

# African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)

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### Community Events

#### 24TH ANNUAL AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

As tradition stands, each year Africa International House hosts the African Festival of the Arts here in Chicago. The 24th Annual African Festival of the Arts will open daily 10am till 10pm from August 30th to September 2nd. The tax deductible admission is \$10 in advance, \$20 at the gate or \$30 for a 4-day weekend pass, \$5 seniors and children under 13. Family and group discounts are also available. The Africa International House serves as a center that exposes and educates all peoples to the individual works and collective contributions of African cultures.

Time: August 30 - September 2, 2013  
Location: Washington Park, 5100 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, IL. 60637  
[Learn More](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

#### AFRO ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

Presented annually, the Afro-Entertainment Awards acknowledges and honors the accomplishments and contributions of entertainers and entrepreneurs in the Afro Entertainment arena. The mission of the Afro Entertainment Awards is to provide a cultural event that celebrates diversity and unity through African Music, while recognizing artists and divers talents from the African Diaspora.

Time: Sunday September 1, 2013 | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Location: Harold Washington Center, 4701 S Dr Martin Luther King Jr Dr., Chicago IL 60653  
[Learn More](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

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AUGUST 2013

## YOU SPOKE ...WE LISTENED!

We heard from many of you about the challenges of reading our emails on your mobile devices. We listened! We've redesigned your African Advocate e-newsletter to give you all the information you want but in an enhanced mobile-friendly format. It is still filled with all the convenience you're used to, with a fresh, new look.

As always, we appreciate your feedback. [Click here](#) to send us your comments and questions or email [editor@uniteafricans.org](mailto:editor@uniteafricans.org).

## RACIAL JUSTICE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR MORE SOLIDARITY

Dubbed the [Racial Justice Roundtable](#), UAO hosted its final workshop on the effect of racism and racial inequality on immigrant and minority communities last month. The workshop, made possible with support from the Woods Fund of Chicago, highlighted different forms of racial inequality, including institutional and structural racism, and discussed the need for all communities of color to come together on a unified mission for social justice.



Bryan Echols, Event Facilitator  
Source: Ashlee Rezin of Progress Illinois

## THE 2013 SERGEANT ALBERT DONO WARE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

United African Organization released the [2013 Sergeant Albert Dono Ware Memorial Scholarship competition](#) on July 30th. This scholarship is open to undergraduate students regardless of immigration status. The scholarship provides two (2) students with unrestricted funds of \$1,000 each toward their education.

Through the scholarship, the United African Organization (UAO) honors the memory of Sgt. Albert Dono Ware, who died from wounds sustained when his vehicle was attacked with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in the Arghandab River Valley of Afghanistan on December 18, 2009. Originally from Liberia, Sgt. Ware's exemplary service to his adopted homeland, United States of America, lasted for six years in the military. He was assigned to the 782nd Combat Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

[Click here](#) for [Scholarship application package](#). All enquiries should be sent by email to [scholarship@uniteafricans.org](mailto:scholarship@uniteafricans.org). Application deadline is August 31, 2013 at 11:59 p.m. CDT.



### Community Events

#### LITJAM! AT THE ARCHIVES

On August 25th, Chicago Reading Africa is hosting a literary social alongside The Dorchester Projects' Archive House, as part of the Sunday Open Hours Series. Come browse a selection of Chicago Reading Africa's library, listen to some African tunes from Dr. Wax's music collection & mix and mingle with other book lovers. The afternoon will also feature readings from friends and members of Chicago Reading Africa: YAW, Julie Iromuanya, Nina Yeboah, Odinaka Ezeokoli, and Katelyn Carlson. Bring a book to swap or discuss with a new friend!

[Learn More](#) | [RSVP](#)

Sunday, August 25th, 4:00 pm

Location: The Archive House: 6916 S. Dorchester Ave

#### U.S. - AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

The Corporate Council on Africa's 9th Biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit will be held in Chicago this fall. Since 1997, CCA's U.S.-Africa Business Summit has been regarded as an essential conference for anyone looking to do business in Africa. As the leading U.S.-Africa non-profit, membership organization, CCA is an essential resource for U.S. companies doing business on the continent.

Time: Tuesday, October 8, 2013 -

Friday, October 11, 2013

Location: McCormick Place Convention Center,  
2233 S. Martin Luther King  
Drive, Chicago IL 60616

#### CEANA 2013

The Council of Ewe Associations of North America (CEANA) is hosting its 20th Annual CEANA Convention under the theme, "Building The Educational Infrastructure For The Youth, Women's Health And Nutrition In Eweland". Guest of Honor for the event is His Excellency Former President John Rawlings of Ghana. CEANA is the umbrella organization representing twenty North America organizations of Ewe descent from West Africa. [Learn more](#)

August 30 - September 2, 2013

Location: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place,  
2233 S. Martin Luther King  
Drive, Chicago IL 60616

## GET READY....BE COVERED!

The new healthcare law, called the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare, comes with many changes that may impact you and your family! Many who have not been able to get health insurance will now be able to.

UAO is proud to partner with BeCovered Illinois, and the Illinois Department of Public Health to ensure that we engage, educate and enroll individuals, and families within our communities. We are excitedly counting down to October 1, 2013 when open enrollment starts for everyone to apply to get health insurance. In the meantime, here are a few things you NEED to do:

Understand what [the new healthcare law means for you and your family](#).

Set up your [online account](#) today in the [health insurance marketplace](#):

Nearly everyone will be required to purchase health insurance starting 2014 or face a penalty.

Remember, you can begin to apply to get health insurance on OCTOBER 1, 2013.

So Get Ready and Get Covered! Coverage starts JANUARY 1, 2014.

## FAMILY-BASED VISA F2A CATEGORY BECOMES CURRENT

There is good news for spouses, and unmarried children under the age of 21, of lawful permanent residents, aka F2A category, this month!

Starting August 1, 2013 through at least August 31, 2013, the F2A category has a current priority date for nationals all over the world. This means that all foreign nationals who are the spouse or child (unmarried and under the age of 21) of a green card holder may apply for lawful permanent resident status immediately.

So whether you already have a petition filed under the F2A category or whether you do not yet have a visa petition filed for you and are the spouse or child of a permanent resident, you should act as soon as possible to take advantage of the F2A category's current priority date. We are not sure if the F2A category will remain current beyond the month of August, so do not miss this opportunity.

[Read more](#)

**Community Events****CEANA 2013**

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Time: August 30 - September 2, 2013

Location: Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, 2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive , Chicago IL 60616

**DIVERSITY VISA TEACH IN**

Why should comprehensive immigration reform matter to the African American community? How can we add our voice to the debate and advocate for the inclusion of the Diversity Visa Program?

It is important that our generation of Africans in the Diaspora understand the politics and substance of immigration reform in order to protect the future of Black migration to the United States. Like the clay in the potter's hand, we have a duty to ensure that we do all we can to help shape immigration reform. It is in our hands! So join us on Saturday, August 31st at Chicago Urban League for a Diversity Visa Teach IN. Legal resources will be provided for individuals who need assistance with immigration issues.

Time: Saturday August 31st | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Location: Chicago Urban League, 4510 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60653 [Learn](#)

[More](#) | [RSVP](#)

**IN THE MEDIA**

- CNN.com video

The Uptown neighborhood is the heart of the African immigrant community in Chicago. Check out CNN Inside Africa's feature of how Africans embrace life on Chicago's North Side. United African Organization's Executive Director, Alie Kabba, explains how immigrants are building new lives in Chicago.

CNN's Inside Africa explores how Chicago's South Side is providing employment and business opportunities for immigrants. Watch "Africans thrive in Chicago's South Side"

- CNN.com video

Our children are our future! Find out how children of African immigrants and refugees adjust to life in the U.S., in this final episode of CNN Inside Africa's feature of Africans in Chicago.  
- CNN.com video



CBS covers diversity visa program

CBS 2's Derrick Blakley talks with immigrants about the "visa lottery" that got them to America -- a program that may not survive as Congress debates immigration.

**UPCOMING UAO EVENTS:****CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP**

All residents who are Green Card holders of at least 5 years, or 3 years and married to a U.S. citizen are invited to attend a free citizenship workshop where they get free assistance with their application to become a U.S. Citizen. - [Learn more](#)

Time: Saturday August 24th | 4:00 pm

Location: Truman College Students Cafeteria, 1145 W. Wilson, Chicago IL 60640

**AFRICAN UNITY GALA & AWARDS**

September is soon approaching and the United African Organization will be hosting its fourth annual African Unity Gala & Awards on September 21st. We are encouraging our devoted supporters to continue to support the community by coming out and celebrating African unity and culture with us. The Gala will feature live entertainment, food and a raffle with great prizes. Along with the festivities we are giving our business supporters a chance to promote their business by purchasing advertisement space in our program booklet. If you would like to purchase ad-space or become a sponsor for the program please visit our event webpage or give us a call at 312-949-9980. Discounted early bird tickets are available for purchase online; we hope to see you there!

Time: Saturday September 21, 2013 |

Location: IIT Tower Building | 10 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

[Learn More](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

### 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

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**Advocacy, Unity, Empowerment**

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