

M. L. KING HISTORIC SITE CELEBRATES THE JEWISH COMMUNITY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Special Program: 'Q&A With Janice Rothschild Blumberg and Alexis Scott' on June 21st, 2010

(Atlanta — June 9, 2010) The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, in a unique partnership with the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast, presents a special program, 'Q&A with Janice Rothschild Blumberg and Alexis Scott.' The program will take place in the Visitor Center Theater on June 21st at 7:00 p.m.

This program is presented in conjunction with the current temporary exhibit "Visa for Life: Diplomats Who Rescued Jews." The exhibit details the courageous actions of ten individual diplomats who rescued Jews during the Holocaust, recognizing them as some of the foremost human rights defenders of their time.

In the wake of the Holocaust, millions of European Jews immigrated into the U.S. with progressive ideals and an acute sensitivity to the persecution of others. Recognizing that the discrimination against blacks in the U.S. was similar to the discrimination against Jews in Europe, the Jewish community was very active in the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1958, the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation Temple in Atlanta was bombed in response to Rabbi Jacob Rothschild and his congregation's support of the Civil Rights Movement. The Temple's support of the Movement and the city's revulsion to the bombing helped Atlanta develop ways to come through the 1960s peacefully. Rabbi Rothschild became an ally and friend of Martin Luther King, Jr. and in 1965, he helped organized the first large-scale integrated dinner ever held in Atlanta, in honor of Dr. King's Nobel Peace Prize award.

'Q&A with Janice Rothschild Blumberg and Alexis Scott' will feature a conversation between Janice Rothschild Blumberg, widow of Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, and Alexis Scott, the Publisher/CEO of the Atlanta Daily World and daughter of one of the first U.S. soldiers to arrive at Buchenwald concentration camp during WWII. Topics will include the Jewish community's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement and the Rothschilds' personal relationship with Dr. King and his family. Holocaust survivor Henry Friedman will deliver opening remarks.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, established by the National Park Service in 1980, preserves and interprets the places in Atlanta where civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was born, lived, worked, worshipped, and is buried.

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