

**Congregation Beth Shalom  
Committee Reports  
June 2021**

**Fundraising Report**

**Howard Sigal, Fundraising VP**

Our May 23, 2021, Bourbon, Blues & BBQ event honoring Rabbi Melman's 18 plus years at CBS was a great success. Over 462 participants enjoyed dinner and the entertainment (Chicago Blues Network). As to our tastebuds, Zelda's supplied 260 Brisket meals, 180 Chicken dinners and 22 Vegetarian meals. We had 210 people registered and involved for The Koval Experience (our Bourbon tasting with the Jewish owned Koval distillery), we sold 175 raffle tickets, and had a Tribute book of over 120 pages (almost 130 pages including inside covers, etc.). Moreover, over \$10,000 of the tribute book ads were sold to those that did not attend—meaning we extended beyond our own CBS members.

The total amount of profit we raised is about \$42,000. Well over our \$18,000 projected/budgeted fundraising amount. Thanks to our wonderful Fundraising committee, to Ray Rokni and Michael Garlin for their very efficient “hand-off”, **and especially to Susan Karlinsky, Brenda Wasserman, Eric Golberg, Beth Sher and Diana Lewis, Darlene and Norm Padnos, Mitch Padnos, Bobbi Simkin and Neil Rosengard** who led each of the main components of the event.

And of course, thank you to Rabbi Melman, Elisa Rotman and their family—for your leadership and contributions to our CBS family. Rabbi Melman was the inspiration for the participation that we received.

**House Report**

**Ray Rokni , House VP**

- **Preschool** - Two Mom (Little Ones) have received certifications. Registrations have gone very well and they are exercising the 4<sup>th</sup> classroom option.
- **Little Library** - Installed in April
- **FEMA grant request proposal – submitted April 21<sup>st</sup> -** We do not expect to receive any feedback from the application until September 2021.
- **Live streaming:** Sound Planning is moving ahead with installation of camera and audio systems. Also working with Jerry Edelman to assure that circuits are in place to accommodate new equipment in audio closet.
- **Water Main Leaking** - Santucci Plumbing – completed replacement of 3 main water supply valves. This was completed within planned budget.
- **Fire Pump** – Rogers Pump / C L Doucette completed repairs on the fire pump – replaced transducer and mother board. One additional repair is needed – part is ordered – and will be completed very shortly. All systems are functioning well at this time. This was completed within planned budget.
- **False Alarms!** – Replaced a few door sensors which are part of our alarm system – we were having false alarms due to interference of metal doors / sensors.
- **Memorial plaques:** Plan is to complete relocation of the plaques in month of June. We still need a Neir Tamid .
- **Outdoor Landscaping** - Summer flowers planted at main entrance.

- **Parking Lot & Patio - Seal Coating** – Getting quotation for this summer
- **Roof Maintenance:** Inspection completed and scheduling minor repairs that will be completed in the summer.
- **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. We also have a site survey for the work on Walter's sign. Committee will proceed with design and request for quotations – priority is on Walters CBS sign.
- **Parsonage:** Cantor Stoher
  - scheduled Staining of Cantor's parsonage front porch (unfinished wood) by CBS custodial staff.
  - Replacing washer that is leaking oil.

## Finance

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

As of 5.31.21, CBS has collected 92.6% of budgeted membership revenues. Including the PPP funds, CBS has collected 94.2% of total budgeted revenues in comparison to 92.2% last year. Cash flow for the year has been strong and the line of credit will not be utilized. We will be sharing the full financial report detail with the BOT next month, after our 6.30.21 fiscal year end closes.

## Membership Report

**Randy Samborn/Sue Lampert**

Many members of our nearly 10 YACHAD Affinity Groups have formed new friendships virtually and are now enjoying getting together and sharing activities in-person. We plan to launch many more groups in the coming year, beginning with summer outdoor activities. Let us know what activity you would enjoy leading / facilitating and we will work on assembling a group.

I encourage new BOT members to join the Membership Committee, using your creativity and engaging personalities, to further the plans and programs to engage our membership.

Let's work together to attract, retain and enrich our CBS community this summer. Please join us for:

- Tailgate for Tanya - Sunday, July 11, 2021
- Service Under the Sky – August 6, 2021
- Service Under the Sky – August 13, 2021
- Yom Beth Shalom - August 22, 2021

## Programming Report

**Ellen Grossman/Randy Samborn**

### **Distinguished Speakers Series Events**

**Save the date – 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 22.** We are thrilled to welcome back #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Daniel Silva for a very special Distinguished Speakers program. Silva will be interviewed by Wolf Blitzer, CNN anchor of The Situation Room, in Silva's first **virtual** event in the Chicago area to promote his new book, *The Cellist*, which will be released on July 13. We have 150 autographed copies, which may be reserved now for only \$25 on a first-come, first-served basis by using the registration form and will be available for pick-up after July 13. A special thanks to Diana Lewis, who was responsible for Silva's first appearance at CBS two years ago, for arranging his return engagement.

**Save the date – 8 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14.** Our fall Distinguished Speakers event will feature a virtual conversation about the premier legal effort to hold accountable hate groups and the leadership of the white supremacist and anti-Semitism movement 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 community members who were injured; the defendants are two dozen neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and hate groups responsible for planning and orchestrating the violence. We are planning to invite our Interfaith partners and hope you will you please join us for this timely, compelling program.

Our first Program Committee meeting is scheduled for Aug. 26 and we will begin planning our winter / spring programs. The committee is in-formation and looking for new members. Please let Randy know if you are interested in joining the committee. We also welcome any ideas or suggestions you may have. A huge thank you to Ellen Grossman for her leadership the last two years and we look forward to her continuing participation.

**Ritual Report**

**Seth Shrank/Bill Shulman**

No Written Report

**School Report**

**Allen Zelkowitz/Robyn Rosengard, School VP**

No written report.

**Social Action Report**

**Bob Spector/Suzy Hakimian**

No written report

**Youth Report**

**Dan Sher/Seth Shrank**

No written report

**Men's Club Report**

**Steve Elisco**

The FJMC National Convention was originally scheduled for July of this year in Chicago. Unknowing where we would be at this time, the FJMC leadership switched to an all-virtual convention, which was held from June 6 – June 13, 2021. Other than a few technology glitches which were resolved, it was an amazing event with programming each evening for several hours.

This convention is held every two years and corresponds with our two-year leadership transition cycle. The FJMC asks all affiliated clubs to participate in their Torch Award Program that allows the clubs to highlight the programs and activities they have accomplished over the two previous years. The CBS Men's Club has always participated in this program.

Bronze, Silver and Gold awards are issued in each of twenty categories. We submitted six (6) applications for Torch Awards as follows:

- Best Overall Activities
- Club Administration

- Community Outreach
- Health and Wellness
- Programming for Younger Men, 39 or Younger
- COVID-19 – New or Adapted Programs That Were Innovatively Produced in the Face of COVID-19

As I emphasized in the introduction to our Best Overall Activities Application, this was not the effort of just one or two men but that of a large group of individuals. Accordingly, I would like to thank the following men who provided program descriptions, written descriptions of our administrative processes, photos, screen shots or some combination of all:

Michael Greenberg	Andy Wagner
Bob Goldwin	Scott Rogoff
Lawrence LeVine	Howard Freidin
Allen Lefkovitz	Howard Jacob
Michael Balter	Howard Minkoff
Steve Lessman	Bob Spector

I am immensely proud and honored to announce that the CBS Men's Club received the following Torch Awards:

**GOLD - BEST OVERALL ACTIVITIES**

**GOLD - CLUB ADMINISTRATION**

**GOLD - HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**GOLD - PROGRAMMING FOR YOUNGER MEN, 39 OR YOUNGER**

Because of this performance, the CBS Men's Club was bestowed the following additional Torch Award:

**GOLD – BEST OVERALL MEN'S CLUB PROGRAMING**

Please keep in mind that this is the highest Club Award granted by the FJMC out of some 200 affiliated clubs.

I should also mention that the FJMC Midwest Region, of which the CBS Men's Club is affiliated, won the 2021 Region Participation Torch Award with over 55% of the affiliated clubs submitting at least one Torch Award application. The Region was also bestowed the inaugural 2021 Overall Region Torch Award with its affiliated clubs being awarded one Bronze and six Gold Torch Awards.

The FJMC Midwest region also celebrated Norm Kurtz of Beth Judea was bestowed the Presidents Award. Norm is only the ninth recipient of this award since it was established in 1965. The Award was bestowed upon Norm by our own Dr. Jerry Agrest, who is a previous recipient of the President's Award.

Norwin Merens from Temple Beth Israel was the FJMC Midwest Region recipient of the Ma'asim Tovim Award. Yasher Koach to incoming Co-President of CBS Men's Club Steve Lessman, for the fantastic presentation as the emcee for the Awards Ceremony broadcast live from our Feather Beit Midrash.

It is hard to beat all that, but there were many informative presentations during the Convention Week and here is just some of what was offered:

- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER RABBI SHARON BROUS**

Rabbi Sharon Brous is the senior and founding rabbi of IKAR and has devoted her rabbinate to reinvigorating Jewish tradition and practice and advancing soulful, multi-faith justice work in Los Angeles and around the country.

Rabbi Brous' keynote was entitled "Building Beloved Community." She said that his is accomplished by developing and balancing the following three relationships:

Intimate and Emotional Relationships

Social Relationships

Collective Community Relationships

- **HEARING MEN'S VOICES**

Hearing Men's Voices (HMV) is a program that engages men in Jewish life by building male relationships and extending Jewish community. I participated in the Beginner's Guide to Facilitating an HMV Session. At CBS we did do HMV programming under Past president Brad Shaps. I think it is something we should consider reviving going forward.

- **ABAYUDAYA JEWS OF UGANDA**

Documentarian, Ari Beser, recently traveled to Mbale to learn how the Jewish community of Uganda has responded to the stress and hardship of the Coronavirus lockdown. This video presentation provided an introduction to the Abayudaya, its history, present struggles, and plans for future growth as Uganda begins to emerge from the pandemic. Ari is including much of this video, with more on the work of Aaron Moses z"l and his family in his upcoming docuseries "A Jewish Life." Follow this link to view the video presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UVjTVswLyI>

Hadassah has been a big supporter of this community, but they need much more help. The FJMC National Organization will be making a big push in this direction over the upcoming years. I am going to recommend that the CBS Men's Club become involved.

- **A TASTE OF JEWISH GENEALOGY**

Whet your interests in your Jewish Heritage with this "Taste of Jewish Genealogy." Among our presenters will be Mike Mills on getting started with Ancestry.com, Ken Bravo on research with US Census searches, Aaron Ginsburg on genealogical travel, and Kim Sheintal on involving your grandchildren through photos and games. Of course, there will be time for questions at the end and you will have opened the door to more genealogy experiences through the FJMC Genealogy Affinity Group.

So that is the description of the program. One of my goals in my eventual retirement, is to start a genealogy project tracing both mine and Debbie's families. This was a great introduction to the available resources as well as the FJMC Genealogy Affinity Group, which is open to helping anyone who wants to start on this journey.

**Sisterhood Report**

**Robyn Rosengard/Jackie Zelkowitz**

The Opening Luncheon will be on Wednesday, October 13th at the Synagogue. We are working on obtaining a speaker.

Our Judaica shop is going to have their challah sale for the high holidays so please remember to purchase a challah or honey cake.

We are going to be having our Boutique on Sunday, November 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please help spread the word that we are looking for vendors.