



JMN Newsletter, Vol. 7, 19th of Adar I, 5774/Adar 2014

## Message from the President

Happy New Year (again!) from the Jewish Multiracial Network! Here at JMN we're incredibly excited about all of the exciting organizational and programming developments we have planned for 2014. Although we'll formally announce them as they occur, I'm happy to provide a brief taste of what's in store.

### JMN PARLOR SERIES

We're excited to kick off our new parlor series—guided, but intimate and provocative conversations related to Jewish diversity and inclusivity. Our first parlor conversation, "I'm Not Racist, Am I? A conversation about identity and racism within the Jewish Community" was held in Brooklyn, New York. The parlor series will be held on a quarterly basis, with the next being on Ally-ship. Our initial event was written up in *Jewschool* (<http://jewschool.com/2014/02/14/31559/31559/>) and we're now in talks to bring the parlor series to other cities across the United States. Please contact me at [president@jewishmultiracialnetwork.org](mailto:president@jewishmultiracialnetwork.org) if you're interested in bringing our parlor series to your community.

### COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

JMN is not only a safe space for its members, but a source of education for the larger Jewish community. As such, we are expanding the educational and outreach work we provide. Not only are we guiding conversations at congregations and communal organizations throughout the east coast, but we're excited to host a panel at the *JCC Manhattan* entitled "Mixed Multitudes: Race and Ethnicity in the Jewish Community," the panel will take place Thursday, Jun 19 from 7-9 pm in the Beit Midrash of the JCC Manhattan.

### DIVERSE RESOURCES

In addition to the compilation of Resources (<http://www.jewishmultiracialnetwork.org/resources-2/>) we've listed on our site (which include books, film, music, and more), we are working to develop additional diverse Jewish materials in house. Please look for select materials to be released later this year!

However, don't forget our wonderful "Because Jews Come in All Colors" Poster, on sale NOW at our website!

Because we're kicking off so many new and important initiatives this year, we've decided to schedule our next retreat for the summer of 2015. Although we're saddened that it going to be another year before we're all together again for a full weekend, JMN is working to facilitate more local programming so that our members can recharge, commune, and experience each other up until our next retreat. If you're interested in hosting or leading a local JMN event in your community, please contact us at [info@jewishmultiracialnetwork.org](mailto:info@jewishmultiracialnetwork.org).

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## Diversity Dvar

IN ADAR

### Our Social Media

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

### JMN Annual Retreat

Great Success!

The 2013 JMN Annual Retreat was a great success! Be on the lookout for more information related to year-round programming in your local area.

### 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](mailto:manyshadestradition@gmail.com).

### Support JMN

- [Dontate Now!](#)
- [Volunteer today!](#)

About two months ago, the R&B artist Pharrell Williams announced that he would be playing his song "Happy" on a 24 hour video that streamed live on the internet. Because the song played on repeat for 24 hours, I kept it on mute throughout the day and every once and a while switched screens to watch people of varying races, ages and body types dance and lip sync to the song. Watching it, even for a few seconds, you couldn't help but be Happy.

As Americans we live in a world that demands that we get ahead, sometimes at all costs, yet on Shabbat we all slow down to enjoy the things in life that are truly important, time with family and our friends. Britain's longest running study on aging has suggested that happier people live longer. Of course, it's impossible to be happy all of the time, but I can't help but wonder if the world wouldn't be a better place if we were all a little bit happier.

In the month of Adar, we are commanded to be happy. This happiness serves as a reminder of being saved from certain death at the empire of Achashverosh and since this is a leap year, we have two Adars in which to be happy. What are you going to do to bring happiness into your life and into the lives of others?

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## Volunteer with JMN

Interested in becoming more active in JMN? Email us at [info@jewishmultiracialnetwork.org](mailto:info@jewishmultiracialnetwork.org) and look for volunteer ideas on our [Volunteer Page](#).

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## Upcoming Local JMN Events

Please check our website and Facebook page for additional events to be added soon!

### NYC

Panel at the JCC Manhattan

Mixed Multitudes: Race and Ethnicity in the Jewish Community

Erika Davis, Yitz "Y-Love" Jordan, Eric Greene, Tamara Fish, and Deborah Vishnevsky

Moderated by Chava Shervington, President of the Jewish Multiracial Network

Thu, Jun 19, 7–9 pm

As the American Jewish community struggles with Jewish continuity and strengthening Jewish identity, we will address how the experience of being a Jew of Color affects these critical communal issues. Recent studies, articles, and media personalities have created a small spotlight on Jewish diversity and now more than ever, the American Jewish community is being exposed to its own rich racial and ethnic diversity. Join the Jewish Multiracial Network as we discuss the intersection of race, ethnicity and Jewish identity. In the course of our conversation, panelists hope to increase awareness of the varied experience of Jewish people of color as well as tools for maintaining Jewish identity.

### LA

LUNCH in LA!!

Sunday, February 23 at 1:30 PM

Beverly Hills Kosher Thai Restaurant

9036 Burton Way Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Bring the whole family for delicious food and great company. RSVP soon, as we have a reservation for the first 24 people. Please bring cash to facilitate splitting the check. Email Ingrid ([ingridleah@hotmail.com](mailto:ingridleah@hotmail.com)) with questions and to RSVP.

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