clean campaign on issues and listened to residents' concerns. While we didn't win seats on City Council, we did win in

so many others ways.

This experience has enriched my life by creating opportunities to make new friends and reconnect with old ones. It gave me a new appreciation and perspective on what goes into campaigning for an elected office in our community.

This experience has enriched my life by creating opportunities to make new friends and reconnect with old ones. It gave me a new appreciation and perspective on what goes into campaigning for an elected office in our community.

Congratulations to June Taylor, Danielle Shoykhet, Ali Stern, and Jillian DeLong.

The front half of this magazine features volunteer and donation opportunities. The second half features Beachwood residents and business owners who have inspirational stories to share. Please take time to sit back, relax, and read about our neighbors. Thank you. ❤️

Ali Stern



I am honored to have the opportunity to serve my community as one of the new members of Beachwood City Council. Over the past few months, I have spoken to hundreds of residents about their needs and concerns. As friends and neighbors, we want our streets to be safe, our children to be engaged in their community, our local officials to be honest and transparent, and our voices to be heard and valued.

As a first-time candidate, I am grateful to have had the support of my running mates, Danielle Shoykhet, Jillian DeLong, and June Taylor. While we do not agree on every issue, we remain committed to listening to each other, respecting one another, and collaborating with our city's administration to keep Beachwood a community of choice.

I have met so many amazing members of our community and I will do everything I can to continue to earn your trust and confidence.

I am thankful for the support of my husband, Noam Stern, and for my sons who cheered me on every step of the way. I also wish to thank every resident who opened their doors to speak with me about my vision to move Beachwood forward. I have met so many amazing members of our community and I will do everything I can to continue to earn your trust and confidence.

June Taylor



On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, your voice and vote counted. Thank you for your vote, but more importantly, thank you for your trust. I am humbled and honored to serve you, your families, and the businesses located in our dynamic community.

During my tenure in office, I have done my best to be accessible, to listen to your concerns, and to return your calls, emails, and letters. I have heard your voice regarding the priorities of our city government and city leaders. I worked hard to address the interests of all residents, including those 66 and older, who often require services and communication methods to meet their needs and lifestyles.

This term I will continue to focus on what voters have told me is high on their list. This includes increased neighborhood safety using state-of-the-art technology; developing a mall with first-class retailers, food and beverage options, and an environment where everyone, including our city's youth, can be included; and energy-efficient street lighting on streets where residents feel the need.

Many thanks to my generous campaign donors who gave me, not just their treasure, but their talent, time, and wisdom. Closest to my heart, I want to thank my family and dear friends for tolerating all the events, dinners, and activities I missed because of focusing on my campaign. I appreciate your grace, counsel and understanding. Families are often the forgotten heroes of those in public service.

I look forward to contributing to the legacy and the future of the city of Beachwood.

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P: 216.371.0446 | F: 216.371.2523 | W: www.jecc.org

Julie Brough • School Board



I want to thank all residents of Beachwood and the staff members of Beachwood Schools for their support during my campaign. It was an honor to run for School Board with my running mate, Jennifer Ferns. I held true to my goals and vision during my campaign, which was to support all Beachwood students and staff members and to establish a long-term plan for our district. I will always be there for our students and staff regardless of sitting on the board or not. Our students and staff are truly the backbone of our schools and you can count on me to always support them. Even though I was unsuccessful in my campaign, I plan to remain committed to our schools and the future. Thank you to the community for opening your doors, listening, and voting for me.

Jennifer Ferns • School Board



I wanted to take the time to thank everyone who voted for me and Julie. Even though we didn't get the "W" as my kids call it, I still feel like a winner. I put myself out there, I made amazing new connections and friends, and I ran a campaign of my choosing with a friend who was by my side from start to finish. All the love and support I am receiving from the community makes it all worth it. Thank you for opening your doors and your homes to us while we campaigned and thank you to those who voted for me.

SCHOOL BOARD SEAT VACANCY

The Beachwood City School District Board of Education is accepting applications to fill a vacated board seat due to the resignation of Board Vice President Jillian DeLong, following her election to serve on the Beachwood City Council. The Board shall seek qualified and interested candidates from the community through the news media, word of mouth, and contacts with appropriate organizations.

All applicants are to submit a notice of their interest in writing to bdvacancy@beachwoodschoools.org. The Beachwood City School District Board of Education shall interview all interested candidates to ascertain their qualifications.

Appointment by the Beachwood City School District Board of Education to fill a vacancy shall be by majority vote of the remaining board members during a regular meeting scheduled for January 22, 2024.

The appointed school board member's term will run through December 31, 2025. A board member must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days preceding appointment, and registered to vote in Beachwood for at least 30 days preceding appointment.

Candidates must submit a notice of interest to: bdvacancy@beachwoodschoools.org. Each individual who submits this notice will receive an application to complete and submit. The deadline to submit a completed application is January 8, 2024.

Please email bdvacancy@beachwoodschoools.org if you should have any questions.



Josephine Chan • School Board



Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve you on the School Board. I am honored by your support and confidence in me to continue the good work of our district.

My heartfelt thanks to my family, friends, and campaign volunteers who contributed their time, money, encouragement, and advice to ensure I had a successful campaign. I am humbled that so many supporters worked tirelessly to help get my message out to the community. It has been a pleasure to meet so many community members who shared their experiences and feedback with me. I will continue to seek your input and remain committed to student achievement and intercultural awareness.

It has been a pleasure to meet so many community members who shared their experiences and feedback with me. I will continue to seek your input and remain committed to student achievement and intercultural awareness.

Beachwood is truly one of the best places to live in Ohio. It is a special place where our residents expect the best and are there to support our schools and advocate for our students.

Thank you again for your trust. I look forward to working hard for our kids.

Megan Walsh • School Board



I'm immensely grateful for your votes of confidence in Josephine Chan and me to continue to serve on the Beachwood Board of Education. From block parties to door-to-door canvassing and meet and greets, it has been a pleasure talking with so many community members and hearing about

your experiences and impressions of our schools. I met families who moved to Beachwood after nationwide searches for a strong public school district that would meet the needs of their families. I take great pride in hearing how their children's experiences have significantly changed for the better since coming to Beachwood.

I will continue to strive for all of our students to have such positive experiences. We've had many important conversations about our students, teachers, and schools during this campaign season. Even though campaigning is over, it's crucial that the conversations continue. I welcome your ideas and dialogue about maintaining our district's excellence. My commitment to you is to represent all of the Beachwood community and serve the best interests of all of our students.

Many thanks to my family, friends, supporters, and tireless volunteers for contributing to our success. We are stronger together and it was truly a team effort.

Help others and give something back. I guarantee you will discover that while public service improves the lives and the world around you, its greatest reward is the enrichment and new meaning it will bring your own life. – Arnold Schwarzenegger

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EMBRACING THE GIFT OF GIVING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

All City Candy



All City Candy, 746 Richmond Rd. in Richmond Heights, collects candy donations to help fill "Santa Sacks" to be delivered to the kids at University

Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital. Customers at the 5,000-square-foot candy store may purchase candy items to place into the sacks, which All City Candy will then deliver to Rainbow for Christmas Day.

"We always like to find ways to give back to the community,"

said Elisabeth Sapell, owner of All City Candy. "We started working with UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital close to 10 years ago delivering Easter Baskets and Santa Sacks to the children who do not get to go home for the holiday. These children and their families are going through a difficult time, and we want to give them a little something to help spread some cheer and sweeten the season for the holidays."

All City Candy will be collecting donations at the store through Christmas Eve. For specific hours, visit www.allcitycandy.com. For more information, email info@allcitycandy.com or call 216.487.7070.

Beachwood Place City of Beachwood

Beachwood Place and the City of Beachwood continue to host Beachwood CAN, a food-donation program that benefits the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. There are various collection sites at mall entrances and near the Lego store, and an additional one in the Beachwood Community Center.



BEACHWOOD PLACE

CITY OF *Beachwood*

"Wrap It Up" with Beachwood High School

Saturday, Dec. 16, and Saturday, Dec. 23, from 1-3 p.m., Beachwood High School students will host the mall's holiday gift-wrapping station for suggested donations. When you finish shopping, stop by the booth and take advantage of this donation-based opportunity. For more information and location, visit www.beachwoodplace.com/events.

Beech Brook



Beech Brook recently kicked off its annual toy drive, which runs through

December 21. All toys and gift cards collected will be distributed to the children and families served by Beech Brook. For many of these children whose parents struggle to meet their basic needs, these gifts may be the only ones they receive this holiday season.

Participants are asked to donate new, unwrapped gifts (valued between \$15-\$30) for children between the ages of 1 and 12. Walmart gift cards (\$15, \$20, \$25), empty gift bags, tissue paper, and tape are also welcome.

For gift ideas, view Beech Brook's Amazon wish list at www.beechbrook.org/givingtuesday. If you order from the Amazon gift list, gifts will be sent to Beech Brook. If you'd like to drop something off at 3737 Lander Rd., Pepper Pike, please contact Heidi Lang at hlang@beechbrook.org or 216.831.2255, ext 2240, to make arrangements.

For complete information, please visit www.beechbrook.org/givingtuesday.

Beech Brook helps children and families thrive by promoting healthy child development, strengthening the ability to overcome adversity, and enhancing family health and stability. Learn more at www.beechbrook.org.

Bellefaire JCB



agency's diverse range of programs, including foster care, residential and outpatient counseling, and homeless and missing youth.

The Annual Holiday Gift Drive provides nearly 1,500 gifts to Bellefaire clients who may otherwise miss out on the magic of the holiday season. Your generosity can make this holiday season

Bellefaire is currently collecting donations for its 2023 Holiday Gift Drive to bring holiday cheer to the children and youth in the

unforgettable for these deserving youth. Your support and donations will help brighten the lives of children who could use an extra dose of holiday joy.

For details about the gift drive or to make a monetary contribution, please visit <https://www.bellefairejcb.org/Holiday-Gift-Drive>, or contact Rosalynne Sommer at 216.320.6449 or sommerr@bellefairejcb.org.

For volunteer opportunities, contact Leora Lanzola at 216.320.8585 or lanzolal@wingspancg.org.

Bellefaire thanks the Beachwood High School class of 2024 for its huge donation of socks collected at their sock drive.

Fostering Hope Ohio



Calling all elves! Fill a child's wish list, stuff stockings, or decorate greeting cards for kids in foster care.

Be a Wish-List Santa

Wish-List Santas receive a wish list from a child in foster care. Shop for gifts from the list and deliver unwrapped gifts in gift bags to the donation center by Saturday, Dec. 9. Volunteers will deliver the gifts to the child for the holidays (\$150-\$200 in-kind donation).

Stuff the Stocking

Donate your own completed stocking filled with goodies. A few ideas include: wrapped candy, snack bags, playing cards, fuzzy socks, crayons, and winter hats/gloves (\$35 in-kind donation).

Volunteer

We will host volunteer events in the first 2-3 weeks of December for individuals, families, and groups. Volunteers will sort and wrap gifts, personalize and fill stockings, and help spread holiday cheer.

Fostering Hope's elves will deliver stockings to foster children across Cleveland. Delivery dates are December 6 and 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; December 8, 3-5 p.m.; December 9, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you are looking for activities to do from home, you can print Fostering Hope ornament tags and holiday greeting cards to color and decorate with your family. You can then mail them or drop them off at: Fostering Hope, 5351-C Naiman Parkway, Solon, Ohio 44139.

If you are donating gifts or a stocking, you are welcome to add these to your gifts. For complete holiday details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/FHHolidays>. Scroll to the bottom for additional holiday links, including coloring pages to create cards.

In-Kind Wish List

Fostering Hope relies on in-kind donations to meet the immediate needs of its programs and families. Through in-kind donations, they are able to distribute more than 800 journey bags per year to children entering foster care to provide comfort and dignity. They also grant birthday and holiday wishes, and bring joy to kids. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/FHIn-kind> to view their latest wish list.

Friends of the Israel Defense Forces



Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF), the sole organization designated by the IDF to collect donations in the United States

to benefit Israel's soldiers, launched an emergency campaign on October 7 in response to the most horrific attack in Israel's 75-year history, when 1,400+ innocent Israelis were massacred by the Hamas terrorist organization.

FIDF is in daily communication with the IDF and responds to their direct requests immediately, transferring funds to fulfill these urgent requests within 24 to 48 hours. One hundred percent of the funds the organization raises for this emergency campaign are going straight to meet soldier needs as directed by the IDF. FIDF is funding the majority of support that IDF soldiers are receiving, distributed across

the entire military to reach more soldiers than any other organization.

More than \$45 million has already been transferred to the IDF since October 7 for direct requests from the IDF for humanitarian supplies to benefit the hundreds of thousands of IDF soldiers and 360,000 reservists called to the front lines.

Funds from FIDF's emergency fundraising campaign have covered a vast array of well-being needs for IDF soldiers as they fight to protect their homeland and bring hostages back to safety. Items funded by FIDF to date include: plasma for 1,700 soldiers; emergency medical equipment; 70 operational ambulances; genetic DNA analyzers; go-pro cameras for search and rescue teams; hygiene kits for more than 21,500 soldiers; clothing and towels for more than 18,500 soldiers; snack packages for more than 21,500 soldiers; refurbishment of hospital waiting areas for wounded soldiers; visiting reserves gathering areas; gift packages for 800 wounded soldiers during hospital visits; gift packages for 400 fallen soldiers' families during shiva visits; food

for families in financial need for the duration of their shiva; gazebo/canopy tents; blood and fluid warmers; direct support for all FIDF adopted Brigades; tzitziot for soldiers; olive green dryfit; refurbishment of hospital waiting areas for families of wounded soldiers; personal wellbeing kits for more than 60,000 combat soldiers; shaded rest tables; respite and refreshment break cycles for combat units.

In addition to tangible support, FIDF's team members in Israel, along with volunteers, are providing comfort to soldiers and bereaved families. Staff members have attended more than 320 funerals and shivas to date.

"We are immensely grateful for the outpouring of support we've received to date," said Steve Weil, CEO of FIDF. "Our unwavering commitment stands firm and our dedication remains resolute: We will stand by the soldiers of the IDF who courageously put their lives on the line to reinstate security, safety, and peace in Israel, and we are dedicated to meeting every humanitarian need through the duration of the war."

FIDF's initial fundraising goal for the emergency campaign was

\$50 million, but the IDF's requests to FIDF for its soldiers' needs have proven to be far greater than anticipated and the organization expects that \$100-\$150 million will be necessary to meet the evolving and fast-growing needs of the IDF through the duration of this war. Please support FIDF this holiday season. Now, more than ever, Israel needs our support. For details or to make a donation, please visit www.fidf.org.

About FIDF

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(C) (3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of offering educational, cultural, recreational, and social programs and facilities that provide hope, purpose, and life-changing support for the soldiers who protect Israel and Jews worldwide. Today, FIDF has 25 chapters throughout the United States. FIDF proudly supports IDF soldiers, families of fallen soldiers, and wounded veterans through a variety of innovative programs that reinforce the vital bond between the communities in the United States and the soldiers of the IDF.

Greater Cleveland Food Bank



**Greater Cleveland
Food Bank**

Now more than ever, people are depending on the Greater Cleveland Food

Bank to cover gaps and make it to the next paycheck. Please spread the word to help solicit support.

With your monetary donation and the food bank's buying power, \$1 can translate into three nutritious meals. The food bank works with 1,000+ partner food pantries at churches, schools, community centers

and other locations that get these items right to the community.

For those who wish to donate food, the most needed food donations are beans (canned or dried), peanut butter, canned or boxed entrees, pasta sauce (low sodium), 100% juice, cereal (hot or cold), canned protein (like tuna or chicken), whole grain rice and pasta, canned fruit and veggies.

The food bank is always in need of volunteers to help prepare meals, repack food items, and assist neighbors who shop at their healthy-choice market.

For more information, visit www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org. To host a food drive, visit <https://tinyurl.com/GCFBdrive>.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers

**Greater
Cleveland
Volunteers**

The holidays often bring loneliness and isolation to older adults in our community, and Chat Pals is an excellent way to cultivate a friendship via phone or video call. Weekly calls between a volunteer and participant with similar interests and experiences goes a long way

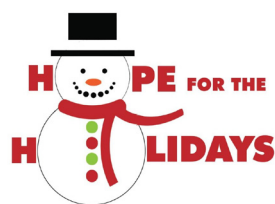
toward keeping the holiday blues at bay, with year-round, long-term friendships being a frequent outcome of the program.

Meals on Wheels and other hunger programs, such as food pantries and food drives, are always looking for volunteers and we can match interested folks to programs in their community.

Tutoring and mentoring also help meet ongoing needs throughout the Greater Cleveland area. GCV's AARP Foundation Experience Corps brings reading tutors, aged 50+, together with students K-3 to help foster a love of reading, which helps the kids succeed.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call 216.391.9500 or visit www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org.

Hope for the Holidays



Hope for the Holidays, a program of Cuyahoga County's Human Health Services, is an annual gift program for children and teens in foster care. Gifts will be distributed during a drive-thru program that is made possible by gifts from generous donors like you, churches, businesses, schools,

families, and individuals. Every gift makes a difference!

If you would like to support youth in foster care, please purchase a new gift from the Amazon or Target gift lists, which were compiled from requests from children in foster care. For Amazon, visit <https://tinyurl.com/AmazonHFTH>. For Target, visit <https://tinyurl.com/TargetHFTH>. When you purchase from these links, Amazon and Target know where to send the gifts. Gifts must be ordered by December 9.

Monetary donations may be made out to: DCFS Hope for the Holidays and sent to DCFS c/o Outreach Department, 3955 Euclid Ave., JEH 350 E, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Jewish Family Service Association



JFSA is seeking compassionate volunteers to join our team in enhancing the lives of our clients. By volunteering just a few hours of your week, you ensure our most vulnerable community members never go hungry and you become a connection to the outside world for them. Every moment you volunteer makes the world a better place and in doing so, you might just find that your world becomes a little brighter too.

Friendly Visits to Older Adults in Cleveland

JFSA, in partnership with Jewish Federation of Cleveland, is seeking volunteers to support isolated senior adults in need of a friendly face. Friendly visitors spend time with older adults in conversation, games, and activities, and serve as a vital link to make professionals aware if there is change in the senior's behavior, surroundings, or routine.

Delivering Smiles

JFSA's Home Delivered Meals Program offers fresh, kosher meals to those who need them most – but what truly enriches their day is the warm smiles and kind hearts of the dedicated volunteers who deliver meals to clients. You can deliver meals on your own or team up with a friend or family member and adopt a route.

Contact Katie Fiala at 216.378.3475 or kfiala@jfsa-cleveland.org for more information.

JFSA is Here to Help

The safety of our family and friends in Israel remains at the forefront of our minds and hearts. During these difficult times, you are not alone. JFSA is here to help. If you or someone you care about would benefit from counseling or support, we can help. We join Jewish communities around the world in standing in solidarity with the people of Israel. Call 216.292.3999 for information.

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson



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Jewish Federation of Cleveland



Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND

The Federation's Jewish Volunteer Network (JVN) partakes in

meaningful and vital direct service opportunities across Cleveland that meet the ever-increasing needs in the Jewish and general communities. Marty Shankle, JFN's chair, shared the following opportunities and encourages the community to become involved.

Write Letters and Create Videos

Write personal letters and/or send short videos (via cell phone) to support Israelis through unimaginable hardship. Your kindness and steadfast support will remind them that the Cleveland Jewish community is here and stands with Israel now and forever.

"Support to the Israeli citizens and soldiers is needed. They're looking to us for support. Please take time to let them know that we're thinking about them," Marty said. "Small acts are not small to the recipients. It means the world to them."

Please send your letters and videos to Lisa Hacker, JVN senior director, at lhacker@jewishcleveland.org. For additional information, call Lisa at 216.593.2792.

Donate to the Israel Emergency Campaign

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland has created a fund to help provide immediate assistance to victims and their families. One-hundred percent of all donations will go directly to help those in Israel being affected by this horrible violence. Every donation will be matched dollar for dollar by the Mandel Foundation. Donations may be made at <https://donate.jewishcleveland.org/israel>.

Friendly Visits

Many older residents, including Holocaust survivors, are homebound, isolated, and afraid of what's going on worldwide. Spend

a couple hours a month to engage with these individuals in their homes. This program is run in conjunction with Jewish Family Services Association. For additional details, see JFSA listing on page 13.

Advocate

AIPAC, a national organization with more than 3 million grassroots members who want to strengthen and expand the U.S.-Israel relationship, urges us to tell America's leaders to stand with Israel in the wake of Hamas' barbaric, unprecedented, and unprovoked assault on the Jewish state. Please urge members of Congress and the White House to continue to stand with Israel as it destroys this terrorist threat. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/advocateAIPAC> for details.

Winter Break Program

Help children in need during winter break by serving hot nutritious lunches, playing games, leading enrichment activities, creating crafts, and more. This year, JVN is partnering with the May Dugan Center to support its lunch program. This full-day program runs from December 19-28, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Volunteers are needed to help with lunch and for kid-friendly entertainment: magicians, clowns, arts and crafts, enrichment, educational opportunities, board games, painting, etc. Volunteers can sign up for one day or for the entire program. This opportunity is for people who want to have fun with children who are in need of a good time. If you're looking make a difference, look no further. The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is also a partner in this program.

The May Dugan Center provides comprehensive services and programs to individuals and families throughout the Cleveland area. Its team members help with an array of services, including food, clothing, behavioral health counseling, adult education services, job searches, victim services, trauma counseling, and more.

Collections

JVN also has collection opportunities throughout the year. If you wish to make donations, please contact Lisa at 216.593.2792 for details.

KC Center for Health & Wellness



KC CENTER
FOR Health & Wellness

"Where One's Mind, Body and Spirit are Created Equal"

KC Center for Health & Wellness, a Beachwood-based nonprofit

organization that is dedicated to supporting mental health and addiction clients, is organizing holiday meals for up to 25 families, along with gifts for minor children.

"These families have been working hard to overcome their addiction and/or mental health issues," said Lindsay Worsham, KC

outreach coordinator. "Plus, many have financial hardships, so we're doing what we can to help them create a brighter holiday season."

KC Cares, a branch of KC Health and Wellness, is accepting canned food items, gift cards (Walmart, grocery stores, Uber, Amazon, etc.), toys, monetary donations, and whatever else you feel would make its clients' holidays brighter. They also accept monetary donations.

Items may be dropped off at 3793 Green Rd. (Office Lofts building), Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., by December 17. For more information, contact Lindsay at 216.232.5302, ext. 520, or lindsayworsham@kchealthwellness.com. You may also call or text 216.632.1617.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

– Winston Churchill

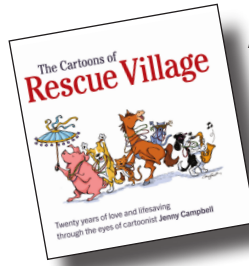
Rescue Village - Adopt or Foster a Pet this Holiday Season



Rescue Village relies entirely on donations from the community for all they do. When an animal is taken into Rescue Village, it remains there until a new, loving home is found – no matter how long that takes. Rescue Village takes and adopts out about 2,000 animals every year. That's a lot of animals! In fact, more than 50% of the animals under Rescue Village's care at any given time are in foster homes so that space is available for more homeless animals to be brought into the shelter.

With so many shelters overwhelmed with animals needing homes, please consider adopting or fostering a pet this holiday season. Rescue Village, located at 15463 Chillicothe Rd., Russell Twp., is open to the public Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12-4 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, 12-6:30 p.m.

If you're not able to adopt or foster, you can still help. Supplies and monetary donations are always appreciated. To view Rescue Village's Shelter Wish List, visit www.rescuevillage.org/donate/shelter-wishlist-items/. Also, check out the Foster Wish List (www.rescuevillage.org/volunteer/foster/foster-wish-list/), which helps support young animals in foster care.



Additional opportunities include:

Purchase a Book: Released in May of 2023, *The Cartoons of Rescue Village*, by nationally syndicated cartoonist Jenny Campbell, is a fun collection of heartwarming, captioned cartoons about helping animals. Jenny is well known for her famous comic strip, *Flo and Friends*. The book is available at the shelter or by visiting <https://www.rescuevillage.org/cartoons/>. It can also be purchased on Amazon. One-hundred percent of the proceeds benefit Rescue Village's animals.

Donations: Varied donation opportunities are listed at www.rescuevillage.org/donate/ways-to-give/.

Slumber Party: On February 10, 2024, Rescue Village will host its fourth annual Slumber Party, a unique and interactive fundraiser that provides an opportunity for individuals to spend the night at the shelter with an adoptable animal. For complete details, visit www.rescuevillage.org/slumberparty/.

Pet Food Pantry: With petflation running rampant, owners with financial or other hardships often turn to shelters for help in finding their pet a new home. One of Rescue Village's goals is to keep pets with their owners. To help, they created the Pet Food Pantry to provide pet food to owners in need to get through difficult times. To learn more, visit <https://www.rescuevillage.org/pet-pantry/>.

Whatever the Reason, Whatever the Season... You Can Count On Smylie One!



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Wonderful Time

OF THE YEAR AT PINECREST

MAKE A WISH

Your special wish can help light up the season for those who need our support, and this year Pinecrest will match each dollar donated up to \$1,000 to The Help Group.

Step One: Head to Pinecrest

Step Two: Donate \$1 or more to support kids in need of a little help.

Step Three: Make a wish and activate the Wishing Tree light show.



All proceeds are directly sent to The Help Group. Snap to learn more about this year's beneficiary.

SAY HI TO MRS. CLAUS

Santa's main squeeze will walk around Pinecrest starting Wed. Dec. 06. She will hand out holiday cookies (from locally owned and operated Wojtila Bakery), surprise random shoppers with Pinecrest gift cards, host story time in stores, and wish everyone a happy holiday.

Go to discoverpinecrest.com/events for dates and times.

LIGHT THE MENORAH

Join Pinecrest and Temple Emanu El at 5:30 p.m. on Thurs. Dec. 07, Sun. Dec. 10, and Mon. Dec. 11 (at 6:30 p.m.); Tues. Dec. 12 and Wed. Dec. 13. Join B'nai Jeshurun Thurs. Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m.





Holiday Shopping

AT **PINECREST**

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Aerie • Allen Edmonds • Athleta • Blackbird Fly Boutique • Brighton • Brilliant Earth • Casper
Charles Schwab • Color Me Mine • Eye Candy Optical • Fabletics • FOUNT • FP Movement
Homage • Indochino • j. bellezza • J. Crew • Kawai Piano Gallery • Luxe Redux Bridal • Madewell
Nike by Pinecrest • Océanne Boutique • Ohio Artisan Collective • Offline by Aerie • Pottery Barn
REI • Sephora • The Candle Studio • UNTUCKit • Urban Outfitters • Verizon • Vineyard Vines
Warby Parker • West Elm • Williams Sonoma • Woodhouse Day Spa • Zen Nail Spa

EAT

Bibibop Asian Grill • Condado Tacos • Duck Donuts • Firebirds Wood Fired Grill • First Watch
Graeter's Ice Cream • Heartwood Coffee • Kitchen Social • Lao Sze Chuan • Pinstripes
Red, the Steakhouse • Restore Cold Pressed • Saucy Brew Works • Shake Shack
Silverspot Cinema • The Last Page • Whole Foods Market

RESTORE

AC Marriott • Club Pilates • Orangetheory Fitness • Power Yoga
StretchLab • Woodhouse Day Spa • Zen Nail Spa

Menorah Park • Festival of Lights Glowing Bright



Residents from all locations in the Menorah Park community are coming together for an Intergenerational Chanukah Bash on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 1:30- 2:30 p.m.

The Life Enrichment team welcomes volunteers to help with decorating, serving latkes and other treats, and bringing their own sense of joy to the mix.

For details, contact Alissa Jackson at 216.831.5452, ext 201, or ajackson@menorahpark.org.

Right At Home



Right at Home in-home care and assistance is

collecting new socks, slippers, and underwear. Must be packaged.

Items will be distributed in 20 local nursing homes. This drive will go through the end of the year. Items may be dropped off at 21403 Chagrin Blvd., #220, Beachwood. For details, contact Shalom at shalom@ohioseniorcare.net or 216.752.2222.

Sweet Dreams for Kids



Sweet Dreams for Kids is a family run

nonprofit that gives new pj's to kids in the hospital all over the world. Holiday time is a great opportunity to show these kids we care.

Just make a monetary donation and they'll take care of the rest.

You may donate at www.sweetdreamsforkids.org. When you brighten someone else's holiday season, you brighten yours, too. For more information, email Wendy@sweetdreamsforkids.org.

Trials for Hope



Trials for Hope, a beacon of light for those

in need, delivers wholesome food, personal care items, and warmth to about 120 people per week. Prior to its creation, Jonathan Gray, CEO and founder, distributed trial-sized bottles of hygiene products to provide individuals with dignity and hope. That's how the name was born.

The organization now provides food items, hosts community meals, and opens its store twice a month to distribute clothes, food, and goods. It also distributes school supplies, hygiene packs, socks, blankets, hand warmers, and more, and has a dedicated program to support homebound seniors.

During the holiday season, staff and volunteers solicit gifts to distribute to families in need. Last year, they delivered more than 1,000 toys to 127 families.

To achieve its goals, Trials for Hope needs volunteers, donations, and sponsors. "People can't help us if they don't know us," Jonathan said. "Currently, we distribute 25,000 pounds of food and supplies per month, reaching over 2,500 people. We've organically grown and have a long way to go. We need help from the community!"

Trials for Hope has volunteer, fundraising, and donation opportunities.

Volunteers are needed to pack food bags for deliveries; accompany staff on delivery runs to homeless camps, senior housing, and shelters;

sort donations; pick up items at the Cleveland Food Bank or local grocery store; serve meals; organize fundraisers; and utilize their talents.

Fundraising opportunities include hosting a donation drive, fundraiser, or silent auction through your religious institution, school, social group, or simply with concerned friends.

In addition to monetary donations, you may wish to donate hygiene products (which are not covered by food stamps), emergency blankets, hand warmers, socks, wipes, gloves, dish soap, laundry soap, bar soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

For family holiday gifts, please consider a donation of toys, puzzles, books, perfume, and jewelry.

For shut-ins, please consider oven mitts, baking mix, pancake mix, syrup, AAA and AA batteries (for TV remotes), electric candles, candy, goodies, chocolate, gloves, mittens, and a snow globe or something holiday related.

"Our goal is to weave a sense of community around impoverished individuals, reminding them of their inherent worth and dignity," Jonathan said. "People deserve dignity but don't necessarily have the opportunity for it. Please help them throughout the holiday season and beyond."

Donations may be dropped off at the side door of the Harbor and Bridge Community Center, 1965 W. 44th St., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For additional information, visit www.trials4hope.org or call Jonathan at 216.296.3374.



Jewish Federation
OF CLEVELAND

HERE FOR GOOD

2024 CAMPAIGN



we were there ...

When online conspiracies and anti-Israel rhetoric fanned the flames of antisemitism, we were there with our security provider – JFC Security, LLC – to help keep Jewish Cleveland safe. For example, we’ve provided security training for more than 3,700 community members and now monitor over 80 locations across Jewish Cleveland. With your support, we can do even more!

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of Cleveland



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**University Hospitals
Ahuja Medical Center**

UH Ahuja Medical Center has many volunteer opportunities, since volunteers

are an essential part of the experience for patients and families. Volunteers enjoy helping others, meeting new people, learning new skills, and contributing to the community.

Physical donations are also accepted. Throughout the year, volunteers are grateful when there are small gifts, such as blankets, books, or magazines to share with patients. High school programs be available in the spring.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/AhujaUH> or contact the Ahuja Volunteer Services Team at 216.593.5850. You may also call this number to learn more about donation drop-offs.

Yarn Over Beachwood

Yarn Over Beachwood members knit, crochet, and loom items year round for different organizations and charities throughout Northeast Ohio. When watching TV, it's a perfect time to knit or crochet! Warm caps and scarves are always a need for children and adults.

If you wish to attend meetings, they take place the first Friday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m., at the Beachwood Library. Upcoming dates are January 5 and February 2.

Completed items and yarn donations may be dropped off at the security gate of Point East Condominiums, 27500 Cedar Rd., marked with Iris November's name, #803. They may also be dropped off at the Beachwood Library. Please include your name and phone number on all packages. For more information, contact Iris



November at lbertyclub@gmail.com or 216.375.9111.

"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

– Howard Zinn

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Beachwood Arts Council Events

The following exhibit and concert will be held at the Beachwood Community Center. For details, visit beachwoodartscouncil.org or call 216.595.3400.

The African American Quilt and Doll Guild Exhibit

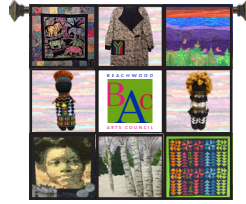
“Threads Intertwined Hold and Bind”

Through Thursday, Dec. 7

Art Gallery Hours:

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Weekends • Appointment only,
call 216.292.1970

This free exhibit features quilts and dolls created by 18 AAQDG members who are inspired by African American history.



Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band

Sunday, Dec. 3 • 2-3 p.m.

Yiddishe Cup was founded in 1988 and has been called one of the top Klezmer bands in America. The group has played throughout the United States at festivals, colleges, and hundreds of Jewish celebrations. Now, Beachwood Arts Council is pleased to present the band at a free concert as part of its Sunday Sounds Series.

Blending Eastern European Jewish folk music, American swing, Yiddish theater tunes, and Israeli horas, the group will be playing Klezmer and Jewish-themed music from shows like *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Yiddishe Cup has performed at the Chautauqua Institution Amphitheater, Brooklyn

Center for the Performing Arts, Cain Park, and many other venues. It has also been featured in an exhibit at the Jewish Museum in New York.

This concert is sponsored by Ohio Arts Council and Cleveland Foundation.



Degas and the Laundress: Women, Work and Impressionism

Cleveland Museum of Art

Saturday, Jan. 6 • 11 a.m.

\$10 BAC members; \$15 non-members
Call 216.595.3400 to RSVP by December 20.

Enjoy a docent-led tour of impressionist artist Edgar Degas' representations of Parisian laundresses. These working-class women were a visible presence in the city, washing and ironing in shops open to the street or carrying heavy baskets of clothing. Their job was among the most difficult and poorly paid at the time, forcing some laundresses to supplement their income through sex work. Degas created about 30 depictions of laundresses, a selection of which is united for the first time in this exhibition.



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- ✓ Dry Needling
- ✓ Deep Tissue Laser Therapy
- ✓ Pilates Reformer / Mat

Deep Tissue Laser Therapy Available at Balance Solutions Physical Therapy!

DEEP TISSUE LASER THERAPY™



Deep tissue laser therapy uses a process called photobiomodulation (PBM) and is a cutting-edge medical technique that utilizes the therapeutic properties of laser light to promote tissue healing, reduce pain, and enhance well-being.

Key advantages of Deep Tissue Laser Therapy:

1. Pain Relief

One of the primary benefits of deep tissue laser therapy is the ability to alleviate pain associated with various conditions, including chronic pain, acute injuries, and inflammatory disorders. Laser light stimulates the release of endorphins, the body's natural painkillers, providing immediate and long-lasting relief. This can be especially beneficial for individuals suffering from conditions such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, and musculoskeletal injuries.

2. Faster Healing & Recovery

Deep tissue laser therapy accelerates the healing process by increasing cellular metabolism and promoting the production of collagen, which is essential for tissue repair. This leads to faster recovery from injuries, surgeries, and other medical procedures. Athletes, in particular, have embraced this therapy as it can help reduce downtime to get back to training or competition quickly.

3. Reduced Inflammation

Inflammation is a natural response to injury or infection, but chronic inflammation can lead to pain and tissue damage. Deep tissue laser therapy has an anti-inflammatory effect, reducing swelling and improving blood flow to affected areas. By reducing inflammation, this therapy can alleviate symptoms in conditions such as arthritis and tendinitis.

4. Enhanced Circulation

Improved blood circulation is a key benefit of deep tissue laser therapy. Laser light stimulates the formation of new blood vessels (angiogenesis), which can help deliver more oxygen and nutrients to tissues. Better circulation can reduce muscle stiffness and promote better tissue function.

5. Non-Invasive & Safe

Unlike some traditional treatments, deep tissue laser therapy is non-invasive and has a low risk of side effects. Patients do not need to undergo surgery or take medications, making these therapies a safe and effective option for many individuals.

6. Versatility

Deep tissue laser therapy can be used to treat a wide range of conditions, from sports injuries and chronic pain to neurological disorders.

Reduced pain & faster recovery can lead to a better quality of life and potentially lower overall healthcare costs.

7. Reduced Scarring

By promoting collagen production and tissue regeneration, this therapy can minimize scarring following surgeries or injuries.

8. Minimal Downtime

Because deep tissue laser therapy is fast acting, non-invasive, and has few side effects, patients typically experience minimal downtime. This is a significant advantage for those who lead active lives and cannot afford extended periods of inactivity or recovery.

9. Long Lasting Results

The benefits of laser therapy are not just short term. The cellular changes that occur during treatment can lead to long-lasting improvements in tissue health and function, providing sustained relief from pain and other symptoms.



In conclusion, deep tissue laser therapy offers numerous advantages, including pain relief, faster healing, reduced inflammation, improved circulation, and safety. The ability to address a wide range of medical conditions makes it a valuable tool in modern healthcare. If you're considering laser therapy, consult with a Balance Solutions Physical Therapist to determine if it is suitable for your specific condition and needs.

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



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Starbucks
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Visit Legacy-Village.com for information on shop and restaurant hours, enter-to-win promotions, holiday events, and more!

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Make Legacy Village your one-stop holiday shopping destination for everyone on your list and enjoy the magic of the season. With festive décor, adult to-go drinks, holiday traditions, and plenty of free parking, Legacy Village is sure to put you in the holiday spirit.

Holiday gift giving for everyone on your list

It's easy to check off special gifts for just about everyone on your list at Legacy Village.

For the guys, there's Dick's Sporting Goods and Joseph A. Bank. For the special ladies on your list, fashion abounds at LOFT, Lilly Pulitzer, Chico's, White House Black Market and Talbots ... with gifts sure to be loved by all at L.L.Bean, J.Crew Factory, Crate & Barrel, and Nordstrom Rack.

Have a beauty lover on your list?

Give the gift of glam with pampering experiences from Ladies & Gentlemen Salon and Spa, Drybar, Deka Lash, and Anthony Vince Nail Salon. And don't forget to treat yourself while you shop – with a blowout, manicure, pedicure or massage.

Entertaining for the holidays?

The whole family will celebrate a gift from the Legacy Village Home District. Make a stop at Crate & Barrel for holiday décor and entertaining essentials to furniture collections. Create moments to remember with collections to be treasured at Arhaus Furniture. Discover design that fits your style at Ethan Allen. And check out the style and comfort options at LoveSac that work for you.

For the foodies, give the gift of shared dining experiences. Whether it's a holiday lunch with friends or a dinner with family or that special someone, Legacy Village offers a selection of dining choices to suit every taste. The Melting Pot is a fun way to enjoy great

fondue. Consider The Cheesecake Factory or The Capital Grille when getting together with your favorite foodie. Stop for drinks and apps at Bar Louie. Or delight your tastebuds at Wild Mango or Black Box Fix.

For those on your shopping list who are hard to shop for or who just can't make up their mind about what they would like this year, give the gift of a Legacy Village gift card. Gift cards may be purchased at the self-serve kiosk, located by the escalators between Contessa Gallery and Starbucks; at the mall office, Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; by phone at 216-382-3871; or online at www.legacy-village.com/gift-cards.

Seasonal 'cheer' adds to shopping experience

Whether you prefer a spiked hot chocolate, hot toddy, beer, or wine, treat yourself to an adult beverage while you shop and stroll Legacy Village's Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). Stop by participating DORA restaurants – Bar Louie, Brio Italian Grille, Chipotle, California Pizza Kitchen, Hyatt Place, The Melting Pot, and Wild Mango – and look for a DORA decal on the doors of participating retailers who welcome shoppers with DORA beverages.

Decked out for the holidays

Legacy Village's festive décor is the perfect holiday backdrop, complete with a 36-foot decorated tree, flower wall, holiday lighting and a life size JOY sign that can help you #CreateJOY with your friends and family. Make sure to tag @LegacyVillage when posting on social media for a chance to win a \$100 gift card.

Stay tuned on social media to participate in Legacy Village's "12 Days of Giveaways" this holiday season. Be sure to follow Legacy Village on Facebook and

Instagram (@LegacyVillage) and on TikTok (@LegacyVillageOH) to stay in the loop about photo contests, holiday events, gift card giveaways, restaurant and retailer promotions, and more.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

2023 IN REVIEW: CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, it's only natural to pause and reflect on the past. I have consistently emphasized my commitment to safety within our community. The commendable, swift, and strategic response of the men and women of our Police Department is truly appreciated. Their dedication to maintaining a secure environment, especially during these challenging times, deserves our gratitude. I want to express my sincere thanks to Police Chief Katherine McLaughlin and all members of the Police Department.

In addition to prioritizing safety, the achievements of 2023 underscore the city's commitment to excellence and innovation. Below are some highlights:

Revolutionizing Traffic Management

We introduced an Emergency Vehicle Preemption System streamlining communication between emergency vehicles and intersections, ultimately enhancing responsiveness and safety.

Zoning Revitalization

We approved some significant changes to our Planning and Zoning code, underscoring our dedication to progress, equality, and community safety. These changes were carefully formulated to reinforce safeguards that protect our single-family residential neighborhoods, while fostering inclusivity by accommodating smaller institutional uses, such as places of worship, private schools, and charter schools in U-5 districts.

Website Enhancements

The City of Beachwood revamped its website, incorporating modern design elements and ensuring mobile compatibility. The improved site offers direct access to essential information on the homepage and features a Chatbot for effortless Q&A.

In addition to updating the Economic Development page and introducing a sustainability page, we launched a new purchasing page, underscoring our commitment to supporting local, minority, and women-owned businesses.

In our ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusion, the city hosted an inaugural Minority and Women-Owned Business event on November 15. This initiative aligns with our commitment to cultivate partnerships

with diverse companies, actively encouraging their participation and expanding our network to identify and connect with these businesses.

Enriching Community Well-Being: Recreational Facilities

The Recreational Facilities Improvement Project, featuring six new pickleball courts, one grass and two sand volleyball courts, repairs to tennis court fencing, and the permanent home of our community gardens opened on time and on budget. The new and expanded

community gardens are ADA compliant and include 86 individual garden plots. These enhancements underscore the commitment of the Public Works and Community Services Department to elevate community well-being.


Fiscal Responsibility

Prudent financial management is evident in maintaining the AAA bond rating and receiving a clean audit report, highlighting the city's commitment to fiscal responsibility. Congratulations are extended to the Audit Director, Finance Director, and the finance team for upholding the city's financial integrity.

The City of Beachwood held one of the top spots once again

in *Cleveland Magazine's* 2023 Rating the Suburbs, a testament to the collaborative efforts of our City Council, the administration, city employees, residents, and business owners.

Reflecting on the notable achievements of 2023, we're grateful for the collective efforts that have propelled our city forward. These accomplishments not only enhance the present but also lay the foundation for a promising future. City Council and I stand united in our unwavering commitment to Beachwood's growth and prosperity. Here's to a successful 2023 and the opportunities that lie ahead!



Mayor Justin Berns
MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



THE INSIDER



DEPARTMENTS

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

LEGISLATIVE RECAP

The legislation below includes the October 30 and November 6 council meetings.

2023-102 – Council previously placed an ordinance amending Chapter 1121 and 1101 related to certain uses in a U-4 Integrated Business District on first reading and referred it to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The amendment proposes to update our code as it relates to Dollar Stores, Second-Hand Stores, Vape Shops, Hookah Lounges, and Paraphernalia Outlets. The intent is to make sure they are not adjacent to residential areas. The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed this ordinance at their October 26 meeting and unanimously approved moving forward without any recommended changes. This ordinance was placed on 2nd reading, by City Council, on November 6 and a Public Hearing was set for December 18.

2023-110 (a) – Council authorized legislation accepting a tentative agreement with the City of Beachwood, Ohio, and Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Dispatchers/Clerks) Union regarding wages and benefits. The Dispatch union approved the contract unanimously and we believe we reached a fair agreement.

2023-111 – Council passed legislation Amending Section 145.01 (c) to amend the membership of the Police Department to allow for the appointment of four (4) lead dispatchers.

2023-112 – Council adopted legislation authorizing a one-time sign-on bonus for new hires for entry level and lateral transfer police applicants and new dispatchers of \$2,500, not to exceed \$30,000.

2023-113 – Council passed legislation authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Job Creation Tax Credit (JCTC) Incentive Agreement with Masterbrand, Inc., a leading residential cabinet manufacturer in Northeast Ohio. MasterBrand anticipates bringing their headquarters location from Indiana to Beachwood with a total annual payroll of more than \$7 million.

2023-114 – Council authorized the establishment of a Revolving Loan Fund Program to assist both businesses and commercial property owners by providing gap financing to support new investment in real or personal programs. This program will assist businesses looking to expand, create and/or retain permanent jobs by providing support for capital growth through a linked deposit program, and loans in partnership with participating financial property. Please visit our website for a detailed description of this program and its purpose.

2023-115 - Council approved the Bills Ordinance authorizing payment for various professional services totaling \$41,542.56.

2023-116 – Council adopted legislation amending Chapter 193 (Municipal Income Tax) of the Beachwood Codified Ordinances. HB 33 made changes to Municipal Income Tax which have been incorporated in this update.



MAYOR
JUSTIN BERNS
216.292.1901



COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ALEC ISAACSON
216.291.2797



COUNCIL V.P.
ERIC SYNENBERG
216.401.0074



MIKE
BURKONS
216.832.6771



BARBARA
BELLIN JANOVITZ
216.406.5914



JOSHUA
MINTZ
650.464.6788



DANIELLE
SHOYKHET
216.212.9212



JUNE
TAYLOR
216.533.7640

HOW TO EMAIL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER:

FirstName.LastName@beachwoodohio.com

Ex: alec.isaacson@beachwoodohio.com



2023-117 – Council accepted a bid from Mr. Excavator, Inc. for the Playground project. The City of Beachwood received 7 bids including pricing for 2 alternate design options. Mr. Excavator supplied the lowest bid and was awarded the project in the amount of \$1,061,286.82. The bid primarily covers demolition and removal of existing play surfacing and footers, new fencing, concrete walkways, underground conduit, removal and installation of new storm sewers, structures, and underdrains, sitework. The playground equipment was authorized under a previous ordinance.

2023-118 – Council passed legislation accepting a bid from Nerone and Sons, Inc., for the Cedar Road Culvert Headwall Repair Project. The City received 6 bids for the project. This bid came in well under the engineers' estimate in the contract amount of \$139,389. The scope includes the removal of all vegetation, construction of the headwall and the stabilization of the area.

2023-119 – Council amended the Fee Schedule for Recreation and Community Services programs specifically as they relate to the BFAC daily rates for non-resident guest passes and the annual fee for Barkwood and the Community Gardens. Annual memberships for Barkwood and the Community Gardens will be \$50 per year.

2023-120 – Council authorized the Mayor to renew a contract with T.A.C. Computer, Inc. for the Maintenance of CAD/RMS, and Mobile Data Terminals.

More information regarding these agenda items and back-up materials can be found online at BeachwoodOhio.com/AgendaCenter.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
December 4 at 7:00 p.m.
December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
December 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Board of Review:
December 4 at 4:30 p.m.
December 18 at 4:30 p.m.

WORK-LIVE-LEARN...THRIVE

CLEAN AUDIT, SEPARATING TRUTH FROM FICTION

Over the past several months, the city administration has been working with the Auditor of State's office to separate truth from fiction and debunk false and unsubstantiated claims. The false claims and misinformation provided to this agency largely relate to our professional engineering services.

The City of Beachwood furnished essential information and documentation to the State of Ohio effectively refuting these baseless claims. None of the allegations have been substantiated. "These false allegations had the potential to impact the city's bond rating which would cost the city's taxpayers millions. It is important to note that a AAA bond rating for a municipality is crucial because it can lead to lower borrowing costs, access to a wider pool of investors, and fosters a strong reputation for responsible financial management," said Mayor Justin Berns.

This rating not only benefits the municipality's ability to finance projects and stimulate economic development, but also promotes a culture of fiscal discipline and responsible governance. Additionally, it's a crucial tool for Economic Development, enabling Beachwood businesses to save substantial dollars in debt costs.

After countless hours of work by the administration (mainly the Audit, Finance and Law Departments) the city is pleased with the outcome. The office of Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber released the independent Auditor's Report of the City of Beachwood



prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The Audit report found no instances of noncompliance, no management letter issues, no verbal comments, no material findings, and issued an unqualified audit opinion.

"This is the best audit opinion a city can receive," said Finance Director, Larry Heiser. The clean audit is indicative of the city's superior record keeping and demonstrates its commitment to efficient, effective, and transparent service.

The city thanks Charles Harris & Associates for their professionalism and the State Auditor's office for assisting in releasing the report so the city could meet the filing deadline relative to the AAA rating. Preserving the AAA bond rating and consistently achieving clean audit reports are enduring accomplishments that underscore the city's commitment to fiscal responsibility.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND APPROVED, POTENTIAL \$1 MIL BALANCE

Beachwood City Council recently approved a new Economic Development Incentive Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). The fund is expected to support a \$1 million balance over time, through non-tax revenues, to support business growth, commercial revitalization and overall community sustainability within the City.

The RLF is designed to support gap financing for small business owners and property owners making investments in real or personal property. The program also provides a Linked Deposit Program, which allows the city, through a participating financial institution, to establish a certificate of deposit linked to the company's commercial loan, therefore reducing a company's interest rate.

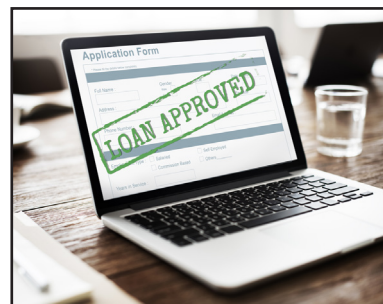
The loan fund will be administered by the City of Beachwood and all loan approvals will be facilitated through Beachwood City Council. The city will be establishing a loan review committee through the city's Community Improvement Corporation to consider loan submissions and provide support for any necessary underwriting.

"Through this revolving loan program, we are committing to continuing to support our business community, something that will further support the growth of the city," says Mayor Justin Berns.

"The city is proud to provide strategic support designed to stimulate business and entrepreneurial activity."

Eligible uses for this fund are designed to meet the city's overall objectives including supporting new business investments in machinery and equipment, commercial office buildings, façade improvements, building performance enhancements, energy efficiency and other real property investments.

"This RLF and Link Deposit Program will provide needed support for capital and real property investments to small businesses and entrepreneurs here within the city, creating jobs and furthering our strong and robust business economy," says Alec Isaacson, Beachwood City Council President.



June Taylor, City Council Economic Development Committee Chair, states, "This Revolving Loan Fund will provide opportunities for us to creatively support business investments alongside our local companies."

This RLF is designed to bring together public and private investments which strengthens the city's businesses, economy, supports private capital investment and creates jobs.

BPD WECOMES JOHN PATTERSON

Welcome to Beachwood, John Patterson! John was sworn in on October 27 by Mayor Berns as our newest School Resource Officer. He is a former Beachwood resident and is coming to us from Woodmere PD, from whence he will retire in early 2024.

Left to right: Chief Katherine McLaughlin, Officer John Patterson, Mayor Justin Berns, Officer Colton Pekarski



As a Beachwood resident and a proud Jew, I want to thank Chief McLaughlin for all the support that she and the Beachwood Police Department have shown the Jewish community. Thanks for the extra patrols and police placements throughout the city. Your contributions have been felt throughout our community and have given us a sense of stability and safety during this time of uncertainty. I'm also a student at a college in New York, where the population of Jews is greater, and your understanding of and sensitivity toward our situation is superior to that of even New York's.

A Beachwood Resident

NO SHAVE NOVEMBER DONATION

Beachwood Police Department personnel made an \$1,885 donation to The Gathering Place for the department's "No Shave November" campaign. The Gathering Place's mission is support, educate, and empower individuals and families currently coping with the impact of cancer in their lives through programs and services. They offer their services free of charge from support of donors. BPD is happy to contribute to this incredible nonprofit located in Beachwood.

Chief Katherine McLaughlin presenting a check to Adam Ross, Chief Development Officer of The Gathering Place, surrounded by members of the Beachwood Police Department.



HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION:

Due to Christmas Day and New Year's Day, rubbish and recycling will not be collected on December 25 or January 1. Collections will be delayed one day for those weeks only.

SNOW PLOW SEASON OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY

With dropping temperatures and our first official snowfalls, here are a few winter snow plow reminders:

- Give snow plow operators space to work. A fully loaded snow plow vehicle can weigh between 20-40 tons and cannot easily stop. Please stay at least 100 feet behind the plow when driving.
- Per Beachwood City Codified Ordinance 660.14: Advise private driveway plow operators to refrain from pushing snow in or across the roadway or in front of sidewalks. Do not snow blow or shovel snow into the street.
- Place trash cans in an accessible area (such as side of apron), NOT in snowbank or in roadway.
- Children and pets should never play in snowbanks near roadways.
- Be cognizant of plows when clearing your driveway. Snowbanks can make it difficult for plows to see people and/or pets on the apron and snow off a moving plow blade can be dangerous as it may contain ice and heavy wet snow.
- Snow plow operators cannot effectively and efficiently clear roadways when obstacles are present. This causes a safety concern for all roadway users if snow response is delayed.
- Beachwood Ordinance states when snow falls over a 24-hour period to a depth of 2 inches or more, an emergency is declared and parking is prohibited on all City streets. The City will make a reasonable attempt to notify the public by using local press and social media. Vehicle owners are responsible to comply with the emergency regulations. If possible, please refrain from running or walking in the road during snow events and/or until the roadway has been cleared.
- As a courtesy, we will make every effort to make sure sidewalks are cleared; please remember plowing roadways is always our first priority.



DECEMBER RECREATION GUIDE

ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL PACKED WITH FAMILY FUN

Despite the chilly fall air, the weather cleared up for a perfect Fall Festival weekend welcoming over 4,500 attendees outside Beachwood City Hall. The festival kicked off on Saturday, October 21, with a Simply Queen tribute concert that kept the crowd moving for 90 minutes of Queen's legendary rock and roll hits. Sunday's festival was highlighted by a graffiti theme where attendees created their own spray-paint art, along with crowd favorites like rides, inflatables, games, entertainment, art fair vendors and more. Beachwood's Fall Festival was proudly presented by Crestmont Automotive with support from Sweet Kiddles Flexible Childcare Center, NOPEC and Wild Republic.



The Beachwood High School Marching Band getting the festival started on October 22.



Rides and inflatables were free for all attendees.



Simply Queen performing on Saturday, October 21.



Magician Rick Smith Jr. taking a selfie with the crowd.



Photography by Discovery Photo.

BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY: Winter Wonderland Exhibit | Dec. 13 - Jan. 6 | Artists' reception on December 17 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Experience the warmth and beauty of winter through the eyes of talented local artists.



Winter Rec Guide Now Available!

Discover our latest programs, events and activities. Visit BeachwoodRec.com or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



FEBRUARY FREEZE

February 11, 6:30-8 pm
Beachwood City Hall

More details coming soon!
BeachwoodRec.com

CITY OF BEACHWOOD
CRESTMONT

WOLF CAST TAKES CENTER STAGE

The talented youth cast of *WOLF* huffed and puffed and blew the audience away with an original story about the Big Bad Wolf gone good, written and directed by Julie Matthews of Marquee Showcase Productions. Debi Lewin served as the Musical Production Director. The cast members took the stage on Saturday, November 4, at Beachwood Middle School in front of family, friends and the community.

Beachwood Community Theater's next program is a Decades Showcase with rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from March 6 through April 24. The program will conclude with a performance on April 28. Open to residents and non-residents ages 7-17. For more info, visit BeachwoodRec.com.



NEW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Jump Start Gymnastics**
January-April, Times & Cost Vary by Program
Jump Start Gymnastics, Ages 20 Months-9 Years
Residents \$175-\$206, Non-Residents \$210-\$247
(23645 Mercantile Rd.)
- **The Upcycle Academy: Fashion Design**
January 24-February 28, Wed., 2:45-3:45 p.m.
Hilltop Elementary, Grades 3-5
Residents \$135, Non-Residents \$162
- **Beachwood's Got Talent**
February 7-February 21, Wed., 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center, Ages 5-19
Residents \$50 - Audition required on February 4.
(Preliminaries and finale held on February 25.)

**Resident registration begins
December 18 at BeachwoodRec.com!**
Early bird rates through March 1.

BEACHWOOD SENIORS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & TRIPS

- **Beachwood Trivia Challenge**
Thursday, December 14, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center, Free Program
Did you hear that Team Beachwood placed fourth in the 2023 Mind Challenge? With inspiration from them, we're hosting a monthly trivia game. This get-together will have you thinking! Register by December 11.
- **Drawing Class with Instructor Marlene Weinstein**
Tuesdays, January 9-February 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center, Residents \$79, Non-Residents \$89
Explore light, composition and color with different artistic materials. The first winter session will focus on still-life drawings. All levels welcome whether you're a novice or experienced hand. Register by January 2.
- **The Girl in the Diary Exhibition at The Maltz Museum**
Friday, March 15, 11:00 a.m.
The Maltz Museum, Residents & Non-Residents \$10
Through historical artifacts, interactive touch screens, videos, and photographs, the exhibition explores the story of a young girl's fight for survival in the Łódź Ghetto during 1943 and 1944. Register by March 1.

SENIOR DAY OUT

A Musical Afternoon
Thursday, December 21, at Noon
Beachwood Community Center

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

Register by December 13.

Tap your toes, sway to the music, sing along to the songs of the 40s, 50s, 60s with Mike Wojtala, vocalist and musician for a delightful December afternoon.

Meal choices include a chicken cutlet or mac & cheese. All entrees served with a side salad, bread and butter, beverage and dessert.

January Senior Day Out: It's a joyful month of January as the musicians of OPUS 216 join us on January 18. Meal choices include a chicken pot pie with a side salad or Sedona salad. Register by January 10.

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

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAYOR'S BUSINESS RECEPTION

Mayor Justin Berns hosted an Economic Development Business Reception last month which was well attended and brought together key community stakeholders, local and regional legislators, a robust representation of key business representatives and commercial property owners. The event inspired dynamic conversations around further growth and investment opportunities within the business community. Catherine Bieterman, Economic Development Director, shared initiatives that can support business needs. Based on the active conversations generated by this gathering, the Mayor and Economic Development Department plan to hold this event annually.

In addition, the Economic Development Department will be hosting roundtable discussions throughout the year focusing on key specific areas of focus. If your company would like to be more involved with these initiatives, please consider signing up for the City's Economic Development e-mail notifications by emailing Catherine.Bieterman@beachwoodohio.com.



Photography by Discovery Photo.

BEACHWOOD WELCOMES OC2

The City of Beachwood recently welcomed OC2, a co-working space located at 3659 Green Rd.

Leasing space with OC2 offers access to administrative and phone answering services, podcast room, client greeting, monthly speaker/network events, high speed internet/phone system, copy service, fun/relax room, conference room, postage, express package service, 24-hour access, management on site, full-time maintenance, parking, on-site car wash, high speed internet, elevator, café serving breakfast and lunch, game room, daytime and nighttime cleaning service and free coffee/tea/hot chocolate.



The ribbon-cutting was attended by Mayor Justin Berns and Council President Alec Isaacson, along with OC2 owners Mauricio Rocha and Lori Martin.

SHOP LOCAL



**ALWAYS BE AN INSIDER,
STAY CONNECTED!**

OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES



Facebook Pages:

- @BeachwoodOH
- @BeachwoodPolice
- @BeachwoodFire
- @BeachwoodOHRec
- @BeachwoodPublicWorks
- @BarkwoodDogPark

Twitter Accounts:

- @BeachwoodOH
- @BeachwoodPolice

Instagram Accounts:

- @BeachwoodOhio

Beachwood eList:

Sign up at BeachwoodOhio.com

Free for the Holidays? Maltz Museum Offers Free Events During Winter Season

The Maltz Museum opens its doors at no cost or low cost this winter during special holiday events. Space is limited for these programs and reservations are always recommended. For additional details or to register for one or more programs, call 216.593.0575 or visit www.maltzmuseum.org.

Chanukah Candle Lighting Tuesday, Dec. 12 • 5-6:30 p.m. Free with Registration

Join The Friends of the Maltz Museum in celebrating the Festival of Lights. Hear the story of Chanukah, told by Maltz Museum docent Michelle Stern; sing Chanukah songs, led by Cantor Kathy Sebo of the Temple-Tifereth Israel; and join us in lighting the menorah. Kids of all ages are welcome. There will be light refreshments and children's crafts.

Christmas Day Can-Can – Give What you Can, Pay What you Can Monday, Dec. 25 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bring a canned-good donation and/or pay what you can toward museum admission.

Get into the giving spirit of the holiday season. Make a donation to explore the inspiring stories in the museum's newest exhibition, *The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto*, see the treasures and ritual objects in The Temple-Tifereth Israel Gallery, and share in the Jewish immigrant experience that makes up *An American Story*. The day also includes a chance to craft greeting cards to welcome new refugee and immigrant families coming to Cleveland. Canned goods will be donated to the Kosher Food Bank and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.


Hear Our Voices: Annual MLK Day Celebration Monday, Jan. 22 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join us, for free, all day at the Maltz Museum. Honor iconic civil rights leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and everyday citizens who fought against discrimination, while celebrating the everyday hero in you. Tour the Maltz Museum's permanent collections and special exhibition, *The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto*, while enjoying hands-on activities on this family-friendly day. Schedule and activities to be announced. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Community Relations Committee.

Stop the Hate Youth Speak Out Essay Competition

The essay deadline for grades 6-10 is Thursday, Feb. 8, and the deadline for grades 11-12 is Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024. This program is free for Northeast Ohio students in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne counties.


Youth Speak Out celebrates students committed to creating a more accepting, inclusive society. By reflecting on real-life situations and detailing ways to make a positive difference in the world in 500 words or less, young leaders can win big. \$100,000 in scholarships, prizes, and anti-bias education grants are awarded each year. To learn more, visit learn.maltzmuseum.org.

\$2 OFF*



THE GIRL IN THE DIARY

SEARCHING FOR RYWKA FROM THE ŁÓDŹ GHETTO

NOW ON VIEW THROUGH APRIL 28, 2024



**MALTZ
MUSEUM**
Respect for All Humanity



**GALICIA
JEWISH MUSEUM**

Created by the Galicia Jewish Museum
Krakow, Poland

* Bring this ad with you for \$2 off of general admission, October 2023 – April 28, 2024. Good for up to 4 visitors. Cannot be used with any other offer.

2929 Richmond Road | Beachwood, Oh 44122
216.593.0575 | maltzmuseum.org

BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Beachwood's Elementary Students Embark on a World Language Adventure

Beachwood's new elementary world language program represents a bold stride in the District's commitment to global education. Spanish teacher Dolores Beccar and Chinese teacher Ai-Lan Lin bring their unique perspectives and inspirational methods into the classroom, allowing students in kindergarten through fifth grade to embrace new languages with enthusiasm and joy.

A native Spanish speaker, Mrs. Beccar believes in the profound impact of bilingualism on a child's development, citing the connection of enhanced creativity, problem-solving, and cultural empathy among students. "Being an English learner myself, I know how important learning a language is for self and social awareness," Mrs. Beccar says.

Ms. Lin echoes the sentiment, reflecting on her own experiences with an English teacher in Taiwan who showed her that "learning is not just inside books, it is everywhere." Her curriculum focuses on "relevant knowledge and hands-on activities," making language learning accessible and engaging for children. For elementary students, the Spanish and Chinese classes are structured to create a "predictable" environment where students can feel confident exploring new languages. Mrs. Beccar describes her approach: "When selecting the content for the curriculum, I try to look at the world from the perspective of my students, starting from



the closest circle around them and broadening the vision to the outside world. It is an ambitious curriculum, but we keep it simple knowing that it is going to evolve with the child."

Ms. Lin starts her sessions with a call-and-response that signals the beginning of class in Chinese. This approach immerses students in the language from the start. She keeps her classes lively with arts and crafts, singing, and games such as charades, ensuring that the learning experience is as fun as it is educational. Cultural education is a cornerstone of their teaching. Mrs. Beccar infuses "small cultural bits" into lessons about daily life in Spanish-speaking countries, and Ms. Lin employs crafts to provide deeper cultural insights. This fall, Ms. Lin's students created paper lanterns while exploring the storytelling traditions of China's Mid-Autumn Festival and designed masks representing the Monkey King and Jade Rabbit during Halloween.

At Bryden and Hilltop Elementary, the world language program isn't just about learning new words – it's about opening doors to new worlds, fostering connections, and preparing young minds for a globalized future. "Beachwood's elementary world language program provides younger students with the chance to learn more about the world and others within their community," says Ms. Lin. "It is an opportunity to reflect on not only what makes us different, but what makes us similar."

Gregory Perry Wins Harvard Business School Club Award

Beachwood High School's Junior Achievement Marketing teacher Gregory Perry has received the esteemed Samuel H. Elliott Award from the Harvard Business School Club of Northeast Ohio. Since 1976, this prestigious award has honored K-12 educators who excel in teaching students about the free enterprise system, entrepreneurship, and ethical business practices. Beachwood Schools congratulates Mr. Perry on this outstanding achievement!



EVENTS CALENDAR



Elementary Facilities Community Input Session

Tuesday, December 5, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Beachwood Board of Education
24601 Fairmount Blvd.

Cabaret Night

Tuesday, December 12, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Beachwood High School
25100 Fairmount Blvd.

Hilltop Orchestra Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
25100 Fairmount Blvd.



**VIEW THE
FULL CALENDAR**

beachwoodschoools.org/Calendar.aspx

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Wendy Leatherberry • (216) 409-2211 • wleatherberry@beachwoodschoo ls.org



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Beachwood Schools Seeks Community Input on Elementary School Design

Beachwood's future elementary schools need your creativity! The design phase is underway for a \$65 million elementary facilities master plan approved by voters in May 2023. The District is offering two dynamic opportunities for residents to share their educational vision on the new facilities and grounds. Join the conversation by participating in an online design survey before December 12 and by attending the in-person community session on December 5 at the Beachwood Board of Education office, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free childcare is available.

A significant decision under consideration by the Beachwood Board of Education is whether to combine the Fairmount Early Childhood Center with the new Bryden Elementary School. At a public study session held October 30, ThenDesign Architecture put forth a proposal to integrate the preschool services into Bryden Elementary. The plan includes a preschool wing with six classrooms, support services spaces, and a large muscle room where children develop gross motor skills. The proposed wing would accommodate approximately 80 preschool students from Beachwood and surrounding communities in half- and full-day programs. The current elementary facilities

plan budgets \$4.9 million to renovate the existing Fairmount Early Childhood Center. However, the new proposal estimates the construction of the new preschool wing at Bryden at a slightly lower cost of approximately \$4.3 million.

The integration could offer numerous benefits: a seamless transition for students from preschool to kindergarten, more efficient use of shared spaces, elimination of inter-building travel for staff, smoother drop-off and pick-up processes for parents, and enhanced collaboration opportunities between preschool and K-2 staff. Under this plan, the Fairmount building will continue to be a vibrant part of the school community. The building will continue to house the preschool summer camp due to its proximity to the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center. Other potential uses include staff training, testing center, English as a second language and citizenship classes in association with Cuyahoga County Public Library, collaboration with the City of Beachwood's Recreation Department, and meeting spaces for civic groups and organizations.

Help build a bright educational future!
Snap the QR code to take the design survey.



2023 National Honor Society Induction



Congratulations to Beachwood High School's newest Honor Society members!

Juniors

Golda Aschkenasy, Kyle Bennett, Eden Bergman, Sumeet Chakravarti, Shreya Chellu, Kelsey Cohen, Alex Eisengart, Jessie Gao, Isaac Gorodeski, Michael Karas, Grant Keilin, Jaya Korah, Elijah Kriwinsky, Molly Lewis, Chengyu Li, Elizabeth Liu, Lilly Margolis, Madeleine Mehler, Taia Menefee, Radha Pareek, Josh Rosenblitt, Ezrin Saltzman, Merris Shellenberger, Jacob Tannenbaum, Emma Wang, Rachel Wolf, Hannah Yakubov, Sophia Yan, Kevin Zhang, Amy Zhou

Seniors

Sarah Ahn, Cordelia Ames, Rowena Cherian, Strahinja Dimitrijevic, Camille Gill, Charlie Greene, Siya Gulia, Sloane Harris, Jonathan Mo, Arianna Preston, Zoe Rosner, Ozan Sasmaz, Landis Teren, Sagiv Tirosh, Allen Yu

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS



Recent Resolutions

- Approved Five-Year Forecast
- Approved Robotics Team Competition Trip
- Approved Osborn Engineering for Commissioning Services

Upcoming Board Actions

- Approve New Administrator/Supervisor Handbook
- Fill Board Vacancy
- Approve Law Firm Services
- Approve Health Care Rates for 2024

Board Meeting Calendar

- Monday, December 11 @ 7 p.m.
- Monday, January 8 @ 7 p.m.



VIEW AGENDAS & MINUTES

beachwoodschoo ls.org/BOE.aspx

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Beachwood High School Celebrates Fall Sports Season Highlights

Beachwood High School's fall sports teams had a remarkable season, with many teams setting new records and achieving impressive milestones.

Cross Country

Sasha Kheyfets (10) became the third female in Beachwood history to qualify for the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Championships, where she achieved an impressive 24th place finish. Meanwhile, the boys' cross country team advanced to regionals for the third consecutive year. Coach Jamie Lader expressed his pride, stating, "I saw the team come together, so determined to move on to the next level."



Sasha Kheyfets



Boys Soccer

The boys soccer team had the best season in school history, setting multiple records and finishing as Chagrin Valley Conference Champions, District Champions and Regional Runners-up. Their 17-3-1 record set a new standard of excellence. The team's remarkable journey included a 10-game winning streak and a record-setting 96 goals for the season, surpassing the prior mark of 80 set back in 2015. Head Coach Brian Greene was awarded Chagrin Valley Conference Coach of the Year and Northeast Ohio Coach of the Year. Reflecting on the season, Coach Greene noted, "Watching the team mature and learn to become mentally tough, as well as emotionally resilient, was the most rewarding aspect of the season."

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Cross Country

Ohio High School Athletic Association Championships

Sasha Kheyfets, 24th Place, All Ohio

First-Team Chagrin Valley Conference Honors

Sasha Kheyfets, Max Kuenzler

Football

All-District Honors

Jack Felder, Mar'Tez Pinkney

First-Team Chagrin Valley Conference Honors

Mar'Tez Pinkney, Johnathon Owens

Golf

First-Team Chagrin Valley Conference Honors

Gavi Lappen, Ethan Malek

Boys Soccer

All-Ohio Honors

Kyle Bennett (2nd Team), Grant Keilin (1st Team)

All-District Honors

Kyle Bennett, Leo Blond, Grant Keilin, Jonathan Mo, Josh Rosenblitt, Ozan Sasmaz

First-Team Chagrin Valley Conference Honors

Kyle Bennett, Leo Blond, Grant Keilin, Jonathan Mo, Josh Rosenblitt

ADMINISTRATION

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Cheerleading

The cheerleading team electrified the student body with their dance routines and impressive stunts, performing a different halftime routine at every home football game. They also showcased their talents at the Chagrin Valley Conference Cheerleading Showcase, incorporating a complicated step routine into their cheer and dance routine. Coach Jocelyn Noel praised the team, saying, "It's truly amazing to see them excel in stunting, work relentlessly toward their goals, and consistently exceed expectations."

Football

The school's youngest football team in history demonstrated remarkable resilience, led by seniors Jack Felder, Mar'Tez Pinkney, Josh Rosenberg, and Chris Austin. Coach Scott Fischer commended their tenacity, noting, "We had a very young team, but the kids played hard every game. They never gave up and had amazing attitudes through the tough times. We are very excited to have 22 players return next season, along with a big group of freshmen coming up. The future is bright."



Girls Soccer

All-District Honors

Lilah Droe, Kylie Walters

First-Team Chagrin Valley Conference Honors

Lilah Droe, Londyn Travis, Kylie Walters, Anna Zhao

Girls Tennis

First-Team Chagrin Valley Conference Honors

Ida Chang, Arianna Preston

Volleyball

Chagrin Valley Conference Honors

Gianna Preston, Tyra Rogers-Moore

Girls Soccer

The girls soccer team made significant strides this season, achieving a commendable 9-8 record and securing a spot in the Section Finals. According to Coach Maranda Melton, the team exhibited exceptional chemistry, with players significantly enhancing their ability to move the ball, connect passes, and grasp the nuances of the game. "Anyone who watched our games or saw us play from one season to the next could see the progress we made," said Coach Melton. "It was evident that the girls had developed a better understanding of each other's playing styles and had built trust and communication on the field."

Volleyball

Freshman sensation Gianna Preston and junior Tyra Rogers-Moore led the volleyball team, with both players receiving Chagrin Valley Conference honors and Bison Athlete of the Week.

Boys Golf

The boys golf team finished in third place in the Chagrin Valley Conference, thanks in part to a special challenge from their new head coach, Drew Pierson, who promised to wear special golf pants if the team scored lower than 180 in a match. The team responded by shooting their lowest score of the season in the very next tournament, forcing Pierson to wear knickers to the final match. "The most rewarding thing for me being their coach was watching them grow and improve as the season went on," he said. "They also got along very well and supported each other along the way."



Girls Tennis

This year, the girls' tennis team experienced a remarkable turnaround, concluding the season with an impressive 16-4 record, one of the best in the past decade. Coach David Cole attributed their success to hard work and dedication, stating, "These girls put in tremendous effort. Even on their days off, they were eager to practice or receive individual instruction. There are no shortcuts in life. Our victories stemmed from our consistency and the countless hours we spent on the court."

Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches for a remarkable season!



Gratitude in Darkness

By Jen Stern

Writing this month's column was a challenge. I try for this space to be uplifting, honest, and informative in a helpful and positive way. My mind is not what it normally is. I am soul-tired. I feel profound heartache and honestly despair at the state of our world: from local politics, to the spread of hate, bigotry, and a startling lack of humanity that I truly (naively) never realized was so pervasive here and abroad.

What can I say to uplift or offer hope when I am feeling overwhelmingly disappointed, concerned, and depleted?

I am shocked by the ads, marches, politicians, journalists, and universities that are knowingly being deceptively divisive to manipulate those who trust and follow them. This negligent, destructive, careless approach does not take into consideration the catastrophic impact.

Anyone can say anything – without fact checking – that people blindly accept. Then, they reactively speak/act out

with such conviction without fully understanding, realizing, or caring about the ripple effect of their words and actions. Zero accountability and even less integrity: This makes *all* of us unsafe.

There is a void in compassion, empathy, and responsibility for the well-being of others.

The horrors of war are understood. Terrorism is an entirely different level of anguish.

Grief, disgust, confusion, fear, and concern: These are some of the complex emotions I go to bed and wake with.

I look for glimmers as part

of my daily practice of self-care. The miraculous beauty of nature, the care expressed among friends, family, even acquaintances, and the witnessing of any kindness or compassion buffers.

The purposefulness and meaning in my work is centering and life affirming. The ability to pray for true peace and make donations to organizations that bring necessary support to others who are suffering or in need is uplifting. My dogs bring such joy. Pilates, meditation, cooking, music, and reading settles my soul. Positive distraction is an important part of how I cope. I am mindful about engaging my five senses in self-care. Intentional and deep breathing resets my nervous system.

I recently watched an interview with Tyler Perry that ultimately connected me to gratitude for the roots in my life. He puts people in his life in the category of a tree. There are the leaves who come in and are in your life for moments. When the winds blow too hard or the seasons change in a way they can't handle, or no longer serve them, they leave. The branches are a little stronger; you can rely on them to be there through the seasons. You don't know how much you can trust them until they have grown with you for awhile. Sometimes they break off when life gets too hard. Then there are the roots, the people who give you what you need to grow. They hold you up, hold you

accountable, they laugh and cry with you, and they love and support you unconditionally. I am so very grateful for the roots that exist in my life.

Then there are the roots, the people who give you what you need to grow. They hold you up, hold you accountable, they laugh and cry with you, and they love and support you unconditionally. I am so very grateful for the roots that exist in my life.

Gratitude awareness is a lifeline during chaotic times as is being able to focus your energy on what you can control.

So, I end this column with the hope that I have in some way normalized, validated, and ultimately offered some encouragement for how to endure these unsettling times.

Try your best to recognize the roots in your life and how you are the roots for others. Our roots will help us to endure the storms of life.

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.

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Reproductive Rights Are Back, But Will They Remain?

By State Senator Kent Smith

On November 7, the citizens of Ohio re-wrote their state constitution to guarantee access to abortion care and other reproductive medical treatments. Ohioans now have the freedom to make those decisions individually and without government interference.

But as soon as the Issue 1 victory was declared, GOP leaders of the State House and State Senate issued public declarations that the abortion fight was not over.

Well, those leaders might want to read the newest addition to the Ohio Constitution because it seems pretty cut and dry to me.

It is the first section of the new amendment that informs us what new rights are available to all Ohioans. It reads, "Every individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions, including,

but not limited to, decisions on: contraception; fertility treatment; continuing one's own pregnancy; miscarriage care; and abortion."

But it is the protections contained within the second section of the amendment that guarantee those rights will not be removed by overzealous Republican legislators.

The second section reads as follows:

"The State shall not, directly or indirectly, burden, penalize, prohibit, interfere with, or discriminate against either:

1. An individual's voluntary exercise of this right, or
2. A person or entity that assists an individual exercising this right."

When the amendment reads, "The State shall not," it means Republicans cannot interfere with these newly ordained reproductive rights. The Ohio General Assembly cannot prevent someone from seeking this medical care and it cannot prevent someone from offering that medical care. The new amendment provides protection for both patients and providers.

Will this new amendment prevent the GOP from making bizarre statements or introducing groundless legislation? No. But the only way reproductive rights will be removed from the Ohio Constitution is to have Ohioans vote those rights away.

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.

December StoryWalk: *First Snow*, by Nancy Viau, illustrated by Talitha Shipman

Take a walk through Beachwood City Park East and watch the story evolve as neighbors don their winter gear and head into the icy air to build snowmen and igloos, race sleds, and throw snowballs before returning to the warmth of their homes.



Celebrate The Season!



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BAKED by Abbie

Double Chocolate Crinkle Cookies

A lot is going on these days and end-of-year holidays can be stressful. Baking can help.

A new cookbook caught my attention. It's called *Mind Over Batter: 75 Recipes for Baking as Therapy*, by mental health therapist and professional baker Jack Hazan. His baking affirmations and food-for-thought statements scattered throughout his book are on target.

Although not in Hazan's book, this twist on a classic holiday cookie meets my baking therapy needs. Perhaps it will for you, too.

This recipe was adapted from sallysbakingaddiction.com.



Ingredients

- ½ cup unsalted butter room temperature, or neutral oil
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup + 2 Tbl unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- Pinch salt
- 1 cup mini or regular size chocolate chips, semi-sweet or dark

For Rolling

- 2-3 Tbls granulated sugar
- ½ - 1 cup confectioners' sugar

Directions

- In a large bowl using a hand-held or stand mixer with a paddle, beat butter and sugars together on medium high speed until fluffy and light in color, about 2-3 minutes. Add the egg and vanilla, and beat on high until combined. Scrape down sides and bottom as needed.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt. With mixer on low, slowly pour into the wet ingredients. Beat until combined and then beat in the chocolate chips. Dough will be thick and sticky. Cover

tightly and chill in refrigerator for at least 3 hours.

- Pre-heat to 350°F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
- Remove dough from refrigerator and allow to sit at room temperature for 10 minutes (20 minutes if dough was chilled more than 3 hours).
- Scoop 1 Tbl of dough and roll into balls. Roll each ball lightly in granulated sugar, then generously in the confectioners' sugar. Place 3 inches apart on baking sheet.
- Bake cookies for 11-12 minutes or until the edges appear set and the centers still look soft. If cookies aren't spreading by minute 9, remove baking sheet from oven and lightly bang on counter to initiate spreading. Return to oven to continue baking.
- Cool cookies for 5 minutes on baking sheet before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
- Yield – 40 cookies

Abbie Nagler Sender, a licensed, award-winning baker, is the owner of BAKED by abbie, a home bakery that offers customized baked goods with a Jewish twist.

For more information, visit www.BAKEDbyabbie.com and like her Facebook business page, BAKEDbyabbieCLE.

Enjoy the blessing of hope and gratitude this holiday season.

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Primary Care Providers Can Help Manage Your Chronic Disease

When you think of your primary care provider, you may simply think of them as a medical professional who takes care of your common health concerns, performs annual wellness visits, and recommends screenings.

At University Hospitals, primary care physicians, physician assistants, and certified nurse practitioners can not only help with these areas, but can also play a special role in maintaining your health if you have a chronic disease.

Chronic diseases are health conditions that last a year or more, require ongoing medical attention, and limit daily activities and quality of life.

Chronic diseases include, but are not limited to:

- Alzheimer’s disease
- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic lung disease
- Depression or anxiety
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Stroke

Your Primary Care Provider’s Role

Managing your chronic condition with the help of your primary care provider can improve your quality of life. At the same time, you can reduce your healthcare costs by preventing or minimizing the effects of a chronic disease.

Through regularly scheduled visits, you and your providers can stay connected, which leads to better, more coordinated care. Your primary

care physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner also can help identify care gaps and monitor your condition between scheduled visits.

Services to Help Manage Your Chronic Condition

Regular visits with your primary care provider can involve screenings, checkups, monitoring and coordinating treatment, and patient education to help manage your chronic condition.

Screenings: Identifying risk factors through screening can help prevent disease and lessen the severity of illness through early detection. One of the most effective ways to prevent heart disease and stroke, for example, is scheduling blood pressure screenings.

Checkups: By scheduling regular visits with your primary care provider, you can learn how to manage your chronic disease – either face-to-face during a traditional doctor’s office visit or through a virtual visit. For example, if you have a chronic heart condition, you can check in with your provider to make sure you’re properly managing your condition over time.

Managing your chronic condition with the help of your primary care provider can improve your quality of life. At the same time, you can reduce your health care costs by preventing or minimizing the effects of a chronic disease.

Coordinating treatment: Having one doctor who knows your medical history well and acts as the coordinator of your care avoids redundant medical tests and procedures, unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations, and medication errors. Your primary care provider can also help you manage your medications, especially if you have multiple chronic conditions.

Patient education: Your primary care provider can help you understand and work toward your target numbers for health measures such as blood pressure, cholesterol, and weight, leading you to better health.

The following primary care providers are now accepting new patients in the Beachwood area. Call one of the locations below to schedule an appointment.

Malka Bannet, D.O.
John Horinger, M.D.
UH Internal Medicine Group of Cleveland
3909 Orange Place, Suite 2400
Orange Village, Ohio 44122
216.464.1115

Mark Paulos, M.D.
UH Ahuja Corp
Health & Internal Medicine
Risman Pavilion
1000 Auburn Road, Suite 110
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
216.285.5050

Elizabeth Ranasinghe, M.D.
UH Beachwood Primary Care
23250 Mercantile Road,
Suite 130
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
216.464.7878

Primary care providers at University Hospitals offer comprehensive, compassionate care for patients of all ages, from newborns to seniors. To learn more, visit UHospitals.org/PrimaryCare.

Veterans Day Ceremony

On Sunday, Nov. 12, a sunny, crisp autumn day, the Beachwood Historical Society and City of Beachwood honored veterans, both living and deceased. The ceremony took place in the Beachwood Cemetery, which is the final resting place for more than 40 veterans from seven different wars.

The ceremony began with the Color Guard, composed of firefighters and police officers from the city of Beachwood, presenting the flag. Scouts from Troops 620 and 71962 had placed flags on the soldiers' graves, and then held flags and lined the path for veterans and guests who attended the ceremony. Mayor Justin Berns then presented a proclamation to name this day as Veterans Day in the city of Beachwood.

Beachwood Historical Society president Rosemary Nemeth said, "We need to pay tribute to these patriots. We also need to remember people in their families who served. We need to

share their stories with younger generations. After all, veterans are part of a chain of honor."

Retired Col. Joe Sarakaitis was the first veteran to tell his story. He was commander of Fort Meade and is now the "Colonel" of Rose Senior Living, on Harvard Road, where he continues to serve all of his fellow veterans and residents in need.

Col. Joe is often seen around Beachwood with his *wingman*, Jim Frolking, a fighter pilot during WWII. Both Joe and Jim are 2023 Beachwood Hometown Heroes.

Gesu fourth-grade student Natalie Roberts then shared the story of WWII, T/5 Col. Irving Berger. Irving was assigned to armored tanks under Gen. Patton. He is one of the founders of the Beachwood 100, which

supports Beachwood safety forces and their families. He said Gen. Patton was the right man for the time.

According to Gen. Patton, whether you are a soldier, civilian or CEO, being successful at what you do requires focus, effort, and learning.

The life of retired U.S. Navy Lt. Dave Smith was then shared. Dave has 18 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren, and also takes care of children in Nuevo Paraiso, Honduras, through a Gesu mission.

Dave said that he was one of the fortunate veterans who got to come home and he wants us all to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Firefighter Michael Lucas told his story as well. He said, "I do not take anything for granted. I was lucky to survive my tours of duty."

"Veterans keep the flame of freedom burning. They keep the light of Lady Liberty shining," Rosemary said at the ceremony's conclusion. "It is so important to take time to remember all those who defend our freedoms. Please pray for the soldiers who are in harm's way today."

"It is so important to take time to remember all those who defend our freedoms. Please pray for the soldiers who are in harm's way today."

– Rosemary Nemeth

"God bless the men and women who served and continue to serve for our great nation," she added. "God bless veterans, and God bless America!"



Retired Col. Joe Sarakaitis shares his story at Beachwood's Veterans Day ceremony on Sunday, November 12.



Standing: Council members June Taylor, Josh Mintz, and Alec Isaacson; George Ray, Detective John Finucan, Firefighter Don Balog, Andree Hassell, Firefighter Mike Lucas, Joe Sarakaitis, Jim Frolking, George Vourlojiknis, Julio Pelsmejer, Officer Jamey Appell, Mo Safenovitz, and Fire Lieutenant Dave Peterson; Council members Jillian DeLong*, Eric Synenberg, and Danielle Shoykhet, and Mayor Justin Berns. Sitting: Oscar Castro, Burt Siebert, and Al Muhle. (*Jillian will be sworn in on January 8, 2024.)

Beachwood Schools Volunteer Opportunities

Bison Opportunity Fund

Beachwood Schools has established the Bison Opportunity Fund in tribute to recently retired treasurer Michele Mills, recognizing her 35-year service and dedication to the Beachwood community. Michele was committed to ensuring all Beachwood students accessed the district's opportunities and achieved their full potential. The fund aims to provide snacks and school essentials for needy students, offer quality "like new" Bison apparel, and assist students with expenses such as extracurricular trips, course fees, and prom tickets. Items may be dropped off during regular school hours to the bins located in the front lobby, or go online to make a cash donation at <https://tinyurl.com/3sktdpy3>.

BMS Career Fair

Beachwood Middle School is rolling out a new program to introduce seventh and eighth graders to the world of work. The initiative, dubbed "Explorations into Careers and Interests," taps into the diverse professions within the Beachwood community. Local businesses and professionals are invited to participate, either by setting up a booth at the school's job fair or by providing one-on-one mock interviews for eighth graders. The event, slated for this spring, provides an opportunity to inspire students and give them a head start on envisioning their futures. Businesses or individuals interested in contributing can contact Keith Terlonge, school counselor, at kterlonge@beachwoodschoools.org or 216.831-0355. Sign-ups are also available online at <https://tinyurl.com/2bc75m6y>.

Beachwood Medical Academy

Established in 2014, the Beachwood Medical Academy has been at the forefront of preparing high school students for top-tier pre-med programs. With advanced classes, expert talks, and hands-on hospital experiences, the academy is nurturing the next generation of healthcare providers. The academy is now in search of professionals from diverse medical backgrounds to serve as guest speakers. The sessions, held from 3-4 p.m. on the second Monday of each month, give speakers the opportunity to discuss their career path in medicine, describe their daily tasks, present case studies, and provide hands-on demonstrations. For those interested in contributing, reach out to Linda LoGalbo, director of curriculum and instruction, at lh1@beachwoodschoools.org.

Beachwood High School Engineering Design and Exploration Program

This BHS program is dedicated to providing students with an immersive introduction to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. At the heart of the program is a state-of-the-art fabrication lab where students delve into the principles of creativity, design thinking, and prototyping. To further enrich the students' learning experience, the program is actively seeking volunteers with backgrounds in engineering and design to serve as guest speakers, sharing insights on career paths in the field of engineering, or to host field trips, offering students a firsthand look at the dynamic world of STEM professions. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Brian Hill at bhill@beachwoodschoools.org.

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Persistence Pays Off for Inventor Jamie Peltz

Jamie Peltz believes that persistence pays off, and it has, for her, with two inventions. She formerly worked at Glidden/ICI Paints, utilizing her creativity in marketing and product development. In 2007, with a downturn in the economy, she was let go and envisioned becoming an entrepreneur.

Jamie is a natural problem solver. When she encounters a problem, she envisions a solution and has the motivation and know-how to make her solution a reality. That's how she invented SureSwatch Temporary Paint Swatches and Forget Me Spot™ Stain Patch® Spot Remover.

Several years ago when Jamie struggled with picking out paint colors, she realized that it's hard to select the perfect color from a small paint chip that was printed with ink. Although the colors are close, they're not exact. Furthermore, it's difficult to accurately pick a color from a small-sized chip. Since many people avoid testing paint colors on their walls because it's permanent, Jamie invented SureSwatch Temporary Paint Swatches to eliminate the permanency and take the guesswork out of color selection.

"The 9-inch-by-12-inch clear swatches accurately show how the new paint will look in your home, in your light," Jamie said. "They let you try paint colors on your walls so you can be confident in your color selections. Then, once you've decided, you can easily remove the film."

Jamie further explained that this product makes color selection more enjoyable because it lessens the surprise factor and aggravation of living with a color that wasn't what you thought it would be. She also told us that SureSwatch is the best color-swatch technology on the market due to its clear film and the ability to test any color, any sheen, and any brand.

Once the product was developed, her persistence paid

off. "The buyer at Home Depot told me that he would have never taken the meeting had I not been persistent," she said. "After that meeting, he bought the product for the entire chain of about 2,000 stores."

"The buyer at Home Depot told me that he would have never taken the meeting had I not been persistent," she said. "After that meeting, he bought the product for the entire chain of about 2,000 stores."

With an order from Home Depot, Jamie thought she would be financing the order through a bank, but quickly learned she would need to purchase the first order on her personal credit cards in order to meet the deadlines. She bought the raw materials and knew she would not be paid for another eight months. Jamie is naturally risk-averse, but took a leap of faith in trusting the process.

"When in business, there are always challenges to overcome," she shared. "To be successful, I always trust the process and successfully move forward."

SureSwatch is celebrating its 10th year and is sold at Home Depot, as well as at Ace Hardware stores and independent retailers.

Jamie then brought Forget Me Spot™ Stain Patch® Spot Remover to market, a product she worked on with former co-workers prior to her SureSwatch invention. "My idea to create



Inventor Jamie Peltz with Forget Me Spot™ Stain Patch® Spot Remover and SureSwatch Temporary Paint Swatches.

this came from doing my kids' laundry. I was always looking for spots and thought it would save time if I could pre-treat the stains prior to laundry day."

Jamie then talked with friends to see if they had the same laundry issues. Once she found out they did, she conducted market research by going to friends' houses to watch them do laundry. She then talked with a chemist to explain her vision: a stick-on product that would pretreat stains and dissolve in the wash.

Forget Me Spot™ Stain Patch® Spot Remover takes the hassle out of stain removal with a patented pretreatment

patch, which requires no water, scrubbing, or soaking. You just peel and press a patch on the stain at the end of the day. Stain Patch can stay on the stain for up to two weeks. The stain remover and film will dissolve in the wash.

"When in business, there are always challenges to overcome," she shared. "To be successful, I always trust the process and successfully move forward."

Ann Mehler: From Babies to Botox

Ann Mehler, MSN, APRN-CNM, recently opened Aligned Aesthetics Med Spa with a goal of helping women feel confident from the inside out so that makeup is an accessory, not a necessity.

Forget Me Spot™ has been a project where her persistence has paid off as well. Developing the manufacturing process took multiple iterations until she found a process that works. The next challenge was finding a supplier willing to manufacture the product. Through her network, she found a local supplier. Finding the raw materials to make the product was also a challenge, due to supply-chain constraints, but she had a customer and knew that the right people were out there. She just needed to find them.

Forget Me Spot™ Stain Patch® Spot Remover is available at all Heinen's stores and online.

I asked Jamie what her next invention will be. She paused, and said, "It will be tied to efficiency and time-management processes. I don't know where this idea will go, but I'm thinking about it!"

Her advice to others who may be thinking of inventing something: Go for it! Once you come up with an idea, break it down into steps and work on one step at a time. Create a mock-up. You don't need a full prototype because, most likely, it will not be what your final product will look like. Start with consumer and market research. See if others have the same problem for which you've come up with a solution and if they feel your solution is viable.

Jamie grew up in Beachwood and graduated from Beachwood High School in 1979. She uses local vendors as often as possible and manufactures both products in Ohio. For more information, visit www.sureswatch.com or www.forgetmespot.com.



Ann is a certified nurse midwife who provides care to women during pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and reproductive lifespan. Her patients love the support, high quality care, and safe space she provides for them.

After 10 years of providing midwifery care, Ann decided to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming an entrepreneur.

"Ever since I was a little girl, I loved skincare and makeup," she said. "So I took a leap of faith and bet on myself, which led to the opening of Aligned Aesthetics Med Spa.

"I love receiving aesthetic treatments and how youthful and flawless they make my skin feel. I'm 40 years old and it feels amazing to confidently leave my house without makeup on," she added. "My hope is to bring that same confidence, youthful glow, and flawless skin to my clients."

I asked Ann what differentiates her from other aesthetic Nurse Practitioners and she said, "There is no better feeling than going to the gym or the grocery store first thing in the morning and feeling confident without makeup on. At Aligned Aesthetics Med Spa, I help women accomplish this by listening to their skincare goals, creating a customized treatment plan, and celebrating with them along the way as they begin to see results."

"I love receiving aesthetic treatments and how youthful and flawless they make my skin feel. I'm 40 years old and it feels amazing to confidently leave my house without makeup on," she added.

"My hope is to bring that same confidence, youthful glow, and flawless skin to my clients."

As women, we all have a variety of insecurities when it comes to our skin. Ann offers neurotoxins, which temporarily relax facial muscles that cause fine lines and wrinkles; dermal fillers, which help replace volume loss and shape the face; microneedling, a collagen induction therapy that decreasing the appearance of wrinkles, acne scars, hyperpigmentation, pore size, and stretch marks; chemical peels, which are used to improve and smooth the texture of the skin; and PDO threads, which lift and tighten the skin and stimulate collagen growth.

She also offers medical-grade skincare, and recommends daily use of sunscreen to

protect your skin from skin cancer and help slow down the aging process.

Ann moved her family to Beachwood more than eight years ago for its educational and recreational opportunities and fell in love with the city and all it offers.

"I have found a phenomenal community with amazing neighbors, and I have created lifelong memories with my children," she said. "I'm excited to give back to a community that has given to me and my family so much."

Ann is extending an offer to Beachwood residents for \$75 off their first service at Aligned Aesthetics Med Spa when they mention finding her through *Beachwood Buzz*.

Ann is extending an offer to Beachwood residents for \$75 off their first service at Aligned Aesthetics Med Spa when they mention finding her through *Beachwood Buzz*.

For more information, contact Ann at ann@alignedaestheticscle.com or visit www.alignedaestheticscle.com. Follow on IG @ [alignedaesthetics_medspa](https://www.instagram.com/alignedaesthetics_medspa).

Monte Gaddis

Monte Gaddis, the founder of Cleveland Rugby League and The Little Leagues Youth Program, is on a mission to mentor youths through sports, encouragement, and inspiration.

The Cleveland Rugby League is a professional league that Monte started after his own dream of a NFL career didn't work out as planned, a dream he had since age 10. After graduating from Cleveland Central Catholic High School in 2010, Monte went on to play football at University of Maryland. In 2014 he entered the NFL draft, but wasn't picked up. He then went on to play football with the Gdynia Seahawks, in Poland, where his team won the championship.

When Monte returned to Cleveland, he executed a Hail Mary to keep his dream of playing in the NFL alive. "I stood outside the Browns' practice facility, marketing myself, to gain attention of the coaching staff," he said. "Although the stunt went viral and gave me visibility, it did not create a tryout opportunity."

What it did create was an opportunity to play rugby. "When opportunity knocked, I opened the door, learned the game, and went to the U.K. to fight for a contract with the Toronto Wolfpack, a professional rugby league."

Monte hit an obstacle, didn't get a contract, and played for an amateur club. In 2018, he earned a professional contract, played in Belgrade, Serbia, and realized that Cleveland needs a professional team.

Later that year, Monte created the Cleveland Rugby League, a professional club for men and women, 18-plus years of age.

He also created the Little Leagues Youth Program, an after-school program that includes rugby, volleyball, pickleball, hockey, dance, and bowlby, a



game created by Monte where bowling meets rugby. "It's similar to cornhole and I believe there may be an opportunity for national competition with this game," Monte told us.

"The Little Leagues teaches each student the skills necessary to function in today's competitive world. It provides a fun, safe, educational atmosphere for all students," Monte explained. "My passion is to help students build self esteem, stay motivated, and make sure they're doing the right things.

"I didn't have the guidance I needed when in college," he continued. "I was playing football as a freshman, thought that was all I was there for, and was kicked out for academic failure. If someone was in my corner, things would have been different."

"I've walked the walk and am all in when it comes to training and motivating our youths," he humbly said. "Success is within reach when you work hard. The sky is the limit, you just have to want it."

Monte's youth program, currently in its third year, serves as an after-school provider for six schools in Nashville, Tennessee, and more than 15 schools in Cleveland, including the Joseph and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School in Beachwood. With plans to expand programming, Monte hopes to work with more Beachwood students in the near future.

Monte, a Beachwood resident, also has a gym located in Beachwood, on Mercantile Road, where he trains clients and pumps them up along the way. Additionally, he created Gaddis Guidance, a nonprofit designed to motivate kids to graduate high school and succeed in college.

"I've walked the walk and am all in when it comes to training and motivating our youths," he humbly said. "Success is within reach when you work hard. The sky is the limit, you just have to want it."

Monte can be reached at montegaddis@gmail.com or 216.502.9620. He can also be followed on the following Instagram accounts: @montegaddis, @clevelandrugbyleague, @thelittleleagues, and @bowlbyusa.

Everyone has a story to tell – Please let us tell yours in *Beachwood Buzz*. Email beachwoodbuzz@gmail.com today!

Papa's Path Raises Awareness and Funds for Parkinson's

For 24 hours we walked. Through rain, sleet, and hail, we walked. We really and truly did it!

The dark clouds seemed to settle as the night sky faded. When the track lights quietly dimmed, we heard the humming of our truck (<https://tinyurl.com/papaspath>) approaching. Suddenly, we were in the arms of dear friends who showed up to walk the final hour with us and to celebrate together. It was in that moment that we looked at one another realizing what we had accomplished. – Amy Eisenberg, Chuck Babbush's daughter

Eight weeks ago, Chuck and Sandy Babbush's family launched www.papaspath.org and shared details of their first event, a 24-hour family walk. Inspired by Chuck's Parkinson's diagnosis ("Papa" to his grandchildren) and in appreciation for his new lease on life following his successful deep brain stimulation surgery, the Babbush Family Fund for Parkinson's Education, Research, and Innovation at University Hospitals was established with a goal of raising funds and creating awareness for those living with Parkinson's. For Chuck and others with movement disorders, side effects such as tremors or dyskinesia (uncontrolled, involuntary movements) can take away independence and prevent them from managing even the simplest of daily tasks. Having lived through the dramatic progression of this disease, his family chose to challenge themselves to stay in constant motion and push forward through fatigue, just as Chuck

has had to do. They decided early on, even if it was solely their family walking through the night, they would see it through – and they did, with the support of so many caring people in our community.

"Whether you reached out with kind words, sent notes of encouragement, cheered us on, joined us to walk, walked with us from afar, we truly felt you with us," said Amy Eisenberg, Chuck's daughter. "We were never alone. We made it to the finish line because of all of you and are overwhelmed with gratitude for the dollars raised (more than \$130,000) and love you've shown our family."

With support from the Babbush Family Fund, University Hospitals plans to create a standard Parkinson's starter kit that patients will receive upon diagnosis. The kit will contain tools to maintain and improve quality of life. Chuck is working with Camilla Kilbane, M.D., director of the Parkinson's and Movement Disorder Center at UH, to

survey the Parkinson's patient population about what tools they need to live well. With the help of these survey results, the Babbush family hopes to refine and commercialize the items included in the kit, offer it to Parkinson's patients, and market it for widespread adoption.

The goal is to donate proceeds from the sale of these kits to University Hospitals to sustain and grow their fund's impact.

In addition, Papa's Path will support the University Hospitals' Annual Parkinson's Boot Camp™ in 2024, and enhance its focus on educating and supporting the whole patient and their families. Stay tuned!

"We'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to Mayor Justin Berns, Derek Schroeder, the City of Beachwood, and the Beachwood Police Department for truly going that extra mile throughout the event; Bob Hardis and the Beachwood City Schools for hosting the nighttime shift, manning the lights to the track, and watching over everyone until the morning

hours; Melissa Miller with Pink Gorilla Balloons; Hannah Frayman for her logo creation; Sheila Margolis for our Papa's Path website design; and all partners involved (<https://papaspath.org/partnerships/>)," said Jeff Babbush, Chuck's son.

"Additional thanks go to our University Hospitals team members Dr. Camilla Kilbane, Jessica Grashoff, Jenna Delost, Holly Gibson, Chris Superior, Dr. Jennifer Sweet (Chuck's neurosurgeon), and Dr. Aasef Shaikh (Chuck's neurologist) for bringing Dad back to our family," Chuck's son, David, added.

"We are grateful to be surrounded by such a caring community," Amy said. "Your belief in our cause has made a real difference in our lives and in the lives of those living with Parkinson's."

With appreciation, Chuck and Sandy Babbush, Jeff Babbush and Jodi Mack, Amy and Steve Eisenberg, David and Debbie Babbush, David and Kim Strong



PAPA'S PATH
Our Journey with Parkinson's

Visit www.papaspath.org for more details and/or to donate. With year-round efforts on behalf of the fund, 100% of each gift will go directly toward our cause.

Chuck (center, blue jacket) and Sandy Babbush celebrate their children's completion of the 24-hour walk with family and friends at UH Ahuja Medical Center.

Pooling Resources

Mike Lewin and his wife, Sallie Fine-Lewin, recently collected all of the the unclaimed towels from the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center – 128 towels in total. They took them to the laundromat to wash and sanitize them, and then donated them to Dawn Hayden, principal at Wilson Elementary School in Cleveland, who distributed them to four nearby homeless shelters.

Mike and Sallie also cleaned unclaimed swim goggles and donated them to the Boys Club of Lorain County.

Thanks to these donations, children will have new, splashy swim gear this summer!



Mike Lewin delivers unclaimed towels to Dawn Hayden, who then distributed them to nearby homeless shelters.

Beachwood Buzz wishes you a happy, healthy holiday season.



Cogmotion Learning Now Open

Beachwood resident Wendy Firestone, MEd, EdS, NCSP, opened Cogmotion Learning to help children develop into productive, independent learners by better equipping them to manage conflict and solve problems both in and out of the classroom. As a mother of three, she understands that we all want to do whatever we can to support our children's needs.



Wendy is a licensed and nationally certified school psychologist with more than 30 years of experience in K-12 schools. She provides executive function coaching/training, as well as psychoeducational assessment services to address student needs for those with suspected learning differences, attention issues, and/or gifted identification. Additionally, she holds certifications in cognitive-behavioral therapy, ADHD strength-based interventions, crisis intervention, executive function training, and doctoral-level coursework in counseling psychology.

"In my time working as a school psychologist, I've supported thousands of pre-school through college-aged students. Over the years, my role as a school practitioner has changed because of the current focus on testing, dyslexia identification, and eligibility for special education. There's so much more that needs to be done to support student growth, and I am eager to help create change. I understand how to effectively communicate and collaborate with parents, teachers, and administrators to develop and implement successful strategies for children," Wendy explained.

"One in five school-aged children experiences learning, social, or behavioral challenges," she said. "Through personalized interviews and comprehensive, standardized assessments, I am able to provide insights into the

student's strengths, needs, and strategies to improve learning and performance."

"My role is to actively listen, then gather all the puzzle pieces through assessments, interviews, and evaluations, and then discuss effective ways to move forward in a positive, rewarding, and impactful way."

When addressing executive functioning skills, Wendy begins the process with an intake interview, followed by an assessment of strengths and weaknesses to help clarify where to get started. "My role is to actively listen, then gather all the puzzle pieces through assessments, interviews, and evaluations, and then discuss effective ways to move forward in a positive, rewarding, and impactful way," Wendy said. "I use various tools to motivate clients to find their way through the process and then prioritize what's important."

After a student's needs have been identified and goals have been targeted, she implements a personalized learning plan, including strategies to practice at home and school, with the aim of improving self-regulation and management skills. She incorporates research-based interventions that are tied to the information collected.



Wendy Marks Firestone

When working with elementary students, she provides more guidance for parents, who can facilitate strategies at home to build continuity. "By fourth or fifth grade, students need to learn and practice executive functioning skills to complete homework with greater independence," Wendy shared.

Wendy also offers educational information on her blog at www.cogmotionlearning.com. Her November blog, titled, *Cracking the Code: Empowering Students in Post-Secondary Transition with Executive Function Support*, provides support for high school and post-secondary students who require accommodations to meet the increased demands of their coursework recommendations. It helps unravel what types of supports students may need by answering a series of questions.

Cogmotion Learning is located at 3659 Green Rd., Suite 322-22, in Beachwood. To learn more, contact Wendy at info@cogmotionlearning.com or 216.250.1209.

The Legacy of Early American Jews

Presented by Park Synagogue

Sundays, January 7 & 21 • 2 p.m. • Zoom

Learn more about the interesting history of the Jewish community in Colonial America with Prof. Michael Hoberman of Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts in this two-part series. Attend one or both sessions on Zoom in the comfort of your home.

Sunday, January 7

The Touro Synagogue:

Shrine to Religious Freedom

Built and dedicated in 1763, Newport, Rhode Island's Touro Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in North America, is now a shrine to religious freedom and Jewish belonging in the U.S. Hear about its links between Newport's earliest Jews and the tradition of

religious tolerance promoted by Roger Williams and George Washington. How do we remember the history of the Touro Synagogue and what does its legacy mean to us today?

Sunday, January 21

Family Stories About

Colonial-Era Jews

Hear about interviews that Prof. Hoberman conducted

with living descendants of Jews who settled in the U.S. in the 1700s, including a man whose bar mitzvah in 1976 marked the eighth generation of his family's existence in North America. How do the present-day descendants of colonial Jews tell their families' stories and why are their stories important for all of us to hear today?



Prof. Michael Hoberman

These programs, sponsored by the Park Synagogue Senior Adult Group, are free and open to everyone in the community. Pre-registration is required by January 3 to receive the Zoom link. Please register at www.parksynagogue.org or by emailing Ellen Petler at epetler@parksyn.org. For more information, contact Ellen at epetler@parksyn.org or at 216.371.2244, ext. 122.



Spirit of Success Awards Banquet

Thursday, January 18, 2024

The Beachwood Chamber of Commerce will host its Spirit of Success Awards Banquet on Thursday, Jan. 18, 6-9 p.m., at the Cleveland Marriott East, 23600 Harvard Rd.

This celebration will highlight businesses and individuals who are working to making a difference in our community.

"As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Success Awards Banquet, we're thrilled to celebrate the remarkable achievements that define our community's spirit," said David Lapierre, BCC director. "We look forward to a night of inspiration and camaraderie and your presence will add to the joy of this prestigious event. It's a great way to celebrate superstars in our community."

Standout businesses and individuals will be recognized in the following categories:

- Small Business of the Year
- Business of the Year
- Chamber Member of the Year
- Nonprofit of the Year
- Extra Mile Award
- Women of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year
- Health Care Hero

Sponsorship opportunities from \$500 are available.

For details, email David at director@beachwood.org.

This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$75 per person. For details and to register, visit www.beachwood.org.

The Chamber's mission is to connect and engage the Beachwood community through business development, networking and multiple other opportunities.

Talespinner Children's Theatre Presents *A Light in the Night*

Talespinner Children's Theatre continues its *In My Neighborhood* season with *A Light in the Night*, by Elana and Les Hunter, directed by Margi Zitelli. The performance follows a brave young girl's heroic journey to save the ancient history of Hanukkah.

This family-friendly production will take place in the Mandell JCC's Stonehill Auditorium from December 2-10, Saturdays at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. Accessible performances on December 10 at 3 p.m. and December 9 at 1 p.m. will feature open captions, audio description, and tactile tours, with ASL interpretation provided on December 10.

"It isn't often, at this time of year, that families in the broader community have an opportunity to experience stories about the history, joy, and miracles surrounding Hanukkah," said

director Margi Zitelli, adding, "I'm delighted to be able to help bring to life Les and Elana's original tale that combines the warmth of the holiday with humor and important lessons for kids about bravery and facing your fears."

Playwright Les Hunter added, "Elana and I felt it was important to focus on a central theme of the Hanukkah story: that even if you find something to be scary or overwhelming, you can work to overcome whatever darkness surrounds you. We hope that this message will resonate for all who attend."

Tickets are available at talespinnercle.org/tickets and in-person at the box office before the show. All ticket prices are pay-what-you-choose. *A Light in the Night* is best suited for children aged 6-12, and runs approximately 50 minutes.

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Find Your Voice Now

Annie Roth found her voice and now helps other women find theirs. Find Your Voice Now, a nonprofit organization founded by Annie and Mary Ellen Bartlett, supports women in toxic relationships: women who are feeling unheard and alone, and are searching for the



strength to believe in themselves. Its mission is, "To create a network of women to help support and navigate through emotionally abusive relationships and to discover their own voice; to offer a safe space to become empowered to live their healthiest and happiest of lives."

This group was established as a safe space to share, discuss, and simply listen to other women who may be going through similar hardships. It now has 550 members, continues to build its Instagram following, @findyourvoice.now, and recently launched its new website, www.findyourvoicenow.today.

"We offer a loose agenda. After introductions, I ask if anyone has anything pending or if someone needs help right now. These women communicate – they share stories they wouldn't share anywhere else," Annie told us. "That's the safe space we want to provide. It's support when

you need it. We work on your timeframe.

"Support is different than therapy," she added. "Group support is horizontal. We're all equal and there is no judgment. We're on the same plane and are all there to hear, share, comfort, and help each other heal. We don't have to face our problems alone."

Find Your Voice Now meets every other Thursday. Upcoming online events will be held on December 14 and December 28.. You may join a one-hour session by visiting meetup.com/find-your-voice-a-women's-support-group/. The Cleveland and Detroit chapters will both hold in-person meetings starting in January 2024.

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**The Music of Irving Berlin
with Debbie Darling and David Strieter**

Friday, December 22

2-3 p.m.

Enjoy the music of Irving Berlin, as performed by Debbie and David.

Please register at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/9133016>.

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