

Men's Club Shoah Yellow Candle™ Torch Award Examples

Educate and stimulate your community and club leaders with program ideas. Since 1991, the Torch Awards competition has provided an avenue for FJMC recognition of excellence in club programming. Many central FJMC programs, such as the Shoah Yellow Candle™ program, Build A Pair, and Keruv, began as original and creative club programs that won Torch Awards. Clubs can learn from and adapt outstanding programs which other clubs have successfully done.

Here are previous Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle Torch Award Winners. To view the Torch Award Winners in all categories, please [click here](#).

Placement: Gold

Year of the Award: 2019

Club Name: Beth Shalom Men's Club - Clearwater, FL (1328)

Program Name: Jewish Film Festival Yom HaShoah Remembrance Program

Contact: Blake Lenett, blake.lenett@verizon.net

Category: Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle

This program aimed to unite the Jewish community by collaborating with the local Jewish Film Festival in a Holocaust Remembrance program. The program consisted of six elements: 1) Distribution of Yellow Candles as attendees arrived, 2) Explanation of the Yellow Candle Program, 3) Introduction of the Movie by the Film Festival representative, 4) Showing of the Movie in an appropriate and secure venue, 5) Dessert Reception following the movie, and 6) Collection of Candle Donations to support the FJMC. All attendees received an FJMC Yellow Candle and were encouraged to light their candles in observance of Yom HaShoah.

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

Placement: Bronze

Year of the Award: 2019

Club Name: Temple Beth Shalom Men's Club - Melbourne, FL (1350)

Program Name: Say My Name: Partnering with the U.S. Holocaust Museum

Contact: Eric Perlman, esperlman@gmail.com

Category: Yom HaShoah / Yellow Candle

This augments the Shoah Yellow Candle Program, featuring a partnership with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum through its Southeast Regional Office. Our narrative and timeline (below) describe it in detail. In brief, we augmented the Shoah Yellow Candle Program in three ways: (1) by having the names of children, who perished in the Holocaust on every candle, (2) by partnering with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to hold an event at our synagogue, and (3) allocating the funds from the program to a program where we would send our age-appropriate children to Washington, DC, to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Marketing for the program was done by direct mail (enclosed brochure), newsletter, and word of mouth. We also had the help of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in the effort. The event itself featured a talk about the current programs of the Museum and the dangers of anti-semitism. The first visit of our children to Washington, DC -- endowed by this event and associated donations -- will occur next week.

This program succeeded in fundraising and bringing awareness of the Holocaust and anti-semitism to our community, both within the synagogue and outside. We received tremendous support from the community for our program, and the response was incredible. Not only did we reinvigorate the Yellow Candle Program, but we also succeeded in endowing a fund to send students from our synagogue to Washington, DC, to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

SUBMISSION #: TA11-006

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 2011

MEN'S CLUB: Etz Chaim/#1711 formally known as the Congregation Etz Chaim Men's Club, Marietta, Georgia

CLUB #: 1711

PROGRAM: Yom HaShoah – The Unity of Community

CONTACT: Steve Dix, dices@yahoo.com

On April 10, 2010, the Men's Club of Congregation Etz Chaim held a candlelight vigil in observance of Yom HaShoah. 365 Yellow Candles were lit in the shul's Holocaust Memorial Garden by nearly 150 attendees, and members of the Men's Club remained throughout the night to guard the burning candles and remember the eleven million dead. But this night was only the culmination of several week-long rejuvenation projects of the Holocaust Memorial Garden, youth awareness, and community outreach to encourage remembrance of the Holocaust by all faiths.

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA11-085

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 2011

MEN'S CLUB: Temple Israel Men's Club, Charlotte, NC

PROGRAM: Yom HaShoah

CONTACT: Mike Eisner, mike@templeisraelmen.com

After taking a year off, we returned to the FJMC Shoah candle program. We use the candle program further to strengthen the ties between our men and youth and stand as an example for our community. Our 6th-grade class and their parents took 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 U.S. 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 automatically be sent to candle recipients the evening before Yom HaShoah. The cost of this one-time phone blast is around \$25. Hopefully, this personal connection will result in more candles being lit and more donations received.

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 in the year to get involved with the post office part of the candle program, the insert design, printing, and 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.

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA11-086

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Bronze

YEAR OF AWARD: 2011

MEN'S CLUB: Men's Club of Congregation Beth Shalom Clearwater, Florida

CLUB #: 1328

PROGRAM: Essay Contest for Yom HaShoah Memorialization

CONTACT: Mike Brodsky, brodsky126@yahoo.com

To spread the issues of the Holocaust throughout the community, we invited school children to submit written essays based on different annual topics dealing with the Holocaust. A panel of judges awarded prizes for each school level (Elementary, Middle, and High School) entry. Awards were presented at the Yom HaShoah annual event. Our men's Club has sponsored this event for the last two years.

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA11-025

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Shoah Yellow Candle Program

YEAR OF AWARD: 2011

MEN'S CLUB: Har Zion Men's Club, Scottsdale, AZ

CLUB #: 1074

PROGRAM: Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program at Har Zion

CONTACT: Bob Weinstein, prwein@cox.net

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

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA09-115

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Shoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 2009

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Israel (Owings Mills, MD) Brotherhood

CLUB #: 1111

PROGRAM: Remembering the Kindertransport

CONTACT: Dan Dinkin, dan@cobaltconsulting.com

In recognition of the 70th Anniversary of the Kindertransport (to move Jewish children from Nazi Germany to England), the Brotherhood – in conjunction with the Beth Israel Sisterhood – sponsored this event. We invited John Obermeyer, a child rescued by Kindertransport (now living in M.D.), to speak. After the Brotherhood served a sumptuous breakfast to the 230 attendees, a short ceremony was held where Mr. Obermeyer and 5 Holocaust survivors came onto the bema to light Yom HaShoah Yellow Candles. Our two keynote speakers followed this. In the end, Mr. Obermeyer played a song from a published CD written by his daughter in honor of his journey from Germany to England – via the Kindertransport – and eventually to the U.S. As attendees left, they received a Shoah Yellow Candle to light during Yom HaShoah.

The event was covered by the local news media both before and after the event. There were 230 attendees.

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA09-054

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Shoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 2009

MEN'S CLUB: Temple Sinai Men's Club, Dresher, PA

CLUB #: 551

PROGRAM: Zachrenu - Remember Us

CONTACT: George Marcus, mensclub@tsinai.com

Realizing that the voices of the Survivors of the Holocaust soon will no longer be heard, the Men's Club helped produce and distribute a DVD and curriculum featuring pre-B'nai Mitzvah students interviewing three Survivors and one Liberator. This DVD is a tool to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to students.

The DVD will be given to celebrants on the day of their B'nai Mitzvah, and we will also provide the DVD at no cost to any schools (public and parochial) or religious institutions so they can benefit from this teaching tool. If other Men's Clubs or synagogues wish for mass distribution, it is available at a modest cost.

The challenge is for other Men's Clubs and Synagogues to hear and record the voices of their Survivors so that they will be remembered.

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA09-049

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Shoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Bronze

YEAR OF AWARD: 2009

MEN'S CLUB: Men's Club of Congregation Beth Emeth, Herndon, VA

CLUB #: 1144

PROGRAM: 2009 Revamped Yellow Candle Program Successful at Congregation Beth Emeth

CONTACT: Jim Sloan, jsloansarel@gmail.com

CBE Men's Club teamed up with the Religious School to implement a program closely following the FJMC Yom Shoah Yellow Candle™ Program. The program was revamped several years ago, and most of the hands-on work of assembling the packages is done by seventh-grade students in the Religious School. The upfront costs are covered 100% by a congregational sponsor. CBE Men's Club has taken the additional step of working with the religious School to institutionalize the program into the religious school curriculum.

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA09-05

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom Hashoah Yellow Candle Program

YEAR OF AWARD: 2009

MEN'S CLUB: Adat Shalom Men's Club, Los Angeles, CA

CLUB #: 1015

PROGRAM: Watermarks

CONTACT: Marshall H Rubin, tim@saulbubis.com

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

SUBMISSION #: TA07-190b

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Shoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 2007

MEN'S CLUB: Brandeis Men's Club, Temple Israel, Ridgewood, NJ

CLUB #: 969

PROGRAM: Yom HaShoah Candles: From [impersonal] Mailing, to [rewarding] Hand Delivery

CONTACT: David Millman, millman2@optonline.net

The Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program) had always been a one-person operation: the FJMC mailed the candles to synagogue members, and the Club broke even from donations. The decision to HAND DELIVER the candles introduced a fair amount of WORK and RISK, but it PAID OFF handsomely in several ways:

[Click Here for Torch Award Submission](#)

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 2005

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Men's Club, Toronto, Ontario

PROGRAM: Sefer Haftarah Fund-Raising Project

In commemoration of our synagogue's Golden 50th Jubilee Year and to create a unique fund-raising project, we have commissioned the creation of our own Sefer Haftarah, which we are dedicating to the "Children of the Shoah" as an enduring and lasting liturgical legacy to them.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 2005

MEN'S CLUB: Brotherhood of Congregation B'nai Tzedek, Potomac, MD

PROGRAM: Holocaust Education and Torah Dedication Ceremony

The program began with a Holocaust Education program designed to interest children and adults. Then two rescued Torahs, one repaired and placed in the Aron Kodesh and the other damaged beyond repair and placed in a specifically designed cabinet in the synagogue lobby, were dedicated as Holocaust Memorials.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Bronze

YEAR OF AWARD: 2005

MEN'S CLUB: Adat Shalom Men's Club, Farmington Hills, MI

PROGRAM: Holocaust Memorial Center Tour

The Club organized a tour of the new Holocaust Memorial Center (HMC) located in Farmington Hills. This was followed by a personal talk to the group by a Men's Club member and survivor.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 2003

MEN'S CLUB: Mishkan Tefila, Newton, MA

CLUB #: 717

PROGRAM: Warsaw Ghetto Memorial Breakfast

CONTACT: David Kaplan, (617) 965-3030 ext. 125, Kaplan@baystate.cc

This program was a major memorial breakfast and activity held to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance, including several programs held in conjunction with the major event. The program involves cross-generational involvement and expands congregational participation.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 2003

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Sholom, Las Vegas, NV

CLUB #: 1079

PROGRAM: Memorial Garden

CONTACT: Irwin Goldberg, (702) 243-3349

This program used stones salvaged from the Warsaw Ghetto as a basis to build a Memorial Garden on synagogue grounds as a reminder of the Holocaust. Funds received to provide an ongoing educational program for students and visitors.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 2003

MEN'S CLUB: Beth David, Saratoga, CA

CLUB #: 1072

CONTACT: Robert Katz, (408) 458-0422, katz95014@aol.com

This program refutes the passiveness of Jewish victims, showing that there were more involved in resistance than was previously judged. It involved a series of lectures and movies that dealt with Jewish heroism.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 2001

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Judea, Long Grove, IL

CLUB #: 642

PROGRAM: Memorial Garden

CONTACT: Neil Blumenthal, (847) 537-8665, nblumenthal@prodigy.net

Using the funds generated through the FJMC's Shoah Yellow Candle program, the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Judea successfully designed, funded, and built a permanent outdoor memorial garden that will remind generations of those murdered during the Holocaust.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 2001

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Tikvah, Green Acres, FL

CLUB #: 1330

PROGRAM: Holocaust Discussions in Public School

CONTACT: Israel Sack, (561) 968-4755, nanapapa61@msn.com

The Beth Tikvah Men's Club organized a program to bring the story of the Holocaust to the children of Osceola Middle School in Okeechobee, FL. Four speakers rotated through four class sessions and presented their experiences to the 8th grade.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 1999

MEN'S CLUB: Etz Chaim, Thousand Oaks, CA

CLUB #: 1036

CONTACT: Myles Simpson, (818) 889-8217, myles.a.simpson@boeing.com

This two-part program taught adults and youth about the Holocaust and the tragic conditions of survivors following the war. The program involved showing the Oscar-winning film, "The Long Way Home," followed a month later by a brunch with a Survivor from the film as the guest speaker. The film was also shown to the Confirmation class.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 1999

MEN'S CLUB: Shaar Shalom, Thornhill, ON

CLUB #: 448

CONTACT: John Glicksman, (905) 886-0229, john.glicksman@hydro.on.ca

Candle donations were used to erect a Holocaust memorial in the synagogue lobby. The wall-sized sculpture is constructed from sand-blasted glass with a ray of light emanating from its dark interior. More than 300 people attended a moving unveiling ceremony, which included solemn readings of victims' names.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 1997

MEN'S CLUB: Temple Israel, Charlotte, NC

CLUB #: 1709

CONTACT: Leonard Stern, (704) 544-9938, lenstern@bellsouth.net

The Temple Israel Men's Club distributed more than 650 Yellow Candles to congregants and raised more than \$3200 to help fund their first annual Youth Mission to Washington, DC. The pre-B'nai Mitzvah class and their parents processed the candles for mailing, created posters, and participated in the community Holocaust Memorial Service. Over Memorial Day weekend, 26

students and 20 parents traveled to Washington and toured the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 1997

MEN'S CLUB: Mishkan Tefila, Chestnut Hill, MA

CLUB #: 717

CONTACT: Herbert Lerman, (617) 738-1914

The Mishkan Tefila Brotherhood presented a Memorial Breakfast, concluding with responsive readings, remarks by the mayor, lighting of Yad Vashem Menorah candles by survivors and Yellow Candles by all others who wished, a recitation by the Cantor, and a musical portion featuring children from the Hebrew School. The Brotherhood assembled an educational program booklet for distribution to the Hebrew School. A survivor of Auschwitz related his story.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Program

PLACEMENT: Bronze

YEAR OF AWARD: 1997

MEN'S CLUB: Agudas Achim, Alexandria, VA

CLUB #: 1117

CONTACT: Steve Meyerson, (703) 931-7634, meyersont.mbr@asme.org

The Agudas Achim Men's Club program focused on the publication of memoirs of their Holocaust survivors, their children, and others who have been affected, and the telling of the stories to the Hebrew School students. The memoirs and photographs were included in a 136-page book given to students in the school, sold to congregants, and donated to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and libraries. The authors took part in a Hebrew School question-and-answer program that included lighting the Shoah Yellow Candle.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 1995

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Shalom, Livingston, NJ

CLUB #: 941

CONTACT: Stan Schnitzer, (201) 992-3419, stan@spacegate.com

The Beth Shalom Men's Club expanded its Shoah Yellow Candle program into a further-reaching education vehicle for the congregation and the community. It was augmented by tying Yom HaShoah with Men's Club Shabbat, by bringing in a speaker on pre-Holocaust German psychology, and by working with our Holocaust Committee and library to create a week-long program. The program and exhibits were successful attractions, and the Club raised substantial money for the Temple Holocaust Memorial.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 1995

MEN'S CLUB: Valley Beth Shalom, Encino, CA

CLUB #: 1005

CONTACT: Murray Geller, (818) 887-5336, motkeg@aol.com

The Valley Beth Shalom Men's Club ran a Friday night service in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the camps by the Allies. It featured a candle for each of six categories – those who perished, survivors, resisters, liberators, and our future (represented by grandchildren of survivors). Each candle had a speaker – mostly eyewitnesses. The talks were linked with the Sabbath prayers by commentaries and songs. The service attracted about 600 people, which was triple the usual attendance.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Bronze

YEAR OF AWARD: 1995

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Shalom, Sarasota, FL

CLUB #: 1331

PROGRAM: Holocaust Memorial Garden

CONTACT: Sol Hoffman, (813) 349-3730

The Beth Shalom Men's Club used the Yom HaShoah Candle Program to start a congregational Holocaust Memorial Garden to remember those killed during the Holocaust.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Bronze

YEAR OF AWARD: 1995

MEN'S CLUB: Beth El Ner Tamid, Mequon, WI

CLUB #: 623

PROGRAM: Dedication of Holocaust Torah

CONTACT: Donald Glaesner, (414) 532-3222

During its annual Yom HaShoah program, the Beth El Ner Tamid Men's Club dedicated a Czechoslovakian Holocaust Torah.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Gold

YEAR OF AWARD: 1993

MEN'S CLUB: Beth Haverim, Agoura Hills, CA

CLUB #: 1056

CONTACT: Robert Klass, (818) 991-5683

Temple Beth Haverim's Men's Club observed Erev Yom HaShoah with a candle-lit Yizkor service in memory of the six million Jews murdered during World War II, with an Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor in attendance. A Catholic priest expressed his deepest sympathies on behalf of the hearts of humanity. The Simon Wiesenthal Center and Beit HaShoah (Museum of Tolerance) representatives were present. We showed excerpts from the film *Genocide*. Finally, the Men's Club donated a more than 300-year-old Holocaust Torah to the congregation's children. In conjunction with this program, the Men's Club raised more than \$4,500 in contributions through the Shoah Yellow Candle Program.

CATEGORY: Best Holocaust Remembrance/Yom HaShoah Candle Program

PLACEMENT: Silver

YEAR OF AWARD: 1993

MEN'S CLUB: Nevey Shalom, Bowie, MD

CLUB #:

CONTACT: Seymour Alloy, (301) 262-8260

The Men's Club of Nevey Shalom used the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as the focus of its program. The entry describes how the Club conducted a year-long fundraising campaign involving the Yellow Candle Program, provided a tour of the Museum, and climaxed the drive with a Men's Club Shabbat dinner and service devoted to the Museum. All proceeds – nearly \$7,000 – were donated to the Museum.

CATEGORY: Best FJMC-Sponsored Program

PLACEMENT: Bronze

YEAR OF AWARD: 1991

MEN'S CLUB: Ahavath Achim, Atlanta, GA

CLUB #:

PROGRAM: Community Distribution of Yom HaShoah Candles

CONTACT: Don Cohen, (404) 447-8842

The Ahavath Achim Men's Club joined forces with a Reformed congregation to distribute the FJMC's Yom HaShoah candle throughout the Atlanta area and to educate Jewish religious leaders about the Holocaust. The submission was well documented, with photos and publicity.