



# CREATING A MINYAN OF COMFORT

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A JOINT PROJECT OF THE FJMC AND THE CANTORS ASSEMBLY, THIS GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS WITH THE NEEDED, HALACHIC, RITUAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS TO LEAD A SHIVA MINYAN IN A MEANINGFUL AND COMFORTING MANNER.

GRADUATES OF THE COURSE ARE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION FROM THE FJMC & THE CANTORS ASSEMBLY.

THE GUIDE ADDRESSES THE DIFFERENT COMFORT LEVELS OF MOURNERS, DESIRED LOGISTICS TO CREATE THE APPROPRIATE MOOD AS WELL AS CUSTOMS THAT TAKE PLACE AT THE CONCLUSION OF SHIVA.

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*Help fulfill one of the most important  
roles within the Jewish community*



# INVOLVING JEWISH MEN IN JEWISH LIFE

## Leadership Innovation Community

FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN'S CLUBS, INC.

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Dear Colleague;

The purpose of this letter is to explain the FJMC/Cantors Assembly four hour course, designed to provide your community with men and women who can lead a Minyan of Comfort. This initiative is more than a few classes designed to teach people how to lead a Shiva Minyan. On the contrary, it has been specifically designed and field tested with the intent to provide mourners a sense that the community has provided for them.

Participants in this effort learn, among other things, where to best stand to support mourners, when a mourner may be touched, what to do if a dog or a child runs through the room, how to create a comforting environment if the mourners are not Hebrew readers and so on.

In order to minimize your time and effort, FJMC has developed an online downloadable kit composed of the following items, compatible with any siddur:

[Sample advertisement for a synagogue bulletin](#)

[Sign-up sheet](#)

[Certificate to be awarded to participants upon completion](#)

*Multiple copies of the certificate may be downloaded via the above link.*

Booklets are available through the [FJMC.org website](http://FJMC.org) at \$10 each.

We hope you find this material meaningful.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Charles Simon

Dr. Peter Gotlieb

Mr. Michael Freilich

*Affiliated Internationally with the Conservative-Masorti Movement*



# CREATING A MINYAN OF COMFORT

Dear Fellow Congregants

Please help us fulfill one of the most important roles of the Jewish community: *Menachem Aveilim*, to comfort our mourners.

If you are a qualified Hebrew reader and would like to learn how to fulfill the mitzvah of leading a shiva minyan that provides comfort and communal support please sign up.

Trainees will complete a 4 hour course and will receive a Certificate upon completion.

Refreshments will be provided.

Please email the main office





**SHIVA  
MINYAN  
CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that

has successfully completed a course of instruction in

*How to Lead a Shiva Minyan*

and is qualified to do so in a congregation.

Dated



President, FJMC



President, Cantor's Assembly

### ***Creating a Minyan of Comfort Volunteers:***

The FJMC, Women's League for Conservative Judaism and the Cantors Assembly have created a 4 hour course to prepare synagogue volunteers to fulfill this mitzvah of leading a shiva minyan that provides comfort and communal support to fellow congregants. The course is based on the book, ***Creating a Minyan of Comfort***, written by Hazzan Steven Stoehr and published by FJMC and suggests practical techniques for providing meaning and comfort to grieving families and friends. Thank you for fulfilling this mitzvah.

**Name:**

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**phone:**

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Seating is limited for this event. Register early. If we are oversubscribed, another workshop will be offered at a later date.

The course will take place at: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_