

Twenty-first Century Individual Project: Category – Cultural

Project: “*She Touched Me*” Legacy Ambassadors Program

Date: February 27, 2011

Venue: American Association of University Women, New York City Branch
Historic Victorian Italianate Brownstone at 111 East 37th Street, NY, NY
10016, opened by Eleanor Roosevelt on our *Founders’ Day*, June 1, 1949,
signing our *Golden Book*.

Part II

Describe your project/program/event in 75-150 words. Be sure to include:

How the project addressed AAUW’s mission

As part of our 125th anniversary celebrating *leadership* and *legacy* and annual black history month program, NYC Branch honored five people/institutions who have left leadership legacies aligned with the mission of AAUW that made a difference in black communities. Two honorees gave presentations. One was a slide show cultural interest tour of South Africa. The other presentation was on the work of the International Theatre and Literacy Project in empowering developing communities world-wide through children’s voices in theatre arts. We received press reviews for this event.

Branch goals in doing this project

We launched our black history “*She Touched Me*” volume dedicated to Teresa Hawes, the first African America President our branch who opened the doors to other NYC branch presidents from groups traditionally under-represented in AAUW. This volume is part of the publication series to document our 125 year branch history. Attendees signed our *Golden Book*.

Specific action steps in planning this project

Formation of committee, involvement of community groups, public relations campaign

Steps taken for community visibility

Pre-event and post-event press releases/articles, flyers/email blasts and signing of *Golden Book* by attendees

Measurable impact on the community

Number of attendees; news articles; subsequent co-sponsored events with others

Lessons learned

Start planning earlier

COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Home](#) > [Think Tank](#) > [Africa Program](#) > [John Campbell: Africa In Transition](#) > [Buhari Honored With Award](#)

[« Previous](#)

[Next »](#)

Buhari Honored with Award

Posted on Wednesday, March 2, 2011

by **John Campbell**



Muhammadu Buhari, former Nigerian military ruler and presidential candidate for the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) speaks during an interview with Reuters at a private residence in Lagos February 19, 2011. (Akintunde Akinleye/Courtesy Reuters)

The American Association of University Women New York City Branch has conferred upon Muhammadu Buhari its “Legacy Ambassador’s Award” in recognition of the steps he has taken to empower women and ease their entry into public life. Buhari was head of state from 1983-1985. Then as now, he has a reputation for staunchly opposing the endemic corruption in Nigerian politics. He ran for and lost the civilian presidency in 2003 and 2007, elections that had little credibility. In the aftermath of those polls, he contested the largely fraudulent results in the courts—not in the streets.

Buhari is now probably the leading candidate from the predominately Muslim North during the upcoming April presidential election, a contest in which the incumbent, Goodluck Jonathan, is tipped to win. Buhari is a Muslim who takes his religion seriously. For that reason, along with his intolerance for corruption, he is often viewed with suspicion, especially by Christian elites. The AAUW award is a reminder of his liberal record on gender issues. However, the AAUW is not widely known in Nigeria, so the award is unlikely to have much political impact leading up to the campaign.

h/t to Jean Herskovits



This entry was posted on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2011 at 5:25 pm and is filed under Africa, Civil Society, Corruption, Nigeria, Uncategorized. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

2 Responses to “Buhari Honored with Award”

March 3, 2011 at 6:02 am



American Association of University Women
NEW YORK CITY BRANCH

AAUW
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*A legacy of over 125 Years of Leadership
in Advancing Equity for Women and Girls*



Legacy Ambassadors Awards Ceremony & Presentation in Honor of Black History Month

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“If Rosa Parks had not refused to seat at the back of the bus and Martin Luther King Jr. did not fight for his dream, I would not be standing here today addressing you as the first African born and fourth African American President of the American Association of University Women, New York City Branch and neither would we have in the oval office today an African American President, His Excellency Barack Obama. God Bless America!” - Dr. Nkechi Agwu, AAUW Leadership Corps Grassroots Liaison and NYC Branch President and Historian, January 17, 2011, in honor of civil rights and human rights.

Program

- 2:00—2:15 p.m. Sign-in, Light Refreshments, Raffle ticket and other sales
- 2:15—2:20 p.m. Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Lorrin Johnson
- Dr. Nkechi Agwu, AAUW NYC Branch President
- 2:20—3:10 p.m.. Tour of South Africa DVD Presentation & Discussion
- Lorrin Johnson, EYO Co-Director & Memorial Fund Administrator
- 3:10—4:00 p.m. Introduction of Presenter, Presentation, Question & Answer Session
- Introduction by Dr. Nkechi Agwu, AAUW NYC Branch President and Historian
- Presentation by Marianna Houston, Founder and Executive Director of ITLP
- 4:00—4:25 p.m. Raffle Draw & Legacy Ambassador Awards Ceremony

- Lorrin Johnson: Explore Your Opportunities Conference Co-Founder
- Marianna Houston: International Theatre & Literacy Project, Founder
- Venerable, Rev. Dr. Joe Omeokwe: 40+ Years of Spiritual, Educational & Economic Empowerment of Women
- His Excellency, General Muhammadu Buhari, Rtd.: Advancing Equity for Women in Government
- Annie Walsh Memorial School: 162+ Years of Educating Girls for Leadership Roles
- 4:25— 4:30 p.m. Vote of Thanks, Negro National Anthem and Group Picture
- Europa Wilson-Agwu, Educational Equity Chair
- 4:30 p.m. Refreshments and other sales

“History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., we must never be silent in the face of an injustice



**American Association of University Women, New York City Branch (AAUW NYC)
Celebrates Black History With its Legacy Ambassador Awards Program,
a 125th Anniversary Initiative of the Branch**

AAUW (founded in 1881) is a leading organization in advancing education and *equity for women and girls*. NYC Branch (founded in 1886), the second oldest branch, is celebrating a legacy of 125 years of leadership in moving the mission of AAUW forward and over a decade of celebrating black history. The black history program of NYC Branch is among its stellar programs regularly providing media visibility to the work of AAUW due to its global reach and collaboration with community interest groups. This branch program was transformed from a one month program in February (black history month) to a year round program under the leadership of Dr. Nkechi Agwu (current President of AAUW NYC Branch and the first African branch president in AAUW) in 2005. At that time, she was the black history and college/university chair of the branch.

The goals of the NYC Branch black history program are multifold, viz., to educate about black history and current events related to black communities and AAUW on a global level not limited to United States (US); to provide visibility and recognition to people, institutions and organizations that are empowering black communities around the world in line with the mission, vision, value promise and/or diversity principle of AAUW and to honor and celebrate these people, institutions and organizations; to foster critical discourse and further scholarly research on black people and/or black communities in line with the mission of AAUW; to facilitate networks and connections between people, organizations and institutions that are working to empower black communities around the world; and to facilitate active involvement and participation of black communities in the electoral, political, legislative process and healthcare systems in their countries.

Traditionally, the branch has always held an event as part of its black history program in the last weekend of February. This year's event was aligned with the 125th anniversary branch celebration of *leadership* and *legacy* under the theme of "She Touched Me: Building Bridges, Reflecting Diversity," The branch held its traditional black history month event entitled "Legacy Ambassadors Awards Ceremony" on Sunday, February 27, 2011, 2-5pm at its historic Italianate Victorian Brownstone which was purchased by visionary members of the branch and opened on June 1, 1949 (Founders' Day for NYC Branch) by Eleanor Roosevelt (past US first lady and mother of human rights).

This awards ceremony featured two presentations and the presentation of a legacy award to five people/institutions who have empowered black communities in line with the mission of AAUW. The first was a DVD video presentation on a tour of South Africa by Lorrin Johnson,

the Memorial Trust Fund Administrator of the branch and Explore Your Opportunities (EYO) conference Co-founder. EYO (www.aauw-eyoconference.org) is another stellar program of the branch in its eighth year, geared towards encouraging 7th grade girls to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related fields. STEM is an area of inequity for women and girls and the research shows that the first critical area of loss in the pipeline for women and girls is at the middle school level. The conference is co-sponsored by the Manhattan and Westchester branches in conjunction with a college. This year's conference is on March 19, 2011, at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in the Bronx. Lorrin Johnson was one of the honorees for the legacy of EYO.

The second presentation featured the work of the International Theater and Literacy Project (ITPL) (www.itpl.org) in Tanzania and other parts of Africa and the world. It was given by Marianna Houston, the Founder and Executive Director of ITPL. She was also a recipient of a legacy award for the work of ITPL in educating children in Africa, empowering their communities, and using the arts as a vehicle to give an alternative voice for these communities to tell their stories in the words of their children to the outside world.

Other legacy awards were given to Venerable, Rev. Dr. M. Joe Omeokwe, Founder of Vineyard International Christian Ministries (VICM), His Excellency, General Muhammadu Buhari, rtd. (former head of state of Nigeria), and the Annie Walsh Memorial School (AWMS). Venerable Omeokwe was honored for his legacy as an educator in empowering women and children in New York, the work of VICM in empowering the black and spanish communities in the Bronx and world-wide and for the collaborative efforts of VICM children's ministry that resulted in honorable mention in the *New York Times* of the NYC branch's Martin Luther King Junior celebrations in 2006 thereby facilitating the legacy of the black history program of NYC Branch.

His Excellency, General Muhammadu Buhari was honored for his legacy as a former President of Nigeria in advancing equity for women and as presidential candidate and founder of a political party, Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) that is advancing equity for women in the electoral/legislative process. His government was the first in Nigeria to decree affirmative action for women that mandated that women should be part of policy making in all states in the country, a decree that produced female commissioners in all the states. His government banned underage marriage and facilitated family planning. CPC waived membership fees and primary form fees (processing fees) for all women to allow women to join the party and run for elective office in the country and the party at no cost. The award was received by Mohammed B. Shehu on behalf of His Excellency. However to provide a forum for equity for all Nigerian presidential candidates to share how they have empowered or intend to empower women and girls, the NYC Branch co-hosted with the Nigerian Presidential Debates (NPD) and Election 2011 networking

mixer at the branch's historic Victorian Italianate brownstone located at 111 East 37th Street, NY, NY 10016 on March 5, 2011 from 6pm – 11pm. A report of the issues discussed at this networking forum is being prepared by the NPD lead organizer, Ifeanyi Obinali.

AWMS (www.anniewalsh.org) was honored for a legacy of over 162 years of educating girls in Africa for leadership roles and for the collaborative efforts of the Annie Walsh Old Girls Association (AWOGA) New York/New Jersey branch in working with NYC Branch to move the mission of AAUW forward and continue the legacy of the branch of 125 years of leading the way in empowering women and girls. AWMS (founded in 1849) is the first girls' secondary school in Africa south of the Sahara. It has alumni all over the world in leadership positions. The award for AWMS was received by Roseline Fyle, the President of AWOGA New York/New Jersey.

The event was well attended. It provided for networking opportunities and connections for those present. NYC Branch extends its thanks to Fun Times for its media coverage of this events and others the branch has held as part of its 125th anniversary celebrations. Lastly, in the words of Dr. Nkechi Agwu, President of NYC Branch, "if Rosa Parks had not refused to seat at the back of the bus and Martin Luther King Junior did not fight for his dream, I would not be standing here today as the first African born branch President of AAUW and neither would we have in the oval office an African American President, His Excellency, Barrack Obama." Telling our story as our sisters and brothers keeper is what the black history program of NYC Branch is all about!