

BEARS VS PACKERS PREVIEW BREAKFAST - A NEW PROGRAM IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

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.

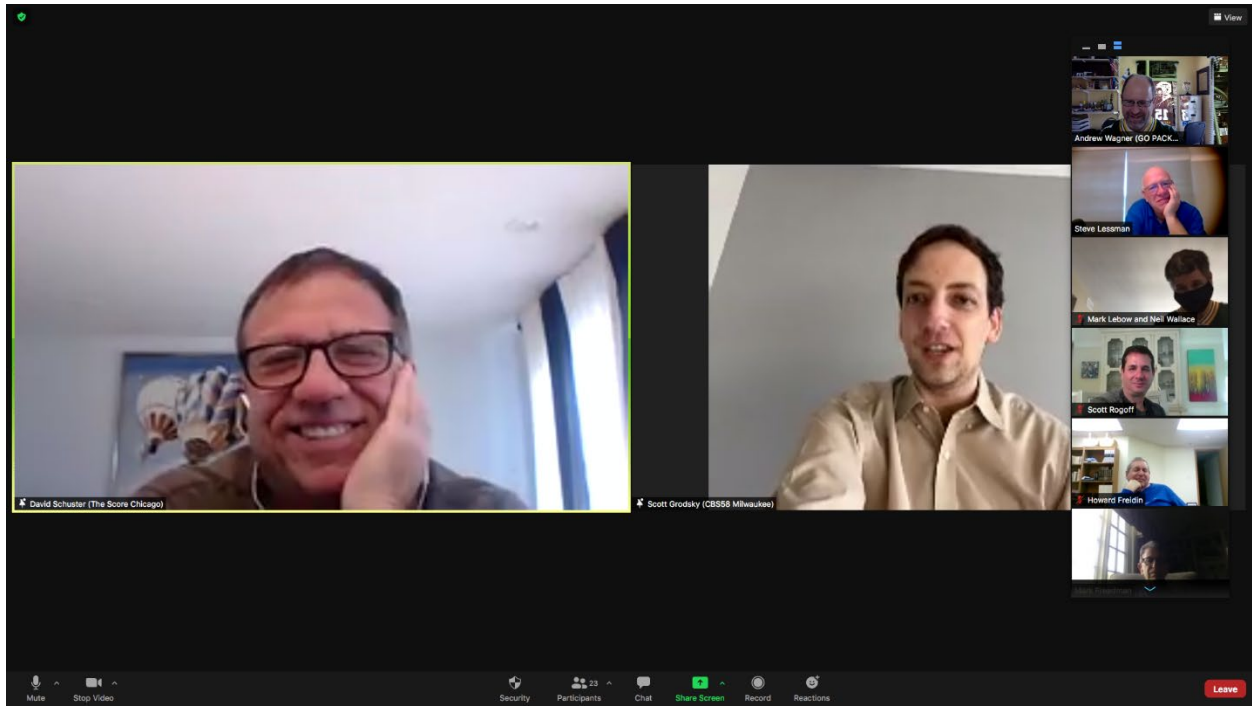
The majority of our Men's Club members are Bears fans, but quite a few grew up in Wisconsin and are Green Bay Packers fans. One of our members grew up going to a Milwaukee synagogue which is also active in the FJMC Midwest Region, Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid (CBINT). One of his friends, a member 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

LOX BOX 2021 - PROGRAM ADAPTED IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

February 21, 2021

Please see the basic program description described in our “Best Overall Activities” submission, for the Lox Box 2020.

In a “normal” year the focus of the program is to raise funds for the Club to offset some of the cost of programs we provide at no cost to the Congregation and the larger community, and to provide funds and food to both the Ark and the Council for Jewish Elderly.

This year we put more emphasis on the donation aspect of the program. We still provided a small lox box to be picked up at the synagogue, as we cancelled delivery for this year. We exceeded expectations in all areas of the program with the following being the results:

1405 Boxes sold. The largest amount since 2014! Of those boxes here is the breakdown:

958 Went to the Ark and CJE for a total value in food and funds of \$20,000.00

52 Were purchased and donated to Police and Fire Departments throughout the Metropolitan area.

395 Boxes purchased and picked up at the synagogue.

The Program also raised \$15,000 to support the multitude of programs as described earlier.

Adapting a large hands-on fundraiser in the face of Covid-19 was no small feat.

Box Size:

Typical Year: During a typical year, a group of club members would build, tape and stack boxes ahead of time. During box packing, rows of tightly lined boxes would fill the social hall for filling.

Covid-19: We reduced the number of items in the box from 15 to 5 items. We used durable and reusable bags which reduced the effort needed to pack boxes.

Packing Logistics:

Typical Year: With boxes lining the floor, packing would take place with people and carts zipping past the boxes adding items into the bags.

Covid-19: We set up 5 socially distant tables which had all items on the table to be packed. Each person was responsible for packing their own bags.

Pick-up & Delivery Logistics:

Typical Year: Limited pick-up at the synagogue, over 550+ boxes delivered by club members and volunteers.

Covid-19: All boxes were picked up and were done with limited contact to contactless, placing boxes through passenger car windows, back seats, and trunks.

See the Sponsorship, Recognition and Coupon book attached, and the flyer prepared for this program is attached under “Marketing”.

PRE-COVID-19



Above – Packing Donated Ad Specialty Items into Bags and Preparing the Bags for Packing into the Lox Boxes



Above Left – Packing 7,200 Bagels into Half Dozen Bags, Right – Lox Box Contents



Above – Packing the Dry Goods into Boxes Saturday Evening, and Closing the boxes after Packing the Refrigerated Items and Getting Them Ready for Delivery at 5:30 AM Sunday Morning

WITH COVID-19



Above Left - Packing Socially Distant, Center – Separating the Singles From the Doubles, Right – Pick-up in the A-K Line



Above Left – Getting in the A-K Line, Center – Pick-up in the L-Z Line, Right – Curbside Pick-up



Above – The Outdoor Team

BEER ON THE WALL - PROGRAM ADAPTED IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

March 4, 2021

This was a virtual beer tasting and social event. Pre-COVID-19 this event would have been a whisky or beer tasting in our building. We adapted the Program for an online experience.

You could participate in any of the following ways:

- Just ZOOM in and join the discussion.
- Order and pick up dinner at the synagogue and join the discussion.
- Order and pick up dinner with the four flights of beer being tasted at the synagogue, then join the discussion.

- Order and pick up the four flights of beer being tasted, at the synagogue, then join the discussion.

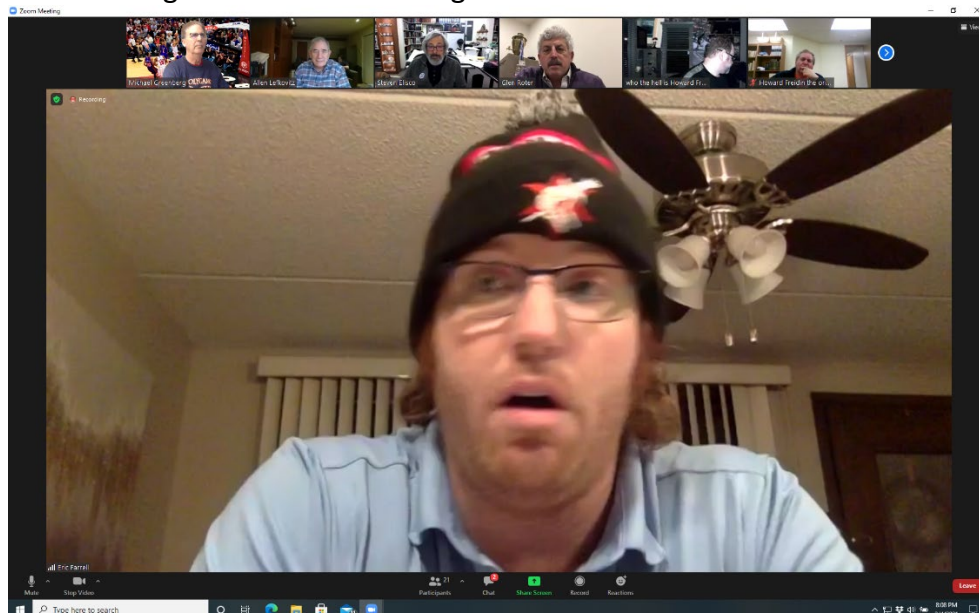
The program was led by Eric Farrell, a member of the Beer on the Wall staff. Beer on the Wall is a craft beer focused retail store and beer cafe with 12 rotating drafts and over 600 bottles and cans available for on-site consumption or takeaway.

This was a fun and educational program and lasted for 2 full hours on ZOOM! This was the longest ZOOM program since we began our online programming.

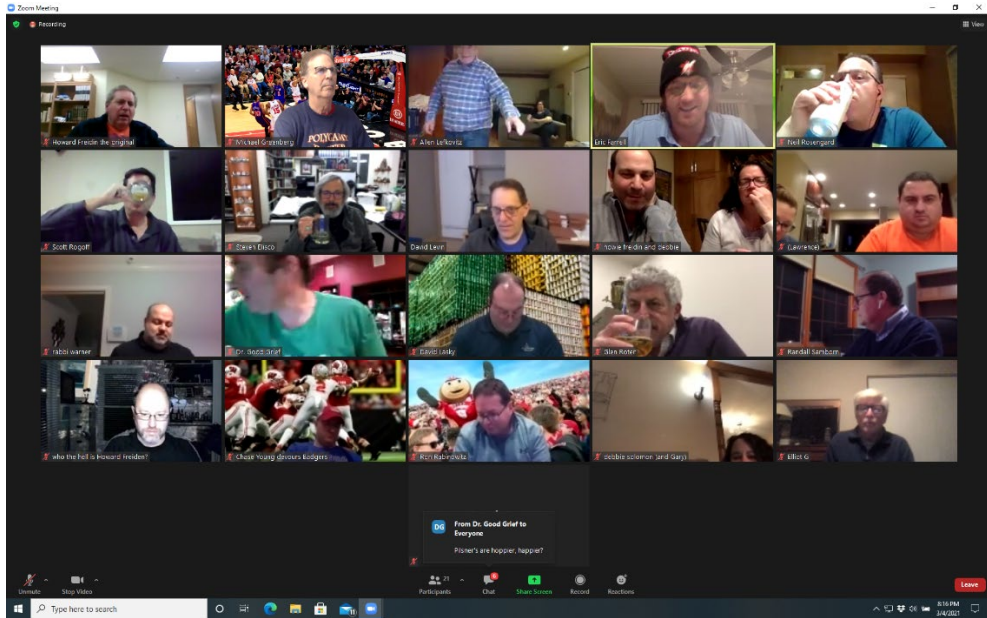
The flyer for this event is attached under “Marketing”.



The Flight of Four Beers Being Tasted and Discussed at this Event



Eric Farrell From Beer on the Wall, Takes us Through the Tasting and Discussion of the Four Beers and More



Participants Enjoyed the beer and Two Hours of Discussion. Who Knew There Was So Much to Discuss About Beer

YOM HA'SHOAH YELLOW CANDLE PACKING - PROGRAM ADAPTED IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

March 10, 2021

Just like our Lox Box Program we had to devise a new way of conducting this annual program. We followed the same five step process described under the 2020 program, in our "Best Overall Activities" submission, except there was no assembly line.

Instead, 25 members of the club volunteered to come to the synagogue by appointment and picked up the following:

- One box of candle boxes and one box of candles
- One bag with the literature and rubber bands
- One manilla envelope with mailing stickers
- One USPS mailing bag

Each member in their own homes packed their 48 candles, put them in the USPS mail bag and then brought the full bag back to the synagogue. Our mailing service then picked up all the bags and had them mailed and in the homes of all congregates by the fourth week of March.



Above All – Other Members Packing at Home and Getting to Bring Back to the Synagogue

MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT AND NIGHT OF RECOGNITION - PROGRAM ADAPTED IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

March 20, 2021

COVID brought on many challenges in coordination of a Men's Club Sabbath. In 2020 COVID hit at same time of the planning for Men's Club Sabbath. This program is very extensive as it involves the Men's Club running the entire Shabbat Morning Service with 70 members taking on all parts including Torah readings, reading the Haftarah as well as all honors. We also planned the Kiddush after the service. We had to cancel that entire program.

2021 had its own challenges, zooming was not allowed on the Sabbath, only stream and no congregants in synagogue. Our Vice president of Ritual worked a plan out with Senior Rabbi Aaron Melman. He would allow zoom on Ma'ariv Sabbath Service followed by Havdalah. We then included a Night of Recognition Program as we did in 2020, honoring our Man of the Year, our two Youths of the Year and the Kavod Award recipient.

Besides words spoke on behalf of each honoree by our President, all of our Clergy participated. Rabbi Ferratier provided words to our Youths of the Year, Rabbi Melman acknowledged both our Man of the Year and Kavod Award Recipient and Cantor Stoehr chanted meaningful song while the families stood with the honored men and youths with a tallis wrapped on their shoulders.

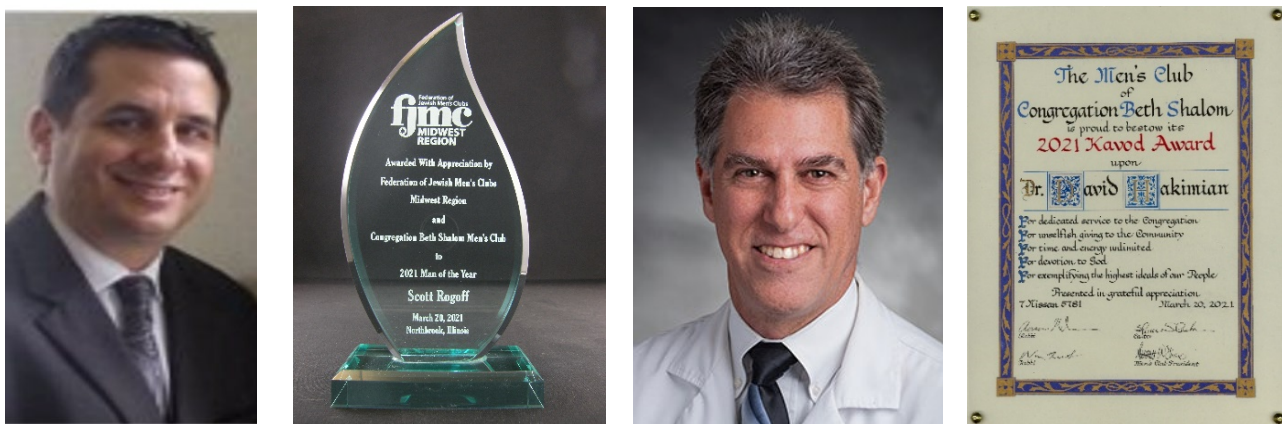
Even via ZOOM, this program was spiritually meaningful and emotional.

Prior to the program we encouraged congregants to order Kosher desserts via the Men's Club Square Site, to enjoy while watching the Zoom to be picked up at various locations in area prior to Shabbat. Andy Wagner our Executive Vice President chaired the Ritual part and assigned readers for Ma'ariv and Havdalah. Steven Elisco, our President, MC'd the Night of Recognition.

The event Itinerary and Program are attached under "Detail Program Documents". The Flyer is attached under "Marketing".



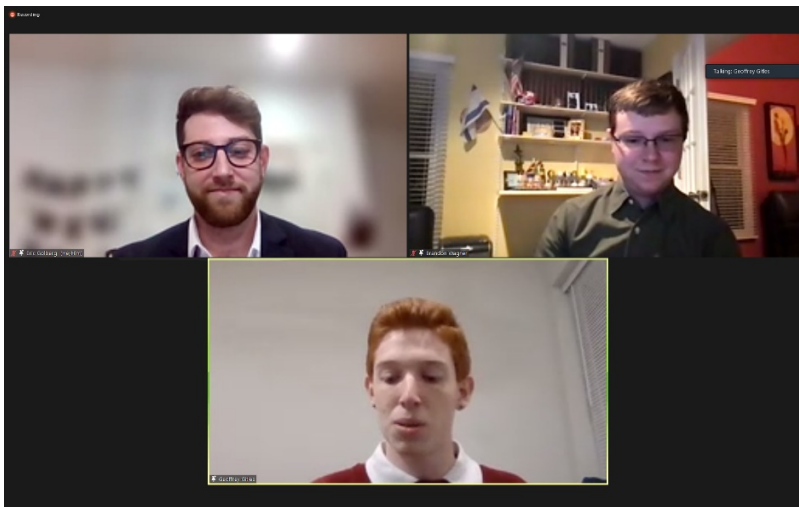
Above - Youths of the Year Brandon Wagner, left and Geoffrey Gitles, right



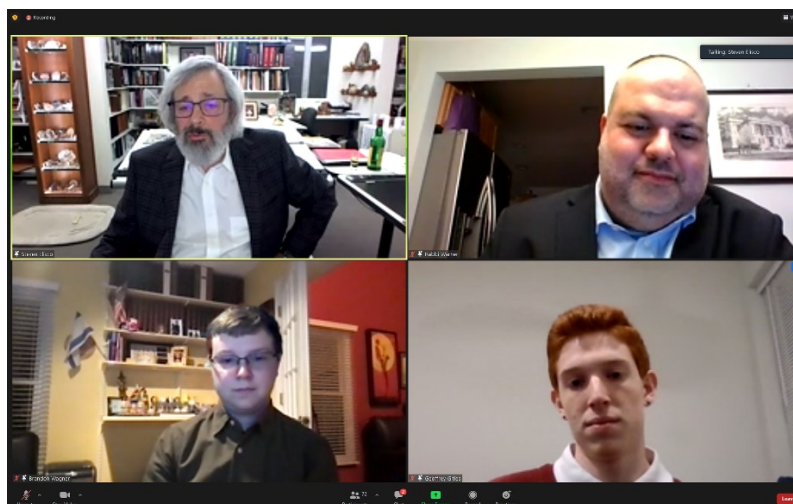
Above - Man of the year Scott Rogoff, left and Dr. David Hakimian Recipient Raymond Rokni, right



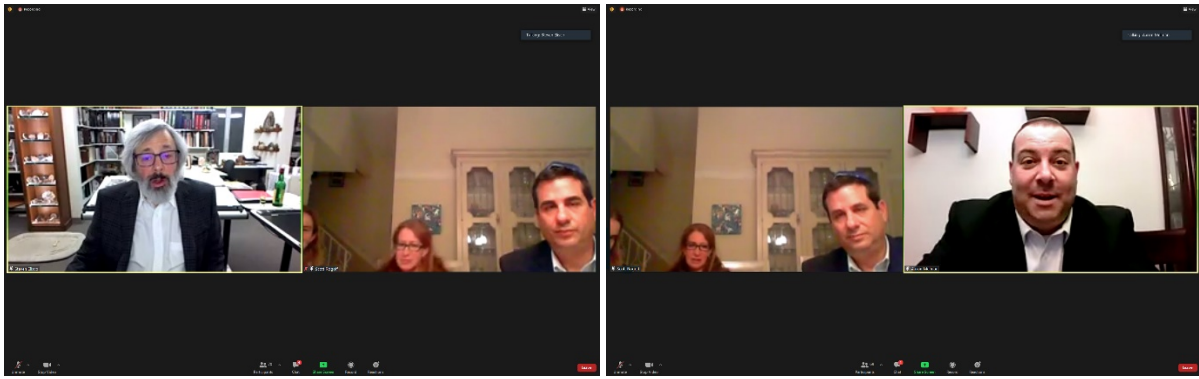
Men's Club President Steven Elisco Presents the D'var Torah



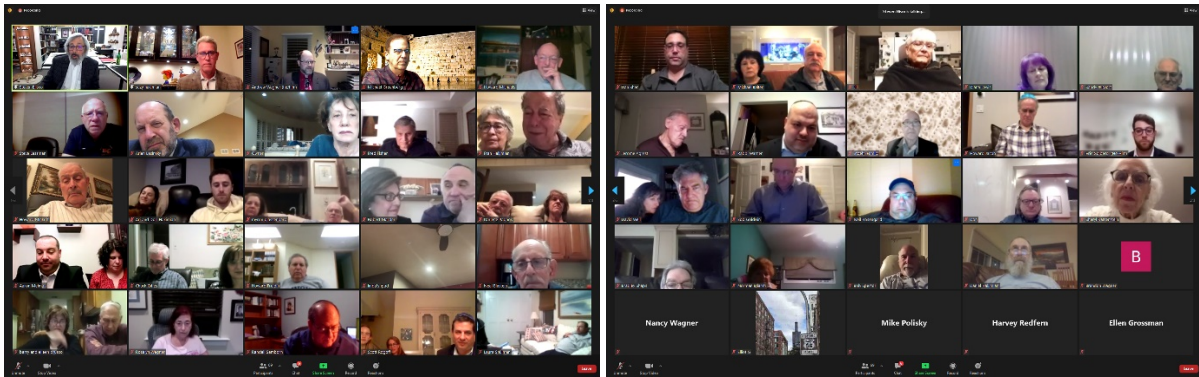
Above Left, Eric Golberg Director of Youth and Young Family Engagement, Above Right, Brandon Wagner and Center, Geoffrey Gitles.



Above Left Men's Club President Steven Elisco and Above Right Rabbi Ferratier with words for Brandon Wagner Lower left and Geoffrey Gitles Lower Right.



Above left, Men's Club President Steven Elisco and Rabbi Aaron Melman, Above Right with Words for Man of the Year, Scott Rogoff



Over 125 Congregants participated via ZOOM



Dr. David Hakimian Accepts his Kavod Award in the Presence of His Family