

BUILD THE CONGREGATIONAL SUKKAH

September 13, 2020

In 2020, things had to be done differently. In an exceedingly difficult year, Past President Scott Rogoff was able to organize the Men's Club Members into small groups in shifts to successfully construct the Sukkah, all the while following the established protocols. Since the building was closed and there was no COVID-19 safe way to use an indoor Sukkah, it was not built.



Above – Building the Sukkah in Shifts, Wearing Masks and Socially Distant During COVID-19. All these men are in their 30's and 40's except one. Can you find him?

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.

Trivia crosses all generations, making this program attractive to our younger members under 40 as well as more senior members and everyone in between. The questions were selected to cover multiple generations of knowledge making this program accessible to all.

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.

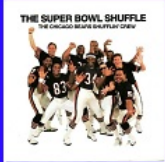
Now what pub style trivia night would be complete without tasty food!! We catered our Opening Dinner with food from Tailgators. Main courses included grilled chicken breast, a portobello mushroom, or a juicy ribeye steak. We offered plenty of side-dishes and a wonderful flourless chocolate cake for dessert. 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.

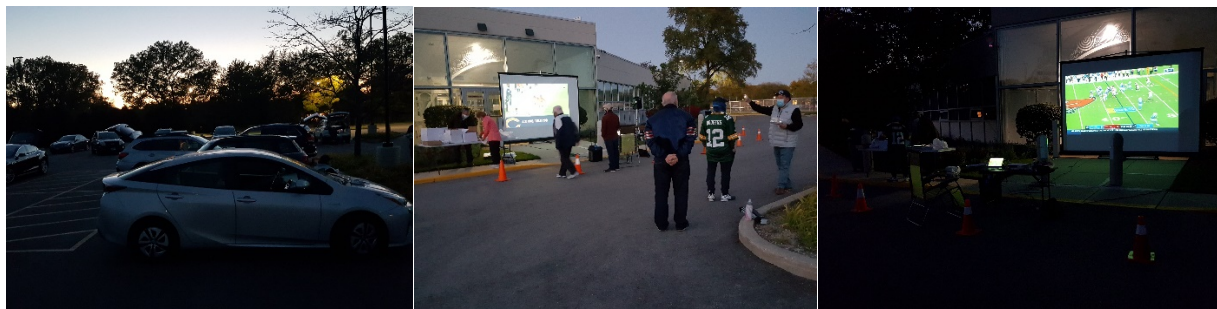
Access to the building was available for washroom use, but all synagogue protocols had to be followed for entering and leaving the building. Those using the facilities were escorted to maintain social distancing through the entire process.

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 publicized 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 Young Family with Children Participated

JEWISH THEMED VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM

November 21, 2020

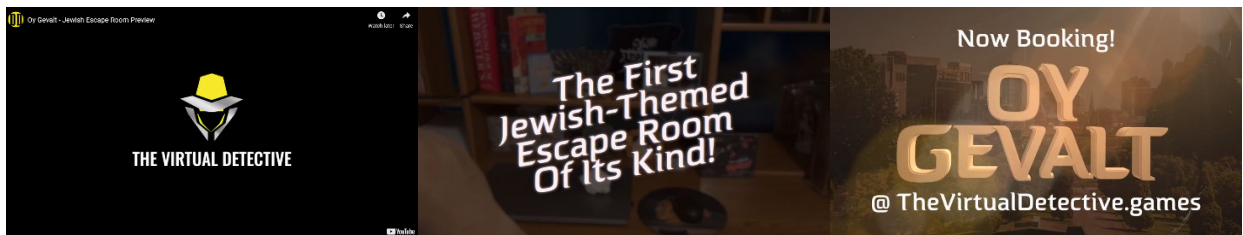
Using the online service called The Virtual Detective, we played as a team the Jewish themed virtual escape room game called “Oy Gevalt”. The objective was that we were to help Benjamin Goldenplatt find his missing brother. As a group we had to select one attendee to act as our liaison to do the following:

- 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!

Please see the flyer for this program attached under “Marketing”.



Above – Screenshots of the Program Introduction

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.

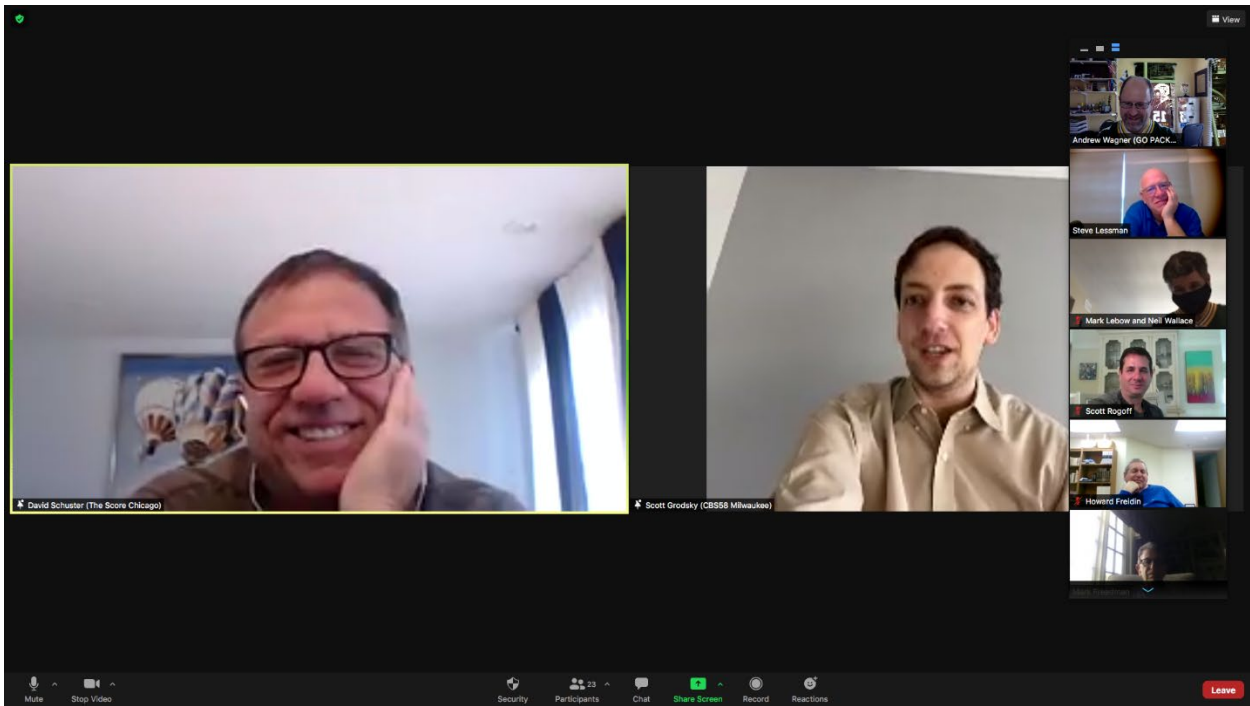
The majority of our Men's Club members are Bears fans, but quite a few grew up in Wisconsin and are Green Bay Packers fans. One of our members grew up going to a Milwaukee synagogue which is also active in the FJMC Midwest Region, Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid (CBINT). One of his friends, a member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

BEER ON THE WALL

March 4, 2021

Who doesn't like a good beer? Better yet, learn why it is good in the first place.

This virtual beer tasting, and social event attracted a large contingent of our younger members. They not only were able to drink our more senior members under the table but were remarkable knowledgeable about the brewing of beer.

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.

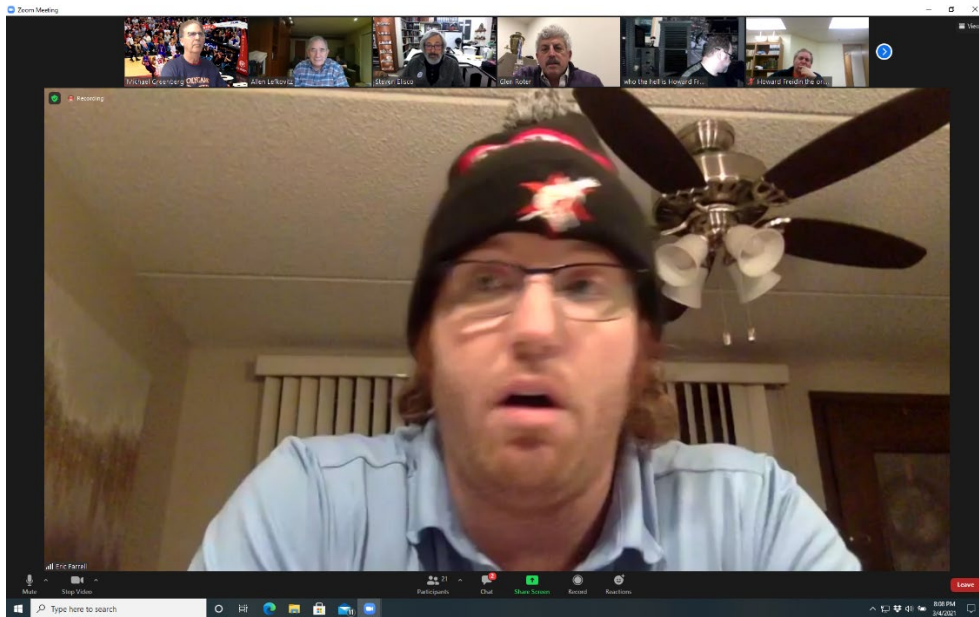
The program was led by Eric Farrell, a member of the Beer on the Wall staff. Beer on the Wall is a craft beer focused retail store and beer cafe with 12 rotating drafts and over 600 bottles and cans available for on-site consumption or takeaway.

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 programing.

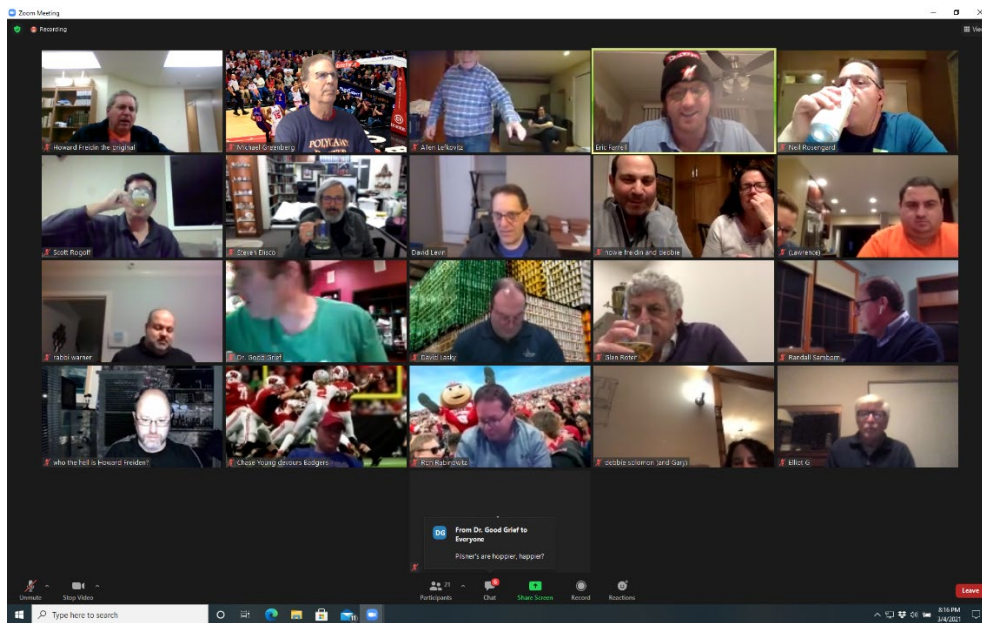
The flyer for this event is attached under "Marketing".



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?