

African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vote 2012!	1
November Receipts	2
Become a US Citizen	2
Driver's License for All Illinois Motorists	3
Citizenship & Preparing for the Interview	3
Africans in Chicago: Behind the Scenes	3
Community Calendar	4

OUR MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations 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

ISSUE 11.12

Have Your Voice Heard!



Election Day is just around the corner! Vote on Tuesday, November 6th. You can choose to vote early, too!

Illinois' Early Voting locations are throughout the state.

Take advantage of this opportunity. Now is the time!

Exercise your right as an American Citizen!

Have your voice heard in this important election cycle!

If you are unsure about each candidate's stance on important issues, visit [YouTube Politics](#) to get your questions answered!

The 2012 presidential election may be the closest race in American history. Your vote really does count!

UAO Executive Director Among 2013 Chicago Community Trust Fellows

The Chicago Community Trust Fellowship is a significant investment in the leadership talent for nonprofit organizations. Experienced leaders receive up to \$60,000 and emerging leaders receive up to \$30,000 to fund their professional development plans.

The Fellowship is designed to elevate the careers of Chicago leaders and increase their future impact in the Chicago metropolitan area. The fellows have one year to complete their professional development plan.

The Chicago Community Trust Fellowship in its current form is now in its fourth year. It's built on a history of Trust fellowships that have contributed in significant ways to increase the quality and diversity of Chicago's nonprofit leaders.

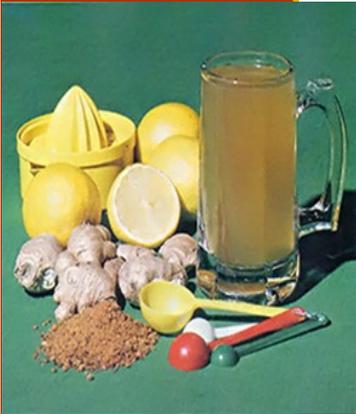
"We congratulate our hardworking visionary leader for such a prestigious fellowship," said Gaye D. Sleth, Jr., Chairman of UAO Board of Directors. "And we extend

our appreciation to The Chicago Community Trust for recognizing Alie Kabba's leadership and contribution in Chicago."



The Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for Alie Kabba to hone his leadership skills and lay the foundation for a Chicago-based national African advocacy network, which will deepen collaboration among African community-based organizations and elevate the voice of African immigrants and refugees in the US.

November's Recipe



Liberian Ginger Beer

"Share your Story"

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!

Email: editor@uniteafricans.org

Ingredients

- A blender
- 2 pounds of ginger root
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 ripe pineapple
- 14 cups of water
- Between a teaspoon and a tablespoon of whole cloves.

Instructions

Step 1: Wash your ginger root. Use a cutting board and small, sharp knife to cut into half-inch pieces

Step 2: Transfer a half of the cut ginger into the blender. Add 2 cups of water. Cover and set blender to grate or high. Blend until ginger is in small pieces and mixed in the water. Transfer this mixture to a deep (8 quart) pot. Repeat with the rest of the ginger. Add this mixture to the pot.

Step 3: Wash the pineapple. Use a sharp knife to remove the peeling. You should slice the peeling off so that you also remove a half-inch of pineapple with the skin.

Step 4: Cut the peeling into one-inch pieces. Transfer a half of the cut pineapple peeling to the blender. Add 2 cups of water and blend on high until pineapple is in small pieces and mixed in the water. Transfer to the pot of ginger. Repeat with the rest of the cut pineapple.

Step 5: Add to the mixture in the pot.

Step 6: Add 6 more cups of water to the pot. Add cloves. Make your first batch with 1 tsp and decide if you want a stronger flavor.

Step 7: Half-cover the pot with the top. Bring to a boil on high and boil on medium-high for 30 minutes.

Step 8: Remove the pot from the stove. Cover the pot completely and allow the mixture to sit for 8 hours or overnight at room temperature.

Step 9: Pour the mixture through a metal sifter to remove the larger pieces of ginger, pineapple peel, and cloves. Use a cook spoon to press help force the liquid through the sifter.

Step 10: Use a clean cotton kitchen cloth to strain out the finer particles. You will have to use your hand to squeeze the ginger beer out of the cloth.

Step 11: To sweeten, add 1 cup of sugar and stir. Add more sugar according to your taste. Cut and squeeze in lime, if desired. Chill and enjoy. Store in the fridge.

Become a US Citizen!

If you are not yet a citizen, attend our next Citizenship Workshop!!

Friday, November 30th, 2012

Indo-American Center

6326 North California, Chicago, IL 60659

12:00-2:00pm

To fill out the citizenship form, please bring the following:

- Have your Green Card, Social Security Card, State ID or Driver's License
- List of places you have traveled to since you received residency
- List of where you lived, worked, and/or studied for the past 5 years
- Information about your spouse including: name, date of birth, Social Security number, Green Card number, and/or date and place your spouse became a citizen (if applicable)
- Information about your children including: name, address,



date of birth and Green Card number (if applicable)

- If you are married, have your date of marriage available
- Information about previous marriages for both you and your spouse (if applicable): date of prior marriage, date the marriage ended and reason the marriage ended
- If applicable, information about any arrests: reasons of the arrest, date, place and disposition
- For men only: Selective Service number and date of registration, call (847)-688-6888 if you don't know

Money Order/Cashier's Check for \$680.00 payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Please pay \$10.00 (cash) at Exit Station for postage

For more information, contact us at:

(312)-949-9980

Driver's License for ALL Illinois Motorists!

Join us in Springfield during Veto Session to push for driver's license for ALL in Illinois!!

Current law prevents **250,000 Illinois immigrant motorists who cannot get SSNs from getting licenses**-- even though they need to drive to support their families. These unlicensed, uninsured drivers are **involved in 79,600 accidents each year, costing \$660 million in damage claims.**

Providing a way for ALL Illinois motorists to have driver's license will **make everyone on**

our state's roads safer.

What Other States Are Doing?

Washington and New Mexico already require all immigrant motorists to get driver's license. Since New Mexico made this change in 2003, **its rate of uninsured motorists fell from 33% to under 9%.**

New Mexico also saw a **24% decrease in alcohol-related crashes and a 25% drop traffic fatalities.**



Call Your Legislator to Support Highway Safety in Illinois!

African Cabdrivers Health Survey

Access to affordable health care is an issue of particular significance to the African community. African immigrants and refugees currently constitute a disproportionately high percentage of all cabdrivers in Chicago. The profession has become the employer of last resort for many educated Africans who find it difficult to access other employment opportunities.

African cabdrivers experience significant challenges in accessing quality and affordable health care. As self-employed individuals, it is often the case that many African cabdrivers do not have health insurance and are unaware of the resources available to them.

UAO's *African Cabdrivers Health Survey* is the first of its kind initiated by an African community-based organization in Chicago. It includes 25 questions, which focus on cabdrivers' overall health and access to related services. The survey will also collect other pertinent data, including their educational background, working hours, and county of birth. This information will allow UAO to gain a comprehensive

understanding of the population's makeup and needs. The survey will be distributed to 500 African cabdrivers across the city in both English and French.

"Our primary goal is to narrow health disparities in the African community," said Alie Kabba, executive director of United African Organization. "The survey will unearth much needed information about African cabdrivers in Chicago and identify patterns around level of access to healthcare."

UAO will use the health survey findings to design effective health educational materials about diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and sickle cell anemia, as well as disseminate information about affordable health care resources in the community.

The *African Cabdrivers Health Survey* is part of UAO's African Immigrant and Refugee Health Education, Outreach and Advocacy Project, which is made possible in part by a grant from **BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois.**

If you or anyone you know is currently working as a cabdriver, please fill out or ask them to **[fill out the survey online by clicking here!](#)**



Apply for Deferred Action!

UAO continues to assist eligible DREAMers in processing applications. If you or someone you know qualify,

Contact Sarah Travis at:
312-949-9980
sarah.travis@uniteafricans.org



Community Calendar

Keeping Families Together Rally: Celebrating the Power of our Vote

Tuesday, November 6th
7:00-8:00pm: 2141 S. Tan Court
8:00-8:30pm: March To 2333 S. King
Dr.
8:30-11:00pm: 2333 S. King Dr.

Thanksgiving With The Congo- lese Community

Saturday, November 17th
3:00-8:00pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church
616 Lake Street, Evanston, IL 60621

African Voices



October's Podcast featured

- ◆ Top news stories from Chicago and the African continent
- ◆ Advice on Children with Disabilities in the US Education System
- ◆ Africans in Chicago interview with Busi Zukofa of Handspring Puppet Company in South Africa
- ◆ Music from Yaba Angelosi of South Sudan

In October, African Voices celebrated its 1st birthday! We would like to thank you for your continuous support in making African Voices possible. If you have any cool ideas for the next round of episodes, feel free to e-mail us!



Woyzeck on the Highveld

To contribute,
Email:
podcasts@uniteafricans.org
Call: (312)-949-9980

[Click to subscribe!](#)

Africans in Chicago: Behind The Scenes!

See what our *Africans in Chicago* project is up to! Click the 1st photo for a stream of pictures from our shoots!



Almaz Y. of Ethiopia



Maurice M. of Minnesota/ Liberia

For more information about our project, or to get involved, visit:
www.africansinchicago.org
or call:
(312)-949-9980
'Like' us on [Facebook!](#)

OUR MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African community-based organizations 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



United African Organization

3424 South State Street
Suite 3C8-2
Chicago, IL 60616

www.uniteafricans.org
www.africansinchicago.org

Phone: 312-949-9980

Fax: 312-949-9981

E-mail: editor@uniteafricans.org

Advocacy ~ Unity ~ Empowerment