

TORCH AWARD SUBMISSION

I. Identification Information

- A. Submission Identifier Code: Entry #125
- B. Full Title: *Come Wrap With Us!* BJMC's World Wide Wrap 2007
- C. Entry Category: FJMC Programs
- D. Contact Person: Alan Marcus
- E. E-Mail Address: bjmcsecy@comcast.net
- F. Club #: 642
- G. Club Name: Congregation Beth Judea Men's Club
- H. Number of Club Members: 75
- I. Synagogue Name, City & State: Congregation Beth Judea, Long Grove, IL
- J. Club President At Time of Entry: Marc Chappe
- K. Club President At Time of Convention: Marc Chappe
- L. Person Preparing Entry: Alan Marcus
- M. E-Mail Address of Person Preparing Entry: bjmcsecy@comcast.net
- N. Date of Entry Submission: April 17, 2007

II. Summary/Press Release

- A. Summary: Congregation Beth Judea Men's Club ("BJMC") hosted its annual World Wide Wrap ("WWW") on February 4, 2007. The overall goal of the program is, consistent with FJMC objectives, to encourage the Congregational community to become more involved in fulfilling the mitzvah of *te'fillin*.

Our past WWW programs generally featured various instructional components that were primarily directed toward the Congregation's adult population. The quality of these programs remained consistently high but their overall focus was much too narrow to appeal to the broader cross section of the Congregation that we needed to reach in order to make the WWW an effective membership building tool and increase Men's Club visibility. With this in mind, we decided to add to this year's program two new components.

The WWW program this year consisted of six distinct components. They were: 1) Build a Pair, 2) Tefillin Class, 3) Shacharit Service, 4) Musical Wrapping, 5) Brunch Wraps, and 6) Sofer Talks.

1) **Build a Pair**

A new component of BJMC's WWW was to integrate the Federation's *Build a Pair* program into the religious school's curriculum the week before the Wrap. Our Educational Director was very instrumental in that processes. In addition, several members of our Men's Club were in the classroom where the Dalet students were preparing their projects to take photographs and ask the students to bring their parents to the Wrap.

2) Te'fillin Class

Beginning at 8:30, Norm Kurtz lead a discussion explanation of what are *te'fillin*, why do we wear them, when do we put them on, who wears them, and of course how to wear them. This informative talk gave the "*te'fillin* novices" in the crowd, a better appreciation of the mitzvah. Extra sets of tefillin were available for those that did not have a set of their own. Men's Club members helped those youngsters that were new to wrapping to "get in on". They also help the more senior youngsters that may have forgotten how to wrap. After about 30 minutes, we were ready to put the tefillin to use.

3) Shacharit Service

The normal Sunday morning minyan was held with about 50 people in attendance. This is at least double the normal minyan size. The service was paused when references to the *te'fillin* are read and some explanation was provided.

4) Musical Wrapping

Super Bowl Sunday provided the musical inspiration for song master, Orin Rotman. Each year, he develops some music to be part of the Wrap. This year, he distributed kazoos to all attendees. The song he wrote about the Wrap went to the music of the Chicago Bears Fight Song. The singing with the kazoo accompaniment may have been the highlight of this year's Super Bowl experience for Chicago fans.

5) Brunch Wraps

After the great un-wrapping at the end of services, all attendees were welcomed to attend a free brunch sponsored by the Men's Club. BJMC Past President and Chef Glenn Simon oversaw the food preparation. We've enclosed photos of some of Chef Simon's creations to provide a flavor for his menu.

6) Sofer Talks

A Sofer (Torah Scribe) would be used as a "drawing card" guest speaker. After some research, we contacted Rabbi Aaron Wolf, Executive Directory of the Chicago Mitzvah Project. A Sofer with many years of teaching experience, Rabbi Wolf appeared to be an ideal "keynote" speaker we were seeking. When contacted, Rabbi Wolf demonstrated a considerable enthusiasm about becoming involved in our program. We then contacted the shul's Education Director who asked if Rabbi Wolf would be willing to give a series of presentations to the various classes. Rabbi Wolf was very gracious in obliging, so we worked out a schedule that allowed him to make the various presentations but also enabled him to deliver a "keynote" presentation to those attending the adult program.

Program Schedule for Sofer

Time	Group	# of Students	Age Range
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	K – 2nd Grade	56	5-8
9:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	Aleph	26	8 & 9
10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Dalet	35	11 & 12
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Adult	N/A	Various
11:15 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Bet	36	9 & 10
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Heh	45	12 & 13

7). Other Educational Activities

In addition to teaching the *Te'fillin* Class and leading the *Shacharit* service, Norm Kurtz gave an educational presentation to the *Heh* class. Norm came down to the classroom at 10:30 a.m. and taught for about 45 minutes, concentrating his presentation on both the ritual significance and practical application of the mitzvah of *te'fillin*.

- B. Press Release: We sent out the following press release, first as an article in our shul bulletin and then to the media at large through our Shul publicity chairperson:

COME “WRAP” WITH US

The Beth Judea Men’s Club cordially invites you to “Come Wrap With Us,” wrap *tefillin* that is, at our annual World Wide Wrap. This year’s Wrap will be held on the morning of February 4, 2007, and feature many interesting opportunities to learn about the mitzvah of *te'fillin*.

Norm Kurtz, incoming president of the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, will begin the Wrap with an instructive demonstration that will begin at 8:30 a.m. Norm will then lead *minyon* at 9:00 a.m., which will be followed by a breakfast and *tefillin*-related entertainment from Orin Rotman.

This year we will also welcome Rabbi Aaron Wolf, a *sofer* (Torah Scribe) with the Chicago Mitzvah Project. Rabbi Wolf will be teaching about the *sofer's* art and explain what steps go into the making and proper care of *te'fillin*. Rabbi Wolf’s unique perspective should provide many interesting insights into the *mitzvah* of *te'fillin*, so we hope you will join us for his talk and all of the other activities at the World Wide Wrap.

I look forward to seeing all of you there, so please mark your calendars and Come Wrap With Us! If you require further information, please contact myself at Marc.bjmcsecy@comcast.net or our event Chairman, Alan Marcus, at bjmcsecy@comcast.net.

L’Shalom,
Marc Chappe
President, BJMC

III. Self Assessment

BJMC began planning for our WWW in early November, 2006, some three months before the actual event date. We all agreed that we needed to put a “fresh face” on the event in order to prevent it from becoming stale. Our past WWW events had been fairly successful but the format we were using, which generally consisted of a short instructional presentation, followed by minyan and concluded with a breakfast that featured tefillin related entertainment and a showing of the *Ties that Bind* Video, needed to be revamped in order to achieve our overall goal of reaching a broader cross section of the Congregation.

After doing some research, we decided to concentrate on two major revisions: First, to add a “keynote” speaker, who would act as a “calling card” attraction; and second, to include the Federation’s *Build a Pair* into the school’s curriculum for that day.

Both new components proved to be very successful. Rabbi Wolf, the Sofer, was very well received and also helped us to reach a broader audience through his presentations. Rabbi Wolf made all of his presentations interactive and was able to tailor them to the suit the interests of the various age groups. For instance, he showed a cow’s hide to the younger children and explained the process by which the hide was used to make parchment. For the older children, Rabbi Wolf distributed pieces of parchment and asked them to see if they could find any mistakes in the written text.

Rabbi Wolf’s presentations also provided a catalyst for enabling our professional staff to become more involved in WWW programming. Our Hazzan, Roger Weisberg developed the enclosed handouts that helped children formulate questions for Rabbi Wolf. Hazzan Weisberg, who supervises the shul’s *B’nai Mitzvah* preparation program, also used these handouts as one of the required assignments for that program.

In addition, the shul’s Education Director used our resources to assist her in implementing the *Build a Pair* program. Judging by the responses we received when visiting the classroom, the dalet students really enjoyed the project and thought it was a fun way to learn about *te’fillin*. We were encouraged by these responses but also realized that *Build a Pair* could help us reach the parents of these students, many of whom had not attended any of our previous programs. We therefore invited the students to bring their parents in hopes that the WWW program would provide a catalyst for getting them involved in our club. Unfortunately, the year’s invitation produced a sparse return on parental attendance. That, however, could be attributed in fair part to the 20 below 0 temperatures which prevailed on the day of the Wrap.

Improving the Program: Next year we will work with our Education Director to find ways to increase parental involvement. We will also do our own outreach, whether through phone calls or other personal contacts, to ensure that parents become aware that they should participate in both *Build a Pair* and the WWW with their children.

By refocusing our efforts in this way, we believe that the WWW can be a very effective club building tool. Furthermore, by using the WWW as a model for integrating other Men’s Club programs into the broader congregational environment, we will develop and expand networks that promote continued Jewish vitality in our community.

IV. Documentation

- A. Flier
- B. Handouts For B'nai Mitzvah Children Prepared by *Hazzan* Roger Weisberg
- C. Letter to Sofer, Rabbi Aaron Wolf
- D. Wrap Song Lyrics
- E. Build a Pair Pictures
- F. Sofer Pictures
- G. More Wrap Photos

**The Congregation Beth Judea Men's Club
Cordially Invites You
To**

Come Wrap With Us!

At The

7th Annual

World Wide Wrap



Sunday, February 4, 2007

**This Year's *Te'fillin* Wrap Starts at 8:30 a. m.
& Features:**

- **Instructional Presentation by FJMC Executive Vice President Norm Kurtz**
- **Services**
- **Breakfast**
- **Tefillin Related Program by Orin Rotman**
- **Build-a-Pair Interactive Activity for Dalet Class and their Parents**
- ***Tefillin* Workshops Presented by Sofer (Torah Scribe) Rabbi Aaron Wolf of the Chicago Mitzvah Project**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, SO PLEASE

COME WRAP WITH US!

PARENT INFORMATION SHEET **PREPARED BY HAZZAN ROGER WEISBERG**

Mitzvah Project: (**Torah**) **The Sofer**

Purpose:

The Jewish people's most precious possession is Torah, but what exactly is Torah? The word itself comes from the same root as "Morah"—a teacher. Torah literally means "guidance" or "instruction." Learning the stories of our people, learning about Jewish customs and laws, learning about our relationship with God...this is all part of Torah, and we are "guided" in our lives by studying such areas.

When we refer to *the* Torah, however, we generally mean the sacred scrolls which we keep in the Holy Ark and from which we read each week. Its content is also known as the Five Books of Moses, or the *Humash*, but we know that the scrolls themselves must be prepared in a special way, by a trained rabbinic scribe called a *sofer*.

This month's project focuses on various aspects of the Torah Scroll, or *Sefer Torah*, and its preparation. We learned about *kashrut* in regard to food and diet last month, but *kashrut* extends to all parts of Judaism. There are many requirements to be met before a Sefer Torah is considered ritually acceptable, i.e. *kosher*.

Finally, Superbowl Sunday is designated by Conservative Jews as our "Worldwide Wrap," when we stress and promote the mitzvah of putting on tefillin. It should be noted that creating tefillin is another responsibility of the sofer. Traditionally, young men learn to wear tefillin at the time they are becoming B'nai Mitzvah. **Please note: If you would like your son or daughter to truly learn this mitzvah, you should bring him or her** to minyan as often as possible (*at least* 6-8 times) on Sunday mornings in our Sanctuary, from 9-10am, and someone there will assist you. If you would like to borrow or buy a set, please ask the Hazzan for more information.

TEACHER GRADING RUBRIC

This assignment can be marked as complete if the following items are present:

- 1) Ability to identify the proverbial 613th Commandment.
- 2) Knowledge of which animal skins are used in preparing parchment.
- 3) Familiarity with the terms *atzei chaim*, *Stam*, and how the sofer handles an error found in the scroll.
- 4) Ability to identify at least two other ritual items which the sofer makes, besides the *Sefer Torah*.

HANDOUT PREPARED BY HAZZAN ROGER WEISBERG:

BETH JUDEA DALET CLASS

**13 MITZVOT
toward becoming
a BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

NAME of STUDENT _____

NAME of TEACHER _____

MITZVAH ASSIGNMENT #6 (for February, 2007)

Complete this assignment ASAP and turn in to your teacher by Feb. 26

TORAH MITZVAH #3: The Sofer & The Sefer Torah

On the internet, go to <http://www.torah tots.com/torah/sefertorah.htm>, and find the following:

(You may need to start with www.torah tots.com first, then find the Sefer Torah link under NEW FEATURES)

1. How many *parshiot* (weekly Torah portions) are there in the Book of Shmot?

2. Go half-way down the page, until you see a picture entitled "Yad." What is a Yad and why must it be used?

3. Below that, it talks about parchment. What animal skins may be used as parchment?

4. How many columns of Torah can be written on one piece of parchment? ____
Approximately how many columns *are* there in the Torah? ____

5. What instrument does the *sofer* use to write with? _____
Name two sources where he could obtain this instrument: _____

6. According to Torah and *Kashrut*, how does one erase an error if found in the Torah?

-
7. What do the words *Atzei Chayim* mean literally? _____
What part of the Torah is the *Atzei Chayim*? _____
8. The writing style used is called “STaM”, an abbreviation of Sefer Torah and
what two other religious items which the *sofer* prepares?
T _____ M _____

Congregation Beth Judea Men's Club

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(847) 634-0777

President
Marc Chappe

Chicago Mitzvah Project
Attn: Rabbi Aaron Wolf
6241 N. Sacramento
Chicago IL 60659

VP Programming
Fred Rabinowitz

December 13, 2006

VP Fundraising
Jim MacCrimble

Dear Rabbi Wolf:

VP Ritual
Gregg Pollack

Thank you for agreeing to speak at our annual *te'fillin* education program, which will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2007. The program is called the World Wide Wrap and focuses on educating the community about the mitzvah of *te'fillin*.

VP House
Bruce Hoffman

I have spoken to the shul's education director about a tentative schedule. Thus far, we would like for you to speak in the class rooms from about 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and then speak to the adults shortly after that.

Secretary
Gary Malkin

Please plan to speak for about 20 minutes during each of the presentations. Topics you might address include a short description or demonstration of how *soferim* do their work (*te'fillin* related and otherwise) and what is involved in the process of making *te'fillin*. However, please bear in mind that we will not be selling *te'fillin* at the event or asking you to inspect any *te'fillin* that people might bring. Rather, we will simply be educating people about the importance of the mitzvah of *te'fillin* itself.

Treasurer
Glen Gardberg

I will be contacting you sometime in mid-January to confirm final details. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me at (847) 542-4367 or by e-mail at bjmcsecy@comcast.net if you should have questions or concerns about the above.

Directors
Alan Marcus
Brian Gurin

Once again, I wish to thank you again for agreeing to speak at the World Wide Wrap. We are truly looking forward to welcoming you to our shul.

Past Presidents
Norm Kurtz
Fred Rabinowitz
Bob Greene
Mel Wolf
Sandy Victor
Evan Rumack
Jeffrey Julis
Neil Blumenthal
Glenn Simon
Mark Travis
Gene Schneider

L'Shalom,

Alan Marcus
World Wide Wrap Event Chair
Congregation Beth Judea Men's Club

Cc: Marc Chappe, BJMC President
Anna Besser, CBJ Education Director
Norm Kurtz, FJMC Executive Vice President
Rabbi Howard Lifshitz
Rabbi Robert Gamer
Hazzan Roger Weisberg

Wrap Song Lyrics

(Tune: Chicago Bears Fight Song)

**Strap up, FJMC
It's the time of year to get it on!**

**Strap up, FJMC!
Step up and demonstrate your dedication!**

**To Jewish things that help define who we are,
And help our club get PR!**

**Strap up, FJMC
The world will K'vel when they see our stripes!**

**We're the pride and nachas
Of our mishpochas!**

FJMC, Strap up!

© Orin Rotman, 2007

Build a Pair Pictures

Here are some *Build a Pair* photos:



Build a Pair Kits



Dalet student Allison Goldstein works during *Build a Pair* construction



Dalet students at work as part of the *Build a Pair* Project



Finished *Build a Pair* projects

Sofer Talk Pictures

Here are some photos from Rabbi Wolf's presentations:



Rabbi Wolf shows the cow's hide that is used to make parchment for *te'fillin*



Rabbi Wolf shows a mold for making the *bayitim* for tefillin



Rabbi Wolf demonstrates the required technique for writing the Aleph Bet



Aleph students look at a piece of parchment provided by Rabbi Wolf

More Wrap Photos:



Hazzan Roger Weisberg straps up



FJMC Executive Vice President Norm Kurtz teaches a *te'fillin* class



World Wide Wrap Wraps prepared by Chef Glenn Simon



More World Wide Wrap Wraps prepared by Chef Simon