

May is Jewish American Heritage Month

The Jewish American experience will once again be highlighted in this annual program at the Weinstein JCC on May 1 from 3-5 p.m. with a unique look at race, the Civil Rights movement and beyond.

A short play, written by local storyteller Valerie Davis about the 'human' side of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be followed by a discussion with Jewish leaders and members of the African-American community all of whom are working in various facets for equality in the Richmond community.

Through the eyes and memories of those closest to King, this collection of monologues brings to life the 'human' side of the man who was a "Real Husband, Real Father, Real Brother, and Dear Friend." Ultimately you are left with an intimate portrait of Coretta – his wife; Bernice – his daughter and youngest of four siblings, Alberta – his Mother, Mahalia Jackson and Rabbi Abraham Heschel, dear friends of King. Attendees also will hear from those who never met King, like Carolyn Goodman, mother of slain civil rights activist Andrew Goodman, who was deeply affected by his speeches and passion.

Presented in partnership with the

Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, a panel discussion following the performance will be moderated by VCIC Executive Director Jonathan Zur. Also joining the discussion will be author Clara Silverstein – whose memoir "White Girl: A Story of School Desegregation," which chronicles her experiences as a white child bused to predominantly African-American schools in the 1970s under a court desegregation order in Richmond.

She has spoken about this experience to educational groups around the country, participated in dialogues about race and interviewed others about their experiences during busing. Other panelists will be announced.

This program is made possible by the generous support of the Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights of Richmond Jewish Foundation.

For tickets contact the Weinstein JCC at (804) 285-6500 or purchase online at weinsteinjcc.org.



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Rabbi Abraham Heschel, one of the best-known Rabbis of the 20th century, appears with Martin Luther King Jr. on a number of occasions, including marching in the front row with the King Family in his memorial march. The two met at the 1963 National Conference on Race and Religion in Chicago where King was the keynote speaker. The two remained friends until King's death. A program May 1 at the Weinstein JCC will look at race and the Civil Rights movement to highlight Jewish American Heritage Month. *Contributed Photo*