

Religious conference targets prejudice, hate

By Sharon Y. Savage
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ) is sponsoring the 8th annual series of four inter-religious panel discussions. The panels will address topics that deal with basic teachings of various faiths.

The conference was created to deal with prejudice, bias and bigotry, its members said. It dates back to 1937 when Protestants, Catholics and Jews desired to get together and talk about the tremendous prejudice many harbored against the other.

Heading toward the year 2000, the conference has expanded its area of concern to such issues as: police-community relations, workplace diversity, race relations and interracial concerns.

Great strides have been made to improve religious and cultural differences; there is a NCCJ in every city in the United States and internationally in Europe.

The Interfaith Council is a committee of the conference that has organized group discussions to facilitate interaction between people of different religious and spiritual backgrounds. The forums are designed to provide information to as many people about the similarities and differences between religions.

According to Aleda Nelson, board member of the Clark County chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, "It is the aim of the organization to bring people together to dispel myths and prejudice through education and relationship building."

Nelson said its important to provide an avenue where this type of open dialogue can occur. "If we can start, in southern Nevada, to establish relationships of respect, trust and understanding, that will help to eradicate inter-religious misunderstanding which is fundamental to

curing many of the world's problems."

The forums provide a rare opportunity to hear first-hand from a diverse group of people who practice particular religions. There are representatives from Judaism, Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Unitarian Universalist, Baha'i, Catholicism, Protestant Christianity, Sikii, Jain, Hindu, Church of Latter Day Saints and the Unification Church. All sessions will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The series begins Sunday, October 19, at the Church of Latter Day Saints located at 3400 West Charleston. During the first session, the panelists will explain and demonstrate the role music plays in their faith whether it be through singing or chanting.

On Sunday, Oct. 26, the discussion will tackle questions of how to deal with the scientific advances that many say challenge God such as the ability to prolong life, bio-ethics and cloning. This discussion will be held at the Congregation Ner Tamid, 2761 Emerson.

The Baha'i Center, 7035 West Oakey, will host a session Sunday, Nov. 2 dealing with the millennium and what scripture says about that and sacred times in different religions. In most religions there is some type of prophesy about the future.

The sessions will conclude Sunday, Nov. 9, with an open discussion at All Saints Episcopal, 4201 West Washington.

The annual interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be hosted by Christ the King Catholic Community Church, 4925 South Torrey Pines, Wednesday, Nov. 26, at 7:00 p.m. The interfaith choir will perform, a food offering will be collected for the Food Bank, in addition to a monetary offering for Anytown Nevada, an inter-religious and interracial leadership camp for high school students.

Bally's to host black publishers convention

Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES — Brian Townsend, president of West Coast Black Publishers Association (WCBPA), and publisher of *The Precinct Reporter* and *Tri-County Bulletin*, said the group will hold its 14th annual convention Oct. 25 at Bally's Resort Hotel, 3645 S. Las Vegas Blvd.

According to Townsend, "The black press continues to be the strong the voice of the African-American community. We are the voice that sends out messages regarding the truth about the hardships and struggles of the minority community; yet, at the same time our member publishers send messages of hope and progress for improving the economic and social conditions for our people."

Themed, "Building Alliances: Facing the New Millennium," the event plans a meaningful forum of learning, networking and bringing together black publishers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Together, they will address the vital issues that challenge to threaten and diminish the voice of the African-American community.

Through various workshops and seminars, the association hopes to strengthen its role as a powerful influence within the minority community.

Invited are business leaders, political and government officials, and dynamic, enterprising individuals of local, regional and national distinction.

Speakers and panelists include San

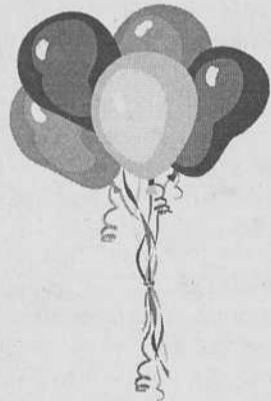
Francisco mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.; attorney Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr.; Arthur Fletcher, "the father of affirmative action"; Melvin Foote of Constituency for Africa; Webster Guillory, National Association of Black County Officials; John Mack, Los Angeles Urban League; Gwen Moore, Gem Communications Group; Tsuneo Onda, Sumitomo Bank; Anthony Reese, Greenlining Institute; Shannon Reeves, Oakland NAACP; attorney Constance Rice, NAACP Legal Defense Fund; California State Senator Diane Watson and Carl Wayne of The College Fund/UNCF.

One of the standout sessions will be Youth Day on Friday, Oct. 24th, at which more than 150 local high school students will be attending all convention activities hosted by WCBPA and Corporate America.

"As business leaders, our member publishers eagerly accept the significant responsibility of reaching out to help our young people. Our convention provides a unique opportunity for these high school students to be able to interact with exemplary role-models from around the country who share our mutual concern for their welfare and can open doors," Townsend said.

Established in 1971, the West Coast Black Publishers Association is devoted to the advancement of the black press in the Western United States

For more information about the WCBPA Convention you are invited to call the office of Alescia Buford and Associates at 818-995-6545.



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