

Beachwood Buzz

June 2024

Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

MAGAZINE

GALLERY OF SUCCESS

BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL



13TH INDUCTION CLASS
FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024





Pictured from left: Monique Davis Gordon, Gayle I. Horwitz, Bradford Douglas (a friend of the late David A. Arnold), Julie Arnold (wife of the late David A. Arnold), Marshall E. Barron, Rebecca Boroff Suhy, Dr. Brian Weiss. Not pictured: Alex Wyse. Photo by Dr. Ken Veon.

On Friday, April 19, Beachwood City Schools honored seven distinguished alumni during the Gallery of Success induction ceremony. These individuals, who embody the district's mission to "develop intellectual entrepreneurs with a social conscience," were celebrated in front of students, staff, and community members for their outstanding achievements.

This year's inductees included:

- **David A. Arnold** ('86), Stand-Up Comedian, Sitcom Writer, Producer, Actor
- **Marshall E. Barron** ('74), President, Barron Pharmacy
- **Monique Davis Gordon** ('96), Vice President, Global Local & Cultural Innovation, The Estée Lauder Companies
- **Gayle I. Horwitz** ('98), Civil Rights Attorney at U.S. Department of Education
- **Rebecca Boroff Suhy** ('95), Co-founder, Allison Rose Foundation
- **Dr. Brian Weiss** ('76), Podiatrist and Past President of the Beachwood Board of Education
- **Alex Wyse** ('05), Actor, Writer, Director, Producer

Leaders of Change

The 2024 Gallery of Success inductees have made remarkable contributions across diverse fields, from entertainment and community service to medical innovation and civil rights. Their achievements underscore the powerful impact of Beachwood City Schools' alumni, demonstrating leadership, creativity, and dedication in improving both local and global communities.

Since its inception in 1985, the Gallery of Success has honored Beachwood graduates who have made substantial contributions in leadership, service, courage, humanitarianism, creativity, and their chosen careers, serving as inspiring role models for current and future students.

"I am continually impressed by the distinguished alumni who exemplify the enduring value of a Beachwood education," said Paul Chase, principal of Beachwood High School, in his opening remarks. "They illustrate how such an education not only ranks among the finest but also fosters lifelong opportunities."

In his welcome speech, superintendent Dr. Robert Hardis emphasized the personal growth and resilience of the alumni. "Each individual being recognized today was once a Beachwood student, just like all of you," Dr. Hardis said. "While they have followed different paths, they each demonstrate perseverance, resilience, and determination to make a positive impact on our world."

Board of Education president Megan Walsh recognized the unique journeys of the inductees. "Your paths may have all gotten their start here in Beachwood, yet each of you charted your own course to make significant contributions to our larger world. It is clear that each of these Beachwood graduates put our district's values into action."

Senior Nishan Shrestha, Student Council executive president, then commented on the importance of having role models as he and his peers prepare to make their own mark. "Each new inductee is a role model for all of us and proves that success can be

measured in many different ways," he said. "They show us that the future is not set in stone. It's something that we each create for ourselves."

During the ceremony, the Gallery of Success inductees expressed deep appreciation for the recognition from Beachwood City Schools, underscoring how this acknowledgment not only honored their achievements but also reinforced their connections to their roots. They imparted valuable life lessons to current students, encouraging them to embrace challenges, pursue their passions, and support each other. After the ceremony, the inductees engaged with the students more personally, answering questions and offering tailored advice during one-on-one interactions.

Explore the Gallery

Scroll through the gallery below to learn more about each inductee's unique contributions and inspiring journeys.

The induction program may be viewed on YouTube.



David A. Arnold • Class of 1986

In recognition of his outstanding creative talents and success as a comedian, television producer, writer, show creator, and teacher, as well as his steadfast commitment to sobriety, mentorship, and excellence in the entertainment landscape, and of his service in the United States Navy.

After graduating from Beachwood High School in 1986, David A. Arnold served his country in the United States Navy as a medic. Entertaining troops on the USO Comics on Duty Tour ignited his passion for making people laugh, yet Hollywood initially

closed its doors to him. Undeterred, David embarked on a remarkable climb from the bottom rung, creating his own opportunities in the entertainment industry. In 2001, David self-released his first comedy album: *Cause I Gotta Go to Work in the Morning*. Shortly thereafter, he wrote, produced, and directed three independent short films: *Because My Standup Is Not Enough!!*, *Til Death Do Us Part?*, and *The Garage Sale*.

His persistence paid off when he appeared on Def Comedy Jam, Comedy Central, and when he hosted the Laugh Factory's *Chocolate Sundaes* on Sunset Boulevard. David took the internet by storm sharing his journey as a loving husband to Julie and devoted father to Anna-Grace and Ashlyn. His unfiltered point of view and no-nonsense brand of parenting garnered two million followers across all social media platforms.

While touring to sold-out audiences and working as a writer/producer, David found time to teach hundreds of aspiring comedians in his popular class, *The Art of Standup Comedy*, to which he authored a companion book set to be published posthumously. His early works, first issued in the 1986 Beachwood High School magazine *Introspect*, laid the foundation for an illustrious career that included writing over 200 episodes of television. His early credits include *Meet the Browns*, *House of Payne*, and *Real Husbands of Hollywood*.

David's television journey culminated in becoming an accomplished producer for Netflix's *Fuller House*, Nickelodeon's *Side Hustle*, BET's *Bigger*, and as the creator and showrunner of *That Girl Lay Lay*, a hit TV show. One can witness David as a world-class comedian in his two Netflix

specials, *Fat Ballerina* (2020) and *It Ain't for the Weak* (2022).

Tragically, at the age of 54, he passed away unexpectedly at home, just as he was about to step center stage at Carnegie Hall while on his Pace Ya Self Tour. David's legacy lives on through his laughter-inducing contributions to the world of comedy and television.

David's inspirational message, from a podcast interview (*The Ed Mylett Show*, 2022) right before he passed: Anything worth anything is not supposed to be easy. It's supposed to be hard. It's supposed to make you feel like ... Maybe I shouldn't do this. Maybe this is a mistake. Maybe I should quit. You have to want what you want hard enough that it cuts through all of that.



Marshall E. Barron • Class of 1974

In recognition of his expertise in the fertility industry helping prospective parents build families, and serving as a resource to reproductive endocrinologists and pharmaceutical manufacturers on best practices and innovations fostering greater patient comfort and pregnancy success rates.

Marshall E. Barron has been a contributor to his profession and his community since graduating from Beachwood High School in 1974. As a leader in his industry, Marshall established Barron Pharmacy as

the first fertility pharmacy in Ohio and one of the first in the country. The pharmacy specialized in reproductive endocrinology and infertility services, serving clinics throughout the United States. Marshall played a critical role counseling patients and providing exceptional service and resources resulting in over 20,000 babies. For over 30 years, physicians and nurses counted on his expertise, professionalism, compassion and kindness in providing the best care possible for patients. He innovated compounding medicine and usage methods to help patients achieve and maintain pregnancy and minimize patient discomfort.

Marshall spoke at conferences throughout the country including for Resolve: The National Infertility Association, inspiring and educating potential parents and nurses. He served on various boards, including

The Partnership for Families at The Cleveland Clinic and at University Hospitals, helping to raise money and awareness for families with challenged resources. He advocated for newly diagnosed cancer patients for special consideration with manufacturers to preserve their fertility and on behalf of those serving in the military. He helped shape the response of the pharmaceutical industry to these unique circumstances.

He is a three-time Weatherhead 100 Upstart Companies award recipient. Marshall used his resources as a business owner and pharmacist to bring medications to the Jewish community in Cuba and sent medication to Ukraine during the current war through the Jewish Federation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when supplies were limited, Marshall donated cases of hand sanitizer to the Beachwood

Police Department and testing kits to the Beachwood Board of Education. As a volunteer with the Cuyahoga County Medical Reserve Corps, Marshall administered COVID-19 vaccines at mass vaccination sites and participated in readiness for emergency missions. A graduate of Ohio Northern University College of Pharmacy, Marshall held memberships in the Ohio Pharmacists Association and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and participates in AIPAC and Israel Bonds.

Marshall and his wife Rosie Haim live in Beachwood and are parents to Shira, Class of 2011.

Marshall's inspirational message: Never underestimate how much you can help others by sharing your time, talent, and treasure.



Monique Davis Gordon · Class of 1996

In recognition of her leadership and achievements in the beauty industry, with expertise in marketing, as well as product and commercial innovation, and her dedication to ensure that the industry continues to expand its focus on inclusivity to better serve all consumers.

Monique Davis Gordon is Vice President, Global Local & Cultural Innovation, at The Estée Lauder Companies. In this role, Monique works across the company's portfolio of brands to develop and

expand product and commercial innovation to increase relevancy with global multiethnic consumers. Monique also leads expertise across the intersection of Ageless and Skin of Color consumers to support acceleration across generations. With a passion for beauty inclusivity and deep product marketing experience, Monique has oversight of the Skincare and Fragrance categories, and collaborates with R&D, Product Development and Brand Marketing teams to ensure the company's products meet and exceed expectations for skin of color consumers.

Monique started her career at The Estée Lauder Companies as a presidential associate and has since held marketing roles of increasing responsibility at several brands within the company's portfolio, including Bobbi Brown, Aveda and Clinique. Additionally, Monique led marketing

categories at Avon Products Inc., including Skincare and Makeup. She also held a marketing position at Conair Corporation, responsible for driving the Hair Dryer and Ladies Grooming categories for key accounts, such as ULTA and Target. Monique returned to The Estée Lauder Companies in 2019.

Monique is a recipient of the Cosmetics Executive Women 2021 Emerging Leader Award for her business accomplishments in the beauty industry. Recently, Monique was part of a cross-functional team that created a marketing campaign for a Clinique skincare product which won the 2023 ARF David Ogilvy Award, the premier awards program that honors research and insights driven advertising.

Monique is proud to serve as global advisor for the Network of Black Leaders and Executives (N.O.B.L.E.), one of The Estée Lauder

Companies' employee affiliate groups with nearly 600 members worldwide. Under Monique's leadership, N.O.B.L.E. received the Seramount "2021 Above and Beyond Award" for galvanizing more than 4,000 employees to donate approximately \$3 million to social justice organizations in 2020.

Monique holds a bachelor's degree from Spelman College and a master's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from Northwestern University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and lives in Westchester, New York, with her husband and two children.

Monique's inspirational

message: Life is for living and learning, so don't limit yourself. You can go as far as your mind lets you – what you believe, you can achieve.



Gayle I. Horwitz · Class of 1998

In recognition of her work as an attorney to end sex, race, and disability discrimination affecting students and educators across the United States, as well as her dedication and enthusiasm as a community volunteer, advocate for gun-violence prevention, and supporter of refugee families.

When Gayle Horwitz was growing up, she dreamed of fighting for women's rights. Today, her work to end sex discrimination affects more than 60 million students and educators across the United States.

As an attorney in the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Gayle has served since 2021 on a small team drafting new Title IX regulations for the Biden Administration, where she has contributed to historic proposed updates to civil rights protections for students who are pregnant, LGBTQI+, or impacted by sexual violence. Previously, Gayle worked for 11 years in OCR's Cleveland enforcement office where she resolved hundreds of cases alleging race, sex, and disability discrimination against students. She also interned with the National Women's Law Center where she focused on student athletic issues.

Outside of work, Gayle is a dedicated and enthusiastic community volunteer. A lifelong lover of politics since serving as president of the Beachwood High School Class of 1998 and

secretary of Junior Council on World Affairs (JCWA), she now sits on the Executive Committee of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, is a longtime election protection volunteer, and twice represented Ohio at the Democratic National Convention. Devoted to the well-being of children, Gayle serves on the board of the Joseph & Florence Mandel Jewish Day School, has led several initiatives to reduce community gun violence, and was honored for her work to support local refugee families. She is also founding president of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the American Constitution Society, an organization that educates the legal community about critical civil rights issues.

Before becoming a lawyer, Gayle pursued her passion for journalism – which began during her stint as BHS' *Beachcomber* editor in chief –

through internships with ABC News and American Lawyer Media where she covered the U.S. Supreme Court.

A graduate of The George Washington University and Georgetown University Law Center, Gayle lives in Solon with her husband Matt Besser, and their two sons Sam and Ashton. She would especially like to thank her mom, Sandi Horwitz, and her dad and nominator, Martin S. Horwitz ('71), who, on Gayle's first day of kindergarten at Fairmount Elementary School, drove behind the bus videotaping and have never stopped cheering for her since.

Gayle's inspirational

message: Never miss a chance to tell someone how much they mean to you and to the world. Valuing each other is the best thing we can do.



Rebecca Boroff Suhy • Class of 1995

In recognition of her effective leadership to mainstream food allergy awareness and preparedness after losing her daughter Allison, and as a co-founder and executive director of the Allison Rose Foundation, where she has led state and national efforts to provide life-saving education and emergency supplies to schools and other organizations.

In 2017, Rebecca (Becca) and her husband Michael lost their oldest daughter, Allison, a freshman at Ohio

University, to a severe food allergy reaction. She was the light of their life, best friend to her 16-year-old sister Jenna (now 22), and role model to her eight-year-old brother Ryan (now 15). The loss was indescribable.

After losing Allison, Becca and Michael vowed to find purpose in their tragedy, honoring Allison and creating her legacy. In November 2018, they launched the Allison Rose Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to changing the lives of food allergy families through education, awareness, research, and advocacy. Severe food allergies continue to be misunderstood. If proper education were mainstream and stock epinephrine was accessible, food allergy sufferers, their support systems, and the general population would be properly informed. They would be prepared to understand, recognize and effectively manage

a severe food allergy and life-threatening reaction.

Becca serves as co-founder and executive director of the Allison Rose Foundation while continuing her decades-long career as an accomplished marketing and public relations consultant. She has proven success within agencies, non-profit and corporate organizations and provides strategy to grow the Allison Rose Foundation. The foundation now has national reach with life-changing and life-saving accomplishments. In collaboration with a renowned medical advisory board of acclaimed food allergists, the Allison Rose Foundation retains a team of first responders and medical professionals who teach and train thousands of individuals each year. The organization has also passed Ohio legislation, the "Allison Rose Act," that encourages

food allergy education and training in schools, as well as facilitates access to stock epinephrine through partnerships with Code Ana and the Hoyt Institute of Food Allergy.

In 2021, Becca was recognized by Spokin as one of the Top 100 Women in Food Allergies, and the Allison Rose Foundation has been featured in many articles and segments, including the *Washington Post* and *Today*.

Becca and her husband, Allison Rose Foundation co-Founder Michael, live in Independence with their son Ryan. Their daughter Jenna resides in Chicago and works in public relations.

Becca's inspirational

message: Each of us has the power to transform tragedy into a catalyst for change, to channel grief into purpose.



Dr. Brian Weiss • Class of 1976

In recognition of his leadership on the Beachwood Board of Education for 17 years, service to the community, including as a bond levy chairperson, accomplishments in the field of podiatry, and as a board member of the Northeast Ohio Academy of Podiatric Medicine and the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio.

Dr. Brian Weiss began his Beachwood Schools education in fourth grade. After marrying his wife Dawn ('78), they returned to Beachwood to raise and educate

their four children, each with their own learning style and needs. His involvement and commitment began as he wanted to learn and be part of their educational journey. Brian served on over 20 committees before being appointed to an open seat on the Board of Education in 2004. Serving over 17 years, the second longest tenure of any Board member, Brian served as president or vice president for 12 years.

There were many exciting times, including working closely with the administration on the rebuilding of BHS, and challenging times while leading the Board through the COVID pandemic. His experiences and leadership will leave a mark on the Beachwood Schools for many years. Brian says that sometimes difficult decisions were made easier by following his principle of always doing what is best for kids. His dedication continued after leaving the board by chairing a successful

bond issue campaign that raised \$65 million to rebuild Bryden and Hilltop elementary buildings.

Brian attended Cleveland State University for three years before being granted early admission to the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine. He practiced podiatry for 35 years with an emphasis on geriatrics. He serviced over 25 senior, assisted living, nursing care and memory care facilities. Brian has served as the treasurer and executive board member of the Northeast Ohio Academy of Podiatric Medicine for over 20 years. For 37 years, Brian has served as a committee member producing one of the largest podiatric educational seminars in the state, presenting medical specialists from around the world.

For many years, Brian served as a board member and president of the Upside of Downs (now the Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Ohio), a support group serving

hundreds of families of children and adults with Down Syndrome.

He has been a member, for over 40 years, of the Owatonna Knights of Pythias lodge, a fraternal organization based on charity, friendship and benevolence.

Brian and Dawn proudly live in Beachwood. Their four children and seven grandchildren, including an eighth expected in the summer of 2024, live locally.

Brian's inspirational

message: Find someone you love. Create a family that you love and loves you. Find a career that you love and do it well. Find a way and a reason to love helping others. Continue to do all of the above and don't stop, don't change, don't quit. The dividends that you receive on a daily basis are immeasurable. Accolades or recognition are an unnecessary bonus.



Alex Wyse • Class of 2005

In recognition of his illustrious career in theater, film and television as a multi-talented, multi-faceted actor, writer, director, and producer, as well as his efforts to broaden representation of the LGBTQ community on stage and screen.

Alex Wyse is an actor, writer, director, and producer who currently resides in New York City. Last year, his debut film as a writer and director, *Summoning Sylvia*, opened in 23

markets across the country, received a 100% on Rotten Tomatoes, is currently streaming on Starz, and was nominated for a GLAAD Media Award. Last year, he also performed on Broadway in the play *Good Night Oscar* opposite Tony and Emmy winner Sean Hayes. Additionally, his solo musical, *Picking Up Speed*, which he wrote and performed, debuted in New York to acclaim.

Alex's other theater credits include the Broadway musicals *Waitress*, *Deaf West's Spring Awakening* (during which he performed on the Tony Awards and on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*), and *Lysistrata Jones*. He also performed in the national tour of *Wicked* (including a stint at Playhouse Square), and off-Broadway in *Ride the Cyclone*, *Bare*, and *Triassic Park*.

Alex was the co-writer and star of *A Commercial Jingle for Regina Comet*, the first new musical to open off-Broadway after the pandemic, and he co-wrote, directed, and starred in the Emmy-nominated and Indie Series Award winning *Indoor Boys*, which now streams on Here TV. On television, he has played roles in *Iron Fist*, *Masters of Sex*, *Bored to Death*, *The Bold and the Beautiful*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *The Other Two*, *NCIS: LA*, *Switched at Birth*, *Modern Family*, *Agent X*, *A to Z*, and *Bad Judge*. His film credits include *X/Y*, opposite America Ferrera.

Alex has also worked as an actor around the country, performing at theaters like Hartford Stage, The Wallis Annenberg, Paper Mill Playhouse, The Cleveland Play House, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Daegu

International Musical Festival, The Cleveland Lyric Opera, Huntington Theatre Company, and The Lyric Stage Company of Boston. He served as a co-producer on the Pulitzer-finalist and Tony-nominated play, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, on Broadway, as well as its subsequent national tour.

Alex received his BFA in Theatre Arts from Boston University and he is proud to have grown up in Beachwood.

Alex's inspirational

message: Don't listen to anyone who tells you no. Just keep banging on doors and eventually one of them will open. Better yet, build your own door.

OVERFLOWING GUTTERS?



LeafFilter™
GUTTER PROTECTION

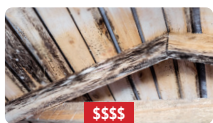
Save Up To

30%*

**Clog-Free Gutters
For Life – Guaranteed!**

**Save Thousands & Protect
From Costly Water Damage**

Call 866-596-2005 Today For A FREE INSPECTION!



Mold + Mildew



Foundation Damage+Erosion



Rotting Fascia & Soffit

20% OFF + **10% OFF**
Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

LeafFilter.com/JNBBDamage | Promo Code: 477 | Expires: 7/31/24

+ See Representative for full warranty details. *Promotional offer includes 20% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year.