

The Journal of Pan African Studies Online

Welcome to the resurrection of *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, a process of recognizing and reaffirming that language and new knowledge constitutes the foundation of affirmative cultural heritage.

Considering that many of our readers may conclude that we are a new publication, I've decided to provide a short history of the journal, and briefly outline our mission.

The Journal of Pan African Studies was born in 1987 (vol.1, no.1) in Fresno, California with a twenty-four page issue featuring: a front cover photo of Ms. Loffo Keita of the Republic of Guinea (now deceased), a twelve member editorial board (Hannibal Tirus Afrik, Mwalimu David R. Burgest, Kalamu Chache, David L. Covin, Paul Hebron, Kofi Lomotey, Carlos Lopes, Chidi T. Madaka, Louis G. Marchman, Frank J. Omowale Satterwhite, Kweli Tutashinda, and Itibari M. Zulu), two lead articles by Julius K. Nyerere (then former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, now deceased) and Mrs. Urbania Mothopeng (Pan Africanist Congress of Azania member), an interview with Pan African Studies Department at California State University at Northridge chair James E. Dennis, a profile and photo of the U.K. based musical group Steel Pulse, a crossword puzzle, African name chart, list of dissertation abstracts, call for book reviewers, a list of celebration ideas, a back cover portrait of Julius K. Nyerere by Greg Britt, and ads from *Caribbean Quarterly* (Kingston, Jamaica), Marcus Books (San Francisco; Oakland, CA), and the Institute for Food & Development Policy (San Francisco, California) on the link between apartheid and hunger in South Africa.

In 1988 the journal (vol.1, no.2) was announced in *American Libraries* (March 1988, vol.19, issue 3, p.236), featured in *The Fresno Bee* newspaper (2-7-88, p. F-1), added Rhett S. Jones, Diossely Kone and James H. Rogers to the editorial board, included an article by David L. Covin, an interview with Louis G. Marchman of the Pan-African Pen Pal Association (Chicago, IL), a portrait and bio-bibliography of Akinwande Oluwole Soyinka, an African naming ceremony outline by Itibari M. Zulu, a crossword puzzle, book notes/abstracts (via Kwame Gyekye, Miriam Makeba, Assata Shakur, Robert A. Hill, Ivan Van Sertima, and Linus A. Hoskins), back cover photos of Louis G. Marchman, Mrs. Esi Threeth and Fred Jackson of the Pan-African Pen Pal Association in Ghana, ads by *Caribbean Quarterly* (Kingston, Jamaica) and Natural Spaces (Fresno, California), and was listed in the International Serials Data System Register, the *National Directory of Magazines*, the *Standard Periodical Directory*, and *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*.

After 1988 the journal was scheduled to appear in 1991, however due to financial problems it didn't materialize, although it had articles by J.J. Rawlings, then head of state of the Republic of Ghana, professor Rhett S. Jones of Brown University,

recording artist Arrow on the front cover, the addition of Issac A. Okin and Louis Osei Marchman to the editorial board, poetry, and book reviews. This demise was painful then and even today, considering that there are few widely read independent scholarly publications in the U.S. and in other parts of the world owned and operated by people of African heritage, and historically within the arena of journal rubric [Pan African], the *Pan African Journal* [ISSN 0031-0565] published quarterly in Nairobi, Kenya by the Kenya Literature Bureau edited by Maina Kagombe had a eleven year life [1968-1977], then in 1987 this journal appeared (in 1995 the African American Library and Information Science Association announced in *College & Research Libraries News*, November 1995, vol.56, issue 16, p.716, a plan to publish the journal, however it was not implemented], and the next appears eleven years later (1998) via the Department of Pan African Studies of California State University at Northridge titled *The Journal of Pan African Studies* [ISSN 1523-9780; ISSN 1523-9691] published semiannually, and edited by David L. Horne.

Hence, this resurrection is overdue, and should mark a milestone with an electronic entrance not generally thought of in 1987 or 1988, and at the same time, keep its original focus of being an ‘international medium of African culture and consciousness’, as stated in the sub-titled of the first two issues

Today *The Journal of Pan African Studies* (JPAS) will strive to become a beacon of light in the sphere of African world community studies and research, grounded in an interdisciplinary open access scholarly peer-reviewed construct, simultaneously cognizant of the multilingualism of our audience, and the importance of universal access in cyberspace, regardless of geography, economic, social or cultural diversity.

Thus, in the way of advocacy (with your support), we intend to promote: the free flow of ideas by word and image; multilingualism and universal access to information in cyberspace; shaping learning environments conducive to creativity and audience development; the development of a knowledge-based African world community; the articulation of universal access to the Internet as a human rights issue linked to wealth creation, social transformation and human development; the acquisition and application of the new technologies for the information-underserved; and complete Pan African access to the global information/knowledge infrastructure essential to human development [African Academy of Languages via <http://www.acalan.org/index.html>; United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization via <http://www.unesco.org>].

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The journal will be published four times a year (March, June, September, December), and abstracted and indexed in the *International Index to Black Periodicals*, and *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory*. The content of *JPAS* is copyrighted, thus all rights are reserved, requiring that no portion of the contents may be reproduced in any form for profit without documented permission of the publisher or the author (the opinions, conclusions or research of the authors does not represent the views of the publisher or any of its sponsors). To assist the financial responsibility for *JPAS* [a non-profit enterprise], we welcome and encourage financial contributions and advertising sponsorships in the form of links to a particular web-site. For more information, contact the editor at Imz@ucla.edu.

In this issue we have introduced original discourse on: an inter-continental social, political, and cultural movement that has marked the history of African descended people throughout the world by *Eric Edi*; an African centered approach to the question of indigenous African education and knowledge to engage critical theory formation in contemporary Africa by *Itibari M. Zulu*; an examination of the issue of cultural identity within Portuguese postcolonial writing in Paulina Chiziane's book *Niketche: A Tale on Polygamy* with reference to the concepts of the performative and pedagogy in the production of the nation as narration by *Ana Margarida Dias Martins*; an essay exploring the context of W.E.B. Du Bois as an advocate for global justice and world peace in the nexus of issues concerning race and class simultaneously working to explicate the emerging global capitalist system by Paul T. Miller; an address by President *Thabo Mbeki* of the Republic of South Africa at a South Africa-Mali Timbuktu Project fundraising dinner in Tshwane, South Africa on the first cultural project of The New Partnership for Africa's Development; a review of Joyce Moore Turner's *Caribbean Crusaders and the Harlem Renaissance*; a semantic-pragmatic analysis of the TMA (tense, mood, and aspect) categories that occur in Spanish and Portuguese-based Creole narrative discourse by *Jorge E. Porras* (with text in Cape Verdean, Guine Bissan crioulo, Palenquero, and Papiamentu); a review of four degree-granting four-year academic units that hold the rubric Pan African Studies within their respective institutions (California State University at Los Angeles, California State University at Northridge, Kent State University, and the University of Louisville, Kentucky); the result of research conducted at UCLA showing that in the past 33 years, Black women have enrolled in four-year colleges at higher rates than have Black men, and an announcement of the *First World Conference* to be held in July 2006 in Aswan, Egypt by the John Henrik Clarke-C.L.R. James African World Research Institute.

Last, I extend a sincere thank you to our esteem editorial board who have willingly entered this adventure, at my invitation.

--- Itibari M. Zulu