

## The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc., Annual Affiliate Report 2018

The officers and members of CABS greet you in the spirit of our Griot ancestors and NABS co-founders, Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith and Linda Goss. Thank you to NABS leadership for your guidance and support throughout the year. CABS will continue it's mission to perpetuate the art of Black Storytelling in the African Oral Tradition and the vision of NABS.

### January 2018

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers honored the life and legacy of NABS co-founder, Mother Mary Carter Smith on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 on Cleveland State University Black Studies' radio program "Images "on WCSB 89.3 featuring Michele Rudolph and Oluremi Ann Oliver. The program was in celebration of Mother Mary Carter Smith 99th birthday and her distinguished career in radio.

### February 2018

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers celebrated Black History Month by performing throughout the Greater Cleveland area. Storytellers Michele Rudolph, Terry Greene and Lois Graham, who comprised "The 3 Winds ", performed on Sankofa Sunday at South Euclid United Church of Christ. Oluremi Oliver performed at Shaker Heights Library and Judy Bateman celebrated black history month with the youth and adults at Noble Public Library.

### June 2018

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers hosted our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sisterhood Luncheon with over 300 guests in attendance. The theme of the Luncheon was "Stronger Together". Historical African American institutions and grassroots organizations in the Cleveland area were invited and recognized for their service to African American families. Master Storytellers of One House, Oluremi Oliver and Jackkia Boyd performed as CABS celebrated a day of Sisterhood, Black Storytelling and our Community.

### August 2018

The members of CABS participated in an organizational book reading and discussion of "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson. The purpose of the organizational book reading was to increase knowledge and awareness, to talk about complex issues, engage in thoughtful dialogue and to tell the story.

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers launched our new website [www.clevelandstorytellers.org](http://www.clevelandstorytellers.org).

September 2018

The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers held its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Storytelling Week September 21<sup>st</sup> thru September 29<sup>th</sup>. CABS hosted Black Storytelling events in diverse venues throughout the community; A Community Open Mic, Children's Concert, (4) Professional Development Storytelling Workshops that were designed to help the beginner and experienced Storyteller. Professional Storytellers of CABS facilitated workshops on the following topics:

- Participation Stories
- The Story, The Poem, The Quilt
- Creating a Soft Landing for Children
- Telling it Well

The week culminated with a Membership Celebration and Open House. CABS members also performed in area schools during Black Storytelling Week.

November 2018

CABS will be presenting a public Kwanzaa Celebration on December 27<sup>th</sup> that includes a candle lighting ceremony, children's village, marketplace of vendors, African dance and drumming, black storytelling and a community feast.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

Michele Rudolph, President

