

**Jewish Historical Society of Delaware
Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday April 3, 2022**

Welcoming remarks

Diane Wolf welcomed the attendees and called the meeting to order at 2:00.

She previewed the meeting agenda. Rather than give a President's report, Diane encouraged everyone to read all the information contained in the JHSD winter newsletter which can be found on our website. Diane gave some progress notes regarding the current work of the JHSD including assessment of stored records at the Jewish Community Center (JCC), building our Endowment fund, upgrading our website to make our oral history materials more accessible, increasing our outreach through new partnerships, and applying for grants to further our mission.

Diane thanked Gail Pietrzyk for the work she does as the JHSD archivist.

Business meeting

Approval of Minutes

There was motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting as posted on our website. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

Paula Gordon gave a pre-recorded report summarizing our fiscal year 2021 and our financial plans for 2022. She reported that we are doing well financially thanks to our generous individual donors, community organizations, and an important grant from Delaware Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Paula detailed our operating revenue and expenses for 2021. She noted that two thirds of our income came from our generous donors with most of the remainder coming from an allocation from Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD), and grants from the Pollyanna Foundation, the Frank and Yetta Chaiken Foundation and the Isadore and Ida Schutzman Fund.

Paula showed where dollars were spent, including the new costs of occupying the Coxe House which began in April 2021. Paula then identified the specific services that our Archivist, Gail Pietrzyk provides to advance the mission of our organization.

The next part of the presentation described the Coxe House Renovation Fund campaign which raised almost \$308,000. The funds, which included grants from the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation, were used to create the Center for Jewish History at the Coxe House. Thanks to

the generosity of the community, we were able to renovate, furnish and move into the Coxe House. Paula detailed the costs of the renovation and move to the building.

Paula explained that we have resumed fundraising for an Endowment fund for the Coxe House to cover future occupancy costs and to expand the work of our mission. Our goal is to raise \$150,000.

Paula thanked our long-term partners, the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) and the Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) and she singled out some individuals in those organizations for special recognition.

She recognized some additional partners: the University of Delaware (UD) Department of History and UD Jewish Studies program, Jewish War Veterans of Delaware, and Jewish community organizations and synagogues.

A snapshot of our budget for 2022 was shared, showing year-to-date revenue and expenses.

Paula noted the importance of the American Rescue Plan recovery grant we received from Delaware Humanities, an affiliate of National Endowment for the Humanities. She also thanked the JFD, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation, the Pollyanna Foundation, the Frank and Yetta Chaiken Foundation, the Isadore and Ida Schutzman Fund, and our individual members and donors for their support.

The Treasurer's report will be available on the website. Please contact Paula Gordon with any questions.

Diane thanked Paula for her report and for her work as our Treasurer.

Election of Board Members

Diane noted that this is Richard Levin's last meeting as a board member, and she thanked him for his hard work on behalf of the JHSD.

Richard Levin reported on the work of the Nominating committee. He presented the slate of Board Members including 13 members who are currently on the board: Harriet Ainbinder, John Elzufon, Paula Gordon, Tina Heiman, Roger Horowitz, Paul Lukoff, Donald Parsons, Ron Riebman, Charles Salkin, Robin Silver-Zink, David Wilk, Diane Wolf, and Peter Zoll, and two new nominees: Michael Joseph and Robin Kauffman Saran.

Eligible members were asked to vote electronically to approve the new board members. There were no objections to the slate presented.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting.

The **program** portion of the meeting began with Diane acting as moderator. The presentations were pre-recorded.

The first presentation included images of the move to the Jewish Center for History at the Coxe House, narrated by Gail Pietrzyk. She encouraged everyone to come and explore our collections. We are open by appointment.

The next presentation was a UD produced video of our board member, Roger Horowitz, telling us about the oral history process and the value of preserving these histories.

A video with excerpts of Faith Brown's oral history interview, conducted by Dalia Handelman, was shared.

The last presentation was Gail Pietrzyk's report on the oral history collection of the JHSD and the work that is being done to make it accessible. These include nearly 200 audio recordings on magnetic tape, 89 of which have been digitized. Gail demonstrated how to access the recordings currently available on our website and encouraged everyone to listen to them. Gail thanked the interns who worked on the JHSD collections. She then highlighted the ways that JHSD members can help by volunteering to transcribe and/or tag oral histories. A form was shared to allow members to sign up to volunteer.

The floor was open for questions. There were a few member questions and comments related to the collections. Gail encouraged members to get in touch with her if they have material that they think might belong in our collection.

Diane thanked Ben Spohn for his work on the technology for our meeting. She thanked the officers and board members for their hard work this year and thanked our interns and volunteers.

Diane concluded the meeting by thanking the attendees and asking the 2022-23 board members to remain for the business meeting.

Board Meeting for the Election of Officers

Diane welcomed Robin Saran and Michael Joseph to the board. Our bylaws call for the election of officers by the board. Diane listed the officers: Diane Wolf, president, Harriet Ainbinder, vice-president, Donald Parsons, Jr., vice-president, Ron Riebman, vice-president, Paula Gordon, treasurer, Robin Silver-Zink, secretary. A motion was made to accept the slate of officers. The slate was accepted unanimously.

Diane wished everyone a happy Passover and noted that our next meeting will be held in May. (May 16 at 3:00)

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Silver-Zink
Secretary