

## Louisiana Speaks Out

Lianne Barze

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Madisonville, Louisiana

I am a creole lady from a very rich heritage of creoles. My grandfather spoke french and my grandmother's father was pure Cherokee Indian. I really enjoyed your website.....I was beginning to believe that Creole was dying out. It is so hard in todays society to say you are Creole and not offend others that say I am using that to start another race. It is especailly hard today for a single creole lady to find a respectable creole guy who is secure with his heritage and himself. If you have any Creole events please contact me.

Michael Hebert

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Alexandria, Louisiana

I'm interested in why the "white" French Creoles of Southern Evangeline Parish define themselves as Cajun instead of Creole. I believe it's due to ignorance of their genealogy, ignorance of the area's history, and racial issues (Cajun is "White"/Creole is associated with "Black" or "mixture." I believe a cultural segregation is in place. The white Fontenots and Soileaus call themselves Cajuns but they have much more in common with the black and "mixed" Fontenots and Soileaus - they are both Creoles and share the same culture.

Scotty J. Williams

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Sarepta, Louisiana

Wow! It is indeed wonderful to see a website that is dedicated to making people aware of the Creole culture. I am a 22 year old Creole from Sarepta LA, and I am currently attending seminary in Minnesota. It's crazy up here because most of the people think of Creole as a food, cooking style, or they say that our culture doesn't exist. I wish that people would definitely take a look at this site and become aware of our prescence in this world. Though I am glad that people are writing on this site and representing I just want to say that we should be careful with some of our comments about being Black. Though I am Creole I am brown

skinned and have Black hair, and I appreciate the Black parts of our culture indeed. For fellow Creoles to say that they wish they had no Black blood hurts me because the Africans that suffered under European rule made great contributions to the culture God has blessed us to be a part of. Let us honor our African ancestors for what they endured and what they contributed to the beautiful tapestry that is our culture.

God Bless you all my beloved people,  
Scotty

P.S.: If there are any Creoles from the Williams family of New Roads LA, or of the Fontenot family, drop me an e-mail.

Elaine

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Baton Rouge

Hi guys. I think anything that we can do as Creoles to increase cohesiveness, and social awareness will likewise increase our chances of being taken seriously...the single races have been in power for so long that our movement is perceived as a threat to that power base...numbers that transfers into a voting bloc is what politicians and the judicial system understands...I've seen many categorical web links to our culture but none of a legal nature or resource...we need Creole attorneys with pride in their culture to a degree that they will stand up to the backlash from the black and white community that comes when many of us proudly claim our right to self identify...we need legal representation by people that can relate and have the passion required to drive this movement in the courts and establish some legal precedents...without legal precedents we will continue to be a lone voice crying in the wind for much longer than need be...I have filed a civil suit against workplace discrimination against people like us in order to begin to establish precedents...unbeknownst to many people, beginning with the 1964 Civil Rights Act the majority of professional workplace promotions have been filled with single race applicants, i.e. white or physically symbolic (dark skinned) blacks...I can only speak for a common dynamic in Baton Rouge, having been excluded from serious consideration for promotions due to a relatively recent tendency by whites in this region to look at affirmative action and diversity in terms of the degree of skin darkness...in other words, the darker the black person is the more unbiased the whites believe they will be perceived when positions are filled with a minority...and dark skinned blacks aid and abet this perception because it is to their advantage to do so...discrimination is wrong under any circumstance, and I refuse to accept the rationalization that missed opportunities in the past justify current discrimination against me...I have an attorney, but he lacks a true understanding of what this is really like...particularly since publicly all darker skinned blacks deny any antagonistic feelings toward our

group, even though many admit it to me privately, and ask that I understand it is simply not in their best interest to admit such biases...5 Black attorneys in this town outright refused to represent me, so I have a white male who means well, but lacks the passion needed to drive this successfully. I may end up representing myself in proper person with the attorney as a coach...well enough about me...if there are any Creole attorneys out there drop me a line...I can be viewed in the Dec. 2003 edition of MAVIN magazine...and I have the most recent empirical research available to anyone that may be interested in where we stand in the workplace when competing with single race blacks...everyone...I support you, and try not to get so serious about this race thing that it takes your joy away...as a Christian...I will say a prayer for all of you tonight...take care...

Brandon C Woodie

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Baton Rouge, LA

I love Louisiana people and cultures and would love to meet some Creoles in the Baton Rouge area. I would also like to get some more genealogy info. on my family. Thank you!