

MIDWEST REGION BOARD MEETING AND NEW REGIONAL WEB SITE



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Welcome to the World of Men's Club



Serving Conservative/Masorti Jewish congregations, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is the international umbrella organization representing some 270 men's auxiliaries with more than 25,000 members in 16 regions in the U.S. and Canada. Discover the latest developments impacting the FJMC Midwest Region. [Learn how you can get involved with this dynamic organization.](#)

Latest News and Announcements

[Region Meeting: Jan. 15 at Beth El Ner Tamid, Mequon, Wis.](#)

Posted on January 7, 2012. Category: [Latest News](#), [Regional Meetings](#)

David D. Gutterman, M.D. will discuss his latest findings concerning heart health and aging at the next FJMC Region Meeting.

Gutterman is Northwestern Mutual Professor in Cardiology, Senior Associate Dean for Research, and Professor of Medicine and Physiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He has been conducting basic research and clinical studies in mechanisms of heart disease.

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On Sunday January 15th, at our Midwest Region Board meeting at Congregation Beth El Ner Tamid in Mequon, WI, our new Region Web Site was announced. Emails sharing the news were sent to all Midwest region members the next day as well. More coverage inside!!! We also heard a timely presentation by Dr. David Gutterman on Medical and Technology Research conducted in Israel.

Inside this issue:

Midwest region Web site

Region January meeting

Around the Region

Beth Israel and Beth El

Man of the Year & more



Prez Sez-

As we welcome in calendar year **2012**, the next several months will certainly be a busy time for the FJMC - Midwest Region.

Some of the exciting events taking place include:

The **World Wide Wrap** on **February 5th** where Men's Clubs from around the world will have a designated day and time and join together to perform the mitzvah of laying tefillin.

The **Man of the Year** event will take place on **February 19th** at Beth Hillel/Congregation Bnai Emunah. Our Clubs from Illinois and Wisconsin will honor our most deserving men from each of our Clubs and Congregation. This year we will break tradition by having a Sunday Brunch.

A **Silent Auction and raffle** to raise monies to help support Men's Clubs programs will also take place on that same day.

Man of the Year activities for the **St. Louis Clubs** will also take place the weekend of **March 2, 3, 4.**

All are invited to come down and join us for this great weekend of southern hospitality from our St. Louis brethren.

The **Midwest Region Retreat** will be **April 27, 28, 29** again in **Springfield, Illinois.**

Our Clubs and members are planning to come from all over the Midwest for a great weekend of camaraderie, spirituality, learning and lots of RUACH.

Our annual **Regional Tailgate Party/ Baseball Outing** in **August** hosted by our great Milwaukee Clubs, at Miller Park in Milwaukee.

So mark your calendars and plan to join us at all of these events. We look forward to seeing all of you and celebrating these wonderful events together, with all of our fellow Men's Club brethren.

B' Shalom. Shelly





MIDWEST REGION WEB SITE GOES LIVE!

MIDWEST REGION FJMC WEB SITE GOES LIVE

After three months of intensive work, the Midwest Region FJMC web site went live on January 11, 2012.

Please visit the site at www.midwestregionfjmc.org.

Benefits of the web site are to:

1. exchange and discuss ideas on new Club and or Region programs
2. share Club and Region calendars so you can attend other club events
3. receive the latest news on future Region Events and Programs
4. receive the latest copy of the Communicator

The web site home page presented below features seven category topics to review. Key categories include Discussion Board, Events, Programs, and Newsletter. The Newsletter also is featured on the right side bar column.



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Scrolling down any page, you will encounter on the right side "Recommended Sites" which has a link to the Midwest Region Photo gallery at Flickr.com. You can also go directly there with www.flickr.com/photos/midwestregionfjmc. The event or program photos on flickr are organized as sets of photographs. Once on flickr, these can be accessed by clicking on the individual set on the right column of the flickr opening page.

Clubs are free to upload photos on this site in sets or collections labeled which they can form by clicking on the "Organize and Create" tab. The set should include Club name and event. A post should be placed on the web site discussion board notifying others about the photos.

Other links go to FJMC and other sites.



MIDWEST REGION WEB SITE GOES LIVE!

Several key features of note:

On the home page there is a discussion board:

Men's Club Events: What Are Your Ideas?

Posted on December 27, 2011. Category: DISCUSSION BOARD,
Latest News

The World Wide Wrap, Yom Hashoah Candles and the Man of the Year event...just a few of the regionwide programs sponsored by FJMC. Are we doing everything we possibly could do? What are your thoughts on our current program of events? Where could we expand? Use the comment field below to sound off. (Reminder: Comments may not appear immediately; all comments are reviewed by the moderator before posting.)
1 Comment »

This is a primary tool for the Clubs in the Region to post ideas for new events or comment on ones held regarding what worked or what did not work and why.

Since this is a public web site, there will be a lag time for the post to be screened for spam and other assorted inappropriate material by the administrators. Posts will be placed within a working day or less.

A second key feature is the Calendar under the Events Category.

Each club President was provided with a Google Email address and password. Google calendar was used to prepare each Club's calendar of events. It is up to each Club to assure that the Club calendars are accurate and current. Each time you update your calendar, it automatically updates the web site calendar.

WHAT IS NEEDED FROM EACH CLUB PRESIDENT:

Please assign a web master from your club to update the calendar. Send me the name and email of those individuals.

If you do not see your club's calendar on the web site, please send me an Email.

Circulate this email to your membership.

Send us updated email address lists (to Stu Simon) by February 1, 2012 so your membership can receive the next Communicator Issue.

In the near future, we will be expanding the site to include other features such as a Speakers List and Fund Raising Activities. In addition, we are going to recruit several club web masters to be the future web site administrators for next year.

MIDWEST REGION WEB SITE GOES LIVE!

Background on the Midwest Region FJMC Site:

At the May, 2011 Midwest Region FJMC Executive Board meeting, it was proposed to create a Region web site. The rationale for this was that the FJMC site does not allow for details of Midwest Region Programs, Training, Club Programs, photographs etc., just a link to our Communicator. In addition, we have very little control over the content at the International FJMC site and can not easily update our news.

Other regions have web sites that are linked to the FJMC. These include;

New York Region Metro at <http://nymetrofjmc.shutterfly.com/>

Hudson Valley Region at <http://hvrjmc.org/>

Northern New Jersey Region at <http://www.nnjr.org/>

Western Region at <http://www.fjmcwestern.com/>

The New England Region has a link on the FJMC site that goes to its own web page at:

<http://www.nerfjmc.org/home>

There was agreement to determine cost and time to create the web site. In August, 2011, we received a proposal from Jonathan Lehrer Communications, Inc. (Jonathan Lehrer is a former Beth Hillel Men's Club President) regarding the building and maintenance of the web site. At the October 11, 2011 Executive Board Meeting, the proposal was approved. Jonathan Lehrer was retained to build the web site with the assistance of Michael Greenberg and Norwin Mehrens. Shortly after, the domain name was selected and secured.

After a November, 16 meeting with Jonathan, we started learning Word Press, the software for building the site with its templates, menus, posts and page features. In December, a large amount of time was spent by Mike and Norwin creating Google calendars for Region Clubs which were sent to their Presidents, creating the photo gallery, developing content for each event and program, obtaining photos for each of the 2012 Men of the Year and much more.

The site was reviewed at the January, 2012 Executive Board meeting and went public shortly after.

Mike Greenberg, Executive VP Midwest Region FJMC

Regional VP Darryl Temkin honored by
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El Men's Club



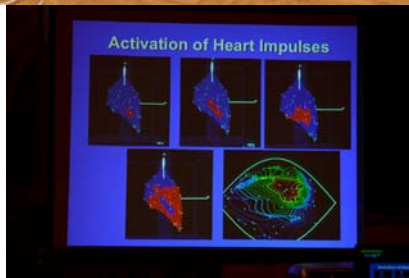
Regional VP Darryl Temkin was honored recently by his own Men's Club. He received the "Keeper of the Flame" award. Only men of the highest caliber receive this award. Darryl is seen in the middle of this picture. He's flanked on the left by Regional Board members Lew Bernstein, Dr. Jerry Agrest, Dr. Michael Greenberg and Cass Freidberg. On the right he's flanked by Regional President Shelly Pike and Norwin Merens.



Midwest Region Meeting Jan. 16, 2012

At Congregation Beth El Ner Tamid

Dr. David Gutterman



Dr. David Gutterman updated us about Medical and Technology Research conducted in Israel. It was also another opportunity for region members to reconnect about region accomplishments and plans.



Around the Region
**CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL MEN'S CLUB'S
STEAK & SCOTCH IN THE SUKKAH
A SUCCESS AGAIN THIS YEAR**



Rabbi Jacob Herber shares some halachic wisdom as it relates to the holiday during our recent Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah, our annual signature event held during Sukkot. As you'll notice in the photos, we hold the event out in the Sukkah even in the cold, Wisconsin fall weather!

This event has been our club's top fundraiser year after year. For \$36, attendees receive a kosher steak grilled outdoors, as well as a baked potato, salad, and of course, 12-yr-old single malt scotch. An additional \$18 entitles guests to partake in our limited VIP upgrade, which entitles the participant to taste 3 rare scotch selections and take home an imprinted collectible (this year, it was a set of leather coasters). The VIP option sells out every year. We had 61 registered guests this past year.

Mike Spanjar VP-Publicity, Men's Club of Congregation Beth Israel, Glendale, WI



Around the Region

NORTH SUBURBAN SYNAGOGUE BETH EL MEN'S CLUB'S SHABBAT WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

Men's Club celebrated another enjoyable Shabbat weekend this year. Beginning on Friday night, January 6th, with Kabbalat Shabbat services, led by **Mort Steinberg**, found over 150 congregants and guests attending the service.

Following services, those with dinner reservations, were treated to a wonderful traditional Shabbat dinner, from "soup to nuts" as the saying goes. Prior to dinner **Jeffrey Wohlstadter** introduced a new nigun, "SHABBAS IS HERE". It was composed by **Cantor Jeffrey Herman** especially for Men's Club, and introduced at the last International FJMC Convention. It brought a rousing response from everyone and was sung over and over again. This created a ruach that carried the entire weekend. Kiddush was chanted by **Rob Freeman**, Shalom Aleikhem was led by **Rod Slutzky**, Birkot Ha'mishpahah was said by **Victor Levitan** and **Jeffrey Goldsmith**. **Rabbi Michael Schwab** sang Eishet Hayil, **Michael Drumn** led Netilat Yadayim, with **Howard Turner** making the Ha'motzi. The evening ended with a round of z'mirot led by **Hazzan Larry Goller** and Birkot Ha'mazon was led by **Jeffrey Kopin**.

All of the Saturday Services were led by Men's Club. Over forty five men were included with aliyot and bimah honors. Shacharit was led by **Jeffrey Wohlstadter** and Musaf was led by **Jeffrey Goldsmith** who also delivered the sermon. There were at least 250 congregants in attendance. An "order of service" was provided so that those being honored

were recognized. All were invited to a super Kiddush after the service.

As in the past, an "open house" was held at the home of **Stacy and Jeffrey Goldsmith** on Saturday night. Every one was invited and partook of a most sumptuous Mediterranean table. With plenty to eat and drink, it rounded out an enjoyable, successful Men's Club Shabbat weekend.

Ernie Smolen for the North Suburban Synagogue Beth El's Men's Club



Midwest Region Man of the Year Brunch Coming up Sunday Feb. 19th, 2012

Join us for the 2012 Man of the Year Brunch Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012

- 10:30 a.m. (starting with silent auction)
- Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah 3220 Big Tree Lane Wilmette, Ill. Phone: 847.256.1213
- Cost to attend is \$30 for adults and \$10 for children under 13.

A more convenient format and lower cost are the improvements this year in an enhanced Men's Club Man of the Year event.

This year's program has been revamped as a brunch, instead of its long-standing dinner format. This allows Region clubs from Chicago's western suburbs and the greater Milwaukee area to travel during the day to north suburban Wilmette without the hassle of long commutes during the evening rush hour.

The Midwest Region Board also cut the costs of the meal, choosing a Sunday morning brunch menu with all the trimmings. The cost to attend is \$30 per adult; children 6-13 years of age \$10 and no charge for youngsters 1-5 years old.

Eight men will be saluted at the 2012 Man of the Year Brunch set for Sunday, Feb. 19 at Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, Wilmette, Ill.

- **Brad Burkner**, Congregation Kneseth Israel, Elgin, Ill.
- **Jeffrey Goldsmith**, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park, Ill.
- **Gabe Jacobson**, Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, Wilmette, Ill.
- **Howard L. Loeb**, Beth El Ner Tamid Synagogue, Mequon, Wis.
- **Alan H. Medansky**, Congregation Beth Shalom, Northbrook, Ill.
- **Jerry Sakol**, Congregation Beth Judea, Long Grove, Ill.
- **Marc Stopeck**, West Suburban Temple Har Zion, River Forest, Ill.
- **Charles Wallens**, Congregation Beth Israel, Glendale, Wis.



Scene from a previous Man of the Year event

Auction/Raffle Fundraiser at the Man of the Year Brunch

Paul Glaser, FJMC financial secretary and past president of the Men's Club at Congregation Kneseth Israel, Elgin, Ill., is handling this year's Region fundraiser. Those interested in contributing such auction items as restaurant gift cards, hotel and travel incentive packages, artwork, spectator sports tickets, jewelry, health club passes and other goods/services with perceived value are encouraged to email Paul at: pauljayglaser@sbcglobal.net.

Funds raised from Man of the Year events help underwrite the cost of Region retreats and FJMC's biennial convention (as scholarships) for first-time attendees and others seeking financial assistance to participate at these important programs.

Watch for coverage of this and the Man of the Year activities for the St. Louis Clubs
in a future edition of the Communicator.



The FJMC Yellow Candle Program



It's more than just a candle

The FJMC Yellow Candle Program is all about motivating your community to remember and commemorate. Lighting an FJMC Yellow Candle is not a solitary act. Your members will be joining over 200,000 FJMC Yellow Candle program participants in the last part of what is a central event to clubs around the world.

The variety of projects is endless, as can be the return on your investment in Yellow Candles. Our clubs have taken their youth to Holocaust museums, purchased Magen David ambulances, planted memorial gardens, subsidized USYer's on USY Pilgrimage, and all because of the little Yellow Candle.

You can make a difference by creating a program that inspires and unites your congregation. As leaders, you have the ability to define your program's goals, set up the distribution chain and maximize the participation of all of your club members and the entire community.

We can help you with ideas, with templates and information - all available at the [Yellow Candle website](http://www.yellowcandles.org), www.yellowcandles.org, where you can also order your candles, bags and boxes.

Visit the [Yellow Candle website](http://www.yellowcandles.org) information.

Any questions? Please reach out to [Gerry](#), [Eric](#) or [Bob](#) and ask away!
Yellow Candle Hotline: (800) 391-7293 (after 9AM MST)

"Light a Candle, Preserve a Memory"



The FJMC Peru Trip

Masorti Olami And The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Presents "Historical and Jewish Peru" March 1-11, 2012



**With Rabbi Charles E. Simon
& Mr. Michael Abadi**

Highlights Include:

Shabbat at the Masorti Congregation in Iquitos
Exploration of the rain forest by the Amazon River and a Nature Lodge
Ancient Incan empire cities of Cusco and Ollantaytambo
Ruins of Machu Picchu, one of the eight modern wonders of the world
Gold and Larco Herrera historical Museums of Lima
Shabbat at Masorti Congregation 1870 in Lima
Magic Fountains of Lima

Tour and local flights only \$2,200.00.-Single Supplement \$450.00

Round trip airfare discounts available

*Prices are based on a minimum of 15 paying participants

Don't miss the trip of a lifetime

For additional information please email or Call Michael Abadi at
Abadim7470@aol.com – Telephone (704) 957-5980 or (704) 366-3356



Midwest Region - FJMC

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Some notable quotes to remember:

“Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals.” – *Unknown*

You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.

-- Winston Churchill

World Wide Wrap XII — Sunday February 5, 2012

Chicago - Milwaukee Man of the Year Brunch — Sunday February 19, 2012

Man of the Year St. Louis — March 2-4, 2012

Yom Ha Shoah — April 19, 2012

Midwest Region Retreat - Springfield, Illinois — April 27-29, 2012

**Remember
the Date!**