

AFRICANS IN MAINSTREAM AMERICA

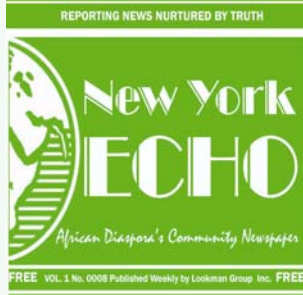
Dr Nkechi Agwu: President of American Association of University Women New York City Chapter

"When I think of AAUW NYC Branch I see 125 years of visionary women who struggled to advance equity for women and girls, advocating for human rights and civil rights in the process. I see a branch with tremendous potential to shape the future of this great land and our world in nurturing and grooming the leaders of tomorrow." So said the president of the New York City branch of the American Association of University Women, Dr Nkechi Agwu.

On July 1st, 2009, Dr Nkechi Agwu made history in New York City, when she became the first PhD mathematician to become president of the American



Chief Lookman Sulaimon MJ, the Publisher of New York Echo, is Public Policy Chair of AAUW NYC chapter.



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AFRICANS IN MAINSTREAM AMERICA

Page 16 Africa Reporters www.africareporters.com Community Newspaper to America Volume 1, Issue 3; November 15, 2009

Africa Reporters Celebrates the first Xclusivenigeria International Lecture in NYC



The first Xclusivenigeria International Lecture, co-sponsored by the New York City branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW.org) and by Medical Journal of Therapeutics Africa (mjota.org), was held on November 06, 2009 in Manhattan.



Top left, the back yard at 111 East 37th Street, Manhattan The building was bought by the American Association of University Women New York City (AAUW-NYC) in 1949. AAUW in Manhattan was founded in 1886, the building at 111 East 37th Street, was bought in 1949. Top right, an October meeting hosted by the AAUW was attended by Dr Nkechi Agwu (the President of AAUW-NYC), Dr Susanna J Dodgson, Director of the MJoTA Institute of Medical Writing. The November lecture "Is there corruption in Nigeria?", co-hosted by Africa Reporters publisher Chukwuma Oraegbu was attended by Dr Ada Okika, Mrs Europa Wilson-Agwu, panelist Stella Azie JD, moderator Ifey Ugokwe JD, Lola Oguntunde JD, the Rev Emeka C Nwigwe and Ms Lydia Williams (AAUW-NYC office manager, shown right). All photos courtesy of Dr SJ Dodgson.



AFRICANS IN MAINSTREAM AMERICA



Above, Africans attending HIV/AIDS lecture organized by Dr Ada Okika, back row, red scarf. Top right, Lydia Williams, who took the group shot above, behind her is Mrs Europa Wilson-Agwu.



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Association of University Women New York City. Her predecessors have included many accomplished women, and members of the branch house include Eleanor Roosevelt, Lily Ledbetter, and Virginia Fields, but AAUW jumped fully into the 21st Century and beyond with its election of Dr Agwu, who is also its first president who is an immigrant from continental Africa.

Last year, I walked into the brownstone house owned by the NYC branch when leaves were falling from Manhattan trees, and the first

AFRICANS IN MAINSTREAM AMERICA

person I saw was a bespectacled 10-year-old African boy working on his homework. My spirits lifted even further - you have to see the house to understand how just walking through the door makes you feel good - and I immediately decided to become a member of AAUW. An organization where immigrants are welcomed is my kind of organization. The young boy is the son of Dr Nkechi, and he comes from a long line of scholars. Dr Nkechi's mother, Mrs Europa Wilson-Agwu has the bearing and eloquence of the school-teacher she once was, and even now, she weekly trains high school and college students

in mathematics with Mr Samuel Sackeyiso at the brownstone at 111 East 37th Street which is owned by the New York City branch. And was bought with involvement of Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt in 1949.

Dr Nkechi is dedicated to the task of running the NYC branch, which includes also making sure the house is maintained and taking care of 3 floors of tenants. She buys and delivers supplies for the house, and is onsite whenever she can be. She is also a volunteer firewoman in the Bronx.

I spoke to her on New Year's Eve when she was at the house taking care of non-functioning heating,

and again early on New Year's Day, when another heating issue arose. I was astonished to see a document at a Spring Board Meeting that claimed to be about money spent by Dr Nkechi, including a claim that Dr Nkechi used AAUW money to buy alcohol to throw a New Year's Eve party. Gosh. Not the professional mathematician I know. Not the dedicated president who is in the branch house 4 or 5 days a week, while holding a chair at City University of New York (Dr Agwu is a full Professor).

These pictures were taken at AAUW NYC branch at a function aimed at educating the public on HIV/AIDS which was organized by the AAUW NYC Administrative Chair, Dr Ada Okika. New York Echo Publisher, Chief Lookman Sulaimon Arounfale (pictured above in front row) is the Public Policy Chair of AAUW NYC, and MJoTA Publisher Dr Susanna J Dodgson, International Relations Chair.

**By MJoTA
Publisher**

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