

The Unforgettable, Unsung Sorors of the Civil Rights Movement ***“An Exhibit for the 2012 Boule”***

Sorors, the International Archives Committee published an announcement in the Ivy Leaf Spring 2011 Edition. Chapters and Sorors were asked to submit information about the activism of our Unsung Sorors. Please see the below details about this prestigious exhibit.

As the nation reaches the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights movement, the International Archives Committee is developing an exhibit to celebrate the civil rights heritage of the sorority and its individual sorors. Over the years, many of our Sorors played critical roles and made personal sacrifices in the struggle for civil and human rights. Across this country they stood up and spoke up to the entrenched power of segregation and racism. They stopped riding city buses and started walking for freedom. They filed lawsuits to combat the nation’s Jim Crow laws and built a record of victory. Sorors became Freedom Riders and participated in voter registration drives. They served on boards, worked with the major organizations of the movement, including the NAACP, the American Council on Human Rights, CORE, an SNCC, raised money to help pay fines, bail, and defense fees, and generally provided leadership for the nonviolent resistance. They led the unforgettable songs of the day because they knew, “A Change Is Gonna Come.” The change has come, but we cannot forget our history.

Each region will be represented with one panel in the physical exhibit as well as with a segment of the interactive on-line exhibit (including presence in the planned Honor Roll). In acknowledgment of the timeless Civil Rights service provided by the Sorors of Alpha Kappa Alpha, while also celebrating the 60th anniversary of the song “Unforgettable,” our committee is excited to solicit the research support of Sorors.

Please note: All material received will be used by the committee and then donated to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in Howard University’s Founders Library at the close of the exhibit.

We are pleased to announce that our very own **Former Basileus Soror Claudine McDonald** will be honored in this prestigious exhibit. Soror Claudine was personally asked to present her material and we are elated to celebrate her notable accomplishments as an “Unsung Soror of the Civil Rights Movement”. Soror Claudine submitted extensive information to the committee: biography, description of contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, newspaper articles, video, speeches, magazine articles, posters, event invitations, published writings, oral history tapes, unpublished manuscripts, correspondence, and photographs.

Please enjoy the following highlights of Soror Claudine’s accomplishments as an “Unsung Soror of the Civil Rights Movement”.



In this photo, Soror Claudine is standing in front of the Civil Rights Mural in the basement of The Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, in Montgomery, Alabama for a book signing on January 17, 2011.

✿ Claudine Shannon McDonald is a retired teacher from the Montgomery County Public School district in Rockville, Maryland, where she taught Family and Consumer Science for 40 years. A graduate of Alabama A&M University, she began her career as an Early Childhood Education teacher in The Huntsville, Alabama Public School System. She later did graduate work in Family and Consumer Science at the University of Alabama, University of Maryland, and Hood College.

✿ Claudine is originally from Montgomery, Alabama, the heart of the South and the Civil Rights Movements. She is a former member of The Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery. As a young girl her pastors included the late Vernon Johns and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1955, she and her family participated in the legendary bus boycott of Montgomery, which was organized to protest the injustice of segregation on city buses in the south.

✿ Claudine's family was one of the few Afro-American families in the early 60's in Montgomery that owned their own business. Her parents owned a small family restaurant called "The Shrimp Boat". The meals were wonderful and people came from near and far to eat at their restaurant. Her mother was an excellent cook and she taught Claudine and her sisters to cook at an early age. Meal time in their home was always very special. All seven children had to work in the restaurant after school and on weekends.

✿ Claudine is a published author of , "*Simply Elegant Southern Cooking: Recipes with a Gourmet Flair and The Influence of Family Traditions*", released on October 28, 2009

- ✿ Claudine has received many honors during her career, including "Outstanding Teacher In Fashion Merchandising in 1985, selected "Home Economics Teacher Making a Difference, 1995, Excellent Teacher Award, 1996, Distinguished Mother of The Year Award, from The Potomac Valley Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. 1997, Who's Who Among America High School Teacher, 1998, 2004 and 2005, Basileus of the Year Award, 2nd Place Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, North Atlanta Region 2003. Claudine will be honored at the 2012 Boule in San Francisco California as one of the Unforgettable, Sorors of the Civil Rights Movement for the North Atlantic Region. At the close of the Boule, the exhibit of her work and her two cookbooks,, *Simply Elegant Southern Cooking* and *Fine Southern Living Gourmet Cookbook* will be donated to Moeland-Springarn Research Center in Howard University's Founders Library.
- ✿ Some of the courses Claudine taught as Family and Consumer Science teacher include Fashion Merchandising, Child Development, Culture Cuisine, Gourmet Foods, Baking and Interior Design. She has planned and organized dozens of major fashion shows for high school students and churches. She also escorted fashion students from the Montgomery County Public School System on over nineteen trips to New York City for fashion shows and fashion studies.
- ✿ Claudine is the founder of the 40 yr old Les Bon Vivants Gourmet Cooking Club. She has also served as Vice President of Xi Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for 6 years, and held many other offices in the chapter. She served as president of Theta Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. in 2003-2004.
- ✿ Claudine is the president and CEO of Claudine and Company, and counts wedding coordinating, decorating and floral arranging among her many talents.