

**Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
August 2020**

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP

No report

House Report

Ray Rokni , House VP

- **Repairs**
 - One air condition unit for the Library area was replaced for the cost of \$20K in the month of July. This unit was not under contract anymore and the replacement AC unit was heavily discounted.
 - We have completed a Tuck pointing and cleanup of the outside North wall of the synagogue during the month of July.
- **Parking lot**
 - Remaining work for landscaping of the islands and misc. painting of the light pole bases and other parking lot painting work are all deferred to 2021 when we are open.
 - Congregation Beth Slalom Signs – We have received generous donation of \$10K from sisterhood for replacing CBS signs located in the Walters Avenue and at front entrance of the building. We have also paid and received a survey for the replacement of CBS sign on Walters Avenue. House committee and executive director have decided to postpone this work to 2021, when the synagogue is open.
- **Security Enhancements**
 - Security measures have been reviewed while the synagogue remains closed.
- **Capital Reserve report**
 - The asset life schedule has been updated and shared with Financial Committee for budget use.

Financial Report (see attached)

Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, and Majorie Maxwell

See attached.

Membership Report

Randy Samborn, Membership VP

Committee and administrative leaders are moving forward with plans to launch the YACHAD affinity groups program this year. While the coronavirus is keeping us apart, CBS YACHAD groups will bring us together – in small groups or virtually initially – in the year ahead by uniting members around common interests.

Next month's Bulletin will have information about an online survey that will be distributed, asking members about their interests or hobbies to gather information that will help assemble groups, including some that may already exist. Please look for the survey in emails and take a few minutes to reply as we roll out this innovative new membership program.

Because this is such a vital and important program to get right from the start, we've created a YACHAD sub-committee, which will be led by Sue Lampert, and she will be assisted by a core group of 4-5 committee and sub-committee members who will work closely with Leann Blue and Lisa Orlov to provide lay leadership and staff support moving forward.

In addition to promoting and supporting YACHAD, the committee will remain focused this year on membership recruitment and retention, recognizing the unique challenges that lie ahead this year.

Programming Report

Ellen Grossman, Programming VP

- **DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SUMMER SERIES 2020**

- Our event on **July 23rd**, **DAVID HARRIS** was our speaker. David is the leading national authority on racial profiling and brought his expertise to approximately 175 - 200 Zoom participants. He was engaging and incredibly knowledgeable, giving us facts and crucial information about the current situation in our country. Thanks again to Hope and Randy Samborn for suggesting we invite their cousin!!!

*We do have a few more copies of David's book, "A City Divided- Race, Fear and the law of Police Confrontations" for those interested in receiving one. Please contact me to get one.

- **Our next speakers:**

- **Thursday, 8/20 BILLY PLANER** Billy Planer is the Founder and Director of Etgar 36, a summer journey taking Jewish teens across America to learn history, politics, and activism. They find their voice and power by meeting with all sides of political issues, understanding the unique culture of each city, and becoming empowered to create change and develop their American and Jewish identities. *How to be Comfortable Having Uncomfortable Conversations* 7:00-8:30 PM
- **Tuesday, 9/08 ANDY SLAVITT** Named as one of the top 10 most influential people in healthcare, Andy is making it his mission to give Americans critical information in real-time and hope for a path forward during this global pandemic. His podcast *In the Bubble: Finding a Path Forward to Our Health, Social Isolation and Economic Uncertainty* 7:00 - 8:30 PM

- All speakers will be via ZOOM – their link will be provided after registration for each speaker.

- **Watch for our new series coming in September-** "Cooking around the Continents"

Our own congregants will showcase some of their homeland recipes that you can add to your Shabbat menus. These will be Zoom cooking events and recipes will be furnished to all those registered. Look for more information to come in the next few weeks.

Ritual Report

Seth Schrank , Ritual VP

- High Holidays
 - High holidays will be streamed via the CBS website to members in good standing
 - Enhance Productions has been contracted to produce, pre-record, and stream the services
 - Youth services (both for children ages birth – 7 and 8 – 13) have been licensed from Rick Recht, Shira Klein, and Rabbi Josh Warshawsky. Services will be available on demand from our website for members in good standing.
 - The Ritual, Professional, and Administrative staff have all been fantastic in their coordination and collaboration.
- B'nei Mitzvahs
 - All scheduled b'nei mitzvah through the end of the calendar year have been contacted and alternative arrangements have been made as the building remains closed. Alternatives have included the use of a Torah on the scheduled day for them to complete a 'Zoom' Mitzvah, rescheduling fully to an alternative date in the future, or scheduling for an Aliyah in the Kamensky sanctuary
 - We welcome Randi Simon, B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator and Tutor. Randi is responsible for the coordination of aliyot for both a b'nei mitzvah and regular Shabbat services along with handling a portion of the tutoring responsibilities.
- Weekday Minyan
 - Morning and evening minyan continue to meet over Live Streaming. Additionally, morning minyan is also available via Zoom for those that prefer a more interactive experience.

School Report

Alan Zelkowitz, School VP

School is ready to begin a new year of learning. An important goal of the CBS Religious School is to partner with families to provide a positive, Jewish education and experience. As our families try to plan for the fall, and in order to help, we released a very detailed plan for the Religious School for the upcoming school year. Of course, these plans are subject to change based on the guidance we receive from the State of Illinois, the Health Department and the CDC. We anticipate that we will be moving in and out of phases during the school year and are prepared to do so without interruption to student learning.

Calls are being made to each Religious School family to discuss our plans for teaching, financial concerns, encourage registration, and to invite participation on the School Board. A second round of calls will commence shortly.

Teachers will be at Yom Beth Shalom to meet each and every one of their students “face-to-face” (or we would say “mask-to-mask”) so that our students are most comfortable with the learning experience. At that time, each student will receive a bag of supplies that they will use throughout the year.

We do not anticipate holding online kindergarten as, according to our educators, online learning is not very effective at that age. Instead, there will be age-appropriate projects in the bags distributed, and there may be some smaller, shorter sessions with those youngsters as young as age 4.

It is still early, so we cannot judge how well registration is going. Due to the conversion to Shul Cloud, we do not have the ability to compare the progress of registrations from past years to this time last year. Anecdotally, however we believe we are on track or only very slightly behind years past at this point.

Interest in our *Madrachim* program has been robust, and interviews will begin very shortly. Our high school program continues to grow as well.

Social Action Report

Bob Spector, Social Action VP

Our committee continues to offer support to the Northfield Township Food Pantry, The ARK, the PADS shelter, and many more needy organizations. Here are a few highlights:

We are providing supplemental food bags for students in a Northbrook school this summer. We are hoping to add students from an additional school in Northbrook starting in September. Contact Leatte Gelfeld, leatteg@gmail.com, for more info.

Several of our volunteers who have shopped for and delivered groceries to ARK clients are no longer able to do so because they are at high risk of contracting Covid. If anyone is comfortable grocery shopping and willing to do so once every month or two, please contact Merrill Medansky at merrill.medansky@gmail.com. All our clients are within ten miles of the synagogue, including Deerfield and Glenview.

Throughout the summer, the ARK has been picking up food donations at CBS. They are in desperate need of food to stock their pantry shelves. With the Holidays approaching, the ARK's needs are even greater. You can contact Susan Karlinsky at Skarlinsky@BethShalomNB.org for more information.

PADS homeless guests continue to be housed at a hotel in Arlington Heights. CBS members have been generously supporting them by providing donations of needed items and monies to help offset the costs. For more info contact Sara Weinstein at slo155@aol.com.

Do you have a project you are interested in starting? There is always room for more members on our committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me at SocialActionVP@BethShalomNB.org.

On behalf of the Social Action Committee, L'Shana Tovah. We wish you all a happy and healthy Holiday season.

Youth Report

Dan Sher, Youth VP

Just because many of our congregants might not have gone away to camp or participated in their regular camps this year, we had our own CampCBS this summer lead by our very own Eric Golberg. This was a brand-new programming initiative. During the eight weeks, we featured 45

online and offline programs with over 450 downloads! We were able to engage not only our youth but engage congregants' grandchildren and extended family all over the country! The feedback was great from the young families that participated.

Our Chaverim and Kadima families will have a lot to look forward to this fall as well. We are planning monthly activities for them and will be continuing a lot of what we learned of what worked over the summer and continuing it into the fall.

Our award-winning USY chapter was also hard at work planning next year. With the new board elected they spent the summer planning events and activities. Because of everything going on this year and so much uncertainty, they only planning the first half of the year. At this time, they are planning on doing their weekly lounge nights (virtual) as well as doing alternate Monday programming each week for 8-12th graders featuring freshman facetime and will continue to offer more programming then we would do if we were in person.

After all summer programs were canceled at the beginning of the summer, International USY launched #MyUSYfiSummer, where for \$99 for the entire summer, they offered age-appropriate programming and different drop-in events for different age groups. In addition, if you did not see, International USY announced late last month that they have decided not to hold any in-person overnight programs for the remainder of 2020. This includes programs such as LTI, Fall Conventions, Kadima Conventions, and International Convention in Washington, D.C. Earlier this week they provided additional details similar to #MyUSYfiSummer where for \$199 for the fall they can participate in all regional events and programming until International Convention and if they register at the same time, the International Convention will also be \$199 (virtual this year). We are still trying to figure out how this will work exactly and what this means for CBS and our youth groups, but no matter what we are committed to continuing the strong programming that Eric has been working on since the pandemic started.

Finally, if you don't remember, a couple of years ago JUF started the LEAD Award (Matt Rissien was its first recipient). The LEAD Award (Leader, Educator, Advisor, Dugma/Example) was created to recognize the outstanding adults who go above and beyond in their role of educating and caring for Jewish teens. Nominees were recognized by teens in the community who completed applications sharing how the nominee had influenced them nomination and the selection process was run by the Jewish Teen Alliance of Chicago, a teen board made up of representatives of Jewish teen experiences in the community. Historically the award is given as part of our 18 Under 18 Celebration which unfortunately didn't happen this year. I am pleased to let you know that Eric Golberg was one of the four finalists for this year LEAD Award. In addition, one of our USY Advisors Adam Blue was another one of the four finalists because of his work with Stand With Us. Ultimately, the award this year went to Daniel Warshawsky – CHUSY Assistant Regional Teen Engagement Director. All of this is to confirm what you already know, we have amazing people helping to mentor the future of CBS and the Conservative Movement.

Men's Club Report

Steve Elisco, President

No report

Sisterhood Report

Robyn Rosengard, President

Our Opening Event, Installation and Valued Volunteer via Zoom is Wednesday September 10th Speaker is Lisa Goodman Helfand Author of "The Hospital Gown come with Sequins?"

Our Judaica Shop is excited to be online. Please use this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CBSJudaicaShopNBK> to see merchandise and then please email Diana Lewis CBSJudaica@gmail.com

Get your Tribute Cards though Judaica Shop contact Darlene Padnos dwpadnos@gmail.com

New this year Our Boutique going virtual more information soon

The next Sisterhood board meeting is Tuesday September 1st 7 pm via zoom