



HaKeshet  
(TheConnection)

April 2014

## President's Message

by Jeff Schulman

Chaverim,

We are once again in a period of transition in our Jewish calendar. Purim has just passed and in only a few short weeks we will sit down with our families and our friends to celebrate Pesach, the Holiday of our freedom. It seems as if time is flying by, doesn't it? We are all busy working to prepare our homes for Pesach, many of us are busy with our clubs preparing for an upcoming Men's Club Shabbat, the distribution of Yellow Candles or even planning a calendar for next year! Now just isn't the time to reflect on the recent past, but that is just what I'm about to do.

For many of us (myself included), our terms as President are rapidly coming to a conclusion. For others, another year of leadership is at hand, and for still others, a transition into a leadership role is about to take place. Take a look at what you have done over the past year, celebrate the achievements and learn from the mistakes and plan for the future. Reach out to each other with ideas and plans. We are a group of 30 clubs and each of us run some great programs. Let's share them with each other. Let's all work together to make our clubs stronger, and by doing so, we will also make our region and the FJMC stronger as well.

As you read the newsletter, there are 3 things coming up that I would like to see you all at. First, our final Regional Board Meeting will be held at Temple Sholom in Bridgewater on Monday, May 12. The new slate of officers will be presented there as well as some very important training. Our bi-annual retreat is June 6 – June 8 at the Capital Retreat Center in Waynesboro PA, an event that is not to be missed. Finally, our annual President's Dinner will be Wednesday, June 18 at Congregation B'nai Israel in Toms River. This is the evening when we thank those who have served or continue to serve as leaders and welcome those assuming new leadership roles. I hope to see you at all 3 events, I promise they will be fun.

## Multi-Region Retreat

Excitement is continuing to build about our upcoming **Retreat** in Waynesboro, PA from **Fri, June 6 - Sun, June 8**. If you have been to one of these in the past, you already know what a fantastic experience it is. If this will be your first, you are in for a treat. It's a great way to meet new people, enjoy the company of old and new friends, have a terrific Shabbat experience, learn, and enjoy the outdoors at a beautiful retreat facility. All this, including three kosher, delicious meals a day, snacks, and whatever libations you choose to bring (kosher, of course), all for a very affordable price heavily subsidized by NNJR.

A flyer with additional information about the retreat and venue, and a **registration form** are attached to this email. Don't delay. The **May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline** is right around the corner (just over 1 month from now). If you've never been to retreat before, as Hillel said, "IF NOT NOW WHEN". This is our first time at Capital Retreat Center, so this will be a new adventure for all of us. Sign up now for fun, relaxation, rejuvenation and maybe some re-Jew-vinating.

## Men's Club Shabbat

Many of our clubs held their Men's Club Shabbat events during the month of March. Our regional officers did their best to get to as many of these as possible. If we did not make it to your club's MC Shabbat this year, please remind us so we can make sure we get there next year.

Men's Club Shabbat is a wonderful event which almost all of our clubs do. It's a great way to involve large numbers of men in Jewish prayer, build community, gain visibility for our clubs, and celebrate Shabbat with each other. If your club did not do Men's Club Shabbat this year, you should definitely make sure it does next year.

## Yellow Candle Program

**Yom HaShoah**, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, will be observed on April 28. On the **evening of April 27**, thousands of people throughout North America will be saying a prayer for the innocent victims of the Holocaust and lighting a Yellow Candle, provided to them by Men's Club. With the passage of time and the passing of the generation which bore witness to the Shoah, the memory of those events must not be allowed to fade into the oblivion of history. It is our obligation now, as well as the obligation of future generations, to keep the memory of what happened, just 75 years ago, alive. Our goal is to someday see millions of people, Jews and non-Jews alike, light a candle on Yom HaShoah, so the memory will remain fresh and nothing like it will ever happen again.

## Rutgers Hillel Fit 5K Walk/Run

**Sun, May 4** will be the annual Rutgers Hillel Fit 5K Walk/Run. This is a fund-raising event to help our college kids fight back against efforts to delegitimize and slander the state of Israel. It helps provide them with the resources to combat the insidious BDS movement and "Israel Apartheid Week" (better described at "Hate Week"). Participants may walk or run a 5k route around Buccleuch Park in New Brunswick. Everyone has a great time. A flyer and registration form are attached to this email.

## 2014 NNJR President's Dinner

The President's Dinner, on the evening of Wed., June 18, is an annual event in which we honor the guys who have stepped forward to be the presidents of our clubs. The event is intended to thank the outgoing presidents for having served, to recognize the continuing president for their ongoing efforts, and to welcome the incoming presidents to their new roles. In addition, we also install the new Board of Trustees and Officers of the Northern New Jersey Region. The ceremonies are followed by a wonderful dinner and great conversation.

It is the tradition of NNJR to hold the dinner at the home synagogue of the incoming regional president, so this year the event will be at Congregation B'nai Israel in Toms River, NJ. Recognizing that it is a bit of a schlep from the northernmost parts of our region, we sincerely hope that those of you from the north will make the extra effort to be part of this wonderful celebration.

## Quality Club Award

The deadline for submitting your application for the quality club award is **June 10**. You can find the criteria and application form on the FJMC.org website. Now is the time to look at the criteria and try to make sure your club is doing what is required to get the award. It's really not that hard to do, and we should all get the recognition we deserve for being "quality" clubs.

**NNJR WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY AND MEANINGFUL PASSOVER - CHAG SAMEACH**

# BIENNIAL MEN'S RETREAT!



Friday June 6 –  
Sunday June 8, 2014

Join Your Brothers from HVR, MAR & NYMR

ENERGIZE YOUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL

- Softball and Other Sports
- Aquatic Center
- Lake & Active Recreation
- Experience Shabbat
- Havdalah under the Stars
- Learning & Info Sessions
- Incredible Ruach and Camaraderie...and much more!

Cost of get-a-way is subsidized by NNJR  
and may be subsidized by your club, too!  
First time to retreat - \$100; repeat retreat - \$175  
Questions?...contact Rob Blitzer, Retreat Chairman  
roblitzer@gmail.com

**Registration deadline MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

*This is the one they'll be talking about  
Help make the memories...be there!*



**Capital Retreat Center**  
12750 Buchanan Trail East  
Waynesboro, PA 17268  
<http://capitalretreat.org>



**REGISTRATION**



7<sup>TH</sup> Biennial Regional Retreat  
Capital Retreat Center, Waynesboro PA  
June 6 – 8, 2014

**SIGN ME UP!** (Please type or print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact (Name/Phone/Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Name to appear on Badge: \_\_\_\_\_ Please circle: *Kohen Levi Yisrael*

Club Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Region Position: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:  Leading Services  Reading Torah  Leading Birkat

Shirt Size (*circle one*): S M L XL XXL

Special Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Request (*not a sure thing*): \_\_\_\_\_

**COST: \$100 first retreat; \$175 repeat retreat**

☆☆ Please **return** completed application along with check payable to: NNJR ☆☆  
Send registration form and check to: Mr. Rob Blitzer, NNJR Retreat Chair  
4 Berkshire Drive  
East Windsor, NJ 08520

**Questions?** - Contact Rob Blitzer – roblitzer@gmail.com or (732)616.1710



Dear Friend:

We are pleased to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual FIT (For Israel Team Hillel) 5k run/walk and 1 mile fun/walk on Sunday, May 4, 2014.

The event will raise money for the [Rutgers Hillel Center for Israel Engagement \(RHCIE\)](#), which is the first permanent pro-Israel center at any Hillel in America. RHCIE is a model of excellence in Israel engagement, education, and advocacy on campus.



**The Rutgers Hillel Center for Israel Engagement is driven by a core belief that a positive connection to Israel is essential for a strong, healthy Jewish identity.**

**100% of the proceeds from the FIT 5K go directly to funding Israel programming at Rutgers.**

We hope you will give generously to help us in this important mission. Please consider a tax-deductible donation in one of the following support categories:

- \$1,000+ Start line Sponsorship**
- \$500 Finish Line Sponsorship**
- \$250 Water Station Sponsorship**
- \$100 Tee Shirt listing**

**I would like to show support by donating the following:** \_\_\_\_\_

With your permission, any donation of \$100 or more will prominently display your family or company name on the event tee shirt. To appear as: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Rutgers Hillel  
P.O. Box 11362  
New Brunswick, NJ 08906

CoChairs:  
David Yellin  
Jennifer Bullock  
Dr. Richard Bullock  
Eliot Spack  
Barbara Spack

**To make a contribution by credit card, call 732-545-2407.**



**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FIT For Israel Team Hillel**  
*Rain or Shine* Tee shirts guaranteed if registered by April 27, 2014

**5K run/walk • 1 mile fun run/walk**

**Where:** Buccleuch Park, 321 Easton Avenue, New Brunswick

**When:** Sunday, May 4th, 2014, 10:00AM, Registration 8:30AM

**Why:** All proceeds benefit Israel advocacy programs

**Race Fees**

<b>Until April 27, 2014</b>	<b>After April 27, 2014</b>
\$25	\$30
\$22 USATF members	\$27
\$10 Students	\$15

**Registration online:**

[www.rutgershillel.org](http://www.rutgershillel.org)

[www.bestrace.com](http://www.bestrace.com)

**Awards**

Top 3 men & women in each age group *in 5 year increments from ages 10 to 80+*

USATF certified course #NJ05006LMB Timing and scoring by Best Race

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Age on Day of Race \_\_\_\_\_ USATF # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Male  Female      Race Distance  5k  1 Mile      Student  Y  N  
 Shirt Size  S  M  L  XL  XXL *(Tee shirts guaranteed if registered by April 27, 2014.)*  
**Waiver/Release:** In consideration of this entry being accepted, I hereby for myself, heirs, executors, & administrators waive and release any claims I may have against Rutgers Hillel, the event organizers, volunteers, sponsors and (or) any representatives involved in the 5k Run/Walk for any and all injuries suffered by me. I certify that I am physically able to compete in this event.  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to:**  
 Rutgers Hillel, PO Box 11362, New Brunswick NJ 08906