

Happy 2012!

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



UAO staff

Each new year, since its founding in 2005, the UAO has steadily strengthened its capacity to serve the rapidly growing African community in Illinois. In 2011, UAO:

- Advocated for public policies to enhance immigrant integration and dignified refugee resettlement, as well as advance social and economic justice (See our work with [Hair Braiders](#) and the [Dream Act](#).)
- Promoted *citizenship* and *civic participation* to empower the African immigrant & refugee community.
- Built on the *leadership* and *organizational capacity* of the community through [monthly workshops](#) in the [African Leadership Development Program](#).
- Launched [African Voices](#) Podcast to cover pertinent community issues and perspectives.
- Initiated the [Africans in Chicago](#) oral history project.
- Expanded our role as the information and resource clearinghouse of the community to assist individuals and families in accessing social safety net programs.
- Increased *educational scholarship* opportunity for African undergraduate students.

With your support, we look forward to building on this invaluable work in 2012!



Your donation is tax-deductable

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THE MISSION

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

We are once again in an election year. It is extremely important to exercise your right to vote in the 2012 elections. But democracy is more than voting every four years for a president; it is a sustained process of engagement in and advocacy around the critical issues affecting our communities both in the United States and on the African continent. As you make your New Year's resolutions for 2012, consider how you can work with others to deepen our democracy.

We wish you all a happy, prosperous and fulfilling year ahead!

UAO to host Youth Symposium



Youth meeting at UAO

UAO will host an **African Youth Symposium** in March 2012. The aim of the African Youth Symposium is to bring together African and African-American Youth, as well as other immigrant and native-born young people in Chicago to dialogue around issues and challenges in their communities.

Through dialogue, we hope that young people will build understanding of each others' points of view, and in the process find common ground. We hope that the symposium will be a catalyst for sustained youth dialogue and organizing in Chicago, with committed and open engagement from African youth. The symposium will be a day-long affair, and will include performances, music, talks and discussions.

Look out for more information over the coming weeks on how to participate in events leading up to the **African Youth Symposium**, and the symposium itself.

Follow us: [f](#) [t](#) [b](#) [v](#) [y](#)

Listen to our Podcast:



Highlights from African Voices:

[World Aids Day Interview with South African author Jonny Steinberg](#)

[Holiday Edition featuring music and interview with Malian band Tinariwen](#)

[Episode 3, including interview with author Bobby Gboyor on Liberia and Sierra Leone](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

Next Citizenship workshop:

Date: Saturday, Jan 14, 2012

Time: 8:30am - 11:30am

Venue: Salvation Army Mayfair Community, 5020 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60630

To register or for more information, contact Cheikh Diop:

[USA](#) (312) 949 9980

or email:

cheikh.diop@uniteafricans.org

NEWS ROUND-UP

UAO leadership workshops continue

We are only as strong as our community! So it is incumbent upon us to develop the leadership and organizational capacity of the community.

At the most recent UAO Leadership Workshop, Dr. Alie Kabba, Executive Director of the UAO, led an engaging session on strengthening organizational capacity.



Dr. Alie Kabba, Executive Director of UAO

Participants learned essential skills, strategies and best practices for building strong and effective community organizations. The UAO's African Leadership Development Program is targeted at African community leaders in and around Chicago.

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: Saturday, Jan 21, 2012

Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

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

Topic: Grant Writing

Facilitator: Maria Gray, who has a long history of working in and consulting with non-profits, will facilitate the workshop.

E-mail training@uniteafricans.org to register or call  (312) 949-9980  for more information.

WBEZ runs segment on African food in Chicago



Earlier this month, WBEZ's Worldview ran a segment on African foods. The station interviewed a number of African immigrants and refugees in Chicago about how they have adapted food from home in America. They also spoke to an author on African cuisines.

You can now download the Worldview episode at [WBEZ's website](#). Or [click here](#) for direct download.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Next Leadership workshop:

Date: Saturday, Jan 21, 2012


Time: 9:00am-1:00pm

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

Topic: Grant-writing

Speaker:

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

 (312) 949 9980 

ANC CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN CHICAGO

The African National Congress of South Africa celebrates its 100th birthday in 2012. A number of events are taking place in Chicago this weekend to commemorate its founding:

Lecture by Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright

Topic: Role of Church in Africa

Date: Friday, January 6, 2012

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: Trinity United Church of Christ, 400 W. 95th St., Chicago, IL

Panel Discussion on Civil Rights Movement and Anti-Apartheid Struggle

Date: Sunday, January 8, 2012

Time: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Discussants: Prof. Harold Rogers, Moderator, Dr. Rachel Rubin, UIC, Attorney Stan Willis, Prof. Johann Buis, Wheaton College and Nicole Lee, Executive Director of TRANSAFRICA.

For more information, email: anc.centenary@gmail.com or go to:

www.chimidANC100.com

UAO commemorated 50th Anniversary of Tanzanian Independence



[CAN TV - December 2011](#)

On December 9, 2011, Tanzania celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence from Britain. To commemorate this special milestone, the UAO featured an interview on its monthly CAN TV show with Rachel Wassira of the Tanzanian Community Association of the Midwest. UAO Executive Director, Alie Kabba spoke to Wassira about the Tanzanian independence struggle, Julius Nyerere, and Tanzanians in the United States. Click the link above to watch the video or check the out the [UAO's video channel](#).

UAO's Alie Kabba hosts new show, *Africa Speaks*, on WVON



UAO's Executive Director Alie Kabba will host a monthly show on Chicago's WVON, AM1690. The radio station provides an interactive forum for the African American community to discuss current, social, economic, and political issues. *Africa Speaks* will feature discussion on issues affecting the African continent. Tune in Saturday, January 14 at 2:00pm (CST) as we focus on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. You can listen live on www.wvon.com, and call-in during the show with your comments or questions.

GHANAIAAN LEGEND KOO NIMO VISITS CHICAGO

85 year old Ghanaian musician Koo Nimo is in Chicago next week. Sponsored by the Northwestern Program for African Studies, Nimo will be participating in 2 FREE events:

Concert: Koo Nimo & The Occidental Highlife Association

Date: January 11, 2012, 8:30 pm

Venue: Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago

Palm Wine Guitar Workshop with Koo Nimo

Date: January 12, 2012, 7:00 pm

Venue: Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago

Registration required - contact african-studies@northwestern.edu.

HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTARY, 'BENEATH THE BLINDFOLD'

This month in Chicago is the World Premiere of BENEATH THE BLINDFOLD, A Human Rights Documentary by Ines Sommer and Kathy Berger.

In the film four torture survivors, who all now live in the U.S., share personal stories of trauma that reveal a singular truth: this should not happen to anyone. One of the torture survivors is a nurse from Liberia.

Dates and Times:

January 13th @ 8:15pm

January 19th @ 8pm

Venue: Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State Street, Chicago, IL 60601 at the School of the Art Institute,

www.gene-siskel-film-center.org (312) 846-2600

A 6:30pm reception precedes the Friday, Jan 13 screening.

Tickets Available at the [Gene Siskel Film Center Box Office](http://www.gene-siskel-film-center.org) (www.gene-siskel-film-center.org 312-846-2600) and www.ticketmaster.com

African Voices in December

December was a bumper month for African Voices Podcast, the UAO's online radio show. December's podcasts:

World Aids Day Edition

- with South African journalist Johnny Steinberg, author of Sizwe's Test.

[CLICK TO LISTEN](#)

Holiday Edition

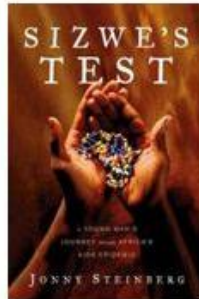
- featuring interview with and music from Malian Band Tinariwen.

[CLICK TO LISTEN](#)

African Voices Episode 3

- News and events
- Interview with author Bobby Gboyor about the civil war in Sierra Leone and Liberia
- Info on the UAO's free ESL classes

[CLICK TO LISTEN](#)



[Sizwe's Test](#)



[Tinariwen](#)



[African Voices Episode 3](#)

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

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

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

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