

South Jersey Men's Club – Who We Are & What We Do



25th Anniversary Video - <http://tinyurl.com/sjmc25years>

PART I- History – Affiliations – Mission Statement

Mission statement

- To **enrich** members lives through programs and activities of Jewish interest.
- To **serve** the Jewish community.
- To **provide** knowledge and appreciation of Jewish culture.
- To **stimulate** social and cultural activities amongst its members and with the community.
- To **train** leaders of the Jewish community.

International Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs

- Club #503 of the International Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
- Attend FJMC international conventions
- Recipient of more FJMC Torch Awards for excellence than any Men's Club in NJ
- Board Members and Committee Chairmen
- Provided manpower and services during international convention held in Philadelphia
- Participation in religious, social action, charitable, and educational activities of the International Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and its Middle Atlantic Region

Middle Atlantic Region of Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs

- Board Members and Officers
- Supported annual Tour Du Shuls with participants and donations
- Supported Camp Ramah fund raisers
- Participated in Man of the Year program
- Joint meetings with other Men's Clubs

PART II- Jewish Federation Related Community Service

- Volunteered for Super Sunday & follow-up fund drives since 1991 + food preparation
- Provided free catering service during Super Sunday

JFed Department of Jewish Education

- Annually collected Hanukkah cards for US and Israeli troops (See Operation Macabbi)
- Supported program in conjunction with the DJE and Jewish War Vets to collect and distribute Passover cards to US troops – 2010-12
- Helped set up exhibits and workshops at the Echelon Mall
 - A Day in Israel – Passover Academy
- Scholarships for the Hebrew High School
- Contribution towards funding staff

Jewish Community Relations Council

- SJMC members have served as officers, board members, and committee chairmen

Goodwin Holocaust Museum and Education Center

- SJMC members have served as GHEC officers and docents
- Physically moved all museum exhibits from Gratz College to the Cherry Hill site
- Created photo catalog of exhibits
- First organization lifetime member
- Solicited second organization lifetime membership (Jewish War Veterans)
- Donated a portion of 50-50 proceeds from Law Enforcement Appreciation program

Yom Hashoah annual observance:

- Created, funded, and staffed annual program which distributes thousands of Yom Hashoah candles with net proceeds donated to the GHEC
- Administered and/or funded transportation for Yom Hashoah observance
- Volunteers served as bus chaperones, parking facilitators, and ushers for the last 10 years

Mideast Institute

- Served as ushers since 2000
- Minimum of 20 attendees
- Donated food service manpower as co-sponsor since 2001

Continued

Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast

Building relations between the Jewish community and the law enforcement community

- Creator and organizer since 1996
 - JCRC co-sponsorship since 2000
- Donated food service manpower for ordering, preparing and setup
- Distributed Thank You cards from Hebrew School children

Jewish Community Center

- Serves as Men's Club for the Jewish Community Center of Southern NJ
- JCC Camp- Installed playground equipment
- Set-up and took down the community Sukkah multiple years
- Set-up Kids Land 2016
- Macabbi Games
 - Transportation, Security, Traffic, host families, & logistics volunteers
 - Formal recognition of Security Coordinators at Law Enforcement Appreciation Program
- Arts-Books-Culture Festival – Committee members, volunteers, food preparation
- Contributed for Israel flag pole
- Yearly donation to subsidy Meal Program for Senior Citizens
- Purim Carnival volunteers
- Active Adult Committee – Committee members
- Jewish Film Festival – Committee members
- JCC Couples Club – Board Members and officers

Jewish Community Foundation

- Financial contributions through the SJMC Mitzvah Funds for humanitarian crisis such as Hurricane Katrina, Chile earthquake, etc.
- Cleaned up Jewish section and painted fence at New Camden Cemetery
- Philanthropic donations via the SJMC Philanthropic Fund

Federation Housing (Lions Gate)

- Installed mezuzot throughout Lions Gate
- Manned BBQ & ice cream socials
- Monthly visitation to Lions Gate Men's Club
- Invited residents to attend SJMC meetings when held on site

Jewish Family and Children's Service

- Passover food distribution - Organized and implemented independently, later through JFCS
- Community Food Drive – Volunteers to help sorting and stocking shelves at JFCS Pantry
- Monthly donation of kosher food products
- Provided transportation to medical and other appointments to help individuals unable to get around on their own

PART III- Non-Jewish Federation Related Community Service

South Jersey Men's Club members serve as officers, board members, on many Jewish religious and service organizations. For SJMC members we do the following:

- Mitzvah cards program to convey congratulations, condolences, or any meaningful event
- Shiva service and minyans for members

Jewish Athletic Group

Created and organized JAG to facilitate closer relations between Jewish organizations in South Jersey through sports. Organized activities have included:

- Softball • Volleyball • Basketball • Racquetball • Pinochle • Bridge • Tennis
- Bowling • Street Hockey

Ongoing Collection and Donation Programs For Local Charities

- Cell Phones
- Toiletries to homeless shelters and Yellow Ribbon
- Eyeglasses collection to Lions Club
- Monthly Book Swap and book donations to JCC Library

State and Federal Fugitive Safe Surrender Program

- Funded and prepared thousands of sandwiches distributed during the US Marshall's office local, state and federal warrant reduction program since its inception in New Jersey. – 3 years

Matching Grants to Various Israeli Charities

- Non-Profit Association For Volunteering & Assisting the Hurt (Victims of terrorism)
- A Package From Home (“Care packages” for combat soldiers, soldiers without family in Israel, and wounded soldiers)
- The LIBI Fund – The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense (Needy soldiers)

Continued

- The Sar-El Foundation (National Project for Volunteers for Israel)
- Donation toward rebuilding and re-equipping after 2016 arson fires

Toys for Tears

- Provided stuffed animals to local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to provide a moment of comfort to children in a traumatic situation. (900 to date)

Video Library of SJMC Programs and Speakers

- Available for loan to members and organizations.

US Military & Chaplaincy

- **Operation Macabbi** - Hanukkah Card program for US troops after first Gulf War with cooperation of Jewish Welfare Board, armed forces chaplaincy, and Bureau of Jewish Ed.
- After the 2nd Lebanon War, the program was expanded to include Israeli troops in cooperation with the JCRC, Department of Jewish Education, Jewish War Vets, and Friends of the IDF.
- Financial contributions plus donations of prayer books, kipahs and shofars for Jewish servicemen and women in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Provided first full sized Hanukkah Menorah for US troops in Baghdad, Iraq
- Contributed toward Community Hanukkah Parties at Tri-Service Military base 2006-2010
- Monthly donation of toiletries and other items for troops via the Yellow Ribbon Program

Other Philanthropy

- Organize volunteers to provide manpower whenever needed for charitable purposes
- Donation to charity bike ride for the Arava Institute of Environmental Studies in Israel
- Donation to Camden County Hero Scholarship Fund made at Law Appreciation Breakfast

40th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony for Munich 11 Olympics Victims

Volunteered manpower for shul renovations

- Helped with interior and exterior renovations to Congregation Ner Tamid
 - **StandWithUs (Israel Advocacy Organization)**
 - Provided manpower to prepare special Passover Haggadah for distribution

Holiday Events

- Coping with Christmas dinner
- Hometz Hoedown — First meal after Passover

Educational Trips

- Organize missions to Israel
- Walking tours of Jewish Philadelphia
- National Museum of American Jewish History
- Annapolis Naval Academy
- Eastern State Penitentiary
- Battleship New Jersey
- Maurice River Cruise
- Riversharks and Trenton Thunder
- Wine tasting

Non-SJMC Activities For Members Only

- Jewish Athletic Group (Our Teams)
- Investment Club
- Fantasy Football

It All Comes Together At Our Monthly Meeting

PART IV- With all these activities, why no burnout?

No member of the South Jersey has become burned out from over-volunteering.

Why? - Because all members are expected to do something to help. To facilitate volunteering, being developed is what we call our Functions, Organization, and Responsibilities User Manual – **FORUM**. It's a master list of tasks large and small that contribute to our remaining a successful Men's Club without resulting on an undue burden on individual members.

PART V- Why Join? / Why Stay?

The SJMC has been called a synagogue Men's club without a synagogue. At a recent general membership meeting we asked our members why they decided to join the South Jersey Men's Club and why they remain members. The following are typical responses.

- I joined to make new friends and expand my network.
- The Men's Club provides me with the chance to give back to the community through community service activities. It gives me something worthwhile to do.
- I enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship.
- Great breakfasts and very interesting programs every month.
- Having been a leader in my business/profession/organization, I appreciate that because so many members help out that there is no burnout of officers.
- Sometimes it's great to just be an Indian instead of the Chief.
- I pick up new ideas for my Synagogue Men's Club
- It gives me a connection with issues concerning Israel and Judaism.
- We enjoy the educational trips and excursions
- I like the varied programs and activities: sports, investment club, fantasy football.