

Monthly Update from the CBS President – December 2019/January 2020

I began writing this update as the 2019 URJ Biennial was coming to a close. What a wonderful time to be with 5,000 other Jews learning, praying and networking together. There is nothing quite like celebrating Shabbat and hearing the joyous voices of so many Cantors and attendees singing the prayers at the top of their voices. I am sure that half of Chicago could hear the joy coming from our services. As we walked over to Shabbat services, there was a group of musicians and singers to accompany us across the walkway from the hotel to the conference center. The feeling was exhilarating.

Much of my time was spent in educational sessions geared toward leadership development, establishing legacy and endowment funds, social action and community engagement. There were many new ideas for our Religious school in the exhibit area and new approaches to teaching Hebrew to both our students and our more mature congregants. I especially liked the sessions for small congregations and brought some new ideas and approaches home to Napa.

Being at the Biennial and representing CBS was a very special time for me. It afforded me the opportunity to reflect on where we are and where we could be in the years to come. With many small congregations losing members and/or merging with other congregations, we are blessed at CBS to be a growing congregation with a terrific Rabbi and Music Director, and a congregation that appreciates and supports CBS' religious, educational and social programs.

Several of the sessions were focused on social action/social justice/ welcoming the stranger. At CBS we are proud to support these programs:

The Table

A team of volunteers from CBS have been cooking and serving delicious and nutritious meals monthly at the Table for 30 years, and for the past 6 years have served Christmas dinner with gifts for each person there to celebrate the holiday in a warm and inviting way.

The Table's goal is to provide a nutritious meal to anyone who is hungry, to offer a clean, safe place to dine, and to treat all diners with dignity and respect.

The Table offers a hot and free meal to anyone who is hungry, five days a week. They feed the most vulnerable populations including those who might be too embarrassed to ask for a free meal. Diners include the elderly, children, veterans, and the homeless.

The Table's volunteers have fed Napa Valley's most vulnerable population for over 30 years. Thank you to Rhonda Simon and the great volunteers from CBS.

Refugee Resettlement Fund

With the funds raised for this cause from CBS members, and congregants from three other churches as well as members of the Napa Community, the first asylum family has arrived. Thank you to Marlo Cohen and the work of this incredible team for making this happen.

Kindness Kids and social action for our Youth

The Kindness Kids founded by Talulah and Ruby Finkelstein, with their parents Holly and Judd, have brought many programs that encourage our youth to help those less fortunate in our community. From hosting birthday parties for homeless kids to collecting and distributing warm coats and blankets to those living in shelters in Napa. This program has expanded to include the CBS youth from 3rd to 7th grades.

Citizenship Legal Services

Citizenship Legal Services is a collaborative, offering services to help immigrants, living or working in Napa County, to become U.S. Citizens.

On a weekly basis many of our members volunteer to tutor immigrants who are applying for US citizenship and help prepare them to take the examination.

Bunco Mavens

On the third Thursday of each month our members gather to play Bunco, and discuss ways how to serve the CBS and Napa Communities. Each year the Bunco Mavens fund the Chanukah Oneg for CBS. All Bunco Mavens make a contribution to a fund that is divided among needed charities/non-profits in Napa. This past few years the Bunco Mavens have made gifts to the Boy & Girls Club to fund lunches for children during summer break, Share the Care, VOICES, Molly's Angels and many other needy organizations. Thank you to Maxine Miluso for starting this fun and worthwhile group over three years ago

CBS Library

The CBS Library is a real treasure. It is one of the finest, if not the best library that you will find in a small synagogue. Thank you to the dedication of Kathleen Conrey, Henni Cohen, Martha Pastcan and Donna Mendelsohn for the hundreds of hours they spend each year updating and enhancing the library. I encourage our members to come in and check it out. Let's make this library the place to be on Sunday mornings.

L'dor V'dor

Thank you to those of you who have already made your gift to L'dor V'dor for this year. These funds are needed to ensure that we can support all CBS programming without depending on our reserve funds. If you have not made your gift for this year, please consider doing it today. We are half way to our goal for 2020!

Amazon Smile

Each of you received an invitation to join AmazonSmile and select CBS as your charity of Choice. If you are purchasing on Amazon, please make sure your orders are going through the Smile program.

Camp Chaverim

Hylah Egeland is back as the Camp Director for Camp Chaverim. Camp Dates for 2020 are June 22-26 and Aug 3-7. Camp registration will open by the end of January.

Opportunities to serve on the Board of Trustees

As previously mentioned Don Krieger has taken on the role of Chair of the 2020 - 2021 Nominating Committee. Several of you have mentioned to me your interest in serving on the Board of Trustees. Please email Don at dkwonderful@gmail.com if you wish to be considered. Serving on the Board is a rewarding and worthwhile experience. Thank you again Don, for taking on this important role.

Don't Miss

- **Shabbaton Weekend with Rabbi Andrea Weiss**, January 31st – February 2nd, 2020.

SAVE THE DATES – Fun(d) Raising

Thursday – March 12, 2020 at the Blue Note – the John Denver Tribute Band

Saturday – May 16, 2020 CBS' annual Comedy Night

In closing, I want to wish each of you a wonderful New Year, filled with good health, love and laughter.

B'Shalom,

