



Okasamafo

The communicator

Akwaaba

We are hopeful this newsletter will become a regular part of the Akan community and provide timely information as events and ceremonies happening in the community. We are also hopeful we can use this forum to respectfully share ideas and thoughts. If you have some ideas, you can direct them to [kwesia-moa@optonline.com](mailto:kwesiamoa@optonline.com) or yakosua@hotmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Akom Kese 2018

August 3–5

Double Tree by Hilton, Wilmington

Wilmington, DE



Nyame nti

Faith and trust in God

“It is God who pounds fufu for the one-armed person.”

-Akan proverb

WHY I CHANGED MY NAME?

OKOMFO DR. KWESI AMOA

When I was first introduced to the culture, it was such a burst of fresh air. Having been raised in a Anglo-Saxon dominate culture, I was elated to learn my culture did not start in slavery. Nana Yao Opare Dinizulu teachings about our African-Americans origins inspired me to fully embrace African culture. When I was 14, he told me my day name was Kwesi and gave me the last name Amoa. In many ways that was my naming ceremony which many of our kids have received. As I got older, I wanted to legally change my name. I wanted to be true to my embracing of African culture and I really no longer wanted to be called by a white man's name. Although, I was the third generation who carried the name Elijah. I was proud of my American name because of my family history. How-

ever, I knew it was a name of the conqueror and I wanted to chart my own destiny. So two years before, I set out to legally change my name, I sought the permission of my parents. I did this because of tradition of respecting your mother and father. I wanted my parents to know that I was doing this because it was time for us to define ourselves and connect to our roots. My mother was very upset at this decision. She flat out told me NO! My father on the other hand was cool with the idea. He told me "I know who you are and you will always be my son." A year later, I approached my mother again about the topic, this time she was more receptive and agreed. So in 1991, a graduate student at Fisk University, I officially changed my name to **Kwesi Amoa**. The process was relative

simple, I went before a judge and declared my new name. I was asked a few basic questions, like was I changing my name for fraudulent reasons? The whole process took about 15 minutes and cost under \$50.00 dollars.

Some people still call me “Elijah”, especially family members. I am cool with it because to them that’s how they knew me before I changed my name. Once I changed my name, I thought it was strange that on my resume I had to place I was an American citizen. It gave me some insight as to what non-US citizen go through in this country.

One thing that has puzzled me over the years, is why so many people who call themselves Akan still maintain their European names. I am not saying you cannot be Akan and have a European name. I am fine with that notion. What bothers me is that people are not authentic. When we are together at cultural events, we are Adzua, Kofi, Ama, etc. But when

we are not together we are John, Betty, Robert, etc. Do I not deserve to know your name? If I was to visit you in the hospital and ask for Ama, would I be able to find you? Why not be the same in both worlds? I would not love you less.

Over the years, I have found my day name empowering and always a great conversation piece. When people hear “Kwesi” they know that culture is behind that name. I have found people have a different level of respect for you because you embrace tradition and culture. They want to know the meaning of your name. They ask, are you American? Even Ghanaians are amazed that a non-born Ghanaian has more pride in the culture and traditions than they do.

The first thing Europeans did to our ancestors was take their names and language. I encourage you to reclaim your name. There is power in the name.

Up Coming Events:

DC/MD

March 25 2 – 5 pm

Pouring Libation – Temple of Nyame
15 Kennedy Street Washington, DC
For more information contact 202-725-8355

April 6 – 8 pm

Sankofa Conference – at 900 E Nalley Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20785
Contact 202-656-2329 for more information.

April 28 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Festival of the Gods, , Circle of Light, 9222 Ardwick Admore Rd, Springdale, MD 20774 for more information contact 240-705-061

NY/NJ

March 31, 6 – 9 pm

Paint and Sip – Onipa-Abusia, 171-32 Liberty Ave, Jamaica, NY 11433
For more information contact 347-454-9026

April 21, 8 – 12 pm

Asuo Botopre Festival - Onipa-Abusia , Restoration Plaza 1368 Fulton Street Brooklyn, NY 11216 for more information contact 347-454-9026

April 21 6—8 pm

Hip Hop Production, , Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation contact Osei Ababio for more information 917-789-0563

May 25 – 28

Camping Trip – , Asafo, Ages 8 – 18 boys only, contact Yao Nkromah for more information.

May 5 11 am – 2 pm

Pre-Mother's Day Breakfast and Photo Shoot, , Onipa-Abusia, Contact 347-454-9026

June 17, 2018 , 12 pm – 4 pm,

Father' Day Fish , Onipa Abusia Contact 347-455-6891

Dewuru bo pa pa ne yo

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy 65th Birthday to **Nana Botwe Atakora**.

Happy 50th Birthday to **Okomfo Dr. Kwesi Amoah**. May the Gods and Ancestor continue to guide your path.

Congratulations to **Banafo Bosumfie** on having a successful 17th Asuo Geybi Festival.

Please keep **Nana Ama Oparebea** in your prayer as she deals with transition of her mother to land on Nsamanfo..



Nana Botwe Atakora

Congratulation to **Adzua B.Opere** on a successful Health and Wellness fair.

Next event July 21, 2018 Call for details 347-743-9482 or email fun-mimataley2016@gmail.com

Congratulations **Okomfo Kwabena Duuku** (Diallo Sumbry) on your first Back2Africa tour and your partnership with the Ghana Tourism Authority promoting Ghana as a tourist destination for Africans in the diaspora.

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER.27.2018

ONIPA ABUSIA'S
50th
ODWIRA CELEBRATION

LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, VENDORS

INFO:
ONIPA ABUSIA INC.
171-32 LIBERTY AVENUE
JAMAICA, NY 11433
ONIPAABUSIA@HOTMAIL.COM
(347) 454-9026

US EAST COAST 2018 GHANA TOURISM VISIT



HOMECOMING 2019 HOMECOMING 2019 HOMECOMING 2019 HOMECOMING 2019

RETURN DISCOVER ENJOY

★★★ **MARCH 12 - 14, 2018** ★★★

You're invited to meet the leadership of the Ghana Tourism Authority and learn more about how and why Ghana - more than any other African nation - has the greatest number of African Americans living in country who have chosen Ghana as their new home, business headquarters and/or favorite place to vacation. Ghanaian appetizers will be served. RSVP to reserve your seat.

DC **BUSBOYS AND POETS**
3.12 5331 BALTIMORE AVENUE | HYATTSVILLE, MD 20781
6:30 – 8:30 PM

NY **AKWAABA MANSION**
3.13 347 MACDONOUGH ST. | BROOKLYN, NY 11233
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

CHI **DUSABLE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY**
3.14 740 E 56TH PL | CHICAGO, IL 60637
6:30 – 8:30

RSVP WWW.THEADINKRAGROUP.COM

PRESENTED BY GHANA
TOURISM AUTHORITY AND
THE ADINKRA GROUP



Wu nim sa?

Did you know?

1. The Akan people of Ghana includes over 30 different subgroups, each with their own dialect. Those subgroups include Asante, Akuapem, Fante, Akwamu and Akyem.
2. There are 8 family lines from which Akan people descend: Asona, Bretuo, Aduana, Oyoko, Ekuona, Agona, Asenie and Asakyiri.
3. The most common shrine among the Akan people of America is Nana Asuo Gyebi. Nana Asuo Gyebi is from the village of Epala, which is near the town of Bolgatanga in the far northern region. He was brought to Larteh and the Nana Akonnedi Shrine by Okomofohema Nana Akua Oparabea in 1957, and serves as the Shrine's Obrafo.



Praye, se woyi baako a na ebu; wokabomu a emmu.

When you remove one broomstick it breaks but when you put them together they do not break.

In unity there is strength.

Aduan pa di

Good food

Banku and okra soup By Akinyi Ochieng
(www.akinyiochieng.com)

- 1 lb Okra
- 2 cloves garlic
- 3 medium tomatoes
- 1 large onion
- 3 garden eggs
- 2 scotch bonnet peppers
- 1/2 cup palm oil
- 2 cubes of Maggi stock

1. Chop half of the pound okra and then grate the other half.
2. Cut garden eggs in half.
3. Soak garden eggs and okra for 10 minutes.
4. Pour garden egg and okra into a boiling pot of hot water until the garden eggs turn translucent.
5. In a separate pot, pour 1/2 cup of palm oil ginger, Maggi, ground pepper and garlic. Stir for about five minutes then add tomato. Allow to simmer.
6. Add okra into the mixture, mix well and allow to cook for another 10 minutes.
7. Serve with banku or rice.



nkuruma - okra

emo - rice

frɔɛɛ - stew

ngo kɔkɔɔ - palm oil

ntorɔwa - tomatoes

gyeene - onion

nyaadewa - garden eggs/
eggplant

keka - to bite

di - to eat

noa -to cook

SAVE THE DATE

The African Traditional Spiritual Coalition
presents

Sacred Healing Circle and Conference

Saturday, April 28th, 2018

Part 1 of Conference

9:00 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.

The Davis Dance Center

6218 3rd Street, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20011

Sunday, April 29th, 2018

Part 2 of Conference: 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Sacred Healing Circle: 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Colmar Manor Community Center

3701 Lawrence Street
Colmar Manor, Maryland



“Spiritual Foundation of CommUNITY”

Akan — Ausarian -- Yoruba

ATTIRE – BRIGHT COLORS - NO RED - NO BLACK – NO HIGH HEEL SHOES

Admission is FREE and Open to the Public

Your generous donations are greatly appreciated

For information: Nana Kofi AsinorBoakye I - (301) 773-9137

Akua Oparebea Johnson - (240) 355-6962

“spiritualcoalition@gmail.com”