

Torch Award Submission: **TA11- 050**

- Full Title of Entry (80 char max): Men's Club Scholar in Residence – A Collaborative Event
- Entry Category (You can select up to 2, although you will only win in one):
 - Men's Club Shabbat Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle Israel / Masorti Hebrew Literacy / Ritual Literacy
 - Hearing Men's Voices Men's Health Youth Programming Programs for Young Men (21-40)
 - World Wide Wrap Shomrei Ha'aretz Club Administration Non-FJMC Program
 - Best Overall Programming* [*Best Overall Programming is not on the basis of a single program, but your club's entire year. A single program submitted in this category will be re-categorized.]
 - I'm not sure, so please select for our club's submission.
- Contact Person: Gary Katz
- Email address for Contact Person: gary.katz@csun.edu
- Club number & Club name: [#1036 – Temple Etz Chaim Men's Club]
[Is it a Men's Club or a Brotherhood? Please specify]
- Number of club members: 76
- Synagogue name, city and state: Temple Etz Chaim, Thousand Oaks, CA
- Club President name (at time of entry): Gary Katz
- Club President name (at time of convention): Gary Katz
- Person preparing entry: Gary Katz
- Email address of person preparing: gary.katz@csun.edu

Part II. Summary Information (2 – 3 sentences):

Over the past ten years, Temple Etz Chaim's Men's Club has sponsored a Scholar in Residence Weekend once yearly whereby we bring an eminent scholar or speaker to our community for a weekend of learning. As the expectations of our temple members have increased with the caliber of speakers we have been brought to campus, we have found it difficult to financially afford upper-echelon speakers. This Torch Award documents creative ways we have collaborated to bring such eminent scholars as Rabbi Bradley Artson to our synagogue.

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.

This program has not been submitted for a Torch Award in a previous year.

Part IV. Entry Documentation

After many years of deliberation and planning, Marc Firestone started the Temple Etz Chaim Scholar in Residence Weekend in 2001 with Rabbi Neal Weinberg as our inaugural scholar. At this weekend, Men's Club Members plan and participate in the entire Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Morning Services. In addition, we plan a Shabbat Dinner at the temple in honor of the scholar on Friday night, a wine-and-cheese reception and keynote speech on Saturday evening, as well as a Sunday morning brunch and talk. This format has been in place since 2001. Since then, we have had ten phenomenal scholars:

- 2001 Rabbi Neal Weinberg
- 2002 Rabbi David Booth
- 2003 Dr. Jonathan Sarna
- 2004 Dr. Leonard Felder
- 2005 Dr. Michael Berenbaum
- 2006 Professor Laurie Levenson
- 2007 Dr. Gerald Schroeder
- 2008 Rabbi Michael Gold
- 2009 Dr. Stephen Berk
- 2010 Dr. Judith Hauptman

Coinciding with our Temple's 50th Anniversary, we were interested in making our 10th Anniversary Scholar in Residence Weekend a weekend to remember. We were able to engage Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson for an entire weekend, at a significant cost. The fact that Rabbi Artson would be speaking at the 2011 FJMC Convention was a natural tie-in to our Men's Club weekend as well.

With the instrumental support of our congregational Rabbi, we were able to defray nearly half of the cost of Rabbi Artson's speaking fees; it was up to the Men's Club to raise the remaining funds to pull off this fantastic weekend. To this end, we planned an entire fund-raising campaign designed to bring in as broad a range of supporters and participants in the weekend as possible. We sent out donation letters to the entire congregation and sought out financial support with the "hook" that donors above a certain level would be invited to all of the weekend events without charge. In addition, our highest-level donors would be seated at a table with Rabbi Artson at our Friday night dinner. To bring in additional revenue, we put on a silent auction that was held after the Saturday evening keynote address where we were able to auction off items as "inexpensive" as pizzas from a local pizzeria and as "extravagant" as a reserved High Holy Day parking spot at our temple (graciously donated by our synagogue) which has gone for \$1000 (for the fourth year in a row). At the other end of the spectrum, we charged "as little as possible" for the Saturday wine-and-cheese reception (\$18 per couple) and even less for the Sunday brunch (\$6 for Men's Club Members, \$8 for non-members).

Aside from the obvious financial collaboration with Rabbi Richard Spiegel, our Temple rabbi who has been extraordinary supportive and thankful for our strong Men's Club, we also collaborated with temple administrators (for the High Holy Day Parking Spot), the Temple Sisterhood (who personally donated wine for the reception and prepared the Shabbat Dinner, Oneg, and Saturday Kiddush luncheon). It is this collaboration among temple clergy, administration, and auxiliaries that make this weekend a phenomenal event for our Men's Club Members, our Temple Members, and our community at large.

Appendix Follows

TEC Men's Club is Proud to Sponsor
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

BETTER LIVING THROUGH JUDAISM

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 – SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Featuring

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, DHL

Our scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, DHL, is the Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

Rabbi Artson has grown the Ziegler School from 45 students to almost 80 students from across North America, Brazil, Austria, England and Uganda. He is also VP of American Jewish University. Rabbi Artson is a world-renown academic, author and speaker and has been recognized as an outstanding humanitarian and rabbi.



EVENT	LECTURE TOPIC
<p>Shabbat Service - Fri, March 4, 7:30 pm Followed by Oneg Shabbat</p>	<p>Safari on the Nile: When I Installed Uganda's First African Chief Rabbi</p>
<p>Shabbat Service - Sat, March 5, 10:00 am Followed by Kiddush Luncheon</p>	<p>The Faith and Future of Conservative Judaism</p>
<p>Wine & Cheese Reception - Sat, March 5, 7:30 pm \$10 per person / \$18 per couple Complimentary for SIR Weekend Sponsors</p>	<p>Almighty, No Way! Loving the G-d You Already Know</p>
<p>Sunday Brunch, March 6, 10:30 am \$6 for Men's Club members / \$8 for non-members Complimentary for SIR Weekend Sponsors</p>	<p>What I Learned From My Autistic Son</p>