

ACCORD, Inc.  
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# ACCORD Newsletter

Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations, Inc.



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## ACCORD Holds Open House

*Preview of the Up and Coming 1960s Commemorative Civil Rights Museum held on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s National Birthday*

*By Gwendolyn Duncan*



*Dozens of people gathered to preview the Commemorative Civil Rights Museum located at 79 Bridge Street: The Rudcarlie Building*

There were many activities taking place on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, one of which was sponsored by ACCORD, Inc.: the [Open House](#) preview of the up and coming 1960s Commemorative Civil Rights Museum located at 79 Bridge Street. [The Rudcarlie Building](#) was built in the 1950's by Dr. Rudolph N. Gordon (1901-1959) and named for the members of his family Rudolph, [Carlotta](#), and Rosalie. It was the first medical/dental office constructed in St. Augustine without racially segregated waiting rooms.

After Dr. Gordon's death, the office was rented to Dr. Robert B. Hayling, a dentist who became a prominent leader of the civil rights movement in St. Augustine. Many of the planning sessions for the movement were held here, with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. On one occasion, the owner of a local tourist attraction came to the office with a gun and said he intended to kill Dr. King, "but I can't do it, because when I look at you, I see that you are a God-sent man." Lawyers who came to support the civil rights efforts made this building their headquarters as well. Two of them--Alvin J. Bronstein and Ralph Temple--were honored by ACCORD when they returned to the Ancient City in 2005.

Dr. Gordon's widow, Mrs. Rosalie Gordon-Mills (1907-2004) made history in 1965 when she became the first black woman in 400 years to seek public office in St. Augustine, as a candidate for the City Commission.

The Program began at 2 PM but guests started coming in around 1 PM to view the displays set up by ACCORD, Inc. and to take first-hand look at the building which was vacant for a number of years, then brought back to life by ACCORD Members.

Two special presentations were made to ACCORD Inc. for the museum by the [Wells Fargo Bank](#) and the [Willits Book Trust](#) of Philadelphia, Pa.

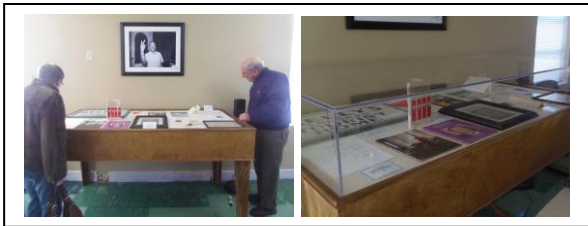
The open house included the [Big Check](#) presentation of a \$5,000 grant from [Wells Fargo](#) in support of ACCORD's Civil Rights Museum Project. The bank recently opened a banking store at [31 King St.](#), site of the former Woolworth Building where significant civil rights activities took place. ACCORD placed a historic civil rights marker there in 2007 which inscription reads in part: "The Ponce de Leon Shopping Center opened in 1955 ... designed by Morris Lapidus (1902-2001), Florida's most famous mid-20th century architect ... only example of his work in the Ancient City ... anchored by a Woolworth's store on the west side (the door handles still say Woolworth's) ... Feb. 1, 1960, black college students in Greensboro, N.C., began a sit-in at their Woolworth's lunch counter to protest racial discrimination. Their example electrified the south, and just a few weeks later, students from Florida Memorial College in St. Augustine began sitting-in at this Woolworth's lunch counter ... summer of 1963, local ... students sat-in ... were arrested ... judge wanted them to end their participation in the civil rights effort ... spent the next six months in jail and reform school ... case of the [St. Augustine Four](#) — Audrey Nell Edwards, JoeAnn Anderson, Samuel White and Willie Carl Singleton — received national publicity as an example of injustice ... finally the governor and cabinet of Florida ordered them released ... January 1964. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Jackie Robinson hailed the St. Augustine Four as heroes of the civil rights movement."

### Willits Trust

The Willits Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) presents books and media that embody Quaker values and core beliefs to emerging and established organizations that serve African-American communities in the southern region of the United States and throughout the country of Liberia.

By identifying and building partnerships with qualifying schools, libraries, museums and community centers, the Trust supports the efforts of local groups to preserve their African-American heritage and spirituality and keep the story of the

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Civil rights movement and Underground Railroad alive for coming generations. The trust was originally established through the will of Charles L. Willits, a Quaker farmer and abolitionist from southern New Jersey, in 1885 who left funds to be used “for the distribution of religious tracts and writings of Friends ... one half of which shall be distributed among the colored people of the Southern States of the United States, and the remainder in the colony of Liberia; so that religion and morality may be promoted.”

In re-interpreting the fund’s mission for the 21st century, the Willits Book Trust carries out its mission by presenting gifts of books, designed to rekindle historic ties between Quakers and African-American communities, while fostering new connections and friendships.

Four [members of the Willits Book Trust Committee](#) traveled to St. Augustine to present books to the city’s emerging Museum of Civil Rights, a project of the Accord Freedom Trail. They included: Charles Woodson, clerk of the Willits Book Trust, and member of Germantown Monthly Meeting; Vivian Rankin, of Lansdowne Monthly Meeting; Walton C. Burwell, of Germantown Monthly Meeting and Lisa Stewart Garrison, of Greenwich Monthly Meeting. The books that were presented included multiple copies of books for young people, each of which was selected by board members and volunteers involved in planning the Civil Rights Museum for St. Augustine. A Greeting was read by [Charles Woodson](#) from [Dr. Gail Blattenberger](#) of Salt Lake City Utah, to those present. A Special thank you also to Gail’s mother, Ruth Blattenberger for believing in our cause.

### Heartfelt Thanks & Appreciation to Financial Donors

- *The Northrop Grumman Corporation*
- *Memorial Fund in Remembrance of Attorney Dan R. Warren*
- *Wells Fargo Bank*
- *NAACP, Allentown, PA*
- *Baptist Church, Allentown, PA*
- *Epiphany Baptist Church, Rev. William Robinson , Jacksonville, FL*
- *Gail Blattenberger, Salt Lake City, Utah*
- *Julia Burgess & Margaret Burgess Harrison of Martha’s Vineyard, Mass. Julia and Margaret are the daughters of Mrs. Esther Burgess, Civil Rights Activist arrested during the 1964 Civil Rights Movement after a Sit-In with the Governor of Massachusetts Mother, Mrs. Malcolm Peabody*
- *Ruth Blattenberger, New Jersey*
- *David Nolan, local historian & Author, St. Augustine, FL*
- *Michael & Anita Gallen, St. Augustine, FL*
- *In Honor of the Duncan Family, Palm Coast, FL*
- *Ron & Edwina Russell, St. Augustine, FL*
- *Shirley Bryce, St. Augustine, FL*
- *All of the CRMC Board of Directors who donated financially*
- *All ACCORD Members who donated financially*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Shed Dawson, Savannah, GA*

### A Heartfelt Thanks and Appreciation to Our In-Kind Donors

- Judge Stasia Warren, Daytona Beach, FL
- Lawrence Walker, New Jersey
- Bob O’Neil, Historic Hilton Bayfront Inn, St. Augustine, FL
- St. Johns County Housing Partnership, Bill Lazar, Director, St. Augustine, FL
- Home Depot, St. Augustine, FL
- The Willits Book Trust, Philadelphia, PA
- Old Town Trolley, St. Augustine, FL
- Mrs. Janie Price, St. Augustine, FL
- Lowe’s Home Improvement, Jacksonville, FL
- Minister & Mrs. Richard P. Burton, Sr., Jacksonville, FL
- Delores Miller-Parks, PA
- Lorraine McLaughlin
- Dalonja M. Duncan, M.Ed.
- Elizabeth Duncan
- Joanne Willis-Barber, Indianapolis, IN
- Gordon-Mills-Miles Limited Partnership
- All of the CRMC Board of Directors who donated In-kind
- All ACCORD Members who donated In-kind
- Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida
- Rev. Audre' Washington, Lake City, Florida
- Brenda Frinks-Sun City Entertainment and all that participated during the Gospel Extravaganzas
- Mrs. Phyllis Ferguson, Martinez, Georgia
- Attorney Fred Martin, Salt Springs, BC, Canada

### With Gratitude to our Supporters & Volunteers

- Civil Rights Museum of St. Augustine, Inc.
- Jennifer Wells, Communities & Schools of SJC
- Attorney Theodore & Dr. Carlotta Miles, Washington, DC
- Aramark, Flagler College
- St. Paul AME Church, Rev. Ron Rawls, Pastor
- First Baptist Church, Rev. Michael McConnell, Pastor
- The Grace & Truth Prayer Center of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., Minister Zachary Duncan, Pastor
- The Hilton Historic Bayfront Inn, Mr. Bob O’Neil, General Manager
- Chase & Son Funeral Home, Arnett Chase, LFD
- Flagler College Arts Museum, St. Augustine, FL
- Donna Guzzo & the Retired Senior Volunteer Program



## PHOTOGRAPHS



June Conway and Lisa Stewart-Garrison, top;  
Accord Display, bottom



Featured display items included but not limited to, the *Kelly's Colored Tourist Home Sign*; a note from former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, written on SCLC Stationery from 1964; A letter signed by [Mrs. Loucille Plummer](#) and actual doctor and hospital bills from 1964, of demonstrators who were injured during the marches; *SCLC Booklet* with Dr. Hayling laying in a hospital bed after being beaten by the KKK in 1963; magazines with Dr. King's signature; a *Bible Insert* that belonged to Mr. & Mrs. John & Cora Tyson with a Who's Who of civil rights leaders who stayed at their home at [81 Bridge Street](#); the Book, "*Four for Freedom*" written by Mrs. Hester Campbell, wife of the dean of the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, which was donated by the daughters of Mrs. Esther Burgess; a picture of Dr. King speaking at the March on Washington autographed by [Rosa Parks](#); and so much more.

Attorney Theodore and wife Dr. Carlotta Miles put items on display in a room about her father and mother.



Stuart Bicknell films David Nolan bringing the Occasion while standing only crowd looks on at Open House Preview of ACCORD Civil Rights Museum



Activists Maude Burroughs Jackson and Audrey Willis (right) pose with ACCORD President Dalonja M. Duncan, M.Ed., Mrs. Cora Tyson, VP, Gwendolyn Duncan, President Emeritus, Elizabeth Duncan, Webmaster, Judge Stasia Warren, her sister-in-law, and son Attorney Adam Warren.

### **\*\*NOTE\*\***

Please stop by the Wells Fargo Bank, 33 King Street, St. Augustine, FL to see the [large mural](#) recently unveiled and accessible 24/7 which features pictures of events from the 1963-'64 Civil Rights Movement

**Want to help us continue our mission?**

PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION MADE  
PAYABLE TO: **ACCORD Inc.**  
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