



## **INA PINKNEY—AUTHOR, SPEAKER, RESTAURTEUR, FILM PRODUCER, AND MUCH MORE**

**INA PINKNEY WHO SURVIVED POLIO AS AN UNFANT, NOW SUFFERS THE EFFECTS OF POST-POLIO SYNDROME, HAS HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND CAREER EMBODYING THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.**

**INA WAS A KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE ROTARY TRICON IN THE WISCONSIN DELLS, MAY 5, 2018. SHE SPOKE ABOUT HER LIFE AS A POLIO SURVIVOR WHO NOT ONLY SURVIVED BUT THRIVED. HER MESSAGE IS AWE-INSPIRING!**

### **SUMMARY**

Ina Pinkney is a Brooklyn native and a Chicago legend of the tastiest kind. Known around town as the Breakfast Queen, she fed Chicagoans for 33 years. Facing the late stages of polio, Ina decided to close the doors of her beloved breakfast nook in 2013.

A self-made chef and businesswoman, Ina is so much more. She's a community leader, a pioneer and an icon, but most importantly, she's the rare sort of person who's found a way to transform her passion into a joy that extends an entire city, and beyond.

### **BACKGROUND**

Ina Pinkney opened Ina's Kitchen in 1991, and it quickly became Chicago's Premier Breakfast Restaurant. Ina was the Chef/Owner of INA'S, an American Food restaurant serving Breakfast and Lunch in Chicago's trendy West Loop Market District.

Prior to opening Ina's Kitchen, Ina was the chef/owner of the Chicago-area The Dessert Kitchen Ltd. for 10 years and supplied private customers, restaurants, caterers and hotels with desserts.

Ina did research and development for recipes for three issues of The World Book Encyclopedia Christmas around The World. In April 2005, INA'S was the subject of a CNN show called The

Turnaround. She also appeared in a national Quaker Oats commercial as herself — the Breakfast Queen.

This media-savvy professional with a camera-ready personality has appeared on the Food Network's *Sweet Dreams* with Gale Gand and *The Best Of* program, as well as on CNN's *The Turnaround*.

Ina Pinkney is also a producer of videos having produced a film of her husband, Bill Pinkney, sailing around the world (*The Incredible Voyage of Bill Pinkney*, 1994) and *Breakfast at Ina's* (2015). The documentary, *Breakfast at Ina's*, gives audiences a glimpse into Ina's extraordinary life, all while chronicling the last days of the restaurant as she and her staff serve up its final meals.

She has been featured in in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Details Magazine*, *Vogue*, *The Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Gourmet*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, *Midwest Living*, *Restaurants and Institutions Magazine* and *Nation's Restaurant News* as well as trade and in-flight magazines. Her recipes are featured in many cookbooks.

A leader in the effort to ban artificial trans fats, Ina made national and global press when she testified before the New York City Board of Health and helped pass that city's ban.

In demand because of her wealth of life experience, she has been a guest lecturer on Entrepreneurship at Northwestern University, DePaul University and the University of Illinois, Chicago as well as keynote speaker for schools and professional organizations.

Because of her attention to the changing tastes of consumers, she is a sought after judge at competitions such as the 2007 National Beef Cook-Off, filmed for the Food Network and *The Battle of the Hospital Chefs* and is a valued participant in a 'think tank' doing menu futurist work.

Ina has been on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier, was Vice President of The Women's Foodservice Network, was honored by the Women's Foodservice Forum in 2004 as a 'Woman Making Her Mark', lead a coalition of Chicago Restaurateurs and Chefs to support a smoking ban which went into effect in January of 2006, and created a 'Green' purchasing co-operative for restaurants in Chicago.

In June 2008, she was named 2008 SBA Woman in Business Champion.