

**Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
February 2021**

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP

- Fundraising Committee is hard at work on the details of the May 23rd celebration honoring Rabbi Melman's 18 years at Beth Shalom. We are in the midst of selecting a caterer for the evening---Barbeque, Bourbon and Blues is the theme. A Dinner for pickup will be provided, with delivery to Sponsors. A Bourbon tasting is also being set up for the sponsors, with a TBD charge for non-sponsors. Entertainment will be provided by the Chicago Blues Network, and we are also having a raffle, and a tribute book. You are encouraged to go to the CBS Website, and click on the calendar page—top right is a tab labeled “Celebrate Rabbi Melman”. There is information there on the raffle, sponsorship, the tribute book as well as reservations per person. We already have over 150 people signed up for dinner, please join us in celebrating all that Rabbi Melman has brought to us over these 18 plus years.

House Report

Ray Rokni , House VP

- **Preschool:** They are doing Lead testing for water – identified 7 faucets need a re-test to be done later this spring (interesting that we have not had prior Lead test issues and the Faucets are new!)
- **Water Leak Issue** - There was a leak in the basement for a few months coming from one of the main water valves. J Plumbing has tried to stop the leak by replacing and cleaning some of the parts inside the valve, but it still leaks. pipes are old, we've replaced a few parts, but leak persists – repair is more involved now / replace portion of pipe as well as shut off valves (Quotation is for \$3835.00).
- **Memorial plaques** - The list will be posted on MyCBS for congregation access in February. We are moving ahead with relocating about 400 plaques to library space. 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. Seth will assume responsibility for project. We are relocating current camera in Beit Midrash this week for better visual presentation. This is minimal cost to relocate and will be much better user experience
- **Security - FEMA Grant Program for 2021** - Homeland Security announced program for 2021. The submission date has not been announced. It is anticipated that, we will have 6 to 8 weeks to prepare when the date is announced. Susan is meeting with a representative from Homeland Security on 2/15 with a walk through to identify a list of

potential security improvements. The list of possible security improvement projects along with their cost and priority assessments will be reviewed in March House Committee meeting. Susan 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.

- **Tent** - We have priced several Tent rental options. These are expensive investment options for just a few months that would provide minimal protection from the elements and accommodate only small number of worshipers or attendees under the current COVID guidelines. We are moving to phase 4 and most probably will be allowed a lot more people in the large sanctuary. Even with current Covid rule we can allow 25 individuals in the main sanctuary. This will also be better option with sound and streaming services. CBS task force looking into next steps. Decision is to NOT follow up with Tent options.
 - 30 x 30 tent (900 Sq Ft) for the season April 20 – Sept 3 would be \$9,188. - Under COVID distancing restrictions: would seat approx. 24 people theater style
 - 30 x 45 tent (1,350 Sq Ft) for the season April 20 – Sept 3rd would be \$14,513. - Under COVID distancing restriction: would seat approx. 36 people theater style
 - For reference: The Wintergarden room is approx.. 33 x 38 – about 1,200 Sq Ft.
 - For reference: the Beit Midrash seats approx. 70-75
 - Additional incidental costs required: Extend internet connection & electricity to tent (best if hard wired but could possibly work with WIFI) Portable camera and staff to manage live stream from the tent for Shabbat services. \$ unknown
- **Upgrades to touchless faucets** - Project completed - touchless soap & paper towel dispensers) are all installed
- **Window repair in Wintergarden** – waiting for break in the weather
- **Parsonage**
 - Rabbi Melman Bathroom remodeling – The contractor is bonded. coordinating start of the job with Melmans. It will take 2 weeks to complete.
 - Rabbi Ferratier garage door repair and the garage door opener were changed.

Report (see attached)

Cheryl Braude, Jim Donenberg, and Marjorie Maxwell

Year-to-date revenues and expenses are tracking within expected levels. The Finance Committee met during the month to talk about budgeting for the upcoming year. CBS received a \$100,000 check from the Miller Foundation for the 2021-22 fiscal year!

Membership Report

Randy Samborn, Membership VP

No written report.

Programming Report

Ellen Grossman, Programming VP

No written report.

Ritual Report

Seth Schrank , Ritual VP

- B'nai Mitzvah
 - We will be releasing next month the Google form for parents of current 4th graders to request their B'nai Mitzvah date for the 2023 – 2024 cycle. The initial email will be distributed on March 2 and will need to be completed by April 2. Dates will be communicated, consistent with our agreement with other area synagogues, on May 3 at 10:00 AM
- 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. We will be distributing the RFP to select vendors this month.

School Report

Alan Zelkowitz, School VP

- No written report.

Social Action Report

Bob Spector, Social Action VP

- **Did you know...** Cantor Stoehr is partnering with Israel Tennis Educational Centers to match up Jewish American students, ages 12-18, with ITEC participants, to develop ongoing friendships. As one of the largest social service organizations for children in Israel, the ITEC serves over 20,000 Israeli children every year. The ITEC has 14 centers throughout Israel, many of them in underprivileged neighborhoods, providing disadvantaged children with a safe, structured, and nurturing environment.
- 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:
 - 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 (made out to the NTFP) and gift card donations can be mailed to Fern Roseman, 2415 Auburn Lane, Northbrook, IL. 60062 who will deliver them to the Northfield Township Food Pantry. You can also contact Fern at 847-564-9266. **This is our community. Help us improve the lives of those in need.**

- We are still looking for volunteers who are willing and able to shop for groceries and deliver them to ARK clients in Northbrook and surrounding suburbs. Many of our volunteers are unable to shop until they are fully vaccinated. In lieu of shopping for these families, we are also using Jewel gift cards. Purchases are reimbursed from the Gold Family Sabbath Fund and donations for these cards can also be made to this fund. Please contact Merrill Medansky at Merrill.Medansky@gmail.com for more information.
- Are you familiar with the **Kids Wellness Initiative** (Kiwi Kids)? KiwiKids is an equal opportunity provider serving over 37,000 free meals daily to children (ages 1-18 who are not receiving meals from schools or other sites) in California, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri and Michigan. If you are interested in supporting this wonderful organization, you can contact our Chicago based chapter. The phone number is 773-765-7997.
- On March 5-6 CBS will be participating in "**HIAS Refugee Shabbat 2021**" - an opportunity to focus on learning more about the global refugee crisis within a Jewish context (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). Our CBS Shabbat services will include special recognition of this important issue. Also, as part of the Shabbat weekend, the Illinois Jewish Assembly for Refugees will be holding an informative virtual event on refugee and asylum matters on Sunday afternoon, March 7. Details on both events will be included in a forthcoming CBS Shalom Byte.
- 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 the winter season 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

- No written report.

Men's Club Report

Steve Elisco, President

- At our Board Meeting on February 10, 2021, I made the following announcement regarding our 2021 Kavod Award Recipient:

A candidate must perform at high levels of activity in the congregation as well as the community. Nominations are based upon the following six criteria:

Synagogue or Men's Club Committee involvement

Support of Synagogue Functions

Leadership in Men's Club or Synagogue

Supports Men's Club Functions

Attends Religious Services

Community Involvement

This year's recipient has had a major presence in synagogue life at Congregation Beth Shalom for most of his life. In the Men's Club he has been a supporter of the Lox Box Program at the Sponsor Level year after year and was one of nineteen men who represented the Club on the 2018 Men's Club Trip to Israel. At the Synagogue level, he served as the Accounts Receivable Secretary and Treasure and has served multiple terms on the Board and committees.

In past years he was a USY President, coached the USY basketball team and was a B'nai Mitzvah tutor. He has been reading Torah at CBS since his Bar Mitzvah.

Beyond his service to Congregation Beth Shalom, he has served as a chaperon for the Solomon Schechter 8th Grade class trip to Israel, serves on the Board of the Israel Society for Cancer Research and is on the teaching faculty at Lutheran General Hospital.

In 2001 during 9/11, he served as our CBS President. In an action I will always remember, it was with great magnanimity, that he extended his hand to our Muslim Community on behalf of all of us at Congregation Beth Shalom.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to announce our 2021 Kavod Award Recipient, David Hakimian.

David as well as our Youths of the Year, Geoffrey Gitles and Brandon Wagner and our Man of the Year Scott Rogoff, will be recognized at Men's Club Shabbat on March 20, 2021.

- On February 7th we held our annual World Wide Wrap where together with our 6th and 7th grade students and Men's Clubs throughout the country, celebrated the teaching the mitzvah of laying and wearing tefillin. Rabbi Melman provided a wonderful tutorial on the contents of tefillin and how the internal scrolls are organized. Cantor Stoehr took us through the service explaining the different parts and their meaning and how they are separated.
- Upcoming programs are as follows:

Sunday, February 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM – How to Prevent and Identify a Heart Attack

Sunday, February 21, 2021 - From 7:30 AM – 10:00 AM – Lox Box Pick-up

Thursday, March 4, 2021 – at 8:00 PM – Beer on the Wall, Beer Tasting and Virtual Social Event

Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 10:00 AM – Israel in Depth - Israel's Popular Culture Tells Us a Lot About the Country - and the Whole World is

Watching From award-winning films and TV shows that inspire adaptations around the world to top-rated classical musicians and wildly famous pop music acts, Israel's cultural arts are in the global spotlight. Follow this link to register: <https://bethshalomnb-org.zoom.us/j/85346446237?pwd=Zjk5V2MwTUtiSHQrRktqVXgvUHZHUT09> .

Breakfast is available for \$7 per meal and here are two meal options and three pick-up locations. Go to <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site/> to order and pay for breakfast.

Sisterhood Report

Robyn Rosengard, President

- On January 30th we had a wonderful Sisterhood Shabbat with 65 plus on zoom
- Tuesday February 9th we had a cooking demonstration with Paula Shoyer. She wrote a new cookbook "The New Kosher Instant Pot Cookbook". The event was via zoom. It was a wonderful evening.
- Nominating has finished up and looking forward to sharing our new board soon.
- Judaica Shop launched our new square website. The website can be accessed by going to <http://cbs-sisterhood-judaica-shop.square.site/> or through the Congregation Beth Shalom Website. If have questions please reach out to Diana, Darlene or Donna.