

Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
August 2021

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal, Fundraising VP

No written report

House Report

Ray Rokni, House VP

Preschool (Little Ones) - Water test submitted & wo-bathroom faucets are slightly above drinking Lead levels (DCFS rules). Waiting for final reports. CBS is planning to upgrade our WIFI service with VLAN to provide Phone and Ethernet service for the Little Ones. CBS will bill Little Ones \$100 or \$150 / month for use of our internet in addition to their rent.

CBS has received confirmation of the Grant from FEMA for \$98K. This fund is planned to be used for the following projects:

- Continue Clear Guard window film project
- Blue Light police call boxes with speaker call box through the building
- Funding for professional security services

Live streaming: Sound Planning Installers have been on site all last week. So far it is all under control and within budget. We should be streaming with new equipment on Saturday am for Shabbat. We plan to be fully installed and use for the High Holiday streaming services. There will be operator on site managing the camera system for the High Holiday.

Memorial plaques: 40% of plaques that are planned have been moved to the new location in library. Plan to complete before High Holidays. Also, organizing the remaining plaques as per family requests. We do have a donor and requesting to partially fund the Ner Tamid.

Sump Pump: Following power outage on July 28th several alarms / alerts happened last week. Custodial staff replaced battery for backup, but alarms still ringing. Service call made this week to test & service backup pumps.

Summer Projects Completed:

- **Freezer** – We purchased a new freezer which arrived in July. It arrived slightly dented during delivery and they refunded us 15% of price – dent on back of unit- it is fully operational (and empty!!)
- **Internet** – we upgraded to Comcast One gig this week
- **Window washing** - already happening – our team doing inside and outside
- **Painting** – Pomegranates were primed and painted,

- **Silver** – volunteer Bettina Birkner has been coming in to polish the Torah decorations

Seal Coating – It is two years from repaving the parking lot and time for seal coating. Four quotes for sealing parking lot. We plan to schedule with Suburban Seal Coating for 8/24-25 or 8/25-26 or 8/30/31 – We will have a motion for exec and board approval.

New CBS Signage: Walters and front entrance – Sub-committee formed with Neil (Lead), Dan Sher, Howard, and Bill

We do have \$10K grant from Sisterhood. Subcommittee plans to provide a design proposal and quotations for next month committee review. We will take this to the exec and board for approval. Priority is on Walters CBS sign.

Parsonage: Rabbi Ferratier - sprinkler system leak – service call to American National sprinkler

Finance

Cheryl Braude, Howard Friedin, and Marjorie Maxwell

No written report

Membership Report

Sue Lampert, Membership VP

Membership is happy to welcome new committee members this year, contributing new ideas, perspectives and opportunities to relate to and engage with our CBS family. We look forward to new initiatives this year to attract, welcome and onboard new members as well as integrating existing members so they can find lifelong community at CBS.

Upcoming Membership programs, along with Eric Golberg, include Service Under the Sky on August 6, 2021 (“Luau Night”) and August 13, 2021 (“CBS at the Movies”). Additionally, we are working with Leann Blue on Yom Beth Shalom (“Welcome Home”) August 22, 2021 and Sukkah Hop on September 25, 2021. Please let us know if you will be building a Sukkah this year and would like to be a Sukkah Hop stop (hosting others in your Sukkah that day).

YACHAD Affinity Groups continue to be going strong, having placed over 100 congregants since we launched our first group in January. We look forward to continued interest and placement as CBS is now open and we have an even greater ability to connect with our congregants and learn their interests.

Programming Report

Randy Samborn, Programming VP

CBS U summer classes have been well attended. The following represent **screens*** logged in:

- Stories of the Talmud – 20
- Kabbalah II – 20
- Jewish News – 80
- Beginning Yiddish – 15
- Tai Chi (in partnership with HAZAK) – 18 (more by video after the class)
- Gallant Knights and Captive Maidens – 27
- Coming Out of Hibernation – 18

*These screens represent 1-2 people.

CBS U/Adult Ed fall classes will begin in October. Classes we have so far for first semester are:

- Israel in Depth
- Talmud
- Parshat HaShavua
- Jewish News
- Yiddish

More classes and individual sessions are added frequently, so please check the CBS website and weekly emails often.

Distinguished Speaker Series: The Committee will be asking the Board to approve a motion at the August meeting to allocate up to \$50,000 from the Eastern European Torah Project for the 2021-22 speaker series. Any funds not expended will be returned to the EETP.

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Daniel Silva was interviewed by his wife, CNN Special Correspondent Jamie Gangel, on July 22. We had 902 total registrants (with minor duplication). We sold 52 copies of his new book, *The Cellist*, as of Aug. 3. Additional copies remain available for \$25 each by contacting Leann or Lisa. Here is a snapshot of **screens*** that actually logged in for the event:

- 594 unique screens
- 125 CBS Congregant screens (approx.)
- 44 Canadian screens
- 8 Australian screens
- 1 New Zealand screen
- 1 Bulgarian screen
- 1 Mexico screen

*These screens each represent 1-4 viewers based on our anecdotal information, making our best estimation that more than 1,000 people “attended.”

Our fall Distinguished Speaker event, at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14, will feature a virtual conversation about the premier legal effort to hold accountable hate

group leaders and white supremacist organizations responsible for the 2017 violence in Charlottesville, Va. Amy Spitalnick, executive director of Integrity First for America, will detail the organization's efforts behind a lawsuit scheduled for trial in late October in Federal Court in Charlottesville. The plaintiffs are Charlottesville victims who were injured; the defendants are two dozen neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and hate groups responsible for planning and orchestrating the violence. We are in the process of inviting interfaith partners to join us for this timely, compelling program.

Other business – Programming will be partnering with the Membership Committee on the Sukkah Hop on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 25. If you are building a sukkah and would like to be a stop on the hop, please be sure to let Leann or Lisa know.

HAZAK is looking into hosting an event on the afternoon of Sept. 1. They are planning to have a bass player. Other information will be available soon.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with any of these events. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Leann Blue or Lisa Orlov.

The committee has its first meeting scheduled for Aug. 26 to begin planning events for the rest of the year. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Randy.

Ritual Report

Bill Shulman, Ritual VP

The planning for High Holidays is continuing. As reported previously, services will be held in shifts. As of the last report, approximately 55% of the members have chosen the earlier services, 35% the later services, and 10% have opted for livestreaming. If this keeps up, we should be able to accommodate everyone's requests.

The High Holiday Committees for both CBS and Wood Oaks have been working on assigning honors. We will not be having congregants come to the bimah for all the ark openings in order to save time. The Torah and Haftarah readings are being shortened along with the overall services to fit everything.

We have begun to have morning and evening minyan. Sunday, Monday and Thursday for the mornings and Tuesday, Wednesday and Erev Shabbat for the evenings. Attendance has been lackluster at best. We need to get the word out more and do our best to attend, too.

School Report

Robyn Rosengard, School VP

Projected 206 children for Hebrew school

We currently have 173 children signed up

Family program for Hebrew School on Sunday August 29th.

Looking for 3 more Hebrew school teachers for grades 3rd, 4th and 5th Tuesdays and Sunday's. Please contact Stacy Ybarra

Social Action Report

Suzy Hakimian, Social Action VP

The Social Action Committee is an amazing group of people. They work tirelessly, most often behind the scenes, and without fanfare. Social action projects have continued throughout these uncertain times and our community is better for it.

I have touched base with many of the standing committees and they are doing well and as always, are looking for more involvement and volunteers to get their work done. Here are just a few:

Northfield Food Pantry – Led by Fern Roseman and her expansive team, have been collecting and sorting food products, reaching out for funds, and shopping for food items all to be brought to the pantry. Please contact Fern to get more information and how to support the pantry.

Hunger Free Northbrook – Led by Leatte Gelfeld and her team, collect funds, food items, and create bags of easily prepared meals for children in the Northbrook area who are food insecure and are in need of meals over weekends, breaks from school, and during the holiday season. Please contact Leatte for more information and how to support this project.

PADS – led by Sara Weinstein and her team, support PADS by providing funds, donations of needed items, and volunteering in the shelters. Please contact Sara for more information.

The ARK – led by Merrill Medansky and her band of volunteers are busy shopping and delivering groceries to clients in our suburban area. This is a wonderful family project for those looking to good with young children. Please contact Merrill for details.

Do you have brown paper bags? – Jill Olefsky will take those off your hands and get them to the Vernon Township Food Pantry. Jill will come to your home, or you can drop the bags off at the shul. And! If you “can” put 1 to 3 unexpired cans of food in the bags too!

Want to Do a Mitzvah? – Fern Roseman is always looking for volunteers to drive congregants to doctor visits, greeters for shabbat and holidays services at CBS, and people to deliver candles to hospitals for holiday's and Shabbat. There is so much more that she and her crew do for our community, please reach out to Fern to do good!

But that's not all! Plans are in the works for a social action class for our High School students. Students will have guest speakers, learn about various social action organizations including, but not limited to: food insecurity, conservation of the environment, mental health issues and social justice.

There is just so much! Please stay connected to these projects by clicking often on the social action page on the shul website.

Youth Report

Seth Shrank, Youth VP

No written Report

Men's Club Report

Steve Lessman, Andrew Wagner Co-Presidents

We had an executive board get together on July 15th to meet each other, set expectations for the year, and to do initial planning. A goal that was set by our new co-presidents is to meet with the members of the executive board in smaller groups based on similar roles in order to do initial planning for the year. Steve and Andy have divided the exec board into two so that one of the co-presidents oversees half of the exec board with the plan to switch for 2022-2023, the second year of the term.

We will begin our new year of activities helping out with Yom Beth Shalom by cooking and serving hot dogs and chips. We will also be stationed at a table there to answer questions and to introduce people to Men's Club.

On Sunday morning, September 12th, we will build the CBS outdoor sukkah. Scott Rogoff, our Bob the Builder, is heading up this yearly initiative.

Our first Men's Club Breakfast will be on Sunday, September 19th featuring Dr. Steve Zaacks, a cardiologist at Northwest Community Hospital and a CBS member. He will speak on "How to Prevent and Identify a Heart Attack & Its Effect on Our Lives, Part 2." We will continue our Men's Health initiative with interesting and informative programs.

Our Opening Dinner will be on Thursday, September 23rd. It will be a special Steaks in the Sukkah event with David Schuster, a sports personality formerly of WSCR, 670 the SCORE, and ESPN 1000, WMVP. David will be joining us to talk playoff baseball and the long futility of Chicago Bears football.

Our next Men's Club executive board and general board meeting is scheduled for 08/11/21 in person and on Zoom.

Sisterhood Report

Jackie Zerkowitz, President

Sisterhood is looking forward to a great year.

Our Opening Luncheon is Wednesday, October 13th. Our featured speaker is Susan Abrams, Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center.

Orders are coming in for our annual Challaday Challahs. Last day for orders will be on Monday, August 16th.

Sisterhood/Men's Club are working on an event for Saturday, October 16th.

The Holiday Boutique is set for Sunday, November 7th. If you know of any potential vendors, please let us know.