

Diane Cohen Zack Award Introduction
Congregation Kol Shofar Annual Meeting
June 3, 2015

In 1993, Rabbi Lavey Derby asked Diane Zack to Chair a Kol Shofar Capital Campaign. She said yes! Little did she know then the path that she had set herself upon.

In 1995, she joined the Kol Shofar Board. Most people are ready to pull the “Board Member” ribbon off of their nametags after serving terms of only four or perhaps six years. Not so Diane! She served continuously and diligently until we gave her a heartfelt final thanks for her service at our Annual Meeting last June. During her time on the Board she served under at least ten different Presidents—and that count doesn’t include herself!

As a longstanding member of our Board, she held many offices, including VP of Financial Resources, VP of Operations, VP of Capital Development, Immediate Past President, and of course her term as our President, during which she made a very strong and welcoming impression on me as a new congregant. The highlight of her presidency was her tremendous role in helping us get political approvals from the Town of Tiburon for our building project.

She chaired many of our Annual Funds, and also several of our Galas. And perhaps her biggest impact came from co-chairing the Capital Campaign that made this incredible space possible. Her work in this regard continues to this day, as she serves as co-chair of the new capital campaign that we heard about a little earlier this evening.

As a key Marin Jewish community influencer, she catalyzed and chaired for us the initiative to create the incredible Kol Shofar/JCC preschool on our campus. This program is now thriving, serving over 80 young children who come into this very space with their parents on Friday mornings to sit on the floor and sing songs with our rabbi. To me, now that is extremely good for the Jews.

Kol Shofar is not the only beneficiary of Diane's commitment to service. She currently serves on the Boards of Stanford University Hillel, Lehrhaus Judaica, Urban Adamah, the Governance Committee of Brandeis Marin, the Marin Impact Grants Initiative Committee of the SF JCF, and the West Coast Chairmen's Council for American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

She has assumed many leadership positions for the Jewish Community Federation over the years, including Chair of Major Gifts, Chair of the Marin Impact Grants Initiative, President of the Young Adults Division, and Co-Chair of the L'Atid Leadership Program. She has served on the JCF Board of Trustees, their Endowment Committee, and the Endowment Foundation.

It is fair to say that our Kol Shofar community and our extended Bay Area Jewish community would not be what they are today without the leadership of Diane Zack. In eternal appreciation for her 22 years of service and her daily example of the importance of volunteer leadership, this year the Kol Shofar Board voted to create the Diane Cohen Zack Kol Shofar Volunteer Leadership Award in her perpetual honor. Diane—Kol HaKaVod to you for all that you've done and all that you continue to do.

Here's how the award will work. Each year we will solicit nominations from the congregation of volunteers whose services to and through our community are consequential and inspirational. A committee chaired by the Board Secretary will select the year's honoree from among the nominations, and the Board then ratifies their choice. Each year's Zack Award will be presented to the honoree at the Annual Meeting.

This year's committee was chaired by our Secretary Ruth Chavez, assisted by Shirley Berman, Lisa Fisher, Nancy Drapin, and myself. I can honestly tell you that we had incredible nominations, any of which would have been very worthy honorees, and hopefully all of whom we'll see honored in future years. But we're particularly excited about this year's awardee. I'd like to thank Ruth and the committee for their tremendous work. And now I'd like to invite Diane to share some thoughts with us, and then take the honor of bestowing the inaugural Diane Cohen Zack Kol Shofar Volunteer Leadership Award on this year's recipient.