



HaKeshet
(TheConnection)

September 2014

President's Message

by Joel Kurtz

When I reflect on what it is about Men's Club that is so compelling, the word that comes to mind is "community". Men's Club has found its niche in the Conservative Jewish world because its primary focus is to build community. We live in a society which is highly individualistic, in which we often lack relationships and connections. In belonging to and actively participating in FJMC, NNJR, and our local Men's Clubs, we become part of a large network of like-minded Jewish men whose mission it is to enhance Jewish life in our communities. In so doing we enrich our own lives through friendships, meaning, and purpose.

As we begin the 2014-15 Men's Club year, while we always want to enjoy and have fun doing what we do, we should also keep in mind just how vitally important the work we do is. Our mission is to bring Jewish men closer to Jewish life, and in so doing, to help assure that Conservative Judaism will continue to thrive. The task might seem daunting, but as Rabbi Tarfon taught in Ethics of the Fathers, "It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but you are not free to desist from it either" (2:16).

It was great seeing so many of our NNJR brothers at the President's dinner on June 18 in Toms River. Congratulations and ya-she-koach to all of you who completed your terms of office. To those who are continuing and who are just starting out as club presidents, club officers, regional officers and regional board members, I wish you all great satisfaction, enjoyment, and success in all your endeavors. As for myself, I am excited about being president of NNJR for the next two years. I'm looking forward to working with all of you to continue to build on the great work that we do. May we all go from strength to strength.

Multi-Region Retreat

Wow!! What a retreat we had this past June 6th – 8th. Sixty seven men from three regions; NNJR, NY Metro, and MAR, at a terrific retreat center that was far superior to any facility we've been at before. We were treated to hotel quality rooms and facilities, great food, beautiful, picturesque grounds, a first rate swimming pool and athletic accommodations. All these, along with the incredible weather, provided the setting for a fantastic retreat weekend.

Speak to anyone who attended, and they will ALL tell you what a great time they had.

We davened together with kavanah. We learned from our peers.

We talked about meaningful issues in our Hearing Men's Voices sessions.

We played some ball (there were only a few pulled muscles) and swam in the pool.

We played cards. We had a beautiful Havdalah service and campfire, complete with s'mores and cigars. And, of course, there were also some fine quality liquid refreshments on hand.

If you missed this retreat, not to worry. Next summer the FJMC International Convention at the Deauville Beach Resort in Miami Beach, Fla will be from July 8th -12th. This looks to be another incredible event, so put the date on your calendar and be sure not to miss it. Then, in the spring of 2016, we plan to be back at the Capital Retreat Center in Waynesboro, PA for our next regional retreat.

Quality Club Award

Now is the time to start thinking about what your club needs to do to be recognized as a "**Quality Club**". The awards will be given at the upcoming convention in Miami Beach next July.

It is not difficult to win the award, and most of our clubs are already doing most of what is required. The [criteria](#) and [score sheet](#) for the Quality Club Award is being sent as an email attachment. Please review the criteria carefully, and in preparing your calendars for next year, make sure to include the necessary programming to qualify your club for the award. We have 30 clubs in NNJR, and my goal this year is to make sure that each one is a winner of the Quality Club Award.

2014 NNJR Man of the Year Dinner

Plans for this year's dinner are in full swing. The dinner for clubs in the southern part of NNJR will take place on Wednesday, November 5, at Congregation B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick (not the Grand Marquis as in previous years). The northern dinner will again be held at Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael in Springfield, on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

As those who have attended this event in the past, it is always a wonderful evening to honor an adult and a youth from your synagogue, to enjoy a fantastic spread of delectable kosher food, and to schmooze with fellow Jews from throughout the Garden State. Each of our clubs are encouraged to bring as many people; men, women, and children, as they can to the dinner.

Now is the time to select your Man and Youth of the Year. Publicize it to your community and rally your troops to come to the dinner. There is also an opportunity for well wishers to purchase an ad in our **Man of the Year Ad Journal** to send a message to your honorees. One quarter (25%) of the funds raised by each club is refunded back to that club, making the ad journal an excellent fundraising opportunity not only for the region, but also for the individual clubs.

Please look for the email attachments for all the essential information about the Man of the Year Dinners.

- [Northern Dinner Flyer](#)
- [Southern Dinner Flyer](#)
- [Ad Journal Order Blank](#)
- Selling Ads for the Man of the Year Ad Journal [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

If you have any questions, contact Harvey Hershkowitz – hshinc@aol.com (Northern Dinner Chair), Dave Yellin - dyellin@directmaildepot.com (Southern Dinner Chair), or Jeff Schulman - jlschul@optonline.net (Ad Journal Chair). Be sure to review the [PowerPoint presentation](#) with tips for a successful Ad Journal.

Regional Board Meeting - Oct. 6th

Our first event of the new NNJR year will be a **Regional Board Meeting** at **Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim in Cranford** on **Monday, October 6th**.

Dinner starts at 7PM, with the meeting from 7:30 – 9:30. There will also be a training session entitled "**What Can We Do to Reinvigorate Our Men's Clubs**". Don't miss this opportunity to acquire valuable information for your club, connect with the other club leaders in our region, and get value for your club's affiliation with NNJR/FJMC. Hope to see everyone there.

