

Our Covid-year began by transforming the Yellow Candle Program to a “take home assembly” format





We had around a dozen volunteers on short notice. An older member said “I’m just so happy to be *doing something*”





Hal Greenberger



Jay Salinger



Adam Wilen



Doug Koltenuk



Cary Schwartz



Kenny G.



Steve Novick



Dan Zwelling



BettyJoel Pravda



Dan Richer

In April, we moved
Poker and H MV
online



[timensclub] Reminder: Hearing Men's Voices -- Special Passover Edition -- Monday 4/13



'Jay Salingor' via Temple Israel of Natick Men's Club <timensclub@googlegroups.com>

To: Men's Club of I

Don't pass over this season's awesome HMTV this coming Monday 4/13.

RSVP today.

Be there, or be



Online Poker

[View](#) [Results](#)

Men's Club: All-in or Fold? by Doug Koltenuk

Our Temple Israel of Natick, MA Men's Club ran Texas Hold 'Em poker games four times a year. Since we kept the game to our temple's Men's Club only, turnout was at most around 15 people, but enjoyment levels were high. We had a \$20 buy-in, and the top four winners got money back based on the take. A portion of the money went to the Men's Club—not a huge amount, but technically it was a “fund-raiser” for the club.

After the start of social-distancing, I thought that poker was an activity that could persist through the shutdown, so I looked at platforms through which we could connect. Most poker sites do not have social poker capability, or if they do, they are limited to 4 people. I found three sites with capability for a large social game, and they each have their own plusses and minuses. All games required a separate Zoom connection in order to be able to talk while playing.

The first one I tried is Easy Poker. This is a site devoted to social poker: there is no capability to play a solo game. The site is membership-based, meaning that the more you pay, you get more time and/or more people at your table. I bought a membership that allowed for 12-person games costing \$40. We had one game with the Men's Club. There was great interest; the table of 12 was full. However, the game play was uneven. One major weakness of the platform is that players were arranged linearly such that only two players were displayed at a time. It was very hard to keep track of other players' stacks. Also, unless players spoke their bids aloud, you could not know who bid what. The most annoying feature is that there was a lack of connection stability for some players. Constant dropouts significantly slowed the game. The general opinion of the game was that the players were not happy with the platform.

I then looked at Tabletopia, a platform that hosts hundreds of games in player-driven formats. For poker, this means that the only thing that the platform does is shuffle and deal the cards. The set-up is closest to an actual card game as far as what the players have to do. However, understanding the controls is not trivial. The biggest drawback is that actions have to be taken one at a time, meaning chips have to be bet one at a time by moving them from your stack, and cards have to be returned one at a time by dragging them back to the deck. The game would be a factor of 4 longer than an automated game. Tabletopia was not suitable for the Men's Club.



Next, I turned to PokerStars. I was resisting this platform because it required download to a PC, while I was hoping for a mobile platform. After download, I had to set up a “club” with two numbers associated with it: a club number and an invitation code. Any player could ask for permission to enter with those two codes. It was up to the club owner to accept or reject entry requests. One confusing aspect of the platform is once a game is set up, multiple messages are sent to the club owner. The messages look similar, but only one has the information needed to join the club. I sent out the wrong one. Also, I did not remind people that they had to download to a PC, and a number of players tried to get to my club through an app, which was impossible. Basically, the first game was a disaster, but eventually four players made it to the table, and the game itself was very smooth. The play was so enjoyable that PokerStars will definitely be the platform of choice going forward. There is an option to play for money.

Our learnings from experimentation with Poker platforms were published to FJMC Advantage



We adopted Zoom social hours early as well. This June event included our former President John Sundenfield, now relocated to Florida. On our last social hour of 2020, we added a structured conversation element



Over the late spring and summer we held multiple walks, golf outings and bike rides including 3 person participation in NERFJMC's virtual Tour de Shuls



Our chapter
President made
outreach calls to
most of our 103
members in May and
June

Reminder on poker
No lack of interest. Just busy
Appreciates our efforts. No suggestions
Thanks for the call
Spoke 5/12 - good indicators on his cancer; mom is doing well; daughter getting married this weekend and pregnant, due in September
Called as member of board
Voicemail 5/12
Called as member of board
Vmail
Good convo. Son had covid, recovering
Good convo. No poker b/c regular Thursday game (good for us to avoid in the future b/c Fishman and Wilen play in this game as well
Good convo. Morning minyan guy. Turning 80 soon
Voicemail 5/14
Good convo 5/14
Good convo 5/14. Would be glad to volunteer if we have a need
Voicemail 5/18
Spoke 5/18.
Voicemail 5/18
Good convo 5/20. Interested in the hikes
Unnecessary; my neighbor; talk regularly
Good convo 5/19. Business is slow, appreciated invites to the events, unlikely to Zoom or to walk/golf
Good convo 5/18
Called as member of board
Voicemail 5/19
Voicemail 5/19
Spoke 5/22. Back issues; awaiting surgery (stenosis); but in good spirits
Unnecessary; hung out via Zoom Saturday night
Voicemail 5/19
Voicemail 5/20
Responded by email and I emailed back
Voicemail 5/20
Good convo 5/20. Potential interest in golf
Responded by email and I emailed back
Good convo, 5/26. He's mainly living in CO but expects to be in Natick a few months a year. Interested in virtual poker
Good convo, 5/26. Interested in virtual poker
Voicemail 5/27
Voicemail 5/27
Voicemail 5/27
Called as member of board
Good convo, 5/27. Would volunteer for deliveries; maybe social hour; maybe retreat
Voicemail 5/27
As no working phone number, emailed 6/3
As no working phone number, emailed 6/3
Good convo 6/25



In May and June, we partnered with our Temple's "go to" caterer and Jewish Family Service of MetroWest to fund and deliver Shabbat meals to community members in need on two occasions

fjmc | HaShofar



Shabbat Meal Delivery Nourishes in Many Ways

During the Covid-19 crisis, the Temple Israel of Natick Men's Club organized two Friday Night Shabbat meal delivery efforts in our local community. The program was a win-win-win, assisting individuals and families in need, engaging our Club members at a time when programming was otherwise necessarily limited, and supporting a small business important to our Temple community.

Helping Those in Need





We were the first to try out the Temple's new outdoor viewing screen and audio system. We watched a Celtics playoff game in early September and the Patriots, with fire pits, in October

David Singer shared a post.
September 4, 2020 · 🌐

FJMC - The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
September 4, 2020 · 🌐

The Temple Israel of Natick, Massachusetts club watched a Celtics playoff game outside using a blowup Amazon screen and an FM transmitter for the sound. We use... See More

David Landman, Dubi Gordon and 21 others 11 Comments



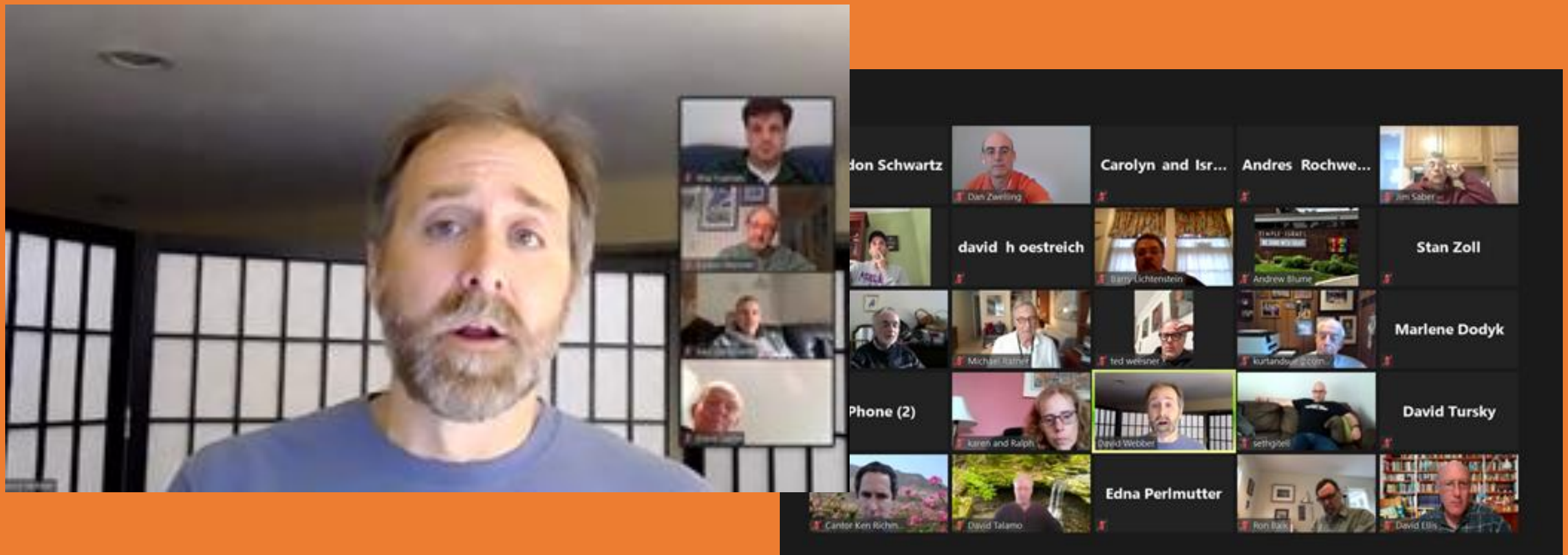
We funded half the cost of a 50% expansion of the Temple's Sukkah, allowing more socially distant programming near term and more use long-term. We built it as we always do (but more safely)



We celebrated in our expanded Sukkah with a hybrid distanced and online Scotch in the Sukkah / HMV

We had fillable mini-bottles (aka "nips") with custom labels. Some of our online participants picked up bottles in advance





For our Men's Club congregational "Breakfast", we had 65 Zoom logins to hear BU Professor and TI/MC Member David Webber discuss socially responsible investing – "Kosher or Treyf?" The event was listed as an FJMC Int'l. webinar. We donated our normal breakfast cost to two charities - a local food pantry and a Covid-assistance initiative





We honored our retiring Rabbi of 30 years at NERFJMC's Keeper of the Flame; over 20 Temple Israel zoom windows at the online event





We started our walks again in the late fall. A Sunday walk in late December attracted around a dozen members. We had smaller groups for several lunchtime weekday walks



TEFILLIN!?!?



Grade 5: Build-A-Pair
Grade 6: World Wide Wrap

Sunday Morning, February 7
10-11 am

Parents should join with their 5th or 6th grader

The Build-A-Pair Program allows **5th-grade students** to learn about tefillin by constructing and decorating model tefillin in which they place Hebrew script which they write and insert straps. Families will not want to miss this experiential program. It's great fun and learning "wrapped" into one!

The World Wide Wrap for **6th-graders** builds on the experience student had last year in the Build-A-Pair program. Sixth graders will learn about the meaning of tefillin and how to wrap from various members of our community, including teens and women!



Zoom Links in the RS Zoom Link Document

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/tefilin>



Online WWW and Build a Pair that included a focused effort to highlight women wrappers. Breakout Zoom rooms with each 1-2 kids getting focused instruction

Online Men's Club Shabbat included participation from Florida (two members), Israel (possibly the first time somebody has done Shabbat Musaf on two continents in the same day) and NERFJMC President. Four member Dvar Torah discussing how Men's Club and TI build community

[timensclub] Men's Club Shabbat



timensclub@googlegroups.com on behalf of David Talamo <DT>
To Men's Club of TI

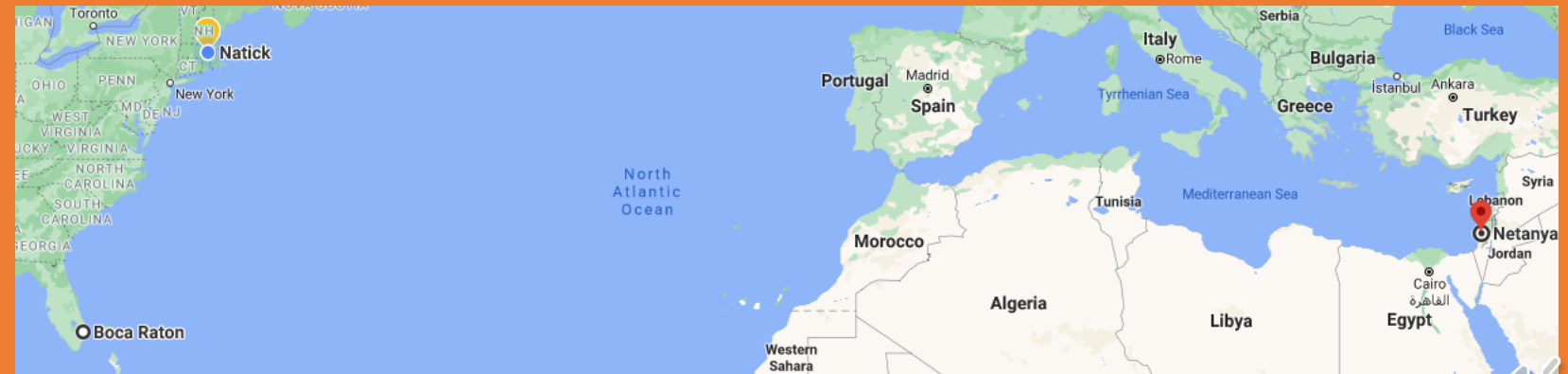
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Men's Club Shabbat_27 Feb 2021_Roles.xlsx
14 KB

The portion for February 27th starts with the commandment for the Israelites to bring oil to kindle lamps continually outside the Tent of Meeting. We are proposing to have 4 people to do the D'Var Torah— one to introduce the concept of how this idea of keeping the flame of our Jewish community kindled is what Men's Club and Temple Israel are all about and then three to tell a personal story that can related to:

- A relational connection that Men's Club or Temple Israel more broadly sparked during COVID
- A relational connection that Men's Club sparked for them at any point in their life





January 1, 2021 | 17 Tevet 5781 | Parashat Vayechi



MEN'S CLUB

Zoom Poker

Sunday, January 10 at 7:45 pm. Please contact David Burg (dburg@ft.newyorklife.com) if you are interested in joining the game.

FJMC Wine on the Vine

Sunday January 3 at 3:00 pm. Featuring **former Israeli ambassador to the United States Michael Oren** ([register here](#)). Join Ambassador Oren at 3 pm for a glass of the Bravdo Coupage and hear about his new book "*The Night Archer*", the Israeli political climate, and so much more. Plant a Vine today (\$18) to secure your seat.

FJMC's new [Wine on the Vine initiative](#) is an exciting partnership with the Israel Innovation Fund that aims to foster connection with the land of Israel and contemporary Israeli culture. Help get our club more involved with Wine on the Vine; registering for and attending this event is a great way to see how it works.

Events from the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs

Learn something new or develop an existing interest by connecting with others in an [online FJMC learning webinar](#).

Throughout the pandemic, we promoted FJMC and regional events in Temple communications as an additional resource for our members

