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Amazing things happen when Jewish men gather.



Dear [REDACTED]

We are so excited that you will be joining us for **JMR33: Realizing My Jewish Journey**.

This is the second of three emails that you will receive as we approach the retreat. We encourage you to carefully read each email which will contain valuable information to enhance your retreat experience.

to invite a friend or a family member to register for JMR33 and share the journey of the weekend (deadline to be included is October 28).



Roger Zimmerman, Josh Millman & Harold Belkowitz, JMR33 Co Chairs

JMR@menschwork.org

JMR33 Schedule:

The current updated JMR33 schedule is available online by [clicking this link](#).

Arrival Logistics:

1. Pearlstone Center's address is 

 2. Hineni (Check in) will begin at 3:00 p.m. Plan to arrive at Pearlstone on Friday afternoon, November 8, 2024, no later than 4:15 p.m. Please let us know in advance (JMR@menschwork.org) if your travel arrangements are such that you will arrive after 4:30 p.m. so we can make appropriate arrangements for you to receive your room key.
 3. JMR33 will promptly begin on **Friday, November 8, 2024, at 4:45 p.m.**
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Arrival Process:

You will be first greeted by a Brother upon arriving at the parking lot. Please park in the main lot and then walk to the Hineni (Check In) table in the Main Building to receive your JMR33 Packet (which will include your room key).

Note: There will be separate Hineni tables for first time attendees and for returning men.

Pearlstone's beautiful grounds.

Please return to the Main Building by 4:45 p.m. for the Tevillah (Immersion) Experience.

If this is your first time attending JMR, we encourage you to drop in to the First Time Attendee lounge, which will be open at 4:15 p.m.

Shabbat candle lighting will take place in the Main Building at 4:30 p.m., for those interested in participating.

Tevillah: The Immersion Experience (Friday at 4:45 p.m.):

Echoing the mikvah experience, we invite you to join in a practice to transition from the secular week and prepare yourself for the Jewish Men's Retreat. This opportunity, which will include ritually washing your hands, will be followed by the Opening Circle – the formal beginning of JMR33.

The previous email invited each man to bring an object of personal importance from his Jewish journey to the retreat. Prior to beginning Tevillah, we encourage each man to place his sacred object on the designated display table.

Musical Ensemble:

Do you play a musical instrument? If so, please contact us at JMR@menschwork.org if you would like to participate in our musical ensemble and help enhance our Shabbat services.

Torah Readers:

Would you like to read Torah at JMR33? If so, please send a short note to JMR@menschwork.org telling us why you are interested in reading Torah at JMR33 and your skill level.

Menschwork's Mission and Core Values:

Menschwork is guided by its Mission Statement, its Core Values, and its Spiritual Practices Guidelines. We appreciate each man's support and respect for these values and practices during JMR33:

Creating a Sacred Space: We are guided by Jewish traditions, values, texts, and rituals to ignite transformative processes and illuminate personal and collective paths as evolving Jewish men.

Honoring Shabbat: Please help all men honor Shabbat, in a spirit of inclusiveness for all, by refraining from the use of cell phones, electronic devices, and photography in public areas during Shabbat. If you are comfortable doing so, you may use your cell phones or other electronic devices in your room.

Fostering Safety and Diversity in Our Community: We offer a safe, supportive, non judgmental experience rooted in deep listening, emotional support and compassion. We welcome Jewish men regardless of one's level of religious observance or personal connection to Judaism, regardless of one's political views; and regardless of one's national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio economic status, age, or disability.

Encouraging men to be Jewish menschen, men of spirit, compassion and integrity: Our goal is to provide a safe, healthy and respectful way for Jewish Men to gather and engage. JMR is fueled by interaction, which often includes physical contact and close proximity: hugs, handshakes, dancing close together, singing with hands joined and arms around our Brothers. Some may choose to do this; some will not. Care and respect for each Brother's comfort level is paramount to a successful event.

Mishpacha Groups:

The central component of each JMR is the Mishpacha Group. Each man is assigned to a Mishpacha Group (consisting of approximately 8 men) that will meet three times during the weekend to explore how the retreat's theme

emphasizes compassionate listening to each man's sharing; the other men in the group do not respond with feedback or advice.

Mishpacha Groups intentionally are randomly assigned. Some men attend JMR with a family member or a close friend and might feel uncomfortable being assigned to the same Mishpacha Group as that family member or close friend (conversely, some men desire to be in the same group as their family member). It is important that you feel comfortable with those in your Mishpacha Group. Please notify jmr@menschwork.org no later than October 27, 2024, if you have a personal situation that you would like Menschwork to consider when making Mishpacha Group assignments.

Drachim (Pathways) Session Options:

You will have the opportunity on Shabbat afternoon to select two Drachim ("Pathways") sessions. Drachim is an opportunity to explore a topic relating to Realizing My Jewish Journey that particularly resonates with you. There will be seven Drachim offerings to choose from. Information about each option is available by [clicking on this link](#).

What to Bring (and Not to Bring):

Pearlstone will provide linens, blankets, towels, and hand soap in each guest room.

The dress code is respectful and relaxed. Some men like to wear white for Shabbat. Business casual is considered "dressy" for our retreat. At the same, with respect for others, please avoid clothing that is inappropriate or that might be perceived as offensive. We also ask that you do not wear any logo wear, buttons or caps that reflect a political view or cause.

Suggested items:

- Comfortable clothes for the weekend.

- Comfortable walking/hiking shoes and clothes -some men go hiking during Shabbat afternoon. Yoga gear and clothes, if you anticipate participating in yoga.
- Personal Items: Toiletries toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, and conditioner, comb/brush, etc.
- Medications and Supplements.
- Water Bottle.
- Flashlight
- Bug Spray.
- Ritual wear: Please bring a Tallis for the retreat, if you have one. Likewise, you are welcome to wear a kippah. A limited supply of kippot and tallitot will be available. We encourage you to bring tefillin if you have them for Sunday morning's Tefillin and Shacharit Experience. If you have an extra set, please bring it so that another Brother may borrow them.
- Musical instruments, such as percussion or others that are complementary to davening. There will be opportunities for drum circles during the weekend for those interested.
- Babka for Saturday night's campfire – Let's see who brings the best babka! Note that the babka must be kosher with an appropriate hechsher

Display Tables:

We are again excited to provide our brothers the opportunity to display their creative efforts, aligning with Menschwork's Mission Statement and Core Values and with JMR33's theme – **Realizing My Jewish Journey**. This could be artwork including photography, published books, or any other personal creative efforts. The tables will be in the Jubilee Room, which is locked overnight, but Menschwork is not responsible for the security of any items left on display. Items may be offered for sale after Shabbat is completed.

Personal Food and Beverages:

outside food and beverages cannot be brought into the main building(the Retreat Center).

Men Flying Into BWI, Taking Amtrak to Penn Station or BWI Station, or Interested in Carpooling

Are you arriving at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (“BWI”) or taking Amtrak (either BWI or Penn Stations) and would like to rideshare to Pearlstone with another JMR attendee? Or, perhaps you are renting a car at BWI and have space for another man? Are you looking to carpool with a JMR attendee from Boston, New York, or Philadelphia? If so, please contact David Shaw at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]. David has offered to be a contact point for men interested in sharing airport ground transportation or otherwise interested in carpooling. If you are emailing, please use the subject line "RIDE TO JMR" and be specific as to where you live and need a ride from.

Upcoming Communications:

A third, and final, email will be sent approximately November 3, 2024.

P.S.: If you have a close friend or relative you’d like to invite to the retreat, please copy and forward the image below and send it to him. Thank you.

Jewish Men's Retreat

NOV. 8-10, PEARLSTONE CENTER, REISTERSTOWN, MD.

Deepen your Jewish journey; enliven your spirit; make new friends; share stories; be inspired; daven with joy; drum your prayers.

Visit menschwork.org to learn more.



MENSCHWORK

Compassion. Integrity. Spirit.

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