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The new Black view

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Education Today

Uniting Black, Latino and Jewish youth through music

By **CYRIL JOSH BARKER**

Amsterdam News Staff

The All Stars Project, Inc. kicked off its newest initiative to unite young people of diverse racial backgrounds. Together and Giving Back is the performing arts organization's newest initiative bringing Black, Latino and Jewish youth from New York City and northern New Jersey together.

Together and Giving Back aims to create understanding through community service while at the same time bridging racial gaps. Organizations participating in the initiative include Congregation Rodeph Sholom, the Ramaz School, and the MetroWest Jewish Community Center.

"Together these organizations are giving young people the opportunity to see beyond their own community, come together and create a new spirit of togetherness and giving back as we all create a new America," said Gabrielle L. Kurlander, president and CEO of the All Stars Project.

The initiative was launched earlier this year but last Thursday night at the All Stars Project Performing Arts and Development Center on 42nd Street, a

benefit concert and awards ceremony were held. The concert featured superstar Jewish entertainer Nashama Carlebach, the Green Pasture Baptist Choir directed by the Rev. Roger Hembrick.

Performing on stage together, Carlebach and the choir sang traditional Jewish songs using Black gospel music accents. The fusion of the two unlikely music forms complemented each other giving the audience an idea of what a satisfying result can be achieved when racial groups cross.

Carlebach is the daughter of late Jewish singer Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, who had collaborated with gospel choirs while working at a Brooklyn synagogue.

Along with a concert and benefit for the new initiative, the evening gave way to recognition of those who have exemplified achievements in race relations. Attorney Martin Begun and educator and Tuskegee Airman Dr. Roscoe Brown received the Harmony through Understanding Lifetime Achievement Award.

Begun is managing partner of Reiter/Begun Associates and is past president of the Jewish Community

Relations Council of New York. Begun has been working at the New York University School of Medicine for 35 years and serves as a senior associate dean and vice president of external affairs.

Brown is the director of the Center for Urban Education Policy and a professor at the Graduate School and University Center for CUNY. He is a past president of 100 Black Men, Inc. and serves on several boards throughout the city. Brown was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his services as a Tuskegee Airman.

The All Stars Project, Inc. is a non-profit organization that allows thousands of low-income young people of color to participate in the performing arts. Rightfully located in mid-Manhattan's theater district, the organization has a talent show network, youth development school, and performance class. The All Stars Project, Inc. has branches across the country in Newark, Chicago and San Francisco.

Youth can participate in the programs free of charge. The organization is funded by individual and corporate donors.