

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: Beth El Temple Men's Club and The Emanuel Synagogue Brotherhood

Current Contact: Dave Diamond (Beth El) and Don Miller (Emanuel)

Program Name: Minyan on the Mountain and Breakfast

Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form

First Name: Dave

Last Name: Diamond

E-Mail: daviddiamond2@comcast.net

Club President at time of Convention

First Name: Jacob (Beth El) and Don (Emanuel)

Last Name: Kovel (Beth El) and Miller (Emanuel)

E-Mail: eaglewars@aol.com (Jacob) and donmiller@kualumni.org

Current Club President

First Name: Jacob (Beth El) and Don (Emanuel)

Last Name: Kovel (Beth El) and Miller (Emanuel)

E-Mail: eaglewars@aol.com (Jacob) and donmiller@kualumni.org

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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

This was a collaboration of the Men’s Clubs from the two largest conservative shuls in the Hartford, CT area to offer a meaningful Sunday morning minyan experience in a nontraditional setting, while promoting health and wellness, and a social opportunity. Participants met at a parking area about 15 minutes from each shul on a Sunday morning and took an easy 30 minute hike to an open area where the Executive and Ritual Director of Beth El Temple led an inspiring minyan service. We then hiked several minutes to an area with picnic tables where we enjoyed a full breakfast buffet, and then had the opportunity to walk to the top of a tower with breathtaking views covering over 50 miles.

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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? This program had multiple goals including:
 1. Both Men's Clubs to offer something different than the typical Sunday morning breakfast buffet at their respective shuls followed by a speaker.
 2. Provide a meaningful minyan experience to those who do not regularly attend minyan and an alternative to those who are regular attendees.
 3. An excuse to get some exercise.
 4. An opportunity for members to connect with others from each of the shuls and to enjoy a full kosher breakfast buffet nearly 1,000 feet above ground with breathtaking views.

This program addressed the challenges of lack of interest and appreciation of minyan as well as not getting enough exercise.

- How does your program enhance the image of FJMC, your region, and your club?
This program is an example of how affiliated FJMC Men's Clubs can collaborate to the benefit of each shul and the community. This is also a testament to strength of our region as well as each of our clubs.
- What is its value in building or strengthening your club?
This program attracted participants who have not attended any programs in the past from either shul. It increased our circles of influence and potentially could attract future members or leaders of each of our clubs.
- Who is your target audience? (i.e. congregation at large, chapter, community)?
Our target audience is not only our respective clubs, but our entire shuls and community. This program was publicized both at our internal shuls as well as externally.
- How does your program support FJMC's mission, Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life?
This was an innovative program for the community to connect Jewish men. While the focus was the morning minyan, the additional combination of hiking, breakfast, breathtaking views, and camaraderie attracted people that would not ordinarily be interested in just a minyan.
- 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)?
While this was an original program for each Men's Club, the idea came from the "Minyan in the Grove" held at the annual Retreat at Camp Ramah sponsored by the New England Region of the FJMC. This service, which had been attended by both organizers, is held in a beautiful setting on a lake. We agreed that bringing something to our community, in a different but equally beautiful and inspiring setting, would be exciting.

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- Please attach planning and marketing materials, as well as budgetary planning so the program can be replicated by other clubs.

The planning started with agreeing on a date that worked for both shuls. We originally decided on a Sunday in October 2013, near the height of fall foliage in our area. Due to heavy rain in the days leading up to the hike, we postponed until early June and chose a rain date.

We agreed that Beth El would handle ritual, while Emanuel would handle all refreshments and supplies. One of the Emanuel Brotherhood members is in the food wholesale business, so he provided all the food at cost. Between that and team of volunteers meeting at 7:30am to prepare the food. The suggested donation of \$5 was to cover a portion of total expected costs, with the two clubs splitting the shortfall.

We looked into the possibility of being granted permission to have one vehicle use the private access road up to bring up all refreshments, supplies, prayer books, etc. If granted, we'd have the option to include several people who could not physically participate. However, we learned that the private road is solely for employees and emergency vehicles. We then solicited volunteers to bring back-packs to bring everything up, and most complied.

We were fortunate to have a beautiful day for the hike and minyan, and for available picnic tables to set up an impressive breakfast buffet spread.

Below is the "Treasurer's Report" from a post-event e-mail, updated with the final figures:

Expenses & income

Food for 40- we ended up with 30 people

Included plates, napkins, bagels, lox, cream cheese, tomatoes, onions, Danish , coffee, cups & other paper goods needed.

Expenses \$198.73

Income \$122.

Total expense \$76 or \$38 per group. It was a bit high because we didn't want to run out & we had to buy coffee (\$43 of expense)

I think that the day couldn't have gone much smoother.

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BETH EL MEN'S CLUB and EMANUEL BROTHERHOOD JOINT PROGRAM

For the Entire Community

Date: Sunday, June 1, 2014

Minyan on the Mountain and Breakfast



We invite you to join us for a hike to the Heublein Tower. Enjoy breathtaking views. We'll have a Sunday morning minyan followed by breakfast at the top of the mountain.

For those who want to return by noon, a group will start heading down after breakfast. If you wish to spend more time, including walking to the top of the Tower, the return back will be about 1:00.

- Meet:** Talcott Mountain State Park, Route 185, Simsbury
(diagonally opposite the entrance to Penwood State Park)
- Time:** 9:15am – Hike is about 30 minutes
- Cost:** Suggested Donation - \$5
- RSVP:** Steve Barshay: 860-232-6483/jsbarshay@gmail.com or
Joe Springut: 860-676-9878 / dr.EyesJoe@gmail.com
(by Tuesday, May 27th)

Rain Date: Sunday, June 8th

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Program Planning / Timeline - Please provide a timeline of the key tasks, participants, and responsibilities required in order to make this program work. This may be provided as an inserted table or you may replace and insert as an embedded Excel spreadsheet. Please be as detailed as possible, so that other groups may replicate your success.

Items listed below were primarily led by Dave Diamond and Don Miller.

August 2013 – Agree on program date after discussions with our boards and shul. Initially decided on 10/6/13.

August 2013 – Determine key program logistics: (1) leading minyan, (2) handling refreshment and supplies, (3) RSVP contacts and deadline, (4) bringing refreshments, supplies, and supplies up the mountain

Early September 2013 – Finalize program flyer, submit information for internal publicity for both shuls and for external publicity.

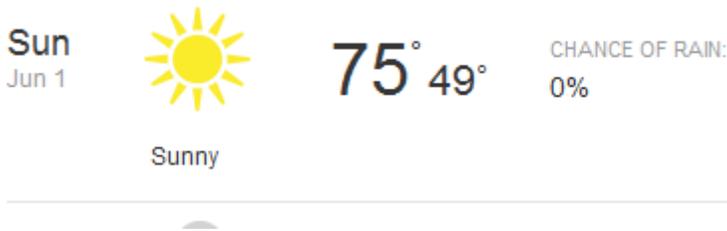
October 6, 2013 – Postponed event due to inclement weather.

January 2014 – Decided on rescheduled date and alternate rain date.

March 2014 - Finalize program flyer, submit information for internal publicity for both shuls and for external publicity.

May 2014 – Various discussions on program logistics, RSVP counts, etc.

Late May 2014 – Tracked the weather forecast daily, with continued optimism.



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.)

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Certification: Initials: DD and DM

Section 6: Pictures

For all non-Shabbat programs, please attach photographs of your program.



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Leadership Innovation Community



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Leadership Innovation Community



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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

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- 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****