

**Congregation Beth Shalom  
Committee Reports  
April 2021**

**Fundraising Report**

**Howard Sigal , Fundraising VP**

- No written report.

**House Report**

**Ray Rokni , House VP**

- **Preschool** - Waiting for certifications & retest for lead.
- **FEMA grant request proposal - due April 21<sup>st</sup>** - We have hired Rabbi Bergstein to help us write CBS FEMA grant request. We do not expect to receive any feedback until September 2021. Work CANNOT begin until after we hear from FEMA. Grant Submittal - Security priorities include following 3 items:
  - Continue Clear Guard window film project
  - Blue Light police call boxes with speaker call box through the building
  - **Emergency Operational Plan** – Current proposal includes preparation of an Emergency Operations Plan for CBS – “CBS Security Plan and Training” document will be updated accordingly. Our initial referral for writing this plan has now retired and has not been able to help with other referrals. Susan has reached out to others in her network for referrals. We are permitted to include this in the FEMA grant request even if a vendor is not yet identified. Estimated cost for EOP is \$7,000 based on Rabbi Bergstein experience with this type of project. In addition, Susan will contact:
- **Live streaming:** Subcommittee has received several proposals in response to our RFQ that was sent out in February. Committee has selected our preferred proposal from Sound Planning among respondents and also met with the preferred vendor on site on Monday 4/5. Discussion has continued regarding Camera, sound system and wiring and quotations are under review.

Our vendor has done prior work at CBS and is familiar with our building and requirements. It provided the best qualitative and quantitative proposal which will enhance our quality of streaming as well as provide operational flexibility. Proposal will include material and installation of equipment. However, the wiring requirements will be subcontracted by CBS separately. Seth will be making a presentation to the CBS board with regarding these proposals in April board meeting.

- **Memorial plaques** - There has not been any feedback in recent weeks. Staff will begin moving plaques in April / May, as well as preparing a directory of plaques that can be cross referenced by name and location.

- **Staff/ teacher lounge floor** - completed - maintenance staff removed contents of the room, removed carpet and installed vinyl plank flooring.
- **Water Main Leaking** - we have had two bids. We will contract with Santucci plumbing to replace all three main shutoff valves which are all rusted “open” as well as replacing the strainer (this is what was leaking). Total to do repairs is \$4,817 – much less than original bid from J Plumbing. Work will be scheduled in the next 2 weeks. Leak is NOT active at this time, but we cannot do any repairs to any plumbing issues until the shut off valves are in working condition.
- **Repairs to window walls in Wintergarden** – we have been on the “to do” list for our vendor which was completed earlier this week.
- **Ceiling leak in lobby** – was due to severe ice on roof - interior painting will be done by CBS staff. leak is not active.
- **Parking lot islands** - Proposal from Shelly’s Landscaping to clean up parking lot islands (remove debris, chunks of concrete, split and divide daylilies among islands, install premium shredded mulch in all islands. No new plants – just major clean up and spreading out of existing (thriving) day lilies. \$3,290
- **Parsonage** - Rabbi Melman Residence - Bathroom remodeling – Both Bathrooms are completed

**Finance**

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

- Budget presented.

**Membership Report**

**Randy Samborn, Membership VP**

- No written report

**Programming Report**

**Ellen Grossman, Programming VP**

- No written report

**Ritual Report**

**Seth Schrank , Ritual VP**

- No written report.

**School Report**

**Alan Zelkowitz, School VP**

- No written 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:

**Did you know....** I was able to recruit several drivers from our extended Jewish community to join our Mitzvah Committee drivers who will provide transportation for those who need help getting their Covid-19 vaccinations. Please contact the CBS office who will pass the information on to me.

We are collecting brown paper bags (new or undamaged) for the Vernon Township Food Pantry. Jill Olefsky is coordinating this program. She is willing to come to your home or they can be dropped off at Beth Shalom. Jill can be contacted through email, [Jolefsky@aol.com](mailto:Jolefsky@aol.com), or phone, 847-272-1758. If you are willing to include 1-3 UNEXPIRED items for the Northfield Township Food Pantry, she will make sure these items are delivered. That way we will help both food pantries (Northfield does not want bags).

PADS continues to provide housing for the homeless. CBS members have been generously supporting them by providing donations of needed items and monies to help offset the costs. We have also been informed that PADS is now accepting volunteers to work with the homeless in these shelters. For more info contact Sara Weinstein at [slo155@aol.com](mailto:slo155@aol.com).

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.**

Now that many adults have started receiving their COVID vaccines, and feeling more comfortable about resuming normal activities, it is a great time to volunteer for our ARK shopping program. Volunteers shop for groceries and deliver them to an ARK client in our suburban area. Purchases are reimbursed from the Gold Family Sabbath Fund. It is a great family project. We try to have enough volunteers so that each will shop 3-4 times a year. For more information, contact Merrill Medansky at [merrill.medansky@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.medansky@gmail.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](mailto:SocialActionVP@BethShalomNB.org).

### **Youth Report**

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

- No written report

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

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

- I am pleased to announce that at our Board Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, The Men's Club elected to provide a gift in the amount of \$20,000 to the Congregation to be used towards the Live Streaming Infrastructure Improvement Project.
- Just like our Lox Box Program we had to devise a new way of conducting our Yellow Candle program. Normally, we assemble the candles with the literature and pack them in mailing boxes in an assembly line fashion at the synagogue.

Instead, 25 members of the club volunteered to come to the synagogue by appointment and picked up the following:

- One box of candle boxes and one box of candles
- One bag with the literature and rubber bands
- One USPS mailing bag

Each member in their own homes packed their 48 candles, put them in the USPS mail bag and then brought the full bag back to the synagogue. Our mailing service then picked up all the bags and had them mailed and in the homes of all congregates by the fourth week of March.

- On March 14, 2021, we provided the program Covid-19 and the Torah with Rabbi Melman. Many are asking, "Is this our great flood" as depicted in the parshah No'ah? So, the Men' Club asked Rabbi, Aaron to give us his interpretation. Are there specific teachings in the Torah that can help explain what we are going through? Are there lessons in the Torah to help us address dealing with COVID-19?

Rabbi Aaron reviewed all these questions and provided great insight from the Torah and how a spiritual response can help us as we continue to find our way through what we are experiencing.

- This Year's Men's Club Shabbat was held on March 20, 2021. It began with Ma'ariv and Havdalah services lead by Men's Club Members. We transitioned to the Night of Recognition with a D'var Torah, which I presented. We then recognized our Youths of the Year, Brandon Wagner and Geoffrey Gitles, our Man of the Year, Scott Rogoff, and our Kavod Award recipient Dr. David Hakimian. I, Eric Golberg and all the Clergy participated in Introductions, personal thoughts, and blessings.

- Our two remaining programs for the year are as follows:
  - **Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM** – Our Heart – How Does it Work and How Do We Fix It. Robin Diamond RN from the NorthShore University HealthSystem, Cardiac Rehab Department, will provide a presentation on the structure of the heart and how it operates. She will also review various heart conditions and how they are addressed by the medical community. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/MC-Sun-Progs>.
  - **Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 10:00 AM** – **Torah Outreach in Chicago: College Students, Young Professionals and Adults.** The onslaught of American culture and ideas continues to pull Jews – including ourselves and our children – away from our heritage. Our three speakers will present their organizations’ work to reconnect us to Torah, our heritage, and our values. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/MC-Sun-Progs> .

**Sisterhood Report**

**Robyn Rosengard, President**

- No written report.