

- Torch Award Submission: **TA11- 013**
- Full Title of Entry: **The BOYZ Club for Younger Members**
- Entry Category:
 - ___ Men's Club Shabbat___ Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle___ Israel / Masorti
 - ___ Hebrew Literacy / Ritual Literacy___ Hearing Men's Voices **X Men's Health**
 - ___ Youth Programming **X Programs for Young Men (21-40)** _ 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: **Lloyd Malech**
- Email address of person preparing: **Malechlaw@aol.com**

Part II. Summary Information

The Har Shalom Men's Club has several programs focused on the needs of our younger members, including Kids 'N Dads outings for younger fathers and their children, and adult education classes addressing the subject of raising young Jewish children. One of our most successful programs, The BOYZ Club, provides a unique opportunity for young Jewish men to get together with others on a regular basis for informal social activities. Open to all young men of the congregation, it has been a source of new club members, and leaders on the Board of Directors.

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, Past President.

Part IV. Entry Documentation

Several years ago, a group of the younger Men's Club's members got together for dinner. Afterward they decided to go to a movie. No one remembers where they ate or what movie they saw. But, from that casual get together, evolved the BOYZ Club, a group of younger men, in their 30's, 40's and early 50's, who meet on a monthly basis for dinner and a movie or a game of poker. Usually these two activities rotate; one month poker, the next dinner and a movie.

The goal of the BOYZ Club is two-fold. First and foremost, the BOYZ Club provides an

opportunity for the younger men of the synagogue to get out of the house one evening a month for some fun with other Jewish guys. The second goal is to become more involved in the Men's Club and the Har Shalom community. There are many young men who are not involved in the synagogue community other than sending their kids to the religious school and attending services on an irregular basis. All have busy and involved lives nurturing their careers and taking care of their families. Their time is valuable. It is these men that the Boyz Club is directing its attention toward in the spirit of getting them more socially active with other Jewish men.

In addition to the monthly poker games and dinner and movie nights, the BOYZ Club members participate in our Kids 'N Dads outings to minor league baseball games, bike rides, bowling, and laser tag. Besides being a lot of fun, these events show our kids how enjoyable being active in synagogue life can be. What a positive message!

The BOYZ Club hosts evening social events with their wives such as dessert nights and wine tastings, either at a hosting family's home or in the social hall of the synagogue. The Zahava girls, a similar group of younger women active in the Sisterhood, often co-sponsor these evening social events. The activities are numerous and fun. Plans are currently in work to organize a BOYZ Club roadtrip to the Charlestown Races and Casino in nearby West Virginia.

In 2009, the Men's Club created a position on the Board of Directors for the BOYZ Club. Reflecting the scope of the job to organize and run the program, the position was raised this year to that of Vice President. The BOYZ Club has brought younger men into other activities of the Club. The Kids 'N Dads activities provide an opportunity for the younger men to have quality time with their children while socializing with other young Jewish men. Many BOYZ Club members have become a part of the Kitchen Boys, a group that makes the food for our monthly Sunday Brunches. Interestingly, the older guys in the Men's Club have taken a page from the young guys' playbook. They have started their own social activities section of the Men's Club called the AK Club or "Adult Kids" Club and are having dinner and theatre nights, golf and other outings.

The future of Judaism is in our younger men, women and children. The future of the Men's Club is contingent on getting new young members involved and developing future leaders. The Har Shalom Men's Club has been successful with the BOYZ Club as one way to achieve this goal. We will continue the BOYZ Club in the coming years with new and enriching activities.

Appendix: Articles and Photos, Torch Award Entry TA11-013, The *BOYZ Club* for Younger Members

The **TABLET**

March 2011

MEN'S CLUB

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

Dinner and a Trip to See "True Grit" Were February Highlights

The BOYZ Club had a great night out in February at the well-attended "Dinner and a Movie Night." After meeting for dinner in Bethesda, the BOYZ trekked across the street to the see "True Grit." That Jeff Bridges! Who knows, maybe he'll win the Oscar for Best Actor!

We are happy to announce that The BOYZ Club has been seeing more and more interest in our events. If you are a guy in your thirties, forties, or early fifties and are looking to get out of the house or office one evening a month, come join us. You do not have to be active in the Men's Club or in Har Shalom to join. It's a great way to meet new friends and network among the other younger guys in your Har Shalom community. For more information, contact the Men's Club at the phone number or email address above this article.



Z'HAVAH SISTERHOOD

Z'havah Sisterhood: 301-299-7087, ext. 410 • Email:
ZhavahSisterhood@harshalom.org • Susan Grant, Chairman

Z'havah and BOYZ Club Present:
A POTLUCK DESSERT NIGHT OUT
Saturday, March 12, 2011 — 8:00 pm to ?



Bring your spouse,
significant other,
or come alone,
and share your evening
with other people
in their 30s, 40s,
and early 50s.

*Bring your favorite dessert to share
or a bottle of wine.*

Event held at the home of
Lesley and Ron Cooper
(address will be sent to you when you RSVP)

RSVP by March 9
to

Susan Grant at zhavahsisterhood@harshalom.org

(Indicate if you will bring wine or dessert;
please specify what kind of dessert you will bring.)

