



'Kindred Spirits' Raises Funds for Israeli Humanitarian Aid Service

The Jewish Symphony along with more than 100 singers from the First AME Church joined together for the "Kindred Spirits" benefit concert at Walt Disney Concert Hall June 5, 2008.

Aimed at raising humanitarian aid funds for Magen David Adom, Israel's medical emergency lifesaving service, the event marked the first appearance of the Jewish Symphony at the renowned downtown Los Angeles venue.

The concert was organized by Temple Beth El of San Pedro's newly founded fundraising organization, called Kindred Spirits. The concert was fittingly presented during Israel's 60th birthday. The non-political event focused on reconstructing the

20th-century relationship between Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The Jewish Symphony and First AME Choir were joined on stage by Temple Beth El's Cantor Ilan Davidson, along with cantors Alberto Mizrahi, Alisa Pomerantz-Boro and David Propis.

Celebrity guests included Valerie Harper, star of the play "Golda's Balcony," who read an excerpt by Golda Meir; actor Ed Asner who read the words of David Ben-Gurion; and Millie Perkins, who starred in the 1959 film "Diary of Anne Frank," who read a piece from the young teen's famous diary.

Humanitarian awards were distributed at the

concert to the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's daughter Dahlia Rabin, and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd., for their continued support of Israel and contributions to society.

Established in 1994, the L.A. Jewish Symphony is an official ensemble of the L.A. County Arts Commission. Its mission is to perform serious orchestral works of known, as well as not commonly recognized Jewish composers; establish opportunities for the presentation of new compositions by Jewish artists; serve as a professional resource for aspiring Jewish and non-Jewish musicians; and act as an educational medium for Jewish music and composers.