March 30, 2000

Dear Friends:

The Jewish people are committed to memory. Our entire historical consciousness is based on the memory of our people’s activities throughout history. In our generation, it is our task to remember the Shoah, the horrible destruction of our people during World War II. What was destroyed were not only human lives but human potential, not merely Jewish culture but new possibilities for Jewish creativity, not simply six-million Jews but the generations that might have come from them.

Thus, it is incumbent upon us to remember what we lost. I highly commend our own Men’s Club and The Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs for the Shoah Candle Program. It allows us to bring the memory of our loss into our homes through the ritualized lighting of the yellow Shoah Yahrzeit candle.

I encourage you to light the candle and place it by your window in the same way that you place the Hanukkah candles for all to see. I also encourage you to contribute to the Program to insure that we may be able to continue it in the years to come. Give your contributions in memory of those who perished and in honor of the generations of their families that were never born.

Sincerely,

RABBI VERNON KURTZ

VK/rh