

**\*\* For Immediate Release \*\***

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***Las Amigas, Inc., Holds 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conclave Where it all Began!***  
***By Brenda C. McCaskill, Las Amigas, Inc. – National Reporter***

Las Amigas, Inc., a national, African American, women’s public service organization, will hold its’ 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conclave and 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, June 24-28, 2009, at the Marriott Executive Park in Charlotte, N.C. Charlotte is the birth city of the organization which was founded by its’ late Co-Founders Dora R. Mason and Mary Q. Moore. The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conclave and 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, hosted by the Gastonia Chapter and the Southwest Region, will bring members together to not only conduct Las Amigas business, but also enjoy various activities and the city of Charlotte. Said Joann W. Williams, Las Amigas, Inc., 17<sup>th</sup> National President, “Our annual meeting allows us to come together to strengthen the Sisterhood in unity by making new acquaintances, renewing old friendships, and taking care of business.”

The convention theme – “Sisters Keeping the Vision alive through Commitment to Excellence, Dedication, and a Giving Spirit” – will be the cornerstone of organizational meetings and community events throughout the conference. Dr. Barbara Louise Shaw, General President of the Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society (WHOMS) of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, will be the conclave keynote speaker at the Dora R. Mason Awards Luncheon on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> (open to the public; cost \$55/person).

Throughout the 2009 Conclave, members will engage in informative workshops and business meetings. Events open to the public include the Town Hall Meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 7pm – 8:30pm (free); the Harambee Breakfast on Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am – 9am (cost \$45/person) featuring keynote address by Pearl Burris Floyd, N.C. House of Representatives; the Oldies and Jazz Remix dance on Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> from 9pm – 12 midnight (cost \$50/person); the Dora R. Mason Awards Luncheon on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 12noon – 3pm (cost \$55/person); and the Mary Q. Moore Orchid Gala on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9pm – 12 midnight (formal attire; cost \$60). All events will be held at the Marriott Executive Park (5700 Westpark Drive; Charlotte, N. C. 28217).

Empowered women committed to public service, Las Amigas, Inc. - “the friends” - has convened annually for fifty-one years to further the organization’s programmatic thrusts: education, family, health, political awareness, and economic development.

For more information regarding Las Amigas, Inc., visit [www.lasamigasincorporated.org](http://www.lasamigasincorporated.org) .

**ABOUT LAS AMIGAS, INC.**

*Las Amigas, Inc., is an African American women’s public service organization founded in 1957 by Dora R. Mason and Mary Q. Moore. The mission of Las Amigas, Inc., is to enhance the quality of life and promote the general improvement of the communities in which Las Amigas serves and to encourage personal and professional growth and foster a closer relationship among members.*

*Las Amigas, Inc., is an affiliate of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and has national partnerships with the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., the National Bone Marrow Donor Program, the National Kidney Foundation, and Habitat for Humanity.*

*Las Amigas, Inc., has chapters in communities within the states of Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and our nation’s capitol.*