

BiakoYe

NEWSLETTER



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Nana Kwame Opare and Nana Akosua Anima Join in Service with Nana Akomfohene Korantema Ayebofo



Nana Kwame Opare, Nana Akomfohene Korantema Ayebofo, and Nana Akosua Anima are seated at the StarSpirit LIGHTHOUSE in Larteh-Kubease, Ghana. They are pictured after the completion of ancient rites of enstoolment for Nana Kwame Opare and Nana Akosua Anima to become Kings in October, 2007.

A highlight of the StarSpirit 2007 Tour to Ghana this past September 28-October 13 was the enstoolment of male and female Kings in Larteh, Ghana. The newly enstooled are picture above with Nana Akomfohene Korantema Ayebofo. They are at left, Nana Kwame Opare, and at right, Nana Akosua Anima. You will get to meet these new Traditional African Rulers on May 24, 2008 at a Traditional African Outdooring introducing them to the public. This gala affair will be held at the Grand Hall of the Community College of Philadelphia. With the entoolment of Nana Kwame Opare and Nana Akosua Anima we now have a husband and wife team of Kings who have been a part of the Asona Aberade Shrine over the decades. We are confident that they will work closely with Nana Akomfohene Korantema Ayebofo and help her to accomplish even more in coming years.

Statement of Purpose

Biako Ye Newsletter is a quarterly news journal published by StarSpirit Press. It provides information for and about the African community, linking the Akan family throughout the Diaspora.

Biako Ye News Staff Members:

Nana Korantema Ayebofo,
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Dr. Barbara Wallace, Chief
Editor,
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David Bey, Graphics Consultant

Biako Ye is pronounced:

Bee yah ku yeh.

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SAVE THE DATES

March 7th & 8th 2008

The Third Annual Health Disparities
Conference at Teachers College,
Columbia University
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FEATURING KEYNOTE

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MAJOR COURAGE E. K.
QUASHIGAH, (RTD),
MINISTER OF HEALTH OF GHANA
Gail E. Wyatt, Ph.D.
Carlo C. DiClemente, Ph.D.

OPENING CONCERT:

Nana Korantema Ayebofo
and the African Drummers

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Panels, Papers, Poster Session,
Community Health Fair

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**www.tc.edu/ceoi/healthdisparities
or, call (800) 209-1245**

Meeting the Child their Family Sponsors as a StarSpirit Scholar



Gifty Ofori, 15, in 8th grade, is shown above with the son and daughter-in-law of her sponsor—Mrs. Russe Jackson. Mrs. Russe Jackson most recently responded to the StarSpirit International, November 2007 call for sponsors to donate toward the education of StarSpirit Scholars for the 2008-2009 academic year; that will make the 4th year in a row that Mrs. Russe Jackson has made a commitment to the education of Gifty Ofori. Gifty is most grateful! Meanwhile, Gifty is enjoying sponsorship for the academic year 2007-2008. Gifty was delighted to meet the family of her sponsor. They talked about her grades, and even the possibility that she may come to the United States to visit upon her graduation in years to come.

In this academic year 2007-2008, the fourth year of our StarSpirit Scholars program, we have 36 students being supported by donors in the United States through StarSpirit International, Inc.—with the majority of donors living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You can see our 36 StarSpirit Scholars on pages 4-5.

Do you want to become the sponsor of a StarSpirit Scholar for academic year 2008-2009?

You have until September 2008 to decide. It will be in September 2008 that the scholars for the next academic year will need to receive their funds for school. We will also purchase their school supplies at that time.

Consider giving the gift that keeps on giving. Send an African child to school in their name, as a birthday, anniversary, or other gift! Send your donation to StarSpirit by September 2008.

From the Editor's Desk

BEYOND THE MAKING OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: WORKING ON YOUR SELF AS PART OF YOUR DAILY DIET



Greetings,

Happy New Year! This is traditionally a time when we think about transforming ourselves, and thereby our lives. As Nana Boafo Tigare advises, there are ways that one can change their condition in life. In this regard, Tigare has brought forth much information of value. Of note, each of us tends to apply the information differently, yet produce the same results: transformation. The change begins with you where you are. How?

Start by seeing yourself capable of achieving all that you desire. In this capacity, you can begin to achieve your highest potential. See that image of your highest potential as a beacon of hope and light, and that which can bring you total satisfaction.

*Next, look at yourself with acceptance. Accept that there are rough places that you will smooth to your satisfaction. Accept that you have strengths that enable you to move beyond your current condition. Accept that you know best as to how to re-align yourself with what you desire. Accept that others can only serve as a guide, a teacher, mentor, and role model. The choice must be your choice to change where you are and to achieve all that you aspire to. **Each time that you experience doubt inside, perhaps as a nagging inner voice, cancel it: respond with a loud "No!" and add "Stop!" Each time you hear your inner voice congratulating you, listen, listen, listen, and agree! Do not wonder where the voice comes from, nor why the voice is speaking to you. Do not wonder what the voice wants from you. Merely say clearly, "All that is for my higher good must proceed! Thank you!" Say this again and again and again until you feel yourself achieving an inner stillness, a sense of peace.***

When you want to achieve more positive communication with your inner voice, as a voice of wisdom and source of guidance, then do the following: Use clear water and wash your face. Then, wait for that inner voice of wisdom and guidance to arise from deep within you, as you achieve a state of inner peace and meditation.

Whenever a negative voice is louder than your positive inner voice, then it is time to seek your guide, teacher, mentor, or role model and ask for help. Professional counseling may be needed, as well. If it is recommended, do not hesitate to seek out counseling. Make the receipt of counseling a commitment that you keep, if it is recommended.

*Once you experience achieving that state of peaceful mediation where you successfully achieve communication with your inner voice of wisdom and guidance, then make space in your schedule for such inner communication with your higher self on a daily basis. It is not too much to ask yourself to do, as you are doing it for you. **The goal is to make such communication with your own inner source of wisdom and guidance a part of your daily diet—as something that you do for you every day.***

The goal is to be able to readily achieve a state of inner peace, as well as acceptance of yourself. Such acceptance of self must start from inside, including discovering and drawing upon our own inner wisdom and guidance. It is inside of us that the beginning of ultimate change occurs.

In addition, stop comparing yourself to others. Stop judging others. Instead, focus on yourself.

See the beauty within. Allow the light within to shine and to also illuminate love for others. Accept yourself, and accept others. This is a major focus for change. I repeat, focus on self and accept self. And, accept others.

Make space in your life to do work on improving yourself. Improving your self will improve your life, and the life of others. So, make space in your life and take the time to work on yourself every day.

As Nana Boafo Tigare also tells us, please know that you are holding the keys to changing what is unfavorable around you. If you see anything manifesting in your life that is destructive or unfavorable in your personal life, consider the following: It may be the compilation of your bad thoughts, bad words, ill intentions, and an attitude of surrender to defeat. In this way, our thoughts have the power to create our reality. And, if it is negative, we have to search for the negative thoughts we had in the past, whether just weeks or days ago. Indeed, when you want to ask yourself, "Why have I reached here today?"--remember what you were doing two weeks ago. Because it is your thoughts, your intentions, your actions from before that we see today. What you thought weeks or days ago is what is manifesting in your life today.

However, you possess (you have as your ownership) the ability and the power to change all that you see around you with your good thoughts, good words, good intentions, and proper action. By beginning to think positive thoughts and to call forth and visualize that which we want which is for our higher good, then do not be surprised when that which is magnificent also manifests in life.

Nana Boafo Tigare also urges us to search for the sameness in others. Focus on how we are the same versus how we are different. This can lead to states of harmony holding sway in our interpersonal relationships.

On the other hand, when you search for that which is destructive, what will come forth is that which is destructive. What you focus upon and call forth is what you will receive.

In fact, the wonders of life are within. They resonate with the wonders of nature. Therefore, when you give forth wonderful things you synchronize yourself with all the wonders in nature.

Therefore, do not blame anyone for where you are in life. Take responsibility for your own thoughts of days and weeks and years ago. What did you call forth, focus upon, and thereby manifest?

However, I must also remind you that there is an agenda, as Nana Boafo Tigare repeatedly reminds us. There is an agenda to keep us in bondage and depression, and thinking like we cannot (accomplish, change, etc..). However, it is not so. Yet, the programming is excessive—bombarding us via the many media outlets. It is artificial. It is of nothing, nothing at all that will benefit us. Nothing at all that will facilitate our growth, nor bring us harmony and love. The programming is there to keep humanity from exercising a free will to achieve their highest potential—and away from being ONE with the creative spirit that is inside of us all. However, to know about an agenda means there is a responsibility to take action: a recommended action is to begin to work on your self as part of your daily diet. If you take this work on your self ever so seriously, then consider the result:

YOU MAY MANIFEST SOMETHING GREAT IN 2008!

Like the petals of a Rose, my love for you keeps unfolding,

Nana Akomfohene Korantema Ayebofo
Chief Creative Officer, StarSpirit International, Inc.



Books Available From StarSpirit Press

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NANA OKOMFOHENE AKUA OPAREBEA



A Story Told With Love By
Nana Akomfohene Korantema Ayebofo

\$39.95

**ADD THESE BOOKS TO YOUR
LIBRARY! ORDER THEM TODAY AT:**

www.starspirit.com

or call 1-215-763-4054

About the book—Celebrating the life of Nana Okomfohene Akua Oparebea... *This powerful book has gained international acclaim for preserving the history of indigenous healers in Ghana. The book covers key historical events in the life of one of the Greatest Matriarchs of the Twentieth Century—one with a powerful spiritual vision and international mission. Seeing with the eyes of one who is spiritually sagacious, and guided by God and powerful Ancient African Ancestors, Nana Oparebea saw that she had lost children who had been captured and enslaved, and were now reincarnated, living in urban centers in the US. Read this book and fully enter into an era when Ghana was bursting forth with great promise, given the new republic of Ghana and the leadership of it's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah—also a dear friend to and supporter of Nana Oparebea. This book presents living African and African American history you want to know and share.*

TIGARE SPEAKS

LESSONS FOR LIVING IN HARMONY

**An
Angel's
wisdom channeled
from the realm of spirit
By**

**Nana Akomfohene
Korantema Ayebofo**

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Barbara C. Wallace, Ph.D.

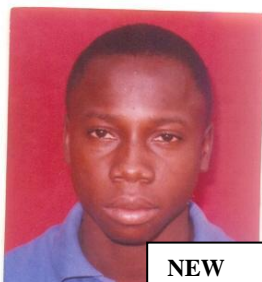
\$29.95

The manual used to train Peer Educators in: Sierra Leone;
Ghana; Albany, NY; and, Philadelphia, PA.!

The 36 StarSpirit Scholars



Ebenezer Aboagye is age 19. Career Goal, Athlete, Sponsor, Thomas & Faye Steacy



NEW

Isacc Kumi, Sponsors: Lorde & Alicia Nock



Eric Agyekum, 12, 6th grade. Career goal, Doctor. 1st Year Sponsor: Germantown Friends School



Henrietta Akrofi, 15 in 9th grade. Her career goal is Nurse. 1st Year Sponsors: Louise Robinson for Sigma Rho Sorority



Seth Amposah. 13. Career goal is Doctor. 2nd Year Sponsor: Germantown Friends School



NEW

Yaa Mankosah, 6, 1st Grade. Goal, Teacher. 3rd Year Sponsor: Iyanla Vanzant in name of Gemmia Vanzant. (missed photo op)



James Asiedu, 15, 9^h grade. Goal: Doctor. Sponsor: Dr. Vincent DePaul Henry



NEW

Gladys Abigail Appiah 3rd Sponsor: Jesse Branson.



NEW

Helena Nyampong 1st Year Sponsor : Patricia A. Hughes



NEW

Linda Boateng. 1st year Sponsor: Delores Berry



Rose Pearl Adjeibea, 14. Career goal, Nurse 3rd Year Sponsor Balius Webb, Jr.



Erica Yeboah, 21 in 9th grade. Career goal nurse. 1st Year Sponsor: Rev. T. James Hargrove



Faustina Awukubea, 11, 3rd grade. Her career goal is Doctor. 2nd Year Sponsor: Doris Taylor.



Joseph Boateng is age 13 in 5th grade. 1st Year Sponsor: Dr. LaFrances Rose



Eunice Brakwa, 11, 4th grade. Goal, Doctor. 3rd Year Sponsor: Iyanla Vanzant in the name of Gemmia Vanzant.



Vincent Ntow Darko 11, Goal : Teacher. 2nd Year Sponsor : Napdrum via Jacqueline Finks-Gray



Akraasi Doudua, age 11, 7th grade. Career goal, Police Officer. 2nd Year Sponsor: Germantown Friends School



Isaac Asiedu Kumi , 14, 7th grade. Career goal is Doctor. 1st Year Sponsors: Lorde & Alicia Nock



Comfort Korantemaa is age 11. 1st Year Sponsor: Dr. Vincent DePaul Henry



NEW

David Sarkwa, 1st year Sponsor: Lorde & Alicia Nock

For the School Year 2007-2008



Rexford Yeboah Obuobisa, 14, 9th grade. Career goal, Doctor. 2nd Year Sponsor: Germantown Friends School



Gifty Ofori, 16, 8th grade. Her career goal is Engineer. 3rd Year Sponsor: Russe Jackson, as gifts to others.



Francis Okyere is age 13 in 4th grade. His career goal is Teacher. 3rd Year Sponsors: Uriel and Cynthia Wallace.



Janet Okyerewa, 9, 2nd grade. Her career Goal, Teacher. 3rd Year Sponsor: Sarah Sexton.



Harry Asiedu Opare, age 14, 6th grade. Career goal is Policeman. 3rd Year Sponsor: Balias Webb, Jr.



Abraham Okyere, 14. 3rd Year Sponsor: Dr. Adrienne Chew in the name of Ramsey Chew



Eric Adom, 3rd Year: Sponsor, Jesse Branson



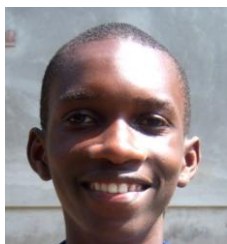
Joyce Aboagewah 3rd Year Sponsor: Sarah Sexton.



George Penti, 11 in 6th grade. Career goal is Doctor. 3rd Year Sponsors: Uriel & Cynthia Wallace.



Henry O. Richardson 19, Career goal is Athlete 2nd Year Sponsor: Rhonda D. Hibbler



Michael Aboagye Richardson, 16, Goal, Musician. 2nd Year Sponsor: Kulu Mele



Benjamin Sackitey, 14, 6th grade. Career goal is Pilot. 3rd Year Sponsor: Jesse Branson.



Stephen Tieku, 13, 8th grade. Goal, Soccer Player. 3rd Year Sponsorr: Balias Webb, J



Elizabeth Serebo, 9 6th grade. Career Goal, Teacher. 3rd Year Sponsors: Uriel & Cynthia Wallace.



Helena Terkor, 15 in 9th grade. Her career goal is Nurse. 1st Year Sponsor: Dr. Vincent DePaul Henry

Offei Desmond

Photo Missing
Will be featured in
March BiakoYe
Newsletter.

3rd Year Sponsor:
Jesse Branson

NEW

Note: Many other donors gave \$25 to \$50 and helped to make up the difference, in a few cases, between what was needed and what the sponsors indicated gave. Such donors (you know who you are) are too numerous to list, but we thank you ALL! Because of the generosity of all of our sponsors and donors, the StarSpirit Scholars program is able to support 36 children this year, including 9 new scholars—since 9 children graduated/entered secondary school and became ineligible for the scholarship support. THANK YOU! We also owe a special THANK YOU to our 3rd year sponsors, such as Mr. Jesse Branson, who has been in the program so long as a sponsor that he has 3 NEW SCHOLARS.



Real Truth About Columbus

By Dr. Kwame Nantambu

Now that Euro-America has celebrated “Columbus Day” on 12th October 2007, it is apropos to disseminate the real truth about Christopher Columbus. At the outset, it must be stated that Columbus not only discovered absolutely nothing but, in fact, he was also the one who was actually lost.

According to Dan Carlinsky (1992): “In Italy, he was known as Cristoforo Colombo. In Portugal, where he lived as a young man, he became Cristovado Colom. In Spain, where he spent his most productive years, gained fame and eventually died, he was Cristobal Colon.. The Latinized ‘Christopher Columbus’ was bestowed on him by English historians.”

In his book titled *They Came Before Columbus* (1976), Guyanese anthropologist/historian Dr. Ivan van Sertima proves that Africans were in the Americas in the B.C. era about a thousand years before Columbus. Columbus/Europeans came to this region in the A.D. era.

Indeed, Columbus himself acknowledged this historical truism when he wrote in his diary on his second voyage in September 1493 as follows: “the natives of Hispaniola (now Haiti) came to me and told me that Blacks (Africans) had come from the South and Southeast trading with them in gold-tip metal spears. They (Africans) came in large boats.”

And in “Pre-Columbian Black Presence in the Western Hemisphere” (September/October 1975), Almore A. Thompson, Jr., postulates that: “At the time of Columbus, African navigators were in advance of their white European counterparts. They had (already) established documented trade with China, Mediterranean Europe, India and Atlantic islands. The Africans laid the cornerstone for the major advances in maritime arts by applying their knowledge of measurement science to the field of navigation.... During the fifteenth century, Prince Henry, the Navigator, set up a school where Portuguese instructors of navigation were taught in turn at Moorish (African) schools. Here, pilots were instructed in the art of navigation, including those of Columbus. The (most) important thing ... to note is that the Moors (Africans) prepared (educated) some of the Europeans who subsequently made major Atlantic ‘discovery’ crossings.”

Professor Thompson, Jr., concludes quite equivocally in these words: “in the face of the overwhelming preponderance of evidence... we must accept the fact that Africans reached the shores of the Western Hemisphere before Columbus.”

Historiography suggests that the idea of ‘discovery’ did not come from the mind of Columbus.

On 29 May 1453, Muhammad 11, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, captured Constantinople---capital of eastern Roman Empire. The fall of Constantinople thereby closed the sea route between Europe and the East. Ergo, a new sea route had to be found/discovered to meet the European demand for Asian commodities such as jewels, perfumes, spices, silks and drugs.

When Columbus contracted with the Spanish Crown of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, it was not initially to “discover” lands or to engage in ‘voyages.’ The reality is that his escapades were described as “Business Trips”/ “Survival Missions” as part of the “Enterprise of the Indies.”

According to Dan Carlinsky (1992) : “On 12 October, Columbus reached what he thought was ‘the Indies’---the islands of the Orient---in the vicinity of Japan. The landfall was, in fact, in the Bahamas.” Moreover, Columbus not only “miscalculated the size of the earth” but has also falsely laid claim to have ‘discovered’ America.

One American-Indian categorically sets the record straight by emphasizing that: “Native Americans had built great civilizations with many millions of people long before Columbus wandered lost into the Caribbean.”

Another corroborates: “He (Columbus) didn’t discover us; we knew where we were. (He didn’t know where he was).”

Dan Carlinsky in his article titled “Christopher Confusion” (February-March 1992) brings to the fore “an opposing voice.” This opposing global view suggests that : “Columbus ...represents a greedy Europe that stormed into a hemisphere of peace-loving people and subjugated the population, wiping-out millions—some with weapons and some, unintentionally, with European-bred diseases of which the inhabitants had no knowledge and to which they had no immunity.”

The fact of the matter is that in 1498, there were 40,000 Amerindians living in Trinidad before the arrival of Euro- Spanish Columbus; by 1838, this number was reduced to a miniscule 520 a la European genocide.

The genocide that Columbus was inflicting on the indigenous/original peoples of the Caribbean came to an end when Queen Isabella was forced/compelled to send Francis de Bobadilla to investigate Columbus’ genocide against the Arawaks in then Hispaniola. Columbus was ordered to be taken back to Spain in chains as a “common prisoner” and to be ceremoniously chastised by Queen Isabella.

This episode aptly epitomizes the “Disgrace of Columbus.”

Deceased Afri-centric, African-American scholar/historian Dr. John Henrik Clarke correctly sums up the real truth about Columbus in his book titled Christopher Columbus and the African Holocaust (1992) thus: “The Columbus anniversary (12 October) is a celebration of mass murder, slavery and conquest.. Christopher Columbus discovered absolutely nothing; he was an adventurer, an opportunist and a willful murderer and a liar and that what he set in motion was the basis of Western capitalism and exploitation of both Africans and indigenous Americans who had committed no crimes against European people and did not know of European intention to conquer and enslave them. (The) facts are plain: Columbus was a thief, an invader, an organizer of rape of Indian women, a slave trader, a reactionary religious fanatic and the personal director of a campaign of mass murder of defenseless peoples.”

Now is the time for all Afri-centric scholars/teachers to demand that the chapter captioned “Discovery of the West Indies by Columbus” should be deleted/expunged from every text book written about the history of the Caribbean/West Indies.

Now is the time for conscious Afrikan peoples to! re-write their history and not to perpetuate, promulgate , re-iterate and regurgitate HIS-STORY, His-Euro-centric, racist interpretation of OUR-STORY.

Indeed, it is also imperative for Afrikan peoples to put potent measures in place to emancipate themselves from the shackles of mental slavery because “none but ourselves can free our minds.” Moreover, deceased/assassinated leader of the then Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) in South Africa, Steve Biko once admonished (1976): “The most powerful weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”

Now is the time for conscious Afrikan peoples to re-write their own history from their own

perspective/frame of reference in order to retrieve /recapture /reclaim their mind from the clutches of European supremacy, albeit the Euro-centric analysis/interpretation of Afrikan history.

As Dr. Marimba Ani elucidates: “You’re not an Afrikan because you’re born in Afrika. You’re an Afrikan because Afrika is born in you.. It’s in your genes... your DNA... your entire biological make-up. Whether you like it or not, that’s the way it is. However, if you were to embrace this truth with open arms....my. my. my... what a wonderful thing.”

And as our millennium Afrikan hero, Marcus Mosiah Garvey corroborates: “Up you mighty race, you can accomplish what you will.”

Shem Hotep (“I go in peace”).

Dr. Kwame Nantambu is Professor Emeritus, Kent State University.

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