HEARING MEN’S VOICES HALTED BY ORDER OF THE POLICE!

HEARING MEN’S VOICES (HMV) engages men in Jewish life by building male relationships and extending Jewish community. A program of the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, HMV facilitates intimacy among men through dialogue as men meet in groups to discuss common issues. Over the years, the quality of HMV events has been rich and enjoyable. The following is Aaron Ginsburg’s report about an unusual HMV event.

When I arrived for an HMV event at Temple Israel of Sharon, Massachusetts, brotherhood after driving through deserted streets in a snowstorm, I saw six cars neatly parked and thought how macho it was that so many guys had shown up despite the driving conditions. Apparently the local police also thought we were being macho...a little too much macho.

We were discussing why men don’t seek health care, and had just reviewed a study of the most common excuses men give for not going to the doctor, all very similar to the ones the attendees had given. Somebody said he didn’t go to the doctor because his mother said that he would be okay if he just had some of her chicken soup, which brought on a lot of laughter. That’s when we heard a siren and noticed the flashing blue lights through the windows. Soon came the knock at the door.

The no-nonsense policeman who came in told us to get our cars off the street. There was some puzzled muttering as we slowly complied. It was slow because we had to dig our gloves and hats out of the pile and make sure that each person got his own shoes. A few people thought they heard the officer mutter under his breath, “Don’t let it happen again.”

It turned out that there was a snow emergency. Parking was banned on the streets to facilitate plowing. Fortunately, one of the attendees lived nearby and offered his spacious driveway, which ended up holding six of our cars. We then stumbled back through the snow to get some more insight into our behavior as well as nosh on cookies accompanied by tea and coffee and schmoozing.

There are now six separate major volumes/titles of the Hearing Men’s Voices program:

Our Fathers, Ourselves
Body and Spirit: Men Staying Healthy and Fit
Listening to God’s Voice,
Let’s Talk About It (Keruv)
Work and Worth
Jewish Men at the Crossroads