



African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois



NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)



November/2011

Issue 2

Welcome to the second issue of the United African Organization's (UAO) e-newsletter - African Advocate!



Africans in Chicago: UAO's Oral History Project gets a facelift

The UAO's Africans in Chicago Oral History Project has had a facelift. You can check out the new website at:



www.africansinchicago.org

The Africans in Chicago Oral History Project is collecting the stories of African immigrants and refugees about their journeys to Chicago. The project aims to document the challenges, successes and acculturation experiences of African immigrants and refugees.

The Africans in Chicago project uses an interactive website to engage the public about the history of our community. The website uses maps, timelines, photographs, virtual walking tours and other documents to situate Africans in the Chicago cityscape and contextualize individuals' stories within African and U.S. history.



Your donation is tax-deductable

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THE MISSION

The Africans in Chicago Oral History Project is founded in the idea that knowledge should inform actions. We hope that providing an open, creative space for people to listen and connect through storytelling will promote learning and civic engagement, and serve as a peaceful vehicle for change.

Get Involved! Be Inspired! Visit www.africansinchicago.org

UAO hosts Citizenship Workshop

The UAO has teamed up with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) to bring Citizenship workshops to the African community in Chicago.

The next workshop is on:

Date: Sat, Dec 10, 2011
Time: 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Venue: Truman College
1145 W. Wilson Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640





A Citizenship Workshop in which the UAO participated on November 2, 2011

The workshops guide participants through the process of becoming US citizens. The advantage of becoming a US citizen is that you are protected against any possible changes in immigration law that might make you vulnerable to deportation. At the workshop, participants will receive:

- Assistance to complete the application for naturalization
- Legal consultation with an immigration attorney
- Information on how to apply for application fee waiver
- Study materials to prepare for the test and interview

The workshop is FREE. To register for this workshop or for more info, contact Cheikh Diop via cheikh.diop@uniteafricans.org or call

 (312) 949 9980 

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African national associations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

OUR GOALS

- Build the leadership and organizational capacity of the community
- Advance public policies to increase opportunities and support for immigrant and refugee integration
- Ensure that African immigrant and refugees have an active role in multiple civic arenas
- Promote community development and access to social services
- Serve as a viable model of African Unity and Empowerment

Follow us:    

Listen to our Podcast:



NEWS ROUND-UP

UAO hosts 3rd successful Leadership Workshop

The UAO has now hosted three successful Leadership Workshops. The last workshop, led by Dr. Erku Yimer of the Ethiopian Community Association, focussed on strengthening organizational capacity. Dr. Yimer shared his experience and knowledge, gleaned from over 30 years working in the non-profit sector in Chicago.



The most recent Leadership Workshop, on December 19th, was led by Dr. Erku Yimer, Executive Director of Ethiopian Community Association

The UAO's Leadership Development Program is targeted at African community leaders in and around Chicago. Through the year-long, program we hope to equip leaders with critical skills and capacities to become effective advocates in their communities.

Leadership workshops take place every month and cover a range of topics. **The workshops are free BUT you must register in advance to attend.** The next workshop will be:



Date: Sat, Dec 17, 2011

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Venue: 6th Floor, 10 West 35th Street, Chicago IL 60616

Topic: Strengthening Organizational Capacity (Continued)

Speaker: Dr. Alie Kabba, Executive Director, United African Organization

Send your registration forms to training@uniteafricans.org or call  (312) 949-9980  for more information.

Highlights from African Voices:

[Interview with Anslem John-Miller \(MOSOP\) on multinationals in Africa](#)

[Interview with award-winning musician Nomsa Mazwai on music, globalization and US-Africa relations](#)

Register:

Leadership
Development Program

Join Our Mailing List!

UPCOMING EVENTS



CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

Date: Sat, Dec 10, 2011

Time: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Venue: Truman College
1145 W. Wilsen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640

To register or for more information, contact Cheikh Diop:

 (312) 949 9980 

or email:

cheikh.diop@uniteafricans.org

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Next Leadership workshop:

Date: Saturday, Dec 17, 2011

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

Venue: 10 West 35th Street, 6th floor, Chicago, IL 60616

Topic: Strengthening Organizational Capacity

Speaker: Dr. Alie Kabba, UAO

Listen to African Voices on your cell-phone



Listen now to the African Voices Podcast online! You can also download the podcast as an mp3 file. Or tune into our partner, [Legend Talk Radio](#) - Call: 1-832-280-017

The African Voices Podcast is an online radio show, featuring news, events and issues from the African community in Illinois, as well as advice on immigration services. It also includes interviews and oral histories from Africans in Chicago, and music from African artists.

You can now listen to African Voices on your cell-phone!

[CLICK FOR SCHEDULE](#)

Let's work towards the goal of an African community radio station in Chicago. HAVE YOUR VOICES HEARD! Send us news, events, issues, music from your community. Or suggest someone to interview.

Email: podcasts@uniteafricans.org OR call:

(312) 949 9980

Fashion show held in aid of Somalia Relief

The East African Community Association (EACC), the New Life Christian Center, God Will Provide Ministry and the United African Organization hosted a Fashion Show this month to raise funds for Somali refugees.

The Fashion Show featured designs by Chicago-based African designers Jon Sorogo (Sorobis Designs), [Fort Smith Boutique](#) and [Djenne Collection](#) to name a few.

Keep an eye out for future events in aid of Somalia Relief!



Designs by Issa Sorogo (Sorobis Designs), the chief exhibitor at the fashion show

You MUST register in advance for the workshop in order to attend for free - email: training@uniteafricans.org or call (312) 949 9980

TALK BY SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHOR JONNY STEINBERG

Award-winning South Africa journalist Jonny Steinberg will deliver the Crain lecture at Northwestern University, in honor of **World Aids Day** on December 1st. Steinberg is the author of *Sizwe's Test: A Young Man's Journey Through Africa's AIDS Epidemic*. His latest book, *Little Liberia*, focusses on the lives of Liberian immigrants in New York City.

Date: Thursday, Dec 1, 2011
Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm
Venue: The McCormick Tribune Center, 1870 Campus Drive, Evanston, IL 60208

The lecture is free.

TANZANIAN 50th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

The Tanzanian Community Association (TCA) of the Midwest invites you to a celebration of Tanzanian Independence!

Date: Saturday, Dec 10, 2011
Time: 6:00 PM
Venue: 567 W. Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016

Event includes authentic Tanzanian dinner, live music, Ngoma Cheza, Fashion Show and more. Get your tickets at a discount price while supplies last!

For more information Call

(773) 474-4225

(630) 303-1478

(773) 593-7881 or

(773) 507-7277

How to improve your credit rating

What do you do if you have just arrived in the United States and you have no credit rating?

For many immigrants in the U.S., building up a good credit rating is a confusing process. At the recent **African Business Round Table** hosted by the UAO, credit advice was just one of the issues that came up. **Urban Partnership Bank**, one of the presenters at the workshop, explained that it is possible for individuals and organizations to enroll in training on credit-building.



Participants at the UAO's most recent African Business Round Table

Make sure you don't miss an essential business information and networking opportunity - **look out for the next African Business Round Table in 2012!**

In this month's Chicago Reporter magazine, there is a feature on training programs to learn how to build your credit. One organization that runs credit training is the Center for Working Families - [click to see location in Chicago](#).

Did you miss Malian band Tinariwen?

Last week the UAO held a competition for free tickets to see world-renowned Malian band Tinariwen LIVE in Chicago! Two lucky winners went to see the band on Friday. The UAO was also at the show to interview Tinariwen for the next edition of African Voices.



UAO Community Outreach Coordinator Cheikh Diop with a member of Malian band Tinariwen on Friday

Make sure to check the UAO's blog and facebook page regularly to take advantage of great competitions like this!

Look out for the next edition of African Voices to hear music from Tinariwen!

ADINKRA ASSOCIATION 3RD ANNUAL YOUTH DAY

A program to unite and educate youth of all ages in the Ghanaian and Chicago Community, by allowing them to learn about and enjoy Ghanaian Culture. Includes music, dance, story-telling and soccer.


Date: Saturday, Dec 3, 2011



Time: 8:00 AM


Venue: Woodlawn Elementary Community School
6657 South Kimbark Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637 60637


Event includes authentic Tanzanian dinner, live music, Ngoma Cheza, Fashion Show and more. Get your tickets at a discount price while supplies last!

For more information Call

 (773) 474-4225 

 (630) 303-1478 

 (773) 593-7881  or

 (773) 507-7277 

FILM ABOUT BASKETBALL IN SENEGAL NOW SHOWING

An award winning documentary film, ELEVATE, is now showing in Chicago. The documentary is about four tall West African teens who, based on their hard work, merits and dedication, are selected to play basketball at American prep schools and hope to one day play in the NBA. ELEVATE is showing at AMC River East 21 cinema in Chicago. [Click for the trailer](#)

We all have stories about how we, each in our own way, enrich our communities.

"We are all immigrants!"



Let's keep an eye on the difficulties immigrants are facing in states like Alabama and Arizona! And let's stand in solidarity with these immigrants who, like us, make important contributions to the United States.

[See our blog post on immigration issues in Alabama.](#)

Tell us how you GIVE
BACK to YOUR
COMMUNITY...

You could be featured in
the next issue of African
Advocate!

Email:
editor@uniteafricans.org

United African Organization
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