

"IN THE TRADITION..."

**NABS**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF BLACK STORYTELLERS

*In The*  
**Footsteps of**  
*The Ancestors*

**38TH ANNUAL  
NATIONAL BLACK STORYTELLING  
FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE**

***Our First Virtual Festival***

**November 18-21, 2020**

*"The Authentic Voice of Black Storytelling"*

For More Information Visit Our Website  
[www.nabsinc.org](http://www.nabsinc.org)

Co-Founders  
Mother Mary Carter Smith  
Mama Linda Goss



# Black Storytellers Alliance Congratulates NABS for their 38th Annual “In The Tradition...” Conference and Festival!

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we missed seeing you in Minneapolis in September and we miss seeing you in Richmond in November.

**STAY TUNED** for these Fantastic Storytellers that we had planned for you this year. We will present them –hopefully, Spring 2021 — via Zoom! Watch our website: [www.blackstorytellers.com](http://www.blackstorytellers.com) and watch for future notifications through NABS membership.

Our theme this year: **“Now’s The Time To Get Into Good Trouble!”**

credit to the late great Congressman from Georgia, Brother John Robert Lewis



Mama Koku



Baba Jamal



Atiba & Oceana



Len Cabral



Toni Simmons



Oba King



Kathy Culmer



Gran'Daddy



Mother Minter



Val Tutson

The murder of George Floyd catapulted Minneapolis/St. Paul MN into the epicenter of the movement to eradicate systemic racism. We know that the hard work must continue - and will! This Festival is constructed to uplift our people throughout the world to

***Get in Good Trouble!***



“Eddie” Robinson & Gwen Matthews

***Special appearance by  
National Recording Gospel  
& R & B Artists***





## *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*

*"The Ancestors are alive as long as we remember them."  
~Adapted from the Motherland*

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

Ring-a-ling-ling! Ring-a-ling-ling! My bells of Hope, Justice, Endurance and Reparations are ringing. WELL, OH WELL, WELL! IT'S STO---RYTELLING TIME!

Peace and Blessings! Karibu!



Welcome to "In The Tradition..." 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference: **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ANCESTORS.**

We have endured a rough year in 2020, but yet we have **ENDURED**. So many young people and elders have become our ancestors this year: Kobe Bryant, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Daniel Prude, Congressman John Lewis, Chadwick Boseman, and so many many more.

**We Remember. We Reclaim.  
We Recall the Ancestors' names.  
On the shoulders of the ancestors we stand.  
At this moment because of COVID-19 we can't hold hands.  
In the footsteps of the Ancestors we walk.  
And using our Storytelling Voices we sing out and talk.**

**WE REMEMBER THE NABS ANCESTORS: Mother Mary Carter Smith, Big Sister Linda Jenkins Brown, the Butterfly man Brother Blue, Brother Zack E. Hamlett, and so many, many more. We sing their praises.**

This year we have witnessed hurricanes, large forest fires, police brutality, racism and COVID-19 causing us to practice social distancing and wear masks. Paraphrasing our great bard Paul Laurence Dunbar, **WE HAVE BEEN WEARING MASKS FOR OVER 401 YEARS IN THIS COUNTRY.** In spite of **EVERYTHING** we have been through this year, **NABS HAS STOOD FIRM. BECAUSE OF YOU NABS FAMILY, NABS IS. BECAUSE OF YOU NABS FAMILY AND THE GRACE OF GOD, NABS WILL CONTINUE TO BE.** From the very bottom of my heart and the depths of my soul I say **ASANTE SANA, ASANTE SANA, ASANTE SANA.**

**ASANTE SANA TO THE NABS FAMILY. ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE WORKED TIREDLESSLY, FINANCIALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY TO KEEP NABS GOING. YOU HAVE WALKED THE WALK AND HAVE TALKED THE TALK AND NABS IS STILL HERE. MY LOVE AND GRATITUDE TO ALL OF YOU IS BOUNDLESS.**

In the Service of Love and Storytelling,

*Mama Linda Goss*

NABS Co-Founder

**"Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our...communities."**

*~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



*Greetings  
From The President*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) Inc., our fifteen affiliates, supporters, sponsors and friends, I welcome you to NABS' 38th Annual and First Virtual "In the Tradition ..." Festival and Conference, In the Footsteps of the Ancestors.



The year 2020 has been quite a year for our World, our Nation and our People. NABS has certainly drawn strength from our ancestors in getting here. Our ancestors survived captivity, enslavement, Jim Crow, segregation, lynching, voter suppression, mass incarceration and racial unrest. Here we are in 2020 and while so much has changed, unfortunately so much has remained the same. Added to the difficulties is the global COVID-19 pandemic that has taken over 200,000 lives in the U.S. alone. Our ancestors taught us by their example how to face extreme hardships. With enduring faith and unwavering strength, we press on following the ancestors' footsteps that show us the way.

As I write this greeting for the 2020 Souvenir Journal in October, the 2020 Presidential election has not taken place, but by the time you read it, the decision will have been made. I pray that all NABS members exercised their Constitutional Right to vote and that the nation is preparing for new leadership and hopefully real change. Ancestor and voting rights pioneer, John Lewis, who left footsteps on the Edmund Pettus Bridge stated, "Some of us gave blood for the right to participate in the democratic process."

Our Co-Founders Ancestor Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith and Mama Linda Goss had a vision 38 years ago to assemble storytellers from all over the country to preserve and perpetuate the Sacred Oral Tradition of Storytelling. The stories of 2020 and how we endured continuing police brutality, stay-at-home orders, social distancing, face masks and attempts to steal an election are stories that must be told and we, the NABS storytellers, have been assigned that sacred task.

We are treading into a new frontier, the world of virtual storytelling. I stand confident that NABS is up to the challenge and that we will take advantage of this new platform to spread the stories of the African American experience world-wide.

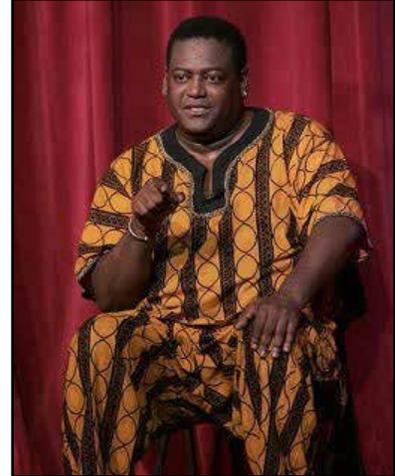
I will see you in your Zoom box. Shoes are optional but pants are required.

Thank you for your prayers during my presidency.

*Janice Curtis Greene*

Janice Curtis Greene  
President  
National Association of Black Storytellers

*Greetings*  
*From The Festival Director*



Welcome to our “In the Tradition...” 38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference! Our *first virtual* Festival & Conference!!

Our theme, “*In The Footsteps Of The Ancestors*” is most appropriate this year during a COVID-19 pandemic. But, the “pandemic” our ancestors experienced throughout the generations hasn’t changed as much as we think. Not the COVID-19 pandemic. But, the constant pandemic that has been creating hot-spots for decades. Places where our stories must be told now more than ever!

Pandemic is defined as a disease prevalent over a whole country or the world. The following list of names are proof that we need to continue telling our stories to root this disease out...

*Rayshard Brooks* (’20), *Daniel Prude* (’20), *George Floyd* (’20), *Breonna Taylor* (’20), *Atatiana Jefferson* (’19), *Aura Rosser* (’14), *Stephon Clark* (’18), *Botham Jean* (’18), *Philando Castille* (’16), *Alton Sterling* (’16). *Michelle Cusseaux* (’15), *Freddie Gray* (’15), *Janisha Fonville* (’15), *Eric Garner* (’14), *Akai Gurley* (’14), *Gabriella Nevarez* (’14), *Tamir Rice* (’14), *Michael Brown* (’14), *Tanisha Anderson* (’14) and too many more.

As we gather together, even virtually, let us continue adding footprints to The Footsteps of The Ancestors. Along the way, constantly remembering the struggles they endured, their triumphs, the legacy of perseverance...the stories they left behind!

We have work to do...stories to tell...children to heal...a generation to inspire...each other to uplift and encourage...dreams to come true...lessons to teach and learn...more stories to tell!

Asante sana to all of the committees, affiliates, Board of Directors and members who have spent countless hours, sleepless nights, skills, time and energy to provide the celebration worthy to be a NABS event! We something else, y’all!!

Enjoy this year’s Festival & Conference like never before! We have each other to celebrate.

“In The Tradition...” and “*In The Footsteps Of The Ancestors!*”

*Dylan Pritchett*

*2020 NABS Festival Director*

*Greetings  
From The Executive Director*



*Greetings and welcome to the  
38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference*

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.

Thirty-eight years!! An accomplishment in itself, and speaks to our fortitude, our pride, perseverance, our commitment to NABS, its mission and our love for one another. We are grateful to you our devoted and faithful followers who join each year with keenness and zeal for Black Storytelling. We are standing on the shoulders of our ancestors while recognizing the accomplishments of our NABS past and present Board of Directors. This year we are walking “In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors.”

ASANTA SANA!! Enjoy time virtually with our NABS Family!!

Peace and Blessings,

*Vanora*

Vanora Franklin Legaux  
Executive Director

## *Featured Tellers*



*April Armstrong*

April Armstrong has been a featured teller at the Hudson River Clearwater, The Mohegan, and the Connecticut College Festivals. She won the 2020 National Storyteller Network’s J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Award and the Bronx Council for the Arts’ BRIO Award for Storytelling. Her CD, *The Cat Came Back* won a Parent’s Choice Award. With her jazz trio she has performed her *Stories and Songs with a Jazzy Twist* at the legendary Apollo Theater and Florida’s Kravis Arts Center.

Deborah Asante is a storytelling and performance artist based in Indianapolis. A practitioner of her art form for more than 20 years, Deborah has worked with Arts for Learning for more than 10 years. In her performances, Deborah uses words to paint pictures, transporting young audiences to different locations and eras throughout history. “I work hard to ensure that the words I choose and the timbre of my voice will connect with the listener’s imagination and easily pull them into a shared experience of the story,” she says. Throughout her career, Deborah has received numerous awards, including the Aesop Cup for Tall Tales and the Zora Neale Hurston Award from the National Association of Black Storytellers. The Arts Council of Indianapolis has also honored her twice as a Creative Renewal Arts Fellow. “Storytelling seeds the imagination and strengthens vocabulary,” she says. “I always hope to inspire children to tell their own stories and deepen their appreciation stories and literature in general. Students are always reachable, even when it appears otherwise.”

*Deborah Asante*



*Len Cabral*

Len Cabral is an 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. He is the recipient of the National Storytelling Network 2001 Circle of Excellence Oracle Award. The author of a children’s book for young readers and contributing to several folktale collections, Len also has five Cd’s and audio cassettes featuring a wide range of his favorite stories, several receiving NAPPA and Parents’ Choice awards. For teachers, librarians, caregivers and aspiring storytellers, “Len Cabral’s Storytelling Book,” is an excellent resource on how to begin telling stories, filled with 22 stories from around the world with telling and teaching guides, storytelling games and an extensive bibliography.



## *Featured Tellers*



### *Chetter Galloway*

Chetter Galloway is a raconteur of African and African-American stories. He is a native of Suffolk, VA, the youngest of ten children and remembers his father telling stories on road trips. He first experienced the power of storytelling at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, VA. He honed his craft at East Tennessee State University in their Masters of Storytelling Program. Chetter has worked with the Woodruff Arts Center, the SC Arts Commission, and Better Basics Enrichment Program of Birmingham, AL. He has recorded (3) storytelling CDs: *Evil Knows Where Evil Sleeps*, *Fresh Squeezed Carrot Juice*, & *A Story, A Story, Let It Come, Let It Come*. Chetter has performed across the country at notable venues such as: Atlanta Botanical Gardens, Atlanta Dogwood Festival, The Fernbank Museum, The High Museum of Fine Art, The National Black Arts Festival, & The Smithsonian.

### *Toni Simmons*

Toni Simmons, author and storyteller, graduated from Fisk University, where she majored in speech and drama. After receiving a Master's degree in Library Science, she began working as a children's librarian combining her knowledge of children's literature and creative drama in storytelling sessions. As a professional storyteller, she brings to the stories, new life with the use of rhythms, songs, and audience participation, which places them in the story. Her work appeals to audiences of all ages, young and old, and includes a wide variety of literature from different cultures.

She has been featured at Storytelling Festivals throughout the country and was designated as a National Endowment for the Arts American Masterpiece touring artist. She is also a Texas Commission on the Arts Touring Artist.

The Cheese Chase: Why Dogs Chase Cats, an I-Parenting Media Award winner, is Toni's first book. Her video recording, *Stories Alive: African and African-American Folktales* won the Parents' Choice and Parent Council Awards.

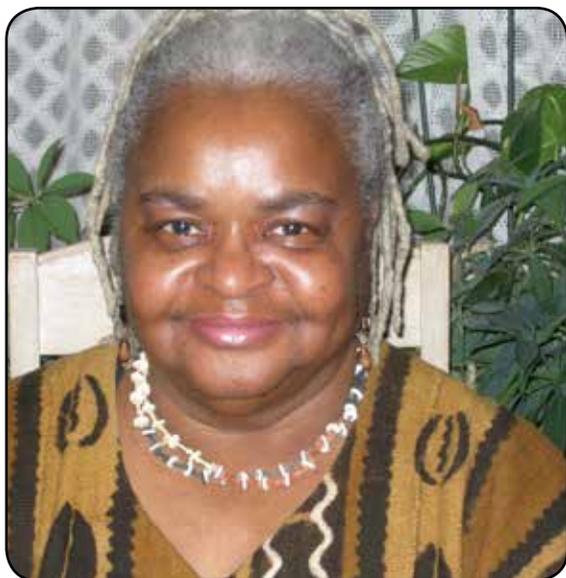


### *Mitch Capel "Gran'daddy Junebug"*



Mitch Capel / "Gran'daddy 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. Mitch, who first began writing and performing skits at the age of 12 and has over 35 hours of stories stored to memory, has also been described as a "word magician", a "national treasure", "unexpectedly powerful" and a "transformer of lives". He has been featured at numerous schools, libraries, museums and festivals since 1985 including the 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 is the national interpreter of poet laureate Paul Laurence Dunbar. He has received awards from local, state and national organizations for his amazing storytelling skills, his contributions to his community and his work with youth all over the United States.

## *Featured Tellers*



*Nothando Zulu*

Nothando Zulu is a Master storyteller and Performance Artist, who has been sharing with audiences since 1976. She shares stories that entertain, educate, motivate and inspire. She has performed in many venues as she draws from an extensive resource of colorful, often funny characters whose antics and follies leave audiences pondering their own life's lessons. She is a Roster artist with COMPAS, Givens and (in the past) Young audiences. She and her husband with the help of their Board of Directors has produced a three-day storytelling festival, “Signifyin’ & Testifyin’” since 1991. Nothando is also a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grand mother, community and political activist who believes in the power of stories.

*Diane Ferlatte*

As a youngster Diane was steeped in the oral tradition. Her early childhood years in Louisiana were spent on her grandparent's porch with the family and neighbors swapping stories, lies, and tales. After moving to California as an adolescent, Diane has fond memories of the annual trek back to Louisiana with her family, where she recalls fishing in the bayou, making hoecake bread, singing, and storytelling. Her raconteur father would invariably lead the way with family news and history. As she grew older, Diane played the piano and sang in church choirs, performed in various stage productions, and became proficient in American Sign Language, all of which contributed to a completely unforeseen career in storytelling.

Diane has wowed audiences across the globe from Graz, Austria, to Auckland, New Zealand. She has toured and performed internationally many times over, including Holland, France, Bermuda, Sweden, Canada, Australia, Singapore, and Malaysia. Diane has visited almost every state in the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska, to perform at major festivals, theaters, conferences, universities, schools, libraries, senior centers, detention facilities, churches---you name it.



## Special Presenters



### *Esther Culver (Story)*

Atlanta, Georgia's Esther Culver ENJOYS telling stories. She also enjoys listening to tellers and feels that the more you learn about the art of telling, the more there is to learn.

There is an eruptive feeling when you've researched and crafted a story or just made a classic your own. There is also a love affair between you, the audience and the story that is magical.



### *TAHIRA (Musical Selection)*

TAHIRA, a full-time performing artist, boldly blurs the lines between storyteller, singer/songwriter and musician. Her multiple talents enable TAHIRA to deliver a unique performance that includes a heapin' of the moving stories, a fistful of soul-stirring vocals, flavored with rhythmic guitar and sprinkled with drumming for good measure.



### *Denise Chapman Acosta (Dance)*

A retired Buffalo Public School speech-language therapist, Denise Chapman-Acosta is a storyteller and longtime member of NABS, Inc. and serves as Co-Director of the Affiliate Program. She is the past Vice President and Co-President of Tradition Keepers: Black Storytellers of WNY and currently serves the organization as Treasurer.

As a former Buffalo Bills cheerleader, current praise dancer, Zumba instructor and djembe drummer with the women's drum ensemble, Daughters of Creative Sound, Denise often incorporates her dancing and drumming passions into her storytelling performances. Denise is the recipient of numerous awards, but her greatest treasures are being a child of God, wife, mother and grandmother. Denise feels very blessed to share her God-given gifts with others.



### *Gwendolyn Glen (Story)*

Gwendolyn Joseph Glenn, holds a B.S degree in Elementary and Special Education from Florida A&M University and a M.S in Special Education from Nazareth College of Rochester. In 2005, she received her Montessori International Diploma. Gwendolyn is a retired educator of 32 years with the RCSD.

*NABS Youth Storytellers*



*Alexander Reid  
Baltimore, MD*



*Brooks Lausana  
Chicago, IL*



*Clayton Mayfield  
Atlanta, GA*



*Javon Culver  
Marietta, GA*



*Keren Lee  
DeSoto, TX*



*Khalilah Muhammad  
Chicago, IL*



*Melahni Ibokette  
Columbus, OH*



*Naomi Reid  
Baltimore, MD*



*Owen Charles  
Chicago, IL*



*Xavier Reid  
Baltimore, MD*



*Saniyah McGrew  
Cedar Hill, TX*



*Young Adult Teller  
Jerrica Walker  
Mineral Ridge, OH*

## *Workshops*



### **Workshop A. WHO ARE YOUR PEOPLE AND WHAT IS THEIR STORY?**

If you want to go beyond names and dates on your family tree, this workshop is for you. Learn how "flesh out" your family history by using genealogical and historical records to tell your ancestors stories.

**Workshop Presenters: Sandra Williams Bush and Sharon Jordan Holley** are members of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc and the affiliate, Tradition Keepers: Black Storytellers of Western New York. Both are retired from the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and are members of the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora (BGSAD) and the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier. Sandra has previously presented a webinar and a workshop on Genealogy for NABS. Sharon has previously presented workshops on Family Storytelling for NABS. As BGSAD members, both have presented Genealogy Storyboard Presentations and workshops in the community.



### **Workshop B. LAMBAN: EXPERIENCING STORYTELLING THROUGH RHYTHM, SONG& DANCE!**

Every story specifically folklore (beliefs, culture) has a rhythm (timing, frequency, energy), song (words) and movement, a flow, a sway (dance). Our tradition, our ancestry, where all humankind evolved believed from the beginning to this very day in the oral tradition. That tradition not only revered verbal communication as a source to pass down our history, it also respects rhythm, song and dance. Each song has a meaning. Each dance has a purpose, a direction, and communicates. Each rhythmic sound, i.e. drum, bell, kora, etc. brings a frequency, a current, energy. Together it brings a healing. During this workshop, you will experience storytelling through the rhythm, song and dance of Lamban. Lamban is a traditional West African dance hailing from Mali. It is the dance originally done by the Djeli, the Griot, the Historian, Keepers of the Oral Tradition. However, in its contemporary form has been taught and performed on various platforms.

### **Workshop Presenters: Mama Cheryl Hinton and Deborah Pierce Fakunle**

Mama Cheryl's love of African dance, artistic apparel design and construction experience have blessed her with opportunities to incorporate her higher education profession with her passion for the Arts. Her experiences have allowed her to travel to West and East Africa, South America, the Caribbean and throughout the USA. Mama Cheryl is also an Artist, Storyteller, Author, Fabric Sculptress, Actress and Costumer. She is a member of Wombwork Productions, Inc.



Griot-in-Residence at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, Mama Deborah is a Life Member of NABS, and the Griots' Circle of Maryland, and an Instructor-Mentor in the Growing Griots' Literacy Learning Program. A community ARTivist, Mama Deborah co- created and hosted "The Talking Drum" on Maryland Public Television and created Mama Talk (the Afropella Griot and the Dance Griot). As a member of WombWork Productions, Mama Deborah contributes as a board member, costumer, mentor, performer and writer. She is a graduate alumnus of Morgan State University, shares the African Oral Tradition at schools, colleges, hospitals, museums, festivals, conferences, and other community gatherings.



## *Workshops*



### **Workshop C. LEGACY LECTURE: Sittin' & Tellin' Like Ms. Jackie Torrence**

#### **Lecture Description:**

Ms. Torrence (1944 – 2004), also known as The Story Lady, was a Master storyteller with an international reputation. She told stories about her childhood growing up in Second Creek, NC; was an exceptional interpreter of Aesop's Fables and Br'er Rabbit stories; and told Jack Tales of the Appalachian region of the United States. She had a unique way of presenting "jump" stories which end with such a surprising one-word twist that listeners jump with fright and laughter.

#### **Presenter: Beverly Cottman**

Beverly Cottman is an interdisciplinary artist creating at the intersections of visual, literary, and performance art. As storyteller "Auntie Beverly" she shares stories, folktales and fables rooted in African and Black American culture and oral traditions. Her creative endeavors, interactive storytelling presentations and workshops explore identity, instill pride, pass on values, evoke self-love, and celebrate culture. She is supported, challenged and inspired by her loving family while maternal ancestors guide her performance work. Ashé

## *Baba Jamal Koram Harambee Youth Award*



### *Melahni Ibokette*

Melahni Ibokette, the daughter of Montye Ibokette is a resident of Columbus, Ohio. She is a junior at Linden-McKinley 7-12 Stem Academy. 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.

Melahni has been a member of the Village Watoto Storytellers since 2014 and attended her first conference in Chicago, Illinois. She has performed at the 2016, 2017, 2018 Columbus Arts Festival, National Black Storytellers Festival, Hall of Experience for Campfire G.I.R.L. 2017 Campfire at the National Girls Scouts Conference, Tellebration and Fireside Tales. Melahni also performed at the

2018 Central Ohio Folks Festival and the 2018 Westerville Arts Festival. Her stories often include songs.

Another group that Melahni is involved in is The Children Shall Lead Them Theatrical Group. She is also a member of First A.M.E. Zion Church where she is actively involved in the liturgical dance group, multimedia ministry, Y's Youth Missionaries, and assists with the community lunch program. She participates in Xinos, sponsored by National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Melahni was the 2019-2020 president and currently serves as the vice-president.

We look forward to the artistic creations that will emerge from gifted youthful artist.

## *Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award*



### *Charlotte Starks*

She is a dedicated professional Communication Consultant with more than 30 years using storytelling methods in teaching, and training, in both the public and private sectors. She provides African, African American, Black, and American stories and trainings to Community organizations and volunteers.

Her storytelling training include classroom experience, interpersonal, inclusive, and cross-cultural communication skills.

She is the Founder and President of Nubian Storytellers of Utah Leadership, NSOUL, 2009.

She is a Lifetime member of National Association of Black Storytellers, NABS, and she have been attending NABS Storytelling Festivals and Conferences since 2007.

Master of Science, M.S. in Organizational, Interpersonal, and Inter-Cultural Communication, Salt Lake City, Utah, Bachelor of Science, B.S., in Communication, Public Relations, and Sociology, Minor, Computer Language and Business, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah. One of Mama Charlotte's purposes in life is to plant positive seeds.



### *Jocelyn and Bob Dabney*

Jocelyn and Robert Dabney have been married thirty-five years and have been sharing stories together for over thirty years. Their first NABS Festival and Conference was twenty-five years ago in Detroit. They consider it a great privilege to be inducted into the *Brother Blue Circle of Elders* as a couple and are honored to have been nominated by Mama Linda Goss. They are truly thankful to Sister Barbara Eady for introducing them to the NABS family.

Jocelyn tells her stories and Robert complements her with his inspired singing and lively drumming. They have presented programs and workshops for schools, libraries, universities, and conferences across the country. Their most recent presentation was in Hamilton, Ontario. They are *charter* members of the Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers (CABS) and members of the National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS).

Jocelyn and Robert attend The Rising Star Baptist Church in Youngstown, Ohio where she is the Director of the Creative Arts Ministry and he is a Deacon and Praise Leader.

## *Linda Jenkins Brown Nia Award for Service*



### *TAHIRA Akua TAHIRA*

TAHIRA has graced the stage at the National Association of Black Storytellers "In The Tradition . . ." Festival & Conference numerous times, as a covenant Featured Teller and as a Mistress of Ceremonies for several programs including the prestigious, Zora Neale Hurston Awards. Additionally, TAHIRA has been an Adopt-A-Teller since the inception of the program, and can be called upon to represent NABS in schools, libraries, community service organizations and senior centers. TAHIRA was also one of the prestigious PANAFEST 8, the delegation of storytellers that represented NABS in Ghana in December 2015.

TAHIRA stepped into the role of Co-Director of NABS Affiliate Program in 2016 reenergizing our fifteen affiliates through enhanced communication and leadership, spearheading initiatives such as the grant-funded Language Literacy and Lore. Most recently, TAHIRA, along with the other Co-Director, Denise Acosta Chapman, developed and led the Virtual Village Telling, which was lauded for making members feel connected during this stressful time of a global pandemic. A full-time professional storyteller since 1996, TAHIRA has been lauded for her ability to deeply move audiences with her haunting stories and soulful songs. Life Legacy, TAHIRA moved the TEDx Wilmington audience to tears with her talk entitled, The Story We Leave Behind. In 2000, TAHIRA received the Delaware Division of Arts Fellowship in the Established Professional category for her outstanding contributions to Oral Literature. TAHIRA, an advocate of using the arts to bring about social change says, "My aim is to use story to empower others to think critically, choose wisely, and believe fervently in their ability to succeed."

### *Barbara Freeman Eady*

Barbara Eady is a life member of NABS and has served the NABS Board of Directors in many capacities including Membership Chairperson, Festival Director, Secretary, Vice President, and was the 9<sup>th</sup> President from 2006 to 2008. She is a recipient of the Brother Blue Circle of Elders Award and NABS's highest honor the Zora Neale Hurston Award. "I am honored to receive this award because I knew Linda J. Brown personally and had the privilege of learning to serve under her tutelage." After Linda J. Brown became an ancestor Barbara took over the Festival Souvenir Journal and has created it for the past 12 years.

Barbara is Co-Founder and Founding President of Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers. Storytelling education has always been of great importance to Barbara and she has mentored storytellers and led many storytelling workshops in Cleveland over the past 25 years along with Sister Wanda Owens.

Barbara has added a visual layer, the art of quilting, to her storytelling and has had quilts in several exhibitions. Her quilt "Black Lives Matter" is currently in the "We Who Believe in Freedom Exhibit" at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Barbara states, "my mission is to create art that reflects the beauty of my people and stories of our lives and communities".



## *Zora Neale Hurston Award*



### *Mother Ruth Edmonds Hill*

Ruth Edmonds Hill is an American scholar, oral historian, oral storytelling editor, journal editor, educator, historic preservation advocate and spouse of the late Dr. Hugh Morgan Hill who is also known as Brother Blue. Ruth Edmonds Hill is sometimes known as Sister Ruth. Her oral history office is part of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study of Harvard University. She is an iconic figure among oral storytellers, particularly in the United States but also abroad, and has advised storytellers' organizations. Ruth Edmonds Hill is the daughter of Florence Edmonds of western Massachusetts, whose life story is chronicled and has been critically analyzed as part of African-American oral history. Hill has degrees from Simmons College and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Hill is most widely known among oral history researchers for conducting the Black Women Oral History Project at the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of American Women at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study which has often been cited within related fields of study in journal articles, dissertations, and in panel discussions and has been acclaimed as a pioneering work in its genre. Hill has also made oral history field recordings, including guided interviews, of Cambodians, Chinese Americans and other ethnic and sociolect communities, traveling widely in research as well as conference participation.

After the death of her husband Brother Blue in 2009, Ruth Edmonds Hill hosted Memorial Tributes in the Blue Circle community of artists, ministers and educators formed during his lifetime and from his joint opus with Ruth Edmonds Hill, most recently in 2010.

### *Martha Ruff*

Martha Ruff is known as Sista' Martha to audiences young and old. Her lively performance and resonating voice have captivated listeners as she shares African-American folktales, Caribbean stories, African legends, Biblical parables and modern fables. Since the 1980's Sista' Martha was mentored by the late Mary Carter Smith who was known as America's Mother Griot. Sista' Martha was a featured teller and a workshop presenter at several National Festivals of Black Storytelling. She has been a featured teller at the Griots' Circle of Maryland's Love Stories programs and the Women's History programs. Other venues where she has presented are the National Conference of the NAACP in Kansas City, the Baltimore Washington conference of the United Methodist Women, the Pittsburgh public school system and Stories In The Round in Hagerstown, Maryland.

In the Griot tradition, Sista' Martha shares tales that come from five generations of her Maryland family, two years in West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer and decades of an extensive career as a storyteller and librarian. For over 10 years, Sista' Martha was the manager of the Sojourner Truth African American collection at a Maryland public library. Also for over 10 years, she was a regular presenter with host Mary Carter Smith on the Griot radio show on Morgan State University's WEAA-FM. She was a participant in the International Storytelling Festival which was held in Ghana, West Africa. Sista' Martha is a founding member and a life member of the Griots' Circle of Maryland and the National Association of Black Storytellers. She has served on the Board of both organizations and is a past president of the Griots' Circle of Maryland. Sista' Martha is a recipient of the Women in the Arts Award from a chapter of the LINKS, Inc. of Maryland and the Linda Jenkins Brown service award which is given by the National Association of Black Storytellers.



## *Zora Neale Hurston Award*

**BISMILLAH IR RAHMAN, IR RAHEEM...**



Karen “Queen Nur” Abdul-Malik, daughter of Harold and Constance Boelter and the blood lines before, Mother of Coniqua, Nile and Sarai and Grandmother of Sultan, Amir, Nurah, Zaid and Shaafi Muhammad and the bloodlines after, is graced to be steeped in the love of family, culture and Black Storytelling.

Nominated by Mama Linda Goss for the 2020 Zora Neale Hurston Award, Queen’s biography delineates work as a Black Storyteller and Folklorist. Queen has made impact with audiences in over 36 states, Canada, Ghana and Cameroon. She was the emcee of the National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Awards Concert in 2019 and will narrate the 2020 forthcoming documentary.

As a teaching artist she has conducted Black Storytelling residencies in her home state of New Jersey, as well as North Carolina and New York. She has been awarded the 2018 NJ Teaching Artist Governor’s Award and was named Artist of the Year at Young Audiences of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. Her work as a Black storyteller has extended to social justice advocacy, including conducting workshops

with Women Against Abuse and youth in juvenile centers. She was granted the Mid-Atlantic-As-Catalyst Award by the Mid-Atlantic Foundation. Queen has been recognized as a community cultural worker, and is featured in *Legendary Locals of Willingboro*, Josh Bernstein. Special community recognition of her talent and activism has been awarded by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Omicron Omicron Zeta Chapter with the Z-Hope Award, Unity Community Center Honoree, and a “Mover and Shaker” with the American Women’s Heritage Society National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

As a folklorist, Queen is the Director of Perkins Center for the Arts Folklife Center in Moorestown, NJ and has become a contributor and thought leader at national folklorist convenings with the Living Traditions Network. She was the emcee for the 2020 American Folklife Society Annual Meeting and presented in 2019 on a panel honoring the legacy of Mama Linda Goss. Queen has documented food cultural artisans in South Jersey and curated a nationally recognized exhibit, entitled *Tastefully South Jersey*. Currently, she is hosting the *Upon Our Authority* Podcast interviewing, scholars, historians and storytellers on 100 Years of Women’s Empowerment through Oral Expressions and Folk Traditions with special features on Black women suffragist and civil rights leaders.

In her mission to elevate the visibility and empowerment of the Black Storytelling Tradition, her papers and publications include , *The Role of Storytelling in Cultural Sustainability: Four Case Models*, Goucher College; Adachi in “Supporting Diversity and Inclusion with Story”, Ford and Norfolk; *Storytellers as Community Cultural Ambassadors* in “Engaging Storytelling Through Community”, Norfolk and Stenson; *Black Storytelling as Cultural Armor*, white paper presented at PANAFEST 2015 on behalf of the National Association of Black Storytellers and editing storytelling guides presented by NABS for the U.S. Embassy.

Queen Nur is the 14<sup>th</sup> Past President and Gold Life Member of the National Association of Black Storytellers, past president of Keepers of the Culture and current Co-Director of the Adopt-A-Teller Program. She is the Founder of the Willingboro Kwanzaa Festival, presenting since 1993 and In FACT, Inc.: Innovative Solutions through Folk Art, Culture and Tradition, a cultural sustainability organization.

In The Footsteps Of The Ancestors!

**The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.**  
**38<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference**  
**Our First Virtual Festival & Conference!**  
**"In The Footsteps Of The Ancestors!"**

**Schedule of Events**

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

7:00 pm – 7:45 pm      **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

7:45 pm – 8:30 pm      **Awards**

**11:00 am - 11:00 pm    THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY!**  
**\* KARAMU KORNER! Talk with old and new friends...hug...laugh...mingle!**  
**\* MEMBERS ONLY**

**Thursday, November 19, 2020**

10:00 am – 10:10 am      **Greetings from Co-Founder Mama Linda Goss & President Janice Curtis Greene**

10:10 am – 10:45 am      **Akwabaa Gathering! For NABS New Members and First-Timers!**  
*Membership Chair, Sylvia Yancy Davis*

10:45 am – 10:55 am      **STORY by Esther Culver**

10:55 am – 12:10 pm      **WORKSHOP: "Who Are Your People And What Is Their Story?"**  
*Sandra Bush/Sharon Holley*

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2:00 pm – 4:00 pm      **STORY SWAP**

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**OPENING GALA!**

7:00 pm – 7:05 pm      **Welcome! Co-Founder Mama Linda Goss & President Janice Curtis Greene**

7:05 pm – 7:25 pm      **Affiliate March**

7:25 pm – 7:35 pm      **8:46 Moment of Silence In Remembrance of George Floyd, Brianna Taylor and the many others who we remember and pause in honor!**

7:35 pm – 9:05 pm      **OPENING GALA CONCERT!!**  
*April Armstrong, Deborah Asante & Len Cabral*

9:05 pm – 9:20 pm      **Mother Mary Carter Smith Love Circle**

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**Friday, November 20, 2020**

10:00 am – 10:05 am      **Welcome, Mission & Introduction of the morning programming**

10:05 am - 10:15 am      **Story through Song**  
*TAHIRA*

In The Footsteps Of The Ancestors!

10:15 am – 11:30 am      **WORKSHOP: LAMBAN: Experiencing Storytelling Through Rhythm, Song & Dance!**  
*Cheryl Hinton & Deborah Perce-Fakunle*

---

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm      **VILLAGE TELLIN’**

---

**“IN THE TRADITION...” CONCERT**

7:00 pm – 7:05 pm      **Welcome - Mama Linda Goss & President Janice Curtis Greene**

7:05 pm – 7:15 pm      **Story Through Dance**  
*Denise Chapman-Acosta*

7:15 – 8:45 pm      **“IN THE TRADITION...” CONCERT**  
*Chetter Galloway, Toni Simmons & Mitch Capel*

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**Saturday, November 21, 2020**

10:00 am – 10:05      **Welcome & NABS Mission!**

10:05 am -10:10 am      **NABS Youth Program & Introduction of Youth Tellers**  
*Elisha Minter & Keesha Dixon, Co-Directors of NABS National Youth Program*

10:10 am – 10:20 am      **BABA JAMAL KORAM HARAMBEE YOUTH AWARDS**

10:20 am- 11:50 am      **YOUTH CONCERT**

11:50 am – 12 noon      **Special story for the Youth**  
*Gwendolyn Glenn*

---

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm      **LEGACY LECTURE: JACKIE TORRENCE**  
*Beverly Cottman*

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm      **JACKIE TORRENCE TALL TALES CONTEST!!**

---

**ZORA NEALE HURSTON AWARDS & CONCERT**

7:00 pm – 7:05 pm      **Welcome- Mama Linda Goss & President Janice Curtis Greene**

7:05 pm – 7:10 pm      **Who was Zora Neale Hurston?**

7:10 pm – 7:20 pm      **ZORA NEALE HURSTON AWARDS**

7:20 pm – 8:30 pm      **ZORA NEALE HURSTON CONCERT**  
*Nothando Zulu & Diane Ferlatte*

8:30 pm – 8:55 pm      **PASSING OF THE COW TAIL SWITCH**

8:55 pm – 9:10 pm      **MAMA LINDA GOSS CLOSING UNITY CIRCLE**

---

## *2020 Festival and Conference Committees*

Dylan Pritchett, Festival Director

### **Festival Roundtable**

Dylan Pritchett  
Denise Chapman-Acosta  
Kwanza Brewer  
Bunjo Butler  
Janice Curtis Greene  
Barbara Eady  
Gwendolyn Hilary  
Karen Abdul-Malik  
Elisha Minter  
TAHIRA AKUA TAHIRA

### **Program and Selection**

Dylan Pritchett, Chairperson  
Keesha Dixon  
Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed

### **Souvenir Journal**

Barbara Eady

### **Budget and Finance**

Deborah Fakunle  
Gwen Hilary  
Karen Abdul-Malik

### **Volunteers**

NABS Affiliate Members

### **Publicity**

Wanda Cox-Bailey  
Tracy Bell  
Beverly Fields Burnette  
Teri Burnette  
Janice Curtis Greene  
Antuan Hawkins  
Vanora Legaux  
Yessenia Garcia-Lebron  
Dylan Pritchett

### **Youth**

Emily Bailey  
Esther Culver  
Janice Curtis Greene  
Lovie Alfie Greene  
Oba William King  
Emily Lansana  
Keesha Dixon, Co- Chair  
Elisha Minter, Co-Chair

## ***Sponsors***

***The Nora Roberts Foundation  
National Endowment For The Arts***

## ***Patrons***

***Mother Mary Carter Smith \$40***

*Martha Ruff  
Vanora Franklin Legaux  
Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed  
Jane Crouse  
Alice Gaskins  
Eslyn Gayle Hinmon*

***Mama Linda Goss \$25***

*Vanora Franklin Legaux  
Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed  
Rosa Ashby Metoyer  
Eslyn Gayle Hinmon  
Jane Crouse  
Kay Merrill*

## ***Patrons***

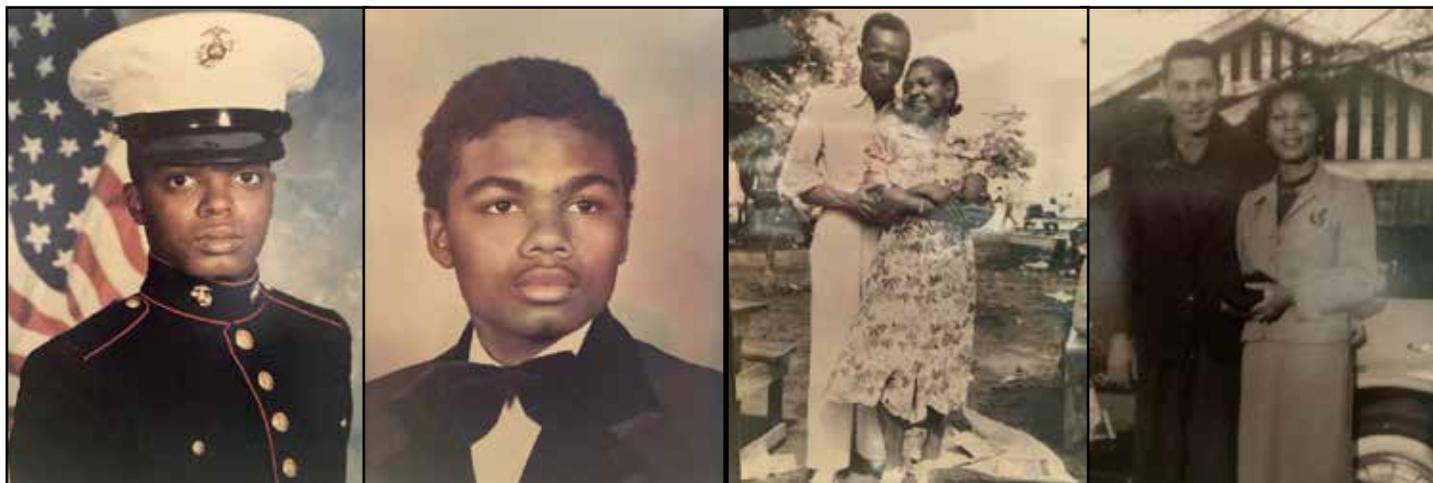
***Linda Jenkins Brown \$15***

*Vanora Franklin Legaux  
Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed  
Jane Crouse  
Janice Burnett  
Eslyn Gayle Hinmon  
Barbara Freeman Eady*

***Brother Blue \$10***

*Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed  
Jane Crouse  
Kay Merrill  
Judy Bateman*

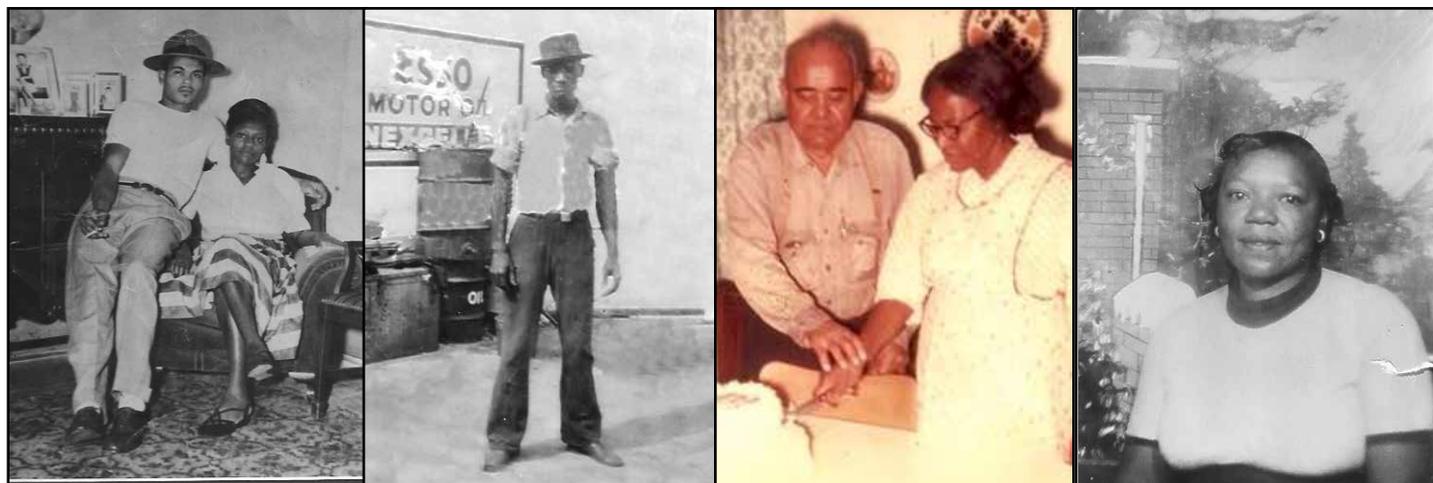
## NABS Member Ancestors



LCPL Barry Ross Thompson   Calvin Thomas Thompson   Thomas & Evelyn C Curtis   William & Barbara Greene  
 Son of Paris & Janice Greene   Son of Paris & Janice Greene   Parents of Janice C. Greene   Parents of Paris Greene



Murphy McNear   Mae Eliza Greenwood McNear   Mattie L. Kelcy   Joseph & Gretna Freeman  
 Linda Goss's Grandfather   Linda Goss's Grandmother   Barbara Eady's G'mother   Barbara Eady's Parents 1940



Dylan Pritchett's Parents   Dylan Pritchett's Gran'pa   D. Pritchett's Grandparents   Dylan Pritchett's Gran'ma  
 Robert and Mae Pritchett   Lee H. Richardson   William & Martha Pritchett   Flossie Pulliam Richardson

*NABS Member Ancestors*



*Martha Ruff's Aunt  
Martha Gover Bradford*



*Spriggs Nowell, Grandfather  
of Robin Nowell*



*Juanita May Curtis  
Wife of Tom Gene Curtis*



*Judy Bateman's  
Cousin Elmer*



*Nettie Clopton, G'GMother  
Michele Rudolph*



*Geneva Clopton Shelton  
G'Mother Michele Rudolph*



*Sarah Stevenson, GMother  
Vanora Franklin Legaux*



*Frank Stevenson, G'GFather  
Vanora Franklin Legaux*



*Neal Frink, Father of  
Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed*



*Margaret Taylor Galloway  
Grandmother of Cheryl Hinton*



*Gloria Elder's Big Papa  
Lora Smith 1899-1999*



*The Edwards Girls of KC  
Beverly Cottman*

## *NABS Member Ancestors*



*Harvey Eugene Aiken  
Father of Karima Amin*



*Bessie Mabry Aiken  
Mother of Karima Amin*



*Johnnie and Rebecca Jordan  
Sharon Jordan Holley*



*Marilyn Lile  
Gwen Hilary's Sister*



*My Pops Dr. Mama  
Deborah Pierce-Fakunle*



*My Mama Dr. Mama  
Deborah Pierce-Fakunle*



*Trula McPherson  
Kwanza Brewer's G'Mother*



*Gladys McPherson Avery  
Kwanza Brewer's G'Mother*



*Rosa Ashby  
Rosa Ashby Metoyer's Mom*



*Thomas Ashby, Sr.  
Rosa Ashby Metoyer's Father*



*Albertha Marshall Chapman  
Denise Acosta's Mom*



*Della Woodward Chapman  
Denise Acosta's G'mother*

*Congratulations NABS*  
On the 38 th Annual  
National Black Storytelling  
Festival and Conference  
"In the Tradition..."  
Vanora Franklin Legaux  
NABS Executive Director



**My Mother**  
**Anna Stevenson Franklin**



**My Father**  
**Thomas James Franklin**



**My Paternal Grandmother,**  
**Mama Della Age 40**



**Mama Della, Age 105**



**FOR LINDA GOSS:**  
*A Tribute To A True Storyteller*



With her big 'ol smile  
and her eyes that shine  
she takes her God given  
talent and spreads it around

Her words grab you  
and carry you away  
to those far away places  
where the animals play  
before you know it  
you've met birds that talk  
elephants that fly  
and frogs that rock

She's got granddaddy stories  
from waaaaayyyyyy  
back when  
that captures the spirit  
of how things were then

There's one story she tells  
about a peach cobbler pie  
the taste she describes  
my oh my

You mean you ain't heard?  
she's got stories  
on top of stories  
to quench a thirsty soul

She's got rap stories,  
songs stories,  
stories about pride  
you know  
I've seen her turn a cloth  
into a story one time

With her big 'ol smile  
and her eyes that shine  
she takes her God given  
talent and spreads it around

Copyright © 2020 by Cynthia Battle

Cynthia Battle, Storyteller, Singer, and Poet is the Creator of Taarifa Theater, a Storytelling Group of Young Children. Taarifa means message in Swahili. Sister Cynthia is a member of the United Black Book Club of Pittsburgh (UBBCP). She wrote this poem about Mama Linda around 1998 after she and Taarifa Theater met her in Pittsburgh in 1997.



# 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 2021!**



Design By Jarel Starks

# **Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers**

## **Congratulates NABS on its 1st Virtual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference November 18-21, 2020**

### **Congratulations CABS Members**



*Bob & Jocelyn Dabney  
Brother Blue  
Circle of Elders Award*



*Barbara Eady  
Linda J. Brown  
Nia Award for Service*



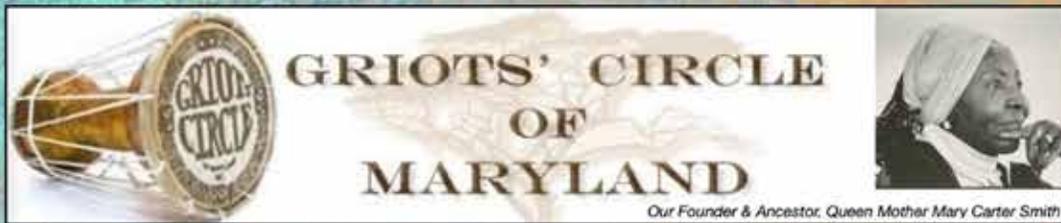
*Kwanza Brewer  
NABS  
President-Elect*



### **BLACK LIVES MATTER**

*East 93rd Street  
Cleveland, Ohio  
June, 2020*

*Tamir Rice  
Malissa Williams  
Timothy Russell  
We Speak Your Names*



**From our "Zoom" to yours!  
Congratulations to the  
National Association of Black Storytellers on the  
38th Annual Festival and Conference!**



**Congratulations to Griots' Circle member  
Martha Ruff on being awarded  
this year's Zora Neale Hurston award!**



**With gratitude to Griots' members Janice Curtis Greene  
and Kay Merrill for their service on the board of  
the National Association of Black Storytellers !**



**Celebrating our President, Anokwale Anansesemfo  
on her repatriation to Ghana!**

**Thanks to all who made this year's first ever  
Virtual Griots' Circle Love Stories program  
a great success!**



Love Stories Committee:  
Gordon "Soorah" Parks, Bob "the Griot" Smith,  
Grandmother Edna Williams

**Plan to join us in 2022 in Baltimore  
for the 40th NABS Festival and Conference!  
[www.griotscircleofmarylandinc.org](http://www.griotscircleofmarylandinc.org)**

*Congratulations  
Martha Ruff*

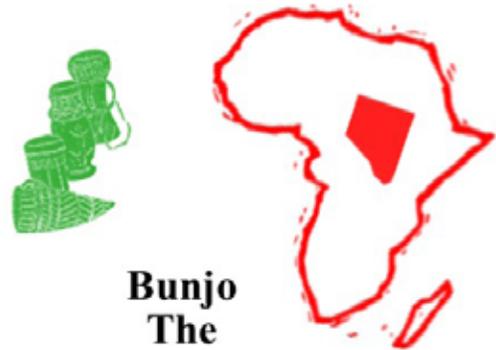


*Zora Neale Hurston  
Award Recipient*

*With love, from your family*



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



**Bunjo  
The  
West Baltimore  
African Talkin' Drum**

3501 Glen Ave  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Cell: 443-622-0273  
E-mail: [bunjobutler@gmail.com](mailto:bunjobutler@gmail.com)

**Congratulations**  
to the  
National Association of Black Storytellers Inc.  
On your 38th Annual and 1st Virtual Festival  
**"In the Tradition..."**  
**Black Storytelling Festival and Conference**

**"In The Footsteps of  
The Ancestors"**

*Co-Founders of  
The National Association of Black Storytellers  
Mother Mary & Mama Linda Side by Side  
at  
The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum*



*The Cost for Mama Linda's Wax Figure is*

*\$25,000.00*

*To date we have \$15,000.00*

*\$10,000.00 is still needed*

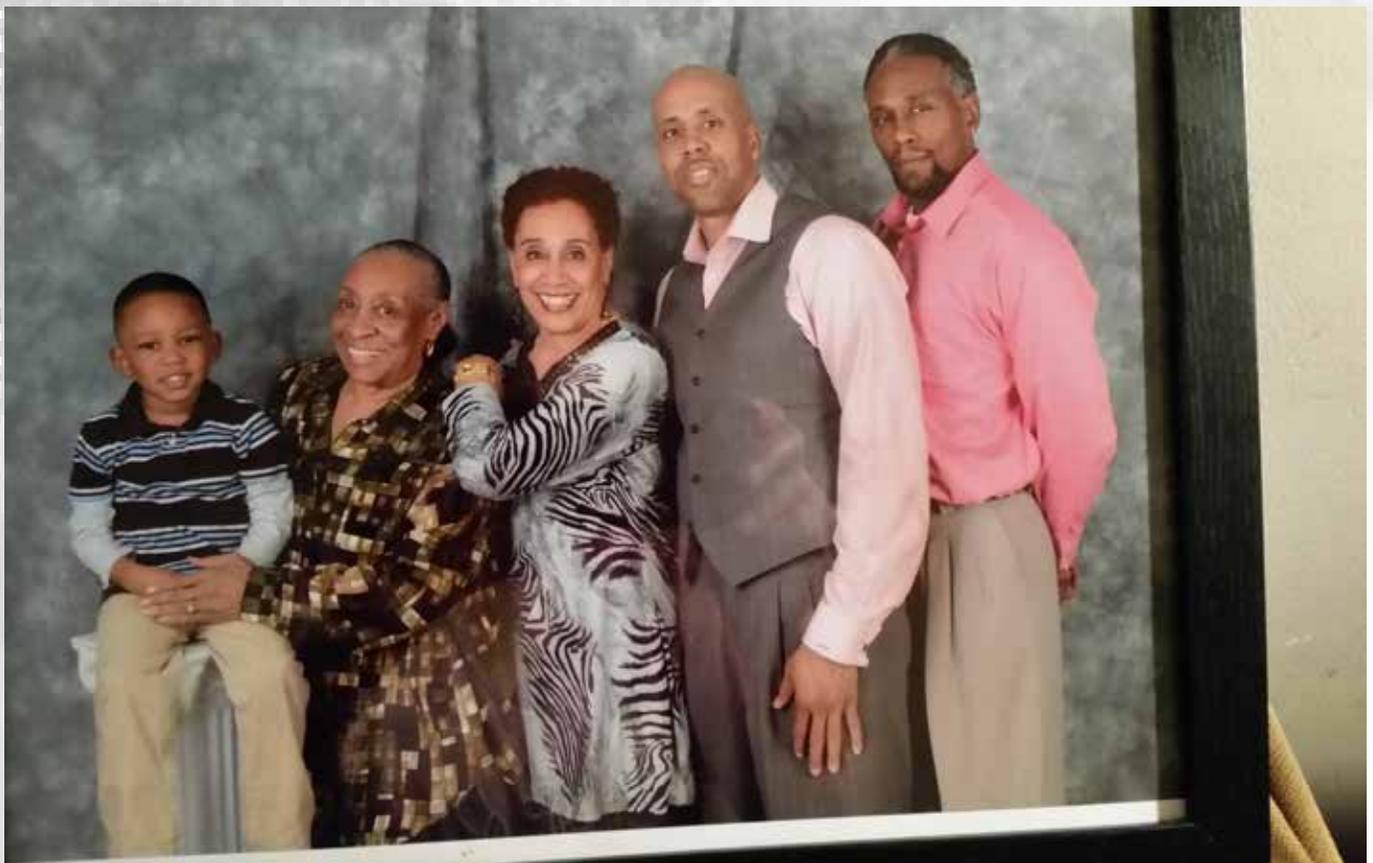
*Please Donate Whatever You Can  
and*

*Donate to NABS to Continue Our Mission*

*Go To: [www.nabsinc.org](http://www.nabsinc.org)*

# *We Are Family*

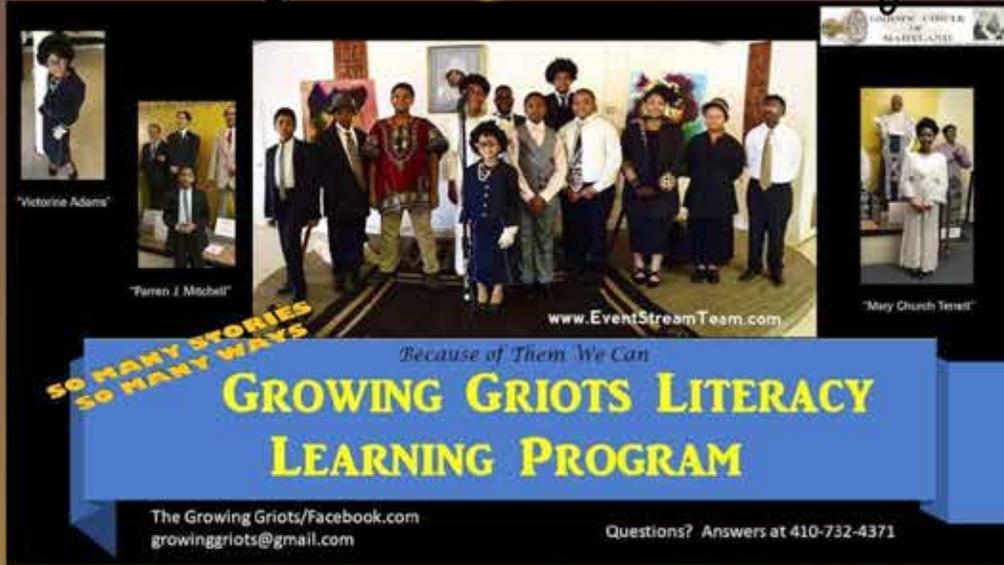
*Family of Marilyn E. Lyle*



*Grandson Bryce, Sister Gwen, Grandsons Keith and Marc*

*In Honor of Marilyn E Lyle  
Beloved Sister - Lifetime NABS Member  
August 8th 1944 - March 8th 2020*

13 Years and counting...



A collage of photos from the Growing Griots Literacy Learning Program. It features several individuals and a group photo. Captions include "Victorine Adams", "Faren J. Mitchell", and "Mary Church Terrell". The website "www.EventStreamTeam.com" is visible. A blue banner across the middle contains the text "SO MANY STORIES SO MANY WAYS" and "Because of Them We Can GROWING GRIOTS LITERACY LEARNING PROGRAM". At the bottom, contact information is provided: "The Growing Griots/Facebook.com growinggriots@gmail.com" and "Questions? Answers at 410-732-4371".

Growing Griots Literacy Learning Program gives  
**Congratulations!**

TO

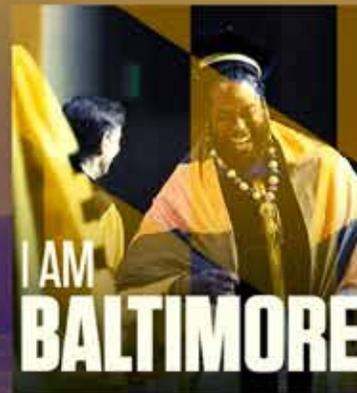
**DR. DAVID O. FAKUNLE**

for being the

**Newest Councilor on the MD State Arts Council**



*Once a Growing Griot, Always a Growing Griot!*



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

[www.discovermerecoverme.com](http://www.discovermerecoverme.com)



# Keepers Of The Culture, Inc.

Philadelphia's Afrocentric Storytelling Group

Celebrates our esteemed member as the  
2020 recipient of the

## Zora Neale Hurston Award

# QUEEN NUR



**We proclaim our pride for Queen Nur for her  
dedication and numerous contributions to  
Black Storytelling all around the world!**

**Past KOTC President**

**KOTC Life Member**

**Past NABS President**

**Published Writer**

**Recording Artist**

**Adopt-A-Teller Co-Chair**

**Grant Writer and Recipient**



**KEEPERS OF THE CULTURE, INC.**

**P. O. BOX 15083**

**Philadelphia, PA 19130**

**(317) 759-4732**

**[www.KOTCINC.org](http://www.KOTCINC.org)**

**Instagram & Twitter @KOTCGriots**

**Paul D. Best "Our Sun Paul", President**

**"Telling Our Story, Claiming Our Glory!"**

**"Congratulations Dada!  
You are an inspiration and an  
awesome friend."**

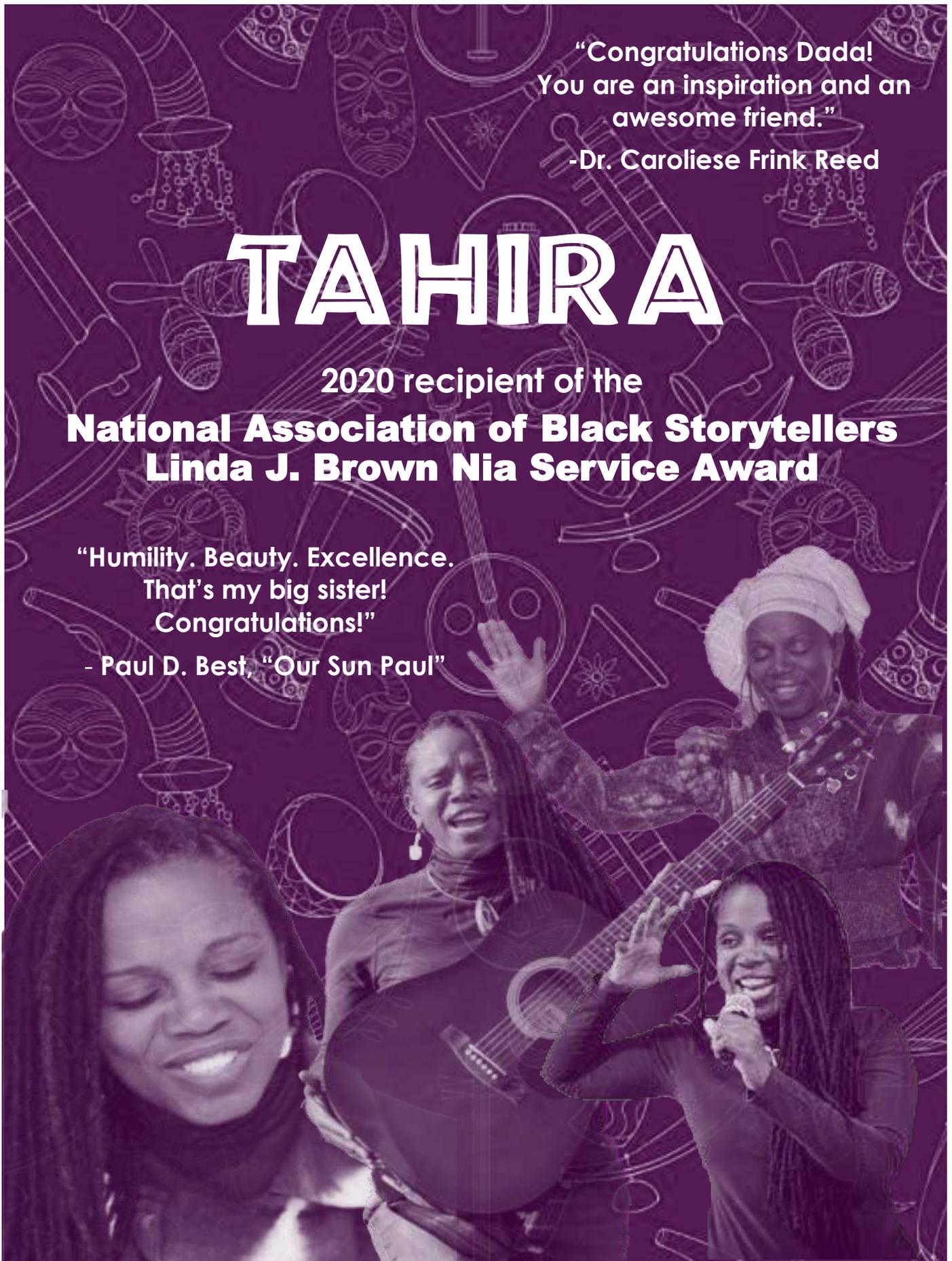
**-Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed**

# **TAHIRA**

**2020 recipient of the  
National Association of Black Storytellers  
Linda J. Brown Nia Service Award**

**"Humility. Beauty. Excellence.  
That's my big sister!  
Congratulations!"**

**- Paul D. Best, "Our Sun Paul"**





## **NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE TRADITIONAL ARTS**

***Congratulations to 2020 National Association of Black Storytellers' Zora Neale Hurston Award Recipient, Queen Nur!***

### **Our Mission**

The National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the presentation and documentation of folk and traditional arts in the United States. Founded in 1933, it is the nation's oldest producing and presenting organization with such a focus. Its programs celebrate and honor deeply rooted cultural expressions - music, dance, crafts, rituals and stories passed on through time in families, communities, tribal, ethnic, regional and occupational groups.

Stressing excellence and traditionality, NCTA presents the nation's very finest artists in festivals, tours, international cultural exchange, workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions, media productions, school programs, and other activities. It works in partnership with communities across America to establish new, sustainable traditional arts events that deliver lasting social, cultural and economic benefits. The NCTA champions the interests of folk and traditional artists and organizations in the arena of public policy.

### **Our Values**

The NCTA is committed to presenting those arts that collectively define us as a people, that represent continuity from the past to the present and into the future. It believes that bringing diverse grassroots artists of the highest caliber to the people of our nation and the world creates powerful, authentic cultural experiences that are transformative, fostering cultural understanding and strengthening civil society. The NCTA's community collaborations are exercises in cultural democracy, and demonstrate the organization's commitment to working at the grassroots level in its many endeavors.

8757 Georgia Avenue, Suite 450 • Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(301) 565-0654 • [info@ncta-usa.org](mailto:info@ncta-usa.org) • [www.ncta-usa.org](http://www.ncta-usa.org)

THE  
**AMERICAN FOLKLORE SOCIETY**

CONGRATULATES

**KAREN "QUEEN NUR" ABDUL-MALIK**

ON RECEIVING THE 2020 ZORA NEALE HURSTON AWARD  
FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STORYTELLERS

WE EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES  
TO NABS FOR ITS 38TH ANNUAL  
FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE.



PLEASE JOIN US NEXT YEAR AT THE AFS ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 13-16 IN HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.  
PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS FOR PAPERS AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS  
WILL BE DUE MARCH 31, 2021.

WE WELCOME OLD FRIENDS AND NEW TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT AFS AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED AT [WWW.AFSNET.ORG](http://WWW.AFSNET.ORG).



@AmericanFolkloreSociety



@afsfolklorists



**Young  
Audiences**

ARTS FOR LEARNING

New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania



**Queen Nur**

*Zora Neale Hurston Award*

**TAHIRA**

*Linda Jenkins Brown Award*

The staff and board of Young Audiences congratulates our amazing teaching artists, Queen Nur and TAHIRA, for their prestigious awards from the National Association of Black Storytellers.

Your beautiful gifts of storytelling have impacted the lives of thousands of students across the region. We are grateful for your artistry, your friendship, and dedication to arts education!

**yanjep.org**

*Young Audiences' mission is to inspire young people and expand their leaning through the arts.*

**2020 National Association of Black Storytellers Festival  
ZORA NEALE HURSTON AWARDEE**



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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**QUEEN NUR,** Perkins Folklife Director



**CONGRATULATIONS  
SISTER QUEEN NUR  
2020 NABS' ZORA NEALE HURSTON AWARD RECIPIENT**

*"Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change-  
It cannot only move us, it makes us move"*  
Ossie Davis, 1997 NABS' ZNH RECIPIENT

*Your Sisters in the Culture,  
Dr. Caroliese Frink Reed  
TAHIRA*



## Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc,

Omicron Omicron Zeta Chapter

Gloucester County, New Jersey

*Congratulates*

### NABS on the 38<sup>th</sup> National

## Black Storytellers Festival & Conference

*"In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors"*



Tuwanda Anderson  
Regina Andrews-Collette  
Michelle Baynes  
Hellena Berrios  
Myra Bryant  
Erica Carter  
Deitra Chamberlain  
Tara Chestnut

Carlette Cuff  
Tracy Dobson  
Vanessa Hamilton  
Stephanie Hawkins  
Yolanda Jenkins  
Makeesa Johnson  
Dorothy McCormick

JoAnn Miller  
Monisola Olowere  
Courtney Ray-Fofana  
Irene Richardson  
Sharon Suber  
Lynn Taylor  
Keish Tucker  
Priscilla Wims-Greene

## Our Chapter Salutes

### Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul-Malik 2020 Zora Neale Hurston Awardee

Folklorist/Author, Zora Neale Hurston and Linda Gross, Co-Founder of NABS are members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.





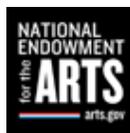
**Extends Much Gratitude to the**  
***38th In the Tradition...Annual National Black***  
**Storytelling Festival & Conference**  
**2020 Virtual**  
**Adopt-A-Teller Roster Artists**

Charlotte Blake Alston  
Kucha Brownlee  
Janice Curtis Greene  
Oba William King  
Kunama Mtjendi  
Toni Simmons  
TAHIRA  
Nothondo Zulu

Willa Brigham  
Sharon Holley  
Arthuretta Martin  
Elisha Minter  
Gwen Napier  
Deborah Strayhorn  
Queen Nur

**For representing NABS across the nation, at schools,  
libraries and other community venues**

Bunjo Butler and Queen Nur, Co-Directors  
National Adopt-A-Teller Program





Janice Curtis Greene



Charlotte Blake Alston



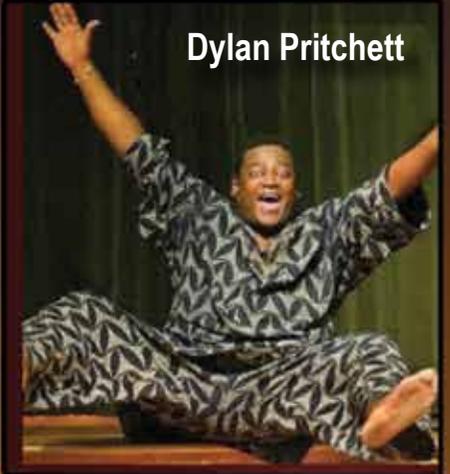
Queen Nur



Kunama Mtjendi



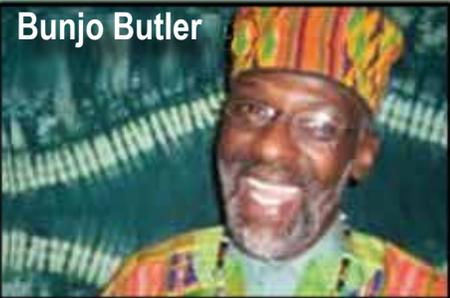
Arthuretta Martin



Dylan Pritchett



Elisha Minter



Bunjo Butler

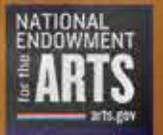
## FREE COMMUNITY VIRTUAL STORYTELLING CONCERT

November 15, 2020 • 4:00 - 5:30pm

38th "In The Tradition..."  
Annual National Black Storytelling  
Festival & Conference

### PRE-FESTIVAL EVENT

*"In The Footsteps Of Our Ancestors"*



The Nora Roberts  
Foundation



**national  
black  
storytellers**



presented by  
**NABS Adopt-A-Teller Program**

Where: FaceBook Live  
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**The Blackstorytelling League of Rochester**



salutes the 38th Annual  
**National Association of Black Storytellers**  
Festival and Conference

**"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE  
ANCESTORS"**



[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\***

**Congratulations NABS on your 38<sup>th</sup> Annual  
National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference - A Virtual Experience!**



**Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Historical Black Portraits Storytelling Concert  
Celebrating our Ancestors who were "Called to Stand Out"**





**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to our Dear Sista' Martha  
on receiving the  
Zora Neale Hurston Award  
from the National Association of Black Storytellers November 2020



*Your Nommo Akili Book Club Family - Founded 1989*



*Congratulations NABS for stepping it a new ream with this  
NABS 2020 "In The Footsteps of The Ancestors" Virtual" Festival !!!  
DABS stands with you !*

**Happy Release Day  
Marilyn!!!**

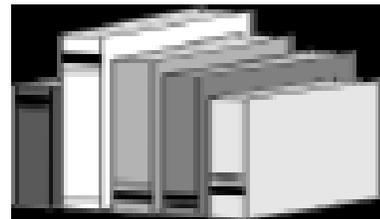
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**Congratulations Sista' Martha  
on receiving the  
Zora Neale Hurston Award  
from the  
National Association of Black  
Storytellers  
November 2020**



**We are so proud of you!  
Your "other" sistas & brothers,  
Cheryl and Lee Haskins  
Denise and Jon Bullitt**

**Akbar Imhotep, DTM**  
Storyteller/Toastmaster

*"Still Standing.  
Still Grinding. All Praise is  
due to the Most High!!"*

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In Honor of  
The National Association of Black Storytellers'  
38<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival & Conference and  
outgoing President Janice Curtis Greene

Greetings from Mama Gwen Marable,  
proud member of  
the Griots' Circle of Maryland

Gwen tells the story of her  
fifth great grand-uncle, Benjamin Banneker  
Asante Sana!

**Welcome to the  
National Association of  
Black  
Storytellers**

**FIRST VIRTUAL FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE**

**Rosa Ashby Metoyer**  
NABS Board Member  
NABS Care Sub Committee - Chair  
Louisiana Storyteller



**Doing Things a Different Way**

"IN THE TRADITION..."

**NABS**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
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Telling Our Stories  
From The  
Mountaintops

39th Annual Black Storytelling  
Festival and Conference

*"The Authentic Voice of Black Storytelling"*

Salt Lake City, Utah

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Visit Our Website  
[www.nabsinc.org](http://www.nabsinc.org)





*Congratulations*

*From The Proud  
Family and Friends of*

**Karen "Queen Nur"  
Abdul-Malik**

**2020 Winner  
of the prestigious**

**Zora Neale Hurston  
Award**

Founded in 1985, the  
***Zora Neale Hurston Award***  
is the highest honor  
presented annually by the  
**National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.**  
Given in honor of folklorist/author  
Zora Neale Hurston,  
this distinguished award recognizes an  
individual who has  
contributed to the preservation and  
perpetuation of  
African American folklore.

*Previous award winners, Ruby Dee, John Hope Franklin,  
and Dr. Molefi Asante are among the prestigious honorees.*

*Congratulations on your well deserved accomplishment!*

