



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STORYTELLERS, INC.
P. O. BOX 67722 · Baltimore, Maryland 21215 · (410) 947-1117
www.NABSinc.org

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Contacts

Festival Director Dylan Pritchett
757-561-6658
aesop@widomaker.com

President Kwanza Brewer
(216) 269-9553
kwanzabre@yahoo.com

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STORYTELLERS, INC.
presents
39th Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference
"In the Tradition..."
2nd VIRTUAL FESTIVAL & CONFERENCE
November 6 & 9-13, 2021

The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. (NABS) will present the "In the Tradition..." 39th Annual National Black Storytelling Festival and Conference! This year, NABS will present their unique gathering virtually for the second year as they celebrate the power of Blackstorytelling!

The first "In the Tradition..." Festival of Black Storytelling was held at Morgan State University in Baltimore in 1983. Since then they've traveled throughout the country and, now, their 39th celebration will be presented virtually. In honor of our Ancestors and in encouraging preservation of our traditions, this year's theme is "Blakstorytelling M*A*T*T*E*R*S Always!**"**

In 1982, nationally renowned storytellers, Baltimore's first officially appointed Griot – the late, great Mary Carter Smith of Baltimore, Maryland, and esteemed Linda Goss of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and, now, residing in Baltimore– founded "In the Tradition..." National Black Storytelling Festival. These visionaries then created the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc., so that more opportunities would be afforded the African American storytellers to perpetuate the African oral tradition and preserve the folklore of African people.

"Blakstorytelling M*A*T*T*E*R*S Always!" begins November 6, 2021 by highlighting our talented YOUTH! Young storytellers from across the country will show perform stories in their own unique style as we affirm to them that their stories M*A*T*T*E*R*S!

Master Storytellers, as well as, beginners, storytellers with instruments and storytellers who dance, storytellers of all styles will entertain, inspire, educate and enliven the myths, recite the poems and recount the history of a people. This year there will be many

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exciting storytellers and panelists. Esteemed authors Sonia Sanchez and Sharon Draper will impart knowledge in a discussion on "Creating The Words"; another esteemed author Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram will share her wisdom explaining "The Power of Research in Black Women's Writin'!"; the history of how NABS came to be will be explained by our Co-Founder Mama Linda Goss, Elenora E. Tate and Dr. Caroliese Frink-Reed; and a futuristic outlook on black storytelling titled "Reimagining & Reshaping Opportunities" led by Dr. David Fakunle & Teri Burnett!

The following storytellers will perform: Masankho Banda (Malawi), Sarai Abdul-Malik (Gambia), Mara Menzies (UK), Paul Best (PA), John Doyle (GA), Renee Emanuel (MD), Evette Evans (NC), Juone Kadiri (UT), Beverly Lloyd (OH), Dhamana Shauri (IL), Victoria Burnett (CA), "Bunjo" Butler (MD), Gladys Cogswell (MO), Atiba Wilson (NY), Nothando Zulu (MN), Temujin Ekunfeo (PA), Fred Johnson (FL) Tejumola Ologboni (WI) and Kala Jojo (PA).

And if that wasn't enough, VILLAGE STORYTELLIN' CONCERT will put a spotlight on our fourteen Affiliates from across the country as they weave their stories sharing their unique regional and cultural flare. A crowd pleaser!!

The National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. is proud to present this one-of-a-kind event for the community, country and the world! This is what to expect:

ADOPT-A-TELLER: Storytellers available to perform a 45-minute digital performance. There is a \$50 application fee but the performance is FREE! Limited availability. Please help in their goal of presenting in all 50 states! Contact Queen/Bunjo via: aatp@nabsinc.org for additional information and availability.

STORYTELLING CONCERTS: Village Tellin', "Traditions of the Jaliyaa", "HAMBONE, HAMBONE, Where you Been?", "SANKOFA: I Heard That Befo'!", "Round De World An' Back A'gin!" Along with our tradition opening with the **MARY CARTER SMITH LOVE CIRCLE** and culminating with **MAMA LINDA GOSS CLOSING UNITY CIRCLE!**

ADULT JACKIE TORRENCE TALL TALES CONTEST: Festival Favorite!!!! Members and non-members can compete...sharing their fantastic fabrications.

Since the first Festival and Conference in Baltimore, NABS has traveled around the nation; most recently, New Orleans ('04), Tampa ('05), San Diego ('06), Atlanta ('07), Cincinnati ('08), Little Rock ('09), Minneapolis ('10), Atlanta ('11), Baltimore ('12), Hampton ('13), Chicago ('14), Washington, D.C. ('15), Philadelphia ('16), Wichita, KS ('17), Cary, NC, ('18), Montgomery, AL ('19) and, now, our second **VIRTUAL FESTIVAL!...**and we're excited!!

COME JOIN US!!

*"Blackstorytelling M*A*T*T*E*R*S Always!"*

FOR PROGRAM SCHEDULE & REGISTRATION INFORMATION VISIT

WWW.NABSINC.ORG

OR CONTACT

Dylan Pritchett at (757) 561-6658, aesop@widomaker.com

Kwanza Brewer at (216) 269-9553, kwanzabre@yahoo.com