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 West Hartford Men’s Club_#217
Current Contact: Martin Melnick
Program Name: Muslim and Jewish Birth and Death Practices

Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form
First Name: Martin
Last Name: Melnick
E-Mail: marty.melnick@gmail.com

Club President at time of Convention
First Name: Jacob
Last Name: Kovel
E-Mail: eaglewars@aol.com

Current Club President
First Name: same
Last Name: 
E-Mail: 
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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.

This original Keruv program was created for our Beth El Community to learn and be surprised by the many similarities between the Jewish and Moslem traditions. We have a large growing Muslim community and our children are going to school and working with this population. Dating and intermarriage discussion need to begin now. To create this program we worked through multiple agencies to make contacts and prepare content.

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?
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- 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.

The goal of this original program was to look at Keruv in a new light of adding the Muslim prospective and community to the Christian prospective and community that began the Keruv program. Christian Intermarriage has already created a major challenge for the Jewish community but the prospect of Muslim intermarriage is a scary thought to the Jewish community. Keruv programming provides a platform for bringing education, understanding and knowledge to our community.

The Hartford Seminary is one of the largest centers for Muslim and multi-cultural religious education in the USA. It attracts students from around the world. For the community the seminary brings in leading speakers to discuss the religious issues worldwide. I have been attending these seminars as part of my knowledge base for our temples Israeli Engagement committee. The Muslim community in Hartford is one of the fastest growing communities in Connecticut. It was this involvement that led to the concept of adding the Muslim prospective to our Keruv programming.

The Hartford Jewish Federation has a community outreach operation called JCRC. The JCRC created a monthly havurah of four Jewish and four Muslim couples that have been meeting monthly for the past two years. Each meeting discusses a topic to build on the understanding of each faith. Jewish leadership from this group suggested our first topic and than helped identify a Muslim representative Khamis Abu-Hasaballah, Ph.D. to share their customs. Rabbi Sowalsky from Beth El Temple covered the customs from the Jewish perspective.

The program had the following content.

Pregnancy/fetus/birth, and rituals after the birth during the 1st 30 days—comparing and also contrasting birth of men vs. women
Baby naming
Circumcision
Death—from health issues before passing, to how to deal with the body at passing
Honor for the dead, preparation and care of the body
Burial timing
Burial and cemetery rules
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Cremation, etc.
Morning customs
The survivors—the families—the different periods/customs of mourning through the initial
death/week/30 days/year

The speakers took questions during their presentations and at the end. A measure of a program’s success in how long the Q & A session goes on. We cut off questions 45 minutes after the program ended.

This program was designed to inform and educate our Beth El community, and our greater Hartford Community. It was promoted internally and externally to the community through flyers, email, mailed temple bulletin, press release of our flyer to the community.

The Beth El Men’s Club raised our visibility in our Temple and Greater Hartford community by creating and bring cutting edge programming to our community.

To create this program we worked community wide working with the Hartford Jewish Federation, The JCRC havurah, The Hartford Seminary and the Beth El Temple clergy.

To duplicate this program the chair needs to identify a qualified Muslim representative in their community. If the above resources are not available in your community ask your Rabbi for assistance. Most FJMC clubs are located in a community where the Rabbi’s belong to an interfaith council that should include Muslim clergy.

The program was in the form of a Men’s club breakfast and was very well attended.

Creating and running this program incorporated each of the focal of the FJMC.
Leadership: Beth El Temple Men’s Club was the first to develop a New Keruv program focusing on the Muslim community.
Innovation: Finding the resources necessary to create the content for this program.
Community: Created a topic that brought our greater Hartford community to a stronger understanding of the differences and similarity of the Muslim and Jewish community. Reached out to the institutions in our community to create to contacts and content to make an impact in our community.
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Committee/Assignee</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get approval from Temple Clergy</td>
<td>Club President</td>
<td>Before planning begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network with community resources</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>After clergy approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare program outline Modify</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Program approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Temple Calendar confirm</td>
<td>open dates</td>
<td>Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create each program flyer</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>60 days before Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve room for program</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>60 to 180 days before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit room layout</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>30 days before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit publicity to external publications</td>
<td>Publicity Chair</td>
<td>60 days before</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get Publicity into Temple bulletin</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>30 days before Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribute flyer to Temple board</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>30 days before program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Temple wide email blasts</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Two weeks before Prog.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi announcement on Shabbat</td>
<td>Club President</td>
<td>Shabbat before program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order food for program / optional</td>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>two days before</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: ____MM______

Section 6: Pictures

See below Program flyer placed on Temple Bulletin Board, Temple topics mailed to congregants, used in E-mail blasts and external publicity.
Muslim and Jewish Birth, Death and Mourning Customs
Khamis Abu-Hasaballah, Ph.D. and Rabbi Howard Sowalsky

Dr. Khamis Abu-Hasaballah is a Founding Member and President of the Board of Trustees of the Farmington Valley American Muslim Center in Avon.

Rabbi Sowalsky is the Ritual and Executive Director of Beth El Temple.

Please join us for a breakfast buffet followed by discussion of the similarities and differences in beginning and end of life topics such as baby naming and circumcision; and timing of funerals, preparation and care of the body, burial and cemetery rules, and mourning customs.

Place: Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Ave., West Hartford

Time: 8:45 Morning Minyan
      9:15 Breakfast Buffet and Program
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Cost: RSVP - $7 (No charge for Men’s Club members)
    Walk-ins - $10 ($5 for Men’s Club members)

RSVP: Joe Springut: 860-676-9878 / dr.EyesJoe@gmail.com by Mar. 5th
    (Contact Joe if you need a ride).

Beth El Temple

Sanctuary

Beverage Service

Breakfast
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***

Video will be provided upon request