



THE CHIKU AWALI EXPERIENCE



Volume 4, Issue 1
The Chiku Awali Experience

September / October 2010

Chiku Awali Message Board

September 13, 2010, All Classes
Resume

October 3, 2010, Sunsum
Tsoobie: Puppet Mask of Africa
at the Nyack Library. 2:00-
4:00pm

October 9, 2010, Chiku Awali
Parent Meeting. 9 N. Main St.
1:30pm

October 10, 2010, Sunsum
Tsoobie: Puppet Mask of Africa
at the Nyack Library. 2:00-
4:00pm

October 17, 2010, Sunsum
Tsoobie: 2:00-4:00pm

October 24, 2010, Sunsum
Tsoobie: 2:00-4:00pm

Upcoming Performances

- November 6, 2010
Ramapo Cultural Arts Theater
- November 7, 2010
Ramapo College of New Jersey

Dancers Needed: The Company has begun rehearsing for their November 2010 African Dance Extravaganza, which will feature a new dance-drama "Rudo and Jumoke," choreographed by Jerry Kwashie Dzokoto. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00pm at the Ramapo Cultural Arts Theater, 64 N Main Street Spring Valley, NY. Come and be a part of the production.

Newsletter of Chiku Awali African Dance, Arts & Culture, Inc.

ALEXANDREENA DIXON BECOMES NANA YAA OFORIWAA AMANFO I QUEEN MOTHER OF PROGRESS

Chiku Awali African Dance, Arts & Culture, Inc. founder and Director Alexandreena Dixon became royalty in Bepose, a village in the Asante (Ashanti) Region near Kumasi in Ghana, West Africa, on Thursday, Aug. 19, in honor of her Ashanti heritage and her dedication to developing the community.

Accompanied by 26 members of Chiku Awali, the four-hour celebration featured dancing, speeches and a traditional installation, where Ms. Dixon was raised and lowered on an African stool three times and covered in baby powder before switching into her regal dress: authentic white Kente cloth shaded in yellow and black.

The village crowned Ms. Dixon Nana Yaa Oforiwaa Amanfo I, Queen of Development and Progress. Ms. Dixon's mother, Janet Fritz and daughter, Delaina Dixon, were at her side during the ceremony.

"This has been such an incredible and amazing experience, there really are no words," says Ms. Dixon, who is currently wrapping up a 14-day tour of Ghana, West Africa. "Our goal is to help our community across the ocean, so that the children of Africa can enjoy educational advancements that will help them attend senior high school and college. Educating the children in the community will ensure the village's economic development. There is a great need to raise the literacy level of all the children in the village. We hope to help build an IT lab for them to learn how to use computers.

Ms. Dixon presented the Bepose school system with a computer, and members of Chiku Awali donated more than 10 suitcases filled with clothes, toiletries and school supplies for the community. Several young men from Chiku Awali's Rites of Passage program 2010 serviced the community by sweeping and cleaning the school in Bepose.

Before the coronation, Chiku Awali members had participated in cultural exchange with Ghanaian musicians by performing "Yaa Asantewaa," the story of the Asante Queen Mother who helped lead the War of the Golden Stool in resistance to British Colonialism on Aug. 16, with members of Afrique Dance Ensemble at the Alliance Française in Accra, Ghana. The Afrique Dance Ensemble founders are Abraham Sena Dzokoto and Jerry Kwashie Dzokoto, who is the cultural director of Chiku Awali in Rockland County, N.Y.

Chiku Awali also toured several regions in Ghana, visiting the Mole Safari park in Bolgatanga, historical sites of Trans-Atlantic slavery at Cape Coast and Elmina, and the memorial burial grounds of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first independent president.



BI-NKA-BI
OBI NKA OBI
Adinkra Symbol
meaning Bi-nka-bi.
Obi nka obi (bite not
one another). Avoid
conflicts.
Symbol of Unity.

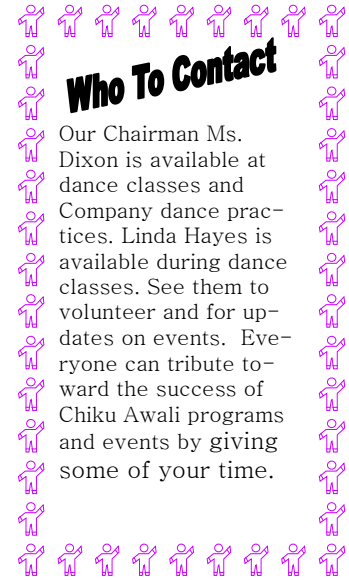


FUND RAISING

Yard sale- This is our on-going fundraising effort. We need volunteers to help set up and sell. Dates will be announced at class. The sales are held at the Theater. We could really use your help. Donate shoes, clothes and bedding, especially men's.

Recycle Drive- Bring us your bottles and cans. We will recycle them, all proceeds go to Chiku Awali programs. Ask family and neighbors to donate their recycle items. Drop off dates will be announced at class. This is an easy way for everyone to participate in our fundraising efforts!

Our annual Dance Extravaganza is coming. Can you help? We need to sell tickets, transport the kids to rehearsals and help backstage. Think about what you can do.



This project is made possible, in part, with funds from the Community Arts Grants Program of the Arts Council of Rockland, the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts and a generous grant secured by Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee. Chiku Awali gratefully acknowledges support from the Arts Fund for Rockland, a project of the Arts Council of Rockland and the Rockland County Legislature. Additional sponsors include the Elephant Rock Foundation, the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation secured by Senator Thomas Morahan, the Rockland County Department of Health, the ProBono Partnership, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the Rockland Community Capacity Building Initiative, the Rockland County Office of Community Development, the Rockland County Legislature, the Town of Ramapo Parks and Recreation and the Village of Spring Valley Youth Bureau.



*Start Planning
for the Chiku
Awali Trip to
Africa in
2013.*



NEWSLETTER OF CHIKU
AWALI AFRICAN DANCE,
ARTS & CULTURE, INC.

Enjoy the Chiku Awali Experience!

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Please renew your membership. Enjoy reduced prices on tickets, trips, workshops, drumming classes etc.

Membership:

\$50.00 Family Membership

\$30.00 Adult Membership

\$20.00 Child Membership

**Dance/Drumming/Atenteben
Classes**

Children: \$6.00 members

\$9.00 Non members

Adults: \$10.00 members

\$15.00 Non members



Please support Chiku Awali.

Your donation is deductible to the extent allowed by law.