



Leadership... Innovation... Community

The Communicator

Special Edition

Convention 2013

MIDWEST REGION PROUDLY SHINES IN FJMC'S 2013 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



The FJMC 2013 Convention held last month in Danvers, Massachusetts (a suburb of Boston), was a terrific success. Well over five hundred enthusiastic delegates gathered to participate in the FJMC biannual convention. Delegates from the United States, Canada, Latin America and Europe were in attendance. The theme of this year's convention was "Conservative/Masorti Men at the Crossroads."

Midwest Region participation (attendees shown above) was at its usual high level as all attendees had the opportunity to learn, schmooz, pray, make new friends and connect with old ones.

Most important, attendees learned how to add value for their clubs and regions.

Check out more pictures and details inside!

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Prez Sez–



Dear Midwest Region Brothers,

This special edition of the Communicator features photos and stories about Midwest Region Men at Convention.

There were many memorable moments for me at Convention starting with our Regional Caucus, followed by our “Blackhawkizing” the opening ceremony (Thank you New England Region for allowing our 12 “Tribes” to parade.) to the many speakers, learning and sharing opportunities, and especially the great achievements by our Region Clubs and Men.

It is a big investment of time, money, and energy to attend and participate in FJMC Conventions. So, this Prez Sez article is a blend of “Thank You’s” and Congratulations.

To all Region Men and their significant others who attended Convention, thank you for investing your time and money to participate and become engaged in the 2013 Convention in Boston. Your commitment will help us translate the knowledge gained to building the future of our Jewish Communities. Your passion and energy displayed at Convention went above and beyond any expectation I had. It was absolutely amazing.

Congratulation to our *Ma’asim Tovim* - Evan Rumack. You are amazing!

Congratulations to Torch Awardees:

- Congregation B'nai Amoona (an amazing 4 Torches 1 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze- you Rock Dudes!),
- Congregation Beth Shalom, (1 Silver Torch) and
- Congregation Kol Rinah (1 Bronze Torch)

A Region Goal for 2015 Convention **ALL** Midwest Region Clubs become Quality Club Awardees; **ALL** Region Clubs submit entries for Torch Awards. You can start entering information on the FJMC web site in September.

Congratulations to the Quality Club Awardees:

- Beth Israel Ner Tamid
- Beth Hillel B'nai Emunah
- Congregation B'nai Amoona
- Congregation Beth Judea
- Congregation Beth Shalom
- Congregation Kneseth Israel
- North Suburban Synagogue Beth El
- Shaare Zedek (Kol Rinah)

Thank you to our Region Convention Focals: Norwin Merens and Creighton Cohn.

- Norwin also did the Marketing Graphics.
- Creighton also was our Region First Timer Mentor Coordinator.
- Evan Rumack was the International Coordinator.

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Convention 2013 Highlights - Videos



Myles Simpson introduces the new FJMC Recruiting Video.

<http://fjmc.org/content/club-membership-campaign>

While no video can give you a full 'taste' of what convention is like, these links provide you with reasons why you'll want to put Convention 2015 on your calendars.

This link takes you to - Keruv Stories

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=MLoNEjCLpx0

This link takes you to - Opening Our Hearts to Prayer

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjZ3nAr-AjM&feature=player_embedded/

This link takes you to - Learning to See An Invisible God

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEW64F64glk&feature=player_embedded/

This link takes you to - Changing Role of Men

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHI-aIR5Q9g&feature=player_embedded

This link takes you to - Relational Judaism with Ron Wolfson

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=f-9QdIbGkWs

This link takes you to - Down By the Riverside - Starring the Cantors!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7jNofUTbyw&feature=player_embedded

This link takes you to - Starring the Cantors - Hinei MaTov with Paul Davidson

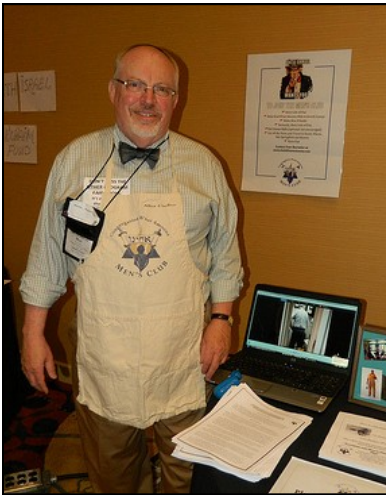
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=yb5WQviAyjg

This link takes you to - Starring Cantor Zach Mondrow - Cold Chopped Liver

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=iprplFxPqOg



Program Fair 2013



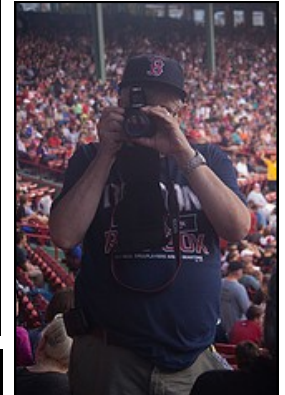


More Convention 2013 Program Fair Photos





More Convention 2013 Photos

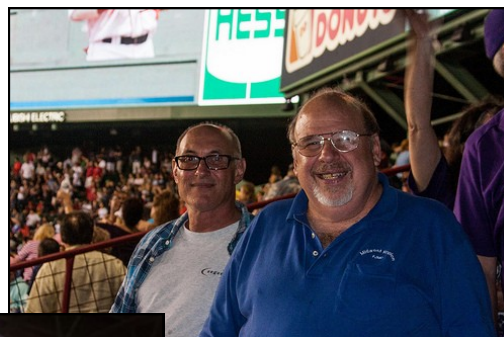
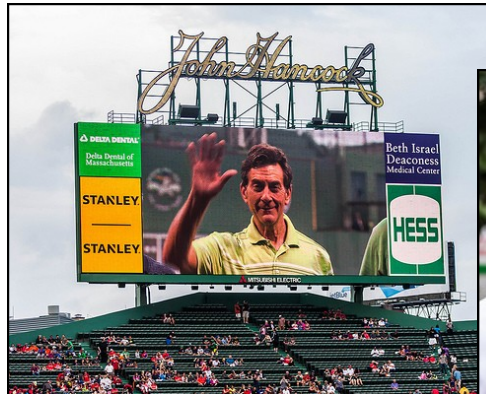


Creighton Cohn and Rob Freeman lead HMV sessions



FJMC Convention Staff Office: It's only the second day!!

It wasn't all work and no play! Scenes from Fenway Park.





Quality Club Awards Convention 2013

The FJMC Quality Club Award was developed to strengthen and encourage member clubs to offer a variety of activities at the local level and to participate in regional and FJMC programs. The FJMC Quality Club Award is given each year to member clubs that meet established criteria at the International, Regional and local levels. The criteria are a blueprint for a club to follow in planning its yearly programming.



Clockwise from top left: President Bob Olshan, Kol Rinah (f/k/a Shaare Zedek); Eric Yegelwel and President David Granoff, Congregation Beth Judea; President Harold Primack, Beth Hillel B'nai Emunah; Perry Pitzele, Congregation Kneseth Israel; President Rob Freeman, NSS Beth El; the "Gang of Eight"; Harvey Redfern, Congregation Beth Shalom; President Edward Herzog, Congregation B'nai Amoona. Not pictured, Beth Israel Ner Tamid.





Prez Sez continued from page 2

Numerous Men listed below from our Region were deeply involved in making this a successful Convention:

- Steve Lessman- MC for Ma'asim Tovim and providing Blackhawk Ruach Rags
- Creighton Cohn- Program Fair Guru and Training Session Leader
- Shelly Pike, Gerry Brin, Sandy Victor- Training Session Leaders
- Mark Givarz- Hearing Men's Voices, Training Session Leader and Bowtie wearer
- Burt Fishman- Captain Ruach says it all
- Orin Rotman- Certification Sessions Leader, Ritual/Services, Tefillin giveaway,
- Norm Kurtz- Foundation Sessions, MC for Miles Simpson Induction, etc.
- Brad Shaps- Succession Planning Session
- Rob Freeman- Hearing Men's Voices Session
- Greg Pollack- Shacharit
- Jerry Agrest- Presidential Award
- Bob Spector- New Roads to Engagement session
- Mike Greenberg- Board of Director Opening Prayer, MC for Retaining Post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Families, part time photographer
- Alan Schwartz- photography
- Bob Olshan- Program Fair Booth
- Harvey Redfern- Program Fair Booth
- Max Brown, Ed Herzog, Jay Englander- Program Booth

Special thank you to Cantor Steven Stoehr for leading Shabbat Services, making *Kaballat Shabbat* special (with his fellow Chazzanim), and the opening act for Saturday night (Stoehr unleashed !!).

Last but not least, thank you to my mentor Shelly Pike for helping me navigate through Convention Prep, and of course libations and cigar sharing.

Many Convention photos can be found at www.midwestregionfjmc.org. Click the FJMC Flickr link on the right column on any web site page. Others can be found at www.fjmc.org.

The High Holidays are almost here. The Shofar blasts remind us to renew and enrich our lives with acts of good deeds and charity. The Region 2013-2014 Calendars of Events and Board Meetings are on our website. After *Yom Kippur*, the Midwest Region FJMC vision and goals will appear on the Region web site. These goals and proposed actions demonstrate our intent to help make our Clubs be more successful, and enrich our Jewish communities with meaningful and impactful initiatives.

I wish all of you and your families a *L'shana Tova Tikatevu*.

**Dr. Michael Greenberg
President
Midwest Region**



Midwest Region 2013 Ma'asim Tovim Award Winner

**Evan Rumack
Congregation Beth Judea Men's Club
Long Grove, Ill.**



The Ma'asim Tovim Award is the highest recognition a region can give to one of its members. It is given to individuals who have worked on behalf of the region for many years. This is awarded every other year at the FJMC Convention.

Thanks Evan for all you do!

To view the Ma'asim Tovim presentation video, click on the link below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdTqr3rWYSY>



Midwest Region Rocks, Takes 6 Torch Awards



Representing Congregation B'nai Amoona: Max Brown (L), Jay Englander and Edward Herzog proudly displaying their four Torch Awards. Congregation Beth Shalom representatives Harvey Redfern (L) and Brad Shaps, with Midwest Region President, Mike Greenberg, proudly displaying their Torch Award. Torch Award winners not pictured are Bob Olshan and Alan Schwartz from Congregation Kol Rinah (formerly Shaare Zedek).



Mark Givarz (L), Edward Herzog, Jay Englander, Max Brown and Creighton Cohn with Congregation B'nai Amoona's Torch Awards.



Brad Shaps (L), Harvey Redfern and Mike Greenberg with Congregation Beth Shalom's Torch Award.

The goal of the Torch Award is to encourage the development of innovative programming; to recognize those clubs which develop quality programming that builds community and supports the growth and development of leadership teams. You've got to be in it to win it! Go to <http://www.FJMC.org> and click on Awards.



Chazzanim, from left, Steven Stoeher, Zach Mondrow, Alisa Pomerantz-Boro, Joanna Selznick Dulkan, David Propis, Randy Herman



Chazzanim Concert Brings on the Ruach





MIDWEST REGION PRE-CONVENTION BBQ

The Midwest Region FJMC Pre-Convention BBQ was held on Sunday July 14, at Region President Michael Greenberg's home in Northbrook, Ill.

Twenty-six people attended with 14 men attending Convention and their significant others (many of whom also attended Convention). Attendees enjoyed BBQ kosher hot dogs and burgers (thanks to Shelly Pike who did most of the cooking), numerous dips, baked beans (after all, we did go to Boston!) and generous portions of appropriate libations.



**Welcome to the Midwest
Region Pre-Convention
BBQ**

The weather cooperated with cool temperatures and low humidity allowing for all to eat outside and hold lively conversations.

It was a great way to warm up for Convention.



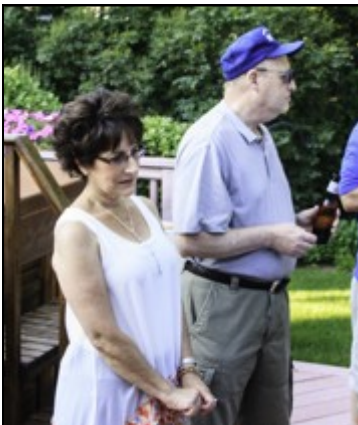
Sandy Victor (L) and Jerry Agrest share a light moment



Shelly Pike at the Q — Mmmm, smell that smoke!



Evan Rumack (L) and Sandy Victor kibbitz Shelly's grilling skills



Pam and Harvey Redfern



Laura Merens (L), Sharon Pike and Estelle Agrest

Merle Rumack (L) and Ann Lessman





Midwest Region - FJMC

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2012-2013 Midwest Region

Michael Greenberg
President
Norwin Merens
Executive Vice President
Mark Givarz
Vice President
Paul Glaser
Vice President
Daryl Temkin
Vice President
Rodney Ugent
Vice President
Ed Sachs
Recording Secretary
Bob Olshan
Corresponding Secretary
Creighton Cohn
Financial Secretary
Harvey Redfern
Treasurer
Shelly Pike
Honary President

President's Cabinet
Mark Berman
Neal Bluestein
Max Brown
Cass Friedberg
Burt Fischman
Howard Minkoff
Perry Pitzele
Gregg Pollack
Ernie Smolen

CHECK US OUT

<http://www.midwestregionfjmc.org>

COMING EVENTS

**Remember
the Date!**

Fall Region Meeting, Anshe Emet — October 6, 2013

Winter Region Meeting, Beth Israel Ner Tamid — January 12, 2014

Man and Youth of the Year North — February 23, 2014

Man and Youth of the Year South — March 23, 2014

Midwest Retreat, Starved Rock State Park, Utica, Ill. — May 2-4, 2014