

Local News

Perlman elected MARCC president at meeting

By Nicole Skelley

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Judge Burton Perlman was elected president of MARCC (the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati) at the organization's 30th annual meeting on Feb. 10. Dinner and a business meeting were hosted by Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church, and Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, spoke at 7:30 p.m. across the street at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church.

During the business meeting, Rabbi Arthur Flicker of Congregation Ohav Shalom, president of the Cincinnati Board of Rabbis and a member of the Jewish Community Relations Council board, was confirmed as the Jewish community's representative to MARCC's weekly executive board.

Upon accepting the presidency, Perlman spoke about "Why MARCC?" and his vision as president. He also commented on the work of his predecessor Thomas Choquette and the "good things to come in the future."

After the celebration to welcome the Cincinnati Islamic Center into the Coalition, participants



Part of the Jewish community delegation at the MARCC meeting: Left to right, Milton Schwartz, president, Jewish Community Relations Council; Rabbi Sam Joseph, Andrea Rapp, Alice Abrams, associate director, JCRC; Alice Perlman; Judge Burton Perlman

walked across the street to hear Zimmerman speak about "The Religious Community's Responsibility for the Wider Community." He emphasized that all of the judicatories in MARCC believe in God and urged them to "bring God's message into the wilderness of life."

"Have we created God's kingdom right here on earth?" Zimmerman asked. "Like it says in Micah, we need to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God."

"We need to fill time and space with care and love or we just

have empty space," he concluded.

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, which was created in 1968 as a way of responding to riots and rebellions of the time, is one way the Jewish community increases its impact on local social policy decisions by working together with 15 other judicatories—Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant and Muslim.

For more information about MARCC, call Duane Holm, director, at 721-4843.