

**3rd Annual Report
on Black/Jewish
Relations in the
United States in 1998**

- **Cooperation**
- **Conflict**
- **Human Interest**

January 18, 1999

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding
1 East 93rd Street, Suite 1C, New York, New York 10128
Tel. (917) 492-2538 Fax (917) 492-2560
www.ffeu.org

Rabbi Marc Schneier, *President*
Joseph Papp, *Founding Chairman*
Darwin N. Davis, *Vice President*
Stephanie Shnay, *Secretary*
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Dr. Philip Freedman, *Director Of Research*
Tamika Edwards, *Research Assistant*

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding began in 1989 as a dream of Rabbi Marc Schneier and the late Joseph Papp committed to the belief that direct, face-to-face dialogue between ethnic communities is the most effective path towards the reduction of bigotry and the promotion of reconciliation and understanding.

Research, publication, and distribution of the 3rd Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States was made possible by a generous grant from Philip Morris Companies.

INTRODUCTION

"My people were brought to America in chains. Your people were driven here to escape the chains fashioned for them in Europe. Our unity is born of our common struggle for centuries, not only to rid ourselves of bondage, but to make oppression of any people by others an impossibility."

Those words, part of a speech delivered in 1958 by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the American Jewish Congress Biennial, expressed a solidarity that leaders in the Jewish and African American communities were able to parley into a mutual, active opposition to racism and anti-Semitism. By the early 1960s, Dr. King's message had inspired visionary individuals in both communities to forge historic bonds of friendship and brotherhood--bonds that helped define the history of the civil rights struggle in this country.

By the 1990s, however, cumulative tensions between the two communities have obscured the important work both groups have undertaken to promote racial healing and harmony. Some thirty years after Jewish civil rights workers Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were slain alongside James Chaney in Jackson, Mississippi, some say the bedrock of common alliance has crumbled, the path to interracial tolerance and justice strewn with its rubble.

If so, a speech by Dr. King in 1965 should serve to remind us that even in 1999, we still face common enemies of intolerance and discrimination. Corrosive hatred, he pointed out then, does not differentiate between the vulnerable. In part he said:

"Every Negro leader is keenly aware, from direct and personal experience, that the segregationists and racists make no fine distinctions between the Negro and the Jew. The irrational hatred motivating their actions is as readily turned against Catholic, Jew, Liberal and One-Worlder, as it is against the Negro. Some have jeered at Jews with Negroes; some have bombed the homes and churches of Negroes and in recent acts of inhuman barbarity, some have bombed your synagogues... As the Nazis murdered Catholic Poles and Jews, Protestant Norwegians and Jews, the racists of America fly blindly at both of us caring not at all which of us falls. Their aim is to maintain, through crude segregation, groups whose uses as scapegoats can facilitate their political and social rule over all people. Our common fight is against these deadly enemies of democracy."

Fortunately, the lessons of the past have not been lost on many of the leaders in the African American and Jewish communities--people of conscience who understand that simple human decency requires that we join forces to enhance vigilance against intolerance. Much has been done over the last few years to repair the breach that has opened between us, and this steadfast work is bearing fruit. Last year The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding commissioned the first poll ever taken exclusively in the African-American and Jewish communities. According to the poll of 500 African Americans and 500 Jews taken last April, while 39% of Jews and 35% of blacks polled describe the relationship between the two communities in the US today as fair, 42.8% and 53.5% of those Jews and blacks, respectively, say that relationship has gotten better over the past year.

The poll shows progress in other areas, as well. While 59.2% of Jews felt schools do not teach children enough about the Holocaust, 61.3% of blacks polled agreed with 68.7% of Jews that the African American community can do more to silence those African Americans who preach or promote anti-Semitism. Nearly 50% of Jews and 43% of blacks agreed that promoting the right of each individual to be judged on his or her own merits was the issue most important for both groups to work on together.

The poll also revealed there is still much work to be done. For example, of the African Americans queried, only some 31% said they knew that approximately 6 million Jews died in the Holocaust and 32.3% believe that US foreign policy is too supportive of the State of Israel. Among the Jews, 42.7% said members of their community were still very affected by the Holocaust, but only 22.7% of Jews thought blacks were still affected by slavery.

In a sense we have come full circle from the days when Dr. King admonished in his book *Stride Toward Freedom*: "May the problem of race in America soon make hearts burn..." For while we can readily acknowledge the long way American society has come in 30 years, we should not yet assume that the road to justice and equality is finally free of resistance and barriers.

Thanks to hard work across ethnic lines, life for African Americans and Jews is calmer and safer now. On this day commemorating Dr. King, let us measure the distance we have traveled, but let us also remain strong in our solidarity and persistent in the pursuit of tolerance.

Rabbi Marc Schneier
President, The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding

Chairman, World Jewish Congress
Commission on Intergroup Relations

OVERVIEW

THE STATE OF BLACK/JEWISH RELATIONS IN 1998

Following the pattern established in 1998, the current edition of the Report consists of items gleaned from national and regional publications and from African-American and Jewish agencies that responded to the Foundation's inquiries about their intergroup activities. The basis for inclusion, once again, is African-American/Jewish interaction, both as a duality and as part of a broader, more heterogeneous group activity. As in the past, any interaction between an individual African-American and an individual Jew was excluded.

The period covered is January 1, 1998 through December 15, 1998. If the reader is aware of any significant story that has been overlooked, please notify The Foundation so that it might be included in future Reports.

Entries are divided into three categories: Cooperation, Conflict, and Human Interest - the last defined as relating to anecdotes about individuals having both Black and Jewish connections; in some cases, persons who are descended from both heritages. Cooperation included not only the obvious but also instances of verbal discord as long as they took place within the context of bilaterally sponsored dialogue.

The picture of Black-Jewish interaction followed, and expanded upon, the trends discerned in 1997. There continued to be substantial cooperation at both local and national levels; grass roots outreach proceeded at an even greater pace than in the previous year. As in the past, there were symposia, dialogues, joint celebrations of holidays and holy days, joint historical site visitations by groups of African-American and Jewish adolescents, and numerous artistic expressions of mutual esteem and solidarity. But 1998 also saw an increase in interchurch visitation, featuring rabbis and ministers exchanging pulpits with members of both congregations mingling in the audiences. In addition, 1998 saw program participation by a larger and more diverse section of the country at large. At numerous conferences and public events, white Christians, Muslims of all colors, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and other racial/ethnic entities joined with their African-American and Jewish fellow citizens to denounce bigotry of any and all sorts and to pledge their cooperation in the ongoing struggle for a hate-free America dedicated to universal respect and tolerance. The name change of one organization, from Blacks and Jews in conversation to Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation, is emblematic of this movement towards greater inclusiveness.

In regard to conflict, 1998 was similar to 1997. There were several local quarrels, generally arising from perceived disparities in distribution of public resources or from the residue of past disputes. But for the most part, whatever antagonisms developed centered about the actions of certain members of the Black Muslim movement and the attendant publicity surrounding them - a consistent phenomenon since the emergence of Farrakhan.

It should be noted that there were no disputes between mainstream African-American and mainstream Jewish organizations.

A poll commissioned by The Foundation revealed that Blacks and Jews were much more in agreement than in discord on a number of national issues. This finding, added to the fairly comprehensive data herein reproduced, lends confidence to the belief that relations between African-Americans and Jews in 1998 were marked, primarily, by good will, assertive interaction, and a determination to forge ever stronger bonds of unity.

Dr. Philip Freedman

**Professor Emeritus,
City University of New York**

**Director of Research,
The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding**

FORWARD BY HUGH PRICE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

I was pleased to be invited to provide a forward for The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding's inaugural 1996 and its 1997 "Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States." I remain equally as pleased to do so for this third edition. Much has happened during 1998 and this year's comprehensive study certainly attests to that fact.

As I stated in my inaugural keynote address as President of The Urban League "Millions of white have joined us in our protracted quest for racial, social, and economic justice. None has matched the Jewish community as long distance runners in the civil rights movement. Just as we rail against misleading stereotypes of African-Americans, it is morally repugnant to impugn an entire people, especially long-standing allies, because of the unconscionable behavior of a few."

As we stand on the threshold to the new millennium, there has been notable and noticeable progress in healing Black/Jewish relations. This is truly a product of hard work at every level as evidenced in this document. Key dialogue has occurred at the national and local levels. I am proud of the contributions the Urban League Movement has made over the past year in promoting a more harmonious and inclusive society. Urban League affiliates have been deeply involved from New York to Los Angeles.

It was an honor to represent the National Urban League at the 1st Annual National Conference on Black/Jewish relations held by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding at Yeshiva University in March 1997. In 1998, the Foundation hosted the 2nd Annual Conference which featured Martin Luther King III as the keynote speaker. The title of the conference was "African-American and Jews: A dialogue for the 21st Century." This year's conference, I believe will be even more valuable in strengthening Black/Jewish relations, as its theme is "African-Americans and Jews: Economic Cooperation for the 21st Century. The Reverend Jesse Jackson will be delivering this year's keynote address. All the conferences brought together annually more than 300 African-American and Jewish leaders to discuss how to better communicate on the important issues facing each community.

The Foundation's Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States performs an indispensable public service by chronicling the arduous and effective work of people of good will, all across America, to repair the breach and rebuild trust. With the notable exception of fires, shootings and such, the utter normalcy of everyday life usually isn't news. But this important report recognizes that it should be, because therein lie many of the clues about how Americans of all races actually do get along. Their stories hold many of the keys to promoting racial harmony.

This insightful compendium documents the distance that has been traveled over the past year. The roster of cooperative efforts offers welcome evidence of forward progress and helpful clues to best

practice. I hasten to add that the report isn't pollyanish. It also reminds us of the many trouble spots and flash points that warrant attention.

Countless organizations have weighed in over the past year to make a constructive difference. I am immensely proud of the contributions of the Urban League movement. Our time honored role to build bridges, not just between poverty and plenty, but between peoples of all races and persuasions.

Nationally and locally, we Urban Leaguers have collaborated with allies like the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, the National Conference, the Anti-Defamation League, the World Jewish Congress, Dillard University and the American Jewish Committee, among many others, to help bring our respective communities closer together and to move America forward.

On behalf of the entire Urban League movement, I salute Rabbi Marc Schneier and The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding for cataloguing the state of Black/Jewish relations in our country. They have taken to heart a plea that we all should heed. It's the anguished question, put to anyone who'll listen, by the grieving sister of a black GI who was slain by racists from Fort Bragg. "How are we going to get along in heaven", she asked poignantly, "if we can't get along down here?" Amen.

COOPERATION

January 1, 1998
St. Louis, Missouri

The beginning of the New Year marked the initiation of grant money given by the Monsanto Fund to a joint venture between the Central Reform Synagogue and the Cote Brilliant Presbyterian Church, a predominantly African-American congregation. The program, which has united African-Americans and Jews since its inception in 1991, arranges for synagogue and church members to mentor students from Cote Brilliant Elementary School once a month, and pays for kids to go to camp every summer for 5 years. Chris Hexter, one of the co-chairs of the program, said that the project Afulfills an ideal of passing on faith in education and faith in service, the finest that the Judeo-Christian traditions has to offer.≡

January 2, 1998
Washington, D.C.

28 Black and Jewish juniors from public and private high schools were chosen to participate in Operation Understanding DC, a one year leadership program created to educate students to fight racism through exposing them to one another's cultural and racial history. Students plan to travel to New York City, Detroit, Atlanta, and Charleston, and other places significant to both groups. "Our mission is to educate, inspire, and empower students to go out and attack intolerance and discrimination with the same passion as those who hate," said one former participant.

January 4, 1998
Washington, D.C.

Over 150 high school graduates from DC and Prince George's County have participated in a program called "Bringing the Lessons Home" at the Holocaust Museum. The students participating, more than 90 percent of whom are African-American and Latino, take part in an intense eleven week educational segment, and then many go on to serve as paid docents for the museum. One of the strengths of the program is that students learn facts about the Holocaust, and then translate that information into messages of personal responsibility. One participant said, "Since my time in the museum, I know that every choice we make is effecting everyone else around us." The program was funded by a \$1 million grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation.

January 5, 1998
Carteret, New Jersey

In an interview, Johnnie Stevens, a retired African-American bus-driver who served as a tank commander in WWII, explained that he has embarked on a one man mission to fight Holocaust deniers. Stevens, who was part of the Battalion that liberated Buchenwald in 1945, travels across the country, sharing his experiences in the War with students of all ages. He speaks about his childhood in the segregated South, and the devastation of Eastern European Jewry, both of which he witnessed first-hand. His message is that Blacks and Jews, who have both suffered immensely, are well-equipped to unite in understanding and camaraderie.

January 8, 1998

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

An unwillingness to tolerate racism and anti-Semitism led African-American actor/ film-maker Clayton Prince to create the independent film "Let's Talk." "Let's Talk" portrays the evil of racism and bigotry by mocking the tactics and language of hatemongers from Black Hebrews to White Supremacists, to members of the Nation of Islam, to self-hating Jews. Prince's goal was to produce a film "that would reveal racism and anti-Semitism without worrying about political correctness."

January 8, 1998

Boston, Massachusetts

Sidney Topol, an acclaimed developer of satellite technology, pledged \$5,000 to the American Jewish Committee in Boston to fund coordination of AJC's Black/ Jewish Roundtable. Inspired by the well-developed African-American/ Jewish coalition in Atlanta, GA, Topol, himself a Jew, was determined to increase the amount of dialogue between the two communities.

January 11, 1998

Minneapolis, Minnesota

A seven week arts series, focusing on the relationships between Blacks and Jews in America, began with a keynote address by activist Julian Bond on the state of civil rights in America. The series, called "Intersecting Rhythms: An African-American and Jewish Cultural Dialogue," featured films, video, original drama presentations, dance, music, photography, and painting. Co-sponsors included Intermedia Arts, the Jewish Community Center of St. Paul, the Twin Cities Black Film Project, and Jewish Community Action.

January 13, 1998

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Steven Spielberg's Righteous Person Foundation awarded a \$40,000 grant to Operation Understanding, Philadelphia. Operation Understanding, whose mission is to foster mutual respect and appreciation between Jews and African-Americans, sponsors national and international trips to sites that

are historically important to the groups. Students who participate in the program are considered potential future leaders in their communities.

January 14, 1998
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Four art exhibitions, consisting of photographs of Black and Jewish families, sculpture, and paintings by local Black and Jewish artists, ran as part of the seven week Twin Cities arts series. Dance and theater performances, including "To Know the Heart of a Stranger," starred Jewish and Black teens and adults who explored issues of prejudice and racial hatred.

January 14, 1998
St. Louis, Missouri

In a monumental alliance between the St. Louis Clergy Coalition and the Interfaith Partnership of Metropolitan St. Louis, religious leaders began an initiative to improve race relations. An action campaign, called "Building Bridges," is planned to run regionwide, with joint services and social action programs among churches, synagogues, and mosques. "So many people want racial harmony, they just don't know where to begin," said one of the organizers.

January 15, 1998
Minneapolis, Minnesota

A dance-theater dialogue called "And the Walls Come Tumbling Down" was performed as part of the seven week Minneapolis arts series. Developed by teacher and dancer Judith Brin Ingber, the piece blended African-American and Jewish cultural traditions, as well as historical and folk elements. It was performed by Ingber, who is Jewish, and Mary Easter, an African-American dancer and chair of the African-American studies program at Carleton College.

January 15, 1998
Kensington, Maryland

In celebration of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and commemoration of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's *yahrzeit*, the anniversary of his death, a panel discussion was held at Reform Temple Emanuel. The panel members included King's biographer, a senior staffer who worked with both King and Heschel, a representative of the Catholic Bishop's Council, and two of Heschel's students.

January 15, 1998
New York, New York

Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, was one of six New Yorkers to receive Governor Pataki's annual Living the Dream Award. The award, which was given in a ceremony at Harlem's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, is bestowed upon remarkable people who champion the values and vision of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 16, 1998
Great Neck, New York

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Black-Jewish Dialogue of Temple Beth-El and the Mt. Olive Baptist Church sponsored a talk on race and racism. During Shabbat services, Congressional Representative Charles E. Schumer addressed issues of "Racism in America" in a speech to several hundred people.

January 16, 1998
Woodland Hills, California

Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs of Temple Kol Tikvah and Reverend Clinton A. Benton of Calvary Baptist Church held an interfaith Shabbat service in memory of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Of the work of the two great leaders, Rabbi Jacobs said, "Both Dr. King and Rabbi Heschel taught us that the opposite of good is not evil, but indifference, and that silence in the presence of evil amounts to consent." The service featured spirituals sung by the Calvary Baptist Church and Cantor Caren Glasser.

January 16, 1998
Phoenix, Arizona

The Mayor's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast celebrated contributions of the many ethnic communities in Phoenix. The city's Community Relations department organized the event, which featured a series of monologues performed by and about African-Americans, Jews, Latinos, Native Americans, Caucasians, and Asian-Americans. Fatimah Halim, creator of the performance, said, "Each piece was written specifically to make people aware of how important it is to recognize that each of us has made a major contribution to designing the American fabric."

January 16, 1998
New York, New York

In memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Rabbi Marc Schneier of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding wrote extensively about the ties between King and the Jewish community. Highlighting the relationship that King had with the State of Israel, Schneier emphasized that an exploration of the historic alliance between African-Americans and Jews would be beneficial to both communities.

January 16, 1998
Cleveland, Ohio

Yosef Abromowitz explored the legacy of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., in an article written to encourage Jews to take advantage of King's birthday as an opportunity to remember his message. Abromowitz argued that the values that King stood for are rooted in the Jewish tradition, such as the insistence on pursuing peace and justice, and the resistance to the inclination to do evil. He encouraged Jewish families to actively take steps to turn King's dream into a reality.

January 17, 1998
West Orange, New Jersey

As part of their observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, students at the Jewish Cultural School and Society watched a video called "Follow the Drinking Gourd," which tells the story of the Underground Railroad. Teacher Abbott Gorin chose the video, which prompted a tremendous amount of discussion, in order to help Jewish students understand the magnitude of the struggles of the African-American people. Comparisons were drawn between the African-American flight to freedom from slavery and the Jewish exodus from slavery in Egypt.

January 17, 1998
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Germantown Jewish Centre held its 14th annual Ralph P. Granger Memorial Lecture. The lecture series is a tribute to the work and values of Mr. Granger, an African-American Christian who worked for 35 years for the synagogue, and was deeply committed to interreligious understanding. Reverend Richard Fernandez, the executive director of the Northwest Interfaith Movement, delivered the memorial lecture, in which he discussed his relationship with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel in the Civil Rights Movement.

January 18, 1998
New York, New York

Commemorating Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's *yarhrzeit*, Park Avenue Christian Church and Temple of Universal Judaism jointly sponsored an interfaith service. The goal of the event was to honor both religious traditions through paying homage to the two great leaders. The event highlighted King and Heschel's peacemaking efforts and commitment to interracial understanding. About 250 people attended the service, which clergy hope to turn into an annual endeavor.

January 18, 1998
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Germantown Jewish Centre hosted its 15th annual tribute to Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., in a ceremony linked to their commemoration on January 17 of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's Yartzzeit. The program, called "Martin Luther King, Jr.: Work, Jobs and Our Future," was attended by more than 700 people from 49 local organizations and congregations. Rabbi Arthur Waskow (founder of Shalom Center), Dr. Lucille W. Ijoy (marriage and family therapist), Zahmu Sankofa (composer, musician), and "The Sound of Harmony" (a racially diverse musical group of blind men and women) took part in the commemoration.

January 18, 1998
Kansas City, Missouri

Baseball legend Buck O'Neil delivered the keynote address at an interfaith worship service at the Community Christian Church. Judy Hellman, Jewish civil rights activist, and Reverend Robert Lee Hill, minister of Community Christian Church, co-chaired the program, which included jazz, break-dancing, and singing by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Mass Choir, numerous Latino singers, Cantor Paul Silbersher of Temple B'nai Jehudah, and an Islamic call to prayer.

January 18, 1998
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Members of Boca Raton's Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church were joined by members of B'nai Israel Synagogue of Boca Raton in an interfaith celebration of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Almost 400 people attended the program, which was the 15th consecutive King celebration jointly observed by the synagogue and church. The relationship began in 1984, when Reverend Ben Williams and Rabbi Richard Agler committed themselves to improving relations between Blacks and Jews locally. The King celebration is one of many collaborations between the church and synagogue throughout the year.

January 18, 1998
Las Vegas, Nevada

The Jewish Federation of Las Vegas' Community Relations Council and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District presented the acclaimed documentary "Blacks and Jews" at the West Las Vegas Library Theater. The screening of the documentary, which was created by a Black and a Jewish filmmaker and highlights the shared history between the two communities, was followed by a moderated discussion.

January 19, 1998
New York, New York

Hundreds of African-American and Jewish communities took the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., as Martin Luther King Day coincided with Heschel's *yahrzeit*, the anniversary of his death, this year. Both men were prominent advocates for civil and human rights, and were committed to social justice as a religious obligation. They met in 1963 at a Conference on Race and Religion, and became close friends, each advocating for political and social issues dear to the other. In 1965, the two marched arm in arm to Selma, Alabama, protesting discrimination against Blacks, which Heschel described as the quintessential expression of his religious obligations. After King's assassination in 1968, Heschel spoke at his funeral.

January 19, 1998
Boston, Massachusetts

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, a program was held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center featuring Leonard Zakim of the New England Anti-Defamation League, and Dr. Joan Wallace Benjamin of the Urban League of Boston. Mr. Zakim also received an award recognizing his commitment to bridging gaps between ethnic and religious groups, and his activism in the fight against bigotry.

January 19, 1998
St. Paul, Minnesota

Mt. Zion Temple held a program commemorating the work of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Sponsored by Jewish Community Action, the event featured Chuck McDew and Zev Aelony, two activists who spoke of their involvement in the civil rights movement and the influence that King and Heschel had on them.

January 19, 1998
Providence, Rhode Island

One of several community events planned to celebrate Martin Luther King Day, the third annual Community Sing was held at Temple Emanu-El. The program, sponsored by Temple Emanu-El's Social Action Committee, Bethel AME Church, Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, and Rhode Island Committee for Nonviolence Initiatives, highlighted storytelling and songs from the Civil Rights Movement.

January 19, 1998
Delray Beach, Florida

Members of the Jewish Community Relations Council participated in a day of celebration on behalf of Martin Luther King, Jr., as they joined elected city and state leaders as well as members of civic groups in a commemorative event. Over 300 people, Black and White, marched together through the city, and

then met inside the Pompey Park gymnasium to join in prayer and song. State Representative Barry Silver of Boca Raton offered an address to the crowd.

January 19, 1998
Greensboro, North Carolina

Rabbi Eliezer Havivi of Beth David Synagogue delivered the keynote address at the Greensboro Human Relations Commission's Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast. Havivi, who praised King for challenging America to uphold the lofty words of the Declaration of Independence, drew comparisons between King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. He stressed that though the two men came from radically different backgrounds, they both shared a commitment to diversity and interracial harmony.

January 19, 1998
Las Vegas, Nevada

Borders Books and Music hosted a commemorative event for Martin Luther King Day, in which community leaders spoke extensively about King and his legacy. The program, which was aimed to educate people about the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, highlighted the alliance between Blacks and Jews in the 1960's. Among those who spoke were Rabbi Richard Schachet, who recalled standing at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial 35 years ago, as Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech. Rabbi Schachet emphasized that King's message is the key to ending racial hatred today.

January 19, 1998
Tacoma, Washington

Lucille Hurst was one of eight people honored in Tacoma's annual celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday at the Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall. Hurst is a Jewish artist who was chosen to create a bust of Martin Luther King, Jr., which will be displayed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in Tacoma. In addition to serving as president of Temple Beth El and president of the Tacoma chapter of National Council of Jewish Women, Hurst has worked for many years on the board of the NAACP.

January 19, 1998
Providence, Rhode Island

In memory of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s commitment to human and civil rights, more than twenty local organizations joined to form the Rhode Island Civil Rights Roundtable. The mission of the Roundtable is to improve communication between the various organizations in order to facilitate collaboration on issues essential to the civil rights agenda. The Providence branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish

Federation of Rhode Island, and the Black-Jewish Alliance are among the many organizations involved in the Roundtable.

January 19, 1998
Dayton, Ohio

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, a birthday celebration was held at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center. The event began as gospel choirs sang freedom songs popularized by the Civil Rights Movement, and continued into the afternoon with an interfaith panel discussion on "Hate Crimes: Is Racial Reconciliation Possible?" Speakers included Reverend Antoni Sinkfield of the AME Church in Xenia, Magistrate Bonnie Beaman Rice of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton Community Relations Council, Reverend Freddy Washington of the St. James Catholic Church and Resurrection Catholic Church in Dayton, and Al-hajji Jamiel Abdul Rahman of the Islamic Community Center in Yellow Springs. The discussion was prompted by an event in November, in which a burnt wooden cross, painted with racial epithets, was left on the Museum grounds. Speakers discussed the painful result of hate crimes, and the possibility of creating an anti-hate task force.

January 19, 1998
Los Angeles, California

Over 600 people attended the Martin Luther King Day celebration held at Temple Beth Hillel in North Hollywood. The highlight of the event, sponsored by the Valley Interfaith Council, was a surprise visit by Reverend Jesse Jackson, who worked closely with King in the Civil Rights Movement. Jackson said that King would have been thrilled to see members of the Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, and Bahai faith united to sing, dialogue, and celebrate together. He emphasized that Jews and Blacks have a special bond with one another, based on their shared history of suffering, and he called for members of both communities to take action to end racial hatred and bigotry.

January 19, 1998
New York, New York

In recognition of the commitment of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel to healing the racial divide in American society, the Hebrew Union College hosted a memorial program. Participants were invited to study the philosophies of King and Heschel, focusing on the commitment of each to social justice. The study session followed two hours of volunteering at the HUC soup kitchen.

January 19, 1998
Kansas City, Missouri

As part of the city's celebration of Martin Luther King Day, there was a panel discussion on the issue of race held at the Civic Center. Among those invited to speak were Ajamu Webster, who represented the African-American community, and Joshua Taub, representing the Jewish community. After the discussion, there was a performance by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Choir.

January 19, 1998
Washington, D.C.

The celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday offered the opportunity for thousands living in DC and surrounding areas to gather in churches and libraries to celebrate King's life, and recommit themselves to his message. Blacks, Whites, Jews, and Christians joined together at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Howard County to discuss race and its impact on community. While some participants expressed their concern that more people in the multi-ethnic community did not attend the dialogue, all lauded it as an essential first step toward greater understanding and harmony.

January 19, 1998
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

The American Jewish Committee and the Detroit Urban League co-sponsored their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. All Peoples Breakfast.

January 19, 1998
New York, New York

Students at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School commemorated Martin Luther King Day by singing civil rights songs, looking at slides of protest marches from the 1960s, and reading African-American and Jewish literature about the religious obligation to fight for social justice. The Jewish day school places a tremendous emphasis on imparting to its students a sense of openness to diversity of opinions and involvement in both secular and religious affairs, and designed the King Day celebration to reflect those values.

January 20, 1998
New York, New York

Sudanese Sheik Anwar McKeen, president of the New York City-based Coalition Against Slavery in Africa and human rights activist, spoke at a Martin Luther King, Jr. event at the Civil Court. The event

was sponsored by The Jewish Action Alliance and Blacks and Jews in Conversation, both New York based organizations.

January 21, 1998
Livingston, New Jersey

The sisterhood of Temple B'nai Abraham sponsored its fourth annual Women's Interfaith Forum, in which Black and Jewish women joined for an evening of dinner and dialogue, in a program commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Michele Tuck-Ponder, former mayor of Princeton, New Jersey, delivered the keynote address, detailing her experiences as an African-American woman mayor in a community that has only a 5 percent Black population. Participants came from numerous churches and synagogues in Essex County.

January 23, 1998
Seattle, Washington

As part of a series of over 50 dialogues on race relations, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce's Urban Enterprise Center again hosted "It's Time to Talk -- Community Dinner." The forums are designed to offer participants the opportunity to discuss race and ethnicity openly and honestly, thereby improving intergroup relations and understanding. The series is co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, Blacks in Government, Church Council of Greater Seattle, CityClub, El Centro de la Raza, Leadership Tomorrow, NAACP, The National Conference, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, and Washington State African-American Affairs Commission.

January 23, 1998
Scarsdale, New York

The highly acclaimed "Avodah Dance Ensemble" performed at the Westchester Reform Synagogue in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The synagogue's annual commemorative events in honor of King are reflective of Rabbi Richard Jacobs' commitment to improving relations between the Black and Jewish communities.

January 25, 1998
Columbus, Ohio

Nearly 200 people attended a panel discussion on the common ties between Jews and African-Americans, entitled "Jews and African-Americans: The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement." The three speakers included Jack Kirby, a professor of Black history, Rabbi Israel Dresner, a well-known civil rights advocate, and Walter B. Cates, former president of the local NAACP chapter. The program was a joint presentation of Temple Israel and the First A.M.E. Zion Church.

January 25, 1998
Los Angeles, California

The Sholem Community Organization held an event tracing the historical development of the Jewish and African-American communities, in which a panel of experts discussed the state of relations between the two. The event was created with the intention of building a progressive alliance between African-Americans and Jews in Los Angeles.

January 30, 1998
Los Angeles, California

As part of a series of consciousness-raising events to promote nonviolence as a way of life, a leadership conference was held among the New Leaders, an organization of young African-American and Jewish leaders. The conference was one of the many events comprising a 64-day nonviolence campaign in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mohandas Gandhi, called "A Season for Nonviolence, a Reverence for Life."

January 31, 1998
New York, New York

Jewish feminist Blu Greenberg and African-American Christian activist Linda Tarry co-authored a children's book that tells the story of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. The story, designed to introduce children to the idea of respecting people of different cultures, traces the characters' own transition from distrust to mutual understanding and appreciation. The authors presented the book at the Jewish Museum as part of the springtime Family Fun-day series.

February 1998
New York, New York

The African-American/Jewish Leadership Breakfast series, co-sponsored by the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding and the Greater Harlem chamber of Commerce, has been meeting since June of 1995. The group meets monthly to discuss issues ranging from Crown Heights to debates about Prime Minister Netanyahu. They have celebrated holidays together and overcome disagreements, helping to seal friendships and stimulate personal growth.

February 1, 1998
Minneapolis, Minnesota

A symposium on the historical tension and cooperation between African-Americans and Jews was held at the Weisman Art Museum at University of Minnesota. The discussion featured Rose Brewer, chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies, and Rive-Ellen Prell, Professor of American and Jewish Studies.

February 1, 1998

Woodland Hills, California

Reverend Jesse Jackson spoke to over 600 African-Americans and Jews at Temple Kol Tikvah, lauded as one of the most socially and politically active synagogues in the San Fernando Valley. Jackson, who spoke at the forum on race-relations in an effort to rally support for affirmative action, called for a renewed alliance between Blacks and Jews, a "coalition of conscience." Rabbi Steven Jacobs of Kol Tikvah called Jackson a "modern prophet." The event was one in a series of discussions on interethnic relations held at the synagogue.

February 2, 1998

New York, New York

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, founded by Rabbi Marc Schneier and the late Joseph Papp, published its 1997 Report on Black/ Jewish Relations in the United States. The Report demonstrated that "cooperation rather than conflict is the dominant theme between African Americans and Jews." According to the Foundation's Executive Director, Tommy Loeb, there is a widespread misperception that the relations are deteriorating, because the media prefers to expose incidents of conflict rather than cooperation. The Report provided anecdotal evidence of a renewed alliance between Blacks and Jews, noting the numerous arenas in which Blacks and Jews work, pray, and study together.

February 3, 1998

Los Angeles, California

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international human rights organization committed to remembering the Holocaust and building tolerance and understanding, launched a nationwide consciousness-raising advertising campaign. The theme of the campaign was "Remembrance," and Rhonda Barad, one of the Center's directors, explained that "Remembering is the first step toward acknowledgment, responsibility, and, ultimately, change." Advertisements were designed to expose the devastating effects that intolerance and racial hatred have had in both African-American and Jewish history. The Center chose Black History Month as an appropriate time to begin showing the advertisements, which appeared in 20 major cities nationwide.

February 5, 1998

Queens, New York

In honor of Black History Month, the Black Student Union and Queens College Hillel joined to sponsor an event entitled "Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation." A panel discussion was held, in which judges from the organization "Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation" discussed the history of relations between the Jewish and African-American communities, and also addressed several of the myths that are causing an increase in tension between Jews and Blacks. Judge Shannon Taylor, executive director of the organization, said of these myths, "You do not make peace with the present by creating a past."

February 8-10, 1998
Whippany/ Newark, New Jersey

The Jewish Community Center MetroWest of Whippany and the READY (Rigorous Educational Assistance for Deserving Youth) Foundation of Newark sponsored a collaborative effort to bring together Black and Jewish teens. Twelve teens, who had been meeting and dialoguing periodically, spent the weekend touring Washington, DC, together. The program, designed to promote tolerance and mutual respect among Blacks and Jews, highlighted a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Museum, the African American Heritage Center, the Black Entertainment Television Network, the home of Frederick Douglass, and a homeless shelter.

February 10, 1998
Minneapolis, Minnesota

As part of a film/ video series about the African-American and Jewish communities, St. Paul Jewish Community Center showed Madeleine Ali's documentary called "Black to the Promised Land," a film about Black teenagers who worked on *kibbutzim* in Israel.

February 11, 1998
Yardley, Pennsylvania

After a year of writing letters and drawing pictures for their pen-pals, kindergarten and first grade students from Abram's Hebrew Academy in Yardley and Creighton Elementary School in Logan finally met. The African-American and Jewish students gathered to jointly celebrate Black History Month and *Tu B'Shevat* (the Jewish New Year for the Trees). The students planted peanut seedlings, made a mural, and played wooden rhythm sticks as they listened to African and Israeli music. Barbara Gelb, the Creighton teacher who designed the program, explained: "I wanted the children to have a multicultural experience, so they will not become prejudiced when they are adults.≡"

February 11, 1998
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Temple Beth Emeth held a TuB'Shevat "learning" seder to which members of Second Baptist Church were invited. Over 75 members from Second Baptist and Temple Beth Emeth participated.

February 12, 1998

San Francisco, California

In a panel discussion on "American Legacies: Race, Imperialism and Reconciliation," Rabbi Myra Soifer of Temple Sinai in Reno, Nevada, spoke as one of four panelists. She discussed racism and other social injustices, emphasizing the concepts of *tikkun olam* (healing the world) and *tikkun hanefesh* (healing the soul), which are fundamental to Jewish thought and action. The program was sponsored by the GTU, the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem, the Center for Human Rights and Institute for International Studies at UC Berkley, and Lehrhaus Judaica.

February 12, 1998

Palm Beach, Florida

General Colin Powell, former Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, delivered the keynote address at a meeting of the Anti-Defamation League. Because of the suffering that they have endured, Powell asserted, African-Americans and Jews are in a unique position to ally with one another, and to recognize that "hate, bigotry and discrimination have no place in America."

February 13, 1998

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

As part of Marquette University's celebration of Black History Month, an original drama entitled "Soul Sisters" was performed. The production, written by Sarah Blacher Cohen and Joanne Koch, chronicles the lives of two female singers, one Black and one Jewish. By focusing on the 1950's through the 1980's, the play affectively follows many of the historical transformations that effected both communities. "Soul Sisters" features music sung by Aretha Franklin and Billie Holiday, as well as traditional Yiddish folk songs.

February 15, 1998

Detroit, Michigan

The book club of Congregation Shir Tikvah in Troy and the book club of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Detroit held the first of their semi-annual meetings. At one session, they discuss a book of Jewish interest and at the other a book of Black interest

February 16, 1998

Bergen County, New Jersey

Over 600 clergy members joined in a demonstration of unity in the 12th Annual Interfaith Brotherhood-Sisterhood Breakfast. Reverend Gregory Jackson of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, an African-American congregation in Hackensack, offered the keynote address. Jackson celebrated the progress that has been made in interfaith understanding, and emphasized the need for religious leaders to continue to bridge the cultural divide, with faith as the common language between different groups.

February 18, 1998
Norfolk, Virginia

African-American and Jewish teenagers met at an orientation session for Operation Understanding, the youth-leadership program designed to promote understanding between the Black and Jewish communities. Visits to important locations such as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Anacostia Museum of African-American History and Culture have proven that the program serves as an effective catalyst for connections between the youth.

February 19, 1998
Denver, Colorado

Teacher Fran Anderson of Cheltenham Elementary School devoted several weeks to teaching her fifth-grade students about the value of freedom. The students studied the plight of African-Americans enslaved in the United States, the Holocaust and the death of Eastern European Jewry, and the slaughter of Native Americans. The University of Colorado at Denver sponsored an Anne Frank Arts and Writing Competition, in which the fifth graders explored the issues of civil and human rights that they learned in their class. One 10 year old student wrote, "I will not hate people because of their color of hair, color of eyes, color of skin, religion or religious beliefs, shape, size, weight, or if they are rich or poor."

February 22, 1998
Tampa, Florida

An estimated 1,000 visitors celebrated the reopening of Tampa Bay Holocaust Memorial Museum and Educational Center at its new downtown location. James E. Tokely and Windell Campbell, both African-American writers, spoke at the reopening, drawing parallels between the African-American and Jewish experiences with suffering and persecution. Tokely described the experiences of Black soldiers who liberated Buchenwald, explaining that many felt conscious of similarities between the Nazis in Germany and white supremacist in the United States. "The horror of the Jewish Holocaust is a lesson for all of us to learn," Tokely said. "We must learn how to say *shalom* and mean it."

February 22, 1998
Norfolk, Virginia

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, "The Saracen Poets" of Hampton University, performed at the First Christian Church in Ghent. The event included a discussion by Reverend Martin Ramey on Jewish psalms of lament, as well as an exploration of African-American spirituals and literature.

February 25, 1998
New York, New York

In a program at A. Philip Randolph High School at City College, several New York City and State judges were honored for their involvement in Blacks and Jews in Conversation, an organization of judges building bridges toward greater racial and ethnic harmony. Among those receiving awards were Court of Appeals Judge George Bundy Smith, Justice William Thompson of the Appellate Division Second Department, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Frank Torres, and former Acting Supreme Court Justice Jerome Hornblase of Manhattan.

February 25, 1998
New York, New York

In his memoir entitled *A No Monopoly on Suffering: Blacks and Jews in Crown Heights (and Elsewhere)*,[≡] Herbert Daughtry, the National Presiding Minister of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Churches emphasizes the need for a more healthy and productive relationship between African-Americans and Jews. Daughtry, a civil and human rights activist, criticizes the competitive victimization between the two communities, and argues that all who suffered *Amust* learn to hear one another.[≡]

March 1, 1998
Saratoga Springs, New York

The Avodah Dance Ensemble, a modern dance troupe that has deep roots in the Jewish tradition, performed at Skidmore University in the Skidmore Dance Theater. Among the three pieces performed by the group was "Spirituals," which was based on melodies of classic African-American spirituals.

March 4, 1998
Hartford, Connecticut

At the second annual Hartford Jewish Film Festival, the documentary "Blacks and Jews" was screened. After the film was shown, there was a panel discussion, in which participants were able to address several of the contentious issues raised. Festival organizers said that they chose to address controversial subject matter and incorporate an educational component to the program, in order to give the Festival more depth this year.

March 5, 1998
New York, New York

"Blacks and Jews in Conversation," the organization of Black and Jewish judges working together to promote racial harmony, was invited to join 20 Black and Jewish faculty members at John Jay College for an informal luncheon. Judge William Thompson and Judge Jerome Hornblase spoke at the event, which was sponsored by CUNY Dispute Resolution Consortium.

March 6, 1998
Hartford, Connecticut

At a community forum held at Trinity College, students and faculty explored the changing dynamics of the relationship between the African-American and Jewish communities. Speakers voiced their concerns that there is a growing rift between Blacks and Jews based on a sharp disparity in socio-economic status, which manifests itself in dramatic differences of opinion on matters of public policy. Organizers agreed that the forum was an important step in beginning to repair the broken ties between the two communities, and many speakers cited the historical alliance between Blacks and Jews as a model to strive to achieve in the future.

March 8, 1998
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Helen Suzman, a Jewish political activist and member of the South African Parliament who has been an outspoken opponent of apartheid for 36 years, received the Jules Cohen Memorial Award at Temple Beth-Am in Abington. The award was given by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia, in recognition of Suzman's lifelong commitment to political democracy and interracial harmony. At the award ceremony Suzman delivered an address entitled "The Courage to Stand Alone: A Voice From the Anti-Apartheid Struggle," in which she detailed some of the problems still facing South Africa, including lack of education, an increase in crime and violence, and unemployment.

March 8, 1998
Washington, D.C.

A program on cultural differences called "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was held at the Washington Hebrew Congregation. African-American history professor Michael Eric Dyson and Rabbi David Saperstein, the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, led the discussion.

March 10, 11, 12, 1998
North Carolina

Blacks and Jews in Conversation sent African-American and Jewish judges to address students and faculty at University of North Carolina, Duke, and Wake Forest Universities, and Elon College. The judges were invited to the universities in an effort to increase racial harmony and multicultural understanding.

March 12, 1998
Phoenix, Arizona

In a powerful sign of support and unity, more than 350 Jews, Blacks, and members of other minority groups joined together to rally against hate at Arizona State University West. The rally was organized in response to anti-Semitic and anti-gay sentiments that were painted on the car of Social Work Assistant Professor Batya Hyman, of ASU West. Organizers hoped that, in addition to raising awareness and sensitivity, the strong community response would abate future attacks.

March 13, 1998
Cambridge, Massachusetts

An interreligious and interracial conference, held at Harvard University Law School, addressed the history and current state of civil rights and religious freedom in the United States. Speakers included clergy members, professors, lawyers, and political and social activists. One of the major themes running throughout the conference was the legacy of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Many speakers recalled their own roles in the Civil Rights Movement, and emphasized the need to recreate the alliance of the 1960=s in order to tackle current pressing issues of class, economics, and education.

March 13, 1998
Tampa, Florida

As part of its Annual Kolter Lecture Series, Congregation Shaare Zedek held a program called AJust Two Guys From Mississippi: A Conversation With Gene Dattel and Clinton Taullbert.≡ Dattel and Taullbert spoke of their similar, yet distinct backgrounds as a Jew and a Black, respectively, growing up in the Mississippi Delta in the 1950s. The two men began to do speaking engagements together after Dattel, a financial adviser, read Taullbert=s memoirs, entitled, AOnce Upon a Time When We Were Colored.≡ Both were struck by their common roots, and decided to join efforts to bridge the divide between the African-American and Jewish communities.

March 16, 1998
New York, New York

In a program called AStop the Hate,≡ Students from public Manhattan junior high schools and local *yeshivas* (religious schools) met and began to dialogue. The program, which was held at the Manhattan Supreme Court, was sponsored by Blacks and Jews in Conversation, the organization of New York judges that endeavors to promote racial and ethnic understanding. The program featured African-American and Jewish judges, including Administrative Judge Steven Crane, Justice Richard Braun, Court of Claims Judge Lewis Douglass, and Administrative Law Judge Shannon Taylor.

March 18-20, 1998
Cleveland, Ohio

A three day conference was held in celebration of the social, political, and religious achievements of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. Coordinated by local civic and religious leaders, programs included an interfaith service at the Olive Institutional Baptist Church, and a panel discussion led by Dr. Susannah Heschel at Case Western Reserve University.

March 19, 1998
Middletown, Rhode Island

In a joint celebration of freedom and a reaffirmation of the commitment to ensure liberty for all people, a Black-Jewish Seder was conducted at Temple Shalom. Members of the synagogue were joined by members of the Community Baptist Church, who were led in prayer by their respective spiritual leaders: Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer and Reverend Vincent Thompson.

March 21, 1998
Kansas City, Missouri

Two years ago, Congregation B=nai Jehudah and St. James United Methodist Church embarked on an interracial musical exchange program, in which African-American church members sang in the synagogue choir, and Jewish congregants sang in the church choir. The program, which has been incredibly successful, has helped church and synagogue congregants realize the depth of one another=s religious and cultural traditions. Participants have developed long-term friendships as a result of the program. AMusic is a natural way to draw people together,≡ one participant commented.

March 22, 1998
Norfolk, Virginia

The first African-American/ Jewish Community Relations Symposium, conceived by William J. Harvey, President of Hampton University, was organized with the hope of increasing harmony between Blacks and Jews. AWe are natural allies,≡ Harvey said. Julian Bond, the Chairman of the NAACP, delivered the keynote address, urging Blacks and Jews to renew the Acoalition of conscience≡ of the 1950s and

1960s. Bond challenged the Black and Jewish communities to go beyond memories of the Civil Rights Movement and find a basis to work proactively together today.

March 26, 1998
Great Neck, New York

At the monthly meeting of the Great Neck Black-Jewish Dialogue, which is comprised of members of Temple Beth El and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Reverend Charles Gil of Queens Baptist Church offered the keynote address. He spoke extensively to the group about the principles and philosophy of being Baptist.

March 26, 1998
Detroit, Michigan

The Detroit Initiative Task Force (DITF) held a second luncheon as part of the Entrepreneurial Partnership Project, which links DITF with the Booker T. Washington Business Association, a membership organization of African-American business owners. This partnership is designed to strengthen social and economic ties between the Jewish and African American communities by encouraging joint venturing and partnership opportunities between their businesses. DITF is a joint project of the Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

March 27, 1998
Baltimore, Maryland

Imam E. Abdulmalik Mohammed, spiritual leader of the Muslim American Society of Baltimore, addressed a group of Jewish and African-American professionals in a meeting of the Black-Jewish Forum of Baltimore. Imam Mohammed not only discredited Louis Farrakhan and his views on race, he also presented a vision of religious and racial tolerance, and social and economic independence.

March 30, 1998
Newark, New Jersey

The African-American /Jewish Coalition sponsored its seventh annual Passover Freedom Seder, held this year at Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston. The Seder combined a traditional retelling of the story of the Jewish exodus from slavery in Egypt, with the story of the African-American liberation from slavery in the United States. Over 200 members of the African-American and Jewish communities attended, and many commented that, like in years past, the Seder helped foster communication and friendship between the two communities.

March 30, 1998
Washington, D.C.

Articles and poetry about the Holocaust and slavery, written by students at Kramer Middle School for Environmental Studies in Southeast, were bound and published in a work called *ANever Again, Never Again*. The publication is the outcome of a project sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Museum, the D.C. Area Writer=s Project, Citibank, and Fannie Mae Corporation, in which students from the 99 percent African-American school participated in visits to the Holocaust Museum and discussions about both the Holocaust and the slave trade in America.

March 30, 1998
Boston, Massachusetts

African-American and Jewish youth from the Memorial Spaulding Elementary School in Newton joined together in a celebration of peace and freedom at the 18th annual Black-Jewish Seder at Congregations Mishkan Tefilla in Newton. The Anti-Defamation League sponsored the event.

March 31, 1998
Columbus, Ohio

An Anne Frank exhibit that opened at the University of Toledo Center for the Performing Arts incorporated images of racism and anti-Semitism, reinforcing the dangers of prejudice and the relevance of Anne Frank=s message in the 1990=s. Leon Bass, an African-American soldier who participated in the liberation of the Concentration Camps, offered the keynote address, entitled *ARacism, Anti-Semitism, and the Holocaust*.

March 31, 1998
Washington, D.C.

More than 300 African-Americans and Jews from the Shiloh Baptist Church and Adas Israel Congregation joined for their fifth annual interracial Seder. Julius Lester, a well-known African-American and Jewish professor at the University of Massachusetts, read from his new *Haggadah*, Passover prayer book. Lester=s *Haggadah* combined traditional Hebrew prayers with African-American spirituals and songs popularized during the Civil Rights Movement. The Seder, which was co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, was held at Shiloh Baptist Church.

April 1, 1998
Chicago, Illinois

Over 400 Jews and African-Americans participated in Chicago=s first African-American Seder, which was sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, Chicago Urban League, Chicago Board of Rabbis, St.

Thomas Episcopal Church, and Young Leaders United. The Seder, which was officiated by Rabbi Ira Youdovin of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, and Reverend Martin Shaw of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, was designed to highlight the history of slavery that is common to both communities. AThere is a dignity to this event that really places the African-American/ Jewish relationship in Chicago on a higher ground,≡ said one organizer.

April 1, 1998
Louisville, Kentucky

The Jewish Community Center held this year=s meeting of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, a group seeking fair and affordable housing for all Louisville residents. The meeting featured Dr. Blaine Hudson, of the University of Louisville, who addressed the racial and economic divide in the city.

April 2, 1998
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Demonstrating solidarity with Congregation B=nai Abraham of Society Hill, representatives of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church offered aid and comfort in the aftermath of anti-Semitic vandalism at the synagogue. Just two days earlier, vandals had placed the bloody head of a pig on a wall outside the synagogue, beside which they painted black swastikas.

April 2, 1998
San Francisco, California

Fourteen teenagers from New York City and San Francisco returned to the United States after completing a two week inter-cultural exchange program in Israel. The project, called AChildren of the Dream,≡ is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, and designed to teach student participants not only about Jews and African-Americans, but also about themselves. Many student participants expressed surprise at how easy it was to relate to one another, despite their cultural and religious differences. After returning from the tour of Israel, the groups committed themselves to working on long-term projects in their own communities to fight racism and hatred.

April 2, 1998
Baltimore, Maryland

Paul Hond spoke at the Barnes and Noble in White Marsh about his debut novel, The Baker. The book, published by Random House, explores Black-Jewish tensions in Baltimore through telling the fictional story about a Jewish baker and his son, and an African-American employee at the bakery. Critics wrote of the work: AHond probes Black-Jewish relations in a crime-ridden urban neighborhood with an emotional depth, lyricism, and power...≡

April 2, 1998

Springfield, Massachusetts

An annual Black-Jewish seder was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield, to celebrate the centrality of freedom in both Jewish and African-American communities. The seder was one of a series of programs and events sponsored by the Federation, designed to promote racial harmony and increase understanding between the local African-American and Jewish communities.

April 2-4, 1998

Nashville, Tennessee

The first Nashville Conference on Black-Jewish Relations was held at Fisk University and Vanderbilt University, in an effort to confront the tensions that have begun to distance Blacks and Jews. Dr. Julius Lester, Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at The University of Massachusetts began the conference with a lecture on ABlacks and Jews: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?≡ On April 3, after a full day of presentation of academic papers on the theme of Black-Jewish relations, Rabbi David Saperstien of the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. spoke on ABlack-Jewish Relations: Will They Ever Be the Same Again.≡

April 3, 1998

Cleveland, Ohio

Case Western Reserve University held an event commemorating the 25th *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. The event featured Dr. Susannah Heschel, Rabbi Heschel's daughter, and Dr. Vincent Harding, past director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center. Both speakers recalled the visions of the two men, who marched sided by side from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

April 3, 1998

Detroit, Michigan

Many participants in a luncheon designed to fortify the social and economic ties between the city's African-American and Jewish business communities expressed their hope that positive business connections would foster social relations between the two communities as well. The event was hosted by the Booker T. Washington Business Association and the Detroit Initiative Task Force, which is a project of the Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Nettie Seabrooks, Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff for the City of Detroit, was the featured speaker, and argued that Jews and African-Americans had good reason to engage one another in discussion about the future of the business economy in Detroit, because of the close working relationship that was developing between the two communities.

April 4, 1998

Providence, Rhode Island

An ecumenical service marking the thirtieth anniversary of the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was held at Ebenezer Baptist Church. The event honored the work of the many activists who were killed while registering African-Americans to vote, including James Chaney, Michael Schwerner, and Andrew Goodman, one Black and two Jewish civil rights activists who were killed in 1964. Reverend Carl Balark of the Ebenezer Baptist Church delivered the main address, and the service concluded with a candlelight vigil.

April 4, 1998

New York, New York

Black and Jewish residents of Crown Heights expressed frustration with the continued perception of tension and hatred between their two communities. Many expressed that, while they still fall short of comfortable neighborly relations, communication between the communities has greatly improved. As evidence of the responsiveness and sensitivity that have developed between African-Americans and Jews since the violence in 1991, Richard Green, a Black civic leader in the community, cited a recent case in which police carefully tended to a dispute between a Black boy and a Hasidic boy, successfully defusing a potentially volatile situation.

April 4, 1998

Albany, New York

The play ASoul Sisters,≡ the creative collaboration of Sarah Blacher Cohen and Joanne Koch, premiered in Albany. The play follows the experiences of an African-American and a Jewish woman during the Civil Rights Movement, as each discovers her own roots through music. The goal of the production was to diffuse the tension between Blacks and Jews on college campuses, by helping students explore issues of race openly and honestly.

April 5, 1998

Los Angeles, California

In anticipation of the upcoming holiday, Temple Isaiah held an event called AReggae Passover,≡ a unique musical concert celebrating African-American and Jewish history and culture. The concert featured the Pesach Posse, a group of twenty artists, including reggae singers, West African drummers and dancers, and Jewish cantors.

April 5, 1998

Tempe, Arizona

As part of the Bureau of Jewish Education=s Passages Lecture Series, a program entitled ABlack Anti-Semitism: Its Causes and Its Remedies≡ was held at Temple Emanuel. Ken Hamblin, African-

American author and nationally syndicated talk-show host, was invited to discuss his perception of this unique form of anti-Semitism.

April 5, 1998

Boston, Massachusetts

Congregation Mishkan Tefila hosted a very successful Black-Jewish Seder, which was sponsored by the local Anti Defamation League. Over 500 people attended the event, including the New England Patriots= Andre Tippett and other prominent members of the community.

April 5, 1998

Middletown, Rhode Island

In recognition of the universal value of celebrating freedom, Temple Shalom hosted its second annual Black-Jewish Seder. The popular event was officiated by Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, who explained, A...the Jewish people and the Blacks -- we were both slaves, we both suffered, we both persevere and we celebrate our commonality and our freedom.≡

April 5, 1998

Albany, New York

Prolific playwright Sarah Blacher Cohen presented the Bella Abzug-Barbara Jordan Award to Karen Hitchcock, the President of the State University of New York/Albany. The award, which Cohen designed to honor members of the community who have devoted their careers to promoting justice, was conceived in memory of Abzug and Jordan, a Jew and an African-American. Both were trail-blazing Congressional Representatives.

April 6, 1998

Washington, D.C.

Julian Bond, Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spoke at the Anti-Defamation League=s Annual Leadership Conference, emphasizing that African-Americans and Jews needed to work together to rebuild the alliance that characterized the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960=s. He criticized Nation of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan, asserting that his positive message for African-Americans is obscured by his anti-Semitism.

April 7, 1998

San Francisco, California

Continuing in the spirit of the AFreedom Seders≡ of the 1960s, in which Blacks and Jews joined to recognize the struggle for civil rights, Congregation Beth Sholom hosted an interracial Passover Seder that included readings from African-American writers, including Langston Hughes, Alice Walker, and Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. The Seder, which was led by Rabbi Alan Lew of Beth Sholom and Reverend Amos Brown of Third Baptist Church, focused on themes critical to both the Jewish and African-American participants, such as human dignity and the struggle for physical and spiritual liberation. The event was organized by the Isaiah Project, a group of Blacks and Jews interested in uniting in the fight for social justice.

April 8, 1998
Kingston, Rhode Island

Dean Copans, a white Jew, and Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, a Black Muslim, spoke to a group of South Kingston High School students, urging them to fight racism and anti-Semitism. Copans and Abdul-Matin, both students at the University of Rhode Island, met their first year in college, and have been friends ever since. The speaking engagement was sponsored by the South County Coalition Against Racism.

April 10, 1998
St. Louis, Missouri

About 200 Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists, Pentecostals, and Jews joined in an international, interethnic Seder. The Seder was led by Dr. James Elcock, Director of LaMeD Academy of Malchi Zedek, an organization devoted to interethnic harmony. Dr. Elcock is an African-American Jew, who strives to educate Jews, Christians, and Muslims about each other=s customs and culture.

April 12, 1998
New York, New York

The Easter and Passover holiday season was occasion for African-Americans and Jews in Crown Heights to call for reconciliation between their two communities. Many religious and civic leaders expressed their hope that the theme of Easter, resurrection, Passover liberation, would serve to bring the African-Americans and Jews together. AThey remind us that the different religious traditions share a principle of hope and caring for people who are not like themselves,≡ said John Reider, Chair of the Sociology Department at Barnard College and co-editor of Common Quest, a journal of Black-Jewish relations.

April 13, 1998
Brooklyn, New York

Hillary Rodham Clinton attended an event marking the union between a peer leadership program, created by the Anti-Defamation League, and the Boys and Girls Club of America, in a joint diversity program called ATeen-Agers Fight Back Against Hate.≡ ADL=s program began after the 1991 riots in Crown Heights, when community leaders set out to repair the scarred relationship between African-Americans and Jews through launching a youth initiative. Over the past seven years, over 65,000 students have taken part in the program, worldwide.

April 14-15, 1998
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dillard University=s 9th Annual Conference on Black-Jewish Relations began with a program entitled AFrom Selma to Montgomery,≡ which featured Rev. Dr. Walter E. Fauntroy, who coordinated the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery, and Congressman John Lewis, former president of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. On April 15, the conference held such plenary sessions as: AWhat Will Race Mean in the 21st Century: Perspectives of African-American and Jewish-American Women,≡ AThe Holocaust and the Middle Passage: Contrasts and Comparisons,≡ and AAfrican-American and Jewish-American Perspectives on Diaspora.≡ Rebecca Walker, daughter of author Alice Walker, gave the closing lecture on her experiences AGrowing Up Black and Jewish.≡

April 16, 1998
Norfolk, Virginia

Temple Israel sponsored a AFreedom Seder,≡ in which African-Americans and Jews joined in celebration of physical and spiritual freedom. Rabbi Michael Panitz officiated at the Seder, which was attended by students who had participated in Operation Understanding, a program designed to educate and unify African-American and Jewish youth through shared experiences.

April 16, 1998
Buffalo, New York

The entire Buffalo community was invited to share in Temple Beth Am=s Annual Community Interfaith Seder, which was led by Rabbi Michael Feshbach and Cantor Barbara Ostfeld. Among the sponsors were the American Jewish Committee, the Buffalo Area Metropolitan Ministries, and the Western New York African-American/ Jewish-American Task Force.

April 19, 1998
Springfield, Massachusetts

The local chapter of the NAACP joined the Jewish Federation of Springfield in sponsoring a benefit screening of the film *AAMistad*.≡ All of the proceeds of the event went to the NAACP, and the film was followed by a discussion that was facilitated by a local rabbi and the president of the NAACP chapter.

April 20, 1998

Boise, Idaho

At the invitation of members of Ahavath Beth Israel Synagogue, Cherie Buckner-Webb of Idaho=s Black History Museum joined other community leaders in remembering those who were murdered in the Holocaust. Several people who participated in the remembrance ceremony spoke out against bigotry, sang songs about persecution, and commended Governor Phil Batt for officially declaring the week the *ADays of Remembrance*.≡

April 21, 1998

New York, New York

A Jewish delegation comprised of leaders of the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York arranged to visit the family of Gavin Cato this week. Cato was the seven year old African-American boy who was killed after a car in the Lubavitcher Rebbe=s motorcade accidentally struck him in 1991. His death sparked four days of race riots that led to the murder of Yankel Rosenbaum, and the visit to Cato=s family comes on the heels of the March 31 sentencing of Lemrick Nelson Jr. for Rosenbaum=s death. Reverend Al Sharpton called the meeting *Aa signal of mutual respect and mutual concern*,≡ and Reverend Floyd Flake called the visit *Aan honest effort to understand the [Cato=s] pain and suffering... The meeting will help heal some of the city=s deepest wounds*.≡

April 21, 1998

Charleston, South Carolina

An introduction ceremony was held for twelve African-American and Jewish youth who were invited to participate in Operation Understanding, and challenge themselves to fight ignorance and bigotry by learning about and respecting one another=s cultures. The group had already participated in educational lectures, religious discussions, a Passover Seder, an Easter service, and a Holocaust Memorial vigil, and several participants expressed how transformed they had already been by the experiences.

April 22, 1998

Omaha, Nebraska

At a meeting of the Black-Jewish Dialogue, participants reacted candidly to the recent decision to form a citywide Commission on Race. Dialogue members expressed their reserve about the Commission, as well as their optimism that it could provide an opportunity for people from a variety of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds to ask penetrating questions, and begin to combat deep-seated biases. The Black-Jewish Dialogue, which was formed two and a half years ago, has almost 200 members.

April 26, 1998
New York, New York

A recent study by the Wall St. Journal reflected that in both law and business, it has become common for African-Americans and Jews to forge close friendships and mentoring relationships with one another. In fact, in a significant number of instances, African-Americans have been chosen by Jewish CEOs to be top executives.

April 27, 1998
New York, New York

A poll conducted by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding contradicted the popular notion that relations between African-Americans and Jews are in decline. More than two-thirds of the Blacks and Jews polled agreed that the two communities should unite in a partnership on civil rights issues, and both Blacks and Jews agreed that more needed to be done to educate schoolchildren about slavery and the Holocaust. The poll was released as part of The Foundation's annual conference on Black/Jewish relations held at Yeshiva University. Martin Luther King III was the keynote speaker at the conference and Raymond Smith, CEO of Bell Atlantic, was the Luncheon speaker. King, the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, challenged African-Americans and Jews to rebuild the strong relationship that had existed during the Civil Rights Movement. Smith warned people of the many racist sites currently operating on the Internet and announced a grant to The Foundation for its Internet site. Numerous other speakers expressed their hope that Jews and Blacks could be more sensitive to the needs of one another's communities. The conference was attended by over 200 Black and Jewish political leaders, educators, business leaders, and clergy.

April 28, 1998
New York, New York

A Holocaust Memorial Commemoration, held at the Kings County Civil Court, was co-sponsored by Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation. The event included speeches by Michael Taylor and Louise Gans, two Holocaust survivors, and Civil Court Judge Bruce M. Balter.

April 30, 1998
Atlanta, Georgia

In conjunction with President Clinton's Initiative on Race, the YWCA of Greater Atlanta hosted a dialogue on race relations, part of the YMCA of the USA's National Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism. Among the 90 participants was Sherry Frank, southeast area Director of the American Jewish Committee, who urged attendees to avoid selective prejudice. Other participants discussed diversity training programs for youth, and potential methods of addressing socioeconomic problems.

May 7, 1998
Nashville, Tennessee

The 23rd Psalm Coffee House hosted a panel discussion entitled *Racial Healing Between Blacks and Jews*. The panel featured Rabbi Randall Falk of the Temple in Belle Meade, Reverend Enoch Fuzz of Corinthian Baptist Church in North Nashville, and famous trial lawyer James Neal.

May 9-10, 1998
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Jewish Y co-sponsored two performances of *Marching Into Freedom Land*, a production of the African-American community theater. The show, which explored the Civil Rights Era through the eyes of children, was followed by an engaging panel discussion between prominent members of the Jewish and African-American communities.

May 10, 1998
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The National Council for Jewish Women sponsored its annual "Race for the Cure," an effort to raise money to fight breast cancer. One of the focuses of the race is on African-American women, among whom breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer fatalities. Over 19,000 people ran in the race, raising a total of \$740,000. A large portion of the money will be devoted to mammograms and follow up diagnostic services for women in the African-American community. In addition to the race, NCJW underwrites "Essence of Beauty," a forum for Black women, in which information is distributed and a fashion show of breast cancer survivors is held. Similarly, SisterTeach, a program designed to offer innovative health education to African-American women, is funded by NCJW.

May 11, 1998
Southfield, Michigan

Thirty high-school students in the Dream Dialogue of the Anti-Defamation League visited Washington, D.C. to tour an exhibit on the African American experience at the Smithsonian and at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The students met with Senator Carl Levin and members of the Washington ADL office. The Dream Dialogue is a program that brings African American and Jewish teenagers together for social action and educational programs throughout the school year.

May 12, 1998
New York, New York

Baruch College hosted a day-long dialogue focusing on the 1991 violence in Crown Heights, which was attended by representatives of the City Council, the New York City Police Department, and local clergy members. Participants discussed the need for increased sensitivity among community members and the police department.

May 14, 1998
Kansas City, Missouri

At the Fourth Scholarship Awards Presentation by the Minority Museum Club, its founder Dr. David Shapiro, D.O., announced that four of the student contestants received \$500 each, 11 others \$25, and several more a variety of donated gifts. Over 100 students from public and private schools had submitted essays, poems, and art work on the themes of bigotry, racism, prejudice, and discrimination as a problem, with positive solutions suggested. All winners also received a one year membership in the Museum Club pledging "to stay out of the clutches of gangs and drugs." The contest's purpose is to encourage young people to accept the "opportunity to make a difference."

May 14, 1998
Dorchester, Massachusetts

Young people from the Kehillath Israel Hebrew school and the Bird Street Community Center participated in a discussion about African-American and Jewish experiences of slavery and injustice during an evening of music at the community center. Interactive exercises allowed students to consider issues of social justice, sing with composer Walter Robinson and his chorus, and meet people "different than ourselves." The musical workshop was one in a series of partnership initiatives under the umbrella of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and the Moses Project.

May 14, 1998
Springfield, New Jersey

The message of an interracial rally was for people of all racial and religious backgrounds to stand in solidarity in the fight against bigotry. The rally was held in support of Springfield Police Lt. Ivan Shapow, who was recently referred to by the Police Captain as Athat Jew bastard.≡ The rally was led by local rabbis and ministers, several of whom said that the Jewish and African-American communities were making an important statement of unity.

May 17, 1998
New York, New York

In a striking demonstration of peaceful coexistence, African-Americans and Jews united in the annual Salute to Israel Parade, which this year was held jointly with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Parade. Organizers of the Salute to Israel Parade agreed to share the parade route with the 369th Regiment Veterans Association; and as a result, Black and Jewish performers and floats alternated in their march down Fifth Avenue.

May 20, 1998
Purchase, New York

Twenty-two local organizations co-sponsored a program by the African-American/ Jewish Task Force of Westchester at Manhattanville College entitled *Talking About Race: The Last Taboo*. The keynote speaker was Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, an ordained Baptist minister from Columbia University's Institute for Research in African-American Studies. The event was designed to improve race relations by supporting ethnic diversity.

May 20, 1998
Charleston, South Carolina

Students at Courtenay Middle School invited a group of Jews to participate in a program called *It's a Small World After All*, which featured African food, storytelling, drumming, and dance. The cultural exchange began in April, when students from Courtenay had been guests at a Passover Seder at the Jewish Community Center. After that experience, they expressed their interest in reciprocating the invitation, this time sharing their culture with the Jews.

May 25, 1998
Norfolk, Virginia

President Clinton's call for a national conversation on race relations spurred the formation of a discussion group comprised of members of the Jewish Community Federation, the Richmond NAACP, and the Crusade for Voters. Participants in the dialogue recognized that only courage, persistence, and honesty would bring about political, social, and economic equality.

May 26, 1998
New York, New York

Innocent Thoughts, a play about a Jewish anthropologist who is the expert witness for an African-American attorney, was performed at the Miranda Theater. The performance served as a springboard for dialogue, which featured a panel of eight judges from Queens and Manhattan. The program was sponsored by Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation.

May 27, 1998

New York, New York

More than fifty members of One Hundred Black Men, Inc. visited the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Robert M. Morgenthau, Chairman of the Museum's Board, hosted the private viewing, which was followed by a reception in the Overlook Gallery. Speakers at the reception expressed their commitment to the continuation of a mutually respectful relationship between African-Americans and Jews, and vowed not to let racism or anti-Semitism come between them.

May 30, 1998

Sarasota, Florida

A retro pinball party was sponsored by the United Way, the Flanzer Jewish Community Center, and the Y's Black Achievers Program. African-American and Jewish pinball wizards were invited for an evening of pinball, refreshments, dancing, and prizes.

June 4, 1998

New York, New York

Culminating their year of Holocaust Studies, eighth grade students at Public School 111 had the opportunity to meet and speak with Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. 65 students listened as Wiesel reflected on his experiences in the Holocaust, including such intimate details as how he felt when he lost his family. Teachers at the school said that they felt that the year of Holocaust studies was essential to the students, particularly considering the often tense relations between Blacks and Jews in New York City. Students learned not only history, one teacher reflected, but also how easily bigotry can grow in the vacuum of apathy.

June 7, 1998

Kings Point, New York

Members of Black-Jewish Dialogue of Great Neck organized a cocktail party/ fund raiser at the home of one of their members. The event was tremendously successful; almost 200 people attended, and over \$10,000 was for a summer program at Economic Opportunity Council of Great Neck - Manhasset, which funds a summer camp for minority children from low income families. In addition, the party provided a unique opportunity for people from the two communities to interact socially.

June 7, 1998

Springfield, Massachusetts

In a proud sign of both communities= commitment to racial harmony and understanding, members of the local chapter of the NAACP joined their Jewish neighbors from the Jewish Federation of Springfield and other organizations in a parade celebrating Israel=s Jubilee year.

June 12, 1998
Chicago, Illinois

Wallace D. Mohammed, the African-American leader of the Muslim American Society, reflected on his journey to Auschwitz, Poland, for a recent conference sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. Mohammed was one of 32 religious leaders to attend the conference, at which he shared his universalist outlook and interest in interfaith dialogue. Mohammed argued that Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders need to focus on issues that unite rather than divide them from one another.

June 14, 1998
Los Angeles, California

Over 120 people attended a program on Paul Robeson, the African-American actor, singer, activist, and champion athlete, on the 100th anniversary of his birth. The program, which was held at the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center, featured a lecture by Paul Von Blum, a Jewish member of the faculty of UCLA=s Center for African American Studies. Von Blum told the progressive Jewish audience that Robeson=s commitment to social justice motivated many Jews in the struggle for equal rights.

June 17, 1998
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Celebrating the friendships that the Black and Jewish youth had cultivated with one another since February through their involvement in Operation Understanding, students joined for a barbecue party at the home of one of the participants. After months of formal discussions, seminars, and interfaith services, the students proved that they had internalized the objectives of the program by socializing with one another outside the framework of the program.

June 18, 1998
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Park Hyatt Hotel hosted the Philadelphia Bar Association=s June quarterly meeting, at which Julian Bond, board chairman of the NAACP, addressed Bar members. While assessing the past, present, and future of the Civil Rights Movement, Bond, a scholar, author, and activist, discussed the historic relationship between African-Americans and Jews.

June 18, 1998

Cleveland, Ohio

The Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan presented a program of song and dance to an audience of children, which included a group from an inner-city YMCA camp. The Scouts are Israeli teens who serve as "goodwill ambassadors" with a message of friendship and brotherhood.

June 22, 1998

Detroit, Michigan

On the 60 year anniversary of Joe Louis' historic knockout of Germany's Max Schmeling, the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame sponsored a program in his honor. Louis' victory was politically charged in 1938, as an African-American's defeat of a German challenged the prevalent belief in the supremacy of the Aryan race. The symposium featured a film on Louis' life, *And Still the Champ*, which was followed by personal memoirs offered by friends and relatives of the boxing hero who died in 1981.

June 24, 1998

New York, New York

In the past, tension had been growing in Cambria Heights, the majority African-American neighborhood that houses the cemetery in which the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, is buried. But in a community meeting, it was determined that, in order to ease tensions, a larger task force should be formed to deal with relations between the African-Americans and the Lubavitchers that frequent the neighborhood. It was suggested that the community be proactive and engage in frequent discussion, as well as develop an annual structure with which to deal with the Rebbe's *yahrzeit*, the anniversary of his death, which is always an occasion for a large pilgrimage to the cemetery. One member of the Cambria Heights Task Force urged that tolerance and communication should be shown by both communities.

June 26, 1998

New York, New York

Tensions flared in the otherwise peaceful community of Cambria Heights as a Jewish group, without the consultation of the African-American residents of the town, discussed using a local public school to house the thousands who would visit the grave of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, who is buried in that town. However, despite escalated tensions, both African-Americans and Jews agreed that the annual pilgrimage to the cemetery on the Rebbe's *yahrzeit*, the anniversary of his death, went fairly smoothly. One member of the town's Task Force noted: "I'm not saying people are kissing and hugging each other, but thank God people are working to appreciate each other."

June 28, 1998
Detroit, Michigan

Congregation Shir Tikvah in Troy and Plymouth United Church of Christ in Detroit held an event entitled "Psychological Aspects of Black-Jewish Relationships." The discussion was guided by both black and Jewish psychologists.

July 2, 1998
Denver, Colorado

In response to the rise of hate crimes, including the brutal murder of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas, the Denver chapter of the American Jewish Committee, the Mountain States Network Against Bigotry, and other local organizations created a website called Coloradans United Against Hatred. The site was designed as a virtual community that would fight back against racial bigotry and hate crimes through distributing information and taking donations to aid victims and promote anti-bias education.

July 5, 1998
Charleston, South Carolina

41 Black and Jewish youth from Washington, DC and Charleston participated in Operation Understanding, a race relations project devoted to the elimination of racial bigotry, and the establishment of solid bonds between the two communities. Participants traveled to Atlanta, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, visiting sites significant to African-Americans and Jews, and speaking with community leaders who participated in the Civil Rights Movement and continue to take steps toward racial equality.

July 9, 1998
Springfield, Massachusetts

Members of the local Jewish Endowment Foundation financially supported an inner city playground site where children received breakfast and lunch throughout the summer, through an initiative called Project Bread. The children who visited the site were also able to participate in supervised playground activities, and use sporting equipment, books, and toys that the Jewish community collected for the children's use.

July 14, 1998
Charleston, South Carolina

Kicking off the summer tour of sites significant to Jews and African-Americans, Marsha Alterman, executive director of Operation Understanding Charleston, spoke at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Synagogue about the committed youth leaders participating in the program to end racism and anti-Semitism. The program, which was designed to put an end to discrimination and hatred, strives to strengthen the bond between African-Americans and Jews, whom Alterman foresees working together as ambassadors of tolerance.≡ From Charleston, the youth visited Atlanta, Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, Tuskegee, Philadelphia, and Washington.

July 15, 1998
San Diego, California

Operation Understanding, San Diego, presented a variety of monthly programs to prepare 13 of their members for a three week tour visiting historic and cultural sites of significance to the African American and Jewish students. Events included discussions with community leaders, an overnight excursion to museums in Los Angeles, an evening of African and Israeli dancing, a film festival with discussion of cooperation and conflict between ethnicities, and a debate based on a court case arising from a college professor's introduction of blatantly racist material in the classroom. The group then left for a 21-day visit to historic sites in the South and New York City.

July 16, 1998
Trenton, New Jersey

Issuing a call for the arrest of the people responsible for carving a 130 foot swastika in a Mercer County cornfield, Governor Christie Todd Whitman was joined by Jewish, Catholic, and Presbyterian religious leaders in denouncing bigotry. Shirley K. Turner, African American State Senator from Mercer, spoke out against the crime, boldly proclaiming, AI stand proudly with my Jewish brothers and sisters in denouncing this racist act.≡

July 19, 1998
Washington, D.C.

The DC Jewish Community Center=s Cecile Goldman Theater hosted a panel discussion exploring the legacy of jazz and the importance of music as a force of integration between African-Americans and Jews. The panel featured big-band leader Artie Shaw and bebop saxophonist Jimmy Heath, who focused on the work of influential African-American and Jewish jazz musicians such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Artie Shaw, and Benny Goodman.

July 20, 1998

Jackson, Mississippi

Mike Espy, Mississippi's first Black Congressional Representative and the first Black to head the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shared his life experiences with a group of Black and Jewish students. The students, who were on the final leg of a one month trip through the South, were able to learn everything from Espy's travails as an African-American child growing up in the South, to his work on President Clinton's Race Advisory Board.

July 27, 1998

Los Angeles, California

About 80 Jews and African-Americans gathered together at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple to discuss ACommunity Expectations and Accountability. Speakers included L.A. Councilwoman Laura Chick, L.A. Police Chief Bernard Parks, Rabbi Harvey Fields, and Constance Rice, formerly of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The program was one of many talks designed to improve relations between Blacks and Jews, co-sponsored by the synagogue and the Second Baptist Church of South Central L.A.

July 30, 1998

Detroit, Michigan

For the first time in the program's four year history, teenage participants in Operation Understanding visited sites of historical significance to African-Americans and Jews in Detroit. The group visited the new Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, the Motown Museum, the John Freeman Walls Underground Railroad Museum, the Jewish Community Center in Oak Park, Temple Beth El, and the Holocaust Museum.

July 30, 1998

Baltimore, Maryland

Wallace D. Mohammed, the leader of the Muslim American Society and the son of the late Elijah Muhammed, spoke to 50 religious and civic leaders at the Baltimore Rowing Club, urging religious and racial harmony. As the leader of the nation's largest Islamic body, Mohammed disavowed Black separatism, and argued that Muslims had a duty to respect their Christian and Jewish brothers and sisters.

August 12, 1998

New York, New York

Responding to an editorial in the New York Times on the controversy surrounding the "Million Youth March," Rabbi Marc Schneier cited the results of a poll taken by the Foundation for Ethnic

Understanding. 42.8 percent of Jewish and 53.5 percent of African-American respondents felt that the relationship between the groups has improved. Only 17.3 percent of Jews and 13.5 percent of African-Americans thought the relationship had gotten worse. An overwhelming majority in both groups believed that the two should form a partnership to work on civil rights issues.

August 13, 1998
Greensboro, North Carolina

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity William Leftwich III moderated a two-and-a-half-hour town meeting on racial relations. The forum focused chiefly on the need for more educational and economic opportunities to overcome racial barriers. Participants also stressed attitudes of spirit as a major factor leading individuals to perceive unmet needs of others.

August 15, 1998
Chesapeake, Virginia

In a continuing dialogue on race relations, the Chesapeake chapter of the NAACP assembled a panel of nine speakers and an audience of some 70 local residents. One black member of an African-American/Jewish Coalition talked of the common struggle but acknowledged that the groups have drifted apart since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Others spoke about the importance of education and faith in bringing people together. When one speaker questioned the relevance to people's lives of race relations, another replied that, "If color didn't make a difference, we wouldn't have a problem."

September 2, 1998
Jerusalem, Israel

Ben Epstein is volunteering his time to serve as referee at an ice hockey camp in Metulla, Israel, a camp founded by NHL coach Roger Neilson. In New York, Epstein coaches an all-Jewish hockey team from Ramaz Yeshiva, one of only three in the world. His team plays against teams in Harlem in order to help foster Black-Jewish relationships. The NHL will film the Metulla school in action as a documentary during the opening week of the season.

September 10, 1998
Baltimore, Maryland

Eight African-American men and women graduated from a rigorous entrepreneur development program initiated by members of the Beth Am Synagogue, working closely with the community's Reservoir Hill Improvement Council. Women Entrepreneurs of Baltimore (WEB) trained the participants to develop their business ideas into pragmatic plans of action. WEB and members of Beth Am will serve as

mentors and pro bono consultants to the entrepreneurs. The Morris Goldseker Foundation of Maryland and one of Beth Am's congregants sponsored the program.

September 10, 1998
Queens, New York

Mayor Giuliani and the American Jewish Congress agreed in their condemnation of a float in a Labor Day Parade. The float mocked the dragging to death of a black man. The Mayor ordered the New York Fire Department to sever all ties with the Broad Channel Volunteer Fire Department, sponsors of the parade, and to have the City's Human Rights Commission determine who was responsible for the outrage.

September 11, 1998
Palm Beach County, Florida

Leaders from three churches and a synagogue formed the South Florida Renewal Network a year ago and continue to meet every Wednesday to pray, talk about problems and share advice. Ira Brawer, the network's president and rabbi at Aytz Chayim Messianic Synagogue in Boca Raton, explained that they, "wanted a sense of community instead of a barrier than comes from differing denominations." Gary Dolphus, pastor of The Church of the Risen Messiah in Lantana said, "We have a white Anglo-Saxon, an Italian, a Jew, and a black guy - me - praying together." Taking turns leading the service, they bring their four bands and choirs together for musical worship.

September 12, 1998
South Tampa, Florida

Jewish singers joined with a black gospel choir to celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Cantor Moshe Friedler brought them together for the concert at Congregation Rodeph Sholom to inspire people "by their way of praying." John Giles, pastor of True Faith Inspirational Baptist Church, agreed that "African-Americans equate our struggle from slavery with the same experience the Jewish people had coming from Egypt."

September 13, 1998
Dayton, Ohio

Cecilia Moore of the department of religious studies at the University of Dayton gave a talk on 'Black-Jewish Relations' in the Alumni Hall. The Dayton Christian-Jewish Dialogue sponsored the event.

September 13, 1998
Boston, Massachusetts

"No other organization participates on such a scale," according to the Read Boston literacy program director Margaret Williams, referring to the more than 250 volunteers organized through the Jewish Community Relations Council. Describing various programs, a Boston Globe article related how Jews and blacks from the area's temples and synagogues are engaged together in oral history projects, joint youth-group meetings, computer training, and grandmothers' groups.

September 14, 1998
Washington, D. C.

Several of the first graduates of a new program developed to train African Americans as shopping center managers are now in commercial property management jobs and using networking techniques learned. The Real Estate Apprentice Program (REAP) is sponsored by the Greater Washington Urban League, the D.C. chapter of the American Jewish Committee, and a number of local commercial real estate firms. Sponsors provide teachers for the program, as well as internships. Candidates are working persons seeking career changes.

September 16, 1998
Palm Beach, Florida

32 Spanish River High School students enrolled in a World of Difference training program. Student Council adviser Mary Murley recruited the diverse group because her council is almost exclusively white. The students hope to show their peers how much they have in common with people who appear different from themselves. A senior admitted that to promote tolerance and understanding is difficult and "will take some time." In addition to student attendance, more than 240,000 teachers nationally have attended the Anti-Defamation League two-day seminars.

September 18, 1998
Norfolk, Virginia

At the invitation of the African-American/Jewish Coalition, Portsmouth Police Chief Leonard G. Cook spoke of their importance in assisting the police. Three years previously, the coalition and other community groups enabled police quickly to apprehend two teenagers who had vandalized the Virginia Beach Beth Chaverim Synagogue. The coalition had canvassed the neighborhood near the synagogue to find the teens. Chief Cook assured the audience that such cooperation is particularly important in fighting hate and race crimes.

September 21, 1998

New York, New York

After fire destroyed the roof of Central Synagogue at 55th Street and Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, Shannon Taylor, reflected in the New York Law Journal on his consultations with Central's director of community relations towards merging programming to further mutual educational goals. Taylor is executive director of Not Just Blacks and Jews in Conversation. Central's "Jethro" lecture series featured such noted speakers as Chief Justice Judith Kay, Governor Mario Cuomo, and Judge Phyllis Skloot Bamberger, who based their comments on the legacy of Moses in the modern day system of justice.

September 21, 1998

Kansas City, Missouri

Founded over 7 years ago by Dr. David Shapiro, the Minority Museum is his collection of photographs and audio visual tapes from all of the minority cultures in America. He exhibits them as part of a lecture to illustrate discrimination against minorities contrasted with examples of those same minorities making positive contributions to society. His purpose is to teach that prejudice and discrimination are Un-American. The Doctor received the St. Stephen Baptist Church "Ethnic Diversity Award" in 1996. His was the first multi-ethnic museum in the city and the doctor was the first Jewish American to receive the Church's Social Justice Commission award.

September 22, 1998

Charleston, South Carolina

12 members of The African-American Jewish Connection began utilizing the knowledge and skills acquired during their participation in a yearlong Operation Understanding leadership program. Trained in techniques to fight racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of discrimination, the volunteers speak to business, civic, religious, and other organizations about the program's impact on their lives.

September 23, 1998

Detroit, Michigan

Leadership of the Northwest Neighborhood Health Empowerment Center (NHEC) joined with representatives of the Detroit Initiative Task Force (DITF) to identify ways in which individuals and institutions in the Jewish community can become volunteer service providers for the NHEC. The community-based health initiative provides primary prevention services to the predominantly African American neighborhood. The Task Force is a joint project of the Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

September 24, 1998

Detroit, Michigan

The newly renovated City of Detroit Considine Recreation Center, a former Jewish Community Center currently serving a large African-American population, opened. Funds for the project came in part from the Detroit Initiative Task Force (DITF), a joint project of the Jewish Community Council and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

September 25, 1998

Lawrence, Kansas

The Black Student Union and the KU Hillel Foundation, a Jewish student organization, objected to a graphic anti-abortion display on campus at the University of Kansas. They marched together past the "Genocide Awareness Project" display's mixed images of Holocaust and lynching victims. Seth Weiselatt, president of Hillel, said of organizers of the display, "Their intent was to engage students, but what they have done is enrage students." The presenter, Gregg Cunningham, of the Center for BioEthical Reform, countered that he equates abortion with genocide and was glad that the protest drew needed attention to that viewpoint.

September 26, 1998

Seattle, Washington

NAACP Chairman Julian Bond guested at the first in a series of forums, "It's Time to Talk," initiated by the Urban Enterprise Center of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. The series strives to improve relationships between Americans of all ethnicities through forums, informal dinners, and roundtable discussions. The American Jewish Committee, Blacks in Government, Church Council of Greater Seattle, CityClub, El Centro de la Raza, NCCJ, and other similar groups joined together to support the effort.

September 27, 1998

Cincinnati, Ohio

Leaders from the tristate's Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities spoke at Xavier University in the first of a series on justice and race. Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, pastor of Greater New Light Baptist Church, the Most Rev. Daniel E. Pilarczyk, archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Michael G. Rapp, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, and Ilyas Nashid, imam of the Cincinnati Islamic Center each addressed his tradition's teachings and perspective on the issue. The goal is to promote greater racial harmony within a diverse society.

September 27-28, 1998

Wellesley, Massachusetts

At a National Conference at Wellesley College on "Education as Transformation: Religious Pluralism, Spirituality, and Higher Education," Lois Lyles conducted a workshop on Black/ Jewish relations. Lyles, who is African-American, is a Professor of English at San Francisco State University, who teaches African-American, Jewish, and Israeli literature. Lyles has been known for years to be an outspoken advocate of racial harmony who fights tirelessly against racial and religious hatred.

October 2, 1998

Los Angeles, California

Twenty-five years after the election of Tom Bradley as the city's first black Mayor, Bradley received a warm welcome at the annual breakfast of the Jewish Labor Committee. Those attending expressed appreciation for his pioneering efforts in striving for minority opportunities in politics. While serving as a lieutenant in the police department, Bradley teamed with Maury Weiner, a Jewish man from New York, to assist minority candidates. Later, he himself successfully ran for council, then mayor, in a crusade for civil rights, rebuilding the inner city devastated earlier by racial riots, and changing the attitude of the notoriously racist police department. His efforts are evident in the great number of minority persons now being elected to local office.

October 7-21, 1998

Southfield, Michigan

Four Jewish Ethiopian-born Israeli teenagers spent two weeks visiting schools in Detroit and the suburbs to build bridges of understanding with their hosts. An African-American legislator welcomed the "Children of the Dream" group, and a Jewish U.S. Senator served as honorary chair of their trip. The students met regularly for discussion and socializing with an African American/Jewish dialogue group sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.

October 8, 1998

Detroit, Michigan

The leadership of the Detroit Initiative Task Force (DITF) recently met with the African- American leadership of the Interfaith Collaborative for Community Economic Development (ICCED) to identify areas where volunteer professionals in the Jewish community can assist the nonprofit, faith-based community organization. ICCED engages in various forms of human, social, housing, educational and economic development to further efforts to revitalize distressed communities in Detroit.

October 18, 1998

Richmond, Virginia

In conjunction with Hope in the Cities, the Jewish Community Federation embarked on a historic interracial youth group program, consisting of six weeks of dialogue and interaction between Jewish and African-American youth. The program was designed by and for youth, and strives to highlight experience in addition to modified dialogue. Activities range from watching "Amistad" and "Schindler's List," to visits to the Holocaust Museum and Museum of African-American History.

October 27, 1998

New York, New York

350 students from public and private high schools in Manhattan and Staten Island joined in a program designed to bridge the racial and ethnic divide in New York City. The students were addressed by 24 African-American and Jewish judges, at the Supreme Court of New York, and then participated in workshops and dialogue with Manhattan Borough President Virginia Fields, and Tony Coles, Senior Advisor to the Mayor. The program was organized by Blacks and Jews in Conversation.

October 28, 1998

New York, New York

An article in The Jerusalem Report described a variety of efforts by Jewish and Black groups across the country to cooperate in situations of potential conflict. Citing a number of instances, reporter Yigel Scheifer noted that what seems to characterize the new alliances is that while many previous attempts were organizational efforts to force dialogue, current joint projects seem to come from grass-roots attempts at coalition building. The article quotes Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, who said, "People, tangibly, have made the effort to reach out. That's what has changed. The result is that things have improved."

October 31, 1998

Allentown, Pennsylvania

The Motown singing group Four Tops celebrated Cantor Kevin Wartell's 10th anniversary at Temple Beth El by performing in a benefit concert at Symphony Hall to raise money for the synagogue. A fan of the Tops since his teen years, Cantor Wartell became close friends with them after an initial accidental meeting. He feels a deep kinship with African-American history and believes that the struggles of Jews and Blacks for civil rights blend together. Both he and the Tops try to bring people closer to a better society through song.

October 31, 1998

Atlanta, Georgia

Teenagers from 30 metro area middle schools gathered at the Georgia Tech Student Center for the third annual Prejudice Awareness Summit. Divided into small workshops, students exchanged accounts of their experiences with prejudice. One African-American youth who is albino repeated some of the hurtful names people call him. A girl admitted to being called Dalmatian because of some mottled skin color on parts of her leg. The summit is sponsored by the Junior League of Atlanta and Jewish Women International. Participants take home with them ideas for lessening prejudice at their schools.

November 1, 1998
Kansas City, Missouri

Susan Whitmore, executive director of the Writers Place, sponsored a performance of "Dante's Inferno" by a touring production with New York actors. In connection with the event, she scheduled workshops, art exhibits, and writing projects for young people to draw parallels between The Inferno and the Jewish Holocaust, as well as the historical struggle of African-Americans.

November 1, 1998
Detroit, Michigan

Temple Emanu-El of West Bloomfield and Bethel AME Church of Detroit are presenting a seven month program for 4th and 5th graders. The program includes monthly meetings and activities on the theme of "Freedom Isn't Free." It includes topics such as the similarities and differences of Blacks and Jews, a look at history, and the concepts of prejudice and freedom. The students will visit the African-American and the Holocaust Museums in Detroit.

November 1, 1998
Detroit, Michigan

The Jewish Community Council and the Detroit Public Schools partnered in a Detroit/Israel student exchange. 15 Israeli students spent a week visiting Detroit highschoolers and six African American Detroit high school students joined the national delegation of American-Israel Friendship League's United States-Israel High School Youth Ambassadors Exchange to Israel. The goal of the program is to provide the teens with the tools they need to become ambassadors for Israel within the African American community.

November 4, 1998
Springfield, Massachusetts

The acclaimed film, *A Blacks and Jews* was shown at the Springfield Jewish Film Festival. The screening and the facilitated discussion that followed were sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield.

November 5, 1998
New York, New York

DIVA Diana Ross presented the Joseph Papp Racial Harmony Awards to honorees Danny Goldberg, president of Mercury Records, and Clarence O. Smith, the Essence Communications chief, at the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding's annual gala. Rabbi Marc Schneier and Mr. Papp established the foundation in 1989 to improve relations between Blacks and Jews, but its work includes all ethnicities. Mr. Papp's widow, Gail, chaired the event at the Fifth Avenue home of Dr. Mona Ackerman.

November 5, 1998
Cleveland, Ohio

Gabrielle Forman, associate professor of English and American Studies at Occidental College gave a talk titled "Notes from a Nubian Jewess: Black-Jewish Relations in the 21st Century" at the Thwing Center. Her appearance was sponsored by Case Western Reserve University's Samuel Rosenthal Center for Judaic Studies.

November 6-11, 1998
Hampton Roads, Virginia

Twelve Black and Jewish teenager members of Operation Understanding and several adults toured historic civil rights sites in the Deep South as part of a yearlong effort to explore each other's heritage and religions. Their trip included visits to a museum dedicated to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to a Holocaust exhibit. They crossed the Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, and were brought to Brown Chapel AME Church, the first to "open its doors to the Movement." An activist, who was 11 when she marched over the bridge to protest treatment of Blacks, told the group of her experiences. They learned more at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute before returning home with a sense of their responsibility to work toward interracial harmony.

November 12, 1998
West Bloomfield, Michigan

Congressman John Lewis, a leader in the civil rights movement, spoke on Black /Jewish relations in the context of his memoir "Walking With the Wind." The event and a leadership dinner at the Jewish Community Center's annual Book Fair were co-sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, Detroit Urban League, and the National Conference for Community and Justice.

November 17, 1998
San Diego, California

The San Diego Jewish Book Fair presented a staged dramatization by high school students of a civil rights case. A discussion with the audience followed. The actors are members of Operation Understanding, San Diego, an organization that works with youth to rebuild the historic alliance between African-Americans and Jews. Throughout the year, the group arranges monthly events geared toward dispelling stereotypes and promoting mutual respect among groups.

November 19, 1998
Princeton, New Jersey

Seventh graders from eleven Princeton area churches viewed "The Right to Dream" exhibit as part of a teen interfaith civil rights program sponsored by The Central New Jersey Chapter of The American Jewish Committee. Adults chaperoning them formed their own group as all discussed the implications in their lives.

November 22, 1998
Westchester, New York

Changing demographics are affecting religious congregations in several cities in this county, according to a New York Times story. As the Black population steadily increased in Westchester during the past 30 years, the number of whites declined. This shift is causing several Jewish congregations either to sell their synagogue buildings or to share space with non-Jewish worshippers. In some but not all instances, the new congregations continue an established tradition of service to the community with tutoring programs, food distribution to the needy, and activities for all ages and ethnicities.

November 25, 1998
New York, New York

The National Committee for the Furtherance of Jewish Education gave a humanitarian award to prize fight promoter Don King. King and a few friends contributed \$1 million to the group, which fosters Black and Jewish cooperation.

November 27, 1998
Israel

Seven students spent a week sharing with Israeli teenagers online computer entrepreneurship learned in their International Business Program at North Atlanta High School. Their school program, with 56 students, runs an Internet gift shop selling school merchandise and supplies. The shop has sold over

\$33,000 worth of products since 1993 and established relationships with schools in 10 other countries. During their visit to Israel, their Jewish hosts brought the mixed group to Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites.

December 3, 1998

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A letter denouncing white teachers at George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science drew angry denunciations from Black as well as white students. Defending their teachers, students labled the letter writer, who is Black, a racist. Parents claimed that he was trying to create an issue for his own purposes when none exists. The school has the third-highest average Scholastic Assessment Test scores of Philadelphia public high schools and a reputation of having all of its 750 students accepted to college. One Black senior said: "Teachers bend over backward for you - Jewish, African-American, it doesn't matter."

December 13, 1998

St. Louis, Missouri

About 40 students and 20 mentors from the Cote Brilliant Presbyterian Church and the Central Reform Congregation Joint Venture visited a home for the elderly to do Christmas caroling together. The synagogue and African-American church that sponsored the program first developed their relationship in 1991, when Rabbi Susan Talve and Reverend William Gillespie decided that the two communities should unite to work with city youth. After the caroling, mentors and mentees began planning the building of a park at the Cote Brilliant Elementary School.

CONFLICT

January 11, 1998
New York, New York

Reverend Al Sharpton was quoted by the Daily Challenge, an African-American community newspaper, as saying that there were currently more Russian Jewish welfare recipients than African-American. "There are enclaves of Russian Jews in Brighton Beach and Coney Island," said Sharpton, "who already have their I.D. and welfare status and food stamps set when they get here and are taking taxpayers' money to live for nothing in this city." Russian Jewish immigrants and their advocates argued that Sharpton's comments were as foolish as saying that only African-Americans receive welfare.

January 23, 1998
New York, New York

Americans for a Safe Israel, a right-wing Jewish organization, protested the decision to combine the annual "Salute to Israel" parade with a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. The group's principle objection was predicated on the fear that focus would be diverted from the celebration of the Jewish State to Black/ Jewish relations. Americans for a Safe Israel is a group that generally does not even march in the "Salute to Israel" parade.

February 22, 1998
Chicago, Illinois

In a three and one-half hour speech, Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, elaborated on his feelings toward Jewish people. His language, Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League pointed out, was overflowing with classic anti-Semitic imagery. Included in his remarks was a claim that he is not an anti-Semite, and does not hate the Jewish people, but that the Jews "helped [Hitler] get the Third Reich on the road," and that Jews are the "most powerful people in the world... the best in the world in finance."

February 23, 1998
Washington, D.C.

A rabbi and activist from the Bronx was awarded \$5,000 by a federal jury for damages he sustained while protesting the appearance of Khalid Muhammad, former spokesman of the Nation of Islam, at Howard University. The jury found that the University, as well as a security guard, failed to protect the rabbi during the protest in 1994.

March 31, 1998
New York, New York

Lemrick Nelson was sentenced to 19 years in prison for violating the civil rights of rabbinical student Yankel Rosenbaum, who was killed in the riots in Crown Heights in 1991. The civil suit, which was brought by Rosenbaum's family and 91 other plaintiffs in the Hasidic community, reopened many of the seven year old wounds of the Crown Heights uprising. Some African-Americans argued that the punishment was too harsh, attributing it to political pressure put on the Administration by the Jewish community, while some Jews contended that the sentencing was too weak. Only a few lone voices expressed that the sentencing would put closure on the tense situation.

April 2, 1998
New York, New York

Dr. Leonard Jeffries, former Chair of the Department of African-American Studies at the City University of New York who was fired amid allegations that he was promoting racism in the classroom, was invited to speak at the College of Staten Island. Members of the Jewish Defense Organization planned a protest to coincide with the visit. An African-American student leader opined that he disagreed with Jeffries' approach to Jews, but hoped that his visit would arouse dialogue on issues of race. Similarly, a Jewish student leader said that he agreed with the Jewish Defense Organization's aversion to Jeffries', however, he disagreed with the JDO's militant tactics.

April 3, 1998
New York, New York

Many African-Americans expressed outrage and dismay at Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's formal apology for the Crown Heights riots, in which he said that the city's response had been 'clearly inadequate.' Giuliani also agreed to a financial settlement, in which the city awarded \$1.1 million to the family of Yankel Rosenbaum and many other Hasidic plaintiffs. Some African-Americans argued that the city was giving preferential treatment to the Jewish community, while the family of Gavin Cato, the seven year old boy whose death sparked the riots, has yet to receive justice. They claimed that the Hasidic driver of the car that went out of control, striking and killing Cato, is currently residing in Israel, never having been charged for driving without a license or running a red light.

April 7, 1998
New York, New York

In the aftermath of the settlement of the 1991 slaying of Yankel Rosenbaum, former Mayor David Dinkins was criticized by both African-Americans and Jews for attempting to put the incident in the past by inviting Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to a private dinner. Dinkins had hoped that New Yorkers would see his attempt at reconciliation as an effort to abate rising tensions between the African-American and Jewish communities. However, Giuliani refused the invitation, and Dinkins responded that Giuliani plays favorites with the Hasidic community. He also accused the Hasidim of 'intimidating' the Park Avenue Jews into withdrawing their support of Dinkins after the after the Crown Heights riots.

Several Jewish leaders criticized Dinkins' use of the term "Park Avenue Jews," deeming it inappropriate and offensive.

April 9, 1998

East Orange, New Jersey

The New Jersey Anti-Defamation League protested the scheduling of Dr. Leonard Jeffries to be the keynote speaker at the Paul Robeson Centennial Celebration, sponsored by the East Orange School District. Jeffries was fired from his position as Chair of the Department of African-American Studies at the City University of New York after he made a series of anti-Semitic and bigoted remarks. Shai Goldstein, Executive Director of the New Jersey ADL, argued the absurdity of inviting Jeffries to speak at a commemoration of Robeson, whom he contended, would probably have considered Jeffries a racist. The protest was scheduled after the East Orange School Board refused to heed a letter from the ADL that outlined several of Jeffries' contentions, including his claim that wealthy Jews financed the slave trade.

April 15, 1998

New York, New York

In a scathing editorial in the New York Amsterdam News, Wilbert Tatum polarized the Jewish and African-American communities by contrasting Jewish political and economic interests with the needs of the African-American population. Comparing Mayor Giuliani's politics to Adolph Hitler's, Tatum offered a stinging critique of Giuliani's apology to the Rosenbaum family for their son's murder in 1991. He also criticized Jews for neglecting to rise to David Dinkins' defense after Dinkins spent much of his mayoral term pandering to the needs of the Jewish community. In a previous article, Tatum described how the situation has affected Black-Jewish relations: "It will be a long time before anyone who has real influence in the Black community would dare reach out his or her hand to help bring these factions together, no matter what the need."

April 22, 1998

Washington, D.C.

"Anti-Semitism Worldwide, 1997/8," a study put out by Tel Aviv University's Project for the Study of Anti-Semitism, the Anti-Defamation League, and the World Jewish Congress, was released. The study showed that while anti-Semitic violence worldwide had dropped significantly, there was an increase in anti-Semitic sentiment in US college campuses, mainly in African-American colleges and universities. Rabbi David Rosen, Director of the ADL's Israel office, pointed out that despite this rise, the statistics are not representative of the overall population of African-Americans in college, just as Louis Farrakhan is not representative of more than 20 percent of the Black Muslim population in America.

April 29, 1998
New York, New York

A group of African-American religious leaders joined together to condemn Mayor Giuliani's apology and monetary settlement to the family of Yankel Rosenbaum. In a press conference, the Ministerial Alliance of the African Methodist Episcopal Church charged that while Giuliani was quick to Acourt and appease his Jewish constituents, he neglected to acknowledge the Cato family, who had also suffered immensely. The group argued that Giuliani's reluctance to compensate or apologize to the Cato family was only inciting tensions between Blacks and Jews.

April 29, 1998
New York, New York

The screening of Spike Lee's newest film, AHe Got Game, led many writers to reflect on Lee's characteristic criticism of awards and film festivals that do not give his movies the credit he believes they merit. His documentary AFour Little Girls, about the 1963 bombing of a church in Birmingham, Alabama was nominated for an Oscar, but lost to a documentary about the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel, called AThe Long Way Home. This loss spurred a series of angry comments in which he suggested that a Black man had no chance in a competition in the Academy against a Jew. AWhen I saw the list of nominations, Lee said, Aand then I saw one of the films was a Holocaust film, I knew it was over. And then when I saw that one of the producers was a rabbi, I definitely knew it was over.

May 2, 1998
Fort Valley, Georgia

When John Schmitt, the advisor to Fort Valley University's student newspaper, was fired, suspicions were raised that his termination was in connection with the paper's yearlong investigation of the university's President, Dr. Josephine Davis. Davis, the first African-American woman president in the CUNY system, had her tenure at York College terminated in 1995, amid allegations that she had used college money to renovate her home, and to vacation in South Africa. With regards to Schmitt's questionable firing, Davis reportedly said, AHow do I know that he [Schmitt] is not part of that group of White Jewish men from New York City who had wanted her out of York College. Schmitt, who is not even Jewish, is preparing to sue on charges of discrimination.

May 12, 1998
Los Angeles, California

300,000 copies of a new rap album entitled *ADa Holocaust*, by a rap group called Concentration Camp, hit stores today. Though none of the songs on the album are about Jews or World War II, many Jewish groups vocally opposed the production of the album, claiming that its title mocked the horrors of the Holocaust. The rappers claimed that they were using the terms *AHolocaust* and *AConcentration Camp* as metaphors for life in the ghetto, but Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center suggested the controversial title was a marketing tool used by an otherwise obscure rap group to gain free publicity.

July 30, 1998
New York, New York

The preparation for the Million Youth March fueled tension between the African-American and Jewish communities. March organizer Khallid Muhammed, the former spokesman of the Nation of Islam who was discharged for virulently anti-Semitic comments, discussed the March in terms that many Jews feared would incite violence at the event. Muhammed even threatened to hold the March in the streets of Crown Heights, as a direct confrontation with the Jews of the area who have misused and abused our people in Brooklyn and Crown Heights for so long.

August 5, 1998
New York, New York

As rhetorical exchanges between Mayor Giuliani and Million Youth March organizer Khallid Muhammed escalated, Giuliani said that Muhammed's words were race-baiting and anti-Semitic, calling the entire event a hate march. When the city denied Muhammed a permit to hold the March on Malcolm X Boulevard, Muhammed called New York a Jew controlled city, indicating that the Jews were responsible for the Mayor's decision not to give the permit.

August 9, 1998
Brooklyn, New York

A sign in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn sparked complaints and removal twice because of its accusation that the Housing Authority used "racist quotas" in Brooklyn to favor Hasidic Jews. Designed by artist Marina Gutierrez as part of a project called "Battles for Justice in New York City," the sign charges continued use of racist quotas and other illegal practices that deny housing to the mostly Latino and African-American families on the tenant waiting list. City Councilman Ken Fisher and Transportation Commissioner Wilbur Chapman agreed with Housing officials that the sign exacerbated racial and ethnic tensions between two communities. New York Lawyers for the Public Interest deemed the sign protected by the First Amendment.

September 2, 1998
Annapolis, Maryland

At an event marking the 1963 March on Washington and honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King, Alderman Sam Gilmer angered much of the audience with an offensive reference to a "Jew guy." Although offered the opportunity, he refused to apologize. He claimed that he "was telling the truth, that's all."

September 23, 1998
New York, New York

Khalid Abdul Muhammad, former Nation of Islam top aide, unleashed an anti-Semitic tirade during the day's Million Youth March in Harlem. Crashing a breakfast meeting of an interdenominational religious group opposed to the march, he declared: "Jews are the bloodsuckers of our community." In response, Rev. Selina Stinson, demanded to know why he did not speak out against Black-on-Black crime; he called her an Uncle Tom. Mayor Giuliani condemned Muhammad's rhetoric. Congressman Charles Rangel denounced what Khalid stands for as repugnant, and "against everything we are fighting for in Harlem."

October 18, 1998
New York, New York

Richard Williams, father and tennis coach of daughters Venus and Serena Williams who are known for rudeness, exposed himself as a bigot in a magazine interview. He claimed that he moved to the run-down Los Angeles town of Compton because of the Jews. "They were buying up the ghetto; I just wanted to give them a little competition ... I wanted to give the Weinstains, the Rubensteins, the I-forget-the-other-Steins competition. So I went over there and bought about a hundred homes." A New York Post reporter said that Williams' behavior "shames the sport," noting that countless great Black athletes have triumphed over far greater adversity without any of the Williams family's bad grace.

October 18, 1998
New York, New York

During an interview on "Meet the Press," Minister Louis Farrakhan suggested that the Monica Lewinsky scandal could be part of a foreign power conspiracy concerning Israel. He mentioned that it occurred at a time when the United States president was pressuring Netanyahu to give up more land on the West Bank. He claimed that he himself does not hate Jews, only "their inordinate control over black politicians, black intellectuals, black organizations." He asserted that he will "fight to destroy that kind of control as long as God gives me health and strength."

October 20, 1998
Washington, D. C.

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan suggested that the Clinton administration's Middle East policy could be clouded by Jews who advise the president. He claimed that "Every Jewish person that is around the president is a dual citizen of Israel and the United States of America. And sometimes, we have to raise the question, 'Are you more loyal to the state of Israel than you are to the best interests of the United States of America?'" He also urged Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat not to yield to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Middle East peace talks then occurring in Maryland, or "make himself a tool of Israel's policy to destroy the militant members of Hamas."

October 29, 1998
Brooklyn, New York

An effort to have a manufacturing area rezoned for residential use caused conflicts among ethnic groups in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn. A previous agreement between Hasidic and Hispanic leaders for rezonings in Williamsburg alleviated tensions between those groups but has forced the growing Hasidim population to look toward a predominantly Black neighborhood for expansion. Blacks argue that changing the zoning undercuts their goal of increasing employment opportunities in the empowerment zone they fought hard to secure. The change would eliminate the need for a variance to convert any factory building within the zone to residential use. In an attempt to gain support for the rezoning, Jewish leaders have approached Black development groups with joint venture ideas.

November 1, 1998
New York, New York

Interviewed as one of several Arab-Americans and Muslims for a story on their treatment in films, actor/scriptwriter J. D. Hall commented that Muslims are always assigned the roles of terrorists. He contended that he has never seen a dramatic adaptation about Islam as a way of life, "because it doesn't involve hate." He blamed the preponderance of powerful Jews in the movie industry as a factor in negative stereotypes of Muslims. Noting that he did not mean all Jews, Mr. Hall said that, "there's a Zionist element that is definitely against Islam." A magazine editor interviewed blamed film makers' treatment of Muslims on ignorance. "People do not know us," said Aslam Abdullah.

November 20, 1998
Detroit, Michigan

Attorney Debbie Schlusel chided community leaders for not protesting statements made by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan in a speech made to more than 1,000 Arab-Americans and Black Muslims at the Islamic Center. His "chilling, hateful words against Jews" scared the writer, but the "cheers and fervor of his audience" frightened her even more. He described Zionists as "forces of evil" and drew applause by suggesting a holy war against them. Schlusel quoted a comment made by Black Yale professor Julius Lester after a similar Farrakhan event. He said: "As a Black, I was ashamed. What is happening in Black America that it can revel in vicarious bloodletting?"

November 30, 1998
Englewood, New Jersey

Conflict surrounds the effort to move an Orthodox Jewish school from a wealthy area of the city to a largely Black section. At a tumultuous City Council meeting, the dispute sparked angry crossfire. Residents oppose the yeshiva's move into their neighborhood as detrimental to their quality of life and that the manufacturing building sought is unsafe for a school. Rabbi Joseph Strassfeld of the school expressed his hope that residents would meet with school officials to resolve their concerns amicably. Similar controversy had arisen when the yeshiva first opened in 1997 with 26 students in a former pre-elementary private school. A law suit resulted which is under appeal in state court. Mayor Paul Fader intended to convene a meeting with elected officials, religious leaders, and community representatives to start a dialogue on human-relations issues to dispel some of the perceptions and misconceptions evident at the Council meeting.

December 4, 1998
Lakewood, New Jersey

Accusations of favored treatment arose in the clearing of Malke Pinter of criminal wrongdoing in the death of her 4-month old daughter, who died of hyperthermia after she was left in the back seat of the closed-up family car for more than three hours. Leaders of Lakewood's Hispanic and Black communities publicly speculated that the Orthodox Jewish woman was treated more gently than "someone else" would have been. A member of the NAACP said, "I don't think the scales of justice are balanced."

December 9, 1998
New York, New York

George N. Spitz, writing in the Amsterdam News, called for "a halt to the blood libel" promoted by Abe Foxman, Ed Koch, and others against blacks. He cited the Anti-Defamation League's circulation of a study alleging that 58 percent of Whites polled were not anti-Semitic, while only 21 percent of Blacks were not. He noted that the League ignored the overwhelming support by approximately 87 percent of Black voters for Jewish candidates Charles Schumer and Eliot Spitzer in their recent election. Spitz himself is Jewish.

HUMAN INTEREST

January 2, 1998
New York, New York

Elinor Ruth Tatum was appointed Editor-In-Chief of the Amsterdam News. Tatum, 26, is the daughter of Wilbert Tatum, the African-American man who ran the paper for the past 15 years, and Susan Tatum, a Jewish woman from Czechoslovakia. When asked how she felt about her appointment at the paper in light of the trying relationship between the Amsterdam News and the Jewish community in the past, Ms. Tatum replied: "Being Black and Jewish is just who I am. It might be a problem for other people, but it makes me, me."

January 4, 1998
Boston, Massachusetts

A synagogue in Boston, which served as a spiritual home for West End Jews from the early 1900's until 1950, and then became an important center for the African-Americans, recently began restoration. The building, now known as the "African-American Meeting House," has tremendous historical significance for both communities.

January 14, 1998
San Francisco, California

Documentary film makers Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman screened their film "Blacks and Jews" at the Sundance Festival and the Jewish Film Festival on PBS and in numerous other venues throughout the United States and Europe. The film examines the misconception that the relationship between Blacks and Jews is dominated by conflict, and demonstrates that there is a profound shared history between the two communities.

January 23, 1998
Cleveland, Ohio

When Congressman Louis Stokes, Democrat from the 11th District, announced his plans not to seek re-election, the Jewish community began to reflect on the crucial role that he had played in the Jewish community. Throughout his 30 years in office, the African-American congressman was a committed activist on behalf of the needs of his Jewish constituency, as well as the State of Israel. Several prominent local rabbis described Congressman Stokes as a close personal friend.

January 30, 1998
Baltimore, Maryland

The coincidence of Reverend Martin Luther King's birthday and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel's *yahrzeit* brought columnist David Sulomn Stein to consider the implications of racism on his life as a

White Jew in America. Recognizing that throughout his life he has benefited, though unintentionally, from the color of his skin, he exhorted fellow White Americans to drop their "addiction to racism" and fully integrate.

February 21, 1998
St. Louis, Missouri

Acclaimed one-woman play "Fires in the Mirror: Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Other Identities" was performed at Washington University. The production was created by Anna Deveare Smith, a writer, actress, and performance artist, after the Crown Heights riots of 1991. Smith explored racial tensions by interviewing men and women, Black and Jewish, who were involved in the conflict. She then compiled their sentiments into a 26 character presentation (Smith played all of the parts), thereby exploring a single event from many different perspectives.

February 25, 1998
Brooklyn, New York

Students and families of a Brooklyn yeshiva helped fund Alexander Brown's trip to Florida, where he could receive much needed medical care, as well as be close to his family. Brown, an African-American porter who worked at the Yeshivah of Crown Heights for 22 years, required respiratory therapy, a critical-care nurse, monitors, and a ventilator, all of which were extremely expensive. His family contributed to the expenses, but when the yeshiva saw that Brown still need several thousand dollars, they worked to raise the funds. Metropolitan Ambulance, inspired by the efforts of the yeshiva, also donated services, and coordinated his voyage south. "He's like a member of the family," explained Naomi Benezra, executive director of the yeshiva.

February 27, 1998
New York, New York

Henry Krieger, a 53 year old Jewish writer, composer, and musical director, reflected on his career and his life-long interest in composing rhythm and blues musicals. His most acclaimed work, "Dreamgirls," which opened on Broadway in 1981 and was awarded six Tony awards, dealt with three Black back-up pop singers from Chicago. While Krieger has been criticized for writing African-American music, he observed that he feels an intrinsic connection to Africa and the African-American people.

March 4, 1998
Washington, D.C.

A chance encounter with a young African-American woman on the street caused Aaron Goldman, Honorary President of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington and former Chairman of WETA-TV, to reflect on Black-Jewish relations. Goldman recalled the numerous friendships that he

had made with African-Americans over the course of the past eighty years, and reflected on the strength and courage of African-Americans to persevere when faced with tremendous adversity. He noted that both he, the elderly great-grandson of a Russian Jew from the shtetl, and the woman on the street, the great-great-granddaughter of a slave, had both come a long way.

March 10, 1998
New York, New York

Yelena Khanga is the 35 year old daughter of a murdered Vice President of Tanzania and a Russian Jew, the granddaughter of American Civil Rights activists, the great-granddaughter of an American-born slave, a Polish-born New York rabbi, an African Imam, and the great-great-granddaughter of a Native American. Several years ago, the Rockefeller Foundation gave Khanga a fellowship to research her family roots, which resulted in *A Soul to Soul: A Black Russian Jewish Woman's Search for Her Roots*. Today, Khanga uses her Russian television talk show about sex to explore social and cultural issues of post-Communist Russia, trying to point out the racism and sexism pervasive in the society. Khanga also performs with a comedy group in Brighton Beach called Kanotye, in which she similarly tries to address moral contradictions of racism and sexism.

March 15, 1998
New York, New York

In his latest biography, *Louis Armstrong: An Extravagant Life*, Laurence Bergreen offers insight into the background and accomplishments of one of the most influential jazz musicians of all time. Bergreen explores Armstrong's childhood struggles as a poor African-American child in New Orleans, and deals at length with the Jewish influence on Armstrong's life. At the age of 7, Armstrong went to work for a family of Russian Jewish immigrants, who gave him his first trumpet. That early childhood experience convinced Armstrong that he wanted to become a professional musician. Armstrong always felt very close to the Jewish family, who virtually adopted him, because he knew that they were also trying desperately to overcome prejudice and discrimination.

March 16, 1998
Washington, D.C.

Fourteen years after founding the National Coalition Building Institute International, Cherie S. Brown reflected on her lifelong commitment to social justice, *tikkun olam*. At a very young age, Brown was actively involved in organizing joint programs between her Jewish youth group and a local African-American church. She frequently wrote and spoke out against apartheid, and participated in numerous Black-Jewish dialogues. As an adult, she devoted her career to the anti-racism work of the NCBI, which presently has over 50 city-based leadership chapters, 40 college based coalitions, and 30 affiliates, all of which teach tools of empowerment and conflict resolution to those who have suffered from discrimination. Brown said that her work stems out of the Jewish tradition of liberation.

March 18, 1998
Los Angeles, California

Authors and screenwriters only recently began to recognize the role that Dr. Ernesto A. Moshe Montgomery, psychic, clairvoyant and faith healer, played in predicting numerous events over the course of the past 60 years. Montgomery, a Black Jamaican man born to Ethiopian Jews, is currently the Chief Rabbi of Beta Israel Temple Black-Jewish Synagogue. He says that he uses his gifts of psychic insight to benefit humanity. Montgomery has served American and British intelligence agencies, and continues to use his mystical powers to serve others, often by warning of impending accidents and tragedies.

March 27, 1998
Cleveland, Ohio

In the early 1920=s, Jews created numerous bustling neighborhoods in Chagrin Valley. Samuel Rocker, an immigrant rabbi from Austria-Hungary, edited and published *The Jewish World*, a Yiddish newspaper, which sought to increase the population of the Valley community through offering land incentives to his newspaper subscribers. While many Jews were reluctant to take up his offer, a result of increased Klan activity in the area, many African-Americans did move into the Valley, building their own rural community. Today, Jews are moving back into the area, and there are efforts being made to integrate the Black and Jewish residents, breaking down stereotypes and building a new model of community.

April 2, 1998
New York, New York

Caryl Phillips published his sixth novel, *The Nature of Blood*, which offers unprecedented insight into Black-Jewish relations. Phillips, born in the West Indies and educated in England, wrote a fictional account of a young woman=s experience in the Holocaust. Among the remarkable features of the novel is its constant shifting in place and time, weaving from the Holocaust narrative to a true story of Jews living in Italy in the 15th century who are accused of blood libel, to a narrative account taking place in Venice, in which Othello has an African wife and child. Phillips reflected that studying the Holocaust made him acutely aware of his own vulnerability to the violence bred by senseless hatred.

April 2, 1998
Cleveland, Ohio

Professor Arthur Kinoy, a Jewish civil rights attorney and Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University=s S.I. Newhouse Center for Law and Justice, decided in 1945 to devote his life to civil rights, and has done so ever since. Kinoy served as the keynote speaker at the 66th Cleveland-Marshall Fund Lecture

at Cleveland State University's College of Law, discussing his long history of commitment to fight oppression in a lecture entitled "The Role of People's Lawyer." Some of his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement includes his work with Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, his work with Martin Luther King, Jr., and his advocacy on behalf of Adam Clayton Powell in Congress. Kinoy attributes his commitment to social justice to his Jewish heritage, and uses the Passover Seder each year as a platform for his numerous social and political concerns.

April 4, 1998
Baltimore, Maryland

Thirty years after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., journalist Gregory Kane reflected on the status of Blacks in America. Traveling through the streets of his childhood, in which he first heard the news of the assassination, Kane reminisced about a Jewish-owned grocery store that was looted by rioters in the aftermath of King's murder. He pondered how King would respond to the resurgence of anti-Semitism among African-Americans today, recalling all of the strong statements that King made against anti-Semitism, particularly in response to the notion that the Jews only succeeded in America as a result of their money. Rather, King wrote in 1967, "Jews progressed because they possessed a tradition of education."

April 5, 1998
Washington, D.C.

Susie Kay's history class at H.D. Woodson High School often tackles the issue of racism in America. Kay, who is Jewish, had been teaching in the majority African-American High School for eight years. To most of the students in Kay's 11th grade class, Kay is the only Jew they have ever met, and their interaction with her has done a tremendous amount to break down stereotypes on both sides. Kay is always searching for innovative ways to address racial and economic injustice. Two years ago she founded a Black and White basketball league, called "Hoop Dreams," which not only built bridges between her students and White people, but also helped raise funds for the students to go to college.

April 23, 1998
New York, New York

While on a visit to New York City, heavyweight champion Muhammed Ali recalled an experience he had 20 years earlier. Ali was moved to make a \$100,000 donation to a Jewish Home for the Aged, which was inhabited mostly by Holocaust survivors, after hearing on television that a lack of funding could force the Home to close down. Ali had asked that the donation remain anonymous, since he gave the money to help people, not to get good publicity. "I don't look for praise for good deeds, except from God," Ali said. "God knows what people do."

April 24, 1998

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Jane Lazarre=s memoir, Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness: Memoir of a White Mother of Black Sons, focuses on issues of race and identity as a White Jewish mother raises two Black sons. In the Philadelphia Tribune, book critic George Yancy writes that Lazarre, the Director of the Writing Program and Professor of Writing and Literature at Eugene Lang College at the New School for Social Research, wrote a truly moving and rich self-transformative memoir... in the spirit of African-American autobiographical self-transformative reflection.≡ Lazarre addresses the sensitivities to issues of race that she developed as she raised her two children, and how she learned to value Blackness in ways that she never dreamed possible.

May 7, 1998

Baltimore, Maryland

James McBride, author of The Color of Water: One Man=s Tribute to His White Mother, addressed over 300 people at the Edward A. Meyerberg Northwest Senior Center. McBride discussed his childhood experiences as one of twelve children growing up poor and hungry with a father who was a Black minister, and a mother who was the daughter of an Orthodox rabbi. He told the incredible success story of the McBride family, that all twelve of the children graduated college, and most pursued post-graduate careers, an outcome that he attributes to the combination of Jewish and African-American culture and values. McBride, who identifies as an African-American and a cultural Jew, grew up believing that people are the color of water, and what matters is not the external image of a person, but his or her inner essence.

May 10, 1998

New York, New York

Mother=s Day this year caused some journalists to reflect on the numerous memoirs that are being written by African-American men and women about their Jewish mothers. The trend, among authors such as James McBride, Lani Guinier, and Walter Mosley, has raised attention to the issue of Black Jews in the United States. Reuben Washington, a Black Jewish journalist and founder of the Alliance of Black Jews, estimated that there are 200,000 Black Jews in America, which includes Blacks who converted to Judaism as well as those who were born to Black fathers and Jewish mothers.

May 14, 1998

New York, New York

Singer Lenny Kravitz, who has one Jewish and one African-American parent, reflected on his childhood experiences in Hebrew School in the June issue of *Harper's Bazaar*. Kravitz discussed his relationship to Jewish culture, indicating that he wouldn't mind a role in a Woody Allen flick... When he's ready for a dreadlocked Black Jew, I'm there.

May 28, 1998

Oakland, California

While transracial adoptions still remain highly controversial, Nancy Kahn advocates strongly on their behalf. Raised by Black and Jewish parents, Kahn believes that transracial adoptions can be wonderful for the parents and the children, and hopes to increase racial tolerance and understanding by speaking publicly on the issue. Statistically as few as 2-4 percent of all adoptions in America were transracial in the past; this is largely the result of a hesitation to place Black children in White homes, believing that they will be deprived of a Black cultural experience. However, fewer Black families are willing to adopt children than White families, and therefore the trend has begun to shift toward more transracial adoptions.

June 1, 1998

Tampa, Florida

Former professional football player Harold Bernard Johnson legally changed his name to Israel Peniel, reflecting his newfound commitment to Judaism. Peniel, who is African-American, struggled through a difficult childhood, a short career in the NFL, an ordained ministry in the Church of Our Lord in Jesus, and then a drinking and drug problem, and homelessness. After all of this, Peniel picked himself up and put his life back together by going back to school, getting remarried, and turning to Judaism. He explained that as a Black man, he always felt an affinity to the Jewish experience, which led him to explore the Jewish faith and history more seriously. Peniel currently runs the IS-PEN Self Esteem Program, in which he teaches strategies to students with aggressive or delinquent behavior problems.

June 15, 1998

Roselawn, Ohio

The Roselawn suburbs, which began to boom in the 1940s, drew residents who were attracted to the single-family homes and shopping centers. By the 1950s, the town was one of the centers of Jewish life in Ohio. But an increase in violent crimes against Jews convinced many Jews to move out and, by 1990, more than 50 percent of the residents were African-American. In the past ten years, the mixed community has suffered through several racially motivated crimes, including the stoning of a local synagogue and the beating of a 58 year old Russian Jewish immigrant, a rabbi, and a Jewish teenager in separate attacks. However, there has been tremendous support among Black and Jewish residents for racial reconciliation between the two communities. Grassroots efforts to make Roselawn safer to its Jewish and African-American residents have resulted in community members forming strong bonds against racism, bigotry, and violence.

June 19, 1998
San Francisco, California

One hundred years after his birth, Paul Robeson, African-American actor, singer, athlete, scholar and political activist was honored across the country for his contributions to American culture, including in exhibition entitled *AFreedom or Slavery: The Paul Robeson Portfolio*, held at the Bomani Gallery. Robeson has been honored by African-Americans and Jews alike for his commitment to social justice for all people, despite the McCarthyism that threatened to destroy his career if he continued to speak out against racial hatred and anti-Semitism. He was a strong activist in the anti-Hitler war effort, and his affinity for the Jewish community prompted him to learn to sing songs in Yiddish, including the Warsaw Ghetto resistance song.

June 20, 1998
Detroit, Michigan

Jeff Haas, a jazz pianist, has found a way to blend Jewish and African-American musical traditions to create a novel musical sound. Haas' trio played a free concert at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield Township, in which he introduced the new sound, which reflects the influences of the synagogue organ, the music of John Coltrane and Miles Davis, and classical music. Haas explained that in the 1980s he became fascinated by the similarities between the Jewish and African-American musical traditions, and began working toward a new blend of the styles.

June 26, 1998
Washington, D.C.

Representative John Lewis, a Democratic Congressman from Georgia, came out with a new book of his memoirs and struggles in the Civil Rights Movement called Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement. In the book, Lewis recalls what he considers a major turning point in the history of the Civil Rights Movement, when Stokely Carmichael, now Kwame Ture, defeated him in a bid for Chairman of the Student NonViolent Coordinating Committee. That event, according to Lewis, concretized a transition in the Movement from integration to Black Nationalism, which alienated many Jews from the Civil Rights struggle. Today, Lewis continues to be committed to creating alliances between Blacks and Jews, as he convenes informal dialogue sessions with Black and Jewish Congressional Representatives, such as Rep. Alcee Hastings of Florida, Rep. Howard Berman of California, and Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts. Lewis hopes that the alliance between African-Americans and Jews in Congress will serve as a paradigm for other alliances, both in Congress and in the community at large.

August 6, 1998
Chicago, Illinois

Driven by a desire to come to terms with his past, Jewish lyricist Lou Rosen engaged in a research project on the Jewish flight from his childhood neighborhood in Boston, which resulted in a book called The South Side: The Racial Transformation of an American Neighborhood. Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Rosen interviewed African-Americans and Jews who had lived or still lived in the neighborhood, attempting to understand the dynamics of AWhite Flight.≡ His research not only helped him understand the historical experience from the African-American perspective, but it also reconciled him to the actions of his own community.

August 20, 1998
New York, New York

One of twelve Israeli young women who traveled to the United States to complete part of their community service requirement for the Israeli Army was 21 year old Nurit Tizazu, a Jew who emigrated to Israel from Ethiopia in 1983. At the end of her one year stay in Pittsburgh, where she taught Israeli history, Hebrew, and the Jewish holidays, Tizazu stopped in Harlem to speak with African-American youth. She spoke about her family=s difficult journey to Israel through the Sudan, and her acculturation into Israeli society. And she left the students with a special message: go to school, get educated, and then people will respect you.

September 2, 1998
New York, New York

Deborah Swisher, the daughter of an African-American man and a Jewish woman, performed her one-woman show, AHundreds of Sisters and One Big Brother≡ at the Soho Performance space HERE. The deeply personal autobiographical show tells the story of Swisher=s unique childhood experiences growing up in a California commune called Synanon, which stressed communal living and experiential learning. After the performance at HERE, Swisher performed her show at the Ohio Theater in the Downtown Arts Festival.

September 2, 1998
New York, New York

Jazzcentralstation.com presented the third in a series of four excerpts from "The Leonard Feather Scrapbooks." Jewish Feather dedicated most of his 80-year life to chronicling development of the uniquely African-American music form. He died four years ago this month while completing a revision of his "Encyclopedia of Jazz." He himself authored some 200 compositions, recorded by artists Ella

Fitzgerald, B.B. King and Mel Torme, among others. Feather's wife, Jane, donated the scrapbooks to the Lionel Hampton School of Music at the University of Idaho.

September 13, 1998
Hartford, Connecticut

Pianist Warren Byrd and bassist David Chevan presented their work "Avadim Hayinu" in an interfaith service in the chapel on campus at Hartford University. The title of the jazz interpretations of Jewish and African-American sacred melodies comes from a song sung on Passover to commemorate Jewish liberation from slavery.

September 16, 1998
Warren, Michigan

Christian minister Marianne Williamson of The Unity Church of Today mixes Judaism, Christianity and Buddhism in her services. Born to Jewish parents, she regularly holds group discussions on the theme of racial reconciliation and expects to start interfaith services with other churches and rabbis from nearby communities. Rabbi Dannel Schwartz of Shir Shalom remarked that her 'my rabbi once taught me' references are, "an interesting juxtaposition for people coming into a church." Williamson has authored several books and frequently appears on the Oprah Winfrey television program.

October 2, 1998
Phoenix, Arizona

A Black actor portrayed Shylock, a White Jewish character, in the Southwest Shakespeare Company's production of The Merchant of Venice. Commenting on casting him in the role, Ken Love said that, "African-Americans and Jews probably have contributed the most to America's culture, and they have shared oppression on the same level - the Diaspora and the slave trade." He noted the irony of his own people's encounters with prejudice and the frequent accusation that the Shylock character stirs up racism. He is avoiding caricature by concentrating on him as a man, not a stereotypical symbol.

October 4, 1998
Teaneck, New Jersey

When Black Woody McClellan won the New Jersey Open chess tournament last month, he remembered his Jewish, White, best friend Kevin by donating the \$600 prize to the Tomorrows Children's Fund for pediatric cancer. His friend had died of leukemia at age 10. Now 20 years old, Woody is at Harvard studying to be a pediatrician. He leads the campus Black Men's Forum, sings in a gospel chorus, tutors a middle-schooler, and continues to pay tribute to Kevin. Before his death, he had won several ice hockey awards as a player for the New Jersey Little Devils. Woody included a memorial to him in his high school yearbook, posts his friend's face on line, and dedicates chess matches

to him. In the recent match, Woody became the youngest player to win back-to-back titles in the tournament's 52-year history. He won on the 10th anniversary of Kevin's death.

October 11, 1998

Chicago, Illinois

Aaron Freeman is an African American Jewish comedian who works with a group called Shalem, Black and White Jews United. The group sponsors events designed to bring Black and White Jews together to promote Jewish unity. Aaron makes time for this despite his busy life hosting a television program called "Talking with Aaron" on Sunday nights, TV appearances on "Chicago Tonight" with John Callaway, and four years on his recent Saturday afternoon radio show. He performs political comedy for a PBS show "The Durst Amendment," does standup comedy in clubs across the country, and just completed an acting role in an independent film. His Shalem work is equally important.

October 14, 1998

Hartford, Connecticut

Bassist David Chevan and pianist Warren Byrd appeared on the radio show "N'Shoma," which is dedicated to Jewish and Yiddish music. The two have collaborated on a CD titled "Avadim Hayinu -- Once We Were Slaves," a collection of African American gospel songs and Jewish liturgical melodies.

October 15, 1998

Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. Joyce Hunter held a workshop for approximately 100 Jewish teens and their parents, at the invitation of Todd Ephraim of Jewish Family Services. The gay rights activist and HIV-AIDS researcher involved the audience in exercises to demonstrate the wounds caused by intolerance and discrimination. The Doctor was raised in the Jewish faith by her African-American father and Polish Orthodox Jewish mother but felt rejected after she realized that she was gay. She urged her audience to be supportive and understanding of anyone who differs from themselves in some way.

October 22, 1998

New York, New York

Rabbi Emeritus Irving J. Block of The Brotherhood Synagogue noted with pride the great privilege and honor he feels to have an African-American woman leading the congregation. Vertella Gadsden has served as President, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and President of the Sisterhood at Congregation Beth Achim.

November 8, 1998

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Warner Gellert participated in the dedication of the Holocaust memorial today. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance Museum and Study Center, which hopes to open in the year 2000. Its mission is to teach and have exhibits not only about the Holocaust but about other atrocities that have happened. In January, the museum is sponsoring its first for-credit course at the University of New Mexico's Department of Continuing Education. As a Jew, Gellert experienced racial hatred in Nazi Germany in the 1930s. He hopes the museum will help to wipe out such hatred. The Museum's Board of Directors includes Michael Banks, a founding member of the New Mexico Human Rights Coalition and member of the Albuquerque chapter of the NAACP, and Rev. Bill Dorman, an ordained minister in the Christian Disciples of Christ Church. The Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque is assisting the Board with accounting and secretarial help.

November 8, 1998
Buffalo, New York

The Black Williams family calls White Jerome Fink their "Jewish stepfather." Although he had never experienced the violence an inner-city child witnesses on the 'mean streets,' Fink took a special interest in Larry Williams as his faculty advisor at the University of Buffalo. Larry now credits Fink's supportive relationship with opening a world of opportunity to him. Fink met with him weekly, helped him get employment internships, and urged him to apply for a fellowship to Carnegie-Mellon University. He regularly consulted with his single-parent mother. When Larry graduated from Carnegie, Fink arranged to hand him his diploma. Expressing their gratitude, Larry's mother said, "This wealthy, White Jewish man from Amherst took the time to help my son, a poor Black kid from the East Side. He didn't have to do that. People need to know."

November 27, 1998
New York, New York

Deavon Wilson is an African-American hockey player who speaks Hebrew. 14-year old Wilson plays with the Harlem Rangers and was the only American player to participate in August in a hockey camp in Metulla, Israel. His grades at Fordham Prep High School, his overall demeanor, and his on-ice skill won him the honor of representing his team's sponsor, Ice Hockey in Harlem. He was the only Black player and the only non-Jew in the Israeli program. "They treated me like everyone else," he said. They also taught him Hebrew phrases to use for taunting players on opposing teams. He continues to use them in Harlem.

December 24, 1998
New York, New York

After her 19- year old daughter was tragically killed by a fallen tree in September, Valerie Neal's family was in such financial hardship that she thought that they would not be able to celebrate Christmas this

year. Students from the Jewish Theological Seminary heard about the suffering of the African-American woman and her family, and mobilized to collect over 30 presents for her three children, which were delivered on Christmas Eve. JTS had also helped the family earlier in the fall, by raising money to help pay for the funeral and expenses.