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Special Thanks

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The Fourth Annual Robert and Jean Graetz Symposium On Human Rights and Reconciliation

Theme:

THE BELOVED COMMUNITY:

Yesterday a Dream, Today a Hope, Tomorrow a Reality

*April 12, 2010
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

**The National Center for the Study of Civil Rights
and African-American Culture
at
Alabama State University**

**Ralph D. Abernathy
Auditorium**



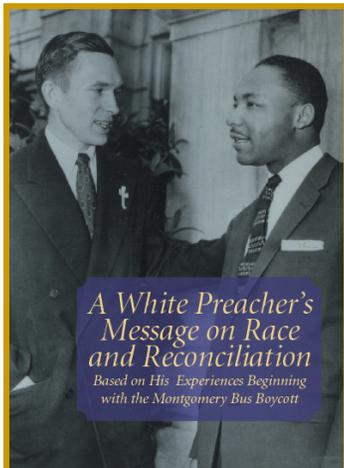
Robert and Jean Graetz Symposium on Human Rights and Reconciliation

The Graetz Symposium is designed to stimulate action-oriented citizens to work toward reconciliation while examining factors that divide ethnic groups. Its focus is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of a "Beloved Community."

The Robert and Jean Graetz Symposium on Human Rights and Reconciliation was founded by the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture at Alabama State University to honor the Graetzes' long-time human rights activism. The couple has worked tirelessly to advance the cause of human rights in our community and around the world.

The Graetz Symposium recognizes the couple's life-long ministry of reconciliation among and between various racial, ethnic, and cultural groups. Most notable was their full participation in the Montgomery Bus Boycott from December 5, 1955 to December 21, 1956. Pastor Robert Graetz was the only European American to serve on the Board of the Montgomery Improvement Association at that time. The Graetz family also lived in Montgomery in an African-American neighborhood and served the African-American congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church from 1955 to 1958.

As ambassadors-in-residence since 2005 for the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African-American Culture, the Graetzes have shared with others their own experiences of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, as well as little-known stories of activism by faculty, staff and students of Alabama State University. Pastor Graetz has recounted his Montgomery experiences vividly in his book, *A White Preacher's Message on Race and Reconciliation: Based on his Experiences Beginning with the Montgomery Bus Boycott*.



ROBERT S. GRAETZ, JR.
Foreword by JOHN LEWIS

Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of a Beloved Community envisioned a society in which all people respect and accept each other with love, regardless of the differences which now divide us. The Beloved Community will be one in which we recognize those differences, whatever they may be, as part of the given-ness of our common humanity, and evidence of God's desire for variety in His world. This will be a society where we see value in ourselves and in all of our fellow human beings, where no one is deprecated for falling short of some artificial standard that others have imposed. King's Beloved Community was a vision of heaven.

-Rev. Robert Graetz

A White Preacher's Message on Race and Reconciliation

Presiding: Dr. Robert White
Instructor of Humanities

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Invocation

Greetings

9:45 a.m. Tribute to Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.
and Occasion

Introduction of Speaker

10:00 a.m. Keynote Address

10:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: "Searching for the Beloved Community"

2:00 - 2:15 p.m.

2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

The Great Debates, II Resolved:
"Racial integration is the most effective method of achieving a post-racist society"

2:45 p.m. Expressions of Thanks

Benediction

Rabbi Scott Kramer
Agudath Israel Synagogue

Dr. Dorothy Autrey
Program Chair, National Center

Mrs. Carole Burton, President
Patrons of the National Center

Rev. Robert Graetz, Consultant
The National Center

Rev. Kathy McFadden
Old Ship AME Zion Church

Ms. Nontombi Naomi Tutu
Human Rights Activist

Q & A

Lunch

Dr. Howard Robinson
University Archivist, Facilitator

In our Schools
Barbara Thompson, Superintendent
Montgomery Public Schools

In our Faith Communities
Rev. Paul Britner, Chair
Interfaith Montgomery

Break

ASU Debate Teams
Dr. Carlos Morrison, Advisor

Dr. Janice R. Franklin
Director, The National Center

Rev. Paul Gourdine,
Dexter Avenue United Methodist Church