

# Southern Nevada's blacks look to Republicans

By BOB PALM  
SUN Staff Writer

For years the term Republican has been a dirty word to many blacks because they saw it as the political party of the rich fat-cats, but in the black community of West Las Vegas more people seem to be embracing the Republican philosophy.

The proof of that is not that an overwhelming number of blacks have been beating at the door of the Republican Party, but the mood among leaders and organizations in the community.

That mood is being cultivated with tender loving care by members of the state Republican Party, such as state Chairman Marilyn Gubler, who said she recently had a very successful meeting with members of the Minister's Alliance.

Gubler said, "We've been working for a long time trying to develop a relationship in the black community. There are a lot of black ministers who are Republicans, and they tell how excited they are about the party."

Gubler said blacks have a lot of influence compared to their low population.

She said the state has 50,959 blacks, and all but 4,000 of them live in Clark County. She said there are seven counties that don't have any blacks at all.

However, Leonard Mason, a member of the Clark County Republican Central Committee and the former campaign manager for Commissioner William Pearson, said blacks have traditionally been

what's important," a reference to the symbols of the two parties.

Otis Harris, project coordinator of the Minister's Alliance, said the Republican Party's philosophy is one of self determination, while the

blacks didn't even know were there until the shackles were cut off."

There are no firm figures on just how many Republicans there are in the black community, but Mark Dorsten, executive director of

Democrats.

Registrar of Voters George Ullom said he does not have any figures on how many black Republicans there are in the county, but the few there are seem "to stay hidden in the closet — for

for Senate District 4 by incumbent Joe Neal and newcomer attorney David Phillips, where the faction led by former Assemblyman Lonnie Chaney and members of the Black Chamber of Commerce "lined up across the ballot box from a coalition of Republicans, conservative Democrats, black ministers and the Mormon church leadership."

He said that coalition "took Neal from an edge of 12 years of seniority in the state Senate and an 80 percent popular vote in the primary to a squeaking 500-vote victory over the conservative Phillips. Look at the Pearson race for commissioner against Lonnie Chaney. With the same lineup and a more experienced and better-financed campaign against him, Pearson outdistanced the old liberal left Democrats by a 9,000- to 2,000-vote margin.

Mason said most of the officials elected in the last election "lean more to the right of the political spectrum than the left.

"After a recent meeting with Gov. Richard Bryan, a group of ministers stated to me I can look forward to being their brethren in the same party, and as a member of the Republican Central Committee, I assume they meant the Republican Party."

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Marilyn Gubler



Rev. Ted Cuveston



Leonard Mason



Otis Harris

undercounted in the country, and that holds true in Clark County.

The Rev. Ted Cuveston, president of the local chapter of Operation PUSH, said, "The Republican Party is the way to salvation on earth for blacks. The Democratic Party has made welfare recipients out of many blacks and has taken blacks for granted."

Cuveston said blacks have begun to realize "it's not whether you ride a jackass or an elephant, the direction is

Democratic Party for years has made blacks live as wards of the government with welfare and grants.

Harris said, "Blacks have more self determination under the Republican philosophy. You can be all you can be, but the Democrats have been giving us handouts with handcuffs and our wrists tied.

"Among thinking people, more are embracing the Republican philosophy. They are lifting restraints that

the Clark County Republican Party, said as of late 1984 there were 851 registered Republicans in Assembly District 6, one of two primarily black Assembly districts in the community, as compared to 4,309 registered Democrats, and 208 Republicans in the other District, No. 7, where there were 5,674 Democrats.

In Senate District 4, which encompasses both districts, there were more than 1,050 Republicans, and 9,983

some reason you don't see them."

Mason said in the identifiable black leadership, about 25 have switched to the Republican Party in the past year and a half.

Mason attributes the political turnabout among blacks, in part, to "a serious change in the black leadership, which highlights a new black conservative trend."

He said that was indicated in the last election in the race

## Twenty Southern Nevadans Honored As Library Supporters

In honor of their active participation in the expansion and development of library

services in Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District will be presenting awards to twenty Southern Nevadans at a ceremony and reception (Friday) September 13 at the Riviera Hotel.

Honorees are Sarah Besser, Bill Briare, Bob Coffin, Bob Craddock, Stan Colton, Thalia Dondero, Helen Foley, Jean Ford, Steve Francis, Jim Gibson, Tom Hickey, Marvin Leavitt,

Nancy McGroarty, Joe Neal, Bob Price, Jim Schofield, Marvin Sedway, Mark Tratos, Randy Walker and Diana Wilson.

The theme of the award presentation and reception, which takes place during the joint conference of the Mountain Plains Library Association and the Nevada Library Association held in Las Vegas this year, is "Come Meet Our Friends." The reception following the

award presentation will be hosted by the Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries.

Library development this past year has seen tremendous growth, according to Danny Lee, Chairman of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Board of Trustees, who will be presenting the awards.

"All of these people honored have given the most valuable commodity there is, time," said Lee. "It is because of the time and energy they have devoted to

library development that we have been able to grow."

The newly consolidated Las Vegas-Clark County Library District is presently in the throes of a building program that will triple library space over the next three years. Included in the building plans are a new central library that will house DISCOVERY.



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