

## MAN AND YOUTH OF THE YEAR



Larry Kosova Anshe-Emet



Aaron Fogelson Anshe-Emet



Jay Lawrence BHCBE



Max Brown B'nai Amoona



Joe Goldberg B'nai Amoona



Ronald Laux CBINT



Allen Harris Beth Judea



Joel Spiegel Beth Judea



Kevin Braude Beth Shalom



Julia Braude Beth Shalom



Ernie Smolen NSS Beth El



Noa Ohcana NSS Beth El



Jim Singman Kol Rinah



Sophie Aroesty Kol Rinah



Bill McFarlane  
Kneseth Israel



Morris Applebaum  
WS Har Zion



Matthew Patton WS Har Zion

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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.



## Prez Sez-



**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](http://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.**

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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'Shavat 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'Shavat 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. ✨

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## 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>



Loren Frye, from Milwaukee, proudly displays a ball that Ryan Braun threw into our section. The ball bounced off of Linda Behrman's shoulder and rolled to Loren. Linda's shoulder is okay.



Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Ugent



Rodney Ugent, BBQ Master Chef



Not even team loyalties can come between Men's Club brothers!



Beth Israel Ner Tamid fans power-up for baseball and BBQ.

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

Top Row Left to Right: Bill McFarlane, Ernie Smolen, Larry Kosova and Michael Greenberg, Midwest Region FJMC president. Seated Left to Right: Jay Lawrence, Ronald Laux, Allen Harris, and Kevin Braude. Not pictured: Morris Applebaum.



### 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



Invocation by Region Clergy,  
Rabbi Aaron Melman of  
Congregation Beth Shalom



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.





Michael Greenberg (L) and Norwin Merens receive gifts of appreciation from Bob Olshan, Kol Rinah Men's Club President.



Edward Herzog (L) President, B'nai Amoona Men's Club and Bob Olshan, President, Kol Rinah Men's Club deliver their remarks.



A workshop was held before the Man and Youth of the Year Luncheon.

Neil Peters, (L) B'nai Amoona, reports on the ideas generated by his breakout group.



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

### 2014 Retreat at Starved Rock State Park, Illinois.



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

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. Guest 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.



Allen Gottesman, FJMC executive vice president, delivers a great message on a healthy Jewish lifestyle.



B'nai Amoona members Jay Englander, left, Creighton Cohn and Steve Goldman lead *Havdalah*.



Chef Bear and Rabbi Melman: Chef Barry Brooks provided delicious *kosher* meals under the supervision of Rabbi Aaron Melman.



Birkat with Ruach

For more pictures from the Midwest Region Retreat, click the link below:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/midwestregionfjmc/collections/72157644592876983/>





## Midwest Region - FJMC

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Glenview, IL 60025

2013-2014 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 Blustein

Bill Branda

Kevin Braude

Max Brown, Editor, The Communicator

Cass Friedberg

Burt Fischman

Howard Minkoff

Perry Pitzele

Gregg Pollack

Ernie Smolen

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](http://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](mailto:max-brown@sbcglobal.net).

# COMING EVENTS

Remember  
the Date!

**Watch this space and  
have a safe and sane summer!**