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Contact: Glenn Oswald/Leslie Pardo
Marx Layne & Company
248-855-6777

Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity Hosts Event Honoring Holocaust Survivors, Aug. 5, 2018

Farmington Hills, Mich. – July 24, 2018 – The Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity will host an event at 2 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 5 honoring survivors and victims of the Holocaust. The event, entitled “Out from the Depths and into the Light,” will be held at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus, located at 28123 Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

The Coalition was formed earlier this year with a mission to combat racism and anti-Semitism and to foster unity between the Black and Jewish communities of metropolitan Detroit. In February, the Coalition hosted its kick-off event at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

The August event will begin at 2 pm with a docent-led tour of the permanent exhibit at the Holocaust Memorial Center. Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Center, will welcome everyone to the formal program which begins at 3:30 pm. The featured speaker is Holocaust survivor, Jack Gun. Born in Rozhinsche, Poland, Gun and his family were sent to live in a ghetto in 1941. Jack’s father and brother worked outside the ghetto and Jack would hide in a pile of hay while his father and brother worked, and would return with them to the ghetto at the end of the work day. This continued until one day when Jack’s father sensed danger and instructed his sons to spend the night hidden in the hay. Hoping to be back in the morning, he left his two sons and returned to ghetto. That night, the Nazis liquidated the ghetto and murdered all of its inhabitants. Jack’s father never returned. The two boys survived the rest of the war by hiding with different families that took them in and trusting their own instincts to do whatever was necessary to stay safe and alive.

“The Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity is hosting this event to honor Holocaust victims and their stories so we may never forget what happened during a period of time when it seemed like the world was ignoring the Jewish people,” said Rev. DeeDee Coleman, pastor of Russell Street Missionary Baptist Church. “Our communities are joining together in peace and unity to honor the personal stories of the Holocaust victims, and the pain the Holocaust survivors still endure. We want them to know we will never forget what happened.”

During the program, there will be remarks by Rabbi Aaron Bergman of Adat Shalom; Rev. DeeDee M. Coleman, President of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity; Rev. Kenneth J. Flowers, pastor of Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church; and David Kurzmann, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC.

The program will include performances by Hazzan Daniel Gross, cantor of Adat Shalom; Dean Moore, soloist from Hartford Memorial Baptist Church; and the Russell Street Missionary Baptist Church Choir.

Light refreshments will be served following the program. The event is free to attend. RSVP by July 26 by registering online at <https://tinyurl.com/CoalitionHMC>.

Coalition leadership includes: Rev. Dr. DeeDee M. Coleman, President of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity; Rev. Kenneth J. Flowers, pastor of Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church; Hazzan Daniel Gross, cantor of Adat Shalom; Rabbi Marla Hornsten of Temple Israel and President of the Michigan Board of Rabbis; Mark Jacobs, Michigan Director of African-American Outreach for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC); David Kurzmann, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC; Dr. Glenn R. Plummer, CEO – WLPC TV40 Detroit, Ambassador to Israel for the Church of God in Christ (COGIC); Dr. Samuel Stephens, pastor of Pure Word Missionary Baptist Church.

For more information about the program, call 248-553-2400, ext. 141.

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