

**Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
October 2020**

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP

Fundraising continues to meet monthly to plan for our May 23, 2020 Celebration in honor of Rabbi Melman's 18 years with CBS. Thanks to Ray Rokni and everyone on the committee, we have a great head-start toward the program. We will be working in the next several months on entertainment, food and the Commemoration Book, and will also be planning and undertaking further solicitation of CBS members who have yet to register, as well as going out to the greater community for sponsorship and Commemoration Book opportunities.

House Report

Ray Rokni , House VP

Little Ones

Sheree Feldman the owner and operator of Little Ones, informed CBS that she is closing Little ones permanently. Originally she was considering opening in January, however, she has not been able to secure enough families and their children in order to support her business. We have been flexible with providing to her reduced number of classes as well as discounted rental fee however, her business issue appears to be securing attendance and not rental expense. This is unfortunate for her, the children and their families. Ms. Feldman is assessing her options at this point for possible sale of the business or her equipment to another provider.

Touchless Faucets

We are in the process of requesting for a grant from Footlik Foundation for replacement of 19 bathroom faucets with touchless faucets, touchless soap dispensers and touchless towel dispensers. This will also include some level of plumbing work to ensure quick hot water to each sink. We are collecting additional competitive quotations.

Snow Removal

It is that time of the season and we are requesting quotations from couple of vendors for two options:

- We're open PARTIALLY - clear / salt driveway and about 20% of our lot
- We're open 100% - clear/ salt driveway and all of our lot

Memorial Plaque

We are quickly running out of space in Beit Midrash - 81 spots remaining at current time. We have identified a reference section in library in order to create a new memorial section. Plan is to remove and move approximately 200 plaques which are considered

“lone” plaques which are those with NO remaining ties to CBS. We will move very cautiously to make sure every one of these “lone” plaques have truly no remaining ties to CBS prior to moving them.

Report (see attached)

Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, and Marjorie Maxwell

As of 9.30.20, membership revenues equaled \$1.1 million, or 67.6% of budget; this is reasonably comparable to 71.0% of revenues recorded YTD as of 9.30.19. Based on current membership levels, 94.4% of budgeted dues are anticipated to be collected for the year. High Holiday guest ticket revenues fell short of budget by \$41,000, with net High Holiday expenses \$30,000 below budget. The High Holiday Appeal reflects 91 donors to date representing pledges of \$73,000; \$245,000 is budgeted. Last year the High Holiday Appeal reflected 497 donors and there will be a focus on improving donor numbers in the next couple of weeks. Little Ones will not be reopening; while rental income was budgeted at \$45,000, this income loss will be somewhat offset by reduced maintenance expenses of \$20,000. There are a number of other costs savings that have been preliminarily identified including Kiddush (\$27,000), security (\$35,000) and youth staff (\$10,000). The Finance Committee will be meeting to discuss CBS’s budget relative to income expectations and cost savings opportunities. Liquidity at 9.30.20 was strong with general operating funds in excess of \$1 million.

Membership Report

Randy Samborn, Membership VP

As of Oct. 9, we have renewed 94 percent of our projected 2020-21 membership, far exceeding the renewal rate of other area synagogues. To date, 1,036 households have renewed by making payment or establishing a payment plan. We projected 1,101 households in our budget, which represented an anticipated decrease from our actual membership of 1,130 at the end of 2019-20.

To date, we have seven new member households this year. We have also recorded 58 dropped memberships since May 2020, which represents a five percent decrease from the roll of 1,130 at that time. There is no recognizable pattern of who dropped and why. The decline was spread across all membership categories and demographics, for a variety of reasons.

We also have approximately 40 memberships from last year that remain unaccounted for and could yet result in drops or retentions this year. These “unknowns” represent members that we have been unsuccessful in reaching through regular mail, emails, and phone calls, and we will continue making efforts to contact them.

YACHAD subcommittee

We have received nearly 150 responses to our YACHAD Affinity Groups Interest Survey, so far, following the September 30 email to the congregation. The responses include members of different age groups, different levels of CBS involvement, and over 30 offered hobbies and interests. In the coming months, we will be assembling groups and moving forward, adding new groups over time. The website page (and other communications) will be updated regarding groups that have formed and are forming. In addition to the Interest Survey responses, the

YACHAD subcommittee will be actively reaching out to members to solicit their involvement in a group, in an effort to strengthen bonds between members and create a more substantial community of connected and engaged CBS members.

Programming Report

Ellen Grossman, Programming VP

“Cooking Across the Continents” our newest program was a big hit and ran on September 16,23,30; 2020.

On September 16th was Loly Farnos with Puerto Rican /Cuban delights. We watched her prepare Pescado en Escabeche and Flan.

On September 23rd was Matty Shechtman with Spanakopita and Greek Cookies-Curabias. These recipes are in the new Sisterhood cookbook Essabissel, Now! Available in our gift shop

On September 30th was Maria Catezone with her savory marinara sauce or as her family calls it- gravy and meat balls.

All of these programs were extremely well attended and everyone on the Zoom was excited to watch these dishes being made. Some people have already tried these recipes and enjoyed them in their own home.

We are planning on another cooking program, CBS Chopped. Similar to the Food Network show, where chefs compete and turn baskets of mystery ingredients into a three-course meal. Our own Rabbi Melman will be participating as will a few other chef/cooks from the congregation. If you are interested in participating, please let either Leann or me know. Watch your email and the bulletin for the next announcement.

Our Adult Education classes continue to have a great Zoom audience. To Leann and Lisa, I can't thank you enough for getting everyone turned on, tuned in and Zooming.

Ritual Report

Seth Schrank , Ritual VP

- Weekday Minyan
 - In person evening minyan resumed on Monday, October 12. This is in addition to live streaming and Zoom which is still being offered.
 - Those who want to attend in person Minyan need to register in advance on the CBS website. Social distancing and mask usage will be required.
- High Holidays
 - The High Holidays were delivered successfully over the web this year. We encountered technology issues with two of our key partners which created some issues with delivery, which was most pronounced during Kol Nidre. While we were able to quickly resolve one, the other was persistent throughout the holiday and impacted 100s of other synagogues as well.

- Enhance Productions provide great production services, including the video streaming that we enjoyed. A huge thank you to them for their partnership over the Holidays.
 - Thank you to the full High Holiday Committee of Bob Goldwin, Frannie Goldwin, David Hakimian, Jack Knopoff, Aaron Malina, Hilary Malina, Marc Schwartz, and Lily Zoberman who coordinated our Torah readers and provided support and guidance as we planned out this year's experience.
 - Rabbi Melman, Rabbi Ferratier, Cantor Stoehr all went above and beyond in their leadership and development of a robust service that could be delivered effectively virtually.
 - I would like to close this section with a huge thank you to our staff, including Leann Blue, Eli Castellano, Maria Catezone, Edgar Chavez, Eduardo Chavez, Deanne Friedman, Eric Golberg, Susan Karlinsky, Lisa Orlov, Brenda Wasserman, and Stacy Ybarra. While the High Holidays are always an exceptionally busy time of year for the staff, this year was above and beyond any other year. Without their unyielding support, this would not have been possible.
- Lifecycle Events
 - We continue to support our congregants in their lifecycle events. Throughout the past 7 months we have performed baby naming in the Stoehr Meditation Garden, had a Pidyon Ha Ben in the sukkah, have conducted a number of B'nai Mitzvah over Zoom, and officiate at outdoor weddings. Please continue to reach out to the clergy as these lifecycle events continue.

School Report

Alan Zelkowitz, School VP

No report.

Social Action Report

Bob Spector, Social Action VP

Did you know... that Cantor Stoehr is in the process of publishing a new children's book coming out soon and all the proceeds will go to support Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh? It is called **That's What Friends Do** and will be available both as a digital book and in hardcover.

Did you know.... that two years later we continue to have several members of our CBS community working with our refugee family from Myanmar? Hassan and Minara have two beautiful children, Anas (almost 5) and Formin (almost 1) and are expecting their third child in March. The family needs a stroller that can accommodate the children. Please contact Chris Meyers, christina81152@aol.com, if you are able to help the family.

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 continue to provide supplemental food bags for students who qualify for free and reduced meals in Northbrook sponsored by the Hunger Free Northbrook program. We are hoping to continue adding students from additional schools in Northbrook. 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 fall, the ARK has been picking up food donations at CBS. They are in desperate need of food to stock their pantry shelves. With winter approaching, the ARK's needs are even greater. You can contact Susan Karlinsky at Skarlinsky@BethShalomNB.org for more information.

Save this date: Sunday November 8, Blood drive at CBS. You must pre-register.

Youth Report

Dan Sher, Youth VP

No report.

Men's Club Report

Steve Elisco, President

Our Opening Dinner was held on Thursday, September 17th at 7:00 PM via ZOOM. The entertainment for the for the evening was a TRIVIA NIGHT TOURNAMENT. Thank you to Dr. Andy Wagner and Bob Goldwin who MC'd the program and did a great job keeping things fun and interesting as they alternated between the five sessions of trivia, each with a different topic and presented via a custom PowerPoint presentation they prepared.

Forty-Two dinners were ordered and picked up a CBS prior to the event. The dinner was prepared by Tailgators. Thanks to Don Pike for coordinating the dinner.

We had over 45 participants and it was a lot of fun for all. Each participant received a Trivia book, compliments of the Men's Club, which was used during the middle session where we called participants at random to ask a question from the book.

Steaks in the Sukkah Tailgate was held on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 PM. The large screen and projector from Rosner Hall were set up in front of the School Entrance to watch the Bears v Buccaneers game. Thanks to Allen Lefkovitz for organizing and coordinating the event.

Participants parked in the School Parking Lot and set up their own tables and chairs. Everyone was required to wear masks (obviously, except while eating & drinking) and maintained social distancing.

Dinner was prepared by Shaevitz with dessert from Shalom Kosher Bakery. Thanks again to Don Pike for coordinating the dinner.

We had just over 30 participants who had a great time not only because the bears actually put a “football team” on the field but because it provided the opportunity to communicate with each other in person even though at a distance.

Special thanks to Susan Karlinsky and the Building Staff for the set-up logistics and working out all the tech issues.

Upcoming programs are as follows:

- 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?” The program begins at 10:00 AM via ZOOM.
- We are working on an adult social program for Saturday evening, November 14th. The program would be a Jewish oriented virtual escape room event. Dinner options to be picked up at CBS are also being investigated.
- Wednesday, November 25th is our annual Erev Thanksgiving Program. This year the entertainment will be virtual bingo and we are working on dinner options to be picked up at CBS.

For details on the foregoing programs, please look for information on the CBS website and CBS Byte for updated information as it becomes available.

Sisterhood Report

Robyn Rosengard, President

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 Lbd715@gmail.com

Come support our vendors and Virtual Holiday Boutique 2020
Sunday November 1st - Wednesday November 25th
For more information please reach out to Beth Sher beth@sher.com

Sisterhood board meeting- Tuesday November 3rd @7pm Via Zoom