

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2015

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50th Anniversary Celebration of the Landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act**A Free Community Program**

Los Angeles, CA (February 5, 2015) - National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles proudly presents an extraordinary program on the 50th Anniversary of the Landmark Voting Rights Act to be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 from Noon to 1:30pm at the NCJW/LA Council House at 543 N. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA.

This Black History Month event celebrates one of the greatest triumphs of the courageous, non-violent Civil Rights Activists during the unprecedented Martin Luther King era of White-Black-Jewish solidarity in the early 1960's.

NCJW/LA is proud to welcome three veterans of the Civil Rights Movement who are participating in our program. All were all unjustly incarcerated in southern jails; all consider their involvement in the movement to have been a life-changing experience; and all went on to successful careers.

Renowned soprano **Gertrude Bradley** will open the Program with a performance of the traditional Spiritual "Steal Away", and will conclude the program with the Anthem of the Civil Rights Movement "We Shall Overcome". The Program will be moderated by **Marcia Coppertino**, a life-long Civil Rights Activist.

Participants are:

Ralph Fertig was a Freedom Rider in Georgia and Alabama in 1961. He later became a Civil Rights Lawyer and a Federal Administrative Judge, and is currently a Professor at the USC School of Social Work. **Robert Farrell** was a Freedom Rider in Texas in 1961. After completing College he became a Journalist, then entered politics, and subsequently served as an L. A. City Councilman for 17 years. **Rick Tuttle** was a volunteer Voter Freedom Worker in Mississippi, and then in Georgia, during 1963 Freedom Summer. He subsequently entered politics, and was elected to 4 Terms as L.A. City Controller. *"It is important to remember that these courageous, non-violent Black, White and Jewish Civil Rights Activists together were able to change our history"*, said Ruth Zeitzew, V.P. of Advocacy for National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles.

Among the three Civil Rights Activists who were murdered by white racists during 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer, Goodman and Schwerner were both Jewish, and Chaney was Black. Events precipitated by the Civil Rights Movement caused President Johnson to convene a Joint Session of Congress to promote the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which changed the political landscape of the South.

Historic photos from the early 1960's will be displayed by Lloyd Clayton, Executive Director of the Mayme

Clayton Library and Museum of Black History.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Ruth Williams, Director of Advocacy, at 323-852-8503.

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ABOUT NCJW/LA

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW's Los Angeles Section has been at the forefront of social change since 1909 by providing the community with programs and services. Today, NCJW/LA serves more than 15,000 individuals each year by providing over 100,000 hours of programs and services with the support of 500 volunteers. NCJW/LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (Tax ID #95-1641433).



National Council of Jewish Women
Los Angeles Section

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