



Annual Committee Reports 2025-2026
Annual Meeting | May 18, 2026

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:

Judy Balter, Harold Dembo, Rick Dissen, Jerry Edelman, Steven Elisco, Ari Footlik, Judy Greenman, Ellen Grossman, Arlen Lasinsky, Andy Lebovitz, Jill Olefsky, Darlene Padnos, Norm Padnos, Neil Rosengard, Seth Schrank, Joel Schwartz, Laura Shulman, Howard Sigal, Bill Weinstein, Michael Garlin, Lauri Holmes.

Programming Report **Steve Zaacks, VP**

The past year was another exciting, educational, and productive year of programming at Congregation Beth Shalom. Audrey Taxer put forward an amazing effort, resulting in increased participation by all age groups in a variety of programs. We also welcomed Carly Wallenstein, who organized several well attended large events in her first year, in addition to her other leadership roles at CBS. Big thank you to both and much appreciation for their work.

In the fall, we had a JUF sponsored BeAware program led by Dan Godsel, Security Director of JUF in Chicago. The goal was to educate members about things we can all do on a daily basis in order that we can all safely participate in Jewish life in our own communities. At the end of April, the Distinguished Speakers Program continues with Avner Avraham and Amir Avivi, two experts in Israeli security. Avner is a world-renowned lecturer, journalist, and curator specializing in Israel's most daring and successful international intelligence missions. Amir is a frequent commentator and strategic advisor on the October 7 war and its aftermath, and founder and chairman of Israel's Defense and Security Forum (IDSF), a leading organization of senior Israeli security and defense professionals.

Sukkahfest in October drew strong participation and included dinner, projects, and learning with the clergy. **Chanukah Palooza** in December included bingo, trivia, menorah building, and social action projects for all ages. **Havdalah, Coffee and Israel Night** in January was a warm and entertaining night at CBS to interrupt winter in mid-January.

This year has been a vibrant and inspiring time for Adult Education at CBS. There were 22 different classes, including 11 brand-new topics, with learning opportunities available five days a week. In total, more than 500 students participated, reflecting the strength and

enthusiasm of our learning community. The Hazak Lunch and Learn series also thrived, with three engaging sessions attracting 100 participants—and counting. We also enriched our community's understanding through three "Israel in Depth" programs led by Carl Schrag.

Most importantly, a special thank you to all of our teachers, board volunteers and leaders, especially Rabbi Chapman, Cantor Stoehr, Rabbi Honig, 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, Debbie Bell, and Debbie Hamilton.

It has been an honor to represent the Programming Committee these past two years and know that we will be in good hands as Scott Rogoff takes over in the upcoming year.

Fundraising Report

Brad Shaps, VP

Fundraising had a busy and productive year.

- Circle of Giving continued for a second year. We have 21 members and total Circle of Giving contributions totaled \$150,000.
- Our Fundraiser was May 17. A special thank you to Scott Rogoff for chairing the fundraising event. The event sold out with more than 500 individuals attending. We are still calculating the final amount raised but the amount collected from ticket sales and sponsorships exceeded \$40,000.
- Thank you to Lee Shulman for his continued Brit Milah donations. For the 12 month period ending March 31, 2026 donations exceeded \$33,000.
- In addition, for the period ending March 31, 2026 we raised \$137,000 in donations to restricted funds.
- We continued to raise money for our Club Spark program and now have commitments for all the funds needed to receive the matching grant from JASA.
- We continued our stewardship program holding numerous events for the members of Circle of Giving. We have an event planned for June at Cantor Stoehr's home. A special thank you to Jill Olefsky, Debbie Solomon, and Jacke Zelkowitz for all of the efforts coordinating the stewardship events.

Thank you to the entire Fundraising Committee: Judy Balter, Michael Balter, Harold Dembo, Leatte Gelfeld, Ellen Grossman, Larry Grossman, Lawrence Levine, Diana Lewis, Hannah Mackler, Brian Miller, Jill Olefsky, Leslie Rogoff, Scott Rogoff, Ray Rokni, Brett Rottman, Glen Roter, Beth Sher, Dan Sher, Debbie Solomon, Jackie Zelkowitz.

School Report

Charlotte Stern, VP

This past school year was productive, educational, and full of meaningful growth.. Enrollment increased by 20 students, bringing our total to 168 students in kindergarten through 7th grade, along with 11 students in our CBS High Program, which focused on Jewish cooking this year.

Our 6th and 7th grade students continued meeting on Shabbat mornings rather than Sundays. The 6th grade remained integrated with the Mechina program and was taught by our B'nai Mitzvah coordinator, Randi Simon. We were also fortunate to have 19 Madrichol supporting our Religious School classrooms.

Our Hebrew program, Aleph Champ, remained an effective tool for building reading skills. As a level based rather than grade based program, it allows students to progress at their own pace. Once students complete Aleph Champ, they move into reading groups, which focus on the keva and kavannah of prayer. This year, 70 students participated in the Aleph Champ program.

In early February, we experienced a leadership transition when Stacy Ybarra resigned. Carly Wallenstein stepped in to lead the school through the remainder of the year. We are currently conducting an active search for a new Religious School director.

This year also featured many special activities, including:

- A student only Tashlich program held outdoors, featuring four activity stations, songs, and snacks.
- Two special Shabbat editions of Religious School for grades K–5, during which students met on Shabbat instead of Sunday. These sessions included Shabbat friendly crafts, culinary projects, and age appropriate tefilah, culminating in students reciting concluding prayers in the main sanctuary.
- Welcoming 27 kindergartners during the Chagigat HaGan ceremony, our largest kindergarten class in many years.
- Presentation of siddurim to 29 third grade (Gimmel) students during the Siddur Ceremony.
- Five grade centered Shabbat services and dinners, with a total attendance of 480 participants.

Our calendar and registration information for the coming year are now available on the website.

It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and dedicated group of individuals. I would like to thank my committee members and especially Carly Wallenstein for a productive and successful year.

Membership Report

Edna Schrank, VP

We are very happy to report that we have welcomed 69 new families into our Congregation Beth Shalom Community.

The breakdown of our synagogue members by category are as follows:

Household (2 adults age 40+) children up to age 29	390
Senior Household (2 adults age 68+) last year for this category	202
Junior Household (2 adults ages 35-39 with or without children)	46
Young Family Household (2 adults ages 30-34 w/wo children)	48
Individual Household (1 adult age 40+ w/wo children)	97
Senior Individual (68+) last year for this category	165
Junior Household Individual (1 adult ages 35-39 w/wo children)	4
Young household Individual (1 adult ages 30-34 w/wo children)	3
Honorary (Long term member 20+ years-out of state/ill/care facility)	44
Newlywed	9
Staff	3
Total Households	986
Total Individual Members	3305

We have a very active Chavurah/Yachad community:

Yachad Affinity Groups	8
Active Chavurah Groups	3

Canasta, Mah Jongg, Pickleball, Post Morning Minyan Breakfast Group, Women's Schmooze, Senior Schmooze, Adult Grandparents Group, and Theatre Group.

We hosted our Welcome Back Dinner during Yom Beth Shalom and 16 new families attended with a total of 325 adults and 75 children aged 0-8

We were very active in the summer hosting 3 Friday Night Shabbats, Services Under the Sky, for Young Families and Adults. We hosted 2 Havdalah/Coffee Events. We hosted our first Pesach Dinner during Chol HaMoed 122 adults and 47 children attended. We are looking for a wonderful and successful year in 2026-27.

Social Action

Andy Lebovitz, VP

This year, the Social Action Committee supported several valuable causes by donating a wide range of items such as toiletries, bras, eyeglasses, pop tops, food, winter coats, books, and vases, working with the following organizations:

- The Northfield Food Pantry
- The Ark
- Hunger Free Northbrook
- Chesed
- JCFS
- Bernie's Book Bank
- I Support the Girls
- Ronald McDonald House
- The Knights of Columbus
- Vitalant – (Blood drives)
- Inspire Through Flowers
- Shalva
- PADS

On Good Deeds Day, our religious school children in grades K-5 participated in various projects such as packing 100 bags for Shalva, 200 breakfast bags for PADS, hamsas for Tamarisk residents, and flower pens for local nurses. Mechina students volunteered with several local organizations such as Keeping Families Covered in Waukegan, Fill a Heart 4 Kids in Lake Forest, Connections for the Homeless in Evanston, and the Heartland Animal Shelter in Wheeling.

In line with the CBS Strategic Plan, we continue to encourage other committees to include a Social Action aspect in their various activities.

I want to thank the following members of the Social Action Committee for their passion and expertise in making Social Action a valuable arm of our synagogue as well as their warmth, guidance, and help in making this past year very special to me; Cheryl Braude, Steven Elisco, Annie Goldman, Suzy Hakimian, Jill Olefsky, Fern Roseman, Robyn Rosengard, Edna Schrank, and Sarah Veprinsky.

Finally, thank you to our both our wonderful Congregation and the Board of Trustees for the honor of serving as Social Action VP for this past year. Although my Vice Presidency is coming to an end, I can't wait to see our next Social Action VP, Ellen Grossman, in action starting in the fall.

Ritual Report

Jill Olefsky, Ritual VP

It has been an honor to serve as Ritual Vice President this past year. Under the leadership of Senior Rabbi David Chapman, Senior Cantor Steven Stoeher, and Rabbi Jacki Honig, the Ritual Committee provides advice, guidance, and support to the clergy regarding the nature and format of Congregation Beth Shalom's various services. Committee members also volunteer as ambassadors at Shabbat and holiday services.

The Ritual Committee has grown to 27 members, and we always welcome anyone interested in joining us. The Ritual Committee submitted Ambassador Guidelines to the Board of Trustees, which are now in place to help ensure consistency when offering assistance and guidance at Shabbat and Holiday services.

We held our first dinner during the Passover holiday, and it was a wonderful success, with 133 adults and 47 children in attendance. We are already looking forward to planning next year's dinner. B'nai Mitzvah dates for 2028-2029 were assigned in early May continuing with our tradition of the Red-Carpet Moment. Each fourth grader walked down the red carpet onto the bimah to receive their date. Family photos were taken in front of the Ark, and special refreshments were served afterward. Thank you to Rabbi Chapman, Cantor Stoehr, Rabbi Honig, Carly Wallerstein, and Randi Simon for continuing this wonderful tradition.

Thank you to everyone who served as ambassadors at Shabbat services, including our Board of Trustees members, Ritual Committee members, and B'nai Mitzvah families. The B'nai Mitzvah families also helped serve the kiddush for other families' simchot. Families helping families is a wonderful example of community coming together to support one another.

We continue to explore ways to ensure a minyan at each weekday morning and evening service. Thank you to our Board members for fulfilling their commitment to attend daily minyanim. I look forward to another year of working together and serving our congregation.

Youth Report

Robyn Rosengard, VP

The Youth Committee has had an outstanding year, led by a passionate and dedicated group of individuals. This team represents a diverse cross-section of our community—from parents of toddlers to those with teenagers—allowing us to approach youth programming with greater depth, insight and inclusivity. We aim to build on our momentum to ensure every age group experiences the same depth and vibrancy in our programming. To maximize our impact, our committee is organized into subcommittees focused on different events. This structure allows us to plan more effectively and ensure each program receives the attention it deserves.

This year, 13 members of United Synagogue Youth (USY) participated across 25 events, including one USY Convention where a CBS member served as Co-Chair and four members attended. Additionally, 12 participants were engaged in Chaverim and Gesher-aged programming, with several events drawing more than 20 kids. The program also hosted four School's Out Schechter Days, each welcoming around 15 participants and included four field trips. A highlight of the year was an incredible Purim Carnival that brought together over 400 people. Overall, more than 25 CBS youth took part in regional events, demonstrating strong community involvement.

The Families With Young Children program hosted a total of 39 events. Ark Adventures brought together 34 families, reaching a peak of 196 participants during a December weekend. Let There Be Play engaged nine families, with 23 attendees in March. FYC Shabbat Dinners included 25 families and saw a peak attendance of 95 participants in February. Shabbat with a Twist welcomed 15 families, with a high of 45 participants in January. FYC Movie Night hosted 16 families, drawing 62 attendees on February 15. We had 31 families this year for our Shabbaton that took place at Perlstein Resort and Conference Center from Friday May 15th - Sunday May 17th. So much fun was had by all.

Year 1 of Club Spark has been fantastic, with 12 happy kids and happy parents; we already have six enrolled for next year—including a new Sparkler—plus interest from three more families, we're hosting our first Open House Pizza Party informational meeting on May 31, and we're so grateful to the families who took a chance on a brand-new program and to our wonderful Sparklers.

Youth Programming included:

- Fall/Winter: Yom Beth Shalom, High Holiday FYC services, Yom Kippur Youth Mincha Service, Parallel Family Program, College Care Packages
- Spring: Movie Night, USY Hamantaschen, Purim Carnival, Families Young Children Shabbaton.
- Year- Round: Ark Adventures, Let There Be Play, Shabbat with a Twist, FYC Shabbat Experience, Camp Shira- Family Shabbat, Family Shabbat Services On Shabbat Mornings, USY Lounge Nights, Chaverim (3rd-5th Grade) and Gesher (6th-8th grade) programs

Thank you to the amazing Youth Committee members: Bekah Almeleh, Jill Hartzman, Juston Kalpan, Rachel Laven, Jeremy Elkins, Roz Mokhtarian, Zhanna Plotkin, Shira Rozgovich, Hillary Schwartz, Carly Sear and Lauren Stein

Thank you for the honor of serving as Youth VP this year. Thank you to the wonderful clergy for your unwavering support. As always thank you to Sue Lampert and the Board of Trustees for your support. I look forward to counting on this next year.

Thank you to Anat, Josh, Ali and Carly for all the wonderful things that you do. Your professionalism and creativity has been a huge part of the success of all our Youth and Families with Young Children programs.

Sisterhood Report

Frannie Goldwin, President

While effectively summarizing Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood's 2025–2026 programming year is no small task, I am delighted to capture and share the many highlights and accomplishments that made this year so special. I am deeply grateful to all of the

women of CBS Sisterhood, as well as our dedicated CBS staff, whose partnership and support made this truly a stellar year.

Membership: We maintained strong membership numbers this year, ending with 452 members spanning seven decades of life and experience. We welcomed new members with Shalom Welcome Bags, many of which were personally delivered to members' homes. Some were distributed at Yom Beth Shalom in September, while others—featuring a festive Purim theme—were shared in early March.

Our Membership Outreach Committee connected with new members through phone calls and personalized emails, encouraging participation and helping foster meaningful connections within our community.

Programming: We enjoyed another incredible year of Sisterhood programming! We kicked off the year with author Renée Rosen, who shared insights from her novel *Let's Call Her Barbie*. Her presentation included fascinating photos and stories about the Mattel toy company, Ruth Handler's life, and the history of the iconic Barbie doll. With more than 100 attendees, it was a wonderful start to the year. Table décor featured new Barbie dolls, which were later donated to the CJE Hanukkah Toy Drive.

In January, nearly 50 attendees joined our joint Sisterhood and Men's Club program with Sharsheret. Genetic counselor Rachel Shapira shared her inspiring professional journey and provided a clear and engaging overview of BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, genetic testing, and the role of a genetic counselor. Sharsheret's Regional Director, Sharon Levine, highlighted the organization's wide range of services and support. The program also included a meaningful social action component, with donations collected for Sharsheret's Best Foot Forward care kits for women undergoing breast cancer treatment.

In February, artist Rinat Melton led *Mimosa and Masterpieces*, a creative and uplifting arts program. Participants painted a pre-sketched scene of Jerusalem's Old City, each creating a unique and colorful work of art—a beautiful reflection of our diverse and vibrant Sisterhood.

Our educational program spotlighted Israeli cuisine. Chef and restaurant owner Ami Sananes of Ami Shuk to Table in Highland Park led a lively cooking demonstration featuring hummus, Israeli salad, and falafel. Participants gained practical tips for recreating these dishes at home and enjoyed sampling a variety of offerings from the restaurant.

We will conclude the year with our Culminating Installation and Valued Volunteer Dinner, *Sustainability: Reduce, Reuse, Rejoice!*. This special evening will celebrate our outgoing board, welcome new leadership, and honor our 2026 Valued Volunteer, Pam Schlosberg. Our featured speaker, Gabriel Gould of Soil & Soul, will introduce us to Jewish regenerative farming and its connection to food access and Jewish values.

Education: Our commitment to the Torah Fund Campaign, the dedicated philanthropy of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, remains a cornerstone of our work. The Torah

Fund Campaign, with this year's theme being *Oseh Shalom (Maker of Peace)*, continues to support programs and student scholarships at Conservative seminaries worldwide. Our November Torah Fund brunch, *From Sisterhood Kid to the Seminary*, featured our very own Rabbi Jacki Honig, who shared her personal journey, including her mother's involvement in Sisterhood and her own path to the rabbinate—made possible in part by Torah Fund support. We are proud to report that we exceeded both last year's total and this year's goal by nearly \$3,000.

We continued the beloved tradition of assembling and distributing Hanukkah gift bags to all Religious School students—receiving feedback that this year's bags were the best yet, with dreidel lollipops as a standout favorite. We also supported the synagogue-wide Chanukah Palooza celebration with festive table décor and engaging craft activities for all ages.

Our Annual Sisterhood Shabbat featured a meaningful Friday evening service, a delicious dinner, and heartfelt reflections from four members sharing their favorite Shabbat memories.

Fundraising: We successfully continued several annual initiatives, including New Year's Greetings, Anniversary/Leagrams, our High Holiday Challah and Marble Cake Sale (300 challahs and 50 cakes sold), and our Mahjong Card Sale (312 cards sold). We are grateful to the dedicated volunteers who led these efforts.

The Holiday Boutique was, once again, a tremendous success. With 36 vendors selling items from jewelry to linens and everything in between, we logged 529 sales transactions between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This holiday shopping extravaganza remains a highlight of our fundraising year.

The [Louis Gurvitz Memorial Sisterhood Judaica Shop](#) operated weekly on Sundays and during major synagogue events, supported by 21 dedicated volunteers. The shop continues to offer a wonderful selection of hostess gifts and items for Shabbat and Jewish holidays, many purchased directly from Israeli vendors.

The Jan Blum Memorial Game Day in April once again raised funds for ovarian cancer research while honoring the memory of Jan Blum. Jan was a beloved CBS Sisterhood member. She was also a dear friend to many current Sisterhood members who continue to share sweet memories of Jan's dedicated involvement in CBS Sisterhood.

House: Our House Committee made an extraordinary impact across the CBS community. Volunteers baked dozens of pans of kugel, arranged hundreds of trays of sweets, and served kugel and other hot dishes to Shabbat guests during weekly Shabbat kiddushim.

During Pesach, Sisterhood once again led the baking and cooking for five kiddushim and a synagogue-wide dinner. Over three very busy days, 51 volunteers completed 140 recipes, producing 80 pans of food and more than 2,100 desserts. Sisterhoods from other congregations continue to express admiration for these remarkable efforts.

Communication: We maintained consistent communication through twice-monthly Sisterhood eBlasts, promoting events, recruiting volunteers, and sharing photos from our programs. Each eBlast was well organized and included easy-to-access registration links. Our creative communications team also maintained an active presence on social media, including Facebook and Instagram, helping to expand our reach and engagement.

Closing: Once again, I am so appreciative of the amazing women of CBS Sisterhood and the bright, hard-working, devoted CBS staff for their continued partnership, enthusiasm, and support. Together, we have built a vibrant, connected, and inspiring community and have completed a memorable and meaningful year.

Ron Rabinowitz **Men's Club President**

It has been an incredibly rewarding year, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such a dedicated and talented Men's Club Board. Working together with this group of leaders has been both a privilege and a highlight of my time as President.

I would also like to recognize our outstanding clergy, Rabbi Chapman, Cantor Stoeher, and Rabbi Honig, whose guidance, partnership, and support have been invaluable throughout the year. Their leadership continues to strengthen both the Men's Club and the broader Congregation Beth Shalom community. My sincere thanks as well to Executive Director Michael Garlin and the entire professional staff. Your commitment keeps everything running seamlessly, often behind the scenes, and your efforts are deeply appreciated. I am equally grateful to Sue Lampert for her exceptional leadership as synagogue President, and to the Board of Trustees for their collaboration and support.

To the 2025 to 2026 Men's Club Executive Committee, Lawrence LeVine, Howard Freidin, Neil Rosengard, Gary Solomon, Dan Miller, Rob Roth, Jonathan Weisbach, Dmitry Polyakov, and Mitch Padnos, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and partnership in making this such a successful year. A special acknowledgment to Howard Jacob, our unofficial but essential digital communications lead. From editing content to preparing materials, Howard plays a critical role in ensuring everything we produce reflects the quality of our organization.

I also want to extend my appreciation to the entire Men's Club Board. Your volunteer efforts are the foundation of everything we accomplish. It has been an honor to work with you over the past year. Congratulations to our Men's Club FJMC Man of the Year, Dr. Andy Wagner, and our Kavod Honoree, Scott Rogoff. Both are incredibly deserving of this recognition, and we are proud to celebrate their contributions.

This year was filled with meaningful programming and strong community engagement. From Yom Beth Shalom and our Sukkah tailgate to the Purim Carnival, Men's Club Shabbat, and the distribution of Yellow Candles for Yom HaShoah, each event reflected our commitment to connection, tradition, and service. Our Lox Box and Deli Box fundraiser was once again a tremendous success, raising over \$20,000 for the Ark and CJE while also providing more

than 110 boxes to first responders. It continues to be a highlight of the year and a powerful example of our community's generosity. In addition, the Men's Club was proud to support the enhancement of the art installation in the synagogue foyer by funding backlighting and front lighting, helping transform it into a more impactful and visually powerful centerpiece for our community. We also enjoyed memorable social events, including axe throwing and our March Madness gathering, which gave us a chance to connect in a relaxed and fun setting. Our Erev Thanksgiving celebration brought everyone together once again for an evening of energy, laughter, and community spirit. While we look forward to our closing dinner, we are already planning ahead for an exciting year of programming in 2026 to 2027. The momentum we have built will continue to carry us forward.

Thank you all for your support, your commitment, and your friendship. It is an honor to be the Men's Club President.