



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 focals 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.

Task	Committee/Assignee	Due Date
Get approval from Temple Clergy	Club President	Before planning begins
Network with community resources	Program Chair	After clergy approval
Prepare program outline	Modify Program Chair	Program approval
Review Temple Calendar	confirm open dates	Planning
Create each program flyer	Program Chair	60 days before Program
Reserve room for program	Program Chair	60 to 180 days before
Submit room layout	Program Chair	30 days before
Submit publicity to external publications	– Publicity Chair	60 days before
Get Publicity into Temple bulletin	Program Chair	30 days before Program
Distribute flyer to Temple board	Program Chair	30 days before program
Two Temple wide email blasts	Program Chair	Two weeks before Prog.
Rabbi announcement on Shabbat	Club President	3 days before program.
Order food for program / optional	Program Chair	Shabbat before program two days before

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.

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BETH EL MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST PROGRAM

For the Entire Community

Sunday, March 8, 2015

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



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Muslim Speaker



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