

# SPLC REPORT



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

JANUARY 2001  
VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1

## Martyr honored with Memorial rededication

Johnnie Mae Chappell, a black woman shot to death 36 years ago in Jacksonville, Florida, was recognized on November 18 when the Center rededicated the Civil Rights Memorial in her honor and added her name to its list of civil rights martyrs. It was the first public acknowledgment of her role in the struggle for equal rights.

Mrs. Chappell, a 35-year-old mother of 10 children, was shot on a roadside on the evening of March 23, 1964, as she searched for a lost wallet. The killing garnered only a brief mention in the next day's newspaper, which focused instead on "race riots" occurring then in staunchly segregated Jacksonville. Mrs. Chappell was not involved in the racial activity that engulfed the city. Like many of the martyrs remembered on the Civil Rights Memorial, she was killed in a random act of terror by whites seeking to intimidate the black

community. She has remained virtually unknown for nearly 40 years.

A *St. Petersburg Times* feature brought Mrs. Chappell's story to the Center's attention last April, and Center officials decided to rededicate the Memorial in her honor. "It was the right thing to do," said Center president Joe Levin.

On the Memorial are inscribed the names of 40 individuals who lost their lives in the struggle for freedom during the modern civil rights movement — 1954 to 1968. Between the first and last entries is a space that represents civil rights heroes who died before or after this period and others — like Mrs. Chappell — whose stories were not known when the Memorial was originally dedicated in 1989.

Four young men were indicted in Mrs. Chappell's slaying; one spent three years in prison on a manslaughter conviction, the others had all charges

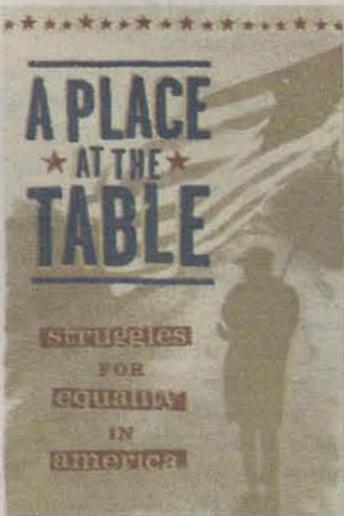


Shelton Chappell views the Civil Rights Memorial for the first time. He has devoted his life to finding justice and recognition for his mother.

dropped. The arrests came months after the slaying and only because one of the four felt remorse and approached a detective who was investigating an unrelated case. The young man confessed, and the other three were arrested and charged. Lee Cody, the detective who made the initial contact, discovered the sheriff's department had covered up the murder after

Please turn to p. 3, "Unheralded martyr..."

## New teaching kit going out to schools across America



The new kit is provided free to educators.

This month, the Center's Teaching Tolerance program begins distribution of its fourth curriculum kit, *A Place at the Table*. The new kit is composed of a 40-minute video, a 144-page text and a teacher's guide. *A Place at the Table* explores how Americans of diverse backgrounds and experience have become full participants in our democracy by toppling barriers in education, transportation, voting, employment, housing and other arenas.

The kit, like the other three developed by the Center, is provided free to educators.

Award-winning filmmakers Bobby Houston and Robert Hudson of Ojai, California, produced the video. Former Teaching Tolerance staff member Maria Fleming — now a freelance writer in New York — edited the text and contributed several chapters along with other freelancers and historians. Booker T. Washington Magnet School teachers Amy Mapp and Randy Foster of Montgomery wrote the classroom activities in the teacher's guide. Picture Research Consultants, Inc. acquired archival imagery for

Please turn to p. 7, "Teaching Kit..."

## Coming this spring: Tolerance.org

The Center will soon launch its newest initiative — an innovative, interactive Web site, [Tolerance.org](http://Tolerance.org). The ambitious project will fight hate and promote tolerance on several fronts: It will teach and entertain; respond to hate events; prompt citizen action; encourage personal soul-searching; and create communities of tolerance activists.

"Tolerance.org will be the foremost national 'well' for tolerance ideas," said Jim Carrier, director of the new project. "It will provide the antidote to the venomous hate sites now proliferating on the Internet."

The site will have components designed specifically for parents, teachers and children. It will include an interactive Civil Rights Memorial, with biographies and photographs of martyrs and the story of the modern Civil Rights Movement. An

interactive map of hate groups will be countered with a map of community resources for fighting hate. A series of stereotype and prejudice tests will allow visitors to assess their own level of tolerance. Constantly updated news reports will provide links to breaking stories of hate incidents. And "The Good News" will describe the best tolerance-related programs in America.

The Center launched its current Web site, [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org), in March 1997. The bulk of its content is a cyber version of the Center's printed magazines and handbooks, including the popular *Ten Ways to Fight Hate: A Community Response Guide* and *101 Tools for Tolerance*. Carrier, now heading [Tolerance.org](http://Tolerance.org), came to the Center two years ago, volunteering his writing skills to author *Ten Ways*.

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www.splcenter.org

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 individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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## MAILBOX

## Writer expresses gratitude for fight against racism

The following letter was addressed to Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees. It was written by Don McClanahan, a hospital system marketing director who lives in Vacaville, California.

In following your unremitting efforts to eradicate the vile elements of racism and intolerance in our country, I would like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation for not only what you have accomplished, but also what you stand for.

As a black man, I'm troubled by some of the accusations made by a minority of blacks against the Jewish people. It has been evidenced time and again that the Jewish people, on balance, have been quite sympathetic and supportive of

civil rights for all, and for blacks in particular.

I feel that it is important you know there are many blacks who understand and deeply appreciate your organization's efforts, as well as that of the Jewish people.

I am forever hopeful that our collective efforts to achieve the liberties and rights granted all Americans under the Constitution will one day become a reality. Thank you for your help in moving us closer to this ideal.

I am new to Teaching Tolerance and the Southern Poverty Law Center, but am so glad to have found you. For so long I felt as if I were fighting hate all alone in my classroom. It is wonderful to find a Web site [www.splcenter.org] with so much beneficial information for me to use as I teach. I finally have a partner — hurray!

J. L.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

very much appreciated! I am a security trainer in the airline security field and come into contact with people from all over the world. I not only have to worry about foreign terrorist groups, now I worry about domestic ones as well. . . . Your Web site has made my job just that much easier! So again, thank you for the wonderful job you folks are doing, and keep up the good work.

M. S.

East Meadow, New York

I have been authorized by our group, Community Unity, to say "Thanks"! Last year, the Ku Klux Klan held a rally here. Someone got a copy of your *Ten Ways to Fight Hate*, and we used it to organize a peaceful boycott of the event. We drew up a resolution in support of non-violent conflict resolution and of respect for all people. We collected about 2,700 signatures, which were published in our local paper.

Since that time, our group has stayed together. We are currently organizing diversity training and literature for the schools, in response to surveys filled out by the teachers. We are also planning a Diversity Fair.

Thank you for your help. Thank you for being there.

M. A.  
Corydon, Indiana

I commend you for the fine work you are doing. Although my area is post-secondary education, I find Teaching Tolerance to be extremely valuable. *Ten Ways to Fight Hate* is fabulous! As an educator, my resources are limited, but you are on the top of my list of organizations that I support financially.

J. R.  
Seattle, Washington

I would just like to say thank you and that the work you do is

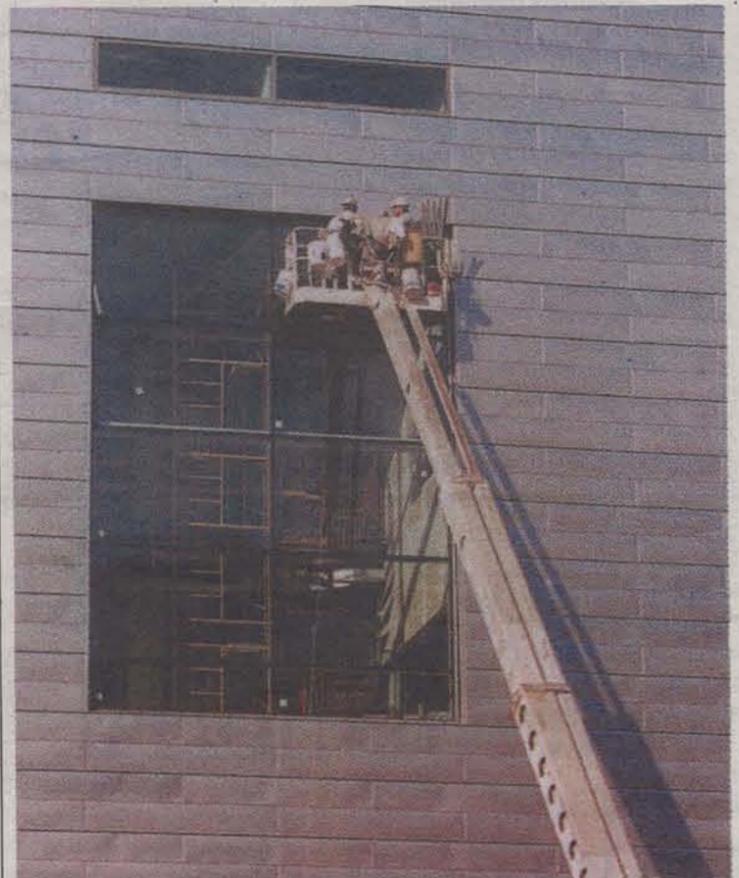
I've been using your materials in my classroom for about five years and really think they are great. My students have responded in a positive way to the readings I provide them from *Us and Them* and to its companion video, *The Shadow of Hate*. Students are often "shocked" to learn that these events occurred here in the U.S. Equally moving are comments from students that support those who stood up for others and said "no" to wrongs being done. Thank you.

M. R.  
Westminster, Colorado

I recently became a contributor and member. As a principal and an 8th grade American Studies teacher, I have found your work to be a rich source of information as we consider whether or not there is "liberty and justice for all" yet.

Your work is very important on many levels, but your educational materials and activities are vital for wonderful young people who live in worlds of affluence, safety, resources and filled with good people. They truly do not know or understand what still exists in our country

M. F.  
Seattle, Washington



## Finishing touches

A two-man crew puts finishing touches on the installation of a window that spans the fourth and fifth floors of the Center's new building. Its north side is all glass, while its south side is clad in a brushed stainless steel skin. Exterior work on the building is almost completed, and Center staff expect to occupy their new quarters in March.

## Plaintiff in landmark state trooper case dies

Phillip Paradise, a plaintiff in one of the Center's most significant civil rights lawsuits, died November 4. He was 55.

The Center filed its pioneering lawsuit, known as the *Paradise* case, against the Alabama Department of Public Safety in 1972, after Paradise was not allowed to apply for a state trooper position. Success came only after a protracted legal battle. The case is typical of landmark Center cases that extend over long periods of time and result in benefits for years after judgment.

Not long after the case was filed, a federal judge ordered the state to hire one black trooper for every white

After the Center's victory in the Supreme Court, state officials ended their resistance and worked with the Center to make the trooper force a model for the nation. The case was finally closed in 1995.

"This was an affirmative action success story. It was also an employment discrimination case where everyone won," said Center legal director Richard Cohen, who argued its merits before the Supreme Court. "This case opened opportunities for white as well as black troopers because it created a promotion system based on merit rather than favoritism."

Today, blacks constitute over 25 percent of the trooper force, the highest in the nation, and they are represented at all ranks.

Paradise did not become a trooper but went to work for the city of Montgomery as a firefighter. He later joined the firefighting force at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Tuskegee, Alabama, until his death. He was also a minister in Rice Temple A.O.H. Church of God.

"Phillip was an extraordinary person," said Morris Dees, the Center co-founder who knew Paradise well. "His name will forever be a part of the history of the civil rights struggle in this country."



PHILLIP PARADISE

# Unheralded martyr honored with Memorial rededication

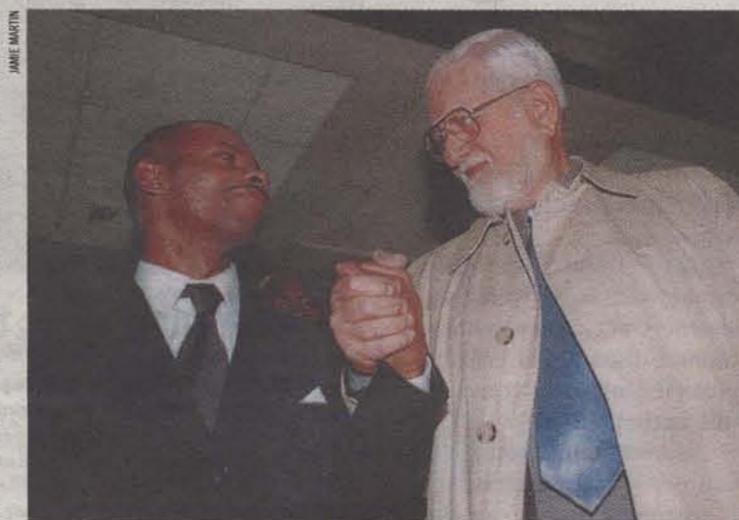
Continued from page 1

an initial investigation at the scene of the crime. He found the case file hidden underneath a desk chair floor mat. Cody and his partner, Donald Coleman, were later fired for their attempts to expose the sheriff's department's burying the case. Cody has spent much of his life futilely asking local, state and federal authorities to investigate his evidence of a coverup.

Mrs. Chappell spent her days cleaning the homes of whites, but her passion was rearing her children. The night she died, she had walked to a neighborhood store to buy ice cream for the family's dessert. Her husband worked two jobs to support the family, and when his wife died, state social workers decided he was unable to adequately care for all of his children. The family was shattered, and the children placed in foster homes. The youngest, Shelton Chappell, was only four months old when his mother died. Now an electrician living in Miami, he has spent his life questioning what happened to his mother and why his family was ripped apart. Most of his siblings never knew the truth about who killed her and what happened to the killers.

Four years ago, Chappell took leave from work to search for answers in Jacksonville. Eventually, he and Cody met, and the two of them continued trying to push for recognition and action.

"The ceremony was heart felt and a life-changing experience," he said. "We finally got to put my mother to rest. It's been a lifelong journey, and we're finally getting the recognition we wanted. My



Shelton Chappell (left) and former detective Lee Cody after the rededication ceremony

mother didn't just die on the side of the road as a nobody," said Chappell.

Nearly 200 persons, including about 80 of Mrs. Chappell's relatives, attended the emotional ceremony. Also present were both former detectives Cody and Coleman and a representative from Governor Jeb Bush's office. Keynote speaker was U.S. Magistrate Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson.

### President Clinton commends Center

"By rededicating the Civil Rights Memorial in her honor," wrote President Bill Clinton for the occasion, you keep alive the memory of her sacrifice and reaffirm the profound truth that the American spirit is stronger than the forces of hate.

"In this new century, with an entire generation of voting Americans who did not witness firsthand the great civil rights struggles and victories of the 1960s, it is more important than ever to remind our nation about victims of those struggles, so

that all of us continue to grow in our commitment to justice and equality. I commend the staff and supporters of the Southern Poverty Law Center for your leadership in this endeavor. Through your education programs, your commitment to overcoming hatred and intolerance, and your sponsorship of this powerful Memorial, you are helping us to learn from the hard lessons of our past so that, together, we can build One America — a society where we can embrace our diversity, respect our differences, and unite around our shared dreams and values," President Clinton said.

After the ceremony was over, Shelton Chappell spent a few moments alone at the Memorial, seeing it for the first time. He ran his hand over the engraved names of martyrs his mother now joins. He said a quiet prayer with tears running down his cheeks.

"This is my mother's spot. This is for her," he said.

# Butler's bankruptcy petition postpones property seizure

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler filed for bankruptcy in late October, just days before he was to surrender his 20-acre compound to Victoria and Jason Keenan. The Chapter 7 petition in U.S. Bankruptcy Court froze transfer of all of Butler's assets.

The Keenans, represented by a Center legal team, won a \$6.3 million jury award on September 7, and Butler faced surrender of his home and compound to satisfy his \$5.8 million share of that judgment. On

October 26, the court denied Butler's bid for a new trial or reduction of the verdict. Butler had earlier agreed to turn over his property — land, buildings, printing presses, computers and so forth — after the judge ruled. He was also to relinquish the Aryan Nations name and Web site address.

Center attorneys said the bankruptcy filing only delays the inevitable transfer to the Keenans.

"Butler may stall for time, but in the end, he will lose his base

of operations," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "This is a classic case of 'He can run, but he can't hide.'"

Victoria Keenan and her son, Jason, were chased and shot at by Aryan Nations security guards near the compound in 1998. The jury ruled that Butler and his organization were grossly negligent in selecting and supervising the guards and awarded compensatory and punitive damages to the Keenans.

Butler moved on October 20 from the compound into a \$107,500 house in Hayden, bought by Vince Bertolini, his friend and fellow racist from Sandpoint.



Richard Butler

# Intelligence Briefs

TRACKING EXTREMIST ACTIVITY

## Klan leader charged with five felonies

AUBURN, IND. — JEFF BERRY, HEAD of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested at his home here in November and charged with five felony counts in connection with his terrorization of a television crew in November 1999. After an interview went sour, Berry refused to allow two reporters to leave his home without first surrendering to him the videotapes of the interview. At one point during the exchange, a Klansman pumped a shotgun to ensure compliance.

The Center filed a lawsuit on behalf of the two reporters, and obtained a default judgment against Berry when he failed to respond to the federal court complaint. The court also fined Berry for "willfully fail[ing] to attend his deposition." On October 10, a hearing to determine damages was held. Center lawyers expect a ruling by year-end.

## White supremacist faces death penalty

LOS ANGELES — FEDERAL PROSECUTORS are seeking the death penalty against Buford Furrow, the former Aryan Nations security guard who is charged with murder in connection with a shooting spree in the summer of 1999. The assault wounded several people at a Jewish community center and left a Filipino American postal worker dead.

Following the crimes, an Intelligence Project photograph of Furrow in his Aryan Nations security uniform first linked him to the group.

The government plans to call at least 91 witnesses, including a dozen or so who can attest to Furrow's "planning premeditation, and racial/religious animus," and several more who will comment on his "future dangerousness."

The trial is set to begin April 24. Prosecutors estimate that jury selection in the case will take two to three weeks and that they will need four to five weeks to present their case.

## Motel denies conference room for Butler's preaching

HAYDEN, IDAHO — A MOTEL canceled an agreement that would have allowed Richard Butler, leader of the recently defunct Aryan Nations, to hold services in a rented conference room. Butler lost his home and church in October after the Southern Poverty Law Center won a \$6.3 million judgment against him and several associates (See related story this page).

Jennifer Edwards, vice president of Silver Lake Motel, said the decision was made as soon as the identity of the church became known. "It's a security issue for us and a loss of business issue," she said. "It's not going to happen, not here."

Vincent Bertolini, who recently purchased a home for Butler here and set up the four-Sunday arrangement at the motel, promised to sue. Bertolini, along with former Silicon Valley millionaire businessman Carl Story, is co-founder of a two-man racist organization calling itself the 11th Hour Remnant Messenger.

## Duke investigated for fraud

MANDEVILLE, LA. — AGENTS from the FBI, IRS, and the Postal Service on November 16 searched the home of David Duke, former Ku Klux Klan leader and perennial racist activist, carting away some 22 boxes of materials related to his alleged misappropriation of donations. An affidavit justifying the actions claimed that Duke sought contributions to support the programs of his white supremacist causes, such as the National Association for the Advancement of White People, then spent much of the money — hundreds of thousands of dollars — on gambling excursions.

At the time of the search and seizure, Duke was in Moscow touting his new book, *The Ultimate Supremacism*, in which he describes the role Russia must play in saving the white race from Jews. Attempting to raise his profile in Europe, Duke has recently met with Russian Duma Deputy Albert Makashov, French National Front leader Jean Marie Le Pen, and Swiss Holocaust revisionist Juergen Graf.

## Young neo-Nazi faces charges

LEMON GROVE, CAL. — ALEXANDER CURTIS, who operates the white supremacist Nationalist Observer Web site, was arrested November 9 on charges that he made a series of racist threats against four community leaders, including a Jewish congressman and a Latino mayor. He is accused of targeting these figures and minorities, in general, through the Internet, phone calls and with acts of vandalism in synagogues.

According to prosecutors, an on-line hate business has netted Curtis thousands of dollars in the past few years. He now faces three federal counts of conspiracy to violate civil rights.

# Democracy Project to help minorities in redistricting



Maha Zaki will direct the research and litigation efforts of the Center's new voting rights initiative.

The Center recently launched a new project to help minority voters participate effectively in one of the most important political processes of the new millennium.

That process is redistricting, the redrawing of district lines from which all local, state and congressional representatives will be elected for the next 10 years. With the upcoming release of the 2000 census on April 1, the "political power brawl" is expected to heat up as elected officials maneuver to protect their districts.

"Although we are facing an unusually large number of obstacles in this 2000 round of redistricting, including efforts to

prevent the creation of majority-minority districts, we are in a unique position to influence the outcome in the deep South," said Maha Zaki, a nationally recognized voting rights lawyer recently hired by the Center to head its new legal initiative. "Our primary objective will be to further real representative democracy and real equal protection of law."

## Project will educate voters

Tentatively called the Democracy Project, the new initiative will educate voters about the redistricting process, provide factual evidence to create racially fair districts, and lay the groundwork to litigate complex voting

rights cases. Statistical and historical reports prepared by the project will be used to prove racially polarized voting, the past history of discrimination and other facts required by the courts.

Center lawyers will also co-counsel with other voting rights attorneys to challenge unconstitutional districts and defend the victories minority voters have won in the past.

Zaki is a former voting rights attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's southern regional office in Atlanta and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington D.C. She joined the Center's legal staff in July.

"Joining forces strategically will help us gain ground in our struggle to ensure equal access to the political process and equal opportunities for minorities to elect representatives of their choice," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "Maha is an experienced, committed and passionate voting rights litigator, and we are fortunate to have her leading this important effort."

Born in Egypt and raised in Georgia, Zaki graduated *magna cum laude* from Georgia State University in 1984 and received her law degree in 1988 from Georgetown University Law Center. Before joining the ACLU, she was an attorney with the Atlanta firms Long, Aldridge & Norman and Kutak Rock.



## Board members tour new building

Center co-founder and president Joe Levin points out features in the Center's new building during a tour for Center board members Jim McElroy (from left), Pat Clark and Howard Mandell. The tour followed a regular board meeting held on December 1. Construction on the six-story building, located across the street from the Center's current office, began in late 1999. Center staff, now scattered in three different facilities, expect to move in their new space in March.

# Experienced law fellow helps Center legal staff with litigation, research

The Center's new law fellow, Rohit Nepal, began a two-year fellowship in October and is already making important contributions to the Center's litigation projects.

Working closely with staff attorneys Pete Tepley and Rhonda Brownstein, Nepal's work includes helping collect a judgment against Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler, pursuing a damages case against Klan leader Jeff Berry, and helping to preserve the Center's successful challenge of Alabama's English-only driving

ruptcy, contracts and enforcing judgments.

"Ro is a rare individual," said Center legal director Richard Cohen. "He gave up an incredibly lucrative career at a major firm to take a fellowship here. Most people would not have traded that security to follow their dreams."



Rohit Nepal

test. That task involves researching arguments for a brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court and helping prepare for a hearing in January.

Nepal's other assignments include investigating other potential lawsuits and writing the "Legal Briefs" section of the Center's *Intelligence Report*.

## Center is choice for civil rights work

"I have always wanted to do civil rights work, and I cannot imagine a better place to begin than here," Nepal stated. "I look forward to learning a great deal and contributing all that I can to the Center's work."

Nepal brings a variety of legal experiences to the civil rights field. As an associate with the New York firm Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP, Nepal worked on cases concerning securities regulation, civil RICO, trade secrets and franchise law. At Anderson Kill & Olick, P.C., another New York firm, Nepal worked on cases relating to insurance, bank-

Nepal received a law degree in 1997 from New York University School of Law. He was editor of the school's *Journal of International Law and Politics* and an advocate with the

Battered Women's Project. He also taught a seminar on religion and the Supreme Court, mentored high school teens, and was a member of the South Asian Law Students Association.

While pursuing an undergraduate degree from Hamilton College, he was inducted into several honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society. He also served as vice-president and secretary for the Root-Jessup Public Affairs Society and as publicity director for the Utica Tutorials Program. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 1994 with a degree in government. A year later, he spent a summer in Massawa, Eritrea, an African country on the northern border of Ethiopia, advising the Ministry of Marine Resource about international environmental law and treaties.



## Rosa Parks Museum dedicated

Dozens of prominent civil rights activists, including Center chief trial counsel Morris Dees, were on hand for the December 1 dedication of the new Rosa Parks Library and Museum in downtown Montgomery. Participating in the ceremony was troubadour Larry Long (top photo, far right), who is collaborating with the Center on a new CD of children's songs celebrating diversity, peacemaking and respect. He led a chorus of children from three rural Alabama communities. A young well-wisher (right) shakes hands with Mrs. Parks at the ceremony's closing. Mrs. Parks and Dees co-chair the National Campaign for Tolerance.



# Center wins agreement to help mentally ill inmates

BESSEMER, Ala. — Prison inmate Thomas Bradley, 39, was diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic at age 17. Incarcerated 10 years later, he suffers from paranoid delusions and severe emotional turmoil. At times, he is mute and unresponsive; other times, he is aggressive and delusional. Doctors believe he will "cycle" in and out of acute states of distress throughout the remainder of his life.



Rhonda Brownstein

For years, he has languished in a state prison here, locked in a cell 22 hours a day and denied the medical care that he desperately needs. Within months of his initial incarceration, he dropped 110 pounds and became unable to stand or walk without assistance.

Only now, after 12 years behind bars, will Bradley — thanks to a Center lawsuit — get the appropriate care he needs.



Dr. Katherine Burns

The litigation path was a long one. In 1992, a class action was filed in federal court on behalf of Bradley and all other seriously mentally ill Alabama inmates. The Center supported the case, and its attorneys shared their expertise and served "as counsel." A federal magistrate concluded in 1997 that state officials had failed to deliver adequate mental health services to inmates, even though they knew that the services were grossly inadequate.

"Despite the obvious warnings to the Department of Cor-

rections that their system for treating acutely and seriously mentally ill inmates was fatally flawed," wrote the judge, "no significant steps were taken to remedy the problem."

The state appealed the magistrate's ruling, and Alabama's severely mentally ill inmates continued to suffer under Alabama's inadequate and unconstitutional system of care. They endured horrific conditions — sometimes ignored, other times punished for cutting themselves, swallowing razor blades and acting out because of their illness.

In September 1999, the Center assumed a more active role in representing Bradley and the other mentally ill inmates. Senior attorney Rhonda Brownstein worked with mental health experts to convincingly document the conditions, and she and other members of the Center legal team spent months compiling compelling evidence for a trial.

"Inmates with serious mental illness were locked-down under primitive conditions, and, if thought suicidal, stripped and made to sleep on the floor on a thin plastic mat," Drs. Jane Haddad and Katherine Burns reported to the federal court. In addition, inmates were left in

the care of inadequately trained and, sometimes, under-qualified staff. Instead of counseling, therapy, and organized activities, they were simply medicated and banished to isolation cells for long periods — sometimes years.

The case came within days of trial late last summer when the state, faced with the Center's overwhelming evidence of unconstitutional conditions, conceded and agreed to vastly improve the system for providing mental health care throughout the state prison system. Attorneys for both sides signed a settlement agreement in *Bradley vs. Haley* on September 28, 2000.

"After eight years of litigation and countless hours of needless pain and suffering, there is hope for these severely mentally ill inmates," said Brownstein.

The settlement requires the state to provide 75 more mental health professionals (an increase of 300 percent), open a new 80-bed mental health unit, and provide more effective treatments for the inmates, including group activities and therapy. The plan also calls for adequate training for prison staff working in the mental health units, routine monitoring of mentally ill inmates and opportunities for them to interact with others when they are able.

Alabama has about 2,000 severely mentally ill inmates. Nationwide, more than 16 percent of prison inmates suffer from serious mental illness.



Dr. Jane Haddad

# Teaching fellow looks beyond borders for new tolerance ideas

Last August, Teaching Tolerance welcomed its new research fellow, Cynthia Pon. A native of Hong Kong, Pon received her doctoral degree in comparative literature at the University of Michigan in 1994. She came to Montgomery from Chatham College in Pittsburgh, where she was an assistant professor of English. In her courses, she specialized in fusing two of her main interests: literature and multiculturalism.

"Cynthia is our first research fellow who has taught at the college level," said Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes. "Her experience in uniting tolerance

education with other disciplines will stimulate new ideas in our work."

In addition to providing writing and research support for *Teaching Tolerance* magazine and other educational materials, Pon will work to promote greater interest in international perspectives.

"In an era of global exchanges," she says, "I think it is important to look beyond one's national boundaries for lessons of diversity and tolerance."

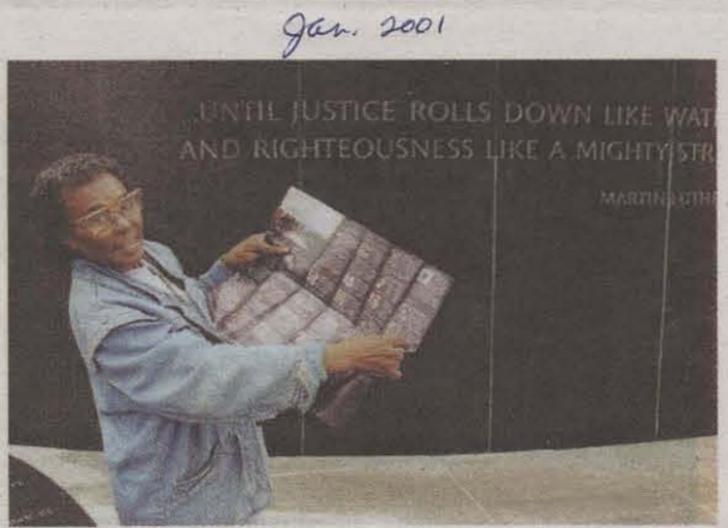
To that end, Cynthia is currently working on an article that

explores several examples of the development of freedom in Asia.

"American students should be interested to learn that there are other interpretations of democracy than the more familiar legal, institutional models in the West," said Pon. "By learning about what other cultures value — such as civic responsibility stemming from Buddhism — and their history, our students can become better citizens and better world participants."



Cynthia Pon



## Martyr's sister visits Memorial

Vada Edwards Smith reviews the Center's revised Civil Rights Memorial brochure on a recent visit to the Memorial. Her brother, Willie Edwards Jr., is included in the Center's list of civil rights martyrs. Edwards, a Montgomery truck driver, was on his way to work January 23, 1957, when he was stopped by four Klansmen. They forced him to jump off a bridge into the Alabama River. Edwards' body was found three months later.

## Teaching Tolerance grant helps Tennessee teachers

BY CAROLYN ROSS TOMLIN

JACKSON, Tenn. — Educators in the Jackson-Madison County School System here face the challenge of teaching an increasingly diverse student population that includes 26 different languages and dialects. Of the 13,689 students enrolled, 51.2 percent are African American, 47.6 percent are white and 1.2 percent Asian, Hispanic and American Indian. Approximately 174 students are limited English proficient (LEP).

Recently, teachers in Jackson asked for more programs to develop or expand reading projects that improve literacy in LEP students. In addition, educators were looking for more opportunities to teach an appreciation of cultural differences. With the help of a grant from Teaching Tolerance, educators found innovative ways to accomplish both goals.

At Andrew Jackson Elementary, teachers developed a program called Teaching Diversity Through Literature and Art, which not only helped enrich cultural understanding of all students, but also expanded the involvement of non-English speaking families in their children's education.

### Project provides books for students

The first component of the project involved purchasing literature books featuring stories from many countries. All students in the school are permitted to check out the books from the library. This comprehensive program ensures widespread and continued use for grades K-5 as well as LEP students and families. The books may be the only printed materials available in some homes as newspapers, books and literature focusing on their cultural heritage are often not available.

"I know books in the home focusing on their cultural her-

itage make a difference," says Dr. Hearn. "The parents are so excited when they can read to their children. The children receive help with homework and parents are more involved in their child's school. When programs involve the child, home and school — everyone benefits."

The second component included field trips to local art galleries, museums and buildings of architectural interest. By viewing art that shows a diversity of architectural design, students appreciated their own and other's differences.

### Parents become active in school

A third component encouraged parents and the extended family to become active in their child's school. Too often, the language barrier causes parents to avoid coming to the school site. Dr. Hearn and her colleagues realized that to involve parents you must first gain their trust.

"Home visits were vital to the success of a program with LEP families. Staff ensured participation by inviting parents and grandparents to demonstrate a craft idea, share a folktale or prepare a native food from their own culture. This had a direct and immediate student impact on the entire class.

"Learning about other cultures through literature and art has been successful for my classes," says Dr. Hearn. "I want all students in our school system to understand that different customs and traditions provide an enrichment that is priceless. A good book is a bridge that connects people of all cultures and beliefs."

In addition to the Teaching Tolerance grant, the district was supported by Partners-in-Education who provided volunteers to read to students and serve as tutors. Carolyn Tomlin is a teacher and grant writer for the Jackson-Madison County School System in Jackson, Tennessee.

# Memorial and Honorary Gifts

## Received by the Law Center from July to September 2000

### In Memory Of

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**Rock CD benefits Center**

Intelligence Project writer John Tye (left) and designer Valerie Downes represented the Center at a special concert in Atlanta on October 28 to kick off the release of "Walk Unafraid," a new benefit CD produced by Atlanta radio station 99X. Money raised from sales of the CD will be split between the Center and the Georgia Equality Project. Disc jockey Chris Williams (right) coordinates the station's fund raising effort. Patrick Monahan (center right) is lead singer of Train, one of the groups performing at the concert and featured on the CD, which also contains a digital version of the Center's Ten Ways to Fight Hate. The CD's title track is by the popular group R.E.M., and its lead singer, Michael Stipe, handpicked the beneficiaries.

**'Partner for the Future' visits Center**

Longtime Center supporter and "Partner for the Future" Barbara Dell and her friend, Wilbur Davison, who is also a Center supporter, recently visited the Center.

"Partners" are dedicated supporters who include the Center in their estate plans or make a planned gift.

Traveling from Maryland to view fall foliage and scenery in Asheville, North Carolina, Dell and Davison drove on to Montgomery to visit the Civil Rights Memorial and discuss plans for setting up a charitable gift annuity.

"It has been a long time dream of mine to see the Center," Dell said. "I've seen it [the Center] in pictures, but I am very happy to finally be able to see it in person and meet some of the people here who have helped accomplish so many wonderful things."

Dell, a retired librarian with 30 years of service in the Washington, D.C., public library sys-



Center "Partner" Barbara Dell and Center co-founder Morris Dees

tem, set up a charitable gift annuity to support the Center's general program activities.

"I considered waiting and leaving funds for the Center in my will," Dell said. "But, because I figured you all could use the money now, I decided instead to

set up the gift annuity."

The Center welcomes inquiries from supporters like Barbara Dell who are interested in providing for the Center in their wills or through other forms of planned giving. See the box on page 8 for more information.

*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 October 1, 1999, through October 31, 2000.*

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**Play's cast forgoes gifts, donates to Center**

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Center recently received a generous contribution from the 29-member cast of "The Great White Hope," performed on the renowned Arena Stage here from August 25-October 15.

This 1967 epic by Howard Sackler deals with American race relations and is based on the life of boxer Jack Johnson, crowned the first black Heavyweight Champion of the World in 1908. In place of traditional opening night gift exchanges, the cast thought it fitting to send a contribution to the Center.

Longtime Center supporter Terrence Currier, once a member of the Arena's now disbanded resident company, performed in the play and persuaded his fellow cast members to make the contribution. "I don't think of a more appropriate voice in the history of our country, intolerance and racism," Currier told cast members.

With enthusiastic approval, the cast collectively donated



Play director Molly Smith (left) and cast of "The Great White Hope" applaud Center's work.

\$690 to be used for general support of the Center's work.

Currier also noted that, coincidentally, the news of the Center's victory against the Aryan Nations appeared in *The Washington Post* the day before the play opened. "This was entirely appropriate," he said.

The subtitle of Currier's contribution to a worthy charity in

place of opening night gift exchanges has been a custom among the actors for several years. In the past, the charity chosen by the actors has been Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids. Currier suggested that a similar tradition be established for the Center whenever the play addresses

**New teaching kit going out to schools**

Continued from page 1  
book. Standard Deluxe of Waverly, Alabama, provided artwork for the kit.

"A *Place at the Table* will help expand students' definition and understanding of what 'civil rights' means," said Teaching Tolerance director Jim Carnes.

The video uses historical photos and archival and contemporary film footage to tell the story of the nation's struggle to ensure liberty and justice for all.

One major element sets this video apart from most historical documentaries: It is narrated entirely by young people, who share with each other and the viewer the stories of their families' experiences in that ongoing struggle — from the survival of slavery and cultural genocide to the challenge of finding a place in today's pluralistic society.

The book component explores this history in greater depth. Each of the 12 chapters focuses on an

individual or group who stood up to intolerance and exclusion or reached out on behalf of others. The book is intended for use as a supplement to the standard history, civics or literature textbook, or as a separate text for teaching.

The video component of *A Place at the Table* premiered at a November film festival in Ojai, where it received a sustained ovation. "It was a great moment and a real thrill to see the audience's reaction," said Carnes.

# Verdict against Aryan Nations prompts outpouring of congratulations

The Center's legal victory against Richard Butler and the Aryan Nations in September prompted individuals throughout the country — and some overseas, as well — to offer congratulations and thanks to chief trial counsel Morris Dees and his legal team. The jury's verdict motivated many to go to the Center's Web site ([www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)) and use its Comment Form to immediately share their thoughts. A sampling of those messages are reprinted here.

Just a quick note to say how unbelievably proud I am of the work you do and how glad I am to have been a supporter these last few years. I will certainly be continuing that support. The latest legal victory supports my view that, however long it may take to persevere, the law is our greatest ally in the fight for justice. Thank you to all your hard-working staff.

J. H.  
Northhampton, Massachusetts

Bravo! I live in Spokane, Washington, just across the border from Coeur d'Alene. I've

received Aryan Nations hate mail and seen it strewn in our public school's parking lot. Thank you so much for your dedication. It paid off big time today. With much gratitude.

M. N.  
Spokane, Washington

I want to thank and congratulate you all on your recent success with the case against the Aryan Nations. I usually do not contribute to causes, but for some reason, this case inspired me to do so. Please keep up the fight. You speak for those who all too often cannot, or are too intimidated, or do not know how to defend their dignity and basic rights. Supporting your efforts and successes allows those of us who are, maybe, a bit of afraid of speaking out to find a voice.

D. R.  
Durham, North Carolina

Congratulations to you on your victory over the Aryan Nations. As a lifetime Idaho resident, I cannot express enough my appreciation for ridding our

state of the cancer of hatred brought to us by Richard Butler. God bless you and keep up the good work.

K. R.  
Boise, Idaho

I want to extend my most sincere congratulations on winning the case against Richard Butler and the Aryan Nations. Please be aware that there are many, many of us — just regular "we the people" types — out here who appreciate all your hard work and good deeds. You are not unnoticed in your fight against these racists and haters, and we thank you so very much. You deserve to be immensely proud of this victory. From all I have read about those people, they have been a scourge on that community, and no one has been able to budge them until now. I thank you and your hard-working staff.

P. W.  
Carmel, California

Congratulations on your latest success in the Keenan case. I hope that your litigation method

can be transferred to Swedish legal conditions so that we can rid our country of similar hate groups.

J. H.  
Sweden

As a long-time supporter of the Center, I am very proud of your litigation efforts in northern Idaho against Mr. Butler and his organization. Thank you to him and his litigation team and to all the good folks who work so tirelessly in the background to improve our imperfect democracy.

D. O.  
Palm Coast, Florida

I can't thank you enough! I've been a resident of Spokane (20 minutes from Coeur d'Alene) for 14 years, and the presence of the Aryans has sickened and embarrassed me. I never believed there was anything that could be done that would effectively shut them down. You have done just that!

There are a handful of people in this world that truly make a difference. Morris Dees and all

the employees of the Center are some of those people. I know you are risking your lives doing this, and you have my utmost respect and my prayers for your safety. I will also be mailing a contribution to help wherever needed. God bless you!

J. C.  
Spokane, Washington

Just wanted to take a moment to say congratulations to all you fine folks at the Center on the Aryan Nations court outcome. I am so proud of the work you do and to be a Center supporter. Your work helps me feel less powerless against the forces of evil amongst us all. God bless and protect!

M. W. B.  
Grandsburg, Illinois

I live outside Spokane. Never have I been so proud of my SPLC membership card. I got it out to impress my students and my own children. Way to go. Your work is so important!

J. M.  
Cheney, Washington

## Leave a legacy through Partners for the Future

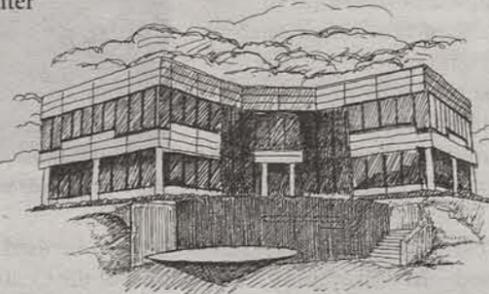
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If you have already included the Center in your will or estate plans, please contact us so we can update our records. We want to welcome you as a Partner for the Future.

The Center extends its appreciation to all of our Partners for the Future for their dedication and support.



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### IN MEMORIAM

#### James Paxton Marshall (1922-2000)

James Paxton Marshall, a loyal supporter of the Center since 1981, died at his home in Prospect, Kentucky, on June 16, 2000.

Born on July 31, 1922, Marshall was raised in Maysville, Kentucky. He received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Kentucky and his master's and doctorate degrees from Michigan State University.

For 28 years, Marshall served as a professor and a public-policy specialist for the Virginia Cooperative Extension at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg. Throughout his career, he helped shape citizen leadership in rural areas and influenced many areas of public policy in Virginia.

"Professor Marshall was an exceptionally gifted Extension educator who personally stimulated many changes that continue to affect the citizens of Virginia," said Les Myers, head of the state's Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics.

Marshall was responsible for developing a statewide program on land-use policy and planning problems. He

was also instrumental in developing Virginia's procedures for taxing agricultural lands and in establishing organizations to allow effective citizen input in shaping the water quality policy in Chesapeake Bay.



In addition, he was a leader in analyzing and shaping national policies for peanuts and tobacco.

The Virginia Rural Leadership Development Program and the "Virginia Assemblies," which brought citizens together to discuss critical public-policy issues, are direct results of Marshall's efforts to develop and encourage citizen leadership in rural communities.

Marshall was described by his family and colleagues as a man of honesty, integrity and compassion. "He was a fighter against all forms of hate and injustice," said his wife, Shirley Moser Marshall. She said his public policy work inspired his support for the Center. "He truly believed in the Center's goals," she said.

As a tribute to Marshall's legacy of compassion and service, the Center has received gifts in his memory from friends and family members.