

Torch Award Submission: TA11-025

Full Title of Entry (80 char max): **Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program at Har Zion**

- Entry Category (You can select up to 2, although you will only win in one):

Men's Club Shabbat **Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle** Israel / Masorti Hebrew Literacy / Ritual Literacy
 Hearing Men's Voices Men's Health Youth Programming Programs for Young Men (21-40)
 World Wide Wrap Shomrei Ha'aretz Club Administration Non-FJMC Program
 Best Overall Programming* [*Best Overall Programming is not on the basis of a single program, but your club's entire year. A single program submitted in this category will be re-categorized.]
 I'm not sure, so please select for our club's submission.

- Contact Person: **Bob Weinstein**
- Email address for Contact Person: prwein@cox.net
- Club number & Club name: **[Club #1074] Har Zion Men's Club**
[Is it a Men's Club or a Brotherhood? Please specify]
- Number of club members: **50**
- Synagogue name, city and state: **Har Zion Congregation, Scottsdale, AZ**
- Club President name (at time of entry): **Ken Matlick**
- Club President name (at time of convention): **Dr. Mitch Ross**
- Person preparing entry: **Bob Kalish**
- Email address of person preparing: joboaz@cox.net

Part II. Summary Information (2 – 3 sentences):

Our documentation describes how our club uniquely handles the Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program for unaffiliated Jewish organizations throughout the state of Arizona. It also describes how we get our youth involved in the program. In addition, it indicates some of the Shoah-related projects that we have implemented with the donations that we received.

Part III. By submitting this document, I certify, on behalf of the club, that this submission has not been submitted by our club for a Torch Award in a previous year.

Part IV. Entry Documentation

[Include your entry information in one document or provide one referenced document. If there is substantial documentation which you're providing so other clubs can do the program, but is NOT essential to understanding what the program was or how it was accomplished, please identify such information as 'Appendix' so that Judge does not have to review the material. If you're going to provide electronic copies of pictures, please use a graphic program to reduce the size of the individual photos, and realize that the judges don't know who the people are in the photos, so use such photos sparingly. As the submission documents are distributed to the judges electronically, please convert any written portion into an electronic file. If you need assistance in this, ask prior to submitting.]

TA11-025
Entry Documentation
Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program
At Har Zion Congregation
#1074

The Men's Club of Har Zion Congregation in Scottsdale, Arizona, has been very actively involved in the Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program for the last 20 years. The program originated within the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. The following describes how our club uniquely handles the program throughout our state, how we get our youth involved in the program and what we have done with some of the donations that we receive.

Our club alone takes 10 to 12 cases of the candles every year and each case contains 48 candles. Moreover, we make numerous telephone calls to every unaffiliated congregation and day school in the greater Phoenix area and throughout the entire state of Arizona to inform them about the yellow candle program and we encourage them to participate. As an inducement, we offer these organizations a \$6 discount off the \$72 price of a case, if they are picked up at our synagogue. And as a result, we typically distribute from 50 to 100 additional cases per year.

We stress the importance of commemorating the Shoah, in which six million Jews perished at the hands of the Nazis or their collaborators. Since so many whole families were murdered, there was no one left to mourn them, so the theme of the program is: "Please say kaddish for me!" On each of the candles we place a label that shows the name of a child, their age and the camp where they met their very untimely death.

Our club also encourages our congregation's youth group to become involved in the packaging activity by serving kosher pizza that we make ourselves. The candles, which are made in Israel, come in metal containers, rather than glass, so they are not fragile. We wrap them with letters from our rabbi and club president that explain the program and suggest that a donation be made to our club to help defray our costs and to help fund our various youth projects such as on the study of the Shoah. They are then placed in sturdy cardboard boxes, which are supplied with the candles, and they are mailed to every member of our congregation. In addition, a display of the candles is set up in the lobby of our sanctuary so that congregants can pick up extra candles to send to their children in college or to other relatives. And, our rabbi periodically reminds our congregants about the program from the pulpit.

The candles are lit and a prayer is recited every year on erev Yom HaShoah. On a positive note, it falls on the 27th day of Nisan, the Hebrew calendar date that marks the anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. For many of our youngsters, this program serves as an introduction to the study of the Shoah. It is very important that the post-Shoah generations must never let this enormous tragedy to our people be forgotten. And they must pass the torch on to coming generations. We must not let them forget.

In addition, we have used some of the donations to create a small garden in which we placed a memorial plaque for the victims of the Shoah. Because we feel that it is also important to honor the survivors of the Shoah, our club has erected a commemorative wall in the garden on which are engraved the names of the survivors who are or were members of our congregation or their relatives.