



City Of LA Honors Schlitz

An ornate commendation to the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company, given for Schlitz sponsorship of the "Los Angeles Street Scene" festival last fall, was presented by Mayor Tom Bradley (left). Holding the large, multi-colored plaque was Daniel F. McKeithan, Jr., Schlitz's chairman and chief executive officer. Willie Davis (center), a member of Schlitz's board of directors and a Los Angeles Schlitz wholesaler, also was commended for his role in the successful free music, arts and crafts festival (Oct. 14-15) in Los Angeles' Civic Center that drew about 200,000.

SAMMY DAVIS JR.
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But he knew his ordeal had not been in vain as he witnessed his son Mark's Bar Mitzvah, an event made possible by his former wife, actress Mai Britt, "the grandest lady," who was willing to drive Mark 80 miles, three times a week, for his religious training.

Davis also talked of the meaning of friendship, his impressions of Israel -- where he had been delighted to find many "dark-skinned Jews" -- and of his love of the Yiddish theater, which he had frequented since boyhood. "They didn't bother me down there," he recalled, noting that although he didn't understand "a word they were saying," he was able to respond, laughing and crying along with the Yiddish speaking audience.

DEEPLY OBSERVANT

Concerning the role of prayer in his life, Davis declined to comment, explaining: "That is very personal . . . between man and his Maker." Davis is deeply committed to formal observance, though, and recalled how he once stood up to no less a personage than the late movie mogul Samuel Goldwyn, who had insisted on filming during the High Holy Days. When Davis asked to be excused for 24 hours, Goldwyn had scoffed and relented only when assured that Davis would be in synagogue the whole time.

Concluding the Dialogue, Rabbi Berkowitz presented the star with a menorah (candelabrum), explaining that Davis symbolizes the meaning of the Jewish freedom festival of Hanukkah because he is unafraid to stand up for what he believes in. Davis, near tears, embraced the rabbi as the audience applauded.

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