**Nomination for Torch Award by Northern Hills Synagogue Men’s Club**

In the past year, the Covid-19 situation was a priority for programing at Northern Hills Synagogue (NHS). Members of the congregation desired information about this pandemic. The Men’s Club developed programming to meet this need. Fortunately, in house expertise was available to assist us. Dr. George Smulian is the Ward E Bullock Professor of Infectious Diseases, Director, Infectious Disease Division, University of Cincinnati at UC Health.

On May 13, 2020, Dr. Smulian delivered a presentation using Zoom titled “Covid-19 – Past, Present, and Future.” He developed a PowerPoint program to provide detailed information. The presentation attracted approximately 120 people with approximately eighty zoom connections. Most attendees were NHS members with outsiders participating as well. Many questions were posed using the Zoom chat feature and were addressed after Dr. Smulian’s presentation.

On December 16, 2020 a follow up program was held. It was titled “Clinical Ethics in the Time of Covid-19. In addition to Dr. Smulian, Dr. Mark Washofsky participated. Dr Washofsky is the Solomon B. Freehof Professor of Jewish Law at Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. Again, there were approximately 120 people participating. Dr. Smulian provided an update on the status of the virus and vaccines that were under development. Dr. Washofsky opined on ethical challenges associated with a pandemic. For example, if a patient is in ICU on a ventilator, having little chance of surviving, do you take this patient off the ventilator and give it to another patient who would survive?

Both of these programs were very well received. Considering Covid-19, people were glad to have information provided by experts.