

## **Why Your Club Should Affiliate with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs**

- **Learn how to EXPAND your Men's Club's activities and how to involve your Board members to a greater extent**
- **Gain access to FJMC LEADERS with the experience to provide new program ideas and ways to solve problems**
- **Gain access to a wide array of PROGRAMS AND MATERIALS – some for free and others at greatly reduced prices**
- **Partner with OTHER MEN'S CLUBS in your area and across the continent**
- **Get more involved in community activities through partnerships with other affiliated clubs**
- **Create friendships and relationships outside of your congregation**

## **What is the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs?**

The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is comprised of about 200 affiliated Men's Clubs and Brotherhoods throughout North America. There are about twenty thousand men represented by these clubs.

The FJMC is divided into fourteen regions, which provide direct program assistance and advice to their member clubs. The regions also sponsor and develop area-wide activities to enhance the role of clubs in their congregations and to address the regional and global needs of Jewish Men. These activities are often social in nature (dinners, retreats), but they can also be structured as learning opportunities. Working together, a region can develop programs that one club alone would not be able to alone.

Individual Men's Clubs range in size from more than seven hundred members to fewer than twenty-five. Each Men's Club is different. Some stress recreational activities, while others concentrate on community involvement. Others work on enhancing Jewish observance in their congregations. All clubs establish their own priorities, set up their own program schedules, and maintain their own treasuries. What they all have in common is that they draw on the outstanding programs and expertise of FJMC.

## **No Men's Club is an Island**

While it is certainly possible for a Men's Club to function without being affiliated with the FJMC, affiliation enhances the club's ability to solve problems, involve people, and generate ideas.

That's exactly why Men's Clubs affiliate with the FJMC. The FJMC has spent thousands of dollars on the development of program materials that would be impossible for a single club. Some of these programs are explained later in this brochure. The availability of these materials adds a special dimension to affiliated Men's Clubs. Not only do clubs continue to offer their previous array of social and recreational activities along with various speakers, but now they can also be leaders within their own congregations with materials on enhancing Jewish observance in the synagogue and in the home.

If you feel the members of your club have formed lasting friendships with each other, that's nothing compared with what can develop when you are part of a regional organization. These relationships enable the clubs to work together for the betterment of their communities.

Being part of the FJMC allows a club to be the recipient of virtually unlimited assistance in programming and problem solving. This assistance comes from consultants trained at the international level, the international officers themselves, and regional leaders. In addition, through its Advantage Team, the FJMC has established specialized program assistance for Men's Clubs located

in remote areas and for situations where there is only one Conservative synagogue in the area.

The benefits of what a club receives from the FJMC are largely up to the individual club to decide. There are a wide variety of programs, materials, and assistance available and the extent to which a club profits from affiliation depends in large part on its goals and level of involvement.

## The FJMC Is a Leader in Developing Programs & Materials

For a more complete description of all of the FJMC program materials, see the extensive FJMC Catalogue and our website ([www.fjmc.org](http://www.fjmc.org)). Here are some of our most popular programs:

**Hearing Men's Voices.** This is a series of books on men's issues: Father-son relationships; men's physical health; and men's spiritual issues. Included are guidelines for programs on these topics that can be held in your own club or synagogue. A related book discusses the issue of intermarriage and ways to offer guidance to families who are dealing with this difficult issue.

**Hebrew Literacy Campaign.** The goal of this program is to help adults quickly learn how to read the Friday night and Saturday morning services in Hebrew, as thousands have through this program. Supplementary materials are available that are designed for lay instructors.

**The Art of Jewish Living Series.** This is a four-part series of texts and related materials on home observance of Shabbat; Chanukah; Passover; and on mourning and comforting those who have lost a loved one. The texts are often used as the centerpiece of mini-courses and can be taught by lay instructors. Teachers' guides are also available.

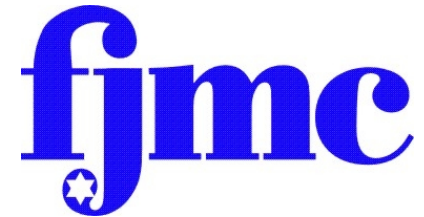
**Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle Program.** The FJMC developed this program as a positive way of remembering those who were killed during the Holocaust. It involves the distribution of yellow-wax memorial candles with the contributions collected by clubs going to, among others, a scholarship for USY's Israel Pilgrimage/Poland Seminar and Eastern Europe/Israel Pilgrimage trips.

**Promoting Jewish Faith and Practice.** These are a series of videos and printed materials that assist in the practice of Judaism, ranging from the use of tefillin and the mezuzah to involvement in the Torah service and Havdalah.

## Steps to Take Toward Affiliation

A regional or international leader is always available to answer any questions you might have and to discuss the specific steps you need to take to become part of the Federation for Jewish Men's Clubs. Please contact us by phone or e-mail.

# A GUIDE TO AFFILIATION WITH THE FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN'S CLUBS



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