

# The MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE

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A Contemporary Twist to Jewish Life in Chicago

Since 2018

## Remembering the Holocaust 75 years later

Read interviews from 11 survivors.

Learn more about how the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton spent time with Holocaust survivors.

All on page 15.

### FEELING SAFE WITH CCL SHUL MEMBERS ORGANIZATION

These days, going to any large group event can cause a bit of anxiety. The adage of “security in numbers” falls short due to the recent events over the last ten years. But for the Jewish community at large, it’s increasingly tense. Read more on how CCL Shul Members organization address these concerns on page 4.



### RAW CHICAGO ADDS CERTIFIED KOSHER OPTIONS TO THEIR DOWNTOWN CHICAGO VEGAN MENU

Raw Chicago, which opened in Gold Coast in 2009, raises awareness worldwide of the power of plant-based foods to revitalize, energize, and inspire the body and soul. This unique and delicious concept has officially placed their kitchen as certified kosher! Learn more about this gem and view some delicious menu items on page 12.



MADRAIGOS MIDWEST PRESENTS ITS FIRST EVER BENEFIT CONCERT

## ISHAY RIBO

### SOUNDS *of the* SOUL | 3.22.20

See page 14 for details!

raw   
raw and vegan food restaurant  
chicago, il

  
MIDWEST  
CONFERENCE  
CENTER

Park  Plaza  
a jewish senior living community

  
KESHET

# AROUND THE COMMUNITY

## CHICAGO BEARS MOVE TRAINING CAMP BACK TO LAKE FOREST



LAKE FOREST, Ill. (WLS) -- The Chicago Bears recently announced that their entire training camp is moving back to Halas Hall in Lake Forest beginning with the 2020 season.

The team has held training camp at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais for the last 18 years and this will be the first time the staff and players will not have to make an annual trip for training. The Chicago Bears held training camp practices at Halas Hall from 1975 to 1983 before moving to University of Wisconsin-Plattville from 1984 to 2001 and finally to Bourbonnais in 2002.



Chicago Bears President and CEO Ted Phillips said, "Olivet Nazarene University continues to be a valued and committed partner, but with the recent investment in our campus expansion and state-of-the-art facilities in Lake Forest, we feel it is important to stay home for training camp."

Fans will still have the opportunity to watch training camp practices for free at Halas Hall. The Lake Forest facilities was recently expanded as it grew in almost double the square footage and added two additional football fields. A limited number of tickets will be available to attend training camp sessions, according to the Chicago Bears website.

Additional details regarding free public

tickets will be available later this spring.

Welcome back to the North Suburbs, Chicago Bears! The community is excited to have you guys back!

## FEELING SAFE WITH CCL SHUL MEMBERS

By Terri Mlotek

These days, going to any large group event can cause a bit of anxiety. The adage of "security in numbers" falls short due to the recent events over the last ten years. But for the Jewish community at large, it's increasingly tense. And every Shabbat, the with the collective that repeats in synagogues and shuls all over the country, it's even more important to be aware of our surroundings.

It was recently brought to my attention that an organization which up until recently was behind the scenes, has now been brought into the light. This organization of men in the community are looking to protect our synagogues and our family of Jews. There are called CCL Shul Members.

I recently sat down with one of the members to find out more about them, their mission and how their integration into the shul community has sparked a sense of safety and some apprehension as well.

CCL Shul Members is a four year old grassroots organization of approximately 150 members, mostly men, who are mentored and trained to carry and successfully utilize guns for defense purposes. Their sole objective is to protect their shuls/synagogue members in the event of an intrusion by hostile forces. I asked the question; "How do you feel that this group of human beings is essential to the safety of their members?" The response was "Some shuls and synagogues have security guards. If someone wants to get in, those security guards will take the first hit. That is the warning sign. CCL Shul Members are the first true line of defense for the members inside the sanctuaries." Considering the recent events around the country targeting Jews, this appeared to be an important route to examine.

But as you would expect, not everyone is on board with this approach. There is still a surprising amount of resistance amongst



the Jewish Community members that see this kind of strategy as taboo. There is still some stigma attached to this, and the concern about guns in the wrong hands is always a worry.

To address those concerns, CCL Shul Members have a clear and rigorous vetting and training program newly facilitated by Magen US. The vetting process verifies licensing, FBI and State fingerprint background checks, random drug testing, psychological evaluations, a "no alcohol usage" agreement while carrying, as well as a one million dollar conceal and carry insurance policy. Politics aside, there are more vetting elements, which are detailed on their website.

To date, there are over forty synagogues around the Chicagoland area with strategically placed members alert and intently watching over their fellow members. That seems relatively small considering the number of shuls and synagogues there are in totality. But the hope is that with knowledge and understanding, this continues to grow. Of course, the political debate with respect to the 2nd amendment will always come into play. However, consider these facts: There were 1,879 anti-Semitic attacks in 2018. The third highest in four decades. That was reported by the ADL. In 2019, the first six months of the year had more anti-Semitic attacks than in the previous 20 years. How do we protect ourselves in our most vulnerable state?

Regardless of your political views, the safety of our family is increasingly in jeopardy. And Jews historically have survived throughout time by fighting for themselves first.

There are number of Jewish Gun Clubs in California and Nevada and now in Chicago. The time for our devoted members to stand up and keep us all safe, may be now. The debate will always be there. But let us not fear what we don't understand.

For more information, please visit [WWW.CCLSHULMEMBERS.ORG](http://WWW.CCLSHULMEMBERS.ORG)