

# AFRICANA HERITAGE

The New York Public Library • Volume 7, No. 1, 2007 • Where Every Month Is Black History Month

## 80th Anniversary Gala Pays Tribute to 13 Living Legends

**L**egends came to life for the nearly one thousand guests gathered at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center for the Schomburg Center's 80th Anniversary Africana Heritage Awards Gala, on Friday, October 6, 2006. Chaired by Billye S. Aaron and Sherry B. Bronfman, the Gala Honorary Chairs included President William Jefferson Clinton, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Congressman Charles B. Rangel, The Honorable David N. Dinkins, Chairman of the Board, The New York Public Library Catherine C. Marron, and President and CEO, The New York Public Library Dr. Paul LeClerc.

One of the most memorable evenings in the Center and New York's cultural history, the event honored an extraordinary group of 13 individuals, whose careers and lives have had an immeasurable impact on African-American and American culture. The honorees included author, poet, dancer, actress, and director, **Maya Angelou**; author and scholar, **Chinua Achebe**; music executive and producer, **Clarence Avant**; singer, actor, and activist, **Harry Belafonte**; sculptress and printmaker, **Elizabeth Catlett**; author, poet, and playwright, **Aimé Césaire**; actress, writer, activist, **Ruby Dee**; historian and author, **John Hope Franklin**; filmmaker and producer, **William Greaves**; librarian, bibliographer, and editor, **Ernest Kaiser**; athlete and community leader, **Don Newcombe**; entrepreneur and civic leader, **Herman J. Russell**; and lawyer, activist, political and communica-

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Honorees Chinua Achebe and Elizabeth Catlett at the 80th Anniversary Africana Heritage Awards Gala in their honor.



Photographs by Terrence Jennings

Honorary Chairs David Dinkins and Charles Rangel backstage with Percy Sutton, who is holding his Heritage Award statuette.

## African Burial Ground Third Commemoration

**T**he African Burial Ground Office of Public Education & Interpretation, the U.S. General Services Administration, and the National Park Service in conjunction with the Schomburg Center marked the third anniversary commemoration of the reinterment of the ancestors on Friday, September 29, 2006. A special feature of the activities was a press conference held in the interpretive center to announce the formation of the African Burial Ground Foundation, founded by Edward Lewis, Chairman and Founder of Essence Communica-



Terrence Jennings

New York City schoolchildren displaying their handmade banner at the Youth Ring Shout.

tions, Inc.; Dr. James Forbes; Senior Minister of Riverside Church; and Howard Dodson, Schomburg Chief. The Foundation, which aims to raise funds and generate global outreach for the African Burial Ground National Monument, will provide support for the Dedication Ceremony slated for October 2007 as its first major task.

The one-day celebration was filled with various activities for the young and old alike. Nearly 3,000 New York

*Continued on page 3*

**F**or those of you who missed the Schomburg Center's 80th Anniversary Gala, *The Africana Heritage Awards*, we are pleased to present a photographic and narrative report on the Gala in this issue of *Africana Heritage*. Nine of the 13 honorees attended the award ceremonies at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center. The honorees received musical and spoken word tributes during the Awards Gala Tribute Program.

One of the awardees who could not attend was Martiniquian writer and political activist,

**Mr. Césaire was deeply moved by the award and the fact that I would come to Martinique to present it to him.**

— **Howard Dodson,  
Schomburg Chief**



Aimé Césaire. The Mayor of Fort-de-France, Martinique for 56 years and Deputy to the French General Assembly from Martinique for 48 years, Mr. Césaire is best known as the “*Father of Negritude*,” a movement launched in the 1930s to encourage Africans to recognize and celebrate the beauty and the dignity of their cultures and to respect and honor the African heritage throughout the world. Founded by Césaire, Guyanese writer Leon Damas, and Senegalese writer and first President of Senegal, Leopold Senghor, the negritude movement challenged Africans in general and African elites in particular to return to reaffirm their Africanness and struggle against the ravages of European colonization.

I just returned from Martinique where I, among other things, personally presented Mr. Césaire with his Africana Heritage Award. The ceremony took place in his office in Fort de France where the 93-year-old Césaire goes to work everyday. The current Mayor of the city Mr. Serge Letchimy, Mr. Césaire's long-term friend and compatriot 99-year-old Dr. Pierre Alikier, and a host of

other academic, civic, and cultural leaders attended this special ceremony. Mr. Césaire was deeply moved by the award and the fact that I would come to Martinique to present it to him. He was especially appreciative of the fact that the leading research library in the world, devoted to preserving black culture, had chosen him to be an honoree. He sends his thanks and best wishes to the entire Schomburg Center family.

In a less public ceremony, I presented the award to Dr. Maya Angelou during her annual Thanksgiving weekend in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Angelou had to return to Winston-Salem the day before the Gala for medical reasons. I'm pleased to report that she has recovered from her illness and is doing very well. I plan to personally present the award to Dr. John Hope Franklin in the near future.

I'm sorry to report that Mr. Ernest Kaiser, the fourth recipient who could not attend the Gala, passed on Thanksgiving Day after a prolonged illness. Mr. Kaiser would have celebrated his 91st birthday in December. A librarian technician at the Schomburg Center for more than 40 years, Mr. Kaiser was the Center's premier bibliographer during his tenure here. The Center will host a memorial service in his honor early in 2007.

Indications are that the construction and renovation project will not be completed until the early spring. We have rescheduled the Grand Opening activities for May 2007. The official unveiling of the African Burial Ground Memorial Monument has been rescheduled for October 2007, the Anniversary of the reinterment ceremonies at the Burial Ground. In the meantime, we will be busily involved in commemorating the bicentennial of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana, the first sub-Saharan African country to end colonialism on the continent. 2007 promises to be a year filled with opportunities to commemorate and celebrate our past and recognize the ancestors who made it possible. I hope you will join us in some of these commemoration activities.



The 2006-2007 Junior Scholars taking their annual group picture.

Bob Gore

## Junior Scholars: In Their Own Words

“**F**ormulating questions. Seeking answers.” appears to be the motto of the sixth class of the New York Life/Schomburg Center Junior Scholars Program. The 2006-2007 class is bursting with the desire to transcend trite treatments of complex topics in order to provide scholarly research on what the great thinkers grappled with in the past.

After exploring the Schomburg Center exhibition, *Africans in the Americas: Celebrating the Ancestral Heritage*, Junior Scholars asked, “Why are Africans still being mistreated in the Americas even though slavery is finished? What did the first Native Americans look like? Why do we treat each other how white people treated our ancestors? What would happen to the United States if African Americans never existed?”

Junior Scholars will gain knowledge on

these and other questions through guest speakers, field trips, research, and intensive collegial interaction. The 150 Junior Scholars will share their ideas via the [www.juniorscholars.org](http://www.juniorscholars.org) Web site, Internet radio, community access cable television, and the presentation of research projects. The students participate in an ongoing process of retrieving data, personally synthesizing the information, and then providing their unique perspective to a larger community for review and discussion.

Junior Scholar Ravi Johnson, a program participant since its inception in 2002, reflects, “Every year at the Schomburg I see more successful people who share their struggles and how they reached their goals.”

He continues, “I remember meeting Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee... When Mr. Davis died a few years ago, it was like I lost my grandfather. Mr. Davis defines for me what

greatness really is.” Ravi concludes, “I have watched older students graduate from high school and go off to college. It has been a real inspiration to watch this. I would like to be the one that will provide the same inspiration to others.”

Junior Scholars attempt to stretch beyond the mere accumulation of information. They are moved to serve and to inspire, as they have been inspired. The numerous people that the Junior Scholars have studied have become the standard by which they wish to be measured.

You are invited to see the Junior Scholars in action—drop by on Saturdays, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., until May 12, 2007. For additional information, please contact Carlyle G. Leach, Director, Junior Scholars Program at [cleach@nypl.org](mailto:cleach@nypl.org) or Deirdre L. Hollman, Associate Director, at [dhollman@nypl.org](mailto:dhollman@nypl.org) or 212-491-2234.

### IN MEMORIAM: Ernest Kaiser

**R**enowned bibliophile, editor, writer, and activist Ernest Kaiser passed away on November 23, 2006. Kaiser, who was one of the Center’s Africana Heritage Awards honorees at the 80th Anniversary Gala at Jazz at Lincoln Center, worked at the Schomburg Center for more than 40 years. During his tenure, he compiled an index that would later become the major research tool for articles in black magazines and newspapers. In 1992, the five-volume *Kaiser Index to Selected Black Resources, 1948-1986*, was published. *The Index* provides more than 179,000 citations to articles in thousands of black magazines and newspapers. His contributions to the Center and the African Diaspora are immeasurable and he will surely be missed.



### BURIAL GROUND, continued from page 1

City Metro area schoolchildren performed the Ring Shout around the entire African Burial Ground. The Ring Shout featured special performances by Lillias White, Women of the Calabash, Something Positive, and special guest MC The Last Poets’ Abiodun Oyewole.

The afternoon portion featured a performance by blues guitarist and storyteller Guy Davis in the lobby of 290 Broadway, as well as slide presentations of Tom Feelings’ *The Middle Passage* by the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts and Iman Dr. Muhammad Hatim photographic work *My Soul is a Witness: African Burial Ground Project--The Early Years* and a walking tour by Dr. Lorenzo Pace to view his sculpture *Triumph of the Human Spirit* at Foley Square. A jazz performance by The Bill Saxton Quartet, featuring tap dancer Omar Edwards, closed out the daylong celebration.

tions leader, **Percy Sutton**.

The evening began with a VIP reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel for the award recipients and major donors, and continued at the Frederick P. Rose Hall with: a cocktail reception in the Atrium, tribute program in The Rose Theater, and a post-tribute dinner in the Allen Room. At the Mandarin, many of the honorees gathered and mingled with distinguished guests



**(Ethiopia Awakening): The first African Heritage Awards were presented at the Schomburg 75th Anniversary Gala in 2001 at the United Nations to Gordon Parks, Katherine Dunham, Billy Taylor, Dorothy Height, UNESCO Secretary General Amadou M'Bow, and Afro-Brazilian artist and political activist Abdias de Nascimento.**

including the Gala Co-Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfman; Honorary Chairs Congressman Charles B. Rangel and The Honorable David N. Dinkins; and Vice Chairs Hank Aaron, Joyce Dinkins,

Evern Cooper Epps, president of the UPS Foundation and vice president of its Corporate Relations, Ingrid Saunders Jones, senior vice president of The Coca-Cola Company and chair of the Coca-Cola Foundation, and The Honorable Andrew J. Young; along with New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, President and CEO of Major League Baseball Bob DuPuy, actor Danny Glover, and author Walter Mosley. Entertained by Saleem Waters, the group also included poet Sonia Sanchez, author Walter Mosley, NYU Professor Manthia Diawara, *Essence Magazine* Editorial Director Susan L. Taylor, and New York Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright.

The tribute program in the Rose Theater began with a prelude of songs spanning 80 years to mirror the center's and the honorees' lifetimes by Eli Fountain Percussion Discussion Ensemble, featuring musicians Lyndon Achee, Alex Blake, Brian Carrot, Miles Dalto, Roland Guerreo, Phoenix Rivera, William Smith, Marc Taylor, and special guest artist Patato Valdez on the congas. Program hosts, actors Avery Brooks and Phylicia Rashad, greeted the audience followed by welcomes and acknowledgements by Howard Dodson and David Ferriero and Co-Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfman. Author and spoken word artist Kayo presented the first performance tribute to the honorees, "I Can Move Mountains." The award presenters gave biographical



Terrence Jennings

**Gala Chairs Billye Aaron and Sherry Bronfman.**

sketches and read the citation for each honoree before presenting the award statuettes with the assistance of four students from the Schomburg Center/New York Life Junior Scholars Program. The audience paid tribute to each recipient with a standing ovation. The first awards were presented to Ernest Kaiser by Schomburg Chief How-

## THE SCHOMBURG CENTER 80TH ANNIVERSARY

### Gala Honorary Chairs

President William Jefferson Clinton  
 Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
 Congressman Charles B. Rangel  
 The Honorable David N. Dinkins  
 Catherine C. Marron  
*Chairman of the Board, The New York Public Library*  
 Paul LeClerc  
*President and CEO, The New York Public Library*

### Co-Chairs

Billye S. Aaron  
 Sherry B. Bronfman

### Vice Chairs

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Bob Gore

**Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson with David S. Ferriero, Andrew S. Mellon Director and Chief Executive of the Research Libraries.**

ard Dodson; William Greaves by President of the Black Filmmaker Foundation Warrington Hudlin; Ruby Dee by actress Lynn Whitfield; and Harry Belafonte by Sherry Bronfman and Danny Glover. West African singer Angélique Kidjo then performed a special song in honor of the Africana Heritage Award recipients. The second set of

awards were presented to Don Newcombe by Hank Aaron and Bob DuPuy; Clarence Avant by Billye Aaron; Herman Russell by Ingrid Saunders Jones; and Percy Sutton by Charles Rangel and David Dinkins. Avery Brooks performed Sterling Brown's poem "Strong Men" followed by Percussion Dist-

throughout the evening with their distinct and diverse sound.

The third and final set of honorees to receive statuettes were Elizabeth Catlett by Evern Cooper Epps and David Driskell, Dean of African-American Art Historians; John Hope Franklin by Howard Dodson; Aimé Césaire by Walter Mosley; Maya Angelou by Andrew Young; and Chinua Achebe by Manthia Diawara, Professor of Comparative Literature and Film and Director of Africana Studies and the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University. The final performance tributes were Phylcia Rashad's reading of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman," and a musical selection by vocalist Kaïssa, from Cameroon.

After the tribute program, the honorees and major donors enjoyed dinner in the Allen Room. Awaiting them was a breathtaking view of New York City from the room's dramatic glass wall facing Broadway and Central Park, allowing guests a remarkable—but rare view of the City's streetscape. Tables with lavender rose centerpieces designed by Sandra Parks on royal blue overlays designed by David Fleming, along with music by Saleem Waters added to the extraordinary ambience. The Gala closed with words of appreciation from Howard Dodson, marking one of the most historical moments in the history of the Schomburg Center.

## AFRICANA HERITAGE AWARDS GALA

Edward Lewis  
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*Johnson Publishing Company, Inc.*  
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\* Sponsor of the 80<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Africana Heritage  
Concert Series

# Highlights from the Schomburg Center 80th Anniversary

## VIP Reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel

Photographs by Bob Gore

New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn with Gala Honorary Chair The Honorable David Dinkins and Vice Chair Joyce Dinkins.



African Heritage Award recipients Percy Sutton, William Greaves, Ruby Dee, Elizabeth Catlett (seated) Don Newcombe, and Harry Belafonte with Mr. and Mrs. Dinkins.



Gala Vice Chair Hank Aaron with Bob DuPuy, President and Chief Operating Officer of Major League Baseball.



Salem Waters entertained the crowd at the VIP reception and the post-tribute dinner.



Gala Vice Chair The Honorable Andrew Young with Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson.



Honoree Don Newcombe with his guest Karen Kroner and author Walter Mosley.



Gala Co-Chair Sherry Bronfman with honoree Clarence Avant.

## Cocktail Reception at the Atrium at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center

Photographs by Terrence Jennings



Wesley Watson Trio playing during the cocktail reception.



Clair Villarosa, Dr. Roscoe Brown, and Susan Taylor.



Elinor Tatum, publisher of the *Amsterdam News*, with recently elected New York State Senator Bill Perkins



Poet Sonia Sanchez with honoree Ruby Dee.



Eli Fountain Percussion Discussion Ensemble performing during the tribute program in the Rose Theater.



Terrence Jennings

African Heritage Award honoree Harry Belafonte with his statuette.



Bob Gore

Lynn Whitfield presenting the Award to Ruby Dee.

# Africana Heritage Awards Gala on Friday, October 6, 2006

Tribute Program in the Rose Theater at Frederick P. Rose Hall



Bob Gore



Terrence Jennings

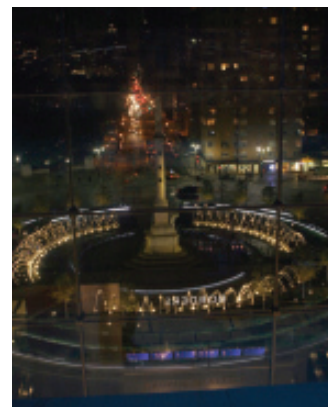
Actors Phylicia Rashad and Avery Brooks, tribute program hosts, greeting the audience.

## Post-Tribute Dinner in the Allen Room at Frederick P. Rose Hall

Photographs by Terrence Jennings



Gala Co-Chair Billye Aaron and Vice Chair Hank Aaron.



A glimpse of the magnificent view from the Allen Room.



Terrence Jennings

Senior Vice President of the Coca-Cola Company Ingrid Saunders Jones presenting the Africana Heritage Award to Herman Russell.



Terrence Jennings

Evern Cooper Epps, President of the UPS Foundation, and David Driskell, Dean of African-American Art Historians, presenting the Africana Heritage Award to Elizabeth Catlett.



Sandrine Popincourt, France-Anittles

On Monday, December 4, 2006 in Fort-de-France, Martinique, Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson met with Aimé Césaire to present him with the Africana Heritage Award statuette.



Terrence Jennings



Bob Gore



Bob Gore

Spoken word artist Kayo and singers Angélique Kidjo and Kaïssa performed tributes to the honorees.

## Bicentennial of the American and British Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Two hundred years ago, on March 3, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed into act a bill approved by Congress the day before “to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States.” A few weeks later, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the British House of Lords passed The Slave Trade Abolition Bill. In neither country did new legislation signify the immediate end of the international slave trade. Twenty years earlier, the Constitution of the United States (article I, section 9) had clearly spelled



Photographs and Prints Division

A flyer advertising the sale of Africans from the Windward Islands.

out that it could not be banned before 1808, and it was not until January 1, 1808 that the American and British acts went into effect.

Nevertheless, the deportation of Africans continued: legally to Brazil, and the French and Spanish colonies; and illegally to the United States and the British West Indies. Of the 12.5 million men, women, and children uprooted by the trans-Atlantic slave trade—93 percent towards South America and the Caribbean—3.5 million were transported between 1801 and 1867.

Throughout 2007, the bicentennial of the abolition of the international slave trade will be commemorated in Great Britain—the largest slave trading country with more than 40 percent of the deportations—and Anglophone Caribbean countries with exhibitions, conferences, and other activities. About \$37.5 million have been awarded in Great Britain to various projects. The American commemoration will take place in 2008.

### Major Manifestations of the Bicentennial in Great Britain:

#### BRISTOL

Between 1698 and 1807, Bristol sent 2,000 slave ships to Africa. To commemorate the city's involvement in the slave trade, The Bristol Industrial Museum will propose an exhibition on the slave trade and its abolition. The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum's exhibition "Breaking the Chains" will open on February 15 and run for two years.

#### HULL

The Wilberforce House Museum and the Wilberforce Institute will develop and update their slavery and abolition collections. The University of Hull will organize a conference, "Slavery: Unfinished Business," on May 16-18.

#### LIVERPOOL

The International Slavery Museum will open on August 23 in the city that deported 1.5 million Africans in 5,000 voyages (300 to North America), making it the first slave-trading port in Europe.

#### LONDON

The Museum of London and The Museum in Docklands will present exhibitions on the role of London in the slave trade. The city—second in Europe after Bristol—sent more than 2,700 slave ships to Africa.

The Victoria and Albert Museum will have two exhibitions starting on February 20, on the impact and legacy of slavery on art.

#### MANCHESTER

A partnership of 11 organizations will examine the economic, cultural, and social effects of the slave trade on Great Britain beyond the port cities in a wide-ranging project called "Revealing Histories."

#### PORTSMOUTH

The Royal Naval Museum will show an exhibition on the role of the Royal Navy's Africa Squadron in the repression of the transatlantic slave trade.

#### WARWICK

A conference, "Free at Last? Commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Abolition of the British Slave Trade," will take place from July 11 to 13.

#### YORK

The University of York will present a conference on April 12-14, "Abolitions, 1807-2007: Ending the Slave Trade in the Atlantic World."

#### CONFERENCE IN GHANA

From August 8th to the 12th, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture (Virginia), UNESCO, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (Yale), the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute (Harvard), the Reed Foundation, and the Wilberforce Institute will convene an international conference, "The bloody Writing is for ever torn': Domestic and International Consequences of the First Governmental Efforts to Abolish the Atlantic Slave Trade."

## The Last Slave Ship

As the United States and the former British Empire prepare to commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, it is essential to remember that the deportation of Africans to the United States continued until 1860. A new book by Dr. Sylviane A. Diouf, curator of Digital Collections and director of the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Institute at the Schomburg Center, uncovers the story of the last Africans introduced into the United States.

*Dreams of Africa in Alabama: The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Story of the Last Africans Brought to America* (Oxford University Press) is the first book to fully document the most unique and overlooked story of the American slave trade: the exceptional saga of the 110 young people from Benin and Nigeria who boarded the last known slave ship to this country and landed in Mobile, Alabama in July 1860. Once free again in 1865, they were



General Research and Reference Division

Two of the survivors from the last slave ship to the United States, Abaché Clara Turner and Cudjoe Kossola Lewis, shown here in 1914.

eager to go back home, but unable to do so, they founded their own settlement, African Town, where their descendants still live.

For the first time, the specific experience of a group of deported Africans is detailed, from their lives in their homelands and the *barracoon* in Ouidah, to the Middle Passage, enslavement, and freedom up to the 1930s. Also for the first time, both the victims and the slave captains—who left testimonies of the events—describe the sale of Africans in

the slave pens, their embarkation, and overseas voyage. The young people's fascinating stories come to light through their own words, those of the men who brought them to Mobile, the African Americans who lived among them or met them, including Booker T. Washington and Zora Neale Hurston, and the recollections of their descendants, as well as many archival documents.

By focusing on individuals who formed one multiethnic, strongly united community, *Dreams of Africa in Alabama* paints a comprehensive and personal picture of the African experience in America. It also incorporates much of the larger history of African Americans in the 19th and early 20th centuries: such as the domestic slave trade, slavery, conversion to Christianity, Reconstruction, reparations for ex-slaves, and legal segregation as well as the community's remarkable accomplishments, successes, and legacies.

The last survivor of the last slave ship, Cudjoe Kossola Lewis, died in 1935. Sylviane A. Diouf will sign copies of her book, here at the Center, on March 29, 2007.

## Ghana in the Cultural Imagination of Black Americans

BY VALERIE BABB

When, in 1958, Kwame Nkrumah visited the United States he received full military honors and was met by then Vice President Richard Nixon. While the formal honors were significant, more meaningful perhaps were the thousands of primarily black Americans gathered at the airport to greet him. Before them stood a black head of state celebrated by the country that still denied them equal status. When he toured Chicago, Nkrumah was again welcomed by many, some weeping so moved were they by the vision of a black leader accorded respect. In honor of his visit to Washington, DC the *Washington Afro-American*, contained a special Ghana section where ads of welcome were taken out by multiple affiliates of the Prince Hall Masonic Temple. On a visit to Harlem, while at the 369<sup>th</sup> Armory (an armory named for a black WWI military division that inspired similar race pride decades before) Nkrumah appealed to black American teachers and technicians to come to Ghana to aid in the building of a new black nation. In these and other instances, Nkrumah personified the hope that a newly independent Ghana held for black Americans. At last many felt

they had an alternative to the United States, somewhere of their own to call home. This realization was made more concrete when President Nkrumah offered citizenship to W. E. B. DuBois in 1961, and the possibility of the dispossessed returning to their ancestral land seemed real.

Ghana's independence liberated not only Ghanaians, but also black Americans who were now encouraged to perceive of their history and their place in the world differently. To be able to see Ghanaians in togas addressing the United Nations, made many black Americans in the United States realize that they had global partners in their push for equality. But Ghana had a deeper historical significance. Its renaming rebuked the European exploitation that called it the Gold Coast, and instead evoked the power of an ancient Akan empire. Its coastal fortresses—Anmabou, Elmina, Cape Coast, Coramantyn, and Christianborg—vivid representations of capture, the middle passage, and enslavement, provided and provide touchstones for the reunion of those scattered throughout the Diaspora. In many minds Ghana promised a new chapter in pan-African "black is beautiful" race pride.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary of inde-



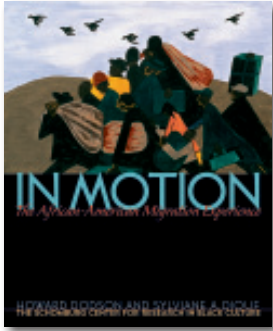
United Nations

Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah, addressing the United Nations General Assembly in September 1960.

pendence in March 2007, Ghana still exerts a pull. Its tourism increases yearly, and a trip there is often considered a necessary part of black coming of age. In the minds of many black Americans, Ghana offered new ways of remembering and conceiving of black history that mitigated the evil of enslavement and dispersal. There have been many places that have acted as geographical cultural markers for black Americans: Haiti, Liberia, and Ethiopia. No less than these is Ghana.

Valerie Babb is presently a Professor of English at the University of Georgia and is a former Schomburg Scholar-in-Residence.

## Check Out These Holiday & Black History Month Gift Ideas at The Schomburg Shop



### **In Motion**

This landmark work covers four major periods of migrations that define the African-American experience and shaped the cultural, religious, economic, and political life of the communities in which they settled. A follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Jubilee*, *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience* (National Geographic) chronicles a people whose movements over the last 500 years, both coerced and willing, inspired a culture and shaped a nation. *In Motion* features 170 illustrations and four maps. Price: \$35

### **In Motion Education Kit**

An exceptional resource for schools, churches, and community centers, this kit includes illustrations, maps, a poster, and a bibliography. A great Black History Month resource. Price: \$24.95

### **A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History 2007 Wall Calendar**

*365 Days of Black History 2007 Engagement Calendar* by the Schomburg Center, IOKTS Productions, Pomegranate Communications

*A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History 2007 Wall Calendar* uses

photographs, paintings, and important anniversaries in black history to create a remarkable wall calendar. The *2007 Engagement Calendar* makes the perfect desk companion or gift. Filled



with important people, facts, and events from black history and the African Diaspora. Calendar, price: \$13.99; Engagement Calendar, price: \$14.99



### **By the Sea: Paintings by Haitian Artists**

A box of note cards by the Schomburg Center and Pomegranate Communications. Haitian art often depicts the reality of life on this small Caribbean island using various textures and colors. This box of 20 note cards, features four paintings, created in the 1980s by Haitian artists, all have a similar motif—village life, which is centered around the seaports and farming towns. Price: \$ 15.00

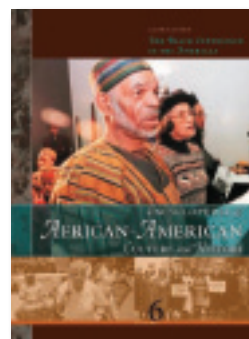


### **Treasures from the Schomburg, a postcard book by the Schomburg Center and Pomegranate Communications**

*Treasures from the Schomburg*, a beautiful postcard book featuring 30 works of art by various artists representing the African Diaspora. The 30 selections are just a sample of works from the Schomburg's extensive collection. *Treasures* features work by Augusta Savage, Hale Woodruff, Charles Alston, Romare Bearden, as well as others. Price: \$ 9.95

### **The Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History, 2nd Edition: The Black Experience in the Americas**

The second edition of *The Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History* (Thomson Gale) is a six volume, comprehensive compendium of knowledge on the historical and cultural development of people of African descent at the beginning of the 21st century. A product of the most recent scholarship on



the African-American and African Diasporan experience, *The Encyclopedia* offers a convenient introduction to this vast array of information. **Note: Limited sets are available to Schomburg Society members beginning at the Supporter level (\$100 and above) at a special price of \$300 (Regular price is \$695).**

## EXHIBITION



### **Commemorating New York's African Burial Ground: A National Monument** Opens February 1, 2007

This special exhibition will fully explore the African Burial Ground, from its unearthing in 1991 to the 2006 Presidential declaration making it America's first National Monument commemorating a community of enslaved African men, women, and children. From the local community's struggle to "stop the digging" and to properly protect and preserve the ancestral cemetery, *Commemorating New York's African Burial Ground* will include documents, photographs, artifacts reproductions, and video footage to recall the historic, but long-forgotten cemetery's origins, abandonment, and rediscovery—and the public's journey to transform the site into a national memorial.

## COMING EVENT!

### *National Black Fine Art Show*

#### **Charity Preview Party**

Wednesday,  
January 31,  
2007

Benefits the  
Schomburg  
Center for  
Research  
in Black  
Culture.

Early entry: 5:00 p.m., \$150  
Regular entry: 6:30 p.m., \$100  
Includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a  
show catalog, and one readmission  
ticket for Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
or Sunday.

#### **Ticket Information**

For advanced Preview Tickets,  
call The Schomburg Shop, 212-  
491-2206. Shop hours, Tuesday  
– Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### **General Admission**

Thursday, February 1—Sunday,  
February 4, 2007

**Daily tickets/passes available  
at the door only and include  
Show catalog.** Please visit [www.nationalblackfineartshow.com](http://www.nationalblackfineartshow.com), for  
more information about general  
admission tickets.

#### **Location**

##### **The Puck Building**

295 Lafayette Street at Houston  
Street  
Soho, New York City



Elizabeth Callett

## Traveling Exhibition Schedule:

If you live outside the New York City Metro  
area, you can check out these traveling  
exhibitions at a city near you.

### *Art of African Women*

African American Museum  
January – April 2007  
701 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA  
(215) 574-0380

### *Harlem: Visions of Morgan & Marvin Smith*

Cornell University, NY  
February 2007  
Carol Tatkon Center  
3058 S. Balch Hall on North Campus  
Ithaca, NY  
(607) 253-4282

### *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience*

National Heritage Museum  
Now through February 25, 2007  
33 Marrett Road  
Lexington, MA  
(781) 861-6559

### *(Panel Version)*

National Library of Medicine  
January through February 2007  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD  
(301) 594-5983

### *Invoking the Spirit*

Black History Museum and Cultural Center  
December 2006 – February 2007  
00 Clay Street  
Richmond, VA  
(804) 780-9107

### *Lest We Forget: The Triumph over Slavery* Michigan State University Museum

Now through February 2007  
The Kresge Art Museum  
East Lansing, MI  
(517) 355-6577

The Old Slave Mart Museum  
Opening January 2007  
6 Chalmers Street  
Charleston, SC  
(843) 8958-6467

### *Moneta Sleet, Jr.: Pulitzer Prize Photojournalist*

Contemporary Art Center of Virginia  
January – March 11, 2007  
2220 Parks Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA  
(757) 425-0000

## SCHOMBURG SOCIETY CONSERVATORS

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## AFRICANA HERITAGE

2007 Volume 7, Number 1

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# A Message from the National Membership Chair

**K**nowing our legacy—undistorted by others and documented by those who lived it—correctly aligns you and me and our children in the continuing struggle to fully claim our dignity in all areas of life.



**Dr. Maya Angelou**

Please join with me and thousands of others who are making certain that the Schomburg has the funds not only to continue its unique mission, but to expand its outreach into every home, school, and library.

Please join me as a Schomburg Society Member now!

## Schomburg Society Benefits

**ASSOCIATE** - \$35  
(\$35 tax deductible)

- A year's subscription to the Schomburg Center newsletter
- A 20% discount in the Schomburg Shop
- A quarterly program calendar
- A personalized membership card
- Up to 20% discount on tickets to select Center-sponsored programs

**FRIEND** - \$50  
(\$35 tax deductible)

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- Invitations to members-only exhibition previews, lectures and seminars

**SUPPORTER** - \$100  
(\$70 tax deductible)

- All Friend benefits, plus:
- An annual subscription to the Quarterly Black Review of Books
  - Invitations to VIP events

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- Acknowledgment in the Schomburg Center newsletter and the Library's Annual Report

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## AFRICANA HERITAGE

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The New York Public Library  
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