



Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, jr., Rabbi Moshe (then Mickey) Shur and Peter Geffen, September, 1965. Inscribed by Dr. King: "Best Wishes and thanks for your help, Martin Luther King."

The above photograph was taken in September, 1965 outside the rear door of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia following one of the summary sessions of the SCOPE (Summer Community Organization and Political Education Project) of the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference).

The two young men in the photograph with Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. were civil rights workers who came to Atlanta from Orangeburg, South Carolina where they had been working for the local SCOPE project doing voter education, registration, and community development work.

Peter A. Geffen was then 19 years old and a former classmate of Andy Goodman (one of the 3 civil rights workers killed during COFO summer, 1964) at Queens College. He is the Founder of The Abraham Joshua Heschel School (named for and based on the philosophy of the man whom Dr. King used to call "my Rabbi") in New York City. The friendship between Rabbi Heschel and Dr. King deepened over the last five years of Dr. King's life to such an extent, that Rabbi Heschel used the following extraordinary words in introducing King to his fellow Rabbis of the Conservative Movement: "Martin Luther King is a sign that God has not

forsaken the United States of America.” The Abraham Joshua Heschel School seeks to imbue in its students the meaning and power of Rabbis Heschel’s commitment to the cause of civil rights and the life work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Peter is also Founder and President of The KIVUNIM Institute, an international Jewish educational program based on the principles and values he learned from both Heschel and King.

Mickey Shur was then 21 years old and a student at the Joint Program of Columbia University and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America (the center of Conservative Judaism). Today he is a practicing Orthodox Rabbi, and served as the Hillel Director of Queens College of the City University of New York (where the slain civil rights worker, Andrew Goodman had been a student in 1964). He is the Founder of the Diaspora Yeshiva Band and a talented composer and performer of Jewish music.

The original photograph was made with a Polaroid, with the inscription signed on the back. The current photo was made by enlarging the Polaroid and super-imposing the inscription onto the left side.