



The Religious Protocols of being an FJMC Leader

Introduction

You are now a key leader of your Men's Club or Region. As an FJMC leader you are a role model to others in your community. So here's a quickie guide to conducting FJMC business with regard to Jewish observance. There are two topics:

- 1) *When to refrain from e-mail and phone calls*
- 2) *Kashrut*

For some of you, what follows may be second nature. For others, it may be beyond your personal level of observance. As a role model however, it is important that you step up and maintain these guidelines. As always, if you have a specific question, your community's Rabbi is the best authority.

Telephone and E-mail Protocols

Shabbat

There is a pecking order to this process. Shabbat, being the most important day, is the most restrictive. No FJMC business (phone or e-mail) on Shabbat. That means from the time of lighting candles to when three stars are out. Try it. You might find it refreshing.

Yom Tov (holidays)

Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Passover and Shavuot. These holidays should be treated like Shabbat. Phone and e-mail should be avoided. The second day of the festivals (Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, Passover, and Shavuot) can be a little tricky. In Israel these holidays are observed for one day only. Some people outside of Israel have adopted this practice and will accept calls and e-mails. If you want to be cautious, treat these days like Shabbat.

On the other hand, if you observe holidays for only one day, you can ask others if they take calls on the second day of holidays.

Chol HaMoed These are the "in-between" days of Sukkot and Passover. They are working days with a festive quality.

"Minor" Holidays and "Minor Fast Days"

Rule of thumb, if people go to work you can e-mail them or call them.

Hanukkah, Purim, and Tu b'shvat. These are minor holidays, People go to work They should be treated like working days with "holiday flair."

What about Tisha B'Av (the 9th of Av)? Well, first I would recommend fasting. The fast for Tisha B'Av is our second most important fast day (Yom Kippur being the most important). Most synagogues schedule Tisha B'Av services. Even though people work on Tisha B'Av, it is probably wise to refrain

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from scheduling a Men's Club event or meeting on that day. Other "minor" fast days are the fast of Gedaliah on the 3rd of Tishri (right after Rosh Hashana), Asarah B'Tevet (10th of Tevet, in the winter), Ta'anit Esther (right before Purim), and Shiv'ah Asar B'Tammuz (17th of Tammuz - this precedes Tisha B'av by three weeks. Some people refrain from eating meat during this period). Work is permitted on all these "minor" fast days. However, when scheduling events or conducting Men's Club business via phone or e-mail, remember that some of your friends may be fasting.

And now, from fasting, we move on to eating -

Kashrut / Dietary Rules

Everyone observes Kashrut in their own way. We suggest adhering to the following guidelines when conducting Men's Club business. If you are meeting in a non-kosher restaurant, eat dairy or fish; do not eat any shellfish, meat, or chicken. If you want to order soup in a non-kosher restaurant, remember to ask if the soup has a meat base. If it does, order something else. If you have any questions about Kashrut, consult with your Rabbi.

We hope this helps,
Rabbi Charles Simon
Executive Director, FJMC

FJMC Publications

The FJMC is a rich source of both print and electronic publications that serve a multitude of purposes for its members. You probably know some of these, but perhaps you have overlooked one or two. Here is a complete list with brief descriptions.

HaShofar is our e-mail newsletter that goes out every 4-6 weeks. It has news about upcoming programs. It has recently been redesigned to make it more readable and is currently produced by Jeff Moss.

The Advantage is a bi-monthly hard-copy newsletter that you are now reading. It goes out to club presidents and is aimed at improving club programming, membership, and administration. You can also access archived electronic copies by a link found in HaShofar

CJ is the magazine published jointly by the FJMC, Women's League, and United Synagogue. We get only three pages in the entire magazine, and our challenge is to get more bang for the buck out of what we have.

News Doctor is a new service to our clubs. Virtually every month we produce two short articles

suitable for **printing in your synagogue newsletter** with blanks left for local contacts, dates, and other local information. Because you will "doctor up" the article, we call this service the "News Doctor."

The **Unraveller** is Rabbi Simon's weekly electronic commentary on the haftorah, as described elsewhere in this issue. It is sent out free but you must sign up for it at: www.fjmc-consultants.org/listing.html

Ask Dave

Dear Dave:

At a recent Men's Club Sunday brunch, several of the guys were talking about the latest issue of the CJ magazine and saying what a great magazine it is. A couple of the members complained that they do receive it and wondered why.

Puzzled

Dear Puzz,

The most likely explanation is that the FJMC does not have their names on their list of members. Make sure to update your club's membership list with the FJMC headquarters in New York. In the meantime, Anyone read past issues of CJ magazine by going online to: www.fjmc.org

Contact Dave at
david.edwards.tristate@gmail.com

The Unraveller Is Rolled Out

The **Unraveller** is the newest creation of the FJMC!

What is the Unraveller? Each week, Rabbi Simon writes or edits an interpretation of the Haftarah, giving us insight into the prophetic reading. There is nothing like this available, and it should be a great way to add to our knowledge, especially since the FJMC has been involved in the Sefer Haftarah project since 2002. (*See the November Advantage.*)

You should find it both enjoyable and intellectually challenging. If you are interested in subscribing to this weekly publication, please visit:

<http://www.fjmc-consult-ants.org/seferhaftarah-sign-up.html> to subscribe.

You are welcome to recommend it to your friends. The Unraveller will **NOT** be sent without your request, so please subscribe today.

Stan Greenspan
Vice President
FJMC

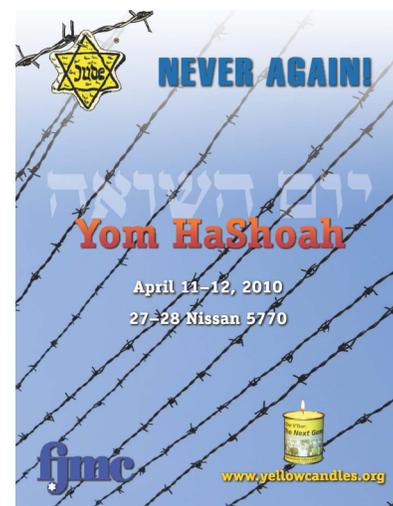
The Unraveller in the Words of Rabbi Simon

This is not a usual weekly commentary. It will not follow the weekly-holiday calendar cycle but instead will discuss each Ashkenazic haftarah that has been linked to a Torah reading in a systematic order. In order to prevent confusion when the calendar requires a special haftarah that disrupts the normal sequential reading it will also be included. The commentary will attempt to explain the context in which the alleged authors wrote, and on occasion, will conjecture why our ancestors selected a specific text to accompany a particular Torah reading. I will quote sources, and whenever necessary, will provide the historical context that I believe is necessary for a reader to relate to the text. This commentary will also attempt to raise questions that will resonate with you, and add to your experience when you hear the text chanted in the synagogue.

Rabbi Charles Simon
October 2009

10th
WORLD WIDE WRAP
February 7, 2010

Men's Club Shabbat
March 12-13, 2010



Candle Program Contact:

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Distribution Chairman
prwein@cox.net

List of FJMC Officers for Club Presidents

For your reference, here is a list of those FJMC officers of particular interest to Club Presidents:

President	Mark Berlin (mark.berlin@fcc.gov)
Chairman, Candles Distribution	Bob Weinstein (prwein@cox.net)
Chairman, World Wide Wrap	Don Grenadir (kpi@rcn.com)
Chairman, Youth Activities	Ira Ungar (ungarfam5@gmail.com)
Chairman, Build-a-Pair	Warren Suftrin (wsuftrin@aol.com)
Chairman, Haftorah Scroll	Dave Gerstein (gerstein1@verizon.net)
Editor, HaShofar (e-mail newsletter)	Jeff Moss (jeffmoss50@comcast.net)
Editor, Advantage (newsletter for club presidents)	Dave Edwards (david.edwards.tristate@gmail.com)
Co-Editors, News Doctor (articles for synagogue newsletters)	Bill Chronister (Matthew.Kennedy@nationwidechildrens.org)
Club Development Chairman	Joel Kurtz (joku@hotmail.com)
Quality Club Awards Chairman	Marc Firestone (fireball@mailaps.org)
Individual Memberships	Sandy Victor (sandy.victor.midwest.fjmc@gmail.com)
<u>Regional Advisors</u> (not all areas have an advisor assigned to them)	Al Davis (rebavram@comcast.net)
Connecticut Valley Region & Albany	Dave Kravitz (dbkravitz@msn.com)
Hudson Valley Region (except Albany)	Jeff Schulman (jlschil@verizon.net)
New York Metro (Nassau County)	Al Davis (rebavram@comcast.net)
	Lenny Gimbel (lengim@verizon.net)
New York Metro (Suffolk County)	Peter Gotlieb (pgotlieb@verizon.net)
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Tidewater Virginia	Hank Needle (hneedle@bellsouth.net)
Tri-State Region	Danny Stern (danielstern@comcast.net)
KIO Region	Allan Kahan (allankahanfjmc@gmail.com)
Michigan Region	Michael Steinbuch (msteinbuch@fuse.net)
Minnesota & Chicago area	Steve Lessman (slessman@hotmail.com)
St. Louis & Omaha	Dave Propper (k2dp@charter.net)
Anshei Darom Region	Ed Margolis (edslinenow@aol.com)
Florida Region	Henry Mentle (hpm117@yahoo.com)
Southwest Region & NM & AZ	Dave Kalmeyer (davidkalmeyer@tx.rr.com)
Northern & Central California	Joel Shrater (shrater@earthlink.net)

Quality Club Awards

Start now to earn your Quality Club award for this year. Now is the time to take inventory to see if you will qualify for this prestigious award. And if not, you may find you only need to add one or two things. Credit is given for club activities from June 1, 2009 to May 30, 2010.

For further information, contact Sandy Victor:
sandy.victor.midwest.fjmc@gmail.com