



# Association of Black Social Workers New York City Chapter "Community First"

No.1

Winter 2014



## Message from President Gloria J. Scott

Dear ABSW Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our newly revised newsletter. My sincere congratulations to the newsletter team and to all who contributed to this edition.

I wish all ABSW members and your families a Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year, and I pray that the Creator and our ancestors will guide us as we continue to serve the Black community locally, nationally and internationally.

Our chapter activities, programs and services all reflect the ideals of the National Association of Black Social Workers which is summed up by our motto, "*Community First*". Each of us can make a difference by addressing social disparities in housing, living wages, health care, education, employment, etc. Racism is not in the past. It is very much a part of our reality.

The Board of Directors welcomes your participation. Please attend meetings, share your ideas, and be present at the many demonstration held city wide to address community concerns. In 2014, let us continue our commitment to the NABSW Code of Ethics.

It is indeed my privilege and honor to serve as President of this Chapter. I thank each of you for your support and extend a special thank you to the dedicated members of the Board of Directors.

Harambee!



Seniors enjoying festivities at the ABSW Senior Center

## ABSW Neighborhood Senior Center

Since opening its doors in 1975, the ABSW Neighborhood Senior Center has dedicated itself to serving the needs of the elderly from diverse social and economic backgrounds.

Providing high quality service with compassion and dignity, the Center continues to offer a wide range of comprehensive services which includes healthy meals, nutrition education, physical fitness and exercise programs, health management and promotion, arts & culture workshops, recreational activities, computer technology classes, and case assistance.

Now approaching its 39th year anniversary, the Center, under the guidance of Executive Director Stephen Ayo Adeyinka, is pledging to continue its long tradition of serving the community.

"We are always open to working together in partnership with those who share our vision to serve compassionately our Seniors, and we will do everything in our power to maintain the quality standard of excellence that they deserve in the coming year and beyond."

For additional information, please contact Stephen Ayo Adeyinka at 212-749-8400.



# Association of Black Social Workers New York City Chapter

*“Community First”*

## ABSW EXECUTIVE BOARD

### OFFICERS

President .....	Gloria Scott
1st Vice President .....	Myrtho Gardiner
2nd Vice President .....	Kara Simpson
Recording Secretary .....	Shirley Robertson
Corresponding Secretary .....	Frenchie Williams
Treasurer .....	Angela Jenkins

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership .....	Patricia L. Newland
Fund Raising .....	Theodore Phillips
Finance .....	Fredric H. Cantlo
Housing .....	Reginald Thompson
Senior Citizens .....	John H. Garrett
International .....	Vacant
Grievance .....	Roosevelt George
Education .....	Michelle Jervis
Mental Health .....	Shawneladee Cole
Health .....	Shirley Colvin
Legal .....	Anthony Wells
Publicity .....	Kevin Dunn
Community Action .....	Myrtho Gardiner
NABSW Delegate .....	Patricia Jenkins- Lewis

Abe Snyder .....	Advisor
Robert Jordan .....	Advisor

### Contact Information

**ABSW New York City Chapter  
1969 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10035  
212-348-0035**

**Email: [abswnycmembership@gmail.com](mailto:abswnycmembership@gmail.com)**

## BRIEF HISTORY OF ABSW

The Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) is a Black organization that provides a structure and forum through which Black social workers and others can exchange ideas, offer services and develop programs in the interest of the Black Community.

ABSW is an independent not-for-profit organization consisting of dedicated professionals and community workers who, without pay, make their skills available to groups, individuals and agencies for the alleviation of the numerous problems confronting the Black Community.

The New York City Chapter was formed on June 1, 1967 in Harlem, New York and is still affiliated with the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) which has its headquarters in Washington, DC and chapters throughout the nation.

### OUR FOCUS

While the social work profession is concerned with the common needs of all individuals regardless of race or ethnic origin, there are certain problems peculiar to the Black Community that have not been adequately addressed by the prevailing social work organizations and agencies.

ABSW-NYC Chapter is at the forefront of addressing those issues that deserve priority in oppressed Black areas by spearheading meaningful action, self-determination and community empowerment.





**COMMITTEE REPORTS**



Giving out toy donations at Little Sun People Day Care

**Community Action**

On December 20, 2013 the Community Action Committee dropped off toy donations collected by the ABSW general body to the Little Sun People Day Care Center in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn

Founded in 1980, the Little Sun People Day Care Center focuses on the development of young children by providing them with a culturally enriched environment that highlights the illustrious history of people of color. The day care center welcomes and admits students of every race, color, nationality or ethnic origin.

Since ABSW’s motto is “*Community First*”, the Community Action Committee saw it fitting to donate the toys to a community oriented organization that values the nurturing and development of all children, especially Black children.



**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mental Health & Counseling**

In keeping with ABSW’s overall mission, the Mental Health & Counseling Committee is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human service delivery, and research.

Every year our committee supports this mission by devoting attention to a specific area or topic that often gets overlooked by the mainstream population, but which in many cases noticeably impacts, affects or has relevance to members of our community.

To date we've presented on various topics such as suicide, domestic violence and release from incarceration, and in 2014 we will be focusing part of our attention on Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) related issues.

On January 25th, 2014, the Committee will kick off it’s LGBT initiative by hosting a *To Be Black, Proud, Gifted and Gay: “The Realities and Facts Beyond the Labels”* workshop at the ABSW main office. The workshop is being presented by LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent.

For more information, please call (212) 348-0035 or email [Tenile@aol.com](mailto:Tenile@aol.com).

**Adoption**



ABSW Post Adoption Support Group Monthly Meeting

For more information about the ABSW Monthly Post Adoption Support Group meeting pictured above, contact Mr. Ed Dowd, LCSW-R ACSW who is the Group Leader at (212) 340-0035.



**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership**

The Membership Committee’s goal for 2014 is to boost membership enrollment and to increase attendance at General Membership meetings.

Consisting of members Dominique Jean-Baptiste, Jean Angel Campbell, John H. Garrett, Shahumad Latif, Evelyn McCoy, Gordon Oliver and Chair, Patricia L. Newland, the Committee has adopted the slogan “*Each one, bring one*” as it’s rallying call for the new year.

All members are being encouraged to bring a friend, guest or associate with them to General Membership meetings, and to activate and renew their memberships as well.

Membership dues can be mailed to the ABSW main office at 1969 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035, attention Patricia L. Newland, Membership Chair, or paid at the General Membership meeting. If you are a member of SSEU Local 371, your dues are refundable.

“We have tried to make our meetings informative with guest speakers who provide pertinent information,” says Ms. Newland, who cited some of the exciting topics presented last year.

Topics included “Eating Disorders”, “Impact of Immigration Reform on the Black Community”, “Institute of the Black World 21st Century and the Pan-African Dialogue (P.A.U.D.)”, “Cancer Care, Social Work Techniques, and Support for Caregivers”, and “Evidence Based and Treatment Plan for Tobacco Addiction”.

You are cordially invited to join the Membership Committee.

**ABSW PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

- Adoption Agency
- Senior Citizen Program
- Cenie Jomo Williams low income housing
- Post Adoption support group
- Tutorial services

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Health**

The ABSW Health Committee will be sponsoring a Health Fair on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Location and hours for the Fair will be announced at a later date.

We have invited an assortment of vendors to participate and anticipate a successful community venture.

If you have a particular health interest that you would like to have included at our Health Fair, please call (212) 348-0035.

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**



Congratulations to Dr. Shawneladee C. Cole, LCSW-R for acquiring her Doctorate in Clinical Social Work from Smith College this past January 2014!!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Social Work Licensing Preparation Course begins on February 24th at 6:30pm. This six week course will be held on Mondays at the ABSW Office.

On March 15th, 2014, the Association of Black Social Workers, New York City Chapter is presenting a panel discussion entitled, ***Black Women in Social Service Leadership: Victories and Challenges.***

This panel discussion will be part of the general membership meeting, so we are encouraging all members to attend and to bring a guest.

Come out and be inspired while showing your support for the panelists.



**APPEAL FOR ABSW MEMBERSHIP**

The ABSW Membership Committee is appealing to all Black social workers in New York City to join ABSW. Please renew your expired membership or join as a new member. We need your support and participation to build on ABSW achievements and expand our efforts to include other compelling and urgent concerns. A large membership will enable ABSW to maintain its viability as an independent organization fighting for justice and equal rights for our members and the Black community.

We are urging all ABSW members to speak to your friends and co-workers and ask them to send in their checks for membership to the ABSW office.

For further information, call Patricia L. Newland, Membership Chair at (212) 348-0035.

**JOIN ABSW**

Return this application with your check or money order payable to **NYC ABSW**. Please mail to: ABSW Membership Committee, 1969 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035.

\_\_\_\_ I wish to become a member and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I wish to renew my membership and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt.# \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment \_\_\_\_\_

City and State \_\_\_\_\_

Job Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership: \$100.00    Student: \$30.00 (Full-Time Students Only)    Contributory: \$125.00

**ABSW GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATES FOR 2014**

**Time:** Saturday 3:30 PM    **Place:** ABSW Auditorium, 1969 Madison Avenue, Harlem, NY 10035

**FEBRUARY 22, 2014**  
**MARCH 15, 2014**  
**APRIL 26, 2014**  
**JUNE 7, 2014**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2014**  
**OCTOBER 18, 2014**  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2014**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2014**