

B'NAI ISRAEL MEN'S CLUB

April 2023/Nisan 5783

Dear B'nai Israel families:

At a Capitol Hill press conference in January to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, members of Congress lamented how there were fewer and fewer eyewitnesses to the Shoah as old age took their toll on survivors of the unique horror that took the lives of six million Jews and millions of others.

So it's up to us to make sure they -- and the evils they experienced at the hands of the Nazis -- are never forgotten. To do that, the Men's Club has sent you the enclosed yellow candle that we hope you will light on *Yom Hashoah*, which this year begins the evening of Monday, April 17.

It becomes even more important when Holocaust deniers get to dine with the former president of the United States and members of Congress equate masking to stop the spread of COVID-19 with the yellow stars the Nazis forced Jews to wear.

As Rabbis Safra, Berkowitz and Stone have indicated, the candle is a gift to you from us. It is a project of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs in cooperation with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the North American Federation of Temple Brotherhoods. We thank Rob Loewy for continuing to lead the program and to those of our members who boxed and mailed out candles to every member of our congregation.

The yellow candle does not come without substantial cost, however. Should you wish to make a donation in memory of victims of the Holocaust and help defray our expenses, please use the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your continued support of this program. We hope to see you at our events, which are listed in the *Scroll* and posted on our website at <https://www.bnaiisraelcong.org/mensclubprograms>.

Jonathan D. Salant
Men's Club Co-President

Alan Isenberg
Men's Club Co-President

P.S.: If you receive the candle after *Yom Hashoah* due to delays in mail delivery, please light it then. It will still be meaningful.

***Yom Hashoah* Meditation**

Place the *Yom Hashoah* yellow candle in your window on the evening of Monday, April 17, and recite the following:

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 hallow our own lives and to live meaningful Jewish lives so that we may help to ensure that part of who they were shall endure always.