- Torch Award Entry: **TA11- 010**
- Full Title of Entry: **Teaching Our Children About Tefillin and the Minyan**
- Entry Category:
  ___ Men's Club Shabbat___ Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle___ Israel / Masorti
  ___ Hebrew Literacy / Ritual Literacy___ Hearing Men's Voices___ Men's Health
  __X_ Youth Programming___ Programs for Young Men (21-40)_**X World Wide Wrap**
  ___ Shomrei Ha'aretz **___**Club Administration___ Non-FJMC Program
  ___Best Overall Programming
  ___ I'm not sure, so please select for our club's submission.
- Contact Person: **Hal Freed**
- Email address for Contact Person: **hiphal2@comcast.net**
- Club number & Club name: **Club #1150, Har Shalom Men's Club**
- Number of club members: **150**
- Synagogue name, city and state: **Congregation Har Shalom, Potomac, Maryland**
- Club President name (at time of entry): **Joe Kromash**
- Club President name (at time of convention): **Joe Kromash**
- Person preparing entry: **David Silver**
- Email address of person preparing: **davidgsilver@gmail.com**

Part II. Summary Information:

The Har Shalom Men's Club has developed with our synagogue a multifaceted program to teach our children and congregants about tefillin and the minyan. The program includes a Family Education Program, a Learning Minyan, and the World Wide Wrap. The program has expanded the synagogue's education program for our children and increased admiration for the Men's Club amongst the clergy, synagogue professionals, lay leadership and the congregation.

Part III. By submitting this document, I certify, on behalf of the club, that this submission has not been submitted by our club for a Torch Award in a previous year. Hal Freed, submitter and Past President, Har Shalom Men's Club

Part IV. Entry Documentation

The Har Shalom Men's Club started developing a program to teach children about tefillin and the minyan in the fall of 2009. We wanted to expand the one day a year World Wide Wrap event and provide enhanced education about tefillin for our children. We started by meeting with our Hazzan, Rabbi, the Religious School Director, and lay leadership, including the Chairpersons of the Religious Activities and Religious School Committees. All were excited with the idea. A three part program was developed, including a Learner's Minyan, a Family Education Program and the World Wide Wrap.

The Learner's Minyan was designed to teach our seventh grade students and became an extension of B'nai Mitzvah training in tefillin and the Shacharit service. The Learner's Minyan was opened to adults as well as children and was held on Sunday mornings starting in January 2010. During the minyan Men's Club members assisted the Hazzan with teaching the prayers and teaching the students how to lay tefillin.

In order to facilitate the Family Education Program, model tefillin kits were purchased for our sixth grade students through the FJMC's Build-A-Pair Program. We worked with our Rabbi and structured a family education program for our sixth grade students and their parents. This took place on January 24, 2010. Our Rabbi led the program, which taught the meaning of tefillin and how they are used. An FJMC film about how tefillin are produced in Israel was shown. The students then constructed and decorated their own model tefillin using the Build -A-Pair kits. While the students built and decorated their tefillin, the Rabbi gave the parents a lesson on the mezuzah. The program was well received by all.

The sixth grade students joined the learner's minyan the week after the Family Education Program. The sixth and seventh grade students all joined the Men's Club for the World Wide Wrap, which was combined with the Learner's and standard congregational minyans. The Shacharit Service focused on tefillin and was lead by the Rabbi and the Hazzan with assistance from the Men's Club. Over seventy sixth and seventh grade students, their parents, and members of the congregation participated. The Men's Club provided refreshments afterwards as all got a chance to kvell over our children and the Men's Club.

In fall of 2010, the program was expanded to include the fifth grade. The seventh grade students continued their participation in the Learner's Minyan. The sixth grade students were taught about tefillin and also joined the Learner's Minyan. The Men's Club constructed its own model Tefillin kits, which were built and decorated by the fifth grade students during a class session organized for that purpose. The World Wide Wrap was again led by the Hazzan and Rabbi with assistance from the Men's Club. All of the fifth, sixth and seventh grade students participated along with their parents and the congregation. The Men's Club again provided refreshments, and all enjoyed the day. The program has now been fully incorporated into the school curriculum.

To summarize, Men's Club worked closely with the clergy, the Religious School Director, and various lay leaders in designing and implementing this program. After two years, the program has become an important part of our students' education. It has raised the image of the Men's Club in the eyes of our younger congregants, and bonded our relations with the clergy, synagogue professionals and lay leadership. The program was publicized in the Har Shalom *TABLET*. An article and photos are provided in the attached Appendix.

Appendix: **Article and Photos, TA11-010, Teaching Our Children About Tefillin and the Minyan**

Appendix: Article and Photos

The TABLET
HAR הר שלום SHALOM
February 2010 | Volume 46, Issue 7 | Shevat/Adar 5770

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club: 301-299-7087, ext. 411 • Email: *MensClub@harshalom.org* • Hal Freed, President

Annual World Wide Wrap - *Tefillin*, *Minyan* for our Children

On Sunday morning, February 21, Har Shalom will participate in the Federation of Jewish Men's Club's "World Wide Wrap"(WWW). Men's Clubs and children all over the world will put on *tefillin* to help pass down this tradition from generation to generation.

In conjunction with the World Wide Wrap, every Sunday for the past three months Hazzan Henrique Ozur Bass has been teaching the seventh grade students how to put on *tefillin*. The *hazzan* has established a new "Learning *Minyan*" for the seventh grade students, which meets from 9:00-10:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Burke Sanctuary. Seventh grade parents are invited to pray and learn with the students. The *hazzan* believes that the Learning *Minyan*, with its participatory tunes and activities, will enhance the spiritual understanding of the morning prayers. The goal is to create a community around the prayers and symbols that define the morning service, and to develop a sense of spiritual connection to Har Shalom.

In addition to the seventh grade students, the sixth grade students will join the Learning *Minyan* starting on January 31. The parents of the sixth grade students are also invited to join their children.

This year's "Sixth Grade Family Education Program" will take place from 10:00 am-12:00 noon on Sunday, January 24. The program, developed by Religious School Director Mindy Blonder and Rabbi Neil Zuckerman, will also be focused on *tefillin*. The rabbi will lead the program, which will teach the importance of *tefillin* and its construction. The students will build their own sets of learning *tefillin*, obtained from the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs.

All Har Shalom parents, grandparents, and congregants are invited to participate in the Men's Club World Wide Wrap on February 21. Bring your kids/grandkids and join Men's Club members and Har Shalom's sixth and seventh grade students as we refresh our skills and practice the *mitzvah* of putting on *tefillin*. Refreshments will follow the program.