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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Landmarks board advances efforts

Jodie Wagner
 Palm Beach Daily News
 USA TODAY NETWORK

The Landmarks Preservation Commission kept busy in 2025, conducting reviews of historical buildings that eventually led the Town Council to approve 13 new landmark designations.

Those efforts were part of the commission's work to advance preservation efforts by reviewing projects and overseeing historic designations, according to an annual report presented to the Town Council on March 3 by board Chair Brittain Damgard.

A landmark designation generally protects a building's exterior for being

significantly changed without the permission of the landmarks board.

Damgard told council members the commission held 12 regularly scheduled meetings last year with an average commissioner attendance rate of more than 90%.

Last year, she said, the board reviewed 40 projects, including 29 pro-

posed "certificates of appropriateness" for older buildings. The board also reviewed 11 buildings in the "historically significant" category.

The Town Council, Damgard said, approved five historic ad valorem tax-exemption resolutions.

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SHIP SHAPE

A man cleans near antennas high atop the luxury yacht Lady Gayle Marie in the Town of Palm Beach Marina.

DAMON HIGGINS/PALM BEACH DAILY NEWS

Shabbat service highlights kidney donation

Synagogue draws attention to work of nonprofit Renewal

Jodie Wagner
 Palm Beach Daily News
 USA TODAY NETWORK

A special Shabbat service hosted recently by Palm Beach Synagogue highlighted the work of Renewal, a Brooklyn, N.Y.-based nonprofit that connects patients in need with living kidney donors, many of whom come from the Orthodox Jewish community.

Formed in 2006 by Mendy Reiner, Renewal is a nonprofit group that helps connect living kidney donors with recipients and guides both through the medical, financial and emotional aspects of

transplantation, according to its founder.

Reiner spoke about the organization's mission at the Feb. 28 Renewal Shabbat service. He was joined by Stephen Rose, a West Palm Beach resident and synagogue member who received a kidney transplant through Renewal, and his donor, Jacob Pultman of New Jersey. Palm Beach resident and synagogue member Ron Sedley, who helped organize the event, also participated in the synagogue service.

Sedley, a philanthropist and businessman, became involved with Renewal in 2013 after he encountered the organization when a friend in need of a kidney turned to it for help.

He told the Palm Beach Daily News that seeing its impact firsthand inspired him to support its work with financial gifts

"I got involved because it's the right

thing to do," Sedley said. "It should open a lot of eyes. You may not need it today, but you have to think about the big picture."

Sedley said Renewal has helped facilitate more than 1,500 kidney transplants, connecting patients with donors willing to undergo surgery to save a life. He added the group's outreach and education efforts have also helped raise awareness about organ donation in communities where people may be unfamiliar with the process.

"That's 1,500 mitzvahs, so that's why I gave (financial support)," Sedley said, using the Hebrew word for religiously mandated good deeds to describe his contributions to the organization. "This is the right thing. This is a real Jewish heart."

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Palm Beach residents Jill and Ron Sedley have been involved with the Renewal nonprofit since 2013.

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