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**CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES AND TEMPLE BETH
HAVERIM TO HOLD JOINT
KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION**

(Mahwah) – Holocaust survivor Eric Mayer of Wayne will speak at a Kristallnacht commemoration Friday, November 9 at Temple Beth Haverim Shir Shalom of Mahwah beginning at 7:30 p.m. The evening will be co-sponsored by Ramapo College's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Temple Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple, located at 280 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

Born and raised in the historic southwest German city of Worms, Mayer will relate his experience of a Jewish boy coming of age in Hitler's Third Reich and having to flee initially to France, and then go into hiding after the German invasion.

The evening also will include a program of chorale music from the synagogues of German-speaking Europe performed by the Choir of Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, under Cantor David Perper, and the Ramapo Chorale and CantaNOVA, under the direction of Lisa Lutter, an assistant professor of music at the college.

The evening commemorates November 9, 1938, 69 years ago, when Jews throughout Germany and the newly acquired territories of Austria and former Czechoslovakia were attacked in the street, in their homes and at their places of work and worship.

The toll in human suffering and physical damage was staggering. At least 96 Jews were killed and hundreds more injured. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned to the ground, and almost 7,500 Jewish businesses were destroyed. Cemeteries were desecrated and schools were vandalized.

In addition, 30,000 Jewish males were arrested and, for the first time in the history of the Third Reich, Jews were sent en masse to concentration camps. This massive, coordinated attack on Jews throughout the German Reich has come to be known as Kristallnacht or The Night of Broken Glass.

While not the first instance of physical violence against Jews in Nazi Germany, the widespread and organized nature of the attacks represented a turn in the history of Hitler's war against the Jews.

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