

Fall | Winter 2022

GREETINGS from

BOARDWALK TIMES

Seashore Gardens Living Center Established 1916



Resident and Volunteer
Mother and Daughter

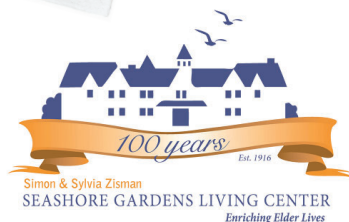


The Black and White Ball
returned October 29, 2022



A Home for the Gardens

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



Simon & Sylvia Zisman
SEASHORE GARDENS LIVING CENTER
Enriching Elder Lives

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



Dear Friends,

Over half a century ago, a then-young man was asked to interview and eventually become the assistant director of our Home for the Aged. As the saying goes, time surely does fly by. Now 53 years later, I am honored to still be a part of a mission that is so near and dear to my heart.

Anniversaries are a powerful opportunity to look back and reflect. It has been my privilege to serve Seashore Gardens Living Center for all of these years. Yet I could not have done it without the support and dedication of our Board, our staff, our residents, our friends, and my family. During this season of gratitude, I wanted to share my appreciation.

When I conduct orientations, I tell the incoming staff that people who choose this career do not do it for the money. They choose to work here because they want to care for our residents and help preserve their quality of life. They appreciate the elder generation and the journey that has brought them to us. It's not an easy job, but it is one that can be so fulfilling.

I am forever grateful for our staff. Janice Cambon dedicated her career of 35 years to our Home and continues to this day. Alysia Price has devoted 22-plus challenging years to SGLC. Withstanding, all our managers, supervisors, and line staff have more than an average of 5 years' longevity with us. So many of our staff have given of their time and have worked diligently to help care for our residents. By doing so, they have made SGLC one of the finest Homes of the Aged in our region.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with boards who assisted in the success of our Home and the caring of our older folks. Our board members' support has been unwavering. They have given their time and talents actively, enthusiastically, and generously—helping us to persevere despite challenges. I want to thank our board members for everything we have been able to accomplish together.

Finally, you can't operate a nonprofit Home like ours without community support. For those of you who were able to join us at the Black & White Ball, and who placed ads in our ad book to support the Seashore Gardens Foundation, I thank you. Together, we will continue our mission to enrich elder lives in our community.

Most sincerely,

Martin

Martin H. Klein, MA, LNHA, CALA
President and CEO
Seashore Gardens Living Center

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.

From the Desk of Alysia Price, Executive Director



As the holidays approach, many of us tend to reflect on our blessings and how grateful we are for the people in our lives. We all go through challenges and ups-and-downs but throughout those times we know there are people there to support us. We are fortunate that we have that kind of dedicated team here at Seashore Gardens Living Center (SGLC).

Just as we think things may be improving, another outbreak occurs with a different COVID-19 strain. We know staff, residents, and our visitors are tired of having to still deal with the guidelines of the pandemic. Yet our caring and dedicated staff are choosing to persevere and work with compassion for our residents and for one another.

The past few years coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, needless to say, have been challenging. Yet I have seen a lot of good through some of the toughest moments. Family members have shared kind words such as "We know everyone is doing the best they can," and they have written letters of appreciation. Staff have worked overtime when needed to cover open shifts. We have received generous donations of much-needed items. Family members have treated staff to delivered lunches. Both families and residents have been very understanding and shown patience when some things may not be exactly perfect.

As you may already know, when one works in the healthcare field, one tends to neglect their own needs and put others first. We miss holiday time with our families, special events, or just time to care for ourselves. Many of our staff are not only working their own jobs, they are helping in other departments. It takes a tremendous amount of teamwork to ensure the Home is able to provide care 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week.

There are staff behind the scenes that visitors may not see or have much interaction with when at the Home. However, it is very important for all to know that every single employee truly has a role in the care of our residents. They simply do what they do because they truly care and they know the Home and the residents need and rely on them.

I am sincerely grateful to be able to work with such dedicated individuals and with such caring families and residents. My season is filled with gratitude because of you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Alysia

Alysia Price, LCSW, LNHA, CALA, CDP
Executive Director

Support Group

Seashore Gardens Living Center is offering a free monthly support group for family members and caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer's or dementia. The group meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 4-5 p.m. at Seashore Gardens Living Center 22 W. Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway, N.J.

Making a Difference

Sharon D'Angio
Director of Donor Services and Public Relations



Wish List

Rosie Vital Sign Machine- need 3
\$2,500 each
Any donation towards preciated.

Large print crossword puzzles and word puzzle books

Light weight plastic watering cans
Small indoor plants for residents rooms

Crayons
Markers/colored pencil sets

300-500 piece puzzles

Under 100 piece thick puzzles

Lap blankets

Cozy slippers and socks (non skid)

I am still on a "high" from the Seashore Gardens Foundation Black & White Ball held October 29 at Resorts Casino. It was so special to be able to gather again at a social event and to spend some face-to-face time with old and new friends.

Each November, I contemplate gratitude. Not only do I think about the year we are finishing but the one that lies ahead. This year, I'm reflecting on where we've been, and how far we've come. At the Ball, we celebrated Martin Klein's 53 years of leadership at Seashore Gardens Living Center, and 18 years of the Seashore Gardens Foundation. I was reminded of how important the bond is between volunteer and staff leadership of a nonprofit.

As an employee of the Seashore Gardens Foundation, I am in the unique position to work at Seashore Gardens Living Center every day with the dedicated staff who care for our residents. While they attend to our residents' physical and emotional needs, I work closely with the Boards of Seashore Gardens Living Center and Foundation to provide the financial resources, marketing and public relations that help support this mission.

As we complete the third year of living with COVID-19 and watch most of the world start to get back to normal, we are still testing, wearing masks and following regulations from the appropriate organizations. It is a struggle to continue to find funding for the essential programs that enrich elder lives. Our residents have lived through so much; they are tired of quarantines and having to wear masks.



For information about donations or to have a conversation about making a Life & Legacy gift you can contact Sharon D'Angio at (609) 748-4614 or dangios@seashoregardens.org
Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/seashoregarden



Enriching Elder Lives

Programs like the IN2L computers, Music & Memory, Opening Minds though Art (OMA) and ElderGrow provide some normalcy and much-needed activity for them. We were so fortunate to have these programs initially funded by Grants and sustained through Foundations and donations. As many businesses and Foundations struggle with the aftermath of the Pandemic and inflation and other financial issues, I am so grateful to those who continue to support our resident programs through donations. I am especially grateful to the donors of Life & Legacy Program who make afterlife gifts to ensure our mission to enrich elder lives will exist for the generations to come. I find comfort from our beautiful Jerusalem Wall with the original panel's stones filled with inscriptions to so many who have been a part of the fabric of our lives at Seashore Gardens. I look at the beautiful new panels and think of all the happy occasions and memorials that will eventually reside there.

As we end 2022 and look ahead to a brand-new year, I thank you for your friendship and support. I strive to find new ways to provide the support our residents desperately need, and to never forget that I do what I do for our families.

Sharon

Sharon D'Angio
Director of Donor Services and PR



Support Seashore Gardens Foundation

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

Scan the Code to get started



amazonsmile

Resident & Volunteer Spotlight

Resident Spotlight

Nazle Dib



Nazle Dib's smile lights up a room. Prompted by a gift of flowers or a special treat from her homeland, her joy comes easily these days. Nazle continues to live her best life in SGLC's Comfort Care neighborhood, a dedicated place for loved ones with dementia.

For Nazle, it has been a journey that has taken her far from her beloved Lebanon. Born in 1932, she was one of only two girls in a large Catholic family. As a girl, Nazle's future was sealed. She would be a wife and mother, and cook and clean. "The one thing that was very frustrating to my mom was that they did not educate her," said daughter Dee Kassiss. "They

pulled her out of school in the fourth or fifth grade."

By the time Nazle was 32, she was married with six children. "My mom had a hard physical life," said Dee. "She took care of everyone, including my grandparents who lived with us. There were no washing machines or dryers. She shouldered all of the physical work for the family and told us to go study." But Nazle had an abundant social life, courtesy of a large family. Despite her lack of formal education, Nazle learned multiple languages from her friends and neighbors. She speaks Arabic (Lebanese dialect), English, Armenian, Turkish, and Greek.



After a brief stint in the states, Nazle remained in Lebanon, receiving visits from family. On one such visit, Dee noticed some unusual behavior. "She was leaving the stove on, and forgetting it. She was going to the supermarket and not finding her way home. One day I went to see her and the house was filled with smoke. She could have died. That's when I moved her back to the states."

Resident & Volunteer Spotlight

Ultimately, the family chose SGLC for rehabilitation from a fall and to help keep their mom safe. "I told her, mom, you're living the life of a queen," said Dee. "We bring her home every Sunday to have family dinner. When we pull into the parking lot to bring her back, she tells me, 'We're home.' She considers this place her home and that says it all."

Volunteer Spotlight

Dee Kassiss



Dee Kassiss likes to help. Maybe it's because she grew up in a culture where everyone was involved in helping others. "I was a Girl Scout," said Dee. "I learned from a tender age that you should look out for others. I started helping out when my kids were in school, volunteering in the PTA, and serving on the Foundation Board for AtlantiCare. It's important for me to help wherever I can."

So, when Dee's mother went to Seashore Gardens Living Center (SGLC), it was only natural that Dee volunteered her time. "I know she's receiving incredibly good care and I want

to do something in return," she said. A registered nurse by training, Dee understands the demands on healthcare workers and "likes to lend a hand when I can." To date, she has worked the registration desk at the Golf Tournament. She has helped plant the Butterfly Pollinator Garden. She also helped with the Black & White Ball, picking up the gift certificates.



When she's not visiting her mother or volunteering, Dee likes to travel. She and her husband, Dr. Kamal Kassiss, have a home in Florida where they go a few times a year. They also travel to Europe, and to visit their daughters, Kristina and Jessica, and grandchildren Camila and Andy.

Dee feels blessed on many fronts. "I am just ecstatic that my mom ended up at Seashore Gardens Living Center," she said. "It's just an amazing place where the residents are cared for and respected, and treated with such love and warmth. You are all doing your best to give them the best lives possible."



Nazle & Dee at Nazle's Favorite Place - Smithville

The Recreation Station

The Recreation Station

Calling all volunteers

We are looking for qualified volunteers who can donate time on a weekly or monthly basis to do an activity with our residents. They love Bingo, Blackjack, Discussion Groups, IN2L computer Games, Watercolor (or other arts and crafts) and anything else you might have experience with. If you are interested in spending time with our residents and have an idea for a class or activity, please contact Missy Rudio at office@seashoregardens.org 609-404-4848 to discuss and apply.



From art and music to gardening to book clubs and more, Seashore Gardens Living Center has an activity program that is among the most robust in the nation. Director of Recreation Missy Rudio and Assistant Director of Recreation Cindy Weinraub go above and beyond to keep residents engaged and entertained. Here's a glimpse of just some of the activities our residents have enjoyed over the past few months.

For more photos, visit our Facebook page.

Staff Spotlight

Susan Fascia

Seashore Gardens Living Center | Dietary Aide, CNA, Driver, LPN, RN, Assisted Living (AL) Administrator, AL Wellness Center Nurse, RN Supervisor, Acting Assist. Director of Nursing

Congratulations on your Retirement!

The staff gathered in March 2022 to wish Nurse Susan Fascia well in retirement after 40 years with Seashore Gardens Living Center. Susan started with SGLC as a Dietary Aide. She then worked throughout the home before becoming a Registered Nurse and Acting Assistant Director of Nursing during the beginning of COVID. We had a chance to surprise Susan with a retirement party and some special gifts to thank her for her many contributions over the years. Susan spent much of her time working with our Assisted Living Residents. She presented every resident with a gift and a letter, which spoke about how much they meant to her. Susan is truly special and we wish her all the best in her retirement. She will be missed!



Jill Ungar

Seashore Gardens Living Center Dietary Aide

Lunchtime is the favorite part of Jill Ungar's day. That's when she gets to spend time with some of her favorite people—the residents at Seashore Gardens Living Center (SGLC). As a member of the SGLC dietary team, Jill helps in preparations for the meal. Then she greets her friends in the main dining room and serves them lunch, along with her friend and coworker Jenny. That's when the fun begins.

"I'll get in the middle of the floor and start dancing, clapping and singing to Chubby Checker's 'The Twist' or some of the other oldies but goodies," said Jill. "We all sing along. It's a hoot."

Originally from Atlantic City, Jill has had a varied career. She has worked at Superior Court as a bailiff and at the Atlantic City Press. In between, she modeled in New York. She was featured in Jet Magazine and did some print work. She and her husband lived in Los Angeles for 3.5 years where he was an emergency room doctor and worked with "Doctors Without Borders." After he passed, Jill moved back to Atlantic City with her sisters. She joined SGLC in January 2022.

Her face lights up when she talks about being with the residents. "I absolutely love them," she says.



Board Spotlight

Janice Cambron

Seashore Gardens Foundation Board Member



When Janice Cambron stepped down from her role as Executive Director in 2019, it was the end of an era—and the start of something new. Now in her retirement, she is hitting her stride, balancing a number of volunteer roles, including as Seashore Gardens Foundation board member and SGLC volunteer.

"I retired about 8 months before Covid-19 hit," she remembers. "Many people said, 'aren't you lucky?' I didn't feel lucky; I felt so bad for everyone at the Home. There was nothing I could do to help. Once things got more controlled and I had my vaccinations, I came back to do what I could."

She started leading staff education on topics from infection control to communications, and more. "All employees are required to complete continuing education hours each year," she explains. "I assign the computer modules but I also complete the

program and then teach it to staff. It keeps me on my toes. It's lovely to see staff I know and meet new staff. They work so hard."

Once a week, she also covers as acting administrator. That means reprising her role of 35 years, which includes everything from doing rounds to overseeing operations, to answering calls from residents. "I do it for the residents and I do it for the staff," she says. "It's very meaningful. You give and you get back. It's always been a win-win."

She works in other ways to help raise funds to enrich elder lives. "It's wonderful to be on the Foundation board," she says. "I get to see people with whom I worked in a different capacity."

Janice also shares her time and talent in the local community. She serves as Secretary on the Cygnus Creative Art Center board and is Treasurer of the Great Egg Harbour Township Historical Society. She resides with her husband Frank in Egg Harbor Twp. Their daughter Valeska lives in Manhattan, teaches voice and performs.

Janice holds a degree in public health from Stockton University and an MBA from Rutgers University.

Keep in Touch

Do you have a new email? A new mailing address or phone number? Do you live out of the area for a few months a year? Please let us know. We regularly review our contact lists and want to make sure that we have your up-to-date information. Email Erin Luurtsema at luurtsemae@seashoregardens.org with any updates. (scan QR code for quick email access)



Our Jerusalem Wall

There's a piece of Jerusalem in Seashore Gardens Living Center (SGLC). A beautiful stone wall created by artist David Ascalon adorns the hallway, and if you've seen it in person, it's simply breathtaking. On August 31, this extraordinary artwork was expanded, offering a new opportunity to honor and memorialize loved ones.

"It was Marty Klein's idea to create this tribute, and it is especially fitting to expand this one-of-a-kind piece of art around the High Holidays," said Sharon D'Angio, Director of Donor Services and PR. "This expansion provides additional stones to remember or honor loved ones. It is also meaningful that this will be one of the last projects David Ascalon creates before he retires at the end of this year."

Gary Hill and John Schultz were among the first donors. "We've been to Jerusalem and this wall reminded us of our wonderful experience there," said John who serves on the board of the Seashore Gardens Foundation. "A wall represents strength," added Gary, "and it echoes the strength and protection offered by the Home. We wanted to honor this wonderful caring staff and the legacy that is Seashore Gardens."

Among the staff who worked to install the wall were Darrell Perna, Maintenance Manager, and Carmelo Rodriguez, Housekeeping Supervisor.

Said Darrell, "I saw the concept drawings, and learned that the stone actually came from Jerusalem. I know what it takes and it's incredible that they were able to bring it here. Of course, it's not just a wall. Over the years, so many people have come and gone, and you see their names here. It's a beautiful way to remember them."

Importantly, the wall never "closes," said Sharon. "Even during COVID, you could walk over and spend a few quiet moments looking at the names and feeling the goodwill of the space. There are resident names, honors and tributes to staff, names of supporters in our community. Our Jerusalem Wall is truly a tapestry of our past, present and future."

The last stone purchased on the center panel of the Jerusalem Wall was a memorial to Gary Kanalstein, Associate of KDA Architects who designed our current building in Galloway.

USE THE QR CODE TO FIND OUR
MORE ABOUT PURCHASING A STONE
ON THE JERUSALEM WALL



A Garden of Possibility

The gardens are growing at SGLC, thanks to your generous support! This summer, we envisioned and created a beautiful pollinator and monarch butterfly habitat where residents can relax and watch these colorful winged creatures. These pollinator spaces are also so important for the environment, and we are proud to be helping in this effort.

For our residents, the benefits of being outside in the garden are so important, especially after the prolonged pandemic. The garden engages them in meaningful ways: physically, socially, cognitively, creatively and spiritually. The benefits of therapeutic horticulture are numerous and include improving motor skills, reducing the risk factors for dementia, elevating mood, improving sleep, reducing falls, reducing agitation, improving self-esteem, and acting as an antidepressant.

Our gardens have been an ongoing project since 2014, when we launched our Sensory Trail and Healing Garden in the Comfort Care Courtyard. We expanded in 2019 with Eldergrow. Now that the butterfly garden is in place, our next step is to create a Therapy Intergenerational Garden for residents, families and staff. We envision this garden to feature raised beds at wheelchair height, bridges with rails, and an accessible playground. This will enable occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy to be conducted outdoors.

Special thanks to the Xerces Society in partnership with Pinelands Nursery and Supply for providing the initial funding for the butterfly garden. Thanks also to OceanFirst Foundation, Encore Rehabilitation, Life & Legacy/Jewish Federation Foundation, Burce Hurowitz and Merlino Design Partnership and our families and donors who continue to support this effort. Together, we are enriching elder lives!



Year in Review

5K Run & Health Walk Raises \$25,000

Nearly 300 people gathered on the Atlantic City Boardwalk on Sunday, April 10, for the 12th Annual Seashore Gardens 5K Run & Health Walk. Held in person for the first time in three years, it netted a record \$25,000 for Dementia and Alzheimer's programs and outreach. Starting and ending at Stockton University's Atlantic City campus, the Run featured participants of all ages, all with a connection to Alzheimer's. Scott Brown Insurance Agency and Stockton University were presenting sponsors.

We can't wait to see you on April 16, 2023 for our 13th Annual 5K!



Thank you to our Largest Fundraising Team-
Team Roth Goldsteins'
who helped raise over 5,000 in memory of
family members.



Golf Tournament Raises \$14,000

The sixth annual Seashore Gardens Foundation

Golf Tournament brought out supporters and volunteers in full force on June 21, raising more than \$14,000 for the programs and services to enrich elder lives. Held at Harbor Pines Golf Club, the event reunited families who have been involved with supporting SGLC for decades and brought new golfers who have more recent ties to the Home.

The event was presented by David Lieberman Insurance.

Mark your calendars on June 21, 2023 for Seashore Gardens Foundation Golf Tournament



13 Boardwalk Times



Seashore Gardens Living Center 14

Year in Review

Black & White Ball Raises \$32,000

The Seashore Gardens Foundation raised \$32,000 for senior programs at its Black & White Ball held at Resorts Hotel and Casino on Oct. 29. The funds will benefit programs that help to enrich elder lives both at Seashore Gardens Living Center and in the community. This year, the black-tie event celebrated 20 years in SGLC's Galloway location, 18 years of the Seashore Gardens Foundation, and paid tribute to the 53-year legacy of President and CEO Martin H. Klein. Two hundred guests enjoyed an evening of cocktails, dinner, and dancing to music by Eddie Bruce Experience, all to support

programs that enrich the quality of life for our region's seniors.



BOARDWALK TIMES

Inside this Issue:

- A year of events
- The Gardens of The Home
- Our Jerusalem Wall Expansion
- And More!

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SEASHORE GARDENS LIVING CENTER
Enriching Elder Lives

For questions/info., call
(609) 404-4848

Martin H. Klein
President and CEO

Alysia Price
Executive Director

Missy Rundio
Dir. of Recreation and Volunteers

Jessica O'Brien
Admissions Coordinator

Save The Date

Health Walk
5K & Run

April 16, 2023
Stockton University
Atlantic City Campus

GOLF

June 21, 2023
Harbor Pines Golf Club

