



Agenda: do more in 2004

Dear CAAAP members:

I hope you and your families had a safe blessed holiday season.

As we refresh ourselves to handle this New Year, we should focus on the strength we've gain from the past blessings of 2003. We all were blessed in one way or another; from somebody or several bodies; let's not forget to count our blessings. Some of us had personal triumphs, others had personal tragedies, but we survived. The sun always shines behind the clouds.

Photographically, I hope CAAAP was instrumental in your professional growth. If it was not, you need to check yourself. With all the wisdom and experience we have in our organization, if none rubbed off, it's your own fault. The willingness to help is there. Everyone in CAAAP is accessible and approachable, because we all are family and we all work together. Our blessings come from helping each other selflessly.

Last year, we attended several photo functions. We went to exhibitions to view our own works as well as viewing many works from other well known established artists. From these field trips, we learned that knowledge and success does not happen overnight. It takes hard work and time from ALL OF US. Not two or three people, but ALL OF US. We have to visually study and practice to better our skills in composition, reading light, and presenting our work.

This year of 2004, we have to work together more. We have a very unique organization of talented people and we have to realize this before we show the world. We are not just talented in photography, but in many other fields. Share your skills. If God blesses you, share it with the world! By doing so, you are blessing God. We must continue to work hard as an unit to harvest the fruit of our labor.

We all had the seeds of creativity planted inside, but which is stronger. A single tree, or a grove? Let us be each

others' farmers and allow the helpful waters to flow between us. Let's continue to help each other with constructive words and thoughtfulness. Let us work to make CAAAP more known as an alliance of artist who uplift their people in truthful imagery. If this is done, we are promised a fruitful harvest. If not for us specifically, for our children. Can I get an AMEN?!?

Peace & Blessings

Michael Bracey
C.A.A.A.P./President

'The Journey' exhibit makes way to Northeastern Illinois University



photo/Bill Scott

The Chicago Alliance of African American Photographers' exhibit, 'The Journey' exhibit will open Jan. 26 at Northeastern Illinois Univeristy and run into February, Black History Month. Patrons view images from the last exhibition at the new Beverly Arts Center on Southside of Chicago.

Quarter I meetings 2004:

Jan. 25; Feb. 15; Mar. 21.

2-4 p.m., Sundays*

South Side Community Art Center*

3831 South Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL

**If meeting venue or date changes (advance notification of venue changes will be made via e-mail, regular mail and/or telephone)*



Salgado hopes exhibits makes impact not controversy

By Marian Jones

Through his photography Sebastiao Salgado conveys his compassion and commitment to visually share the plight of displaced people around the world. He describes the displacement as an "exodus". Two of his projects, shown in Chicago with their stunning and powerful black and white images, were exhibited recently at the Chicago Cultural Center and the Harold Washington Library. They represented Salgado's work from within migrant, exile, and refugee communities in 41 countries (1993 to 2000).

The controversial exhibits, **MIGRATIONS: HUMANITY IN TRANSITION** and **THE CHILDREN**, also Aperture books, raised many questions about Sebastiao Salgado's photography. The exhibits were the subjects of a panel discussion at the Chicago Cultural Center. Participants agreed the images were photographically profound and technically beautiful in composition, texture and tone.

However, some viewers questioned Salgado's purpose, his choice of subjects and the origin of text accompanying the images. They asked why he would devote his magnificent photography to such troubling situations. Sebastiao Salgado answered those questions later when he visited the Art Institute to talk about his projects. He explained he wanted to share the circumstances and impact experienced by numerous populations forced to leave their homelands. This could be achieved through photography and some text.

Despite raising many questions, his work appeared to enlighten the viewers without sensationalizing the lives of the people he photographed. Though victims of immense tragedy, those photographed demonstrated dignity and great courage. Sebastiao Salgado described them as part of the "majority" world, a world that is often considered a minority world. The exhibits were extensive showing refugees in Asia, Africa, Europe, and America, fleeing war, drought, deforestation, environmental change, disease and loss of farm land. **THE CHILDREN** shows children who are a part of this massive exodus.

Originally working as an economist Sebastiao Salgado turned to photography in 1973, employed by Sygma and Gamma photo agencies (1974 to 1979) and Magnum Photos (1979 to 1999). He identifies himself as a photo-journalist, doing "concerned photography". Salgado said he works in black and white because it can often reveal more about the subjects than color. He can also process black and white in his own dark room. Sebastiao Salgado describes his life now as being divided between ecology and photography. He is currently working on a multimillion-tree reforestation project in his native country, Brazil.

Sebastiao Salgado said "My hope is that, as individuals, as groups, as societies, we can pause and reflect on the human condition at the turn of the millennium." He believes concerned people can make decisions, take actions, and utilize resources in a way that will provide a better life for those suffering the ravages of war, economics, and environmental change.

Sebastiao Salgado has a web site that shows many images and writing from his projects: <http://www.terra.com.br/sebastiaosalgado/index.htm>



photo/Marian Jones

Sebastiao Salgado (c) shares a lighter moment with CAAAP's Michael Bracey (l) and Bob Black during his Chicago visit.

CAAAP to partner with Art Institute for the James VanDerZee exhibit

Deadline dates for CAAAP newsletter

Quarter I, 2004:

December 21, 2003

Please submit items for newsletter to Douglas Griswold: P.O. Box 1594, Bolingbrook, IL 60440-7306 or at DougGris@msn.com. Newsletter submission sheets are available at each monthly meeting.



New Journey images

The deadline for new works is now. Please note: Journey images should have been taken commencing, 2000-present and must be related to the Chicago area African American community. Direct your material to *Milbert O. Brown, Jr.*, Director of the Journey Project. E-mail: mmbrown912@AOL.com.

The Art Institute of Chicago, will feature the work of legendary photographer James VanDerZee from Jan. 24, 2004-April 25, 2004. As part of the artist lecture series, Artists Connect, the Department of Museum Education has selected CAAAP's Martha Brock to lecture on her photographs in relation to the exhibition of James VanDerZee. Brock's lecture will begin at 12 noon in the Morton Auditorium of the Insititue, on Saturday, April 3, 2004. Also, during this time various member of CAAAP in teams of (2's) will help to conduct tours of the VanDerZee exhibit. For Additional information contact Milbert @ MMBrown912@aol.com.

Little Rock 9: a historical image of an education

By Douglas Griswold

“Even as young kids we understood that this was something had to be done. There was no alternative. Those on the other side, the people who were opposed to this desegregation were not going to give up. That was obvious. And so, given that it was not going to go away and somebody had to do it and it had to be us since we were there, we were committed to staying there until it got done.” —Dr. Terrence J. Roberts, one of the nine black students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. in September of 1957.

Nearly 50 years ago, nine black students – now known as the “Little Rock Nine”— entered the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas to receive an equal opportunity on the same field of learning as their white counterparts.

Three of the “Little Rock Nine” have Illinois ties. They are all alumni of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. The three were honored last year during the 2003 Black Alumni Group Reunion at the university. One would be tasked to find three individuals who appreciate and understand the value of an education more than Minni Jean Brown Trickey, Thelma M. Wair and Dr. Terrence J. Roberts.

The steps the Little Rock Nine made came on the heels of the decision made by U.S. Supreme Court on the case of Brown v. Board of Education (1954). The Topeka, Kansas branch of the NAACP fought for the right of a little black girl to be able to go to a white school that was only a few blocks from her house instead of walking a mile through a freight train area to get to the black school.

Wair, Brown and Roberts share their message, especially with young people, and naturally they have a deeply rooted message on the value of education.

Thelma M. Wair: “Every time I make a speech, I tell the children that education is the most important thing they will ever do. So, don’t throw it away. I try to teach children work ethic. Your mothers do not want to take care of you



photo/Douglas Griswold

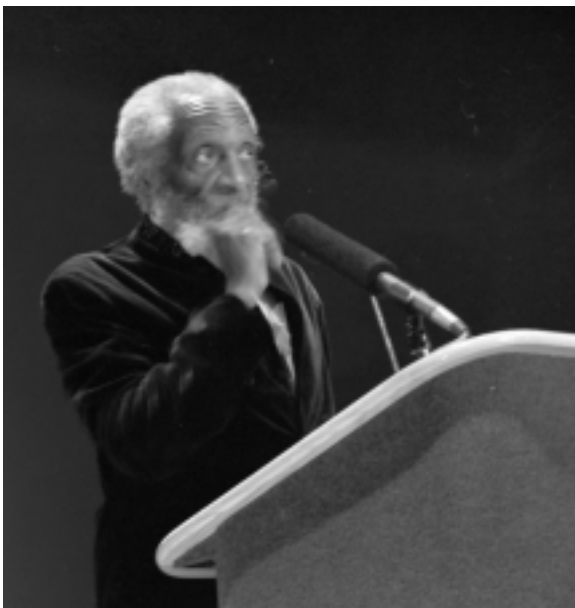
Dr. Terrence J. Roberts, one of three of the Little Rock 9, who was recently honored at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale’s Black Alumni Group Reunion.

all your life. So, find out what your interest are so you can prepare yourself for a job. When you get to be a certain age, you can go out and support yourself and find a job that will make you proud of yourself.”

Minni Jean Brown Trickey: “Education is a wonderful journey. Children should consider lifetime learning. “Grow yourself, make yourself larger and make yourself richer through education.”

Terrence J. Roberts: “I like to encourage young people to take executive control of their own learning because nobody else in the world knows what they need to learn. They individually have to figure that out and really do whatever it takes to learn what they need to know.”

The Congressional Medal of Honor was bestowed upon the Little Rock Nine by President Clinton in November of 1999. For more information on the “Little Rock Nine”: check out their website at www.littlerock9.com.



photo/
Douglas
Griswold

Dick Gregory (left) , the noted civil rights activist, author, nutritionist and comedian, was the keynote speaker at the last Black Alumni Group (BAG) reunion at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Gregory spoke before more than 400 alumni on the theme: “Coming Home to Nourish Our Roots.” The event, held every two years, included a tribute to three members of the Little Rock 9 (all SIU alumni) and a guest speech by U.S. Congressman Danny Davis (7th).



Walter Griffin kicks off year with two simultaneous exhibits in Twin Cities

photos/Walter Griffin

CAAAP's Walter Griffin has two wonderful exhibits featured in Minneapolis and St. Paul Minnesota, respectively. The first, titled: **Twin Cities Hatitude**, features local ladies from the Twin Cities with their finest church hats. This exhibit is running while the play Crowns is showing at the Gurthrie Theater in Minneapolis. It started on Jan. 9. Griffin's other exhibit is titled: **Unique Houses**. It features photos of houses from Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Alabama and Florida. This exhibit is a view of houses that have a unique character. Most of houses are at least 100 years old. It opens Feb. 4 at the St. Paul Academy in St. Paul.



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