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2004

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 of Black Storytellers, Inc.

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Drumbeat... from the National President

By Barbara Eady
NABS National President

Hotep NABS Community, Peace and blessings to all of you and your families. I have humbly accepted the task as your president and I am very grateful for every encouragement and kindness you have shown. I remain committed to NABS, its mission and its members.

Your board of directors is active and functioning and is committed to the operation and development of the organization. NABS officers are Barbara Eady, president, Dylan Pritchett, vice president, Joan Stevenson, treasurer, Vanora Legaux, secretary and Cheryl Sparkle Mosley, past president.

The board welcomes two new directors, Diane Macklin of Silver Springs, MD, and Emily Hooper Lansana of Chicago, IL.

We are still blessed with our founders, Mother Mary Carter Smith and Linda Goss who still serve as directors. Executive Director, Linda Brown and Administrative Assistants Fellisco Keeling and Carolyn Carroll are our very capable administrative staff.

What's going on at NABS?

Directors Carol Alexander and Valerie Tutson are serving as Festival Director and Co-Director, respectively, for the 23rd Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference to be held in Tampa, FL, in November. This year we will be welcomed by a new sponsor, the Tampa Bay

Performing Arts Center, for what will prove to be an exciting mix of our familiar rituals with some new flavor.

What's new with NABS?

For the 20th Anniversary we asked you to give back to NABS and you did. Now we want to focus on the needs of the members and affiliates. Are we interested in your concerns, suggestions or complaints? Absolutely. Are we interested in the needs of our affiliates? Absolutely. And in many areas the affiliates have much to share with NABS.

We are listening. We are also developing enhancements in communication with our web site and conference calls.

What's ahead for NABS?

Continued growth in membership and affiliates. The past administration left NABS in good stead. Our financial books and 501(c)(3) status are in order and we are prepared for program development. We can also expect further development of existing programs. Elisha Minter is the newly appointed Director of Youth Programs, Queen Nur remains as the Adopt-A-Teller Program Director and Jamal Koram is the Affiliate Advisor.

This is your very capable NABS board of directors, program directors and staff. We have rolled up our sleeves and are working.

Let's fulfill our mission together.



Barbara Eady

FEATURED AUTHOR

Darby West, Author of "THROUGH THE FIRE"

Darby West is a native of Brooklyn, NY. She spent a few years in the rural south as a child living with her grandparents in Swan Quarter, NC, before returning to New York. She has been living in Winston Salem, NC, for the past 16 years.

Darby remembers as a child being asked what she wanted to do when she grew up and responding, "I want to write books!"

She has written four novels, a book of poetry, three children's books and a book of short stories. "Through the Fire" is her first published book. Darby has toured the country as a member of the North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers sharing stories geared towards young people and those young at heart. She taught poetry writing workshops for young people and hosted a poetry slam at a local jazz club in Winston Salem.

Darby's children, Charli, Courtney and Brandon, share her love for the arts as well. Brandon, who is 10, has writ-



ten two children's books that will be published later this year.

Synopsis of "Through The Fire:"

Toni was abandoned by her mother when she was five years old.

Her father left her and her brother, CJ, in the care of a hooker until he got his "ducks in a row." CJ died just when things appeared to change for them. Deep into depression that no one seemed to notice, Toni struggled to survive the burning fire in her chest. Her new stepmother, Barbara, attempted to be the mother that Toni never had. Yet there was still a burning within her for love. Michael

entered her life at sixteen and promised that he would be there forever. Lies, deceit and mistrust fuel the fire that burns inside of her. Will she find love with Michael or is there someone else that will quench the fire within her?

Copies of "Through The Fire" can purchased by contacting the author at darbywest1@aol.com

Meet the New NABS Board Members

The NABS Board of Directors elected two new board members in November 2004, Diane Y. Macklin of Silver Springs, MD and Emily Hooper Lansana of Chicago, IL.

Diane Y. Macklin, a storyteller, actress and educator, currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Storyteller's Theatre.

She is on the Montgomery County Public Schools Artist Roster and is a Middle School Teacher, Writing & Academic Coach/Tutor

Diane has a Bachelors of Arts degree from Vassar College, and a Masters from Simmons College.

She is a member of Griot's Circle of Maryland and the National Storytelling Network

Emily Hooper Lansana is a noted storyteller and educator.

Her experience includes teaching storytelling and performance at: Columbia College, Chicago State University, University of Chicago, The Guild Complex and in the Chicago Public Schools. She has served as the Director of Education at Lincoln Center Theater.

In addition to her performance work, she currently serves as an adjunct faculty member at the School for New Learning at DePaul University and at Chicago State University. She is the Arts-in-Education Consultant for eta and a member of the Creative Arts Foundation. Emily is president of ASE: The Chicago Association of Black Storytellers.

She is a graduate of Yale University and received her Masters degree from Northwestern University.

STORYTELLING TAX TIPS:

Planning makes tedious process simpler

by Dylan Pritchett, Sr.

Storytelling as a business can be time consuming and stressful during tax time. However, there are ways to minimize the stress with planning. Here are some tips for preparing next year's taxes.

First, make sure you have a financial system that keeps your business records separate from your personal funds. If that means opening new accounts, so be it. This way you can maintain a balance between your storytelling business and whatever money you need for your family. If you view your storytelling as a business, treat it like one by making sure your business grows as your family grows!

Travel: The biggest expense you may have is travel. When traveling I ALWAYS use a credit card! The same one!!! Find a card that offers annual itemized reports as well as travel rewards for every dollar you spend. This enables you to not have to keep every statement for lodging, car rentals, gas, hotels, tickets, limousine service, etc. It also will give you perks that translate into free airline tickets, rooms, and car rentals.

This will keep the paperwork at a minimum as well as give you a total for each item deduction. This will be invaluable for doing your taxes.

Also, be aware of a tax schedule for food. This schedule allots you a certain amount to deduct for the day depending upon the city you were telling in. You do not have to keep receipts for food if you use this schedule. However, it is always best to have a record of food expenses if you want a true record. As long as you don't go over the allotted amount you won't lose any money. Make sure you ask your preparer about this!!!

Try to pay off your business expenses monthly since interest tends to pile up. No need to pay a credit card interest for something you may have already been reimbursed for. You'll really pay for it in the end.

Business Items: Keep a record of expenses made by purchasing items for your storytelling business, i.e. clothing, instruments, postage, luggage, office equipment, copying, stationary, etc. These are all deductible and should be accountable by receipt or proof of purchase.

Mileage: You are allotted between 28-31 cents per mile while driving to and from venues. One of several ways to keep track of this is to keep a log in your car and write them down one by one as you travel. A second way is to go onto a Map Quest-type site and find an accurate roundtrip mileage. These two have a lot of error and tend to make your record keeping more detailed since you have to keep records of every venue's address.

Here's another suggestion. On January 1st I change my checkbook register and write down my car's odometer reading on the front of it. At tax time I subtract the previous year's mileage from the present year's mileage giving me total miles driven that year. Although I use my car for many purposes, usually my business miles are 40-50% of my miles since driving out of state tends to equal my around town jaunts. This is not an exact science. But, after a few years of calculating my deductible mileage the above ways, I've found this is just as accurate as all of that keeping addresses and forgetting to write mileage down. Whichever works best for you!

1099: The miscellaneous income form is received from every venue that paid you more than \$600. Compare these with your calendar to make sure you have every one necessary to fill your taxes. For all other income, you still have to file them. The IRS will receive a 1099 statement even if you do not use it in your calculations. If they find discrepancies, they will require you to make amendments to your return if your income statement didn't reflect that addition.

Years ago I was audited because all of my income came from 1099s since my income was solely from storytelling and my reported income was greater than 1099s stated. Fortunately, I had records of other income received that was not reported. Since they would have no way of knowing where this income came from, I was all right. So, keep your income records clean and accessible and you'll have no problem.

Finally, discipline is the name of this game! Find a system that works for you. It's worth it to be able to make a successful business with storytelling and be profitable at the same time.

AFRICAN FOLKTALE – “Their Soft Crowns Discovered”

Retold by Roger D. Abrahams

At

one time, all the eagles and hawks used to be afraid of fowls, and especially of the cock. Because of his crest of red horns they thought he must be very dangerous. One day, after talking it over, they decided to send their little brother, Katotola, smallest of the hawks, to see if their fears were warranted.

So Katotola flew down to the earth as an ambassador of peace. He found the cock strutting about with his family and explained to him that the eagle, Kapungu, their King, wished them to be on friendly terms with the cock, but they all were afraid of his crown of red horns.

The cock answered that it was not made of horn, but was quite soft. “Come and feel it,” said he, “it is nothing to be afraid of.” Katotola was frightened, but when the cock repeated the invitation, Katotola did as he asked. He was surprised to find it soft and harmless, just as the cock had said.

The cock accepted the eagle’s message of friendliness, so Katotola said “goodbye” and prepared to fly away.

Just then, he spied one of the cock’s daughters and no longer afraid, he darted down, picked her up, and flew with her back to the others saying,

“See here, I have carried off one of his daughters.

The cock is nobody to be afraid of.” And that is the reason that today, all the eagles and hawks know that the fowls are a weak tribe, and they easily make war on them and carry off their children.

Wayao

From African Folktales

*Selected & Retold by Roger D.
Abrahams*

NABS tellers featured in Kings & Queens of Storytelling Extravaganza

A West Coast Premier Kings & Queens of Storytelling Extravaganza featured some of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc (NABS) nationally known storytellers at the West Angeles Theatre on Saturday, April 2, 2005 in Los Angeles, California.

The storytellers included Brother Blue, Mitch Capel, Onawumi Jean Moss, Queen Nur, Teju Ologboni and Dylan Pritchett, Sr. .

The awesome showcase was filmed for television. The proceeds from the show will benefit the

Save Africa's Children Fund.

Other NABS members were in the audience. NABS National President Barbara Eady and Past National President Cheryl “Sparkle” Mosley and several members of the Black Storytelling Association of San Diego Affiliate, Dr. Annjennette S. McFarlin, President, Dr. Theresa Ford-Booker and husband Carlton Booker, and Florence Edmund, took time out from their weekend meetings in San Diego, CA to attend the awesome showcase of tellers.

PREVIEW STAGE

A new main stage event coming in November 2005 for annual festival

The first annual Preview Stage event will take place at our 2005 festival and conference in Tampa, FL. Preview Stage is a main stage 90-minute event to present tellers and emcees. Preview Stage will provide: (1) main stage for non-featured tellers to have an opportunity to tell at the festival and conference; (2) membership exposure to novice and experienced tellers; (3) members an opportunity to perform and develop storytelling presentation and performance skills before a large audience; and (4) members an opportunity to emcee Preview Stage events.

SIGN UP PROCESS AT THE FESTIVAL:

- Members must sign up for a time slot to tell on a first come, first served basis.
- Members must sign up for a time slot to emcee on a first come, first served basis.

ALLOTTED TIME SLOTS:

- **Storyteller time allotment** : 5 MINUTES
- **Emcee time allotment**: 30 MINUTES

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TIME SLOTS:

- **Tellers**: 12
- **Emcees**: 3

GUIDELINES:

- No featured tellers past and present will be allowed to tell on the Preview Stage.
- All experience levels are encouraged to participate from novice to master.
- Tellers and emcees must be paid NABS members.

Continuing Education Units (CEU's)

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were offered for the first time during our 22nd Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference in New Orleans. Xavier University's Drexel Center for Extended Learning was our CEUs Provider. The number of CEUs offered were 1.2 units. Members who registered and completed the required number of workshops received a Certificate of Completion, and the CEUs. Records of participation and successful workshop completion will be retained at Xavier University in the Drexel Center for Extended Living.

Meet NABS

National Youth Director

...Elisha T. Minter

NABS Board of Directors approved our new National Youth Director, Elisha T. Minter of Charlotte, NC, who is affectionately known as Mother Minter.



She has an extensive background in youth programming. She works for the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County as a Youth Program Specialist/Team Leader at the Beatties Ford Road branch. She

has been with the library system for 17 years. Elisha has also worked with school system's in Mecklenburg and Cumberland counties (NC).

She has an extensive acting resume, including being named Actress of the Year by Charlotte's Creative Loafing Magazine. In addition, Elisha is Minister of Music at New St. John Baptist Church in Charlotte.

She has been a NABS featured teller and has been a workshop presenter for youth and adult workshops at various "In the Tradition"...Annual National Black Storytelling Festivals and Conferences.

Minter is very excited about serving in her new capacity. She states that her main focus is to "revitalize and enhance the existing youth department of NABS."

"It has been a joy to watch the talented youth that have grown up with NABS over the past 21 years," Elisha said. "We want to ensure that a program is in place that will provide for the future generations of NABS the assurance that there will always be a NABS. The only way to achieve this is to instill in the youth of this organization and their parents/guardians the importance of training from a young age in the area of storytelling and the arts."

NABS *Family Update*

Remember in Your Prayers

- Charlotte Blake-Austin
- Linda Brown
- Gladys Cogswell
- Opalanga Pugh

In Memoriam

Abmos Zu-Bolton

Highly noted writer and griot Abmos Zu-Bolton departed this life on March 8 at Howard University Medical Center. A memorial service was held March 13 at his alma mater, Carver High School, DeRidder, LA.

A candlelight vigil in his honor was held March 19 at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he was writer-in-residence. Zu-Bolton published his poetry in hundreds of journals and magazines around the country. His works include "A Niggered Amen," "Ain't No Spring Chicken," and "1946."

He won Fellowships in Creative Writing from the National Endowment For The Arts, the Louisiana Division On The Arts, as well as an Editor's Fellowship from the Coordinating Council Of Literary Magazines. He also founded several publishing concerns, operating out of several US cities.

Ethel Wilson a/k/a TUNKI BAKU

Ethel Wilson died on March 7, 2005, and was funeralized on March 12, 2005

Tunki's great sense of curiosity and adventurous character was instrumental in leading her to pursue many careers. She worked as a Psychiatric Technician, Actress, Founder and Director of the Booker T Washington Day Care Center and Social Worker for the state of Maryland. In addition, she was a notable storyteller. She achieved the prestigious International Griot Storyteller's Award. Also, the winner of the NABS Liar's Contest Award during our Annual Black Storytelling Festival & Conference. She was a Master Bible Teacher.

Recognitions

Mary and Stanley "Bunjo" Butler, Entrepreneur and Storyteller

What God Put Together!

The Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper featured the love and life of Mary and Bunjo Butler. Mary Butler is an entrepreneur and the owner of MAJA, a specialty shop that offers ethnic clothing, unique jewelry, art treasures and petite furniture that she gathers from around the world.

Mary feels the items speak for her.

Bunjo Butler is a nationally known master storyteller, past National President of NABS and founder of the Griots Circle of Maryland. In addition, he is a branch manager at the Walbrook Branch of Enoch Pratt Library.

Mary and Bunjo met 40 years ago in a bowling alley. Bunjo weaves the story of how they met and he knew immediately that Mary would one day be his wife. "Mother God put us together for a reason" said Bunjo.

Linda Brown, Recipient of the Drum Major Award

The Morgan State University Alumni Association has held the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Memorial Breakfast for the past 20 years. Linda Brown, Executive Director of NABS and retired employee of the U.S. Department of Transportation, received the Drum Major Award at this year's breakfast.

"Sparkle" Mosley receives 2005 Odyssey of a Woman Award

Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley was honored as the recipient of the 2005 Odyssey Of A Woman Award presented by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Beta Omicron Sigma Chapter of Charlotte, NC, on March 19, 2005 at the 3rd Annual Odyssey of a Woman Awards and Scholarship Banquet at the Marriott Hotel. The award celebrates the achievements of heroines who are making a difference in the community and recognizes their great efforts to enhance the quality of life in the Charlotte community and surrounding areas.

Past President “Sparkle” Mosley thanks NABS for “stepping up”

Thank you NABS Board of Directors, National Directors, Executive Director, Affiliate Presidents and members for stepping up and making it happen.

During my presidency from 2002-2004 we were able as a team to accomplish the following goals and objectives:

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

- Establish & Charter College & Universities Chapters - Developmental stage
- Promote establishing youth components - Developmental stage



Cheryl “Sparkle” Mosley

STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL REPORTING

- Hired Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 2002
- CPA provides financial reports (i.e. Balance Sheet, Compilation Report, etc)
- Annual financial reporting at Membership Meeting
- Filing of 1099s, Tax Returns, etc.

HEIGHTEN RECOGNITION OF STORYTELLING

- National Literacy Program - Rollout October 2005 during National Literacy Month

- NABS Anthology - First Publication 2005

IMPROVE COMMUNICATION NETWORK

- President’s Roundtable (Affiliate Presidents meeting with National President)
- Affiliate Liaisons - Board members assigned to an affiliate
- New Brochure - Distributed November 2004
- New Website established. Web address: NABSinc.org
- National Calendar on the Website - Starting January 2005

PROGRAMMING

- Workshop Continuing Education Units (CEUs) - New Orleans F/C Workshops
- Teleconference Professional Development - Starts 2005
- Preview Stage - To be implemented at 2005 Festival & Conference
- Membership Discounts

Let us continue to strive upward and onward as we STEP UP in the name of NABS and make it happen!

*Asante Sana,
Sparkle*

Annual Retreat... “Building an African American Storytelling Village”

African American National Storytellers Retreat from May 19-22, 2005 (Thursday -Sunday) at Dongola Mansion at Pinnacle Studios, Yanceyville, NC.

The mission of the retreat is to gather storytellers and other lovers of African-American culture to involve themselves in four expressions of culture: music, dance movement, visual arts, and the spoken word.

The cultural activities, classes and workshops for adults and youth includes Mwongozi Training, drumming, jewelry making, shakere making, Mbira/Sanza and Percussion instruction, yoga,

song development, storytelling coaching African dance movement, children's art and stories, story swappin, media night, etc.

Registration: Adults \$275.00 and Youth \$225.00 includes lodging, meals, T-Shirts, classes, workshops and cultural activities, etc. For RETREAT INFORMATION contact: Jamal Koram - EMAIL: Storyman@starpower.net, PHONE: 703-684-8587, FAX: 703-684-6075. CELL: 703-725-6593. Contact number @ Dongola Mansion: 336-694-7785. Location: 45 minutes from Greensboro, NC, 1 hour from Raleigh, NC, 15 minutes from Danville, VA.

NABS Affiliates

African Folk Heritage Circle

Dr. Joyce c. Duncan, New York, NY

ASE: The Chicago Association of Black Storytellers

D. Kucha Brownlee, Oak Park, IL

Black Storytelling League of Rochester, NY

Leslie Carolyn Edwards

Black Storytelling Association of San Diego

Dr. Annjennette S. Mcfarlin

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

Cheryl Dowdell, Cleveland, OH

Detroit Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

Karen Lemmons, Detroit, MI

Griots' Circle of Maryland

Eslyn g. Hinmon, Baltimore, MD

Keepers of the Culture

Nashid Ali, Upper Darby, Pa

Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia

Akbar Imhotep, Atlanta, GA

North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

Beverly F. Burnette, Raleigh, NC

Rhode Island Black Storytellers

Valerie Tutson, Providence, RI

NABS AFFILIATES LIASONS

AFFILIATE NAME

BOARD MEMBER LIASON

African Folk Heritage Circle

Valerie Tutson

ASE: The Chicago Assn.

Emily Hooper Lasana

of Black Storytellers

Black Storytellers Association

Joan Stevenson

of San Diego

Black Storytelling League

Mary Carter Smith

of Rochester, NY

Cleveland Assn. of Black Storytellers

Linda Goss

Detroit Assn. Of Black Storytellers

Barbara Eady

Griots' Circle of Maryland

Carol Alexander

Keepers of the Culture

Diane Macklin

Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia

"Sparkle" Mosley

North Carolina Assn.

Dylan Pritchett, Sr.

of Black Storytellers

Rhode Island Black Storytellers

Vanora Legaux



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