

JANUARY 2020 | VOL. I



# AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Happy Kwanzaa & Best Wishes!

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# KWANZAA THROUGH ALL THE SEASONS

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The National Association of Kwanzaa Organizations, The Kwanzaa Cooperative, and Black Writers Museum presented a Kwanzaa Celebration featuring Dr. Maulana Karenga on Saturday, December 28th in Philadelphia. 2019 marks the 53rd year of Kwanzaa that is now being recognized throughout Africa and the African Diaspora. The theme this year is "Celebrating Kwanzaa through all the seasons" by living and practicing the principles daily. Karenga spoke to the genesis and core of the holiday as rooted in our identity: "What does it mean to be human in a world of artificial intelligence? 'Am I really who I am, am I African or part African and part mixish the other time?'" He stated he understands the confusion as one "...can never get used to being hated for no reason at all." We have to "demystify our oppressor", he is NOT God, we must study, read and think deeply about our lives and commemorate the past by honoring our ancestors, "whether they are in the history books or not, they are important to us."

This is what Karenga terms a "morality of remembrance", we must raise and praise their names every day, they taught us the highest ideals and we need to recommit ourselves to their standard of truth and justice. Kwanzaa is about cultivating together and sharing the good of the world, make Africa the moral ideal to measure the rightness of everything we do. Become people focused, care for the poor and vulnerable among us and develop a rightful relationship with the environment. This is the best of what it means to be African and exalt the spirit of Kwanzaa, to celebrate the good of life, the earth and all that is in it!



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## AHSA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE OCTOBER 31ST-NOVEMBER 2ND 2019

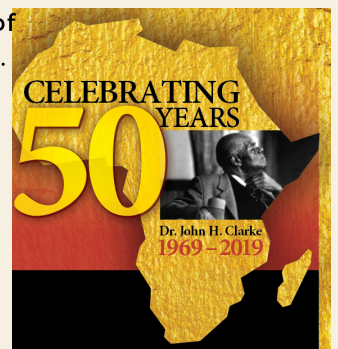
Afia Zakiya, Vice President

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The 50th golden anniversary conference for AHSA was a watershed moment in history. In the tradition of the past initial conferences organized, global participation by seminal scholars from Africa and the Black diaspora attended the conference. As communicated to the public, our national conference in Washington DC provided a time to reflect on the past five decades of service to the global Black world, take stock of lessons learned, and plan for bold ways to ignite an African Renaissance of scholarship and service to advance AHSA founding member's promise of moving the Global African World forward towards liberation and sovereignty. AHSA's conference was held at the intersect of other significant events: Ghana's declaration of 2019 as a Year of Return, in commemoration of the 400 years since the tragic 'Maafa' and warfare against Afrikan peoples (aka the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade") began; and the mid-point

the UN Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024.

The expectation was that the Golden Anniversary Celebration would set the tone for the next 50 years of documenting and explicating the global context in which slavery, colonialism and imperialism emerged, converged, pillaged the African world and interrupted its development. The Thurgood Marshall Center for Services, 1816 12th ST NW, DC served as the venue for all activities. A beautiful ancestral shrine was set up by ADCAI-DC to honor AHSA founders and the transition of Mama Sybil Williams Clarke on October 1, 2019, wife of AHSA co-founder and revered ancestor Nana John Henrik Clarke





who transitioned a few weeks before the conference, along with other noted revolutionaries who embody the spirit of our historical struggles and victories. A phenomenal Art Exhibit: "400 Years of African American History and Culture" by Ted Ellis who created both the official seal and commemorative poster for the 400 Years of African American presence that is now part of the U.S. National Archives. The Conference began with a highly attended Kemet on the Potomac field trip led by Tony Browder of IKG Cultural Resource Center that illuminates the ancient Egyptian influence on the founding fathers of the United States of America, as well as their acknowledgement of the Nile Valley origins of civilization. AHSA Founder's Roundtable was a sobering reflection on why AHSA matters and its origins. Co-founder Dr. Shelby Lewis and elder board member Dr. Leonard Jeffries gave an overview of the profound moments that led to the creation of the premier Africana Studies organization. After a detailed discussion of the 'rupture' with African Studies Association due to the racial politics of knowledge production and exclusionary practices that diminished the role of Africans in America and the Diaspora that led to the founding of AHSA by Dr. Lewis, a challenge was made to participants to think of new ways to make global Black scholarship and activism relevant to the times, drawing on what was best of the past and forging stronger Pan African alliances. In addition to various informative panels and plenary sessions, there were very impressive guest speakers: Paul Sankara who gave "An Update on Burkina Faso and the Legacy of Thomas Sankara's Fight Against French Imperialism"; Former Ambassador Dr. Arikana Chihombori Quao, who served as the Permanent Representative of the African Union to the US, widely heralded for her revolutionary organizing of the African Diaspora and raising consciousness of the neocolonial position of Africa, and calls for unity among Diasporans' to decolonize their minds,



return to Africa and take leadership of development through liberation from economic imperialism. Other invited speakers were: Netfa Freeman, Pan-African Community Action (PACA) & Black Alliance for Peace, and Brother Kambale Musavuli, National Spokesperson, Human Rights Activist &



Student Coordinator- Friends of the Congo, both gave riveting discussions from first-hand accounts of resistance movements on the ground in Africa particularly among the youth. AHSA was honored to bring in Nana Kobina Nketsia V, Omanhen, from Essikado traditional area, Ghana as the banquet speaker. Nana Nketsia V, a noted African centered scholar, historian, Pan Africanist, and traditional leader who has a wide following in Ghana and across the Black Diaspora. Nana reinforced the need for AHSA and in fact, appealed to AHSA to again establish chapters across Africa to reestablish ties in new ways with the youth and revolutionary movements, and continue the struggle for African centered education. The final session was a closing roundtable on The Next Fifty Years of AHSA and what direction the organization should take. It was an open session led by the founding elders to give participants the charge and actions expected to take AHSA forward, to fulfill its mandate for collaborations, research & actions to achieve global African Sovereignty. AHSA was honored to have the session facilitated by Dr. Mario Beatty, President ASCAC & professor at Howard University, African American Studies, and a renowned scholar of mdw ntr.



**AHSA WILL MEET IN OCTOBER 2020 IN NEW YORK, DETAILS FORTHCOMING!**

# A NEW CITIZEN OF GHANA!

Congratulations Afia S Zakiya! New Citizen of Ghana!

A report will be in the next newsletter.



## YEAR OF THE RETURN



**EXODUS  
FROM 400  
Years of  
Captivity**

### 'RIGHT TO RETURN'

**3rd Anniversary 34 Africans of the  
Diaspora granted Ghanaian citizenship  
28th December, 2016**



**27th November, 2019  
126 African Diaspora Granted  
Ghanaian Citizenship**

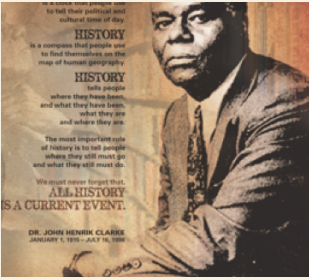


### "Give Thanks and Praise"

**Venue: Teachers Hall Complex (near museum science & tech.) Date 28th December 2019 12noon - 6pm FREE ADMISSION**



# JOHN HENRIK CLARKE ENHANCED HISTORY PROJECT



On Saturday, December 7, 2019 the John Henrik Clarke Enhancement Project was introduced at the Thurgood Marshall Center (TMC) in Washington, DC. The actual opening of the exhibit consisting of photos, murals and a poster display from the Nile to the Niger to the Potomac Valley, highlighting the migration of African people and culture, will take place on April 4th, 2020. Curator, Anthony Browder was inspired to assemble this exhibit because of the lack of information on Kemetian Antiquity and pre-colonial African history at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He observed visitors to that site becoming very emotional with the presentation of Black history beginning with slavery. In his estimation, if people knew of the rich African legacy that existed five thousand years prior to the European encounter, they would have a different reaction to the short span of enslavement to the present. In order to illustrate the century's long African history, Browder presented a Timeline created by Paul Obinna Wilson-Eme that spans from 5,000 BC to the present. The purpose of the enhancement project is to bring to light the rich heritage of African people before they were captured and enslaved. Tony Browder's current research focuses on Kemet's 25th Dynasty, which Dr. Clarke referred to as "Africa's last walk in the sun" and "the great and mighty walk". Browder's work in Egypt is the site of the only African American excavation and restoration project is slated for completion in September of 2023. These excavations have convinced Browder that our ancestors anticipated the fall of Kemet and ensured the survival of their cultural traditions by jumpstarting civilization in West Africa and further west. The first mural in the exhibit is of Essential Reading for the 21st century, the list is headed by John Henrik Clarke, Africa at the Crossroads, followed by Dr. Yosef Ben Jochannan, Frances

Cress Welsing, Carter G. Woodson, George Jackson, Chancellor Williams and others. There is a pandemic of "Bibliophobia", fear of reading and learning and "Agnotology", culturally induced ignorance, exacerbated by technology that has disconnected us from the Ancestors and the goal of this project is to facilitate reconnection and enlightenment of our glorious past, says Browder. The John Henrik Clarke project is being sponsored in part by Debra Watkins from A Black Education Network <https://www.aben4ace.org/> but still needs to raise \$125,000 to complete the 2nd and 3rd phases of the project. For more information about the project, make a donation, upcoming study tours in Washington and Kemet and to purchase a timeline, see <https://ikgculturalresourcecenter.com/> On the following day, Runoko Rashidi displayed forty selected photos from over 500,000 that evidences African presence throughout the entire world centuries before the "European encounter", inclusive of the Olmec heads. He presented a lecture with images of African scholars who focused on ancient African civilizations from his vast collection. Runoko Rashidi also conducts global African presence historical tours to view African roots of culture and heritage, the next one being Senegal, Gambia, and Guinea Bissau from January 21-February 4. <http://drrunoko.com/n>



## **MOVING FORWARD: A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE AHSA EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**J. Vern Cromartie, Ed.D.**

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The Education Commission is moving forward with a plan of action for the next 24 months. The plan of action will include several projects. One project will involve sponsoring paper sessions on education at future African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA) conferences under the auspices of the Education Commission. Towards that end, I attempted to set a future tone by presenting a paper titled "Protracted Struggle, Protracted Crisis, and Black Education, 1940-2010: A Research Note on Educational Attainment and Empirical Data in the United States of America." The abstract for my paper was as follows:

The purpose of this paper is to examine the education of Black people between 1940 and 2010 in the United States of America (USA) with special reference to the National Center for Education Statistics. To place that period in context, this paper will examine a number of Black people who have written about investing in the education of the Black masses before 1940. Among those Black people are Frederick Douglass, Richard Robert Wright, Jr., Carter G. Woodson, Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Anna Julia Cooper. This paper will utilize a mixed methods approach consisting of secondary data analysis and the case study.

I presented my paper as a part of paper session titled "African Heritage Education." Other participants in the paper session were Karanja Keita Carroll of Baruch College, City University of New York; MaryNell Morgan Brown of Empire State College; and Dannielle Joy Davis of Saint Louis University and AYA Educational Institute. The paper session was chaired by William Dorsey of Atlanta Metropolitan State College. A second project will involve the development of a comprehensive bibliography of books written by Black people with the title Pan-African education, Pan-African, or Pan-Africanism that can be distributed as a PDF and the like under auspices of the Education Commission. As the chair of the Education Commission, I will request that the AHSA post the bibliography on the AHSA website so that all people will have access to the information. Scholarly books with the title Pan-African education, Pan-African, or Pan-Africanism deserves to be known and read by those seeking to increase their knowledge about a major social force in the world. I will compile the bibliography and publish it as AHSA Education Commission Occasional Paper No. 1. A third project will involve the development of a bibliography of books written by members and former members of the AHSA. As with the aforementioned bibliography, I will request that the one pertaining to books by AHSA members and former members be placed on the AHSA as a PDF. This project will help increase awareness of the scholarly production of AHSA members and former members. I will compile the bibliography and publish it as AHSA Education Commission Occasional Paper No. 2. A fourth project will involve the development of a "Books for Africa Initiative" wherein AHSA members will be asked to donate books that they have written to the University of Ghana, Legon located in Accra, Ghana and the Saint Monica University located in Buea, Cameroon. For more information about any of these projects, please contact me at the following email address: [j\\_vern\\_cromartie@yahoo.com](mailto:j_vern_cromartie@yahoo.com).

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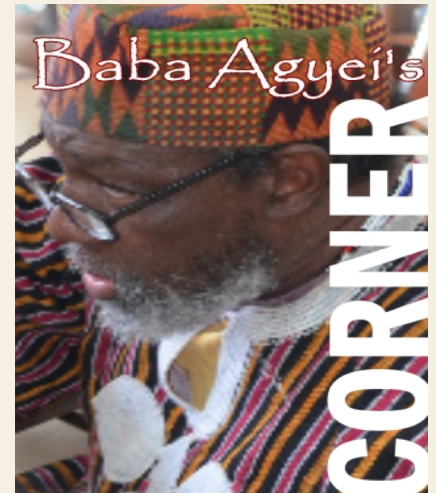


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# TRANSITION OF BABA KWAME AGYEI AKOTO

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It is with heavy hearts that AHSA announces the passing of this significant elder and warrior to the African centered IBI, Sankofa and reafrikanization movements, not to mention bringing Akan culture and spirituality to us is without question! Contributions can be made to the Akoto family through: Cash App \$akotofamily or 202-302-2259 Venmo@akotofamily PayPal [Akotofamily@akuaallrich.com](mailto:Akotofamily@akuaallrich.com) Medase for your prayers and support!



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## CONGRATULATIONS AND BLESSINGS TO THE JEFFRIES

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The 55th Wedding Anniversary of Dr. Rosalind Jefferies and Dr. Leonard Jeffries Jr.



## WELCOME NEW LIFETIME MEMBER TONY BROWDER!

