

Winter 2021

GREETINGS from

# BOARDWALK TIMES

SPECIAL EDITION

Seashore Gardens Living Center Established 1916



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



A PEEK BEHIND THE SCENES



WHY I GOT THE VACCINE

22 W. Jimmie Leeds Road, Galloway Township, NJ 08205  
(609) 404-4848 ■ [www.seashoregardens.org](http://www.seashoregardens.org)





# From the Desk of Martin H. Klein, President/CEO

Dear Friend,

Seashore Gardens Living Center is facing a crisis unlike anything in our 104-year history as a non-profit Jewish Home for the Aged. We are pleading for your help.

## **COVID-19 has caused a once-in-a-century threat to our mission of enriching elder lives.**

Like the little boy holding his finger in the dike, we are struggling daily to hold off the torrent of costs that could force us to close our doors. We now find ourselves in “the perfect storm.” We have recently weathered an outbreak in our building. We are facing staffing challenges due to quarantines and shortages. We are continuously having to purchase PPE and our fractured medical records system is in need of updating. We are in desperate need of your help to overcome these challenges and navigate these perilous times.

## **We have faced COVID-19 with resolve and resiliency for almost a year.**

For so long, we were able to keep our staff’s COVID positives to a minimum and our residents’ virus-free. We watched the crisis grow all over the country and heard the stories of the toll that COVID-19 was taking on nursing homes. This virus has disproportionately affected the elderly and frail—the very people in our care. We were cautiously proud of our accomplishments and continued to be proactive. In January, we had our first resident test positive for COVID in this outbreak and quickly found out that no matter how diligent you are, this virus spreads quickly through homes like ours.

## **Vaccinations are a great first step, but they don’t protect against our financial challenges.**

We held our first vaccination clinic in early January and just completed our final vaccination clinic in February. Now that we are facing the realities of the virus in our building, we are grateful for that extra layer of protection. With your help, we can continue to survive and provide quality care for our residents.

## **We are not an organization that has ever “cried wolf.”**

We have never had to make an appeal for our very existence. We have never needed the help of our community more. While it is impossible to know the extent of the financial impact this past year and current outbreak will have, we estimate it to be anywhere from \$500,000 to a million dollars. The Board of Directors and Staff of the Seashore Gardens Foundation and Living Center are determined to provide relief to our front line staff and beloved residents until we can restore normalcy to our beloved Home.

**Please help us.** Contact Sharon D’Angio at (609) 748-4614 to learn how, or visit us online at <https://seashoregardens.org/covidrelief>. You have the power to ensure our future and make a difference.

Sincerely,



Richard Cohen  
President

Seashore Gardens Foundation



Michael Stark  
Chairman of the Board

Seashore Gardens Living Center



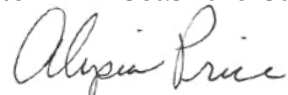
Martin H. Klein  
President and CEO

Seashore Gardens Living Center



Sharon D’Angio  
Director of Fund Development and PR

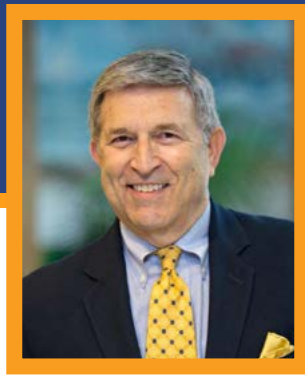
Seashore Gardens Foundation



Alysia Price  
Executive Director

Seashore Gardens Living Center

Seashore Gardens Foundation is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization. Tax ID #56-2424727



## ***In Memoriam:*** Fernando A. Colon, Sr. (1966-2021)

It is with great sorrow that we report on the death of a beloved member of our staff, Fernando A. Colon, Sr., who died on January 24 at age 54.

Fernando was a three-year member of the Seashore Gardens Living Center’s housekeeping department. In 2019, his hard work and dedication was recognized with the ‘Rookie of the Year’ award. In addition to his employment at SGLC, Fernando was a popular clergyman, serving as pastor of the Rosa De Saron Church in Atlantic City. He was known far and wide as ‘Pastor Colon’ or just plain ‘Pastor,’ and his natural tendency to care for and counsel others had a positive effect on his fellow SGLC employees and residents as well as his church followers.

Fernando was pre-deceased by Providencia, or ‘Provy,’ his wife of 31 years. He leaves behind his three adoring children, Rosalind, Fernando Jr., Eunice Colón, his Father, Angel Luis Colón, and several siblings both locally and in Puerto Rico. May his memory be for a blessing.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to the families who have experienced loss of a loved one during this pandemic. Words cannot express our sorrow. Today and always, may loving memories bring you peace, comfort, and strength.



**This year many of our staff helped purchase and distribute gifts to all of our residents and dressed the part to bring some cheer to them while they weren’t able to receive visits from their loved ones. It was a labor of love to do reach out to their friends and family for donations of money and blankets. In addition, we asked each resident what they would like for the holidays and made their wishes come true.**

**Thank you to all of the staff and supporters who helped provide holiday cheer!**





# A Peek Behind-the-Scenes

Our dedicated staff works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. Here's a glimpse as to how their roles have evolved during this pandemic.

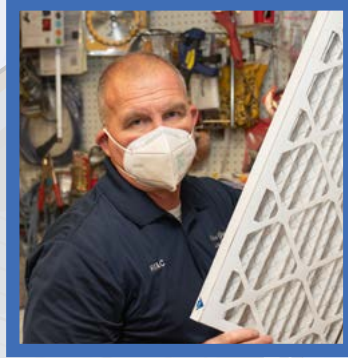
## HVAC: A Breath of Fresh Air

Darrell Perna has an important role at SGLC. As head of Facilities HVAC, he manages the airflow throughout the property. If it has to do with heating or air conditioning, refrigeration or hot water, Darrell is the point person. It's a job that has gotten considerably harder during the pandemic.

"It's a whole different world," he said. "The virus is so small that we have to use a higher-grade filter in our HVAC system, MERV-13 rather than our traditional MERV-11 filters. Before we install the filters, we have to rinse the coils with a basic coil cleaner. Then use a certified disinfectant rated for the coronavirus and SARS viruses. Basic cleaning is no longer good enough."

Darrell has been a constant presence at SGLC for the past 18 years. He maintains 30 HVAC roof units as well as those inside the building, including at nursing stations and in residents' rooms. He also oversees the refrigeration in the kitchen and hot water throughout the building. Air quality has been front and center since the pandemic. To meet CDC guidelines, Darrell must ensure a complete air exchange every 24 hours. "We're constantly bringing in fresh air and I'm constantly monitoring it," he explained. "You've got to stay on top of this during COVID-19."

As a result, Darrell is on call 24/7, and he doesn't mind one bit. "My grandfather told me years ago, you never work a day in your life if you enjoy what you do," he said of his job at SGLC. "You can't have a resident breathing stale air. The air has to be clean and I'm happy to be a part of that."



## Accounting: An Essential Service

Behind the scenes, Controller Susan Thomason and Assistant Controller Janice Klein are hard at work. Their department manages the finances at SGLC. During the pandemic, that extended beyond their traditional roles.

"We applied for grants for PPE and then also handled the required financial reporting," explained Susan. "It is a lot of extra work but really essential during this time." Susan also was involved in managing the Staff Holiday Fund and was pleased to be able to hand out those holiday gifts. "Everyone has worked so hard and it was nice to acknowledge that," she said. "Dietary prepared a party in a bag, with nuts, caramels, trail mix and cookies."

Susan joined the SGLC staff a year and a half ago. "I like working with the people who are here," she said. "The staff that work for me are very good. A lot of them have been here for quite some time."

Janice has been working at the Home for 46 years. "I came when my daughter was two to help part-time, and I never left," she said. As assistant controller, she handles accounts receivable, Medicare, Medicaid applications, Medicaid HMOs, and patient finances. Now she's also helping with recordkeeping for the grants and the government.

"We definitely have a lot more detail as far as reporting since Covid began," she said. As for her job, she wouldn't trade it for anything. "I love the environment. It's literally an extended family. Not to sound corny, it's my home away from home."

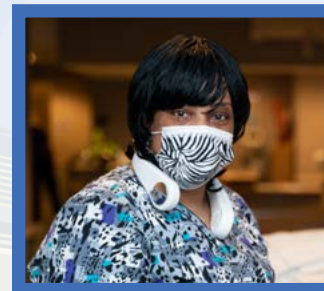


## Celebrating Our CNA's!

It takes a special person to choose a career as a certified nursing assistant (CNA). These dedicated professionals help our residents with daily tasks from bathing and dressing to grooming, feeding and more. In the process, they become more like family members than caregivers.

"The aides take on the role of daughters or friends," said Keren Zepeda, Human Resources Coordinator. "They always take that extra time to listen to our residents. They bring them their early morning coffee and then stay to chat, following social distance guidelines. They have provided that much-needed face-to-face human connection during the pandemic."

"I love the fulfillment that it gives me to care for someone else and making them happy," said Tamia Howard, CNA. "Families can't always be there, so I feel that we have become their family. They enjoy learning about my life, as much as I love learning about them."



CNAs must complete special training and pass a board exam. At SGLC, they work under the supervision of our LPNs and RNs, taking direction on daily needs for each resident. Caring and compassion are key attributes of our CNAs who typically go above and beyond for our residents. When our beauty salon was closed, our aides styled hair, including some who washed and set the styles with rollers they had purchased for the residents with their own money. One of our CNAs dressed up and went from room to room, dancing and singing to entertain residents.

"It is really hard to pinpoint why exactly I chose to be a CNA, but I know that I love being able to help people," said Brittany Emerson, CNA. "I have been working in the Dementia unit for almost 10 years. Not everyone understands Dementia, but I love working with them. I refer to them as my babies. They may not remember you, but they remember what you do for them. I honestly care for them like if they were my own family."

As for Adia King, CNA, her current career is a springboard for future learning. "I have a passion for caring," she said. "I am also going to begin taking LPN courses soon and becoming a CNA has provided me with an opportunity to learn."

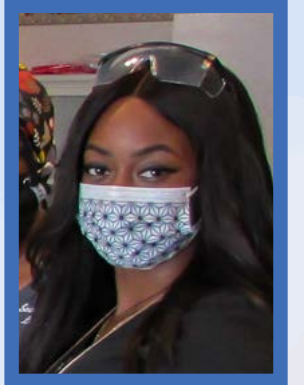
Rita Trotter, who has worked as a CNA for 20 years, sums it up. "I'm thankful to be here for the residents, to make them smile during these tragic times and quarantine," she said. "They can't see their family so I am their extended family. They tell me I can't have any days off. It feels good to be loved and needed."

## Housekeeping Heroes

Cleanliness has always been of utmost importance at SGLC. In a pandemic, it's taken to a new level. Just ask Maria Cardona, Housekeeping Supervisor. "It's not just cleaning, it's extreme cleaning," she said. "We disinfect the public areas two to three times a day. We rub down the door handles, elevators, keypads and other highly touched surfaces with a special chemical. We also sweep and mop the floors. We clean residents' rooms without them in the room, so that we may disinfect the bed, clean the toilet, thoroughly clean the room and replace the bedding. Staying clean is staying safe."

The housekeeping staff also handles laundry, which now includes washing any clothing dropped off by families. "It's a long process," said Maria. "We pick up the laundry at the front desk and bring it back to be washed. Then we take the clothes to the residents. It's an extra precaution that goes toward protecting our residents."

She and the housekeeping staff don't mind the extra cleaning or laundry. "This is my second home," she said, "and the residents are my second family. Whatever we do, it's to keep them safe."





# Why I got the Covid-19 Vaccine

Residents and staff at SGLC received doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 7 and Jan. 28, 2021, as part of the Home's commitment to protect and care for its vulnerable senior population. CVS Health administered the vaccine according to the N.J. Department of Health phased vaccine roll out. As thousands scramble to schedule their COVID-19 vaccines, our staff, residents and families reflect on what it meant to be in that first tier.



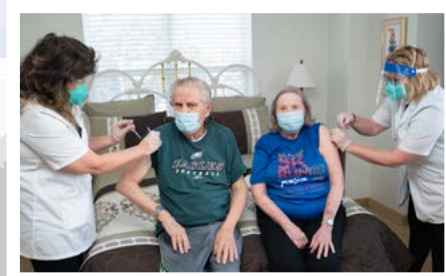
"This is our way out. If the vaccine is the key to getting out and living, that's what I'm going to do. If you want to hold onto what you got, you better take the vaccine. Otherwise, you're a damn fool."

**“RESIDENT MARK EISENSTEIN**

"My mom made sure that I received the Polio vaccine in the 1950's which was brand new. I'm sure she and my dad calculated the risk vs. benefit and realized that the chance of my getting polio was too great. It's the same decision-making process that I made. I am relieved and excited for this first step toward normalcy for her. Seashore Gardens has done an amazing job of keeping her safe, but there is always the possibility that she could be exposed at some point. Getting the vaccine gives her a greater chance of not getting infected."

**“BARBARA MAKOSKI DAUGHTER OF RESIDENT PAT COLGAN**

"When they were talking about it in the beginning, I was leery. I was afraid that they were rushing things through, and wondering if they did the right studies. As time went on, and the scientific community and Dr. Fauci discussed it, it became evident that it was safe. By the time it launched in Britain, we were on board."



**“RESIDENTS SHIRLEY AND HOWARD BERNSTEIN**

"I want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. I am happy that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. It means we are one step closer to being back to normal. It is a way that I can be part of keeping myself, my family, my patients, my community and the world safe. And it is a way I can finally travel. I miss the Bahamas. I am grateful for all of the people that worked tirelessly to create the vaccine in this most unprecedented time."



**“DIRECTOR OF REHABILITATION NICOLE GOODSON**

"I'm grateful to have another line of defense against the COVID-19 virus. For almost a year, we have been distancing, hand washing, and wearing masks to keep ourselves and our families and residents safe. I am hoping to be able to see my son and 1 year old grandson in Seattle one day soon."

**“SHARON D'ANGIO, DIRECTOR OF DONOR SERVICES AND PR**

"I've been a pharmacist for 30 years. I'm happy to actually make a difference in this way. It's great to be able to talk to my customers and do what I perceive a pharmacist should do. I grew up in Absecon and I was familiar with SGLC before this so I knew this was a very beautiful facility. Everybody is so nice and helpful."

**“CVS PHARMACIST SHELLY YARD (WHO ADMINISTERED THE VACCINES)**

"This vaccine is a sign of hope for a better and healthier future. Choosing to get vaccinated means making the selfless decision to create a safer environment for our loved ones and community."

**“ALYSSA BUTERICK, SGLC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST**

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# BOARDWALK TIMES

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- WHY I GOT THE COVID VACCINE
- IN MEMORIAM  
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All donations are invested to generate income that can be used  
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at dangios@seashoregardens.org.

## Our Mission

The Simon & Sylvia Zisman Seashore Gardens Living Center is a nonprofit home for the aged, guided by Jewish tradition, law and charity, dedicated to enriching the quality of life for each of our residents. Seashore Gardens Living Center continuously strives to provide the finest quality of health care and supportive services to our residents. Seashore Gardens Living Center promises to remain proactive in meeting the challenges we face with the understanding that we are in existence for our residents.