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Ecumenical Service Commemorates One Year Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina Prayers Offered for Hope and Healing

Birmingham, AL – Tuesday, August 29, 2006 will mark the one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's catastrophic descent on the New Orleans area and Gulf Coast. **In remembrance of those who lost so much to the storm, Temple Emanu-El will host an ecumenical service from 11:30am – noon on Tuesday, August 29, 2006.** The Temple is located at 2100 Highland Avenue South in Birmingham's Five Points South district.

Rabbi Jonathan Miller of Temple Emanu-El will be joined by Cantor Jessica Roskin, also of Emanu-El; Rev. J. Stephen Jones of Southside Baptist Church; Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Hamlin, Chaplin at UAB's 1917 Clinic and Rev. Dr. Edwin G. Hurley of South Highland Presbyterian Church (USA).

The service is open to the entire community, most especially to those who have relocated here from Louisiana and the Gulf Coast temporarily or permanently and to those who have been involved in ongoing relief efforts.

For three Birmingham women, the disaster in New Orleans hit very close to home. Fran Godchaux, Sr. Vice President of Operation New Birmingham, Darlene Negrotto, President of the Vulcan Park Foundation and Karin Hopkins, Senior Public Information Officer of the Birmingham City Council, are all natives of the devastated city who now live and work in Birmingham. All three have close family members and friends who were severely impacted by Katrina.

Says Godchaux, "Katrina was Louisiana and the Gulf Coasts' 9/11 in that those affected tend to divide their lives into before and after the storm. The three of us wanted to do something to commemorate the tragedy and give people the opportunity to come together to offer thoughts and prayers for those who have been so profoundly affected by the tragedy. This is an invitation to the entire Birmingham community, which has gone to extraordinary lengths to relieve the suffering of New Orleans and its people to join together in solemn remembrance of those lost, thanksgiving for those spared and hope for healing to all those so deeply wounded."

Call Fran Godchaux at ONB at 324-8797, Karin Hopkins at the Birmingham City Council, 254-2036 or Darlene Negrotto at Vulcan Park Foundation at 933-1409, for more information.

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