

**Congregation Beth Shalom  
Committee Reports  
November 2020**

**Fundraising Report**

**Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP**

No report.

**House Report**

**Ray Rokni , House VP**

- **Preschool**

Sheree Feldman will be closing Little Ones. A letter will be sent to her terminating the lease agreement between her and CBS.

Andrea Carr and Stephanie Tasman have approached CBS to open their own Two Moms preschool. They plan to purchase the asset of Little Ones. They are interested in a lease agreement starting in September 2021. A term sheet has been prepared and is under review with them. This term sheet is pending their signature and will be presented to the Exec Board and Board of Trustees during November meetings. Lease agreement between CBS and Two Moms Preschool will be based on this term sheet.

- **Administrative Updates:**

Snow removal – Renewed contract with Berg Snow Removal – this is the best of 2 bids received from 3 vendors – for now, 50 spaces will be plowed plus full driveway.

Window Maintenances - CBS Maintenance staff weatherproofed the office windows with plastic covering. We have located possible leaks in windows in Wintergarden--specifically on the Northside when there is heavy/ windy rain which requires window repairs. Estimate requests are pending.

Touchless Faucets – Request for grant has been made and waiting for response before implementing the replacement work. This is 1Q21 project.

- **Memorial Plaque**

We have identified a reference section in library in order to create a new memorial section. Plan is to remove and move approximately 400 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. House Committee is planning to present a plan outlined below to the board for implementation during 1Q21.

Complete the due diligence in all names that can be moved:

- Submit the list of names to the Board of Trustees for review
- Post and communicate with the Congregation the list of names that will be moved and request feedback if any plaque should be kept in its current location (Deane)
- Request clergy to review the list
- Request Rabbi Wolkin to review the list

Prepare the site in the Library that the plaques will be located to:

- Identify location of the memorial that plaques will reside. They might not be fully accessible since they will be above some of the existing bookcases.
- Locate the base board from North Suburban that will hold the relocated plaques
- Identify a NerTamid light for the site. May be start with a temporary unit (\$100-\$150) and then find a donor for a real Ner Tamid Light.

### **Report (see attached)**

#### **Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, and Marjorie Maxwell**

Membership dues continue to track at 93% of budget. With many members on payment plans, collections are being received monthly. Due largely to a combination of clergy phone calls and an email campaign, 2020 Kol Nidre pledges are up to \$237,000 spread across 243 donors. The campaign continues with a letter to go out to past donors to solicit what they pledged last year. The 2020 Kol Nidre appeal was budgeted at \$241,000 and it is expected that the budget will be met.

### **Membership Report**

#### **Randy Samborn, Membership VP**

We are assembling our first set of affinity groups, being 2 Peloton groups, a Craft Beer Group and 4 Movie Watch Groups, which are easily conducive to starting with an online format. Next, we will train group leaders on how to structure their get-togethers to engage group members, forming connections and relationships with each other. We project this initial set of groups to start meeting in January.

While activities provide commonality to bring members together in small groups, the focus of CBS YACHAD is creating friendship communities, building relationships between CBS members who would not have otherwise met, including (specifically reaching out to) members who are not yet involved at CBS. Assembling groups and training leaders will be a time-consuming process at first, but welcomed by the enthusiastic and dedicated YACHAD sub-committee. A huge thank you to Leann Blue and Lisa Orlov for their knowledge, commitment, creativity and tenacity.

## **Programming Report**

### **Ellen Grossman, Programming VP**

Working on programming for Spring 2021.

## **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**

The Religious School has had a busy month with holidays over and no interruptions of class days. We held a second supply pick-up on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> which was well attended. Parents were very complimentary and voiced their pleasure especially with the individual and small group Hebrew classes. Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were surprised and happy that their children are enjoying class and look forward to Sundays.

We have on-going technology training for both teachers and Madrichim to continually improve our class delivery over Zoom. As family needs change we are working hard to make accommodations and meet each student and family where they are.

The Religious School has plans in place to go hybrid when appropriate. The school and School Board are working with the Clergy, CBS staff, Executive Board and CBS COVID Medical Task Force to monitor conditions monthly and make changes to the school program as needed.

## 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 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](mailto:leatteg@gmail.com), for more info.

The Northfield Township Food Pantry has seen its client base more than double in six months. **The Pantry needs our help.** Please drop off UNEXPIRED food items on the cart located at the front door of Beth Shalom. Check donations can be mailed to the Northfield Township Food Pantry 3550 Waukegan Road Suite 100 Glenview, IL 60025. **This is our community. Help us improve the lives of those in need.**

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](mailto: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 upon us, the ARK's needs are even greater. You can contact Susan Karlinsky at [Skarlinsky@BethShalomNB.org](mailto:Skarlinsky@BethShalomNB.org) for more information.

PADS continues to provide housing for the homeless. Guests will continue to stay in hotels through January and meals are provided. 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](mailto:slo155@aol.com).

During the months of November and December please consider purchasing e-gift cards for clients of JCFS for their holiday gift drive. JCFS has 500 children receiving essential support services such as foster care, counseling, and therapeutic day school who may go through the holiday season without receiving even one gift. If you go to the JCFS website (JCFS.org, click on volunteer), instructions will be provided as to how to be matched with a child and where to email the gift cards. The deadline for the purchase of these gift cards is Dec. 1.

Do you have a social action project you would like highlighted in my column? 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](mailto:SocialActionVP@BethShalomNB.org).

### **Youth Report**

#### **Dan Sher, Youth VP**

This past month our youth and young families have reached new heights with our virtual programming. Our award-winning USY chapter continues to hold weekly virtual lounge nights engaging close to 20 CBS USY'ers and many others from the region and international USY. This past weekend CHUSY Region USY held their Fall (virtual) convention. Of the 55 teens in attendance, CBS USY sent the largest delegation with 12 teens. Our Chaverim (Grades 2-5) and Kadima (Grades 6-8) continue to have monthly programs online.

Over the last month, our Young Family Programming has continued to grow. With the help of Rabbi Warner (and special guest Rabbi Melman), we put out our monthly young family Shabbat sing-a-long video. Additionally, we held our first Parent's Night Out: Trivia Night, for our young families with 25 young couples in virtual attendance. We look forward to continuing this success with our young families this month with Thanksgiving arts and crafts and Newly Weds in December!

### **Men's Club Report**

#### **Steve Elisco, President**

At the October 25<sup>th</sup> Israel in Depth session, we polled the participants to see if they would like an option to pick-up a pre-prepared breakfast at CBS prior to the start of future Israel in Depth sessions. Eighteen to twenty said yes and others said yes but they have no way to pick it up.

As a result, we have developed meal options from Zelda's for \$7.00 per meal down from \$15.00 per meal as the balance will be subsidized by the Men's Club. There will be three pick-up locations, CBS, Buffalo Grove and Glenview. Ordering can be done on the Men's Club Square Website. You can select your meal options, pick-up location and make payment from this site. There is also an option to reserve meals for all remaining Israel in Depth sessions. Breakfast options for all our other Sunday Morning programs will be available at \$15.00 per meal.

At our November Board Meeting, it was decided for this year only, to turn our Erev Thanksgiving Program over to the CBS USY. With this year's program scheduled as Virtual Bingo, it was suggested by CBS Youth Vice President, Dan Sher, that this program

be moved to CBS USY because of their considerable experience running these types of programs.

Upcoming programs are as follows:

- Saturday evening, November 21<sup>st</sup> will be a Jewish oriented virtual escape room event. From the creators of The Dinner Detective, join the Men's Club for an evening as a virtual detective where we will work as teams to escape from a mystery room. This program will begin at 8:00 PM. The cost of the event is \$20.00 per screen/device.
- Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the second session in the Israel in Depth series. The topic will be, "What Does November 3<sup>rd</sup> mean for US-Israel Relations? The program begins at 10:00 AM via ZOOM. Breakfast options are available.
- Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> we will be holding a Point-Counterpoint, Packers-Bears/Milwaukee-Chicago Sports Q&A Program. This will be a ZOOM event between the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid in Milwaukee and the CBS Men's Club. The event will be moderated by sports radio personalities Mitch Nelles in Milwaukee and David Schuster in Chicago. This program will begin at 10:00 AM and breakfast options will be available.
- Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> will be an educational program by David Strulowitz. His presentation will show us how to expand our consciousness and self-awareness with the benefit of developing greater mindfulness and peacefulness around how we view and interact with the world around us. The program begins at 10:00 AM via ZOOM. Breakfast will be available.

All program reservations (except Israel in Depth, which is done through CBS), meal options, and payments can be made on the Men's Club Square Website at <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site/>

### **Sisterhood Report**

**Robyn Rosengard, President**

No report.

## **CBS Annual Endowment Report November 16, 2020**

The CBS Endowment Board consists of the CBS Finance Committee plus our 3 at-large members Bret Maxwell, Glen Roter and Brad Shaps plus our current and Immediate Past Presidents and ex-officio (non-voting) Executive Director. The CBS Endowment investments consist of funds from prior fundraising efforts to our Eastern European Torah Fund (EETP) initiative; our most recent ongoing fundraising initiatives - Hineynu Fund; the Harvey R. Gold Building Endowment Fund; and the CBS Youth Endowment. The purpose of the CBS Endowment per Article II of the CBS Endowment Bylaws is:

*to secure and perpetuate the future of CBS and to create, hold, manage, (and) invest . . . a perpetual fund, the income and principal from which shall be used . . . to carry on programs and to support projects at CBS.*

- Beginning in February of 2018 we revised our Endowment By-Laws and established a more formal Investment Policy Statement (IPS) which guides our decision-making. This followed the completion of Hineynu fundraising, where total fundraising contributions increased from approximately \$2.2M from our prior Eastern European Torah Fund initiative of May, 2001, to our combined fundraising collections including Hineynu which total \$7.7M presently and after all unpaid pledges are received, will exceed \$8.0M.

We presently have 2 investment advisors which we have engaged to manage components of our Endowment portfolio, Vanguard Institutional Investment Services and Edgehill Investment Advisors representing our assets invested through The Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

The Endowment Board meets a minimum of 4 times per year to monitor the risk and return and rebalancing of our investments. Our board makes decisions regarding:

- a. Determining annual distributions to our operating and building fund annual budgets.
- b. Review performance and risk of all invested funds and make changes where warranted.
- c. Meet with our investment advisory firms periodically to evaluate their performance and adherence to our Investment Policy Statement goals.

Beginning in August of 2019, the board decided to allocate all returns from our 2 investment advisory platforms pro rata to all of our endowment funds so that our Investment Policy risk and return targets could be implemented uniformly throughout all invested funds.

### **Endowment Activity**

- The Endowment Fund activity for the quarter ending September 30, 2020 is shown on the first attached spreadsheet. This last quarter was robust with our overall unrealized capital gains increased by \$426,162. As you can surmise, due to COVID, returns have fluctuated significantly with the market changes over this past few year. For the past 12 months, our overall unrealized gains in our portfolio has increased by \$672,948. Dividing this by the average fair market values during this period calculates to a 9.88% return.
- Our endowment contributions are managed to provide ongoing synagogue income in perpetuity. The second spreadsheet, titled "INCEPTION TO DATE" shows cumulative

donor contributions to all our endowment funds since inception as compared with their ending fair market values as of September 30, 2020. Our total unrealized gains exceed our contributions by \$348,323. This means that our distributions have been prudent relative to the volatility of the stock market and have a cushion should we experience a market downturn. It should be noted that the overall economy has been trending as an overall bull market for essentially the last 12 years. Our Endowment Board diversification strategy includes some asset classes that have historically been less volatile and provide less return than the stock market as a whole to provide us some downside risk protection, should we experience a long term bear market going forward.

- Our target for distributions is 4% per year times the average fair market value of our investments over the last trailing 12 quarters. For the current fiscal year budgets, the endowment board has authorized EETP distributions of \$90,000, a rate of 3.8% over the trailing 12 quarters as of December 2019. For Hineynu, due to recent market volatility and the fact Hineynu collections have not yet been invested for 12 quarters yet, the Endowment Board has authorized total distributions of \$100,000 with \$86,000 towards our operating budget and \$14,000 towards our Hineynu building fund budget for the current fiscal year, a combined rate of 3.4 % also below the 4% target rate in the interest of being prudent.

Jim Donenberg, Endowment Board Chair