

**Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
January 2021**

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP

- No written report.

House Report

Ray Rokni , House VP

- **Preschool** - The Lease was signed with Two Moms for Little Ones preschool. We have also collected security. The Two Moms have started the process for licensing. Two Moms are very excited about response they have received and have asked for addition of two options to the Lease.
 - Option 1 - for 2 additional classrooms
 - Option 2 for 4 additional classrooms added to the agreement.

The co-owners have hired a School Director (former teacher at Little Ones) to run day to day operations of the preschool.

- **Memorial plaques** – CBS Board was informed in December board meeting of our intention of moving 400 plaques from the Moseson Alcove and Beit Midrash to the newly designated Memorial on the western wall of the Library. These plaques are designated plaques in perpetuity meaning the plaque is not associated with a Beth Shalom member and/or no one is receiving a yahrzeit notice for the plaque.
 - List was circulated to House committee, Exec BOT and full BOT as well as current and past clergy. So far just handful of names requested by our Clergy are being taken off the relocation list.
 - The list will be posted on MyCBS for congregation access mid-January.
 - Maria has ordered samples of Brass Hole Plugs which will pop in the holes intended for light bulbs (\$125 for 500 plugs). This will look very nice on the plaques.
 - Edger is doing some investigative work on the wall to ensure strength of the wall to withhold weight of the frame and plaques. Possibly will add some supporting material as needed.
 - Books & collectibles in library area are being relocated this week.
 - We need to 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.
- **Live streaming:** sub-committee has been formed with participation of Ari Footlik, Dan Sher, Seth Schrank, Neil Rosengard, Rabbi Melman.
 - Goal is to evaluate current situation and recommend upgrades. Objective for these upgrades could involve a number of options with varying labor and setup fees.
 - Are we keeping Streamspot and replacing just camera?

- Are we keeping Streamspot and replacing camera and the encoders?
 - Are we also replacing Streamspot?
- Final reports will be presented to House committee and Ritual committee.
- Ideally would like installed and operational before end of June 2021.
 - **Sisterhood** asked for any specific capital needs and they have generously committed \$20K to CBS Live streaming upgrade project for 2020. This is above the \$10K commitment that sisterhood has contributed for the Walters Ave monument sign (they have already given us \$10k towards this project)
- **Administrative Updates:**
 - **Upgrades to touchless faucets**
 - 19 faucets along with other related plumbing repairs to valve / mixer were completed.
 - Next set of effort is to replace 10 touchless soap dispensers and 4 hand towel dispensers (to be done by CBS staff in January)
 - Funding of \$20k from Footlik Family Foundation was received.
 - **Window repair in Wintergarden** – GC Glass was onsite and inspected the wintergarden leaking windows and provided a quotation of \$955 for the repairs. Repair involves shrinking vinyl, fill in gaps at frame and cap - includes caulk / sealant material and labor (2 man job due to height of ladders). This will be scheduled when temp is above 25 degrees.
 - **Elevator** – maintenance is scheduled for 1st week January It involves reprogramming of emergency phone. New contract in place for quarterly maintenance.
 - **Interior Signage** – Our staff will follow up on interior signage to be sure new logos & baby changing signage are everywhere. Also look into classroom signage options with shared space CBS and Little Ones **SAMPLE** could have both CBS room and Little Ones w/ slider
 - **Little Library** - Received an update from Jeff Wadler, asking if Month of April is a good time for delivery and installation of the Little Library on CBS ground. I will respond that we will accommodate. He also reported that, Little Libraries that were installed in December are getting very good usage and they have been replenished with books twice already.
- **Security priorities** - new Homeland Security / FEMA grant program was announced for 2021.
 - We applied in 2020 for \$80k and were declined.
 - We will work with JUF and others to prepare a grant request for funding for additional security upgrades as deemed priority at this time. Susan requested and we will be using a local grant writer recommended by other synagogues to help write our request (He has had great success in getting grants funded).
 - Possible ideas to request for \$100K. We do need to identify CBS security priorities for the funding and implementation. Following items were discussed, however detail of priority and specific projects need to be determined.

- Upgraded secure entry system
- Continue Clear Guard window film project
- Blue Light police call boxes
- **Parsonage Repairs:**
 - Rabbi Ferratier outdoor sprinkler system valve leaking – called for repairs
 - Rabbi Melman sump pump replaced / maintenance on battery backup

Report (see attached)

Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, and Marjorie Maxwell

For the six months ending 12.31.20, revenues totaled \$1.9 million or 68% of budget; this compares to 74% of budget collected this time last year. Expenses through 12.31.20 totaled \$1.2 million or 41% of budget. Based on YTD numbers and rough projections, a small operating surplus is projected at this time. Total High Holiday Appeal pledges totaled just over \$300,000 vs. the \$241,000 budgeted number. While there is a second round of PPP funding, CBS does not qualify for it; full forgiveness of the \$358,000 loan is still expected. The Finance Committee will be meeting later this month to discuss financial planning for the upcoming year.

Membership Report

Randy Samborn, Membership VP

- After concentrating last fall on the launch of YACHAD groups, the Membership Committee met on Jan. 7 and had a wide-ranging discussion of issues setting our agenda for the rest of the synagogue and calendar years. We welcomed one of our youngest congregation members, Hillary Maxwell Elkins, to the committee and she shared a fresh generational perspective on our recruitment efforts directed at 30-40-year-olds. With Hillary's assistance, she and staff are collaborating on re-building our database of young couples in the city and suburbs, and we discussed a variety of innovative approaches to connecting with and attracting this critical demographic. We also discussed a suggestion of expanding membership opportunities to the virtual community outside our geographic area. The committee also discussed its role in reviewing membership categories and will be engaging with the Finance Committee and administration regarding categories and dues for 2021-22. The committee is also working with Susan to re-double and -triple efforts to connect with former members who dropped this year, with the hope that some will restore their membership after a brief hiatus. One family in this category already rejoined this month. We started 2021 with approximately 1,040 members households.
- **YACHAD subcommittee, Sue Lampert, Chair**

The first set of YACHAD Affinity Groups are having their initial meetings this month. New groups are being assembled and launched every month. We have designed a program to create numerous friendship communities within CBS and are fortunate to have hundreds of members to assemble into groups. Toda Raba to those who have volunteered to facilitate their selected activity groups. We need more volunteer facilitators. Expertise in the chosen activity is not required, just an enthusiastic personality to assist and engage group members in conversation to get to know each

other better. It is not a time consuming or burdensome role, but so valuable in bringing our CBS family together as a community. We have created written guidelines for facilitators and a YACHAD “Brit” (covenants) for members, establishing the participation commitments that will help ensure each group’s success.

Programming Report

Ellen Grossman, Programming VP

Happy New Year to all!

We are looking to kick off Adar with a bang!

SAVE THE DATE February 13, 1 Adar 5781, at 8pm for:

An Evening with YidLife Crisis

A 2- man comedy troupe, Jamie Elman & Eli Batalioare entertainers (and closeted Jewish educators) from Montreal with combined credits spanning 20 years of theater, music, television, and film - from starring in Mad Men, House MD and Curb Your Enthusiasm to writing, directing and producing short and feature films appearing at the Sundance, Toronto, Berlin and SXSW film festivals. Their unique friendship spawned an irreverent tribute to the Yiddish language, culture, and comedic tradition they were reared on. Calling it “YidLife Crisis,” they hatched the world’s first Yiddish sitcom, exploring religious and cultural identity in a decidedly modern multicultural world. Its popularity has led to multiple video and written projects, international press, multiple awards and over 3 million online views.

So, join us for an amazingly funny evening to kick of the madness of Adar!

We are continuing to look for other speakers as we move forward in the year.

Ritual Report

Seth Schrank , Ritual VP

- High Holidays
 - With the new civil calendar year, we are starting planning on what High Holidays will look like for 5782. While much will be dictated by guidance from local health departments, we are considering a number of options for what public health guidance will look like on September 6 when Rosh Hashana begins.
- Streaming
 - A cross functional sub-committee made up of representatives from Ritual, House, and Men’s Club is meeting to select a vendor to upgrade our existing streaming infrastructure. This may also include enhancements to the sound system in the Kamensky sanctuary as well.

School Report

Alan Zelkowitz, School VP

- No written report.

Social Action Report

Bob Spector, Social Action VP

- **Did you know...** that we have a new member of our extended CBS community? Our refugee family from Myanmar has a new addition to their family. Hassan and Minara with their children, Anas (5) and Formin (1), eagerly welcomed Jasmine into their family on December 15th. All are doing well, and we wish them the best. With Hassan's work being limited due the pandemic, the family is in desperate need of diapers and other essential baby supplies. If you are interested and able to donate any supplies or gift cards (ie. Target), please contact Chris Meyers, christina81152@aol.com. Any support will be greatly appreciated.
- 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 collected **60** articles of winter clothing (coats, scarves, hats, gloves) for those children in need who attend our local schools. On behalf of these children, thank you so much for your support.
- We continue to provide supplemental food bags for **18** students every month 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. In lieu of shopping for these families, we are also using Jewel gift cards. Donations for these gift cards can be made to our Gold Family Sabbath Fund.

Youth Report

Dan Sher, Youth VP

- No written report.

Men's Club Report

Steve Elisco, President

- At our Board Meeting on January 13, 2021, I made the following announcement regarding our 2021 Man of the year:

This year's Man of the Year comes from a very small Jewish Community with only one synagogue. His parents instilled in him a strong Jewish Identity, which led to his commitment to the Jewish Community and eventually his involvement at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Our Honoree and his family joined CBS in August of 1995. He eventually joined the Men's Club Board and moved up to the Executive Committee holding the following positions:

- Recording Secretary – 2007-2008
- Membership VP – 2008-2009
- Corresponding Secretary – 2009-2011
- Ways & Means VP – 2011-2013
- Executive VP – 2013-2015
- President – 2015-2017

He is well known for originally organizing and planning our soft ball team as well as the Texas Hold 'em Tournaments over the years and is currently the Captain in charge of the construction of the outdoor Sukkah.

I suppose there is no need to mention his love for the Green Bay Packers, the Wisconsin Badgers, and the Milwaukee Bucks

Despite these flaws, please join me in extending Mazel Tov and a healthy Yasher Koach to our 2021 Man of the Year, Scott Rogoff.

Scott as well as our Youths of the Year, Geoffrey Gitles and Brandon Wagner and our Kavod Award recipient yet to be announced, will be recognized at Men's Club Shabbat on March 20, 2021.

- At our January 13th Board Meeting, we also elected the members of our Nominating Committee, who will begin preparing our slate of officers for the Executive Committee as well as Board Members.
- The 2021 Lox Box (a bag) will look a lot different this year. We are putting emphasis on donating boxes to both the Ark and the CJE. Drive thru pick-up at CBS is the only option this year. Deliveries will not be made. Please be prepared to receive a call from one of our Men's Club Callers. If you would like to order your boxes on your own, you can do so in one of the following ways:
 1. Order online at <http://cbsloxbox.square.site/> - you can pay online using credit card using this secure website. If you would like to pay by check, choose the option to pay by check, and we will contact you will payment instructions.
 2. Fill out the paper form available on the 2021 Men's Club Calendar on the CBS website. Attach a check for payment. If you would like to pay by credit card, we will email you an invoice, which can be paid thru our secure Square website, from your computer, mobile phone, tablet, etc.

- On January 10th we had a wonderful program as part of our “To Your Good Health” series. This program featured Rabbi Aaron and the Medical Advisory Group that included Doctors, David Hakimian, Ari Jaffe, Alan Shapiro, and Lee Shulman. Together we discussed how CBS is adapting to COVID-19, the vaccine and what the future may hold.
- Upcoming programs are as follows:

January 17th: This is the fourth program in the "**Israel in Depth Series**", led by Carl Schrag. The topic will **Israel's Place in the World (A Non-US-Centric Exploration)** Despite Israel's longstanding emphasis on maintaining strong ties with its great ally, the US, the country continues to forge close relations with Russia, China, moderate Arab countries, and other global players. Often - but not always - in sync with US policies, and often in the shadows of hostile neighbors' parallel outreach efforts, the country maximizes its own assets (Russian immigrants, cutting-edge technology, and more) to pursue a wide-ranging foreign policy. You will be surprised at what that can entail.

February 7th: World Wide Wrap. Please join us for a unique, meaningful, and entertaining Sunday morning ZOOM service when Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club along with our 6th and 7th grade students join Men's Clubs throughout the country to celebrate the mitzvah of wearing tefillin. The students will build their own tefillin in class on Sunday, January 31st, and Rabbi Warner will teach them how to put on both their tallit and tefillin.

Sisterhood Report

Robyn Rosengard, President

- No written report.