

## **LIEBERMAN CENTER FOR HEALTH AND REHABILITATION**

In 2008 the FJMC's Midwest Region decided to send volunteers to the Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation to assist the residents to attend Saturday morning Shabbat Services. The Lieberman Center is maintained by an organization known as the Council of Jewish Elderly, and the relationship with the Midwest Region has lasted until the Covid-19 Pandemic started in March of 2020.

Over this time span the Midwest Region has appointed two men as the Region's Coordinators of the program. One of those men, Howard Minkoff, is from our Club. These men created a yearly schedule that was sent to the participating Men's Clubs and reminded the club's coordinator each week when they needed to be at the Lieberman Center, and solve any problems that may have come up.

Congregation Beth Shalom's Men's Club was one of the original clubs to volunteer to go the Lieberman Center and faithfully went to the Center weekly to help with the services. The Beth Shalom's coordinator, besides his many other duties, is the Men's Club President.

Shabbat Service Duties for Midwest Region Volunteers:

1. Arrive between 9:15 and 9:30 A.M. and sign in.
2. After signing in, receive an assignment sheet and go upstairs to the assigned floor.
3. If need be, go to the resident's room and bring them to the services if they need help.
4. Hand out prayer books and help the residents, if needed.
5. There have been times when the volunteers have been asked to be part of the service, and there have been times when the volunteers conducted the service.
6. After services, the volunteers brought the residents back to their rooms or to their dining room.
7. After taking residents back their rooms or a dining room, the volunteers would go back to check the room where the services were held to make sure that all the books and what else used in the service was back in place.

Congregation Beth Shalom during the years 2019-2021 sent a minimum of four men to the Lieberman Center on the following dates until COVID-19:

August 10, 2019	September 14, 2019	October 19, 2019	November 23, 2019
December 28, 2019	February 1, 2020	March 7, 2020	

## **OPENING DINNER – BEARS VS PACKER CELEBRATING THE NFL AT 100**

September 5, 2019

Opening Dinner 2019, brought rivalries to the forefront of the Beth Shalom Men's Club. It pitted brother vs brother, father vs son, president's vs past presidents! You might ask what we did, well we watched one of the greatest rivalries in the NFL!! We kicked off our year, as the NFL kicked off their 100<sup>th</sup> season, by watching our hometown Monsters of the Midway, the Chicago Bears take on their great and historic rival the Green Bay Packers.

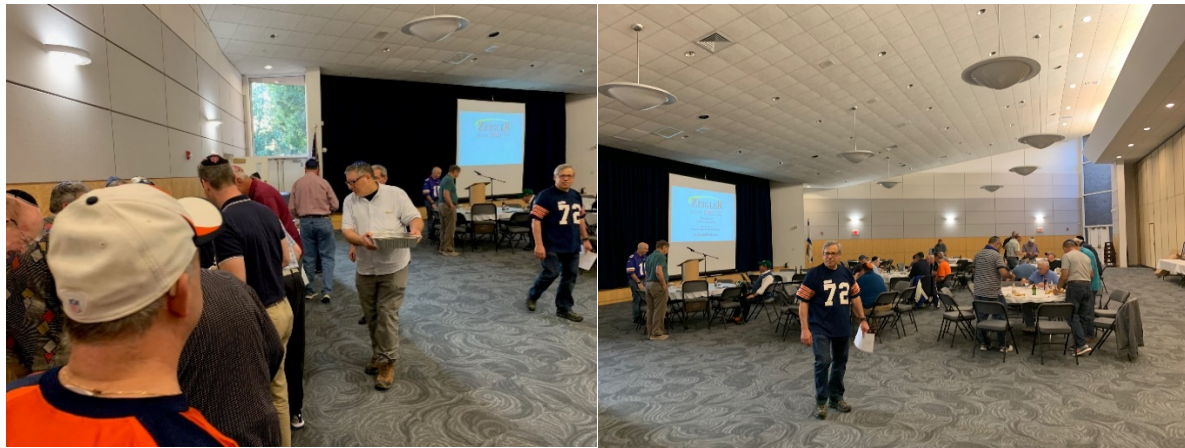
Tensions rose, nerves were on end, as the Packers and Bears put on a defensive battle with the visitors from Green Bay pulling out a hard fought 10-3 victory; however, all was not lost for the Bears fans in attendance, we also had a silent auction, and memorabilia show-and-tell for the fans.

Members brought their vintage jerseys, rare autographs, game bought programs, and stories from bye-gone eras. Men's Club members shared their stories and relived their youth. The stories were endless.

During the game, our guests were able to bid on historic items ranging from vintage Bears and Packers memorabilia to pictures of the legendary Rat Pack, to trips to beautiful and exotic locales!!

This was an amazing night and an exciting way to kick off our 2019-2020 programming year!

The flyer for this Program is attached under "Marketing".



Its Dinner Time



Above Left – Our Packers Contingent at Beth Shalom, Right – Time to Watch the Game



It's Funny How the Packer Fans Win the Walter Payton item in the Raffle

### **YOM BETH SHALOM**

September 8, 2019

This program celebrates the opening of the Congregational Calendar Year and the first day of Sunday School. The parking lot is set up with carnival games and a lunch tent. Inside the building lobby, while the kids are at the carnival, the parents are picking up their High Holiday Tickets and stopping at various booths to get information on the various synagogue affiliated entities, which includes the Men's Club.

As co-sponsors of this event, the Men's Club does the following:

- Set-up and run the carnival games
- Set-up, cook, serve and clean-up lunch in shifts
- Assist with High Holiday Ticket pick-up
- Man the Men's Club information Table

### **BAGELS ON THE RUN**

September 15, 2019

Members of our Club handed coffee, bagels, and the Men's Club calendar to parents as they dropped their children off for the second day of Sunday school. We included promotional materials about our Club. This created great camaraderie for Club Members and great PR for the Club. Given the age of most Sunday School parents, this gives us the chance to meet younger men in the congregation. It also allows us to put a face on the Men's Club and an opportunity to invite them to upcoming programs.

## ISRAEL IN DEPTH – 2019-2020

This program involves a series of six sessions disbursed over the synagogue calendar year and is co-sponsored by the Men's Club, CBS University-Adult Education, and the Israel Committee. Each year, the topics of the six-session series are different.

In May of each year, through the synagogue formal calendar planning process, the Men's Club reserves all Sunday mornings that are available for our programming. Soon after, a meeting is held with the Men's Club President, the Director of Jewish Life and Learning, Carl Schrag the renowned educator and various members of the Israel Committee.

This meeting has two objectives. First, to select the six Sunday morning dates that work with Carl Schrag's schedule and second, to brainstorm topics for the six sessions. Carl Schrag leaves this meeting with a list of 12 to 15 topics. He then reviews the topics and narrows them down to the six he suggests proceeding with, which is then reviewed and finalized at a subsequent meeting. Here are the topics selected by year:

September 15, 2019 - Electoral Do-Over: What to Watch for in the Second Israeli Election of 2019

September 22, 2019 – Coalition Calculus: What the Elections mean for Israel's Future

November 24, 2019 - Israelis and American Jews Talk About Trump: Is the Leader of the Free World "Good for the Jews"?

December 15, 2019 - Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Points Beyond

January 19, 2020 - The Rainbow of Israel Society

February 9, 2020 - Israel Across the Generational Divide

The flyer for this year's sessions is attached under "Marketing".

As part of our co-sponsorship, we provide a completed buffet breakfast that includes the following:

- Lox and bagels with all the condiments
- Scrambled eggs done three different ways
- Roasted potatoes or hash browns
- Fruit tray
- Multiple pastry options
- Orange juice, coffee, and tea

A Men's Club Kitchen Crew is assigned to each session who are responsible for shopping, cooking and buffet set-up, room set-up and cleaning of all areas. **These breakfasts are provided to all attendees at no charge.**

## BUILD THE CONGREGATIONAL SUKKAH

October 6, 2019

Since the inception of Congregation Beth Shalom in 1967, the Men's Club has purchased, erected, and maintained the synagogue's Sukkah. It has been our custom that the annual gathering to erect the Sukkah is organized by a Past President of the Club and is passed down from one Past President to the next.

Eight years ago, we expanded our outdoor Sukkah to include a 400 square foot indoor Sukkah to accommodate more congregants for our school activities as well as our annual Sukkoth event that draws 350+ people.

This is a great shared work experience for club members of all ages. Each year all attendees are treated to the traditional Men’s Club buffet breakfast.



The Congregational Sukkah Under Construction



The Indoor Sukkah Under Construction

## **STEAKS IN THE SUKKAH**

October 17, 2019

This event has become our premier mid-fall social event. We generally attract 70 to 80 members for a wonderful steak dinner cooked to perfection by two of our “Grille Masters”. The meal comes with all the sides you would expect plus desert. A wide selection of beer as the beverage of choice is provided for all.

If we are fortunate, the evening of the event corresponds with the broadcast of a major sports event. We bring in the big screen TV and sound system and share the game. Other years we hold a shortened version of our October Board Meeting. This is a very versatile program allowing us to accomplish many goals at the same time.

This program provides an easy way to meet newer members of the club and it attracts a large contingent of younger men. It provides great camaraderie, sharing the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah and learning new things about the Club. This program checks off all the boxes.

Please see the Program flyer attached under “Marketing”.

## **EREV THANKSGIVING PROGRAM**

November 27, 2019

This is an annual event that attracts all generations and is attended by 300 congregants and their guests. Each year the entertainment for the event is different. This year the main act was the Jesse White Tumblers. We also held a raffle, and the prize winners were draw by our clergy.

We provided a complete buffet dinner with options for both adults and children. During dinner until the main act, we provided the following:

1. Roving magicians dressed up as Pilgrims
2. Actors dressed up as turkeys providing general entertainment
3. A balloon artist
4. Live bunny rabbits

This event continues to be well attended year after year. It keeps the children well entertained and busy giving the adults time to socialize and takes care of having to prepare dinner the night before Thanksgiving.

The flyer for this Program is attached under “Marketing”.



Above From the Left- The Raffle Sees Action, The Turkey Arrives! and Everyone Loves the Bunnies



Above From the Left- Balloons for Everyone and Dinner is served



The Main Attraction, The Jesse White Tumblers

**SPECIAL PROGRAM BREAKFAST SERIES 2019-2020**

For this calendar year we wanted to try something new in the way of marketing some of our programming. Instead of marketing each program individually, we decided to try marketing a group of six as sessions in a series like we do for Israel in Depth. The goal was to increase participation by building on the synergy from one program to the next. We marketed it in a way that it would feel that if you missed one of the programs, you would really be missing out.

The elements that all these programs have in common is that they are a synagogue program that the Men’s Club co-sponsors or they are a Men’s Club Program that the synagogue co-sponsors and of course we provided breakfast at each program.

We called this series the “Special Program Breakfast Series”, which included the following programs:

**October 20, 2019 - Refugee Family Program**

Early in 2019, Congregation Beth Shalom, Co-Sponsored a refugee family from Burma with RefugeeOne and assisted in their resettlement in West Rodgers Park in the City of Chicago. A committee was established to help with this task as well as for the ongoing assistance the family would need.

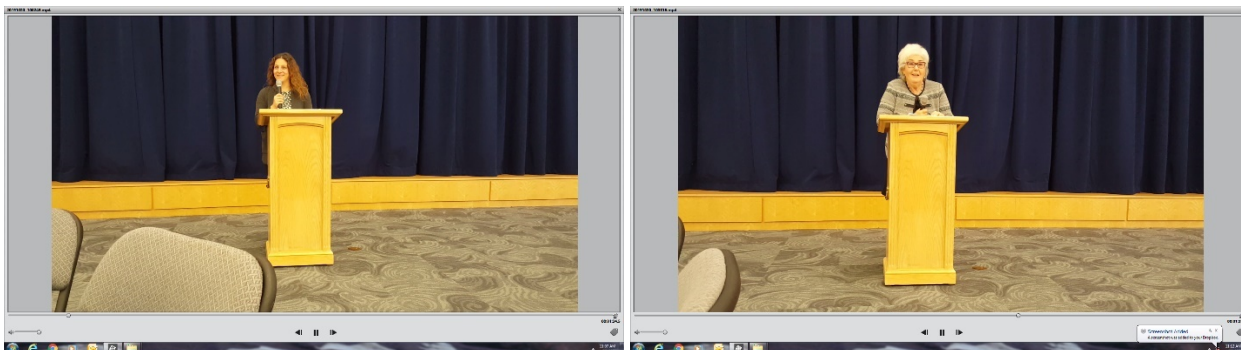
With the initial settlement complete, Men’s Club representatives met with the committee to see how we could be of assistance. We elected to do this Program to serve as general awareness to the Congregation, to discuss the process and what the ongoing assistance will look like.

Past CBS President Tami Rokni and Steve Krasner from the Committee spoke and gave us an update on how the family was doing. Jessica Schaffer, the Director of HIAS Immigration and Citizenship was present to discuss what a refugee was and what the requirements to enter the United States were. She also discussed the differences between a Refugee and an Immigrant and the services that are provided by HIAS.

We also had Eva Sideman, a Congregant and former refugee, tell her personal story of being a refuge from Romania in the early 1950's, leaving that country with a long layover in Vienna and finally settling in the United States. It was very emotional and heartwarming program. Please see the Program series flyer attached under "Marketing".



Above – Refugee Committee Members Tami Rokni and Steve Krasner Speak



Above Left – Jessica Schaffer From HIAS, Right – Eva Sideman Tells Her Refugee Story

### **October 27, 2019 - Pet Adoption Program**

Every year in conjunction with parshah No'ah, the synagogue conducts a Blessing of the Pets program, where congregants bring their pets to participate in a short service and then each pet receives an individual blessing from our clergy.

At the Men's Club, we asked the question, how can we support congregants who are thinking about adopting a pet and tie this into future participation in the Blessing of the Pets event? The result was this program. We brought in volunteers from a local animal shelter as well as a local veterinarian to discuss all aspects of pet adoption. The program was designed to conclude and then move outdoors for the Blessing of the Pets. Please see the Blessing of the Pets service program attached under "Detail Program Documents", and the Program series flyer attached under "Marketing".





Above left – John Anderson From the Heartland Animal Shelter and Dr. Michael Malitz From the Countryside Animal Clinic, Left Center - Lorrain and Lynn From the Shelter, Right Center – Congregant Dogs Getting to Know Each Other, Right – Rabbi Aaron Melman Does the Blessing Over the Pets

**November 10, 2019 - Honoring our Vets Program**

This was the second year for this program, where we honored our congregation’s US and Israeli Veterans. The Men’s Club had a representative sit on the committee to find the speaker, our President presented the Community Prayer. We also coordinated with the School Director to make sure all Sunday School children and their parents could attend the event.

Besides the speaker presentation, each Vet present was able to give a brief description of their military life. Please see the Honoring All Who Served Program and the Program series flyer attached under “Marketing”.



Above Left – Introduction of the Program, Left Center – Sunday School Students and Parents Attend, Right Center – The Presentation Starts, Right - Veterans Affairs Representative Michael Zimmerman Gives His Presentation

**January 26, 2020 - Jewish United Fund Program**

This is the largest program we work on each year with 250 attendees. The Men’s Club participates in the program prior to the introduction of the special speaker and of course as with all programs we provide our buffet breakfast. Unlike our smaller programs, this program enlists 30 men to do the room set-up, prepare the food, set-up, and man the three separate buffets and of course breakdown and cleanup at the conclusion of the event. Please see the Program series flyer attached under “Marketing”.



Above Left – The Room Set-up for 250 is Now Complete, Center – A Flurry of Activity in the Kitchen Getting the Meal Ready, Right – Bagels and More Bagels Ready to Put Out



Yaakov Katz Gives His Presentation

### **February 2, 2020 - World Wide Wrap**

The Beth Shalom Men's Club prides itself in providing a different spiritual experience for each of our annual World Wide Wrap programs.

This year, working with our Cantor Steven Stoehr and members CBS USY, we presented to the congregation a heightened sensory approach to the service call "Davening in the Dark". This program is a musical, interactive, and self-reflective way to be more spiritually connected to shacharit by participating in the service while blindfolded. It has been a part of many regional and international United Synagogue Youth programs previously.

All attendees put their tefillin on in the Lobby and then were blindfolded prior to entering the room and escorted to their seats. In addition to Cantor Steve, we had musical assistance from USY Members Marc Luban and Spencer Sher. Cantor Steve led us through the service interjecting chanting, poems, and other courses of thought. It was a very moving experience.

We had assistance from USY and the Men's Club ritual committee in escorting participants into Dickler Hall for services while blindfolded. We had involvement congregation-wide with assistance from our USY members and religious school. Many parents were able to teach their children how to lay tefillin.

Parallel to this program, the Men's Club sponsored the "Build a Pair" program in our school for all age-appropriate students and their parents. Please see the Program series flyer attached under "Marketing".



Above – Blindfolded and Escorted into the Service and During the Service



Above – World Wide Wrap Participants after the Service

#### **April 19, 2020 - Earth Day Program**

This would have been an amazing program if it was not cancelled due to COVID-19.

This was planned as a wide-reaching collaborative program designed by the Men's Club that incorporated our School, CBS USY, the Village of Northbrook Forestry Department, and the non-profit Go Green Northbrook organization. Here is some of what we had planned:

- Go Green Northbrook was going to give a presentation on recycling and what each of us can do in our lives to help reduce our impact on climate change.
- The Village of Northbrook Forestry Department was going to give a presentation on how they protect the Village owned trees, how to select a tree species and the proper placement on your property.
- Tree saplings give away of six different tree species.
- JNF was going to have representatives present to sell the planting of trees in Israel.

We discussed providing a virtual version of this program for 2021, but all parties decided it would be best to wait until we can do the program in person. Please see the Program series flyer attached under "Marketing".