

## MEN'S CLUB CHAT – A NEW PROGRAM IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

End of April 2020 through early August of 2020

Until we could get regular programming going again, we came up with a casual program we called "Men's Club Chat". These were non-structured ZOOM Programs held every two to three weeks just so the membership could see each other share stories and give advice. Each session was hosted by a different Past President whose job it was to keep the conversations going.

## NIGHT OF RECOGNITION – A NEW PROGRAM IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

August 12, 2020

With the FJMC Midwest Region Man and Youth of the Year Dinner cancelled and our own Men's Club Shabbat, where we bestow our Kavod Award cancelled, we needed a way to recognize our Honorees. We developed the "Night of Recognition", where each honoree could be properly introduced by the Men's Club President, they could each give an acceptance speech and the Clergy can express personal words to each honoree and their families. The Men's Club provided dinner in each Honoree's home prior to the event. See the Itinerary for the evening attached under "Detail Program Documents".



Above - Youths of the Year Anat Pissetzky, left and Rebecca Jacobson, right



Above Left - Man of the year Donald Pike, Right - Kavod Award Recipient Raymond Rokni

## **BUILD THE CONGREGATIONAL SUKKAH – PROGRAM ADAPTED IN THE FACE OF COVID-19**

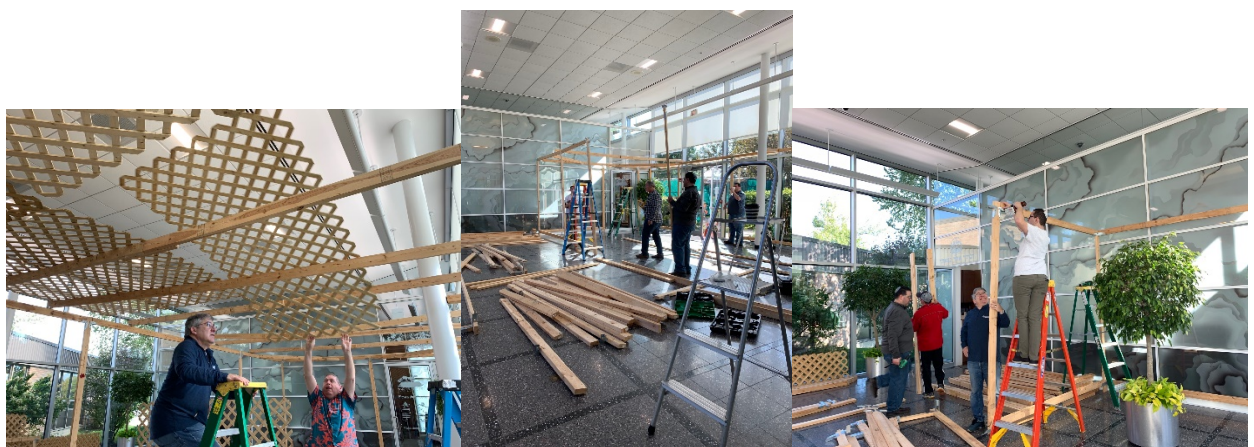
September 13, 2020

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.

### **PRE-COVID-19**



The Congregational Sukkah Under Construction





The Indoor Sukkah Under Construction

**WITH COVID-19**



Above – Building the Sukkah in Shifts, Wearing Masks and Socially Distant During COVID-19.

**OPENING DINNER – TRIVIA NIGHT TOURNAMENT - PROGRAM ADAPTED IN THE FACE OF COVID-19**

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.

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:

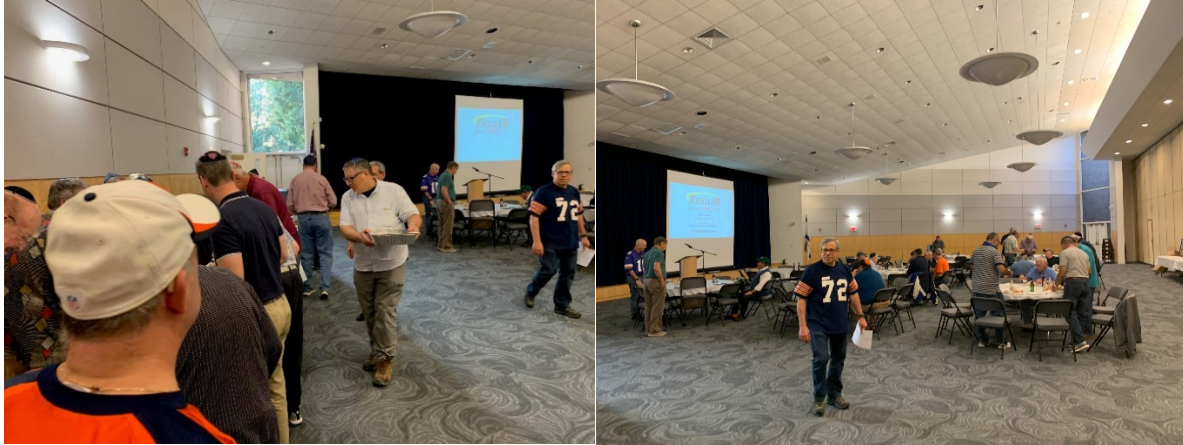
- Chicago History
- Sports
- Wild-Card Round!!
- Politics
- Congregation Beth Shalom History

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!

**PRE-COVID-19**



Its Dinner Time



Above Left – Our Packers Contingent at Beth Shalom, Right – Time to Watch the Game



It's Funny How the Packer Fans Win the Walter Payton item in the Raffle

**WITH COVID-19**



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?





Sample Sports Trivia Question and Answer From the On-Line Custom PowerPoint Presentation

### **PRE-COVID-19**

#### **STEAKS IN THE SUKKAH**

October 17, 2019

This event has become our premier mid-fall social event. We generally attract 70 to 80 members for a wonderful steak dinner cooked to perfection by two of our “Grille Masters”. The meal comes with all the sides you would expect plus desert. A wide selection of beer as the beverage of choice is provided for all.

If we are fortunate, the evening of the event corresponds with the broadcast of a major sports event. We bring in the big screen TV and sound system and share the game. Other years we hold a shortened version of our October Board Meeting. This is a very versatile program allowing us to accomplish many goals at the same time.

This program provides an easy way to meet newer members of the club and it attracts a large contingent of younger men. It provides great camaraderie, sharing the mitzvah of eating in the Sukkah and learning new things about the Club. This program checks off all the boxes.

### **WITH COVID-19**

#### **STEAKS IN THE SUKKAH - PROGRAM ADAPTED IN THE FACE OF COVID-19**

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.

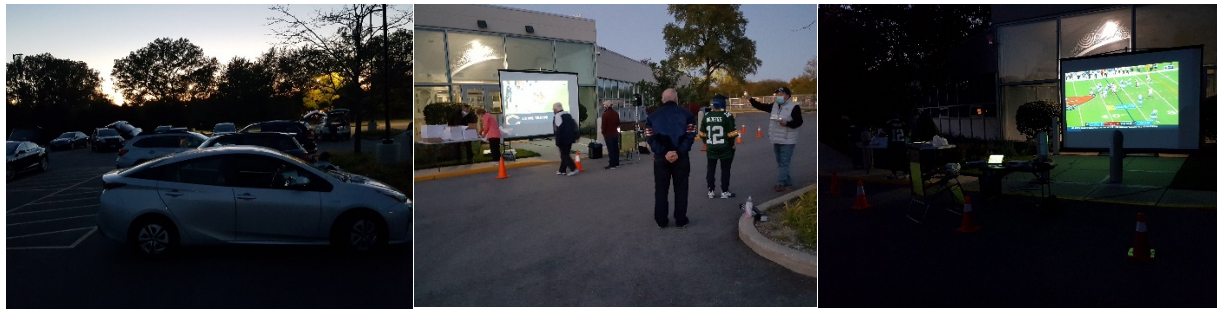
At halftime we walked over to the Sukkah in groups of 6 to 8 to participate the mitzvah of bentching of the Lulav and Etrog.

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 publicised 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 Family with Young Children Participated

### **JEWISH THEMED VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM - A NEW PROGRAM IN THE FACE OF COVID-19**

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!

