

# RELIGION

## LOS ANGELES BLACK-JEWISH DIALOGUE PROJECT AND A CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER RECEIVE KOVLER AWARDS FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE INTERGROUP RELATIONS

A Los Angeles organization composed of young black professionals and young synagogue members, partners in an ongoing dialogue, received the 1991 Kovler Award for Black-Jewish Relations given by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

The award was in the form of a certificate and a check for \$1,000 to the Los Angeles Young Professionals Black-Jewish Dialogue.

A second Kovler Award was presented to Arnold Aronson, a co-founder (with A Philip Randolph and Roy Wilkins) and long-time secretary of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a

legislative monitoring and lobbying group in Washington.

The awards were presented April 8 during a three-day "Consultation on Conscience" here sponsored by the Religious Action Center and attended by some 500 representatives of Reform synagogues, interfaith groups and social action agencies across the country. Briefings on U.S. Middle East policy, gun control, civil rights issues and chemical, biological and nuclear arms proliferation in the coming decade were given by members of the Senate and House.

The Young Professionals Black-Jewish Dialogue was

founded jointly by the Young Black Professionals of Los Angeles and the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Young Congregants.

After an initial meeting in 1989, at which Rev. Kenneth Flowers of the Messiah Baptist church spoke at the home of Rabbi Steven Leder of Wilshire Boulevard Temple, the two groups held a week-end conference attended by 130 persons that included dialogue workshops on "Black Anti-Semitism/Jewish Racism," "Economic Justice," and "Black or Jewish: How It Feels to Be Different."

The discussions led to an innovative "workshop/pulpit exchange" between the synagogue and the church. Designed to encourage more personal and immediate interaction, the program paired Black and Jewish participants. Each hosted the other at a Sabbath service—Sunday morning at Messiah Baptist, Saturday morning at Wilshire Boulevard Temple.

TRIP TO ISRAEL, WEST AFRICA PLANNED

The Young Professionals Black-Jewish Dialogue is planning a trip in December to Israel and West Africa for 40 of its

members. All participants in the trip must agree to join a Black-Jewish speakers bureau upon their return to relate their experiences in local schools, synagogues, churches and civic organizations.

The Kovler Award, made possible by a grant from Marjorie Kovler Institute for Black-Jewish Relations—a project of the Religious Action Center—was presented by Peter Kovler, director of the Marjorie Kovler

fund. It was received by Rev. Flowers and Rabbi Leder.

The 1991 Outstanding Individual Award was presented to Mr. Aronson by Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism. Mr. Aronson is a former director of program planning for the National Jewish Relations Advisory Council.

The Washington-based Re-

ligious Action Center is a service of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, congregational body of Reform Judaism in North America, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis. The Center was established in 1963 "to motivate ethical concern and religious action on current social issues and to apply the moral and ethical insights of Judaism to these issues," according to Rabbi David Saperstein, its director.

## BLACK SUPPORT PRIORITY FOR NEW HANDGUN CONTROL BILL

When the Department of Health and Human Services reported last month that one of five deaths among teenagers and young adults in 1988 was gun related, it sparked a wave of support among black leaders for stricter handgun laws.

In this case it comes in the form of the BRADY BILL, named

after President Reagan's Press Secretary, James Brady, who was shot by John Hinckley in 1981, which calls for a seven-day "cooling-off" period for the purchase of a handgun, to give police time to check if the buyer has a criminal record.

Many black leaders on Capitol Hill and around the country

have come out in support of the BRADY BILL because they feel this is a first step toward eliminating handguns and the war zone on our streets and neighborhoods.

The bill was endorsed by the House of Representatives on May 8.

"With violent crimes at record levels and with African-American males now truly endangered, I can't see how anyone could oppose a measure that would help ease the pain," said Congressman John Conyers, Jr., (D-MI), senior member of the House Judiciary Committee.

All of the Bishops of the 3.5 million strong African Methodist Episcopal Church strongly support the Bill and have coordinated efforts with their congregations and Senators to support passage of the Bill by the Senate. In detailing a strategy for the churches representing Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Washington, D.C., Bishop Brookins said, "What we propose to do is to become advocates of a bill that is now before the U.S. Senate which deals with background checks...and at least a seven-day wait before you can go out there and pick up a gun. Even if we can save one life our unflinching efforts will not have been in vain."

Dr. Sullivan, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, has said in his 1990 report that young black males are eleven (11) times more likely to die from a gunshot would than their white counterparts.

## Church News

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NEW LIFE

### TABERNACLE CHURCH

The New Life Tabernacle church has moved to, 2404 E. Stewart Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89101. Telephone number is (702)387-5433.

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"Come Praising the Lord" with Bro. Prince Dixon of Los Angeles celebrating 51 years of gos-

pel singing in Las Vegas. Special guest — The Starlight gospel singers of Los Angeles and some of Las Vegas' best singers. Saturday, June 29, 1991 at 8 p.m. Come to the New Light Baptist Church, 1165 Lawry St., Rev. John Henry Jr. Pastor, advance tickets \$6, \$7 at the door. For further information or tickets call 642-4345.

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*The Sawyer family &  
Ramon Savoy would like  
to thank everyone for their  
prayers and support during  
its time of sorrow and loss.  
We love you mom.*



### GOSPEL COMES TO PARK AVENUE!

Renowned gospel vocalist Zella Jackson Price delights an enthusiastic audience during a recent concert at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris. The concert, featuring Price's inspirational renditions of traditional and original gospel songs, was the concluding performance in the branch museum's spring performance series, "8 in 7: New Ventures in American Music."

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