

## **SISTERHOOD REPORT MARCH 2024 BY LANI SCHRANK**

Sisterhood Shabbat took place on 2/2/24 with solid participation and attendance! Thanks to the event chairs Eva Footlik and Claudy Thompson!

We are anticipating 60 participants for our "Out of This World" Hamantaschen making event on 3/14. Big thank you to Programming VP Jenny Scheider as well as Talia Mikhelson and Amy LeVine who are helping make this event happen!

Our slate for next year is set and includes many new women who are excited to get involved! We have also revised our board structure to better utilize the time and skills of our leaders. Happy to chat about organizational structure with other committees if they are interested!

Several women from our sisterhood are traveling to Cincinnati the first week of April to attend the Central Great Lakes region spring conference. We are being recognized for our Torah Fund work this year. Thanks to Jody Sigal for chairing Torah Fund.

Every year, the women of sisterhood take on the task of baking for our Pesach Kiddushim. This significantly reduces synagogue spend as well as vastly increases the quality of our Passover baked goods! Interested in volunteering to help with baking? Please email Edna Schrank (eschrank@comcast.net)

Our culminating event will be Wednesday May 15th. We will be facilitating board transitions, honoring Valued Volunteer Gloria Weinberg, and hearing from our own Jonathan Chapman as a guest speaker!

## SCHOOL REPORT MARCH 2024 BY CHARLOTTE STERN

- Siddur Ceremony for 3rd graders was March 8th. 100% participation, with all 16 students, parents and grandparents. This is also livestreamed.
- Purim baskets are all made and ready to distribute. Letters have been sent out. Super senior and new members will be hand delivered. Final numbers are not in but we made over \$5,000. Baskets can be picked up:
  - o Sunday, March 17th from 10:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. (During the Purim Carnival)
  - o Monday, March 18th from 9:15 a.m. - 5 p.m. (During normal CBS Office Hours)
  - o Tuesday, March 19th from 9:15 a.m. - 8 p.m. (During normal CBS Office Hours and Religious School)
- K-2nd service and dinner is on April 12th. Service at 5:30 and dinner at 6:15. Just for those families.
- Staff evaluations are going well. Staff will evaluate the Madrichol.
- We are desperately looking for more teachers for next year. It's a problem at all synagogues. If you know of anyone, let us know. Will ask Hillel at Northwestern if there are any students wanting to do it next year. Will even pay for Uber to get them to CBS
- An exciting new High School for next year through the program American Jewish University. Students will get college credit. There are 5 courses to choose from, so will be different each year. 16 classes of 2 hours (which is what we do for high school) is needed. They give support and training. Grades go through the program. Cost is \$1300, but they give a stipend and so does JUF so the cost will be \$50 more than what they are paying now. Good for getting into college and some college credit depending on where the student goes. Open to non-members too. Will have to figure out a different program for 8th graders.

The final total for our Black and White Fundraiser is:

**\$19,000.00**

## **SOCIAL ACTION REPORT MARCH 2024 BY ROBYN ROSENGARD**

Shop Mizrahi Market for all your favorite Kosher foods on Thursday ,April 4th. 10% of all sales Donated back to CBS Social Action Benefiting Northfield Food Pantry. Shop 9am to 8pm Mention Congregation Beth Shalom Social Action.

The next Blood Drive is April 7<sup>th</sup>. As of today, we have 45 people registered, six (6) of which are making double red cell donations that count as two (2) donations each. So, at this point, we have a possible 51 donations.

Drop off food for pads April 8th. Need more information reach Out to Sara Weinstein at saraweinstein55@gmail.com.

Come One Come all Good Deeds Day Sunday April 14th 10-11:30am

130 Bras were sent to I Support the Girls

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT MARCH 2024 BY JACKIE ZELKOWITZ

This year we gifted Purim baskets to 4 new member families and 9 prospective families.

Please help spread the word that our next YACHAD/Chavurah Meet and Greet will be on Sunday, April 7, 2024. Several groups and connections have formed since our last two Meet and Greets. If you or anyone you know would be interested in being a part of a Chavurah group (groups of CBS members that socialize and celebrate Jewish life together) or a YACHAD group (a social group based on one activity you all enjoy doing together), please register at:

YACHAD groups – [tinyurl.com/CBSYachad23](https://tinyurl.com/CBSYachad23)

Chavurah groups – [tinyurl.com/CBSChavurah23](https://tinyurl.com/CBSChavurah23)

We currently have Canasta groups playing every Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. in the CBS library. We also have Mah Jongg groups playing on Sunday mornings at CBS. If you are interested in joining either group or are interested in lessons, please let me know at [MembershipVP@BethShalomnb.org](mailto:MembershipVP@BethShalomnb.org)

We currently have two Morning Minyan YACHAD groups. Each group meets once a month to attend Minyan and then go out to breakfast. If you would like to be a part of our Morning Minyan group, please reach out to Scott Bosley, [scottnbosley@gmail.com](mailto:scottnbosley@gmail.com)

We are currently reaching out to our new member families to see if they would like to read the Prayer for Peace during Shabbat Services. Thank you to Jill Olfesky for coordinating this with the new members and the clergy.

## HOUSE REPORT MARCH 2024 BY ARLEN LASINSKY

1. Action Item # 1: Bricks and Mortar-Evaluate each of our building spaces to determine if they reflect our vision and create a plan to address each space as needed

Tactic # 1: The House Committee has made an initial walk-through of the building to visualize other uses for the current spaces of the building.

Tactic # 2: The members of the House Committee have been given the task of completing a form to suggest other uses of the building. The form is separated by fifteen (15) individual areas.

2. Action Item # 2: Bricks and Mortar-Evaluate each system (e.g. HVAC, sound system, landscaping) and track each system to understand its lifespan and ongoing costs/fees for maintenance and replacement

Tactic # 1: The House Committee maintains records and spreadsheets that includes all major components for the building and parsonages. The information for each component maintained includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Year installed;
- B. Estimated remaining life of each component; and
- C. Estimated cost for each component.

The cost to replace the components has been calculated to a present value to document the estimated value required in today's dollars.

3. New Lift

- A. A new lift is needed for the synagogue
- B. Edgar tested the lifts available
- C. Decided on the JCB S1930 scissor lift

4. Sound system Update

A. A donor had made a commitment of \$30,000 for sound enhancement in the synagogue.

B. The Committee vetted the two vendors quotes and specs and spoke to with Cantor Stoehr

C. The proposals from the two vendors needs to be revised and a new RFP will be put together

5. RTU Update

A. Two (2) new RTU's were installed

B. New heat exchanger installed

#### 6. Other Uses of Synagogue-Part of Strategic Plan

A. A discussion was held as to the purpose of having ideas memorialized as part of the strategic plan

B. Ideas were offered as part of the general discussion

C. Will continue on with process

#### 7. Parsonage

A. 3538 River Falls Drive-Nothing to report

B. 3505 River Falls Drive -New lights in den completed

C. 1712 Longvalley Drive-Wall repair due to new toilet and tub replacement-not performed yet.

## FINANCE REPORT MARCH 2024 BY RAYMOND ROKNI

Revenue – Overall projecting, might be down by ~20K from the budget for the year.

- Line 1 – Membership fees – Membership revenue is on track to meet or exceed budget. We are forecasting overall ~\$1.8M in revenue (\$20-\$25K above budget).
- Line 2 – School Fees: \$33K below last year to date – We project that overall; we will be under budget by \$40 to \$45K (mainly due to the shift in applying adjustments in the form of Scholarships to school fees).
- Line 3 – Ritual – Overall, on track to budget.
- Line 4 – Administration – Overall, on track to budget.
- Line 5 – House – Overall, on track to budget.
- Line 7 – Fundraising: need to wait for full collection to complete for the annual event - Lower YOY due to prior year one-time ERTC receipt in 2022.

Expenses – proportionally spend is on track at 68% of budget (for 7 months need to be @ 66.7%)

- Line 20 - Ritual – slightly above budget for the year but should end the year at budget.
  - o High holiday & ShabbaTone expenses exceed budget.
  - o Kiddush expenses are higher than budgeted due to high cost of food and preparation.
- Line 21 – School – Expenses are lower compared to plan - Expect to finish the year slightly under budget.
- Line 22 – House: Expenses are significantly higher than last year. It is also budgeted. \$60K higher than last year and tracking at 65% spent so far and projecting to manage to budget for the year.
  - o supply related and parsonage are higher than planned so far.
  - o Security: Security will be higher per budget due to increased level of security services approved by the board.
- Line 23 - Administration – will end the year at budget or slightly over.
  - o Office expenses, computer purchase, Telephone expense, staff training are all higher than budgeted.



- Line 24 – Youth - YOY variance due to addition of FT Youth Director. Will end the year at or below budget.
- Line 25 – Adult Education and Programming – currently at budget and will end the year at budget. Adult education expenses above budget.

# CBSU & Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema

We are a proud sponsor of the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema this year. Our film, ***Running on Sand***, will be showing at the Landmark Theater/The Glen on Saturday night, April 13, at 8:30 pm.

## ***Running On Sand***



In this feel-good story of resilience and belonging, a young Eritrean refugee on the brink of deportation is mistaken for a professional soccer player, bringing hope to a struggling Israeli team. Dodging immigration authorities at the airport, asylum seeker Aumari is erroneously assumed by Maccabi Netanya fans to be a Nigerian soccer star. With no sporting talent but hailed as a hero, he unites and uplifts the floundering squad, while hiding

his true identity. Amid their quest for victory, he finds himself falling for the team owner's daughter, all while risking exposure. Starring Congo-born Chancela Mongoza and other African migrant actors, this Israeli Academy Award Best Film nominee sweetly melds humor and heart, shedding light on the unseen and unheard in Israeli society.

For more information or to get tickets for the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema (either streaming and/or in-person) go to: <https://israelifilmchi.org>

Questions? Email Audrey: [ATaxer@bethshalomnb.org](mailto:ATaxer@bethshalomnb.org) OR Leann: [LBlue@bethshalomnb.org](mailto:LBlue@bethshalomnb.org)

# Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law -- Part V

**ATTENTION ATTORNEYS:  
(Open to non-attorneys too!)**

**Description:** This class will explore Jewish history and legal precedent through examination of specific topics including:

- **The Changing Face of Jewish Law**
- **A Jewish Response to Dying**
- **Burial/Cremation**
- **Surrogacy**
- **Jewish Divorce: A Deeper Dive (incl. Prenuptial Agreements)**

**MCLE approved for attorneys for 9 CLE credits.**

**Instructor:** Rabbi Aaron Melman and Rabbi David Chapman  
**Dates:** Thursdays 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/8 (Wednesday), 5/16, 5/23  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** At CBS and Via Zoom (Multi - Access)  
**Fee:** \$50 for CBS members; \$100 for non-members

**Questions?** Contact Leann ([LBlue@BethShalomNB.org](mailto:LBlue@BethShalomNB.org)) or Audrey ([ATaxer@BethShalomNB.org](mailto:ATaxer@BethShalomNB.org))

**Click here to register:** <https://tinyurl.com/jewishlawpart5>

## HAZAK...

will sponsor a Lunch and Learn program Tuesday, May 14 from 11:45 – 2:00 pm. More information will follow next month.

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## PURIM @ CBS

משנכנס אדר  
מרבין בשמחה

It may be Spring Break, but we will be celebrating Purim

When Adar arrives, we increase our joy!

Dr. Seuss style on both Saturday night (including dessert

and drinks) AND Sunday morning (followed by breakfast and Dr. Seuss interpretive Megillah).

Wear a costume! Eat some hamantashen! Join the FUN!

**CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM**

### Oh, The Purim You Will Celebrate!

**Purim 5784 -- March 23 & 24, 2024**

**Saturday, March 23rd, 2024**

**7:30 pm** Maariv, Havdalah & full Megillah reading including drinks & dessert

**Sunday, March 24th, 2024**

**8:15 am** Minyan with full Megillah reading  
**9:30 am** Green Eggs and HAMantashen Breakfast  
**10:00 am** Dr. Seuss interpretive Megillah and FUN

Register at: [tinyurl.com/2024purim](https://tinyurl.com/2024purim)

Registration is not necessary to attend Megillah readings, only for Saturday evening drinks & dessert and Sunday morning Green Eggs & HAMantashen Breakfast

Questions? Contact Audrey at [Ataxer@bethshalomnb.org](mailto:Ataxer@bethshalomnb.org)  
OR (847)-498-4100, ext. 145

## Civil Rights Journey

Thirty-three people will be going on the Civil Rights Journey to Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma & Birmingham from March 26 – 28. We look forward to their sharing when they return. Read their blog posts on our CBS website.