

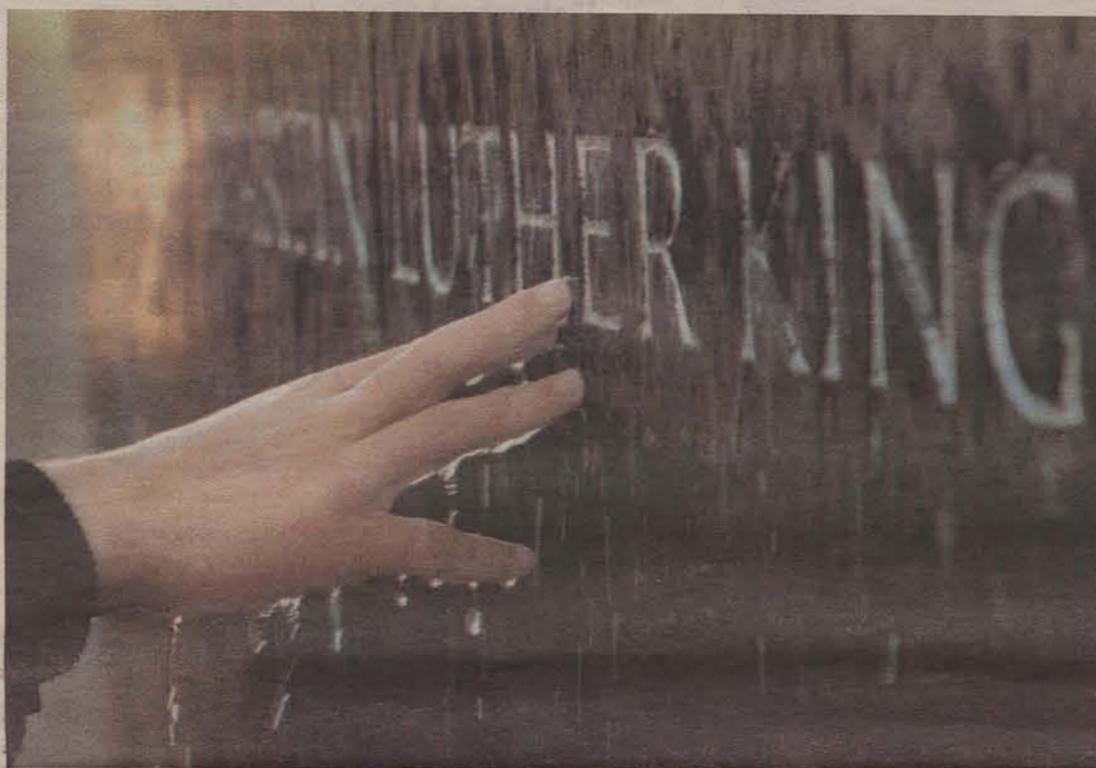
SPILC REPORT



PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TEACHING TOLERANCE • INTELLIGENCE PROJECT • LITIGATION

JUNE 1999
VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2

CARLOS GONZALEZ/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE



A Capuchino High School student touches Dr. King's name on the Civil Rights Memorial.

Memorial teaches students history of rights movement

BY MARK SIMON

The waters at the Civil Rights Memorial roll down softly and smoothly, in a steady, gentle sheet.

Set in a small plaza in front of the Southern Poverty Law Center, the rear of the memorial is a curved wall of black granite over which water flows in a wide, never-ending stream. On the wall is carved: "... until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream," a quotation from the book of Amos often used by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

At the center of the memorial is a round, waist-high table of black granite. Radiating around the top, like the hands of a clock, are the dates of key events in the civil rights movement and the names of 40 people who died during the turbulent Southern days of the 1950s and 1960s. The last name is King's.

From the center of the table, water bubbles up like a fresh spring and spreads in an expanding circle over the names and off the edge. Visitors to the memorial touch the names on

the granite, the cold water rippling out from their fingers.

In this way, 85 students from Capuchino High School in San Bruno, California, touched the slain of the civil rights movement. They were brought to the memorial on Feb. 16, the sixth day of their 10-day tour of the South's civil rights landmarks; a trip called "Sojourn to the Past" and organized by history teacher Jeff Steinberg.

Making contact with the movement

It was a day in which the students made contact, symbolically and directly, with the people of the civil rights movement.

At the memorial, Clarissa Pritchett, a tiny African American sophomore with her hair in long, thin braids, touched the name of Clarence Triggs, a civil rights foot soldier from Bogalusa, Louisiana, killed mysteriously in 1966.

She chose Triggs, Clarissa said, because it was her father's name. He died a year ago.

The memorial is a "peaceful place for people who didn't die in a peaceful way," Clarissa said. "All the people who worked so hard to get us where we are

today. We're leaving the work undone."

Rachel Mann, a junior with light blond highlights in her hair and open, blue eyes, touched the names of Virgil Ware, John Reese and Army Corporal Ramon Duckworth Jr., none of whom was involved in civil rights protests.

Ware was a 13-year-old Birmingham boy who was killed in a drive-by shooting while riding on the handlebars of a bicycle pedaled by his older brother.

Reese was a 16-year-old in Mayflower, Texas. While sitting in a local cafe in 1955, he was shot and killed by white youths who had been driving around the black part of town firing shots.

Duckworth was on his way home to Taylorsville, Mississippi, in 1962 when he was dragged from a bus, beaten and shot by a police officer.

"I picked them because they were innocent," said Rachel. "They weren't even involved in the movement, and they were killed."

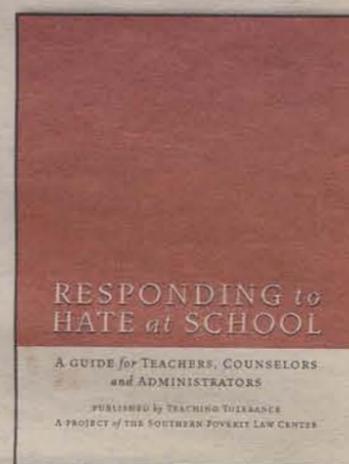
She wrote in a note to herself: "There's an unrest on my heart. It's not a burden, but a sympathy."

Please turn to p. 8, "Memorial teaches..."

New manual helps schools respond to hate

The shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, on April 20 — Hitler's birthday — and in Conyers, Georgia, exactly one month later served as a shocking reminder that intolerance and violence can strike anywhere. To help schools deal effectively with crises when they occur and to help them develop prevention strategies, Teaching Tolerance is releasing a special publication titled *Responding to Hate at School: A Guide for Teachers, Counselors and Administrators*. The 48-page text addresses a broad range of bias incidents, including violent crimes, hate speech, derogatory language, and literature that is used to demean a particular person or group based on race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, ability or appearance.

Working with St. Louis freelance writer Mary Harrison, Teaching Tolerance staff spent more than a year developing the special publication. Scores of administrators, teachers and students generously described and



evaluated the steps that their own schools have taken to address bias.

hate crimes, teachers who train student conflict mediators, and religious leaders also lent their voices to the text. Teaching Tolerance contacted the Justice Department's Community Relations Service and the Equity Assistance Centers as well.

"Through the years, we have received numerous inquiries — Please turn to p. 2, "Center manual..."

Numbers decline, but 'Patriot' groups more racially oriented

When the so-called "Patriot" movement burst onto the national scene in the early 1990s, it spread like fire, fueled by resentment of the government and by events at Ruby Ridge and Waco. Even after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, the number of militias and similar groups expanded, hitting an all-time high of 858 groups in 1996.

Now, dampened by arrests and by the passage of time, the Patriot movement is contracting. In 1998, for the second year in a row, the number of Patriot groups fell, from 523 in 1997 to 435 last year. Over the two years from 1996 to 1998, the number of Patriot groups decreased by almost 50 percent.

Patriot rhetoric on Internet

But as the number of Patriot groups declines, the reach of their rhetoric grows. Patriot sites

on the Internet have exploded — from 179 in 1997 to a 1998 total of 248. In the earlier year, 18 percent of Patriot groups had Web sites; in 1998, 33 percent of them did.

The decline in Patriot groups has coincided with two other trends: a marked increase in the number of hate groups, a phenomenon prompted, in part, by Patriots moving further to the right; and increased interest in racial issues among remaining Patriot groups. Where their chief themes were once gun control and federal regulation, Patriots now are taking up issues like non-white immigration. More importantly, they are increasingly influenced by Christian Identity, a racist and anti-Semitic theology. Prominent Patriots regularly attend Identity conferences, and some

Please turn to p. 3, "Patriot groups..."

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The Southern Poverty Law Center is a non-profit organization that combats hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation. Its programs include Teaching Tolerance and the Intelligence Project, which incorporates Klanwatch and the Militia Task Force. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which celebrates the memory of 40 individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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MAILBOX

'Learn to look inside,' says Center supporter

"Color," the poem below, was written by 83-year-old Roselyn Gainer of Moorestown, New Jersey, and donated to the Center. "My best wishes to the SPLC in all your important and wonderful work," she said.

Color

What color?

Black or white

The skin is shade by nature played

Is not the underneath the same?

The heart, the bone, the brain,

If we could but learn to look inside

And study the creature and not the hide

We'd find, I'm sure, we're all brothers

Black or white, same as the others.

We received your video [*Seeking Justice*] several weeks ago and viewed it. My wife and I were very impressed and moved by it. We intend to utilize this video as an important educational tool with various groups we meet with and discuss various issues.

The contribution you make to combating hatred and to teaching tolerance is exemplary. Keep up the good work.

M. I.
San Diego, California

Your publications are an excellent source of intelligence regarding hate groups. I am employed as a federal criminal investigator in Nevada, and I have found your information invaluable. Keep up the good work.

M. L.
Elko, Nevada

I am a high school student at Winston Churchill High School, and my homework was to visit your Web site. I can only say that it has been one of the most successful teaching tools in my class. It is a very clear and direct Web site, it is easy to follow, and more than anything else, extremely informative.

Thank you for providing the community with such helpful material. We can all make a difference!

C. R.
San Antonio, Texas

I have been using your [Teaching Tolerance] materials for the past seven years at a community college. I regularly use videos and written materials in my sociology, social problems and cultural diversity classes. Students love your materials. They hold interest and encourage personal growth.

We recently sponsored pledge signing for Operation New Birmingham [see story on page 5] and collected over 200 signatures.

I want to thank you all so much for the materials and ideas that you make available. I admire the work done by SPLC so much that I tell people that I want to work there "when I grow up" (I'm 42). Morris Dees is my hero. You all inspire me and give me "permission" to openly address and fight racism in my adult life. God bless and protect you all!

M. W. B.
Grantsburg, Illinois

I am a contributor and very much believe in everything the SPLC is doing. However, I lost my membership renewal form for 1999. Will you please send me another one? In light of the dragging death trial in Jasper, Texas, it is clear we must all do our part to prevent this kind of horror. I know it begins with supporting organizations like SPLC. Thank you for all of your hard work.

A. A.
Oakland, California

Your [Teaching Tolerance] material has been invaluable. As a teacher, I use your message as a part of our classroom each and every day. It is used the entire year — not just one or two months. How can we teach without it?

L. P.
Poultney, Vermont

Your organization has completely caught my heart. Your *Teaching Tolerance* magazine is the first such magazine I have received, and I want to tell you that it is a wonder.

J. R. S.
Billings, Montana



Holocaust Museum educators

Two educators with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum traveled to Montgomery on March 10 to meet with Teaching Tolerance staff about incorporating tolerance themes into an adult literacy curriculum. Afterwards, Dawn Marie Warfle, deputy director of education for the museum, and Arthur R. Brown, schools projects assistant, took time to examine the Center's Civil Rights Memorial. The floral wreath was placed there a few days earlier by a congressional delegation (see related picture on page 4).

Center editor addresses Holocaust Museum group

WASHINGTON, D.C. — *Intelligence Report* editor Mark Potok in March addressed a full house of some 500 people at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, briefing them on the year-end issue of the *Report* and the state of the white supremacist movement.

In an hour-and-a-half speech given as part of the museum's evening lecture series, Potok discussed the second successive rise in the number of hate groups, from 474 in 1997 to a 1998 total of 537. He spoke about the social and economic reasons for the increase, as well as the important influence of Internet hate sites and racist music.

Much of the talk focused on "stealth" groups like the Council of Conservative Citizens, a racist group that has tried to portray itself as a mainstream conservative organization. In the same vein, Potok spoke of the increasing currency of scientists who do controversial work on race and IQ and rising intolerance in some churches.

He also pointed out the widespread nature of hate crime.

Although most Americans have heard of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. — who were killed in heinous hate murders in Wyoming and Texas — Potok ticked off the details of several people who died similarly in 1998, but whose cases were not publicized nationally. These cases included both white-on-black and black-on-white attacks.

Potok warned that ethnic nationalism is on the rise in the United States, adding that the country must deal with its race problems or face a future of balkanized communities as minorities become the majority. At the end of his speech, there was a short question-and-answer period.

The talk was attended by national and local reporters, many of whom called later to follow up on story ideas proceeding from the speech. Museum officials described the speech as a great success and asked that a Center representative return annually each March to discuss the findings of future year-end *Intelligence Reports*.



Mark Potok

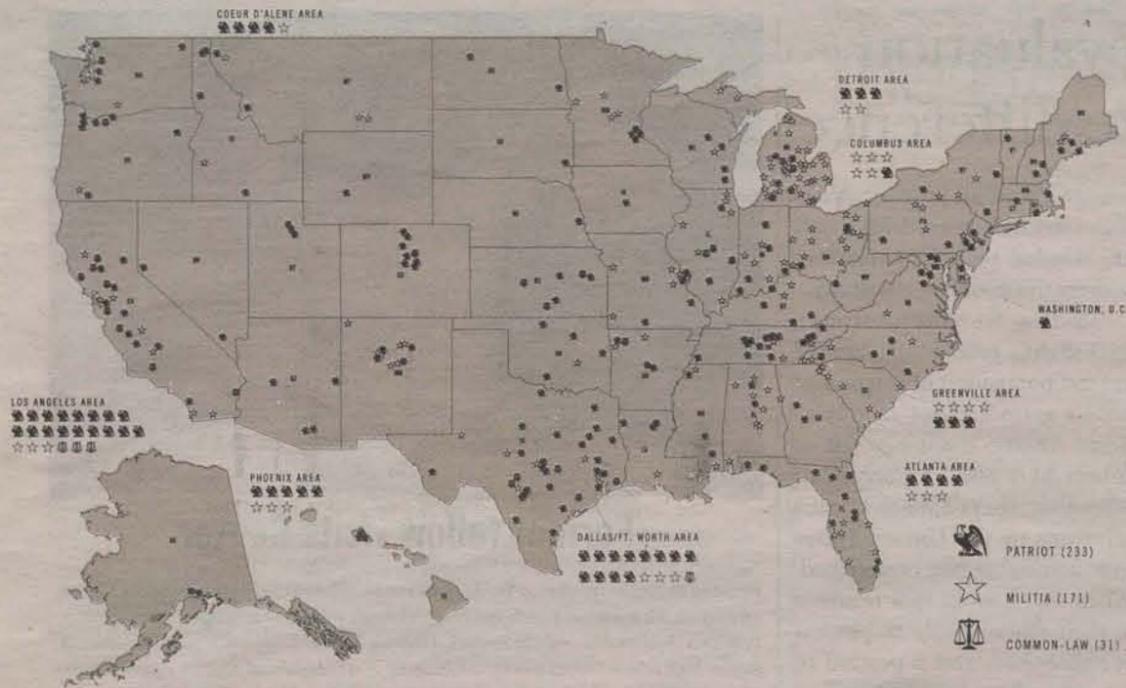
New Center manual helps schools

Continued from page 1
sometimes frantic ones — from educators dealing with hatred on their campuses and in their classrooms," says Jim Carnes, director of Teaching Tolerance. "With *Responding to Hate at School*, we will address those concerns and also continue our mission of helping educators teach inclusion. We hope to help make campuses a safer, more equitable place for all of America's children."

Over the summer, the Center will mail the special publication

to all 110,000 school principals. Individual teachers and counselors can order a free copy of *Responding to Hate at School* in September, after Teaching Tolerance announces the availability of the guide in the Fall 1999 issue of its magazine.

The Center currently offers the guide *Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide to Hate Groups and Hate Crime* for community organizers. An electronic copy of the text is available on the Center's Web site at www.splcenter.org.



'Patriot' groups more racially oriented

Continued from page 1

militias have adopted Identity wholesales.

"What we're seeing now is ... the re-emerging notion of this country as Anglo-American, a white country," says Leonard Zeskind, a longtime analyst of the extreme right who sees strengthening radicalism. "That idea is being put forward in a mainstream way, and that has not happened successfully since at least before World War II."

The decline in Patriot groups has several explanations.

- The Patriot movement is aging. The events that set it afire — the 1992 killing of white supremacist Randy Weaver's wife and son at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and the 1993 debacle in Waco, Texas — no longer have the same resonance they once did. Many of those who once expected a revolution have tired of waiting and have drifted back into their old lives.

- Arrests and criminal plots have frightened off many who once saw the movement as a way to bring back a mythologized American past. In particular, the authorities have cracked down on Patriots' "common-law" courts, pseudo-legal bodies that

have passed false financial instruments, filed bogus liens against their enemies and purported to exercise real judicial authority. In addition, many Patriots have been imprisoned in connection with terrorist plots and arms trafficking.

- Many hard-liners within the movement have gone underground and are no longer part of visible, organized groups.

- Hate groups, once seen as the lunatic fringe of the political scene, have become a more acceptable and attractive alternative. Evidence of this can be seen in the power of groups like the Council of Conservative Citizens, a racist group that portrays itself as a mainstream conservative organization; the increasing currency of controversial theories about race and IQ; and a generalized worry among whites about becoming a minority in America.

Fears about Y2K bug

The Patriot movement is also atomizing. Where Patriots once sought to protect the country by remaking the government to their own liking, many are now more concerned about themselves and their immediate families. This can be seen most clearly

in widely circulated fears about the Y2K computer bug and the coming millennium. Worried about the collapse of civilization or the coming of the end times, many have retreated from overt political action into "covenant communities" or their own individual bunkers.

Of the 435 Patriot groups identified by the Intelligence Project, 171 were militias, down from 221 in 1997. At the same time, the number of common-law courts fell from 53 to 31. Another 107 groups were categorized as political or citizens' groups, reflecting an effort by at least some Patriots to influence the mainstream political process.

In its count, the Intelligence Project found Patriot groups operating in every state in the nation (see map). But they were concentrated in Texas (52), Michigan (49), California (47), Ohio (22) and Florida and Tennessee (17 each). Many of these same states had large numbers of race-based hate groups, including Florida (38), California (36), Texas (31), Michigan (24) and Ohio (22). Counting both types, the highest counts were in Texas and California (83 each), Florida (55) and Ohio (44).

Wellesley graduate joins Intelligence Project staff

Jocelyn Benson joined the Center's Intelligence Project as a writer for its quarterly *Intelligence Report* in January. A recent graduate of Wellesley College, Benson worked as a volunteer at the Center last summer, writing profiles of leaders in the hate movement.



Jocelyn Benson

As a sophomore at Wellesley, Benson became the first student elected to the Wellesley Town Council. The following year, she founded the

Women in American Political Activism Conference and was selected as one of *Glamour* magazine's top ten college women for 1998. Benson co-authored a book chapter, "California's 46th District: The Sanchez-Dornan Rematch," that will appear in *The Road to Congress 1998*, to be published this fall.

Last winter, Benson was selected as one of 40 Americans to be awarded a Marshall Scholarship to study at a British university. She leaves in September

to spend two years at Oxford University, where she plans to earn a master's degree in sociology while studying the links between white supremacist movements in the United States and Europe. Benson is enrolled to study law at Harvard Law School when she returns to the U.S. in 2001.

"In the brief time that I was here over the summer, I realized that the Center is a very special and inspiring place to work," Benson said. "It is staffed by some of the most dedicated and intelligent people I've ever met, and all are working to peaceably further the goal of civil rights and equality."

Intelligence Briefs

TRACKING EXTREMIST ACTIVITY

Serious violence against gays said to rise

THE NATIONAL COALITION OF Anti-Violence Programs recently released a study showing that the number of murders attributed to anti-gay prejudice had jumped from 14 in 1996 to 33 in 1998. The coalition is made up of 26 organizations that monitor anti-homosexual violence.

The Coalition also reported that while the total number of assaults on homosexuals declined by four percent, the attacks were more violent. It said that the number of victims requiring hospitalization more than doubled, from 53 in 1997 to 110 last year. There was a 71 percent rise in assaults and attempted assaults with guns, and attacks involving bats, clubs and other blunt objects increased by 47 percent.

Skinheads arrested in Florida murders

AN OUTBREAK OF ALLEGED SKINHEAD violence hit biracial couples in Florida early this year, and now a young woman and a 6-year-old girl are dead.

On Feb. 24, Jody-Gaye Bailey, 20, a black woman who was riding in a car with her white fiancé, was killed in Oakland Park. Police charged Robert Boltuch with the shooting, saying that Bailey was killed because of the color of her skin and her interracial relationship with Christian Martin.

In St. Petersburg, Jesse Joe Roten was charged with first-degree premeditated murder after allegedly firing an assault rifle into the home of a biracial couple where four little girls were sleeping. Ashley Mance, 6, died in her bed, and her twin sister, Aleesha, was critically wounded after being struck in the shoulder.

Roten, 17, collected neo-Nazi paraphernalia and was a self-proclaimed Skinhead, police and his parents said.

Violent crimes hit Native Americans hardest

NATIVE AMERICANS ARE FAR MORE likely to be the victims of violent crime than members of any other racial group, according to a new study, released in February by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Moreover, 70 percent of violent crimes against Indians are committed by members of other racial groups, mainly whites. That is a far cry from the experience of non-Indians, who are mainly attacked by members of their own races. Some 70 percent of whites are attacked by whites, and more than 80 percent of blacks are victims of other blacks, studies have shown.

Although it was not known what percentage of violent crime against Indians was motivated by bias, experts said that prejudice does motivate much anti-Indian crime.

Cracking down on cross burnings

SINCE THE FIRST CROSS WAS burned atop Stone Mountain, Georgia, in 1915, the technique has become the best-known of the Klan's many tactics of intimidation.

But now, some victims and officials are striking back.

On March 8, a federal jury in Chicago awarded \$720,000 to a black couple with two children whose white neighbor allegedly burned a six-foot cross in the yard of their suburban home.

In Utah last November, Michael Brad Magley, pleaded innocent to four felony counts brought in connection with the burning of a cross on the lawn of an interracial couple in Salt Lake City. If convicted, he could face up to 40 years in federal prison.

The two responses, one civil and one criminal, underscore the greater seriousness with which cross-burnings, once treated as a minor crime, are being taken by both the authorities and victims. Nationally, the Center's Intelligence Project counted 210 cross burnings in the five-year period 1994-98.

White supremacists convicted of murder



LITTLE ROCK, ARK. — WHITE supremacist Chevie Kehoe (above) was sentenced in May to life in a federal prison by a jury here for his leading role in a violent plot to create a whites-only nation within the United States. His co-defendant, Daniel Lewis Lee, was sentenced to death.

Kehoe, 26, was convicted of racketeering, conspiracy, and three counts of murder. Kehoe and Lee, also 26, killed an Arkansas family, including an 8-year-old girl, by suffocating them with plastic bags. Prosecutors say they were scheming to violently carve out the so-called Aryan People's Republic.

The jury of nine blacks and three whites gave no indication of why it imposed the harsher penalty on Lee. Prosecutors portrayed Kehoe as the leader of the two, and they had sought the death penalty for him.

Teaching Tolerance works; evaluation shows Center materials make difference

“How do you know that Teaching Tolerance materials are making a difference?” This is a question often posed to Center staff, and, until now, it was a difficult question to answer definitively.

“For years, Teaching Tolerance has had to rely on the questionnaires contained in curriculum packages and on general correspondence and phone calls,” said Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes. “Although this type of feedback proved useful, we have long felt that a more thorough analysis of the project was warranted. This spring, it finally happened.”



Jim Carnes

In April, Teaching Tolerance completed the first quantitative study of its program materials. The Center contracted with Washington, D.C.-based Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates to administer a telephone survey of 600 randomly selected *Teaching Tolerance* subscribers. The purpose of the evaluation was three-fold: to discern the degree to which educators are using Teaching Tolerance resources, to determine the impact that the materials have on educators and their students, and to uncover the underlying need for the program as a whole.

Content is excellent

Ninety-four percent of respondents rated *Teaching Tolerance* magazine's content as good or excellent, and more than 80 percent stated that the magazine usually contains an idea or activity that can be used in the classroom.

Ninety-seven percent of the teachers who had received one or more of Teaching Tolerance's video-and-text packages, *America's Civil Rights Movement*, *The Shadow of Hate* or *Starting Small*, rated the videos as excellent or good. The texts and teachers' guides received high marks as well (excellent or good,

94 percent and 91 percent respectively). The vast majority of teachers have used the kits more than once, with 79 percent using the packages in more than one school year.

Materials have impact on students

Seventy-five percent of educators subscribing to the magazine say that Teaching Tolerance materials have had a major impact or somewhat of an impact on their teaching, and 70 percent stated that the magazine and curriculum kits have had a major impact or somewhat of an impact on their students.

Teachers reported an increased awareness of cultural diversity among students, more friendships across racial lines, fewer arguments and an increased willingness to work with others. Teachers also believed that exposure to Teaching Tolerance materials increased the likelihood that students would challenge biased comments from peers or adults. Only 8 percent of respondents said that Teaching Tolerance materials had no impact on students.

Survey demonstrates need

The 1999 Teaching Tolerance Survey had a third objective: to determine the extent to which the program is needed. Lake, Snell, Perry & Associates asked *Teaching Tolerance* subscribers a variety of questions about racial and ethnic relations. To provide for a comparative analysis, the researchers also asked these questions of 500 educators who do not use Teaching Tolerance materials.

Responses revealed that, although subscribers and non-subscribers differ as to the perceived degree of intolerance in their schools, both segments believe that bias is an issue on their campuses, in their classrooms and even in teachers'

lounges. And all parties agreed that tolerance-related materials are needed to help educators address this problem effectively.

Teaching Tolerance subscribers were slightly more likely than the general population of teachers to hold a grim view of race relations. Thirty-seven percent of subscribers and 26 percent of nonsubscribers said that race relations in the United States were somewhat bad or very bad. When asked about race relations in their schools, only 10 percent of subscribers and 5 percent of nonsubscribers described the situation as somewhat bad or very bad. When specific questions about racist, sexist, homophobic and religiously biased behaviors are thrown into the mix, however, a clearer picture of school intolerance emerges. (See below.)

When nonsubscribers were asked what would be most helpful in addressing these problems, the number one answer was “more relevant materials.” Further, 72 percent of nonsubscribers say that they would like to receive videos, textbooks and magazines about tolerance, and 90 percent stated that they would definitely or probably read a magazine titled *Teaching Tolerance*. Subscribers agreed that more resources are needed, and 64 percent requested more frequent publication of *Teaching Tolerance* magazine.

‘More needs to be done’

“This survey clearly shows that our materials are needed and that they work,” said Teaching Tolerance director Carnes. “The responses also indicate that more needs to be done. In the coming months, Teaching Tolerance will explore the idea of a possible interim publication to fill the gap between our Spring and Fall editions of the magazine. And with help from the Center's donors, we hope to increase the number of educators who have access to our materials.”



Former fellow visits Center

Houston Roberson (center), a Teaching Tolerance fellow in 1994-95, visited the Center on May 19. He is pictured with Teaching Tolerance magazine managing editor Elsie Williams (left) and Laurakelly Harper, Teaching Tolerance special projects assistant. A former high school history teacher and winner of a Presidential Teacher Award, Roberson is now a professor at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He was in Montgomery researching a book on the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church.

Teaching Tolerance project welcomes new secretary

Teaching Tolerance welcomed a new education secretary in April. Shirley Johnson worked for more than three years at Tuskegee University's Kellogg Conference Center, first as the catering sales manager and later as the director of catering and convention services. In December 1998, she joined the Center as a temporary employee, providing assistance to both the fundraising and administration departments.



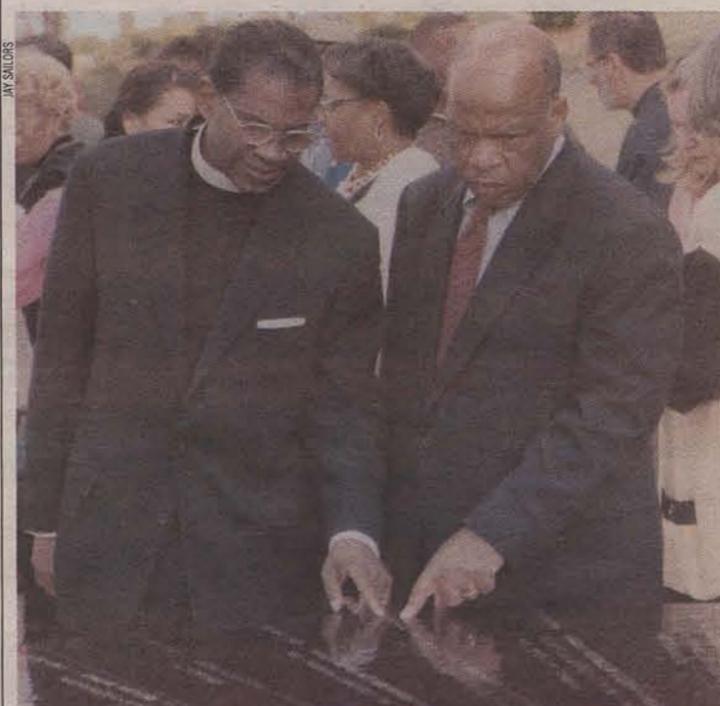
Shirley Johnson

“Shirley's strong background in a high-demand, multiple-task environment, coupled with her knowledge about the Center,

makes her an ideal choice,” said Jim Carnes, director of Teaching Tolerance. “We are pleased that she has agreed to come on staff permanently and look forward to working with her for years to come.”

As education secretary, Johnson will handle inquiries about the Teaching Tolerance project and its educational materials. She also will oversee the departmental filing system and provide ongoing assistance for a variety of operational, program and staff needs.

Johnson replaced Tammy Jones, who resigned to become a bank accountant.



John Lewis leads pilgrimage to Memorial

For the second year in a row, Congressman John Lewis (right) in March led a bipartisan congressional delegation on a civil rights pilgrimage, which included the Center's Civil Rights Memorial. Lewis, a leader in the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march who was severely beaten by Alabama law enforcement officers, placed a wreath on the Memorial. Also in the delegation, which was sponsored by the non-profit Faith and Politics Institute, was the Very Rev. Nathan D. Baxter (left), dean of the Washington National Cathedral.

SAMPLE RESULTS FROM TEACHING TOLERANCE SURVEY

How often do you hear these types of comments from your students?

	subscriber	nonsubscriber
often, very often Racist	28%	14%
Sexist	41%	31%
Anti-gay/lesbian	34%	24%
Biased against a religion	12%	5%

Have you heard the following types of comments from your colleagues in the past year?

	subscriber	nonsubscriber
yes Racist	42%	28%
Sexist	50%	37%
Anti-gay/lesbian	42%	31%
Biased against a religion	22%	15%

Thousands of students sign Birmingham Pledge against racial prejudice

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s thrust this city into the national spotlight as a scene of bitter racial conflict. Photographs of Dr. King behind bars, of the bombed-out Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, and of fire hoses and police dogs attacking peaceful marchers remain icons of the period, indelibly linking Birmingham with hate.

For more than 30 years, however, the city's biracial Community Affairs Committee (CAC), under the sponsorship of an older organization called Operation New Birmingham, has sought to transform the municipality and its image. Every Monday — for three decades — business, civic and religious leaders have met to discuss community concerns and to devise ways of bringing people together.

The Center profiled the group's newest effort, the Birmingham Pledge (see box), in the Spring 1999 issue of *Teaching Tolerance*. Educators were encouraged to have their students sign and return the pledge

to the CAC. "We felt that this was an easy and responsible way for students and teachers to show publicly their support for racial equality," said Jim Carnes, director of Teaching Tolerance.

Response was 'amazing'

"The response to your article about the Birmingham Pledge has been amazing," said Robert Emerick, one of the pledge's organizers. Since the magazine's release in January 1999, more than 10,000 students and their teachers have returned signed pledges to CAC. By doing so, they have dedicated themselves to eliminating racial prejudice from their thoughts and actions.

The Center invites all of its supporters to demonstrate their commitment to equality, justice and tolerance by signing a copy of the Birmingham Pledge. Signed pledges returned to CAC will appear in a registry kept on file at the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham.

Persons interested in learning more about the pledge are encouraged to call (205) 324-8797 for information.

Officials seek Center expertise as they study school violence

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On two separate occasions recently, officials here turned to the Center's Intelligence Project for its expertise on hate crimes and hate groups.

Intelligence Report editor Mark Potok was one of four experts who testified May 20 about hate on the Internet before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, chaired by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.). And Joe Roy, director of the Intelligence Project, led off a distinguished group of panelists who addressed challenges facing the nation during a One America Town Meeting at Howard University here on May 26.

Potok began his testimony before Sen. McCain's committee by pointing out that the number of hate sites on the Internet soared from 163 in 1997 to 254 in late 1998. The ever-broadening reach of the Internet enables hate-mongers, who in the past might connect with a few hundred people with their leaflets and newsletters, to now much more easily reach millions, he said. And many of these World Wide Web sites

specifically target young children and teenagers with enticing interactive games, crossword puzzles and coloring pages.

"When I was a child growing up in rural Vermont, misbehaving children were typically sent to their rooms to consider, in isolation, the error of their ways," Potok said. "Today, when parents send an errant child to his bedroom, little Johnny may

not be alone. With a few clicks of his computer mouse, he can encounter people who want to be his friends — 'friends' who may offer an array of hate propaganda."

Potok said that censorship and computer filters were not the answer. Instead, children must be inoculated against hate by teaching them tolerance, starting when they are very young.

Joining Roy on the One America Forum panel were civil rights leader Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.); Tiananmen Square student leader Li Lu; and child advocate Lt. Col. (retired) Consuelo Kickbusch.

"These invitations to our staff are a tribute to the Center's credibility as an authority on hate in America," said Center president Joe Levin.



Joe Roy

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School shootings prompt Teaching Tolerance response

The Center and its Teaching Tolerance project join the nation in expressing sorrow over the recent school shootings — at Colorado's Columbine High on April 20 and at Heritage High School in Conyers, Georgia, exactly one month later. The incidents, in which 14 children and one teacher died in Colorado and six students were wounded in Georgia, prompted outreach from the Center at the local and national levels.



Frank Crumell

Days after the shootings, Teaching Tolerance mailed packages to each principal in the affected Colorado and Georgia schools districts. The packets contained articles from *Teaching*

Tolerance magazine, a list of recommended resources on conflict resolution, the names of organizations specializing in mediation and information on the Teaching Tolerance grants program. To help teachers nationwide explore issues raised by the tragedy, the project posted related articles and resources dealing with conflict resolution and violence prevention on its Web site at www.splcenter.org.

And in May, Teaching Tolerance fellow Frank Crumell traveled to Colorado Springs — less than an hour from Littleton — to participate in a community-wide conference on violence and

human rights at the University of Colorado. His day-long presentation dealt with the aggression-centered socialization of boys and with constructive responses to school violence.

"We hope that our efforts in Colorado can contribute to the difficult process of taking stock and moving forward," said Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes. "The events at Columbine and Heritage High Schools indicate clearly that the struggle for tolerance and peace continues. With the support of the Center's donors, Teaching Tolerance will carry on its work for more equitable and safe learning environments," he said. "Our upcoming guide *Responding to Hate at Schools* is a clear step in that direction." (See related story p. 1.)

Center co-founder Dees earns tributes

Since 1971, when he established the Southern Poverty Law Center with his law partner Joe Levin, Morris Dees has often been recognized for his achievements, both in and out of the courtroom. Here are some recent tributes and awards:

- The National Bar Association, the nation's oldest and largest organization of predominantly black lawyers and judges, awarded Dees its Judicial Council Chair's Civil Rights Award in 1998.
- January's *Life* magazine featured Dees as one of its 1998 "Heroes of the Year" for his record verdict against a Klan group that burned Macedonia Baptist Church in South Carolina.

- In February, the Southern Trial Lawyers Association gave

"Honors belong to Center staff"

Dees its prestigious "Warhorse Award," presented annually to a trial lawyer recognized as a leader and advocate of great skill and confidence over a period of at least 30 years.

- The National Council of Jewish Women, at its national convention in March, honored Dees with its "Faith and Humanity Award."

- The April issue of *Biography Magazine* carried a five-page feature that profiled Dees and described many of his accomplishments.

Also in April, Alma College in Alma, Michigan, presented Dees with an honorary doctorate of laws degree.

"While I am deeply grateful for the recognition that I have received, the fact is that these honors belong to the staff of the Southern Poverty Law Center," Dees said. "As an individual, I get the credit and public acclaim for accomplishments that would be impossible if not for the dedication and hard work of the folks at the Center."

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Dees speaks at Alabama State

Center co-founder and chief trial counsel Morris Dees spoke March 11 to Alabama State University students and faculty in Montgomery. A reception followed. He is pictured here with Dr. Janice Franklin, director of the University library. Dees regularly speaks at colleges and universities throughout the nation.

Center wins injunction against Aryan Nations

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — The Southern Poverty Law Center in late February secured an order restraining the Aryan Nations from selling its Idaho compound near here while an SPLC civil suit proceeds against the neo-Nazi group, its leader Richard Butler and several of his followers.

SPLC attorneys said Butler's compound is his only substantial asset and argued that if Butler sold the land, it would cheat the plaintiffs out of any possible damage award.

The Center alleged that Butler "has vowed that he will

destroy the compound before he will allow it to fall into the hands of his perceived 'enemies' to satisfy a court judgment." It cited a former Aryan Nations official who quoted Butler saying "he would burn [the compound] to the ground" rather than lose it to an SPLC-represented plaintiff. And the Center said that the day Butler was served initial notice of the lawsuit, he went to a legal forms outlet to obtain papers that would have allowed him to create a trust.

The Center suit alleges that members of Butler's security force shot at the two plaintiffs, Virginia Keenan and her son

Jason; chased them for more than two miles; forced their car into a ditch; and battered and threatened to kill them.

In late March, one of the named defendants — security force chief Jesse Edward Warfield — pleaded guilty to criminal charges in connection with the assault. Warfield had been charged with two counts of aggravated assault but pleaded guilty to a felony charge of aiding and abetting aggravated assault. On May 24, a federal judge sentenced Warfield to two to five years in prison, the maximum term for the modified charge.

Planned giving assistant, accountant join Center

Two new employees joined the Center in March. Windsor Meadows came aboard as a planned giving assistant in its fundraising department, and Beverly Ligon was hired as an accountant in administration.



Beverly Ligon

administration and finance and Ligon's former boss at KinderCare. "She's quickly learning all aspects of a variety of jobs in this department and can serve as back-up to our other finance staff."

"Numbers are my passion," said Ligon, who said

Ligon, an Alabama native, earned her degree in accounting from Troy State University in Troy, Alabama. For eight years she was a staff accountant at KinderCare, the national child-care corporation whose headquarters was formerly in Montgomery. When KinderCare relocated to the west coast, Ligon became an accountant at a company specializing in rehabilitation services. She was there about a year before coming to the Center.

"Beverly brings us a wealth of expertise," said Teenie Hutchison, the Center's director of

passion," said Ligon, who said she is enthusiastic about her job at the Center.

Early in her career, Ligon had a connection with the Center but didn't realize it at the time. In the summer of 1982, she was a temporary clerk in the Bullock County, Alabama, probate office where longtime Center board member Rufus Huffman was judge.

A native of Knoxville, Meadows graduated from the Univer-

sity of Alabama, where she earned a degree in art history. Before coming to the Center, she worked with other nonprofit organizations, including the Sierra Club, shelters for abused women and children, and a food pantry.

Meadows moved to Montgomery four years ago and set her goal to work at the Center. "This is a dream job for me," she said. "I am so proud of what the



Windsor Meadows

Center stands for and what it has achieved. I have great admiration for the Center's long tradition of working for justice."

Meadows will assist Center supporters who want to include the Center in their estate plans. "Donors have a tremendous impact on what the Center accomplishes, and I look forward to working with them," she said. "Our donors' dedication to making the world a more tolerant place inspires me."

Bequests

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of its deceased supporters listed below and gratefully acknowledges their including the Center in their wills and other planned gifts. This list includes bequests received from April 1, 1998, through April 30, 1999.

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Troubadour entertains Center staff

On April 30, Center employees enjoyed an impromptu concert by acclaimed troubadour Larry Long, who lives in Minneapolis. Long's ballads follow the Woody Guthrie tradition of patriotism and folksong, capturing the American history of our time. For several years, Long has been developing and presenting an intergenerational curriculum, mixing oral history and songwriting within a traditional educational structure. Elders share their stories while youth learn the history of their town, and a community is celebrated. His "Here I Stand: Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song" was released on the Smithsonian Folkways label in 1997.

Memorial teaches students history of rights movement

Continued from page 1

The students had begun the morning sitting on the steps of the Alabama state capitol — the spot where Jefferson Davis had taken the oath of office as president of the Confederacy in 1861, and where King addressed a throng of 50,000 people who had marched 54 miles from Selma to demand equal voting rights for Southern blacks.

Steinberg played a recording of the speech, and the students heard King defiantly quote from "The Battle Hymn of the Repub-

lic," the Union's Civil War anthem. Then the students walked to the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where King was pastor from 1954 to 1960.

In the afternoon, they went to the Alabama Archives and History building, where they met with Spider Martin, a photojournalist who chronicled many key moments in the civil rights movement, including the bloody 1965 march that was supposed to go from Selma to Montgomery.

The marchers were stopped at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in

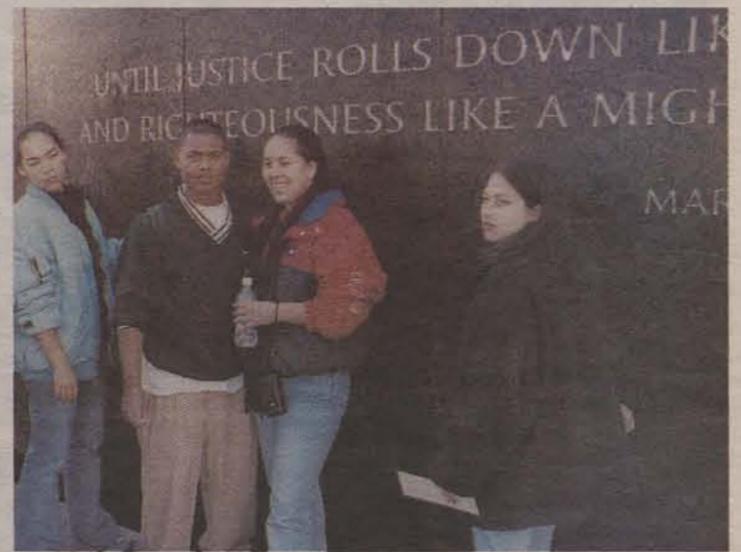
Selma, where they were beaten and gassed by state police in a day known as "Bloody Sunday."

After Martin's presentation, the students also heard from Johnnie Carr, one of the organizers of the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, considered the first major civil rights protest in the South.

The day ended with an evening meeting with attorney Fred Gray, who represented many of the jailed protesters, including King, and was the lead attorney in several of the key civil rights cases.

All the sessions featured keenly detailed accounts of the people and the events in which they participated — the smell of tear gas, the sight of a slamming nightstick, the faith that drove a year-long boycott and the determination, as expressed by Gray, "to destroy everything segregated I could find."

The students presented the speakers they met with plaques featuring a magazine cover or a photo from the period, tailored by Steinberg for each speaker, and a quote. The most frequently used quote has been one from



Traveling on a civil rights history tour in February, Capuchino High School students pose at the Memorial.

King that concludes "... until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

On Feb. 16, as the presenting student read the King quote on Martin's plaque, the other students in the room began reciting the words from memory, quietly, in a near-whisper, until the combined voices rose as if in common prayer.

San Francisco Chronicle columnist Mark Simon accompanied the San Bruno students on their civil rights sojourn. Read all of his reports on the Web at sfgate.com/civilrights. You can also view scenes from the tour by Chronicle photographer Carlos Avila Gonzalez and post your response on the Web site.

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We want to hear from you!

Send us your stories and photographs depicting your involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. Did you march with Dr. King? Participate in a sit-in? Register voters? Were you arrested during the struggle? The Center seeks stories from its supporters in order to compile a supporter tribute to the Civil Rights Memorial. The piece will appear in an upcoming issue of *SPLC Report*.

WRITE: SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
I WAS THERE!
POST OFFICE BOX 548
MONTGOMERY, AL 36101

By sending photos and information, donors give the Center permission to reprint any or all portions of material received. Information and photos will be returned if a self-addressed stamped envelope is sent.

Partners for the Future

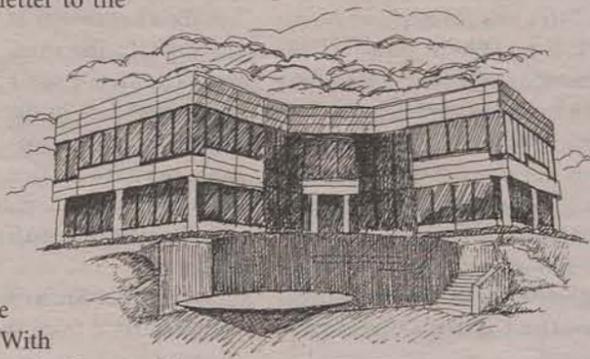
A Way to Help More Than You Thought You Could

The Southern Poverty Law Center has established a planned giving program called Partners for the Future. By participating in Partners for the Future through wills and other special gifts, Center donors can extend their support for equality and justice beyond their lifetimes.

If you plan to or have already remembered the Center in your will or estate plans, please help the Center update its records by sending a letter to the address below.

With the goal of eventually freeing itself from the uncertainties of fundraising, the Center established a permanent endowment in 1974. The Center's goal is to have an endowment large enough to sustain its current level of activities, to fund new projects and lawsuits as the need arises, and to protect the Center from inflation. The Endowment now stands at \$103 million. With your help through Partners for the Future, the Center will reach its goal of self-sufficiency.

The Endowment Fund is a "pact with future generations" that will help ensure resources for the Center's work well into the 21st century.



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IN MEMORIAM

Robert Baruch (1935-1998)

Dr. Robert Baruch, 63, died in December after a six-month battle with brain cancer. "Bob was a person of integrity who believed in fairness, justice and equality," said his wife, Charlotte. A brief look at his life reflects his strong character.

An only child, Bob Baruch was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1935. When he was three years old, he and his family fled the Nazis, going first to Sweden and later, in 1939, coming to the United States. The Baruch family settled in Galveston, Texas. After high school graduation, Dr. Baruch earned a degree in speech and drama from North Texas State University, where he met Charlotte. Upon graduation, the couple returned to Galveston where he taught at his high school alma mater.

After earning his doctoral degree, Dr. Baruch joined the theater faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP). During his tenure there, he served as state president of The Association of University of Wisconsin Professionals, led two semester-abroad programs and worked with the university's student

life division. In 1993, he was honored with the UWSP University Service Award. Dr. Baruch worked at UWSP for 31 years until his retirement in May 1998. His last act was serving as grand marshal for the spring 1998 commencement.

Dr. Baruch loved teaching and directing and was a strong advocate for the students. "I am always pleased when students do well, but I'm so proud of students who try to do right," he observed in his final days.

In 1998, Dr. Baruch's son, Chad Baruch, an attorney and high school coach, applied for and received a Teaching Tolerance grant from the Center. The funds were used to host the first Robert Baruch Teaching Tolerance Basketball Tournament.

Upon his death, Dr. Baruch's family gave the Center's Teaching Tolerance program a generous gift in his memory. "He strongly supported the work of the Center," wrote his wife Charlotte. "It is our wish that you be able to continue to fight evil and oppression in this world, and educate those who are ignorant to it."

