2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

Before you submit this application, please print out and review the "2015 Torch Awards Overview," available on the FJMC website.

Please complete the following information. The font for all submissions should be Times New Roman. Please embed photographs of your program into this file. This completed document will be submitted to us as a Word file, named in the format: “FJMC TA 2015_ChapterName_ProgramName.doc”

Please email your completed application to: torchaward.fjmc.2015@gmail.com. If you have difficulty, please contact the Torch Award Co-Chairs for assistance at the above email address.

Clubs participating must be in good standing as of March 31, 2015 (Club dues and Membership list received by FJMC). Programs to be considered for an award must have taken place between April 1, 2013 and April 15, 2015. Entries must be received by April 22, 2015.

Section 1: Title

Club Name: Shomrei Torah #1058
Current Contact: Gavin Rosenberg
Program Name: Insurance Policies

Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form
First Name: Gavin
Last Name: Rosenberg
E-Mail: gavrose@pobox.com

Club President at time of Convention
First Name: Charly
Last Name: Levy
E-Mail: charlyslevy@gmail.com

Current Club President
First Name: Ron
Last Name: Freeman
E-Mail: Ronfreeman@socal.rr.com
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Section 3: Category

Please choose up to two (2) selections. Please note, you can only win in one category. The co-chairs reserve the right to reclassify your program.

☐ Club Administration
☐ Community Outreach
☐ FJMC Other
☐ Fundraising
☐ Health and Wellness
☐ Hearing Men’s Voices
☐ Jewish Observance
☐ Israel / Masorti
☐ Keruv
☐ Men’s Club Shabbat
☐ Programming for Younger Men
☐ Shomrei Ha’aretz
☐ Synagogue Service Project
☐ World Wide Wrap
☐ Youth Programming
☐ Shoah Yellow Candle
☐ I’m not sure, select for our club
☐ **Best Overall Activities** **To apply for this award, please see specific instructions in “2015 Torch Award Overview,” available on FJMC website**

Section 4: Program overview

Brief Summary - Please explain your program in 2-3 sentences.

For 10+ years our STS Men’s Club have hosted a comedy evening at Shomrei Torah on Xmas Eve. Every year we attract ~200 people from our community for an evening of laughter. Other than having a great time our club raises funds by charging an entrance fee followed by a live auction. This year we decided to change the process, other than an entrance fee we wanted to raise money prior to the evening through sponsorship. This was achieved by offering Insurance Policies that benefited primarily the youth at Shomrei Torah.
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Detailed Summary - Please answer the following questions. Be as detailed as possible.

- What were the goals of your program? Are there specific problems or challenges that it addresses?
- How does your program enhance the image of FJMC, your region, and your club?
- What is its value in building or strengthening your club?
- Who is your target audience? (i.e. congregation at large, chapter, community)?
- How does your program support FJMC’s mission, Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life?
- Describe the source of your program and its unique aspects. Is this an original program or an adaptation or enhancement of a previous program (if so, which one)?
- Please attach planning and marketing materials, as well as budgetary planning so the program can be replicated by other clubs.

Simply stated our men’s club has a need to raise funds for operational expenses. We donate a significant percentage of our intake of funds to youth programming and we encourage our youth to participate in youth activities outside of the synagogue. In the past we have been somewhat successful raising money. We charge an entrance for all to attend comedy night, and this offsets the cost for the 4 professional comedians, dacor, food, sound and lighting. Our experience has been that a live auction is like “extracting teeth” and we decided to move in a different direction for 2014.

A decision was made to offer sponsorship well in advance of the event. Secondly we wanted to reach out to those that have a vested interest in Shomrei Torah and possibly would not attend Comedy Night.

The idea came about after discussing this with a USY student at Shomrei. She stated that by raising and donating funds to our youth we were in essence purchasing an Insurance Policy. A decision was made to offer a number of Insurance Policies for a face values of either $25.00 or $50.00. All the money that we received when an Insurance Policy was purchased were earmarked to that specific need.
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GOLD INSURANCE PLAN $50.00  SILVER INSURANCE PLAN $25.00

USY Gold Insurance Policy: Ensure that all our youth have the opportunity to attend engaging programs.

Ambassador Gold Insurance Policy: Youth Israel Education and opportunity to attend AIPAC Policy Conference.

Summer Camps Gold Insurance Policy: The cost to attend Jewish summer camps continues to climb. Our goal – help every child

Israel Gold Insurance Policy: Encourage our youth to visit Israel.

Young Adults Gold insurance Policy: Done with college – help keep them connected to Judaism.

Men’s Club Gold Insurance Policy: We do good deeds year round.

We asked our members to get involved and reach out to our community. We were fortunate that the program was very well received and that many members of the community were very generous, purchasing many multiples of policies. There were those that selected the one Insurance Policy that was closes to their heart and others that selected all. All in all we as a club raised more money that evening than we can recall from any other event.

The community is very much aware that one of the missions of our men’s club is to raise financial awareness for the youth needs at our synagogue.

After the event, the community approached our leadership and those running the event that this was their favorite Comedy Night for a number of reasons: 1: The comedians were terrific. 2: The ambiance was wonderful. 3:We did not ask for any money at the event.

We absolutely support involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life – many of our club members were present at the event, volunteering and ensuring that our focus is on just the club but the future generations of the Jews in America.
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## Section 5: Certification

I certify that my club has not won a Gold Torch Award for essentially the same program in a previous year. (Previous silver and bronze winners in this category that submit an enhanced application only qualify to be considered for a Gold Torch award.)

Certification: Initials: GR
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Section 6: Pictures
Section 7: Video

If possible, we ask that you please create a 3-5 minute video describing your program. Feel free to be creative in your submission, but try to include the following components:
- brief introduction, including name and goal of the program
- how did you encourage participation in the program
- how did you make the program meaningful to participants
- impact of the program to your club, synagogue and community

**DO NOT ATTACH VIDEO TO THIS APPLICATION.** Files are to be uploaded directly to YouTube, named in the following format:

“FJMC Torch Awards 2015_ChapterName_ProgramName_#”

Please review detailed instructions in the document “2015 Torch Award Overview.”

**REPLACE/INSERT YOUR VIDEO URL(S) HERE***