

CORETTA SCOTT KING

NAME: Coretta Scott King (Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

ADDRESS: 234 Sunset Avenue, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30314

TELEPHONE: Area Code: 404 - 522-2350

BIRTHDATE: April 27, 1927

BIRTHPLACE: Marion, Alabama

PROFESSION: Lecturer, writer, concert singer

MARITAL
STATUS:

Widow of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., whom she married on June 18, 1953. She is the mother of four children: YOLANDA DENISE, born November 17, 1955; MARTIN LUTHER III, born October 23, 1957; DEXTER SCOTT, born January 30, 1961; and BERNICE ALBERTINE, born March 28, 1963.

EDUCATION: Lincoln High School, Marion, Alabama; Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio; combined majors in music and elementary education; New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Massachusetts; major in voice, received Bachelor's Degree in Music, 1954.

MUSIC

BACKGROUND: Mrs. King studied voice and piano at Lincoln High School in Marion, Alabama, with Miss Olive J. Williams. She was leading soloist for many of the school's musical productions. At Antioch College, she continued voice and piano study and began violin training as well. She sang with the college choir, and served as soloist for the Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Ohio. While attending the New England Conservatory of Music, she studied voice with former Metropolitan Opera Star, the late Mme. Marie Sundelius. She was a member of the Conservatory Chorus, which was selected to do an annual performance with the famed Boston Symphony. Mrs. King also sang regularly with the Old South Choir, and had the honor of premiering at the New England Conservatory of Music the "Motivos de Son" song cycle by Cuba's most outstanding composer, the late Amadeo Roldan.

CONCERT

APPEARANCES: Mrs. King made her concert debut in 1948 at the Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Ohio. She has made numerous appearances in cities throughout the United States. In 1959, while touring India with her husband, she was invited to sing for many groups in cities, towns and villages throughout India. After her performance before the students

CONCERT
APPEARANCES

Continued: and Faculty members of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Music School in New Delhi, the music critic for the Times of India a leading newspaper, wrote:

"Mrs. King rendered two Negro 'Spirituals' which stood out for their grace and beauty of expression. Her second song, 'Nobody Knows ...' had sweet and plaintive strains. One would see that Mrs. King exploited the vocal modulations to great effect. This invested her songs with a rare glow and intensity of feeling."

LECTURE

APPEARANCES: As a speaker, Mrs. King occasionally has substituted for her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and also has appeared in her own right before church, civic, college, fraternal, and peace groups in many of the major cities over the nation.

FREEDOM
CONCERT

APPEARANCES: As her own contribution to the Civil Rights Movement, Mrs. King has developed and performed the Freedom Concert. The concert combines lecture, poetry and music in order to present the history of the Movement; and since the proceeds for the performances go to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, her contribution has been very significant: She has performed more than thirty concerts, with proceeds totaling over 55,000 dollars.

AWARDS AND
RECOGNITIONS:

Mrs. King was featured in cover stories in Jet Magazine in December 1958, February 1964, April 1968, and again in May 1969. She was the subject of cover stories in Ebony magazine in January 1959 and September 1968. The first issue of New Lady Magazine - January 1966, also presented a cover story on her.

She has received the following awards and citations:

1957 - National Council of Negro Women's Annual Brotherhood Award.

1959 - Montgomery Improvement Association's Outstanding Citizenship Award

1960 -. Delegate at Large to White House Conference on Children and Youth, Washington, D. C.

AWARDS AND
RECOGNITIONS

Continued:

- 1960 - The St. Louis Argus' Merit Award
- 1962 - Utility Club's Woman of the Year Award,
New York, N. Y.
- 1962 - Woman Power Unlimited - Citation
Jackson, Mississippi
- 1962 - Cited in presentation of A Salute to
Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., by
New York Friends of SCLC
- 1962 - Delegate to the seventeen nation Disarma-
ment Conference for Women Strike for
Peace, Geneva, Switzerland.
- 1962 - National Organization of Colored Women's
Clubs' Distinguished Achievement Award
- 1963 - American Jewish Congress Women's
Auxiliary first annual Louise Waterman Wise
Award in area of Peace and Human Relations,
New York, N. Y.
- 1963 - The Interdenominational Ministers' Wives
Association Certificate of Appreciation for
Outstanding Service in the Civil Rights
Movement, New York area.
- 1963 - The Women Strike for Peace Citation for work
in the area of Peace and Freedom, New York, N. Y.
- 1964 - Norfolk Chapter, Links, Inc. - Human Dignity
and Human Rights Award.
- 1964 - Appeared - ABC Documentary Memorial Presenta-
tion on John F. Kennedy's Life.
- 1965 - Hadassah's Myrtle Wreath Award, presented in
Cleveland, Ohio
- 1965 - Citation - Rinkeydinks, Inc., Columbus, Ohio
- 1966 - Delta Chapter Iota Phi Lambda Sorority
Bronze Woman of the Year in Fine Arts, Atlanta, Ga.

AWARDS AND
RECOGNITION
Continued

1966 - Delegate to the White House Conference
"To Fulfill These Rights" at which she
sang the "Star-Spangled Banner"

1966 - Gallup Poll "Most Admired" List, among eight
Negroes on the list. She was one of the
three Negro Women on the list of the 20 most
Admired Women in the World.

In addition, Mrs. King has been the subject of television
programs, filmed by the Canadian Broadcasting Company of
Toronto and the Yomiuri Television Network of Tokyo, Japan.

Mrs. King has also been featured in articles in "Damernas"
and "Idun Vecko Journalen", two Swedish magazines.

AFFILIATIONS: Mrs. King is a member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, where her late husband was co-pastor with his father, Martin Luther King, Sr. She is a member of the Church Choir, and the advisor to the Courtesy Guild.* She holds a life membership in the National Council of Negro Women. Member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Women Strike for Peace; the YWCA, Links, Inc.; and the United Church Women serving as a member of the Board of Managers of the last mentioned organization. She is also a Sponsor of the Sane Nuclear Policy; Committee on Responsibility, Inc.; and the Margaret Sanger Memorial Foundation. She was also a sponsor of the 1966 Fall Mobilization and the 1967 Spring Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam. Mrs. King is also an honorary member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; member of Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Board of Trustees; Member of Board of Directors, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; President of Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center, and Board Member of Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation of Great Britain.

TRAVEL:

Since first traveling in Europe and Africa in 1957, Mrs. King has visited in some seventeen foreign countries. In 1955, she again traveled in Europe as well as in Asia, visiting India and the Holy Land. In 1958 she traveled to Mexico, and 1964 made a brief visit to Nassau in Bahamas. In 1965 she accompanied her late husband to Europe.

**PUBLICA -
TIONS:**

- In 1948 - Article in OPPORTUNITY Magazine, entitled "Why I Came to College."
- In 1964 - Article in June issue of GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MAGAZINE, entitled, "My Dream for my Children."
- In 1964 - A reprint of the article "My Dream for my Children" appeared under the titled "Mon Reve pour mes Enfants" in the French Magazine, LA VIE; Catholique Illustree"

*Renamed The Martin Luther King, Jr. Courtesy Guild.

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PUBLICA-

TIONS:

(Continued)

In 1968 - Liner notes for Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Album.

Article in December issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine, entitled, "A Special Christmas Message from Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr."

Contributor to symposium in December issue of Coronet Magazine

In 1969 - Article in April 2, National Catholic Reporter
Article in Roto Magazine

POSITIONS

HELD:

In 1962 - Voice Instructor, Music Department, Morris Brown College, Atlanta, Georgia

Antioch College: Library Assistant in Science and Music Libraries; Teacher in Antioch Nursery School for one year; Teacher of Music in Antioch Elementary School for one year. Junior Group Worker, The Friendly Inn Settlement House, Cleveland, Ohio; Music Counselor, Camp Karamu, Breckville, Ohio; Library Assistant, New York Public Library, Riverside Branch. (Note: These positions were held during the time of her college career, 1945-51, and in connection with her degree requirements and were of three to five months duration.)

May 30 **

Narrator of "A Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland with Washington National Symphony, Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C., concert given in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Postponed because of rain, given on May 31 in Constitution Hall; May 30 - visited Resurrection City

June 4 *

Addressed the International Convention of State, County and Municipal Employees in Miami, Florida

June 5

Flew to Los Angeles after Senator Robert Kennedy had been shot

June 6 - 9

With Kennedys - returned from Los Angeles on plane sent by Vice President Humphrey to return the Senator's body to New York City. Attended funeral - Saturday, June 8 in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City; traveled with funeral party by train to Washington for interment. Arrived in Atlanta on Sunday, June 9

June 12 **

Addressed graduating class at Harvard University

June 19 *

One of the main speakers for Solidarity Day, Lincoln Memorial - Washington, D. C.

June 21

Met with Nat'l Comm. of Inquiry; Present at press conf. called by Cong. Conyers for N.C. I.

Remarks to National Meeting of President's Commission on the Status of Women, Smithsonian, Washington; * visited Mexicans, Indians, residents from Appalachia at Hawthorne School

June 23

Women's Day Speaker, Big Bethel A.M.E. Church in Atlanta, Georgia

July 4

Attended reunion Lincoln High School, Marion, Ala.

July 10 - 22

Writing in New Hampshire

July 23

Keynote Speaker - McCall Corporation Forum "Womanpower - in-Action: Toward the Reduction of Violence". Brotherhood in Action Center, New York City; called of King-Kennedy Assassinations

July 28 - August 11

Writing

August 14***

Attended Board meeting of SCLC, Memphis, Tennessee

August 15*

Featured speaker, annual SCLC Freedom Banquet, Memphis

August 17*

Recipient - Women of the Year Award from National Association of Radio and T. V. Announcers - in Miami, Florida; received contributions from Madison Square Garden Benefit - \$51,000 Atlantic Records

August 20 **

Executive Committee Meeting of National Committee on Inquiry in Chicago, Illinois

August 28

(First) Recipient - Nettie B. Smith Gold Medallion - featured speaker at Daughter Elks Convention - I B P O E, New York City

September 4

Addressed Women's Auxiliary of National Baptist Convention - Atlanta, Georgia

September 5

Addressed Women's Auxiliary of Progressive Baptist Convention - Washington, D. C. - also spoke to Men of the Convention

October 4

Delivered address at Spiritual Service - inauguration of Morris Abram as President of Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

October 21 - 22

Recipient of award from Board of Managers of which she is a member, Church Women United - Bagdad, Kentucky

October 23

Award - Excellence in the field of Human Relations - given by the Society for the Family of Man

October 30*

Attended Art Exhibit, A Tribute to Martin Luther King, Museum of Modern Art, New York City. Proceeds in excess of \$60,000

November 8

Awardee - National Council of Women - Conscience Award for 1968

November 22

Speaker, with Kenneth O'Donnell, at John F. Kennedy Awards Dinner sponsored by Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago, Judge Otto Kerner, former Governor of Illinois and Chairman of the President's Commission on Civil Disorders, honoree

November 23*

Spoke to weekly Saturday morning meeting of Operation Breadbasket, Chicago, Illinois

December 5

Principal speaker - 13th Anniversary of Montgomery Improvement Association, Montgomery, Alabama

December 7

Civil Liberties Award - American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia. Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Biltmore, Atlanta, Georgia

December 9

Departed Atlanta for Jamaica, West Indies where on Tuesday, December 10, she accepted the Marcus Garvey Award for International Understanding awarded posthumously to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Arena - Kingston, Jamaica

December 21

Along with children, taped appearance for "60 minutes" to be shown on December 24 - CBS T.V. Network

Awards - 1968

1. Nettie B. Smith Gold Medallion - the first - Daughter Elks, Independent Brotherhood Protective Order of Elks, Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton at Rockefeller Center in New York City on August 28
2. Woman of the Year - National Association of Radio and Television Announcers - Auditorium, Miami Beach, Florida on August 17, 1968, Trophy
3. Plaque - African Methodist Episcopal Ministers' Wives - Big Bethel A.M.E. Church in Atlanta, Georgia. June 23
4. Plaque - American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia - Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton - Biltmore in Atlanta, Georgia. Saturday, December 7.
5. Los Amigos Outstanding Citizen Award
6. Citation - Woman of Conscience Award - National Council of Women
New York City. November
7. Medallion and cash award - Award for Excellence in Human Relations - Society for the Family of Man, Grand Ballroom of the Americana in New York City. October 23
(Did not attend - award received by
8. Universal Love Award, first non-Italian to receive it, given annually by Premio San Valentino Committee, Giodarni Zucchi principal sponsor; awarded in Verona, Italy on Saturday, January 18, 1969
9. Fifth Most Admired Woman on Gallup Poll
10. Wateler Peace Prize

January 15

Formal announcement of Martin Luther King Memorial Center, Atlanta. Announcement made in operative portion of the Center - the Library in the basement of Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Attended birthday Commemoration Ceremonies at Ebenezer Baptist Church, groundbreaking of Martin Luther King Village, and graveside ceremonies

January 16

Departed for Italy and India. Held press conference in New York City - Alitalia Lounge at J.F.K.

January 17

Arrived in Rome - unscheduled - Milan, given official welcome by the Mayor, traveled to Verona, given official welcome by mayor; attended dinner honoring press

January 18

Dedicated Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School - suburbs of Verona, Italy

January 18

Received Universal Love Award in Verona, Italy Building

Luncheon - Tuo Durro Hotel; press conference - ibid - unscheduled press conference; return, by auto to Milan

January 19

Departed Milan, by air, for Rome - overnight in Rome

January 20

Audience with His Holiness - Pope Paul, VI, Papal Library Vatican City. Bishop Paul Marcinkus of Chicago - stationed at the Vatican, intermediary Press Conference at airport

Departed from Rome, via Air India, for New Delhi, India

January 21 - 28

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February 5

Main speaker at rally sponsored by Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, * Steps of the United States Department of Justice, Washington D.C.

*Named a co-chairman of this organization succeeding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

February 11 -12

Narrated "A Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland, Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.
Washington National Symphony Orchestra
Conducted by Mr. Copland.

February 16

Same presentation in Philharmonic Hall, Lincoln Center, in New York City. Same principles

February 25

Inaugurated Helen Hadley Blanchard Fellows Lecture Series at Yale University, New Haven Connecticut. Woolsey Hall

March 9

Address - Local 1199 "Salute to Freedom", Hunter College Auditorium, New York City

March 10

Statement on sentencing of James Earl Ray

March 13

Inaugural Address of Boston University Centennial; recipient of Doctor of Humane Letters from the University

March 14

Departed for London, England, arrived evening of 14th

From January 21-28 Mrs. King visited India where she accepted the Indian Government's Nehru Award for International Understanding presented posthumously to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mrs. King was the principal speaker at the ceremonies.

During her visit to New Delhi, she also delivered addresses to: The American Community, the Gandhi Peace Foundation, the All India Women's Conference, the presentation ceremonies on the issuance of Special Martin Luther King stamp, the Harijan Association, and the students of Delhi University. At the Harijan's meeting, she announced that one-half of the Nehru Prize money would be given to the Harijans for scholarships.

In addition, she visited the Nehru Museum, Gandhi samadhi, and Taj Mahal (Agra).

Luncheons in her honor were given by President Zakir Hussain (now deceased) and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Dinners for here were given by: Dr. E. N. Khosla president Indian Council for Cultural Relations; Ambassador Chester Bowles of the United States of America, and Dr. Triguna Sen, Minister of Education, Government of India.

On Republic Day, January 26, Mrs. King was the guest of honor at the celebration and the President's reception.

In Bombay, Monday, January 27, Mrs. King was the guest of the Bombay Centenary Committee and Dr. and Mrs. P. V. Cherian, governor of Maharashtra State.

She addressed: students of S.N.D.T. University, inaugurated the Gandhi Corner at Prince of Wales Museum, two Harijan associations, the India International Committee, a civic reception by the Mayor of Bombay, and Lions Club of Bombay.

March 15

Attended Immigrants Meeting

March 16

Sermon - St. Paul's Cathedral. First woman to preach at Statutory Service, Subject - "The Dawn of a New Day." Immigrant Reception; BBC and Religious Press Interview

March 17

1. Received by Mrs. Wilson, wife of Prime Minister Met and talked with Prime Minister Harold Wilson
2. Received by WILPF and some members of Parliament
3. Addressed fund raising meeting for Great Britain's Martin Luther King Foundation
4. Reception for Foundation Members

March 23

Lecture - Sunday Evening Forum - University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

March 31

Principal speaker - Martin Luther King Memorial Luncheon Annual Meeting American Orthopsychiatric Association, New York Hilton Hotel, New York City

April 1 - 3

Working on manuscript in New York City; Returned to Atlanta afternoon of the third; evening of April 3, received Secretary of Health Education and Welfare, Robert Finch, who gave Mrs. King personal letter from President Richard M. Nixon and discussed with her the Nixon Administration's plans for assisting with the Martin Luther King Memorial Center

April 4 - 6

In Atlanta for first anniversary of assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mrs. King and her children placed a wreath on the crypt of Dr. King at noon

April 5

At home with her family

April 6

Attended Sunday school and morning worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church - sang with the choir.

April 7

Returned to New York City to complete manuscript.
Remained in New York City until Saturday April 19.
Manuscript submitted to publisher Friday, April 18

April 29

Charleston, South Carolina, in support of Local 1199B
addressed two mass rallies in the evening

April 30

Charleston, South Carolina led March of striking
hospital workers and addressed noon day rally.

May 6

Addressed A. Phillip Randolph 80th Birthday Celebration,
Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York
City.

May 10 and 11

Mrs. King, accompanied by her children, her sister
and her son, also Mr. Robert Norwood went to Marion,
Alabama for business and to spend the Mother's Day
Weekend with her parents.

May 18

Women's Day Speaker - Union Baptist Church, Mont-
clair, New Jersey

May 23

Principal Speaker - Joint Meeting - Associated Church
Press and Catholic Press Association - Atlanta, Ga.

May 29

Speaker - Mass rally for hospital workers, Charleston,
South Carolina

June 1

Baccaulaureate Speaker, Booker T. Washington High
school, Atlanta, Ga.

June 3

Recipient - Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters,
Marymount Manhattan College, New York, New York

June 8

Recipient - Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humanities,
Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

June 8 (cont'd)

Presenter - News and Documentary Awards - Twenty -
first Emmy Awards Presentation, Carnegie Hall, New
York, New York - CBS Network

June 17

Principal Speaker - Biennial Meeting American Association
of University Women, International Ballroom, Conrad Hilton
Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

June 22

Women's Day Speaker - Olivet Institutional Baptist Church
Cleveland, Ohio

June 28

Tour of Southern Rural Action Project, Wilcox County, Alabama
Speech to Mass afternoon Rally

June 30

Remarks on occasion of Presentation by Human Rights
Commission of National Education Association, NEA
Annual Convention, Grand Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1.*SCLC sponsored; 2. **Commitments Dr. King was to have filled; ***Appointed to Board of SCLC, along with Harry Belafonte, following M.L.K.'s death

1968

January 15

Spokesman for Jeanette Rankin Brigade - Wash., D. C.

April 6

Issued statement regarding wanton burning and looting

April 8**

Leader and principal speaker for Memphis March
Led Memphis March and delivered address

April 13

Met with Mayor Ivan Allen, at his request, to discuss form of Memorial which family was planning - first element of Memorial Center, library, launched in the summer

April 27**

Principal speaker for Peace Rally. Addressed Peace marchers in New York City's Central Park

May 1*

Delivered speech to Mass meeting in Mason Temple, Memphis, Tennessee

May 2*

Participated in unveiling of Memorial tablet in memory of MLK, Jr., at Lorraine Motel and the launching of the Poor People's Campaign

May 12*

Led Welfare Rights Organization's Mother's Day March and was featured speaker for the occasion - Washington, D. C. (First announced Women's Campaign of Conscience)

May 16*

Met with Hollywood support group in Los Angeles, California, to solicit their support for PPC

May 28*

Guest of honor and speaker at Fund raising benefit by SCLC Foundation in New York City