

many shades, one tradition

The JMN Newsletter: המון גוונים, מסורת אחת

JMN Newsletter, Vol. 2, 24th of Adar, 5773/ March 2013

Exciting Organizational Updates

NEW YEAR, NEW RELATIONSHIPS

The Board of the Jewish Multiracial Network is thrilled to announce the finalization and execution of an agreement with our new fiscal sponsor, the Shalom Center. The Shalom Center echoes our excitement about this partnership, and is happy to support our organization's vision of racial/ethnic diversity being fully embraced in American Jewish life. This new relationship will facilitate JMN's expanded offerings and provide us with additional programming flexibility necessary for our development as we continue to expand and grow. You can learn more about The Shalom Center at www.theshalomcenter.org

Although a happy and exciting stage in JMN's development, in this time of transition, we must express true hakarat hatov (gratefulness) to Isabella Freedman for serving as our fiscal sponsor since the inception of our organization. Their support, not only as our fiscal sponsor, but as a true and enthusiastic supporter of our mission has allowed us to mature into the thriving and active community we are today. They were a proud host of our annual retreat for 14 years and an eager distributor of our materials, including our popular, "Because Jews Come in All Colors" poster. Isabella Freedman has truly been a critical partner in our development and we cherish our longstanding history together, and look forward to maintaining a strong and close relationship with them going forward.

JMN HAS A NEW LOOK

After months of work and contributions by a group of dedicated Jewish Multiracial Network members, we are pleased to unveil the new website! While you can still find us at our address, <http://www.jewishmultiracialnetwork.org> you'll see a whole new look, with more features, organizational information, and Jewish diversity resources. You'll find that our new site is more user friendly, easy to view from your smartphone or tablet, and up to date with current JMN happenings. We'd like to extend a hearty thank you to Erika Davis, Debbie Vishnevsky, and Kaleb Shervington for all of their hard work!

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Diversity Dvar

According to the Torah, the color of one's skin has no determination on a person's status in the Jewish people. However, despite this, our Torah also does not shy away from, nor hide the fact that some individuals may assert their own opinion to the contrary. As we read in the Torah (Deut. 12:2), Moses's siblings, Aharon and Miriam's jealousy of their brother's greatness was expressed through a slighting remark toward Moses's wife; "A Kushite woman he took." They considered Tziporah's skin-color different and thus a negative attribute. As a result of their remark, they were temporarily isolated from the community and contracted Biblical leprosy—which comes about through speaking wrongfully of others.

The Psalmist, King David, stated "praiseworthy are those who dwell in Your house." Teaching us that, praise belongs to those who embrace klal Yisrael (the community of Israel) through their respect of Jewish teachings—including, that we are all equally deserving of praise, blessings, and full inclusion. Judaism does not give weight to what a person has or does not have, nor their height, weight, or skin color, but rather a person's actions and intent. Let us all refuse to isolate ourselves from the Jewish people by judging others based on superficial characteristics. Instead, let us focus on viewing each other through their middot (character) and actions—and welcome and respect the differences and diversity that has existed in our community since Mt Sinai. [Read More JMN Diversity Dvars](#)

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Upcoming JMN Events

2013 ANNUAL RETREAT (WAYNESBORO, PA)

Registration for our annual retreat is open! We are excited to return to

Our Social Media

- [Like us on Facebook](#)
- [Follow us on Twitter](#)
[@JewishDiversity](#)

JMN Annual Retreat

Save the Date!

June 7th - 9th at the Captial Retreat Center in Waynesboro, PA. Please check our [Retreat Information](#) page for complete registration details. We hope to see you there!

Our Newsletter

"Hamon G'vanim, Masoret Achat"

This name spoke to us as it reflects our commitment to the diversity of our Jewish community. Regardless of the shade of one's skin, language one speaks, or level of observance... we all have a space in the Jewish community and our communities should reflect and respect that diversity. We hope that this newsletter will not only be a source of communication to our membership from the leadership, but an avenue for us to share in each other's simchas (joyous occasions) and pivotal milestones.

Please feel free to contact at us with kudos or comments, or if you would like to contribute to the newsletter at manyshadestradition@gmail.com.

the Capital Retreat Center the weekend of June 7-9. Sign up by April 7, 2013 and take advantage of our early bird discount rate as well as our payment plan option! Please check our website <http://www.jewishmultiracialnetwork.org/events/jmn-annual-retreat/> for complete registration details. [Back to top](#)

TRIP TO THE JEWISH CHILDREN'S MUSEUM!(BROOKLYN, NY)

Join us this April 14th at 10:15AM as we visit the Jewish children's museum in the Brooklyn, NY. The Jewish Children's Museum is a unique institution where children and their parents can explore Jewish history and heritage in a stimulating and interactive environment. The museum features hands-on exhibits focusing on Jewish holidays, biblical history, the land of Israel, contemporary Jewish life and more. Cost is \$10 per person. [Sign up today!](#)[Back to top](#)

Community News

Mazal Tov!! To Paris Brettschneider/Rose on her upcoming Bat Mitzvah!

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