

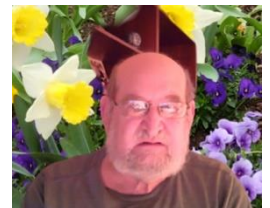
# Excursion to the Cloud

## Spring, 2020



When the Covid-19 pandemic caused the Bender JCC to close its building, the Seal Team was determined to not let this also close what had become so much part of the lives of our Men's Club members. Without missing a beat, we moved most of our activities to another format i.e. the Internet. Our members were encouraged to download the Zoom application, a user-friendly videoconferencing program that is free to members who can access Zoom on their PC, tablet, or cell phone.

Jay Doniger schedules and hosts all the Zoom meetings. Other volunteers continue to facilitate discussion by suggesting discussion topics, member presentations, and guest speaker lectures. About 60-



75 participants “Zoom-in” for general discussion meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. More join when there are outside guest speakers and special events. Most of the activities that make the Club so important continue to happen.



At our Zoom meetings our members keep up with events in their existence, schmooze, argue, smile a lot, catch some zzzzs and laugh together over mostly unprintable jokes. Each week, Dr. Lou Siegel conducts Men’s Health sessions, making topical presentations and leading discussions. The Yiddish

group still takes advantage of Internet links to present a wide variety of material selected by its participants. The result is rich discussions of Yiddish and Jewish history and culture. The Investment Group now meets every Friday morning to discuss investments and the economy. Our tradition of meeting for Friday lunch still occurs on Zoom at home. It is a continuation of friends discussing anything and everything, enjoying each other’s company.



For everyone who participates, our Zoom meetings are a virtual perpetuation of what we used to do at the JCC. Most importantly, they are a virtuous part of our lives i.e. what the Men’s Club is all about.