The FJMC Midwest Region Man and Youth of the Year Events were held February 17th for Chicago and Milwaukee and March 23rd for St. Louis. Both events were well attended and honored very deserving members of our Men’s Clubs. The Chicago/Milwaukee event also featured a successful auction to help fund our FJMC Midwest Region activities.

More photos inside.
Dear Midwest Region Brothers,

This issue of Prez Sez is the Midwest Region FJMC President’s Speech for the 2014 Man/Youth of the Year Awards
Dinner:
Good Afternoon/Evening. Everybody having fun? Everybody, please stand and provide our honorees with an ovation they justly deserve! This is not going to be the traditional Presidential Speech.

After all, we have:

A New (Beth Shalom/Kol Rinah) Venue,
New Menu,
An improved program for you,
We’re honoring our men, and young adults too.

Our award winning clubs, for this Region are the glue,
Men performing mitzvot, and having passion for brew.

But wait, there’s more, Region has another improved program in Queue,
Our May retreat at Starved Rock, has kosher food, and a program that is break through.

We reinvented this Region, new logo, vision and point of view,
Stimulating leadership with innovative initiatives, for the community to renew.

With our men’s needs in mind, all of this did not come out of the blue,
So it is no surprise, we are the outliers on that survey by Pew.

Our activities are on www.midwestregionfjmc.org, for you to review,
My time is almost up, and our MC is turning blue.

So this poem is over, I hoped you enjoyed my wit,

With no budget for entertainment, I am being paid jack sh__.

It’s time to quit.

Of the 17 Regions in FJMC serving 250 Men’s Clubs and about 25,000 Men, there are only 3 Regions that have both Man and Youth of the Year. We are one of them.

We are the only Region that returns some of the ad revenue to the Youth Departments. We are the only Region that has registration, payment, ad purchases on their own web site. In fact, we are the only Region that articulates a clear vision for the next 2-3 years, goals with criteria of success and measurement on our web site. Why the difference? It stems from our unique brand.

Our logo shows Men celebrating havdalah holding the torch burning bright. This reflects who we are: the ones illuminating the path forward, the change agents of the Conservative movement.

Our goals include filling voids in the community with new and improved initiatives run by Region that engage men, especially younger men (under 50 years old). We want to capture you, heart and soul and promote your health and wellness.

We already launched two new programs: a Softball Tournament on August 11, 2013 and a
"Tu B’Shvat Haggadah and Seder" was issued to Clubs this past fall. The softball tournament is now morphing into a softball league. Thank you to Allen Harris and Fred Rabinowitz of Beth Judea, and Scott Rogoff of Beth Shalom for making this event special.

Thank you to Rabbi Melman for reviewing and endorsing the "Tu B’Shvat Haggadah and Seder" initiative. Clubs can tailor the haggadah to fit their needs. Their Clergy can be engaged to add special messages and endorse it for the clubs. A great way to engage men and their families, Sunday schools or Hazak groups. The program encourages wellness via fruit, juices, and wine, all of which have antioxidant benefits. There also are very strong environmental messages and teachings. Now is the time to plan to use this tool for 2015.

The addition of Youth of the Year to Man of the Year was one of our key improved initiatives. Honoring our Youth comes naturally to us. They are the future leaders of the Conservative movement.

Many of our clubs already have programs with their USY group. For example, Beth Judea has a softball game and barbeque, Beth Shalom has a basketball game. Many of our men have coached USY basketball teams, provided instruction on ritual areas, especially using tefillin, help host purim carnivals and the list goes on and on. Quite a few men coach a range of youth sports in the community.

This event marks a new beginning for men interacting with our young adults. We have brilliant successful and highly talented men in our clubs. We need to leverage the knowledge base to our youth to give them a competitive edge getting into colleges and obtaining valuable insights on career planning. So, this is a call to action. This is what is possible: Clubs and Region can each offer 2-3 internships per year to USY sophomores giving them experience in accounting, marketing and working on teams. One-on-one interaction with the club treasurer, VP of Programs and having these officers provide a project for the intern to complete. Teach them project management and communication skills. Mentoring is priceless. This is valuable experience for youth to include on college applications. Our Sisterhoods and Executive Directors can run similar programs.

Our men can provide our college aged youth with summer jobs in their companies. This can provide them with a competitive edge in the job market when they graduate. Just another way to expand our tent in the community.

Finally, thank you for your attention and "Kol Hakavod" to all of our honorees. Thank you to Harvey Gold, CBS Men’s Club, and the Committee for their leadership and passion. Jonathan Lehrer for adding the necessary software to the website for taking registrations, Bill Branda for the news flashes on the site. I would like Neal Blustein and Donald Pike to step forward. On behalf of the Midwest Region FJMC, I want to thank you for all the hours you both spent making this program happen. You each had to overcome some large obstacles, some personal, to see this event happen.

Thank you to Kol Rinah and their Men’s Club for hosting a very special luncheon event. A very special thank you to David Propper for planning and executing a great week end. It was my pleasure to donate one of my favorite art pieces to the silent auction. To help our brothers, all the raffle and silent auction revenue stays with the two St. Louis Clubs.

News You Can Use

Anti-Semitic Sentiments Are Harbored By One-Fourth Of Global Population, According To Anti-Defamation League Survey.

Click the link below for the ADL's survey summary.

http://global100.adl.org/public/ADL-Global-100-Executive-Summary.pdf
Rodney did a great job - 58 people attended. The tailgating BBQ was delicious as always with burgers, dogs, chips, slaw, beer and pop (aka soda) etc.

By the conclusion of the 9-0 Brewers victory over Chicago, all the Cubs fans were rooting for Milwaukee. Someone was overheard saying that it's the thing to do after 106 years of futility.
AROUND THE REGION

KOL RINAH SPORTS NIGHT

Kol Rinah hosted Al Hrabosky, the “Mad Hungarian” as our Guest Speaker for Sports Night on Feb 9th. Al filled the house, and we had a wonderful Spaghetti Dinner (Yasher Koach Gerard and crew) followed by a great session with the Mad Hungarian and lots of wonderful prizes for all.

Kitchen Crew, from left, Steve Keyser, Gerard Burke, Dave Proper, Alan Schwartz, Jim Singman, Bob Olsan and Howard Belsky

Al Hrabosky presents Ernie Broglio signed baseballs to Cubs fans Al Leving, (L) and Burton Boxerman

B’nai Amoona contingent: Max Brown (l), Chuck Sandroff, Larry Waldman, Creighton Cohn, Jay Englander

Al Hrabosky receives a St. Louis Cardinals kippah from Kol Rinah President, Bob Olsan
Man and Youth of the Year Awards in the North

Men of the Year

Youths of the Year: Our future leaders at play
Left to right: Noa Ohcana, Aaron Fogelson, Joel Spiegel, Julia Braude, Michael Greenberg, Midwest Region FJMC president, and Matthew Patton.
Steve Lessman, Event MC (L) and Neal Blustein, Event Chair

Donald Pike performs Kiddush while Barry Brusso looks on

Burt Fischman, aka Captain Ruach, leads Birkat

A special thank you to Elliot Goldman who was photographer for the Chicago Event.

For more photos, click the link below:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/midwestregionfjmc/collections/72157641925128343/
Man and Youth of the Year Awards in the South

2014 Midwest Region FJMC Man and Youth of the Year Honorees: L to R, Norwin Merens, executive vice president, Midwest Region FJMC; Bob Olshan, president Kol Rinah Men's Club; Max Brown, Man of the Year, Congregation B'nai Amoona; Sophie Aroesty, Youth of the Year, Kol Rinah; Joel Goldberg, Youth of the Year, Congregation B'nai Amoona; Jim Singman, Man of the Year, Kol Rinah; Ed Herzog, president, Congregation B'nai Amoona and Dr. Michael Greenberg, president, Midwest Region FJMC.

Rabbi Carnie Shalom Rose, left, B'nai Amoona and Rabbi Mark Fasman, Kol Rinah deliver their opening remarks.

Midwest Region President, Michael Greenberg, receives a standing ovation following his remarks and poem.
Members from B'nai Amoona and Kol Rinah enjoy a little breakfast nosh preceding the workshop.

Midwest Region President, Michael Greenberg, presents important information about club organizing and officer succession ideas.

For more photos click on the link below:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/midwestregionfjmc/sets/72157643954151214/
MIDWEST FJMC REGIONAL RETREAT


Forty-four men attended including FJMC Executive Director Rabbi Charles Simon, Executive Vice President Allan Gottesman, Midwest Region Spiritual Advisor Rabbi Aaron Melman and Toronto Region Representative, Neil Melman.

The theme was living a healthy lifestyle. Guess speakers included Diana Carlson, a certified yoga therapist, and Corinne Cohen Grotenhuis, an Olympic weightlifter.

Healthy kosher food was served, and every morning began with a nature walk.

Shabbat afternoon activities included hikes, a whiffle ball game, a yoga class and an opportunity to get to know fellow retreaters.

Corinne Cohen Grotenhuis, left, started Olympic weightlifting in 1981 when women's weightlifting had just been founded. She is the only Jewish female lifter to compete in 22 senior nationals in the history of Olympic weightlifting, and she is a 10-time master world champion.

Diana Carlson, RYT-500, Certified Yoga Therapist, lead a yoga session designed for men interested in stretching themselves by trying a new exercise alternative.

Allen Gottesman, FJMC executive vice president, delivers a great message on a healthy Jewish lifestyle.
For more pictures from the Midwest Region Retreat, click the link below:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/midwestregionfjmc/collections/72157644592876983/
The Midwest Region is part of the International Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs (FJMC), an international organization of more than 250 men’s auxiliaries serving 25,000 men across the globe.

FJMC’s mission is to involve Jewish men in Jewish life, but our influence goes far beyond men in the Conservative/Masorti Movement. Our programs have a profound impact upon our congregations, the Jewish communities in which we live and Jewry worldwide through alliances with other international organizations such as Mercaz.

Please visit the FJMC website @ www.FJMC.org for further information on all of our programs and relationships.

CHECK US OUT
http://www.midwestregionfjmc.org

If you have suggestions, photos or information about your club for publication in The Communicator, please send an email to:
max-brown@sbcglobal.net.

COMING EVENTS

Watch this space and have a safe and sane summer!