

SOCIAL ACTION VP REPORT JANUARY 2026 BY ANDY LEBOVITZ

- Our Cradles To Crayons December/Chanukahpalooza collection was a great success! Thanks to Carly Wallenstein for coordinating this effort! On January 12th, a full box truck of both clothing and school supply kits were picked up at CBS.
- Social Action collected 22 pounds of pop tabs that were then recently dropped at the Northbrook Great Clips to benefit Ronald McDonald House.
- From February 8th until February 12th, Social Action will be coordinating a collection with Bernie's Book Bank. Bring any new and gently used children's books (birth to 6th grade reading level) to bins in the CBS lobby. For questions reach out to Jill Olefsky (jolefsky@aol.com) or Tina Cantrell (tina.cantrell@sbcglobal.net).
- The Ark Chicago needs the following items: Canned Goods, Condiments and Sides, Grains, Household Products, and Personal Care Products. All food must be non-perishable and Kosher. See Cheryl Braude at cherylbraude@gmail.com for more information.
- The Northfield Food Pantry is also in need of food this winter. Specific items needed include: Tea Bags, Plain Pasta (not spaghetti), Brown Rice, and Baking Mixes. Talk to Fern Roseman at grammiefern1@comcast.net for more information.
- Future meetings are all on Sundays in the library conference room on 3/15/26 and 5/3/26. All are welcome to attend; email socialactionvp@bethshalomnb.org

HOUSE VP REPORT JANUARY 2026 BY SCOTT ROGOFF

Carpeting and re-stuffing of chairs in the Sanctuary. A decision was made to table the re-stuffing of the chairs due to financial constraints. We are obtaining updated bids for the carpeting with the goal of installing the carpeting in the Summer of 2026.

CBS building. The computerized system that controlled the HVAC systems crashed and the company that ran and serviced the system sold out a few years ago and the subsequent company sold out again to a new company which discontinued the system as of December 31, 2025. Accordingly, the computer system no longer works and there was no alternative fix so we had to install thermostat and re-wire it all throughout the building to keep the heat going. This was done on an emergency basis. The cost was \$20,000.00.

Long Valley parsonage. The Committee approved a plumbing project to fix the plumbing system and pipes in the parsonage. The cost is \$4260.00. The fence at the house collapsed and we are obtaining quotes to replace the fence.

SCHOOL VP REPORT JANUARY 2026 BY CHARLOTTE STERN

- Trivia at Chanukah Palooza was a lot of fun and a hit with lots of prizes handed out to correct answers to the questions. Thanks to all that helped especially Roz Mokhtarian and Liz Neiberg.
- Grade centered Shabbat dinners are starting with the first on January 30th with the 5th grade. Students will be leading different parts of the service. Dinner menu afterwards is planned by the class.
- Mechina Shabbat will be on January 31st during normal shabbat morning services. Students are leading parts of the service. Families can have an Aliyah and read Torah.
- Chagigat HaGan is on February 1st. Celebration to welcome our kindergarten class. Students will be getting mini torahs and a small celebration will be held after for families.
- The Calendar for 2026-2027 school year was discussed. With chaggim on the weekends we will not have time to have Shabbat editions this coming year.
- We have had about a dozen applications for the director of the religious school search. Preliminary interviews have proceeded and a few will be interviewed by the committee soon.

YOUTH VP REPORT JANUARY 2026 BY ROBYN ROSENGARD

Thank you again to Carly for a wonderful Sunday afternoon for Chanukah Palooza. We had 250 people register. Lots of fun was had by all.

USY

We crammed in a ton of programming over the short time we had together in December before winter break. 3rd through 12th grades had fun celebrating Chanukah and the excitement that comes with the month of Kislev! We ended 2025 with an amazing line-up of programs and can't wait to keep the momentum going in 2026.

December events:

- Dec 4 USY Bracelet Making & Ice Cream Sundaes - We watched Freaky Friday!
- Dec 7 Chaverim's (3rd-5th) Dream Adventure - Kislev/Dream themed activities & lunch - The kids loved it! We made Dream Dolls and talked about the dreams in the Torah & ate Mizrachi. Only downside - 5 kids ended up not coming for different reasons
- Dec 11 USY Executive Board met to plan the next semester of events and strategize ways to raise membership!
- Dec 18 USY Chanukah Cookie Decorating - Super fun and some of our college freshman came back to visit!

January events:

- Jan 11 Geshet (6th-8th) is going to Dave & Buster's in Vernon Hills!
- Jan 15 USY 8th Grade Surprise Party - Renting a party bus to take the USY Board and 8th graders to Graeter's in Northbrook!
- Jan 24 Shabbat Shelanu - a Shabbat service tailored to 3rd-5th graders!
- Jan 29 USY Bubble Soccer in Dickler! (7-9pm)
- Honorable mention: Feb 1 Chaverim (3rd-5th) goes to Nickel City Xtreme in Northbrook!

Young Families

December events were all smooth and well attended. The new Ark Adventures set up has been working great, Let There Be Play was a tad smaller than usual, and Shabbat With A Twist was only on Saturday and ran wonderfully as always. Chanukah Palooza went spectacularly (especially from my end) - the kids loved the make-your-own edible menorahs and the LEGO menorahs.

Our scheduled events for this January:

- Jan 9-10: three Ark Adventures experience
- Jan 10: Let There Be Play
- Jan 18: Shabbat Idea Factory ran by Carly and RDC
- Jan 23: FYC Shabbat Experience Dinner
- Jan 24: Lay-Led Shabbat

- Jan 31: Lay-Led Shabbat
- Mishpacha Memo goes out January 13.

Club Spark Report: Enrollment: We currently have 12 kids enrolled with an average of 3 days a week. The goal by the end of the year is to have 15 kids with an average of 3 days a week. 6 students are members of CBS and 6 are not. Our students cover Kindergarten through 4th grade. We do welcome 5th grade students. Transportation: We are currently picking up at 6 schools with one van. Club Spark starts when the second students get into the van. Everyone has a good time involved in trivia games like guessing what's on top 10 lists and thought-provoking games like "Would you rather?". Daily Schedule: Every day we have a healthy, Kosher snack, enjoy active play indoors or out (weather permitting), have circle time where we share "Hoorays", "Boos", and "Shout Outs" for each other. We discuss the topic of the unit we're on and learn more through a book or video and then questions and discussion. Following circle time, we have a fun activity or art project that further demonstrates and explores the topic. Then we have Hebrew lessons and, if time, free play.

Camp Spark Full Day Program: We had our first full day, Camp Spark. 6 Sparklers joined us. It ran from 8:00 AM-6:00PM, the Monday before Thanksgiving. It was a huge success. We had a bowling field trip, a Thanksgiving theme full of activities and fun. It was a huge success.

Looking towards next school year: We're reviewing this year's expenses, revenue and donations and creating the budget for '26-'27. This will help us pinpoint tuition for next school year along with what discounts we will offer as well as a referral program. '26-'27 registration will go up before February 1. Marketing: The Club Spark Website (club-spark.org) has been updated with photos of our kids vs. stock photos and a place holder page for '26-'27 registration page. Of course, parents can still register for this school year. We are marketing an existing program now vs. an idea. We have developed great relations with school admins. We can and will put flyers in the schools again as well as flyers in some districts' virtual backpacks and take flyers to many family-oriented businesses in Northbrook and Glenview. Once we have '26-'27 registration up we will host a series of Open Houses.

PROGRAMMING VP REPORT JANUARY 2026 BY STEVE ZAACKS

1. Please continue to refer to the CBS website for the full class schedule this year.
2. The programming committee met on January 8th to plan the calendar for the year starting in July.
3. Our **Distinguished Speaker series** continues April 30th, 2026 with 2 speakers coming from Israel: Retired Brigadier General **Amir Avivi**, author of “No Retreat: How to Secure Israel for Generations to Come”, founder of the Israel Defense and Security Forum, and regular commentator on Israeli news programs, will discuss the current security situation in the Middle East and challenges facing Israel. **Avner Avraham**, renowned curator, film producer, weekly broadcaster on Israeli radio, and former Mossad officer, will discuss Operation Finale (The capture of Eichmann), the 50th anniversary of Operation Entebbe hostage rescue, and the recent Operation Grim Beeper in Lebanon.

FUNDRAISING VP REPORT JANUARY 2026 BY BRAD SHAPS

Our annual fundraising event is scheduled for May 17th beginning at 7 pm. There will be a VIP reception for sponsors and members of COG beginning at 6:30. Please save the date and spread the word.

We continue to raise funds for Club Spark. Please contact me if you know of anyone that would be interested in contributing.

If you are interested in discussing a Legacy Gift, please contact Harold Dembo or me.

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT REPORT JANUARY 2026 BY FRANNIE GOLDWIN

- We had nearly 50 attendees at our Sisterhood and Men's Club Program with Sharsheret. Genetic Counselor, Rachel Shapira, a Sharsharet volunteer who also works for Northwestern, shared her personal story including her inspiring journey to the work that she does. She spoke about BRC1 and BRC2 genes, genetic testing related to these and other genes linked to breast and ovarian cancer, and she provided an easy to grasp overview of the multi-faceted role of a genetic counselor. Sharsharet's Regional Director, Sharon Levine, spoke about the wide range of services and supports Sharsharet can provide. A special thank you to Beth Sher for arranging a social action project supporting Sharsharet, which you can still support. Please consider purchasing an item/items from the [BFF Amazon Wish List](#) so Sharsharet can create more **Best Foot Forward** care kits for women undergoing treatment for breast cancer.
- A group of Sisterhood women will be making more than 2 dozen pans of kugel on Thursday February 5 starting at 10:30 am. If you are interested in helping that day, please contact Gloria Weinberg, gloriadenis72@gmail.com. Thank you!
- Our annual *Sisterhood Shabbat* will take place on Friday, February 13, 2026. Services start at 6:00 pm and dinner will follow after services. Registration is now open! Register [for Sisterhood Shabbat 2026](#) today!
- We are having a Creative Arts event on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm. We'll participate in a guided canvas painting class with Rinat Melton. Register for [Mimosas and Masterpieces](#) today!
- Pesach baking will take place the week of March 16. The link to sign up to help will be available soon.
- We will have a cooking demonstration and tasting with Ami from [Ami Shuk to Table](#), on Wednesday, April 15, at 6 pm. Registration will be opening soon.
- Our very own *Pam Schlosberg* is slated to become International President of Women's League for Conservative Judaism for the 2026-2029 term. She will be installed in July 2026 at our International Convention in Virginia. We are so proud of Pam and honored to have her as a member of our Sisterhood!
- Please reach out to me with any questions or suggestions. Thank you! franniegoldwin@gmail.com.