

Shoah Yellow Candle™ 2012/5772
Holocaust Memorial Program

Yom HaShoah - April 18th/19th, 2012

Sponsored by:

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC)
Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ)
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism



*“Light A Candle,
Preserve A Memory”*



The Yellow Candle™ - A Program Introduction

Three millennia ago, the Jewish people were born in an exile from Mitzrayim, or Egypt. The first Passover was celebrated by slaves about to be liberated with signs and wonders by Yad Vashem, the hand of God.

Over thousands of years, Jews have come to celebrate the festival of freedom with an annual ritual, the Pesah Seder. We retell the story from the Haggadah with the responsibility to teach our children. The most memorable passages from this home ritual are the Four Questions or Fier Kashes. We ask, "Why Is This Night Different?"

Nearly seventy years ago, the Jewish people suffered at the hands of another Pharaoh. Instead of enslavement, the new Pharaoh focused on annihilation. Half of the earth's Jewish population perished. God's light unto the other nations, His chosen, flickered but did not die. A new, modern Exodus arose from the depths of despair and tragedy.

From the ashes of Europe and the Displaced Persons ("DP") Camps, survivors of the Holocaust, or Shoah, slowly made their way towards new lives in a new diaspora. Emigrants dispersed around the world, to the new State of Israel and to the western hemisphere. There, they began to rebuild shattered lives.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, some of these survivors asked another 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 in the 1930s and 40s.

Since the Shoah, thousands of Holocaust observance programs have been organized. And so we can ask, MA NISHTANA HA'OR HAZEH? Why Is This Light Different From All Other Lights? The answer is profound. **Each person should be obligated to light one candle for one victim of the Shoah.** On this basis, the Shoah Yellow Candle™ program exists, a truly unique home-based Holocaust remembrance ritual.

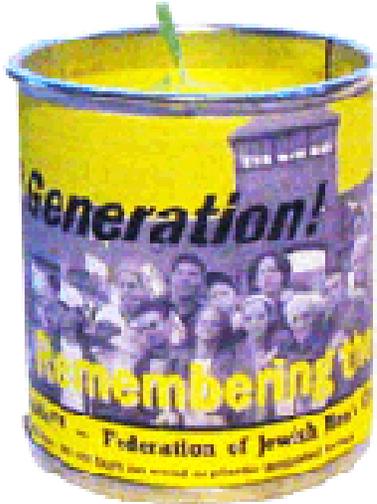
Today, Men's Clubs and Brotherhoods all across North America and beyond sponsor this international program. Yellow Candles™ are distributed by these organizations to people from all streams of Judaism, to institutions such as synagogues, schools, military bases, churches, government and business offices.

Your group (a Men's Club, Sisterhood, or any organization) can run a successful Shoah Yellow Candle program. Success means distributing as many Candles as possible. No human being who wishes to memorialize a victim should be left out. For Jewish people especially, the opportunity to recite the Kaddish prayer for a victim is a great mitzvah.

Never Forget! Zachor!

Thank You! G'dank!

What Is The Yellow Candle™?



Yellow Candle™
(Israeli Metal Can)



Glass Yellow Candle™
at Auschwitz oven

The Yellow Candle™ Design

The Yellow Candle™ was created in 1981 by club members of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs at groups in Canada, New England and elsewhere to help keep alive the memory of the Six Million who perished in the Holocaust. The Candle is modeled after the traditional Jewish memorial Yahrzeit candle that burns for 24 hours during periods of mourning and on the anniversary of the death of a family member.

The candle's yellow wax serves to remind us of the yellow arm band which Jews were forced to wear 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 lessons of the Holocaust and of remembering the Six Million.

In addition, the program logo is a Magen David (Star of David) outlined with barbed wire and colored yellow, with the letters "Jude" in the middle. This preserves the memory of the patch that Jews were forced to wear in the ghettos of Eastern Europe.

In 2003, FJMC introduced candles in metal tins made in Israel, in order to support our Israeli brethren. In addition, the metal tin cans ship better without breakage. Their lighter weight helps to reduce mailing and shipping costs. In addition, the smaller metal can allows two candles to be placed in one white mailing box.

How Does the Yellow Candle™ Program Work?

Candles are distributed by organizations to their members for use on Yom HaShoah and other Holocaust dates. The candle supplies (candles, delivery boxes or plastic delivery bags) are available from FJMC or MRJ. Distribution is achieved in one of two ways.

Most groups order Candles by the case (48 count) and then manage distribution to their own local congregants and members. This method is hands-on, saves money and can involve the entire community in a Shoah related activity. It also provides opportunities for additional educational opportunities. Distribution is done by home delivery or mail.

In the absence of volunteers to do the local work, mailing lists can also be sent to FJMC, which then sends Candles by direct mail to a list of recipients. Included in this mailing are a meditation, poem and a letter from your group which may ask for a donation to cover the cost of the candle and mailing.

Ideally, groups order supplies before the end of the calendar year, get materials in place by March and deliver the candles in time for Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. This date coincides with 27 Nisan on the Jewish calendar, to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. It is always one week after the end of Passover. Therefore, most groups deliver candles 3 or 4 weeks in advance, before the holiday period.

Candle deliveries can often be accompanied by communal programs in the synagogue. However, the main focus of the Candle project is to create a chance for families to light a memorial candle for one victim of the Shoah. It can be approached in the same way as Chanukah, the Passover Seder and other home observances.

How Can Our Group Start a Yellow Candle™ Program?

Start by letting us know of your interest. Please fill out the form below and return to:

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475 Riverside Drive, Suite 832 -- New York, NY 10115-0022
E-mail: info@yellowcandles.org
Phone: (212) 749-8100 Fax: (212) 316-4271

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____