



Emi Fujisaki, a gospel vocalist from Tokyo, Japan, rehearses before a Cleveland performance on the 20th Anniversary program for The Voices of Praise. Leonard Gregory Burks (at piano) is founder and director of this group. Fujisaki and Burks were interviewed for the Praying Grounds Project in June. (See page six for more photos.)

**New Acquisition:
The Rev. Fred Robinson
Collection**

In July, Praying Grounds acquired the Rev. Fred Robinson Collection, which contains more than 300 hours of studio-quality audio and video recordings. Rev. Robinson, who passed away in 2008, served as an associate minister at the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church and was the producer and host for two long-running shows for “I Believe in God Ministries.”

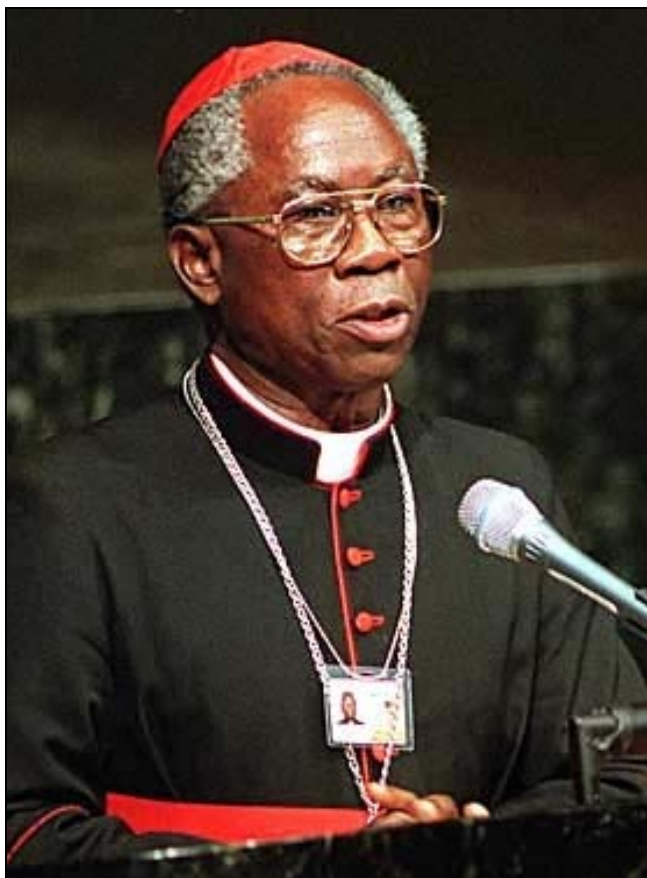
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TRADITIONS AND BELIEFS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE INITIATIVE FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY IN THE HISTORY OF AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA (RASHAD)

CARDINAL FRANCIS ARINZE STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN CITY CLUB LECTURE



Cardinal Francis Arinze

“Interreligious dialogue is a meeting of people of differing religions — in an atmosphere of freedom and openness— to listen to one another, . . . to try to understand better the religion of the other, . . . and, hopefully, to seek possibilities of working together.”

—Cardinal Francis Arinze

Cardinal Francis Arinze, a native of Nigeria and President Emeritus of the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, addressed several Greater Cleveland audiences during his July 2009 Ohio visit.

Cardinal Arinze spoke at the Mount Zion Church in Oakwood Village, where the Rev. Dr. Larry L. Macon is pastor. Dr. Macon is an instructor in CSU’s Religious Studies Department.

Cardinal Arinze was the keynote speaker at the Annual Convention of the Nigerian American Cultural Center (Cleveland), and he spoke on “The Role of Interreligious Dialogue in the World of Today” at the City Club of Cleveland. Cardinal Arinze’s City Club address is available on line at www.cityclub.org. Just click on “Programs,” and then go to “Archives.”



Bolaji Orimoloye, native of Nigeria, CSU alumnus, and former Student Government President. Orimoloye attended the dinner for the Nigerian American Cultural Center, where Cardinal Arinze delivered the keynote address.

AMERICA, AFRICA, AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

Africa-Bound Fulbrighters Meet in Washington for Pre-Departure Orientation



(above) Fulbright students and scholars who were selected to receive grants for research and / or teaching in Nigeria during the 2009–2010 academic year and Nigerian Fulbright alums. They were among the hundreds of individuals who participated in the June 2009 Pre-Departure Orientation Program in Washington.

Nigerian Praying Grounds

“I plan to document religious and cultural change among women in Nigeria’s Christian, Muslim, and Yoruba faith communities. Lectures, publications, and other project outcomes have the potential to increase mutual understanding between people from diverse racial and ethnic groups at a time when individuals across the globe are concerned about religious conflict and related civil unrest, forced and voluntary migration, social dislocation, and cultural change.”

Dr. Regennia N. Williams, CSU
From Fulbright Project Statement for
Research and Teaching at Nigeria’s
Obafemi Awolowo University



For more
information
on Fulbright
programs,
visit
www.cies.org.

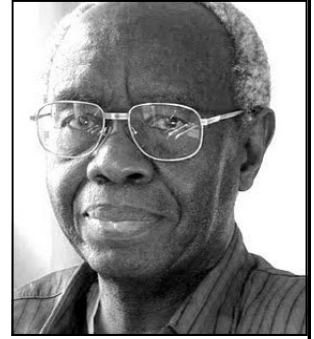


Dr. Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran, President of Kalamazoo College, delivered the keynote address for the June 2009 Fulbright Pre-Departure Orientation Dinner. Dr. Wilson-Oyelaran was a faculty member at Nigeria’s Obafemi Awolowo University for more than ten years.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (RASHAD)
is seeking contributions for

AFRICAN RELIGIONS & PHILOSOPHY: CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVEREND DR. JOHN S. MBITI'S LANDMARK PUBLICATION



Rev. John S. Mbiti, Ph.D.

A Special 2010 Issue of

The Journal of Traditions and Beliefs

Dr. Regennia N. Williams, Founder and Editor

Judy MacKeigan, Managing Editor

Publishable articles will reflect scholars' diverse viewpoints on the place of this book in the study of religion and spirituality in the history of Africa and the Diaspora. Typewritten, double-spaced manuscripts, no more than 30 pages in length (including endnotes), should be prepared using *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th Edition (University of Chicago Press, 2007). **Manuscripts submitted for publication will be peer-reviewed.**

Submit manuscripts to: African.Diaspora@csuohio.edu

Deadline for Submissions: November 15, 2009

Notification of Acceptance: March 15, 2010

Publication Date: Fall 2010

For more information, call (216) 523-7182.



“Since people are so intimately bound up with their religious life and outlook, their history constitutes the history of their religion. This is an area of study which calls for interdisciplinary cooperation between historians, anthropologists, and theologians.”

—Rev. John S. Mbiti, Ph.D., 1969

From the introduction to *African Religions and Philosophy*

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: NEW YEAR, NEW STRATEGIC PLAN!

Workshops target CSU students, alumni, educators, and performing artists.



The Rev. Dr. Earl Preston, Jr., CSU alumnus, founder of the Prestonians Choral Ensemble, and Pastor of Cleveland's Morning Star Baptist Church, and Dr. Regennia N. Williams. Rev. Preston agreed to work with the Spiritual Gifts project in an advisory capacity. The Spiritual Gifts workshop choir will hold its October 24th concert at Morning Star.

By Regennia N. Williams

The new strategic plan for **Spiritual Gifts: Unity and Diversity in One Body** reflects RASHAD's on-going commitment to planning, promoting, and implementing arts and humanities programs that are innovative, educational, and cost effective. Plans for the 2009–2010 program year include several income-generating activities that are designed to help secure RASHAD's financial future, and facilitate our efforts to share project outcomes with a wider audience.

The program year begins in September, Gospel Music Heritage Month, with a series of six workshops at Trinity Cathedral. The Monday evening workshops (September 14 - October 19) will provide participants with information on African American religious history and

opportunities to study and perform African American sacred music.

The workshop choir will give a final concert performance at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at the Morning Star Baptist Church, 10250 Shaker Boulevard. Admission to the concert is free, but RASHAD will accept donations. A "Meet - the - Artists" reception will follow the performance.

All workshop participants will pay a materials fee to help defray the cost of providing supplies, music, rehearsal and performance facilities, and other program-related expenses. The fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students of all ages. (*Some scholarships are available.)

Workshop packets will contain the following:

- The complete rehearsal and performance schedule
- Sheet music, lyrics, rehearsal tapes, cds, etc.
- Background information on guest clinicians and speakers
- Emergency contact information
- Information about Cleveland State University and its community partnerships
- Other useful documents

Individuals who are interested in arts management and production, rather than performance, will also be invited to work with the new Spiritual Gifts choir.

Workshop participants will devote a total of at least 15 clock hours to rehearsals and performances in September and October. In exchange for their unpaid participation in the **Spiritual Gifts: Unity and Diversity in One Body** workshop choir, singers will receive the following:

- Information on gospel music theory and vocal technique from some of the area's top clinicians;
- Performance and recording opportunities;
- Excellent publicity and exposure;
- Complimentary copies of the group's cd, featuring selections from the October 2009 concert.

For more information on the workshops and concert, call (216) 523-7182.

WHAT DO

**ELVIS PRESLEY
AL GREEN**

**MARY J. BLIGE
JOHNNY CASH**

ARETHA FRANKLIN

and
U2

HAVE IN COMMON?

**THEY WERE ALL INSPIRED
BY GOSPEL MUSIC.**



**This September, join us as we celebrate
Gospel Music Heritage Month.**

See a concert, attend an event and discover the rich history
of this true national treasure.

For more information go to gospelmusicheritage.com

RASHAD AND THE VOICES OF PRAISE HOST INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF GOSPEL MUSIC AND HISTORY AT TRINITY CATHEDRAL



The sound of gospel music filled Trinity Cathedral's Cathedral Hall as RASHAD and the Voices of Praise hosted a gospel music workshop for American and Japanese singers. Leonard Gregory Burks (above), composer and founder of the Voices of Praise, shared the podium with his mother, Mrs. Zepherine Burks, on June 18, 2009, the first day of the workshop. Emi Fujisaki (bottom photo, far right) traveled to Cleveland with members of her Tokyo-based choir in order to participate in the workshop and the Voices' 20th Anniversary Concert.

COMMUNITY MEETING AND BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR CLEVELAND CHAUTAUQUA 2010

Tuesday, September 29, 2009, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Cathedral, Trinity Commons, Meeting Room A-B

2230 Euclid Avenue

Downtown Cleveland, Across the Street from Cleveland State University

All are welcome!

RSVP: (216) 523-7182



Thought-Provoking Lectures

+

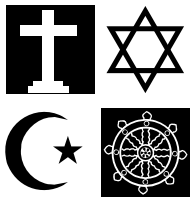


Excellent Performing Arts Activities

+

Enlightening

Interreligious Dialogue



+



**An Awesome View of the
Downtown Lakefront**

=

Cleveland Chautauqua 2010

For more information,

call

(216) 523-7182.

SAVE THESE DATES!

The View from Washington

Town Hall of Cleveland Lecture by Juan Williams, journalist and author of several books, including (with Quinton Dixie) *This Far by Faith: Stories from the African American Religious Experience*
Monday, September 21, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Ohio Theatre, Playhouse Square
Call (216) 241-1919 for ticket information.



Juan Williams

Harvest Time: A Seasonal Celebration of African American Sacred Music and History

Saturday, October 24, 2009, 4:00 p.m.
Concert and Live Recording
Featuring CSU Students, Alumni, and Other Members of the Spiritual Gifts Workshop Choir
Morning Star Baptist Church
10250 Shaker Boulevard
Freewill Offering
Call (216) 523-7182 for more information.

Spiritual Gifts: The Music of the African American Church

Dr. Regennia N. Williams, Historian
Thursday, October 1, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Bedford Historical Society, 2009-2010 Lyceum Series
Old Church on the Square
750 Broadway Avenue
Bedford, Ohio 44146
Free
For more information, call (440) 232-0796.

Community Meeting and Brainstorming Session for Cleveland Chautauqua 2010

Tuesday, September 29, 2009, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Cathedral, Trinity Commons, Meeting Room A-B
2230 Euclid Avenue
(Across the street from Cleveland State University)
All are welcome!
Call (216) 523-7182 to RSVP.

RASHAD

Initiative for the Study of
Religion and Spirituality in the
History of Africa and the Diaspora



c/o The Department of History
Cleveland State University
2121 Euclid Avenue, RT 1915
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 523-7182, Telephone
African.Diaspora@csuohio.edu, Email
www.ClevelandMemory.org/pray/, Website

TRADITIONS AND BELIEFS
Dr. Regennia N. Williams, *Founder and Editor*
Judy MacKeigan, *Associate Editor*