

## MEN'S CLUB

Hello Congregation Beth Shalom..... My name is Steve Lessman, Co-President of Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club. Along with Andy Wagner, we will be Co-Presidents of the Men's Club the next two years. We have a lot of exciting events planned and some surprises along the way. If you are not aware, Andy and I have a tough act to follow. In June, the Federation of Jewish Men's Club held their biannual convention online, and Congregation Beth Shalom took home **FIVE Gold Torch Awards** including the Gold for the Best Overall Programs. We were the only club among more than 200 Clubs in the country to win this award. Mazel Tov to President Steven Elisco and his executive board for leading us during the last two years and receiving the recognition our club deserves during the year of the Pandemic.

As President of CBS Men's Club from 1995-1997, I used my monthly bulletin article to introduce you to the men who make up the Executive Board and Board of Directors and their unique life story. I plan on doing that again over the next two years as well. I want to begin with by introducing myself and Andy to many of the newer members of CBS that I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet.

Born and raised in Chicago, I attended Mather High School and Northern Illinois University. Married to my wonderful wife, Ann, we have four children, three married and one to be married this September. We also are proud grandparents of four boys. I have been in the advertising industry world most of my career selling advertising on radio and television stations and, for 20 years, represented most of the Chicago Sports Professional teams radio stations selling sponsorships in the games on the radio. I currently work for WCPT Radio in Chicago and other media companies as well. My hobbies include PA announcing at High School and College sporting events including basketball, volleyball and football. My involvement in Congregation Beth Shalom began in 1975 after my dad passed, and I spent my evenings at CBS saying Kaddish. Soon I got involved in Men's Club, became President and then got involved in the Midwest Region of FJMC and am Past President of the Midwest Region.

Andy and his son, Brandon, joined CBS more recently, in December 2016. This was after moving from Oklahoma City, where he lived for 11 years and was very involved with Emanuel Synagogue. Andy grew up in Milwaukee at Congregation Beth Israel and, for many years, went to Camp Interlaken JCC. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for college (saxophone performance) and medical school. Andy now practices reproductive genetics at Northwestern University since moving here. He is following presidential traditions in the family with Brandon having been CBS USY President in 2019-2020, and his father, Alan, was Men's Club President at Beth Israel in the 80's. His hobbies include playing the saxophone almost nightly on Facebook and in two community bands and being amazed at Brandon's many accomplishments.

Andy and I are very excited to be Co-Presidents of Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club. CBS Men's Club is filled with a long history and special men who make this club great. We look forward to continuing this success and developing strong leaders to carry on the CBS Men's Club traditions.



Photos from the Men's Club Installation Dinner held at CBS in June, 2021

## MEN'S CLUB

### **L'Shana Tova and a happy and sweet new year to all from the CBS Men's Club!**

We began our new year helping out with Yom Beth Shalom by cooking and serving hot dogs and chips. On **Sunday morning, September 12<sup>th</sup>**, we will build the CBS outdoor sukkah. We would appreciate anyone's assistance if you would like to help us build.

Our first **Men's Club Breakfast** will be on **Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** featuring Dr. Steve Zaacks, a cardiologist at Northwest Community Hospital and a CBS member. He will speak on "**How to Prevent and Identify a Heart Attack & Its Effect on Our Lives, Part 2.**" We will continue our Men's Health initiative with interesting and informative programs.

Our **Opening Dinner** will be on **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. It will be a special **Steaks in the Sukkah** event with David Schuster, a sports personality formerly of *WSCR, 670 the SCORE*, and *ESPN 1000, WMVP*. David will be joining us to talk playoff baseball and Chicago Bears football. Please see the flyer and sign up for a great opening evening for the CBS Men's Club 2021-2022.

As we shared with you last month, we would like to introduce you to our executive board. Let's meet **Bob Goldwin**, our **Executive Vice President**. Bob was born in Silver Springs, Maryland. At the age of two, his family moved to South Bend, Indiana. He celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Beth El and, during the summers, he was a camper and sailing instructor at Greenwoods Camp in Decatur, Michigan. Bob wants you to know that as a camper he was voted the "Cutest Guy Camper" two years in a row!! He attended high school there and was a diver on the swim team. After four years majoring in criminology at *The Ohio State University*, he moved to Memphis and worked as a probation officer and then as a security manager. Wherever Bob lived, he involved himself in Jewish life and was active at Temple Israel in Memphis and soon became recording secretary of the Men's Club. After three years, Bob decided to attend Loyola University in Chicago and earn a masters in Elementary Education. Soon thereafter, Bob got involved in the JUF Young Leadership Division and, at a Shabbat in the Box Dinner, he met his wife, Frannie Goldberg. Bob and Frannie joined CBS in 2012, and they both became very involved at CBS. Bob's previous Men's Club positions include programming, membership and now Executive VP. Bob has been in Elementary Education for the last twenty years, and he currently teaches 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Chicago City Day School. Bob and Frannie have two daughters, Maddie (11) and Avery (8). Bob enjoys coaching both his daughters in soccer, currently coaches middle school basketball, and also has coached the CBS USY Boys Basketball team to years of championships. We thank Bob for his continued years of support and time with the CBS Men's Club and we look forward to these next two years as Executive VP.

Happy New Year and may we all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life!

--Steve and Andy

## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



**We hope that you are having a Good and Sweet New Year, 5782!!!** If only we could stop writing 5781 on our checks...

Our award-winning CBS Men's Club had a busy month of September with our first Sunday Breakfast. We thank Dr. Steve Zaacks for an excellent presentation on heart health. Our Steaks in the Sukkah was a great success, and we thank David Schuster for his commentary on our sports teams. We would like to thank our Men's Club Board for all their hard work last month in making our events successful.

Please join us for these upcoming events:

- **Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club Program** featuring **Dr. Gary Grad** speaking on **Israel's Role in Global Cancer Research**.
- **Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>: Combined Men's Club and Sisterhood social event:** An evening of entertainment with music, interactive entertainment and dessert.
- **Sunday October 24<sup>th</sup>:** This year's first **Israel In Depth** program featuring **Carl Schrag** speaking on **Beyond Lockdowns and Unrest - Is It Time to Travel to Israel Again?** Breakfast will be included.

For more information or to register, please visit the CBS Events Page or the Men's Club Square site page at <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site>.

Continuing our "meet the CBS Men's Club Executive Board" series, this month we introduce you to **Lawrence LeVine, VP Programming**. With full disclosure, Steve has known Lawrence since he was three years old, as they lived four houses from each other. Lawrence's parents, Jill and Harold, are long-standing members of Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove. Lawrence celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Beth Judea and began his involvement in Jewish life as a Madrich (teacher assistant) in the Sunday School. After graduating from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, he then attended Roosevelt University, majoring in Communications. While at Roosevelt, he worked at CBS as Youth Advisor and then Youth Director. After many years here, he then began to work full time for the JCC running the Perlstein Resort and Conference Center at Camp Chi in Lake Delton, Wisconsin followed by being in charge of Family Engagement for the JCC. Currently, Lawrence works for H&H Purchasing, where he helps overnight camps and day camps procure all of the supplies they need, from food to bandages to footballs.

In 2004, Lawrence met his wife Amy on JDate. Soon they realized their connections with Congregation Beth Shalom, as Amy is the daughter of Jill and Les Olefsky!!! They have been married since 2006, and they have a daughter, Meital (9), and a son, Noah (4).

Lawrence has been involved in the Jewish community his entire life. Many would say Lawrence knows everyone, and, if you need something, "just ask Lawrence". He became involved in Men's Club soon after he got married and became a member of CBS. Lawrence immediately began helping in the kitchen cooking breakfasts, became involved in our Lox Box Program and then was Recording Secretary, VP House-Special Events, VP Ways and Means, and now VP Programming. When he was VP Ways and Means, he completely revamped our payment program for Lox Box setting up easy online payments, which we now use for all Men's Club programs.

I asked Lawrence about his most recent community involvement. During the pandemic, Lawrence organized more than forty food trucks to visit his neighborhood in Buffalo Grove. This was great for the struggling food trucks, and his neighbors didn't have to go very far to get a variety of great food. Thank you Lawrence, for all that you do, and we look forward to your involvement in CBS Men's Club for years and years to come.

We wish you a great month of October and hope to see you at many of our special events.

Steve Lessman and Andy Wagner

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Dr. Andrew Wagner



We begin the month of November with thoughts of Thanksgiving approaching. We are very thankful for the opportunity to lead an award winning Men's Club. Over the last two months, the CBS Men's Club has continued to shine in the community. Our men are there doing the work and making it happen. We want to thank our entire Executive Board and Board of Trustees for continuing to perform at a high level day in and day out as we present various programs to the synagogue and the community.

Please join us for these fun and memorable upcoming events:

- **Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club Breakfast** featuring **Pat Cassidy**, WBBM Newsradio 780's morning anchor for over 40 years. He will share a behind-the-scenes look at today's news and how it gets heard on the air.
- **Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>: Israel In Depth** program featuring **Carl Schrag** speaking on **How Did "Zionism" Become a Dirty Word?** Breakfast will be included.
- **Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>: Erev Thanksgiving** featuring the world-renowned **Jesse White Tumblers**. Dinner will be included.

Continuing our "meet the CBS Men's Club Executive Board" series, this month we introduce you to **Don Pike, Ways and Means VP**. His interesting story begins in Minneapolis, his birthplace. At the age of one, his family moved to Brazil, his mother's homeland, and, when he was nine, they moved to Rockford. Don attended Rockford West High School where he enjoyed playing the violin in the school Symphony Orchestra, and playing football and track. Don and his family were Independent Protestants and Don attended church regularly growing up. He attended college at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb majoring in Business Operations Management. Don felt he wanted something more out of his religion and soon became involved in Hillel at NIU. He felt very comfortable at Hillel and soon became Captain of the Hillel Bowling Team. He attended services regularly and attended High Holiday services as well. While at Northern, he met his future wife, Miriam Benjamin. After Graduation from Northern, Don's first job was in Chicago with Allied Chemical working in sales support. During those early years he wanted to continue to learn about the Jewish religion and attended classes at Spertus College. At Spertus he met three rabbis who became his friends and important people in his life, Rabbis Michael Siegel from Anshe Emet, Howard Lifshitz from Beth Judea, and Beth Shalom's own Carl Wolkin. It was important to Don that he wanted to be a Jew, and he asked these three rabbis to perform the conversion. Soon after, they were instrumental in Don becoming a Bar Mitzvah in his early twenties.

At the age of thirty-one, Don and Miriam were married and moved to Buffalo Grove joining Congregation Beth Judea. They had twin daughters, Rachel and Rebecca, who are both successful in their own lives. Rachel is in sales at DocuSign and teaches dance in Northbrook. Rebecca is married to Gabriel and is an ELL teacher at Stevenson High School. Dr. Miriam Pike is Head of School of Wolcott College Prep in Chicago.

Don's career has taken many turns buying and selling companies. He is currently an owner of Northstar Lighting, an LED Lighting manufacturing company selling to countries all over the world including Israel and Qatar.

Don and Miriam joined Congregation Beth Shalom ten years ago, and Don quickly became involved in the CBS Men's Club with his mentor and brother-in-law, Brad Shaps, encouraging him. Don has held many offices at CBS Men's Club including Ritual VP, Treasurer, Ways and Means VP, House Special Events VP and even put together the Adbook for Midwest Region FJMC for Man of the Year Dinner. Honored by all his work, the Men's Club selected Donald Pike to be Man of the Year in 2020. We thank Don for all his years of being involved in CBS Men's Club and look forward to his assisting us with Lox Box again in 2021 as Ways and Means VP.

To conclude, Happy Thanksgiving to all our friends at Congregation Beth Shalom. Make sure you give your special people a hug and thank them for being there for you each and every day.

Steve and Andy

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Dr. Andrew Wagner



The Winter Holidays have arrived. Chanukah candles are lit, the smell of latkes are in the air, and families are celebrating. As we write this article, our world is still a challenging place and carrying out programs together has been difficult. Let's hope that, in the coming year, as children get vaccinated, we can again achieve some degree of normalcy and enjoy each other's company in-person.

We have many activities planned for 2022 including:

- **Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Men's Club Breakfast.** Guest Speaker **Justice Robert Gordon**, member of Beth Shalom and Jewish Sports Historian. Topic - Jews and Sports. Information will be shared in the CBS Byte. Signup will be available along with all of our events on our SquareSite: <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site/>
- **Sunday, February 6th: Men's Club Breakfast.** Guest Speaker **Jonathan Eig**, Author of the Award Winning Biography *Ali: A Life*.
- **Sunday, February 13th: World Wide Wrap.**
- **TBA: Announcements of our Kavod Award and Man/Youth of the Year honorees**
- **Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Lox Box delivery**
- **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club Shabbat**
- **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club Golf Outing**

Continuing our "meet the CBS Men's Club Executive Board" series, this month we introduce you to **Gary Solomon, House VP**. Gary was born in New York, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Brotherhood Synagogue, and attended La Guardia High School, where he played tennis and basketball. While in high school, Gary went to Israel twice as a volunteer for Israel with his family, and he spent three weeks in Israel as an exchange student. Gary then went to Washington University in St. Louis for both undergrad and graduate school in Occupational Therapy. While in grad school, he met his future wife, Debbie Handler, daughter of Dr. Raymond and Arlene Handler, who are long standing members of Congregation Beth Shalom. Debbie also received a Master's in Occupational Therapy at Wash U.

Gary is currently Therapy Director for Chicago Metro Hand Therapy, where he has worked since 1998, with offices in Arlington Heights. He is very active in the American Society of Hand Therapists and was their President from 2016-17. He is currently Vice Chair of the American Hand Therapy Foundation. Gary is also busy consulting and traveling the United States, recently in Alaska, teaching therapeutic techniques.

Gary and Debbie were married in 1995 and soon became involved at CBS. Gary became a member of the Men's Club Board and served as Recording Secretary before his current position as House VP. Debbie also has been extremely active and is a Past President of CBS. Gary and Debbie have two daughters, Ilana and Talia. Ilana just recently graduated from NYU and is a music teacher, and Talia is a freshman at University of Maryland.

We thank Gary and Debbie for their many years of service to Congregation Beth Shalom and the Men's Club. We wish Gary much success in his current role as VP of House.

Andy and I wish all of you a very happy secular New Year and good health in 2022 and hope we see you all at CBS in the coming days and weeks ahead.

Steve and Andy

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With the month of February here, our CBS Men's Club is very busy with lots of events and special programs just weeks away. We hope you all have already purchased your **CBS Lox Box** which will be delivered to your door on **March 6<sup>th</sup>**. CBS Lox Box is a great gift for a family member or a business associate. There also are opportunities to make an important food donation to the CJE or The ARK.

Our upcoming activities include:

- **Sunday, February 6th: Men's Club Program** featuring **Jonathan Eig** speaking on **Muhammad Ali and Me: How I Wrote the Greatest Biography of All Time!**
- **Sunday, February 13rd: World Wide Wrap**
- **Saturday, February 19th: Chicago Wolves game with Congregation Beth Judea's Men's Club**

Signups for all of our events and the link to purchase Lox Boxes is at: <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site/>.

Continuing our "meet the CBS Men's Club Executive Board" series, this month we introduce you to **Ron Rabinowitz, Recording Secretary**. Ron was born in Rochester, NY to Israeli born parents, Dalia and Jay. At the age of ten, Ron and his family moved to Chicago for his father's new position with American Hospital Supply. They immediately became members of CBS in 1977. Ron, his parents, brothers and spouses (Dan & Joyce, David & Nancy) are all members of Congregation Beth Shalom. Ron's sister, Daphna, and her family also live in the area and are members of BJBE.

After Ron's Bar Mitzvah at CBS with Rabbi Wolkin, he attended Glenbrook North where he was in the marching and symphonic bands playing the drums including performances at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta and on the steps of the Capitol in Washington. Ron then graduated with an economics degree from The Ohio State University. While at Ohio State, Ron was active in Hillel and was a member of the AEPI Fraternity. After graduation, Ron returned to Chicago and became involved in a JUF Young Leadership Division program called JUF Leads. This is where he met his wife, Missy Liepack, originally from Columbus, Ohio. After getting married in Columbus, they started a family here, where they have two daughters, Marni graduating from University of Minnesota this spring and staying in St. Paul with a job in computer sciences with Travelers Insurance, and Lindsey, who just started college at Michigan State University majoring in communications.

Ron has been in the financial industry for over 25 years and currently works for Bio Century in investment research of the BioTech Industry. Missy works in the HR division of the College of American Pathologists in Northfield. Ron and Missy have family in Israel and have been there numerous times for family trips. Ron's most recent trip to Israel was a "guys" trip with the L'Chaim Center in the North suburbs. The entire Rabinowitz family are all strong supporters of AIPAC and have attended the last 7 conventions together as a family. Ron and Missy had an amazing trip to Paris seeing many Jewish sites when they celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary a few years ago.

We thank Ron for all his hard work as Recording Secretary and look forward to him taking on more leadership roles at CBS Men's Club in years to come.

Please make sure you purchase a CBS Lox Box (or two...or three...or more) with a delivery to your door on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the Month of February and watch for our next article introducing you to our 2022 Kavod Award Honoree.

Steve and Andy

# MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



The CBS Men's Club is proud to announce our **2022 KAVOD AWARD Honoree.....**

## Lawrence LeVine!!!

The Kavod Award is our most prestigious award. Since 1973, the honor acknowledges outstanding service to the Synagogue, to the Men's Club and to the community. Lawrence has unselfishly given many years of his time and efforts to all three of these categories.

Please join us on **March 19<sup>th</sup>** to honor Lawrence and his family at Men's Club Shabbat.

We wish Lawrence; his wife, Amy; his children, Meital and Noah; his parents, Harold and Jill; and Amy's parents, Jill and Les Olfsky, a hearty Mazel Tov on this special honor. Although he needs no introduction, you can read Lawrence's bio in the flyer on the second page of this bulletin.

Depending on when you are reading this, you are either awaiting the delivery of your Lox Box or have enjoyed the Kosher goodness inside of it. As always, we thank the Beth Shalom community for their support of Lox Box 2022. Thanks to everyone on the Men's Club Board who made phone calls to sell boxes, helped pack them on March 5<sup>th</sup>, and delivered them on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It takes many hours and the entirety of the Men's Club for this annual program to be so successful.

Our upcoming activities include:

- **Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Lox Box Delivery (or pick-up).**
- **Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club Shabbat (morning services) and presentation of Kavod Award.**
- **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>: Israel in Depth. Topic: The 4 (or 5) Tribes of Israel.**
- **Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> - Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: FJMC Shabbaton & Retreat in Los Angeles.**  
[www.fjmc.org/2022-Shabbaton](http://www.fjmc.org/2022-Shabbaton)
- **Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>: Yom HaShoah. Light your Yellow Candle (more info next month)**
- **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Man and Youth of the Year dinner.**
- **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>: Golf Outing and Installation Dinner.**

Signup for all of our events at: <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site/>.

We are so proud and thankful of the work that our men on the Executive Board have done this year. Since September, we have been challenged to put on events with more continued and changing obstacles. We have had events in the synagogue when it was safe and online events when it was time to be careful. With a busy March, April, and May coming up, we want to acknowledge and thank our Executive Board.

- Executive VP Bob Goldwin
- Programming VP Lawrence LeVine
- House VP Gary Solomon
- Ways and Means VP Don Pike
- Ritual VP Alan Wernick
- Membership VP David Sokolovsky
- Treasurer Howard Freidin
- Financial Secretary Jim Hamilton
- Recording Secretary Ron Rabinowitz
- Corresponding Secretary David Lasky

We could not have done our fantastic work without this group.

Steve and Andy

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Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



Andy and I are very happy to share with Congregation Beth Shalom that our Man of the Year Honoree is Richie Kurnick, z"l. We lost Richie last December after a tough battle with MSA, Multiple System Atrophy. I personally knew Richie as a young boy running around Congregation Beth Shalom with his parents Barbara and Lester Kurnick z"l, who were founding members of Beth Shalom. Richie will be missed by CBS Men's Club as one of the good guys who was always there to help especially in the kitchen when needed. You can find his bio in the Man of the Year flyer in this bulletin on page 13. Our best wishes to Richie's son Jeff, his mother Barbara and brother and sister-in-law Edward and Marcie on this very special honor to Richie.

We just finished the month of March and what a month it was for Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club. We are happy to report our Lox Box program was a major success and we sold over 1460 boxes, the most since 2008, 14 years ago. Most important, our Lox Box donations to The ARK and CJE will feed over 5000 people. As I have shared with many for years, our Men's Club is filled with amazing men who do amazing work day in and day out. Thank you to our Lox Box Chairman Don Pike, VP Ways and Means, and of course Lawrence LeVine and Howard Freidin, who both work hours and hours to make this program the success it is. And thank you to our CBS Men's Club Board for making the calls, and working all weekend to pack and drive. Yasher Koach to all!!!!

To complete the month we held a wonderful Men's Club Sabbath on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We honored Lawrence LeVine, our Kavod Award Honoree for 2022. The morning was so spiritual seeing our men lead services and doing an excellent job on all the Torah portions. The morning was very special presenting the Kavod Award to Lawrence and then celebrating with a beautiful Kiddush. Thank you Alan Wernick, VP Ritual, and Andy Wagner for assisting in putting it all together. And a special thank you to our wonderful Sisterhood under the leadership of Jackie Zerkowitz and Robyn Rosengard. The Kugels were delicious and your help with everything for the Kiddush was much appreciated.

April will be a month of Passover and we will complete the month with a very special Yom HaShoah Program on **Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you Mitch Padnos for taking over the Yellow Candle Program for CBS Men's Club and making Yom HaShoah a special event at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Andy and I want to wish all our congregants a happy and enjoyable Passover and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the synagogue.

Steve and Andy



CBS Men's Club  
Lox Box Packing  
March 6, 2022





## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



Where did the year go? It's already May, and we are looking at only two more months of CBS Men's Club activities until the summer months are here to enjoy. If you are reading this before May, you have an opportunity to attend our **Men's Club Breakfast on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>** with guest speaker, **Bill Cameron**. Bill just retired as a Chicago City Hall reporter for over 50 Years at **WLS Radio** and **WMAQ Radio**. He will share many great stories about his experiences with Chicago politics. It should be a great morning.

Please register on our website: <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site>.

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be a busy day at CBS. The Annual FUNdaiser is in the evening, but there will be ample time to attend the **FJMC Man of the Year and Youth of the year** event earlier in the day. It will take place at Congregation Beth Hillel Bnai Emunah in Wilmette starting at 3 pm. **We will be honoring our Man of the Year Richie Kurnick<sup>™</sup> and our Youth of the Year, Ashley Gitles**. Please see flyer in this bulletin on page 15 for more details.

Lastly, please mark your calendar for the return of the annual **CBS Men's Club Golf Outing**. It will take place on **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>** at **Buffalo Grove Golf Course**. Please see the flyer in this bulletin on page 14 for more details.

This month, we would like you to meet the CBS Men's Club **Financial Secretary, Jim Hamilton**. This is Jim's second time on our Exec Board where he first served as Treasurer in 2006-07. Jim was born in Chicago, and his family moved to Highland Park when he was two. He attended Highland Park High School participating in many clubs including debate, chess, and math. A little known fact is that he also wrote comedy for the variety shows in high school! His family were members of North Suburban Beth El where Jim had his Bar Mitzvah, and he was active in USY serving on the Board. He then attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville initially majoring in engineering but he then switched gears to a math and economics majors. He continued at Vanderbilt to receive his Master's in Business. His first job took him to New York to work for Price Waterhouse. At Vanderbilt, he met his wife, Debbie, who was from Charlotte. Debbie's first job took her to Jacksonville, and soon Jim transferred his job there. They were married in Charlotte and soon moved to Chicago to start their life together. Jim finished advanced accounting classes at Northwestern and received his CPA soon after. From Chicago they moved to Deerfield then to Northbrook, joining Congregation Beth Shalom in 1997. Jim worked for Altschuler, Melvoin, and Glasser for three years and then joined Weiss and Company. He will be celebrating 25 years in the fall as a partner. Jim and Debbie have two children, a daughter, Ashley, who lives in Brooklyn and is a comedian who also works in social media, and a son, Scott, who is a consultant in Fort Worth. Debbie is also very active with the CBS Sisterhood Executive Board. Jim and Debbie have traveled over the years taking their family to Israel and other popular vacation spots including a week long biking trip to southern Spain. Debbie and Jim play golf together, ride their Pelotons, and can be found regularly attending Bears, Cubs, Blackhawks and Bulls games during the year (even though they look forward to the tailgate more than the actual game). Jim has been involved in other organizations including the Treasurer of the BJE Metropolitan Chicago for over 20 years and has helped with the Alzheimer's Association Chicago most recently. Jim has also served on the CBS Synagogue Board of Trustees and worked on the CBS School Board in years past.

And finally Jim wants to remind all congregants if you're in the neighborhood to stop by to share a glass of bourbon together. He has an amazing collection of over 40 bottles of different types of bourbon to choose from!!! We thank Jim for his time serving as CBS Men's Club Financial Secretary and look forward to working with Jim for years to come.

Steve and Andy

### IL Holocaust Museum & Education Center, April 10, 2022



## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



A wonderful year at Congregation Beth Shalom with the CBS Men's Club is coming to an end. We survived!!! We finally got together to enjoy life inside the walls of our synagogue with fantastic events and activities. Thanks to all of you that have attended our events and thanks to those in our Men's Club who worked very hard to make them happen. We hope you enjoy the summer and we see you again in September for another fun and meaningful year.

Hold on!!! Before our summer break of formally organized Men's Club activities, we have one more event: The **Men's Club Golf Outing and Installation Dinner** is being held on **Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup>**. This is another MUST-attend event. Weather will be perfect for golf and we are promised to have a great meal served back at CBS that evening. Please sign up on our website (<https://www.bethshalomnb.org/connect/mens-club/2022-calendar/>) or refer to the flyers on pages 13-14 in this bulletin with more information.

Continuing the bios of our Executive Board it is our pleasure to introduce you to our Men's Club Treasurer, Howard Freidin. Howard has been involved in Men's Club financial activities for many years and has rotated between Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

Howard was born in Chicago, and when his family moved to Morton Grove, they became members of Northwest Suburban. After a move to Northbrook, they continued to be members of Northwest Suburban and that is where Howard had his Bar Mitzvah. He attended Glenbrook North where he ran track and cross country, and he was also active in band as a clarinetist (hopefully not all at the same time). His parents joined Congregation Beth Shalom, and Howard has fond memories of attending Men's Club opening night dinners with his dad. Howard's parents, Sherwin<sup>21</sup> and Ila Freidin were very active members of Congregation Beth Shalom for many years.

Howard matriculated to the University of Illinois and majored in Actuarial Science. His first job after school took him to Vernon Hills, and, a few jobs later, he began working for Deloitte. After 40 years there, Howard retired in 2018. He met his wife Debbie Stern in classes at University of Illinois, and they reacquainted with each other years later. They got married and moved to Northbrook and joined Ezra Habonim. They later joined Congregation Beth Shalom. Debbie and Howard have three boys, Michael, Brian, and David. Brian and his wife Hannah live in Auburn, Alabama, David lives in Santa Clara, California, and Michael lives in Northbrook.

Howard became involved in Men's Club early on and has been an active member of both the synagogue and Men's Club for many years. In his early years in Men's Club he got involved in the Lox Box Program. He created the routing system for all our lox box deliveries that we use to this day. He now oversees all the financials related to lox box and records each and every order. This year we sold over 1,400 lox boxes and Howard can tell you about each order!

From Men's Club, Howard got involved in ritual at Beth Shalom and became Ritual VP. You can find Howard at most services all week long and he leads many times during the week. As part of his love of the ritual side of Beth Shalom, Howard is part of a program called Daf Yomi. He Studies a page of Talmud every day, reading each of the 63 tractates of the Talmud, and the program lasts 7-1/2 Years. He began in January, 2020.

Howard finds time for other volunteer work including serving at the Northbrook Library and serving on the Pension Committee of Actuarial Standards Boards. As a numbers guy, Howard is currently on the financial committee for the synagogue along with his Men's Club responsibilities. We thank Howard for his many years of service to Congregation Beth Shalom and wish him and his family well.

See you at the Golf Outing and Installation Dinner!.....Enjoy the Summer!... See you all very soon!

Steve and Andy

# MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



**Happy August to Congregation Beth Shalom!** We hope that everyone is enjoying the last few days of Summer 2022. Your Co-Presidents of the CBS Men's Club, Steve Lessman and Andy Wagner, are hard at work preparing for another great year of fun and exciting events to enjoy together.

We would like to welcome **Rabbi David Chapman**. We hope that everyone has an opportunity to meet Rabbi Chapman very soon as he settles in with his family in Northbrook. We wish them much success in the coming years at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Here are some dates to enter in your calendars for the upcoming year for the CBS Men's Club.

- Opening dinner: Wednesday, September 21, 2022
- Steaks in the Sukkah featuring the Chicago Bears vs. the Washington Commanders: Thursday, October 13, 2022
- Men's Club and Sisterhood Event: Saturday, November 12, 2022
- Lox Box Delivery: Sunday, March 12, 2023
- Men's Club Shabbat: April 15, 2023
- Men's Club Golf Outing: Thursday, June 15, 2023

Our bulletin tradition continues with introducing you to the newest and a returning member of the Men's Club Executive Board. This month, we meet our VP of Membership, **Neil Rosengard**. Neil is the son of Larry<sup>†</sup> and Eileen Rosengard, who were extremely active members of CBS back in the 1970s and 1980s. Neil had his Bar Mitzvah at CBS in 1986, and has really never left Beth Shalom since those early days. Neil attended Glenbrook South High School and was involved in many activities including soccer, swimming, theater and choir and even did play-by-play sports announcing on the school radio station. Neil then became a proud Jayhawk attending the University of Kansas. He was an active member of ZBT and was known as "Norm!" as in the famous character from *Cheers*. Neil majored in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Political Science.

After college, he worked for 5 years at the Mercantile Exchange, where his father worked and owned a successful brokerage business for many years. Later, Neil found his passion of working in sales and special events production, which he has done for more than 30 years. He has been with his current company, BBJ LaTavola, a specialty linen rental company for the last ten years as Director of Logistics.

When Neil was 12 years old, he went to Camp Menominee in Wisconsin, which was an all-boys camp. The girls camp, Marimeta, was nearby, and they socialized very often. During that summer, he met one of those girls, Robyn Gaffen. Years later, college friends fixed them up and, 10 months later, they were engaged and soon married. Neil and Robyn have two children, Logan, a junior at Kansas, and a daughter, Madison, a senior at Glenbrook North and current CHUSY region Israel Affairs VP.

One of Neil's greatest Jewish memories include working with his dad and family during his early teen years helping with the Maot Chitim Passover deliveries to needy families. During those years, Neil remembers his father's words to live by, "Help others who can't help themselves." Another great memory is going to Israel for the first time during the Men's Club Israel trip in 2018. Seeing Israel for the first time and enjoying the beauty and tradition of our homeland was a life changing experience for Neil.

A year after his Bar Mitzvah, at the age of 14, Larry passed away very suddenly, and the Rosengard family continues his legacy as a leader of Beth Shalom through Neil's many years of volunteering in CBS and Men's Club involvement. He has been on the Board of Trustees for over 15 years, acting as Membership VP and House VP as well as Men's Club House VP. Neil continues his father's tradition of holding the Torah during Kol Nidre. We thank Neil and Robyn, a past president of CBS Sisterhood and current Religious School VP, for their many years of involvement at CBS, and we look forward to a great year as he serves as VP of Membership of the CBS Men's Club.

We are planning on another great year with the CBS Men's Club. We are ready to work hard and have fun giving back to CBS with our Executive Board and Board of Trustees including our 10 new members of the Board.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. See you all soon.

Steve and Andy

## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



Welcome back to another year of Men's Club programming at Congregation Beth Shalom! We have another great year of fun and activities planned. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and are already getting back to a more normal life with school and work.

September activities will begin on **Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup>** with the Men's Club Opening Dinner including WMVP's Operations Director, Randy Merkin, talking about his book "*Behind the Glass: Stories from a Sports Radio Producer*" and a Men's Club prepared delicious dinner. We are

looking forward to interacting with our TEN new board members and newest Men's Club members on that evening.

Here are some dates to enter in your calendars for the upcoming year for the CBS Men's Club.

- Wednesday, September 21, 2022: Opening dinner
- Thursday, October 13, 2022: Steaks in the Sukkah featuring the Chicago Bears vs. the Washington Commanders
- Saturday, November 12, 2022: Men's Club and Sisterhood Event
- Sunday, March 12, 2023: Lox Box Delivery
- April 15, 2023: Men's Club Shabbat
- Thursday, June 15, 2023: Men's Club Golf Outing & Installation Dinner

This month we meet our Men's Club **Recording Secretary, David Lasky**. David is the son of Bob<sup>†</sup> and Barbara Lasky, long time members of Congregation Beth Shalom. David attended Hebrew School along with his sister, Janice Lasky Zeid, and his brother, Steve, at CBS, and David celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Israel. He attended Glenbrook South and participated in many activities including soccer, cross country, track and martial arts. David began a long career in Martial Arts at the age of eight practicing Judo at the Northbrook YMCA and eventually Tae Kwon Do in high school and college. David attended the University of Iowa and continued this on the Iowa Tae Kwon Do team, both teaching and competing. David majored in psychology and minored in business administration at Iowa and then completed a master's program in psychology at the Adler School of Professional Psychology. He became a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (CADAC) and a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) in the late 90's.

David began his counseling career at the Center for Addictive Problems in 1996. In 1999, he began what became a nationally recognized award winning substance abuse prevention program with the Albany Park Community Center, where he was promoted to the Director of Development during his final four years there. David met his wife Jodi in Albany Park at an evening social event. They married two years later and moved from Arlington Heights to Buffalo Grove and finally to Northbrook. They have a daughter, Madelyn, who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Israel and is currently attending Illinois State University and a son, Sean, a senior at Glenbrook North.

During his time at the Albany Park Community Center his love for martial arts inspired him to start his own school in Chicago, Lasky Martial Arts, which he owned from 2001-2012. In 2006, he started working at Universal Scrap Metals with his brother-in-law, Jason Zeid, and became Director of Sales & Marketing, the position he holds to this day.

Along with CBS, David is involved in the Technology and Manufacturing Association, started their Young Leaders Board in 2010, and has worked on their marketing committee. After serving on CBS Men's Club Board, last year he took on the responsibility of Recording Secretary where he sends out letters to CBS members sharing our club's contribution to the Youth Scholarship Fund for various life cycle events. This year David joined the Men's Club softball team and is enjoying his time on the field. We thank David for his efforts as CBS Men's Club Recording Secretary and look forward to his CBS Men's Club involvement for years to come.

Andy and I want to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year as we celebrate the High Holidays later this month. May you all be inscribed into the Book of Life for a good and prosperous New Year.

See you soon at our Men's Club opening dinner.

Steve and Andy

## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



**L'Shana Tova Tikateivu!!!** The CBS Men's Club would like to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 5783. Right at the start of the new year, we have some wonderful events that we hope you can attend.

- **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: Scotch and Steaks in the Sukkah.** As a bonus, we will be watching the Chicago Bears take on the Washington Commanders on Thursday Night Football. Please see the flyer in this bulletin for more information and to sign up.

- **Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Men's Club Breakfast.** The topic will be **The Ark: 50 Years of Tikkun Olam in Action.** Learn about one of the organizations to which we contribute with our Lox Box sales. Sign up will be available along with all of our events on our SquareSite: <https://cbsmensclubevents.square.site/>
- **Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>: Israel in Depth.** The topic will be **Everybody's Voting.**

Let's meet a long-standing board member of Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club, **Howard Jacob.** Born on the South Side, Howard grew up in Jeffrey Manor and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at South Shore Temple. He attended Bowen High School and was involved in orchestra and was a stage crew manager. Early in life, he had an interest in Electrical Engineering and began building a variety of electronic kits from KnightKit and HeathKit. In high school, he had a small electronic equipment repair service which solidified his interest in engineering as a career. Howard attended the University of Illinois Circle Campus (now UIC), majoring in Electrical Engineering.

At 17, Howard crashed a party in Evanston with friends. The host of the party was 16 year-old Laurie Crost. After dating for 6 years, Laurie and Howard married. They have three grown children, Marcy, Brad, and Josh. Marcy and her husband, Bryan Pawlak, are members of Congregation Beth Shalom with their children, Lola and Harper. Brad lives in Los Angeles, and Josh and his wife, Shoshana live in Providence, RI with children, Meital and Avi. Laurie graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a degree in math education, and taught high school math until she retired to raise their family. She has been a long time Sisterhood and Mitzvah Committee member.

Howard's career was always based in Electrical Engineering, later moving to technical sales, marketing, and business development. After his first two jobs, he settled in with Intel and spent 33 years with them. Howard and Laurie first lived in Skokie, and then Deerfield, where they belonged to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, and then Intel moved them in 1989 to Saratoga, CA where they joined Congregation Beth David. They came back to Illinois for good in 1992, moved to Northbrook, and joined CBS.

Howard was involved in Jewish organizations his entire life. In high school he was part of Torah AZA and as a young married adult he was active in the Harold Cohen Lodge of B'nai B'rith in Skokie. After joining CBS, Howard quickly became involved in the synagogue and the Men's Club. He assisted with the original CBS website design, and, for the last nine years, he has been very involved in the marketing and branding of CBS and the Men's Club. Every flyer that the Men's Club puts out, has a final touch and seal of approval by Howard. Along with his marketing assistance, Howard, Marcy, and Bryan became involved in the early days of Keruv at CBS. They helped create interfaith-welcoming programming for all synagogue members. Howard has previously served on the Men's Club Executive Board as Recording Secretary. Howard was honored as our Man of the Year in 2019.

Howard and Laurie have done some exciting traveling over the years including numerous cruises, a month traveling Europe, two weeks in Australia with the entire family, visiting Israel twice, and a Danube River Jewish Heritage Cruise from Prague to Budapest. After retirement, Howard has stayed involved in his industry. He is a judge for the UIC Engineering Design Expo every year and mentors UIC students at UIC in engineering and business. He also advises startups and sits on the Board of Directors of the Intel Alumni Network having served as President.

Howard has been a tremendous support to CBS and CBS Men's Club, and we thank Howard and his family for their continued support of Congregation Beth Shalom for many years. Todah Rabbah!!!

We wish all of you a sweet and happy 5783. May you all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a good and prosperous New Year.

Steve and Andy

# MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



Happy November and Cheshvan. We can all breathe a little after a busy holiday season. We just got through a busy time at Beth Shalom. Our Steaks and Scotch in the Sukkah was a huge success and our opening dinner hosted over 60 people for a delicious meal and a very interesting speaker, WMVP's Randy Merkin. Here are our upcoming events:

**Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club and Sisterhood Get-Together.** We will be bowling at Bowlero in Buffalo Grove. Please see this month's bulletin for more information.

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club breakfast and speaker.** We will be featuring Laurence Holmes from *670 The Score* (2pm to 6pm Monday thru Friday) and host of *House of L Podcast*.

**Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Erev Thanksgiving featuring the Jesse White Tumblers...** Bring the family for a great night of entertainment and delicious dinner.

Continuing our meet-the-board series, let's meet our **Ritual Vice President, Alan Wernick**. Alan was born in Columbus, Ohio, and his family belonged to Congregation Tifereth Israel (TI), a conservative shul in Columbus. At the age of 12, Alan's father<sup>1</sup> passed from pneumonia. He celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at TI with his mother<sup>2</sup>, two sisters, large extended family, friends, but sadly without his dad. In high school, he was very involved in stage crew, debate team, ran AV equipment for the school and as a freshman, he was the manager of the boys' baseball team.

The one constant in Alan's early years was his love for electronics and computers. His mom would tell the story that when he was around six years old, he rebuilt a broken lawn mower and fixed it! At age ten, he built his first computer. He was active in AZA in high school and also enjoyed martial arts, which he would continue into college and beyond. Alan attended THE Ohio State University majoring in accounting. After Alan's dad passed, his cousin, Mel, who was 20 years older, became a father figure in deciding career choices. Accounting and then law school were highly suggested, and they both were realized. Alan quickly became involved in computer programming at OSU and became a research assistant programming and consulting for faculty, staff, and students in various colleges including Business, Pharmacy and Medicine. He was also involved in Hillel and was president of Sigma Iota Lambda, a Pre-Law Honorary Society. After graduation, he worked as a bank auditor prior to law school. He graduated from Capital University Law School in Columbus where he won an award for best written motion and was selected as the research assistant to the Dean. During his last year, he also studied at OSU Law School. After graduation, he joined a large multistate real estate developer becoming their General Counsel.

During his last year of Law School, Alan attended a Hillel Grad Student Dinner and met a lady who had recently moved to Columbus for work, Jennifer Field. Two years later she moved to New York City, though they kept in touch. Soon after, he discovered the burgeoning field of computer law, which meant he could combine his love for law and computers. After a letter campaign to the then six practitioners, he moved to New York City for a position with one of them and reunited with Jennifer, marrying within a year. They have two children. Chava, who lives in New Jersey and whose work involves website design and development. She recently married Chayim Goldberg. Their son, Akiva, is a PhD grad student in aerospace engineering at OSU.

Alan and his family moved to Northbrook in 1998, when he was recruited by a Chicago law firm specializing in his fields of technology, privacy/cybersecurity, and intellectual property law. He is currently with the law firm of Aronberg Goldgehn. Jennifer is a competitive intelligence research analyst for Allstate.

When they moved to Northbrook, they joined CBS and became active. Alan started with helping the Men's Club with the Lox Box program and went on from there. Jennifer is a member of Sisterhood, and has served on the synagogue Ritual Committee and led weekday minyan services. She also is a frequent Torah and Haftarah reader. As Ritual VP, Alan oversees three major activities of Men's Club, **Yellow Candle Program, World Wide Wrap and Men's Club Shabbat**. We thank Alan and Jennifer for their continued involvement at CBS, and we look forward to working with them for many years to come.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our special events in November including the Men's Club/Sisterhood event at Bowlero in Buffalo Grove on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Steve and Andy

## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



November was one of our busiest months in recent memory. We had a very successful evening with the Sisterhood, bowling in Buffalo Grove. We then had a great Sunday morning breakfast with guest speaker, Laurence Holmes from the SCORE. Our highlight was the annual Erev Thanksgiving dinner with families enjoying the Jesse White Tumblers. We want to thank our Men's Club Exec and Board for their support in making all of this happen.

Here are our upcoming events. Please **preregister** on the Square site page (<https://bit.ly/cbsmensclub>):

- **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>: Israel in Depth.** The topic will be Secular Israelis Find New Ways to be Jewish.
- **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>: Israel in Depth.** The topic will be It's More than the Egalitarian Kotel.
- **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Men's Club Breakfast.** The ADL will be speaking about current state of anti-Semitism in the United States and the role technology plays in spreading hate.

We end 2022 introducing another CBS Men's Club Board Member, **Frank Star**. Frank was born in Columbus, GA, near Atlanta. His great-great grandfather settled there from Germany in the 1880s. Frank's family were active members of Temple Israel, a reform synagogue in Columbus. His father, Frank, was Temple President for multiple terms, and his mom, Barbara, was Sisterhood President, also for multiple terms. Frank had his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Israel and attended high school at Brookstone School. He played soccer, was active in student government, and graduated first in his class. Frank then attended Duke University majoring in History. A loyal fan, Frank still follows his Duke Blue Devils in all sports. At Duke, Frank was a member of the BOG Fraternity (a Bunch of Guys!), and he studied abroad for one semester at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

After graduation, Frank went to work for First American Bank, initially in DC and then in Atlanta. After a few years, Frank received his MBA from the University of Chicago. He then went to work for Ernst and Young as a consultant in banking and financial services. During his time at Ernst and Young, Frank became active in the Jewish United Fund Young Leadership Division (JUF YLD). Working on a JUF YLD Passover Committee, he met Mindy Webberman. Soon after they met, Frank's job took him overseas to Singapore and Amsterdam, so their relationship initially was long distance (he returned home about once a month). About a year after he returned to Chicago, they got engaged and subsequently married.

In their early years of married life, Frank and Mindy lived in the city and were members of Anshe Emet synagogue. Frank left Ernst and Young, and for the last 18 years has worked in finance for United Airlines. Currently he manages the finance team supporting United's cargo division. They moved to Northbrook and joined Congregation Beth Shalom in 2005. Mindy is very active as a wish granter and special event coordinator for Paws for Patrick, an organization that works to provide emotional support animals and therapy dogs to young people aiding them as they live with mental illness.

Frank and Mindy have two daughters. Ashley is a sophomore at the University of Maryland, and Paige is a senior at Glenbrook North. Both girls had their Bat Mitzvah at CBS, and both have been officers for the CBS USY and the CHUSY Regional Board. Their daughters were dedicated dancers from age three through high school, and Paige plays lacrosse for Glenbrook North.

Working for United made family travel easy. One special trip was to Germany to take part in a very special celebration. Mindy's family are Holocaust survivors, and, during World War II, her grandfather and his brother hid in a barn to escape the German Army during the death marches. The woman who owned the barn secretly took care of them until it was safe to leave. For this heroic act, her descendants were awarded the Righteous Among the Nations award from Yad Vashem, and Frank and Mindy attended the award ceremony in Germany as well as visited the barn where her grandfather hid. A special trip indeed!!

Mindy is a member of the Beth Shalom Sisterhood, and Frank has been on the Men's Club Executive Board for the last 5 years, including 2 years as Treasurer. We thank Frank and Mindy for their dedication to Congregation Beth Shalom and look forward to their continuing for years to come.

Enjoy Chanukah and Happy New Year 2023!

Steve and Andy

## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



Every year, we have the pleasure and pride to announce our Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) Man of the Year. Following in the footsteps of our previous well-deserving honorees, our 2023 Man of the Year is...

### NEIL ROSENGARD

Neil grew up at Congregation Beth Shalom and then became an active CBS Men's Club Executive Board Member. We will be celebrating this honor with the Midwest Region FJMC Man of the Year and Youth of the Year Award Ceremony honorees on **Sunday, March 26th** at Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove. The event will begin at 3pm with refreshments and snacks, and a formal presentation will take place at 3:30 pm in their main sanctuary. Please join us in honoring Neil for his years of dedicated service to our synagogue and Men's Club as our 2023 Man of the Year!

You can find his bio in the Man of the Year flyer in this bulletin on page 14. We give our best wishes to his wife, Robyn, and children, Logan and Madison, and the entire Rosengard Family on this special honor.

Over the next few months, our Men's Club will be very busy. We begin with our World Wide Wrap on **Sunday, February 12th** as we are joined by the 6th and 7th graders and their parents for morning worship and wearing Tefillin, many for the very first time. It will follow with a complimentary breakfast. We hope you can all join us.

On **Sunday, February 19th** we start the morning with Israel in Depth and a free breakfast for those attending. That afternoon, the Men's Club is co-sponsoring a synagogue event with the Sisterhood and Families with Young Children. It is an afternoon at the Chicago Wolves game with the game starting at 3:00 pm.

Our Lox Box Program is in full swing right now. You can purchase Lox Boxes for your family, relatives, friends, or business associates. As always, there is the opportunity to donate a box to The Ark and or CJE. Lox Box Delivery will be on **Sunday, March 12th**. If anyone would like to assist with packing or delivery of Lox Boxes, please reach out to Don Pike, at [dpike1481@gmail.com](mailto:dpike1481@gmail.com).

Again, we congratulate Neil Rosengard on his honor as CBS Men's Club Man of the Year. We look forward to celebrating with Neil on March 26th!!!

Happy February to everyone, and we will see you at Congregation Beth Shalom very soon,

Steve and Andy



## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



In 1973, the Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club honored our first Kavod Award honoree, David Shapiro<sup>21</sup>. In 2023, we are keeping this tradition alive with our 50<sup>th</sup> honoree of the Kavod Award. We are privileged to announce that the 50<sup>th</sup> honoree of the Kavod Award is...

### **NORMAN PADNOS!**

Norm grew up in the Chicagoland area. His family was affiliated with the Conservative movement at West Suburban Temple Har Zion. Norman is a graduate of IIT/Chicago Kent College of Law with a Juris Doctorate and is in private practice, when not volunteering on behalf of his synagogue. Norm and Darlene have been married since June 28, 1967 and lived for a short while in Skokie, then in Niles, and now in Glenview.

Norm is very devoted to Conservative Judaism. Before joining CBS in 2010, he served Northwest Suburban Jewish Congregation as its President for multiple terms with years of active involvement in many other capacities. He is especially proud to have served the Midwest Region, USCJ as President, Financial Secretary and Youth Commission Chairman. He previously served on the boards of the Jewish National Fund Illinois Region and the Community Foundation for Jewish Education. He is a Hadassah Associate and a member of the Prime Minister's Club for State of Israel Bonds. Norm was involved in their local community as a member of the Board of Education of the East Maine School District #63 for fourteen years serving as President, Vice President, Chairman of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, and Chairman of the Negotiations Committee.

Darlene and Norman first visited Israel in 1984 and have made over 35 trips since then. They were thrilled to serve as co-leaders of four synagogue missions to Israel. It is their passion to encourage family and friends to travel to Israel.

Their greatest inspiration and nachas come from their family. Mitchell and his wife, Sherri, have become active CBS members. Their son, Ethan, and his wife, Alexa, served in the IDF as lone soldiers and now make their home in Jerusalem. Their other son, Benjamin, graduated from DePaul University after spending his gap year in Israel on Nativ. Billy and his wife, Shari Back, make their home in Pittsburgh and the family is affiliated with Temple Sinai. Their children, Elana and Ari, are both students of musical theatre.

Norm Padnos truly believes that his synagogue affiliation and active participation have provided the most positive influence for their family's Jewish identity. It has strengthened their love and support for the State of Israel, encouraged greater ritual observance, and developed leadership skills.

As a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, Norm has served on the Congregation Board of Trustees, continues to sit on the Board of the CBS Men's Club, and is always helping out in the kitchen when he is in town.

We give a hearty Mazel Tov to Norm, Darlene, and the entire Padnos family on Norm's honor of receiving the CBS Men's Club Kavod Award on its 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Please join us on **Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** as we honor Norm and his family at Men's Club Shabbat.

Steve and Andy

## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



**Chag Sameach** to our wonderful community of Congregation Beth Shalom. Depending on when you are reading this, we hope that you will or already have enjoyed time with family and friends at your Seders and the joyous holiday of Passover. We have an exciting April planned, and we hope you can participate with us.

Here are our upcoming events. Please preregister on the Squaresite page (<https://bit.ly/cbsmensclub>):

- **Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>: Men's Club Shabbat.** We will be honoring our 2023 Kavod Award Honoree, **Norm Padnos**. We will also recognize our **50** years of Kavod honorees. The Men's Club Choir, under the direction of Michael Schnitzler, will be returning after a three year absence. A word-class Kiddush will follow, and join us for a L'Chaim.
- **Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: Yom HaShoah.** We will be joining Cantor Steven Stoehr at Temple Jeremiah where he will be guest cantor (see flyer in bulletin). That evening, please light your **Yellow** Candle that was sent to you by the Men's Club.
- **Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Israel in Depth.** The topic will be "What Does it Mean to be Pro-Israel?" Please preregister.

As we do every month, we would like to introduce you to one of the leaders of our Men's Club, **Dr. Sam Grief**. Sam has been a member of CBS for over 10 years, and he recently returned to our Board. Sam was previously Recording Secretary of the Men's Club years ago. We are so glad to see him help in the kitchen and wherever we need a hand.

Sam was born in Montréal, Quebec, Canada. His family then moved to the neighboring city of Laval. He celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at Young Israel of Chomedey and attended Western Laval High School. Sam shared that his father was active in the Men's Club of Young Israel and credits him with Sam's interest in being active here at CBS.

One of Sam's highlights growing up with his twin brother, Eric, was being on television together on a popular Montréal quiz show called "Reach for the Top." When they were in 11<sup>th</sup> grade they earned the opportunity to be contestants. After studying for weeks, they got on and enjoyed a one-time visit to the popular show. Sam actually received an award in high school for being on the show.

Sam later attended McGill University in Montréal for his undergraduate studies, medical school earning his MD, and family medicine residency. His medical practice took him to New England prior to settling down in Chicago. In 1999, Sam joined the faculty at University of Illinois-Chicago as both a clinician and teacher of medical students and resident physicians in both the hospital and office settings. He held that position for twenty years and now works for CVS Health, advising and consulting on clinical strategies.

Sam met his wife, Kim Eisenberg, a native of Detroit who had graduated several years back from DePaul Law School, on JDate. Married in 2004, they lived in Chicago until 2012, then moved to Northbrook that summer. They have two children who both attend Glenbrook North High School, daughter, Alexa (17), is a senior and a son, Justin (15), who is a sophomore. They both had their B'nai Mitzvah at CBS with Justin having had the first Zoom Bar Mitzvah offered by Rabbi Melman and Cantor Stoehr during the pandemic.

In his spare time, Sam enjoys golf, crossword puzzles, and music. Sam wants to share with everyone that his family is so happy to live in Northbrook and enjoys the camaraderie of the community at Congregation Beth Shalom. The Men's Club at CBS feels the same way about Sam getting more involved in CBS, and we look forward to his continued involvement on the Executive Board, in the kitchen and wherever else Sam wants to assist.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Men's Club Shabbat on **April 15<sup>th</sup>** and hope everyone has a **Chag Kasher v'Sameach**.

Steve and Andy

## MEN'S CLUB

Steve Lessman



Dr. Andrew Wagner



The month of May is here and we are taking a bit of a breather after a very busy couple of months at CBS. We are still on a high from a memorable Men's Club Shabbat. We had the pleasure to honor 49 previous Kavod Award Honorees and their families along with our newest Kavod Award Honoree, **Norm Padnos**. It was so nice to see so many Congregation Beth Shalom families celebrating together both young and old on Men's Club Shabbat. Special thanks go to our VP of Ritual Alan Wernick and Andy Wagner for putting the service together and Michael Schnitzler for leading our Men's Club Choir.

This month, our Men's Club will be assisting the Religious School on **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** for the **End of Year Bash** serving hot dogs to the families. Please mark your calendar for **Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**, our **Men's Club Golf Outing** at Buffalo Grove Golf Club with dinner at Congregation Beth Shalom to follow. See flyer on page 13 of the bulletin.

**Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** will be the **Men's Club Installation Breakfast** as we install our new Executive Board and Board. Breakfast will begin at 9:30 am following Minyan.

Continuing our meet the Board series, we would like to introduce one of our Men's Club Board Members who also sits on the CBS Executive Board, **Randy Samborn**. Randy was born in Toledo, Ohio. His family was very active at the Orthodox synagogue in Toledo formerly known as B'nai Jacob, now known as Congregation Etz Chayim, and this is where Randy had his Bar Mitzvah. Randy's father, Alfred Samborn<sup>1</sup>, was President of B'nai Jacob and very active in the synagogue and Jewish philanthropy. Randy attended Maumee Valley Country Day School from third grade through senior year of high school. He wrote his first article about sports for his school newspaper in the seventh grade and eventually became editor-in-chief in high school. He was also active in student government, wrestled, and played soccer. He also participated in NCSY, the youth organization of Orthodox synagogues.

Randy got Potomac fever when he first visited Washington, DC, in 1974 amid Watergate and he was inspired by Woodward and Bernstein. He majored in history at Washington University in St. Louis and set his sights on law school but pursued being a journalist by writing for and editing various student publications. He happily admits that he also "studied" baseball and became an undying fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. After college, he landed his dream job as an intern for *The Blade*, his hometown daily newspaper. The same year, he enrolled at University of Toledo Law School and also continued working part-time at *The Blade*. After passing the bar, Randy continued as a full-time reporter, covering crime, the courts, and legal affairs. While at *The Blade*, he attended a law school party and met Hope Viner, a Chicago native who was working as a reporter in Findlay, Ohio, while attending law school in Toledo. Soon after, Hope went to work at *The Blade*, and they were married the following year. They have three children: Eve, who is married to Brandt McCool and lives in Louisville with a new daughter, Ali; Sarah, a third grade teacher in Wilmette; and Ben, an engineer living in Chicago.

Randy left *The Blade* and joined the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office as a state court prosecutor for two years. Randy and Hope then moved to Chicago and Randy became bureau chief of *The National Law Journal*. After six years, he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and the first full-time public information officer, serving for 20 years. Currently, Randy is the principal of Randall A. Samborn & Associates LLC, a strategic communications consultant.

Randy and Hope moved to Glenview, first joined Ezra Habonim, and then CBS. All three of their children had their B'nai Mitzvah at CBS. Randy has been active in Men's Club as VP of House and Membership and, at the synagogue level, he was VP Membership and is currently VP Programming and is on the CBS Executive Board. The Samborn family also has been very active members with Hope in Sisterhood, the CBS Board and VP Social Action and Eve was active in CBS USY.

We thank Randy and Hope for their service to Congregation Beth Shalom and look forward to their continued involvement for years to come.

Enjoy the weather in May. See you on **June 4<sup>th</sup>** for our Men's Club Installation and on **June 15<sup>th</sup>** for our Golf Outing.

Steve and Andy