# BETH SHALOM MEN'S CLUB

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### BETH SHALOM MEN'S CLUB



## Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle

Holocaust Remembrance

5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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This year Yom HaShoah will be observed on Tuesday, April 18 - the 27th day of Nisan Light your candle after sunset on Monday, April 17, 2023







#### YOM HASHOAH CANDLES

We pack and distribute Yom HaShoah candles for our congregants to remember and honor those who perished in the Holocaust. We also order and distribute Yom HaShoah candles for other local Men's Clubs.

#### WHY IN THE HOME?

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) is often commemorated in communities and synagogues with large mass gatherings, often attended by those most directly impacted by the horrors that occurred in Europe. While these gatherings are important, the FJMC understood that Holocaust Remembrance needs to also take place in the home to allow people to reflect on the horrors of the Holocaust and how they affected the entire Jewish people, even generations later.

Another purpose is to also have a mechanism for families to gather for a moment to teach and to explain to the next generation the impact and the survival of that horrific moment in Jewish history. For over 40 years, families have come together to light the Yellow Candle<sup>TM</sup>, to remember, to teach, and not to forget.

#### WHY THE YELLOW CANDLETM?

The Candle is Yellow to remind us of the Yellow Star that Jews were forced to wear to identify them as Jews and open them to ridicule and persecution. Men's Clubs and other organizations order the Candle through this program and distribute them to their membership with a short explanation of the program. On the night of Yom HaShoah the candles are lit in homes across the globe to shine a light of memory, a light of education, and a light that we will never forget. By participating in this program, you are helping to keep the memory of the Shoah alive and to remember what happens when good people do not stand up.

By participating in this program, you build the next link in the chain of memory. Just as we light a Yahrzeit Candle to burn for 24 hours to remember a dear one who is no longer with us on the anniversary of their death, so too, once a year, we light a Yellow Yom HaShoah candle to burn 24 hours to remember our 6,000,000 brothers and sisters who died for no other reason, but they were Jewish. Join us in remembering. The tragedy of the Holocaust is not forgotten in order to prevent similar heinous crimes or a repeat offense.

Sharing light for remembrance using the Yellow Candle<sup>TM</sup>, is not just a moment in time, but a timeless moment that can never be forgotten. The tool of light – through candle sharing – will shine truth on everyone it touches.







## SHOAH YELLOW CANDLES "OUR" HISTORY



Over seventy-five years ago, half of the earth's Jewish population perished at the hands of another Amalek, an Austrian house painter who seized control of Europe and threw the earth into darkness. God's light unto the other nations flickered but did not die. A new, modern Exodus arose from the depths of despair and tragedy. From the ashes of Europe, survivors of the Holocaust, or Shoah, made their way towards new lives. Emigrants dispersed around the world, to the new State of Israel and to the western hemisphere. In these places, they began to rebuild shattered lives.

The Yellow Candle™ program was created in 1981 by FJMC clubs in Canada, New England and elsewhere to keep alive the memory of the Six Million who perished in the Shoah. The Candle is modeled after a traditional Jewish memorial Yahrzeit candle that burns for 24 hours during periods of mourning and on the Yahrzeit anniversary of a family member. Survivors asked a question. How could Yahrzeits be observed for those victims whose entire families had been wiped out? An idea was born, a special memorial candle with yellow wax, in remembrance of the yellow stars forced upon European Jews during the Nazi regime. A photo on the candle container shows young people visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This reflects the importance of teaching our youth the

camp. This reflects the importance of teaching our youth the lessons of the Holocaust and of remembering the Six Million. In addition, the program logo is a yellow Magen David (Star of David) outlined with barbed wire, with the word "Jude" in the middle. This preserves the memory of the armband or cloth patch that Jews were forced to wear in the ghettos of Eastern Europe.



Today, organizations across North America and beyond sponsor this international program. Yellow Candle™ is distributed to people from all streams of Judaism, to institutions such as synagogues, schools, museums, military bases, churches and government offices. Success means distributing as many Candles as possible to the community. No human being who wishes to memorialize a victim should be left out.

Place your candle in your window and as you light this candle as a reminder, you may recite this meditation:

"As I light this yellow candle, I vow never to forget the lives of the Jewish men, women, and children who were martyred and are symbolized by this flame. They were tortured and brutalized by human beings who acted like beasts; their lives were taken in cruelty. May we be inspired to learn more about our six million brothers and sisters as individuals and as communities, to recall their memory throughout the year, so that they will not suffer a double death. May we recall not only the terror of their deaths, but also the splendor of their lives. May the memory of their lives inspire us to live meaningful Jewish lives so that we may help to ensure that part of who they were shall endure always."





