

2006-2007 Torch Awards "Entry Document" - Provide the following information:

**Part I. Identification Information** (cut and paste this section into your email and then fill out each line):

Submission Identifier Code supplied in a response to your first email: **157**

Full Title for Entry (80 characters maximum): **The Road to Remembrance**

Entry Category: **Youth Programming**

Contact Person to be listed on Torch Award CD: **Irv Kempner**

Email address to be listed on Torch Award CD: **lkempner@aol.com**

Club number & Club name: **738; Brotherhood of Temple Israel**

Number of club members: **150 Club Members**

Synagogue name, city and state: **Temple Israel, Sharon, Massachusetts**

Club President name (at time of entry): **David Arons**

Club President name (at time of convention): **Henry Katz**

Person preparing entry: **Paul Davidson**

Email address of person preparing entry: **Rachexdad@aol.com**

Date of entry submission: **April 11, 2007**

**Part II. Summary / Press Release**

*This voluntary section serves two purposes:*

- *First - to provide "Summary Information" and key words so that your entry can be found in the archives in me future*
- *Second - to provide "Press Release" information so that your community can be informed of this outstanding program created by your men's club.*

**Ila. Summary Information (up to 200 words):**

The "Road to Remembrance" Holocaust Essay and Trip provides a linkage between generations past and present, as well as between Brotherhood members and temple youth. Conceived by Irv Kempner as a tribute to General Eisenhower, who, at the end of World War II, challenged us as Jews and Americans to always bear witness to the Holocaust. High school students are given the opportunity to write an essay related to the Holocaust, and four winners are selected annually. Through our Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle fundraising and annual auction, the Brotherhood sends the contest winners on an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the World War II Memorial. The winning essays are published in the temple bulletin, accompanied by pictures from the trip. The honorees are later recognized at a Brotherhood sponsored breakfast involving the congregation.

**Ilb. Press Release Body with Title (about 200 words):**

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**Part III. Self Assessment of Entry**

### **1. Assess program procedural completeness and achievement of program goals -**

The program was designed to link temple youth both with Jewish history and with the Brotherhood. By requiring an essay to participate in the contest, learning takes place regardless of whether a student is selected as a winner or not. A committee including the rabbis and esteemed congregants chooses the winning essays. Those selected have an unforgettable experience in which they become active witnesses to the Shoah. This way, the Brotherhood passes on this crucial part of our legacy to the next generation, and they in turn educate the entire congregation through publication of their essays and experiences of the trip. Brotherhood members who accompany the students likewise have a moving time, which forges stronger bonds with our youth.

### **2. Explain presentation and documentation completeness –**

"The Road to Remembrance" was conceived three years ago by Irv Kempner of the Brotherhood of Temple Israel. As a child of Holocaust survivors, he wanted to pay tribute to those who perished, as well as to live up to the charge of General Eisenhower, who admonished all to witness and "give first hand evidence" to counteract any future allegations that the Holocaust was "propaganda". Irv developed the proposal and has taken the lead in running the program each year. Attached is the Road to Remembrance Holocaust Essay Contest flier he created detailing both the trip and the requirements.

### **3. Achievements of program goals, publicity, marketing and advanced planning –**

The primary goals involved carrying out our duty of "I'dor v'dor", teaching our children, fostering a tangible understanding of the Holocaust, increasing awareness in our congregation about the Shoah, the creation of Israel, and the stories of survivors who can be found in our own community. The annual event is publicized via email, direct mail, Shabbat announcements, and the temple bulletin. The marketing efforts have been bolstered by having former winners write about their experience of the trip in the temple bulletin. By honoring the winners at a Brotherhood breakfast, they also have a public opportunity to discuss their experience and they then serve as a model for upcoming high schoolers in encouraging participation.

### **4. Does the program enhance the image of the FJMC, region and/or your club –**

As the FJMC has set an international priority of distributing memorial candles to punctuate Holocaust remembrance, we feel that this program enhances all elements of Brotherhood and FJMC. Within our club it has become a bellweather program that is an impetus for fundraising, Holocaust awareness, and creating an association between active learning and Brotherhood/FJMC membership.

### **5. Did you include information so other clubs can use this program –**

The flier is self-explanatory in how such a program is set up, and individual clubs could tailor this to their own regional Holocaust museums or memorials. For example, the Simon Wiesenthal Center would be an ideal location for a Western club, or the Paper Clips Holocaust Memorial may be a perfect Southern destination.

### **6. What is its value in club building - number of named club members participating vs. club size and shul size-**

Members of the Brotherhood feel that this program exemplifies honoring our dead, teaching to our children, and ensuring that "Zachor" carries new, personal meaning for a growing number of congregants.

This has been a program that has galvanized a number of Brotherhood and temple members. The direct number of participants is relatively small, roughly 8-10 people, but the impact on the entire congregation is quite large. If you include individuals involved with the Yellow Candle Program and Brotherhood Auction, both of which contribute to the fundraising effort, a majority of the Brotherhood is involved indirectly.

**7. What is the effect on club administration - grooming of new officers for club, shul or region –**

The Road to Remembrance has been viewed as a somewhat sacred task of the administration, and it has brought its founder, Irv Kempner, onto the Brotherhood Board of Directors. It has also helped the administration to see this as a seminal goal of our club, to foster Holocaust education and pass the information principally to our youth, and secondarily to our broader congregation. While not implemented to groom officers, it has taken our existing officers and provided them with a much greater sense of higher purpose and appreciation of involvement in the Brotherhood.

**8. Identification of source of program or practice and description of unique aspects. Most programs were not invented out of the blue but evolved. Help us understand where it came from. –**

The Road to Remembrance Holocaust Essay Contest is a fairly original local adaptation of the international March of the Living program, in which Irv Kempner has participated. March of the Living offers youths and adults the experience of traveling to Poland to view first hand the remnants of Jewish communities destroyed during the Holocaust, as well as visits to concentration camps. The trip ends in Israel to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, providing a complete context within which to appreciate the founding of our Jewish homeland. Eventually, we hope to evolve our program to subsidize or fully cover the expenses of a student to attend the March of the Living.

**9. Identification of this program as an adaptation of a previous Torch Award entry or other program. Awards will be given for implementations that are particularly effective. The original sources of the programs will be most pleased to know that their efforts have borne fruit. –**

This program was developed out of the March of the Living program.

**10. Identification of the part of the programming effort attributable to the men's club if a joint program with another group.**

All efforts have been attributable to the work of the Temple Israel Brotherhood.

**Part IV. Entry Documentation**

Include your entry information in one document or provide one or more referenced documents. We can only guarantee that documents in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint or Adobe PDF will be read by the judges and distributed. It is preferable that photos and examples of handouts be kept moderate in dimensions and in bytes, and be integrated into the primary document. Paper entry forms will be made available upon request. Paper entries will be converted by the committee to an electronic format for judging and distribution. Reasonable size limits will be imposed.

*Go for it - Submitting an entry and gaining recognition for your club's good works is exhilarating. Attend Convention 2007 to receive your award and share the excitement with your fellow club leaders.*



## Temple Israel Brotherhood Presents The 2007 Road to Remembrance Holocaust Essay Contest

### **TI Brotherhood Road to Remembrance Details:**

- Temple Israel members can have their USY or high school students enter to win one of four all expense paid Day trips to Washington D.C. and a guided tour of the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the WW II Memorial* accompanied by Temple Israel Adult Chaperones.
- The Road to Remembrance trip is funded by TI Brotherhood Yellow Candle Proceeds.
- The Trip Includes airline, ground transportation and meals in Washington DC.
- Road to Remembrance Agenda and Timing:
  - Leave T.F. Green to BWI on S.W. Airlines Sunday early Morning May 20, 2007.
  - Visit US Holocaust Museum Sunday Morning.
  - Kosher Luncheon at the Holocaust Museum.
  - Visit World War II Memorial.
  - Return to BWI by 6:30 PM to depart on a late evening flight.

### **Road to Remembrance Contest Eligibility requirements:**

- Open to all Temple Israel students and USY members ages 15-18.
- To determine our trip winners, the best 4 essays will be selected by TI Brotherhood's Shoah committee, Our Rabbis and other distinguished TI Members.
- The 4 Best essays will be reprinted in the Summer 2007 edition of the LUACH.

### **Essay Topics can include:**

- Survivor eyewitness Testimonies or Liberator Testimonies and how it affected their lives.
- Survivor Stories of Post War Struggles and Triumph rebuilding Jewish families in America
- From Shoah to Independence – Israel's Post war Role providing a safe homeland for all Jewish refugees.
- Lessons learned from the Holocaust for future generations (Euthanasia, Anti Semitism, racial , gender or religious discrimination, fascism etc)
- Righteous Gentiles who risked their lives to help their Jewish countryman survive.
- "Are All Jews responsible for one another"?
- Children of the Holocaust – Growing up with Survivors.

### **Submit your type written Holocaust topic Essay (not to exceed 5 type written pages)**

#### **No later than April 15, 2007 to:**

Temple Israel Brotherhood  
Road to Remembrance Contest  
Att: Irv Kempner  
125 Pond Street  
Sharon, Ma 02067

- Any questions regarding the Road To Remembrance program please
- contact Irv Kempner at [Ikempner@aol.com](mailto:Ikempner@aol.com) or 781-784-0917