Chiku Awali
Rites of Passage For Young Men and Young Women

Passage Ceremony
Saturday, September 13, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Ramapo Cultural Arts Theater
64 North Main Street
Spring Valley, New York
Chiku Awali
Rites of Passage
Class of 2014

From Left to Right:
Aleah Green in the person of Nyameke of the Akan Tribe of Ghana.
LeAnna Warley in the person of Lulu Rukiya Tabia of the Swahili Tribe of Tanzania.
Samiyah Patricia Johnson in the person of Mulekwa of the Ginu Tribe of Uganda.
Jahquasia R. Martinez in the person of Ayanna Ama of the
An Education for Life
Green Meadow’s unique Early Childhood through 12th Grade curriculum builds the capacities, creativity, and confidence your child needs for tomorrow.

Monthly Introductory Sessions for Prospective Parents.
Don’t miss our Fall Fair on Saturday, October 11!

GREEN MEADOW Waldorf School
Transforming Education.
845.356.2514
www.gmwes.org
Aleah Green is a quiet person, a graceful young lady, and is a great inspiration to her peers. She always has strived for excellence. She sets her expectations high and achieves her goals each time. She is self-motivated.

I have no doubt in my mind that she will become a successful journalist or lawyer because she has GOD on her side and with him all things are Granted in time.

She is not subject to peer pressure. She is surrounded by positive influences: Her Grandma and Mother. She has positive role models such as people like: Marian Wright Edelman, Oprah Winfrey, Iyanla Vanzant, the late Maya Angelou, and the late Langston Hughes.

To My daughter Aleah, Mommy is overjoyed by your achievements.

“Failure is not an option, success is not a problem.”

By Dejon Casanova

Keep Your Dream Alive, Love Always and Forever
(Mommy)

Felicia Wooten-Green
The First Baptist Church Family

congratulates all

Rites of Passage participants.

We support and offer encouragement to

Ms. Alexandreena Dixon for continuing this valuable program and her commitment to the

Spring Valley Community.

“We work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, just as though you were working for the Lord.” Colossian 3:23
Mariann’s Angels Childcare
23 South Second Ave
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Caring for Children
ages 6 wks—12 yrs

Registered Providers
Mariann & Francis Green Jr.

Flexible hours to accommodate your needs.
Congratulations to Jahquasia R. Martinez, as you transition from a child to a beautiful young woman.

May the lessons and virtues received from the Rites of Passage be values that you adhere to in all of your endeavors - now and in the future.

May God’s blessings be with you today and always.

St. Paul’s A.M.E. Zion Church Family
The Reverend Melvin J. Mungin, Pastor

Congratulations to Aleah Green as you transition from a child to a beautiful young woman.

May the lessons and virtues received from the Rites of Passage be values that you adhere to in all of your endeavors - now and in the future.

May God’s blessings be with you today and always.

St. Paul’s A.M.E. Zion Church Family
The Reverend Melvin J. Mungin, Pastor
CONGRATULATIONS
SAMIAH
I am so proud of you!
Continue to work hard and the sky is the limit.
I am here to support you in everything you want to do.
Let the Light in you shine bright for the world to see.
I luv you,
Mommy
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. 
Pi Psi Omega Chapter of Rockland County, N.Y. 
Joan P. Carter, Chapter President 

congratulates Chiku Awali of Rockland on its ninth Rites of Passage for Young Men and second Rites of Passage for Young Women celebration! 

Pi Psi Omega Chapter Celebrates 27 Years:  1987-2014
Aleah Green is a sweet caring and loving young adult. She is always engaged in what she does. Aleah is going to grow up to be a very smart and successful woman. She is someone you can always count on when needed. Your uncle and cousins are very proud of you.

Aleah,

You shine with everything you do. The sky is the limit.

I'm proud to see you grow up to be a nice young lady.

Make sure you continue to keep GOD first always.

Love,
Annie Gilbert
To Dakari Kofi,

You are truly a gift from God! Congratulations!

Love always,
Mom and Dad

Achiever
Leader
Excellence
Amazing
Humanitarian

Aleah you are a Conqueror. You have grown up to be quite the young lady. You have let nothing stand in your way of your dreams. Your future is bright and we know you will be the best that you can be.

Keep God in Your life.

Love Always,
Grandma and Grandpa

To Aleah

My Daughter Aleah

Amazing Loving Exciting Awesome Holy

You’re an incredible person and a wonderful daughter. When looking back at all your accomplishments or looking forward to all that’s yet to come, there are no limits to what you can achieve, and I will always be on your side every step of the way. The future is sure to be amazing for you as wonderful as you are. Your dreams of becoming a lawyer will come true. You will not stop there you will become a judge. One day the President of the USA will ask you to sit on the Supreme Court. Keep God in your life and all of this will come true.

To the Best Niece anyone could ask for:

Aleah Green

Love You,

Auntie Doris
Rites of Passage Ceremony
September 13, 2014

Seating of the Elders:..............................................LaTeeka Burns

Introducing Initiates:............................August St. Louis, Class of 2012

Invocation:......................................................Rev. Kenneth P. Heyman

Community: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Greetings and Purpose: ..........................................Curtis Bell

Libation:.............................................................Jamir Burns, Class 2010

Acknowledgement of Teachers:.........................The Initiates

Initiates' Speeches:........Aleah Green, Samiyah Patricia Johnsonn
Jahquasia R. Martinez, LeAnna Warley, and Damon E. Randolph

Drumming Performance: ......................Frank Maloy and Drummers

Parents' Presentations: .........................Felicia & Joe Green,
Mervinie Wellington-Johnson, Patricia Collins,
Jeffrey & Tahese Warley, and Charlese & Phillip Randolph

Litany of Desire (Call and Response)..............Lead by Initiates

Initiatives: To the Creator, we pray for understanding

Community: God, give them understanding

Initiatives: We pray thee for wisdom to make proper decisions in
our lives

Community: God, grant them wisdom

Initiatives: We pray to live righteously

Community: God help them to live righteously

Initiatives: Lord, we pray for courage

Community: Lord, grant them courage to live a righteous life

Initiatives: We pray thee for spiritual strength
Community: O' Creator grant them spiritual strength
Initiates: We pray to be guided in growing from childhood to adulthood

Community: Guide them properly O' God
Initiates: We pray to thee for better understanding of our duties as citizens in our community, in our world, and in our universe

Community: Grant them that understanding
Initiates: We pray for the blessings of the entire community

Community: God grant them all that will help them grow up to be the kind of men and women that you would have them be.

Passage Ritual: ………………………..Mahkai Grant, Class 2010

Njia Libation……………………….Curtis Bell and Sherri Taylor
Elder: We call upon our ancestors far and near, father of our fathers

Community: Mother of our mothers
Elder: To render mercy

Community: To bear witness
Elder: To the liberation and victory of our people

Community: Forever
Elder: We call upon the spirit of our children

Community: And their children
Elder: To witness what we have done

Community: And who we are
Elder: To learn truth from us

Community: And strength from us
Elder: And be not afraid as we are not afraid

Community: AND COME FORTH FOR YOU HAVE BEEN COUNTED
Elder: It is done.

Kasa……………………………………………………Performed by the Initiates

Closing Remarks:…………………………..Nana Yaa Oforiwaa Amanfo I
The Chiku Awali Rites of Passage
Teachers and Leaders

Sonia Barton: Relationships and Marriage
Alice Bell: Public Speaking
Dashawn Boykin: Drumming
Curtis Bell: Life Skills 101, Relationships and Marriage, and Program Leader
Pamela Charles: Entrepreneurship
Alexandreena Dixon: Public Speaking, Decision Making and Team Building, and Dressing For Success
Delaina Dixon: Careers
Patricia Boyd Dumas: Relationships and Marriage
George Garmon: Entrepreneurship
Mahkai Grant: Peer Leader
Jessie Hewing: Peer Leader
Dr. Venus Hewing: Careers and Program Leader
Dr. Daniel Jean: College Preparation
Tommy Johnson: Peer Leader
Dr. Ansley Lamar: Conflict Resolution
Jahkim Collins Martinez: Peer Leader
Hon. Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster: Dressing for Success
Duane Penister: Home Ownership
Phillip Randolph: Program Leader
Charlese Randolph: Yoga
Gabriel Roxbury: African Drumming
August St. Louis: Social Decorum and Peer Leader
Les St. Louis: Dressing for Success
August Richardson: Careers and Peer Leader
Alex Simmons: Careers
Gail Aliyah Stern: Public Speaking, Personal Hygiene, and Peer Leader
Tahese Warley: Dressing for Success
Special Thanks to: Sonia Barton and the Staff of the Spring Valley Youth Bureau. You have always been there for our programs. Chiku Awali is also proud to be affiliated with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Pi Psi Omega Chapter. We had a combined trip to see the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater performance in December 2013. The Rites of Passage young women had the opportunity to travel with the sorority’s Emerging Young Leaders program on a college tour of Bernard College, Columbia University, Fashion Institute of Technology, and Monclair State University. We also want to thank Michelle Antosca, Director, Town of Ramapo Parks and Recreation. Over the years she has assisted Chiku Awali with use of the Cultural Arts Theater and other venues in the Town of Ramapo.

Chiku Awali African Dance Arts & Culture, Inc. gratefully acknowledges support from: Rockland County Legislature, Rockland County Office of Community Development, National Pan Hellenic Council of Rockland, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), State Employment Federated Appeal (SEFA), Arts Council of Rockland, Rockland County Youth Bureau, Town of Ramapo, and VerticalResponse.
Aleah,  
May God Continue to Bless You.  
Mary L. Thomas  
Columbus, GA

Jahquasia Martinez  
Congratulations!  
and Continued Success  
May God guide you in his righteous path.  
Love,  
St. Paul’s AME Zion Church  
Sunday School

Congratulations  
Jahquasia Martinez  
On Your Chiku Awali Rites of Passage Ceremony.  
May God Continue to Bless and Keep You.  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Jolly  
St. Paul’s A.M.E. Zion Church of Spring Valley, N.Y.

Congratulations  
Jahquasia  
From the St. Paul’s A.M.E. Zion Church Praise Dancers
GREETINGS

Congratulations Jahquasia on Your Achievement From
Phynesha Shackleford

Congratulations Jahquasia From Family Dollar

Congratulations Jahquasia on Your Achievement From Sis Techin Bookins

Congratulations on Your Achievement Jahquasia From John Fella

Congratulations on Your Achievement Jahquasia From Wykeshia Walker

Congratulations Jahquasia From Lucy Lopez

Jahquasia God Bless You in All That You Do Love Sis. McDonald

Jahquasia God Bless You in All That You Do Love Sis. Smith

Congratulations Jahquasia From Karri & Debbie

Jahquasia From Patrice Collins Employment Unit

Ellen Scott

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Waller

Congratulations to Our Nephew, Damon E. Randolph From
Uncle Bill and Justin

Congratulations LeAnna, Love Dad and Taheese

Congratulations to All the Graduates, DivaGalsDaily.com
THE RITES OF PASSAGE PROGRAM

The Rites of Passage program consists of cultural and educational workshops, an overnight trip, and rites of passage ceremonies. Workshops are held once a month. Transportation can be provided.

For the upcoming class of 2015, registration and orientation will be held for participants and parents/guardians on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014, at 1:00pm and MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014, at 6:30pm at the Spring Valley Youth Bureau, Louis Kurtz Civic Center Building, 9 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY.
CHIKU AWALI AFRICAN DANCE, ARTS & CULTURE, INC.
SCHEDULE 2014-2015

DANCE CLASS
MONDAYS
6:30-7:30p.m. West African Dance Class for Children 3-13
7:30-8:30p.m. West African Dance Class for Adults and Teens age 14 and older. (Depending on Enrollment)

THURSDAYS
7:30-8:30p.m. West African Dance Class for Adults and Teens age 14 and older.

DRUMMING CLASS
6:30-7:30p.m. Jembe drumming (Depending on Enrollment)

Classes given at the Spring Valley Youth Bureau, Louis Kurtz Center Building, 9 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY.

PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS
September 27, 2014: St. Thomas Aquinas College
125 Route 340, Sparkill, NY 3:00p.m.

November 16, 2014: Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital,
Route 9W, Haverstraw, NY 2:30p.m.

October 18, 2014: Jewelry Making Workshop
2:00-4:00p.m.
Spring Valley Youth Bureau
Louis Kurtz Civic Center Building
9 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY

October 25, 2014: Sand Painting Workshop
2:00-4:00p.m.
Spring Valley Youth Bureau
Louis Kurtz Civic Center Building
TO BE REMEMBERED
Lift Every Voice And Sing

James Weldon Johnson
And Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.
Chiku Awali African Dance, Arts & Culture, Inc., founded in January 2003 by Alexandreena Dixon, a retired prison warden of Suffern, New York, is a not for profit organization designed to enrich its community, particularly its youth. Although Chiku Awali began as an African dance company, it has become a multifaceted cultural arts organization. It has offered class instruction in African, tap, and modern dance. Lessons are also provided in African percussion instruments and African crafts. Chiku Awali has presented African Storytelling workshops to help students learn the art of a griot. The Rites of Passage program leans heavily on the African oral tradition as a teaching method. To combat obesity in the African-American community, Chiku Awali often collaborates with the Rockland County Department of Health to support healthy lifestyle choices. Chiku Awali’s goal is to expose Rockland County residents to all aspects of African dance and culture. It conducts African dance and drumming classes at the Spring Valley Youth Bureau, 9 N. Main Street, Spring Valley, NY.

The Rites of Passage for Young Men began in September 2003. The first class of Rites of Passage for Young Women graduates was in 2012. The African-centered coming of age program consists of cultural and educational workshops, public speaking and storytelling, overnight retreat and rites of passage ceremonies. The workshops are taught by the men and women of the community. After each workshop, the participants tell an African-oriented story based upon the previous month’s lesson. They are videotaped to assess their progress and growth in the program. Workshops are held once a month. The Program Leaders are Mr. Curtis Bell, Dr. Venus Hewing, and Mr. Phillip Randolph. After the orientation for parents and prospective students, a schedule of monthly workshops is provided.

Please visit us at www.chikuawali.org for information on all Chiku Awali programs.
Chiku Awali

African Dance, Arts & Culture, Inc.

*Àwon Òdó*

in the Yoruba language

translates as

“*Young People*”

www.chikuawali.org
(845) 357-5062