



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: Temple Israel of Sharon Brotherhood
Current Contact: Ronald Czik
Program Name: Temple Israel Brotherhood and Dor Hadash

Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form
First Name: Ronald
Last Name: Czik
E-Mail: ron.czik@gmail.com

Club President at time of Convention
First Name: Stephen
Last Name: Shrago
E-Mail: sshrago@yahoo.com

Current Club President
First Name: Noah
Last Name: Horowitz
E-Mail: arkcommander@gmail.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.

This program is about the relationship the Temple Israel Brotherhood of Sharon Massachusetts has created with the Masorti community of Dor Hadash in Budapest Israel.

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?

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- 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.

****REPLACE/INSERT YOUR TEXT HERE****

At the 2011 FJMC International Convention in Anaheim California, the then President of Masorti Europe, Gillian Caplin, presented the attendees with a problem and a challenge. The problem was that there are a number of small, conservative, Jewish groups throughout Europe that are under pressure due to a resurgence of anti-semitism, political opposition, growing anti-Israel propaganda and a lack of respect from other Jewish entities. The challenge she presented was for local FJMC clubs to partner with one of these communities. The outline was vague but the opportunities for meaningful impact large. The Brotherhood of Temple Israel in Sharon Massachusetts took up that challenge.

In 2012, working with the new President of Masorti Europe, Dr. Joanna Kubar, the community of Dor Hadash in Budapest Hungary was identified to partner with the Temple Israel Brotherhood. In the fall of that year a series of Skype calls were held between the leaders of Dor Hadash and two members of the Temple Israel Brotherhood, Ron Czik, then President of the Brotherhood, and Dr. Mark Popovsky. Over the next several months a bond between this group, based on trust and understanding, formed. In February of 2013 a breakthrough event occurred. At the annual World Wide Wrap organized by the FJMC, the Temple Israel Brotherhood invited members of the Dor Hadash to participate via an Internet video call. A Shacharit service was held with participation by both Dor Hadash and members of Temple Israel. For the first time members of the larger Temple Israel community and the larger Dor Hadash community had the opportunity to pray and learn with each other. It was clear that this partnership needed to move to the next level.

Working with FJMC, the Temple Israel Brotherhood invited two members of Dor Hadash, Adam Schonberger and Laszlo (Lasko) Bernath to visit the FJMC International Convention to be held in July of 2013 in Danvers Massachusetts. After the convention, Adam, Lasko, and Dr. Kubar stayed briefly in Sharon and a community wide event discussing Dor Hadash, Judaism in Hungary and Masorti movement in Europe was held. It was one of the most moving and meaningful events ever held at Temple Israel.

With the deepening friendships and understanding between Dor Hadash and the Temple Israel Brotherhood, a new set of projects and opportunities were discussed and agreed upon. They include: 1) connecting Sharon college- aged students with college-aged members of Dor Hadash; 2) under the FJMC umbrella , encourage educators and seminary students to “intern” in Budapest to teach Talmud and Jewish history to Dor Hadash members; 3) encourage Temple Israel members who may be traveling to Europe to visit Budapest and Dor Hadash, and 4) this June, members of the Temple Israel Brotherhood will visit and spend a Shabbat with Dor Hadash.

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To say that this partnership has been spiritually and emotionally rewarding would be a gross understatement. We believe this partnership is just beginning and can serve as a template and guide to help other FJMC clubs replicate their own partnerships with other Masorti communities throughout the world. It is our hope that this document helps in that endeavor.

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.

Replication by Other Men's Clubs and Masorti Communities

This section cites the lessons learned and provides some pointers we believe can help other FJMC clubs to replicate our success.

1. **It's a partnership.** From the very beginning we understood that for any chance to succeed in any relationship with a Jewish community outside of the United States, we would have to approach it as a partnership of equals. From our experience, we believe any American Jewish community will get much more out of partnering with a Masorti community than it can hope to give.
2. **Start with a strong American Jewish community.** Creating a partnership takes time, effort and commitment. It's important that any FJMC club that wants to enter in this do so with their eyes wide open and their calendars ready to be filled. You will need to learn about the community, set up Skype sessions, educate other members of your community, bring in resources when needed and take time to build relationships.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that only clubs with bench strength, those who can teach if needed and those who can take the time, enter into a partnership.

3. **Work with Masorti.** There are many Masorti communities in Europe and it's best to work with Masorti Europe to find the right community for your partnership. The Masorti leadership will act as the guide to get your journey started. They will coordinate setting up the partnership understanding the specific strengths and weaknesses of both sides. And they will make sure that the communities that need the partnerships the most get the attention they require.

So start with Masorti and FJMC leadership and always keep them in the loop.

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4. **Start slow, build trust.** This is a marathon not a sprint; it may take time to build the trust with your new friends. We suggest that the early Internet Skype calls are simply introductions. Find out about each other, their history, and their personal stories.

From that, move to learning about their community, what their challenges are, what it's like to be Conservative Jew there. The time you take learning the backstory of each other will pave the road for your journey.

5. **Each Masorti community is different and faces its own set of challenges.** By meeting with representatives from different Masorti groups in Europe and South America, we've learned that no two communities are the same. Each community is unique, their needs are their own. Take the time to discover what challenges your partner community faces and don't assume it's the same as other communities.
6. **Meet regularly and set simple goals.** We have found that creating a regular schedule to talk via Skype helpful. It serves to create specific dates to accomplish various small tasks, show progress that's made and build in some predictability into the relationship.

Make sure the goals and tasks between Skype calls are small and obtainable. Don't try to do too much. It will create a strong sense of accomplishment and trust if you achieve what you set out to do in small steps.

7. **Make sure both sides have access to and can use the needed technology.** Communication across the globe has never been easier or cheaper (free). Yet if the technology doesn't work or garbles the communication, misunderstandings can happen. Make sure both sides know how to setup Skype or Google Talk or some other Internet based communication system and that both sides have the equipment and Internet connection that can support it. Don't let the technology get in the way.
8. **When the time is right, and if possible, meet face-to-face.** This is a big step, but it can be most rewarding and take your relationship to the next level. Video chatting is fine and can work well, but nothing beats meeting someone face-to-face.

Key points to think about are: 1) Timing. Meet face to face after you've established trust. 2) Be conscious of the cost of travel, you may have to raise money to sponsor one or two of your partner community to come here. 3) Travel to their community and see what their Jewish life is like first hand. 4) Bring the right people over; make sure you get their community leaders. 5) Create a community event to introduce your community to them and show them yours.

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9. **When the time is right, bring in the larger community.** After you’ve established strong bonds and trust, expand the circle and bring in other members of your community. But do it slowly, don’t overwhelm. Use this as an opportunity to bring new facets into the relationship. Perhaps you add some learning or connect younger members from each community together. Look for ways to add to the partnership where both sides benefit.
10. **Have fun!** This is a remarkable and rewarding journey, enjoy it and have fun!

Task	Committee/Assignee	Due Date

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: REC

Section 6: Pictures

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

[See video](#)

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.”

<http://youtu.be/njiWDQPD2HI>