April 4, 2022

Dear Shir Shalom Family,

It is a privilege and a religious obligation to observe both Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut. Yom Hashoah commemorates our people’s most horrific tragedy; the murder of one-third of World Jewry, including one-and-a-half million Jewish children at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. Yom HaAtzmaut celebrates the anniversary of the founding of The State of Israel on May 14, 1948. Many of us or our parents and/or grandparents were alive through both epic changes in our history.

We must observe these events in our homes and explain their meaning to our family, friends, and neighbors, both Jew and Gentile. Just as we light candles for Chanukah, Jewish festivals, Yahrzeits and Shabbat, we light candles to mark these two significant events of our recent history. Please accept the enclosed Yom Hashoah Yahrzeit Candle, in addition to our Yom HaAtzmaut Candle with the compliments of Congregation Shir Shalom’s Men’s Club.

It is the collective obligation of the worldwide Jewish community to honor and remember the Six Million who perished in the Shoah, as well as those who survived the atrocities of Hitler and his Nazi regime, and those who risked their own lives to save the lives of our loved ones. On Wednesday evening, April 27, 2022, please join us in Synagogue or on Zoom for a special evening Minyan. And when you are home, please place and light this candle in a prominent place and recite the enclosed meditation.

We also encourage everyone to participate in the community-wide Yom HaShoah commemoration, organized by our own Holocaust Museum, which will take place this year at New City Jewish Center, 47 Old Schoolhouse Road, New City, NY on Sunday, April 24, 2022, from 5:00-6:30pm.

In addition, due to the special privilege which we Jews in the 21st century live, where the State of Israel represents the largest Jewish community in the world, we mark this wonderful Jewish achievement by lighting a festive Blue / White Yom HaAtzmaut candle, which our Men’s Club introduced (and which we hope other Mens Clubs will adapt as well) on the eve of Yom HaAtzmaut (Wednesday night, May 4, 2022.)

Jewish tradition teaches us that tzedakah and gemilut chasadim (charity and deeds of loving-kindness), help perpetuate the memory of those no longer with us. In that spirit of remembrance, ensuring that the horrors of the Holocaust never happen again, we encourage our community members to give tzedakah and help Shir Shalom continue to provide meaningful and educational programs.

A portion of donations will be given to the Holocaust Museum and Study Center at the Cultural Arts Center of Rockland Community College – a cornerstone of education and remembrance in Rockland County that merits our ongoing support. Additionally, through your generosity, we will contribute to the Masorti/Conservative Movement in Israel, which helps promote modern, pluralistic, egalitarian Judaism in the Holy Land.

Many thanks to our volunteers who help distribute these candles, as well as to the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, which sponsors the annual Yom HaShoah Candle Program. Our collective efforts help to ensure that “we will never forget.”

Sincerely,

Bruce Yore / Mitchel Spiegel / Eric Zweigbaum

Co-President, Congregation Shir Shalom Men’s Club

Bruce Yore

Coordinator, Yom HaShoah Candle Program

Enclosed is my tzedakah donation to the Congregation Shir Shalom Men’s Club. Please make check payable to Congregation Shir Shalom Men’s Club.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $36.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $54.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $72.00 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ $100.00 $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Other

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_