

D.C.-DAKAR - TALK
Our News Is Your News
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HIGHLIGHTS

U.S. Africa Sister Cities 11th Annual Conference, April 17 - 20, 2002, San Francisco, California

This year the 11th Annual U.S. African Sister Cities Conference was held in beautiful San Francisco, April 17 - 20, 2002. The theme “*Daring to Care—and to Share*” was hosted by the San Francisco Abidjan Sister Cities Committee.

The conference was officially opened the morning of April 18 with the posting of colors by the San Francisco Police Department Mounted Color Guards, with greetings by the Honorable Willie L. Brown, Mayor of San Francisco, and dignitaries from the United States and various African Nations.

The first day of the conference was devoted to the discussion “**HIV/AIDS and the Crisis Arising as a Result of AIDS in Africa and the United States**” with keynote speakers Jimmy Loyce of the Health Department of the City and County of San Francisco; Constance Newman, Director of Africa Bureau, US AID in Washington, DC; and Verna Mzezewa of the University of Zimbabwe, Harare. A panel discussion in the afternoon focused on “**U.S. Community Responses to HIV/AIDS in Africa and the United States**” featured Lisa Montgomery, Nurse

Practitioner, Highland Hospital HIV Services, Oakland, CA; Gloria Cox, Director of AIDS Ministry, Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland, CA; and Clifford Walker, President, Portland/Mutare Sister Cities Associations, with Carol McGruder of Polaris Research and Development moderating.

The day was closed with a spectacular reception at City Hall hosted by the Mayor of San Francisco, where each participant was presented with a lovely book of San Francisco.

The morning session of the second day was devoted to “**The Debt Overhang and the Crisis of Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa**,” presented by Dr. Agibou M.Y. Yasane, Professor of International Relations and Black Studies, San Francisco State University; and the “**Impact of Debt Relief**,” by Maude Vikobe, doctoral student in African studies and Jeanette Fisher Kouadio, African Correspondent Counsel.

The afternoon shifted to “**How Sister Cities Can Fight the Globalization of Tobacco**,” presented by Carol McGruder, and “**Process for Developing and Sustaining Projects Back Home**” by Virginia Smyly, Acting Director, Office of Prevention, City and County of San Francisco Health Department.

For the past two years, the conference has devoted a panel discussion on African countries. In an effort to provide more insight through the study of the background and history (ancient, modern and present), economic resources and international relations of various countries. This year Egypt and Cote d'Ivoire were selected.

The events of the day were closed with an exciting evening of art and culture at the African American Art and Culture Complex with a wonderful program of music by Felicite Tehaco and band; a play by the Cultural Odyssey's Medea Project; poetry by Jamal Ali; and more music by Umoja Jazz Ensemble; and a "dinner to kill for"!

The business meeting of the U.S. Africa Sister Cities Board of Directors was held Saturday morning. At this meeting, a plea was made for funding of the pledge made at last year's conference to donate \$20,000 to Africare. Contributions in the amount of \$6,300 were made for the purpose of fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa. Sister Cities represented at the conference reported on activities they had participated in or worked on during the past year. Saturday evening was highlighted with a festive dinner as The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums, keynote speaker for the evening sparked our thoughts, and Mayor Willie L. Brown thanked the participants for their presence in the "Great City by the Bay." A delightful time was had by all and *we are looking forward to Ghana in 2003!*

Wish to thank the following individuals and councils for their contributions to Africare.

- CALIFORNIA**
- Palo Atlo**
Shelia Bostic
- El Cerrito**
Frances Lyles
- Los Angeles**
South Africa Consulate General
- Oakland**
Michael Cohen
Carol McGruder
- San Clemente**
Clarice Gaylord
- San Francisco**
Annonymous
Marie Austin
Lavelle Holmes
Paulin Peele

COLORADO

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- Denver**
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MASSACHUSETTS

- Amesbury**
Amesbury for Africa
Joanna Hammond
Theodore Van Nahl
Gay Main

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- Silver Spring**
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Upper Marlboro

- Barbara Green
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- Lansing**
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OHIO

- Cincinnati**
The Africa Focus Project Cincinnati
Corrine Kinebrew

Toledo

- Norman Bell, Sr.
- Jonnie Taylor

OREGON

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Cliff Walker

TEXAS

- Palestine**
Margaret Caldwell

VIRGINIA

- Richmond**
Johnel Bracey
Gwendolyn Lewis

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Edward & Millie Russell
Seattle-Mombasa Sister City Association

GHANA - WEST AFRICA

Prince Kwane Kludjeson

President of Africare,

C. Payne Lucas retires

C. Payne Lucas, co-founder of Africare and its president for the past 31 years, will retire from the staff this summer. He will be succeeded as president by Julius E. Coles, a longstanding Africare supporter. Mr. Coles has a 28--year career of distinction with the U.S. Agency for International Development – Mission Director in Swaziland and Senegal; additional service in Vietnam, Morocco, Liberia, Nepal and Washington, DC--he retired from the federal government in 1994 with the rank of Career Minister. He went on to serve as the first Director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University (1994-1997) and, the first Director of the Andrew Young Center for International Affairs at Morehouse College (1997-2002).

Why Was Africare Founded?

In 1971, West Africa was in the midst of one of the most severe droughts in its history. People and animals were dying. Crops could not grow. Thousands of villagers fled their homes in search of water. Relief agencies responded with food, medicine, equipment and personnel.

Many African leaders foresaw that, once the moment of crisis had passed, they would have to develop long-term plans to strengthen their rural sector and protect their environment. Only in this way, they understood, could they withstand future crises and go on to attain a better quality of life.

To provide the needed long-term help, to assist in emergencies and to educate Americans about

Africa, African and American leaders and development specialists founded Africare.

How Does Africare Work?

Africare projects are African projects. Responding to local initiatives, Africare cooperates closely with African planners, field experts, village leaders, and workers--complementing rather than preempting local resources and skills. In its development projects, Africare marshals only the technical counsel and funds that may be necessary to sustain and encourage African efforts at the national and grassroots levels. In its emergency relief, Africare also responds to the priorities voiced by Africans. Africare and African project managers carefully monitor all financial assistance.

Where Does Africare Work?

Africare specializes in Africa and works in all of the major regions of the continent. Since its establishment, Africare has helped people in 35 African nations. Today, the organization is assisting 28 nations: **Angola**, Benin, **Burkina Faso**, Burundi, **the Central African Republic**, Chad, **Cote d'Ivoire**, Egypt, **Eritrea**, Ethiopia, **Ghana**, Guinea, **Guinea-Bissau**, Liberia, **Malawi**, Mali, **Mozambique**, Namibia, **Niger**, Nigeria, **Rwanda**, Senegal, **Sierra Leone**, South Africa, **Tanzania**, Uganda, **Zambia** and Zimbabwe.

Africare has its headquarters in Washington, DC with field offices in 27 African countries.

How Many Projects Does Africare Support?

Africare now supports more than 150 assistance projects in Africa. Some are small and simple, such as digging of a village well, while others are large and complex as HIV/AIDS prevention, or child survival and maternal health on a regional scale. The projects range in budget from a few thousand to several million dollars.

WorldSpace, USAID, Africare Program Employs Satellite and Digital Radios to Combat HIV/AIDS in Africa

Africare, the WorldSpace Foundation and the U.S. Agency for International Development have partnered to provide large numbers of people in Africa with HIV/AIDS- prevention information. The information is transmitted via WorldSpace's satellite technology, AfriStar, and received by digital radios distributed to participant communities through Africare field offices. The pilot phase of the program was launched in early April 2002, in Uganda and Zambia.

"Digital radio technology has the advantage of reaching millions of people," states Clarence Hall, Ph.D, Africare's director of HIV/AIDS programs, "and we expect that the clear quality of digital broadcasting, combined with relevant and captivating messages, will enhance the audiences' reception."

During the two-year pilot, the WorldSpace Foundation will produce monthly, one-hour programs on a variety of topics, including AIDS Prevention Through Behavior Change, Children Affected by AIDS, Health and Nutrition, Voluntary Counseling and Testing, Home-Based Care, and Sexual Violence Against Women.

Africare will organize "listening groups" at 20 community centers, schools, social clubs and health facilities in both rural and urban areas, where each month, people will not only listen to the broadcasts but also discuss the issues raised, ask questions and develop ways of following up in their own communities. Feedback from the listening groups will help refine the content of future shows. In addition, materials created for the program will be shared with community radio stations, government ministries, health facilities and nongovernmental organizations engaged in combating AIDS in Africa. Africare also provides community-based services such as condom distribution, voluntary counseling, and testing to complement the monthly sessions.

After the two-year pilot, the satellite-education program is expected to expand to 12 other sub-Saharan African nations.

Africare HIV/AIDS Assistance Now Reaches 18 Countries

As the African AIDS epidemic has intensified in recent years, Africare has made epidemic-response an organizational priority. Today, Africare is carrying out HIV/AIDS assistance programs - HIV prevention, counseling, and care to those already infected, and support to children orphaned by AIDS - in 18 African countries: **Benin**, Cote d'Ivoire, **Ethiopia**, Ghana, **Guinea**, Liberia, **Malawi**, Mali, **Namibia**, Niger, **Nigeria**, Rwanda, **Senegal**, South Africa, **Tanzania**, Uganda, **Zambia** and Zimbabwe.

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Web site: <http://www.africare.org>

A New TransAfrica Forum for a New Century

TransAfrica Forum has a new president, Bill Fletcher, Jr., formally Vice President for International Trade Union Development Programs for the AFL-CIO. He is a graduate of Harvard University and has authored numerous articles published in a variety of newspapers and magazines.

Mission Statement

Established in 1981, TransAfrica Forum (1) provides substantive commentary and scholarship on policy issues related to Africa and the Caribbean and (2) educates Americans, in general, and African Americans, in particular, on such topics as human rights, democracy, and global economic policy.

In a speech recently, Mr. Fletcher stated that “many people have asked him how he plan to fill the shoes of Randall Robinson.” In short, his answer was that he cannot. His response was: “Through Randall’s leadership this organization was built. It reignited the anti-apartheid struggle in the USA and later awakened many people to the struggles for democracy in Nigeria and Haiti.”

He went on to say: “Part of our task is to rebuild ties that have frayed with Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. This is central to my vision for the future of TransAfrica Forum. But let me go further. In the 21st century I would suggest to you that our concern about the African world must focus on four main areas: Global justice, labor, women and Latin America.”

For information on TransAfrica contact:

**TransAfrica Forum,1426 21st Street, NW
Second Floor, Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202.223.1960
Fax: 202.223.1966
Email: info@transafricaforum.org**

NEWSFLASH!

~~~PRESIDENT BUSH~~~

**Pledges More Money for Education in Africa  
Also Announces Trip to Continent to Focus on  
Increasing Trade, and Reducing Poverty**

*The Washington Post* : Friday, June 21, 2002,  
page, A11

President Bush said yesterday the United States should spend \$20 million more each of the next five years educating African children. Bush also announced an upcoming trip to the continent – all part of his pledge to “take Africa’s side in confronting obstacles to hope.”

The president outlined his administration’s agenda for Africa at a black-tie gala in memory of the late Rev. Leon Sullivan, a Philadelphia minister credited with helping to end apartheid in South Africa.

“Africa is a continent where promise and progress are important. And we recognize they sit alongside disease, war and desperate poverty--sometimes in the

“The people of America have a duty to advance the cause of freedom in Africa,” Bush told a glittering crowd of several thousand diplomats, top administration officials, civil rights leaders and corporate chieftains. “America’s interests and America’s morality lead in the same direction.”

Though the proposed spending boost would double the government’s investment on an education initiative in Africa, the \$200 million total was deemed modest by critics.

The World Bank has estimated that wealthy donor countries will need to commit between \$3 billion and \$4 billion annually in additional foreign aid over the next 10 years to achieve the goal of universal primary education in the developing world by 2015. Estimates of number of children in poor nations who have never attended school run as high as 125 million, about two-thirds of them girls. A bipartisan group of congressmen urged Bush to increase U.S. spending on basic education around the world to \$1 billion per year by 2006.

On Wednesday, the president promised an extra \$500 million over three years to help prevent pregnant women in parts of Africa and the Caribbean from transmitting the AIDS virus to their children. The White House hopes the new African initiatives will ease criticism about U.S. spending on developing nations and project a compassionate image of Bush to foreign leaders and American voters. As a percentage of economic output, the \$10 billion U.S. foreign aid budget is the lowest among rich nations.

The president’s announcement that he plans to visit Africa next year drew gasps and a standing ovation from the hotel ballroom crowd. Bush said he plans to focus on increasing trade between the United States and African nations, reducing poverty, fighting corruption, protecting workers’ rights and fostering human rights.

same village,” Bush said. “We take Africa’s side in confronting obstacles to hope and development.”

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 23** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm. UPO  
Building

Joint meeting with PG Sister City Council

### November

- 25** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm.  
UPO Building

### December

- 23** D.C.-Dakar General Membership  
meeting, with Mayor Anthony  
Williams, L&TBA

- 30** Kwanzaa, L & TBA

### January, 2003

- 20** Martin Luther King, Jr Commission  
Celebration

- 27** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm.  
UPO Building

### February

- 24** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm.  
UPO Building

### March

- 24** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm.  
UPO Building

### April

- 14** D.C. -Dakar Sister City Week
- 18** Female Ambassador's Luncheon for the  
Adaleline Beard Scholarship Fund

- 28** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm.  
UPO Building

### May

- 26** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm.  
UPO Building

### June

- 23** D.C. Dakar General Membership meeting,  
301 Rhode Island Ave., NW, 6:30 pm.  
UPO Building

- 29** Twelfth Annual U.S. Africa Sister  
Cities Conference in Accra, Ghana. (See  
flier for more information)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET READY to pack your bags for the Twelfth U.S. Africa Sister Cities Conference in Accra, Ghana, June 29-July 5, 2003. For conference information see attached flier or contact DC-Dakar on 202-238-4736 or email [shirleys@upo.org](mailto:shirleys@upo.org) (Day) or 202-635-7479 evening.**

**2002 DC-DAKAR BOARD MEMBERS**

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In 1980, Washington, DC, officially twinned with Dakar, Senegal. Generally the purpose of our sister city relationship is to promote friendship and mutual understanding between the two cities and their citizens, based upon the principle of mutual respect, mutual benefit and cooperation. Through D.C.-Dakar, people in the Washington Metropolitan area can participate in a variety of cultural, educational, and economic development activities which help to foster a bond with the people of Dakar.

Remember that the membership year runs concurrently with the calendar. If you have not paid your 2002 membership (\$40.00 for individuals and \$60.00 for couples) please do so now!

**WE NEED PERSONS TO WRITE PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER AND PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING.**

**DON'T THROW THIS NEWSLETTER AWAY, COPY IT - POST IT AND SHARE IT!!!**

**MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS to D.C.-Dakar through the Combined Federal Campaign, #1643**

We support U.S. Africa relationships. If you wish to host an African visitor for a meal, a short visit or a semester, please contact us.

**Would** you like to have a friend in an African country? If you are between the age of 13 and 25, become a pen pal with a friend in Senegal.

**Write:** PADEC  
B.P. 13046  
Dakar Grand Yoff  
Patte d'Oie Builders No. A78  
Dakar Senegal  
**email:** [padec@hotmail.com](mailto:padec@hotmail.com)

For other countries, name the country/city, send your name address and age to D.C.-Dakar.

~~~D.C.-DAKAR IS DC'S ONLY AFRICAN SISTER CITY~~~