

Congregation Beth Shalom
Annual Committee Reports 2021-2022
Annual Meeting
May 16, 2022

Membership Report
Sue Lampert, Membership VP

The Membership Committee welcomed new committee members this year, who contributed new ideas, perspectives and opportunities to engage our CBS family, with member onboarding, as well as integrating existing members, so they can find lifelong community at CBS.

The season began with our Luau themed and our “CBS at the Movies” themed Services Under the Sky events, focused on our young families and on recruiting prospective families. Yom Beth Shalom provided a long-awaited and well needed opportunity to open our doors and Welcome Home our CBS community with lunch, treats, fun and games. Sukkot at Home provided an opportunity for members to open their sukkahs, virtually, along with musical entertainment and shared recipes. Membership gifted and delivered Purim Baskets to 12 new member families and 3 (potential) prospective families. All were joyfully surprised and appreciative of the mitzvah. Thank you to Stacy and the School Board for the Mishloach Manot program.

YACHAD Affinity Groups are going strong, enhancing personal connections and engaging our members with one another. We have placed 99 members in 11 groups and continue to launch new groups, with new interests, creating many new friendships within our CBS family. We look forward to continued interest and placement as CBS is open and we have an even greater ability to connect our congregants and learn their interests.

CBS Connections continues to provide a casual, comfortable, and fun environment for our congregants to connect personally and professionally, leading to new friendships, and new professional business development.

We welcomed 30 new families to CBS this year, of various demographics. Additionally, through personal calls, we persuaded some pandemic drops to rejoin. As of April 2022, we have 1044 member households (includes 59 households of age 90+, newlyweds and staff). These numbers reflect a steep pandemic loss combined with a decrease in the number of new families joining each year. This decline is unfortunately consistent with the 2020 JUF Chicago Population Study revealing that currently, only 26% of Jewish households belong to a synagogue. However, optimistically, the study also shows that Jewish households on the North Shore have increased by 25% from 2010 to 2020. What a wonderful challenge and opportunity to embrace and entice this demographic into our community.

The Membership Committee has developed and looks forward to implementing the **CBS First Year Experience**, an onboarding program to welcome and engage new members by providing “touches” from many branches of the synagogue, to integrate them into our community. Personal invitations to events, honors at Shabbat services, recognition, phone calls, gifts, and more will be coordinated with the Clergy, Sisterhood, Mens Club, Ritual, Youth and Young Family Engagement. Further, we have developed a new protocol to learn more about our members, their families, their interests and their needs in order to invite and include them in the many programs, services, classes and spectrum of opportunities provided at CBS. Additionally, we are planning a full schedule next year, including a New Member Dinner, New Member Sukkah at Clergy Homes, a Family Chanukah Party Concert, Movie Nights, Wine Tasting Havdalah and more. Thank you to Michael Garlin’s for his creativity and coordination.

In my second year as Membership Vice President, I look forward to continuing to build on our initiatives focused on growth and strengthening member engagement. I want to thank the impassioned, enthusiastic volunteers, lay leaders and professional staff whose support, dedication, creativity and commitment made this year a success: Scott Bosley, Lisa Dembo, Hillary Elkins, Annie Goldman, Wes Nissen, Karyn Liss, Jill Olefsky, Lori Shapiro, Dan Sher and Alyssa Weisbach, Leann Blue, Lisa Orlov and Michael Garlin.

House Report

Ray Rokni, House VP

This report details the accomplishments of the CBS House Committee for the 2021-2022 year.

Thanks to the guidance and direction of the CBS Covid Medical Task Force, CBS remained open to our congregants during much of this calendar year. The Covid-19 pandemic created the necessity for a hybrid approach to our operations and management of our building infrastructure. In addition, many planned upgrades, along with some of the maintenance efforts, have been delayed. This has helped with managing our budget during this yet again difficult year. In fact, in comparison to 2018-19 (the last non-epidemic year wherein the House expenses were over \$561K) as of March this 2021-22 fiscal year, House expenses have totaled \$347K.

The House committee, assisted by our Executive Director, has many responsibilities, and we have engaged and completed numerous concurrent projects. These are outlined below. We also established projects that have greatly improved our streaming services and are now in the process of upgrading the CBS monument signs.

I am very grateful to both Michael Garlin and his predecessor, Sue Karlinsky, for their steady hands in managing the day-to-day administrative, maintenance, and upgrade needs for Beth Shalom, and for always providing us with clear and detailed financial information. I must also thank Maria and our CBS staff members for coordinating with on-site workers and for assisting with our special projects.

There are also many CBS members who assist our House committee with their expertise in the areas of security, IT, signage, insurance, and our parsonages-just to name a few.

This year, we have engaged and completed several projects:

- A very successful High Holiday experience including multiple services which were broadcast from CBS with over 1800 participants.
- We are pleased that the Little Ones Preschool has maintained an active preschool within CBS for 2021-22 calendar year.
- We are fortunate in that CBS was awarded a FEMA grant of \$95K for the funding of the following three projects for which we have already obtained environmental approval to implement:
 - o Continue Clear Guard window film project
 - o Blue Light police call boxes with speakers throughout the building
 - o Funding for professional security services
- The upgraded video and audio streaming service were made operational during summer of 2021 and was used for the 2021 high holiday services. This upgraded system with a 3-camera system in the main sanctuary provides many advanced audio and video services to benefit our congregants. We continue to work with our service providers and an equipment maintenance team to improve the overall quality of the streaming services.
- CBS has engaged a contractor in the design and replacement of the monument sign that is located on Walters Ave. The new sign will feature the CBS official logo. We are grateful for the generous donation of \$10K from Sisterhood toward this project. This project will continue with the replacement of the CBS sign on the entrance of the building.
- We completed the relocation of 400 plaques from the Moseson Alcove and the Feather Beit Midrash to a new Memorial Plaque Display location on the western wall of the Marian Renee Saltzberg Library. These plaques are designated Plaques in Perpetuity meaning the plaque is not associated with a Beth Shalom member and/or no one is receiving a yahrzeit notice for the plaque.
- The front entrance system was upgraded and is now on the wifi network, allowing CBS staff and clergy to provide remote approval of those seeking entry to our building.
- The CBS parking lot sealcoating was completed before the 2021 High Holidays.

- CBS has responded to a summons by the Village of Northbrook and is in the process of relocating our handicap parking spots with posted signage.
- Routine roof inspections and cleaning have been completed. In addition, our HVAC vendor is maintaining the roof and makes repairs as needed to vents/equipment platforms, etc.
- HVAC upgrade of heating blower completed.
- Repairs made to rusted ductwork of RTU on the roof of CBS.
- One of CBS freezers was replaced.
- CBS welkin cooler AC failed and was replaced.
- Upgrade of two Switches which will increase bandwidth throughout the CBS building.
- Repairs to Fire Pump was completed (a major upgrade to the older system), addressing false alarm calls.
- Sump pump and backup sump pump were replaced.
- This winter was harsh – frozen pipes were replaced.
- Landscaping contracts with Shelly Landscaping were extended.
- A snow removal contract was awarded for 2 years.
- Window washing was completed by the CBS maintenance team.
- Completed Review of Building Asset Maintenance and replacement reserve – we have ample funding reserves in the CBS building fund and have allocated Hineynu investments.

Parsonages:

- Cantor Stoehr – front porch wood finished - fencing repair completed - refrigerator was replaced-kitchen plumbing work completed including water damage repair and indoor/outdoor waterproofing improvements.
- Rabbi Melman - ventilation work in the attic was completed - custom 6-bay front window replaced - outdoor and indoor minor paint work completed.
- Rabbi Ferratier– sprinkler system repair completed - mailbox replaced - preparations have begun for Rabbi Chapman's arrival

Many thanks to the fantastic members of the CBS House Committee. This is a tremendous team with many years of dedicated service devoted to maintaining, beautifying, and upgrading our beloved synagogue:

Raymond Rokni – VP

Michael Garlin – ED and security

Susan Karlinsky – Financial & IT

Laura Shulman, Past VP of House

Harold Dembo - parsonages

Judy Balter - decorating

Rick Dissen - facility planning; long-range planning

Jerry Edelman - electrical
Judy Greenman-decorating
Ellen Grossman - museum
Arlen Lasinsky – incoming House VP - parking lot
Jill Olefsky - landscaping, donor recognition; catering
Darlene Padnos - donor recognition, yahrzeit boards
Norm Padnos – legal & contract
Neil Rosengard – IT and signage
Ari Footlik – IT and cyber security
Seth Schrank – IT and cyber security
Howard Sigal – insurance and contracts/price analysis
Steven Elisco - parking lot, building
Bill Weinstein – maintenance - security

Ritual Report

Bill Shulman, Ritual VP

The High Holiday services were very successful. With the congregation's health being of the utmost importance, the decision was made to have services in-person. In order to do this, services were staggered with an earlier and later service, so that social distancing could be maintained. The livestream was also available. The clergy worked incredibly hard to create a meaningful service, shortening it some, but maintaining the halacha. When Wood Oaks School informed us that we could not hold services there due to health mandates, the clergy and staff were able to pivot in an incredible fashion. Services were held in the Youth Lounge, and Rabbi Ferratier's multi-generational service was meaningful and well received. A hearty Yasher Koach to all who were involved in making the holidays as special as they were.

Simchat Torah was a joy to behold, with the congregation able to come together in a way we had not for a year and half. The celebration was able to be held outside so more people felt comfortable joining in. Families showed up in great numbers and it was really a wonderful event.

With COVID having kept people apart at important times, a Community Shiva was held for people to come together and remember loved ones lost during the year and have the support of friends and family that may have been missed due to the pandemic. This was a very meaningful event to all who participated.

The Ritual Committee as always participated as Ambassadors on Shabbat and holidays. They also had very important input into the decisions in our search for an Assistant Rabbi.

We have scheduled the B'nai Mitzvah for the 2024-2025 year.

School Report

Robyn Rosengard, School VP

This school year was another year of firsts as we navigated students having the opportunity to be in-person and/or online. There were 175 students in kindergarten through 7th grade and 25 students in our CBS High program. Our 6th and 7th grades met on Shabbat mornings instead of Sundays this year with the 6th grade combining with the Mechina program and taught by our B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, Randi Simon.

Our Hebrew program, Aleph Champ, continued to be a positive tool to help our students learn to read. Our 3rd grade far exceeded our expectations and earned a pizza party for their efforts. Three of our 3rd graders completed the entire Aleph Champ Program this year! Aleph Champ was taught in group in-person classes as well as individual on-line classes.

This school year also included many special activities such as:

- 7th grade had a field trips to the Illinois Holocaust Museum.
- 7th grade had a guest teacher, Mark Gelfeld, teach the Holocaust Echoes and Reflections Curriculum
- During the *Siddur* Ceremony, 22 third graders received their own *siddurim*.
- Our 7th grade assisted in leading minyan on Tuesday nights and created "Minyan Minion" t-shirts.
- Ten kindergarteners celebrated their Chagigat HaGan with a ceremony and oneg.
- Our 6th Grade/Mechina class assisted leading the Torah Service during one Shabbat morning.
- Our 5th graders led a Friday Night Shabbat Service and enjoyed a class dinner afterwards.
- Our 4th graders helped lead a special ShabbaTONE Friday Night Service and enjoyed a community dinner afterwards.
- Our 1st grade created a Shabbat Kit and had a special presentation by Cantor Stoehr.

Our calendar and registration are out for next year. We will be offering group classes in-person and individual classes both on-line and in-person. We have a new tiered pricing system for the upcoming year.

Men's Club Report

Steve Lessman, Andrew Wagner Co-Presidents

The 2021-2022 year for the CBS Men's Club had a great start with a terrific ending to the Steve Elisco's Presidency. In June, the FJMC held its biannual convention virtually due to the continued pandemic. Our Men's Club was awarded five Gold Torch Awards as well as the Gold Torch award for Overall Programming!! Based on those accomplishments, Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club is considered to be the best Men's Club in the FJMC!!! Quite an accomplishment.

We celebrated with an installation dinner inside Congregation Beth Shalom with over 50 enjoying dinner together for the first time in over a year.

Our opening dinner, which coincided with Sukkot, was celebrated under the skies in the sukkah with over 60 men enjoying a Steak Dinner with guest speaker, sports personality David Schuster, sharing some great sports stories with the group.

Membership

We finished the year with 358 Paid Men's Club Members. We continue to be the largest Club in the region and one of the largest clubs in the country.

Sunday Breakfasts and Israel In Depth

Our year began under the safe guidance of our Medical Task Force due to COVID. We held meetings safely in the building and included Zoom options for those who wished to be at home. Masks were worn at all times inside the building. Due to the school needing to use additional space in the building to accommodate proper social distancing on Sundays, we were moved to the Wintergarden for all Sunday breakfasts including breakfasts for Israel in Depth. We were able to accommodate around 40 maximum for each meal.

We had four speakers for Breakfast and sponsored five Israel in Depth programs. We had nice turnouts for our first two breakfast speakers which featured WBBM Radio's Pat Cassidy and CBS's own Dr. Stephen Zaacks. Israel in Depth participants had breakfast in the Wintergarden then moved to the Sanctuary for the actual presentation due to spacing.

Towards the end of the year, the Omicron variant appeared and shut down all in person meetings, so we went back to Zoom for all activities. We held Sunday morning events on Zoom which included Jonathan Eig speaking about his book, *Ali: A Life*. We also had Judge Robert Gordon speak on his favorite subject, Jewish athletes, which was very interesting. As the new variant slowed down we went back to breakfast for Israel in Depth and finished our Sunday in person breakfasts with a great speaker, Bill Cameron. We also had a special Sunday breakfast at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center reintroducing our Yellow Candle program with donations going to the Opportunity Scholarship Fund at the museum. This last

event coincided with Yom Hashoah where yellow candles were sent out to every member of the congregation, and over \$8500 was raised in donations.

Erev Thanksgiving: November 24, 2021

Our yearly tradition of giving families the night off from cooking the night before Thanksgiving returned. Around 150 kids and adults gathered for dinner prepared by the Men's Club and entertainment from the world-renowned Jesse White Tumblers.

World Wide Wrap: February 13, 2022

The Men's Club was one of over 200 congregations across the world to participate in the World Wide Wrap in conjunction with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. The tradition of wrapping tefillin, combined with an amazing educational program by Cantor Stoehr, was a memorable experience.

Lox Box: March 6, 2022

We continued our tradition in bringing people the area's biggest and best gourmet bagel brunch right to your home on Sunday morning. This was our 27th year and 19th year of providing food to those less fortunate through The ARK and Council for Jewish Elderly, respectively. Additionally, over 40 first responder stations were presented lox boxes to thank them for their importance service to our communities. Through donations, over 700 boxes were donated to the ARK and CJE. This year, we sold over 1460 boxes!!!

Men's Club Shabbat: March 19, 2022

After a two-year gap, we were proud to bring Men's Club Shabbat back to the Kamensky Sanctuary. Thirty-seven members volunteered for parts to help create a beautiful Shabbat service. We were proud to honor our 2022 Kavod Award honoree, Lawrence LeVine. Our 2022 FJMC Man of the Year, Richard Kurnick^{z1} was also honored with an Aliyah by his mother and brother. Kiddush lunch returned following services which was missed and enjoyed by all, including a Men's Club L'Chayim.

Lastly, we could not have done all of the events and participated in CBS events without the guidance, ingenuity, and participation of our membership, board, and past presidents. We have to single out our 2021-2022 Executive Board:

Executive Vice-President	Bob Goldwin
Vice-President Ways and Means	Donald Pike
Vice-President Programming	Lawrence LeVine
Vice-President Ritual	Alan Wernick
Vice-President Membership	David Sokolovsky
Vice-President House	Gary Solomon
Treasurer	Howard Freidin

Financial Secretary Jim Hamilton
Recording Secretary Ron Rabinowitz
Corresponding Secretary David Lasky

We look forward to continued successes, involvement, and time together in the upcoming year and the future. Chazak v'Amatz!

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lessman and Andrew Wagner

Sisterhood Report
Jackie Zelkowitz, President

I am so pleased to report that Sisterhood had a great year! We returned to in person participation and continued to offer our events through Zoom so that anyone wanting to participate had the opportunity to do so.

Sisterhood had 574 paid members this year.

Our programming highlights for the year include:

- Sisterhood welcomed 24 new members with Shalom Bags during ticket pickup.
- Our members began the New Year sending L'Shana Tova Greetings.
- Our Judaica Shop sold 205 challahs and 75 honey cakes for Rosh Hashanah. The Judaica Shop was open by appointment and available for online shopping through our website.
- Susan Abrams, the Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center gave an outstanding presentation at our Opening Luncheon.
- Sisterhood members supported *Find Your Fabulosity*, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, which gives lipsticks to women who are victims of domestic violence.
- We joined the Men's Club to enjoy the New Traditions Chorus followed by Interactive Game Show Trivia.
- Author Fern Schumer Chapman discussed her most recent book, *Brothers, Sisters, Strangers: Sibling Estrangement and the Road to Reconciliation* facilitated by Judy Levin.
- Sisterhood members made donations to CJE SeniorLife in honor of our members who serve as caregivers for their families.

- The Annual Holiday Boutique was a great success. With 31 vendors, it was nice to be back in person. We had constant traffic throughout the day. In addition, our Judaica Shop saw record sales.
- Sisterhood delivered 240 Chanukah bags to the religious school and 50 bags to the ARK.
- Over 100 people attended Sisterhood Shabbat which was back to in person this year. Twenty of our members led the service. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. Sisterhood gave to go boxes of cookies.
- This year, CBS Knits donated more than 50 items to the ARK. In addition to knitting for the ARK, the committee is working on knitting weather blankets, afghans, baby items, toddler jackets, scarves and hats that will be shipped through a relief agency for Ukrainians who are in exile.
- Author Roberta Rosenthal Kwall spoke about her latest book, *Remix Judaism: Preserving Tradition in a Diverse World*.
- The Jan Blum Memorial Game Event was back in person. We played Mah Jongg, Canasta and Bridge.
- JTS Cantorial Student Josh Ehrlich was outstanding at our annual Torah Fund Event. This year is Torah Fund's 80th Anniversary. Each year, Sisterhood supports Torah Fund. I am proud to report that we are very close to reaching our goal of \$12,000.00.
- Edwards Florist of Northbrook led our Crafts Night at CBS. They taught us how to arrange gorgeous flowers into wonderful centerpieces. We had 32 members that attended in person, and 8 joined us by Zoom.
- Sisterhood virtually toured the Illinois Holocaust Museum's Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement exhibit.
- The Mitzvot Committee was busy this year. In addition to being available to drive anyone who needs a ride or to help someone who suffered a loss, the Committee delivered around 60 Mishloach Manot Purim baskets. The Committee members are also a welcoming presence as greeters to our congregants for Shabbat Services.
- We were back in the kitchen baking for Pesach for four in-person Kiddushim.
- Sisterhood joined CBS Social Action and the Religious School for Mitzvah Day. We worked on projects with the Religious School students and collected a variety of products that Border Tails Rescue of Northbrook regularly uses.
- Shabbat Kiddushim are back as well. To keep everyone safe during COVID, our members have volunteered to help plate the desserts and help serve the food each week.

Our charitable giving and donations this year included:

- \$10,000.00 to CBS towards general operating funds
- \$500.00 to the Religious School
- \$500.00 to USY

- \$500.00 to Camp Ramah
- \$100.00 to Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism
- \$300.00 to the Mikvah
- \$500 to the CBS Library

Our Culminating/Installation/Valued Volunteer Dinner will bring the 2021-2022 calendar year to a close. I am excited to announce that this year Sisterhood will honor Maria Catezone as our valued volunteer for all of her time and devotion to Sisterhood. We will also install our new Sisterhood Board. A lot of new members will join the board next year, which really shows the vitality and diversity of our Sisterhood and the Congregation. I look forward to working closely with Elana Schrank who will follow me as our next Sisterhood President in 2023-2024.

It really takes a village to bring all of these programs, which truly add to the diverse tapestry that is Congregation Beth Shalom. We could not do it without the hard work, dedication, leadership, love and devotion of the following people, whom I wish to thank:

My entire Sisterhood Board for all their help, guidance, and patience through my first year as Sisterhood President. We could not have accomplished all of this without each of you:

Executive Committee

Jody Sigal/Education VP
 Darlene Padnos/House VP
 Sally Blitt/Membership VP
 Debbie Hamilton Program VP
 Diana Lewis/Ways and Means VP
 Frannie Goldwin/Secretary
 Elana Schrank/Financial Secretary
 Karen Rosenthal/Treasurer
 Robyn Rosengard/Parliamentarian

Board of Directors

Suzanne Minkus and Sheri Smason/Adult Education
 Sandy Falkin/Chanukah Bags
 Marti Sinton/CJE SeniorLife
 Fern Roseman/Mitzvot Committee
 Roz Mokhtarian and Elissa Pelts/Sisterhood Shabbat
 Jodi Joffe and Teri Robins/Social Action
 Matty Shechtman/Torah Fund
 Claudy Thompson/Kugel
 Robin Bright/Pesach Kiddushism
 Missy Rabinowitz/Serving Coordinator

Pauline Gimbel/Membership Admin
Cece Lasinsky/Membership Recorder
Lori Glen/Shalom Bags
Jill Roter/Volunteer Coordinator
Debbie Bell/Author Event Coordinator
Edna Schrank/Communications Coordinator
Lori Shapiro and Meryl Weis/ Event Decor
Maureen Gold/Knitting Group
Stacy Gordon/Program Coordinator
Leatte Gelfeld/Anniversary Grams/Leagrams
Leatte Gelfeld and Robyn Rosengard/Boutique Chairs
Ellen Grossman, Sara Weinstein and Andy Widen/Jan Blum Memorial
Game Event
Donna Fox, Diana Lewis and Darlene Padnos/Judaica Shop Managers

Marjorie Maxwell/Judaica Shop Bookkeeper
Randi Starkston/New Year's Greetings
Suzy Hakimian/Simcha Shop

Board Members at Large

Linda Gold
Jill Hartzman
Rita Janowitz
Cindy Marder
Lisa Rosengard
Beth Sher
Julie Warshawsky

- Rabbi Melman, Rabbi Ferratier and Cantor Stoehr for your spiritual guidance, support and participation in our programs.
- Dr. Bob Spector, and the Board of Trustees, as well as Michael Garlin and Susan Karlinsky for their support.
- Men's Club Presidents Steve Lessman and Dr. Andy Wagner, for their support this past year. It is such a pleasure working with you to bring our groups together to support CBS.
- The entire CBS staff for their help. A special thank you to Maria Catezone for your continued help with Sisterhood.
- Edna Schrank and Deanne Friedman for making sure our promotional materials are creative and timely.

Youth Report

Seth Schrank, Youth VP

As we have begun to move out from the pandemic, the Youth Department has continued to evolve our programming. We have returned to in person programming with our weekly lounge nights.

- We have provided over 30 programs for the Youth of CBS
- On average, we have had 21 people attending our programming. Both new USYers, getting their first taste of in person USY programming, and Seniors who are saying goodbye to their friends.
- Our SATO (Social Action / Tikken Olum) programming has thrived, completing over 67 books for donation to Bernie's Book Bank and assembling over 200 kits for Paws for Patrick.

We capped the year off with being awarded CHUSY's Chapter of the Year Award for the well-rounded programming offered and significant efforts of our USYers, both on the board and members at large.

Two thank yous are in order:

- Eric Golberg – while he left CBS mid-year, he helped to build the USY Board that lead our chapter in programming and communication. We thank Eric for his years with CBS.
- Melissa Kaplan – now celebrating over 15 years of working with the CBS USY chapter, Melissa has worked closely with the USYers this year as the USY advisor. The program would not have been possible without Melissa's tireless involvement and support throughout the programming year.

Programming Report

Randy Samborn, Programming VP

We had a very busy and meaningful year in Programming and CBS U/Adult Education. We are looking forward to even more dynamic programming and bringing the congregation and community back together in-person in 2022-23! Save the date: Thursday, September 8, when we will welcome a live, in-person recording of the popular *Tablet Magazine* podcast *Unorthodox*, hosted by **Mark Oppenheimer**, **Stephanie Butnick**, and **Liel Leibovitz**, as Distinguished Speakers.

We started the year on Thursday, July 22, with **Distinguished Speaker, Daniel Silva**, discussing his latest book, *The Cellist*, on Zoom. He was joined by his wife, CNN Special Correspondent **Jamie Gangel**. We had 673 screens log-in from all over the U.S., Canada, and a few other countries. That equates to well over 900 viewers.

During Sukkot, we organized **Sukkot @ Home** on Saturday, September 25. We celebrated an evening of entertainment with our friend, **Kenny**

Lyonswright of Jewish Rock Radio. Since COVID did not allow large gatherings, we tried something different... sort of a “reverse” sukkah hop. We often go to our clergy or staff sukkahs, but this year we encouraged everyone to have small gatherings in their own sukkahs, their homes, or their yards. We then sent five clergy, staff, and our CBS Membership VP on surprise visits to some of those locations. Everyone had a great time. Seventy-nine screens logged-in to the event.

On Thursday, October 14, we welcomed **Amy Spitalnick**, Executive Director of **Integrity First For America**, and former **U.S. Sen. Doug Jones** as **Distinguished Speakers**. They engaged us in a critical conversation exploring the path from the violent extremist and white supremacist attack in Charlottesville, Va., to the U.S. Capitol and beyond, and how to hold those extremists accountable starting with IFA’s successful Charlottesville lawsuit that went to trial in late October and November. IFA logged 243 screens (roughly 500 people) from all over the country for this compelling discussion.

On Tuesday, November 25, we hosted the **Chanukah Happening to “Publicize the Miracle”** of Chanukah. The in-person event included a communal candle lighting, singing with the **Sela choir**, decorating windows by drawing on them with glass pens, creating luminarias, and enjoying sufganiyot and hot chocolate. Approximately 175 children and adults attended the event.

Megillah Mania was on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. We welcomed special guests **Ari Lesser**, spoken word artist, and his wife, **Emunah Almansoori**. During the morning, we welcomed Emunah as she told her personal story of her journey from the UAE to the U.S., and from Islam to Judaism. There were 10 people in person, 33 unique viewers on live stream, and 19 screens on Zoom. That evening we welcomed Ari Lesser before and during our Megillah reading. There were 60-70 congregants in the room and 125 unique viewers on live stream. We also tried something new this year – making dinner available during the Megillah reading.

HAZAK had one program this year and co-sponsored one year-long class. On Wednesday, September 1, **HAZAK** welcomed **Alan Steiner** for a fast-paced and interactive journey into the life, travels, and travails of a professional bassist. Seven people attended in person and 19 screens tuned in via live stream. In addition, **HAZAK** is a co-sponsor of our weekly **Tai Chi** class. Special thanks to **Diane Hornstein** and **Cindy Marder**, HAZAK co-chairs, for their leadership and creativity during these challenging times.

On the **CBS U/Adult Education** front, we were proud to offer 17 extremely varied classes from summer 2021 – spring 2022 ... including:

(Classes highlighted in yellow denote new classes since last year's report)

Kabbalah 2 – 19 registered
Captive Maidens and Gallant Knights – 15 registered
Israel in Depth – 136 registered
Stories of the Talmud – 18 registered
Coming Out of Hibernation – 16 registered
Beginning Yiddish – 16 registered
Parshat HaShavua with Cantor Stoehr and 8 of his friends – 82 registered
Jewish News of the World – 164 registered
Talmud in Translation – 64 registered
Tai Chi Co-Sponsored by **HAZAK** – 40 registered
Everything Old Is New Again – 69 registered
Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law Part III – 39 Lawyers and other interested learners (special thanks to Sue Lampert for once again coordinating the CLE portion of this class and for all her input and recruitment!)
Is Satan Real? – 41 registered (as of 5/1)
There's a Psalm for That – 29 registered (as of 5/1)
You KNEAD This Class – 59 registered (as of 5/1)

Once again, we utilized teachers from around the U.S. and the world to teach our students. **Cantor Stoehr** had eight friends join us for **Parshat Hashavua**—some local and some from around the country. We were taught by **Lady Hillary Pomeroy** of London, England, (**Captive Maidens and Gallant Knights**) and **Cantor Victor Geigner** of Buenos Aires, Argentina, (**Kabbala II** and **Is Satan Real?**)

Special thanks to all of our teachers/leaders: Rabbi Aaron Melman, Rabbi Warner Ferratier, Cantor Steven Stoehr and friends (Rabbi Amy Wallk, Pastor Thomas Stovall, Michael Zaransky, Rabbi Lauren Tuchman, Cindy Preston, Rabbi Ari Averbach, Jan Williams and Len Rubin), Carl Schrag, Gela Altman, Cheryl Banks, Edna Schrank, Judy Wolkin, Lady Hillary Pomeroy, Victor Geigner, and Allison Deputy.

Finally, a special thanks to members of the Programming Committee: **Ellen Grossman, Diana Lewis, Leslie Rogoff, Jill Roter, Lisa Dembo, Tami Rokni**, and past member **Adrienne Varhulla**. And a very special thanks to **Lisa Orlov** for her support, and most especially to **Leann Blue**, CBS Director of Jewish Life and Learning, without whom these wonderful programs and classes would not exist.

Fundraising Report
Howard Sigal, Fundraising VP

Fundraising Committee was given the responsibility of raising about \$15,000 towards the operating budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year. We await the results of our 2022 FUNdraiser recognizing our Covid-19 Task Force Doctors next week, but we are pleased to announce that we have already met our goal and more.

A strong Yasher Koach to Dr. Lee Shulman who generously continues to donate the proceeds of his Foreskins for Philanthropy program to CBS, netting \$19,700.00 from his many Brit Milah celebrations.

The ongoing Congregation Beth Shalom gift card program netted \$1,600.00 so far this year, providing an easy way to raise funds for CBS. As we are able to see people in the building and also out shopping more, we will continue to encourage more congregants to participate as the program nets the congregation between 2.5% and 15% for doing what comes naturally, shopping and giving gifts and costs the purchaser only the face value of the gift card.

In addition, we have received \$5,162.00 from various other programs, including but not limited to these:

Misc. donations Microgrant	\$2,000.00	Jewish Funders Tech
President's Tailgate Brunch	\$1,200.00	
Amazon Smile	\$354.00	
Zelda's (holiday food commissions)	\$10.00	
Credit Card rewards (Visa & Costco)	\$1,235.00	

As of the date this report is written, we have put together a wonderful congregation-wide celebration recognizing our Covid-19 Task Force and just as importantly, marking a fun, in-person event for the entire congregation. We anticipate about 200 or so congregants signed up, and we also have a beautiful tribute book—thanks to our sponsors and all who have RSVP'ed. We are excited about the event and a return to our Social Hall for many of you. Thanks to the many registrants, sponsors, Tribute Book and Raffle contributors and we look forward to seeing you all at the event.

Many thanks to the fundraising event committee members who have tirelessly worked on this event: Beth Sher, Mitch Padnos, Neil and Robyn Rosengard, Diana and Maury Lewis, Darlene and Norman Padnos, Bobbi Simkin, and Jody Sigal for their continuous support of this event. Thanks to other members of the committee as well for their thoughts and advice over the past several years.

I also need to thank Michael Garlin, Susan Karlinsky and Deanne Friedman for their dedication, responsiveness and ongoing involvement and advice).

I continue to be overwhelmed and proud of our Congregation's response, and truly appreciate the amazing Fundraising Committee members who have given of their time and labor to make the major fundraising program the success I believe it will be. They deserve all of our thanks—if you see them, please do thank them.

As I have noted before, raising money for something you believe in is a joy, and we have a precious commodity for our members and our community. Raising money to support our essential programs and services is an honor.

I have enjoyed working with my friends and committee members and know that Ellen Grossman will be in good hands moving forward.

Thanks, Howard Sigal

Social Action Report **Suzy Hakimian, Social Action VP**

In yet another year of dealing with the uncertainty of a pandemic, and how each day brings a new set of challenges, one thing has remained constant and without falter; the commitment of our community and our outstanding volunteers to continue to make our world a better and kinder place. They quietly, and without fanfare, do so very much. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few individuals and their teams for all their efforts. As it says in Pirkei Avot “the day is short, and the work is great....” These individuals go up and beyond!

Thank you to:

- Fern Roseman and your team on the Mitzvah Committee for your work with the Northfield Food Pantry and various projects throughout the year such as making wellness phone calls, driving folks to doctor visits, and all the kind acts that go unmentioned that you all just do because it's the right thing to do.
- Leatte Gelfeld and her team for their work with Hunger Free Northbrook, quietly providing food for children who are food insufficient in our area.
- Tami Rokni and her team supporting our refugee family.
- Sara Weinstein for her tireless work with PADS.
- Merrill Medansky and her dedicated team of shoppers for the ARK.
- Steve Elisco, your efforts on the blood drive are incredible and each drive is more successful than the last.
- Jackie Zelkowitz and Sisterhood, Robyn Rosengard and School Board, along with all the professional staff who worked so hard to make Mitzvah Day so successful and meaningful for our Religious School children.
- Jill Olefsky, Jill and Harold LeVine, Lawrence LeVine and their team for all their hard work collecting, boxing, and delivering POUNDS of candies to so

many organizations this past fall. Jill, your efforts didn't stop there either! You are all things Social Action. You are endlessly researching, collecting, delivering, and doing the right things for all those in need in our community and beyond.

- To all those who brought in bras, eye glasses, canned food, candy, lipsticks, pet supplies, pop tops, books, old cell phones, brown paper bags, gave funds for tornado relief and especially now to Ukraine, and donated their time to all the projects above..... Thank YOU!

Special thank you also needs to go to Susan Karlinsky for her passion and tireless support of Social Action and all the various projects at Beth Shalom.

As I have said all year, Together we CAN do GREAT things!

Finance

Cheryl Braude, Howard Freidin

To be presented at annual meeting

Nominating Committee's Slated Officers and Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022

Executive Committee

President- Dr. Bob Spector

Fundraising VP- Ellen Grossman*

House VP- Arlen Lasinsky*

Membership VP- Susan Lampert

Programming VP- Randy Samborn

Ritual VP- Bill Shulman

Religious School VP- Robyn Rosengard

Social Action VP- Suzy Hakimian

Youth VP- Seth Schrank

Administrative Secretary- Linda Foster

Treasurer- Cheryl Braude

Financial Secretary- Howard Freidin

Accounts Receivable- Ray Rokni*

Mens Club President- Steve Lessman

Sisterhood President- Jackie Zelkowitz

IPP- Tanya Solomon

Board of Trustees

1. Judy Balter
2. Harold Dembo
3. Rick Dissen

4. Jim Donenberg
5. Steven Elisco
6. Hillary Elkins
7. Ari Footlik
8. Annie Goldman
9. Bob Goldwin*
10. Andy Lebovitz
11. Sandee Levin*
12. Diana Lewis
13. Bret Maxwell
14. Marjorie Maxwell
15. Roz Mokhtarian
16. Amy Offenbach
17. Jill Olefsky*
18. Mitch Padnos*
19. Leslie Rogoff
20. Fern Roseman*
21. Neil Rosengard
22. Edna Schrank
23. Lani Schrank*
24. Dr. Alan Shapiro
25. Brad Shaps
26. Howard Sigal*
27. Dan Sher
28. Laura Shulman
29. Jay Silver
30. Charlotte Stern
31. Dr. Andy Wagner
32. Alyssa Weisbach
33. Sara Weinstein
34. Adam Weinstock
35. Alan Zelkowitz

Thank you for your service on the BOT

1. Wes Nissen
2. Karyn Liss
3. Jill Roter

***Denotes new to this position for 2022-2023 year**

Respectfully submitted by the 2022 Nominating Committee:

Suzy Hakimian

Diana Lewis

Neil Rosengard

Seth Schrank

Tanya Solomon- Chair and Immediate Past President

Dr. Andy Wagner- Men's Club Co-President

Jackie Zelkowitz- Sisterhood President

Dr. Rachel Laven

Tami Rokni

Randy Samborn

Dr. Bob Spector- President