

# B'nai B'rith Honors Martha Louis

By Brad Pye

LOS ANGELES — The B'nai B'rith Women of Las Vegas will honor a truly great lady — Mrs. Martha Malone Louis — on the night of May 24 at Caesars Palace.

Long before she became Mrs. Joe Louis, the wife of the great Brown Bomber, Martha had made as many headlines in the legal profession and as a community leader as her famous husband did inside the square circle.

I first met Martha when

she was practicing law here in Los Angeles at her palatial home on Wellington Road, which is presently owned by Icoal KTLA TV newscaster Larry McCormick.

Mrs. Jessie Mae Beavers, award-winning Women's Section Editor of the Los Angeles Sentinel, took me to interview Martha for a story I was doing about historic feats in the courtroom.

Later, I had a chance really to get to know Martha when Joe invited the late Publisher and founder of the Los Angeles

Sentinel, Leon H. Washington, Jr., to visit Cuba, shortly after Fidel Castro took over the country.

Mr. Washington could not make the trip, so he suggested Joe take me as his representative. Joe did and I had an opportunity to make my first trip out of the country and spend seven of the most enjoyable days of my life traveling with Joe, Martha and more than 60 other editors from across the country.

She is a lady of grace and class. Martha knew I

was as excited and frightened as a budding young reporter can be.

Just observing this great lady call the legal shots, negotiate deals for jobs and still handle the wifely chores with such charm and grace was an education.

Being in the presence of Martha and Joe was one of the most inspiring and motivating experiences I have ever had.

Martha's many friends here in Los Angeles and throughout the world agree the Las Vegas Chapter of B'nai B'rith

should be delighted to be able to honor this great lady.

In announcing its salute to Martha at its 1980 Humanitarian Awards dinner May 24, a spokesman for the group wrote:

"A great lady who was the first Black woman attorney in Los Angeles, protecting the rights of those in need, adopting dozens of children, educating them, many of them today lawyers, doctors and teachers.

"Martha is married to the immortal Brown Bomber, Joe Louis, and still today has four adopted

children in her home. Being the modest person that Martha is, she only accepted this honor so that B'nai B'rith Women could raise funds at this function to purchase a bus, to be used for the transportation of convalescent home patients.

"For trips of enjoyment to allow them to see life outside of the facility they reside in. And also for other B'nai philanthropies. Our greetings to a great humanitarian, Martha Malone Louis."

That accurately sums up the great lady we affectionately call Martha.

## Rev. Dunn Speaks Out

This is the second in a series of articles relating to a recent SENTINEL interview with Rev. Albert Dunn, pastor of the Allen Chapel AME Church. This series will conclude in next week's issue.

The SENTINEL asked Rev. Dunn: "What can be done to eliminate what was experienced last time or during previous years where there were a lot of Black candidates running for city and county offices and as such diluted the number of votes needed to get someone in office?"

DUNN: "If you have voter education along with your voter registration and political education, you will then develop an intelligent constituency. They then will, in fact, elect the kind of qualified leadership that we will need. There's a simple statement we used to hear for years - 'You can't teach what you don't know.' When people have knowledge of the candidates they will then elect the kind of leadership that can provide light, advancement and progress needed in the community. If this is done, you will get the caliber of candidate that will be needed in the community."

SENTINEL: "Has there ever been an effort made, in the past, to get the Black candidates together in a public debate or forum before the public so that they would be able to make a better judgement or assessment as to who would do a better job?"



REV. DUNN

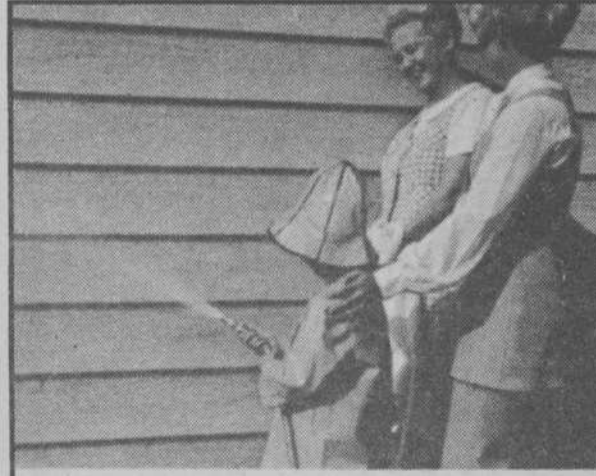
DUNN: "Well, I have never seen it done in Las Vegas. We used to do it in Atlanta, Georgia. There we had the All-Citizens Voter Registration Committee, better known as the Neighborhood Voter Registration Committee. They went from block to block registering people to vote. They also had a night where people taught how to use the voting machines. They also dealt with the knowledge of the office where it was revealed what was expected of a candidate of a particular office. I've never seen anything like this done here."

SENTINEL: "Can it be done here?"

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