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Evening of Holocaust Remembrance to Feature Music, Dance, Candle-Lighting and Torah Procession April 29

At Least 100 Holocaust Survivors Expected to Attend

Historic Sefer Torah to Be Installed at Chapmans Fish Interfaith Center Following Holocaust Ceremony

Torah Procession, Led by Rabbi and Klezmer Band, Will Wend Through Campus to Interfaith Center from Memorial Hall

ORANGE, Calif., April 17, 2008 On Tuesday, April 29 at 7 p.m., Chapman Universitys Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education will present An Evening of Holocaust Remembrance in Memorial Hall, sponsored by the Lodzer Organization of California. At least 100 Holocaust survivors from Orange County and Los Angeles are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony of reflection. A musical tribute to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust will be performed by a trio of students and Joseph Gole, senior cantor of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, and dance students from Chapmans College of Performing Arts will offer The Unbroken Spirit, choreographed by dance major Jessica Wanstreet.

One of the most moving moments of the evening will come with the lighting of the Candles of Remembrance by Holocaust survivors, followed by words of reflection by Dr. Ron Farmer, dean of the chapel at Chapman University, and Rabbi Elie Spitz of Congregation Bnai Israel in Tustin.

The grand finale of this inspiring event will be a procession from Memorial Hall to the Fish Interfaith Center, led by Rabbi Spitz, Dr. Farmer and Cantor Leopold Szneer, a Holocaust survivor, carrying a historic Sefer Torah to its new home in the Interfaith Center. The Orange County Klezmers will accompany the procession with spirited music as the Torah is carried under a canopy, or chuppah, wrapped in a prayer shawl, or tallis. The precious handwritten Torah, created in Lithuania around 1920 and spirited out of that country before the Holocaust, has been in continual use ever since. It was a gift to Chapman from Barry and Donna Goldfarb and their family.

The Torah will be installed in a hand-built ark created for Chapman by one of the worlds foremost woodworking and marquetry artists, William Tunberg, and paid for by private donations. This is the first of what Chapman hopes will be the installation of historic editions of the great books of the worlds religions, including the Bible, Torah and Koran, in the Interfaith Center.

The public is invited to both the Holocaust Remembrance ceremony and the Torah procession and dedication. Admission is free for more information, call 714-628-7377.