



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: Park Synagogue Men's Club
Current Contact: Ross Goodman
Program Name: Men's Club Rabbi Study Session Series

Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form

First Name: Ross
Last Name: Goodman
E-Mail: goodmanrb@sbcglobal.net

Club President at time of Convention

First Name: Dan
Last Name: Silverstein
E-Mail: popman@roadrunner.com

Current Club President

First Name: Jeff
Last Name: Schneider
E-Mail: jms-sgc@ameritech.net

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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.

Our Rabbi provides study sessions with Men’s Club Members at different venues both at the Synagogue as well as offsite at a reserved room. Each session has a topic from the Torah/Talmud/Jewish Living that he relates to today and is made more interactive through a bit of knosh and spirits. It is an open discussion where he discusses the topic and then open’s it up for questions and comments.

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?

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- 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 sessions this year have been promoted as Rum and the Rabbi, Tequila, Tacos and Torah, and Erotica and Vodka. Rum and the Rabbi focused on different truths between Judaism and other religions; Tacos, Tequila and Torah focused on the 10 commandments; Erotica and Vodka focused on what Torah and Talmud teach about sexual relationships between husband and wives.

Each session was an interactive discussion between the Rabbi and Men’s club members of many ages. For example, Erotica and Vodka provided learning’s about the progressive guidance the Torah and Talmud provide for spouses that has been around for centuries.

Each session attracts between 25-30 men and not only provides relevant insight to us as Jewish today but also at the same time builds community amongst the Men’s Club members and the Rabbi. We have developed a relationship with the Rabbi that makes him much more approachable and one of us instead of being the “Rabbi” of the Temple.

We started the sessions in 2013-14 and have continued them with great success in 2014-2015. Myles Simpson attended the Rum and the Rabbi event that we held this year.

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	Responsible	Due Date
Define topic	Tom	12/1/14
Work with Rabbi to select date and content	Tom	12/8/14
Select venue for site	Danny	12/8/14
Select food and spirits for site	Danny	12/15/14
Promote event via Monthly Meeting and Weekly Wrap	Jeff	Ongoing
Setup website to collect	Tom	12/8/14

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payment		
Finalize numbers	Jeff	1/5/15
Hold event	All	1/27/15

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: _____ RSG _____

Section 6: Pictures

From Rabbi Study Session:



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From World Wide Wrap:



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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
- 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****