

Seaside Jewish Community Annual Meeting, Sunday, November 22, 2020

**Members present:** David Udoff, Buddy Feldman, Marsha Davis, Susan Aaronson, Alyssa Simon, Stanley Silverblatt, Mat Ash, Todd Hacker, Howie Hochman

**Opening blessing:** Rabbi Beth asked for G-d's blessing as everyone came together for this annual time to connect, even in virtual world, still getting to see each other. She also offered blessings for the Board officers and Board members and committee chairs, as well as blessings for health and strength, adding that the fact that we are together is probably most important blessing we can receive. She also asked for blessings to get through the tough times we are in and still face, and "may our words today be wonderful, and hear wonderful things about this community, may we continue to do that. May it be so, Amen."

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 A.M. by Marsha Davis

Marsha Davis asked meeting attendees that when they go to chat area and raise their hand (virtually or otherwise) to please make sure they identify themselves. She also encouraged to attendees to keep their questions short.

**---Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes----**

**ALYSSA SIMON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING. JOCELYN KAPLAN SECONDED (A NEEDED SPELLING CORRECTION FROM JOAN CHURCHILL WAS NOTED. MOTION PASSED.**

**President's Report: Marsha Davis**

This has been a year of adjustments and transitions.

In January, as a new President, I enthusiastically created a list of things I wanted to accomplish. I was full of energy and excitement. Then came the pandemic and

shutdowns. My list became irrelevant, and it was replaced with a focus on how best can we stay together as a congregation.

For those of you old enough to remember the TV show, *This Is The Week That Was*, I suggest we replace “Week” with “Year”. We have had so many first-time experiences, while even coping with the many uncertainties in the world around us. We began the year with excitement of the prospect of having a “new” building; we end the year with the building being complete and our gathering to celebrate its completion unable to happen.

Through these ongoing transitions, I want to thank the Board members and the committee chairs who stepped up and carried on in the true Seaside volunteer way. Thank you one and all.

You will hear from our Treasurer on next year’s budget, and the Search Committee will bring you up to speed on what has been accomplished, and what is planned for the future. It is all exciting.

I hesitate to name names of persons who have given so much, and I ask you to listen to the committee reports and send them a virtual applause by waving your hands. We are all volunteers, so positive feedback is always appreciated.

Without further ado, let’s get onto yet another new experience.

## Committee Reports

### Adult Education Committee (Carole Ash and Hank Smith)

Like others, Adult Ed had a very unusual year due to the COVID virus. However, the Committee readily pulled together to create and deliver many popular programs, via Zoom.

- The AEC presented three COVID-19 related programs this year: Two were about COVID19 anxiety and were presented by SJC Member Dr. Robb Mapou. The other program provided detailed information about the virus itself and measures to protect oneself. In this presentation, SJC member Susan Towers interviewed Dr. Jeffrey Hawtof to glean that information.
- There were nine Haftorah presentations by Jeffrey Rosen; this well-received series continues on an almost- monthly basis. Jeffrey Rosen has also presented two of his four “Jewish Ghost Stories” series, which have given those who attended a lively introduction into Yiddish Literature, with two more still to come.
- The SJC Book Group, under the leadership of Enid Zafran, elected to read a book a month this year due to increased demand. To date, nine memorable and well-attended book events have taken place. We were most fortunate to have the authors present for our discussions of *My Father’s Paradise*, *Florence Adler Swims Forever*, *Kosher Chinese*, *The Last Kings of Shanghai*, and *Siberian Exile*. The December event on *I Want You to Know We’re Still Here* will also include a discussion with its author. Due to our co-sponsorship with Browseabout books and the Lewes Library, we’ve had incredible turnout joint events.
- Prior to the pandemic, author Eric Lichtblau delivered a special presentation about his new book *Return to the Reich: A Holocaust Refugee's Secret Mission to Defeat the Nazis*. This special event took place at Lewes Library and also was co-sponsored by SJC and Browseabout Books.
- Our popular Jewish Intellectual History series picked up with a review of the first 12 episodes delivered by Peter Zoll, the new leader for this series. An additional episode was delivered by Marty Rosensweig, and Mat Ash will present the next chapter in December.
- The Adult Ed Committee was able to present three powerful Holocaust Memorial Museum programs through the guidance and encouragement of Andrea Hoffman, and a fourth will be delivered in 2021.
- Adult Ed was able to offer beginning and intermediate Hebrew classes. While this initiative is closed to new participants for this year, anyone interested in

studying Hebrew in the future should please send an email to Hank Smith indicating your desire to be added to the list of potential students.

- Once we can meet again in person (in our new and improved building), Adult Ed may offer more Mussar classes to congregants. As of now, two groups of previous participants continue to meet via Zoom.
- Since it remains unclear what our options will be in June, we are currently planning a program on Sephardic traditions and culture for the Alfred Gross weekend. This type of event can be presented in any format. In conversations with Suzanne Gross, she has expressed to us that she is quite happy with this alternative.
- The Adult Education Committee continues to collaborate with other committees at SJC to effect meaningful programming.
- We are always looking for new ideas, new members, and participants for any and all events. Everything we do is announced in the Newsletter and weekly eBlasts.

## **Cemetery Committee (Allan Slan and Barry Novich)**

By the end of 2019, we had sold all the cemetery plots (100) that were made available to us from St. Peters Episcopal Church in Lewes. They have informed us that they do not have additional sections for Seaside to utilize.

We started to search for a cemetery in Sussex county that would be willing to allocate a minimum of 100 plots to Seaside. We had discussions of a possible section at Henlopen Cemetery in Milton, DE. They offered a proposal of 100 plots, but the financial terms to Seaside were not in the best interest of the congregation. We offered a counterproposal, but they insisted on maintaining the original proposal. They have never come back with a formal proposal that we could present to the Board of Directors.

In the meantime, we continued our search for a cemetery for Seaside in Sussex County that could reserve a minimum of 100 plots for Seaside and be financially favorable to Seaside and our members. Currently, we are in early discussions with another cemetery in Millsboro, DE. We have not reached the proposal level, but hopefully we will be able to bring a proposal to the Board for review and approval by the December Board meeting.

We still are receiving requests from members to purchase plots at such time as a new cemetery is established. Once we have an official cemetery, we will contact these members to determine their interest level in the new cemetery.

We sold two memorial plaques this month. For the past year we have sold seven memorial plaques. Since construction is basically complete at Seaside, those new plaques that have been stored will now be installed.

## **Communications Committee (David Udoff and Jennifer Rubenstein)**

The Communications Committee has been very busy doing its “normal” work this year, which has become even more important during the pandemic shutdown. This work includes publishing the eBlasts, the Newsletter, press releases, and articles to *J-Voice*, the monthly magazine produced by the Jewish Federation of Delaware. We also maintain the website.

In January, we assisted with the communication around our Groundbreaking Ceremony. This included coordinating between the local press and Seaside leadership in planning and executing efforts. We would like to thank Norm Stein for his assistance and advice stemming from his expertise and experience in broadcast media in coordinating our media relations during the Groundbreaking.

Earlier this year the committee opened up discussions with the Board about redesigning the Seaside website. Those discussions will continue into 2021.

Every month, we solicit articles, photos, and other materials for publication in the Newsletter. This marked our second year doing the eBlast, and we are now about to complete our second year of the Newsletter being run soup to nuts by the editorial team of Noreen Spiegelman, Reba Novich, and David Udoff. We don't know how Fran Sneider did this for ten years as a one-woman show!

Thank you to all of our contributors --- committee chairs, committee members, Board members, and our religious leaders --- for everything you have submitted to the eBlasts and the Newsletter. Without your written materials, photos, ads, and flyers, these publications do not exist. We depend on you to help us provide timely, clear, and precise communication to our membership. So, thank you for being the messengers we need to communicate with the congregation at large.

Thank you, President Marsha Davis and Vice-President Susan Aaronson, for reviewing and approving all of the eBlasts and Newsletters we have published this year. Also, many thanks go Susan Towers for her continued contributions to the Committee in writing press releases for us.

Thanks to Reba Novich and Noreen Spiegelman for their amazing professionalism and for being such great co-editors of the Newsletter. My job as layout person is made that much easier by their efforts to gather and prepare the articles for publication. The best part is that Reba and Noreen are a pleasure to work with and

represent one reason why I enjoy being on this committee and working on that Newsletter.

And finally, I want to thank my co-chair Jennifer Rubenstein. Simply extolling Jennifer for her efforts in this report hardly does her work justice, but it goes without saying that without her extraordinary focus in fielding the numerous requests she gets for the eBlasts, putting together the eBlasts, acting as a trusted consultant on the Newsletter, we would be lost as a committee. She carries a really heavy burden for us and for Seaside, and I, for one, want as many people as possible to understand and recognize that. Additionally, she has been a true friend and supporter for many years now.

Going forward, if you have an idea for an article, if you would like to submit any material for the Newsletter or eBlast, if you have something you want covered in the Newsletter and eBlast, or if you would like to offer your services to the Communications Committee, please let us know.

## **Community Service (Emily Eider)**

Like everyone, the Community Service Committee has faced challenges this year to carry out its mission, but our work is now more important than ever, with so many people facing job losses, food insecurity, and homelessness. While some activities were curtailed this year, including the International Student Outreach Program and our volunteering at the Food Bank, dedicated volunteers have continued to staff the Epworth Soup Kitchen, collect unused food from area restaurants, and hold successful collection drives.

Under the dedicated leadership of Dill Patz, Soup Kitchen Team 6 continues to perform a vital service for the hungry in our community. A much smaller group is involved due to COVID, but they are producing huge results: every six weeks, when it is Team 6's turn, they prepare almost 200 takeout meals that are distributed that day and for the weekday Epworth Good Sam program as well as shelters in Georgetown.

Our 13 food rescue teams, under the leadership of Reba and Barry Novich and Hank Smith, are on the road three days a week (following COVID safety guidelines), picking up unused food from area restaurants like Surf Bagel and The Point, which is then distributed to the needy by Epworth. Almost 8,000 lbs. of food has been collected this year, a drop from last year's total, but certainly significant. This is an amazing partnership between businesses, Seaside, and Epworth Church.

What may have been our largest collection drive ever was held in the middle of the pandemic during our fall holiday season. We amassed 1,500 lbs. of food for the Epworth Food Pantry, two SUVs of personal care items for Code Purple homeless shelters, and more than \$800 in cash donations. This was a fantastic interfaith effort with UU and Epworth as part of Peace Week.

We also collected gloves for those being released from prison and diapers for the Harry K baby pantry and created gift baskets for indigent Cape Henlopen graduates.

Thanks to the generosity of members who support the Community Service Fund, we continue to financially support numerous local non-profit community groups, including La Esperanza, the Community Resource Center, Delaware Hospice, JFS, Camp Rehoboth, A Way Home, and the Cape Henlopen Food Basket. Through a generous grant from the Cross Foundation, we were also able to financially support

the Epworth Food and Love Pantry, the Cape Henlopen School District lunch program, and other organizations dedicated to feeding the needy.

Committee members are also eager to make an impact on the community by participating in social justice projects. Leslie Slan helped organize our participation in Peace Week, which delivered a wealth of online educational and spiritual events to the Delaware community. We look forward to collaborating with other faith communities on social justice projects in the future.

Thank you to all who have helped SJC spread its mission of Tikkun Olam and impacted so many people in need in our community.

## **Chesed (Phyllis Bloom)**

The Chesed Committee spreads Tikkun Olam to the members of the Seaside family. At our monthly Chesed meetings, we review the number of cards sent, meals prepared, and visits and calls made to our congregants by our committee members during the previous month. We discuss situations where congregants may need some assistance and how to best assist them. The committee also reviews the list of SJC members who are ill and/or homebound to determine what committee members can and should do. The Chesed Committee is made up of three subcommittees: Helping Hands, Holiday Gift Bags, and Pastoral Support.

The Helping Hands Subcommittee offers temporary support to members who are ill, grieving, homebound, or just needing a helping hand. Available support includes the sending of cards, visiting people at home, and running errands. Last year, we sent 91 cards, made 783 calls, and made 58 visits. (Thanks to the coordination of Fran Sneider and Anita Smulyan, we called every member of the congregation numerous times during the pandemic to touch base.) Our Meal Train, coordinated by Ellie Flanzraich, prepares and delivers meals to congregants recovering from illnesses and surgery. This year we delivered 42 meals. Our Bereavement Committee, coordinated by Andie Silverstein, furnishes meals of comfort after a death and fruit and pastry trays for shiva and memorial services. This year we supplied 6 bereavement meals.

Twice a year, at Purim and Rosh Hashanah, our Gift Bag Subcommittee, chaired by Susan Aaronson, coordinates the delivery of gift bags. The Purim bags include hamentashen, grape juice, a mandarin orange or clementine, cookies/candy/nuts, and a mask and card decorated by the Religious School students. This past year, we delivered 25 bags. The Rosh Hashanah bags this year included an apple, honey sticks, and candy/cookies/nuts. This year, due to the pandemic, we delivered bags to every congregant who was in town. Thanks to Susan Aaronson and the High Holy Day Logistics Committee, most of the bags were distributed when congregants came to pick up their machzors. The additional bags were distributed by the Chesed Committee members. Altogether, 275 bags were given out.

Our Pastoral Support Subcommittee works with the Religious Leader to provide pastoral counseling to members of the congregation. Pastoral volunteers are chosen

based on appropriate background and experience, such as working in counseling or healthcare.

As a result of the generous support of the Cross Foundation, we were able to support programs to feed the hungry. We provided fresh fruit to the Epworth/Beebe Food Delivery Service and meals and desserts for the Soup Kitchen at Epworth every six weeks.

## **High Holy Days Logistics Committee (Susan and Andy Aaronson)**

Preparations for the 2020/5781 High Holy Days began in May with a series of weekly meetings of the committee to explore various scenarios and options on how to best and most safely deliver the services to the congregation. With state regulations for houses of worship changing every few weeks due to the novel coronavirus, and with the need for a decision to be made early enough for adequate planning, the committee was in total agreement to have virtual-only services, which was approved by the Board at the July meeting. Many, many thanks of appreciation to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy for all the components involved in this unprecedented year. Special thanks to Interim Religious Leader Rabbi Kevin Bernstein and Rabbi Emeritus Beth Cohen for their coordinated efforts in delivering a very meaningful and fulfilling High Holy Days experience for SJC.

The HHD mailing with all of the information as to how to access the services was sent out on August 21. A special thank you to Jennifer Rubenstein for help with this. Articles were included in the July, August, and September SJC Newsletters with the pertinent information as well. Paid advertisements with general instructions how to access the services were placed in the *Cape Gazette*, *Coastal Press*, and *J-Voice*.

The actual services were recorded on September 1 and 2 at Epworth United Methodist Church, edited, and prepared for viewing with the assistance of Rabbi Kevin Bernstein, Rabbi Emeritus Beth Cohen, and Pastor Bo Gordy-Stith. On the days and times scheduled for each service, viewers were able to click on the SJC YouTube link to watch from the comfort and safety of their own homes. As of October 14, a check on the SJC YouTube channel showed the following number of views: Erev Rosh Hashana, 489; Rosh Hashanah morning, 632; Kol Nidre, 621; Yom Kippur morning 1,200, Yom Kippur evening, 719. The number of views reflects the number of devices, which means there were actually many more individual viewers. This number greatly exceeds the expected viewership. Notes of thanks and compliments for the services and ease of viewing have been received from members and nonmembers.

With virtual-only services, members needed a way to get prayer books to enhance their worship experience. Information on how to order personal copies was included in the print information listed above. On September 13 and 14, approximately 125 member households came to SJC to pick up approximately 230

prayer books. More than 25 people volunteered to help with the book distribution on those days. An additional 20 books were picked up by members at the Aaronson home during the week. About 85% of the prayer books were returned on October 4, the date scheduled for that purpose. Everyone who did not return books on that day was either called or sent an email. The remaining books have since been returned to the Aaronson's house. It was an easy task to determine any outstanding books due to the process implemented at the time members borrowed books, that is, numbering each borrowed book and writing the corresponding number on a master sheet.

Tashlich was another successful departure from how it has been done in the past. It was agreed that this would be an in-person activity with strict adherence to safety precautions. Interested participants registered on Yapsody for one of the listed geographic areas. About 70 people registered for the in-person Tashlichs and were then divided into six groups, which met in the following locations and were led by following:

Holts Landing State Park (Howard Hochman); Tower Road Beach, bay side (Marsha Davis); Lake Gerar (Leslie Slan); North Shores Marina (Susan Aaronson); Bay Pointe/Angola area (Emily Eider); the Lewes Cape May Ferry (Beth Cohen); Rabbi Kevin Bernstein led the virtual Tashlich service with 20 participants. Ninety people in all participated, and it was decided that in the future, several locations would again be made available for Tashlich.

Prior to the holidays, Fran Sneider and Anita Smulyan organized a phone call system to reach out to all of the members of SJC to check in on their well-being, remind them of holiday activities, and to see if they would be in the area for Rosh Hashanah. Approximately 35 people made phone calls to over 500 members.

Rosh Hashanah bags containing an apple, chocolate bar, package of nuts, hard candies, honey straws, and a greeting card were prepared. These bags were handed out to members at the book pickup. Bags were delivered to the rest of the members who said they would be in the area during the week leading up to Rosh Hashanah. Eleven volunteers delivered these remaining bags.

The week following Yom Kippur, a lunch was delivered to the staff at Epworth United Methodist Church as a thank you for their wonderful hospitality extended to SJC during the recording of the services.

A measure of success for the appreciation of the service delivery may be reflected in the higher than expected amount of High Holy Days donations received, exceeding the budgeted expectation.

After serving as High Holy Days Logistics Committee chairs for the past four years, Susan and Andy Aaronson are stepping away from this responsibility. Barry and Reba Novich were approved by the Board at the October meeting as the new co-chairs.

Neil Trugman noted that the virtual services were very well done and thanked the committee for this. Dahni Barkley agreed that the HHD Logistics Committee did an outstanding job in presenting meaningful services, and Marsha Davis noted that 1,200 people participated; she thanked Susan and Andy Aaronson for doing such a fabulous job.

Jeffrey Rosen asked how long the YouTube link from HHD services should be left up? Susan Aaronson said she imagined that would be a Board decision, but acknowledged that it was probably time to take the links down.

## **House Committee (Mat Ash)**

The House Committee has been busy this past year. Almost none of the activity was related to the maintenance and use of our old building. However, we did manage the development of our beautiful new building, adding many features to the older structure to produce a new home for our community.

Since the Groundbreaking in January, the Committee supervised and conducted the packing and moving out of the building, the monitoring of the various contractors during the construction process, and, on this past Thursday (Nov. 19), immediately after the final Fire Marshall inspection, the move back of our property and beginning the process of putting our furniture and property back in the new home. The settling in will not be done for some weeks, but we should have the final Certificate of Occupancy within a week or two, and then the building will be ready for us when we decide we want to re-enter and use it.

The construction budget approved by the Board in February 2020 was \$1,269,000, and while the final numbers are not yet available, as some bills remain to come in, I believe that the final cost will be a slight overrun of about 7 percent, or somewhat less than \$100,000. These costs were in part due to the following factors:

- The unexpected necessity to remove extensive brush and trees at the side and rear of the property
- Repairs to the older portion of the building such as sanctuary ceiling insulation, rotted walls, removal of the rotted walls in the old (smelly) storage room on the lower level, and repair of the older windows to correct their improper original installation
- Adding insulation to the walls of the Rabbi's office to ensure greater privacy
- Design upgrades to the sanctuary for the wood doors and bema trim and to the exterior to add the blue shingles to the peaks of the front of the building
- Adding shutters to the existing windows to match those of the new windows
- Extensive upgrades to the electrical service to accommodate better elevator service
- Upgrades to the water service line running from the street to accommodate the new sprinkler system
- A decision to add features that would permit us to stream our services to permit virtual attendance at services and meetings

While most of these could not have been planned for, although some could have, we will be certain to take all of them into account when we build the next Seaside building.

Beyond the cost overruns, there were some costs that were due to changes made during the process to upgrade the functionality of the building. The Committee considered and brought before the Board ideas to address needs pressed on us by the COVID-19 virus, such as to enhance our audio-visual system to add full streaming capabilities and to add state of the art features to our heating & ventilating system to greatly reduce the spread of airborne viruses, as well as other features such as adding a large concrete patio at the rear that was left out of the original plan. These features added approximately \$20,000 to the overall costs.

On the issue of COVID-19, the Committee addressed this in two ways. We set up an ad hoc group and brought in others in our membership with professional expertise in managing these types of problems: a doctor, a nurse, a facilities manager, and an engineer. The result was two reports to the Board addressing changes need to the design of the building and, subsequently, the guidelines and procedures to be used by Seaside in opening and managing the flow of people in the building when that time comes. Special thanks here to Dr. Jeff Hawtof, Shelley Garfield, Hank Rosenberg, and Phil Saxe for their time and help. When the time comes that we want to re-enter the building, it will be as safe an indoor space as we can provide with today's technology and knowledge.

A word about grants and their impact on the cost of the building. I was lucky to be able to help Seaside obtain two federal grants for a total of \$103,500 and a private grant from the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation, which is administered by the Jewish Federation of Delaware for \$18,000. Special thanks here to Karen Norris for her help with the first federal grant. Of these funds, \$85,000 will go directly to offset some of the costs in the budget for security features we had planned from the beginning. The balance of \$36,600 has and will be used for features that we originally passed over as too expensive or not warranted but, with available funding, were worth adding to the project. Thus, the balance of the federal funds will be used to add perimeter obstacles to obstruct a vehicle from getting next to the building, and the Kutz Foundation funds will be used to pay for the patio, the cost of the streaming equipment, and the future cost of a memorial garden and artwork for the foyer. While we have had to front the expenditures because, of these \$123,000 grant funds, only approximately \$25,000 has been received thus

far. With final billings and the usual bureaucratic review process, we should receive most in the near future to reduce the amount we have spent out of pocket.

I think I can speak for the House Committee to say we look forward to the time it is possible for all of our members to visit and tour the building. I believe the result of the collaborative process among the members of the Committee and a few significant others has been a reasonably priced and beautiful but modest home for our community. It is important that I thank each of these people all of whom have contributed in their way, but most particularly our Vice Chair Stanley Silverblatt. His knowledge and experience in building matters and his untiring dedication to the Seaside community has added immeasurably to the value, function, and beauty of our building. Also, a special thank you to two of our members who have come forward to head up the final design work and ongoing supervision of our audio-visual systems, Norm Stein, and our new and expanded kitchen, Barry Novich.

About 10 days ago (prior to November 22), I used the six hours I waited at the building for the Verizon representative to show up to connect our service to prepare a list of items to do to finish off the building process. It runs to two typewritten pages, and that will be the focus of the Committee's work over the next month or two. I had lots of uninterrupted time to do this because Verizon never showed up or called.

## Membership Committee (Elaine Hochman and Diane Flyer)

Since the last Annual Meeting, Seaside has gained 35 new adult members and

	<b>Last Year Ending December 2019</b>	<b>CURRENT as of November 19, 2020</b>
Renewing Member Adults	497	<b>513</b>
<i>New Member Adults</i>	85	35
<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>548</b>
Total Children	71	68
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>616</b>
<b>Households</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>364</b>

three children, as of November 19, 2020. The current number of Members that have renewed or joined includes the following:

There were 69 members that did not renew, and outstanding individuals that owed totaled 20. In June, the Treasurer, Howie Hochman, asked the committee to contact members who had outstanding membership dues. There were 138 outstanding members at the time.

This past year, membership has been very slow, partially due to COVID. However, we have had a number of individuals inquiring about Seaside during the year. Diane Flyer and I have spoken to approximately 15–20 prospective new members who are considering moving to the Rehoboth Beach area in the near future, or already live here. Information has been provided to them about Seaside, the surrounding communities, and things to do in the area. We have conveyed to them about all the virtual activities and programs we have to offer, including volunteer opportunities. We have referred them to our website and the YouTube video about the building expansion. The prospective members want to know about the different communities where our members live, places to shop for groceries, especially matzah for Passover, and also to find Yahrzeit candles. They want to know places to eat and where to find Kosher food (which are few and far between). They also want to know about realtors in the area, which we have provided.

In May, Joel and Alyssa Simon led a lively discussion via Zoom, “**Why Am I a Member of SJC?**” Many thoughts were shared regarding the programs and activities Seaside has to offer. Members talked about their favorites, what needs to be improved upon and ideas for the future.

During the year, the Membership Committee welcomed member Diane Flyer as the committee's new Co-Chair, replacing Howie Hochman. We thanked Howie for his enthusiastic leadership; however, he is still remaining on the committee. We also welcomed new members to the committee, Larry Krevor and Marianne Mandel.

All new members are sent a welcoming package, which consists of a letter, the Seaside Directory, and a small mezuzah. A phone call is made as well.

Unfortunately, during this year, due to COVID, we had our annual activities cancelled: **1) New Member Shabbat Service/Luncheon (May), 2) Shabbat Barbeque (August), and 3) Pizza in the Hut (October).** We also had a **Delmarva Shorebirds game** scheduled the first weekend in **August**, in partnership with the Social Committee. We hope to reschedule all of these activities in 2021.

The Seaside Annual Member Directory will be forthcoming in January 2021.

## **Multi-Faith Committee (Allan Slan and Leslie Gladstone)**

This year witnessed the Committee coming into full operation as a Board-sanctioned subcommittee of the Worship Committee.

George Beckerman, who has championed this effort from its inception, opted to step aside as chairman in favor of Leslie Gladstone and Allan Slan, who agreed to serve as co-chairs, and also stepped aside as the unofficial chair of the community Multi-faith Steering Group in favor of Sobia Chaudhry and Ingrid Miller. George remains extremely active on both committees and continues to help drive their mission, activities, and goals.

During the year, the Steering Group was enlarged to include the Faith and Israel Methodist Churches in Rehoboth and Lewes respectively, both led by the Reverend Marjorie Belmont Burns. Her addition has strengthened the social action component of the activities of the combined faith houses as well as the direction of the Seaside multi-faith effort. There is a symbiotic relationship between Seaside's multi-faith effort and that of the faith houses comprising the Steering Group. Each supports and helps drive the activities of the other. It is anticipated that one or more additional faith houses will be added to this group during the coming year.

Perhaps the hallmark of the success of the Committee has been the realization of its interaction and collaboration with the Seaside community generally and specifically with other standing committees; all consistent with its mission statement.

The year commenced with the full participation of the (then four) faith houses' youth in a very successful community service day at the Milton Historical Society honoring the birthday of Brian Stevenson and highlighting his work and the exhibit reflecting same. The purpose of that day was to provide essential items to formerly incarcerated individuals reentering the community. Joel Simon organized the youth participation and interacted with Allan Slan in developing the program along with other community organizations. In conjunction with the Community Service committee and the Board, Seaside made both a financial contribution and held a successful glove drive for the event.

Although not formally connected to the work of our Committee, the Sister's Groups continued to expand. A second and third group were formed and became operational, and a fourth group has recently formed. Participants in those groups are members of the participating faith houses. We are now beginning to discuss the formation of brother's groups, and they are likely to emerge in the coming year.

The Steering Committee worked in conjunction with the Rehoboth Beach Film Society in its presentation of the film, *Hate Among Us*, depicting the rise of Anti-Semitism globally. The showings were well attended with excellent follow-up discussions.

The shared dinners (with participation from all faith houses), which commenced at the end of last year, unfortunately were halted due to the COVID-19 crisis. Once we have hopefully moved beyond that, they will pick up again.

The Multi-Faith effort had a significant role in the Sussex County component of the statewide Peace Week celebration that took place in October. Planning for that event took place over the course of several months and was facilitated by Leslie Slan. The events included a clergy panel (organized by Sterling Green), a Sister's Program (participated in by the second and third formed groups and led by Sobia Choudhry), an ADL program (organized by Sara Rosen), a food pantry drive (coordinated by Emily Eider in conjunction with Epworth and the UU Churches), and a youth program (created and led by Joel Simon) featuring youth-led Zoom programming. In collaboration with the Rehoboth Beach Film Society, the youth watched the John Lewis Film, *Good Trouble* and followed with a youth panel discussion.

A planned program looking at the religious institutions in Sussex County to be held at the Rehoboth Museum and planned in collaboration with the other faith houses and Seaside's Adult Ed Committee was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. It will be resumed once attendance at the Museum is safe.

Following the George Floyd murder, a vigil/rally was organized by a small group of Seaside Multi-Faith Committee members in conjunction with other faith houses within and outside the Steering Group, including the UU and others. Approximately 600 individuals ultimately participated in a peaceful, respectful event.

The Committee commenced an outreach program to area churches (Laura Glenn) and to area organizations (Leslie Slan). Contact has been made with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Southern Delaware. The first area of collaboration is likely to be around social action and may include social action committees of other area faith houses.

An initial discussion has been held with the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice regarding potential collaboration in community-wide events specifically involving the youth of our community and focused upon racism, antisemitism, and hate. One such event in the very preliminary discussion stage is a march across the Indian River Bridge or some other local bridge on March 7, 2021, commemorating the Edmund Pettus Bridge March

The recitation above is not exhaustive but demonstrative of the on-going activities. The Committee is fully operational, engaged, and expanding its activities.

## **Social Committee (Fran Saltzman)**

Like all the other SJC committees, the Social Committee had a challenging year! Our primary job is to bring people together; considering that, looking back, we did more than okay, thanks to so many of you.

On January 5, we held our traditional Opening Dinner. This year was special. We were in the ballroom at Baywood Greens for a buffet dinner and open bar, live music, and some dancing, even the hora. Pat Powell singlehandedly organized this event, the venue, the food, and the music. Thanks so much for a great time, Pat.

In co-sponsorship with the Adult Ed Committee and the Rehoboth Beach Film Society, March 11—15 was the annual Rehoboth Beach Jewish Film Festival. You all are film buffs and traditionally come out and help to sell out this event. We had selected some great movies and even had slated extra showings in anticipation of great ticket sales. Unfortunately, coronavirus had other ideas---that was the weekend that it all broke loose. Some of us got to a few films; regrettably many of us missed the bulk of it.

Our Sharing Shabbat, scheduled for May, went virtual in early June. We had five zoom rooms with about 40 folks attending. We shared traditional Shabbat blessings and a few stories, but the highlight was Rabbi Kevin, our first introduction to him. He managed to get to all five rooms and present a teaching!

Our Havdalah on the Beach in July became Havdalah in the Home. Rabbi Kevin led us in a Havdalah service and presented a brief teaching, and then we were treated to a few games and activities led by Ellen Passman and Louis Numkin. These two had never met, but they managed to pull together an evening of fun and challenge for all who attended. I need to mention here that for both Sharing Shabbat and Havdalah, we worked with Worship Committee, thanks especially to Sara Rosen.

In September, we had a delicious virtual treat; Anita Smulyan, with our good friend Jimmy, presided over a rugelah making demo. Everyone knows Anita's baking and cooking skills, so this was very well attended. There were many questions, discussion, and comparisons of others' recipes. Thanks to Anita, and we welcome you back to bake/cook for us anytime!

In October, the Social Committee sponsored a film discussion. Members watched "Little White Lie" on Netflix in advance, and then we came together to discuss .

Deena Newman did some research on this film and led us in a lively discussion. Thanks, Deena.

As I write this, I'm anticipating a challah baking demo on zoom by Gail Seligson. Gail is a new member of our congregation who has volunteered for this. Thanks to Gail, too.

Looking ahead also to a Toys for Tots collection that we are doing with the Community Services committee on Sunday, December 6, 12—2 pm in the SJC parking lot. Also we are eager to be joining the Worship Committee in presenting a short program on the Saturday night of Chanukah, December 12. We are working to prepare some kind of Jewish Film Festival with the Rehoboth Beach Film Society later this spring.

Two positives this year --- we expanded the size, ideas, and expertise of this committee. Thanks to Joel Simon, Ellen Passman, Deena Newman, Gail Seligson, Susan Heller, and Lis Hellewege. I still welcome any one of you to join us, because as we open our new building, we will face more challenges. And I may come looking for you! Secondly, as committees we have continued to work together more closely --- I am so grateful for the ideas and support of our other committee chairs.

## **Worship Committee (Sara Rosen)**

### Worship Services

1. In November 2019, the fourth Saturday member-led service was added as a response from members who wished to add a service to come together and to worship. In response to the coronavirus, the second Friday night member-led service was added to give members a way to see each other and to worship. There has been a range of attendance, but there has always been more than a minyan. The zoom tiles ranged from approximately 12 to 28. We are most appreciative of the many members who have led services with enthusiasm, feeling, and creativity and to the many members that participated in services by leading prayers and English readings.
2. Throughout this time, there have been discussions regarding how to fulfill everyone's needs. Because we are a diverse congregation regarding observance and knowledge, an attempt has been made to include English readings, English translations of prayers, and music in our member-led services.
3. During those months when there are five weekends, the committee has offered a Havdalah service followed by a program. This happens several times a year, and as long as we are Zooming, the committee will offer the service.

### High Holiday Services

1. We are indebted to Susan Aaronson, her committee, and her army of volunteers for making our High Holiday services meaningful and run smoothly. It required incredible coordination of many moving parts. Included was the participation of 90 people for Taschlich in multiple places, the delivery of Rosh Hoshanah bags, coordination of the videoing at Epworth, and the pickup and return of the high holiday prayer books. Yasher koach!
2. Our appreciation to Rabbis Kevin and Beth is great. They planned, contacted people, coordinated the videoing at Epworth, and kept our congregation engaged for the holidays! Yasher Koach and many thanks!
3. After many years of service, Susan and Andy Aaronson have stepped down from the role of High Holiday Logistics committee co-chairs. Reba and Barry Novich will be filling their shoes with their organizational skills and their knowledge of our congregation. Welcome aboard!

4. The Elul program, which was the Hebrew month preceding Rosh Hoshanah, was a wonderful success. Each night, Psalm 27 was recited and a short program took place, followed by the blowing of the shofar. Twenty-three Seaside members shared stories from their childhood or their profession, presented a drash, sang, and cooked! Four programs were led by Religious School families or faculty members. The program culminated in a Selichot service, the first one to take place at Seaside. Phil Saxe, Jeffrey Rosen, and David Herschler led this effort. Yasher koach!

5. Evey Herschler and Jackie Land led a family service on Rosh Hoshanah. It was well attended and clever. Yasher koach and many thanks!

Writing of documents was led by a subcommittee of Rabbi Beth Cohen, David Herschler, and Jeffrey Rosen. Many thanks to them for their hard work.

1. A mission statement was written, presented to the Board, and accepted by the Board at Seaside.
2. Two documents were updated: Worship Committee Scope and Procedures and General Guidelines for Shabbat/Festival Worship Leaders.

Festival and minor holiday celebrations

1. For Passover, Reb Lisa led a communal Seder on Zoom.
2. Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom Haatzmaut were celebrated at a Shabbat service.
3. Purim took place on a Sunday with the Religious School. The reading of the Megillah was done partly in Hebrew and partly in English.
4. Tish B'Av was celebrated on the actual day of Tish B'Av.
5. For Shavuot, we joined the statewide program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.
6. Simchat Torah, Sukkot, and Shemini Atzeret were celebrated on the Shabbat that coincided with the beginning of Sukkot. At the high holiday prayer book return, people were given the opportunity to shake the lulav and etrog; 40 people participated.
7. Hanukkah will be celebrated with an Elul type program. There will be a community candle lighting on Zoom led by Religious School families, followed by a program.

## Chevra Kadisha

Carole Ash led the effort to institute a Chevra Kadisha in our area. We have had one opportunity to put this program into operation. Thanks to Carole, there were shomrim and a tahara for a member who requested it. We now have this in place as an option for our members. Many thanks and a heartfelt Yasher koach to Carole!

## Chant and Meditation

We are grateful to Carole Ash, who is leading this beloved program on Zoom. When it became clear that Zoom would be the only way to meet, Chant and Meditation expanded its practice to include a shorter version for Friday late afternoon. Yasher koach, Carole!

## Religious School

This year the Religious School sponsored a Saturday morning Shabbat service. It was well attended by the families and members of Seaside. All of the families that attended participated, as well as the children. The families sponsored the Oneg, and everyone had a lovely Shabbat celebration. We are planning to do this again.

## **Youth Education (Alyssa Simon)**

I want to thank someone who has worked tirelessly for this committee over the past eight years. A huge, huge thanks to Marjorie Kobrin for her dedication toward educating the children and youth of Seaside Jewish Community. She is a true gem, and the Youth Education committee would be lost without her. I have enormous shoes to fill. We love you and are glad you are staying involved with the committee.

Next, I want to thank the committee for all of its hard work this year.

Members:

Holly Jacobson, Religious School Director; Marjoire Kobrin; Dr. Joel Simon; Dr. Jeff Hawtof; Dr. Nancy Gideon; Sara Rosen; Anita Smulyan; Todd Hacker; Abbey Loble; Morin Stegall

Quick Recap:

In January of this year until mid-March, our classes utilized the facility at the Lewes Library to hold our Sunday sessions. Reb Lisa led a delightful Purim activity with the help of members of the Board (Marsha Davis as the clown) and Worship Committee (Buddy Feldman and Sara Rosen). That was the last “in person” session we had.

Unfortunately, in late March we had to shut down our “doors” for in-person learning due to COVID-19. However, learning did not stop for our SJC Religious School students. Our dedicated teachers learned a new mode of teaching: Zoom style. I personally found it challenging at first, but I enjoyed still “seeing” the faces of my students as we tackled Hebrew prayers and learned about Israel.

We also had to postpone a spring B’nai Mitzvah in May due the pandemic. But fear not; I can tell you that as of Oct. 3, R.J. Namrow was called to the Torah -- socially distanced at Gordon’s Pond -- and did a phenomenal job. We look forward to the “party” in 2021.

Fast forward to September of 2020. Our Religious School started back, again via zoom. Holly Jacobson and the teachers have created a way to engage our students via Zoom and still be true to the values of Jewish education that our committee strives to provide the families.

Enrollment: We had 22 students last year. We graduated eight. We had two families not re-enroll this fall, but we gained a set of twins. Our current number is 14.

The committee wants to thank Evey Herschler and Sara Rosen for creating a meaningful Rosh Hashanah family service via Zoom this year.

Julia Udoff will not be called to the Torah in 2020 but will be in 2021 (she has been getting tutor sessions with Dr. Joel). Including Julia, there are seven Bar or Bat Mitzvot planned for 2021, our largest number ever.

Our committee is currently working on a cool way to have a Religious School Hanukkah celebration, Zoom style, with the “eight nights of Hanukkah – 2020 style”. More details to follow. (can’t give away all my secrets right now).

Lastly, we are very hopeful that by the close of 2020, we can have in person learning at the new and improved SJC 2.0 building.

Thank you for your time.

## **Treasurer/Finance Committee (Howie Hochman and Andy Aaronson)**

- The Treasurer along with the past Seaside Treasurer, Eric Dorsohow, negotiated the final terms of a Construction/Mortgage loan with Fulton Bank for the building expansion. The Loan was signed on March 20, 2020.
- We continue to update user-friendly monthly financial reports for the Seaside Board of Directors and Committee Chairs.
- We are continuing to review and update Seaside financial management practices, including:
  - Seaside's cash management
  - Checks and balances within Seaside finances
  - Enhanced Board oversight and awareness of Seaside finances
- Finance Committee reviewed and revised the 2020 budget to accommodate the changes in Seaside's operations due to COVID-19.
- A subcommittee of the Finance committee is evaluating how Seaside utilizes various "systems" to manage its financial and administrative operations. It is examining a number of synagogue management packages to see if they would improve the administrative operations of Seaside. A report will be made to the board in December.
- Financial Summary
  - It is projected that for 2020 Seaside will break even or end with a slight surplus.
  - Membership fees are higher than were budgeted (revised budget), and some expenses were lower than expected.
  - We have maintained accounts with Fulton Bank and CDs/Money Market account with Morgan Stanley
- 2021 Budget
  - Finance committee received budget requests from all the Seaside committees in July.
  - We met in August to discuss and followed up with some of the committees with questions/clarifications.

- A preliminary draft budget was discussed with the board in September.
- A budget was submitted to the Board in October for discussion and approval.
- Board will review budget after 6 months to see any adjustments need to be made to committee allocations.
- Membership fees remained at \$250 for members over 24. Also, an a Pikuach Nefesh fee was added for \$25 per adult member to cover the cost for additional safety, security, and COVID expenses being experienced by Seaside. This fee is being assessed by many religious institutors around the country for the same reasons.
- A study of other congregations on the Eastern Shore in Delaware shows that SJC membership fees are the lowest.
  
- Summary of changes in the budget:
  - Increase in the Community Service and Chesed budgets
  - Increase in the Worship budget to provide funds for the search committee effort for a new Religious Leader
  - Continued funding in 2021 for a part-time Religious Leader at about half time.
  - Some minor changes in other budgets based which were reflected in their requests
  - General and Administrate budget was increased to reflect the following:
    - Additional funds for security
    - Additional expenses due to the building expansion
      - Insurance
      - Utilities
      - Cleaning
      - Landscaping
    - Payments on mortgage loan
  
- Goals for 2021
  - Review and define all funds that accept donations. Combine programs that are duplicate. Publish on the Seaside webpage the description and use of each of designated/restricted funds.
  - Review and update the charts of accounts that are listed in the Seaside accounting system.

- Continue to modify financial reporting so that it will be more user friendly and transparent to the committees and congregants.

Seaside Treasurer Howie Howie Hochman anticipate surplus in 2020, \$25 additional fee, surcharge for membership. 2021. Letter, full budget, will be in December newsletter.

In response to a question from Jeffrey Rosen about how much of the High Holy Day contributions came from non members, Mr. Hochman said the committee didn't have that figure offhand. A total of \$24,000 in High Holy Day contributions came in, he said, more than expected, a lot from nonmembers.

Howie Hochman also noted that any member who wants to see a detailed version of the Seaside budget request it.

**PETER ZOLL MADE A MOTION FOR THE BOARD TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL TREASURY/FINANCE REPORT. MOTION PASSED.**

## **Religious Leader Search Update, Joel Simon**

Joel Simon thanked Religious Leader Search Committee Chair Todd Hacker for leading Seaside through the challenge of selecting an Interim Religious Leader, finding a “great one” in Rabbi Kevin Bernstein. He thanked all the Committee members for serving with him, plus Susan Aaronson, Marsha Davis, and Rabbi Beth Cohen for advising them. He then read from his written report, as follows;

Since last year’s annual meeting, the committee to hire an interim religious leader and now the committee to hire a settled religious leader has been quite busy. Last fall, Seaside Jewish Community’s Board of Directors chose a committee and designated it with the task of posting the position and interviewing and recommending to the Board an interim Religious Leader. As you know, after an extensive search, Seaside Jewish Community was fortunate to hire Rabbi Kevin Bernstein as our interim religious leader. The Rabbi brings varied experiences and training in interim work that has been valuable. The committee accomplished this task by April 2020.

Since that time the committee, with the help of Rabbi Bernstein, has been collecting data to drive the search process for our next Religious Leader. Throughout the spring and into the early summer, a survey was developed and then distributed to the membership. In the summer, the survey results were compiled and analyzed. The data clearly demonstrated a desire and need by members for more services: pastoral, social, worship, and educational, to name some of the major focus areas.

The committee took a brief hiatus around the High Holidays and then returned to regular meetings in order to further analyze the survey data and develop the letter and video to be distributed to the members. The purpose of both the letter and video was to explain the data and the possible impact.

Since the distribution of those items in October, the committee has begun to develop a job description for the Religious Leader position and organize the focus groups. The focus groups will take place next month; a schedule has been sent to those who asked to participate. For 2021, the plan is to analyze the focus group data and edit the job description as needed. The committee believes we will be prepared to post the position early in 2021. We will then begin to vet any applicants and interview them. We are hopeful that as COVID guidelines change we will be able to have viable candidates come in for a visit.

The search committee asked the Board for input based on the survey results and current needs and desires of the community. The Board of Directors has requested that the committee pursue a full-time Religious Leader to begin at Seaside Jewish Community in 2022. If we find the perfect candidate and they are ready to begin earlier, we may pursue them at that time, but the thought for now is to be able to have a full-time leader hired to begin in 2022.

In order to hire a full-time leader, there will be an impact. Since we believe there is need and want for more services provided, we will have to find a way to pay for the increased services. Of course, whatever is decided will need your support. I am going to turn this part of the report over to the finance committee for their explanation of the potential impact on the 2022 budget.

...

Andy Aaronson then indicated that \$120,000-150,000 would likely cover such expenses.

In response to a question from Jeffrey Rosen on what would determine whether Seaside hires a part-time or full-time Religious Leader, Joel Simon said the survey that was recently sent to members indicated that folks saw a need for more pastoral care. The committee, he said, spent a lot of time consulting with its rabbis to see what time they spent on schedules. In conversations with Reb Lisa Levine, for instance, the amount of time there was a sense that the religious leader position's time is being stretched, that there is trouble getting the job done with it being only half time. With a full-time religious leader, lay led services could be led by a full-

time rabbi. Pastoral care Religious School could also potentially take up more time.

David Herschler noted that additional membership dues needed to cover a full time rabbi could be mitigated by increase in members and fund raising. Howie Hochman confirmed that this was correct.

Joan Churchhill asked whether \$140,000 estimate was for the total cost for a full-time religious leader or the additional amount that a would be required above what Seaside currently pays for part time religious leadership? Marsha Davis said it was total cost

Rabbi Beth Cohen said she thinks that there has been incredible increase in the amount of pastoral care work. She said she herself has been picking up the slack, as Rabbi Kevin Bernstein manages what he has been managing. But Seaside, she said, is at a point now where it is ready for full-time religious leader support.

Karen Norris asked whether the total cost for a religious leader includes associated costs for benefits, workmen's compensation, etc., or will those costs be additional? Howie Hochman said the estimated \$140,000 represents the total costs.

## Capital Campaign (Marilyn Feldman)

Last year, I reported \$874,000 in funding for the expansion project, and urged us to make it a million in 2020.

You did it! And, we are at almost \$1.1 million. Thanks to a dedicated Capital Campaign Committee, and to all of you who have supported the Capital Campaign from your hearts. Pat yourselves on the back!

**Where do we stand today?** Capital campaign gifts, grants, and Seaside's allocation total **\$1,098,767**. A mortgage will make up the difference between the cost of the new building and what monies have been received.

Capital Campaign gifts and pledges	\$717,167
Seaside allocation	\$260,000
Grants	\$121,600
Mortgage	TBD

Two challenge gifts -- the Jeff Hawtof & Nancy Gideon challenge, and the Miriam & Bob Zadek challenge -- were immensely successful and helped the campaign end on a high note.

Around the first of the year, the Capital Campaign Committee will transition to a Development/Fundraising Committee. Retiring the mortgage will be one of our goals.

Call to action:

1. Dedication plans Sunday, December 13, 2020.
2. Peace Wall, seeking donations to install @ \$18/tile
3. If you have not yet contributed to the Capital Campaign, please do your fair share. There has been no building assessment.
4. I extend an invitation for new members to join the Development/Fundraising Committee.

## **Capital Campaign Committee**

Marilyn Feldman, Chair

Mat Ash

Marsha Davis

David Herschler

Jeff Rosen

Miriam Zadek

## **Safety & Security Committee (Norm Stein and Neil Trugman)**

Upon Seaside Jewish Community receiving a satisfactory Building Occupancy Permit from Sussex County, it is recommended that future Seaside building entry and occupancy be considered in two distinct categories: 1) Physical and Personal Safety & Security and 2) COVID era best practices. Occupancy of Seaside should be determined by State of Delaware State of Emergency Directives related to Houses of Worship.

**Limitations of this Report:** SJC building entry by this report does not include recommendations of the House Committee subgroup assessing COVID best practices. Members of this Seaside volunteer group include medical professionals and individuals familiar with large public venues and COVID-era best practices. It is recommended that this subgroup of the House Committee address topic number 2.

**Building Entry:** The SJC Board will determine who is issued door keys, electronic door codes, and building alarm codes.

All building entry should be by the front door. SJC Board members, staff, educators, congregants, and students should be aware that the new building is now secured at all times, with entry protocols in place. The new front entry door and entry corridor has two doors that will remain secured at all times to prevent unauthorized entry to the Seaside facility. The outside door has an intercom connected to the Rabbi's office and Administrator's office. The entry corridor is a location where volunteer SJC usher staff can perform greetings, screenings, COVID questionnaire administration, etc.

**Building Alarm Systems:** The new building has two alarm systems including a fire alarm and a security alarm protecting doors, windows, motion, and panic scenarios. Both the fire alarm and the security alarm system are connected to a central monitoring station. Once either system is activated, Seaside occupants should anticipate both a monitoring station response via a phone call to the building and an emergency services response of fire, police, or both. It is very important to prevent false alarms, as a false alarm fee could be assessed to Seaside with each false alarm.

**Training:** Once the new Seaside building Occupancy Permit is obtained, Seaside will arrange for vendor training of key Seaside Board members and staff, who will then facilitate training for other members of the congregation.

Exciting times. A lot to learn. Volunteers are essential. Training a must. COVID times very challenging. We will work through the issues in a smart and collaborative manner.

## **New Business:**

### **Election of Board members (Cindi Silverblatt, Nominating Committee chair)**

Five candidates ran for three Board positions in 2020. The candidates were David Herschler, Larry Krevor, Joel Simon, Sara Rosen, and Susan Towers. Rotating off the Board this year are Marsha Davis, Alyssa Simon, and Stanley Silverblatt.

Upon counting the Board ballots, there was a tie vote for two candidates, Susan Towers and David Herschler. Per Seaside's by laws a re-vote for the final Board slot was required. The Annual Meeting was then suspended for 15 minutes while the vote took place. Everyone was instructed to email Steve Scheffer, Emily Eider, and Cindi Silverblatt with their names and votes in the subject line so that the vote from everyone present could be tallied.

At 10:27 A.M., the Annual Meeting resumed, whereupon it was announced that David Herschler won the re-vote between him and Susan Towers. Mr. Herschler, along with Joel Simon and Sara Rosen, were elected to the Board.

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In other New Business, SJC member Gail Henner said that with all the hate crimes in the area, that is one reason that Seaside will need a full-time Rabbi, to be the voice for the local Jewish community.

Marsha Davis said the Board will honor Office Manager Wendy Walker with gift, noting that she continued to work for Seaside even after her announced retirement, and that Seaside wants to recognize her for that. She also thanked Stanley Silverblatt for being at the SJC building site every day during construction, checking on what needs to be done.

Ms. Davis also thanked Mat Ash for his work on the building, and for learning how to write grant proposals, which netted the congregation, \$120,000 this year.

Stanley Silverblatt, in turn, thanked Marsha Davis for the unselfish work she has done as SJC President this year. Mr. Silverblatt said Ms. Davis has guided Seaside "to be better than we have ever been." He then presented her with a gift, a plaque of thanks.

Marsha Davis thanked the outgoing members of Board for their contributions to Seaside.

**JOCELYN KAPLAN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE ANNUAL MEETING. DHANI BARKLEY SECONDED. MOTION PASSED.**

At 12:48 P.M., the 2020 Annual Meeting was adjourned.