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**Temple Israel**

**Paducah, Kentucky**

**NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Dr. Laurie Ballew

 502-468-5571

 templeisraelky@gmail.com

Temple Israel and the Abrahamic Interfaith Council of Paducah – McCracken County to Host Holocaust Remembrance Service

Temple Israel Synagogue and the Abrahamic Interfaith Council of Paducah – McCracken County are hosting a Holocaust Remembrance Service ***Thursday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. at*** ***Temple Israel (330 Joe Clifton Drive).***  The internationally recognized date for Holocaust Remembrance Day is a nationwide effort to honor the victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution by holding a Days of Remembrance ceremony.  The event coincides with the nation’s annual commemoration of the Holocaust established by Congress and led by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.  Jews were the primary victims—six million were murdered; Roma and Sinti (Gypsies), people with mental and physical disabilities, and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi Germany.

Through our Holocaust Remembrance Service, we seek both to commemorate this tragic history and to reflect on the lessons it holds for our lives today. We also pay tribute to the rescuers who risked their lives to save others during the Holocaust and to the American soldiers who liberated the concentration camps.

“It’s not enough to curse the darkness of the past. We have to illuminate the future,” explains Holocaust survivor Estelle Laughlin. “On Days of Remembrance the most important thing to remember is the humanity that is in all of us to leave the world better for our children and for posterity.”

Members of the Interfaith Council are:

* Hassam Ali, Imam, Paducah Mosque
* Dr. Laurie Ballew, President, Temple Israel Synagogue
* Ben F. Boone, Retired Methodist Minister
* Lora Jean Gowan, Minister, Broadway Methodist Church
* Jae Gottman, Minister, United Church of Paducah
* Raynarldo Henderson, Pastor, Washington Street Church
* Terry Larbes, Deacon, St. Thomas Moore

Because seating is limited, please RSVP to the Temple at templeisraelky@gmail.com.

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