Chiku Awali
Rites of Passage For Young Men and Young Women

Durbar Passage Ceremony
Sunday, September 13, 2015
4:00 p.m.
Ramapo Cultural Arts Theater
64 North Main Street
Spring Valley, New York
THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ROCKLAND

Keeping the arts alive beat by beat!

55 West Railroad Avenue
Building 24, Room A
Garnerville, New York 10923
845 947-3660

info@artscouncilofrockland.org
artscouncilofrockland.org
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.

James Weldon Johnson
And Rosamond Johnson
Hallett Place Automotive LLC

&

Complete Auto Repair LLC

Extends Greetings to Nyles Rogers and

Chiku Awali African Dance, Arts & Culture, Inc.

Hallett Place Automotive LLC
14 Hallett Place
Suffern, NY 10901
(845) 357-6962

Complete Auto Repair LLC
45 Old Nysack Turnpike
Chestnut Ridge, NY 10977
(845) 356-3409

We are a full service auto repair and body shop servicing foreign as well as domestic cars.

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8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Ali & Jackie Renwick, Owners

We offer quality service at affordable prices. We even provide towing for our customers.

Simply give us a call!
CONGRATULATIONS

JALEN

I am so proud of

your accomplishment

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 Rites of Passage for Young Men and Young Women celebration!

Pi Psi Omega Chapter Celebrates 28 Years: 1987-2015

Concerned about Kindergarten?

Will your child get the attention they need in such a large class setting?
Will the fast-paced curriculum, homework and testing make them anxious?
Will they have ample time to play and the freedom to explore and enjoy nature?

At Blue Rock, we give children the time and space to explore the world around them in a warm and nurturing environment. The only progressive school in the Lower Hudson Valley, Blue Rock offers a creative and dynamic learning environment for grades K-8.

Kindergarten Information Session and Play Day
Saturday, October 24, 10 am to 12 pm. Children encouraged to attend!
Register by calling 845-535-3353 or at admissions@bluerockschoool.org

Financial Aid and Diversity Scholarships available for those who qualify.

BLUE ROCK SCHOOL
Where Learning Comes Alive

West Nyack, NY — www.bluerockschoool.org
Congratulations

Asha Bell  Amiri Bell

"When you embark on the Lake of Maat, may your sail on it with a good wind. May no storm tear away your sail nor your boat lag behind. May no misfortune fall on your mast and may your mainstays not snap. May you not run aground nor the current carry you away. May you not taste the evils of the river nor see a face of fear." -- from the Husia Book of Khun-Anup
Congratulations Aaron!

Love Grandma Alethia, Mommy and Nia.

By: Dellesa Beckford
Free Mentoring For Children
A. Nursing Assistant Advise
B. Nutrition Counseling
C. Real Estate Advise
D. Sewing with: tape measurement, advise.
Contact: 347-513-2793
Email: dellesac2@yahoo.com

The Kinzonzi Family
Salutes
Aaron Spann

"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."
President Barack Obama

NYAME YE GHENE
symbol of the majesty and supremacy of God

Congratulations
Marie Adjobe
On your Chiku Awali
Rites of Passage Ceremony
May God continue to bless and guide you
Love, Mom and Dad

Frances M. Hunter
Deputy Commissioner
Police Affairs
Town of Ramapo
237 Route 199
Suffern, NY 10901
Phone: (845)337-5100
Fax: (845) 377-3820
Email: hunterf@ramapo.org

To laTeeka

DivagalsDaily.com
Congratulations You on
Your Successes
Best of Luck in All
You Do
CONGRATULATIONS TO MY GRANDSON

JALEN

AND THE ENTIRE RITES OF PASSAGE CLASS OF 2015

I AM PROUD OF YOU ALL

Supporters

Dr. Carol B. Allen
Keep Up the Good Work

Geraldine Dougherty

Bryant Scott

GREETINGS

Congratulations Chiku Awali Rites of Passage
ColletteFournierPhotography.com

To Aaron and Donnette,
From Dr. Frances E. Pratt

Congratulations on your achievement Marie,
Love Sister Vanessa

From Aaron to the Elders,
Thank You.
Rites of Passage Ceremony
September 15, 2015

Seating of the Elders: .................................. August St. Louis
Introducing the Æwon Òdò: .....................Aleah Green, Class of 2014
Invocation: ........................................ Rev. Roger Williamson
Community: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Greetings and Purpose:..............Damon E. Randolph, Class of 2014
Libation: .............................Marie Beckys Bonneau, Class of 2012
Acknowledgement of Teachers:.....LaTeeka Burns, Class of 2015
Æwon Òdò Speeches:.............Marie Adjodha, Asha Crowe Bell,
LaTeeka Burns, Amiri Crowe Bell, Jalen Everton Johnson,
Nyles Rogers, and Aaron Spann
Drumming Performance:.............Frank Malloy and Drummers

Parents’ Presentations: ...............Nadine & Phillip Adjodha,
Alice & Curtis Bell, Mervinie Wellington-Johnson,
Arlene Rogers, and Donnette Darling

Litany of Desire (Call and Response).
Æwon Òdò: To the Creator, we pray for understanding
Community: God, give them understanding
Æwon Òdò: We pray thee for wisdom to make proper decisions
in our lives
Community: God, grant them wisdom
Æwon Òdò: We pray to live righteously
Community: God help them to live righteously
Æwon Òdò: Lord, we pray for courage
Community: Lord, grant them courage to live a righteous life
Æwon Òdò: We pray thee for spiritual strength
Community: O' Creator grant them spiritual strength
Àwon Òdó: We pray to be guided in growing from childhood to adulthood
Community: Guide them properly O' God
Àwon Òdó: 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
Àwon Òdó: 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: Samiyah Patricia Johnson, Class of 2014

Njia Libation: Charlese and Phillip Randolph
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.

Cou Cou: Performed by the Àwon Òdó

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

Sonia Barton: Cultural Activities
Beekyse Bonneau: Marriage and Family
Curtis Bell: Program Leader
Carl Capers, Jr.: Peer Leader
Geraldine Cherry: Alcohol and Drug Addiction Prevention
Alexandreana Dixon: Conflict Resolution, Life Skills, and Personal Hygiene
Delaina Dixon: Careers and Community Service
Alexander Drab: Healthy Relationships
Aliah Green: Peer Leader
Kenneth James: Careers and Community Service
Dr. Daniel Jean: Public Speaking, Team Building and Decision Making, and College Preparation
Samiyah Patricia Johnson: Peer Leader and Mentor
Tommy Johnson: Peer Leader
Dr. Finley Lamar: Entrepreneurship
Carlos D. Murray: Careers and Community Service
Deshala Dixon Murray: Careers and Community Service
Mary Lynn Nicolea-Brewer: Dressing for Success
Duane Penister: Home Ownership
Charles Randolph: Program Leader, Marriage and Family, and African Dance
Damon E. Randolph: Peer Leader and Mentor
Phillip Randolph: Program Leader, Personal Hygiene, What To Do When Stopped by the Police, and Marriage and Family
Les St. Louis: Dressing for Success and Dating
Sherri Taylor: Program Leader
Jeffrey Warley: Social Decorum
Leanna Brown Warley: Peer Leader and Mentor
Tahone Warley: Social Decorum
Mentors

Kyle Blair
James "JB" Burns
Joan Carter
Widley Czar
Ronard Dumas
Collette Fournier
Maggie Erickson
Mahkai Grant
Sharliing Hannibal
Tony Jackson
Gabriel Roxbury
Marie Elaine Toney
Gail Salmon
Perriy Salmon
Brynni Scott
Gail Aylish Stern
August St. Louis

Special Thanks to Michelle Antosca, Director, Town of Ramapo Parks and Recreation and her staff, especially Bernard Charles. Over the years Ms. Antosca has assisted Chiku Awali with use of the Cultural Arts Theater, Community Room, 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, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), State Employment Federated Appeal (SEFA), Arts Council of Rockland, Rockland County Youth Bureau, Village of Spring Valley, Town of Ramapo, and VerticalResponse.
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 19, 2015, at 1:00pm and MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015, 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 2015-2016

DANCE CLASS
MONDAYS
6:00-6:30 p.m. West African Dance Class for Children 3-6
6:30-7:30 p.m. West African Dance Class for Children 7-13
7:30-8:30 p.m. West African Dance Class for Adults and Teens age 14 and older. (Depending on Enrollment)

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

DRUMMING CLASS
THURSDAYS
6:30-6:45 p.m. Jembe drumming for Beginners
6:30-7:30 p.m. Jembe drumming for Adults and Teens

Classes given at the Village of Spring Valley, Louis Kurtz Civic Center Building, 9 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY.

Classes and Trips provided at reduced fees for income eligible residents of Rockland County

NEXT PERFORMANCE

November 1, 2015: Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital,
Route 9W, Haverstraw, NY
2:30 p.m.
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 Louis Kurtz Civic Center, 9 N. Main Street, Spring Valley, NY.

The Rites of Passage for Young Men began in September 2003. The African-centered coming of age program consists of cultural and educational workshops, public speaking and storytelling, overnight retreat and rites of passage ceremonies for young men and women age 11 to the 11th grade. The workshops are taught by consultants and 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 usually once a month. The Program Leaders are Mr. Curtis Bell, Mrs. Charlese Randolph, Mr. Phillip Randolph, and Ms. Sherri Taylor. An orientation and registration for the Class of 2015 will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2015, from 1:00 to 3:00p.m. and Monday, September 21, 2015, from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. at the Louis Kurtz Civic Center, 9 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY.

Please visit us at www.chikuawali.org for information on all Chiku Awali programs.
From Left to Right:

Jalen Everton Johnson in the person of Kojo of the Asante Tribe of Ghana.

Asha Crowe Bell in the person of Lesedi of the Tswana Tribe of Botswana.

Aaron E. Spann in the person of Amadi of the Fon Tribe of Benin

LaTeeka Burns in the person of Kizuwanda Akua of the Zarma Tribe of Tanzania and the Asante Tribe of Ghana.

Amiri Crowe Bell in the person of Amiri of the Bantu Tribe of Nigeria.

Marie Adjodha in the person of Asha of the Swahili Tribe of Kenya.

Nyles Rogers in the person of Balondemu Banga of the Shona Tribe of Uganda and the Bantu Tribe of Zimbabwe
Chiku Awali

African Dance, Arts & Culture, Inc.

Awon Odo

in the Yoruba language

translates as

"Young People"

www.chikuawali.org
(845) 357-5062