NCABS report

The 2021-22 year ended and began with NCABS sharing fun, active stories, African drumming and dance at the "Children's First Night Celebration" in downtown Raleigh on New Year's Eve.

NCABS participated with the Annual African American Cultural Celebration ....sponsored by the NC Museum of History during the last weekend of January. NCABS opened the event by hosting and participating in "Education Day"...with numerous school systems tuning in on that Friday via Zoom from around the State of NC,  the Nation and even foreign countries. NCABS enjoyed performing all day from 9:00 a.m. til 2:30 p.m.

Artist/Storyteller Pinkie Strother proudly had her artwork (her own art showing) displayed at the Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, NC from August, 2021 through January, 31st, 2022. It was a huge success...with much newspaper coverage!

Mitch "Grandaddy Junebug"  Capel was busy this Spring and summer with his weekly Sunday Brunch events at The Cardinal Park in Pinebluff, NC. He also participated in "The Colored Soldiers" (Zoom) February 4, 2022, and also "Jack & Jill" (Zoom) / Richmond, VA on February 6, 2022; the Paul Dunbar Centennial Celebration  in Dayton, OH (June 24-27); participated in “Raising The Roof” with the Sunrise Theater, Southern Pines, NC in Feb, 2022; the Daniel Boone Library February 21, 2022; Juneteenth at The Cardinal Park, Pinebluff, NC/ June 19, 2022; and the Weymouth Center for The Arts and their 100th Anniversary Kick Off in Southern Pines, NC on Aug. 6, 2022 ; Mitch also did the "Signifying & Testifying Storytelling Festival, Minneapolis, MN on Sept. 22-24, 2022; Mitch has the upcoming Presbyterian Ministers Conference in Fayetteville, NC...scheduled for Nov.18, 2022, and the AME Zion Bishop Gala in Red Springs Comm. Center, which is to be held in Dec. 9, 2022.

The North Carolina African American Heritage Commission sponsored performances/lectures for Juneteenth during the month of June. A few Storytellers were hired to fill these Juneteenth engagements around the State. Beverly Fields Burnette participated in an event by speaking during lunch to employees at the NC State Zoo at Asheboro,  and at a

Juneteenth celebration at a

Baptist church in Raeford, NC.

Jackie Ruffin-Pittman, Obakunle Akinlana and our newest NCABS member Bernard Carson participated in a day-long Juneteenth celebration in North Eastern North Carolina. Jackie also told historical stories in Halifax Co., NC.

 In early June, long-time NCABS member BETTY FOUST of Asheboro, NC was given an 80th Birthday celebration by her family. It was a fun-filled afternoon with many of Betty's relatives and local neighbors enjoying Storytelling by NCABS members, which was a main part of the entertainment!

Since the pandemic, Darby  (Darlene) West has released two new novels: "One Weekend!",  and "Trying To Breathe Under Water", --a story about a woman living with mental health issues. She, along with 12 members of NCABS, told stories for two consecutive days at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston Salem, NC in early August. Darby gave a tribute to three wonderful NCABS members who are no longer with us, and who are greatly missed: Priscilla Best, Pam Rea, and Arthuretta Martin.

Storyteller Evette "Evie" Evans of Pittsboro, NC wrote a short story, "The Meanest Man in the County". In September it won first prize in the North Carolina State Silver Arts Competition under Literary Arts.

For Labor Day weekend, NCABS participated in the (revived since Covid) Annual African American Cultural Celebration in downtown Raleigh. Bernard Carson, Thomasi McDonald, The Two Bells, Sauuda Eshe, Carolyn Evans and Beverly Burnette

participated in this fun event!

It's GREAT to be returning to "action."

Submitted by:

Beverly Fields Burnette,

President of NCABS