

"IN THE TRADITION..."

NAABS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF BLACK STORYTELLERS



"Blackstorytelling M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S Always"

The 39th Annual National

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

November 6 &  
November 9-13, 2021

Black Storytelling Festival & Conference

Co-Founders

Mother Mary Carter Smith • Mama Linda Goss



art by marion e parham pardlo





## Co-Founders



Mother Mary Carter Smith



Mama Linda Goss

### NABS History

MAMA Linda Goss of Philadelphia, PA and beloved ancestor Mother Mary Carter Smith of Baltimore, MD are co-founders of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. They conceived the idea in 1982 to increase opportunities for African American storytellers to be heard and to expand opportunities for the rich heritage of the African American Oral tradition to be shared.

The first "In the Tradition..." Festival of Black Storytelling, held in 1983 at Morgan State University (MSU) in Baltimore, MD was co-sponsored by the MSU Social Science Department and Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Linda Jenkins Brown Chapter Basileus. A grant was received from the Maryland Humanities Council, Inc.

In 1984 the second festival was held in Philadelphia, PA where the visionary co-founders responded to the interest on the participants to celebrate and preserve the African and African American Oral Tradition. Thus, the then Association of Black Storytellers was established.

In 1990 the Association became known as the National Association of Black Storytellers, (NABS). NABS is a not for profit organization that operates under the laws of Maryland and is exempt from federal income taxation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service, 501 (C) (3) statute.

### Mission:

The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. (NABS) promotes and perpetuates the art of Black storytelling - an art form which embodies the history, heritage, and culture of African Americans. Black storytellers educate and entertain through the Oral Tradition, which depicts and documents the African-American experience. A nationally organized body with individual, affiliate and organizational memberships, NABS preserves and passes on the folklore, legends, myths, fables and mores of Africans and their descendants and ancestors - "In the Tradition..."

## Greetings From The Co-Founder

**"Remember the Ancestors! Respect the Elders! Recognize the Youth!"**  
~Mama Linda Goss

Dear Family and Friends of the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS),

**Ring-a-ling-ling! Ring-a-ling-ling! My bells of Celebration, Condolences, Community, and Communication are ringing. WELL, OH WELL, WELL! IT'S STO---RYTELLING TIME!**

**Peace and Blessings! Karibu!**

**Welcome to "In The Tradition..." 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference: BLACKSTORYTELLING MATTERS ALWAYS.**

**My Bells are Ringing for the Ancestors of African American History who made transition in 2021: Ancestor King Baba Robert (Bob) Parris Moses, Ancestor King Baba Colin Powell, Ancestor Queen Mama Gloria Richardson, and Ancestor Queen Mama Cicely Tyson.**

**My Bells are Ringing for the Ancestors of the NABS Family who made transition in 2021!** We have endured another rough year during 2021, yet we continue on. Some of our devoted members have become ancestors this year: **Ancestor Queen Mama Adella Adella the Storyteller, Ancestor King Baba Jack Burdnett, Ancestor King Baba Lamont Dixon, Ancestor Queen Mama Audrey Johnson, Ancestor Queen Mama Arthurette Martin, Ancestor Queen Mother Ruthie McIntyre, Ancestor Queen Mama Rosie Meadows, Ancestor Queen Mother Gail Parker-Murry, Ancestor Queen Mama Lawanda Denise Powell Randall, and Ancestor Queen Mama Anne Wallace.** Baba Dixon was to be one of the featured tellers this year, but he is with us in spirit. We continue to keep our members in prayer who have had loved ones make transition this year. We also pray for our members who have had to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, floods, fires, COVID-19, voter suppression, systemic racism, and other challenges and obstacles.

**My Bells are Ringing for the Elders of the NABS Family!** Praises to the NABS oldest living member **Queen Mama Edna Ruff** who is 99 years young (October 2<sup>nd</sup> was her birthday). We salute **Queen Mama Ruth Hill** age 96, scholar and wife of Dr. Hugh Morgan Hill also known as Brother Blue. We salute ALL the elders of the NABS Family!

**My Bells are Ringing for our Youth! My Bells are Ringing for ALL the Members of the NABS Family! I ring my Bells for our theme: BLACKSTORYTELLING MATTERS ALWAYS. We know what we know because of our storytelling. We know what we did because of our storytelling. We know what needs to be done because of our storytelling.** We must stay the course and continue to light the way.

**I SAY TO ALL OF YOU ASANTE SANA, ASANTE SANA, ASANTE SANA. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. ASANTE SANA TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO MAKE NABS 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE HAPPEN. THE DRUMS ARE BEATING DUM DUM DUM AND WE ARE GOING ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM. YES, WE ARE IN A VIRTUAL REALITY, BUT STORYTELLING IS A COMMUNICATIVE TOOL THAT IS AT THE ROOT OF ALL HUMAN ACTIVITY. ASANTE SANA!**

In the Service of Love and Storytelling,

Mama Linda Goss, NABS Co-Founder

2019 National Heritage Fellowship Award in African American Storytelling

from the National Endowment for the Arts,

*the Nation's highest award given to folk and traditional artists*

**"When the sun rises, it rises for everyone."**

~Namibia



## Greetings From The President

**Habari Gani and Hotep !**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Black Storytellers, our 14 affiliates, supporters, sponsors, friends, and Storytelling family, I bring you greetings as we celebrate the NABS 39th Annual and second virtual, "In the Tradition...", Festival and Conference, "Black Storytelling MATTERS Always."

In the spirit of the Ubuntu Proverb, "I am because we are, we are because I am" we understand that Black Storytelling is the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the journey we travel. Our stories of love, courage, tenacity, and injustice have shaped the narrative of 2021. During these unprecedented years, of the new Jim Crow, critical race theory, attack on voting rights, hurricanes, wildfires, and Covid-19, we understand that we are descendants of the ancestors who refuse to die. The authentic voice of Black storytelling is a part of our DNA, it's the fire of Queen Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba, and the adventure of Mansa Musa's Mecca in 1324.

The ancestors are alive as long as we remember them, they are never forgotten. Our stories will carry us through this pandemic, challenge us to redefine advocacy, and strengthen us to protect the truth, stand up for the truth and speak the truth!

The heritage of our co-founders, ancestor Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith and Mama Linda Goss created a vision 39 years ago of Black Storytelling in the oral tradition as a call to action! We look forward to our 39th Festival and conference in 2021 virtually. Remember to enjoy and embrace our time together.

I continue to reflect on the encouraging words of Arthurette Martin, "we can do this together," and I am reminded of the scripture "To whom much is given, much is required." Let's continue to pray for each other in spirit and unconditional love!

We say the names of our brothers and sisters:

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Botham Jean, John Lewis, Cicely Tyson, our storytellers Arthurette Martin, Lamont Dixon, Adella Gautier, and many others have transitioned.

Asante Sana to all of the committees, affiliates, festival director, board of directors, our executive director, event stream team, and all who have worked to bring us together one more time!

In the humble Service of Black Storytelling,

*Kwanza Brewer*

17th President

National Association of Black Storytellers





*Greetings  
From The Festival Director*

Welcome to "**Blackstorytelling M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S Always!**"

We are celebrating our the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference with tributes to NABS' past and making plans for the future to stay true to the spirit of the African oral tradition!

**Blackstorytelling M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S** because without it, we forget. We need to constantly remind ourselves of our resilience, our strengths, our music, our art, our speech...all that make us, WE! The crucial fact is that our story and stories are not only important to tell during February, Juneteenth or whatever festival we go to. Blackstorytelling M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S **ALWAYS!**

Our second virtual Festival & Conference will take on a different "twist" than when we're face-to-face. The concerts and programming is intended to shine a spotlight on NABS' beginnings and where we've been since then. A time when we marveled hearing tellers we didn't know, or weren't from our affiliates, would take the NABS stage and showed out! And after that, their storytelling style or story stuck with some for decades! We want that feeling to remind us why we need to remember, as we get motivated to keep telling in hopes of creating memories through the words we speak and stories we tell!

It is my hope that you enjoy looking back and looking forward through the discussions of Sonia Sanchez, Sharon Draper, Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertrum, Mama Linda Goss, Eleanora E. Tate, Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed, Dr. David Fakunle and Teri Burnette. The wisdom and the knowledge they will share is invaluable in taking Blackstorytelling to the next level. Also, the Village Tellin' tellers and the "Hambone" tellers will plainly show a true Sankofa moment that we want to cherish and celebrate.

**Blackstorytelling M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S Always!** is not just the theme for this year's Festival & Conference.... It is why we do what we do.

"In The Tradition..."

*Dylan Pritchett*

2021 NABS Festival Director



*Greetings  
From The Executive Director*

Greetings and Welcome

39<sup>th</sup> National Black Storytelling  
Festival and Conference

Our Second Virtual Festival

In honor of our elders and in memory of our ancestors, we greet you in the name of "the Called Out Ones," those with unseen hands and outstretched arms who have safely brought us to this place in time.

We welcome you to celebrate with us as we continue to remember who and whose we are. BlackStorytelling has given us power. Power to love, power to forgive, power to decide, power to grow, power to heal, power to overcome and power to believe again. We are grateful to you our devoted and faithful followers who join each year with keenness and zeal for BlackStorytelling. We are standing on the shoulders of our ancestors while recognizing the incomparable commitments and momentous accomplishments of our NABS past and present Board of Directors that have brought us this far! "In the Tradition..."

ASANTA SANA!! Enjoy time with our NABS Family!!  
Peace and Blessings,

*Vanora*

Vanora Franklin Legaux  
Executive Director



## Featured Tellers



*Sarai Abdul-Malik*

Sarai Ruth is a singer-songwriter, poet and storyteller. She is passionate about bringing joy and inspiration to youth through story and song. Sarai is a Life member of National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) with which she had her debut storytelling performance at 7 years of age. Sarai and her husband reside in the Gambia with their three children.

*Masankho Banda*

Masankho K. Banda learned the fine arts of storytelling and dance from his elders. In their company, he spent many long days and nights listening to stories and dancing. Currently Masankho divides his time between Oakland, CA and Lilongwe, Malawi. Masankho continues to share his stories with audiences of all ages around the world.



*Mara Menzies*

Mara Menzies is a performance storyteller who draws on her rich dual Kenyan/Scottish cultural heritage, creating worlds that explore contemporary issues through myth and fantasy. With her own vision of the beauty, history and aspirations of people of African heritage, she fuses ancient and modern in an intoxicating experience.



## Featured Tellers

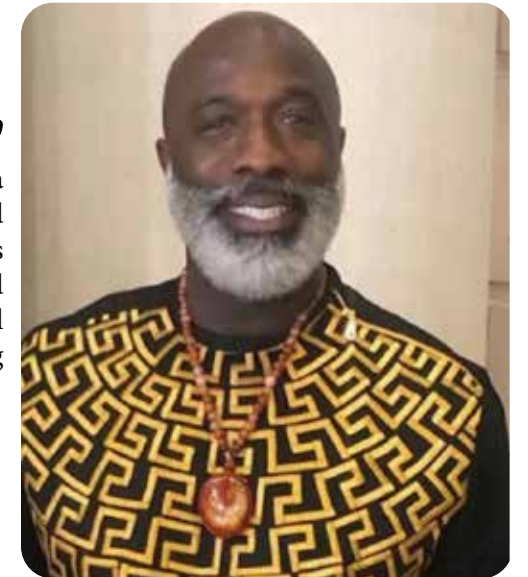


*Temujin Okunfeo*

Temujin Ekunféo, a 'Babalosha' or priest, is a nationally known storyteller. A Pittsburgh resident, he has performed throughout the country since 1968. Temujin feels a strong commitment to researching African Folklore from the Americas as well as from the continent of Africa, and he shares it by means of family oriented, audience-participatory storytelling programs and experiential "Playshops" for youths and adults. All of this is done in the ancient tradition of the "Itinerant African Bard" hailing crowds with his talking drum.

*Kala Jojo*

Kala Jojo is a folklorist, self-styled musician, storyteller and touring artist. Kala Jojo brings a lifetime of training and experience to every community event and school residency he encounters. Kala is extremely proficient at connecting his story-art format with school curricula. Kala holds a Bachelors of Arts degree and his background includes, community work, African drumming classes, cultural productions, Rites of Passage programs for boys 6 to 14 years old, Storytelling workshops and on-going collaborations with educators and artist.



*Fred Johnson*

Fred Johnson was born in Morristown, New Jersey and has spent the last 50 years sharing the great tradition of vocal jazz interpretation and improvisation with audiences throughout the world. He has performed and recorded with as well as opened for some of the greatest of America's Jazz and R&B Icons, Joe Williams, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Chick Corea, Cedar Walton, Ramsey Lewis, Joe Zawinul, Aretha Franklin, George Benson, Richard Elliot, Patti LaBelle, just to name a few. He is rooted in the ancient vocal practices of melodic narrative and has been nurtured by masters of the West African oral traditions.





## Featured Tellers



### Tejumola Ologboni

Tejumola Ologboni (Teju) is a Storyteller, Folklorist, and oral historian. Born in Salina, Kansas, Teju moved with his family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin when he was 11 years old. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Madison in Art and Education and was awarded a Federal Foreign Language Graduate Fellowship to study African Language at Indiana University - Bloomington. As an educator, he taught African Literature, African American Literature, Creative Writing, and English in the Africology Department at University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Marquette University and at Dominican College in Racine, Wisconsin. Teju comes from a long family tradition of storytellers. His mother and father, his grandmothers, one grandfather-and a great grandfather were storytellers!

## Workshop Presenters

### Sonia Sanchez

Sonia Sanchez is a Poet, Mother, Professor, Activist, Scholar and so much more to our culture and oral tradition! One of the most important writers of the Black Arts Movement, Sanchez is the author of sixteen books. Sister Sanchez was the Laura Carnell Professor of English and Women's Studies at Temple University, recipient of both the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry, Langston Hughes Poetry Award and dozens more awards for her genius artfrom. Most recently, she was awarded The Dorothy & Lillian Gish Prize is given annually to an individual who has "made an outstanding contribution to the beauty of the world and to mankind's enjoyment and understanding of life." NABS congratulates Sonia in this and all of her contributions to the African oral tradition!



### Sharon Draper

Sharon M. Draper is a professional educator as well as an accomplished writer. She has been honored as the National Teacher of the Year, is a three-time winner of the Coretta Scot King Literary Award, and is a New York Times bestselling author. She was selected as Ohio's Outstanding High School Language Arts Educator, Ohio Teacher of the Year, and was chosen as a NCNW Excellence in Teaching Award winner. She received the Excellence in Education Award, is a Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award winner, and was the Duncanson Artist-in-Residence for the Taft Museum. She is a YWCA Career Woman of Achievement, and is the recipient of the Dean's Award from Howard University School of Education, the Pepperdine University Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Marva Collins Education Excellence Award, and the Governor's Educational Leadership Award.



## Workshop Presenters

### Dr. Peggy Brook-Bertram



Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram, the creator and editor of Dear Kamala: Women Write to the New Vice President is a native of Baltimore, MD and current resident of Buffalo, New York. In addition to Dear Kamala: Women Write to the New Vice President Dr. Brooks-Bertram is an author of many journal articles, books, and other manuscripts. Publications include: "Drusilla Dunjee Houston: Racial Matriarch and 'Unmuzzled Mouthpiece in the American West" and she has served as an Author and Editor for Letters to the Superintendent, A Community Responds and she is the co-editor of, Go, Tell Michelle, African American Women Write to the New First Lady," 2008.

She is a graduate of Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, and received a Master's and Doctorate from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health and she also completed a second doctorate in American Studies from the University at Buffalo.

### Mama Linda Goss

Mama Linda Goss is a storyteller who uses the medium to inspire people to respond to inequity in the world, and to share a vision for hope, freedom, healing, and justice. Her stories are in the tradition of her African and African American ancestors. Her repertoire is vast, with stories ranging from those passed down to her by family members, to oral histories, folktales from African American oral traditions, and original pieces. She is an agent for social change and her art encourages all people to acknowledge, know, and express their own stories. Linda was named the Official Storyteller of Philadelphia by this city's mayor. She is the author of six books, including Talk That Talk, Jump Up and Say, The Frog Who Wanted to be a Singer, and Sayin' Somethin'. Mama Linda was named a 2019 NEA National Heritage Fellow. The NEA National Heritage Award is the nation's highest honor in folk and traditional arts. Among many of her accomplishments, she is known for her pathbreaking work, which includes co-founding (with Mother Mary Carter Smith) the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.!



### Teri Burnette



Teri Burnette is an independent filmmaker, and very recently has joined the faculty of Sallie B. Howard School of Arts and Science (Wilson, NC) as their Digital Media Teacher. Formally, she served as professor and Department Chair at Paine College in Augusta, GA. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications from St. Augustine's (College) University in Raleigh, NC (2000), and her Master of Fine Arts in Film Production from Howard University, Washington, DC.

As a student filmmaker at Howard U., Burnette was awarded the prestigious Paul Robeson Award for Best Film Direction, and Best Cinematography for her student thesis (animated) film "Gloomy Gyr." This original film was shown at nine film festivals, including internationally, at the Fespeco Film Festival in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Her third film, "Honey Boy," ~ a story that was told by world-renowned Storyteller (the late) Jackie Torrence. A proud member of the North Carolina Association of Black Storyteller, Inc., she serves as their photographer and videographer.



## Workshop Presenters



*Eleanora E. Tate*

Eleanora E. Tate, a former newspaper reporter and a professional writer for over 50 years, is the author of twelve children's books, and numerous short stories and essays. Her book *Just an Overnight Guest* became an award-winning television film. She taught children's literature at North Carolina Central University and in Hamlin University's Masters degree-seeking literature program. She was the second national President of The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. and a 1999 Zora Neale Hurston Award recipient.

*Dr. David Fakunle*

David Olawuyi Fakunle, Ph.D. is a self-described "mercenary for change," willing to employ any talent and occupy any space in the effort to elevate people of African descent. David earned a B.A. in Psychology and Criminology & Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland, College Park before earning a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. As an artist, David has utilized vocal and theater performance, African storytelling and African drumming. He has performed with companies such as the Sankofa Dance Theater, the Washington Revels' Jubilee Voices and WombWork Productions, among others. His affiliations include The National Great Blacks In Wax Museum, the National Association of Black Storytellers and the Griots' Circle of Maryland. David is the co-founder and CEO of DiscoverME/ RecoverME, an organization that utilizes the African oral tradition to encourages the claiming of one's narrative for personal and organizational growth.



*Dr. Caroliese Frink-Reed*

Sister Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed is a Life Member and Founding Member of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. Dr. Reed has served as Chair of the Education Committee, Editor of the Blog and along with Past President Eleanora Tate co-authored the first edition of Festival Guidelines for the "In the Tradition..." Festival. She has been actively involved with Festival programming since 1995, serving as a member or Chair of the Program/Selection Committee for Tellers, Workshop Presenters and/or Scholars and designing or contributing to the structure and aesthetic of the Festival.

Dr. Reed has a Masters in Library and Information Science from Drexel University and a Masters and Doctorate in African American Studies from Temple University. She has studied at the University of Ghana in Accra and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia



## Special Presenters



*Paul Best*

A native of Gary, Indiana, Paul D. Best, aka "Our Sun Paul" inherited the gift of Black Storytelling from his late father Calvin T. Best. Paul's stories bring all generations together to laugh, reminisce, and work together. He serves as the President of Keepers of the Culture, Inc. in Philadelphia.

*Victoria Burnett*

This talented and versatile storyteller, singer, performer has toured extensively in the United States, Europe, Africa, South/Central America, Korea, New Zealand and Australia. She blends her skills as a educator, librarian, singer and performer to become what she refers to as a "Story Musicologist". Victoria is a national and internationally recognized Master Storyteller/Vocalist. She currently resides in southern California, however was born in Washington D.C.



*Bunjo Butler*

Bunjo Butler is a Storyteller, Educator, Workshop Facilitator and Retired Librarian, who has been active in the storytelling world and a member of the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) for over 30 years. Telling in the African Oral Tradition, his repertoire includes variations and improvisations on the universal truths found in the myths, stories, games, proverbs, riddles, and songs of the African diaspora as well as those of his own creation. As is always the case, he brings you greetings from "The Center of the Universe."





## Special Presenters

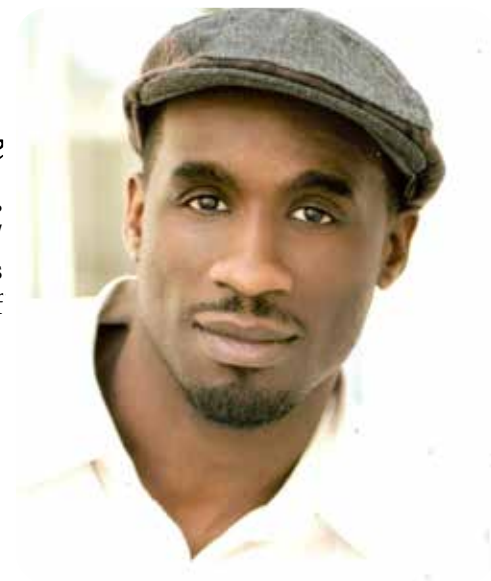


### *Gladys Caine-Coggsell*

I am a storyteller who has worked with people for many years to help them see the best in themselves. I have watched them evolve from seeing themselves as hopeless to seeing themselves as vibrant, progressive human beings. I have witnessed the miraculous power of storytelling to be a healer and a teacher.

### *John E. Doyle*

John E. Doyle Jr. is a storyteller, actor, and teaching artist who resides in Atlanta, GA. Through his company, Arts Education Integration Agency, he has written/performed in many one man shows that tour in schools, community organizations including being the past featured resident storyteller at the High Museum of Atlanta.



### *Len Cabral*

Len Cabral is a internationally acclaimed storyteller who has been enchanting audiences with his storytelling performances at schools, libraries, museums and festivals since 1976. A great grandson of a Cape Verdean whaler whose grandparents immigrated to America from the islands off the coast of West Africa. Len's strong Cape Verdean ancestry comes alive in his exuberant retelling of African, Cape Verdean, and Caribbean folktales as well as original stories and tales from around the world. Len is a popular storyteller at theaters, schools and festivals throughout the United States and has performed at festivals in Ireland, Belgium, Austria, Holland and Canada.



## Special Presenters



### *Renee Emanuel*

Renee is a gifted storyteller whose folktales and tall tales have captivated audiences for decades. Animated and witty, she, 'the conductor,' takes you on a journey to places seen, unseen, and everything in between. You are in for a treat!

### *Evette Evans*

Evette Evans is an author, poet, and weaver of dreams. Her love of storytelling was inspired by her grandmother, spinning improbable yarns of her childhood and recounting family narratives of bravery, determination and perseverance. Evette's captivating tales and mischievous characters have been joyfully received by audiences of all ages. Her stories dance with humor, crackle with mystery, and tug at the strings of the heart.



### *Juone Kadiri*

Juone Kadiri, PhD, grew up hearing stories through the books that her mother shared with she and her siblings. She began performing at a young age, performing bible stories and singin. Juone Kadiri pursued her Ph.D. in African Studies from Howard University. Juone is using storytelling as an educational tool to create an environment to discuss the tough issues related to identity, history and oppression.





## Special Presenters



*Beverly Lloyd*

"THINK OUT OF THE BOX" is the mantra of storyteller Beverly Lloyd, (aka Mama Awan). She weaves Anansi stories into your heart with dialect, humor! Beverly is an English teacher, CEO of a literacy non-profit entitled Pass It On MAAT, a veteran CABS and NABS member and currently serving as Executive Board Secretary of the Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers and Co Project Manager of a CABS video launch entitled, "Black Lives Matter: Seize the Time."

*Dhamana Shauri*

Dhamana Shauri enjoys crafting stories about real people and everyday life. Her work as both a teacher and social worker inspires stories that celebrate the resilience of the human spirit. Her goal is for the listener to feel as though they are watching the story, as well as listening to it. Dhamana strives to educate, entertain and inspire.



*Atiba Wilson*

Atiba Kwabena Wilson is a Djali (musician, poet and storyteller). His repertoire focuses on the utilization of traditional Afrikan cultural concepts in contemporary Afrikan diasporic settings that have developed in the U.S.A. and other regions of the western hemisphere.



## Special Presenters



*Mitch Capel "Gran'daddy Junebug"*

Mitch Capel / "Granddaddy Junebug" is a master storyteller, recording artist, published author and poet. He is mesmerizing as he brings stories to life, while plucking the string with just the touch the human heart craves. He has been described as a "word magician", a "national treasure", "unexpectedly powerful" and a "transformer of lives." Mitch first began writing and performing skits at the age of 12 and has over 35 hours of stories stored to memory. He has been featured at numerous schools, libraries, museums and festivals since 1985 including DuSable in Chicago; The Kennedy Center in DC; The National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN; the Smithsonian's 2009 Folklife Festival on the National Mall and the Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama. He has been the Artist-In-Residence at the International Storytelling Center and has received accolades and awards from local, state and national organizations for his work with youth.

*Nothando Zulu*

Nothando Zulu is a master storyteller who has been sharing stories with audiences since 1976. She has entertained, motivated and inspired thousands with her lively and unique storytelling style. Nothando's skill and technique as a storyteller becomes a Master class in storytelling as she artfully weaves a story that creates a bond with the audience. She draws from an extensive resource of colorful, funny characters from African and African American folklore, whose antics and pranks leave audiences pondering their own life's lessons. She is the President and Director of Black Storytellers Alliance in Minneapolis, MN. Nothando and her husband, Vusumusi, with the help of their Board of Directors has produced a three-day storytelling festival "Signifyin' & Testifyin'" for the past 31 years. Listen closely as she tells stories from the gone days and the now days, stories of family and friends, of small towns and community and Ms. Choomby... what? You don't know Ms. Choomby? You better ask Nothando!



## Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award

*Candece Tarpley*

Candece is of the Sissipahaw, Tuscarora and Tsalagi Nations. She is an actress, poet-playwright, storyteller, puppeteer, educator and world champion dancer. As an actress she is a member of the Screen Actors Guild/ The American Federation for Television and Radio Arts. Candece has appeared in many feature films (Ganja & Hess, It Could Happen to You, The Siege) awards shows (MTV, Essence, Daytime Emmys, Black Girls Rock, VH1) and television shows (Elementary, One Life to Live, As the World Turns). She performed in the play "Flight" at La Mama with artists from the Buryat National Theatre of Siberia and The Yara Arts Group. Also as Anna in "The Hidden Seed" about the Lunappe Indians in the 1600's in their territory of Pennsylvania. She has participated in many Powwows (Native American Festivals) through crafts, singing, dancing and is a World Champion Dancer.





## Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award

### Nashid Elimu Furaha-Ali



Nashid Elimu Furaha-Ali has served as KOTC'S President; Vice President; and Spiritual Caretaker. He is currently KOTC Treasurer. Starting with past president Linda Brown (RIP) through Dylan Pritchett, Nashid helped as a Board Director. During the 25th (Atlanta, GA); 33rd (Washington, DC); and 34th (Philadelphia, Pa) conferences festivals, Nashid directed excellent NABS volunteer committee run market places.

As a hand craft metal jewelry artist, Nashid also tells stories. In 2015, upon request of the incoming NABS President Karen Abdul Malik ("Queen Nur"), Nashid crafted the NABS Cow Tail Switch (Honor, Respect, Wiseness, and Remembrance) acronym and logo now adorning the NABS President's Executive Cow Tail Switch.

### Paris W. Greene



Paris W. Greene transitioned from Story Listener, to Story Lover, to Storyteller because of his affiliation with the Griots' Circle of Maryland, Inc. After telling at the NABS Festival, Village Telling in Montgomery, AL., he became hooked.

Using vocal and accounting training received at North Carolina Central University, Paris is both lead baritone in the choir and four term Men's Club Treasurer at New All Saints Catholic Church. For his dedication Paris received the Mother Lange Award twice for Leadership and Service, respectively. As a man of God, Paris lives by 2 Timothy 2:3, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."

### Diane Williams



Diane Williams calls herself a "narratologist." She is a professional performing artist/storyteller, teaching artist, author, poet and mixed-media fiber artist whose tapestries often tells stories. She is former board chair for the National Storytelling Network and former board member and Life Member of the National Association of Black Storytellers. She is a recipient of the Zora Neale Hurston Award and the Oracle Award for Regional Leadership and Service in Storytelling. Three of the books she either authored or edited have won Storytelling World Awards. Her writings are included in anthologies and literary journals, and her fiber art has been included on the cover of literary journals. Diane is currently on the Mississippi Humanities Council's Speakers Bureau. She is also a member of the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild, and her artwork has been exhibited and lives in the collections of museums.

### Ivory Williams



As a Storyteller, Ivory interweaves his stories with humor, wit and fun to engage audiences and spread positive messages. Promoting and perpetuating the ancient art of African and African American storytelling in the oral tradition. His presentations are highly interactive, entertaining and educational. Ivory is an engaging speaker, skilled at connecting with all audiences: Youth (K-12 and College), educators, business/community leaders, parents and adults. He also delivers professional development/Leadership workshops and tailored presentations for numerous corporate businesses, community organizations, churches, schools as well as special events. Ivory is a past president of the Detroit Association of Black Storytellers.

## Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award

### Afua Rashid



Afua Rashid is 15 years old and has been homeschooled all of her life. She likes to sing and create stories. Afua plans to own a restaurant and become a robotics engineer. She has been a member of the ASE Youth Ensemble since she was 6 or 7 years old. She enjoys creating her own stories to share with the community.

Afua is a member of the Indigo Nation Homeschool Association and participates in the Girls 4 Science Program (where she won a scholarship to NASA's Space Camp), a member of The Chicago Children's Choir Presto Choir and, in the Summer 2021, had her first solo performance, co-wrote a song with fellow Presto Choir members, and was featured in a music video that they created. In 2021 Afua won a chance to participate in the Girls Who Code Summer Program where she presented a project that involved coding and building a website that explains and informs citizens about the effects of climate change.

### Ari Lansana



Ari Lansana is seventeen years old and attends Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. He has won medals for power lifting and snowshoeing in the citywide Special Olympics competition. He is active in the Keen and Red Kite performance programs. He loves to paint and play with stickers. He wants to be an artist. He has been an active participant with ASE for many years. He has autism and is gifted with communicating in his own way! Ari is a 2021 NABS Youth Teller.

### Ifeni Akinbusuyi



Ifeni is an excellent storyteller at the age of nine. She often performances with her sister Layla. She started telling at age 4. She loves playing the cello, reading, drawing and crafting with her sisters. She also likes playing roblox with her sisters and friends. Ifeni is a 2021 NABS Festival Youth Teller.

### Layla Akinbusuyi



Layla is fourteen and loves playing the piano, reading science fiction books, playing video games with her sisters and friends. She also writes short stories and she's in the process of learning computer animation. Layla is a 2021 NABS Festival Youth Teller.



## Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award



### Naomi Reid

Naomi Reid is a youth storyteller and a thirteen-year-old author. She is a member of both the Griots' Circle of Maryland and the National Association of Black Storytellers. She has served as a student in the Growing Griots Literacy Learning and as a youth docent for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum Motor Coach Tour in Summer 2020. Naomi is a homeschooled student and voracious reader who enjoys Fashion and Costume Design and plans to pursue an education in Mechanical Engineering and Design. Naomi is a 2021 NABS Festival Youth Teller.



### Xavier Reid

Xavier Reid is a youth storyteller, who is a member of both the Griots' Circle of Maryland and the National Association of Black Storytellers. He has completed training and has been a docent at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum since 2020, he has also served as co-producer of The Kwame Ture Traveling Exhibit Mixtape (2019). Xavier performed at the 2020 NABS Virtual Conference during the youth concert where he performed an historical interpretation of Kwame Ture and has performed several times for Artist Standing Strong Together Storytelling Concerts. Xavier is homeschooled student preparing to serve the world community as a physician and in addition to his love of reading he also enjoys video gaming, martial arts and cycling. Xavier is a 2021 NABS Festival Youth Teller.



### Alexander Reid

Alexander Reid is a twelve-year-old, seventh grader, a member of both the Griots' Circle of Maryland and the National Association of Black Storytellers, has been a student in the Growing Griots Literacy Learning, GGLLP, program for three (3) years. He is also a co-producer of The Kwame Ture Traveling Exhibit Mixtape (2019). Alex is an avid reader who also enjoys testing new technologies, cooking and music. He is homeschooled and enjoys his job as a Youth Trauma Ambassador. Alexander is a 2021 NABS Festival Youth Teller.



### Khalilah Muhammed

Khalilah Muhammad lives in Chicago, IL. She is 14 years old and enjoys drawing and spending time with her family. She has been playing cello for nearly 11 years. Khalilah has been a part of the ASE youth ensemble for nearly 9 years now. Khalilah was honored when she received the Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award 2018 in Cary, North Carolina. Khalilah is a 2021 NABS Festival Youth Teller.

## Youth Tellers



### Rebekah Garcia

Rebekah Garcia has been a member of the Zula B. Wylie Youth Tellers for three years. She loves to read and tell stories. Rebekah is currently in the 7th grade and Theatre is one of her favorite classes. She aspires to be a zoologist and become a librarian when she retires. Rebekah enjoys going to the lake in the summertime and spending time with her family.

Rebekah thinks storytelling is special because it brings others into the world of imagination and creativity. It also helps the storyteller become a better speaker and more social.



### Melahni Ibokette

Melahni Ibokette lives in Columbus, Ohio where she is a Senior at Linden-McKinley 7-12 Stem Academy. She has been a member of the Village Watoto Storytellers since 2014. Melahni plays baritone in the marching band, sings with the middle and high school choir and was a soloist at the 2019 welcoming reception for the Columbus City School's new superintendent. She also performed at the Martin Luther King Jr. 2020 Award Dinner sponsored by the Columbus Education Association. She received the Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award in 2020.



### Madison Jackson

Madison is a nine-year-old from Marietta, Georgia who wants to be an actress. Her storytelling interest started five years ago when she told the poem "Harriet Tubman" at a Black History event. Madison has since told stories to her classmates, Mama Tales, and at a NABS festival where she won second in the Jackie Torrence Tall Tales Contest as well as receiving the Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award. Internationally, she has told virtually for Tiny Ticklers in India.



### Keren Lee

Keren is an eighth grader in middle school. She's also is captain of the school's dance team and a cheerleader. Her favorite class is Social Studies because likes learning about other cultures and societies. She enjoys telling stories to little kids and seniors at nursing homes.



## Youth Tellers



*Brooks Lansana*

Brooks Lansana is 15 years old and is an active member of the ASE youth ensemble. He has attended NABS regularly since he was 8 years old and is a recipient of the Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award. Brooks has participated in game design classes and is interested in developing games in the future. He also enjoys reading and writing poetry and is a member of the award-winning Rebirth Poetry Ensemble. His full name is Robeson Brooks Lansana.



*Saniyah McGrew*

Saniyah Geordai McGrew is a 12-year-old National Storyteller from Cedar Hill, Tx. She was introduced to storytelling as a baby, from a relative in her hometown, Alexandria, La. She became a youth teller at Zula B. Wylie Library at the age of 6 and has continued to enhance her skills daily. In 2019, she became a member of the National Association of Black Storytellers. Saniyah was chosen as one of the 2020 Timpanogos National Youth Storytellers.



*Clayton Mayfield*

Storytelling comes naturally for Clayton Mayfield. This 10-year-old young teller was born into a family of storytellers with his grandparents and cousin all accomplished in telling stories. His main inspiration is his "Mama Anne" or Anne Wallace. Some of Clayton's favorite venues have been telling "Father Goose: Just the guys telling stories" at the Fayette Senior Center, the Peachtree City Dragon Boat Races, Earth Day Stories and virtually for the NABS in 2020. Just recently, Clayton told internationally for the Tiny Ticklers in India as well as locally for the Fayette County Historical Society. His other interests are playing piano, baking, playing golf and Lacrosse.



*Jerrell Allen-Smith*

Jerrell Allen-Smith is a 10-year old storyteller from Atlanta, Georgia. In his four years of telling stories, he has performed at Easter Seal Festival, Mama Tales program, Black History program, "Father Goose Brigade", which is a venue of men telling stories to children, and won third place in the Tall Tale contest at the National Black Storyteller's Festival. He loves video games. He wants to be a chef. For now, he specializes in hamburgers, hot dogs and pancakes. He enjoys drawing, writing stories and telling stories.

## Linda Jenkins Brown Nia Award For Service



*Jimmy and Tonja Caldwell*

**"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve..."**

*~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

We believe in and support NABS mission to promote and perpetuate the art of Black storytelling. We feel that as we serve the **NABS Family** we are serving the most important influencers in our world and nation. As Brother Dylan Pritchett says, **If Black Storytellers don't tell it, it won't get told.** Since 2009, it has been a blessing to serve Mama Linda Goss (who we consider a **National Treasure**), NABS, and NABS' affiliates.

We have been volunteering for over 25 years serving organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi, United Way, Tuskegee University, and numerous other faith-based and nonprofit organizations. We are strong advocates of volunteering and serving.

Jimmy teaches a Tai Chi Health & Wellness program at Tuskegee University helping students and faculty cope with stress and anxiety. Tonja works with Mama Linda as her administrative assistant, helping her produce the monthly Co-Founder Message. Tonja also works with Dr. Stephanie Davenport, NABS treasurer.

Jimmy and Tonja are co-owners of Caldwell Leadership Solutions LLC where they work with small businesses and nonprofit organizations around the nation. We are honored and grateful to be a recipient of the **Linda Jenkins Brown Nia Award For Service for 2021**. We want to serve NABS and its mission with the same level of excellence, discipline, love, dedication, and commitment that **Sister Linda Jenkins Brown** served with. We can hear the bells of love, joy, service, and peace ringing.

*Eslyn G. Hinmon*

Eslyn G. Hinmon, "G" for Gail, is a native Baltimorean. As a young teenager, Eslyn had the privilege of meeting Mama Mary Carter Smith at a storytelling presentation. This began Eslyn's interest in storytelling. Later in life Eslyn attended the first Black storytelling event held on the campus of then Morgan State College now University. It was there she was able to purchase an autographed copy of Mama Mary's book "Heart To Heart". Eslyn was again in Mama Mary's presence when she became a member of the Griots' Circle of Maryland Inc. She worked along with Fellisco Keeling on pre-registration and later assisted with her first on-site registration at the NABS Festival in Orlando, Florida. It was there that Tejumola Ologboni told a true story about being received in the Mother Land as a son. It was that story that began Eslyn's on going process of healing from the enslavement of our ancestors.

Eslyn is a life member and Past President of the Griots' Circle of Maryland, Inc. As a result of her storytelling style and her love of people and the organization, others began calling her "Mama Delicious", "Mama Joyful" and "Mama Love" even though her actual storytelling name is "Mama Delight". Her performances have delighted audiences at libraries, museums, and community events. She has shared stories on the radio program titled "Griot for the Young and the Young At Heart" hosted by Mama Mary. Eslyn delights in sharing tribute to Mother Mary Carter Smith. She enjoys being a mentor in the Growing Griots' Literacy Learning Program. Eslyn was presented the Mother Mary Carter Smith Legacy Award by the Griots' Circle of Maryland in 2017.

Eslyn is a life member of the National Association of Black Storytellers and a recipient of the Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award. She is responsible for pre and on-site festival registration is the Administrative Assistant to NABS Executive Director, Vanora Legaux. She is very humble at being selected to receive the Linda Jenkins Brown Nia Award for Service.





Zora Neale Hurston Award

Vanora Franklin Legaux

Vanora Franklin Legaux, Gold Life member of the National Association Black Storytellers Inc.(NABS), has served in various capacities since joining the organization in 1998 including Secretary, Festival Director, Public Relations Chair, Newsletter Editor, President-Elect, the 11th President of the organization, and is presently Executive Director. Her storytelling memberships include Louisiana and Mississippi Black Storytellers (LAMBS), Black Storytelling Alliance, Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Griots' Circle of Maryland, Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia, Inc. Tejas Storytelling Association, National Storytelling Network, Network of Biblical Storytellers, Int'l and is the Founder of the Stronger Hope Biblical Storytelling Guild. She was featured teller at the Network of Biblical Storytellers Festival Gathering 2014 near Asheville, NC, and was one of eight Tellers representing NABS who performed for PANAFEST 2015 in Cape Coast, Elmina, Accra, Ghana.

Vanora worked as an artist-in-residence in Jefferson Parish Public School System through Special Programs, and Very Special Arts for 11 years, performed with the Ethiopian Theatre, Westbank Centerstage Productions, Inc. and served on Faculty of Institute of Cultural Education, Ashe' Cultural Arts Center.

Vanora served on the Faculty of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education 10 years, was first Dean of the Ideal Association Congress of Christian Education, and was part of the Christian Educators team who worked on the Caribbean Island of Dominica West Indies. She is a member of ASALH the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the National Association of African American studies, a Life Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and a member of Upsilon Mu Zeta Chapter in LaPlace, La.

Vanora F Legaux is a retired teacher and counselor who serviced the New Orleans School District for 33 years. She is the mother of 4, Sarita, Sean, Tinishia, and Charlotte; Grandmother of Sean Jr.. Asia, Sekou and Khareem.

Storytelling has always been a part of my life. As a child growing up in North Baton Rouge Louisiana, many family members were storytellers. My great grandfather, Frank Stevenson of Port Hudson, Louisiana was the first teacher in our family and often told us stories when we visited. His 10 children were storytellers who could and would share stories at the drop of a hat. They told stories about family history, Port Hudson before and after the Civil War, biblical stories and often created their own stories.

Among Vanora's personal favorite works are: *The Autobiography of Della Foster-One Step at a Time* (a true story drawn from the life of her grandmother who lived to be 107 years old); *Evelyn Teasing Tan & Big Sis*, and lastly, *For Sisters Whose Month Outlast Their Money*.

The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.  
39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference

Our **SECOND Virtual Festival & Conference!**  
“**Blackstorytelling M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S Always!**”

Schedule of Events  
(Subject to Change)

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021**  
**YOUTH CONCERT!**  
**2:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

2:00 pm **WELCOME**  
**YOUTH CO-DIRECTORS: Elisha Minter & Keesha Dixon**  
**LIBATION**  
**BABA JAMAL KORAM HARAMBEE YOUTH AWARD**  
**YOUTH CONCERT**  
4:00 pm **ADJOURN**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021**  
**(MEMBERS ONLY)**

7:00 pm – 7:10 pm **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - President Kwanza Brewer**  
**Greetings from Co-Founder Mama Linda Goss &**  
**President-Elect Dr. David Fakunle**  
7:10 pm – 7:15 pm **LIBATION**  
7:15 PM – 7:20 PM **Moment Of Silence For Transitioned Members**  
7:20 pm – 9:00 pm **Membership Meeting**  
9:00 pm **Announcements/Adjourn**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

3:00 pm – 3:15 pm **GREETINGS - Mama Linda Goss & President Kwanza Brewer**  
**LIBATION**  
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm **AKWABAA GATHERING! Welcoming NABS New Members and**  
**First Timers! - Membership Chair, Sylvia Yancy Davis**  
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm **AWARDS**  
**\* Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award**  
**\* Linda Jenkins Brown Nia Award**



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021

- 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm **KUUMBA BLACKSTORYTELLING: “Creating The Words”**  
*Sonia Sanchez & Sharon Draper will share with us their years of wisdom in creating and writing within their craft AND share with us how current social issues impacts their art!*
- 7:00 pm – 7:05 pm **WELCOME! Mama Linda Goss & President Kwanza Brewer**
- 7:05 pm – 9:15 pm **VILLAGE TELLIN’** (With a NEW Twist!)
- 9:15 pm – 9:30 pm **Mother Mary Carter Smith Love Circle**

**KARAMU KORNER!**  
9:30 pm – 12 midnight

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

- 1:00 pm – 1:10 pm **Welcome, NABS Mission & Introduction**
- 1:10 pm – 2:00 pm **FROM ABS to NABS: HOW WE GOT HERE!**  
A Roundtable Discussion of NABS’ beginnings presented by  
Mama Linda Goss, Eleanora E. Tate & Dr. Caroliese Frink-Reed
- 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm **UJIMA BLACKSTORYTELLING: Author’s Presentation**  
**“The Power of Research In Black Women’s Writin’!”**  
*Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram delivers a presentation to highlight the importance and necessity of research to enhance your writing and story!*
- 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm **STORY SWAP**  
**“TRADITIONS OF JALIYAA” CONCERT**
- 7:00 pm – 7:05 pm **WELCOME - Mama Linda Goss & President Kwanza Brewer**
- 7:05 pm – 9:15 pm **“TRADITIONS OF JALIYAA” CONCERT**  
*Sarai Abdul-Malik, Masankho Band & Mara Menzies*

**KARAMU KORNER!**  
9:30 pm – 12 midnight

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

- 1:00 pm – 1:10 pm **GREETINGS**
- 1:10 pm – 2:45 pm **NIA BLACKSTORYTELLING: Rethinking & Reshaping Opportunities**  
Presenters: *Dr. David Fakunle, Teri Burnett*  
*A discussion of future thinking of storytelling beyond the stage!*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

- 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm **HAMBONE, HAMBONE, WHERE YOU BEEN?**  
*NABS Members taking the NABS stage for the first time!*  
*Paul Best, John Doyle, Renee Emanuel, Evette Evans, Juone Kadiri, Beverly Lloyd & Dhamana Shauri*
- 7:00 pm – 7:05 pm **WELCOME**
- 7:05 pm – 9:00 pm **SANKOFA....”I Heard That Befo’!”**  
*Past NABS Tellers Whose Story Wanted To Be Heard Again!*  
*Victoria Burnett, “Bunjo” Butler, Gladys Coggsell, Len Cabral, Atiba Wilson & Nothando Zulu*
- 9:00 pm – 9:30 pm **STORY SWAP**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021

- 1:00 pm – 1:05 pm **Greetings**
- 1:05 pm – 1:30 pm **Tall Tale PAST Winners**
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm **JACKIE TORRENCE TALL TALES CONTEST!!**
- 3:00 pm – 4 :00 pm **STORY SWAP**
- 7:00 pm – 7:05 pm **WELCOME - Mama Linda Goss & President Kwanza Brewer**
- 7:05 pm – 7:20 pm **ZORA NEALE HURSTON AWARD**
- 7:05 pm – 9:00 pm **”ROUND DE WORLD AN’ BACK A’GIN!” CONCERT**  
*Storytellers We’ve Been Missing...Return!!*  
*Temujin Ekunfeo, Fred Johnson, Tejumola Ologboni & Kala Jojo*
- 9:00 pm – 9:10 pm **MAMA LINDA GOSS CLOSING UNITY CIRCLE**





**Patrons**

**Mother Mary Carter Smith \$40**

*Charlotte Starks, NSOUL*  
*Vanora Franklin Legaux*  
*Jane Crouse*  
*Thomas Southern*  
*Eslyn G. Hinmon*

**Mama Linda Goss \$25**

*Charlotte Starks, NSOUL*  
*Vanora Franklin Legaux*  
*Jane Crouse*  
*Thomas Southern*  
*Kay L. Merrill, NABS Board Member*

**Patrons**

**Linda Jenkins Brown \$15**

*Charlotte Starks, NSOUL*  
*Vanora Franklin Legaux*  
*Jane Crouse*  
*Thomas Southern*  
*Eslyn G. Hinmon*

**Brother Blue \$10**

*Charlotte Starks, NSOUL*  
*Vanora Franklin Legaux*  
*Jane Crouse*  
*Thomas Southern*  
*Eslyn G. Hinmon*  
*Kay L. Merrill, NABS Board Member*

*2021 Festival and Conference Committees*

Dylan Pritchett, Festival Director

*Program Committee*

Keesha Dixon  
Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed  
Dylan Pritchett

*Festival Roundtable*

Denise Chapman-Acosta  
Kwanza Brewer  
Bunjo Butler  
Sylvia Yancy-Davis  
Keesha Dixon  
Barbara Eady  
Dr. David Fakunle  
Karen Abdul-Malik  
Elisha Minter  
TAHIRA





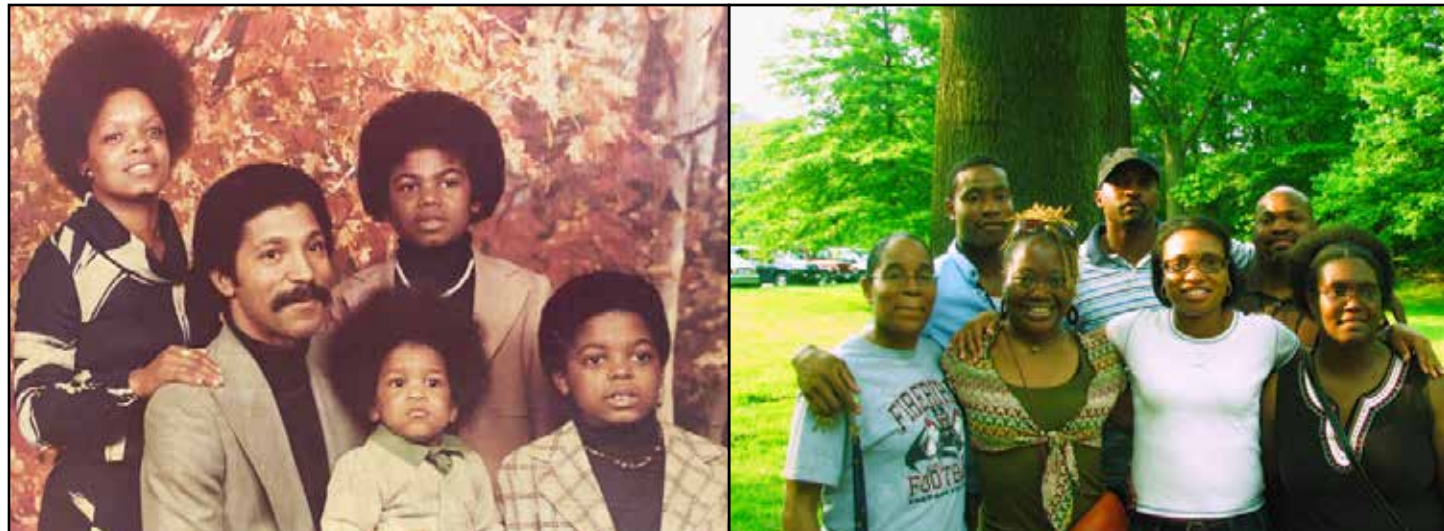
## NABS Family Photos



Beverly and Oba Lloyd  
with Asé Allaya

Keke, Nothando, Mariama, Vusi,  
Berhani & Kamari

Makeda & Josh



Janice and Paris Greene & Sons

Kwanza Brewer & Sisters & Brothers



Terry Eady & Kelcy Eady

Denise Chapman Family

Dylan Jr., Shannan and Proud Dad

## NABS Family Photos



Paul Best Family Thanksgiving 2019



Willie Murphy & Willie James  
McNear

AIN'T THEY CUTE  
MY DADDY AND HIS BROTHER  
HAD THE SAME FIRST NAMES.  
ONE WAS "WILLIE MURPHY."  
THE OTHER ONE WAS "WILLIE JAMES."  
DADDY GREW UP AND MADE ME.  
HIS LITTLE BROTHER DIED  
AT AGE THREE.  
LIKE HUMPTY DUMPTY, HE  
HAD A HORRIBLE FALL.  
AND THAT IS ALL ----  
THAT WAS SAID,  
EXCEPT THAT HE CRACKED HIS  
POOR LITTLE HEAD.

THERE IS NOT MUCH MORE  
TO THE STORY,  
EXCEPT HIS MAMA BECAME  
SO UNDONE ----  
THAT SHE GAVE HIS NAME TO  
MY DADDY SO SHE COULD  
REMEMBER HER LOST SON.  
DADDY BECAME  
"WILLIE MURPHY" INSTEAD OF  
"WILLIE JAMES."  
HE DIDN'T HAVE A SAY  
IN THE MATTER. AND SO  
HE WAS NEVER QUITE THE SAME.  
Mama Linda Goss  
Copyright c 2021 by Linda Goss



Kay Merrill

The Holley Family



**BLACK STORYTELLERS ALLIANCE CONGRATULATES THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STORYTELLERS, INC**

**ACHIEVING ANOTHER MAJOR MILESTONE:**

**39 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING CONFERENCES AND FESTIVALS!**

**TELLING THE TRUTH AND INSPIRING OUR PEOPLE**

**YOU'VE CREATED A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH THROUGH**

**"IN THE TRADITION..."**



**LOOKING FOR THE GIFT THAT'S TRULY UNIQUE?**

**PLEASE VISIT THE BSA BOUTIQUE:**

***[HTTPS://BLACKSTORYTELLERS.COM/BSA-BOUTIQUE/](https://blackstorytellers.com/bsa-boutique/)***



Tote Bag



15 oz Mug



Unisex T-Shirt



250 pcs Puzzle



Wall Clock



Sterling Earrings



Sterling Bracelet

**HUNDREDS OF BEAUTIFUL, FUNCTIONAL AND THOUGHTFUL ITEMS AVAILABLE**



"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund."



**31st Annual Black Master Storytellers Festival, "Signifyin' & Testifyin'"**

**Theme: "Black Joy: Stories Celebrating Hope, Resilience and Joy"**

Featured Performers pictured below:

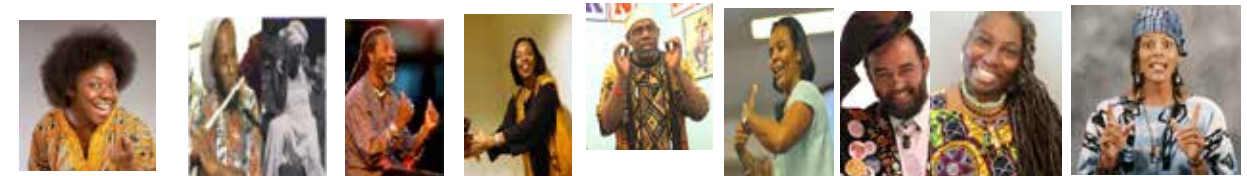
Jan Blake, Mama Linda Goss, Gran' Daddy June Bug, Toni Simmons, Chetter Galloway, Dylan Pritchett, Atiba Kwabena Wilson, Kristie Lazenberry, Danielle Daniel, Mother Minter, Joshua Gillespie, Gwen Matthews, Robert "Eddie" Robinson & Nunn Above



**30th Annual Black Master Storytellers Festival, "Signifyin' & Testifyin'"**

**Theme: "It's Never Too Late to Get Into Good Trouble"**

Featured Tellers:

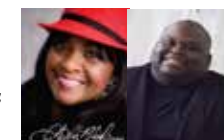


Pictured L -R:

Mama Koku, Atiba & Oceana, Len Cabral, Toni Simmons, Oba William King, Kathy Culmer, Gran'Daddy, Mother Minter & Val Tutson

**Special appearance by**

**National Recording Gospel and  
R & B Artists: Gwen Matthew &  
Robert "Eddie" Robinson**



"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund."







**Congratulations NABS**  
**On the 39th Annual National Black**  
**Storytelling Festival & Conference**

**From**

*Vanora Franklin Legaux*

**NABS Executive Director**

**2021 Recipient of the**

*Zora Neale Hurston Award*

**Congratulations Awardees**

**Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award**

Candece Tarpley  
Nashid Elimu Furaha-Ali  
Paris W. Greene  
Diane Williams  
Ivory Williams

**Linda Jenkins Brown Nia Award for Service**

Jimmy & and Tonja Caldwell  
Eslyn G. Hinmon

**Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award**

Afua Rashid  
Ari Lansana  
Ifeni Akinbusuyi  
Layla Akinbusuyi  
Xavier Reid  
Alexander Reid  
Naomi Reid



**Congratulations to Our Mother**  
**Vanora Legaux**

*Recipient of the*

**Zora Neale Hurston Award**

*Love,*

*All Your Children*



**Members of Vanora's Legacy Generation 1, from left to right:**

**Your daughter Tinishia: "Special child";**

**Your daughter Sarita: "First born";**

**Your son Sean: "The One & Only";**

**Your daughter Charlotte: "Baby Girl"**





*Congratulations  
Vanora Franklin Legaux*



**Zora Neal Hurston  
Award Recipient**

With *Sisterly Love*  
your Sorority Sisters of

**Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.  
Upsilon Mu Zeta Chapter**



Tru'leshia Anderson-Manard ✧ Allegra Piear Ball  
Janice Brown ✧ Monica Celestin ✧ Doris Dudley  
Gwendolyn Darensburg ✧ Frieda Howard  
Joanne Brooks ✧ Brondwyn Lewis ✧ Lynette Recasner  
Rhodie Sims ✧ Belinda Rodgers ✧ Inez Shaw  
Barbara Thomas ✧ Lorraine White ✧ Charmaine Williams



*Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers  
Congratulates NABS  
and President Kwanza Brewer  
on the 39th Annual  
National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference*



CABS Invites You to View Our Video Project  
**Black Lives Matter: Seize the Time**

On YouTube:

[https://youtu.be/2\\_SmwZuVXKE](https://youtu.be/2_SmwZuVXKE)



***Congratulations to Our Sister  
Kwanza Brewer  
on being the 17th President of the  
National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.***



***Kwanza Brewer  
Sisters, Ua Jones, Celeste Brewer, Faraha Brewer  
Brothers, Asaaju Brewer, Ogunseye Brewer  
and son Kadeem Brewer***

***The National Sorority of  
Phi Delta Kappa Inc.  
Alpha Xi Chapter  
Congratulates NABS on  
the 39th National Black Storytelling  
Festival and Conference***



**Our Chapter Salutes Our Sister**

***Kwanza Brewer***  
**17th President of The  
National Association of Black Storytellers  
Denine A. Goolsby M.Ed.  
Alpha XI Chapter Basileus**





# NSOUL

Nubian Storytellers of Utah Leadership

## CONGRATULATIONS

NABS' Officers, Board members, Affiliates, and Members



TOGETHER, WE CELEBRATE OUR 38TH FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE



AND WISH PEACE AND LOVE TOWARDS MAINTAINING  
OUR NATIONAL AND LOCAL MISSIONS. LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022!



Design By Jerel Starks



The Chicago Association  
of Black Storytellers

there is power in the word

CONGRATULATIONS TO NABS ON THE 39TH FESTIVAL  
AND TO OUR JAMAL KORAM HARAMBEE YOUTH  
AWARDEES:

IFENI AKINBUSUYI  
LAYLA AKINBUSUYI  
AFUA RASHID  
ARI LANSANA





In 1991, seven Black Storytellers came together to  
preserve the Black Oral Tradition in Philadelphia

1991



2021

**Keepers Of The Culture, Inc.**



Queen Sheba

Isaac Maefield

Charlotte Blake Alston

Wanda Gigetts

Linda Goss

Dr. Caroliese  
Frink Reed

Janice "Jawara"  
Bishop

Thirty years later, their vision continues...

[www.kotcinc.org](http://www.kotcinc.org)



**Keepers Of The Culture, Inc.**

Philadelphia's Afrocentric Storytelling Group

Celebrates our esteemed Elder as 2021 recipient of the



**BROTHER BLUE CIRCLE OF ELDERS AWARD**

**NASHID ALI**

Nashid Ali has been a staple of the Black Storytelling and Performing Arts  
community in Philadelphia and beyond, and we are  
grateful for his humility, dedication, and integrity.

Past NABS Board Member    Past KOTC President    WURD Radio Co-Host

Jeweler    Drummer    Gifted Musician    Current KOTC Treasurer

Seated on KOTC Council of Elders

Craftsman of the NABS emblem that adorns the official NABS cow tail switch





# HABARI GANI!!!

**Master Artist  
Mama Linda Goss**

**Apprentice  
Our Sun Paul**

**recipients of the  
2021-2022 Pennsylvania Council On The Arts  
Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship**

Old Soul and Young Spirit coming  
together on a fantastic ride into the  
far reaches of the imagination.

Together they are experiencing new rhythms,  
new sounds, and new vibes of  
storytelling; Pulling together in harmony,  
to create a folklore kaleidoscope of the

Black Oral Tradition...




**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**To**  
***My Husband, Paris W. Greene***  
***2021 Inductee into the***  
***Brother Blue Circle of the Elders***



***From Your Soul Mate, Janice***  
***You are my "e" on the end***






Congratulations 2021 NABS Awardees!



Silver Life Award:  
Karen Burdnell




Zora Neale Hurston Award:  
Vanora Legaux



Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award:  
Paris W. Greene



Linda Jenkins Brown  
Nia Award for Service:  
Eslyn G. Hinmon



Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Awards:  
Alexander Reid      Naomi Reid      Xavier Reid



**The Griots' Circle of Maryland  
Congratulates NABS on their  
39<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival and Conference - 2021**

**Join us  
in Baltimore for the  
40<sup>th</sup> Annual NABS  
Festival & Conference in 2022!**



Baltimore  
Home of  
NABS co-founders  
Mother Mary Carter Smith  
& Mama Linda Goss



Site of the first "In The Tradition National Black  
Storytelling Festival and Conference"

The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum  
Benjamin Banneker Park and Museum  
Arena Players  
Morgan State University  
Sankofa Children's Museum  
... and so much more!!!

**We remember our ancestors who laid a foundation**  
**Linda Jenkins Brown \* John "Kinderman" Taylor \* Gail Parker-Murry**







## The West Baltimore African Talking Drum

Storytelling for  
Churches / Libraries / Groups / Parties / Museums  
Conventions / Festivals / Schools  
Storytelling Workshops for Beginning Storytellers, Youths, and Adults

## Congratulations to the GCM members for their awards

**Vanora Legaux**

**Eslyn Hinmon**

**Zora Neale Hurston Award**   **Linda Jenkins Brown Nia Service Award**

**Paris Greene**

**Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award**

**Naomi Reid, Xavier Reid, and Alexander Reid**

**Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Award**



## Bunjo The West Baltimore African Talkin' Drum

3501 Glen Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Cell: 443-622-0273  
E-mail: bunjobutler@gmail.com

Storytelling for  
Churches / Libraries / Groups / Parties /  
Museums  
Conventions / Festivals / Schools  
Storytelling Workshops for  
Beginning Storytellers, Youths & Adults

Congratulations  
to the  
National Association of Black Storytellers Inc.  
On your 39th Annual National Virtual Festival  
"In the Tradition..."  
Black Storytelling Festival and Conference

"Blackstorytelling M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S  
Always"





## Congratulations NABS on your 39th Annual Storytelling Festival and Conference!



**Kuumba Storytellers of GA - [kuumbastorytellers.org](http://kuumbastorytellers.org)**

**Congratulations NABS**  
On The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference



**Tradition Keepers: Black Story Tellers of Western NY**

**Celebrating Our 20th Annual "Git On Da Bus" Storytelling Crawl**

**The "Git On Da Bus" Film is available for viewing:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGB2nE9NmNk>



Black Storyteller are you ready to share your gift with the world? Do you wonder how you can make a living as a storyteller? Get tips from TAHIRA for free!

TAHIRA has been making a living as a professional storyteller for more than two decades. In that time, she has also coached artists, creatives and entrepreneurs on how to turn their passions into profits.

Check out her video series on YouTube/TAHIRAproductions. To learn more about TAHIRA check her out on the web at [www.TAHIRAproductions.com](http://www.TAHIRAproductions.com).





ESLYN G. HINMON  
*Mama Delight*

CONGRATULATIONS

Linda Jenkins  
Brown

NIA AWARD

for

SERVICE



The Blackstorytelling League of Rochester

salutes the 39th Annual

National **Association** of Black **Storytellers**

Festival and Conference




“BLACKSTORYTELLING **M\*A\*T\*T\*E\*R\*S** ALWAYS!”



[www.blackstorytelling.org](http://www.blackstorytelling.org)


\*pass it on\*pass it on\*pass it on\*pass it on\*pass it on\*pass it on\*




CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

**Black Storytelling Matters Always!**

Congratulations to NABS on your 39th Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference



Follow us on:



At the African American Cultural Garden

We learn from our Past as we live in the Present to secure our Future.

Sow a Seed... Watch us Grow!

MLK Boulevard at St. Clair Avenue • Cleveland, OH 44120 • AAACG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization • [www.aaacg.org](http://www.aaacg.org)

The Black Child Development Institute of Cleveland

Congratulates NABS on its

39th Festival and Conference



We Salute Our Member


*Kwanza Brewer*

17th President of the

National Association of Black Storytellers








**“GONNA TELL THE WHOLE WORLD!  
“WE ARE A STORYTELLING PEOPLE!”**

**-Baba T.**



**YOUTH TELLERS**

The Youth Tellers is a youth storytelling group that is based in Cedar Hill, Texas at the Zula B. Wylie Public Library. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 5:30PM. For more information call (972)291-7325 ext. 1305

**Zula B. Wylie  
Public Library**



**Zawadi Books**  
1382 Jefferson Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14208  
(716) 903-6740

Wed, Fri & Sat: 12-4    holleykenneth@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.zawadibooksbflo.com>

**Kenneth & Sharon Holley**

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**Sharon Jordan Holley**  
**STORYTELLER**  
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**Beverly Lloyd, M. Ed.**  
CEO

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