



Traditions & Beliefs

A Quarterly Publication of the Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (RASHAD)

Volume 5, Issue 2

The Road to and from Chautauqua

By Regennia N. Williams

In 1874, Lewis Miller, an Ohio industrialist and inventor, co-founded the Chautauqua Lake Sunday School Assembly with John Vincent, a leader in the Methodist Church. This Assembly, the predecessor to New York's Chautauqua Institution, was dedicated to the idea that education should be a lifelong pursuit, and the directors offered an annual summer series for the training of Sunday School teachers. The founders were also convinced that the church had a responsibility to educate the electorate. Before the end of the 19th century, Chautauqua's programs were expanded to include correspondence courses for those who could not come to New York. Over time, the "Chautauqua Movement" spread across the length and breadth of the country, as other communities began to create their own program series focusing on the arts and humanities. The national movement ended with the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s, but the spirit of Chautauqua lives on. Today, the Chautauqua Institution is experiencing a renaissance, even as its programs continue to focus on religion, education, arts, and recreation. The impact of that renaissance can be felt in Cleveland, Ohio.

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Dr. Regennia N. Williams, Founder and Editor | Nathaniel Rhodes, Contributing Photographer | Read more on the Internet!
Website: <http://www.clevelandmemory.org/pray/> | Cleveland Chautauqua Blog: <http://rwilliams.csuelearning.org/>



Engaged Learning in Times of War and Peace: Joan Brown Campbell Lectures at CSU

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell is no stranger to Greater Cleveland audiences. However, as an activist in the Civil Rights, Women's Rights, and Peace Movements in the global community, this native of Youngstown, Ohio also earned the respect and admiration of individuals the world over. Through her past work with the World Council of Churches and in her current position as the Director of Religion at the Chautauqua Institution, she has facilitated both ecumenical and interfaith dialogues. As the author of *Living into Hope: A Call to Spiritual Action for Such a Time As This* (2010), Campbell is also sharing her wealth of knowledge in book form.

On Monday, April 25, 2011, Dr. Campbell signed copies of her book after delivering a lecture at Cleveland State University on "Engaged Learning in Times of War and Peace." The lecture, timed to coincide with RASHAD's Spring 2011 Institute, was made possible with support from the CLASS Dean's Office, the Cleveland Chautauqua Program, the Department of History, and the Maryjoyce Green Women's Center.

During her presentation, Campbell stressed that peace work starts with information. For Campbell, "Study is not enough. It is the engagement that makes the study real. . . Learning equals study plus action plus reflection." Campbell shared information on her work with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others who were engaged in the non-violent struggle for social change in the 1960s and, more recently, her work with the Global Women's Peace Initiative.

Campbell went on to say, "Engaged learning requires truth-telling," and she described the Chautauqua Institution's efforts to deal openly and honestly with the evolving role of religion in world affairs through its interfaith lecture series. She also mentioned former Secretary of State Madelyn Albright's book, *The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs*, as a study that stressed the importance of understanding the central role that religion continues to play in the lives of millions of people, especially in post-911 Islamic societies.



At the conclusion of her lecture, discussion, and book-signing, Campbell met with the members of the Cleveland Chautauqua planning committee and reiterated her willingness to help establish and strengthen ties between the New York and Cleveland-based Chautauqua programs.

**Grateful acknowledgment is hereby given to the Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell for allowing RASHAD to record and use her lecture for educational purposes at Cleveland State University.*

Suggestions for Further Reading and Viewing

Campbell, Joan Brown, *Living into Hope: A Call to Spiritual Action for Such a Time As This* (2010)

Albright, Madelyn, *The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs* (2006)

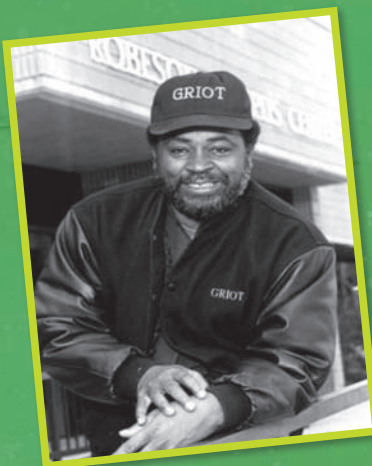
“Chautauqua: An American Narrative” (2011). For more information on this PBS video, please visit, www.pbs.org.



*Page 2: The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell
Top: Audience members at the Campbell lecture
Bottom: Dr. Campbell at the post-lecture book-signing*

George Davis

“Until We Got Here: A Griot’s History of the 1960s”



Friday, October 15, 2010
12:00 noon, Refreshments
12:15 pm, Lecture

Admission is free!

Main Classroom Building, Auditorium
Euclid Avenue at East 21st Street

George Davis is professor emeritus at the Newark campus of Rutgers University. He is a graduate of Colgate University and holds an MFA from Columbia University. He was a flying officer in the Air Force and flew 47 missions in Vietnam. Fueled by more than 40 years of experience as a world traveler, novelist, journalist, research professor, and teacher, his lectures use music, photos, and video clips to connect the past to the present, spiritually.

For more information, please call (216) 523-7182 or (216) 687-3920.

*In-kind program support provided by the Urban League of Greater Cleveland. Related exhibit at the Western Reserve Historical Society (Open through November 27, 2010): Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era. Admission is free for CSU students with valid ID. Visit www.wrhs.org for more information.

Cleveland State University
engaged learning



The Year in Review

By Regennia N. Williams

At the beginning of the academic year, I drafted a program proposal for “Cleveland Chautauqua 2010 – 2011: Sequels and Prequels, Celebrating Great Ideas, Great Art, and a Great Lake.” My goal was to plan and implement a program that would include lectures, films, discussions, workshops, and performances. At the end of the year, I am pleased to report that the proposed program was implemented, and RASHAD can point with pride to a record of many successful events.

We launched the program series with a day of campus activities involving George Davis, an author and Professor Emeritus at Rutgers University. Davis participated in a breakfast roundtable with students in the Local History Seminar (HIS 400) and delivered a lunch hour lecture in CSU’s Main Classroom Auditorium, “Until We Got Here: A Griot’s History of the 1960s.” The audience for the lecture included students from my African American History since 1877 class (HIS 216), students in Kim Cary’s African American History survey class, and Justin Vaughn’s Political Science class. Davis, who is an Air Force veteran and the son of a minister, was later interviewed for the Praying Grounds Oral History Project. Many of the students who participated in the Davis activities also visited the “Soul Soldiers” exhibit at the Western Reserve Historical Society and viewed and discussed Frank Capra’s 1943 film, “The Negro Soldier.”

Among the other fall semester activities were Neal Hamilton’s “Paint Out Loud: Art and Life in ‘Post-Racial’ America” lecture and exhibit, the RASHAD Open House at Trinity Cathedral, and my participation—with Randi Woodson and Darian Bankole-Miranda, two CSU students—in the Learning Communities’ Undergraduate Research Seminar. Our research focused on the life, art, and legacy of Zora Neale Hurston and, we shared information on that research at the December 2010 Learning Communities Poster Day session.

RASHAD continued to focus on activities related to Zora Neale Hurston in its Spring 2011 Reading Circles and Film Discussions. Participants discussed two books: *Wrapped in Rainbows* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. We also

screened and discussed the following films: “A Heart with Room for Every Joy” and “Jump at the Sun.” As it turned out, we were not the only ones considering Hurston’s legacy. A feature article in the January 7, 2011 issue of the *Chronicle Review* also considered the work of the “newly complicated” Zora Neale Hurston and encouraged readers to do the same.

As part of our on-going effort to take our lessons on African American history and culture outside the classroom, RASHAD worked with the Michael Schwartz Library to co-sponsor a Zora Neale Hurston exhibit for Women’s History Month. Thousands of library patrons saw the first-floor exhibit during the month of March, over 500 campus visitors saw the exhibit on April 2nd (during the CSU Open House), and a feature article on the exhibit ran in the *Cleveland Stater* newspaper. A few Open House guests also chose to attend my sample lecture on Hurston, and, so far, more than 30 people have seen a Mediasite recording of the Hurston lecture.

This year, I had the pleasure of working with some outstanding graduate and undergraduate students, who provided invaluable program assistance. Jenni Shelton and Austin Stewart received their graduate assistantships in the Department of History, and three students—Dominique Brookes, Annette Rudolph, and Audrianna Rodriguez—held undergraduate research assistantships from the STARS program. The fruits of their labor will be displayed in various RASHAD publications throughout 2011.

Lastly, the Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell’s April 25th lecture, the culminating event of our program year, was informative, well-attended, and well-received. Needless to say, RASHAD is grateful to the individuals on campus and in the surrounding community for their generous contributions to the success of this year’s program series, and we are looking forward to the other activities in our 2011 Cleveland Chautauqua summer series.

Program Highlights by the Numbers

Public Lectures Presented and Recorded for Future Educational Purposes	3
Zora Neale Hurston Film Screenings and Book Discussions	10
Total Combined Attendance for Lectures and Discussions	300
Library Visitors during the Hurston Exhibit	49,150*

**Statistics obtained from the Michael Schwartz Library.*

Program feedback from one audience member . . .

“Again, thank you for the information that introduced me to Zora Neale Hurston. I had to watch [the Mediasite recording] again. I have not stopped talking about your presentation on Saturday at the CSU open house.”

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell
 “Engaged Learning in Times of War and Peace”
Monday, April 25, 2011



12:00 noon, Refreshments
12:15 p.m., Lecture

Admission is free!

Fenn Tower, Room 303
Euclid Avenue at East 24th Street

For more information, please call
(216) 523-7182 or (216) 687-3920.

Dr. Campbell is the Director of the Department of Religion at the Chautauqua Institution, a center for religion, the arts, education and recreation. Her accomplishments and achievements are many and varied, including eleven honorary doctorate degrees. Dr. Campbell is a sought after lecturer and preacher. Her work has been published widely. She holds numerous national and local offices, including: past member of the U.S. State Department advisory committee on Religious Freedom Abroad, Trustee for the Council for a Parliament of the World Religions, the Fund for Education in South Africa, the advisory committee for Americans for Humanitarian Trade with Cuba, life member of the NAACP, Chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women and many others.

This public program is made possible with support from the Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality in the History of Africa and the Diaspora (RASHAD), the Department of History, the Dean’s Office of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), and the Marejjoyce Green Women’s Center.





Saturday, May 21, 2011, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Summer Festival

Live Jazz, Reception, and C-SPAN Viewing Party
Cleveland State University, Fenn Tower, Room 303
Euclid Avenue at East 24th Street
Free Admission

Saturday, June 11, 2011, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Black Music Month Workshop

Greater Cleveland Choral Chapter of the National Convention of
Gospel Choirs and Choruses Trinity Cathedral, Cathedral Hall
Euclid Avenue at East 22nd Street
Free Admission – **Additional Music and Other Materials Available
for Purchase*

Tuesdays in July, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

“All Eyes on Zora”

Film and Book Discussion Series on Zora Neale Hurston
Cleveland State University, Rhodes Tower
*Program details TBA by June 1st
Visit www.ClevelandMemory.org/pray for more information.
Free Admission

*The Greater Cleveland Choral Chapter of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs
and Choruses*



The “C-SPAN Trio,” (left to right) Me’na, Therron Brown, and Regennia Williams

Saturday, August 13, 2011

“1943: A Requiem”

World Premiere of New Work for Musical Theatre
Pre-Performance Dinner, 6:30 p.m., \$25 (Cash Bar)
Doors Open for Free Performance, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland State University, Student Center Ballroom
Euclid Avenue at East 21st Street
**Art Exhibit Throughout the Evening*

September, 2011

**Writing Workshop and Performance for K-12
Students - Launch of 2011-2012 Community-
Wide Zora Neale Hurston Reading Project**

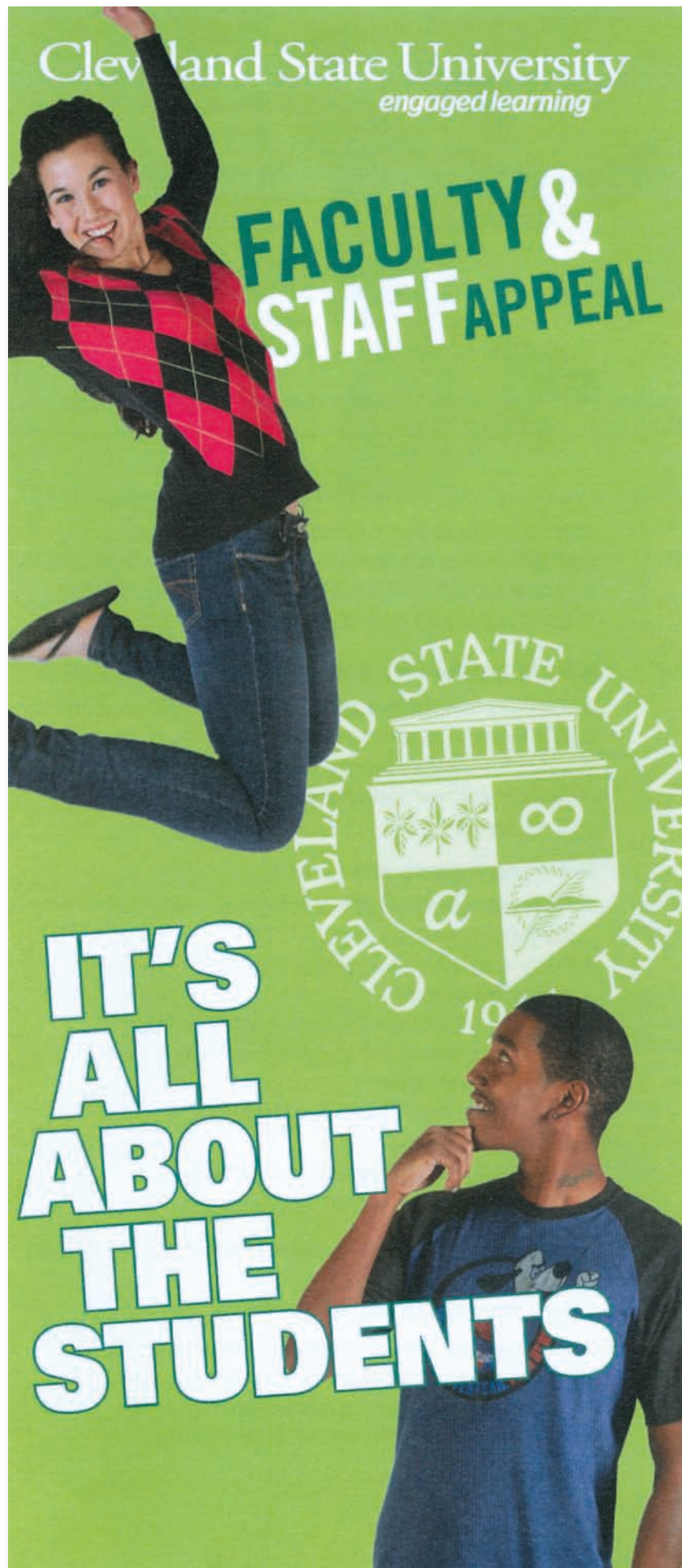
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Cleveland Chautauqua Blog:
<http://rwilliams.csuelearning.org/>

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FACULTY & STAFF APPEAL



IT'S
ALL
ABOUT
THE
STUDENTS

Thank You for Supporting RASHAD!

Your gift to RASHAD provides funding for programs and our endowed scholarship and fellowship fund at Cleveland State University. For more information on how you can direct your tax-deductible contribution to the RASHAD Endowment or the operating fund for RASHAD: Initiative for the Study of Religion and Spirituality, please visit www.csuohio.edu/offices/advancement/ (University Advancement), write to giving@csuohio.edu, or call (216) 523-7277.

RASHAD

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www.ClevelandMemory.org/pray/

The RASHAD website has a new look! Visit us on line at www.ClevelandMemory.org/pray/.

The screenshot displays the RASHAD website interface. The main header reads "Praying Grounds: African American Faith Communities - Cleveland State University". Below this, the site's purpose is stated: "the Cleveland Memory Project engaging our students & community to improve the civic life of Northeast Ohio". Navigation links include "HOME", "BROWSE WEB EXHIBITS", "READ E-BOOKS", and "OUR DOCUMENTS". The main content area features the title "Praying Grounds: African American Faith Communities A Documentary and Oral History" and a quote: "More than a century after the publication of The Souls of Black Folk...the church remains at the center of African American social life. However, like other aspects of social history, much of the history of religious institutions is 'disappearing beneath our feet.'" A sidebar on the right lists "Recent Additions" and "Features".

Non-Discrimination Statement: Cleveland State University is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in employment and education. No person at the university will be denied opportunity for employment or education or be subject to discrimination in any project, program, or activity because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, handicap or disability, disabled veteran, Vietnam era veteran or other protected veteran status.