“If you haven’t yet been to a Men’s Club Minyan & Munch, then you haven’t experienced one of the most popular *free* events at CBE. November’s breakfast will feature fresh brewed prayer, piping hot conversation, and delicious k’velling between old friends and new. Drop by at 8:30am on November 13th and reserve your seat!”

The above is from the November 2012 Beth Emeth newsletter (The Shofar), and it truly illustrates what this program is all about. It was started in 2010 when one of our members commented that he wanted to do something a little different from a “traditional” Sunday brunch meeting. He’s an amateur gourmet chef and felt that a little extra effort in the kitchen would go a long way towards bringing people in. He was also concerned that while we are a synagogue, men’s club has historically not done much with the religion side of house.

Minyan & Munch was born to help encourage service attendance and create a more connected community. Like other clubs, we hold our brunches once per month. Unlike other clubs, we are not satisfied with bagels, cream cheese, and lox. Our breakfast menus include French toast casserole, yogurt and fresh fruit toppings bar, Frittatas, and steel cut oatmeal. Minyan attendance on munch days is typically double attendance from all other weeks.

More recently, we’ve introduced a fundraising component. From the beginning, we wanted to use the munch as a way to encourage minyan attendance. For that reason, we’ve never charged people for attending. However, sponsorships have become a good way to defray our costs and support the program while also providing another opportunity for members to celebrate special events. Earlier in 2013, we were added to the bar mitzvah “book” for families planning their 2014 simchas. We’re expecting this will help to maintain the program for years to come.