

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

# Clarke Press Release

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## **Senator Hansen Clarke Joins Detroit Delegation in Israel to Honor Reverend Kenneth Flowers with Martin Luther King Jr. Award**

LANSING—Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) has joined with 27 metro Detroiters—both black and Jewish—for a trip to Israel, where Detroit pastor Kenneth Flowers and Israeli musician Miri Ben-Ari will be honored in the name of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Fellowship of Israel and Black America, a Plymouth-based organization founded in 2006, will hold its first awards ceremony Jan. 15, King's birthday. The group is traveling with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Metro Detroit.

On King's birthday tomorrow, the delegation will visit the residence of Israeli President Shimon Peres for the ceremony to recognize Flowers and Ben-Ari for their efforts to improve goodwill between the Jewish- and African-American communities. The Martin Luther King Israeli Award will be presented to the Rev. Flowers, pastor of Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, and Ben-Ari, who has been dubbed the hip-hop violinist because of her bridge-building in the genre.

“This has been an amazing experience, and it’s heartening to know that from Detroit to Israel, we can find commonality in working for greater peace and tolerance amongst mankind,” said Clarke. “As we work to carry on the efforts of Dr. Martin Luther King from the Capitol in Lansing to the streets of Detroit, it has been an honor to work with Rev. Flowers and to be able to see his goodwill recognized like this.”

Flowers has been pastor of the church for 13 years, and has worked continuously to link with Jewish temples to bond over the recognition and celebration of the shared history of slavery and freedom between Jewish people and African Americans.

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