

**Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
December 2020**

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP

Committee met December 9th. We are planning a vibrant, exciting program to honor Rabbi Melman's 18+ years of service to CBS. The program will be held May 23, 2021 in the evening. Expect great food and drink, exciting entertainment, as well as honors for Rabbi Melman. There will be accompanying opportunities to raise money for CBS through a raffle and a Tribute book. The details are being worked out by a committee of innovative individuals. Look for more specific information in the coming months.

House Report

Ray Rokni , House VP

- **Preschool** - We have presented a contract agreement with the Two Moms for the Little Ones Preschool which is based on the board approved Term sheet. The Two moms reported back that they have had very good parents' participation in their inquiries and consequently would like to revise the agreement to include options for two additional classrooms. Susan has calculated the added lease value for these two rooms and will add to the contract. The Two Mom will be working toward receiving all necessary certifications by April 2021.
- **Administrative Updates:**
 - **Painting Bollards in parking lot** – painted yellow – DONE
 - **Little Library** - When received it will be located in the front of CBS entry between the two benches.
 - **semi-annual roof inspection** completed – cleanup and minor repairs done
 - **Leaky windows in Wintergarden** – Steve W. was here, recommended clear caulk on exterior by our maint staff. Referral from David Menn to G & C glass – they are coming here next week for visual inspection and will give us an estimate for repairs to sealant / mortar.
 - **Elevator maintenance** needed – changed vendors last year and sometime since prior year inspection – the emergency phone system stopped working. Called for service today.
- **Live streaming:** A committee is being formed to evaluate upgrades for the CBS cameras and live streaming capabilities. Question for the committee is to evaluate any equipment changes that are required, their cost, labor and setup as well as monthly fees. Scope of the upgrade may include changes to the camera systems only, changing encoder and camera systems and changes to the streaming services.

At this point committee consists of Susan, Ari, Dan, Neil and Seth. Beside the technical aspect, they will also coordinate with the clergy on the expected use and control of the system particularly during Shabbat services.

Susan has received 3 quotations for new camera systems and remote services that require further review. Ideally would like installed and operational before end of June 2021.

- **Memorial Plaque:** Maria has compiled a list of ~400 Memorial Plaque names from the Moseson Alcove and Beit Midrash. These Memorial Plaques are designated plaques in perpetuity. In order to be designated a “plaque in perpetuity” means the plaque is not associated with a Beth Shalom member and/or no one is receiving a yahrzeit notice for the plaque.

Over the past several months Maria has researched the plaques, making sure the plaques are not related to current Beth Shalom members and/or no one is receiving yahrzeit notices, contacting members when there is a question about a plaque and as is our custom keeping family plaques together. Darlene Padnos and Ellen Grossman have been instrumental in reviewing the CBS and former NSJC member plaques that were designated plaques in perpetuity.

Currently there are 85 open spaces in the Beit Midrash, moving the plaques in perpetuity would open an additional 152 spaces in the Beit Midrash and 239 spaces in the Moseson Alcove for a combined total of 476 open spaces between the Moseson Alcove and Beit Midrash.

There is no major cost associated with this relocation project since we have the maintenance staff and the boards. Eight NSJC boards Edgar are available. These boards are in the process of being refurbished. The wall in the library will accommodate 8 boards, each board holds 50 plaques for a total of 400 plaques. Unlike the Moseson Alcove and Beit Midrash, these plaques will not be individually lit, a Ner Tamid will be installed. We need to identify a Ner Tamid light for the site. May be start with a temporary unit (\$100-\$150) and then find a donor for a real Ner Tamid Light. Our plan is to complete the project in 1Q21.

A presentation will be made to the board of directors December meeting presenting the following actions:

- The list of candidate plaques will be reviewed
 - Clergy and Rabbi Wolkin
 - House committee
 - Executive and Board of Trustees.
 - 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
- Prepare the site in the Library that the plaques will be located to (Winter Project)

Report (see attached)

Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, and Marjorie Maxwell

See attached.

Membership Report

Randy Samborn, Membership VP

No report.

Programming Report

Ellen Grossman, Programming VP

Last week December 3rd we had “CBS CHOPPED” It was a take off of the televised Chopped with 3 contestants and a judge. Our Judge was Chef Glenn Simon, and the contestants were

Chef Rabbi Melman and Elisa Rotman

Chef Susie and David Hakimian

and Chef Michael and Lisa Krule

It was a fun and a very well attended event with almost 160 people tuned in. We are looking to continue with more programming in January and are looking for other things to bring to the congregation. If you have any ideas please let me know.

Wishing you all a very Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year.

See you in 2021

Ritual Report

Seth Schrank , Ritual VP

- Youth and Ritual

Just like our services from the Kamensky Sanctuary, our services for our younger congregants have gone online and have received good feedback and attendance

- Bridges to Shabbat (formerly known as Junior Congregation) regularly has 8 participants, a 4x increase
- Circle Time Shabbat regularly has 2 – 4 participants

- School and Ritual

In collaboration with the Hebrew School program, a Service Participation element has been incorporated into our services from the Kamensky Sanctuary. A varied symbol is placed each week for students to report on and confirm their attendance. The new Service Participation element has been well received by parents and students.

- Keshet

Congregation Beth Shalom is proud to participate in the Chicagoland / Midwest Keshet Leadership Project. As part of this two-day Leadership Project, CBS will also receive a year of guidance and consultant from Keshet. *Keshet envisions a world in which all LGBTQ Jews and our families can live with full equality, justice, and dignity.*

School Report

Alan Zelkowitz, School VP

No report.

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:
- Throughout the month of December, we will be collecting winter clothing (coats, scarves, hats, gloves) for those children in need who attend our local schools. Collection carts are available outside the entrance of our synagogue. Thank you in advance for your support.
- 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.
- 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. 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 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.

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.

Youth Report

Dan Sher, Youth VP

- Our youth and young family programming has continued to find success online with our members. Our USY chapter has continued weekly programming with an increase of CBS member and international member participation. Additionally, our CBS USY Executive Board submitted our application for International Chapter of the Year and are anxiously awaiting the results that will be announced at USY International Convention (December 27-30).
- Both our Kadima and Chaverim programs have been well attended and we are looking forward to seeing all of them on Tuesday with our Mission Maccabi Chanukah event!
- Over Thanksgiving week we held a live arts and crafts program for our young families with 13 families and 25 kids in attendance. Additionally, we held a USY alumni reunion for recent graduates and it was great to see some familiar faces return.
- We will be having our next YFP Parents Night out on December 19th with Newlyweds, registration is live on MYCBS.
- On December 24th we will be holding a virtual Name That Tune event for both kids 4 pm, and for all adults (ages 18 and older) at 8 pm. Come join in and see how well you know music through the ages!
- If you are in the Chanukah mood and looking for a fun sing-a-long, check out the Young Family page of our website where we have our monthly Sing-a-long with a Chanukah Twist!

Men's Club Report

Steve Elisco, President

- Breakfast orders for the Israeli in Depth sessions on November 22nd and December 13th exceeded our minimum of ten (10) so orders were placed, and pick-ups made from both CBS and our Glenview location. Breakfast orders were below our minimum for the other Sunday Morning programs, so no orders were placed. Despite this, we will continue to provide the breakfast option for future programs, should things change. Israel-in Depth participation continues to be strong with over 60 participants per session.
- Since the last Board Meeting the Men's Club held three (3) programs as follows:
 - Saturday evening, November 21st was a Jewish oriented virtual escape room event.
 - Sunday, November 29th was a Point-Counterpoint, Packers-Bears Sports Q&A Program. This event was held between the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid in Glendale, Wisconsin, and our CBS Men's Club. The program was moderated by our own Dr. Andy Wagner, with professional commentary provided by sports radio personalities Scott Grodsky in Milwaukee

and David Schuster in Chicago.

- Sunday, December 6th we continued with our “To Your Good Health” series of Sunday Morning Programs. This program was entitled, “How to Survive Stressful Life Experiences and Live Better in the Present”, presented by David Strulowitz.

Participation at each event ranged from 25 to 35 people.

- All Sunday Morning Programs in January through May 2021 will continue to be part of our “To Your Good Health” series. Upcoming programs are as follows:
 - Sunday, January 10th we will be “COVID-19 and CBS with the CBS Medical Advisors”. This program will begin at 10:00 AM via ZOOM and breakfast options will be available via pick-up.
 - Sunday, January 17th will be the fourth session in the Israel in Depth series titled, “Israel’s Place in the World (A Non-US-Concentric Exploration)”. The program begins at 10:00 AM via ZOOM and breakfast options will be available via pick-up.

Breakfast orders, and payments can be made on the Men’s Club Square Website at <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site/>

Sisterhood Report

Robyn Rosengard, President

Sisterhood Membership- has 341 returning, 18 new Sisterhood members for a total of 359

Hanukkah bags were delivered to the Hebrew school families on Sunday December 6th by our Sisterhood members this year .

Our next Sisterhood Board meeting is Tuesday January 5th, 2021 @7-9pm

I hope you will join us for Sisterhood Shabbat Saturday January 30th 2021 @7pm. Come and listen to Nina Badzin about bringing Jewish values to the complexities of friendship. Questions please reach out to Roz Mokhtarian rozmok@gmail.com or Elissa Pelts ejk806@aol.com RSVP by January 15th 2021 to receive a zoom link.

Happy Hanukkah and a Happy Healthy New year to all!