

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT: Join our Town Meeting on April 7

Seaside Jewish Community initiated a Strategic Planning Process last year to solicit, with the help of professional consultants, input from our members as to what kind of synagogue we want to be - and can be - over the next three to five years. So far this year, we have held focus groups, gathered relevant statistical information, and engaged in individual member interviews as well as discussions at the Board and Committee Chair level.

Now it is time for all Seaside members to help shape Seaside's future. You are cordially invited to participate in a Town Meeting

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Disagreeing at the Seder Table

By Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan

With war in the Middle East and an election season in the US, our family tables might host some heated discussion at Passover. I'm here to tell you that that's a good thing, and a Jewish tradition to boot.

The Passover Haggadah contains a famous passage about the "Four Children," one wise, one wicked, one simple, and one who doesn't know how to ask. But the kicker is that there are no such children in the Torah. The Torah simply offers different wording to teach our children the Passover story, and from that our creative Sages wove a Midrash, fitting the Torah's teachings to four imaginary children and their personalities and learning styles.

It's kind of a cute story, but it's all too easy to turn these children into labels. When someone disagrees with us, we may consider them a "wicked child," whereas when they agree with us, they are the "wise child."

That's not really the way that Jewish disagreement is supposed to work.

As I learned from my teacher Rabbi Daniel Siegel, the Jewish way of the Sage is the way of respectful dialogue. The Talmud, our great compendium of Rabbinic law and lore, starts with a question and has countless questions and arguments on every page, but the purpose for the Sages is not to *win* the argument. No, the purpose is to *refine* the argument, to gain greater understanding and to try to harmonize our lives with the divine will. The Talmud praises listening and respect for others' opinions over being "right."

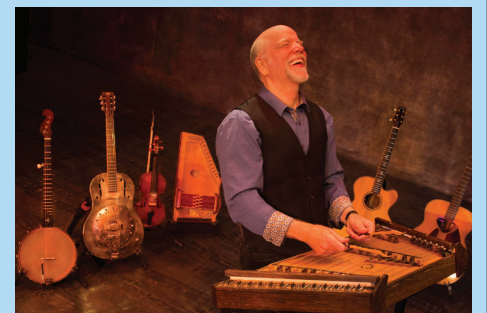
On the other hand, if we lean too much to the Sage side, we risk relativizing all arguments or shying away from taking a stand on important issues. I was raised in Reform Judaism, which emphasizes the Prophetic strand of Judaism.

(Continued on Page 4)

The History of Passover

The holiday of Passover (Pesach in Hebrew) is perhaps one of the most central to Jewish life and history. More widely observed than any other holiday, Passover celebrates the biblical account of the Israelites' redemption and escape from 400 years of Egyptian slavery. Holiday rituals include a dramatic retelling of the Exodus story and many unique food traditions. We come together with friends and family to celebrate the great lessons of the story: the blessing of freedom and the reminder that since we were once slaves and were freed, it is our responsibility to work for freedom for all people, everywhere.

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Folk Music Legend John McCutcheon to perform in Rehoboth

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Plots are available at Sharon Hills
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Novich. His information is available in
our directory or write to:

seasidejewishcommunity@gmail.com

Passover *(Continued from Page 1)*

The word "Passover" is derived from the Hebrew word pasach, which means "passed over," referring to the 10th plague that killed the Egyptian firstborn, but miraculously "passed over" the houses of the Israelites (more on that below).

THE PASSOVER STORY

Found in the Torah, the Passover story tells of the Israelites' slavery, deliverance, and escape ("the Exodus") from Egypt.

The story begins with Joseph, son of Jacob, who was sold into slavery by his brothers and arrived in Egypt as a poor, powerless servant. Joseph's wisdom and ability to interpret dreams soon brought him power and status, and he became the Egyptian king's trusted advisor. His entire family joined him in Egypt, as did many of the rest of the Israelites. There they prospered and multiplied for many generations.

But a new king ("Pharaoh") came to power in Egypt - one who did not remember how helpful Joseph had been. The Israelites' numbers had greatly increased over many years, and the new Pharaoh was suspicious of them, fearing they would someday rise up against him. So, he treated them harshly, forcing them to work as slaves in terrible conditions. Nevertheless, the Israelites survived and continued to multiply.

Dismayed by their fortitude, Pharaoh took harsher action, declaring that all sons born to Israelite women should be killed at birth. The courageous Israelite midwives, Shifrah and Puah, defied this decree, but the infant boys were still in great danger.

When an Israelite woman, Yocheved, had a baby boy, she feared for his life. She placed him in a basket and set him floating in the Nile River, near where people came to bathe. As Yocheved's daughter, Miriam, watched from a distance, Pharaoh's daughter came to the river and found the baby in the basket. She took him, named him Moses ("drawn from the water"), and raised him as her own.

Growing up in the palace, Moses knew very little of the life he might have led. As he grew up, however, he became aware of the plight of his people. One day, seeing an Egyptian taskmaster beating an Israelite slave, Moses killed the taskmaster. Realizing what he had done, Moses fled to the land of Midian, where he married a Midianite woman, Tziporah, and became a shepherd.

Tending his flock one day, Moses came upon an amazing sight - a bush that was burning, but not consumed. God spoke to Moses there, telling him that Moses and his brother, Aaron, would free the Israelites from slavery. Moses was unsure anyone would listen to him, but God promised support and powerful signs, so Moses left Midian and returned to Egypt.

(Continued on Page 3)

HELP: Calling All Kugel Bakers

The Oy Vey 5k afterparty is known for the famous Seaside Kugels. Please contact our Kugel "K"oordinator: Anita Smulyan at 1-609-213-2865 or email her at anitasmulyan@gmail.com if you plan to bring a kugel on April 21.

Passover *(Continued from Page 2)*

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and demanded Pharaoh free the Jews (“Let my people go,” Moses tells Pharaoh in Exodus 5:1). But Pharaoh, skeptical that Moses spoke on behalf of God, refused. In retaliation, Pharaoh forced the Israelites to work even harder and beat them mercilessly.

God then told Moses that, as proof of God’s power, the Egyptians would suffer a series of plagues until Pharaoh agreed to let the Jews go.

During the last plague, God killed the firstborn of each Egyptian family, but “passed over” (thus “Passover”) the houses of the Israelites (who had marked their doors with lamb’s blood), leaving their children unharmed. With this plague Pharaoh finally relented, and let the Israelites go. They hurriedly packed and left Egypt, without enough time for their bread to rise (hence the holiday’s prohibition on eating leavened, or risen, grain products, and the custom of eating matzah).

Pharaoh immediately regretted his decision, and his army chased the Israelites to the Red (actually “Reed”) Sea. With the sea ahead of them, and Pharaoh’s army closing in behind, the Jews appeared to be doomed. At that very moment, though, God told Moses to stretch his staff over the sea, and, in perhaps the greatest miracle in all of Jewish tradition, the waters parted, allowing the Jews to cross on dry land.

Just as they reached the far shore of the sea, the waters closed, drowning Pharaoh and his soldiers. Moses, Miriam, and all the Israelites sang songs of praise to God for their deliverance, including Mi Chamochah, which appears in our modern liturgy, and the Israelites began their journey in the desert.

HISTORY OF THE CELEBRATION

The Torah commands us to observe Passover for seven days. Many Jews in North America and in Israel follow this injunction, but some outside Israel celebrate for eight days. The additional day was added to Passover and other holidays around 700-600 B.C.E. to guard against a possible error because elaborate networks of mountaintop bonfires were used to signal holidays’ beginnings. Although today’s dependable calendar allows us to know when holidays start and end, the eight-day celebration remains ingrained in law and practice for some Jews outside Israel.

Celebrated in various ways throughout history, Passover incorporates remnants of ancient spring harvest festivals. When the Temple existed, the holiday was one of three major festivals that required pilgrimages to Jerusalem to bring sacrifices. After the destruction of the Second Temple, Passover became a more communal, home-centered holiday, with the Haggadah and the seder as we know them mostly finalized around 500-600 C.E.

Source: ReformJudaism.org

Town Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

on Sunday, April 7, at 1 p.m., led by our consultants Sheila Bravo and Susan Detwiler of the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA), where you will have an opportunity to take part in an interactive discussion that will help influence Seaside’s future. Your voice is important!

What should Seaside look like five years from now? What decisions require our attention? For example, but not limited to: What should we be doing more of? Less of? Are we meeting the preferences of our members in the religious services we offer? Are the roles of volunteers changing? Are we continuing to live Seaside’s values?

The Strategic Planning effort began with creating the Strategic Planning Committee, chosen to represent the various constituencies within Seaside. This committee reviewed the qualifications of several experts in the field, and chose Sheila Bravo of DANA to lead this project. Sheila led our prior planning effort in 2017.

Now, this is your opportunity to add your perspective to the conversation, and we want to hear from you. Please plan to join us on April 7.

If you have ideas, thoughts or opinions, and if you are not able to join us, you can reach out to Strategic Planning Co-chairs Leslie Newman or Marilyn Feldman.

Please register on our Seaside website for this important meeting.

Passover Seder

As has been SJC’s tradition, from our start in 1997, this year we will have a community Seder on the second night of Passover on Tuesday, April 23 at 5 p.m. What is different this year is that we will hold it in Seaside’s Social Hall.

The Seder will be conducted by Rabbi Julie Danon with a registration limit of 100 people attending due to the limited capacity of the Social Hall.

The Seder meal will be catered and includes a choice of entrees. The cost to attend the Seder is \$50 per person for members (\$60 for non-members). Children under 6 years old will be free.

Refer to the Seaside website for specific registration information.

7 LAYER CHOCOLATE STRAWBERRY MATZO CAKE

30 minutes / 8-24 hours chilling | Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS

- 8 matzo squares
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- ½ c orange juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 lb fresh strawberries, sliced
- 7 tbsp strawberry preserves
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 6 oz semisweet chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

Lightly brush both sides of 1 matzo square with orange juice. Spread 1 tbsp of preserves over the matzo square in a very thin layer (an offset icing spatula works best). Repeat with the remaining matzo squares, finishing with a matzo square without the preserves. Press lightly on top to compress the cake. Set aside.

Place the chocolate and oil in the top part of a double boiler over simmering water, stirring occasionally, until the chocolate is melted and smooth. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly.

Pour chocolate mixture over the top of the cake. Spread with an icing spatula, letting the chocolate run down the sides. Smooth the top. Refrigerate until the chocolate is set, at least 8 hours or up to 24 hours.

Toss strawberry slices with the sugar and refrigerate for at least 2 hours and up to 12 hours.

Let the cake stand at room temperature for 1-2 hours before serving. Top with the reserved strawberries, slice and serve.

Notes: Substitute gluten free matzo if desired. Here we used Yehuda brand matzo. There are 10 squares in a box, but we used 8 for the recipe to allow for cracked matzo.

Recipe from: <https://www.thefreshmarket.com/inspiration/recipe-and-ideas/7-layer-chocolate-strawberry-matzo-cake>

MATZO CANDY

INGREDIENTS

- 4 Sheets of Matzo
- 1 cup of butter or margarine
- 1 cup Packed Brown Sugar
- 1 cup Chocolate Chips
- 1 cup of Chopped Nuts (your choice)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees

Lay Matzo sheets flat on a cookie sheet

Melt butter and sugar in a pot, until it bubbles

Pour over Matzo

Bake at 450 degrees for 2 minutes

Take it out of the oven, and then spread chocolate chips over the top, evenly

Place back into the oven just until the chocolate melts

Sprinkle with nuts

Refrigerate or freeze until hard

Break in up and serve

Do you enjoy Seaside's eblast?

Are you good at editing short stories/blurbs for electronic newsletters?

Do you like to know what's going on in the Jewish community?

We are looking for a Seaside member to help with our weekly eblast - the most popular pathway we use to communicate our news.

If you are interested, please email Susan Towers at susanltowers@gmail.com.

Disagreeing

(Continued from Page 1)

Tikkun Olam, fixing the world, and social justice were our primary Jewish values. We were taught to stand up and speak out for what is right.

Even here, there is a danger, for if we lean too much to the prophetic side of our heritage, we risk becoming self-righteous and judgmental, and canceling anyone who has a different world view.

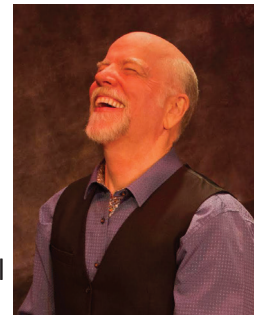
The Judaism that I embrace can encompass the prophetic spirit of speaking out and building a better world, along *with* the ever-questioning and compromising style of the sages. The Seder, after all, contains both spirits: Prophetic and

Talmudic. It conveys a timeless story of human liberation and justice – but retold by our Sages through Midrash, interpretation and questioning.

As Rabbi Simcha Daniel Burstyn said in his talk last month at Seaside, if we disagree with the younger generation in our family on Israel, we need to listen to them. As Rabbi David Wolpe has also said, we need to open up a dialogue and to ask them 10 questions for every opinion that we give. That's how Judaism can flourish and grow from generation to generation.

The Passover Seder is a great time to start! Wishing you a joyful and meaningful Passover.

Folk Music Legend John McCutcheon to perform in Rehoboth Beach on July 21, 2024



Seaside Jewish Community is pleased to announce that it is bringing folk music legend John McCutcheon to perform at its third annual summer concert in coastal Delaware.

The event will take place on Sunday, **July 21**, at Epworth United Methodist Church on Holland Glade Road in Rehoboth Beach, at **7:30 p.m.**

“We are delighted to be bringing this nationally acclaimed musician to Rehoboth Beach,” says Seaside Jewish Community President Lawrence Krevor.

McCutcheon has been delighting audiences with live performances

and recordings for decades. The late Johnny Cash referred to him as “the most impressive multi-instrumentalist I ever heard.” At a McCutcheon show, along with storytelling and fun, listeners will hear this master musician play hammered dulcimer, banjo, piano, harmonica, guitar and more.

The musician is a part of the generation of folksingers that grew up singing Tom Paxton songs. His own impressive catalog of songs spans forty-four albums, six Grammy nominations, and numerous awards and accolades. More information about McCutcheon can be found on his website, folkmusic.com.

Seaside began a tradition of bringing summer concerts to coastal Delaware when in 2022 it hosted the six-man a cappella band Six13, which performed at Cape Henlopen Performing Arts Theater. The event proved so successful that in 2023 Seaside brought another talented group, Nefesh Mountain, which performed at Epworth United Methodist Church.

Tickets are \$36 per person and will be available after Passover on Seaside’s website seasidejewishcommunity.com.

Schedule of Services

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Parashat Shmini (Lev. 9:1-11:47)
Haftarah (II Samuel 6:1-7:17)
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service*
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Shabbat Morning Service*
Parashat Tazria (Lev. 12:1-13:59)
Haftarah (II Kings 4:42-5:19)
10:00 a.m. Worship
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Parashat Metzora (Lev. 14:1-15:33)
Haftarah (II Kings 7:3-20)
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service*
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Pesach Shabbat Chol ha-Moed
Shabbat Morning Service*
Parashat Chol ha-Moed (Exodus 33:12-34:26; Numbers 28:19-25)
Haftarah (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
10:00 a.m. Worship
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

**This service will be conducted with congregants at SJC’s building and live streamed virtually. Instructions to join remotely are included in the weekly eBlast.*

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Parashat Achrei Mot (Lev. 16:1-18:30)
Haftarah (Ezekiel 22:1-19)
5 p.m. Multigenerational Shabbat Evening Service*
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Shabbat Morning Service*
Parashat Kedoshim (Lev. 19:1-20:27)
Haftarah (Amos 9:7-15)
10:00 a.m. Worship
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Parashat Emor (Lev. 21:1-24:23)
Haftarah (Ezekiel 44:15-31)
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service*
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Parashat Behar (Lev. 25:1-26:2)
Haftarah (Jeremiah 32:6-27)
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service*
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Shabbat Afternoon Service
Emery Resnick Bat Mitzvah
4:00 p.m. Worship
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Shabbat Morning Service
Isabella Romm Bat Mizvah
Parashat Bechukotai (Lev. 26:3-27:34)
Haftarah (Jeremiah 16:19-17:14)
10:00 a.m. Worship
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Shabbat Morning Service*
Parashat Bamidbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20)
Haftarah (Hosea 2:1-22)
10:00 a.m. Worship
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Shavuot Service and Yizkor
10:00 a.m. Worship
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Parashat Nasso (Numbers 4:21-7:89)
Haftarah (Judges 13:2-25)
7:30 p.m. “Soul Stroll”
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Parashat Beha’alotcha (Numbers 8:1-12:16)
Haftarah (Zechariah 2:14-4:7)
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service*
Leader: Rabbi Julie Danan

Tickets on Sale: Rehoboth Beach Jewish Film Festival Opens April 10 at The Cinema Art Theater

Seaside Jewish Community, together with The Rehoboth Beach Film Society, will present the 9th annual Rehoboth Beach Jewish Film Festival from April 10 to 14. It will take place at the Society's Cinema Art Theater at 17701 Dartmouth Drive, Lewes. This festival, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Delaware, has been a popular one, drawing not only local residents but people from nearby metropolitan areas.

The five-day film festival is open to the public and Society members and this year presents eleven films, which are a selection of foreign and American documentaries and feature films. Some social events and guest speakers are included.

The festival presents Jewish values formed from the past with 21st Century contributions in food, culture, philanthropy, and faith. This year's festival planning committee selected four Holocaust documentaries, with an emphasis on Jewish women's experiences and their courage to survive. One such title is "*Irena's Vow*," which will have its theatrical release in theaters on April 15, and will premiere at the Festival on April 10.

The film festival welcomes **Filmmaker and Author Heather Dune Macadam** who will host a post Q&A on her latest film, "**999: The Forgotten Girls**" and talk with patrons at the conclusion of the film "**The Story of Annette Zelman**." Macadam has two book titles related to these films and the Society will host two book signings in partnership with Browseabout Books of Rehoboth. Be sure to check Rehobothfilm.com for timing and additional details. Also on the schedule, Director Elka Nikolova will lead a discussion after the airing of her film, "**A Question of Survival**."

The Festival's closing film, "**The Catskills**," includes a post discussion with **producer Lex Gillespie** via Zoom. A celebration of the Borscht Belt of the 1950s, the society invites patrons to share their photos of life in the Catskills. You can send old scans of photos to marketing@rehobothfilm.com for a special On-screen slide show.

"We hope you will find value in the planning committee's final selection, such a diverse line-up of films that touch on the Holocaust from a women's experience," said Marty Rosensweig, Society Board vice president and festival planning committee member. "We visit Jewish lifestyles with the 1950's documentary, 'The Catskills' and touch on Jewish faith today in 'Rabbi on the Block'."

Tickets are on sale at \$12 per person per film. Student rates are available at the box office. View the complete listing of film titles and purchase tickets at <https://www.rehobothfilm.com/jewish-film-festival>. Other ways to get your tickets: visit or call the Society's CAT Box Office (Wed-Sun from 12 noon to 5 p.m.).

Below is a list of the films and descriptions of each. Visit the website for trailers.

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RABBI ON THE BLOCK (documentary)

Wednesday, April 10 at 4 p.m.

Rabbi on the Block is a documentary that shows how a black Rabbi brings together Jews of all colors. Tamar Manasseh, the charismatic rabbi and community activist from the south side of Chicago, wants African Americans and Jews to become closer allies. With one foot firmly in each of these two communities, Black Jews like Tamar are the natural bridge to help overcome decades of early misunderstanding, and lack of communication. **[2023, US, 88 min, Rated: NR].**

POST PANEL: Seaside Jewish Community Rabbi Emeritus, Beth Cohen, will lead a discussion with attendees.

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IRENA'S VOW (feature)

Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Irena's Vow is an extraordinary war drama that follows the life of Polish nurse, Irene Gut Opdyke, who was caught in a German Roundup to be used as a slave laborer. She becomes a German army major's housekeeper and risks her life to conceal a dozen Jews within the major's home. She was awarded the "Righteous Among the Nations" medal for her remarkable courage [2023, Poland/Germany, 121 min, Rated: R].

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A QUESTION OF SURVIVAL (documentary)

Thursday, April 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Film Director, Elka Nikolova will host a post-film discussion.

A documentary film about the legacy of the Holocaust in the Balkans, as seen through the eyes - and conflicting memories - of three Bulgarian Jewish survivors in New York. Chaim Zemach, a cellist; Robert Bakish, an engineer; and Misha Avramoff, a social worker on the Lower East side of Manhattan; were living with their families in Bulgaria during the country's alliance with the Nazis. When in March 1943 the Bulgarian government first postponed and ultimately canceled the imminent deportation of the entire Bulgarian Jewish community of 48,000, Chaim, Robert, and Misha were ages 5, 14 and 17.

After the war their families left Bulgaria. The three young men only grasped how close they came to death after they arrived in New York and learned the fate of millions of European Jews. Ever since, they have struggled to place their unusual story of survival into the more conventional narrative of the Shoah. The realization of how they narrowly escaped the death camps has left them questioning the value of their experiences and to debate whether they are true Holocaust "survivors." **[2021, US, 55 min, Rated: NR].**

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STAY WITH US (feature/foreign)

Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Stay With Us, a heart-warming and charming comedy inspired by the film director's fraught relationship to the Jewish faith, is about faith, family and acceptance. After three successful years living and working in America, French-Jewish actor and comedian Gad Elmaleh decides to move back home to Paris. He misses his family and friends. Or at least that's what Gad tells his loving yet overbearing parents, Régine and David. However, it's not long before his parents find out the true reason for their son's return - after a long period of ambivalence towards his own Jewishness, Gad has officially decided to convert to Catholicism. Dumbfounded by his sudden obsession with the Virgin Mary, and with only five weeks before his baptism, Gad's family endeavors to bring him back to Judaism for fear of losing him forever. **[2022, France, 90 min, Rated: NR, in French with English subtitles].**

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NO NAME RESTAURANT

Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m.

No Name Restaurant is a spirited culture-clash comedy about two men of strict religious faiths. To save the synagogue, once the largest in the world, from being shut down, Ben, an ultra-Orthodox Brooklyn Jew visiting Jerusalem, is sent out to be the desperately needed tenth man for the ceremonies of Pesach. Having missed his plane and been kicked off the bus in the Sinai desert, his last hope is Adel, a grumpy Bedouin looking for his camel. When their car breaks down, it becomes a matter of their very survival. **[2023, Germany, 121 min, Rated: NR].**

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***WHO ARE THE MARCUSES? (documentary/foreign)**

Friday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

Who are the Marcuses? is an inspiring documentary that uncovers the fascinating story of a mysterious Long Island Jewish couple whose half-a-billion-dollar gift to Israel, the largest single gift in the history of the state, inspires peace and climate action through water tech. The film meticulously weaves together the life stories of this mysterious couple, Lottie and Howard Marcus, who we come to learn were Holocaust refugees leading a quiet life in a modest San Diego apartment. Astonishingly, they chose to bequeath their substantial wealth to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, with a clear objective of advancing the study of water management. Their underlying aspiration was to play a role in contributing to regional conflict resolution in Israel and championing peace through innovative water solutions. **[2023, US, 88 min, Rated: NR]. [2023, US, 88 min, Rated: NR].**

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***THE LONGEST NIGHT (documentary/drama)**

Saturday, April 13 at 3 p.m.

The Longest Night is a powerful documentary that begins on the brink of the second Passover holiday in 1980, when a team of five commandos affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) breaches the

northern border fence and infiltrates Kibbutz Misgav Am. Their objective is to seize Kibbutz members as hostages, intending to negotiate the release of prisoners from Israeli jails. However, most Kibbutz residents are absent, attending a concert that night, leaving the community partially deserted. The commandos target a small Kibbutz house, believing it to be a family residence. When they realize this is in fact a dormitory for very young children, it's already too late. **[20212, Israel, 109 min, Rated: NR].**

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***LESS THAN KOSHER (feature)**

Saturday, April 13 at 6 p.m.

Less Than Kosher is a musical comedy about Viv, who at 20 was a promising young singer. At 30, her failing music career has forced her back into her mother's basement. But when this self-proclaimed Bad Jew lands ass-backwards into a job as a Cantor at her family's synagogue, she's thrown into a wild ride of illicit affairs, drug trips, tense family drama, self-discovery, and some serious Jewish bops. **[2023, Canada, 67 min, Rated: NR].**

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999: THE FORGOTTEN GIRLS (documentary)

Saturday, April 13 at 8 p.m.

999: The Forgotten Girls is a powerful documentary that reveals the hidden story about 999 unmarried, young Jewish women registered for government service in a supposed shoe factory that ended up landing them in Auschwitz. Who were these young women? Why were they chosen? How did a handful survive over three years in the death camp? **[2023, USA, 87 min, Rated: NR].**

POST-PANEL DISCUSSION: Filmmaker Heather Dune Macadam will host a post-panel **discussion immediately following the screening with ticket holders.**

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THE STORY OF ANNETTE ZELMAN (feature)

Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.

The Story of Annette Zelman is a romantic drama set in 1942 that compares to Romeo and Juliet. She was Jewish. He was Catholic. Annette and Jean wanted to get married, but Jean's parents were opposed. Annette Zelman was reported to the Gestapo by her fiancé's father and was sent to Auschwitz. Based on a true story told in the book *Dénoncer les Juifs sous l'Occupation* (Informing on Jews during the Occupation) by Laurent Joly. **[2022, France, 93 min, Rated: NR, in French with English subtitles].**

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THE CATSKILLS (documentary)

Sunday, April 14 at 5 p.m.

The Catskills is an entertaining documentary on the rise and fall of the Borscht Belt in the 1950's. With a trove of lost-and-found archival footage and a cast of characters endowed with the gift of gab, "The Catskills" journeys into the storied mountain getaway north of New York City that served as refuge for Jewish immigrants fleeing poverty and for others a lavish playground for affluent Jewish families. Stand-up comedians share their best shtick while former waiters, entertainers, and dance instructors recount tales of

the family-run resorts and bungalows that inspired films like "Dirty Dancing." [2023, US, 85 min, Rated: NR].

POST PANEL via ZOOM with film Director Lex Gillespie.

***Note:** To respect the Jewish Sabbath, Seaside Jewish Community is not hosting the films on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

REHOBOTH BEACH JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL 2024

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY, APRIL 10 - 14



Presented by the
REHOBOTH BEACH FILM SOCIETY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Film Schedule

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10

Rabbi on the Block 4:00 PM
Rabbi Beth Cohen and Rabbi Julie Danan will lead a post-film discussion

Opening Reception 5:30 PM

All ticket holders for Wed. films are invited to attend.

Irena's Vow 7:00 PM

THURSDAY APRIL 11

A Question of Survival 5:00 PM
Film Director, Elka Nikolova will host a post-film discussion.

Stay With Us 7:30 PM

FRIDAY APRIL 12

No Name Restaurant 4:00 PM

Who are the Marcuses?* 7:00 PM

The Seaside Jewish Community Green Team will host a post-film discussion.

SATURDAY APRIL 13

The Longest Night* 3:00 PM

Less Than Kosher* 6:00 PM

999: The Forgotten Girls 8:00 PM

Filmmaker & Author Heather Dune Macadam will host a post-film discussion. Join her at 7:00 pm for a book signing of *999: The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz*.

SUNDAY APRIL 14

The Story of Annette Zelman 2:00 PM

Join Heather Dune Macadam at 4:00 pm for a second book signing of *Star Crossed: A True WWII Romeo and Juliet Love Story in Hitler's Paris*.

Closing Reception 4:00 PM

All ticket holders for Sun. films are invited to attend.

The Catskills 5:00 PM

Film Producer, Lex Gillespie will host a post-film discussion via Zoom.

**Note: To respect the Jewish Sabbath, Seaside Jewish Community is not hosting films on Friday night or Saturday afternoon.*

The festival serves to deepen awareness of Jewish culture and experiences, and to explore community differences and commonalities through the art of cinema.



ADMISSION: \$12 per screening

Purchase tickets online at
RehobothFilm.com
or visit/call the Cinema Art Theater
box office in Lewes,
Wednesday-Sunday from
12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM, 302-313-4032.



Sponsored by:
Jewish Federation
of Delaware



Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to our Members

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Adult Education

Susan Heller
Enid Zafran

Cemetery

Barry Novich

Communications

Susan Towers
Jennifer Rubenstein

Chesed

Phyllis Bloom

Community Service

Donna Hoffman

Finance

Howie Hochman
Peter Zoll

Fundraising

Marilyn Feldman

HHD Logistics

Barry Novich
Reba Novich

House

Mat Ash
Stanley Silverblatt

Kitchen Cabinet

Andrea Hoffman
Idylle Patz

Membership

Elaine Hochman

Safety and Security

Neil Trugman

Social

Marjorie Norris Krevor
Peter Zoll

Social Justice

Jodye Russell
Leslie Slan

Worship

Jason Bradley
Fran Leibowitz

Youth & Family

Engagement

Sara Rosen
Matt Silverman

04 / 02 Stephen Hoffman
04 / 02 Kathie Kamen
04 / 03 Gabriella Fox
04 / 03 Mark Grad
04 / 03 Bruce M. Kamich
04 / 03 Neil Woloshin
04 / 04 Larry Kramer
04 / 05 Fred Mitzner
04 / 05 Barbara Passikoff
04 / 05 Linda Tiano
04 / 07 Andrea Silverstein
04 / 09 Elaine Hochman
04 / 09 Carol Newman
04 / 09 Gail Tannenbaum
04 / 10 Morgan Moskowitz
04 / 10 Rebekah Namrow
04 / 10 Jill Taylor
04 / 11 Taube Carpenter
04 / 11 Judith Stormer
04 / 12 Beth Joselow
04 / 12 Leslie Kaplan
04 / 13 Rosalyn Matz
04 / 14 Ruth Matt
04 / 15 Andy Feinberg
04 / 15 Howard Menaker
04 / 15 Enid Zafran
04 / 16 Hallie Wallack
04 / 17 Brian Cohen
04 / 18 Mitchell Kamins
04 / 18 Leonard Lev
04 / 19 Evan Cross
04 / 19 Max Marty Goff
04 / 19 Philip Saxe
04 / 19 Michael Schreiber
04 / 23 Allyn Fruman
04 / 23 Stephen Hellman
04 / 23 Allen Kane
04 / 23 Jocelyn Kaplan
04 / 23 Mindy Sosne
04 / 23 Sanford (Sandy)
Strenger
04 / 23 Stephanie Wilson
04 / 26 Celia Aufdemberge
04 / 26 Allan Levin
04 / 26 Mira Tash
04 / 26 Madeleine Waxman
04 / 27 Rebecca Corona
04 / 27 Joan Gordon
04 / 28 Philip Keats
04 / 29 Leo Heitlinger
04 / 29 Neil Trugman
04 / 30 Amalia Fruchtman
05 / 01 Marsha Mark
05 / 01 Chase Resnick
05 / 01 Jared Schwartz
05 / 02 Jerome Zacks

05 / 03 Paul Block
05 / 03 Ronni November
05 / 04 Jodye Russell
05 / 05 Carol Cohen
05 / 05 Nathan Pickard
05 / 06 Dr. Mayer M. Katz
05 / 07 Patricia Katz
05 / 07 Deborah Schepis
05 / 08 Leslie Alter
05 / 08 Mitchell Resnick
05 / 09 Ariel Fox
05 / 09 Cindi Silverblatt
05 / 10 Leslie Gladstone
05 / 10 Zachary Trefzger
05 / 12 Karen Freid
05 / 12 Carole Swaney
05 / 13 Barbara Morris
05 / 13 Jeffrey Ward
05 / 15 Noah Samuel Kanter
05 / 17 Ian Richman
05 / 17 Marc Romm
05 / 17 Barbara White
05 / 19 Mark S. Bicks
05 / 19 Julius Silverman
05 / 20 Jeffrey Hawtof
05 / 20 Louis Westreich
05 / 21 Nancy Fishel
05 / 23 David Cohen
05 / 23 Marc Epstein
05 / 23 Geoff Lerer
05 / 23 Larry Migdel
05 / 23 Margeret Nevins
05 / 26 Charlotte Sass
05 / 27 Rochelle Green-Tanger
05 / 27 Matthew Taylor
05 / 28 Rabbi Richard (Dick)
White
05 / 29 Kristan Trugman
05 / 31 Stacey Fox
05 / 31 Sara Freid
05 / 31 Paul Pennock
06 / 01 Jackie Lessing
06 / 02 Matthew Gertzog
06 / 02 Ronald Glick
06 / 03 Rusty Kruglak
06 / 03 Diane Steinman
06 / 04 Sam Block
06 / 05 Ed Lipsit
06 / 07 Amy Caplan
06 / 07 Allan Eytan
06 / 08 Fay Gold
06 / 08 Ellen Rabinowitz
06 / 08 Burton Mark Waxman
06 / 09 Eleanor (Ellie)
Flanzraich
06 / 09 Lester Koransky

06 / 10 Mark J. Friedman
06 / 12 Levi Parsons
06 / 13 Michael Loizzi
06 / 14 Dahni Barkley
06 / 14 Scott Green
06 / 14 Adam Solovey
06 / 14 Mark Weinstein
06 / 14 Lorri Wolfe
06 / 15 Deborah Cinquemani
06 / 16 Allan Fraenkel
06 / 16 Dale Poster-Ellis
06 / 17 Susan Gershowitz
06 / 17 Howard Wallack
06 / 18 Joy Davis
06 / 19 Barbara Berman
06 / 20 Jason Bradley
06 / 21 Paul Calem
06 / 21 Robert Ladden
06 / 22 Marsha Davis
06 / 22 David Moskowitz
06 / 23 Claudia Belgard
06 / 23 Ellen Bien
06 / 23 Neal Bien
06 / 23 Donald Myers
06 / 23 Diane Novick
06 / 23 Ken Silverstein
06 / 24 Anita Smulyan
06 / 25 Gale Deitch
06 / 25 Peter and Ruth Matt
06 / 25 Yona Zucker
06 / 26 Leslie Newman
06 / 27 Jeff LeVine
06 / 27 Rex Parsons
06 / 27 Rosanne (Roni)
Prichason
06 / 27 Deborah Smith
06 / 28 Judy Bresler
06 / 29 Craig Rabinowitz
06 / 30 Laura Parsons
06 / 30 Nicholas Simmonds

Welcome, New Members

Mark & Carla Bicks
Susan Kressler
Suzanne Oberlander
Mark & Beverly
Schwartz
Stuart & Diane Steinman
Mark & Laurie Weinstein

Community Service Committee 2024 Collection Events

The first collection effort, for this calendar year, of the Community Service committee was met with a generous response. At the recent Purim service, 35 packages of dry pasta, which were used as noisemakers during the celebration, were collected at the end of the service for donation to the Good Samaritan Pantry at Epworth United Methodist Church.

The collection efforts will continue during the month of April with our Spring 2024 Grocery collection, which will also benefit the Good Samaritan Pantry at Epworth. We will collect the donations on Sunday, **April 14**, from **12:15-2:30 p.m.**, in the Seaside parking lot. Paper grocery bags, with flyers listing suggested donation items are available in the Seaside lobby. In addition, there is a copy of the flyer on page 11 of this newsletter.

Our second collection project in April will take place at the Oy Vey 5k, at Seaside, on Sunday morning, **April 21**. In the spirit of running and the race, we will be collecting *new* pairs of socks, to benefit Clothing Our Kids, in Millsboro. Since Clothing Our Kids provides clothing to children from Kindergarten through High School age, donations of socks in child to adult sizes would be greatly appreciated.



Purim Pasta Collection

If you'd like to donate to either the grocery or sock collections, but won't be able to make it to either of the events, please contact Beth Gilbert at brgilbert@gmail.com to arrange for an alternate drop-off or pickup.

Twins Ithan and Ayla Rindler at their Bris and Baby Naming Ceremony



Photo shows grandparents Larry and Meryl Migdel, Daina Rindler with daughter Ayla Delylah, Justin Rindler with son Ithan Rohn, and Justin's parents.

Reclaim Our Vote

Postcard Writing Activities in April

Postcarding to support **Reclaim Our Vote** is about to get into full swing.

The first initiative will be postcards to send to Georgia.

Postcard kit pickup in SJC lobby

April 8, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

April 10, 11:30 am-12 noon

Postcard writing party in SJC Social Hall

April 10, 12 noon-4 p.m.

If you would like to assist with this postcard writing activity, please preregister at <https://www.seasidejewishcommunity.com/event/postcarding---reclaim-our-vote1.html>

Mazel Tov

A special monthly section in Seaside's newsletter, The Scroll, is a place where we can share each other's special joys. Please send yours to SJC-newsletter@googlegroups.com

To the proud Grandparents Meryl & Larry Migdel

To the proud parents Daina and Justin Rindler

On the birth of Twins -

Ithan Rohn and Ayla Delylah Rindler

February 6, 2024

Seaside Jewish Community Spring Collection Drive

To benefit: Epworth United
Methodist Church
Good Samaritan Pantry

Sunday, April 14, 2024
12:30 to 2:30PM

In these times of economic uncertainty and rising prices, area food pantries need our help in keeping the shelves stocked. In addition to food, personal care and household items are a vital need and not covered by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Below, are some examples of products needed by the Pantry.

Thank you for any donations you can make to support the vital work of our good neighbor, Epworth United Methodist Church.



For more information, contact Beth Gilbert brggilbert@gmail.com

ITEMS NEEDED

PERSONAL ITEMS:

Shampoo
Soap/Body Wash
Toothbrushes

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS:

Dish Detergent (small size)
Laundry Detergent
(not bulk sized)
Paper Towels

PANTRY ITEMS:

Pasta
Ketchup
Mayonnaise
Mustard
Pancake Mix/Syrup
Pop-tarts

CANNED ITEMS:

Canned Chicken*
Spam*

**Pop tops preferred*

**Seaside Parking Lot
Drive-Through Drop Off:**

**18970 Holland Glade Rd
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971**

(do not mail to this address)

Proceeds to benefit Seaside's Youth Educational Fund
SEASIDE JEWISH COMMUNITY'S

**10th
ANNUAL**

APRIL 21, 2024

**9 A.M. START IN SEASIDE'S
PARKING LOT**

**RUNNERS / WALKERS /
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Please bring new socks for
children and teens to be donated to
"Clothing Our Kids" in Millsboro, DE



SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP

or sign up on the **Seashore Strider website**.

Participants also can sign up the day of the event.





SOLIDARITY MISSION TO ISRAEL

NEW DATES! Sunday, May 5 - Friday, May 10

Friends and family of our Delaware Community: So many of you have asked when we can visit Israel to help our brothers and sisters during this difficult time, as many other communities are doing. Now is your chance. The Jewish Federation of Delaware in partnership with Authentic Israel will be conducting a solidarity mission to Israel from Sunday, May 5th through Friday, May 10th.

We will participate in volunteer opportunities, visit Sderot, the site of the Nova Music Festival, Kfar Aza, Hostage Square and others. We will meet survivors of October 7th, cook meals for deployed soldiers, and visit wounded IDF soldiers at a rehab center. We will pray together at the Western Wall, visit the famed Machaneh Yehudah Market, and share delicious meals together as we process what we have learned and seen. We will come home feeling closer to Israel and to each other and inspired to continue to bring light to the world.

People's feedback from similar missions have been that this is a life changing experience and uniformly told by Israelis how very grateful they are for our support.

Cost is \$1910 plus airfare for a minimum of 10 people. If at least 15 people register, the price per person decreases by \$400 (to \$1510).

A \$250 deposit is due by Thursday, April 4th.

Teens and college students will get community service credit.

**CONTACT RABBI ELLEN BERNHARDT, ELLEN@SHALOMDEL.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Purim Festivities

What a joyous Purim celebration! We had a fantastic turnout with about 75 people of all ages participating in the festivities. It was truly a multi-generational event, and the energy was wonderful.

The collaboration of Rabbi Julie, Randi Cohen, and the children on reading and acting out the megillah story was a highlight. The service was followed by a delicious salad, pizza, and hamantaschen buffet.

We hope to build on the success of this event and create even more engaging experiences in the future.



In The Community

Refuah Shleimah - Get Well Wishes

We send our prayers and healing energy to SJC members and loved ones of members who have been hospitalized or injured in recent weeks or who are facing or have had health challenges.

For security and privacy reasons, the names of those on the Mi Shebeirach list will no longer be included in the newsletter. Their names will be shared during services when the *Mi Shebeirach* blessing is said.

Please let Rabbi Danan know when you are ready to take someone off the *Mi Shebeirach* list as well. Names may be removed after a few weeks if we don't receive an update. Thank you for your understanding.



אבותינו ואמותינו, אברהם, יצחק, ויעקב, שרה, רבקה, רחל ולאה, הוא יברך את החולים...

Nihum Avelim – Comforting the Mourners

Our heartfelt sympathies go to **Bonnie Rich** and her family on the passing of Bonnie's father, Sandor Bernstein on January 28, 2024 and the passing of her mother, Florene Bernstein on January 31, 2024. *Zichronot L'vracha*, may their memory be for a blessing.

Our deepest condolences go to **Pat Simon, Joel Simon** (Alyssa Simon) and their family on the passing of Pat's husband and Joel's father,

Edward Simon on February 7, 2024. *Zichrona L'vracha*, may Edward's memory be for a blessing.

Our heartfelt sympathies go to the family of **Diane Estaire Flyer** on her passing on March 1, 2024. *Zichrona L'vracha*, may Diane's memory be for a blessing.

Please contact SJC Religious Leader Rabbi Julie Danan at sjc.rabbijuliedanan@gmail.com (302-947-5282) if you would like to add the name of someone you love to the SJC healing prayer list, to the list of family members who have died or if there is a celebration or milestone in your life which you want to share with the SJC family.

Watch for our weekly Email blasts on Thursday each week.

They will contain important reminders and highlight our events.

Thank you

SJC gratefully acknowledges the following donations received as of January 1, 2024 to March 27, 2024

Unrestricted/Seaside General Fund

Robin Berlin in memory of Ed Simon • Marty & Phyllis Bloom in memory of David Sosnick and Alen Harris on their yahrzeits • Arnold & Gail Budin in memory of Ed Simon • JM Carneal in memory of Ed Simon • Joan Churchill in memory of Beverley Leshner • Kristin Clifton in memory of Ed Simon by the School Counseling Team at Cape Henlopen High School • Eileen & Nathan Cohen in memory of Ed Simon • Randi Cohen in memory of Ed Simon • Constance Devan in memory of Ed Simon • Earl Dotter & Deborah Stern • Marilyn Feldman • Dr. Lawrence & Nancy Fishel in memory of Ed Simon • Cheryl & Marc Fruchtman • Mary & Will Garfinkel in memory of Ed Simon • Arthur & Lynn Goldman in memory of Ed Simon • Paul & Sharon Greenblath in memory of Ed Simon • Jeff Hawtof & Nancy Gideon in memory of Ed Simon • Myra Hirschhorn in memory of Ed Simon • Kathy Jackson in memory of Ed Simon • Ted & Kathie Kamen (2) • David & Pam Kaplan in memory of Ed Simon • Meryl, Cynthia and Laura Kauffman in memory of Ed Simon • Ms. Marjorie Kobrin in memory of Ed Simon • Ms. Marjorie Kobrin in memory of Jack Lapidès • Larry Krevor & Marjorie Norris in memory of Edward Simon • Alan & Ellen Levin • Linda & Allan Levine in memory of Ed Simon • Stanley & Sue Levine in memory of Ed Simon • Allan & Rhona Levy in memory of Ed Simon • William Levy in memory of Ed Simon • R A & J C Long in memory of Ed Simon • Tom Mandel & Beth Joselow • Lucy & Tom Mehl in memory of Ed Simon • Matthew & Lauren Meyer • Leslie Newman & Bill Wolff in memory of Ed Simon • Leslie Newman & Bill Wolff in memory of Gertrude Karp • Morton Oransoff • Jacqueline & Lotan Poore in memory of Ed Simon • Shelley Prince • Sara & Jeffrey Rosen in memory of Ed Simon • Seashore Striders, in memory of Ed Simon • Mr. Bryan Silbermann in memory of Hodda Freda Silberman • Alyssa & Joel Simon in grateful appreciation of Rabbi Danan for leading us through the loss of Ed Simon • Alyssa & Joel Simon in memory of Joel's father, Ed Simon • Edward & Patricia Simon in grateful appreciation of Rabbi Julie's support of the Simon Family during their time of loss • Anita Smulyan • Robert Taub in memory of Ed Simon • Richard & Delores Tozier in memory of Ed Simon • Neil Trugman • Mark & Gayle Unger in memory of Ed Simon • Iris and Jack Vinokur in memory of Edward Simon • Ralph Weinstein in memory of Ed Simon • Roberta & Melvyn Woloshin in memory of Ed Simon

Adult Education

Fran Saltzman • Enid Zafran in memory of Marsha Davis's partner Beverley Leshner who passed away

B'nai Mitzvah Tutoring

Edward & Patricia Simon in memory of Jack Lapidès

Building Fund

Mr. Martin Rosensweig

Chesed Program

Kathy Jackson • Rita Sitron in memory of Diane Flyer • Barbara Tetenbaum in memory of Diane Flyer

Community Services Program

Robyn Rosenfeld Aburrow & Sondra Rosenfeld in memory of Diane Flyer • Andrew Nussbaum in memory of Diane Flyer • Fran Saltzman • Kathleen Schmid in memory of Diane Flyer • Cindi & Stanley Silverblatt in memory of Edward Simon, may his deeds and kindness be a Blessing to his family for all time

High Holy Day Appeal

Ron Gluck in memory of Milton and Sylvia Gluck

Kiddush/Oneg Fund

Lori Bernstein in memory of Ruth Bernstein • Rabbi Julie & Avraham (Albert) Danan Jocelyn Kaplan in memory of Brina Krupp • Craig & Ellen Rabinowitz in memory of Marcia Singer's 12/22 yartzheit, mother of Ellen Rabinowitz, and Marilyn and Willie Rabinowitz's (both deceased) 12/22 anniversary date, parents of Craig Rabinowitz

Religious Leader Discretionary Fund

Cheryl & Marc Fruchtman in memory of Ed Simon, husband of Patricia, father of Joel (Alyssa) and grandfather of Ethan & Emily Simon and of Beverly Leshner, wife of Marsha Davis • Mandel & Beth Joselow in memory of and in honor of David Pollock • Jody & Stacy Morrison in memory of Bonne Morrison and thank you Rabbi Julie, for an inspiring unveiling service • Parsell Funeral Home • Alyssa & Joel Simon in grateful appreciation of Rabbi Danan for leading them through the loss of Ed Simon • Edward & Patricia Simon in grateful appreciation of Rabbi Julie's support of the Simon Family during their time of loss • Ken & Mindy Sosne

Ritual Object Fund

Sara & Jeffrey Rosen • Fran Saltzman

Worship Program

Earl Dotter & Deborah Stern

(Continued on Page 15)

Remembering Ed Simon

by David Udoff

Sometimes, things just click.

Such was the case on a stormy summer night, in August 2013, when my family and I first visited Seaside Jewish Community for a Friday night service and met Ed Simon.

Seaside had been maybe the third or fourth stop in my family's "synagogue shopping" journey. We had lived in Delaware for more than a year but were growing anxious about finding a local Jewish community where we felt like we belonged.

But all that anxiety started melting away the moment we walked into the Seaside sanctuary. That was where we met Ed and his wife Pat, who immediately started chatting us up. By the time services were over, we felt like we were old friends. And before long, we knew we'd found our new Jewish "home."

Little did I know at the time that Ed was the congregation's Vice President. Even better, since we were seeking a congregation where our daughter Julia (then 6) could get a good Jewish education all the way to her bat mitzvah, was that Ed and Pat's son Joel and daughter-in-law Alyssa were teachers at the Seaside Religious School, and their grandson Ethan and granddaughter Emily were students at the school, and mere years away from becoming b'nai mitzvot themselves.

So, Ed put me in touch with Joel, and with Joel's help as well as that of then-director Allison Colker, we enrolled Julia at the Religious School. Joel and Alyssa would become and have since remained dear friends of ours. We attended both Ethan and Emily's b'nai mitzvot, and the entire Simon family was present at Julia's bat mitzvah in Bethany Beach in 2021 (Joel Simon, as he has done for so many of Seaside's Religious School children, was Julia's bat mitzvah tutor). And Julia, now 16, is a Religious School teacher.

In 2015, Ed gave me the honor of nominating me for the Board, which I not only proudly accepted but then dutifully carried out as Secretary for the next six years. By this time, Ed was now Seaside's President (Joel and Alyssa would each serve as President later on), and the fact that he thought highly enough of me that I, too, could be one of Seaside's leaders presented an opportunity that I just could not turn down.

Ed's kind and gentle nature almost literally spoke for itself. He was a Philadelphia Phillies fan, whereas I, a native New Yorker, was a Mets fan, but he never saw that as a cause for conflict (if you know anything about the Mets-Phillies rivalry, then you know why that's a big deal). In fact, Ed and I never argued, and we even went to a few ballgames together.

Ed Simon died on Feb. 7, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. At his funeral in Wilmington, in addition to calling his father his best friend, Joel Simon spoke of how many referred to Ed as "Uncle Eddie," even to those not related to him. And how many referred to him as the "Big Guy" (I often did this as well), not because of his physical size but because his influence and impact loomed so large.

People looked to Ed for comfort, for wisdom, for friendly conversation. Whether it was about Judaism, baseball, or anything else, Ed was always there to listen and be a friend to everyone, without projection or judgment. He was, in effect, a true mensch, as we Jews often say about people like him.

A funny story about Ed: When I got elected to the Board, Ed was finishing up his last term on it. Right after that year's Annual Meeting, Ed turned to me and said, "Whew! I'm really glad that's over," meaning his Board service. "That was really stressful. I don't ever want to do that again!" I replied back, "Oh, that's great, Ed. Congratulations." Then, a split second later, when it hit me as to what he had just said, and knowing what I was about to jump into, I perked up, looked back at him, and said, "Wait, what?"

Well, what can I say, except, that was Ed's unique way of wishing me luck.

Perhaps the greatest gift that Ed Simon gave to me was the warm and unconditional welcome he and his family issued to me and my family so that we could be part of Seaside. Thanks to Ed, we went from worrying about breaking into the Delaware Jewish community to being even more involved than we would have been had we stayed in Maryland.

And for that, I am eternally grateful.

Editor's note: A longer version of this article appears in the April 2024 issue of Jewish Living.

Thank You (Continued from Page 14)

Yahrzeit Plaque

Louis & Suzie Numkin • Susan Silberstein

Year End Campaign

Jennifer & Sam Block (2) • Sandra & Richard Craig • Jeff Hawtof & Nancy Gideon • Steve & Sue Rasher • Fran Saltzman • Laurie Schwalb in memory of Steven Schwalb • Anita Smulyan • Neil Trugman

Youth Programming Fund

Dan & Dahni Barkley • Allison Colker • Todd Hacker in memory of Jack Lapides • Barry & Reba Novich in memory of Ed Simon



Seaside Jewish Community
PO Box 1472
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971



Seaside religious school students visited Philadelphia, thanks to funds raised from a recent Oy Vey 5k.

Seeker

She begs each new god
to un-crowd
the rooms of her heart.

The ones she's spurned
follow her daily
plotting her destruction.

Moment by moment
they conspire
to cloud her mind until

One blustery day,
she gathers them under a single roof.
A tornado of sound obliterates thought.

Old and new in a whirling circle.

One face overlaid on another

One shape becomes another

The stone god, frozen god, tree god,
river god, and finally, Echad, the One.

*by Shelley Grabel, Milton Poet
Member, Seaside Board of Directors*