

Congregation Beth Shalom
Committee Reports
March 2022

Membership Report

Sue Lampert, Membership VP

Membership by the Numbers (households):

- Amount of Members as of 3/17/2022: 1046
- Amount of Members as of 6/30/2021: 1086
- Amount of Members as of 6/30/2020: 1174
- Amount of Members as of 6/30/2019: 1176

- Joined - past 3 years: 85 [30 + 20 + 35]
- Dropped - past 3 years: 213
- **Net Loss past 3 years: 128**

Membership Committee:

- On March 13th, we gifted and delivered Purim Baskets to 12 new member families and 3 (potential) prospective families. They were joyfully surprised and appreciative of the mitzvah. Thank you to Stacy and the School Board, for the Mishloach Manot program and thank you to Wes Nissan, Hillary Elkins, Scott Bosley and Lisa Dembo for delivering.

- **CBS First Year Experience** – we are developing an onboarding program for new members to welcome and engage them in our CBS community to include phone calls, emails, gifts, Aliyot/Arc Openings, new member reception/dinner(s) and more, to be coordinated with Sisterhood, Mens Club, Ritual, Youth and Young Family Engagement.

CBS Connections – On April 25th at 7:15 p.m. Digital Marketing Consultant, Josh Grandsen will be presenting on using digital marketing for business including websites, social media, and search engine optimization. Join us in networking with your fellow congregants making meaningful connections and referrals.

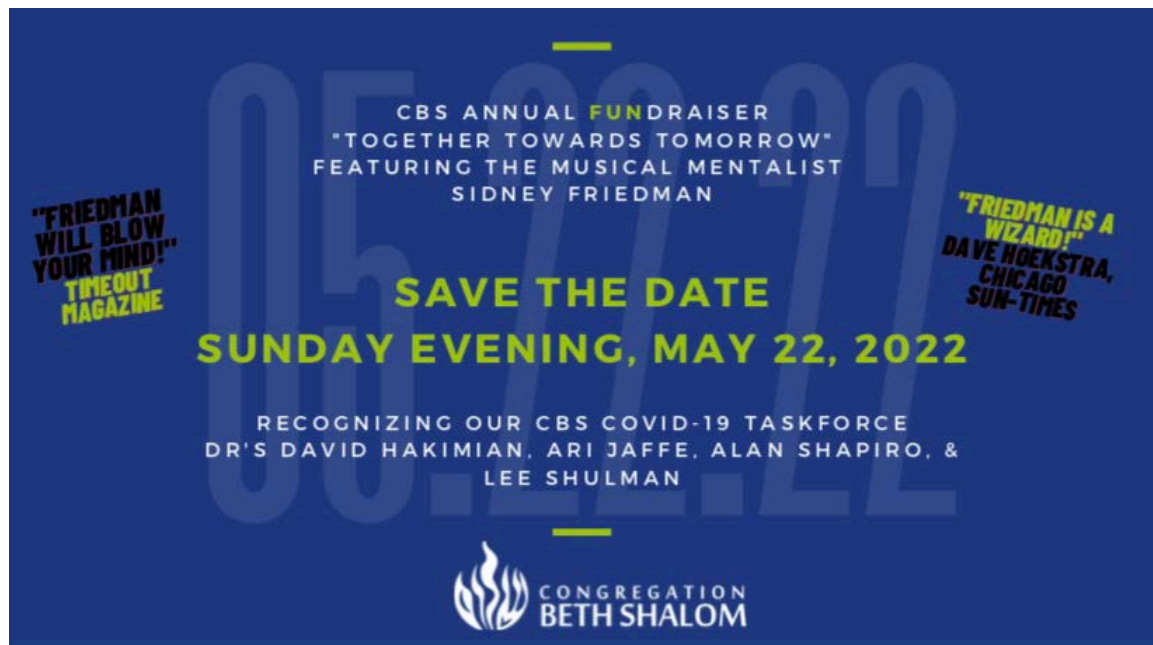
Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law -- Part III – registration remains open for lawyers, non-lawyers, CBS members and non-members. Join us for 6 evening sessions, multi-access, on topics of interest. The course is MCLE approved for attorneys for 9 CLE credits including 2 for Professional Responsibility (Ethics) and will be held weekly from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on April 26th, May 2nd, May 10th, May 17th May 25th and May 31st, 2022.

Fundraising Report

Howard Sigal, Fundraising VP

- CBS Fundraiser will be the evening of May 22, 2022.

The CBS Fundraising Committee is looking forward to this fun, unique program. More information on the actual invite, sponsorship levels, Tribute book, etc. should surface by next month's meeting. We look forward to joining together for a **Fun** Event with The Mentalist, that recognizes our Covid-19 Task Force and also helps raise funds for CBS.



House Report

Ray Rokni, House VP

Maintenance:

- **Walk in Cooler AC failed** – Motion approved in Feb board meeting for up to \$10K for this highly needed replacement unit to walk in AC unit.

Midwesco, the CBS selected vendor has received and installed the AC unit.

- **Rusted Duct work** coming out of RTU was identified during roofing inspection last year. Motion approved in the Feb board meeting for up to \$6K for necessary repair and replacement of ductwork coming out of main RTU on the CBS rooftop. CBS vendor Midwesco will do the repair in spring.
- **IT upgrades:** motion for investment for replacement of two of the CBS switches for a value of up to \$10K approved in November Board meeting - Two switches are back ordered and not installed yet.

Live streaming & Audio Services: To improve throughput of Video and Audio system, we have installed a dedicated Comcast into CBS building. There is still lingering video and audio service interruptions – It appears that full bandwidth of audio and video leaves CBS intact, however it does not reach stream spot our broadcasting vendor in full bandwidth. Comcast services are being contacted to determine the cause.

New CBS Signage: Walters and front entrance – Motion was approved by the board for expenditure of up to \$30K for replacement of both CBS signs located on Walters and in front of the building. Committee approved the design, size and color of the sign presented from PALDO signs. Next, PALDO will finalize the design and proceed with obtaining the permit from NB Village. The front of the building sign will be from Gemini or PALDO signs – it will be a solid aluminum sign without any internal illumination. We need to work out the external lighting from the roof or sides. Concern has always been not to shine into our neighbors' houses.

FEMA grant Projects – CBS has \$98K in Grant - CBS submitted the 1st quarterly reports in Feb to maintain status of the grant. Grant is good through 2024. CBS also submitted documentations and has received approval for the environmental impact study. This is necessary for CBS to receive authorization to proceed with performing these improvements on CBS ground. We are still collecting quotation for Widow film protection and blue boxes. When ready, we will select our vendor and proceed with implementation of the projects and request for reimbursement from state. With environmental approval, we need to submit our project execution plan with 3 quotations.

Landscaping – we have signed contract with Shelly Landscaping who was the lowest bid for both CBS and Parsonages.

Parsonage

Rabbi Melman - Front window replacement was installed in February. We will have painting work completed inside and outside of window in March

Finance

Cheryl Braude, Howard Freidin

- Through 2.28.22, regarding revenues:
 - Revenues totaled \$2.2MM, slightly ahead of 2021 figures. While adjusted membership collections are tracking favorably, total membership revenue will be negatively impacted by a reduction in membership households. Current membership levels total 1,046, versus 1,066 budgeted for the year.

Regarding expenses:

- Ritual expenses include \$7M spent on the Assistant Rabbi search; additional moving expenses of \$8M are expected. Ritual expenses also reflect the payment of \$13M in clergy 403(b) payments that were inadvertently missed during the past year.
- House expenses reflect increased utility costs, which will be increased in next year's budget. That said, the majority of the increased house expenses are a function of the building's opening (maintenance, security, etc.).

Budgeting for 2022-2023 is in process; recommendations from the Membership Task Force regarding dues are being incorporated into this process. Lastly, CBS's two-year \$500M bank line of credit (\$0 outstanding) is up for renewal next month. We will be requesting Board approval in April to renew this facility.

See attached reports

Programming Report

Randy Samborn, Programming VP

- **Distinguished Speaker Series-Save the date – Sept. 8, 2022** – for a live, in-person performance and recording of the popular Tablet Magazine podcast, *Unorthodox*. Work continues to plan a robust slate of Distinguished Speaker programs for 2022-23.

- **Update on CBS U/Adult Ed:**

As of March 15, we have 315 individual students enrolled in CBS U/Adult Education.

Here is what's new or changing from the end of March through Spring 2022:

- **Beginning Yiddish** will have a time change beginning in April – it will still be held on Wednesdays but will move to 3:30 – 4:30 pm.

- **Three new classes will begin in April:**
 - **Is Satan Real? Learning to Channel Negativity in Your Life** with instructor Cantor Victor Geigner will be held Tuesdays from April 26 – May 31 from 9:00 – 10:15 am. **(via Zoom only)**
 - **Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law** with instructor Rabbi Aaron Melman will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 pm on the following days: Tuesday, April 26, Monday, May 2, Tuesday, May 10, 17, Wednesday, May 25 and Tuesday, May 31. **(Multi-Access)**
 - **There's a Psalm for That** with instructor Rabbi Warner Ferratier will be held on Thursdays from April 28 – May 26 from 11:00 am – noon. **(Multi-Access)**

Israel in Depth has one more session remaining this year on Sunday, April 3 with instructor Carl Schrag. It will take place from 10:00 – 11:00 am. There will be NO breakfast that week. **(Multi-Access)**

Purim/Megillah Mania 2022 was held on March 16. We joined forces with Cantor Stoehr to bring in two special guests. We started the day at 10:00 am with **Emunah Almansoori**, who told us about her journey from Bahrain to the U.S. and from being a Muslim to converting to Judaism. Her story was compelling. The session was multi-access and between the people in the room (10), those on Zoom screens (19 screens) and people watching the live stream (33 unique views) many congregants heard her story.

At 6:30 pm, we heard from her husband, rapper and spoken word artist, Ari Lesser, who shared his worldview with us through his original music. He covered history, politics, spirituality, religion, Israel and much more. Many of our congregants have written to say how much they enjoyed hearing him, and one even called him “our own Lin Manuel Miranda.”

We continued the evening with ma'ariv and the Megillah reading. This year we tried something new. We had dinner during the Megillah reading and there was hamantashen and beverages for everyone. Ari Lesser also performed between chapters of the Megillah. There was an estimated attendance of 60 – 70 people in the room and 125 unique live stream views.

Exciting plans are being finalized to return the Distinguished Speaker Series to an in-person and virtual event in early September and we hope to be making an announcement soon, possibly at the February Board meeting. We are also working on a virtual only Distinguished Speaker program in late spring and we expect to have more information on both events to follow soon.

Ritual Report

Bill Shulman, Ritual VP

- The B'nai Mitzvah date selection letter was sent to parents of those whose dates will be during the 2024-2025 school year on March 14th. Parents have been requested to return the forms no later than April 1st, 2022. This is so we can send out the date assignments on May 2, 2022, in coordination with other area synagogues. The Long-Term Bar/Bat Mitzvah Planning meeting is then scheduled for May 12, 2022.

Please try to attend minyan when you can. We are not making a full minyan at almost any service.

School Report

Robyn Rosengard, School VP

- No written report

Social Action Report

Suzy Hakimian, Social Action VP

- No written report

Youth Report

Seth Schrank, Youth VP

- No written report

Men's Club Report

Steve Lessman, Andrew Wagner Co-Presidents

- No written report

Sisterhood Report

Jackie Zelkowitz, President

- We will be baking for Passover Kiddushim from Tuesday, March 29th through Thursday, March 31st. We still can use baking help. Please sign up under tinyurl.com/mry5k4ca. You can also reach out to Robin Bright at robin.bright18@gmail.com.
- Mitzvah Day will be on Sunday, April 3rd from 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at CBS. Sisterhood will team up with the Religious School and work on Social Action projects. We will be collecting for Border Trails Rescue in Northbrook. Donations could include paper towels, powder laundry detergent, towels, blankets, toys, animal beds, cleaning supplies like Pine Sol and bleach, etc. A box will be provided for drop off at CBS.
- On Monday, April 4th, Sisterhood will tour the Illinois Holocaust Museum's Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement exhibit virtually. Visit our CBS Home Page for sign-up information.
- Our Culminating, Installation and Valued Volunteer dinner will be on Tuesday, May 17th. John Boda, the Music Man, will be our entertainment. More information will follow.