



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Akua Weekes collection

1966-2006 [bulk 1978-2000]

Sc MG 678

Processed by Lauren Stark, September 2021.

Summary

Creator: Weekes, Akua

Title: Akua Weekes collection

Date: 1966-2006 [bulk 1978-2000]

Size: 2.08 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Gift of Akua Weekes, 2008.

Abstract: Akua Weekes is an activist, Black Nationalist, freelance journalist, and writing professor at Touro College. Her activism dates to her undergraduate years at American University in Washington, D. C. Weekes participated in the student take-over of a building at Howard University in 1968; at American University, she organized residents of the Capital View Community, where she lived, to publish *The People's Voice*, a community newsletter. In 1977, while a graduate student at Howard University, Weekes was recruited by the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP), a socialist political party founded in 1972 that strove for Pan-Africanism and the freedom and unification of Africa; according to its brochure, the AAPRP organized students on the campus to "organize the masses of African people scattered all over the world". Weekes became the lead organizer of the press for African Liberation Day, which was organized by the AAPRP. In 1982, she moved to New York City and worked with the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, the Afrikan Nationalist Pioneer Movement, Women for Justice, the Amadou Diallo Coalition, and the Grassroots Leadership Council of the Amadou Diallo Coalition. More recently, she has written for such publications as *Emerge Magazine* and *New York Amsterdam News*. Currently, she is a member of the Louis Reyes Rivera Writers Workshop and a writing professor at Touro College. The Akua Weekes collection reflects her involvement with various activist organizations. There is a very small personal file on Weekes; it consists of a few pieces of correspondence, a resume, notes and briefs for a case on which she served as a juror, and some memorabilia. The bulk of the material is concerned with the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP). Files for this organization include committee memos and minutes; recruiting files; and program files for workshops and seminars on political education, Pan-Africanism, liberation, the land question, and Democratic capitalism. Additionally, there is a file for the Media Task Force, which Weekes managed. There are also files related to other organizations with which she worked, including *The People's Voice*, Afrikan Nationalist Federation, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and Basadi Ba Azania, African Women's Alliance, Women for Justice, the Amadou Diallo Coalition, and the Grassroots Leadership Council of the Amadou Diallo Coalition. These files consist of newsletters and other printed

matter (clippings and publications), correspondence and memos, flyers, bylaws and mission statements, and press releases. The final part of the collection, Subject files, contains printed matter on various organizations (such as the Empire of Nubia), individuals (such as Al Sharpton), and topics (such as South Africa and apartheid). Additionally, there is a file of event flyers and programs, mostly for plays and other performances in New York City.

Preferred citation: [Item], Akua Weekes collection, Sc MG 678, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Lauren Stark, September 2021.

Creator History

Akua Weekes is an activist, Black Nationalist, freelance journalist, and writing professor at Touro College. Her activism dates to her undergraduate years at American University in Washington, D. C. Weekes participated in the student take-over of a building at Howard University in 1968; at American University, she organized residents of the Capital View Community, where she lived, to publish *The People's Voice*, a community newsletter. In 1977, while a graduate student at Howard University, Weekes was recruited by the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP), a socialist political party founded in 1972 that strove for Pan-Africanism and the freedom and unification of Africa; according to its brochure, the AAPRP organized students on the campus to "organize the masses of African people scattered all over the world". Weekes became the lead organizer of the press for African Liberation Day, which was organized by the AAPRP. In 1982, she moved to New York City and worked with the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, the Afrikan Nationalist Pioneer Movement, Women for Justice, the Amadou Diallo Coalition, and the Grassroots Leadership Council of the Amadou Diallo Coalition. More recently, she has written for such publications as *Emerge Magazine* and *New York Amsterdam News*. Currently, she is a member of the Louis Reyes Rivera Writers Workshop and a writing professor at Touro College.

Scope and Content Note

The Akua Weekes collection reflects her involvement with various activist organizations. There is a very small personal file on Weekes; it consists of a few pieces of correspondence, a resume, notes and briefs for a case on which she served as a juror, and some memorabilia. The bulk of the material is concerned with the All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP). Files for this organization include committee memos and minutes; recruiting files; and program files for workshops and seminars on political education, Pan-Africanism, liberation, the land question, and Democratic capitalism. Additionally, there is a file for the Media Task Force, which Weekes managed. There are also files related to other organizations with which she worked, including *The People's Voice*, Afrikan Nationalist Federation, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and Basadi Ba Azania, African Women's Alliance, Women for Justice, the Amadou Diallo Coalition, and the Grassroots Leadership Council of the Amadou Diallo Coalition. These files consist of newsletters and other printed matter (clippings and publications), correspondence and memos, flyers, bylaws and mission statements, and press releases. The final part of the collection, Subject files, contains printed matter on various organizations (such as the Empire of Nubia), individuals (such as Al Sharpton), and topics (such as South Africa and apartheid). Additionally, there is a file of event flyers and programs, mostly for plays and other performances in New York City.

Arrangement: Arranged into 3 series: I. Personal; II. Activism; and III. Subject files.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American women civil rights workers
African American women journalists
African Americans -- Press coverage
Authors, Black
Civil rights movements
Civil rights workers, Black

Names

Carmichael, Stokely, 1941-1998
Nkrumah, Kwame, 1909-1972
Weekes, Akua
All-African People's Revolutionary Party
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

Container List

Personal 1980-2000

b. 1 f. 1 1980-2000

b. 1 f. 1a Jeffries v. Harleston, et al 1993

Weekes was a juror for this trial of a City College professor.

Activism 1972-2006

Arranged chronologically by the dates of Weekes's participation.

b. 1 f. 2 *The People's Voice* 1977-2006

Includes newsletters, minutes, and a description of the publication.

All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) 1978-1982

The AAPRP's ideology was based on Nkrumahism, named after Kwame Nkrumah, the Ghanaian politician, political theorist, and revolutionary. Nkrumahism was based on the idea that all are Africans; humans are more important than profit; the well being of the group is more important than the individual; Africa is the primary land; all people of African descent belong to the African nation; and industrialism, not capitalism, is essential to African development.

b. 1 f. 3 **Manifesto** 1979

Also includes background information on the AAPRP ("What Is the AAPRP?") and a glossary of terms for capitalism and Pan-Africanism, among others.

Committees 1978-1981

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 1 f. 4 **Administrative Committee** 1979-1980

Includes memos, minutes, and reports.

b. 1 f. 5 **All African Women's Revolutionary Union (AAWRU) Task Force** 1980-1981

Includes memos and minutes.

b. 1 f. 6 **Central Committee** 1978-1981

Includes memos, minutes, and reports.

b. 1 f. 7 **Media Task Force** 1979-1981

Includes press releases and public service announcements, most of which written by Weekes, and a poem by Weekes.

b. 1 f. 8 **Parties and Liberation Movements Task Force** undated

Includes a mailing list, work assignments, and outline on the AAPRP.

b. 1 f. 9 **Political Education Committee** 1978-1981

Includes memos, reports, and an orientation handbook.

Program Committee 1979-1981

b. 1 f. 10 **Administrative**

Includes forms, lists, and schedules.

b. 2 f. 1 **Memos and minutes**

b. 2 f. 2 **State Coordinating Council** 1979-1980

Includes memos and reports.

b. 2 f. 3 **Printed matter** ca. 1979-1982

Includes printed matter on (brochures and flyers) and about (news clippings) the AAPRP. Flyers promote AAPRP workshops and events, such as African Liberation Day, marches, and petitions; brochures contain general information about the AAPRP and educational information on topics covered by workshops and seminars, such as the land use question and the role of African students in the African revolution.

Programs

Arranged chronologically.

Activism (cont.)

All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) (cont.)

Programs (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 4 **"Liberalism and Class Struggle Inside the AAPRP" seminar** 1979 March
Includes an outline, handwritten notes, and reading material (mostly published articles and book chapters).
- b. 2 f. 5 **"What Can We Do?" workshop** 1979 November
Includes handwritten notes for this dorm presentation.
- b. 2 f. 6 **"The Role of African Students" seminars** 1979-1980
Includes outlines and educational brochure.
- b. 2 f. 7 **Endorsement of Coalition for a People's Alternative in the 1980 election**
1980 June-August
Mostly includes flyers from other organizations, with AAPRP listed as an participating organization.

Nkrumahism seminar
- b. 2 f. 8 **Agenda, notes, and "The Ideology of the AAPRP"** 1980 July-September
- b. 2 f. 9 **Reading material** 1972-1973
Includes photocopied articles and book chapters, such as "What Is Categorical Conversion" by Kawame Nkrumah and "Ideology in African History" by William R. Ochieng.
- b. 3 f. 1 **The Land Question march** 1981 May
Includes an educational brochure and reading material for this march for Indigenous Peoples.
- b. 3 f. 2 **Pan-Africanism (African Liberation Day)** 1981 May
Includes an educational brochure and reading material for this march and rally, sponsored by the AAPRP annually.
- b. 3 f. 3 **Democratic Centralism workshop** undated
Includes an outline, handwritten notes, and reading material.
- b. 3 f. 4 **Presentation on identity by Weekes** undated
Includes "The Euro-Christian Influence in Africa" by Weekes, notes, and an outline.
- b. 3 f. 5 **Recruitment and contact lists** 1979-1981
- b. 3 f. 6 **Afrikan Nationalist Federation** 1985-1987
Includes constitution, correspondence, flyers, conference information, and a handwritten draft of "What Is the African Nationalist Leadership Training Course?" by Weekes.

Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) of Azania 1989-1995
The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) is a South African organization and political party pursuing "Africanist" policies in South Africa (which they would rename Azania) for Black South Africans, in contrast to the nonracial or multiracial policies of other organizations, such as the African National Congress (ANC).
- Press releases, papers, and notes**
- b. 3 f. 7 **1989-1991**
Includes an interview by Weekes with Lesaoana Makhanda, assistant representative to the U.N., on the history of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, and a statement by Miranda Ebenezer of the AFrican Womens' Organization of Azania on the International Day of Solidarity, among others.
- b. 3 f. 8 **1992-1994**
Includes "The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the Struggle in South Africa" by M. Pheko
- b. 3 f. 9 **Printed matter** 1979-1995
Includes *Azania Combat*, the newsletter of the Azanian People's Liberation Army; an address on apartheid at the U.N. by John Nyati Pokela (PAC chairman); *Azania News* (PAC's newsletter), PAC flyers, and news clippings on and about PAC.

Activism (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 1 **Basadi Ba Azania 1991-1996**
Basadi Ba Azani, or Women of Azania, was formed in 1992 by women from Azania (South Africa), other African countries, and the African diaspora. It was formed to support and form partnerships with women's projects and organizations in Azania.
Includes bylaws, contact lists, correspondence, brochures, notes, press releases by Weekes, and a poem, possibly by Weekes.
- b. 4 f. 2 **African Women's Alliance 2nd Annual Reception 1999 March**
Weekes appears to have attended the reception but it is unclear if she was there as a representative of another organization.
Includes agenda and printed matter.
- b. 4 f. 3 **Women for Justice 1999-2000**
Includes mission statements, flyers, clippings, correspondence, and an organizational structure chart.
- b. 4 f. 4 **The Amadou Diallo Coalition 2000 March-May**
The coalition was formed in 2000 by religious leaders and activists in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut area to fight racial injustice and corruption in the judicial system. It was formed in response to the acquittals of four white police officers of the death of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed Guinean immigrant who was fatally shot by the officers.
Includes memos, press releases, flyers, and correspondence.
- b. 4 f. 5 **Grassroots Leadership Council of the Amadou Diallo Coalition 2000 September-November**
Includes mission statement, bylaws, correspondence, flyers, and event invitations.

Subject files 1966-2003

Includes printed matter on topics, people, and organizations of interest to Weekes. Dates refer to the dates of publication of the materials in each file.

Arranged into 5 subseries: 1. Event flyers and programs; 2. Individuals; 3. Newsletters; 4. Organizations; and 5. Topics.

- b. 4 f. 6 **Event flyers and programs 1985-2001**
Arranged chronologically within folder.
Individuals 1966-1996
- b. 4 f. 7 **Sharpton, Al undated**
- b. 4 f. 8 **C-T 1966-1996**
Includes Carlos A. Cooks and Khallid Abdul Muhammad, among others.
- b. 4 f. 9 **Newsletters ca. 1980-2000**
Includes *Black Press Review*, *Black Star Line*, and *The Killing Fields*, among others.

Arranged alphabetically within folder.

Organizations 1979-2003

Arranged alphabetically.

- b. 4 f. 10 **African Burial Ground Steering Committee 1993**
- b. 4 f. 11 **African Media and Information Services (AMIS) ca. 1979-1980**
- b. 4 f. 12 **Black Panther Collective 2001**
- b. 5 f. 1 **DC Area Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression 1979**
- b. 5 f. 2 **Empire of Nubia 2000-2003**
- b. 5 f. 3 **South Africa Rural Education and Development Institute 1999-2000**
- b. 5 f. 4 **United African Movement 1998-2000**

Subject files (cont.)
Organizations (cont.)

b. 5 f. 5 WBAI FM 1992-2001

b. 5 f. 6 A-U 1982-2002

Includes the Afrikan Poetry Theatre, National State of the Race Conference, and the Pan African Information Bureau, among others.

Topics 1974-2001

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 5 f. 7 "The African Origin of Biological Psychiatry" by Richard D. King
(photocopy) 1987

b. 5 f. 8 Children in Southern Africa ca. 1987

b. 5 f. 9 Cultural nationalism 1987

b. 5 f. 10 Islam undated

b. 5 f. 11 Liberation/oppression theory (photocopied article by Monica Bahati
Kuumba) ca. 1991

b. 5 f. 12 Reparations (photocopied position paper by Adunni Osbupa Tabasi) 2001

b. 5 f. 13 South Africa and apartheid 1980-1991

b. 5 f. 14 Tanzanian statement on foreign envoys in Africa 1978 June 8

b. 5 f. 15 Tigray 1980-1981

b. 5 f. 16 U. N. World Conference Against Racism 2000-2001

b. 5 f. 17 Zimbabwe 1974-1978