

## Banquet

(Continued from Page 1)

Woods Jazz Trio will provide musical entertainment. There will be youth performers from the Performing and Visual Arts Center.

The evening begins with a silent auction. It will take place along with the VIP reception starting at 6 p.m., an hour before the banquet.

"The [co-sponsors] have donated generously for the silent auction... We have some really good gifts... [spa packages, artwork, electronic devices, dinners, health club memberships, edible gift baskets, other gift items] and a personal assistant service," according to NAACP spokesperson Samesha Ramadan. She said sponsors include MGM/Mirage, Harrah's Entertainment, Venetian Hotel and Casino and Culinary Union 226.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has existed as a civil rights organization in 1909, and the NAACP Las Vegas branch was established in 1928. NAACP's mission includes voter education and it advocates community action to fight racism and prejudice against all people of color in the courts, in criminal justice system and in legislative policy.

Keynote speaker Lewis, at a young age, became a recognized leader in the Civil Rights Movement. Preceding Lewis' 1977 appointment by President Jimmy Carter to head ACTION, a federal volunteer agency, he held a rich history in the Civil Rights Movement.

By 1963, he was recognized as one of the "Big Six" leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, along with leaders Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph, James Farmer and Roy Wilkins. Lewis, at age 23, helped plan the March on Washington, and he spoke at the August 1963 historic event.

During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, from 1963 to 1966, Lewis was co-founder and chair of SNCC, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

SNCC was largely responsible for the sit-ins and other student participation in protests to gain civil rights for African-Americans.

The NAACP selected three local honorees for their years of community service:

• Rev. Jesse Scott will receive the Thurgood Marshall Award for his work in the Civil Rights Movement and his many contributions to the NAACP's local chapter, including a past presidency. Still active in the community,



Rev. Jesse Scott  
Civil Rights Award

at 85, Scott works as an assistant to the pastor at the Second Baptist Church located in Historic West Las Vegas. Ishman calls Scott a

"beacon of light."

• Shirley Barber, Clark County School District trustee, will receive the Emily Wanderer Award for her work in education and the many programs she has helped to implement. The award's namesake was a pioneer in law as the first woman admitted to the New York Bar in 1932. Event coordinators called it fitting because Barber "is a pioneer."

• Dr. Anthony Pollard, local physician and operator of the Rainbow Medical Centers and co-founder of a family-run philanthropic foundation, will receive the Hank Greenspun Award for his humanitarian efforts. He has



Dr. Anthony Pollard  
Humanitarian Award

worked hard to better his community, especially helping children and families, and "we wanted to acknowledge his efforts," according to

Ramadan.

Shirley Barber said why she feels the organization's work is important: "I have always worked with them [NAACP] and have been a member for a long time. I support them 100 percent," said Barber. "We have a long way to go, but we are getting there through their [NAACP's] efforts. What I would like to see is all of us — individuals and organizations — working together. The NAACP has been around for a long time and I know it is important to our community."

The \$100 ticket includes the banquet and admission to the reception, silent auction



Shirley Barber  
Education Award

and all entertainment, coordinators said. For more information, contact (702) 275-7375 or the branch's website at [www.naacplv.org](http://www.naacplv.org).

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