

# MEN'S CLUB

## Service to B'nai Israel & Community Strengthening Jewish Values

We just finished a very busy time for the Men's Club.

Our political forum in October, featuring the candidates for Montgomery County executive, drew a standing-room-only crowd as incumbent Marc Elrich and challenger Reardon Sullivan fielded audience questions and talked about what they would do over the next four years. The event was written up in the *Washington Jewish Week* and *Bethesda Beat*, providing welcome publicity for the synagogue.

Just a few days later, our attention turned to another election—he one in Israel.

Our *shlich*a, Uriel Lin, led us through a discussion about the Israeli elections with Yarden Shiri, *shlich*a at Agudas Achim in Alexandria, and Ido Naaman, *shaliach* at B'nai Tzedek in Potomac, over desserts and Israeli wine.

Both of these events were co-sponsored by the Sisterhood.

The after the election, we heard from Alan Ronkin, regional director of the American Jewish Committee, speaking about his group's activities to address the growing threats of antisemitism.

The talk was especially timely following the gubernatorial election in Pennsylvania. In that race, the Democratic nominee, Josh Shapiro, was attacked by his Republican opponent, Doug Mastriano, for sending his kids to a Jewish day school, saying it showed "disdain for people like us."

Back to October and our award-winning health, which drew a crowd for medical screenings and to ask questions of three physicians, Peter Sherer, Bryan Steinberg and Stephanie Hart.

Big thanks to Bram Hass and Wayne Berman for their work. The fair was followed later in the month by a Zoom session with Dr. Joanne Crantz to discuss aging successfully.



**Jonathan Salant & Alan Isenberg**  
Men's Club Co-Presidents

Another Ask the Doctors session over Zoom is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, with Dr. Nancy Markus, who will discuss cancer-causing genes in the Jewish population. Register by Monday, December 12 at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/askthedoctor](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/event/askthedoctor).

Also this month is a program with Scott Edelman, a retired State Department diplomat, who will speak on the Abraham Accords, the historic agreement between Israel and three Arab states, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Morocco. That event takes place Thursday, December 8. RSVP to Alan Isenberg ([alanisenberg\\_rph@yahoo.com](mailto:alanisenberg_rph@yahoo.com)) by Monday, December 5.

And on Sunday, December 18, Rabbi Berkowitz and Benson Goldstein will discuss the works of Maimonides during his later years. Please RSVP to Alan Isenberg ([alanisenberg\\_rph@yahoo.com](mailto:alanisenberg_rph@yahoo.com)) by Wednesday, December 14.

The Men's Club and Sisterhood are planning a Hanukkah Shabbat family dinner on Friday, December 23. [See page xx for details.](#)

Finally, in January, financial adviser David Sotsky will talk about savings for college and retirement at a dinner on Tuesday, January 10.

A reminder that the end of December is the deadline for applying for the Men's Club's second-annual Shamash Award, to be given out to the congregant or congregants who have contributed their time and abilities to help others or to support a meaningful cause. The award will be handed out during Men's Club Shabbat next February. To apply, go to [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/shamashaward](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/shamashaward).

## THE SHAMASH AWARD



Nominations are now being accepted for the second annual Men's Club Shamash Award, created to recognize members of the congregation who have contributed their time and abilities to help others or to support meaningful causes. Just as the Shamash is the light that serves to kindle all the other lights of the menorah, we give the Shamash Award to those congregants who bring light to the world and our B'nai Israel community.

Such *mitzvot* could include helping the homeless; supporting children's education; assisting the synagogue in a meaningful way; helping the elderly; supporting Israel; advocating for social, racial, or environmental justice; fighting anti-Semitism, or other activities.

We encourage nominees of all ages. Although the Men's Club created this award, it can be bestowed on any member regardless of gender.

Nominations will be accepted through Friday, December 30. Details and the nomination form can be found at [www.bnaiisraelcong.org/shamashaward](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/shamashaward).

We will present the award at Men's Club Shabbat on Saturday, February 18, 2023. For questions, please contact David Sotsky (240-447-0404 or [dsotsky1@gmail.com](mailto:dsotsky1@gmail.com)).

[www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mensclub](http://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mensclub)