Saturday 9am—“An Overview and History of Candomblé” — Dr. Rachel Harding is an Ebgomi of Terreiro Do Cobre (1906) in Salvador, Bahia. She is an historian and writer specializing in religious traditions of the Afro-Atlantic diaspora and the intersections of faith, culture and activism in contemporary social justice movements. She holds a Ph.D. in history, an MFA in creative writing, and am author of numerous published essays and a book on Afro-Brazilian religion, A Refuge in Thunder: Candomblé and Alternative Spaces of Blackness (Indiana Unv. Press, 2000). She has served as a consultant and featured scholar in the PBS series “This Far By Faith” on African American religion. Her research centers around the history of Afro-Atlantic religions – particularly Candomblé in Brazil and African American Southern Folk Christianity. Published essays explore the significance of Black Spirituals in the larger context of Afro-Atlantic religion; orientations to history among contemporary female devotees of Candomblé; Southern African American folk spirituality.

Saturday 10:30am—“Candomblé– A Wonderful and Mysterious World of The Orixas” — Egbonmi Marcia d’Ogun, MA., serves her community of Salvador, Bahia as an English/Lit Professor elementary, high school and collegiate level students. She was initiated into Candomblé at the age of 11. In 1986, she became an Iawo at Ile Ase Kale Bakun as the daughter of Ogun Ja. Now an Egbonmi for over 20 years, Marcia was charged with the responsibility of becoming the Iyakekere (little mother), of her moms terreiro, Ile Ewa Oloodumare. Due to the untimely loss of Iya Valdeete, who was her mentor, teacher and mother, she is now the heir and successor of the seat as IyalOrisha of the community. We are happy to welcome her back to the States after a 14 year stay.

Saturday 12:00pm “Atabauque and Orixas Song Workshop” — Master percussionist Jorge Alabê brings the rich musical heritage of Brazil to the U.S. as a performing artist, master teacher, and elder of the Candomblé religion. As a child growing up playing Afro-Brazilian and samba rhythms in Rio de Janeiro, which eventually took him around the world as director of percussion with the legendary company Oba Oba. He has recorded with Milton Nascimento, Martinho da Vila, and others. Jorge is an acknowledged authority as Ogbé and “Alabé” of Asé Iyá Nasso Oká Ilé Osum (Nossa Senhora das Candeias), the Candomblé community formed in 1972 by the famed Iya Níninha of Oshun. Since moving to the U.S., Jorge has taught at universities, mentored many groups across the country, and continues to teach students in samba as well as Candomblé rhythm, dance and song. He is a featured performer on the well-known “Bata-Ketu” recording (produced by Michael Spiro and Mark Lamson), and released his own CD, “Cantigas e Ritmos dos Orixas.”

Saturday 1:30pm “Dances of the Orixas Workshop” —Egbomi Vania Amaral was born a daughter of Candomblé in Salvador, Bahia, Brasil. As a priestess and child of Oya, she is currently responsible for helping her Mae de Santo, (Iya Estelita Calmon), direct the Terreiro, Ile Asé Kale Bakun (1953). Kale Bakun is denoted as the second oldest and functioning Ijesha community in Brazil today. Vania is a fourth generation Egbonmi of the community, and has spent the last 50 years under the tutelage of the elders of Kale Bakun, Ile Ase Iya Nasso Oka (Casa Branca), and Ilé Axe Osumaré. She has traveled the U.S. extensively for the last 17 years sharing the Candomblé tradition through song, dance, performances and spirituality.

Saturday 1:30pm “Candomblé and Capoeira the Angola Connection” — Dr. Ken Dossar is co-founder of the Brazil Cultural Center in Philadelphia. He is a cultural historian with a Ph.D. in African American Studies. Ken is a faculty member at Temple University in Philadelphia where he directs the Temple University Brazil Study Abroad Program. Professor Dossar has consulted international and national cultural arts organizations including the American Museum of Natural History, Dance Brazil, the Caribbean Culture Center in New York, and regional cultural institutions including the African American Museum in Philadelphia, and Taller Puertorriqueno.

Saturday 4:00pm “Choreostories—Signaling the Divine” — Anna Beatrice Scott, Ph.D. is The Master Conduit at the arts and action consultancy, Vita Vibrare, where thinking is done at a higher frequency. An Arts in Action agitator, Vita Vibrare provides strategy, programs and user/engagement studies & analysis at the nexus of traditional and new media to support “globally” minded change makers with innovative story making tools. As a performance scholar/instigator, Scott has presented her solo work at college campuses, galleries and street corners around the USA and in Salvador, Bahia-Brazil. She provided nine years of service to University of California, Riverside as an assistant professor of Dance History Theory. Her research specializes in the study, analysis, and performance of African Diaspora dance arts. Her book, A Fala Que Faz/Words That Work, is a ten year study of the performance of ‘black’ as a political project in Bahia, Brazil.

Saturday 4:30pm “Practical Applications of Candomblé in the US” — Babalorixa Paulo Bispo do Logun Ede, has worked over the past 20 years as a curator, program officer and library manager supervising acquisitions and guiding researchers at the Caribbean Cultural Center and Mocada Museum in New York City. Originally from Brazil, he has travelled extensively throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa. This travel created opportunities to engage in research on African-based spiritual practices, which he began in Brazil as a member of Viva Bahia, the first National Folkloric Group. Here he was also a dancer and member of the company for ten years. Working as a theatrical producer, he was instrumental in bringing sacred traditions to wider audiences. Presently Baba Paulo Bispo leads his Candomblé house ILE OOOSA ERIN MOPE in NYC, guiding and teaching his initiates and adepts in the practices of the Candomblé religion.
The American Association of Brazilian Candomblé and Culture Presents:
1st Annual International Candomblé Symposium
“A Tribute to the Mother Orixas”

This 3 day Symposium includes:
Friday night kick-off reception and full panel discussion, leading into a full day of topical discussions and presentations about the Candomblé tradition, including Orixá Dance, Song and Music Workshops.

Join us on Sunday, Mothers Day, as we pay a special tribute to the loving memory of Iya Valdeete Brito de Ewa, the progenitor of Candomblé in Chicago, as we host Chicago’s very first Candomblé Xirá Ceremony for the Iyabas.

Guest Speakers and Panelists
Egbomi Rachel Harding, PhD.
Ogân Jorge Alábê Do Xango (Bata Ketu)
Babalorixa Paulo Bispo do Logun Ede
Egbomi Vania Amaral d’Oya
Dr. Anna B. Scott, Practitioner
Baba Kenneth Dossar, PhD.
Egbomi Marcia Lima d’Ogun
Linda Yudin, MA, Candomblé Practitioner

Friday, May 9th—Saturday, May 10th
Location: Gary Comer Youth Center
7200 South Ingleside, Chicago IL.
(312)545-5034
**Xirá Ceremony Location TBA**

Early Bird Registration $50
OnSite Registration $65
Daily Pass $35
Visit our Website for more details at:
http://malkitaye.wix.com/aabcc