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SURVIVAL OF NAZI ONSLAUGHT IN UKRAINIAN CAVE BY JEWISH FAMILIES WILL BE RELATED AT YOM HASHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY) COMMEMORATION

MAHWAH - A joint Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance) commemoration between Beth Haverim Shir Shalom and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of Ramapo College will be held Monday, April 20 at the temple. The event is free and open to the public.

Christos Nicola, a caving expert and writer, will relate the story of how three Ukrainian Jewish families survived the Holocaust by hiding in a cave near their village for 344 days.

Nicola, along with Peter L. Taylor, is the author of "The Secret of the Priest's Grotto. A Holocaust Survival Story." He came across the cave by coincidence, began exploring it and found signs of human habitation. Using the Internet, he located several of the survivors, now living in Canada and the United States. From them he learned how a Ukrainian peasant helped 38 people, including toddlers and a 75-year-old grandmother, find refuge from the Nazis in the cavern's four underground rooms.

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The evening also will include a program of chorale music 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, assistant professor of music at the College.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. at Beth Haverim Shir Shalom, 280 Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) in Mahwah. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

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