



UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 6 AT
8:30 AM COS
PEDALERS BIKE
RIDE

SUNDAY,
JANUARY 3, 2021
AT 8:30 AM COS
PEDALERS BIKE
RIDE

AFTERNOON AT
LEU GARDENS -
SUNDAY,
JANUARY 24, 2021
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
MEN'S CLUB &
SISTERHOOD

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MEN'S CLUB

COS MEN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 2020

WHAT DO MEN WANT?

Following is an excerpt from "Building a Successful Volunteer Culture"

By: Rabbi Charles Simon, former Executive Director of the FJMC.

Men primarily volunteer for four reasons. Some volunteer because they are searching for camaraderie and gain satisfaction simply by participating. in a transient world, in which separation from old friends and family members is the norm and the workplace may be more about competition than camaraderie, creating social networks is difficult. Some men seek to establish these social networks in the volunteer sector. We all need friends. Other men volunteer to make contacts they hope will further their professional lives. Still others are brought in by a friend or relative, or because their parents, consciously or otherwise, instilled in them the values that foster involvement in community life through volunteerism. Unfortunately, the number of men in this category is shrinking. Finally, some men become involved because they feel compelled to change the status quo; they want to make a difference. These factors have to be taken into account when organizing and motivating men.

COS Men's Club Newsletter Editor – Elliott Davis – elliottdavis613@gmail.com

WHAT IS HANUKKAH?

BY: ALAN RUSONIK

“What is Hanukkah?” That is a question that was asked in the Talmud (Shabbat 21b) more than 1,500 years ago and a question we continue to ask ourselves today. It is interesting to note that the sages in the Talmud have to ask themselves this question. They don't ask what is Passover or what is Purim or what is Yom Kippur. When they have their discussions about these holidays, they assume the reader knows something about the holiday, and then they go on to discuss at length the minutiae about each holiday. But when it comes to Hanukkah, they begin by asking the question, “what is Hanukkah?” because they cannot assume that the reader knows what they are talking about.

I believe the question, “what is Hanukkah,” was asked then and continues to be asked today because Hanukkah means different things to different people. On the one hand, we have the miracle of the oil, where the oil intended for one day lasted for eight days. On the other hand, we have the miracle of the war, where the small army of the Maccabees was able to defeat the mighty Syrian Greeks. Then there is the fact that the holiday falls during the Christmas season, so we have those who believe that Hanukkah is simply “the Jewish Christmas.” Of course, on this point, nothing could be further from the truth.

As a life-long educator, I would like to share with you my perspective on the question, “what is Hanukkah?” The word “Hanukkah” contains the Hebrew root letters ח נ נ or “Chet” “Nun” “Chaf”. This Hebrew root has two common meanings: one is education and the other is dedication. In English, the words “educate” and “dedicate” come from two different Latin meanings. “Educate” comes from the Latin “educere” which means to “lead out.” “Dedicate” comes from the Latin “dedicare” which means “devoted” or “consecrated.” But in Hebrew, there is no distinction between education and dedication. Hanukkah is about both education and dedication.

The holiday was named “Hanukkah” because the Temple in Jerusalem was re-dedicated on the 25th day of the month of Kislev after the Temple was cleaned. By celebrating the holiday each year, we re-dedicate ourselves to the principles of the Maccabees who were committed to keeping the light of Judaism alive in a time of darkness.

Finally, Hanukkah is about education. Judaism has survived 3,700 years since the time of Abraham because of its focus on and commitment to education. Jewish education, in all of its manifestations, is the key to Jewish survival. Let us, on this Hanukkah, re-dedicate ourselves as a community to the value and importance of Jewish education. In doing so, we will keep the intent of the Maccabees alive, as well as bring new meaning and commitment to the holiday of Hanukkah, the holiday of dedication and education!

B'Ri'Ut – Substance Abuse Program

Drug abuse is an increasing problem, especially in the age of COVID, and, with the increased economic problems associated with COVID, individuals with drug abuse problems are having an increasingly difficult time securing and participating in treatment programs. Drug abuse has no ethnic or age boundaries. Rates of misuse and abuse are the same in all ethnic groups, socio-economic groups and ages. It is not limited to young adults and street drugs. There are also a large number of older individuals (including senior citizens) who were prescribed opiates for valid medical problems and were never weaned off of them appropriately. Many people with drug abuse problems do not feel comfortable discussing their concerns and fears with anyone due to the negative stigma – drug abuse is seen as a disease of “criminals.” Complicating recovery for many Jews is that many “12-step programs” are heavily based on Christian scriptures and organizations.

The Orlando Jewish Community has recently joined forces to help alleviate the problem of drug abuse, with the formation of B'ri'ut. Derived from the Hebrew word meaning “acceptance,” this organization, the creation of the COS Men's Club, has several goals:

- 1) Education. B'ri'ut will be teaching people in the community about substance use, how to recognize it, how to treat it, and what services are available to help treat it.
- 2) Training. B'ri'ut will be training staff members at local Jewish agencies to recognize drug abuse problems, and, more importantly, to respond appropriately and helpfully to anyone who confides in them about a drug abuse problem.
- 3) Decreasing stigma. By providing appropriate education and training, we look to decrease stigma, and make it easier for people to reach out and seek help.
- 4) Support. B'ri'ut will be forming support groups (initially meeting virtually) to help Jewish individuals recovering from Drug abuse problems.
- 5) Safety. B'ri'ut is looking to help individuals and family members obtain Narcan, to help prevent overdoses.

B'ri'ut is planning our kick-off in January or February of 2021. Keep your eyes open in the COS Men's Club newsletter for more information.

Dr. Steve Herman

Co-President – COS Men's Club



COS Men's Club and the World Wide Wrap

The annual World Wide Wrap is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, 2021. As of now, it will be held virtually. Early in the month of February of each year, men and women in Conservative/Masorti communities around the world gather together to pray. The mitzvah of wrapping tefillin will be shared, encouraged and taught. For many years Rabbi Kay and Cantor Robuck have illustrated the history of tefillin and the proper (and often unique) ways of putting on tefillin, including the appropriate prayers, at the morning minyan. Plans are being discussed to have a program with a virtual speaker from the sports world to follow the World Wide Wrap.

Join the COS Men's Club and Sisterhood on Sunday, January 24, 2021 for a breath of fresh air



The CDC says that outdoor events are a safer way for people to reconnect. So, join us as we wander through the beautiful Harry P. Leu Gardens. We'll get some fresh air, enjoy the gardens and catch up on what's been happening since we all began our COVID-19 quarantines. Please wear a mask and maintain six feet of social distance. Leu Gardens will supply a guide and an area for us to have lunch so bring a picnic lunch!!

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2021

Time: 11am – 5pm

Location: Leu Gardens - 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando www.LeuGardens.org

Cost: \$12/adult and \$4/child – We will purchase the tickets for all who RSVP by the deadline

RSVP: By Monday, January 18, 2021

E-mail: Jerry Leibman at jerryleibman@yahoo.com **Call:** (407) 694-0546

Men's Club Mensch

Neal Blaher –Immediate Past Men's Club President



Things you may not know about me.

- I have lived in Central Florida almost 10 years longer than Walt Disney World has been here.
- I have played the violin, with a few short periods of idleness, for over 50 years; have performed with school and community orchestras for all but the first 2 of those years; and used the same violin for all but the first 7 years. My violin case still bears my childhood street address in Maitland.
- I have served as a Gabai, either part or full time, for over 30 years, but have never myself read or chanted from the Torah during a religious service.
- I no longer work as an attorney. I had more than enough of it after more than 25 years of practice. In the early 2010s, I returned to my original occupational choice and college major of psychology, and now provide behavior analysis therapy to autistic and developmentally disabled kids, and work in similar fields.
- COVID prevented what would have been my 4th trip to Russia over the past 16 years to visit family there with whom we in the U.S. had no contact for 70 years dating back to the oppressive Soviet Union years under Stalin in the 1930s.

Editor's questions:

Your son, Noah, recently made Aliyah to Israel and is serving in the Army. What part did you and Genie play in his decision?

Noah's decision to make Aliyah was completely his own. Our role was raising him with a passion for Judaism and for Israel: We brought him with us to Shabbat morning services when he was just an infant; consistently celebrated most of the Jewish holidays; enrolled him in religious school; supported his decision to join and become actively involved in USY; and brought him with us on a visit to Israel when he was 11 years old. All of this history likely explains why, of all the things to which we exposed Noah, Judaism and Israel "stuck" the most, and is reflected in the path he has chosen.

You are a talented musician. How does music help you in your daily life?

Playing in an orchestra has always provided me with a timeout from stress and immersion in something that gives me complete enjoyment. After a concert or even just a rehearsal, I am ready to regroup and carry on with life's responsibilities.

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You served 3 years as Men's Club president. Any words of wisdom to share with present & future Men's Club leaders?

Use your creativity, and motivate other members to do the same, in crafting the group's activities. But in doing so, give up the idea that you should (or have the ability to) create activities and an environment that will attract young members. They come from and live in a different world, and therefore have very different perspectives on what Judaism and Jewish practices are. There are still plenty of old codgers around who can better appreciate what we do.

ADL Virtual Walk

Sunday, October 18, 2020, the COS Men's Club participated in the ADL Virtual Walk Against Hate. Joining participants across the country, the COS Men's Club team walked and raised money to stand up against hate. The event concluded with a nationwide virtual celebration at noon to support ADL's mission to combat anti-semitism and all forms of discrimination.

FJMC Online Webinars

FJMC Gives your Men's Club Value! And Men's Club Goes Beyond Your Synagogue Parking Lot or ZOOM meeting.

The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) presents online webinars to learn about leadership development and so much more. If you don't see a subject which you'd like to 'get together' with a group of men, even if they are thousands of miles away, and in a different state or country, send an [email](#) to the coordinator of this initiative to: Alan Budman, abudman@fjmc.org

During this time, we'll be showing some of the recorded leadership talks, which we call, **fjmcTED - Ideas Worth Spreading**. Since leadership talents are really life skills, helping us to learn how to work productively within a group, whether the group be a work related group, a family, a club or otherwise. Those fjmc-TED talks are also available on the FJMC website:

<https://www.fjmc.org/fjmc-leadership-ted-talks>

December topics include: Sports Affinity Group discussions, including - about the NFL and The Stanley Cup. Genealogy Affinity Group discussion including - Starting Points of Genealogy and Yiddish Alive, and many other regional events.

Go to the following link to view the many topics available and register for events that you are interested in.

<https://www.fjmc.org/webinars>

COS Men's Club Leadership 2020-2021

Co-Presidents	Steven Herman & Elliott Davis
Treasurer	Andy Rosen
Secretary	Jerry Leibman
VP Programming	Jerry Leibman
VP Membership	Stuart Leventhal
VP Publicity	Michael Broniewski
VP Social Action	Bruce Hoffen
Immediate Past President	Neal Blaher
At-Large Board Member	TBA
At-Large Board Member	Bart Neuman
At-Large Board Member	Richard Schwartz
At-Large Board Member	Michael Soll
At-Large Board Member	Mark Stone
At-Large Board Member	Jim Tinkoff
At-Large Board Member	Mike Wheeler

For more information about membership, contact Stuart Leventhal sleventhal@interlachencfl.com

Congregation Ohev Shalom

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