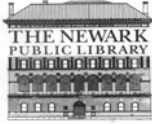


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**PRESS RELEASE**

May 22, 2008  
For Immediate Release  
Please Contact: Heidi Cramer, 973-733-7837

**Newark Public Library hosts Voices of Victory Gospel Choir in its  
Black Music Month Celebration**

Dr. Albert Lewis will bring his Voices of Victory gospel choir to the Newark Public Library on three days in June, as part of the Library's celebration of Black Music Month.

Lewis, known throughout the country for his work in the gospel field, will lead The Voices of Victory in a concert, "A celebration of Gospel Music," in Centennial Hall of the Main Library, 5 Washington Street at 6 p.m. on June 25.

The World Gospel Association choir Voices of Victory will also be performing at the library's Weequahic Branch, 355 Osborne Avenue, on two dates in June. The first of these two performances will be at 11 a.m., Monday, June 16 and is dubbed "Senior Citizen Gospel Day." The second performance is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18 with the "Spotlight on Newark's Youth."

Minister Andre Witcher of the World Gospel Music Association has invited Newark's talented youngsters to celebrate gospel music through song and dance. All three programs are free and open to the public.

"We are pleased to again welcome Dr. Lewis back to the Library," said Director Wilma J. Grey. "His work and enthusiasm in creating choirs has ensured that many talented musicians have found their voices in gospel."

First celebrated in 2002, Black Music Month pays tribute to the contributions of African-American musicians to American culture, from gospel to soul, jazz and hip-hop.

In his 2007 proclamation of Black Music Month, President George W. Bush recognized the outstanding contributions that African-American singers, composers and musicians have made to the nation's cultural heritage. He encouraged all Americans to learn more about the history of black music.

Lewis, who grew up in a household devoted to inspirational music, has dedicated his life to music. His mother, Hattie, was a talented gospel organist, and his aunt, Anna Lundy Lewis, was a renowned choirmaster.

In his long career, Lewis has learned the importance of working in the community, honoring local legends and nurturing new talent. He founded the World Gospel Music Association (WGMA) 36 years ago.

Lewis hosts the Dr. Albert Lewis Gospel Hour Special which airs in Boston and appears on a number of other television programs broadcast through the United States Armed Forces Network. In New Jersey he can be heard on Harvest Radio, WKMB 1070 AM Plainfield.

The WGMA is currently developing a musical academy that Lewis hopes will serve as a platform for young gospel performers and musicians.

In Newark, where he established several long-running traditions including Gospel Music Day, the Newark City Council renamed the corner of Lyons Avenue and Parkview Terrace in his honor: Dr. Albert Lewis Jr. Blvd.

For more information about the concert at the Main Library or to rsvp, please call the Newark Public Library at 972-733-7793 or e-mail [rsvp@npl.org](mailto:rsvp@npl.org). For more about information about the branch events on June 16 and 18, or to rsvp please call the Weequahic Branch at 973-733-7751.