



## 2013-2014 MIDWEST REGION FJMC YEAR IN REVIEW



## VISION

Our logo shows Men celebrating havdallah 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 (<50y.o) .

We want to capture you, heart and soul and promote your health and wellness.



## GOALS

### New Events for Region Clubs

#### **Goal:**

Fill initiative gaps in the community (ritual, social, athletic for Jewish Men) that may increase <50 y.o. club membership, and enhance value of FJMC membership for clubs

- 1. Softball Tournament & BBQ- Held August 11, 2013.**
  - a) 3 Teams played. Great job by Beth Judea, CBS and Temple Beth El.
  - b) Morphed into a softball league for Jewish Men's Clubs. M. Salberg at NSS Beth El MC did great job organizing league.
  
- 2. Tu B'Shvat Haggadah for Clubs to hold Seders-** Completed and being distributed to clubs. Positive feedback.



## GOALS

### Improved Programs by Region

#### Goals:

Improve existing programs to increase attendance and improve revenues each by 25%. **Focus** is on Increasing value for Jewish Men <50 y.o. .

1. **Man of Year + Youth of Year, Silent Auction- Chicago Area Feb 23, St. Louis, March 23**
  - a) ~280 attended the Chicago dinner vs ~200 in 2013.
  - b) ~145 attended the St. Louis event vs. ~120 in 2013
  - c) **Kudos to Neal Blustein and David Propper for coordinating Chicago and St. Louis Events respectively.**
  - d) **Kudos to Donald Pike for organizing the Ad Book. Thanks to Bill Branda for ad templates.**
  - e) **Kudos to Evan Rumack and Shelly Pike for running the Silent Auction. Net was \$2,000!!**
  - f) **Mark Givarz” the faces on the parents of the youths being honored made the whole effort worth it.”**
  
2. **Retreat- May 2-4, 2014 at Starved Rock State Park**
  - a) 44 Men attended vs. 32 in 2012. Great venue and programs.
  - b) **Kudos to Mark Givarz and Paul Glaser for phenomenal job.**



## GOALS

### Communications:

#### Goal:

**Celebrate club accomplishments via PR in local Jewish & community papers in Chgo, StL, Milwaukee. Ditto with the Region Newsletter- The Communicator**

- 1. Four Communicator Issues with great stories. Convention, Fall, Winter and Spring.**
  - a) Kudos to Max Brown for excellent work.**
  
- 2. Web site retooled.**
  - a) Registration and Ad payments for Man/Youth of the Year-**
  - b) Kudos to Jonathan Lehrer for this fine work.**
  
  - c) News and latest information (Softball league standings) updated**
  - d) Kudos to Bill Branda.**
  
- 3. Post Man/Youth of Year PR in Chicago Jewish News, and Digital Tribune etc.**
  - A. Kudos to Norwin Merens for great determination and follow through.**

## MIDWEST REGION FJMC WEB SITE **PAGE VIEWS.** 2013-2014 DROVE TRAFFIC TO IT LIKE CRAZY!!!

YEAR/MONTH	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2011</b>											105	303	<b>408</b>
<b>2012</b>	857	480	175	234	205	161	133	203	133	124	164	206	<b>3,075</b>
<b>2013</b>	301	231	155	216	240	74	206	100	107	305	<b>777</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>3,908</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>1,153</b>	182	148	203	229							<b>4,292</b>



## GOALS

### Core Programs:

#### Goal:

Continue tradition of engaging our Region Clubs in programs that make a difference in our communities.

1. **Leiberman Shabbat Services.- Four Clubs continue to deliver this mitzvah..**
  - a) **Kudos to Ernie Smolen for keeping them on track . What a mitzvah!!**
2. **Yellow Candles.**
  - a) **Expanded sales to two Reform Temples. Kept our totals close to 2013 despite glitches from FJMC.**
  - b) **Kudos to Darryl Tempkin for making this happen. Really great great follow through and results.**
3. **SEFER HAFTORAH ON DECEMBER 25,2015 - FEBRUARY 8, 2014. FIVE CLUBS PARTICIPATED.**
  - a) **KUDOS TO Howard Minkoff for organizing this for Region**
4. **Board Meetings.**
  - d) **Kudos to Ed Sachs for phenomenal notes.**
  - e) **Kudos to Gerry Brin for outstanding dining experiences at the meetings**
  - f) **Kudos to Harvey Redfern for keeping us on course with financials.**
  - g) **Kudos to Harvey Gold for our meeting room and Rabbi Melman for his advise.**

# Midwest Region FJMC Pre-Convention BBQ

Sunday July 14, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

at

Michael Greenberg's home

**20 FJMC Convention Attendees and their Significant Others Attended  
BBQ by Chef Greenberg**





## INTL FJMC CONVENTION WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 24-28, 2013



36 Region Men and 12 Spouses Attended. Many led sessions.



**Congratulations to Evan Rumack , Midwest Region FJMC  
Ma'asim Tovim Award Winner. 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**

### **Congratulations to the 8 Quality Club Awardees:**

Beth Israel Ner Tamid , Congregation Beth Shalom

Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah, Congregation Kneseth Israel

Congregation B'nai Amoona, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

Congregation Beth Judea , Shaare Zedek (Kol Rinah)

### **KUDOS 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.

**REGION SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2013**

**August 11, 2013: Three clubs participated and over 45 men played and an estimated crowd of 25 watched the games and enjoyed the BBQ.**

**Thank you to team captains Scott Rogoff (Congregation Beth Shalom), Fred Rabinowitz (Beth Judea) and Mark Trachtenberg (Beth El-Northbrook).**

**Thank you to Allen Harris of Beth Judea and Hillshire Brands for providing kosher hot dogs, soft drinks and BBQ grill.**

**Region provided the buns, relish, plates, serving dishes, BBQ trays, chips etc.**

**Region also provided umpiring.**

**Morphed into a Men's Club Softball League**



Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club Softball Team



Temple Beth El Men's Club Softball Team

**FALL REGION MEETING- ANSHE EMET ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2013:**  
**promote health and wellness for our Region men through Region meetings.**



Midwest Region and Anshe Emet Fall Program Sunday, October 6: “MEN LIVING LONGER AND HEALTHIER, WHAT IS THE RECIPE?” Featured Dr. Evan Lipkis and Dr. Scott B. Phillips

About 30 men attended.  
Shacharit at 8:30am,  
Breakfast at 9:30am,  
Speakers at 10:15 am

**The presentation by Dr. Lipkis was very compelling concerning new diagnostic tests (called biomarkers) for heart disease. Dr. Lipkis volunteered to pull blood samples and conduct the biomarker screening free of charge for Anshe Emet’s Men’s Club members.**

## SEFER HAFTORAH ON DECEMBER 25,2015 - FEBRUARY 8, 2014

### **KUDOS TO HOWARD MINKOFF FOR ORGANIZING THIS FOR REGION 5 CLUBS PARTICIPATED**

To be Received by December 25, 2013: for Shabbat, December 28, 2013

**Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah (620)**

Contact People: Shelly Reis,

To be Received by December 29, 2013: for Shabbat, January 4, 2014

**Congregation Kneseth Israel (622)**

Contact Person: Paul Glaser,

To Be Received by January 5, 2014: for Shabbats, January 11&18, 2014

**Congregation Beth Judea (642)**

Contact Person: David Granoff,

To be Received by January 19, 2014: for Shabbat, January 25, 2014

**North Suburban Synagogue Beth El (614)**

Contact Person: Rob Freeman,

To be Receieved by January 27, 2014: for Shabbats, February 1&8, 2014

**Congregation Anshe Emet (608)**

Contact Person: Gregg Pollack,

**THANK YOU CLUB CONTACTS!!**

Midwest Region FJMC at Beth Israel Ner Tamid  
Jan. 12, 2014

## **“People Are Dying To Be Heard”**

Listening to yourself, your loved ones and to strangers  
Presented by Ben Merens



**~25 REGION MEN ATTENDED THIS EVENT AND ENJOYED A  
DELICIOUS BINT MC BREAKFAST AND BEN’S SPEECH**



# MAN AND YOUTH OF THE YEAR-NORTH SUNDAY FEB. 23, 2014

## 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  
West Suburban Har Zion

## MAN OF THE YEAR

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

## YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Aaron Fogelson  
  
Joe Goldberg  
Joel Spiegel  
Julia Braude  
  
Noa Ohcana  
Sophie Aroesty  
Matthew Patton



### **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.

# SILENT AUCTION AT MAN/YOUTH OF THE YEAR RAISED \$2,036 HIGHEST IN OUR HISTORY

## AD BOOK GROSSED \$5,935- 2<sup>nd</sup> HIGHEST



Steve Lessman, Event MC (L) and Neal Blustein,  
Event Chair



Evan Rumack (pictured) and Shelly Pike  
Coordinated the very successful Silent Auction



Donald Pike performs *Kiddush* while Barry Brusso  
looks on. Pike coordinated the Ad Book



## MAN AND YOUTH OF THE YEAR-SOUTH AT KOL RINAH ON MARCH 23, 2014



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.

**This year, \$818 from Ad Book Revenue was donated to the participating Youth Departments.**

## MAN AND YOUTH OF THE YEAR-SOUTH AT KOL RINAH ON MARCH 23, 2014

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



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



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

# MIDWEST FJMC REGIONAL RETREAT

STARVED ROCK STATE PARK LODGE, FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 2-4, 2014

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.



## BREWERS-CUBS GAME @ MILLER PARK ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2014



Neal Plotkin and Mark Behrman  
Man the Grill

- 58 ATTENDED THE EVENT
- THE CUBS DID NOT DISAPPOINT US.
- BREWERS 9- CUBS 0



Rodney Ugent, always a hit with  
the fans!!



# YELLOW CANDLE PROGRAM



Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, Inc.

**PROGRAM RUN BY DARRYL TEMKIN FOR REGION WHO DID A GREAT JOB**

**DESPITE ALL OF OUR HARD WORK, TREND OF DECLINING SALES OVER THE YEARS.**

YEAR	2014	2013	2012
# CASES	118	128	137

2 REGION CLUBS THAT BOUGHT 6 IN 2013 BOUGHT 0 IN 2014

**2 NEW CUSTOMERS EACH BOUGHT 2 CASES:**

- OR SHALOM
- TEMPLE CHAI

**EXPAND TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN 2015- RUN SOME PILOT EXPERIMENTS.**

## Leiberman Shabbat Services

On July 18, 2013, the **Council for Jewish Elderly Senior Life honored the volunteers that assist all year at the Leiberman Center in Skokie. Included was the Midwest Region, FJMC. The four Men's Clubs recognized were: Congregation Beth Judea, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah and Congregation Beth Shalom.** It was explained that the four Clubs rotate weekly every Shabbat to assist at Morning Services. The Midwest Region was represented by Ernie Smolen. The event was held at the Leiberman Center where close to fifty volunteers attended.

Wanda Turner, who is the coordinator, introduced a number of the Board members who thanked all of the volunteers for their continued services at the Leiberman Center.

Kol Ha'kavod to all of the volunteers from our Region that take the time to come to the Leiberman Center on Shabbat morning and assist in the service and offer a friendly hand to the residents. May we be able to continue this most worthwhile mitzvah for many years to come.



**THANK YOU TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, CABINET AND PAST PRESIDENTS FOR ALL YOU DO TO MAKE US SUCCESSFUL!!  
WE ARE A HIT WITH FJMC!!**

