

Congregation Beth Shalom
Annual Committee Reports 2024-2025
Annual Meeting
May 19, 2025

House Report
Scott Rogoff, VP

This written report details the accomplishments of the Congregation Beth Shalom ("CBS") House Committee for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The House Committee, assisted by our Executive Director, has many responsibilities, and we have engaged and completed numerous projects this past fiscal year. These projects are outlined below.

Michael Garlin has been integral in managing day-to-day needs, including, but not limited to the administrative, maintenance and ongoing repairs for CBS. A big thank you needs to be directed to Maria Catezone and our CBS staff members for coordinating with on-site workers and many other duties and responsibilities. A huge thank you to our Head of Maintenance Edgar Chavez, as his experience, dedication and hard work is second to none. Edgar and his team (Eduardo, Gabriel, Abraham, Eric and Maria) help keep CBS safe, clean and as always, a special place in always making it feel like our second home.

There are also many CBS members who assist the House Committee with their expertise, including, but not limited to, security, information technology, telephone systems, electrical, insurance, and general knowledge of many issues that arise during the year. The CBS House Committee Members are recognized below.

This year, we have engaged in and completed several projects (listed in no particular order):

- Replaced a water heater in the school;
- Completed the landscaping below the sign in front of the synagogue;
- Installed new speakers for our sound system thanks to a generous donation;
- Repaired the generator;
- Received a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's Nonprofit Security Grant Program, to be used for the front door entry system and security personnel, camera, and bollards;
- As part of the synagogue's strategic plan, the House Committee is exploring new and innovative ways to use portions of the synagogue and to project capital expenditures. We have made a wish list of future projects for better utilization of the indoor space of the synagogue and prioritized the uses as either short term or long term projects;
- Repaired the roof over Dickler Hall.

Parsonages:

- 3538 River Falls - Replaced the bow window.
- 3505 River Falls - Repaired water seepage, window well, basement window, new sump pump system to remediate the water intrusion in the property.

- 1712 Longvalley - New microwave, repaired oven, chimney repair, repaired leakage in basement with a new drain tile system;

Many thanks to all of the selfless and dedicated members of the CBS House Committee, providing many years of experience, being comprised of many past House Committee Vice-Presidents. They are a devoted group of people that spend many hours to make sure our synagogue and parsonages are properly maintained:

Scott Rogoff	Vice-President
Arlen Lasinsky	Past Vice-President of House
Michael Garlin	Executive Director
Lauri Holmes	Financial
Laura Shulman	Financial
Harold Dembo	Member at Large
Judy Balter	Decorating
Rick Dissen	Facility Planning; Long-Range Planning
Jerry Edelman	Electrical
Judy Greenman	Decorating
Ellen Grossman	Museum
Jill Olefsky	Landscaping, Donor Recognition; Catering
Darlene Padnos	Donor Recognition, Yehzeit Boards
Norm Padnos	Legal and Contract
Neil Rosengard	Parsonage management
Ari Footlik	Information Technology and Cyber Security
Seth Schrank	Information Technology and Cyber Security
Howard Sigal	Insurance and Contracts, Price Analysis
Steven Elisco	Building and Building Codes
Bill Weinstein	Maintenance and Security
Joel Schwartz	Member at Large
Andy Lebovitz	Member at Large

Programming Report
Steve Zaacks, VP

The past year was an exciting, educational, and productive year of programming at CBS. Although Leann Blue retired after many wonderful years, we still continued to see growth and creativity, with increased participation by all age groups in a variety of programs. Importantly, Audrey Taxer really took the initiative in Leann’s absence and allowed us to move forward successfully in so many areas.

We were fortunate to have two great speakers for our Distinguished Speaker Series this past year. In December, Jonathan Eig, winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for biographies, discussed his book King: A Life, the story of MLK and the civil rights movement; there were about 300 attendees. In early April, Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti -Defamation League, spoke

at CBS about the challenges facing Jewish communities around the world in fighting antisemitism after October 7th; there were over 500 in attendance and more than 200 livestreaming.

Additional programming included:

- The Scholars in Residence Program in mid-February, organized by Cantor Stoehr and featuring Cantors Brian Mayer and Lynn Torgove.
- Israel in Depth : 4 programs in conjunction with Men's Club with over 300 attendees in person/Zoom
- How Can We Mark the One-Year Anniversary of October 7th
- "Full Right Wing" - A Look at Israel's Most Right-Wing Government Ever
- Portraits of Resilience: Israel Grieves - and Looks to the Future
- Exploring Israel's Supreme Court

HAZAK programs:

- From Krakow to Krypton - featuring Arie Kaplan, graphic novelist
- Tu B'Shevat Program - featuring Maureen Christine
- Yom Ha Atzmaut Program

In October, Salsa in the Sukkah had 60 participants who created their own salsa, and learned to dance salsa! Our Prayer for the French Republic, matinee performance at Northlight Theater, still to come in May.

Adult Ed - CBS offered 15 classes, 6 of them new. There were over 500 hours of Jewish Learning, to almost 400 participating adults, including:

- Elul the Art of Start Again
- Five Megillot
- I Heard it in the Catskills
- Beginning Hebrew
- Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law (CLE credit for attorneys) – our 6th year
- Jewish News
- Judy's Kitchen
- L'chaim - for our Families with Young Children
- The Peaceful Grandparent Project in conjunction with Orot
- Sippurei Musica taught by Cantor Ben Tisser
- Source of Force Show me a Sign taught by Cantor Victor Geigner
- Prayer for the French Republic prior to going to seeing the play
- Tai Chi - sponsored by HAZAK
- Talmud
- Intermediate Yiddish - in conjunction with Chicago Loop Synagogue

Most importantly, a special thank you to all of our teachers, board volunteers and leaders, especially Rabbi Chapman, Cantor Stoehr, and Michael Garlin for their commitment to outstanding programming at CBS.

I would like to personally thank the Programming Committee of Randy Samborn, Ellen Grossman, Diana Lewis, Leslie Rogoff, Jill Roter, Lisa Dembo, Tami Rokni, Michael Stern, Howard Sigal, Andrea Grouper, Laura Green, and Debbie Bell.

Fundraising Report

Brad Shaps, VP

Fundraising had a busy and productive year.

- We introduced Circle of Giving and already have 20 members. We raised \$71,000 from these families that was not allocated to other revenue sources.
- Our Purim Spiel was a success. Approximately 300 people attended the event, and we raised over \$23,000.
- We raised another \$21,000 thanks to Lee Shulman's Foreskins for Philanthropy initiative.
- We raised in excess of \$10,000 in general fund donations.
- We began raising funds for our Jewish After School Program (JASA) now known as Club Spark.
- We initiated a stewardship program holding 3 events for members of Circle of Giving.

We have several more events planned for the last quarter of the fiscal year. We will also plan an event for legacy and Hineynu donors. We have begun working on our Legacy Campaign and will have a major focus on legacy gifts for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

School Report

Charlotte Stern, VP

This School year has gone by way too fast. There were 148 Students in kindergarten through 7th grade and 22 Students in our CBS High Program. Our 6th and 7th graders continued to meet on Shabbat mornings instead of Sundays. The 6th grade combined with the Mechina program and was taught by our B'nai mitzvah coordinator, Randi Simon. We also had 11 Madrichol that worked in our Religious School classrooms. Our staff participated in training and consistently provided feedback to ensure that our program continually adapted to the needs of our students and families. Our Hebrew program, Aleph Champ, continued to be a positive tool to help our students read. It is a Hebrew level program as opposed to a grade level program; students work at their own pace regardless of grade level. As students pass out of Aleph Champ they move into Reading Groups which focus on the *kevah* and *kavannah* of the prayers. There were 63 students in the Aleph Champ Hebrew program.

This school year also included many special activities such as:

- A hands-on Tashlich family program between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

- Two Special Shabbat Editions of Religious School. On these two weekends, our K-5th grades met on Shabbat instead of on Sunday. During the first one in November, the focus was on the weekly parashah, Bereishit and the second one in April, focused on the counting of the Omer. Both days included Shabbat friendly crafts, culinary creations (projects with food) and age appropriate tefilah.
- 10 Kindergartners were welcomed into the school during the Chagigat Hagan Ceremony
- 23 Gimmel (3rd Grade) students received Siddurim during the Siddur Ceremony
- 4th Grade joined Cantor Stoehr to lead a Friday night Shabbatone service
- K-2nd lead a special Friday night service.

This year for our high school students, we offered a college credit class through American Jewish University. The class was on Israel and students from Beth Shalom, Moriah and NSSBE attended as part of our CBS High program. We had 19 students in this program. We will continue the collaboration with AJU next year and offer a different class.

Our Calendar and registration for next year are both available on the website.

It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and dedicated group of people. I would like to thank all of the people on my committee and of course Stacy Ybarra for a wonderful productive year.

Membership Report

Jackie Zelkowitz, VP

The Membership Committee has been working diligently to increase membership, assimilate new families, and serve our vastly diverse membership. We continued to work to make new member families feel welcome at Beth Shalom. We are proud of all of our events, including our Welcome Back Shabbat Dinner, which had over 250 people attending. We also hosted three Coffee/Havdalah events: Comedy, Trivia, and Swing. These events brought over 100 people. Save the date of June 1st at 6:00 p.m. for our Spring into Summer Shavuot Dinner followed by a festival service.

Our Yachad and Chavurah Groups have continued to flourish, with increased participation, organizing new Yachad and Chavurah Groups on an ongoing basis. We have launched additional groups this year – Our Adult Grandparents Group, Friends of Israel, and a Theater Group, while still offering Pickleball, Morning Minyan Breakfast Groups, Women’s Groups and Co-Ed Groups for members to connect.

Canasta and Mah Jongg groups are playing weekly at CBS and are continuing to grow with members. We are offering lessons in both. We currently have three Chavurah groups and are working on putting together more. If you have not joined a Yachad or Chavurah Group, I would encourage you to do so. We have connected so many CBS members. Please visit our Yachad/Chavurah bethshalomnb.org/connect/committees/affinity-groups or contact MembershipVP@BethShalomNB.org

During the summer months, we worked with the Ritual Committee to host Services Under the Sky and Havdalah Services – welcoming new members and potential new members. We worked with Young Families attending Ark Adventures, Let There Be Play, and Young Family events. We found that the majority of our new members and potential new members attend these programs. Our committee members are at Kiddushim every Shabbat and at other CBS events. We have been focusing on introducing new members to help them meet and assimilate into CBS. If you have not met one of us, please look for us when you are at services or at CBS events. Jill Olefsky has been reaching out to our new members and scheduling them to read the Prayer for Peace during Shabbat Services. Our new members have been introduced to the congregation by the clergy. Talia Block and Jill Olefsky have been working on sending birthday cards to children in the Religious School and Day School.

Membership is working on a membership drive to help drive new members to CBS. We did a small drive on April 3rd during the program with Jonathan Greenblatt. We hope to continue to expand all connections and outreach in the coming year. Our growth is exciting! This year, we welcomed 51 new families [with new families continuing to join]. We now have close to 1,000 member households. If you have friends or family who may be interested in joining the CBS family, please let us know, and we can reach out to introduce them to the congregation.

Thank you to Michael Garlin, Audrey Taxer, and the entire CBS staff for all your ideas and guidance this past year. Maria Catezone, thank you for your dedication at CBS and for always helping in the planning of our events. Thank you to Maria Gutierrez and Edgar Chavez and their staff for all of their help with our CBS events making sure everything is beautiful and runs smoothly. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the Membership VP. I truly enjoyed connecting with our members. I look forward to working with Edna Schrank, our new Membership VP, who will bring her great ideas as we work on our continued growth of CBS. Finally, I would like to thank the committee members:

Emilie Berman	Dmitry Polyakov
Monica Birnbaum	Joyce Rabinowitz
Talia Block	Leslie Rogoff
Scott Bosley	Neil Rosengard
Robin Bright	Robyn Rosengard
Lisa Dembo	Jill Roter
Hillary Elkins	Edna Schrank
Linda Foster	Lori Shapiro
Jammie Gold	Marti Sinton
Annie Goldman	Dan Sher
Ellen Grossman	Michael Stern
Suzy Hakimian	Sara Weinstein
Jill Hartzman	Alyssa Weisbach
Wes Nissen	Cary Wolovich
Jill Olefsky	Alan Zerkowitz
Mitch Padnos	

Social Action

Robyn Rosengard VP

It is with great appreciation to each and everyone of you who volunteer and those who made contributions. This was a great year for doing good. I would like to thank the following individuals who took the lead on Social Action Projects:

- Steven Elisco- The amazing Blood Drive chairperson. Every year Steven coordinates 3 Major blood drives and he also keeps track of all of the individual blood donations made under our Synagogue Account. Without his extra effort this would not be possible.
- Leatte Gelfeld for taking the lead on Hunger Free Northbrook, providing bags of nutritious food each month for food-insecure children in our local elementary schools. This provides lunches on weekends for the kids. CBS volunteers provide 15-20 bags a month. Leatte coordinates with the School Principals, and the donations are done very privately for the families in District 28.
- Sara Weinstein is our Pads winner! She has organized volunteers and delivers freshly made food and pantry staples to Pads.
- Fern Roseman- she heads up the Synagogue's effort to support the Northfield Food pantry.
- Suzy Hakimian for chairing Good Deeds Day! Everyone had a great time on April 6th, 2025. Lots of things were being done, Sharsheret bags and cards for the IDF and Suzy took them to Israel when she went with Schechter. These are just to name a few things we did at Good Deeds day.
- Cheryl Braude for orchestrating the Celebration Bags program for The Ark.
- Jill Olefsky for the many projects you always take on. You are truly a Social Action Star.
- Edna Schrank, thanks for your expert editing skills and creativity in helping to create the informational flyers for all of the programs throughout the year.

I want a special shout out to my amazing committee without you none of this would be possible. Thank you, Jill Olefsky, Edna Schrank, Cheryl Braude, Fern Roseman, Steve Elisco, Annie Goldman, Tina Cantrell, Sara Weinstein, Laura Green, Suzy Hakimian, and Michael Garlin. Together we have accomplished so much and have proven that many hands make easy work.

Thank you to everyone who brought lots of brown bags, eyeglasses, pop tops, food for both pantries, ARK and new this year we have also added Chessed of Chicago to our mix for donations. candy, winter clothes, bras, and Toys For Tots. In conjunction with the Synagogue's Strategic Plan, we continue to collaborate with other arms of the synagogue to incorporate social action activities into the regular programs.

Thank you to the Congregation, for the honor of serving as Social Action VP for these past two years. Thank you to the Clergy for your great ideas and unwavering support. As always,

thanks to the Board of Trustees for your support and participation. I really enjoyed my time. Now I will pass the torch to our next Social Action VP, Andy Lebovitz.

Ritual Report

Steve Lessman, Ritual VP

Ritual, under the direction of Senior Rabbi David Chapman and Senior Cantor Steve Stoehr, had a great resurgence this year. With new direction from our clergy, the Ritual Committee has been meeting and working on wonderful initiatives, providing meaningful to the overall synagogue in the months ahead. We are all excited to welcome our new Assistant Rabbi, Rabbi Jacki Honig, in July to join our clergy team. The Ritual Committee is very excited to welcome her and work with her in the months ahead.

In May, the B'nai Mitzvahs were assigned for the 2027-2028 year. We continued our concept of creating a "reveal" event, along with dinner, and a Hollywood Themed red carpet. The children walked down the red carpet, and were handed an envelope revealing their date, to open in front of everyone present. After the child opened their envelope, party poppers were opened and streamers flew in the room with the child sharing their date, the Hebrew date and the Parsha they will be studying. Pictures were taken, the clergy dressed in tuxedos, Randi Simon was in her formal black gown and the room was fully decorated to fit the theme. Congratulations to the clergy, Randi Simon and Stacy Ybarra for continuing with an inspiring way to share the special date.

I would like to thank all of the B'nai Mitzvah parents for assisting as Ambassadors during Sabbath Services and with Kiddush on Saturday. I also want to thank the Ritual Committee and the Board of Trustees for assisting as Ambassadors for Saturday services and Holidays. Last but not least, a big thank you to the Executive Committee for opening the Synagogue on Sunday nights to make sure we have an evening minyan. Attendance at daily minyans were a bit challenging this year and we continue to encourage meetings at synagogue to start with minyan or break for minyan. We are now sending yahrzeits notices two weeks in advance (not a month in advance), so families can remember to attend minyan to honor their loved ones. Going forward, we will only change morning minyan from 7:45am to 8:45am on seven national holidays, in efforts to increase morning minyan on those days.

Finally, as I complete my second year as Ritual Vice President, I have many people to thank. First, thanks to my family, especially my wife Ann, for her understanding for me to be at CBS many nights every week. I thank the Nominating Committee for allowing me the huge honor and opportunity to represent CBS as Vice President of Ritual. For those of you who don't know, when I joined Congregation Beth Shalom in 1973, over 50 Years ago, I wore the Red Yarmulke proudly, connoting being a member of the Ritual Committee in those days. Having the honor to be the Ritual Vice President was very important to me as a long-standing member of Congregation Beth Shalom. I leave this position in good hands as Jill Olefsky, last year's Neilah Honoree, takes over as Ritual VP. This will be Jill's second time at Ritual VP, having done so over 20 years ago. I wish Jill much good luck in continuing the strong traditions of CBS Ritual and will always be available to serve and to assist.

Youth Report

Anat Pissetsky, Director of Youth

The Youth Committee had a truly remarkable year, guided by a passionate and dynamic group of individuals. Our committee brings together a diverse cross-section of our community, ranging from parents of toddlers to parents of teens, which has enabled us to approach youth programming with depth, insight, and inclusivity.

This year's committee members include: Rachel Laven, Carly Sear, Jeremy Elkins, Zhanna Plotkin, Lauren Stein, Justin Kaplan, Roz Mokhtarian, Jill Hartzman, Bekah Almeleh, and Shira Rozgovich. I'm deeply grateful to each of them for their unwavering commitment, thoughtful engagement, and enthusiasm. Meeting bi-monthly, we had rich, thoughtful discussions centered around one essential goal: meeting the diverse and evolving needs of our youth community.

Entering the 2024-2025 calendar year amidst significant change, our committee prioritized programming that both encouraged family involvement and allowed children to connect independently with their peers and Jewish identity. Guided by community feedback, we developed and delivered a wide range of meaningful, inclusive, and joyful experiences across the calendar year.

Summer Programs:

- Family Shabbat Experience: Littles and Bigs
- Services Under the Sky
- Tots in the Park
- *Shabbat Sha-Home

Fall/Winter Programs:

- Yom Beth Shalom
- *Unity in Our Community and Ben Tartar Program
- College Care Packages
- High Holiday FYC services at the Leisure Center
- Yom Kippur Youth Mincha
- Social Action Feed My Starving Children
- Shine Chanukah Program with the NB Park District
- *Parallel Family Program

Spring Programs:

- Movie Night
- NB Cultural Fair
- USY Hamantashen Undernighter
- Purim Carnival
- *Day School Shabbat
- *Yom Iyyun 2nd Day of Pesach
- USY Midwest Convention

- FYC Shabbaton

Year-Round Programs:

- Ark Adventures
- Let There Be Play
- Shabbat with a Twist
- FYC Shabbat Experience
- *Camp Shira: Family Shabbat
- Pre-Shabbat Learning and L'Chaim
- Family Shabbat Services
- Weekly USY Lounge Nights
- Chaverim (3rd-5th grade) and Gesher (6th-8th grade) Programs

*Denotes New Programs at CBS this year

Goals for 2025-2026 Calendar Year:

A key area of growth this year has been our programming for 1st through 5th graders, where we've seen strong engagement and enthusiasm. We aim to build on this momentum to ensure every age group experiences the same depth and vibrancy in our programming. To maximize our impact, the committee organized into subcommittees focused on individual events. This structure allowed us to plan more intentionally and ensure each program received the attention it deserved.

Teen engagement remains a top priority. With major transitions in USCJ this past year, our teens have shown great adaptability, but continued support is essential. We are committed to nurturing this group - offering stability, connection, and meaningful Jewish experiences - which is needed more than ever in such a challenging time in the world.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Rabbi Chapman, whose steadfast support and inspiring leadership continues to guide our work. His active presence at meetings and events, and thoughtful contributions have pushed us to dream bigger and aim higher. The growing number of families attending each program is a testament to his dedication to fostering a vibrant young Jewish community. We are proud of all we've accomplished together this year—and even more excited about what lies ahead.

Sisterhood Report

Elana Schrank, President

Sisterhood - Every skilled woman put her hand to spinning, and they bought the spun yard of sky-blue wool, dark red wool, crimson wool, and fine linen. -Exodus 35:25

In the book of Exodus, Israelites were focused on building the Mishkan, the portable tabernacle that was the physical manifestation of God's presence on earth. Everyone participated in the erecting and adorning of the Mishkan, with skilled women bringing

beautifully crafted textile offerings as described above. I like to imagine this scene- the Israelites wandering in a barren desert, and the women working together to bring stunning colors and textures to the structure.

One of the most profound moments of my sisterhood presidency came when 12 former Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Presidents met for a beautiful lunch. We spoke in depth about each of our presidency, the challenges of the time, and just how much our congregation - and by extension our sisterhood- has changed and grown. Each of these women contributed to the positive change and growth through hard work, creativity, and by engaging other women in the work of Sisterhood. They each went above and beyond for our community - thinking of ways they could enhance the profile of our sisterhood.

While those women spanned the last 30 years or so, it gives me great joy to think about the generations of women who came before who also held pivotal leadership roles in the Jewish Community, all the way back to the women who contributed to the building of the Mishkan. *And just like the women of CBS Sisterhood today, they didn't merely just complete the task that was given to them, they enhanced the mitzvah, bringing a rainbow of wool and the finest linen.*

This metaphor aptly describes our year in CBS Sisterhood and the legacy that we hope the 2024-2025 leadership team leaves. We looked for ways to enhance, elevate, and beautify all that we had done before. We re-thought programs like Sisterhood Shabbat to engage more of our members, we used our Torah Fund Fundraiser as a meaningful singing experience, we looked for new products for our Judaica shop and experimented with different business hours to reach more customers. Our programming continued to engage with female entrepreneurs within our community, from our boutique to our several arts-focused events. I'm simply thrilled with our creativity, and I had so much fun in both leading this group and also being a participant in all of the amazing programs we offered.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be Sisterhood's President for the last two years- to work with an amazing team of women to intentionally elevate everything we did in order to enhance the beauty, experiences, and connections of our synagogue community. Recapping all of sisterhood's accomplishments for the 2024-2025 year draws out many areas we've raised the bar for ourselves and our community and highlights the hard work so many people have put into Sisterhood. Apologies in advance, as the vastness of this list likely means I've inadvertently overlooked a contribution:

Membership:

- Who would we be without our members? We held strong on our membership numbers this year, ending the year with about 544 paid members. We continued to engage with new and prospective members, as well as veterans of our organization!
- We hand-delivered welcome bags to all new members of CBS sisterhood to make personal connections and share some swag with them!
- The profile of CBS Sisterhood continues to rise regionally and nationally, as we had strategic planning conversations with three other Sisterhood leaders this year to

discuss how their affiliates could replicate some of the success we are having around attracting a multi-generational membership.

Programming: We had another incredible year for our Sisterhood Programming

- We tried something new by holding an event over the summer. Israel Artist Nicole Friedman led a workshop for about 60 women, teaching us how to make beautiful resin trays to be used for everything from Challah Boards to jewellery holders.
- Our opening event, Tacos and Tequilla, welcomed our new leadership team and set the tone for a tremendous year. Faith Bugay from Keep the Faith catering not only prepared and served some incredible Mexican-inspired food and out-of-this-world margaritas, but also shared her advice for hosting festive meals with everyone
- For Chanukah, we partnered with our friends in Men's Club to throw an unforgettable "Vodka and Latkes" party for the community. From festive outfits to creative cocktails, those who attended felt the warmth of the holiday (or maybe it was just the vodka).
- In March, Abby Maeir, a local Deerfield Judaica artist, led a workshop on making fused glass mezuzah. Everyone made something beautiful and unique, and we look forward to hanging them up in our homes.
- We will end the year with a beautiful culminating dinner to honor the work of the current board and welcome in our new leadership team. We will welcome CBS Member Erica Shaps and Khitam Abu Bader, a leader in Israel's Bedouin community. They will discuss female empowerment, engagement, and entrepreneurship in the Bedouin community.

Education:

- Sisterhood's biggest educational event is Torah Fund, a fundraising initiative from Women's League for Conservative Judaism to raise funds for all of the Conservative Seminaries across the globe. This year, Rabbi Jonathan Bubis, CBS member and School Rabbi of Schechter, led us in a beautiful evening of song, teaching us many beautiful niggunim and new melodies.
- We set a goal of raising \$11,000 for Torah Fund, and have already surpassed that goal, raising over \$11,500.
- We assembled and distributed Hanukkah gift bags to all members of the Beth Shalom religious school as well as donated many to the Ark.
- In a few weeks, we will purchase and deliver lunch to residents of a CJE senior home, brightening the days of the residents and caregiving team!
- Next week, we will hold our Annual Sisterhood Shabbat. We will have many women participate in both Hebrew and English Parts, as well as some women giving short dvrei torah on what Shabbat has meant to them.

Fundraising:

- We kicked off the year by raising funds through our New Years Greeting Fundraiser. Similarly, our monthly Anniversary/Leagrams continue to bring in funds for our affiliate.
- We sold Challah and Marble Cake through the Judaica shop for Rosh Hashanah. We loved the opportunity to make everyone's New Year a little sweeter!

- The Holiday Boutique was fantastic as always! We raised a significant amount of money for Sisterhood, and our Judaica Shop had a banner day! The vendors who participated back in November are already gearing up for next year!
- Our Judaica Shop had another wonderful year! Opening every Sunday, as well as during many synagogue events, the volunteer-led Judaica Shop is hands-down the best in the area. We have a new cadre of leaders running the Shop, and they've ordered many new items to reach different types of customers.
- The Jan Blum Memorial Games Day not only raised money for Ovarian Cancer Research but also paid tribute to the memory of our friend Jan Blum. Everyone had a great time playing Mah Jongg and Canasta, and honoring Jan's memory.

House:

- Our House Committee has contributed so positively to CBS! We have prepared hundreds of pans of kugel for our weekly Shabbat kiddushim and organized a crew of volunteers to help with prep and serving.
- For Passover, we took full control over all the baking for all 5 kiddushim over the holiday. Almost 40 volunteers put their heart and souls into everything from Matzah lasagna to Snickerdoodles for these incredible meals. We baked 71 pans of food and 2332 pieces of dessert!

Communication:

- We sent out near weekly emails, posted frequently on social media, and sent out thousands of individual text messages to engage with our members.

Thank you to all of the Women CBS Sisterhood, as well as the CBS Staff for continuing to elevate and reimagine the future of Sisterhood.

Bob Goldwin **Men's Club President**

Wow, I can't believe I am writing this, my 2nd (and most likely final) annual report as the Men's Club President. It has been a tremendous year, and once again it has been my privilege to work with this tremendous group of leaders on the Men's Club Board. I also couldn't work with a better group of clergy: Rabbi Chapman and Cantor Stoehr have been amazing partners, guides and sounding boards for myself and the Men's Club.

Congregation Beth Shalom is guided by Executive Director Michael Garlin and professional staff who make the building function. Thank you for all that you have done this year, your hard work, while much of it may be behind the scenes, does not go unnoticed.

Thank you, Sue Lampert, you have taken the reigns of synagogue President and have lead the Board of Trustees masterfully over the last year. You and the entire Board of Trustees, have been a pleasure to work with.

Thank you to the 2024-2025 Men's Club Executive Committee. Thank you to Lawrence LeVine, Howard Freidin, Ron Rabinowitz, Gary Solomon, David Speigel, Marc Weinstein, Rob Roth, Jonathan Weisbach, Sam Grief, and Mitch Padnos for the amazing, hard work you have put in this final year on the executive committee (for now at least). Like last year, I want to thank Howard Jacob, though not officially on the Executive Committee, he has a "cabinet level position." Howard has the unenviable job of being our digital communication director. This means he must proofread my articles (he is quite the editor), and make sure all of our flyers are properly formatted and ready to go. Trust me when I say, this is not always the easiest task, but Howard always gets it done!!

Though I am not mentioning everyone on the board by name, I want to thank the entire Men's Club Board, it is them, these volunteers who tirelessly work to make the Men's Club and CBS "go." None of them ask for thanks, but I want to say thank you not just for this year, but for my two years as your humble President. One more time, I want to wish a hearty congratulations to our Men's Club FJMC Man of the Year Dr. Jerry Agrest and our Kavod Honoree Gary Solomin, I really can't think of two more deserving individuals.

A quick rehash of the year: The Men's Club always loves providing great food at many different functions and events, including grilling at Yom Beth Shalom, our many varieties of meat at our Breakfast of bangers and mash tailgate in the Sukkah, who can forget our plethora breakfasts, and hot dogs and Israeli food at the Purim Carnival. We enjoyed putting on, what we believe was an amazing Men's Club Shabbat with a fun Cinco de Mayo inspired Kiddush in early May, and not much could be more important than packing up and sending out the Yellow Candles to be used in observance of Yom Hashoah. In early March, we once again put on our tremendously successful Lox Box Fundraiser. What a great event this is, I know we all look forward to our March boxes! While purchasing our own boxes is always fun, donating more than \$20,000 to the ark and CJE and receiving donations of over 110 boxes to first responders is truly inspiring.

This year the Beth Shalom Men's Club was honored to be selected to host the FJMC Midwest Region's Man and Youth of the Year Celebration. Men's Club's from all over the greater Chicago-land area and Milwaukee came to Beth Shalom to present and honor their recipients (we loved honoring Dr. Jerry Agrest and Eve Brown). How can I forget one of the greatest Men's Club annual events, our Erev Thanksgiving extravaganza. This year we welcomed back a fan favorite. The world-famous Jesse White Tumblers came back to Beth Shalom and entertained attendees of all ages. Finally, we aren't done yet, we still have our annual golf outing and closing dinner. The date is set for Thursday June 26th. Remember, as you might see with many of our members (possibly all 387, if they attend) golf skill levels of all games are welcome!! Even though this year of programming is done, we are already working on planning amazing events, breakfasts, and get-togethers for 2025-2026.