

Beachwood Buzz

April 2014

Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

MAGAZINE



Michael Abrams



Donna Bickoff Cohen



Judi Magid Feniger



Mia Buchwald Gelles



Jonathan Goldstein



Daniel L. Kalk



Brian Kwait



Jennifer A. Litvak



Maj. Bill M. Terry, Jr.



Sharon Curtis Weisman

Congratulations to 2014 Beachwood High School **Gallery of Success Inductees**

Special Induction Ceremony • Friday, April 11
Beachwood Schools Foundation Gala • Saturday, April 12



BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



Gallery of Success

Beachwood Schools proudly recognizes the following alumni to be inducted into the 10th class of the Beachwood High School Gallery of Success. This induction brings to 121 the number of alumni who have been inducted into the Beachwood High School Gallery of Success since its inception in 1985.

Nominees must be Beachwood High School graduates whose achievements since high school make them outstanding role models for our students. They must exhibit achievements and distinction in one or more of the following criteria: leadership, service, humanitarianism, creativity, courage, and/or career contributions that have benefited others. The inductees were selected by a committee representing a cross-section of the Beachwood community.

Alumni have been invited back to BHS for a weekend honoring their success and to share their achievements with the student body, staff, and community. The weekend will include an induction assembly, VIP luncheon, and student meet-and-greet on Friday, April 11, 2014. The honorees will also be guests at an evening gala sponsored by Beachwood Schools Foundation on Saturday, April 12, 2014.



Michael Abrams, Class of 1966, in recognition of his scientific advances in the field of geology, developing satellite instruments used by NASA for land surface remote sensing from outer space for the study of volcanoes, the ocean crust, and petroleum and mineral exploration.



Donna Bickoff Cohen, Class of 1966, in recognition of her leadership in founding, guiding, and supporting the Beachwood High School Alumni Association, and in memory of her unifying spirit and tireless efforts on behalf of those who shared her love for all things Beachwood.



Judi Magid Feniger, Class of 1969, in recognition of her professional and personal contributions to civic organizations, including the American Red Cross and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in its formative years, and her countless volunteer leadership roles in Northeast Ohio.



Mia Buchwald Gelles, Class of 1984, in recognition of her environmental health research and tireless advocacy, including for those impacted by autism, and for improving the quality of life for thousands of individuals by founding the Milestones organization to support, educate and connect affected families.



Jonathan Goldstein, Class of 1986, in recognition of his talents as a Hollywood comedy writer, a Harvard-educated lawyer who pursued his dream to write scripts for popular television comedies and major motion pictures grossing hundreds of millions of dollars at box offices worldwide; and for his mentorship of the next generation of aspiring writers.



Daniel L. Kalk, Class of 1976, in recognition of his bravery, professionalism and leadership as a lawyer and peace officer specializing in crisis intervention and critical incident response, and his selfless advancement of the law enforcement community as a volunteer educator, trainer and journal author.



Brian Kwait, Class of 1979, in recognition of his personal generosity in mentoring future business leaders and in supporting children's, medical and Jewish philanthropic causes, while transforming and building businesses through Odyssey Investment Partners, LLC, a private equity firm he founded and grew to more than \$5 billion in investments.



Jennifer A. Litvak, Class of 2004, in recognition of her tireless dedication to protecting women's and children's rights; her research and advocacy on human rights issues; and her commitment to enhancing access to educational opportunities for women and other vulnerable populations worldwide.



Maj. Bill M. Terry, Jr., Class of 1989, in recognition of his perseverance, dedication and bravery while selflessly protecting our freedom through his decorated military service in the United States Army as a soldier and an officer willing to lead, train and protect his fellow soldiers.



Sharon Curtis Weisman, Class of 1977, in recognition of her dedication to community service and bridging gaps between hearing and non-hearing people by advancing deaf education and culture in Beachwood and the greater community as an inspiring American Sign Language teacher and role model for adoring Beachwood students and staff.

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The community is invited...

2014 Induction Ceremony
Friday, April 11- 10 am
Beachwood High School



The event you can't miss!
Beachwood Schools Foundation Gala
Saturday, April 12 - 7:30 pm
The Temple - Tifereth Israel

Dinner, dancing, and fun

Champagne reception

50-bottle wine pull

Gourmet food stations – catered by Around Downtown

Entertainment by Light of Day band

Honor the 2014 Gallery of Success Inductees

For tickets, contact Gayle Hochheiser, 216-292-9659.

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Friends of the Beachwood Library

Spring Book Sale

Members Preview Night
Thursday, May 1 • 6 - 8 p.m.
New Members are invited to join at door!

Sale Open to the Public
Friday, May 2 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, May 3 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bag Day - \$5 per bag
Sunday, May 4 • 1 - 4 p.m.

 Cuyahoga County Public Library
Beachwood Branch
25501 Shaker Boulevard / 216.831.6868
cuyahogalibrary.org



On Friday, April 11, the 2014 Beachwood High School Gallery of Success induction ceremony took place in the newly renovated high school. Following presentations by Ed Klein, BHS principal; Dr. Richard Markwardt, superintendent; Doug Levin, director of marketing and development; and Wes Darwin, student council president; inductees were in the spotlight.

Klein welcomed everyone, saying, "Today, these 10 individuals seated on the stage join 111 distinguished alumni in the 10th class of the Gallery of Success. This event recognizes not only the great work of our alumni, but the great work of our teachers and support staff in molding, teaching, and inspiring our students. Our inductees are a testament to the great work that happens here every day."

Dr. Markwardt shared Beachwood's mission statement, to develop intellectual entrepreneurs with a social conscience. "I'd say we have been pretty successful. The candidates for induction into

the Gallery of Success provide evidence of that fact. They have taken advantage of the opportunities that they have been afforded in Beachwood High School and beyond, and have multiplied those gifts for the benefit of those whose lives they have touched."

Levin added, "The committee looked for alumni who would be role models and inspirations to our students. They looked for superheroes; alumni who bring prestige to their professions, follow their dreams, mentor others, give back to their communities, and help those who are less fortunate. Simply stated, people who make this world a better place."

Darvin said, "Today we celebrate the accomplishments of those who came before us, as a reminder of who we can become."

MICHAEL ABRAMS **Class of 1966**

Presented by Zachary Davis:

The Beachwood High School Gallery of Success does not include a rocket scientist, but today we're inducting a NASA scientist. Michael Abrams studied biology and geology at CalTech and has been employed at Jet Propulsion Laboratories, a NASA contractor, for more than 40 years.

His Gallery of Success plaque reads:

In recognition of his scientific advances in the field of geology, developing satellite instruments used by NASA for land surface remote sensing from outer space for the study of volcanoes, the ocean crust, and petroleum and mineral exploration.

Abrams' message: Leave yourself open. There are a lot of things to

Pictured from left: Sharon Curtis Weisman, Brian Kwait, Michael Abrams, Jonathan Goldstein, Mia Buchwald Gelles, Maj. Bill M. Terry, Judi Magid Feniger, Daniel L. Kalk, Jennifer A. Litvak. Not pictured: Donna Bickoff Cohen, inducted posthumously.

try out, and a lot of opportunities out there that people will pay you to do. Keep looking for what excites and motivates you. Doing something you love transforms a job into something much larger and more fulfilling.

DONNA BICKOFF COHEN **Class of 1966**

Presented by Christina Oden:

Good morning. I am introducing Jerry Cohen, husband of the late Donna Bickoff Cohen. Donna was a lifelong Beachwood resident. She graduated from BHS, raised her family in Beachwood, and stayed involved in the community until her passing three years ago. She is

credited with founding the Alumni Association, and she led numerous community committees and activities.

Her Gallery of Success plaque reads: In recognition of her leadership in founding, guiding, and supporting the Beachwood High School Alumni Association, and in memory of her unifying spirit and tireless efforts on behalf of those who shared her love for all things Beachwood.

Donna's message through Jerry: Today's experiences are so very important. Not only for the formal education, but the whole gamut of this wonderful time in which you transition from childhood to adulthood. Having friends is the key to creating a wholesome, happy life and to give traction to your goals. Education trains your head, but the true skill of life is friendship. This is not a skill of the head, but a skill of the heart.

JUDI MAGID FENIGER, Class of 1969

Presented by Maya Spector: Our next inductee has made a significant mark on Cleveland's nonprofit and arts scenes. Judi Magid Feniger helped to raise millions of dollars for the American Red Cross, and then led the Maltz Museum during its early years in Beachwood. She is now president of the Gordon Square Arts District, a vibrant neighborhood that has attracted 75 new businesses, a burgeoning housing market, new jobs, and has earned national and international notice.

Her Gallery of Success plaque reads: In recognition of her professional and personal contributions to civic organizations, including the American Red Cross and the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in its formative years, and her countless volunteer leadership roles in Northeast Ohio.

Her message:

- **Use what you have.** Individuality is what's going to work for you when you're out in the world. Google Colin Powell's 13 Rules; they're great. Number 7

says, "You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours," so use what you have.

- **Get out of your comfort zone now and then.** Try something that doesn't come easily, or that scares you. The sooner you get used to doing that, the better. There are do-overs; nothing is forever, so don't be afraid of failure.
- **Connect.** Whether that means connecting with what you love to do or things you want to learn, or building relationships or figuring out how things interact with each other, go out of yourself to connect – and someone will always come back to connect with you.

MIA BUCHWALD GELLES Class of 1984

Presented by Brittany Penn: The Beachwood community has always taken care of all of its children, especially those with special needs. After discovering her own son had autism, our next inductee, Mia Buchwald Gelles, likewise made it her career mission to make life easier for children and families who are impacted by autism. She co-founded the Milestone Autism Organization in 2003 to help the thousands of local people in need of resources.

Her Gallery of Success plaque

reads: In recognition of her environmental health research and tireless advocacy, including for those impacted by autism, and for improving the quality of life for thousands of individuals by founding the Milestones Autism Organization to support, educate and connect affected families.

Her message: Here are some steps to follow when facing adversity:

- Get organized – keep a notebook
- Talk to everyone you can
- Be a good listener
- Find a friend to partner with
- Work together with someone with complementary skills – vision vs. meticulous, technical details

- Play to your strengths
- Prioritize what you work on
- Dive in and work hard – very hard
- Be persistent – do not give up – have a can-do attitude
- Focus on the big picture and what other people need
- Maintain a sense of what is important
- Know that you can make a difference

JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN Class of 1986

Presented by Nathan Wolkoff:

We can learn from our next inductee that life isn't always scripted – no pun intended – and that we should follow our dreams. Jonathan Goldstein graduated from Michigan, then Harvard Law School, and – after two years as an attorney in New York City – he said "to heck with this" – and moved to California to become a Hollywood screenwriter. Since then, his films have grossed hundreds of millions of dollars in box offices worldwide and have starred some of the best-known actors of our time.

His Gallery of Success plaque

reads: In recognition of his talents as a Hollywood comedy writer, a Harvard-educated lawyer who pursued his dreams to write scripts for popular television comedies and major motion pictures grossing hundreds of millions of dollars at box offices worldwide; and for his mentorship of the next generation of aspiring writers.

His message: Use this time wisely.

Figure out what you like and don't like. Find a way to talk to people whose jobs seem cool. Use your favorite teachers as resources. Pay attention to what's going on here today. Why? Because I'm willing to guess that everyone up here loves what they do. They didn't just find some career box and stuff themselves into it. They built their own box. You're going to spend around 105,000 hours of your life at work. I don't care how much fun your weekends are; if you don't like what you do, your life is gonna stink.

DANIEL L. KALK Class of 1976,

Presented by Elliott Small

Our next inductee has more than 30 years of experience as a law enforcement officer and attorney. Daniel Kalk conducts advanced training for law enforcement officers in more than 50 separate areas of training, and has authored more than 40 articles on police tactics and procedures, which are used for training in police academies and police departments nationwide. He has also received numerous awards for professionalism and bravery in the line of duty.

His Gallery of Success plaque

reads: In recognition of his bravery, professionalism and leadership as a lawyer and police officer specializing in crisis intervention and critical incident response, and his selfless advancement of the law enforcement community as a volunteer educator, trainer and journal author.

His message: In life, you can be famous or infamous, honorable or dishonorable, ordinary or extraordinary. Doing the right thing shows and builds character. It is important to have dreams and goals. While trying to achieve them, stay true to your character and convictions. You should never have to settle or compromise your standards or your morals in order to obtain success. What will set you apart from the crowd is your willingness to take a stand and take a chance. Doing the right thing should not be an option – it should be a way of life.

BRIAN KWAIT Class of 1979

Presented by Kyle Cohen:

Our next inductee is founder and co-president of Odyssey Investment Partners, a leading middle-market private equity firm that he established in 1998 and grew from a single \$750 million fund to five investment funds worth \$5 billion. He is also a great mentor and philanthropist who prides himself on developing and mentoring the young leaders of tomorrow and believes that it is important and gratifying to support and give back to the community.

His Gallery of Success plaque

reads: In recognition of his personal generosity in mentoring future business leaders and in supporting children's, medical and Jewish philanthropic causes, while transforming and building businesses through Odyssey Investment Partners, LLC, a private equity firm he founded and grew to more than \$5 billion in investments.

His message:

To share the 5Ps to help achieve success and happiness:

- **Passion.** Focus on finding something you love doing and pursue it. Expose yourself to as many different areas and people as possible; be open minded and don't be afraid to think outside the box and take risks. The reality is – many of the next great growth opportunities are in industries that don't even exist today.
- **Patience.** We live in a world of instant gratification – I want it ALL and I want it NOW. When it comes to building a career, THIS IS NOT REALITY. Gaining responsibility within a job requires that you work hard, long hours and earn the privilege of rising through the ranks.
- **Perseverance.** There is 100% certainty that life will present many ups and, unfortunately, some downs for all of you. You will make mistakes and you will take some wrong turns during the course of your lives. Those mistakes, while painful, will provide some of the best growth experiences of your life, since adversity gives you the opportunity to think on your feet, be inventive and build strength in a way that successes don't necessarily do.
- **Preparedness.** "Luck only happens when preparedness meets opportunity." Ask questions, be curious and LISTEN, because that is how you will learn and grow.
- **Pay it Forward.** Most of us, at some point in our lives, have been touched by the help of

someone which has made a difference in our lives. I believe we all have an obligation to pay it forward by helping family members, giving your time to not-for-profits or by making charitable donations. I encourage you all to take the time and give back by getting involved in community service.

JENNIFER A. LITVAK

Class of 2004

Presented by Hannah Feldman:

Our next inductee is one of the youngest graduates ever inducted into our Gallery of Success, but she's proven that it doesn't take a lifetime to make a difference. Jennifer Litvak has traveled the world to study how the lack of access to education impacts women and vulnerable populations. She has presented her research to global leaders, including the United States Congress and United Nations.

Her Gallery of Success plaque

reads: In recognition of her tireless dedication to protecting women's and children's rights, her research and advocacy on human rights issues, and her commitment to enhancing access to educational opportunities for women and other vulnerable populations worldwide.

Her message: When graduating high school, all I could think about was leaving Beachwood. Later, I recognized the identity I had been so ready to shed became an armor in which I felt ready to do battle. All of you are growing up in a great community. Your Midwest upbringing is unique. Take time to know who you really are and what you really want. Each one of you can change the world.

MAJ. BILL M. TERRY, JR.

Class of 1989

Presented by Sri Vidya Uppalapati:

When Maj. Bill M. Terry, Jr., joined the Army after high school graduation, he thought he was signing up for a three-year term, but recently retired following 21 years of military service to our nation. He

served in Iraq and Afghanistan and became a commissioned officer who worked his way up to the rank of Major. Today, he continues to teach and develop future Army officers through the Kent State Army ROTC program.

His Gallery of Success plaque

reads: In recognition of his perseverance, dedication and bravery while selflessly protecting our freedom through his decorated military service in the United States Army as a soldier and an officer willing to lead, train and protect his fellow soldiers.

His message: Do what you love. Find your passion. Seek out opportunities and experiences to add to your bag of skills. You may not know what that is right now, and that's okay. Take advantage of all that Beachwood High School has to offer, and go off and do great and wonderful things.

SHARON CURTIS WEISMAN

Class of 1977

Presented by Hannah Richardson:

Today, for the first time ever, we induct a teacher into the Beachwood High School Gallery of Success. Sharon Curtis Weisman has spent more than 30 years teaching deaf education and American Sign Language in Beachwood and other schools in Northeast Ohio. She has been instrumental in forging Beachwood's historic bond with Cleveland's deaf and hard-of-hearing community. She has taught us about deaf culture and giving back to our community.

Her Gallery of Success plaque

reads: In recognition of her dedication to community service and bridging gaps between hearing and non-hearing people by advancing deaf education and culture in Beachwood and the greater community as an inspiring American Sign Language teacher and role model for adoring Beachwood students and staff.

Her message (as a storyteller):

Four months ago, I went on the adventure of a lifetime. My daughter, Brittany, and I went on an African Safari. The employees at Mombo,

our first camp, wore t-shirts that said, "Our Journeys Change Lives." It certainly changed mine. On the first day, we met our guide, Ona. We jumped into our jeep and headed out of the camp when Ona said, "What do you want to see today?" Lions, elephants, giraffes, snakes, spiders and baboons were some of the answers. Ona said, "No, those are not the right answers," and we began our adventure.

We proceeded to see the most fascinating sights, including lions walking right next to our jeep, and a leopard sitting on a branch eating its prey.

On day two, we got in the jeep and Ona repeated the drill. He listened to our responses, and again told us these were not the right answers.

Now, I, being the ever-curious teacher and knowing that I didn't have much time left with this very enlightening man, asked, "Ona, so what is the right answer?"

He said, "The right answer is, 'anything and everything,' because if you are so focused on seeing one thing and only have your sights on that one animal, you will miss so much beauty along the way."

Life is a wonderful journey. Sometimes there are disappointments and sadness, and other times you can experience pure joy, dynamic interactions and all the beauty along the way. I encourage all of you to live life, take chances and experience all that you can.

In closing, Board President Mitch Luxenburg congratulated all inductees, thanking them for being our superheroes.

A luncheon took place after the induction ceremony, followed by a "Meet and Greet," where students had opportunities to converse with inductees. The celebration continued Saturday evening at the Beachwood Schools Foundation Gala, a formal event at The Temple-Tifereth Israel, attended by 200 guests. Funds raised will directly benefit Beachwood Schools Foundation student scholarships.

Thanks go to all who contributed to make this weekend a success.