



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Griots' Circle Goals for 2017-2018

- To facilitate Griots' Circle meetings in a professional and timely manner.
- To increase our visibility throughout Maryland
- To develop and implement workshops to enhance our members storytelling skills

January

Officers

Kay L. Merrill - President

Akua Anansesemfo – Vice President

Karen Burdnell – Secretary

Julia Hammid – Corresponding Secretary

Deborah Pierce-Fakunle – Treasurer

Joan Stevenson – Financial Secretary

Griots' Circle Jubilee Day Celebration

Mother Mary Carter Smith Award – 2018 Honoree, Eslyn G. Hinmon

February

Workshop Facilitator: Akua Anansesemfo Title: "Words Have Power"

Celebrating the Life, Legacy and Love of Esteemed Ancestor Mama Mary Carter Smith with the Growing Griots Literacy Learning Program, Great Blacks and Wax Museum and The Griots' Circle of Maryland – Location: Great Blacks in Wax Museum – Mother Mary Carter Smith Bookmarks were distributed to all the guests in attendance.

Black History Program theme: "Our Family Tells Stories" held at the Hampton National Historic Site.

March 2018

Workshop Facilitator: Kay L. Merrill Title: "Storytelling 101"

Women's History Program – "Mothers of Movement in U.S. History" held at the Hampton National Historic Site

April 2018

Workshop Facilitator: Karen Burdneil Title: "Finding Your Stories" (Utilizing Library Resources)

Light City Baltimore – Growing Griot Literacy Learning Program & Griot's Circle of Maryland participated - held at the Baltimore Great Blacks in Wax Museum

May 2018

Spring Fling Program Theme: "Get a Look at Spring" held at the Walbrook Branch Library

Growing Griots Literacy Learning Program Culminating Event and Awards Presentation held at the New Orleans Branch Pratt Library

Growing Griots and Volunteers received free tickets to the Universal Soul Circus

June 2018

Griots' Circle hosted an information table at the Walbrook Branch Pratt Library block part

Honored two of our former Growing Griots who graduated this year: Dr. David Fakunle, Ph.D. and his sister Dr. Mary Fakunle, M.D.; their mother is Dr. Mama Deborah Fakunle.

In The Valley Of African Queens “Unveiling of Mama Linda Goss Storyteller Music Box Dolls” Created by Mrs. Laura Carson held at the Great Blacks in Wax Mansion. (The Griots’ Circle of Maryland was one of the co-sponsors)

Juneteenth Celebration Theme: “Remembering and Celebrating Freedom” Program held at the Hampton National Historic Site.

July 2018

Annual Indoor & Outdoor Cookout held at TGI Friday’s

August 2018

Workshop Facilitator Bob Smith: “Tips for Using the Stage Effectively”

Auditions for Love Stories

Newsletter... “In the Tradition” mailed to members

Growing Griots Literacy Learning Program participated in the African Griot Book Festival for Children

September 2018

2018 Griots’ Circle group picture taken

Griots’ Circle developed a public relations brochure

October 2018

Love Stories Program Theme: “Love Lifted Me” held at the Arena Playhouse, Sunday, October 7, 2018 (annual & only fundraiser)

November 2018

NABS President-Elect Janice Curtis Greene accepts the Cowtail Switch and assumes the position as the 16th President of the National Association of Black Storytellers Festival and conference

Jada Anderson received the Baba Jamal Koram Youth Award at the National Association of Black Storytellers Festival and Conference

Kay L. Merrill was inducted into the Brother Blue Circle of Elders at the National Association of Black Storytellers Festival and Conference

December 2018

Elections of Officers for 2019-2020

Transitions

Subhanallah Ali

Olita Robinson

John "Kinderman" Taylor

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay L. Merrill, President

Griots' Circle of Maryland