

NEWS RELEASE for Jewish Community Agencies

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For Immediate Release

The Gathering VII Unites Christians and Jews for Common Cause

The *Gathering7*, a citywide celebration of hope and a time of prayer for the peace of Jerusalem will take place on Sunday, February 20, 3 pm at Congregation Beth Shalom, 9400 Wornall. Jews and Christians from throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area will come together in a united call for peace in Israel. The *Gathering* is free and open to the public.

In celebration of Presidents' Day Weekend, this year's *Gathering* will honor the long history of *America and Israel: Standing Together*. Pastor Paul Brooks and Rabbi Alan Cohen will present personal reflections about how events such as the Gathering has built bridges of understanding and enhanced their friendship. They will share their joint hopes and prayers that Christians and Jews can, through their standing together, help bring the people of the Middle East closer to peace. There will be a musical presentation performed by children and adults choirs from both the Jewish and Christian communities. Yachad: The Traveling Tefillah Band and Shir Balev will also participate. Prayers and scripture readings will be led by pastors and rabbis from our community. A reception will follow.

All men and women who have served, or who are currently serving in the US and/or Israeli armed forces will be recognized.

The Gathering is sponsored by a diverse group of organizations and agencies including the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee, Jewish Community Center, and Rabbinical Association and supported by over 100 individual churches and synagogues. Rabbi Alan Cohen, Director of Interreligious Affairs, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee and Paul Brooks, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Raytown are serving as event co-chairs.

Those who would like to assist as an usher on the day of the event should contact Annette Fish, Administrator/Program Director, Rabbinical Association at afprogram@aol.com or 913-327-4622.

For more information about the Gathering, visit www.jerusalemgathering.org.

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