

FAQ's about Brotherhood

What is Brotherhood?

The Emanuel Brotherhood, affiliated with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC), welcomes you to join us for friendly camaraderie, educational and social programs, delicious breakfasts, and synagogue and community participation. Additionally, we sponsor programs that encourage participation from children and the synagogue community as a whole.

What is the purpose of Brotherhood?

The purpose of Brotherhood is to help the Synagogue and the Rabbi's vision for a community of caring, learning, prayer and repairing the world, by providing a setting in which men can learn together, pray together, serve together and enjoy camaraderie in a pleasant social environment.

How does one become a member?

Membership in the Brotherhood is open to all men, including those who have recently become *Bar Mitzvah*. New synagogue members are entitled to complimentary Brotherhood membership the first year. New *Bar Mitzvah* boys have free membership until they turn 18. Contact Tom Mastronarde tmastron@gmail.com and he will sign you up.

How much does it cost to participate?

Membership dues are \$40.00 a year. At each Sunday breakfast meeting, we provide the opportunity for voluntary sponsorship donations to help defray the cost of food, as well as to honor someone or recognize an important event or achievement. These donations will be acknowledged in the Synagogue Bulletin.

Are there men my age in Brotherhood?

Yes! We have men of all ages.

How often are the meetings? When? Where?

Breakfast meetings are held Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m, five or six times per year, in the Koret Hall after morning Minyan and when fathers drop off children at the Synagogue School. Other meetings are held from time to time in the evening, such as our Annual Dinner with the Rabbi at which time Rabbi Small leads a discussion on topics of interest to Jewish men, an annual paid up membership dinner and several dessert and coffee evenings during the year with the Rabbi, Cantor and Ritual Director. The Brotherhood also participates in a Chanukah Carnival, Purim Celebration, a Yom HaShoah Remembrance and numerous *kiddush* throughout the year. Women are always welcome to attend our programs.

What do you do at the meetings?

At our breakfast meetings we usually have keynote speakers, such as sports personalities, educators, and prominent community, religious and business leaders.

What other activities does Brotherhood conduct?

We are a very active and cohesive group. The following list indicates the variety of things we do together:

- A yearly major fund raising social event .
- Special evening meetings honoring the Cantor and Ritual Director
- Participation in the FJMC World Wide Wrap, encouraging the *mitzvah* of *T'fillin*,
- The FJMC Yellow Candle Program, which distributes memorial candles to commemorate the Holocaust and raises money to provide Holocaust education

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- Brotherhood Shabbat, at which members conduct the service, read Torah and have *bimah* honors
- Host and provide logistical support to the Israeli robotics team for their annual competition at Trinity College
- Our annual Members BBQ, at which we honor those who have provided exceptional service to Brotherhood
- We honor each *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* with the presentation of 'The Jewish Book of Why' at their special occasion
- Sponsor trips to sporting events such as the University of Hartford Women's basketball team and the Rock Cats baseball team
- We have been supportive of outside organizations such as the Hebrew Care, Habitat Haverim, Israel's Magen David Adom, West Hartford Public Schools, University of Hartford and more
- We operate a snack bar in the auditorium for outside events, such as antique shows , in order to maintain the Kosher status of the Synagogue

What opportunities are there to become active in Brotherhood?

We welcome all to attend our meetings, and encourage any who are interested to participate in running the programs we sponsor. Opportunities exist to organize meetings, assist in mailings, chair and provide assistance in the conduct of events, join our Board of Directors, etc.

Who do we contact if we have further questions or if we want to get involved?

Please contact Bob Tellar, our current president 860-232-6598 (rtellar@aol.com) , or Tom Mastronarde, our membership chairman (tmastron@gmail.com), or speak to any of our officers at one of our meetings.

If we have more questions, who do we contact?

Here is a partial list of Brotherhood officers who will be happy to answer your questions:

- Brotherhood President: Bob Tellar—860-232-6598, rtellar@aol.com
- Brotherhood Treasurer: Jeff Rudolph—860-236-1275, jeff@emanuelsynagogue.org
- Brotherhood Kiddush Chairman: Saul Shemkovitz—860-236-1275, sshemkov@gmail.com
- World Wide Wrap Chairman: Don Miller—860-236-1275, donmiller@kualumni.org
- Brotherhood Shabbat Chairman: Ken Simon—860-236-1275, ksimon38@comcast.net