

OPENING DINNER – TRIVIA NIGHT TOURNAMENT

September 17, 2020

Whew, what a strange six months! In the midst of a Global Pandemic, we, the Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club wanted to figure out a way to keep our wide-ranging members active, sharp, laughing, and competitive. What a better way to do this than hold a pub-style Trivia Night Tournament.

The night was hosted by the legendary emcees: Vice President of Membership, Bob Goldwin and Executive Vice President, Andy Wagner. They also design a custom PowerPoint to present all the questions and answers. They quizzed and drilled our members on 5 different categories, which were as follows:

- Chicago History
- Sports
- Wild-Card Round!!
- Politics
- Congregation Beth Shalom History

In the Wild-Card round the members turned the tables and were able to ask the group questions from the book "Game Night Trivia: 2,000 Trivia Questions to Stump Your Friends." We gave the book away as part of the program and was given to the participants when they picked their meals up at the synagogue.

I can promise you these trivia question, truly stumped our friends. The play was fast and fierce, but fun, as we played for gifts and prizes.

Now what pub style trivia night would be complete without tasty food!! We catered our Opening Dinner with food from Tailgators. Main courses included grilled chicken breast, a portobello mushroom, or a juicy ribeye steak. We offered plenty of side-dishes and a wonderful flourless chocolate cake for dessert. The night was a success, and we were excited to be able to hang out, albeit virtually with our friends and brothers in the Beth Shalom Men's Club!



Above – Picking Up Dinner and the Trivia Book at the Synagogue

3. WHO WAS THE FIRST PLAYER FROM THE SUPER BOWL XX CHAMPION CHICAGO BEARS TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME?

2 BONUS POINTS: WHO WAS THE MOST RECENT PLAYER TO BE INDUCTED?



WALTER PAYTON

(5 pts)



2 BONUS POINTS: JIM COVERT



Sample Sports Trivia Question and Answer From the On-Line Custom PowerPoint Presentation

4. FORMER ISRAELI NBA PLAYER, OMRI CASSPI, WORE #18 WHEN HE PLAYED FOR THE KINGS, ROCKETS, PELICANS, TIMBERWOLVES, WARRIORS, AND GRIZZLIES. HE DID NOT WEAR THIS NUMBER WHEN HE PLAYED FOR THE CAVALIERS, BECAUSE ANOTHER PLAYER, ANTHONY PARKER (WHO PLAYED IN ISRAEL FOR SIX YEARS AND WHO IS FROM NAPERVILLE), WORE #18. WHICH NUMBER DID CASSPI WEAR IN HIS TWO YEARS WITH THE CAVS?



#36 (DOUBLE CHAI)

(5 pts)



Sample Sports Trivia Question and Answer From the On-Line Custom PowerPoint Presentation

STEAKS IN THE SUKKAH

October 8, 2020

In 2020 there was obviously no way to put men in a Sukkah shoulder to shoulder. So we came up with a plan for the event that involved a combination of live streaming TV and a ZOOM presentation of the Bears vs Buccaneers game from the Sukkah. This included a professional local sportscaster doing color and dinners to be picked up at the synagogue prior to the game.

Unfortunately, we just could not get all the technology to work. So, with two weeks left, combining great brainstorming and a “can do attitude” we quickly turned around a completely new program called “Steaks in the Sukkah Tailgate”.

In that two-week period, we did the following:

1. We had to do a write-up of the entire program and describe how COVID-19 protocols would be followed. This was submitted to our synagogue COVID-19 Medical Task Force and the Clergy for review, and it was approved.
2. Working with our building facilities staff we determined that the best location to hold the program was off our school wing entrance as it was the closest to an internet connection and the Sukkah.
3. Coordinated with our building facilities staff to set up our large presentation screen, projector, and sound system outside at the School Wing Entrance. They set it up the Monday before the event for a test run and then again, the day of the event.
4. Our Director of Marketing and Communications worked with his counterpart at the synagogue level to modify all the marketing and notifications.
5. Instead of a dinner to be picked up we had the caterer prepare pre-packaged steak sandwich dinners made available at the event.

The cars were organized in the school parking lot as they drove up for proper social distancing, viewing the screen and allowed space for eating. All attendees brought their own tables chairs and beverage of choice.

Tables were set up with the prepackaged dinners and one representative from each car came and picked up their meals. The line was kept short, and social distanced while all worn masks. The protocols allowed no mask wearing at your car but anytime you left the proximity of your car, masks had to be worn.

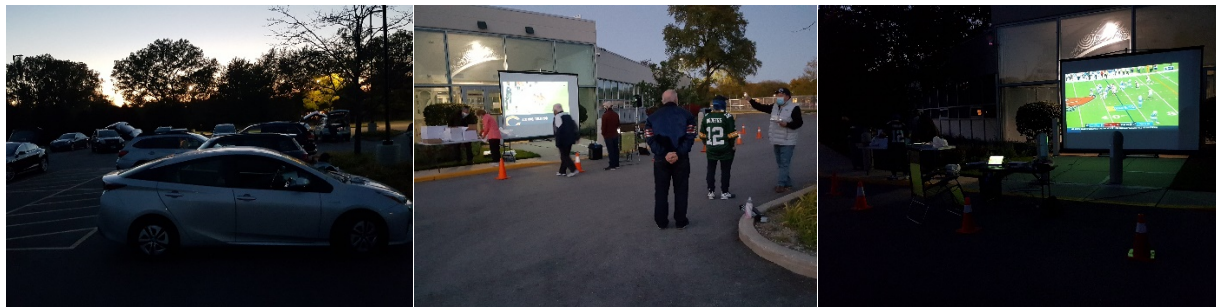
Access to the building was available for washroom use, but all synagogue protocols had to be followed for entering and leaving the building. Those using the facilities were escorted to maintain social distancing through the entire process.

At halftime we walked over to the Sukkah in groups of 6 to 8 to participate the mitzvah of bentching of the Lulav and Etrog.

The program ended up being outstanding and exceeded all our expectations. We had approximately 40 cars with about 50 people attending in total. We had a young family with children all the way up to our most senior members as well as all ages in between.

We have even discussed making a tailgate sports social program standard in the fall post COVID-19 whether it is tied to Sukkot or not.

All marketing was done through the Synagogue website and our Men's Club Page. We also worked with the Synagogue Director of Communication to make sure the event was publicised in the CBS Byte email that goes out weekly to the entire congregation.



Above – Cars Lined Up in the Parking Lot, Waiting in Line for Dinner and the Game is On!



Above – From our Most Senior Members to a Family with Young Children Participated

ISRAEL IN DEPTH – 2020-2021

See description of the Program under the 2019-2020 year described earlier. Here are the topics selected by year:

- October 25, 2020 - What Would “Annexation” Actually Mean for Israelis and Palestinians?
- November 2, 2020 - What Does November 3 Mean for US-Israel Relations?
- December 13, 2020 - If You Can’t Visit, Try the Podcasts!
- January 17, 2021 - Israel’s Place in the World (A Non-US-Concentric Exploration)
- March 7, 2021 - Israel’s Popular Culture Tells Us a Lot About the Country - and the Whole World is Watching.
- April 11, 2021 - Portraits of Leaders

The flyer for this year’s sessions is attached under “Marketing”.

During COVID-19 we provided a cost subsidized breakfast that could be ordered online. We provided two breakfast options and three meal pick-up locations. In a time that was certainly not normal, our goal was to provide some level of normalcy by having a Men’s Club provided meal while participating in the program.

The flyer for this year’s sessions is attached under “Marketing”.

JEWISH THEMED VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM

November 21, 2020

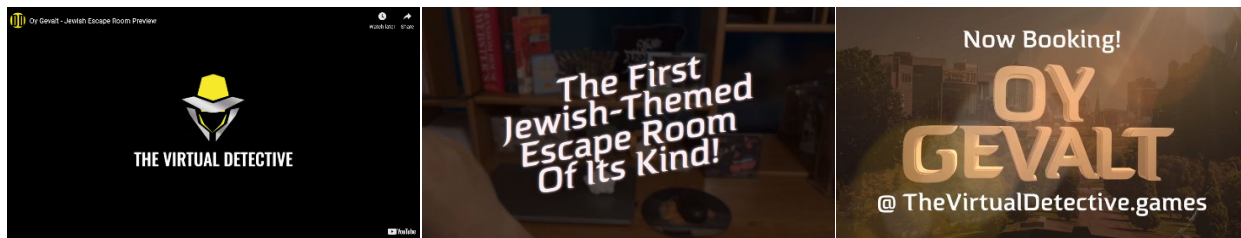
Using the online service called The Virtual Detective, we played as a team the Jewish themed virtual escape room game called “Oy Gevalt”. The objective was that we were to help Benjamin Goldenplatt find his missing brother. As a group we had to select one attendee to act as our liaison to do the following:

- Ask questions on behalf of the group
- Move, open, turn etc. items in the room
- Provide answers to clues

All elements of this program were based upon Jewish holiday traditions, Jewish liturgy as well as spiritual thought. We had one hour to find Benjamin’s brother and we did it with 9 minutes to spare!

Many Congregants joined us for this program, and it was a great night of fun!

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



BEARS VS PACKERS PREVIEW BREAKFAST

November 29, 2020

Sports unifies us. Whether it be softball leagues, golfing events, watching games, or just talking about sports, these are common topics of conversation at Men’s Club events. On November 29, 2020, the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers renewed their longstanding rivalry with the 201st matchup in the NFL.

The majority of our Men’s Club members are Bears fans, but quite a few grew up in Wisconsin and are Green Bay Packers fans. One of our members grew up going to a Milwaukee synagogue which is also active in the FJMC Midwest Region, Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid (CBINT). One of his friends, a member of CBINT’s Men’s Club, has been a sports radio correspondent for many years. We came up with the idea to build a program virtually across state lines over Zoom to get ready for the game, educate ourselves, and do some trash talking.

We had a panel of Wisconsin and Illinois sports experts from the Milwaukee CBS (the network, not the congregation) affiliate and a veteran of Chicago sports radio. We asked for questions to ask our experts, and it was a wonderful point-counterpoint discussion about the Bears and Packers, their long rivalry, the NFL, and sports in general during the pandemic.

This program was a fantastic way to attract younger members and to get them involved in Men’s Club events. It was also a wonderful way to reach out with other men in the region to meet up over a favorite pastime.

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



Above Left – David Schuster Sports Reporter From Chicago, and Scott Grodsky, Sports Reporter From Milwaukee, right



A full House on Both Sides of the Illinois-Wisconsin Border Participated

HOW TO SURVIVE STRESSFUL LIFE EXPERIENCES

December 6, 2020

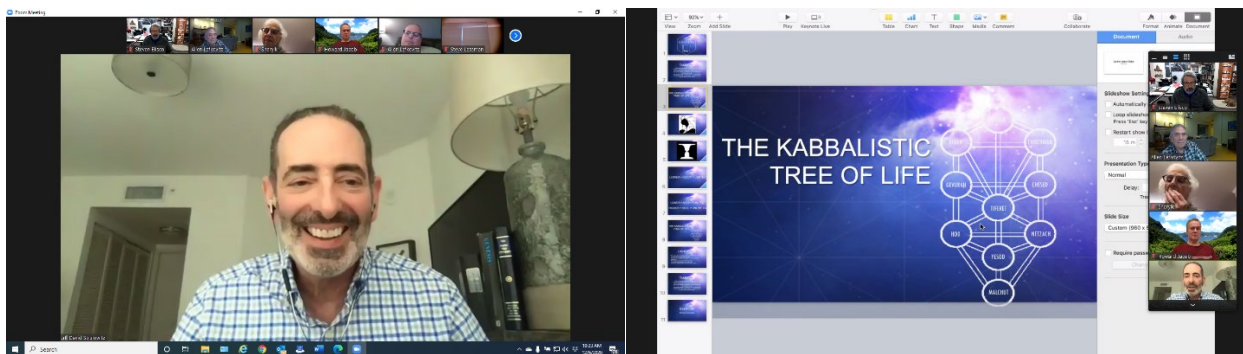
COVID-19 has created emotional stress for everyone. Those who previously had little, or no emotional issues were experiencing these issues for the first time and those with a history of these issues, were having their issues exasperated.

David Strulowitz took us through a series of discussions of how to deal with a multiple list of situations by doing the following:

- Addressing the stress of every day in these challenging times using various tools
- Turn challenges into blessings
- Connect with your inner peace
- Discover your inner gifts
- Understanding that everything happens for our own good

There was a very interesting discussion on how understanding the basic concepts of the Kabbalah bsing instrumental in dealing with the kinds of stress we are all feeling.

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



Above Left – David Strulowitz Introduces His Program, Right – The Slide Introducing the Kabbalah Portion of the Presentation

HOW CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM IS ADAPTING TO COVID-19

January 10, 2021

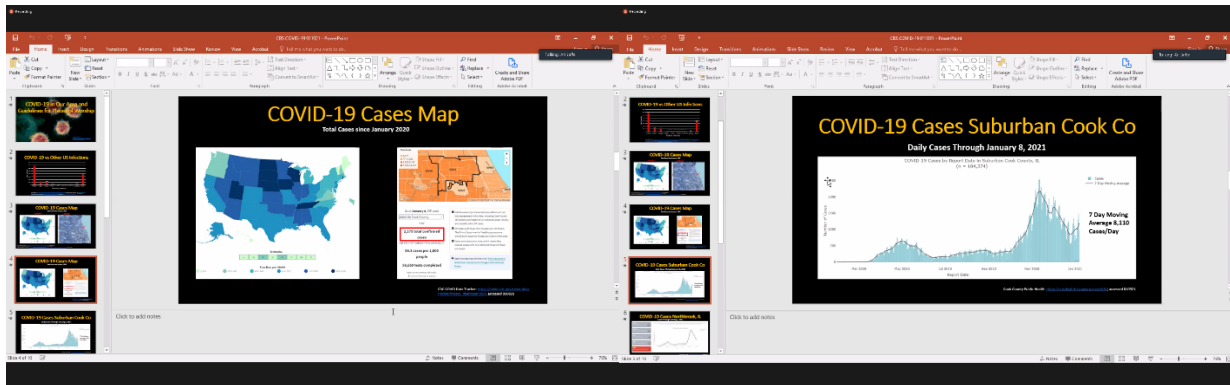
As our understanding of COVID-19 evolved so did our thought process and protocols of how to respond. Very early on, our synagogue's Clergy, Senior Administrative Staff with a group of Congregant Medical Doctors from a wide variety of medical practices, established the Beth Shalom COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group.

The Men's Club, seeing that there are many unanswered questions revolving around COVID-19 amongst our membership and the larger Beth Shalom Community, discussed this with Senior Rabbi Aaron Melman and developed this program. Some of the questions were as follows:

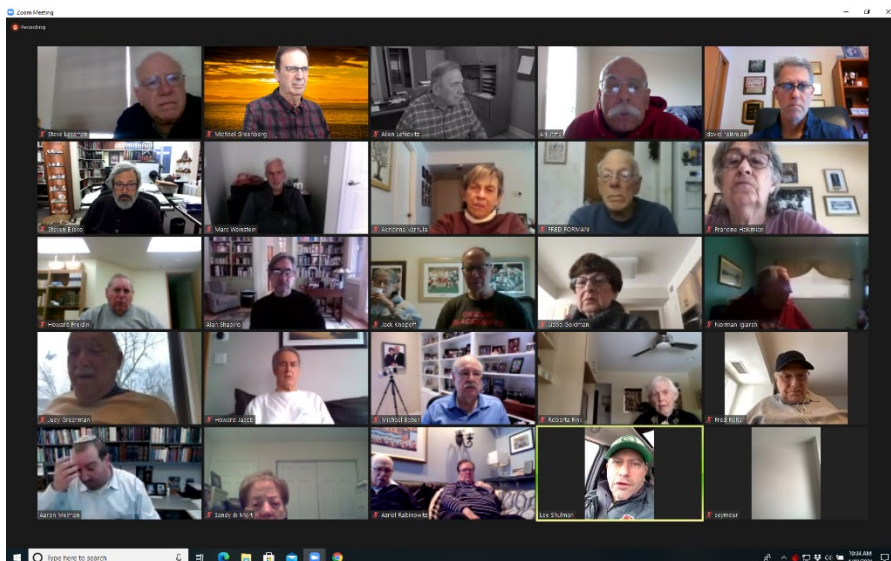
1. How are protocols established?
2. When can we begin to use the building again in larger numbers?
3. What are the difference between the vaccines?
4. What are the prospects for in person 2021 High Holidays?

The first half hour was an introduction by Rabbi Aaron and the four Doctor members of the Advisory Group. The remaining program was open to questions and answers. It was highly informative, but the most important part of the program was the sense of reassurance that we are all in good hands with the group making very important decisions on our behalf.

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



Slides From the Presentation



Some of the Many Participants

WORLD WIDE WRAP

February 7, 2021

COVID brought on many challenges in coordination World Wide Wrap. We were left with one option. A ZOOM Sunday morning service with Adults and Hebrew School. In years past we could not get together with Hebrew School because of timing of Hebrew School and timing of Sunday morning service.

This year it was not a problem. We began with discussions with Senior Rabbi Melman, Cantor Stoehr, Assistant Rabbi Ferratier and added School Principal Stacy Ybarra from the Hebrew School. We all agreed to work together and put together a meaningful service that worked with kids and tefillin education.

It all started two weeks prior to World Wide Wrap. Stacy Ybarra showed the FJMC Video Ties that bind. Part one on one Sunday and Part two on Sunday before WWW. She also worked with us as we sponsored the program with FJMC "Build -a -Pair" Tefillin kits, so the children would be prepared and knowledgeable. On each of the two Sundays, Assistant Rabbi Ferratier was present to assist with study and teaching the ritual side of Tefillin.

It all came together on Super Bowl Sunday. The 6th and 7th graders would be on zoom along with Men's Club early before service for assistance in putting on tefillin. It began with Senior Rabbi Melman Teaching about the custom of Laying Tefillin and how it varies amongst Jews with different backgrounds. He also showed what the contents of the Tefillin look like and how they are put together. Then Cantor Stoehr led the Sunday morning service with everyone involved.

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



Above – Composite of Seven of our Members Overlaid on the Live Streaming Shot of our Beit Ha'Medrash with Cantor Stoehr Leading the Service

HOW TO PREVENT AND IDENTIFY A HEART ATTACK

February 14, 2021

Dr. Stephen M. Zaacks, a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and a cardiologist with Northwest Community Healthcare spoke on Sunday February 14, 2021 about what we can do to prevent a heart attack and more importantly what we must do when we are having a heart attack. Dr. Zaacks spoke about the signs that we are having a heart attack and the most important action is to call 911 and request an ambulance.

This Sunday morning breakfast meeting was well attended, and the participants asked well thought out questions. This was a very educational program that dealt with a topic that is near and dear to our hearts.

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



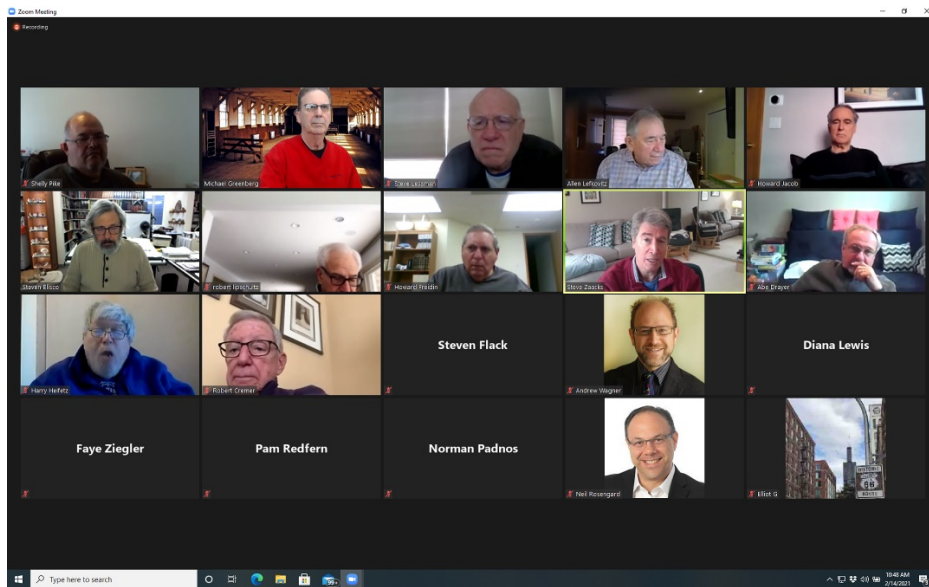
Men's Club President, Steven Elisco, Welcomes All to the Program



Vice President of Programs, Allen Lefkowitz, Introduces the Program Speaker



Dr. Steven Zaacks, Provides a Wonderful Presentation, Filling in at the Last Minute for the Original Speaker Who Had to Cancel



Some of the Participants Who Came to the Program With Many Important Questions That Stimulated a Great Discussion Following the Initial Presentation