

## Torch Award Submission: **TA11-85**

- Full Title of Entry (80 char max): Temple Israel of Charlotte, NC—Yom Hashoah
- 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: Mike Eisner
- Email address for Contact Person: mike@templeisraelmen.com
- Club number & Club name: [# ] Temple Israel Men's Club  
[Is it a Men's Club or a Brotherhood? Please specify]
- Number of club members: 130
- Synagogue name, city and state: Temple Israel, Charlotte, NC
- Club President name (at time of entry): Mike Eisner
- Club President name (at time of convention): Mike Eisner
- Person preparing entry: Mike Eisner
- Email address of person preparing: mike@templeisraelmen.com

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

After taking a year off, we returned to the FJMC Shoah candle program. We use the candle program to further strengthen the ties between our men and our youth, and to stand as an example for our community. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and their parents take a morning to prepare 700 candles for mailing to our congregation. In return for this labor, the Men's Club underwrites their Memorial Day Weekend trip to Washington, DC and the US Holocaust Museum and Memorial. We let our congregants know that their donations for the candles help the Men's Club continue this partnership.

New this year, we recorded a message from students reminding congregants to light their candles, thanking them for making donations (and reminding others they can contribute), as well as letting the congregants know how they are looking forward to the Washington trip with their parent, finally thanking everyone for remembering the Shoah. This recording will be automatically sent to candle recipients on the evening before Yom Hashoa. The cost of this one-time phone blast is around \$25. It is hoped that this personal connection will result in more candles being lighted and more donations being sent.

The trip to Washington has always been a good source of new Men's Club leaders, and the candle program is no different. We often target dads early on in the year to get involved with the post office part of the candle program, the insert design, printing, as well as planning the trip. Linking the proceeds of the candle project to Holocaust education has been very important to our club since the beginning of the Shoah candle project.

**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.**

April, 2011

Dear Friends,

Enclosed you will find a Shoah Yellow Candle™. Please join with people around the world on Yom HaShoah, and light this candle on Sunday evening, May 1st, corresponding to 28 Nisan 5771, in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Please place this candle in your window to show the world that we have not forgotten. We do this for those whose entire families and towns perished in the Shoah, and for whom no one is left to light a Yahrzeit remembrance candle. This year more than 200,000 Shoah candles will be distributed.

Please consider making a donation to help defray the costs of this program and to fund Holocaust education. Each year, the Men's Club uses proceeds to sponsor our religious school's 6th grade Holocaust Education unit which culminates in their class trip to Washington, DC and the US Holocaust Museum and Memorial.

We hope that you will gather your family together to participate on Sunday evening, May 1st in this small but meaningful gesture as well as our community's public commemorations. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at [mike@templeisraelmen.com](mailto:mike@templeisraelmen.com) or (704) 779-0768.

Mike Eisner  
President,  
Temple Israel Men's Club

**Light a Shoah Remembrance Candle  
in memory of The Six Million...and the Righteous Among the Nations  
Help Keep the Memory of the Righteous Alive Forever**



**THE BLESSING OF THE YELLOW CANDLE**

(You may choose to recite this blessing when you light your candle)

*We light this yellow candle to rekindle God's flame,  
To shine His light upon the world once again,  
To sanctify the memories of the millions of souls,  
To honor their prayers and all their lost goals.  
We bless their existence by being alive  
To light this yellow candle as proof we survived.*

*Ron Adler*

Your generous donation to the 2011 Shoah Candle Program supports the teaching of our children about the Holocaust. Thank you for being part of our *kehillah shel ma'asim tovim*—our community of people who do good deeds.

Amount enclosed: \$18\_\_\_\_\_ \$36\_\_\_\_\_ \$54\_\_\_\_\_ \$72\_\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Temple Israel Men's Club"

Please return this form with your donation in the enclosed envelope. *Todah Rabbah!*

**"In those times there was darkness everywhere. In heaven and on earth, all the gates of compassion seemed to have been closed. The killer killed and the Jews died and the outside world adopted an attitude either of complicity or of indifference. Only a few had the courage to care ..."**

**--Elie Wiesel  
(shown at age 15)**



**Selected Profiles of the Righteous Among the Nations  
From [www.YadVashem.org](http://www.YadVashem.org)**



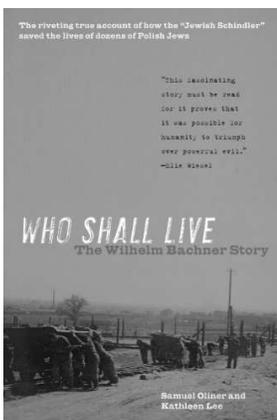
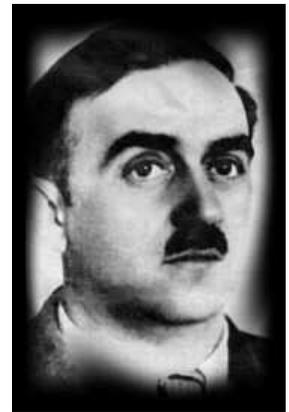
The English stockbroker, Sir Nicholas Winton, on holiday in Prague, recognized the advancing danger and courageously rescued 669 Czech children from their doomed fate in the Nazi death camps, but his achievement went unrecognized for over half a century. He kept it secret and never told anyone about what he had achieved. For fifty years most of the children did not know to whom they owed their lives.

Today there are over 5,000 descendants of the Winton children around the world, including in the UK, Canada, Czech Republic and the United States.

During the years of the Nazi occupation of Lithuania a German Sergeant Anton Schmid disobeyed his superior officers and saved 250 Jewish men, women, and children from extermination in Nazi death camps by hiding them, supplying them with false ID papers and helping them escape. On 13. April 1942, he was executed by the Nazis ...

As a sergeant of the Wehrmacht he witnessed the herding of Jews into two ghettos and the shooting of thousands of them in nearby Ponary. Anton Schmid was moved by the suffering of the Jews in the Vilnius ghetto and decided to help.

He managed to release Jews from jail and risked his own life by smuggling food into the ghetto. His courageous assistance involved the saving of more than 250 Jews whom he managed to hide and the supplying of aid and forged papers to the Jewish underground.



Wilhelm Bachner, his wife and his parents led a happy life in Warsaw, when Germany invaded Poland in September 1939. The family's feelings of security collapsed, when the family was herded into the Warsaw Ghetto.

Speaking fluent German and possessing an engineering degree from a German university, Bachner used his distinctively non-Jewish appearance, camouflaged his Jewish identity and managed to get a job with a German engineering company.

He had won the confidence of the leading German architect and convinced him that the requisite building materials for their construction project were more affordable within the ghetto, thereby justifying why he should be issued a pass.

Armed with this pass that enabled him to enter and leave the ghetto as an Aryan, he rescued more than 50 Polish Jews, supplying them with false identity papers and work permits. He assigned some to his firm's work crews, others were given office jobs or placed in hiding. Wilhelm Bachner saved more than 50 Jews during the Holocaust, among them his wife and his father. His mother, brother and sister perished in the Nazi death machine. In 1951 Bachner and his wife emigrated to California. They both died in 1991.

