

P.O. Box 67722

Baltimore, Maryland 21215

(410) 947-1117

Summer, 2006

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Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley

NABS heads west for 2006 festival

*By Barbara Eady**"Anticipate The Good So That You May Enjoy It"*

Ethiopian Proverb

Hotep NABS
Members, We're
Heading West!

We are taking the
National Black
Storytelling Festival
all the way to the
Pacific Ocean. It has
been a long time since
the festival crossed
the Mississippi River and we are excited
about coming to you.

There are many storytellers between
here and there that we haven't met, we

**NABS President
Barbara Eady**

want to meet you! We know storytellers
are out there telling their stories and uplifting
our people, we want to hear it! There
are groups of storytellers mentoring each
other and telling in communities, we want
you to become affiliates!

NABS is on the move and on the grow.
We have many ambassadors for NABS
along the way to the west and a strong host
affiliate, Black Storytellers of San Diego.
We want to make connections along the
way with those we know and have yet to
know.

Everywhere we go the way of life is a
little different, different customs, different
history, different foods. We want to see,
hear and taste all of that. We want to know

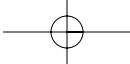
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NABS inducts 12th Affiliate



From the left is Barbara Eady, Natl. President, Nothando Zulu, Affiliate President, Yusumuzi Zulu, Affiliate Business Manager, Linda Goss, Co-Founder, Jamal Koram, Affiliate Natl. Director.

The NABS family con-
tinues to grow. The
Black Storytellers
Alliance, Minneapolis,
MN was chartered as
the 12th Affiliate at the
"In the Tradition..."
23rd Annual National
Black Storytelling
Festival & Conference
during the Annual
Membership Meeting.
The conference was
held in Tampa, Fla. last
fall.



NABS 1st Publication is “Sayin’ Somethin’ ”

The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. is proud to announce its first publication ***Sayin’ Somethin’***. This historic publication will be arriving soon and includes stories gathered from the organization’s membership that have been told, untold and retold! Never before has a book been compiled with such wealth of purpose, history and Afrocentricity through uncut, raw verbiage of storytellers whose main objective is to “Spread the Word” through the African oral tradition.

From the introduction written by nationally acclaimed author, storyteller, and past President of NABS, Eleanora Tate...to the introductions by Jackie Torrence, Dr. Daryl Cumber Dance, Gail Jackson and the encouraging words of Malcolm X...to the stories by the organi-

zation’s founders, Linda Goss and Mary Carter Smith... ***Sayin’ Somethin’*** lives up to its title!

Other authors in the book include:

Dr. Hugh “Brother Blue” Hill • Tejumola Ologboni • Carolise Frink Reed • David “Sankofa” Anderson • Thelma Shelton Robinson • Baba Jamal Koram • Misty Saskill • Al Plummer • Karima Amin • Lamont “Napalm” Dixon • Sharon Holley • Stanley “Bunjo” Butler • Gladys Cogswell • Miguel Browne • “Mama Edie” Armstrong • Rex Ellis • Lynette Ford • Alice McGill • “Mama Sandi” Gilliard-Davis • Joann Frasier Dasent • Barbara Freeman Eady • Dylan Pritchett • Janice Curtis Greene • Sadarri Saskill • Charlotte Blake Alston • Andrea Fain

The cost of the 134 page book will be \$19.95 (excludes shipping costs) and will be available for sale very, very soon! Fundraising opportunities for NABS affiliates are being discussed as well. Updates will follow...

Start getting excited! This book turns a major chapter in NABS’ and publishing history in making Africanstorytelling and the African oral tradition a major player in the teaching and representation of those Africans in the diaspora!

Thanks to all of those who submitted stories, shared your spirit, talents and support and, more importantly, for helping **Spread the Word!!!**

*Dylan Pritchett
Co-Editor/
NABS President-Elect*

HAVE A SONG TO SWAP? **SONGS! SONGS! SONGS!**



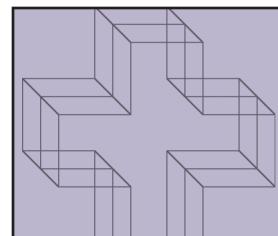
Do you have a song to share at the festival and conference? A Song Swap will be held during the festival to provide members an opportunity to learn songs that will complement their storytelling performances.

If you are interested in sharing a song(s) during the Song Swap

please submit a copy of the song (s) with the following information: Your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, name of the song, and information of interest about the song that will enhance the storytelling tradition.

Send submissions to Cheryl “Sparkle” Mosley via e-mail sparklemosley@bellsouth.net or mail to:

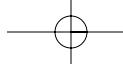
P.O. Box 33361
Charlotte, NC 28233



ANNOUNCEMENT

Sister Carol Puryear, a member of NABS Circle of Elders and a past president of the Detroit Affiliate, died March 1, 2006. Her funeral service was held on March 9, 2006 at 11 am in Detroit.

Her loyalty and dedication to NABS will surely be missed but not forgotten.



The Love of NABS

By Vanora Franklin Legaux

The song “Wade in the Water,” sang by our ancestors had a message to the slaves to use the river to escape. In many churches of the Deep South, congregations sing it before and during baptisms.

For the citizens of the New Orleans area following Katrina, both those who had to walk through waist deep and deeper, for some rooftop water and to those of those of us who watched in horror, wade in the water has a new meaning.

Just three weeks earlier at the UMOJO Festival in Tennessee several members of NABS including Mama Mary, Linda Goss, Caroliese Frink Reed, Baba Jamal, Emily Lansana, Diane Ferlatte, a group from Cleveland and Chetter and I were singing Wade in the Water and Run Mary Run. At that time, none of us who were laughing and dancing had any idea what soon come to be.

The most powerful hurricane in thirty years was due to hit New Orleans. Residents had been asked to start evacuating ASAP. Many residents of the greater New Orleans area had packed and left. However Saturday, August 27, 2005 was a sunny day, and members of the

Stronger Hope Baptist Church were having fun in Audubon Park at our Annual Church Picnic. We were at the shelter on St Charles Street across from Loyola University. Discussions of to evacuate or not, where to as we watched people leave were many. We received calls from our children who thought we had lost our minds for being at a picnic when most people were leaving the city. We decided to leave between midnight and dawn on Sunday.

And so we embarked upon an exodus of Biblical proportion heading mostly to Texas. A trip that ordinarily takes 6 hours. Since I lived on the West bank, I thought it would be easier and less traffic to go Hwy 90 to Lafayette, then to Houston. From Gretna to Lafayette took 9 hours moving so slowly that you could walk for many of those miles.

In route, the radio stations all talked about the traffic and advised everyone to stay away from I-10 if at all possible. Around Morgan City traffic seemed to come to a complete halt. At every small town the state police placed barricades preventing cars from making left or U-turns. More and more cars entered Hwy 90 until New Iberia. A McDonald's in New Iberia appeared to be a pit stop

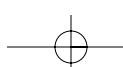
for most evacuees. Some people were talking about going back because the traffic was just too bad. I however refueled and continued the journey and arrived in Lafayette nine hours after leaving home. I now still had at least five more hours to get to Houston.

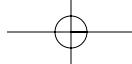
For me the journey had an eight-day pause in Lafayette because of car trouble. The car ran hot and killed. At this point a temporary discomfort came over me as I tried to think of what to do next as I had no roadside service. Trying hard to be brave and not just lose it all, including my mind, my cell phone rang.

It was Dylan Pritchett who said they were watching the news and was checking on me to see if I was ok. I apprised him of the situation and he assured me that everything would be ok. Calls were made to Houston, Baton Rouge and Florida on my behalf. As the sky began to darken and the winds began to become stronger I prayed, as I was alone in this broken down vehicle with no one that I knew anyway near.

It was there that Angles of mercy went into action. Love and kindness was extended from sometimes strangers. A former co-worker of my son's mother-

Cont'd on next page





Love of NABS

Cont'd from Page 3

in-law, (whom I did not know) arrived, diagnosed the problem: a busted radiator hose and thermostat that would have to wait until after Katrina. He and his family kept me with them until cousins arrived at 11:00pm who would also be staying in Lafayette.

Sometime during the early hours Katrina passed over. Having slept through the storm, but hearing the sound of the wind, I was anxious to see what damage had been done. The electricity was off, and cell phones did not work so we could not see or hear the news until later. When electricity was restored, we began to see the coverage of New Orleans.

As I watched in horror as the residents on rooftops or walked, or were carried through the waters unleashed by the breaking of the levees, my heart sank for my people who were trapped. It was not the storm so much as it was the aftermath that caused the destruction.

With tears running down my face, and prayer for those left behind I begin to sing slowly with new meaning "Wade in the water, wade in the water children, wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water."

Days passed without communications from family or friends. My cousins were able to get

information about temporary help for those of us who were displaced. Something called FEMA that I knew nothing of. Reality began to set in, as I now had no way to access money in the bank. No ATM card, No debit card, no check cashing card, People of course did not understand this. And the car had to be repaired. Every now and then a familiar face could be seen while standing in the many lines that came to be apart of our lives. While waiting in one such line at the library in Lafayette to use the computer for FEMA information, I opened my email. There were messages from NABS members Linda Goss, Mother Mary, Linda Brown, Dylan Pritchett, Joan Stevenson, Barbara Eady, Cheryl Sparkle Mosley, Caroliese Frink Reed, Diane, Valerie, and Emily.

As I read the messages from them, the love seemed to come from the screen of the computer and wrap arms around me. "Vanora I pray that you and your family are survivals" "We are praying for you" "Oh how I long to hear your voice." I was hitting my chest, holding my nose and trying not to be crying in the public library. People were patting me on the back and trying to console me. I don't have the words to express the feelings of love that I felt at that moment.

When I came to myself, I was able to remember who and whose child I am. The love and concern

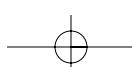
shown to others and me when we were at the lowest ebb brought me back. It reminded me of my faith and belief that God is still in control. Yes Katrina was a bad girl who did a lot damage, heartaches and caused some residents to loose their life. She knocked me down, but not out. I am still here.

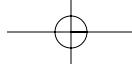
Katrina didn't really know me. She didn't know that I am standing on the shoulders of Rose Sims who was a young girl living on the Linwood Plantation in Louisiana with her parents, sisters and brothers. She remembered the shouting and celebration when news came that the slaves were freed.

Rose later married a blue-eyed man named George Robinson and had ten children, one named Anna. She grew up in a loving family and married Frank Stevenson. They had lots of land in Port Hudson, Louisiana along with ten children.

The oldest was Elmo who traveled along the Bayous and married Sarah Muse. Now Sarah & Elmo only had two children; a boy Elmo and a girl named Anna after her grandmother. Anna married twice and had seven children, the oldest a girl named Vanora.

I am Vanora, now standing on the shoulders of our ancestors, Founders and members of NABS. Thanks to all of you for all that you have done for us.





Reflections: 23rd "In the Tradition..." Festival & Conference

Jumping at the Sun and Reaching for the Light

The 23rd Annual "In the Tradition..." National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference was held at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center in Tampa, Florida on November 9-13, 2005. Folks are still talking about the tales they heard on the banks of the river while they were "Jumping at the Sun and Reaching for the Light."

Over 250 NABS members joined the local community to experience five fabulous days of storytelling. On Thursday, November 10, Festival and Conference attendees had a chance to hone their storytelling skills in workshops. There was a great diversity of experience and topics offered from using the arts to enhance student's writing skills to learning to play the African shekere. There were tips for the beginning storyteller and concrete information on how to market your storytelling business, or submit a story for publication. Said one attendee, "The information was practical and I can USE this!"

The evening following a reception and a storytelling concert, the community gathered for the traditional opening love circle. The drums played, the libations were poured and we gathered to call out the names of the ancestors who made it possible for us to gather to pass on the traditions, history and culture of our people. The drumming and dancing lasted into the night.

Friday and Saturday were filled with storytelling on the grounds of the Performing Arts Center. NABS affiliates and Florida Storytellers provided ongoing storytelling on

both days. There were unforgettable evening concerts at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center on both nights. But thanks to the sponsorship of the Florida Storytelling Association, one of the Festival highlights was the Youth Concert on Saturday, November 12. Florida Youth Performers stole the show! 2205 Youthful Voices winners Ryan Nelson and Chloe Clunis performed along with Kuumba Junior Drumming and Dance Troop under the direction of Myron and Natalie Jackson. These young people told stories, recited poetry, drummed and danced and the crowd went wild! It was great to see that the future of Black storytelling is in good hands in the state of Florida!

The NABS family continues to grow. The Black Storytellers Alliance was chartered as the 12th Affiliate during the Annual Membership Meeting.

NABS highest award, the Zora Neale Hurston Award was presented to **Diane Ferlatte**, a world famous, award winning, master storyteller. Her award winning recordings include Penny For Your Thoughts, Knick, Knack Patty Whack, Aesop: Alive and Well and Yes, M'am Respect for the Elders; and **Onawumi Jean Moss**, the Souful Storyteller, and educator as Associate Dean of Students at Amherst College in Massachusetts. Also author of the children's book, "Precious and the Boo Hag."

The **Circle of Elders Award** was presented to **Velma**

Gladney, Chicago, IL a retired teacher of the Chicago Public Schools and co-founder of the Chicago Association of Black Storytellers (ASE) and **Vanora Franklin Lagaux**, New Orleans, LA, founder of the Stronger Hope Biblical Storytelling Guild and a secretary of the NABS Board of Directors.

Other Festival and Conference Highlights:

FEATURED TELLERS

Charlotte Blake Alston, Philadelphia, PA

Tejumola Ologboni, Milwaukee, WI

Linda Goss, Founder, Philadelphia, PA

Lamont Dixon, Atco, NJ

Antonio Rocha, Portland, ME

Mary Carter Smith, Founder, Baltimore, MD

Queen Nur, Willingboro, NJ

Nothando Zulu, Minneapolis, MN

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Daniel Daniel

Victoria Burnett

Myron Jackson

Mama Nomusa

Linda Gorham

D. Pritchett, L. Goss

C. Frink-Reed

NABS would like to thank the Florida Storytelling Association for its support. Your sponsorship, attendance and volunteer service helped make this year's Festival & Conference a huge success!

Asante Sana,

Valerie Tutson

What a time...What a time...

Scenes from the 23rd Festival and Conference

NABS Affiliates

African Folk Heritage Circle
New York, NY

ASE: The Chicago Association of Black Storytellers
Oak Park, IL

Black Storytellers Alliance
Minneapolis, MN

Black Storytelling Association of Rochester, NY
Leslie Carolyn Edwards

Black Storytelling Association of San Diego
San Diego, CA

Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.
Cleveland, OH

Detroit Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.
Detroit, MI

Griots' Circle of Maryland
Baltimore, MD

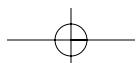
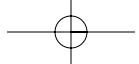
Keepers of the Culture
Upper Darby, PA

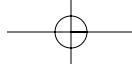
Kuumba Storytellers of Georgia
Atlanta, GA

North Carolina Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.
Raleigh, NC

Rhode Island Black Storytellers
Providence, RI







In the Tradition...“24th Annual National Black Storytelling Festival & Conference “Walkin’, Talkin’ and Shoutin’ All the Way to the Ocean”

**Festival Director - Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley
Co-Festival Director - Dr. Annjennette McFarlin**

Special Events

- New Release – NABS Anthology
- Lost Boys of Sudan – Hear first-hand the story of their traumatic journey from Africa to America
- Award winning video “The Human Ham Bone,” w/live demonstration of Body Percussion
- Oceanside Breakfast ceremony/celebration at the legendary Hotel del Coronado. Cost - \$50. (*Please disregard \$40 price quoted in brochure.*)
- Coretta Scott King Honor Book Award Winning Authors Kadir Nelson, Michele Wood, and Toyomi Igus

Highlights

- Opening Gala Reception - Love Circle and Concert
- Family and Youth Storytelling Concerts
- Tall Tales “Liars” Contest
- Song Swap
- Story Swaps
- Youth Programming
- Meet the Authors and Book Signings

- Scholars Panel and Storytelling Workshops
- Elders’ Award Luncheon and Concert
- Zora Neale Hurston Award Banquet and Concert
- Village Telling
- Preview Stage
- Spiritual Storytelling Breakfast – Unity Circle
- African American Railroad Heritage Tour-Black Railroad Worker’s/Jim Crow Car Exhibit
- Campo Museum/Julian
- African American Marketplace
- Membership Meeting
- Affiliate Exhibits

Entrepreneurs and Community Organizations Opportunities

For More information – NABSinc.org

Hosted by Black Storytellers of San Diego

Bring your best out West to America’s Finest City San Diego – Average Temp 70.5 degrees

2006

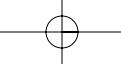
In The Tradition...” Festival & Conference

Featured Tellers

Victoria Burnett
Danielle Daniel
Lyn Ford
Jamal Koram
Joanna Maddox
Michael D. McCarty
Elisha “Mother” Minter
Thelma S. Robinson
Sadari Saskill

Workshop Presenters

Beverly Cottman
Lamont Dixon
Linda Gorham
Steven Hobbs
Sharon Holley
Virginia Keeping



MORE 24TH FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE

SCHOLARS' PANEL

Oral Traditions of the African Diaspora: Connecting Our Voices Across the Oceans

The oral tradition of African Peoples dispersed throughout the world, has given rise to a plethora of literary expressions. From folklore to fable; from journal to essay; from poetry to song, our voices are connected by the waters that have taken us far and wide yet incapable of severing the common threads of struggle, freedom and triumph! The panelists will discuss the incredible legacy and breadth of the African story as expressed in its many forms, and the reoccurring themes that keep us connected across the oceans.

Presenters:

Ross Talarico, Langston Hughes scholar and bestselling author of Spreading the Word and Once Upon a Time: A Personal Guide to Telling and Writing Your Own Story
Stephanie Smallwood, Ph.D., Asst. Professor Department of History, University of California, San Diego, scholar of African American and Atlantic History

RJ Smith, Senior Editor LA Magazine and Author, The Great Black Way – 1940's Jazz scene on Los Angeles' Central Avenue and its profound impact on the arts, culture,

CALLING ALL AUTHORS

An Author's Book Signing will be hosted by NABS during the Festival and Conference in San Diego, CA. All NABS members in good financial standing who are authors are invited to participate in

the book signing. To participate all authors must sign up by September 15, 2006. A specified time slot will be assigned for each author to sell their books only. No CDs, DVDs, etc. will be allowed to be sold during the book signing. Authors will have an opportunity to meet, greet and sign books.

Sign ups are required by email sparklemosley@bellsouth.net or mail sign up notification to Cheryl "Sparkle" Mosley, P.O. Box 33361, Charlotte, NC 28233.

Gee's Bend Quilting Collective

Celebrate with NABS in honoring the artisans of the Gee's Bend Quilting Collective who told their stories through their scrap-cloth creations. Gee's Bend is a tiny African American community tucked into a curve of the Alabama River near Selma. On August 27, 2006, the U.S. Postal Service will release 10 designs of Arlonzia Pettway and eight of her peers on a line of stamps.

NABS will auction 2-3 quilts purchased in Gee's Bend made by members of the collective. The quilts have been documented. Some of their quilts have sold for \$28,000.

The U.S. Post Office Department of Diversity is sponsoring the showing of the stamp replicas during the festival.

See 6 of the designs in the August issue of the Oprah magazine.

Special Pre-Conference Events for the Early Early Birds

On Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006, Veteran's Day, join actor, writer, producer and director, Tim Reid as he gives his view on the need for African Americans to "search out their own stories."

He will focus on the proud legacy of service by Black men and women in the military.

View excerpts from the award-winning American Legacy magazine DVD Collection, "BLACKS IN THE MILITARY". WWII Black Army Troops who built the Alaska/Canadian (Alcan) Highway will be highlighted.

Reid, a mainstay in the entertainment industry for three decades, produced the acclaimed feature film, "ONCE UPON A TIME...WHEN WE WERE COLORED.

In 1997, he and his wife and sometimes co-star, Daphne Maxwell Reid, founded the New Millennium Studios (NMStudios). Reid has received two Emmy nominations.

The local chapter of Buffalo Soldiers has also been invited. The eldest member, now 93, is cousin to Dr. Annjennette McFarlin, President of Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc.

Fundraiser to benefit Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc. and the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. Sponsored in part by American Legacy magazine

Place: NTC Promenade
San Diego, CA.

6:00 pm Reception

(Fee will be posted on NABSinc.org)

AUGUST HOUSE ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

Submissions Guidelines

Note: August House accepts proposals and editorial inquiries by mail only. Our editorial mission focuses on world folktales and the art and uses of storytelling. Please review the following guidelines before contacting us about publishing your work.

1. Please address all materials to:
Editorial Department
August House
PO Box 3223
Little Rock, AR 72203.

In addition, NABS members can also send a copy to me at:

Rob Cleveland
August House Publishers
3500 Piedmont Rd., Ste 310
Atlanta, GA 30305

2. Please submit proposals by mail. No phone calls or e-mails, please.
3. Although we review every submission that arrives by mail, unfortunately, you will not receive a response from us unless we are interested in pursuing publication.
4. We will acknowledge receipt of manuscripts immediately by postcard if a self-addressed stamped postcard is enclosed with the submission. If we are interested in pursuing the project, you will hear from us within four to twelve weeks.
5. Please retain your original manuscript/proposal and send us a copy only. Your materials will not be returned.
6. August House Editorial Needs
 - a. For our general trade line, we

are interested in acquiring books pertaining to folklore, folktales, and the art and application of storytelling.

- b. For our children's picture-book line, we are seeking single-story manuscripts that feature traditional folktales. We are not looking for original stories written in fable or fairy-tale style.
- c. For our audio line, we are not soliciting proposals, nor do we distribute recordings released privately or under other labels.

7. We publish storytelling resources in four formats: picture books; folktale collections; instructional/how-to books; and personal story collections. Proposals for storytelling projects may be accompanied by audiocassettes, though the material will be judged first and foremost as literature rather than listening material. For multi-chapter or multi-story books, please send a query letter or proposal with sample chapters (at least 40 pages in length) rather than a complete manuscript.

Proposals should be accompanied by a descriptive outline or table of contents. (Do indicate whether or not your manuscript is currently complete, along with some estimate of a final manuscript page or word count and future completion date.)

For folktale collections, we are particularly interested in how stories are sourced, whether your sources are literary or oral. Please be sure your sample tales include annotations about the story, its sources and variants.

8. Picture book manuscripts
If submitted without illustra-

tions, manuscripts should be typewritten on 8 1/2 x 11" paper. Please be sure your name and address appear on the title page as well as on your cover letter, and do enclose a list of sources and variants for the folktale. Bear in mind that our ideal age range is 4 to 8, and the maximum word count for such titles is 1100, unless there is some mitigating circumstance (such as cumulative text or a repeated refrain.)

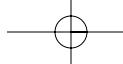
If submitted with illustrations, submit text in typescript as described in paragraph 8(a) as well as with dummied layout. Submit at least one illustration in full color.

9. All manuscripts and proposals should be typewritten, double-spaced, on 8 1/2 x 11" paper, with pages numbered. Please be sure your name and address appear on the title page as well as on your cover letter.

10. Biographical data is especially helpful to us in considering proposals and manuscripts. We're not necessarily looking for authors with strings of degrees and credentials, but anything that helps establish a link between author and manuscript is useful to us. Please list any previous publication history also.

11. August House will read manuscripts being simultaneously submitted to other publishing houses.

12. Terms of Publication: For volumes accepted for publication on our trade list, we underwrite publication costs and compensate authors by paying a royalty based on gross sales. Advances are occasionally, but not always, paid.



San Diego Conference Special Features

HUMAN HAMBONE

Danny "Slapjazz" Barber and Leland "Spoonful" Collins will demonstrate the use of the human body as a musical instrument and use of spoons to tell a story. Scholarly references are incorporated including historical roots to the Talking Drum and the Stone Revolution.

THE LOST BOYS OF SUDAN

Hear first-hand the story of the three lost boys of Sudan, **Alephonsion Deng, Benson Deng, and Benjamin Ajak**, from the Dinka tribe of Southern Sudan, tell about their journey to escape the dangerous warn-torn terrain of Africa, to new challenges in the United States. They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky is a true story about Sudan, Africa and a powerful portrayal of war as experienced by three boys under the age of

seven. The three lost boys of Sudan now adults living near San Diego, California, continue to speak out on behalf of the Lost Boys will share the true story of their traumatic journey to safety.

AWARD WINNING AUTHORS

Kadir Nelson

Artist & Illustrator received a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor for "Thunder Rose" and illustrator for "Just the Two of Us" by Will Smith and Big Jabe by Jerdine Nolen. In addition, he is the illustrator of the DVD cover of Presenting the Kings and Queens of Storytelling that features several of NABS storytellers.

Toyomi Igus & Michele Wood
Award winning artist and author of Going Back Home and I See the Rhythm. I See the Rhythm is a uniquely visual and poetic introduction to the history of

African American music. Beginning with the roots of black music in Africa and continuing to contemporary hip hop.

AFRICAN AMERICAN RAILROAD HERITAGE TOUR , CAMPO, CA

A half day tour to Campo, California to visit the African American Railroad Heritage's Jim Crow car, artifacts, and photo display. In addition, the story of the Black Railroad heritage from slavery to the present day. Railroads jobs were the foundation for the Black middle class. Railroad work was the most important alternative to sharecropping for decades. Railroad jobs and the railroads were the keys to the Great Migration from the South to the North in the 20th century.

TOUR IS FREE. FIRST COME BASIS. LIMITED SEATING.

NABS Festival is San Diego bound

Cont'd from Page 1

what happened to our people, why they came to be there and what their experiences were.

Many of us are descendants of ancestors who trekked west. In my own family my great grandparents had five daughters who each left Arkansas during the 1920's in search of work and a better life.

the way to the ocean.

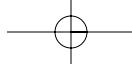
They were employed by a wealthy family in Beverly Hills and lived in the mansion for many years; Aunt Frieda was a cook and Uncle Bob, a chauffeur. They were an elegant, dignified, loving couple who bought a home and settled in Pasadena. Our letters went to 260 Clinton Street year after year.

My aunt and uncle, who had no children, are long gone, but

are forever in my memory.

When I stand at the ocean the tide that rolls over my feet rolled over theirs, the same sun shone on their faces and they felt the same gentle breeze.

Their story is my story. We're coming, "Walkin' Talkin' and Shoutin' All The Way To The Ocean."



SOUVENIR JOURNAL ADS, CONTRIBUTIONS, SPONSORSHIPS

The 24th Annual "In the Tradition..." National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference is fast approaching. This year's event will take place November 14-19, 2006 in San Diego, CA. NABS is proud to partner with the Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc., our affiliate to present, **"Walkin', Talkin' and Shoutin' All The Way To the Ocean"** a theme which highlights the beautiful region in the west for our 2006 festival and conference.

We invite you to advertise yourself and your business in this year's Souvenir Journal. This is an opportunity to market yourself to the NABS members and all the Festival Conference attendees. Through our partner-

ship with Black Storytellers of San Diego, Inc. we anticipate a large draw from the state of California. Make sure they know about you and your work!

If you cannot attend this year's Festival and Conference we are asking for your support. Your ad, or your donation will help support NABS and its mission. This is the first and oldest and only national organization dedicated to presenting, preserving and promoting Black Storytelling. For over 20 years NABS has led the way for others to follow. Your contribution will help us to further that aim.

So, take out an ad, consider a sponsorship, or make a donation. Your support makes a difference. We are counting on you to join us in ***Walkin', Talkin' and Shoutin'***

All The Way To the Ocean.

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