

Yom HaShoah

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Hi all,

I trust everyone had a Zissen Pesach and figured out how to Zoom a Seder. Uncharted waters this year and I am hope everyone is safe, well and the same for all your loved ones. I wanted to get this out before Shabbat, take some time to review and get back to me after Shabbat with your thoughts. As you know, we are not able to deliver Yom HaShoah candles this year. We can still push with a program of sorts and I have taken the materials we normally use, thank you Steve Landau and added some things I found had value. Please review and get back to me as I would like to have this published by MJC mid next week so there is plenty of time before Yom Hashoah begins.

Dear Friends,

Yom HaShoah this year will be unlike any other year before. Unfortunately due to Covid19, we are not able to gather as a congregation and Men's Club is unable to deliver yellow candles to you as we have done for many years. We have some thoughts to share so you can still commemorate Yom HaShoah on April 20th, which is Erev Yom HaShoah.

- If you have a Yahrzeit candle at home, please light it this year
- If you must be in a store for other purposes and can buy a candle, that too is an option. Please do not go to a store just for a candle
- There are on line memorial candles you can search for on your phone or computer

We light the candle in our homes in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The act of kindling this flame and reading the meditation below can be a moving ritual to remind us of what happened to our people not so long ago. Placing the candle in your window is a way to help remind the community. This moment would also be an appropriate opportunity to discuss the Holocaust with your children or grandchildren.

As the years pass, the memories of those who fell victim to the ultimate hate crime must not diminish. The memory is important because the number of Holocaust survivors is diminishing with each passing day. As we lose this precious link, those who deny the Holocaust ever happened gain strength. Sadly, 20% of all high school students lack any meaningful knowledge of the Holocaust.

Meditation

Place the Yom HaShoah Yellow candle in your window on the evening of Monday, April 20, 2020, and recite the following as you light it:

*We light this yellow candle to rekindle God's flame,
To shine God's 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.*

*May the memory of their lives inspire us to sanctify
our own lives and to live meaningful Jewish lives
so that we may help insure that part of who
they were shall endure always.*

Since so many of us are at home with time to spend learning, reading and interacting on line, here are a few valuable resources for you to learn more and importantly share with our next generation as they must know the lessons of the history

[FJMC](#) – Brief video published this year for Yom HaShoah

[Yad Vashem](#) - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

[Accounts of The Holocaust](#) - Sharing actual stories of the Holocaust in real time via Facebook

[The USC Shoah Foundation](#) – Founded by filmmaker Steven Spielberg, it now houses 55,000 audio visual testimonies

[60 Minutes](#) – “Talking to the past” (aired on April 5th) Interactive story telling from survivors. Very important use of technology to make this happen.

[Museum of Jewish Heritage](#) – many from MJC went on a trip there to the Auschwitz program in the Fall. The museum while close now says the exhibit will be there through August 20th. If you have not seen this yet, it would be worthwhile to plan a visit with your family.

Shabbat Shalom,

Alan