

**Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
September 2020**

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP

No report

House Report

Ray Rokni , House VP

No Report

Report (see attached)

Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, and Majorie Maxwell

No report

Membership Report

Randy Samborn, Membership VP

CBS YACHAD affinity groups program have launched. YACHAD is a Membership Committee initiative to attract and retain membership. By bringing members together in small groups to enjoy shared interests and hobbies, YACHAD will strengthen their bonds not only with each other, but with the CBS community, creating a more engaged congregation.

The YACHAD page on the CBS website page has been updated. The September Bulletin introduced the YACHAD program and the October Bulletin will roll it out further, with reference to the upcoming Interest Survey which is being created now and will be sent out after the holidays. Responses to the Interest Survey will provide information to assemble groups and group leaders according to interests. A link to the Interest Survey will be in the Byte, emails, and on the website. Please look for the survey in your emails and take a few minutes to reply.

The YACHAD sub-committee, led by Sue Lampert working closely with Leann Blue and Lisa Orlov, is actively engaged, enthusiastic, and passionate about the cause, and is looking forward to engaging our CBS community.

As of Sept. 9, membership renewal was proceeding well. Approximately 940 households (83%) have renewed by making payment, establishing a payment plan, or indicating their intention to renew. Most area synagogues are reporting a renewal rate of approximately 75-80%. About 150 households (13.5%) were on our “call list,” and their status remained

to be determined, while only approximately 40 households (3.5%) have resigned since May, consistent with prior years.

Programming Report

Ellen Grossman, Programming VP

- **DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES 2020**

On Tuesday, 9/08 we had 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*

There were over 275 people on the Zoom. Andy did an amazing job of explaining and interpreting many of the news reports that are out there. He covered the vaccine, understanding antibodies, what it means when a vaccine gets pulled off the market and many other relevant thoughts.

Please follow Andy on his Podcast “*In The Bubble*” and check out his new book *Preventable: The Inside Story of How Leadership Failures, Politics, and Selfishness Doomed the U.S. Coronavirus Response* Hardcover – due out in March of 2021

- **Adult Education**

We continue to have great zoom numbers for our Adult Education slate of classes most of which will continue in the fall after the holidays.

- Our new series “Cooking Across the Continents” will run on September 16,23,30; 2020

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.

September 16th will be Matty Shechtman with Greek specialties.

September 23rd will be Loly Farnos with Puerto Rican delights.

September 30th will be Maria Catezone with a savory Italian dish.

So join us and upon signing up you will receive the recipes of all the items being showcased.

Again, many thanks to Leann and Lisa for getting everyone turned on, tuned in and Zooming. We couldn't have all this programming without you!!!!

Ritual Report

Seth Schrank , Ritual VP

- High Holidays
 - I encourage everyone to read the full High Holiday brochure so that you can provide complete and accurate information to fellow congregants on what is being offered.
 - Pre-recording of select portions of the High Holiday services has been concluded. The team from Enhance Productions continues to provide excellent service and coordination of our needs.
 - Necessary upgrades to our internet capacity have been completed and are functioning which should allow for effective streaming from CBS.
 - Our rehearsal and tech check on September 4 went well. The team used the opportunity to get ready for the high holidays.
 - An electronic version of *Mahzor Lev Shalem* is being made available to the congregation through a generous gift from the Zaransky Family Ticktin Jewish Community Memorial Fund. A hearty thank you to Past President Michael Zaransky and the whole Zaransky family.
 - A hearty thank you to the full Clergy, Professional, and Administrative staff along with the High Holiday committee who have gone above and beyond in preparing for these most unique High Holidays.
- B'nei Mitzvahs
 - We continue to work with families on developing alternative arrangements for their scheduled B'nei Mitzvah.
 - As we explore potential reopening scenarios, consistent with guidance from the State of Illinois and our Medical Advisory Committee, later in 2020 we will allow b'nei mitzvah families to celebrate their simcha in the Kamensky sanctuary. Details will be shared in advance with those families.
 - B'nei mitzvah tutoring has continued under the direction of Randi Simon.
- Weekday Minyan
 - Morning and evening minyan continue to meet over Live Streaming and Zoom for morning minyan.
 - Thank you to our lay volunteers who have resumed leading evening minyan over Live Streaming.

School Report

Alan Zelkowitz, School VP

No report.

Social Action Report

Bob Spector, Social Action VP

When the opportunity arises, I will try to highlight ongoing Social Action projects of which our CBS community may not be aware....

Did you know... that Sisterhood has partnered with *I Support the Girls* which is national organization providing undergarments to women who live in homeless shelters, who are victims of natural disasters, and who are financially struggling due to the current pandemic? Since 2017 our Sisterhood had donated hundreds of articles of clothing in support of these women. A BIG shoutout to our Sisterhood!

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.

Some of our most dedicated 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 upon us, the ARK's needs are even greater. You can contact Susan Karlinsky at Skarlinsky@BethShalomNB.org for more information.

Save these dates: Sunday October 25, Flu shot clinic at CBS. You must pre-register, details to follow. Sunday November 8, Blood drive at CBS. You must pre-register.

During the months of November and December please consider purchasing new/unwrapped toys/art supplies for clients of JCFS for their holiday toy drive. We will be setting up collection bins at the front door beginning on November 2nd. Also, gift cards are welcome so parents can purchase food and gifts for their families. Buy gift cards through CBS and we earn a commission- a win for both CBS and JCFS!

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.

Youth Report

Dan Sher, Youth VP

Not a lot to report this month since our summer programming is over and our fall programming really is just getting started. We have started up our youth programing and you can go to the [youth page of the website](#) for programs, the monthly youth calendar, and

more! USCJ/USY has announced the #MyUSYfiFall which includes all regional and international programming until the winter convention (which will be virtual). CHUSY has announced its fall programming for the region including an in-person kickoff event. In addition, if you know of any high school-aged students that are interested in an Israel trip for next summer, there is a new \$3,000 scholarship through RootOne that is valid for Camp Ramah and USY 2021 Israel trips. RootOne is seeded with a \$20 million gift from The Marcus Foundation and is powered by The Jewish Education Project. In addition, USY is changing the name of its Israel trips from USY Pilgrimage to EPIC Israel and is going to offer shorter trips to Israel that are less expensive. In addition, they are offering a reduced deposit of \$100 that is refundable until December 31, 2020. This is not to compete against Birthright but given everything going on with BDS on college campuses the earlier that students can get to Israel and see Israel in their own eyes it allows them more data to be able to fight BDS on their college campuses.

Men's Club Report

Steve Elisco, President

In 2020-2021, the CBS Men's Club will continue to be “present” to support all that CBS does Spiritually, Educationally and Socially. We are finding new ways to accomplish this as we continue to learn how to present our programs in an interesting way from a distance.

Our Opening Dinner will be on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. The entertainment for the evening will be a TRIVIA NIGHT TOURNAMENT. We have invited two up-and-coming MCs for the evening. Contractual obligations forbid us from announcing their identities prior to the event, but they are sure to be exciting. We will have five rounds of trivia with the categories as follows:

- Chicago
- Sports
- Wildcard (This will be explained at the event)
- Politics
- CBS

Here is the ZOOM Invitation:

<https://bethshalomnb-org.zoom.us/j/84956709277?pwd=cXBUOGpVQ1BiT0ZCUjEwNEYrMC9VUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 5670 9277

Passcode: 929756

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84956709277#,,,,,0#,,929756#

You have the choice of the following three dinner options, which are all gluten free:

- Grilled Chicken Breast with Mushroom Sauce
- Ribeye Steak, or

- Portobello Mushroom Napoleon Stack with Roasted Red Pepper Coulis Sauce.

Each dinner includes:

Challah Roll
 Garden Salad with Balsamic Dressing
 Roasted Herb Vegetables
 Garlic Mashed Potatoes
 Flourless Chocolate Cake

The cost for each dinner is \$15.00 for Members and \$25.00 for Non-Members. If you are interested in dinner, please contact Bob Goldwin at rudybux@comcast.net. **The deadline for ordering is 5:00 PM on Monday, September 14, 2020.**

Dinners must be picked up next Thursday at the CBS Circle Drive entrance between 5:15 PM and 5:30 PM.

If you are not ordering a dinner and will be attending the TRIVIA NIGHT TOURNAMENT, you still need to register with Bob Goldwin at rudybux@comcast.net.

The First Forty (40) people who register will also get a gift from the Men's Club which must be picked next Thursday between 5:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. with or without your dinner.

Building the Congregational Sukkah on the patio took place yesterday, Sunday Morning September 13th. It was accomplished with smaller crews in shifts, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

Upcoming programs are as follows:

- Our Steaks in the Sukkah event will take place on Thursday, October 8, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM. Event and meal planning are still in process.
- Sunday, October 25th will be the first session in the Israel in Depth series. The topic will be, "What Would 'Annexation' Actually Mean for Israelis and Palestinians? And how will November 3rd Impact the Future?" We are researching breakfast option for this and future Sunday Morning programs.

Sisterhood Report

Robyn Rosengard, President

Our opening event, Valued Volunteer and installation on Wednesday September 9th was great with Speaker Lisa Goodman Helfand . Thank you to Jody Sigal and Laurie B. Davis for a wonderful event. There were 80 plus on our Zoom call that night.

Save the date Wednesday October 28th @4:30 Virtual Exhibition Tour Hosted by Illinois Holocaust Museum in the comfort of your own home. The event is open to CBS Sisterhood and CBS Members. For more information, Please contact Laurie B. Davis ibd715@gmail.com