



So I told my son, “You were stopped by the Sephardic Rabbi at the entrance of the plaza, and he helped you put on tefillin before praying at the Kotel.”

Evan asked, “How did you know? You just saw this picture, and I didn’t say anything about this beforehand.”

## Part 1 - Identification Information

Submission Identifier Code: **215**

Full Title for Entry: **Ashkenazi & Sephardic WORLD WIDE WRAP**

Entry Category: **FJMC Program**

Contact Person to be listed on Torch Award CD: **Jerry Appleby**

E-mail address to be listed on Torch Award CD: [pilonihu@aol.com](mailto:pilonihu@aol.com)

Club Number & Club Name: 1041 – **Temple Aliyah Men's Club**

Number of Club Members: **125**

Synagogue Name, city and state: **Temple Aliyah, Woodland Hills, CA**

Club President (at time of entry): **Jerry Ross**

Club President (at time of convention): **Jerry Appleby**

Person preparing entry: **Jerry Appleby & Jerry Ross**

E-mail address of person preparing entry: [pilonihu@aol.com](mailto:pilonihu@aol.com),  
[jross@harmonyartists.com](mailto:jross@harmonyartists.com)

Date of entry submission: **April 12, 2007**

## Part II - Summary

Differentiating this year's World Wide Wrap with an explanation on the differences between tefillin for Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews and the variation when putting on tefillin.

### Part III - Self Assessment of Entry

1. *Assess program procedural completeness and achievement of program goals.*  
We learned, we prayed, we ate. A very thorough and enjoyable WORLD WIDE WRAP.
2. *Explain presentation and documentation completeness.*  
Every Sunday morning, Temple Aliyah has a tallit and tefillin service. This service differed in that we advertised that it was part of a World Wide event. Ben and Jerry gave a brief explanation and showed the differences between Ashkenazi and Sephardic tefillin. Also differentiating from the norm was that after the service, the Men's Club provided breakfast to all attendees.
3. *Achievements of program goals, publicity, marketing and advanced planning.*  
The program goal of having Temple Aliyah participate in the World Wide Wrap was not only met, but exceeded. We did more than what is the stated FJMC procedure for this event. Members of the Temple were informed of the event by notices in the Temple bulletin, flyers and posters at the Temple. FJMC does a great job in publicizing the fact that the World Wide Wrap is on Super Bowl Sunday, so we had plenty of advance planning opportunity. Jerry Ross, our Men's Club president also mentioned the success of this program in the following month's issue of the Temple Aliyah Voice.
4. *Does the program enhance the image of the FJMC, region and/or your club?*  
Yes, for all. Most of Men's Club functions focus either on social or service activities. The World Wide Wrap encourages more people to participate in a religious activity that they may not do otherwise.
5. *Did you include information so other clubs can use this program?*  
The photos and captions attached may be distributed to other clubs. Information on the World Wide Wrap can be found at: <http://www.worldwidewrap.org/>
6. *What is its value in club building – number of named club members participating vs. club size and shul size?*  
This year our WORLD WIDE WRAP program provided brief and interesting training to the attendees, as well as offering the religious and social components. Many of the attendees were our Men's Club and/or religious services regulars. Additionally, some of the people who attended this program are Men's Club members who may not participate in any other event. Others who came were not Men's Club members and may not have ever put on tefillin before. This is only one in many programs and functions that Temple Aliyah Men's Club performs. All contribute to club building.

Temple Aliyah has approximately 850 member families and 140 paid Men's Club members. Some of our events, such as this year's World Wide Wrap with the added element of a teaching of the differences between Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews of the tefillin and what the variations are in putting them on makes us stand out from other Men's Clubs around the nation. We're fairly confident that no other club can boast about their Annual Family Day at the Races (in our case at Santa Anita Race Track) a wonderful family event coordinated by the Men's Club. Or Automatic Electronic Defibrillator training for the Men's Club Head Ushers (who get over 100 people to volunteer to serve as ushers during the High Holidays. The AED was donated to the Temple by Sisterhood.). Or a speakers series that included a talk by a radio personality on Spiritual Politics or a very lively discussion

with the Executive Director (a Rabbi) of the Human Relations Commission for the City of Los Angeles. Or a Purim Carnival that featured a Super Loop that was 70 feet high and could be seen from miles away, with Temple Aliyah Men's Club running the best Purim Carnival in Southern California, and getting dozens of volunteers to staff the game booths and cook and take orders at the Food Pavilion! (Did you know that among other delicacies we prepared and sold over 300 pounds of French fries and 500 ears of roasted corn?!!!!) Did anyone else mention hosting a pancake breakfast, as a new member welcome event, and then another breakfast for the traditional feast for the "Fast of the First Born?" And speaking of feeding our community, hundreds attend our annual "Feast Before the Fast" on the Saturday night between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

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

Our World Wide Wrap program had four different members of Men's Club leading the training, praying and preparing the food. We also had dozens of people participate in the service. Having a vibrant, participatory event such as this can encourage attendees to become more active and strive to assume officer positions. The Men's Club president sits on the Executive Committee of the Board of Temple Aliyah and attends the FJMC regional meetings.

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 photo of the boy at the Kotel was taken eleven years ago, while he was on an intensive learning program ("ulpan") for the summer. Twenty-nine years earlier, in June 1967, I, too, was on an ulpan, and was one the first Jews to go the Kotel since 1948. Among the things that are ingrained in my memory of that day is seeing the different way tefillin were wrapped. I had never seen the Sephardic method before. Having been to Israel and visiting the Kotel many times since then, I've witnessed the rabbis and Chabadnics coercing visitors to put on tefillin. I wasn't psychic when I told Evan about the Sephardic rabbi, I just saw his hand in the photo!

All the clergy at Temple Aliyah (2 rabbis and 2 cantors) are Ashkenazi, and the Temple follows traditional Conservative Ashkenazi practices. However, we are blessed with a diverse membership, including a significant number from Israel and Iran. I thought it would be interesting for the Temple members to know why Ben and I put on tefillin differently, and that there is even a difference in the tefillin itself.

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 source of the programs will be most pleased to know that their efforts have borne fruit.*

This Ashkenazi versus Sephardic tefillin training is not an adaptation of a previous Torch Award.

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

The World Wide Wrap has lead and hosted 100% by Men's Club.

#### Part IV - Entry documentation:

The World Wide Wrap was a great beginning to Super Bowl Sunday. A number of us celebrated the mitzvah of laying tefillin and davening Shacharit. Some of the attendees had never put on tefillin before. Spare tefillin were provided by Cantor Harris and those that needed were taught by Men's Club on how to put them on.

Thanks to Ben Aminnia and Jerry Appleby for explaining the difference between Ashkenazi and Sephardic methods, and Ben and Nick Rosenthal for leading the service. Then we celebrated the joy of lox, bagels and smoked fish on a Sunday morning. Thanks to Sandy Schwartz who took care of feeding us all.



**Quite a visible difference between the wrapping of the hand for Sephardic and Ashkenazi tefillin.**



**Ashkenazi tefillin will tighten on the (left) arm when wound counter-clockwise.  
Sephardic tefillin tighten and are wound clockwise.**



**Rabbi Jennifer Flam and Hazzan Mike Stein join some of the members of the Temple Aliyah Men's Club in this year's WORLD WIDE WRAP.**

**Yes, this is an actual photo taken on the morning of February 4, 2007, and it was about 80° in Woodland Hills, California.**

**Only a few of the participants stayed for the photo. It was a nice day, so after a little study, prayer and food ... they left!**