

AFRICAN
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AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES ASSOCIATION



AHSA
April 2016
Volume 1, Issue 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message From The President

Call For Proposals

Membership Information

In Memoriam: Obadele

Pan African Colloquium

NEXT MONTH

- ◆ International Coalition To Commemorate African Ancestors of the Middle Passage
- ◆ State of the Black World Conference IV



**A Message from the President
African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA)
Opening of the Way and Permission to Speak**

Lisa Aubrey, Ph.D., President of AHSA
April 1, 2016



It is with deep humility and gratitude that I give thanks to our scholar-activist elders for giving me this opportunity to speak to the future and direction of our lauded, historic, and most relevant organization, the African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA).

To you, on behalf the newly elected executive, Shikamoo na Asante.

At the October 2015 AHSA Annual Meeting, when we were passed the mantle of AHSA by the outgoing executive led by immediate past President Dr. Shelby Lewis, we knew that we were making a very serious commitment. We knew definitively that we were sealing a contract with the Global African Community to work on behalf of our collective survival, co-development, and progress.

We, the new executive, understood that very careful and methodical mentoring and study had been done of those who would be entrusted to take the helm of this incomparable ancestral treasure which we must steward for the next few years (2016-2019). Know that we will not blindly tread ahead, but will continually look back to you for intergenerational consultation, your wisdom, and AHSA continuity. We are committed to using the Sankofa paradigm to measure our steps as we move forward.

We are committed to the vision, mission, and objectives of AHSA as articulated in 1969.

Like the AHSA leadership before us, we realize the seriousness of our charge as stewards of the AHSA and hold within us the deepest respect for the blood, sweat, tears, and tireless labor that you have put into the lifeblood of our organization over the decades. We deeply understand that your unwavering commitment to AHSA is a social and political act of Pan African love, exemplar of our centuries-long collective love for Africa. It is that love that continues to fuel our indefatigable fight for the restoration of Global African History in its proper context in world history. It must be recognized that African History, our history and our heritage, is the progenitor of all human history. It is simply just.

It is in this vein that we, as the new leadership, pledge to continue to work toward AHSA's founding purpose of "providing a forum for scholars of African descent to exchange African-centered research and views about the history and culture of African peoples on the continent and in the diaspora."

As the leadership in the past had begun, our leadership today makes a pledge to continue to increase our community engagement so that groundings in African realities will constantly fuel our scholarship and activism. Additionally, we pledge to expand our reach as AHSA, the dynamic Pan African organization bridging theory and practice, in all parts of Africa and the African Diaspora.

Organizational collaborations with AHSA, as done in the past also, remain a priority for us. One such collaboration, since we took office, is in its infancy in discussions with the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC), and is already showing promise. Another such collaboration that is in its embryonic stage of discussions is with Valeurs d'Afrique, based in France and Cameroon. Its organizational mission is to restore, from the grassroots, African values and ways of being.

These organizations fit well in the overall mission of the AHSA, and underscore the often repeated African proverb "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together". We want to go far, and together.

Further AHSA projects already on our agenda include, and continuing in the stead of the leadership that we succeed:

- 1) Structural strengthening of AHSA
- 2) Operational expansion programmatically, geographically, and technologically, including the use of variegated social media
- 3) Community outreach widening and deepening, including facilitating organizational collaborations and continuing collaboration summits
- 4) Production and dissemination of AHSA members' research, with implications for policy affecting Global Africa
- 5) Archival preservation of AHSA legacies' intellectual works
- 6) Production of "In Memoriam Tributes" in Series for posterity
- 7) Continued production of Legacy Series, beginning with the second book
- 8) Elaboration and development of AHSA Institute proposals for survivability and sustainability of AHSA
- 9) Fundraising for overall functioning of AHSA
- 10) Facilitating AHSA presence at African-centered events, and events concerning Global Africa, and providing requisite feedback and reports
- 11) Mentoring the next generations
- 12) Programming annual AHSA conferences 2016, 2017, 2018, as we move toward our 50th Anniversary Conference to be held in 2019 on the continent of Africa.

I am indeed honored to serve as your President of the African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA) 2016-2019. I am further honored and privileged to serve with my colleagues Dr. Ife Williams, Vice President; Ms. Darlita Moyé, Secretary

General; and Professor William Dorsey, Treasurer. We are committed to rejuvenate AHSA, beyond its renewal, as we honor our pledge.

Our historic installation and ceremonial enstoolment on October 29, 2015, in the tradition of our elders and ancestors at the John Henrik Clarke House in Harlem, New York, echoes loudly in time and space as to the momentousness and gravity of our charge. We accept our responsibility, and work and pray to serve AHSA and Global Africa well. We ask for your continued blessings.

Ubuntu! "We are because you are." We thank you for opening the way for us and giving us permission to speak.

Lisa Aubrey, Ph.D.

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THE AFRICAN HERITAGE STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Founded 1969

In Collaboration with the Ronald Walters
Leadership
& Policy Center, Howard University



Annual Conference

“SCHOLAR-ACTIVISM IN AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA”

November 3-5, 2016

Washington, D.C.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS-SUBMISSION DEADLINE

JULY 15TH 2016

Social Activism in Pan African communities has historically been informed by Scholar Practitioners. African Nationalists and Africans in the Diaspora such as Kwame Nkrumah, George Padmore, W.E.B. Dubois, Amilcar Cabral, and others led the struggle against racism, colonialism and imperialism. Frederick Douglas

set the mark in his indefatigable fight against slavery and for the rights of women.

AHSA is celebrating this legacy by assessing the role of African Scholars and Africans in the Diaspora in historical and contemporary struggles with the aim of informing our future. AHSA is seeking academics and social activists who can unite around the Conference Theme, "Scholar-Activism in Africa and the Diaspora".

We encourage the submission of proposals that focus on some aspects of the following topics:

1. Perspectives on Scholar Activism
2. Dr. Ronald W. Walters: The Scholar Practitioner
3. Pan-Africanism, Activism, and Liberation Struggles in Africa and the Diaspora
4. Pioneer Activist Ancestors and the Struggle Against Racism, Colonialism, and Imperialism in Domestic and Foreign Relations
5. Social Injustice, Community Engagement, and Social Movements
6. Women, Politics, and Culture
7. Democracy, Prison Reform, and Land Reform
8. Scholar Activism and the Struggle for Civil Rights
9. Globalization, Militarization, Resistance and Terrorism in Africa and the Diaspora
10. Politics, Economic, and Interventions in Africa
11. Non-Governmental Organizations and other Non-State Actors in Africa's International Relations
12. Technology, Social Media, and Mobilization of the Masses
13. Reparations and Repatriation: Revisiting the World Conference Against Racism
14. The African Union and the Quest for Peace and Development
15. Organizing for the Future
16. Black Theology, Black Power, Black Renaissance
17. Reparations: That is the Burning Question
18. African Heritage as a Foundation for Teaching and Mentoring the Next Generation of Scholars-Activists

Please send a 150-400 word abstract for sessions, roundtable or workshop. You must include a title, organizer, and participants along with the contact details for each: name, address, institution or organization, email and phone number.

Proposals must be submitted to the AHSA Program Chair:

ifewill56@gmail.com or call 215-208-3972 after May 15th.

Conference Venues

Thursday, November 3rd Howard University

Friday, November 4th and Saturday November 5th at Hilton Garden Inn 1225
First Street NE

Housing

Marriott Courtyard Hotel 1325 2nd St NE 202-898-4000 (\$139 pn)

Hilton Garden Inn 1225 First Street NE 202-408-4870 (\$199 pn)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$75 Regular membership

\$30 Student membership

\$500 Lifetime or Institutional

Conference Registration

\$110 Members

\$125 Non-members

\$50 Students

Membership dues and registration can be paid via paypal.com through the African Heritage Studies Association account. Instructions for paying via PayPal:

Note: When paying for both membership and conference fees, you will need to complete payment for Membership Fees first, and then use the same instructions to complete payment for Conference Fees.

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LARRY "OBADELE" WILLIAMS

December 2015

Contributed by Dr. Shelby Lewis



Immediate Past President

Larry Obadele Williams was committed to the deconstruction, reclamation, and celebration of African history and culture. The African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA) pays tribute to his life and works.

During his undergraduate years at the University of Chicago, Obadele took advantage of the knowledge and experiences of many progressive Black scholars in the city. He listened to their presentations at conferences and forums and attended classes taught by Drs. Bobby Wright, Jacob Caruthers and A. Thompson at the Black Communiiversity of Northeastern Illinois University. This experience made him an African-centered thinker and researcher.

He joined Dr. Asa Hilliard and others in organizing the Southern Region of ASCAC and the Bennu Study Group, which designed the 1984 Nile Valley Conference. He worked with Asa Hillard, Lucretia Payton-Stewart and Herman Reese on the National Conference on the Infusion of African and African American History in the School Curriculum and coedited *Great African Thinkers: Vol.1*, Cheikh Anta Diop, with Ivan Van Sertima; *The Oldest Book in the World*, with Asa Hilliard and Nia Damali; and *Be Afrikan: Essays by Afrikans in the Process of Sankofa: Returning to our Source of Power*, with Burnett Kwadwo Gallman and Marimba Ani. During this period, he also published some of his works in the *Journal of African Civilizations* and *Afrika Must Unite: A Journal of Pan-Afrikan Affairs*.

While Obadele fully understood the need to study and document ancient African history and culture, he also understood and appreciated the value of documenting and preserving contemporary African and Diaspora history and culture. He spent five decades photographing, recording and preserving the works and presentations of Dr. John Henrik Clarke, Asa Hillard, Jacob Caruthers, and others. He also recorded AHSA, ASCAC and other African and diaspora conferences and forums.

Obadele's video, tape, and photographic collection is a treasure trove that he makes available to scholars, activists, publications, documentaries and exhibitions that acknowledge and highlight the history and culture of African peoples. St. Clair Bourne used his Photo Archives for *A Great and Mighty Walk: John Henrik Clarke*, Shelby Lewis and Earle Clowney included his extensive bibliographical compilation on Dr. Clarke and his essay on "John Henrik Clarke: A

Literary Genius” in The Legacy of John Henrik Clarke, and Keith Baird used some of his photos in John Henrik Clarke’s unpublished work, Pan-Africanism: Unite or Perish.

Larry Obadele Williams was a member of the Jegna Collective, founding head of Africana Research Infosystems, Inc., and a Board Member of the African Heritage Studies Association. His voice and his commitment to the Pan-African community will be missed.



Pan African Colloquium
Dr. Ife Williams, Contributor
AHSA Vice President

The University of West Indies at Cave Hill Campus, Barbados and the Pan African Strategic, Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG), Nigeria in association with the Commission for Pan African Affairs in Barbados hosted their Inaugural Pan African Colloquium January 12-15, 2016. The theme was “Heroines and Heroes of the Back to Africa Movements, Pan Africanism, African Nationalism and Global Africanism: Their philosophies, activities and legacies”. In addition to the traditional male voices highlighted in Pan Africanism, presentations were made on Nzinga, Nanny, the Amy Garveys, Una Marson, Madame Olufunmilayo Ransome-Kuti, while also emphasizing the absence of women in the present reparations struggle.

One of the goals of the colloquium was to launch a book project to fill some historical gaps omitted from the UNESCO publication, General History of Africa, Volume 9, that included Pan Africanism and personalities involved; efforts to keep Pan Africanism alive in the 21st century; and transformation of the OAU into the AU. Rodney Worrels’ assessment of African states is that they are reluctant to give up sovereignty to the AU organization, however, they surrender to the IMF and World Bank. Additionally, the governments are pushing for unity among the people as opposed to government to government.

There were updates on the situations of African people in Brazil and Columbia and their continuing battle with the governments for land rights. A presentation was given on the student struggle in South Africa against the use of the curriculum to maintain colonialism. The Cuban Ambassador to Barbados, Francisco Fernandez, was in attendance and stated that the present US-Cuban relations are not representative of a departure from their previous status.

The question of reparations was alluded to but not discussed in detail. Prime Minister Ralph Gonzales of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participated in a round table discussion and noted that his impetus to take a stand on reparations and galvanize participating CARICOM nations (the Caribbean Community) came from the people.

Sir Hilary Beckles' posited that a paradigmatic shift from the term Diaspora is needed, as he views the term as defunct in terms of Global Africa. The term Diaspora postured Africa as the mother country and all Africans had to return and help the mother, now there are fifty-four states and the rest of Africans throughout the world are being challenged. He referred back to the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in 2000 and stated that African governments let the rest of the African Descendants down by not standing with them on reparations. However, David Comissiong offered that the African governments were a major force at WCAR on reparations but succumbed to external pressures.

Beckles pointed out that there are presently more Africans in America today than during the highpoint of slavery, who supported President Obama, and are now leaning towards conservatism. Beckles referenced the evolution of African communities particularly in Europe, with the influx of Yemenese, Somalians, Ethiopians and extreme xenophobia we are presently witnessing across the globe.

The changing demographics, politics and social conditions among African descendants demands revisions in how the Diaspora is perceived and thus Pan Africanism. The closing Plenary by Horace Campbell also raised the question of how Arab states within Africa should be regarded. African descendants failed to protest the imperialist invasion of Libya that he likened to the Italian attack in Abyssinia and the assassination of Libyan President Muammar al-Qaddafi. Pan Africanists became confused as to whether Libya is African.

Campbell noted that "the twenty-first century belongs to Africans". Our demographic strength alone of 40% by 2050 of Africans on the continent will force a change in our trajectory. If the consensus is that Pan Africanism has to be reframed in theory and practice, social mobilization for Global Reparations must be at the forefront.

Association des études du patrimoine africain (AHSA)

L'ouverture de la Voie et la permission de parler

Lisa Aubrey, Ph.D., présidente de l'AHSA

1er avril 2016

C'est avec une profonde humilité et gratitude que je remercie nos aînés les savants-activistes qui me donnent l'occasion de parler de l'avenir et de l'orientation de notre association très appréciée, très historique, et très pertinente, l'Association des études du patrimoine africain (AHSA).

A vous, au nom de l'exécutif nouvellement élu, Shikamoo na Asante.

Lors de la réunion annuelle de l'AHSA ici en Octobre 2015, lors de la passation de service de l'exécutif sortant de l'AHSA dirigé par le président sortant Dr Shelby Lewis, nous savions que nous prenions un engagement très sérieux. Nous savions avec certitude que ceci scellait un contrat avec la communauté africaine mondiale afin de travailler pour notre survie collective, notre développement et le progrès collectifs.

Nous, le nouvel exécutif, avons compris que le mentorat ainsi qu'une étude minutieuse et méthodique avait été faite pour ceux qui auraient la charge de prendre la tête de ce trésor ancestral incomparable dont nous devons assurer l'intendance pour les quelques prochaines années (2016-2019). Sachez que nous n'allons pas avancer aveuglément, mais nous allons toujours revenir vers vous pour une consultation inter-génération, pour tirer profit de votre sagesse, et assurer la continuité de l'AHSA. Nous nous engageons à utiliser le paradigme de Sankofa pour mesurer nos étapes d'avancement. Nous nous sommes engagés à la vision, à la mission et aux objectifs de l'AHSA comme articulée en 1969.

Tout comme bureau de l'AHSA qui nous a précédés, nous avons conscience de la charge de notre responsabilité en tant que gardiens de l'AHSA et avons en nous le plus profond respect pour le sang, la sueur, les larmes, et le travail inlassable que vous avez apporté dans l'élément vital de notre organisation au courant des dernières décennies. Nous comprenons profondément que votre engagement indéfectible à l'AHSA est un acte social et politique de l'amour panafricain, à l'exemple de notre amour collectif pour l'Afrique. C'est cet amour qui continue d'alimenter notre lutte infatigable pour l'entière reconstitution de l'histoire africaine dans son contexte de l'histoire mondiale. Il faut reconnaître que l'histoire africaine, notre histoire et notre patrimoine, est l'ancêtre de toute l'histoire de l'humanité. Elle l'est tout simplement.

C'est dans cet esprit que nous, en tant que nouveau leadership, prenons l'engagement de continuer à travailler vers le but fondateur de l'AHSA afin de «fournir un forum pour les chercheurs d'ascendance africaine qui vont échanger sur les recherches qui tournent autour de l'Afrique et voir l'histoire et la culture des peuples africains sur le continent et dans la diaspora ».

En phase avec ce que le précédent bureau avait commencé, notre leadership aujourd'hui fait une promesse de continuer à accroître notre engagement communautaire afin que l'ancrage dans les réalités africaines soit constamment notre motivation pour nos études et notre activisme. En outre, nous nous engageons à étendre notre portée en tant qu'AHSA, l'organisation africaine dynamique qui fait le pont entre la théorie et la pratique, dans toutes les régions de l'Afrique et de la diaspora africaine.

Des collaborations de l'AHSA avec d'autres organisations, comme cela s'est fait dans le passé aussi, restent une priorité pour nous. Parmi ces collaborations, depuis notre prise de fonction, celle avec l'Association pour l'étude des civilisations africaines classiques (ASCAC), est à ses débuts dans les discussions et est déjà prometteuse. Un autre type de collaboration qui est au stade embryonnaire des discussions c'est celui avec Valeurs d'Afrique, basée en France et au Cameroun. Sa mission en tant qu'organisation est de restaurer, dès la base, les valeurs africaines et les manières d'être. Ces organisations intègrent bien la mission globale de l'AHSA, et soulignent le proverbe africain souvent répété : «Si vous voulez aller vite, aller seul. Si vous voulez aller loin, aller ensemble». Nous voulons aller loin, et ensemble.

D'autres projets de l'AHSA et en continuité de l'exécutif que nous avons succédé sont déjà sur notre ordre du jour parmi lesquels figurent:

1. Le renforcement structurel de l'AHSA
2. L'expansion opérationnelle programmée, géographiquement et technologiquement, y compris l'utilisation des médias sociaux panachée
3. L'élargissement et l'approfondissement de la sensibilisation communautaire, notamment en facilitant les collaborations entre organisations et la poursuite des sommets de collaboration
4. La production et la diffusion de la recherche des membres de l'AHSA, avec des implications politique qui touchent l'Afrique toute entière.
5. La préservation des archives patrimoniales des œuvres de l'esprit de l'AHSA.
6. La production des « Hommages en Mémoire de » en série pour la postérité
7. La continuité de la production de série « Héritage », en commençant par le deuxième livre
8. L'Elaboration et le développement des propositions de l'Institut AHSA pour la survie et la durabilité de l'AHSA
9. La Collecte de fonds pour le fonctionnement global de l'AHSA
10. Faciliter la présence l'AHSA lors des manifestations afro-centrées, et les événements concernant l'Afrique en générale, et la fourniture des commentaires et des rapports requis.
11. Le Mentorat des prochaines générations
12. La programmation des conférences annuelles de l'AHSA 2016, 2017, 2018,

alors que nous nous dirigeons vers notre 50 e Conférence anniversaire qui se tiendra en 2019 sur le continent africain.

Je suis vraiment honoré de servir en tant que présidente de l'Association des études du patrimoine africain (AHSA) 2016-2019. Je suis également honorée et privilégiée de servir avec mes collègues Dr. Ife Williams, vice - président; Mme Darlita Moyé, secrétaire générale; et le professeur William Dorsey, trésorier.

Nous nous engageons à rajeunir l'AHSA, au - delà de son rajeunissement, nous voulons honorer notre engagement.

Notre cérémonie d'installation historique du 29 Octobre 2015, dans le respect de la tradition de nos aînés et des ancêtres au domicile de l'un des membres fondateurs de l'AHSA et premier président John Hendrik Clarke AHSA à Harlem, New York, fait fortement retentir dans le temps et dans l'espace l'importance et la charge de notre responsabilité. Nous acceptons notre responsabilité, et le travail et prions afin de bien servir l'AHSA et l'Afrique toute entière. Nous demandons sans cesse vos bénédictions.

Ubuntu! «Nous existons parce que vous êtes." Nous vous remercions de nous ouvrir la voie et de nous avoir donné la permission de parler.

Lisa Aubrey, Ph.D.

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