



Congregation Beth Shalom Annual Report

5783-5784 / 2023-2024

Congregation Beth Shalom is the spiritual home to more than 1000 member families. We are a strong and diverse congregation and think of ourselves as a large family and a place people comfortably call their “home away from home”.



Youth & Families With Young Children (FYC)

30

youth programs

1500+

participants in all FYC programs

600

hamantashen baked by CBS USY

300

Purim carnival participants

25 **NEW**

families attending Shabbaton

9 **NEW**

new Youth Committee members

2

CBS USY members elected to Regional CHUSY Board



327

Men's Club members

1537

losh boxes sold including

894

losh boxes donated to *The Ark & CJE SeniorLife*

74

losh boxes donated to fire and police departments

\$26,500

donated to *The Ark* and *CJE SeniorLife*

96

people attended Steaks in the Sukkah program

139

attendees for Erev Thanksgiving event

6

Israel in Depth programs co-sponsored with CBS U



25

B'nai Mitzvah

1750

B'nai Mitzvah tutoring sessions

5045

verses of Torah assigned and chanted by congregants and B'nai Mitzvah students and families

535

trope, blessings, Torah readings and Haftarat recordings made for students and congregants

30

recent post B'nai Mitzvah students chanted Torah

105

students and family members participated in *Mechina Shabbat*

8500

CBS congregants and guests joined together for Shabbat kiddushim

CBS has deepened our commitment to supporting Israel now more than ever



CBS Families Stand with Israel program



CBS Stands with Israel: *A Gathering In Hope & Prayer*



CBS community watch party of *The March for Israel* in Washington DC



Israel: On Campus & Beyond featuring Michael Simon, Executive Director of Northwestern Hillel



Shabbat guest speaker Yoni Yagodovsky, Director of International Relations for Magen David Adom



The State of Israel Discussion for Parents of 3rd-12th graders and for CBS High School students with the CBS Clergy



CBS High 4-session mini-intensive "How to be a Jewish Teen Today" co-taught by Rabbi Melman and Rabbi Chapman (open to all teens 8th-12th grade)

HAZAK (programming for 55+)

3

Lunch and Learn Programs:

WWII Radio Hour with 67 participants

The Crime of the Century with 73 participants

The Buck Stops Here with 52 participants



Mitzvot Committee

9

drivers assisted Congregants with appointments and shopping

10

Shabbat greeters

9

callers chatted with CBS super seniors (90+)

10

disabled Israeli war veterans visit CBS for lunch and tour



- Let There Be Play (5-9 year olds)
- HUGS Sensory Pesach Seder
- YACHAD & Chavurah Groups
- Pickleball Tournament
- Pop-up Classes
- FYC Sukkot Crafternoon
- CBS Community Sukkah Decorating
- Grandparent & Me Holiday Discovery Workshops
- Sing, Spin, & Shine with the Northbrook Park District
- FYC Parents Pre-Pesach L'Chayim
- Shabbaton 2024 for families with children ages birth-10 years old
- End-of-Year Lag B'Omer Celebration

Distinguished Speakers

872

attendees to hear Joyce Vance, former US Attorney, and Neal Katyal, former Acting U.S. Solicitor General in a lively panel discussion

1

scholar-in-residence weekend featuring Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz including **9** different lectures and activities and a large social action component



1037

CBS households

1711

adult members age 26 and over

53% adult females and **47%** adult males

699

Children up to age 26

54

new member households joined our CBS family

35%

new member households have children ages 10 and under



346

Sisterhood members

45

vendors participated in Holiday Boutique

10

delegates from CBS at Women's League International Convention

300

pours of Israeli wine served at Opening Event

80 **NEW**

charcuterie boards created at Latke Charcuterie Board program

363

challahs and honey cakes purchased during *Challahday Challah* sales for Rosh Hashanah

800 **NEW**

hamantaschen made at baking program with 20 yummy flavors

1700

pieces of dessert baked for Passover Kiddushim

22

service leaders for Sisterhood Shabbat



HUGS (Healthy Understanding Growing Spaces)

4

special programs centered around Jewish holidays including Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Purim, and Passover

50

families served for both adult and children members with special needs

20

volunteer committee members

15

members of the Selah Choir made up of members of the Jewish community with special needs





CBS FUN FACTS!

402 hotdogs eaten at
Yom Beth Shalom

33 babies welcomed to the CBS family
(children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren)

505 library books checked out

93 challot given out for Shabbat Birthday
Selahbrate Celebrations!

27 youth received Ramah
camp scholarships

32 travelers participated on the
CBS Civil Rights Journey

250 kugels prepared by dedicated
Sisterhood volunteers

4176 kippot and lace head covers purchased

1226 pounds of tuna served at kiddushim

650 gluten-free brownies made with love

1125 fruit gems gently thrown at
aufruf celebrants

1 JUF Magazine March cover story

13 **NEW**

new YACHAD affinity groups **plus**

2 **NEW**

new Chavurah groups **equals**

100 **NEW**

new CBS friendships!

200

attended Welcome Back Shabbat
dinner

7

Services Under the Sky/Havdalah Under the Stars

NEW

new YACHAD groups for grandparents, canasta,
mah jongg, pickleball, and post-minyan breakfast!



155

Religious School students

434

Mishloach Manot (Purim
baskets) purchased by CBS congregants

60

students participating in *Aleph Champ* program

20

CBS High students

16

Kitah Gimmel (3rd grade) students received siddurim
during the siddur ceremony

20

student Madrichol (teaching assistants in grades 8-12)
working in Religious School

14

kindergarten students welcomed into the Religious
School in the *Chagigat HaGan* ceremony



Community Partners

ADL
The Ark
Catholic Charities
Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema
CHUSY
CJE SeniorLife
The Community Mikvah of the
Conservative Movement
Consulate General of Israel
Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
HIAS
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education
Center
Israel Bonds
IsraelNow

jBaby Chicago
JCC
JCFS
Jewish Grandparents Network
JNF
JUF
Keshet (LGBTQ)
K'ilu
Maot Chitim
Norton & Elaine Sarnoff Center for
Jewish Genetics
The Northbrook Clergy Association
Northbrook Park District
Northbrook Fire & Police
North Suburban YMCA
Ramah Day Camp

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin
Rochelle Zell Jewish High School
Selah Jewish Community Choir
SHALVA
Solomon Schechter Day School
StandWithUs
Tamarisk NorthShore
United Synagogue of Conservative
Judaism
Village of Northbrook
Vitalant
Women's League for Conservative
Judaism
Many, Many Local Area Clergy &
Synagogues

CBS University Adult Education

17

class offerings

275

individual Adult Education learners taking multiple
classes each semester

9 **NEW**

Art of Cantillation Adult Torah Class

32

Bible

26 **NEW**

*Blessing Each New Day: Unlocking the Morning
Service*

63 **NEW**

Book of Esther/Five Megillot

40 **NEW**

Can I Get an Amen

41

Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law Part V

9 **NEW**

Grandparenting

175

Jewish News of the World participants including **10**
students from Tamarisk

37

Midrash

31

Movies with Melman

34 **NEW**

Now (or Maybe Never) Your Jewish Bucket List

54

Tai Chi (together with HAZAK)

21

Talmud in Translation

35 **NEW**

Too Clever by Haf

30 **NEW**

Two Musicals

19 **NEW**

Your Source of Force

19

**פרידענע תלמידים וואס לערנען זיך
יידיש אויף זום**

tsufidene talmidim vos lernin zikh oyf Zoom!

Excited students learning Yiddish on Zoom!

1

film sponsored in the *Chicago Festival of Israeli
Cinema* with discussion following movie



Social Action Committee

- **300** books for *Bernie's Book Bank*
- **\$2800** raised for the *Northfield Food Pantry* from
first ever CBS Pickle Ball Tournament **NEW**
- **450** pounds of food for *The Ark* and *Northfield
Food Pantry*
- **850** pounds of candy for various organizations
- **45** new toys for *Marine Corps Toys for Tots*
- **222** blood donations
- **130** bras collected *For The Girls*
- **193** vases donated for *Inspire through Flowers*

- so many brown paper bags, eyeglasses and pop
tops

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend Collections:

- **204** pairs socks
- **132** hats and gloves
- **112** winter scarves
- **250** hot hand warmers
- **6** pairs thermal undies
- **100** toothbrush/toothpaste
- **80** pouches of *GoGo Squeez* Applesauce
- **45** handmade scarves



Clergy and Staff
Head Rabbi Aaron Melman
Senior Cantor Steven Stoeher
Rabbi David Chapman
Rabbi Emeritus Carl Wolkin z"l
Michael Garlin, Executive Director
Mara Bernstein, Administrative
Assistant
Leann Blue, Director of Jewish Life &
Learning

Maria Catezone, Office Manager
Edgar Chavez, Head of Maintenance
Maria Chavez, Kitchen Manager
Deanne Friedman, Director of
Communications
David Harris, Religious School Assistant
Lauri Holmes, Controllor
Michael Schneider, Director of Youth &
Family Engagement

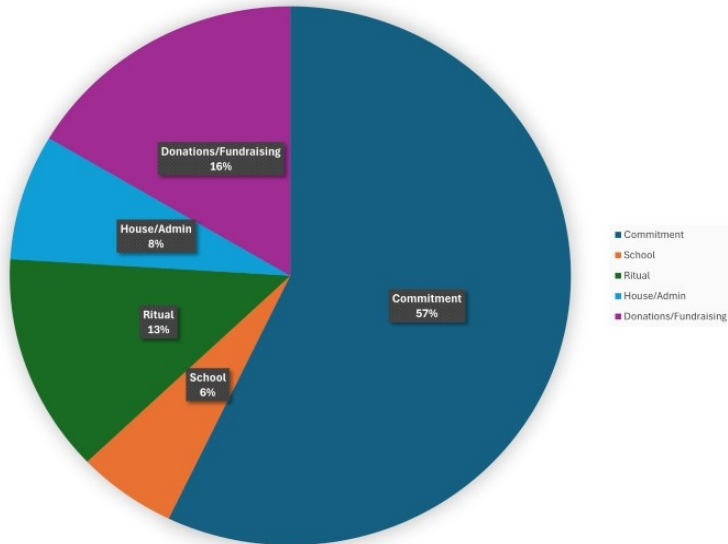
Randi Simon, B'nai Mitzvah & Kiddush
Coordinator
Audrey Taxer, Programming &
Membership Assistant
Stacy Ybarra, Director of Education
Lisa Weisner, Assistant to the Clergy

Photo Credits: Michael Balter, Deanne
Friedman, The JUF Magazine, Robyn
Rosengard, Jackie Zerkowitz

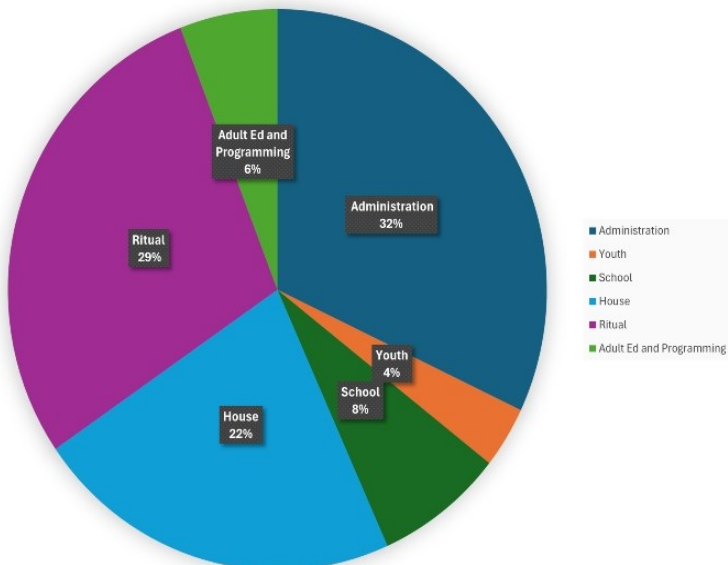
DOLLARS AND CENTS

CBS 2023-2024 Total Operating Budget \$3,200,000

Revenue 2023-24



Expenses 2023-24



\$322,500

donated to 2023 High Holiday appeal

535

gift cards sold through *ShopWithScrip*

\$700

funds raised from gift card program

70

donors generously gave to the *Pay It Forward Membership and Tuition Program*

\$13,500

donated to *Pay It Forward Membership and Tuition Program*

17

Executive Officers

28

Board of Trustees Members

27

Past Presidents

1 NEW

Strategic Plan with six areas of focus and 27 action items

65

hours of Executive/Board of Trustees meetings

15

volunteer committees

42

hours of committee meetings monthly



CBS Live Stream

10,700

individual viewers

910

hours watched via live stream

2907

individual viewers **High Holidays 5784/2023**

502

Zoom meetings and classes

4500

participants via Zoom

240,732

total minutes participated via Zoom

35,300

new CBS website visitors

#1

most frequently visited website page - Live Streaming

237

followers on Instagram, a **27%** increase

1291

Facebook followers, **2%** living in Israel

110

mobile app units downloaded to smart phones and tablets



Congregation Beth Shalom's Mission Statement

We seek to enrich the lives of our congregation through ever-evolving ideals of observance, life-long learning, and acts of kindness from this generation to the next.

We are committed to meeting the spiritual, educational and social needs of our members through the practice of Conservative Judaism in an all-inclusive manner.

We seek to encourage involvement and create a sense of belonging by serving our community, the Jewish people, and the State of Israel.