

Flashback as We Prepare For Our 2014 Retreat



Picture yourself at the 2014 Midwest Region Retreat. Pictured here are highlights from the 2012 Midwest Region Retreat in Springfield, Illinois. See pages 4 and 5 for information and a registration form for this year's retreat in beautiful Starved Rock State Park near Oglesby, Illinois.

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Yom HaShoah Memorial

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World Wide Wrap XIII



2012 Midwest Federation of Jewish Men's Club Retreat in Springfield, Illinois- April 27-29, 2012



Prez Sez–



Dear Midwest Region Brothers,

Despite the brutal winter of 2013-2014, Men in our Region brought a heat wave of innovation to warm our hearts and souls. Our innovative spirit has resulted in two improved programs: Man/Youth of the Year and 2014 Midwest Region Retreat, which

will be launched in the next few months.

For background, my presidency has three goals:

1. Fill initiative gaps in the community (ritual, social, athletic for Jewish Men) that may increase club membership for men under 50,
2. Enhance value of FJMC membership for clubs to improve existing programs to increase attendance and improve revenues each by 25 percent and
3. Promote health and wellness for our Region Men.

Last issue, I reviewed how the Region Softball Tournament and BBQ - held August 11, 2013, and the Tu B'Shvat Haggadah for Clubs to hold Seders issued during September/October, 2013 were successfully completed as part of the first and third goal. Both were well received by our Clubs.

The first two goals are being addressed with our improved program:

Man of Year + Youth of Year, Silent Auction - Chicago Area Feb 23, St. Louis, March 23

Neal Blustein from CBS MC and Region Cabinet is the chairperson for this event, and he has formed a committee consisting of Barry Brusso (tracks registration and ad payments), Donald Pike (formats ads for the ad book), Bill Branda (Region Website posts and pages) and Region Executive VP Norwin Merens, who is formatting honoree pictures and biographies. Standing in the wings are Master of Ceremonies Steve Lessman and photographer Elliott Goldman.

Through the efforts of our web site developer, Jonathan Lehrer, Midwest Region modified the Region Website to accept registration and payment (PayPal, credit card or check - you do not need a PayPal account to use PayPal) for the event, including Ad payments.

We went through a successful shake down trial and launched on November 1, 2013. Ad design templates on Microsoft Word were inserted on the Ad payment section. These appear to be a major efficiency improvement. In addition, we kept the dinner cost for the Chicago event at a low cost of \$36 (same as in 2010) so that youth and their families can afford to attend the event.

This event celebrates our Jewish youth who are our future Jewish leaders and the current Jewish Male role models, while becoming a fundraiser, since we will return 50 percent of ad revenue for youth ads to the individual participating Youth Departments. The Region has quickly embraced these features.

It is not too late to attend the Chicago Event. Register before the discounted \$36 person price increases to \$45 per person on February 9.

Ads need to be placed with us by February 2, but this deadline may be extended. Watch the Region website.

St. Louis Event - see David Propper of Kol Rinah for reservations to the March 23 event. Ads for the St. Louis Men and Youth of the Year **must be placed by the same deadlines as the Chicago Event** due to printer deadlines.

Congratulations to all honorees and thank you to all those who worked on the two events to make them happen. What a great group of passionate leaders!!

Ten Region Clubs have selected Men of the Year and seven have Youth of the Year. Mazel Tov to the following honorees.

(Continued on page 3)



Prez Sez—

(Continued from page 2)

MEN'S CLUB SYNAGOGUE

Anshe Emet
Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah
Beth Israel Ner Tamid
Congregation B'nai Amoona
Congregation Beth Judea
Congregation Beth Shalom
Congregation Kneseth Israel
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El
Kol Rinah

MAN OF THE YEAR

Larry Kosova
Jay Lawrence
Ronald Laux
Max Brown
Allen Harris
Kevin Braude
Bill McFarlane
Ernie Smolen
James (Jim) Singman

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Aaron Fogelson

Joe Goldberg
Joel Spiegel
Julia Braude

Noa Ohcana
Sophie Aroesty

Retreat- May 2-4, 2014 at Starved Rock State Park

Paul Glaser and Mark Givarz are co- chairs for this event and a draft agenda for the weekend has been approved. **Emphasis is on fun, great kosher food, use of the nature trails, facilities, honoring clubs with Region Health and Wellness Awards and ritual.**

The retreat theme will be fitness and health for Men. At retreat, Region will bestow awards to clubs for programming in that area. Details have been sent by Shelly Pike to Club Presidents. In addition, we will have professional weight lifting and yoga instructors work with us to improve our fitness routines.

The event will feature an all kosher menu with meat!!! Rabbi Aaron Melman, Region Clergy, will attend the event as the Kashrut supervisor. Other notable attendees include Rabbi Charles Simon, FJMC Executive Director, and FJMC Executive Vice President Allan Gottesman. Both will provide valuable insights that may lead to new Club initiatives.

Cost is \$299 per person double occupancy and \$399 for a single room. imagnetripping.com has provided a sponsorship for the event to help keep costs down.

Registration is now open with reservation forms on the Midwest Region Website and on page 5 of this newsletter.

Yellow Candle Program

Thank you to Darryl Temkin who led the Yellow Candle Ordering for Midwest Region. Orders are due to Darryl before January 28, 2014 to qualify for an FJMC discount of \$3 per case (\$69/case). Cases

of candles can be ordered until February 20 at the \$72/case rate. (See page 4)

As of January 15, 2014, Clubs have ordered 98 cases (vs.137 in 2013) including 8 cases from two Reform Synagogues. Seven Region Clubs have yet to order. We expect to exceed the 2013 order total.

Reminder for clubs:

Please register your club at the FJMC website as soon as possible for the World Wide Wrap on February 2.

Send stories and photos of your club's wrap event to Max Brown for the next Communicator issue. Max can be reached at max-brown@sbcglobal.net. Send Max congrats on being Man of the Year for his club!!

Please pay Club dues to Harvey Redfern as soon as possible. His email is HAR@ssglt.com.

Update membership roster (excel spreadsheet to be sent by FJMC with dues notice) and return to FJMC with a CC to Region (Bob Olshan, olshanr@gmail.com)

Cubs vs. Brewers with BBQ at Miller Park is planned for June 1, 2014. Please reserve the date.

Our Region Clubs have so many programs going on (Health Fair at NSS Beth El, Weight Loss program at CBS, etc.) that there is not space to comment on the innovations our clubs are bringing.

(Continued on page 5)



A small candle
can make a
large statement

FJMC Shoah
Yellow Candles



The FJMC Shoah Yellow Candle Program

The Yellow Candle™ was created in 1981 by FJMC clubs in Canada, New England and elsewhere to keep alive the memory of the Six Million who perished in the Shoah. The Candle is modeled after a traditional Jewish memorial Yahrzeit candle that burns for 24 hours during periods of mourning and on the Yahrzeit anniversary of a family member.

The candle's yellow wax serves to remind us of the yellow arm band and yellow stars, which Jews were forced to wear during the Nazi regime. A photo on the candle container shows young people visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This reflects the importance of teaching our youth the lessons of the Holocaust and of remembering the Six Million.

In addition, the program logo is a yellow *Magen David* (Star of David) outlined with barbed wire, with the word "Jude" in the middle. This preserves the memory of the armband or cloth patch that Jews were forced to wear in the ghettos of Eastern Europe.



How Does the Yellow Candle™ Program Work?

Candles are distributed by organizations to their members for use on Yom HaShoah and other Holocaust dates. The supplies (candles, delivery boxes and/or plastic delivery bags) are available from an FJMC Yellow Candle ordering center, or by handy internet on-line web ordering.

Most groups order Candles by the case (48 count) and then manage distribution to their own local congregants and members. This method is hands-on, saves money and can involve the entire community in a Shoah related activity. It also provides opportunities for additional educational opportunities. Distribution is done by home delivery or mail.

Click here <http://fjmc.org/content/yellow-candles-home> to learn how to get your Men's Club involved.



TAKE STEPS FORWARD AT REGIONAL RETREAT

For years, the Midwest Region has offered its members wonderful, *Ruach*-filled Retreats. This year's Retreat promises to be no exception. Entitled "Eat. Pray. Exercise: A Fun Weekend of *Ruach* & Wellness," the May 2-4 Retreat will focus on issues of health and wellness.

With the beautiful backdrop of Starved Rock State Park near Oglesby, Illinois, attendees will hike, swim, play some ball, stretch themselves with a yoga class presented by instructors from the Bloom Yoga Studio in nearby Ottawa, and learn about weight training and competing as a world-class Jewish athlete from Corinne Grotenhuis, a 10-time master world champion weightlifter and member of the Masters Hall of Fame.

There will be innovative prayer services and lively discussions about coping with stress and living with illness. And as at any Midwest Regional Retreat, there will be the opportunity to network with men from around the Midwest, to learn about exciting program ideas to recharge one's club and one's self, and to just plain schmooze.

A copy of the event flyer and registration form appears on page 6 in this issue. Note that the registration cost includes lodging and six kosher meals. Space is very limited, so don't wait for the March 20 deadline to pass. Send your registration form and check today!

If you have any questions, email co-chairs Paul Glaser (pauljayglaser@sbcglobal.net), or Mark Givarz (alymark@sbcglobal.net).

Starved Rock Lodge Dining Room.



(Continued from page 3)

Club Executive Boards:

Now is the time to check the Quality Club list (see www.fjmc.org) and start preparing Torch Award applications while the results are fresh. My job is to make Region Clubs successful and help communicate success to FJMC. Quality Club Awards and Torch Awards are powerful PR tools for clubs to showcase at FJMC Convention Program Fairs, and provide political clout in your synagogues.

See you at Man/Youth of the Year Celebrations!

Mike

Dr. Michael Greenberg
President
Midwest Region- FJMC

B'nai Amoona Enhances Hearing Men's Voices



Congregation B'nai Amoona in St. Louis, under the leadership of Mark Givarz, has designed a Hearing Men's Voices program specifically for new members to the Synagogue.

The purpose of this new program is to give all of the new members an opportunity to meet each other and to get to know one another a little better, as well as provide an orientation to B'nai Amoona.

The event is free and Men's Club membership is not required, nor is there an expectation to speak at the event. However, B'nai Amoona's experience is that once the conversation starts, everyone has their own two cents to contribute.



Starved Rock Lodge



The FJMC Midwest Region Presents Its 2014 Regional Retreat **EAT. PRAY. EXERCISE. A Fun Weekend of Ruach & Wellness**

May 2-4, 2014 • Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center, Oglesby, Illinois
Join Us For a Memorable Weekend of Physical & Spiritual Health & Wellness

- Hike through scenic Starved Rock State Park
- Stretch yourself with yoga
- Swim in the Lodge's indoor pool
- Learn about weight training and competing as a Jewish athlete
- Lively discussions, traditional and alternative services
- Delicious kosher meals
- Inspiring, motivational speakers
- Program ideas to recharge you and your own club
- Meet Club leaders from around Midwest Region and FJMC
- Lots of Fun & Ruach!



This Unique, Not-To-Be Missed Event **starts at 3:30 pm on Friday, May 2, 2014 and ends following Lunch on Sunday.**
All Events and Accommodations are at the **Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center, Oglesby (LaSalle County), IL.**

Detach at the line and mail with your payment

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014

Space Is Very Limited!! When Rooms Are Filled, We Will Start A Waiting List. Do Not Wait!!

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Club Affiliation _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

☐ Single Occupancy: \$399

☐ Double Occupancy: \$299 I would like to room with: _____

☐ I need a ride – please contact me.

☐ I am available to drive – please contact me

Make Checks payable to: FJMC – Midwest Region

Mail to: FJMC Midwest Region, c/o Paul Glaser, 7N615 Cloverfield Circle, St. Charles, IL 60175

Need more information? Just ask Retreat Co-Chairs

Paul Glaser, pauljayglaser@sbcglobal.net, or Mark Givarz, alymark@sbcglobal.net



Stimulating Leadership, Innovation & Community



Kol Rinah

Men's Club Presents



Annual Sports Dinner with The Mad Hungarian Al Hrabosky

Sunday, February 9

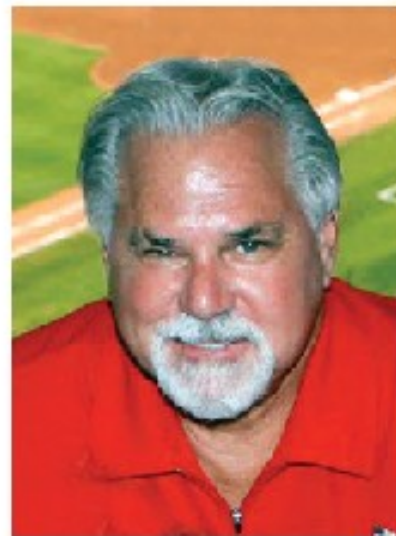
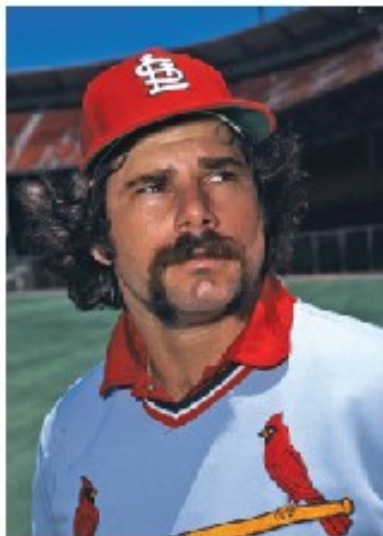
6:00 Mincha, 6:30 Spaghetti Dinner and Sports Talk

Cost in Advance: \$15 Adults, \$12 Men's Club Members, \$5 Children 18 and Under

Cost at the Door: \$18 All Adults, \$5 Children 18 and Under

Please RSVP to the office before February 4th. 314-727-1747 or office@kolrinahstl.org

Vegetarian or gluten free requests must be made when you RSVP.



KolRinahSTL.org • 829 N. Hanley Road • St. Louis, MO 63130 • 314-727-1747



Midwest Region FJMC at Beth Israel Ner Tamid

“People Are Dying To Be Heard”

Listening to yourself, your loved ones and to strangers

On January 12, Beth Israel Ner Tamid Men's Club hosted a Midwest Region FJMC breakfast meeting. In addition to the usual business meeting, communications consultant, **Ben Merens**, gave a presentation on the art of listening.



Ben Merens is a communications consultant, leadership training specialist and keynote speaker. In conjunction with his speaking work, Ben has authored two audio books, “People Are Dying To Be Heard,” and “Uni-Tasking: 25 Tips For Better Listening.” A new audio

book focused on business communications and social networking strategies is now being produced.

Ben spent 21 years at Wisconsin Public Radio where he hosted and helped produce “At Issue,” a two-hour daily current events call-in program.

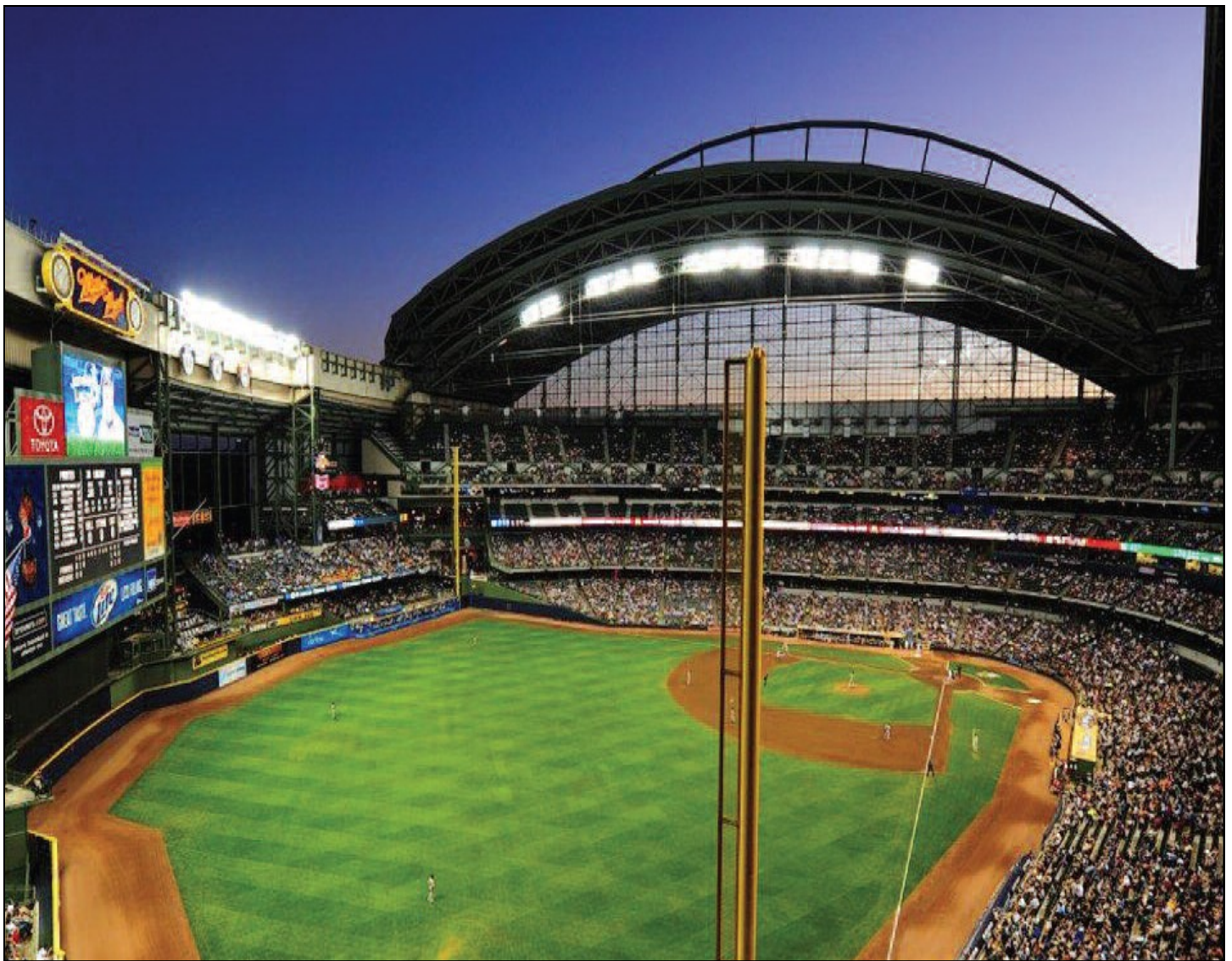
Ben has been published by *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, and *Talkers Magazine*. His work has aired on NPR's *Morning Edition* and PRI's *Marketplace*.

He is a cousin of Norwin Merens, executive VP, FJMC Midwest Region.



Region meeting with Ben Merens speaking





• **Tickets just \$45 each!** •

Kosher Tailgate Party precedes the game.

Hot Dogs & Hamburgers served.

Tailgating begins promptly at 11:30 am

- Let us know if you need a vegetarian lunch -

Reserve tickets: Contact Rodney Ugent at rddugent@aol.com or 414.351.4714

**A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT & FUN TIME FOR ALL • LIMITED SUPPLY
OF TICKETS!**

It's Time to Play Ball!"

Chicago Cubs vs. Milwaukee Brewers

Sunday, June 1, 2014, 1:10 pm • Miller Park, Milwaukee, WI

— FJMC Midwest Region Annual Brotherhood Event —

Stimulating Leadership, Innovation and Community



Midwest Region - FJMC

3244 Greenbriar Dr.
Glenview, IL 60025

2013-2014 Midwest Region

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Gregg Pollack
Ernie Smolen

CHECK US OUT

<http://www.midwestregionfjmc.org>

COMING EVENTS

**Remember
the Date!**

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, Oglesby, Ill. — May 2-4, 2014