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WORLD-RENOWNED ARTIST GARY ROSENTHAL TO PROVIDE MENORAHS, DREIDELS TO NEW ORLEANS HURRICANE VICTIMS

Jewish Communities Throughout U.S. Helped Make Artwork

Hanukkah Party Set for Tuesday December 20 at 5:30 p.m. at New Orleans JCC

WHO: **Gary Rosenthal, World-Renowned Judaica artist**
Dashka Roth, French Quarter craft gallery retailer
Jewish community leaders from the New Orleans Uptown Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans
More than 200 Jewish families from New Orleans

WHAT: The Gary Rosenthal Collection and nearly a dozen Jewish communities across the country will be donating more than 500 menorahs and dreidels to Jewish families in New Orleans to replace pieces that were lost or damaged in the devastating storm. The activity is part of a unique program known as The Hiddur Mitzvah Project, an initiative developed by The Gary Rosenthal Collection designed to teach Jewish youngsters about religion, social responsibility and arts enrichment.

The December 20 event will be the culmination of a two-month project in which Jewish communities throughout the U.S. constructed brilliantly colored, cut-glass mosaics and sent them to Rosenthal's workshop in Kensington, Maryland, near Washington, D.C. The mosaics were fused at 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit and mounted onto menorahs and dreidels from The Gary Rosenthal Collection. These pieces will be donated to families at the Hanukkah gathering, which also will feature music, games and cuisine.

Some of the synagogues and Jewish organizations participating in the project include: Beth Israel Congregation Fifth Grade Class (**Owings Mills, Maryland**); Beth Shalom Sisterhood (**Roslyn Heights, New York**); Betty and Milton Katz Jewish Community Center (**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**); Congregation Anshei Israel (**Tucson, Arizona**); Congregation Beth El Sisterhood (**Fairfield, Connecticut**); Congregation B'nai Jeshurun (**Pepperpike, Ohio**); Congregation B'nai Shalom (**Olney, Maryland**); Denver Jewish Community Center (**Denver, Colorado**); Jess Schwartz Jewish Community High School (**Phoenix, Arizona**); Kerem Shalom (**Concord, Massachusetts**); M'Kor Shalom Synagogue Youth (**Cherry Hill, New Jersey**); Mt. Zion Temple (**St. Paul, Minnesota**); Schechter Krieger Day School Eight Grade Class (**Pikesville, Maryland**); Temple Aliyah (**Needham, Massachusetts**); Temple DeHirsch Sinai (**Bellvue, Washington**); Temple Society of Concord (**Syracuse, New York**); Temple Solel (**Cardiss, California**) and Union for Reform Judaism Biennial (**Houston, Texas**).

Rosenthal will present five \$1,000 grants for children to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. The first will be used to throw a party for those who had to celebrate their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs away from the New Orleans community.

WHEN: **December 20 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

WHERE: New Orleans Uptown Jewish Community Center
5342 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans

WHY: Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans Jewish community consisted of about 9,500 people. It is believed that about 75 percent suffered severe damage to their homes. Currently, there are about 2,000 Jewish people living in the New Orleans area.

The Gary Rosenthal Collection is committed to helping others perform *hiddur mitzvah* ("beautification of the commandment") and is pleased to offer The Hiddur Mitzvah Project as a way to perform a service as well as teach invaluable lessons about arts enrichment and community building.

For more information:

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