

## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application

Section 1: Title

Club Name: Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club  
 Current Contact: Larry Grossman  
 Program Name: Men's Club Shabbat

Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form  
 First Name: Larry  
 Last Name: Grossman  
 E-Mail: larrydgrossman@gmail.com

Club President at time of Convention

First Name: Scott  
 Last Name: Rogoff  
 E-Mail: rogofflaw@gmail.com

Current Club Co-Presidents

First Name: Larry/Raymond  
 Last Name: Grossman/Rokni  
 E-Mail: larrydgrossman@gmail.com

Section 3: Category

**Men's Club Shabbat**

Section 4: Program overview

Brief Summary

Men's Club Shabbat at Congregation Beth Shalom has been a Friday night event since its inception decades ago. Both attendance and participation had declined in past years to a point at which about 25 members participated and the audience was less than 100. In 2015, we reinvented the experience for Saturday morning and were able to involve 60 members in the service that was shared with over 350 attendees.

Men's Club Shabbat on Friday evenings was a tradition. The service had a creative theme and members would do thematic readings between the requisite prayers. Our Men's Club Choir would do a number of songs in support of that theme and it was a very stylized experience. The less formal nature of Friday night allowed for taking some license and it was a fun service for many years when Friday night was a significant event. However, lifestyles changed, the Conservative movement placed greater emphasis on Saturday mornings and it became increasingly difficult to

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come up with new themes and the general support amongst the Club members waned, despite the fact that we always presented our Kavod Award honoree during the service. (The Kavod Award is our highest honor and it goes to a man who has demonstrated extraordinary service to Men's Club, Congregation Beth Shalom and our community at large. This year we presented our 42<sup>nd</sup> award.)

At the same time many of our longtime members and Past Presidents were resistant to change. We did some research and found that we were one of the few clubs still on Friday nights. We also had multiple discussions with our Board and our Past Presidents and clergy. The overwhelming feedback we received from our younger members was that they simply were unavailable on Friday nights, but they could and would participate on Saturday and they would include their families.

Against this backdrop we decided it was in the best interests of the club to move to Saturday.

We established the following objectives:

- Men's Club had to "own" the event. This means that we would not merely participate in a few parts of the service, but rather we would run virtually the entire service, with the specific exceptions of Mi Shaberach and Kaddish which had to be done by clergy.
- We wanted maximum participation across all generations. This meant engaging and involving many members.
- We wanted to appropriately honor and recognize past Kavod honorees and Past Presidents.
- Establish a true presence in the ritual aspect of the congregation. We have a strong presence in community activities, social action and social events, but we also wanted to demonstrate the ability of many Men's Club members ritual acumen.
- We wanted to challenge our members to expand upon their ritual experience by learning and leading elements of the service they had never previously done.
- We wanted Men's Club Choir to enhanced the experience with beautiful renditions of prayers and special arrangements

We achieved all of these objectives:

- Sixty Men's Club members participated in the service. As it happened, our March 21 date coincided with Vayikra and Rosh Chodesh. This means that we had three Torahs being used. The service also included Hallel and numerous other special prayers.
- We also used the Harvey R. Gold Sefer Haftarah, which was initiated and dedicated by our Men's Club through the FJMC program.
- Attendance was over 350 people who enthusiastically participated
- Examples of particularly meaningful assignments:
  - Men's Club Prayer read by our first Kavod honoree, who received it 41 years ago.
  - Prayer for armed forces of Israel by head of synagogue Israel Committee whose son is a former IDF Special Forces soldier
  - 12 Past Presidents carried Torahs or had aliyot
  - 14 Kavod honorees had parts
  - 2 men read Torah for the first time

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- Shachrit was lead by a member for his first time

We were able to accomplish all of our goals beyond expectations and hopes for a truly meaningful ritual experience.

Program Tasks	Committee/Assignee	Due Date
Lay out the entire service on spreadsheet	Ritual Programming VP	4 months prior
Get clergy approval of service plan	Ritual Programming VP	4 months out
Recruit for most preparation intensive elements: Torah readers, Haftorah reader(s)	Ritual Programming VP & Exec Board	3 months out
Reach out to all Past Presidents & Kavod honorees to enlist participation	President	3 months out
Fill in parts with Board and members at large	Ritual Programming VP	2-3 months
Finalize parts	Ritual Programming VP	1 month
Prepare brochure with requisite elements from regular Shabbat brochure and listing of participants and parts (copy attached)	Ritual Programming committee	1 month
Choir practice	Choir & Leader	Ongoing
Practice run-through	Everyone	Thursday night prior

### 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: LDG

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Section 6: Pictures

Photo of the choir rehearsal, otherwise the event was on Shabbat so we do not have photos





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### Men's Club Shabbat and Kavod Award Program



**Dr. Robert Spector**

CBS Men's Club 2015  
Kavod Award Recipient

**March 21, 2015  
1 Nisan 5775  
Parashat Vayikra /Shabbat HaChodesh  
Rosh Chodesh**

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### This Week's Torah Reading

Leviticus 3:1- 4:26 page 592; Numbers 28:9-15 page 930;  
Maftir: Exodus 12:1-20 page 380

As the Book of Leviticus begins, the Israelites are slowly traveling through the desert toward the Promised Land. From the time that they received the Torah at Mt. Sinai, the Israelites offered sacrifices as a way of worshipping God. Vayikra describes these various sacrifices:

- ☆ **The Olah** (burnt offering) - signaled that one was in need of communicating with God. The sacrifice could be a sheep, a goat, a bull, a pigeon or a turtledove.
- ☆ **The Mincha** (meal offering) consisted of unleavened flour or grain of the finest quality mixed with olive oil and frankincense. It served the same purpose as the *Olah*, but was brought by one who could not afford to bring an animal offering.
- ☆ **The Zevach-Shelamim** (sacrifice of well-being) was a sacrifice from the herd or one's flock.
- ☆ **The Chatat** (sin offering) and the **Asham** (guilt offering) expiatory sacrifices intended to secure atonement and forgiveness from God. The *Chatat* was in some cases a young bull, and in others a sheep or goat. It had to be brought when a person had mistakenly committed a sin. If a person's transgression involved the misappropriation of property intended for the Sanctuary, then an *Asham* was required.

### Insights and Ideas from this week's Torah Reading

Leviticus 5:1 describes the obligation we have to give testimony. "If anyone sins, if he hears a curse, he becomes a witness, if he has seen or known, if he does not testify, then he must bear his guilt." A person who could give testimony and help the court make a decision, but fails to do so, has committed a sin.

### This Week's Haftarah Reading

Shabbat HaChodesh Ezekiel 45:16 - 46:18 page 1290

The Haftarah from the Book of Ezekiel reviews the Passover sacrifices as the Prophet describes the restored temple in Jerusalem. The Haftarah describes the festival of Passover envisioned for the new Temple period, stressing the purification at that time. These readings are intended to set our mood and thoughts on the coming Festival of Passover. As our preparations for Passover intensify, both the Maftir reading and the Haftarah focus on rituals connected with the festival. The Maftir and Haftarah each reflect two historical poles in Jewish History: the Maftir, describing the first Passover, and the Haftarah a vision of the Passover of the future, when Israel is restored to its homeland.

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### Notable Quotations from This Week's Readings

#### החדש הזה לכם ראש חדשים ראשון הוא לכם לחדשי השנה

*Hachodesh hazeh lachem rosh chodashim rishon hu lachem l'chod'shei Hashanah*

This month for you shall be the beginning of months; it shall be the first of the months of the year for you. - **Exodus 12:2**

**ושמרתם את-המצות כי בעצם היום הזה הוצאתי את-צבאותיכם  
מארץ מצרים**

*U'sh'martem et-ha'matzot ki b'etzem hayom hazeh ho'tzei'ti et tzi'votei'chem mei'eretz Mitzrayim.*

You shall observe (the feast of) unleavened bread, for on this very day, I brought you out of your ranks from the land of Egypt. -**Exodus 12:17**

### This Morning's Service

PAGE(S)	PART	NAME
Through-out	Moderator	Bruce Bell / Elliot Goldman
65-105	Preliminary Prayers	Al Weiner
105-120	Shachrit	Joel Greenman / David Rosenbaum
133-138	Hallel	Harvey Redfern and Choir
	Open Ark	Howard Minkoff
	Open Ark	Jeff Smoler
139	Prayer when taking the Torah out of the Ark	Neal Golden
	Carry Torah - 1	Michael Greenberg
	Carry Torah - 2	Brad Shaps
	Carry Torah - 3	Larry Grossman
	Carry Sefer Haftarah	Kevin Braude
139-154	Torah Service	Mark Jesselson
	D'Var Torah	Rabbi Evan Ravski

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### This Morning's Service, continued

	Floor Gabbai			Howard Freidin
	Gabbai 1			Barry Brusso
	Gabbai 2			Glen Roter
Page	Chapter/Verse	Torah Readers		Torah Honors
592	Leviticus 3: 1-5	Steve Elisco	Cohen	Fred Katzenstein
594	Leviticus 3: 6-11	Bob Israel	Levi	Steve Lessman
594	Leviticus 3: 12-17	David Speigel	Shlishi	Jerry Agrest
595	Leviticus 4: 1-7	Robert Spector	Rev'i'i	Howard Michaels
597	Leviticus 4: 8-12	Lee Shulman	Hamishi	Scott Rogoff
597	Leviticus 4: 13-18	Alan Birkner	Shishi	Marc Weinstein
598	Leviticus 4: 19-26	Michael Ellison	Shvi'i	Sherwin Meyers
	Hagbah - 1			Larry Levin
	Gililah - 1			Bob Goldwin
930	Numbers 28: 9-15	David Rosenbaum	A'charon	Glen Roter
	Hatzi Kaddish			Earl Strum
	Hagbah - 2			Howard Jacob
	Gililah - 2			Mike Gilford
380	Exodus 12: 1-20	Harold Schwartz	Mafzir	Arlen Lasinsky
	Mi Shebarach			Rabbi
	Hagbah - 3			Dan Sher
	Gililah - 3			Donald Pike
	Sit with Torah			Dan Sher



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### This Morning's Service, continued

Page	Chapter/Verse	Haftarah Readers
1290	Ezekiel 45:16 - 46:18	
	reader 1	Arlen Lasinsky
	reader 2	George Platt
	reader 3	Frank Horwitz
	Men's Club Prayer	Dave Shapiro
148	Prayer for our country	
	Prayer for armed forces (Israel in Hebrew)	Elliot Goldman
	Prayer for armed forces (Israel in English)	Len Ruben
	Prayer for armed forces (USA)	Howard Sigal
149	Prayer for the State of Israel	Choir
149	Prayer for peace	Mike Balter
151	Ashrei	Gregg Rosenthal
	Open Ark	Fred Hakimian
	Open Ark	Chuck Gittles
	Carry Torah - 1	Ray Rokni
	Carry Torah - 2	Donald Pike
	Carry Torah - 3	Bob Lipshultz
	Carry Sefer Haftarah	Herb Root
	D'Var Torah / Kavod Adard	Ray Rokni & Larry Grossman
	Acceptance of Kavod Award	Bob Spector
	Comments	Rabbi
155, 166b - 181	Musaf	David Weil
	O'se Shalom	Choir
182	Ein Keloheinu	Choir

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	Open Ark for Aleinu	Bob & Chris Spector and Children
183	Aleinu	Choir
184	Mourners' Kaddish	Rabbi
187	Adon Olam	Choir
	Kiddush / V'Sham'ru	Arnie Hoffman
	Motzi	Leatte Gelfeld and Beth Sher

### Kavod Award Recipients

David Shapiro	1973	Jack Knopoff	1995
Marshall Graff *	1974	Saul Leibowitz	1996
Leonard Silverman *	1975	Stuart Horwitz	1997
Marvin Dishler *	1976	Robert Marder	1998
Leonard Mason	1977	Joseph Kitzes *	1999
Herb Rosenstein	1978	Sherwin Meyers	2000
Harry Zale *	1979	Arlen Lasinsky	2001
Art Small	1980	Michael Balter	2002
Lester Kurnick *	1981	Jim Donenberg	2003
Howard Michaels	1982	Glen Roter	2004
Dr. Henry Rabinowitz	1983	Michael Schnitzler	2005
Fred Katzenstein	1984	Howard Freidin	2006
George Platt	1985	Marc Weinstein	2007
Howard Sinton *	1986	Larry Levin	2008
Fred Fisher	1987	Harold Dembo	2009
Norman Yudewitz	1988	Dr. Michael Greenberg	2010
Dr. Joel Greenman	1989	Jerry Agrest	2011
Marty Kahn*	1990	Bruce Bell	2012
Elliott Goldman	1991	Larry Grossman	2013
Fred Hakimian	1992	Steven Elisco	2014
Steven Lessman	1993	Dr. Robert Spector	2015
Eugene Chodash	1994	* Of Blessed Memory	

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### Man of the Year Recipients

Elliot Goldman #	1992	Arlen Lasinsky	2000	Neal Blustein	2008
Fred Hakimian #	1993	Dr. Michael Greenberg	2001	Randall Samborn	2009
Steve Lessman #	1994	Alan Hurwick *	2002	Glen Roter	2010
Eugene Chodash #	1995	Larry Levin	2003	Larry Grossman	2011
Jack Knopoff #	1996	Neal Golden	2004	Alan Medansky*	2012
Robert Marder	1997	Bruce Bell	2005	Abe Drayer	2013
Jim Donenberg	1998	Harold Dembo	2006	Kevin Braude	2014
Marc Weinstein	1999	Raymond Rokni	2007	Bradley Shaps	2015

# Prior year Kavod Recipient \* Of Blessed Memory

### The Men's Club Choir Michael Schnitzler, Director

Neal Golden	Dan Knopoff	George Platt
Steven Grad	Arlen Lasinsky	David Rosenbaum
Joel Greenman	Steve Lessman	Glen Roter
Howard Jacob	Howard Minkoff	Jeff Smoler

### Men's Club Shabbat Committee

Bruce Bell	Elliott Goldman	Bob Marder
Barry Brusso	Howard Freidin	Donald Pike
	Arlen Lasinsky	David Weil

### 2014-2015 Men's Club Officers

Co-Presidents	Larry Grossman and Raymond Rokni
Executive Vice-President	Scott Rogoff
Vice-President Ways and Means	Dan Sher
Vice-President Programs/Social	Larry Dechter
Vice-President Programs/Ritual	Donald Pike
Vice-President Membership	Steven Elisco
Vice-President House	Abe Drayer
Vice-President House-Special Events	Chuck Gitles
Treasurer	Howard Freidin
Financial Secretary	Scott Samuelsohn
Recording Secretary	Gary Solomon
Corresponding Secretary	Dr. Sam Greif

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### Past Presidents

Ira Berk \*  
 Harold Schy \*  
 Daniel Lichtman \*  
 Howard Michaels  
 George Platt  
 Marty Kahn\*  
 Harry Zale \*  
 Alan Redman

Robert Lipshultz  
 Eugene Chodash  
 Joseph Kitzes \*  
 Alan Morgan  
 Robert Marder  
 Melvyn Cohen  
 Steven Lessman  
 Glen Roter

Marc Weinstein  
 Arlen Lasinsky  
 Dr. Michael Greenberg  
 Jim Donenberg  
 Kevin Braude  
 Brad Shaps  
 Harvey Redfern

\* Of Blessed Memory

The Men's Club encourages all adult male Synagogue members to participate. Dues for first year Synagogue members are free. For more information, please contact our Membership Vice President, Steven Elisco.

### The Workings of Men's Club

Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club provides an opportunity to meet new people, see old friends, and enjoy good times, all while being of service to the synagogue and the community. We sponsor programs to entertain and educate. We assist with many arms of the Synagogue, but most importantly, the Men's Club promotes Brotherhood.

*The following are recently completed and planned activities for the remainder of the year:*

#### **Golf Outing: August 10, 2014**

After 39 years of having the annual golf outing on a Monday, the Men's Club made a change and moved the golf outing to Sunday in order to accommodate more golfers. The day was a success, as the event drew more golfers and the day of golf, camaraderie, food and good fun was culminated with a dinner, prizes, auction and raffle at the Synagogue. Our next golf outing is June 29, 2015.

#### **Steak in the Sukkah: September 22, 2014**

The Men's Club hosted their annual spectacular event when the Chicago Bears battled the Pittsburgh Steelers as all watched Sunday Night Football on televisions in the sukkah and everyone feasted on steaks grilled to perfection while enjoying the festive holiday of Sukkot. The Bears were victorious 40-23.



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### **Bears Bash in the Youth Lounge: November 4, 2014**

When the Chicago Bears are on Monday Night Football, the Men's Club is watching the game in the Youth Lounge, and of course, food is being served for the event. The Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers continued the oldest rivalry in the National Football League (and Congregation Beth Shalom) while everyone indulged on grilled hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill. The Bears won an exciting game 27-20.

### **World Wide Wrap: February 2 and 22, 2015**

The Men's Club was one of 200 congregations across the world to participate in the World Wide Wrap in conjunction with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. More than 120 people including our Bet school children and their parents were part of the service which was enhanced by live music and dance. The tradition of tying Tefillin, combined with a musical service, was a memorable experience.

### **Lox Boxes Delivered: March 8, 2015**

We thank you for participating in the area's biggest and best gourmet bagel brunch that the Men's Club delivers each year right to your home on Sunday morning. This is our 21st year and 13th year of providing food to those less fortunate through The ARK and Council for Jewish Elderly, respectively. Through your donations, we have been able to provide food for more than 62,000 less fortunate people. We sincerely thank you for your continuing generosity.

### **Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program: April 19, 2015**

This is our 24<sup>th</sup> year of honoring the *Six Million* by sending Holocaust Memorial Candles made in Israel to all Beth Shalom members and their college students to light on Erev Yom HaShoah (April 15, 2015).

*The following are some of the ongoing services provided by Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club:*

### **Sukkah**

For the enjoyment of the entire congregation, the Men's Club constructs the congregation's sukkah each year, which is used for holiday celebrations and as a classroom by the school.

### **CBS Youth Scholarships**

The Men's Club's Youth Scholarship Fund helps subsidize our youth attending regional and international conventions.

### **CBS Youth Basketball Team**

The Men's Club provides moral and financial support to the CBS youth basketball teams.

### **Purim Carnival**

The Men's Club serves food and plenty of pop in Esther's Cafe at this annual family event.

### **Texas Hold 'em to Support Israeli Terrorist Victims and Veterans**

The Men's Club holds a special card night to support Israeli terrorist victims and their families through one or more Israeli charities. The Men's Club has committed to donate 54% of the net proceeds to these organizations.

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### Student Opportunity Scholarship Fund at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center

Men's Club has made a commitment to raise \$10,000 in three years to provide funds for students to visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

### High Holidays

The Men's Club continues its tradition of serving as ushers for the Kol Nidre service every year.

*The Men's Club thanks Rabbi Wolkin, Rabbi Melman, Cantor Stoehr, Naomi Weiss-Weil, and Michael Garlin for their assistance and guidance with today's service. The Men's Club also extends its appreciation to the Sisterhood for serving the beautiful Kiddush following the Service. In addition, thank you to the professional and maintenance staff for their assistance. Our heartfelt thank you to our families and friends for helping to make this a joyous and memorable occasion.*

### Upcoming Events

Mar 23	Sisterhood Book Review
Mar 26	Distinguished Speaker: Jeremy Bash
Mar 28	Family Shabbat Service Tefilla Yoga HAZAK Shabbat
Mar 29	H.U.G.S. Chocolate Seder @ CBS
Apr 3	FIRST SEDER
Apr 4-11	PASSOVER
Apr 8	Melton Adult Education @ SSDS
Apr 11	YIZKOR Family Shabbat Service
Apr 12	Blood Drive
Apr 15	Nosh 'n Drash
Apr 15-16	YOM HASHOAH
Apr 17	Shabbat with a Twist ShabbaTONEdown
Apr 18	Study Minyan
Apr 19	Men's Club Breakfast with Yom HaShoah Speaker
Apr 22	Yom HaZikaron (obs) Nosh 'n Drash Melton Adult Education @ SSDS

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### Acknowledgements

*Welcome to Rabbi Evan Ravski*

*The Kiddush is hosted by Men's Club*

*Thank you to all of our volunteer Shabbat Ambassadors, Gabbaim, Torah readers and Sisterhood servers for enhancing our services this morning!*

Please take an active role in our community by helping us make Minyan every morning, evening, and Shabbat Mincha.

#### Weekday Minyan

- ✧ Sunday morning 8:45 a.m.
- ✧ Mondays-Fridays 6:45 a.m.
- ✧ Sunday – Thursday Evenings: 7:45 p.m.

#### Upcoming Candlelighting Times:

March 27 6:52 p.m. April 3 7:08 p.m.

### *congregation Beth shalom*

Member of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
3433 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, IL 60062  
847.498.4100

Visit us on the Web: [BethShalomNB.org](http://BethShalomNB.org)

Senior Rabbi Carl Wolkin      Cantor Steven Stoehr  
Rabbi Aaron Melman          President Glen Roter

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### Congregation Beth Shalom Men's Club

*Enhance Your Life!*



#### **Our Mission:**

#### **Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Lives**

- Engage members to participate and support Congregation Beth Shalom, our programs, and activities
- Encourage and develop a spirit of camaraderie and brotherhood
- Provide social and intellectual programs and activities for our enjoyment, education and growth
- Enhance and support the Jewish spiritual life of our members, their families, and our community

#### *For Additional Information about our Club and Programs*

**Co-Presidents:** Larry Grossman, [larrydgrossman@gmail.com](mailto:larrydgrossman@gmail.com)  
Ray Rokni, [Raymond.rokni@gmail.com](mailto:Raymond.rokni@gmail.com)  
**Membership:** Steven Elisco, [swelisco@eliscodesign.com](mailto:swelisco@eliscodesign.com)





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Section 7: Video

NA due to Shabbat

Leadership Innovation Community