



HaKeshet
(TheConnection)

May, 2014

President's Message

by Jeff Schulman

Chaverim,

Pesach is over and we are in the midst of counting the Omer, the 49 days from the time our people left Egypt until we received the Law at Mt. Sinai on Shavuot. Why did it take those 49 days? For that matter, why did it take 40 years for us to get from Egypt to Canaan, the land that was promised to our forefathers? The answer to both questions is the same, we weren't ready. When we left Egypt, we were still slaves and still needed to be told what to do, a mentality that was almost disastrous at the Red Sea. That same mentality was with us when the spies were sent into Canaan. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, all of the spies came back and said that we would be destroyed, and this was after seeing all of God's miracles until then, after eating the manna and quail, after drinking from the fresh water spring that followed us. We weren't ready and because of that we had to wait for another 39 years to enter the land.

It is the main job of the NNJ Regional Leadership to help make you ready. We help make you ready for club leadership by training you, by working with you and by networking with you over the years. Every summer, we host Club President Training sessions to help you get your year off on the right foot. Each Region and District meeting has a learning component, whether it's Hearing Men's Voices or an explanation of Keruv or another one of the FJMC initiatives. Our core mission is to help you be the best club leader that you can be. The results speak for themselves, we are one of the strongest regions with more Quality Club Award winners than anywhere else. Does your club have challenges? We're here to help you. Is there something that you're especially proud of? Share it with us, maybe there's another club that could use a new idea.

Remember that just as slavery in Egypt led to the Law at Sinai, and as the matzo of Pesach gives way to cheese cake on Shavuot, by being there with us, the Region leadership team can help make you a better club leader and make your club better as a result.

L'Shalom

Multi-Region Retreat

Great news!! The deadline to sign up for our biennial **Retreat** in Waynesboro, PA from **Fri, June 6 - Sun, June 8**, has been extended. The new deadline is **May 30**. Please join us. This is a great way to enhance your Men's Club experience, to meet new people, relax, have a terrific Shabbat experience, learn, enjoy the outdoors, and just have a wonderful weekend with old and new friends. A flyer with additional information about the retreat and venue, and a **registration form** are attached. Don't delay!!!

Rutgers Hillel Fit 5K Walk/Run Israel

Sun, May 4 is the annual Rutgers Hillel Fit 5K Walk/Run. This is a fund-raising event to support the Rutgers Hillel Center of Israel Engagement (RHCIE) which promotes Israel engagement, education and advocacy on campus. In doing so, it aims to counter anti-Israel propaganda, hostility, and BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanction)

Participants in the event 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

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.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER

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 those continuing as presidents 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.

It is the tradition of NNJR to hold the dinner at the home synagogue of the incoming regional president. This year the event will be at Congregation B'nai Israel in Toms River, NJ. We hope that all of our NNJR board members and club presidents will participate in this terrific event, and that many more Men's Club members will attend to lend their support.

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 1st, 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



7TH 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



3RD 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

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

Registration online:

www.rutgershillel.org

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

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