

Twenty-three Members of Congress Participate in Foundation's 4th Annual Black/Jewish Congressional Ceremony

"Our single destiny must strengthen the bonds of concern, compassion and caring for each other. Today, we celebrate this historic and unique alliance between African Americans and Jews that brought about the greatest social change in the history of our nation." With these words, Rabbi Marc Schneier launched The Foundation's 4th Annual Black/Jewish Congressional Awards



(L to R) Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY), Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Rabbi Marc Schneier and Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY)

Ceremony and Reception in Washington D.C. on June 20, 2002. The breakfast brought together twenty-three members of Congress, including: *Shelley Berkley, Howard Berman, Sanford Bishop, Julia Carson, Bob Filner, Benjamin Gilman, Alcee Hastings, Eddie B. Johnson, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Tom Lantos, Barbara Lee,*

Sheila Jackson Lee, Nita Lowey, Cynthia McKinney, Gregory Meeks, Jerrold Nadler, Major Owens, Donald Payne, Charles Rangel,

Bobby Rush, Robert Scott, Edolphus Towns and Diane Watson.

Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV) and Congressman Major R. Owens (D-NY) were honored at the event. In their acceptance remarks, Congresswoman Berkley, and Congressman Owens, paid tribute to The Foundation for its leadership role in bringing the Congressional Black Caucus and the Jewish Congressional delegation together every year. Other speakers included Congressmembers Charlie Rangel, Ed Towns, Tom Lantos and Ben Gilman, who hailed The Foundation for its landmark efforts in strengthening Black/ Jewish relations.

The event was co-sponsored by the NAACP and the World Jewish Congress. Special thanks to our corporate sponsor the **AT&T Foundation**, and to our corporate donors, **Arista Records** and **Keyspan**.



Foundation Honorees Congressman Major R. Owens (D-NY) and Congresswoman Shelley Berkley (D-NV)

Entertainment Industry Supports Foundation's Inaugural Los Angeles Benefit

The Foundation held its inaugural Los Angeles benefit reception at the home of Brett Ratner, director of the film *Red Dragon*, on Thursday, November 21, 2002. The Foundation presented its "Joseph Papp Racial Harmony Awards" to **Andre Harrell**, President of NuAmerica Music, and **Jordan Schur**,



(L to R) Lawrence Kopp, Matthew Schilowitz, Andre Harrell, Brett Ratner, Rabbi Marc Schneier, Russell Simmons, Jordan Schur

President of Geffen Records, who have championed the cause of Black/Jewish relations. The Foundation's "Corporate Leadership Award" was given to **MCS Entertainment & Pseudo Entertainment**, which was accepted by its CEO, Matthew Schilowitz. **Fred Durst**, the lead singer of

Limp Bizkit, and Foundation Secretary Russell Simmons joined Foundation President Rabbi Marc Schneier in presenting the awards. Over 200 people were in attendance, including **Norman Lear, Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, Tori Spelling, J.J. Abrams, Mark McGrath of Sugar Ray, Rivers Cuomo of Weezer,**

Foundation Expands To Washington, DC

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding is scheduled to open an office in Washington, DC June, 2003. The director of the Washington office will work to strengthen relations on Capitol Hill among the Black, Jewish, Hispanic and Asian Congressional Caucuses and their staffs to facilitate dialogue and inter-action. The Foundation's Washington office will organize meetings and conferences among congressional members and serve as an invaluable resource for the Congressional community.

Foundation Website a Valuable Resource for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of ethnic tolerance and mutual understanding is brought to life on The Foundation's website. In commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20, the website is one of the top resources on the Internet for information on Dr. King.

"Shared Dreams," the curriculum guide based on Rabbi Marc Schneier's book of the same name, can be downloaded for high school and college students. The curriculum aims to strengthen relations between Blacks and Jews, and focuses on Dr. King's relationship with Jews during the civil rights struggle. Reviews and excerpts from Rabbi Schneier's book, *Shared Dreams*, can be seen

on the website, and the book can be purchased through a link on the website. Copies of The Foundation's annual *Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States* can be viewed as well.

Foundation President Rabbi Marc Schneier, Foundation Secretary Russell Simmons and Stevie Wonder appear in a public service announcement that can be viewed on the website. The 30-second spot, which aired nationally and on local channels in the New York Metropolitan area, preaches tolerance and encourages people not to give in to hate.

The Foundation's website has been significantly updated with dozens of photographs from the 2002 Black/Jewish Congressional Awards Ceremony and The Foundation's three benefits in 2002. Our most recent newsletters and press articles are available for downloading.

The Foundation would like to thank **The Verizon Foundation** for its generous support in the development and expansion of our web site.

On January 20, 2003, the Jewish community will proudly join New Yorkers throughout the metropolitan area in commemorating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annually, synagogues, day schools, community-based organizations, JCCs and Ys honor Dr. King and his legacy.

This year, The Foundation, UJA-Federation of New York, and the Jewish Community

Relations Council of New York are compiling a listing of commemorative programs being sponsored by the Jewish community that will be featured in full-page ads in *The Jewish Week*,

The Forward and *The Long Island Jewish World*. The Foundation is serving as a resource to the community by offering information on its website and assisting Jewish organizations in planning events for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

"This effort will resonate in both the Jewish and African American communities, reminding us all of our shared commitment to continuing Dr. King's struggle for justice and equality," said

Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of The Foundation.

Rabbi Schneier will address a number of these programs throughout the New York Metropolitan area.

Foundation, UJA-Federation, JCRC of New York join together to promote Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commemorations

Rabbi Marc Schneier, Russell Simmons to Lead Discussion on Black/Jewish Relations at 92nd Street Y

Foundation President Rabbi Marc Schneier and Foundation Secretary Russell Simmons will head a distinguished panel on the current state of Black/Jewish relations at the 92nd Street Y in New York City on February 6, in commemoration of Black History Month. The discussion will follow a screening of the film, *Strange Fruit*, which explores the background behind the song of the same name about a Black lynching. Joining Rabbi Schneier and Mr. Simmons will be the film's director, Joel Katz, Patricia Williams, a columnist for *The Nation* and Dr. Gordon Tucker, moderator. For tickets call the 92nd Street Y at (212) 415-5500.



Russell Simmons and Rabbi Marc Schneier

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Edward Norton, Bobby and Mark Shriver, Heavy D., Eriq La Salle, Alicia Silverstone, Steve Rifkin and Rick Rubin.

New York Benefits Honor Corporate Leaders

FALL BENEFIT

On Thursday, November 7, 2002, Dr. Mona Ackerman hosted at her home The Foundation's fall benefit reception. **Benjamin Brafman** and **Kevin Liles** received the "Joseph Papp Racial Harmony Awards" from Foundation President Rabbi Marc Schneier and Foundation Secretary Russell Simmons. Both Mr. Brafman and Mr. Liles spoke passionately of their dedication to the cause of Black/Jewish relations.

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs spoke movingly of his relationship with Benjamin Brafman and how he was exposed to Judaism by discussing Biblical texts and wearing a red *bandl* to court, a gift from Mr. Brafman. Russell Simmons paid tribute to his protégé Kevin Liles, how he has demonstrated a profound commitment to reaching out to individuals from all walks of life.

The "Corporate Diversity Award" was presented to **The Cendant Corporation**, which has a distinguished history of promoting diversity in the workplace. John Chidsey, Chairman & CEO of Vehicle and Financial Services, accepted the award and announced a new partnership with The Foundation. The "Cendant Grassroots Racial Harmony Awards"



(L to R) Lyor Cohen, New York City Comptroller William Thompson, Dr. Mona Ackerman, Russell Simmons, Youssef Nasr, Rabbi Marc Schneier, Tracy Maitland and Robert Cyruli

will recognize local organizations that work on race relations at The Foundation's benefit in 2003.

WABC-TV received the "Community Service Racial Harmony Award," which was accepted by President & General Manager Tom Kane. WABC-TV has partnered with The Foundation for many years in distributing The Foundation's annual *Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States*.

SPRING BENEFIT

The Foundation's Annual Spring Benefit Reception was held on May 7, 2002 at the home of Dr. Mona Ackerman. Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of the Foundation, and Russell Simmons, Secretary of The Foundation, presented the "Joseph Papp Racial Harmony Awards" to **Lyor Cohen** of Island Def Jam and **Tracy Maitland** of Advent Capital Management

for their commitments to strengthening Black/Jewish relations.

The Foundation's "Corporate Diversity Award" was presented to **HSBC Bank USA**, which was accepted by Youssef A Nasr, President and CEO. HSBC Bank USA has been a generous supporter of The Foundation's Ethnic Tolerance Program. With its commitment to diversity and tolerance, HSBC Bank USA continues to serve as a powerful example to the corporate community at large.



(L to R) Tom Kane, Kevin Liles, Rabbi Marc Schneier, Benjamin Brafman and John Chidsey

BLACK/JEWISH CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS



(L to R) Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA),
Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL)
and Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)



Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-NY)



Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) and
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)



Foundation Executive Director Lawrence Kopp



Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY)

NEW YORK SPRING BENEFIT



Russell Simmons, Lyor Cohen and Rabbi Marc Schneier



Russell Simmons, Tracy Maitland and Rabbi Marc Schneier

INAUGURAL LOS ANGELES BENEFIT



Tori Spelling and Charlie Sheen



(L to R) Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, guests and Andre Harrell



Rabbi Marc Schneier and Erik La Salle



Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit



Norman Lear and Rabbi Marc Schneier



Brett Ratner

NEW YORK FALL BENEFIT



Kevin Liles, Lawrence Kopp and Rabbi Marc Schneier



Sean "P. Diddy" Combs



(L to R) Benjamin Brafman, Malcolm Hoenlein, Dr. Mona Ackerman and Richard Cohen

Foundation Serves as National Resource Center for Local Organizations

Through our efforts to become a national resource center for organizations that work to strengthen Black/Jewish and Latino/Jewish relations, The Foundation's newsletter is featuring a new column that will focus on local organizations that we are launching partnerships with and are providing resource materials for in their ongoing efforts to strengthen intergroup relations. The Foundation has embarked on a national search to identify organizations that are implementing new and creative ways to strengthen ethnic relations.

The San Francisco-based **Isaiah Project** is an alliance between African-Americans and Jews that works for social justice and improving relations among all cultural groups in the Bay Area. The Project takes part in Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events, holds Passover Freedom Seders, celebrates Shabbat together and formed a Community Response Team to provide support and assistance to any ethnic community that has experienced a bias incident. Executive Director Lawrence Kopp met with his counterpart, Paula Goldman, this past year in New York. The Foundation has begun providing resources and exchanging ideas with the Isaiah Project as they continue to build bridges in the San Francisco area.

Operation Unity, based in Los Angeles, grew out of inspiration from the 1991 airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Operation Unity's goal is to break down racial, ethnic and cultural barriers and promote an appreciation for what people of diverse backgrounds can achieve by working together. Through the Kibbutz Program, groups of ten African-American and Latino high school students experience a six-week stay on an Israeli kibbutz. Operation Unity founder and director Cookie Lommel met with Foundation President Rabbi Marc Schneier in Los Angeles to discuss implementing The Foundation's high school curriculum guides in the Kibbutz Program.

Foundation's Ethnic Tolerance Program Used Abroad

The Foundation's curriculum, "Promoting Ethnic Understanding in the 21st Century," has been implemented by Professor Gus Sumner at Schiller-Stamford International College in Thailand. Professor Sumner obtained the curriculum from The Foundation's website. His class includes Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews and Muslims, who come from China, India, Taiwan and Thailand.



Stevie Wonder participating in The Foundation's Ethnic Tolerance Curriculum Program

"Promoting Ethnic Understanding in the 21st Century" was developed by The Foundation's research staff and a team of experts from New York University's Department of Applied Psychology. The Foundation uses its extensive relations with Congressional leaders, their district staffs, and local school boards to distribute the guides and pamphlets to schools, community groups and local organizations around the country.

The Foundation would like to express its appreciation to the following sponsors, whose generosity and support made this project possible: **Con Edison, Mini-Circuits, AOL Time Warner Foundation, Philip Morris Companies, Inc., HSBC Bank USA, M.J. Sherman & Associates and Rush Philanthropic Foundation.**

Welcome to Eric Deutsch

Eric Deutsch has joined The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding as its new Director of Media Relations. Eric comes from a background in radio, where he most recently was a Producer/Reporter at ABC Sports Radio. Prior, he was a News Reporter/Anchor in Madison, Wisconsin and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In 1998, he received the Media Recognition Award from the American Cancer Society. Eric has volunteer experience at the Volunteer Center of Westchester and Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion. Eric is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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Rabbi Marc Schneier,
Sean "P. Diddy" Combs,
Benjamin Brafman and
Russell Simmons at
The Foundation's New York
Fall Benefit

Dear friends, colleagues, and supporters,

The year 2002 has been a watershed year for The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. Incredibly, twenty-three members of Congress attended our 4th Annual Black/ Jewish Congressional Awards Ceremony and Reception on The Hill in June. This year Russell Simmons, the great Hip Hop impresario, philanthropist and community activist, joined The Foundation as our Secretary and new member of the Board. His impact has been immediate. He has shared with us his experienced leadership and a limitless passion for activism and community service. Major celebrities and leaders in the entertainment industry recently joined our work and have supported our many programs this year from Sean "P. Diddy" Combs to Norman Lear to Eriq La Salle to Brett Ratner to Jordan Schur to Tori Spelling to Edward Norton to Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit. We have also expanded our Ethnic Tolerance Curriculum Guide program abroad, placing it in the college system in the nation of Thailand. But, we are most excited about our plans to open a new office in Washington, DC. Its sole mission will be to build bridges and relationships between and with the Jewish, Hispanic, Black and Asian Congressional Caucuses.

As always we are humbled by your support and your commitment to our work and to our mission. With your help, we will continue to grow and continue to bring communities together with a spirit of cooperation and understanding. On behalf of our President and leader, Rabbi Marc Schneier, our board members and the Foundation's superb staff, I would like to thank you all once again.

Lawrence D. Kopp
Executive Director

Special thanks to BBDO, New York and Earthcolor for designing and printing The Foundation's newsletter.

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