

Johnson shares King's life with students

BY SUE BUCK
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Detroit Roosevelt Johnson spent last week visiting Farmington Schools portraying Martin Luther King Jr.

But it's not unusual to see Johnson, who's part of Mobile Ed Productions, doing the same presentation throughout the year. He believes he's following in the great civil rights leader's footsteps.

"Dr. King worked for peace year round," Johnson explained.

The Farmington community observes King's birthday Monday.

As Gill Elementary School students gathered for an afternoon assembly Jan. 17, they didn't find much in the way of veneration. One person, one podium, one chair, that's it," Johnson said, anticipating their thoughts.

Still, for 45 minutes, he single-handedly recreated the history of King and others as he wove the plain civil rights leader's story in an energetic fashion.

King was assassinated more than 40 years ago. The students watching Johnson's performance



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DIERZKE

knew of King's birthday and seemed receptive.

"He started out a young child," Johnson said. "You each have the potential to be as great. Everything you think in your mind and believe in your heart you can make happen in your life."

At age 11, King became angry and confused when told he couldn't continue to play with a white friend. "Do you think Dr. King wanted to change things?" Johnson asked.

"Racism. Prejudice. I hate those two words. I want you to hate those two words. Dr. King

had to suffer for what he believed in."

King, a peacemaker, was jailed 33 times, Johnson said, and was arrested 127 times.

King's spirit is alive, Johnson said, urging students to "have the courage to be the best you can be."

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OBITUARIES

ENA F. BURKOWSKI

Services for Ena Fredricka Burkowski, 80, of Abcon, Mich., were held Jan. 18 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Mrs. Burkowski was born April 24, 1911, in Minnesota and died Jan. 15, 2002. She worked for General Motors as an assembly worker.

She is survived by her son, Roger; two grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband Walter and son, Gerald.

BRENDAN FITZPATRICK

Services for Brendan Fitzpatrick, 63, of Farmington Hills, were held Jan. 19 at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was born in Plainfield, N.J., and died Jan. 15, 2002, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He was an attorney and enjoyed golf, traveling and woodworking. He was very involved in community activities.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine; sons, Brendan and Andrew; daughter, Elizabeth Plumb; three sisters; and one grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army of Farmington Hills.

Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

MARVIN J. AUBERLIN

Services for Marvin John Auberlin, 95, of Farmington, were held Jan. 16 at Holy Family Church in Novi with the Rev. John Bude officiating. Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mr. Auberlin was born Nov. 6, 1906, in Detroit and died Jan. 12, 2002, at Dorvin Nursing Center in Livonia.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; daughter, Beverly (Dan) Darnell; sister-in-law, Freida Auberlin; and grandsons, Jason (Heather) Darnell and Christopher (Amy) Darnell. He is preceded in death by his brother Albert.

Arrangements made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

GLENN PRINCE

A memorial service for Glenn Farrell (Hale) Prince, 75, formerly of Farmington, will be held at a later date at Trinity Episcopal Church in Farmington.

Mrs. Prince was born May 21, 1926 in Grimsby, Ontario and died Jan. 8, 2002. She was a graduate of Madonna University. Wife of the late John B. Hulett II and the late Frederick W. Prince. Daughter of the late Lt. Col.

Vance R. Farrell, DDS and Edna Beacham Farrell. Devoted sister to the late Ralph R. Farrell.

She is survived by her children, John Hulett III, Jane Klaus, Stephen Hulett, Patrick Hulett and Jane Prince; grandchildren, Kristi, JB, Lisa, Justin, Alex, and JJ.

Arrangements made by Dorrell Funeral Home in Ludington, Mich.

SALVATORE V. CIPRIANO

Salvatore Vincent Cipriano, 69, died Jan. 12, 2002.

Mr. Cipriano was born April 25, 1932 in Brooklyn, N.Y. He played baseball for the Detroit Tigers in 1950 and in 1952 enlisted in the United States Air Force. In 1950 he married Eleanor May Bragg and moved to Detroit where he worked for Ford Motor Company for 39 years.

Mr. Cipriano had a long successful coaching career with the Catholic Youth Organization which included athletic director at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington. He was also a board member of the CYO of Detroit. Mr. Cipriano received the James F. Coughlin Award in 1989 for his outstanding service for over 25 years to the CYO and was also inducted into the Detroit Catholic League Hall of Fame in 1990. In 1973 he organized and coached the first basketball program at the University of Michigan - Dearborn. He also loved to golf and travel.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; sons, Michael (Christina), Nicholas, Robert (Rosa), Gregory (Catherine), Dennis (Sandra) and Ronald (Gretchen); grandchildren, Jacob, Andrew, Benjamin, Anthony, Nicholas, Bethany, Tucker, Tanner, Salvatore, Elias, Arjan, James, Rory, Jolie, Marcus, Sara, Patrick and Tessa; and sisters, Rosemary and Gloria.

ARTHUR KISSNER

Services for Arthur Kissner, 78, of Palm Harbor, Fla., were held Jan. 18 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Kathleen Groff officiating. Burial took place at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

Mr. Kissner was born June 21, 1923, in Detroit and died Jan. 15, 2002.

He is survived by his daughters, Judith (David) Blaney and Kim (Eric) Mendelsohn; seven step-children; 13 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife Laura.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation.

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