

The ***NC Association of Black Storytellers, Inc***, a NABS statewide affiliate, seemed to share a year-long theme related to the Dynamic Story/History of our People!

December-2011/January - April~ We ended the 2011 year and began 2012 by participating in the Annual "***A Season's Griot***" broadcast on NPR-Public Radio International during the 7 days of Kwanzaa. This broadcast has been written, produced and directed by Wilmington, NC native Madafo Lloyd Wilson. The next edition (2012-13) of "***Griot***" is in the making at this very time. Following Kwanzaa, the birthday of Zora Neale Hurston was celebrated by the Durham, NC Library with NCABS President portraying ZORA! This was a standing room only affair, and ended with cake and punch in Zora's honor and memory. The rest of the month was busy with NCABS doing Storytelling at the Annual MLK, Jr Celebration in Charlotte, NC on January 14th, and the 11th Annual African American Celebration at the NC Museum of History on January 28th, which highlighted NC's 11 HBCU's. In February we did numerous Black History programs around the State, and showcased our affiliate at the MLK, Jr Parade in Durham by waving and riding in that parade. We showed Jackie Torrence's ***Honey Boy*** story, which was transformed into film by Teri Burnette, and which starred many of our members. On February 18th, Mardia Stepney and Renee Andrews and others appeared in *period attire* and told Civil War related stories at the Annual US Colored Troops Symposium in Old Salem/Winston Salem, NC.

May- August, In May, we enjoyed Baba Jamal's Annual Black Storytellers' Retreat at the Franklinton Center, Whitakers, NC, ~which then led us into Juneteenth activities. Each of our NC Regions planned and participated in various events throughout the State. On June 23rd, NCABS did nearly 90 minutes of Storytelling to an enraptured adult audience, who sat and did not move a muscle! This event was entitled "Stories for Grown Folks", and was done for the Durham Co. Library's Humanities Series. On July 14, NCABS (emceed by Cheryl Sparkle Mosley) surprised the NCABS president with a formal dinner of 40+ artists and friends, as they honored Beverly Fields Burnette, who has been president for more than 10 years. This dinner was catered by and held at the Capital City Club on Fayetteville St. in downtown Raleigh, NC. The night ended with laughter, stories, picture taking, music, *The Electric Slide*, *Soul Train Lines* and much revelry! On August 18th, we participated in the Umoja Festival. annually planned and orchestrated by Yawa Tuprah, Kwami Tuprah and the Umoja Group of Fayetteville, NC. A Health Fair with local physicians was an integral part of the occasion. In a room full of grown-ups and children, NCABS shared Storytelling for more than an hour. Also in August, one of our members, Renee Andrews, enjoyed an exciting excursion to Ghana with the Forsyth County Library.

September-November ~ Over the Labor Day weekend, four NCABS storytellers shared Storytelling at the 3rd Annual African American Festival in downtown Raleigh, NC. (They were Madafo Lloyd Wilson, Priscilla Best, The Two Bells and Beverly Fields Burnette). Priscilla Best was also a featured teller at the Wake Co Storytelling Festival in late September. On October 5th, NCABS member EJ Stewart produced her new and very moving play, "***When I'm Gone***"~a family memoir, which played at the NC Museum of History. On Oct. 20th, NCABS performed at the ***Jackie Torrence Storytelling Festival*** in downtown Salisbury, NC, which occurred just hours before the ***Annual***

Rowan Blues and Jazz Festival (emceed by Baba Jamal). That same weekend, Willa Brigham enjoyed *telling* at the ***LEAF Festival*** in Black Mountain, NC.

Throughout the year~ Several NCABS Storytellers participated in the ***African American Lecture Series*** at Tryon Palace, in New Bern, NC. They shared stories and songs in the guise of many great Black Women. On Thursday, March 15, there was a stirring performance of Harriet "Moses" Tubman's "***Let My People Go,***" by storyteller and dramatist Ms. Joyce Gear. Jackie Torrence's story-to-film "***Honey Boy***" (starring Joyce Gear) was also featured at the NC Black Film Festival in Wilmington, March 22-25, 2012. In May, Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley presented the life of anti-lynching crusader and journalist, Ms. Ida B. Wells Barnett. On the same program, Ella Joyce Stewart, storyteller, playwright and NC Humanities Scholar *Road Scholar* portrayed "Aunt Rachel" from the Civil War. On September 20, Elisha Minter immortalized the magic of Fannie Lou Hamer: "*I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired!*" This coming Nov. 15th, Sauuda Eshe will portray "Queen Odetta: The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement." We have had a very active and rewarding year, and will continue to commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War with Black Storytelling!

Respectfully submitted by: Beverly Fields Burnette, President of the NC Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. ~November 8th, 2012~ BB71946@aol.com; Ph