

# Group's annual event to recognize Ray Charles

By Tasha Pope  
Sentinel-Voice

Last year we truly lost a legend the day Ray Charles Robinson died. His life exemplifies the truth and the strength that came through his faith in God and hard work. His trials and tribulations were cast on the big screen in "Ray" featuring the talented Jamie Foxx.

will be awarded to help a local family, the Davies, with nine siblings who are all being raised by their eldest sister.

J.U.G.S. was founded in 1953 in Memphis, Tenn, has chapters throughout the world and contributes to the community through fundraising activities. They are inviting the community to continue

Carroll. "You hear folks talking about being poor... Even compared to other Blacks... we were on the bottom of the ladder looking up at everyone else. Nothing below us except the ground," Charles recounted, according to African Genesis, www.afgen.com, a biographical website.

Charles, who became blind at age seven, proved that possibilities are endless for all people. Through his contributions to schools and charities he provided better futures for others.

The tribute will feature accomplished pianist Woody Woods, who said he had the privilege of working with Ray Charles.

"Music was one of my parts... Like my blood. It was a force already with me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me — like food or water," Charles said.

Also featured will be Princess Kellee Patterson, a noted Jazz singer who has appeared at several venues around Las Vegas. The musicians will perform several songs by Charles. Sisters In Society Taking Action (SISTA) is a



Members of the local chapter of Justice Unity Generosity Service International (J.U.G.S.) pose for a group photo. The international service organization's local chapter is hosting its annual jazz, blues and gospel brunch at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 20, at the Suncoast Hotel-Casino, 9090 Alta Drive. Pictured, far left: Local J.U.G.S. president Nona Carroll.

"All of our members are involved with mentoring programs."

— Nora Carroll



Once you recognize the magnitude of the late singer's struggles you may cringe at the thought of your personal complaints. His journey was accompanied by intense racism, shallow partners and his lack of sight. Music was his sanctuary and his liberation. Now people young and old can be inspired by a story of a man who came from nothing, with all odds against him, and made himself an icon.

Justice Unity Generosity Service International (J.U.G.S.) will present "A Tribute To Ray Charles" at their annual Jazz, Blues & Gospel Buffet Brunch on March 20, 2005, at 1:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom at the Suncoast Hotel located at 9090 Alta Drive. The event is a fundraiser, and proceeds

celebrating Ray Charles's life and honor his legacy them by helping them provide for those who are in need.

The Davies family was forced into a compromised situation because of circumstances beyond their control. The eldest sister has worked hard for many years to provide for her family and keep them together in the home.

"We heard about the Davies family through word of mouth. Once we saw the conditions the children were living in, we decided to adopt them," said Nona Carroll president of the Las Vegas Chapter of J.U.G.S.

The organization has provided the Davies with home repairs, new furniture and J.U.G.S. continues to support their needs, according to

## March

(Continued from Page 1) was clubbed on the head during the "Bloody Sunday" attack on marchers by state troopers and sheriff's deputies on March 7, 1965. He was among 17 Blacks hospitalized as that march was turned back while crossing the bridge.

A second march two weeks later, under the protection of a federal court order and led by King, went 50 miles from the bridge over the Alabama River to the steps of the state Capitol in Montgomery.

mentoring program that works with children here in Nevada. They will also be awarded during this ceremony. SISTA mentors young children, making their transformation to adulthood

a bit easier. "All of our members are involved with mentoring programs," Carroll said. For tickets and further information please call 889-1307 or 242-4718.

Currently, 74 percent of voting-age Blacks in Alabama are listed as active voters. That compares with 77 percent of voting-age Whites, based on figures compiled by the secretary of state and the Census Bureau's estimates of voting-age residents.

In March 1965, only 19.3 percent of eligible Blacks were registered in Alabama, compared with 69.2 percent of Whites.

The attack and the marches inspired passage of the Voting Rights Act, which barred obstacles such as literacy tests that were set up by segregationists to keep Blacks from registering to vote. A re-enactment of the five-day march is planned this week, culminating with a rally at the Capitol on Saturday.

In a service at Brown Chapel, six blocks from the bridge, Lewis cited former President Bill Clinton, who crossed the bridge with Selma marchers in 2000, and former Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman as White politicians who have greeted modern civil rights concerns with open arms.

"Five years ago, this governor had all the state troopers line up on that bridge. Five years ago, state troopers, Black and White, men and women, stood and saluted us," Lewis said amid applause for Siegelman.

Certain provisions of the Voting Rights Act, such as the use of federal examiners and a requirement for Justice Department approval of election law changes, will be up for renewal by Congress in 2007.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, longtime head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, urged the nearly three dozen House and Senate members who participated to renew those portions of the law.

"Their presence here is a

mockery unless they go home and do the right thing," said Lowery, who also joined King on the march to the Capitol.

The crowd on the bridge included many young people such as Teresa Prevo, 29, of Selma, whose four children came along for the observance.

"I brought them here so they can get to know their history," Prevo said.

Currently, 74 percent of voting-age Blacks in Alabama are listed as active voters. That compares with 77 percent of voting-age Whites, based on figures compiled by the secretary of state and the Census Bureau's estimates of voting-age residents.

In March 1965, only 19.3 percent of eligible Blacks were registered in Alabama, compared with 69.2 percent of Whites.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Issac Sawyer

## HE'S A GAMER

The Public Gaming Research Institute recognized Jerry Young—with his wife, Margaret, center, along with their children, Jennifer and Jerome Jr.—for his work in the gaming industry. Young, who is vice president of public gaming for International Gaming Technology, the world's largest slot machine manufacturer, received a lifetime achievement award from the organization last week during its banquet at the Bellagio.

The 47th Annual  
EBONY FASHION FAIR PRESENTS

*Living It Up*

2004/2005

SPONSORED BY:  
Gamma Phi Delta  
Sorority Alpha Rho

BENEFIT OF:  
Anthony L. Pollard Foundation

Texas Station  
2101 Star Lane  
Las Vegas, NV

Sunday March 27, 2005  
Show 4:00 pm  
Reception 6:30 pm

TICKET PRICE:  
\$60.00

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
Larry's Sight and Sound  
Texas Station Hotel & Casino  
2101 Texas Star Lane  
(702) 631-1000

FOR TICKET INFORMATION CONTACT:  
(702) 642-0890

Irene Parker or Ticket Chairperson  
Albertine Richard  
(702) 640-1853

Ticket prices include one year subscription to EBONY or six months to JET  
www.ebonyfashionfair.com