



## 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](mailto: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 Beth O'r/Beth Torah Men's Club \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Contact: Michael W Miller \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Name: Shomrei Ha'Aretz Programing for the Shmittah Year \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form  
First Name: Michael \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: Miller (& Dennis Berry) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: DrMike@millerchemist.com \_\_\_\_\_

Club President at time of Convention  
First Name: Michael \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: Goldstein \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Club President  
First Name: Michael \_\_\_\_\_, Michael \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: Goldstein, Miller \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: bsgntax@a0l.com\_drmike@millerchemist.com \_\_\_\_\_

## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application

### 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.

#### **Shmittah Year: Humans in Balance with Earth**

The Temple Beth O'R-Beth Torah Men's Club (TBO-BT-MC) decided to integrate the concepts of the Shmittah Year in to its Shomrei Ha'Aretz programing. Shmittah concepts were added to the Men's Club Shormrei Ha'Aretz column in the TBO/BT monthly newsletter.

Our 2014, Sukkot program focused on use of locally grown food, organic food and sustainable agriculture. Our 2015 Tu B'Shavat program for the children focused on "Recycling- Reuse, How to Make Paper". The Davar Torah during Men's club Shabbat used a Parsha statement to discuss the need to protect the ocean fisheries and consume only fish from sustainable sources.

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

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?
- 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.

### Introduction and Purpose

In August of 2013 the Temple Beth O’R – Beth Torah Men’s club accepted the FJMC Shomrei Ha’Aretz program as a key activity for the Club for 2013-15. Men’s Club Shormrei Ha’Aretz column, in the TBO-BT monthly newsletter started in September 2013, as did Shomrei Ha’Aretz programing. The Shmittah year began on Rosh Hashanah 5775, (September 24, 2014) and ends September 13, 2015. “Six years you will sow your land, and gather in the land’s produce; but the seventh year you will release it from work.” (Exodus 23:10-11). By using the principles of the Shmittah year the relevance of the Men’s Club Shomrei Ha’Aretz is increased.

The Men’s Club Shormrei Ha’Aretz column was developed from activities published by the Hazon Shmittah Project. Men’s Club Shormrei Ha’Aretz column illustrates the Jewish roots of Environmental Protection. The articles were developed from Canfei Neharim, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, and GreenFaith online publications.

The Shmitta- Shomrei Ha’Aretz programing has several purposes; continue the efforts of 2013-14 to elevate the importance protecting the earth; keep environmental conservation and protection ideas and action in front of the congregation throughout the year; show that almost all Jewish holidays and Parsha have a connection to protecting the balance G-d established in Bereshith Chapter 2. Another purpose of the program was to demonstrate the Men’s Club support for our environmental programs, our small school and continue to encourage the fathers to support the Men’s Club activities. Several of the fathers are not Jewish and continue participating in our activities.

### Enhance the image of FJMC, your region, and your club

Shomrei Ha’aretz - Stewards of the Land, Protect vs Use addresses the Talmudic commandment protecting the garden; "... to cultivate it and to guard it." FJMC as a Jewish organization must present programing that address this commandment or we will not be relevant. Using this program we are demonstrating to the congregants and children that we care about their health and future on this earth. TBO-BT Men’s Club continues to work with the children and congregation presenting Jewish environmental programing.

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

### Marketing

The TBO-BT news letter containing the Men’s Club Shomrei Ha’Aretz column is mailed to all congregants and posted on the temple website. Sukkot and Tu B’Shavat programs were in the temple news letter, weekly Shabbat bulletin and Men’s Club e-mail. Telephone calls and e-mails were sent to school parents. After the program an article with pictures was published in the temple bulletin and Jewish News.

#### TBO-BT News Letter Men’s Club Shomrei Ha’Aretz Columns

The following is a listing of the news columns and the date of the newsletter. They are attached under Documents.

September 2014	Introduction to Shmittah Year (5775), Announce Pancake- Ecology breakfast
October 2014	Advertisement post Pancake –Ecology Breakfast
November 2014	Shmittah – Sukkot, Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Food
December 2014	Sustainable Hanukah
January 2015	Shmittah- Tu B’Shavat , The Jewish Earth day, Announce school project
March 2015	Tu B’Shavat, Hebrew School Paper Making
April 2015	Sustainable Passover
May 2015	Men’s Club Shabbat Sustainable Oceans

#### Shmittah, Sukkot and Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Food Oct. 12, 2014

“And six years you will sow your land, and gather in the land’s produce; but the seventh year you shall release it from work and abandon it... (Exodus 23:10-11). Shmittah, literally translated as the “year of release” (and more widely known as the ‘Sabbatical Year’), is a biblical tradition commanding us to rest the land every seventh year. What should Shmittah look like today? What would it mean to you to let the land rest every seventh year? While this may not always seem feasible in the Diaspora, TBO/BT Men’s Club will increase education and program activity among the congregation and community during the Shmittah year.

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

The Pancake Breakfast in the Sukkah and Ecology presentation was the first program (October, 2014).

The Jewish holiday of Sukkot commemorates the fall harvest. During Sukkot we are commanded to sleep, eat and relax outdoors in our sukkah. Sukkot also celebrates the time of year when farmers have completed their harvest, and they are able to indulge in some relaxation before the first rains of the season hit. This holiday inherently relates to the environment, from which we gather our seasonal crops, hence, during Sukkot, we should be more aware of the impact our celebrations have on the world around us.

At a discussion after breakfast we had a presentation from Mrs. Charlotte Lee from the Organic Food cooperative. Mrs. Lee spoke about the benefits of locally grown food, organic food, and exhibited a biweekly food share from the cooperative. Michael Miller spoke about sustainable agriculture and organically produced food. Industrial agriculture uses large amounts of pesticides and chemical fertilizers that sterilize the soil and kill beneficial insects, biota and animals. Organic labels on produce tell you that chemical fertilizers and pesticides were not used. The word “organic” on packaged goods tells you the product must contain (excluding water and salt) only organically produced ingredients and processing aids. A power point of M.W. Miller’s presentation is available.

### **Tu B’Shavat - Paper Making , February 8, 2015**

Trees are a metaphor for nature and the environment. The celebration and blessings give thanks for the sustenance and material provided to humans.

As part of the children’s Tu B’Shevat seder and Men’s Club Shmittah project, we discussed the importance of recycling paper (saving millions of trees). We also talked about how new paper is made and the importance of buying products which have been manufactured using materials made with recycled paper content. The children volunteered a few examples; paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, plates, office paper. They then took shredded paper, soaked the paper in warm water, made pulp in a blender, spread the pulp on a screen, put the screen between towels, squeezed out the water with rolling pin, let the paper dry. At a following class they use their paper as drawing paper. Instructions are under documents.

### **Men’s Club Shabbat April 18, 2015**

Men’s club members conducted the entire Saturday service gave the Dvar Torah and sponsored the Kiddush luncheon.

The weekly Torah portion, Shemini, the Jewish people are given the laws concerning fish consumption. Leviticus 11:9-12 explains that all creatures in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers with both fins and scales are acceptable (kosher).

## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application

The first time that G-d speaks to any of the living creatures, the speech is directed at the fish. Genesis 1:22 relates, “And G-d blessed them saying: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas’...” The Torah uses fish to connote fertility and abundance. In today’s world, however, fish could not be used as a symbol of fertility and abundance.

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service report estimated that more than three-quarters of the world’s marine fish stocks are currently being fished at their maximum or have already been overfished beyond their maximum and are now in decline. Cod, Gulf of Maine, Great Banks; Alaska Pollock, Atlantic herring, Chilean Sea Bass, Blue fin tuna to name a few. Are we acting in an unholy manner when we eat fish that are harvested from unsustainable fisheries?

The Monterey Bay Aquarium provides information on good eco-choices for eating seafood. For example, wild-caught Alaskan salmon are eco-certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. Other kosher fish species receiving either a “best” or “good” rating include tilapia farmed in either the U.S. or Central America, farmed U.S. Atlantic salmon, yellow fin tuna caught in the U.S. by either troll or pole, and wild-caught lingcod from either the U.S. or Canada.

The opportunity before us is to buy fish sustainably, fulfilling the divine mandate for human stewardship of G-d’s planet - to use it and to protect it.

Suggested Actions:

1. Research the fish that you buy to see if it is sustainable.
2. Make a commitment to buy sustainable fish - ask at the market.
3. Encourage your Congressional representatives to support Marine conservation measures.
4. You can learn more by visiting three great websites: mbayaq.org, seafoodwatch.org and oceansalive.org

Source; Canfei Nesharim: Parsha Shemini by Candace Nachma  
Members of the congregation participated in a lively discussion.

### Program Planning / Timeline

Task	Assignment	Due Date
Research Shmittah Year/ Hazon Shmittah Project	Michael Miller	August 11, 2014
Set Men’s Club Meetings/ Program dates Temple Calendar 2014-15	Michael Miller/ Michael Goldstein	August 18, 2014
Men’s Club Board meeting, discussed plans for Shmittah year, High Holiday season and authors/ editors for news articles.	Michael Goldstein	August 20, 2014

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

First news -letter article, September issue	Michael Miller/ author Harvin Freedman/editor	Aug 22, 2014
All Shomrei Ha 'Aretz News Letter articles	Michael Miller/author Julia Vinokurov/proof reader, H Freedman/ editor	Articles due 20 <sup>th</sup> of month before issue
Plan First program; Pancake Breakfast and Ecology and Organic food speakers in Sukkah	Michael Goldstein, Jay Schlesinger, Harvin Freedman, Michael Miller	Sep 11,2014
Ecology and Organic food speakers in Sukkah accept; Poster set up. Shabbat bulletin ad.	Michael Miller	Sep 30, 2014
Arrangements for food and workers completed	Michael Goldstein	Oct 8, 2014
Set up for Sukkah program, Cooking, social hall tables ect.(rained)	Michael Goldstein, Jay Schlesinger, Harvin Freedman, Michael Miller	Oct12, 2014
Planning for Tu B'Shavat, Paper Making	Cantor Stern, Teachers, Michael Miller, Paul Hymanson	Jan 8, 2015
Send announcement to Parents , request towels	Michael Miller, Teachers	Jan 20, 2015
Purchase supplies, Aluminum Screening , dowels, duck tape, Find blender, tubs,	Michael Miller	Jan 20, 2015
Prepare 10x10 inch screens, 12in long dowels	Michael Miller, Paul Hymanson, Russ Kelner	Jan 27, 2015
Test and refine instructions.	Bob Kolker, Michael Miller	Jan 29, 2015
Use cross cut shredder, Prepare large batch of	Bob Kolker, Cantor	Feb 4, 2015



## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

paper pulp	Stern, Michael Miller	
Set up two 6 ft tables and equipment in class room	Cantor Stern, Michael Miller Senior Teacher	Feb 8, 2015
Men’s Club Shabbat, Set date, recruit participants, develop dvar Torah	Michael Miller	Apr 2, 2015
Conduct Men’s Club Shabbat	Michael Miller, Michael Goldstein,	Apr 18, 2015

### 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:   MWM  

Note: I am the 2013-15 Shomerei Ha’Aretz Chair. I used the SHA materials I developed in TBO-BT programs.

### Section 6: Pictures & Documents

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

Shmittah – Sukkot, Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Food



## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application



Michael Miller, Ecology Lecturer



Mrs. Charlotte Lee, Organic Coop Host & Lecturer

## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application



Westfield, NJ; Edison Middle School Girls Scouts in the Sukkah



Attendees, Congregants, Hebrew school children & parents

## 2013-2015 Torch Awards - Application

### Tu B'Shavat, Paper Making

Picture titles; in the order of the process:

- 1) Dipping screen into paper pulp suspension,
- 2) Raising screen & wet pulp,
- 3) Rolling pulp on screen between towels,
- 5) Damp pulp on screen on drying table,





## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application



4) Rolling pulp directly    6) Picture on the recycled paper

### Documents

TBO-BT News Letter Men’s Club Shomrei Ha’Aretz Columns

#### September 2014

**TBO-BT Men’s Club SHOMREI HA’ARETZ/ STEWARDS OF THE LAND**

#### **Shmittah: Humans in Balance with Earth**

The next Shmittah year will begin on Rosh Hashanah 5775, (September 24, 2014).

“And six years you will sow your land, and gather in the land’s produce; but the seventh year you will release it from work and abandon it, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beast of the field shall eat. In like manner you will deal with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.” *(Exodus 23:10-11)*

Shmittah, literally translated as the ‘year of release,’ and more widely known as the Sabbatical Year, is a biblical Jewish tradition, which, once every seven years, simultaneously re-adjusted agriculture and commerce to ensure an equitable, just and healthy society. The year of Shmittah was a time when agricultural lands were collectively left fallow. The Earth is not merely some resource to be used and abused. If we want to live on the land, it is our responsibility to let it rest.

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

The Torah goes on to say that if human society does not allow the land to rest each seventh year, it will rest anyway – through drought, famine, exile. (Lev. 26.)

The “climate – ecological crisis” and other aspects of human over-reach to over control the Earth teach us that the ancient Torah teaching does apply world-wide: indeed, it is exactly what ecologists are saying in our own generation. This not only applies to farm, and forest, but to all the much more intrusive technologies we use today.

This is the time for Men’s Club to step up with education and activity programs for their congregation and community during the Shmittah year.

What should *shmittah* look like today? What would it mean to you to let the land rest every seventh year? What would it mean to your family, to our synagogue, to our JCC, to our Jewish Federation? What would the impact be to recognize the power of *shmittah* and embark on a collaborative experiment with other Jews observing *shmittah* through a plethora of creative, dynamic and locally-based methods?

### **First Program; Sukkot Pancake Breakfast on Oct. 12th with Ecology Speaker**

Topic: locally grown food, and sustainable agriculture; advantages of organically grown foods. Also, more sustainable lawn & landscape care practices.

### **November 2014, Report; Shmittah – Sukkot, Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Food SHOMREI HA’ARETZ/ STEWARDS OF THE LAND**

#### **Protect vs Use: Jewish Footprints on the Land**

On October 12 the Men’s Club sponsored a Sukkot Pancake Breakfast with talks by Mike Miller on sustainable agriculture and organically produced food, and by Mrs. Charlotte Lee of Purple Dragon Coop on organic food cooperatives & community support of agriculture.

Industrial agriculture uses large amounts of pesticides and chemical fertilizers that sterilize the soil and kill beneficial insects, biota and animals.

Organic labels on produce tell you that chemical fertilizers and pesticides were not used. The word “organic” on packaged goods tells you the product must contain (excluding water and salt) only organically produced ingredients and processing aids.

Reduce your exposure to pesticides, herbicides and chemical by 80% by only buying organic:

Choose organic apples, celery, strawberries, peaches, spinach, nectarines, grapes, bell peppers, potatoes, cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, blueberries, lettuce, snap peas and kale.

Nearly one third of all greenhouse gasses come from the production and transportation of food. A typical carrot has to travel 1,838 miles to reach your dinner table. Buy produce in season and from local sources. The food actually tastes better.

Organic produce and packaged food is now available in our local A&P, Shoprite, Kings and Trader Joe’s. Of the markets, Trader Joe’s has the largest selection of fresh produce year round in our area.

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

**December 2014, Sustainable Hanukkah  
SHOMREI HA'ARETZ/ STEWARDS OF THE LAND  
Protect vs Use: Jewish Footprints on the Land  
Eight Ways to Make Your Hanukkah More Sustainable**

### 1. Change Up Your Latke

*Toppings:* Rather than buying a traditional brand of sour cream, stock up on an all-natural or organic sour-cream. More of an applesauce fan? [Make your own](#) from apples purchased locally or buy an organic brand. *Latke:* You can use sweet potatoes instead of regular potatoes, or carrots as an added healthy bonus to give your latkes a different taste!

### 2. Buy Organic Oil

Since Hanukkah frequently involves oil in some form for every meal, buying organic oil ensures a more sustainable celebration. We recommend [Negev Nectars](#), which makes sustainable olive oil in the south of Israel.

### 3. Use Local Potatoes and Onions

Potatoes and other root vegetables are in abundance during the winter. Stop by your local farmers' market and stock up prior to making your Hanukkah latkes.

### 4. Buy Fair Trade Chocolate

Africa produces 70% of world cocoa beans. Forced child labor is common. If you still want chocolate gelt, opt for Fair Trade choices. Hazon recommends: [Chocolove](#), [Dagoba](#), [Equal Exchange](#), and [Sunspire](#).

### 5. Make Your Own Gifts

Take a photo and create your own frame, knit a scarf or a hat, or make your own beeswax candles. Also, bake a special Hanukkah dessert to give to friends and family as a more environmentally friendly gift.

### 6. Give Money for a Great Cause

Instead of giving chocolate Hanukkah gelt, give money to your local emergency food provider or hunger relief organization.

### 7. Reuse the Wrap

Reusable gift bags are a great way to be environmentally conscious as well as a great supplementary gift, a beautiful gift bag that the next individual can reuse! Check out [Etsy](#) for some awesome Hanukkah themed reusable gift bags and wrap!

### 8. Green Your Hanukkah Decorations

Try crafting a dreidel out of recyclable materials. Also, as a family or community activity, make your

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

own *hannukiah* using recycled materials you find around your house. Remember making an alphabet block *hannukiah* as a child? Recreate the experience with your family or community, and see how creative you can make your *hannukiah*!

**Have a happy and sustainable Hanukkah!!**

### January 2015 Shmittah- Tu B’shavat SHOMREI HA’ARETZ/STEWARDS OF THE LAND

#### Shmittah Year: Humans in Balance with Earth

**Tu B’Shevat 5775 February 4, 2015**

**Shmittah**, literally translated as the ‘year of release,’ and more widely known as the Sabbatical Year, is a biblical Jewish tradition, which, once every seven years, simultaneously re-adjusted agriculture and commerce to ensure an equitable, just and healthy society. The year of Shmittah was a time when agricultural lands were collectively left fallow. The Earth (land, air, water) is not merely some resource to be used and abused. If we want to live on the land, it is our responsibility to let it rest and not destroy the biological productivity with trash dumps, slag heaps, chemical waste ponds and sewage.

**Tu B’Shavat** is the Jewish New Year of the trees. Trees are a metaphor for nature and the environment. The celebration and blessings give thanks for the sustenance and material provided to humans. The combination of Shmittah and Tu B’Shevat should encourage us to make the effort to be stewards of the land.

Conserve the forests by reusing paper (print on both sides) and cardboard boxes before recycling. Purchase goods with 80%+ consumer recycled material.

Reduce food waste, purchase and cook only what your family can eat before it spoils and compost the vegetable waste. Share the food you cannot use.

Plan to use more sustainable lawn & landscape care practices such as using native plants, water conservation and avoiding chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Hebrew school and Pre-school model Tu B’Shavat Seder and Paper making project is February 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### March 2015, Report on MC Children Project

#### TBO-BT Men’s Club SHOMREI HA’ARETZ STEWARDS OF THE LAND: PROTECT VS USE

As part of the children’s Tu B’Shavat seder and Men’s Club Shmittah project, Mike Miller lead a discussion on the importance of recycling paper (saving millions of trees), how new paper is made, and the importance of buying products made with a large amount of recycled paper content. The children volunteered a few examples; paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, plates, office paper. They



## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

then took shredded paper, soaked the paper in warm water, made pulp in a blender, spread the pulp on a screen, put the screen between towels, squeezed out the water with rolling pin, let the paper dry. At a following class they use their paper as drawing paper. Pictures are in this newspaper.

Thank you to Paul Hymanson, Bob Kolker, Russ Kelner and Cantor Stern who helped to prepare the materials. A special thank you to Cantor Stern who directed the paper making production line.

Thank you to the teachers and parents for organizing the students and setting up the Seder.

Purim is March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**April 2015 Sustainable Passover**

**TBO-BT Men's Club SHOMREI HA'ARETZ**

**STEWARDS OF THE LAND: PROTECT VS USE**

PASSOVER 2015

Have an Environmentally responsible Passover;

1. Use non-toxic cleaning supplies.
2. Compost your Chumatz.
3. Purchase paper and plastic supplies made from +60% post-consumer recycled material.
4. Try the soy candles for the holidays; [www.FJMC.org](http://www.FJMC.org)

The Men's Club wishes to thank the following for helping with our projects during March:

The TBO-BT Sisterhood for providing Purim baskets to the Special Adults.

Bob Kolker and Mike Miller for organizing the Yellow Candle distribution.

Dick Laverof, Howie Silverman, Dennis Berry, Michael Roth, Fern Cammy, Ed Miretskiy, Bill Hausler, Theo Moreines, Alan Coen and Mike Miller for the delivery of the Yellow Candles

**May 2015 Sustainable Oceans**

**TBO-BT Men's Club SHOMREI HA'ARETZ/ STEWARDS OF THE LAND**

**Protect vs Use: Jewish Footprints on the Land**

TBO-BT Men's Club Shabbat was Saturday April 18th. The Club wishes to thank all who participated: Michael Goldstein, Pesukei De-zimra & haftorah; Jack Weinshanker Schaharit; Cantor Stern, directing the service; Arthur Freedman, Musaf, Steve Hurok, Joe Cammy, Howard Kronick for English readings; Michael W Miller organization and Davar Torah. The special adults also attended services and we thank Fern Cammy and Cantor Stern for seeing that they were served at the Kiddush.

In this week's Torah portion, Shemini, the Jewish people are given the laws concerning fish consumption. Leviticus 11:9-12 explains that all creatures in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers with both fins and scales are acceptable (kosher).

The first time that G-d speaks to any of the living creatures, the speech is directed at the fish.

Genesis 1:22 relates, "And G-d blessed them saying: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas'..." The Torah uses fish to connote fertility and abundance.

In today's world, however, fish could not be used as a symbol of fertility and abundance.

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service report estimated that more than three-quarters of the world’s marine fish stocks are currently being fished at their maximum or have already been overfished beyond their maximum and are now in decline. Cod, Gulf of Maine, Great Banks; Alaska Pollock, Atlantic herring, Chilean Sea Bass, Blue fin tuna; Name a few. Are we acting in an unholy manner when we eat fish that are harvested from unsustainable fisheries?

The Monterey Bay Aquarium provides information on good eco-choices for eating seafood. A few examples, Wild-caught Alaskan salmon are eco-certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. Other kosher fish species receiving either a “best” or “good” rating include: tilapia farmed in either the U.S. or Central America, Farmed U.S. Atlantic salmon, yellow fin tuna caught in the U.S. by either troll or pole, and wild-caught lingcod from either the U.S. or Canada.

The opportunity before us is to buy fish sustainably, fulfilling the divine mandate for human stewardship of G-d’s planet –to use it and to protect it.

Suggested Actions:

3. Research the fish that you buy to see if it is sustainable.
4. Make a commitment to buy sustainable fish, Ask at the market.
3. Encourage your Congressional representatives to support Marine conservation measures.
4. You can learn more by visiting three great websites: mbayaq.org, seafoodwatch.org and oceansalive.org

Source; Canfei Nesharim: Parsha Shemini by Candace Nachma

**Documents;** Shmittah – Sukkot, Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Food

1) (poster)

The Shmittah year will begin on Rosh Hashanah 5775, (September 24, 2014).

“And six years you will sow your land, and gather in the land’s produce; but the seventh year you will release it from work and abandon it, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beast of the field shall eat. In like manner you will deal with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.” (Exodus 23:10-11)

Shmittah, literally translated as the ‘year of release,’ and more widely known as the Sabbatical Year, is a biblical Jewish tradition which occurs, once every seventh year.

The Men’s Club will step up with education and activity programs for the congregation and community during the Shmittah year. What should *shmittah* look like today? What would it mean to you to let the land rest every seventh year?

The Jewish holiday of Sukkot celebrates the Fall Harvest. We are told to sleep, eat, and relax outdoors in our sukkah. Sukkot also celebrates the time when farmers have completed their harvest and are able to indulge in some relaxation before the first rains of the season hit. This holiday inherently relates to the environment, where we are gathering our seasonal fall produce from. Sukkot celebrates our seasonal food gatherings and the environment, hence during this

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

holiday we should be more mindful of the impact that our celebrations have on the world around us.

**First Program; Sukkot Pancake Breakfast on Oct. 12th** with talks by Michael Miller on sustainable agriculture and organically produced food, and by Mrs. Charlotte Lee of Purple Dragon Coop on organic food cooperatives & community support of agriculture.

MEN'S CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST IN THE SUKKAH Sunday, October 12, 9:45 am after 9:00 am Minyan.

School Children and families 9:15 -9:45am

Fee: \$3.00 per person, \$10.00 per family

Minyan attendees free, Presentation no charge

Guest Speaker's topic (10:15am): locally grown food, and sustainable agriculture; Benefits of organic food (pesticide & chemical free) and sustainable lawn & landscape care practices

Everyone is welcome!

RSVP to Michael Goldstein @ (908) 241-0509, or Michael W. Miller @ (908) 233-9624

Michael Miller's Power point Talk available

**Documents;** Tu B'Shavat, Paper Making

**Instructions**

### **Tu B'Shavat- Shmittah Paper Project**

#### **What happens to the paper you recycle?**

Have a discussion with student about industrial recycling of paper. Collection, Mixed or sorted; converting to pulp; removing ink, color dyes, binders, (waste product); bleaching; rolling into sheets; and drying. What can you purchase containing Consumer re-cycled paper? When paper is recycled "The Earth Rests, fewer native trees are consumed and the land is not bare."

#### **Making your own "recycled paper"**

Use recycled newspaper, office paper to create new paper. Project involves creating paper pulp from the recycled paper, forming sheets and letting the sheets dry.

**Supplies and Preparation**

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

For a large group prepare the materials ahead of time and test the process.

Shredded Scrap paper, Roll of Aluminum screening ( old window screens) cut into pieces of (approximately 10" x 10") with the edges taped over to prevent wounds (duct tape works best), rolling pins or one inch diameter X 4 foot dowel cut into 12 inch lengths and sanded, coat with vegetable oil. Also, gather the following: a wash basins, blender or food processor, old towels (students can bring towel). Prepare a large batch of paper pulp consistency Greek yogurt, store in large plastic bin at the event dilute and mix to Consistency of yogurt with hot water

### Event

- 1) Using some students demonstrate the pulp making. Tear scrap paper into small pieces. Soak it in hot water for one-half hour. Take a handful of the paper, put it into a blender or food processor, and add water until half-full. Blend until you no longer see pieces of paper. Consistency should be that of yogurt.
2. All Students or pairs, pour pre-prepared mixture over the screen (with basin to catch water). Shake the screen back and forth to get an even layer of fibers on the screen. It may be necessary to lower the screen into the water in the basin in order to even out the layer. Lift the screen carefully out of the water.
3. Lay the screening between old towels. Roll with a rolling pin to get fibers flat and even. Let dry for at least an hour.
4. Gently remove the paper from the screen by turning the screen upside down and peeling the paper away from the edges. The rest of the paper should fall away from the screen.
5. If the paper starts to break, it is not dry enough. Label the screens and place on dry towel over night.
6. Note; TBO-BT MC used a very large tub and dip the screens in the pulp, a drying rack since we were short of time.

**Documents;** TBO-BT Men’s Club Shabbat Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>

Davar Torah MWMiller

For the past 1.5 years TBO-BT Men’s Club has implemented FJMC SHOMREI HA’ARETZ/ STEWARDS OF THE LAND Programs

Also, we are in the Shmittah year, more widely known as the Sabbatical Year, the biblical Jewish tradition, (Exodus 23:10-11) which, once every seven years, simultaneously re-adjusted agriculture and commerce to ensure an equitable, just and healthy society. The Earth is not merely some resource to be used and abused. If we want to live on this Earth, it is our responsibility to let it rest. The Heath of the Ocean and its Biota is key to G-d’s established order.

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

In this week's Torah portion, Shemini, the Jewish people are given the laws concerning fish consumption. Leviticus 11:9-12 explains that all creatures in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers with both fins and scales are acceptable (kosher).

The first time that G-d speaks to any of the living creatures, the speech is directed at the fish.

Genesis 1:22 relates, "And G-d blessed them saying: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas'..." The Torah uses fish to connote fertility and abundance.

In today's world, however, fish could not be used as a symbol of fertility and abundance.

U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service report estimated that more than three-quarters of the world's marine fish stocks are currently being fished at their maximum or have already been overfished beyond their maximum and are now in decline. To name a few - Cod, Gulf of Maine, Great Banks; Alaska pollock, Atlantic herring, Chilean Sea Bass, Blue fin tuna;

Nachmonides (Spain, 1194-1270) writes that the mitzvah of shiluach haken (not taking a mother and baby bird at the same time) teaches us that we should not cause a species to become extinct. Are we acting in an unholy manner when we eat fish that are harvested from unsustainable fisheries?

The Monterey Bay Aquarium provides information on good eco-choices for eating seafood. A few examples, Wild-caught Alaskan salmon are eco-certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. Other kosher fish species receiving either a "best" or "good" rating include: tilapia farmed in either the U.S. or Central America, farmed U.S. Atlantic salmon, yellow fin tuna caught in the U.S. by either troll or pole, and wild-caught lingcod from either the U.S. or Canada.

The opportunity before us is to buy fish sustainably, fulfilling the divine mandate for human stewardship of G-d's planet –to use it and to protect it.

Suggested Actions:

1. Research the fish that you buy to see if it is sustainable.
2. Make a commitment to buy sustainable fish.
3. Encourage your Congressional representatives to support Marine conservation measures.
4. You can learn more by visiting three great websites: [mbayaq.org](http://mbayaq.org), [oceansalive.org](http://oceansalive.org), and [seafoodwatch.org](http://seafoodwatch.org)

Source; Canfei Nesharim: Parsha Shemini by Candace Nachman

## 2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

### Section 7: Video

**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\*\***