

**ASE
Chicago Affiliate of NABS
REPORT 2022**

**“Do not blame God for having created the tiger, but thank Him for not having given it wings”
African proverb**

It is the second year of the COVID pandemic and ASE is still striving, growing and maintaining our oral traditions of storytelling.

JANUARY- 2021

Our Executive Board created a monthly schedule for all Board members to tell a story prior to the opening of our monthly business meeting on each second Sunday. Continuing this oral tradition on a virtual platform was important. It served as an inspiration for the newer members to venture forward with a story.

FEBRUARY

New members were welcomed to ASE. This included Betty Davis, Henry Mondrea Harmon and Barbara Akpen. Our ASE member, Mama Edie Armstrong, was invited to participate in the Amistad Conference in Connecticut (virtual).

MARCH/APRIL

Our newest youth outreach, AYAN, was established. AYAN, the ASE Youth Alumni Network, was formed to accommodate the former ASE youth who were going to college and other college age students. It will assist their transition from a youth storytelling role to the world of adult storytelling.

MAY/JUNE

Kaleidoscope of Stories was the theme for our annual concert of Storytelling for a Cause. It featured, Mondrea Harmon as M.C., and tellers Joanne Thomas, Dhamana Shauri, Patricia Redd, Omiyale Dupart and Muteeat Lawal. The financial contributions were substantial. In addition, Dhamana Shauri was selected to participate as a teller in the NABS Village Telling concert 2021.

JULY/AUGUST

ASE is invited to participate in the 97th birthday celebration for Ella Jenkins, renowned Chicago children's storyteller and folk singer.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

Owen Charles, our ASE youth member, told his story about skateboarding in Chicago's downtown area before and during the pandemic. His presentation for the NABS Festival & Conference 2021 was also his admission essay for the University of Chicago. Currently, he is a second year student at UC.

DECEMBER

Our ASE Youth's Kwanzaa Concert gave an outstanding virtual storytelling experience of the Nguzo Saba values using historical archived footage to highlight their storytelling i.e. Hazel Scott, famous Chicago jazz pianist. Joining the youth were some of the ASE members including Dr. Elisha Hall, Patricia Redd and Dr. Stephanie Davenport.

“Who tells the stories of the Diaspora peoples based on historical facts with boldness and vigor? The StoryMan does!”

ASE honored our newest ancestor, Lorenzo Young on February 21, 2021 with a virtual collage of selected photos and interviews as part of StoryMan's home going services.

“As long as you speak my name, I shall live forever”

ASE ancestors:

CAROLYN AVENT-OSHUN BENJAMIN GILES JUDY WILLIAMS

DONNA NUNN LORENZO YOUNG

ASE mission statement:

The mission of ASE: The Chicago Association of Black Storytellers (ASE) is to function of the Chicago affiliate of the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) and to promote the art form of storytelling through efforts to educate, entertain and inspire. Members will assist in keeping alive the African-rotted culture fo the world through the power of the word. Members of ASE are committed to guiding and developing youth in the ageless art of storytelling as well as cultivating and promoting community partnerships.