

5th Annual Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff

Photos from 2015 – [Dropbox](#)

Photo credit: Elise Passy

Over 30 local organizations and businesses spiced up the **5th Annual Houston Kosher Chili Cookoff** with their unique kosher chili recipes on Sunday to benefit the **Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center's Meals on Wheels**, **Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services** and the **Hebrew Free Loan Association of Houston (HFLA)**. The cookoff gathered the Houston Jewish community on a perfect weather day for chili to enjoy live music, a moonwalk, climbing walls, balloon artists and a jalapeno eating contest.

Attendees also heated up competition through bids for silent auction items and a raffle while local live entertainment was provided by **The Dan Band**, **Joe Buchanan** (Congregation Shar Hashalom) and the **Lanier Middle School Klezmer Band**. Celebrity and media food judges sampled 36 recipe entries for kosher chili throughout the cookoff.

The coveted best chili and first place award was presented to **United Orthodox Synagogues** team.



Following up closely behind, the **Congregation Or Ami** team received second place and the **Chabad of Sugar Land** team was awarded third. The **Aishel House** team won the Showmanship Award and the **Congregation Beth Yeshuran** received the People's Choice Award. All winning teams were presented with trophies.

Celebrity and media judges included **Amber Elliott** from The Houston Chronicle; Council Member **Ellen Cohen** Houston City Council District C; **Eric Sandler** of

CultureMap; **Ernie Manouse** of PBS; Food Editor of The Houston Chronicle
Greg Morago; **Katherine Whaley** of ABC13; **Kathy Ballanfant** of Southwest
News; **Laurette Veres** of HTexas Magazine; Radio Personality of 950 AM
Michael Garfield; **Phaedra Cook** of Houston Press; **Ruchi Mukerjee** of Lights
Camera Action; **Russell Weil** of Buzz Magazines; Publisher of Chile Pepper
Magazine **Sir McMillen**; and **Ted Powers** of the Jewish Herald-Voice.