NCABS 2021 Affiliate Report

NCABS, Inc. has had a varied *health conscience/ cautious,* but steady year of Storytelling across the State of NC. The year began, as usual, with a  past/repeat episode of NPR's (Kwanzaa) "A Season's  Griot." Our annual participation with the NC Museum of History's (NCMH) Annual African American Cultural Celebration occurred the last Saturday in January, 2021, as a *lead up* to Black History Month. This was done virtually....by filming (4) four Storytellers from the Western part of the State at Livingstone College's (Salisbury, NC) Tubman Theatre stage, and then filming four (4) storytellers from the Eastern part of the State at the NC History Museum stage in Raleigh.

Throughout the year, Willa Brigham, Linda Gorham, Elisha Minter, Carolyn Evans and Donna Washington have keep the "road-ways" and "wire-ways" active and alive with Storytelling in various parts of the country!  Throughout the winter, Jackie Ruffin-Pittman was an integral part of the ***Nat'l Parks Service Network to Freedom, the Roanoke Canal, the Weldon Boat Landing and the Historic Halifax trail.***

 The Western Wake Co. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority used NCABS Storytellers, artistically, to present DST's monthly virtual cultural Sunday evening HIV/AIDS awareness campaign.

In April,  Paine College Media Studies Professor Teri Burnette invited several Storytellers to participate in Paine's  Mass Communication Dept.'s annual Panoramic Conference, entitled ***"Having Our Say: Through Crisis, Community and Culture."*** The presenting storytellers were Dylan Pritchett, Elisha Minter, Evette Evans, Obakunle Akinlana, and Sherrill Roland (MFA), whose presentation was entitled "The Jumpsuit Project"...regarding the plight of Black men who are imprisoned.

In April, Sonny Kelly was engaged to do a virtual presentation of Moses Roper, a Caswell Co. NC.~enslaved mulatto man who escaped to England and authored a book about his life. A statue of him is now being created in Florida.

This past spring and summer, Mitch Capel revitalized his wonderful camp area in Pine Bluff, and opened it up once again for Storytelling events/performances. Mitch also "ventured" to perform virtually on Zoom during Black History Month for a group of 3rd graders in the Alamance School System. It was QUITE amusing that when Mitch's screen "froze up"...ALL 300 of the kids immediately came off "mute", and simultaneously yelled instructions to Gran'daddy Junebug of "what to do" in that situation!

In July, Wanda Cox-Bailey (Retired Wake Co. librarian) coordinated a 4th of July event at the Pope House, Raleigh, NC

(**raleighnc.gov/pope-house**).  Storyteller Michael Conner was on hand to do speeches and orations from several noted persons, i.e., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X and others from history.

In August, the Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington,  NC invited (Maryland-born) artist/storyteller Pinkie Strother to present her artwork...in the form of  her amazing dioramas...which speak to her family story in Maryland and beyond. This impressive (two-room) art show  will remain on exhibit through January  31, 2022. **cameronartmuseum.org/index.php?c=program&s=current.**

The Charlotte Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc (AAHGS, Inc) group requested a Storyteller for their program this Fall, and Elisha Minter was the recommended 'teller. On October 6th, Donna Washington and Beverly Fields Burnette were asked to participate in a virtual segment of "The Brown Bookshelf" and their "Amplify Black Stories" program. It was an enjoyable 90-minute presentation.

On October 9, 2021, NCABS had its first *face-to-face* meeting since a year ago.  We met at the Chatham Co. Library, Pittsboro, NC. Librarian Evette Evans was our  gracious hostess for this meeting.

On Nov. 13, several storytellers will be present to do storytelling for children at the Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC during the unveiling of "Boundless", a new work of art by NC artist Stephen Hayes.  The Cameron Art Museum was the site of the ***Battle of Forks Road***, a Civil War skirmish whose victory was won by the US Colored Troops (USCT), and led to the fall of Wilmington.

[**www.starnewsonline.com/article/NC/20150619/News/**](http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/NC/20150619/News/)**...**

We were truly shocked and saddened this year by the loss of our "NC sista" Arthuretta Martin. Also, we just received notice of the transition of fabrics creator/artistic master Baba Shabu (age 92) ...the noble father of the artistic NC music group "The Magic of African Rhythms."  Baba Shabu and his wife Maisha left Durham, NC and relocated to Liberia some years ago. Our  sincere and earnest thoughts and prayers are constant for both families.

Respectfully submitted by:

Beverly Fields Burnette,

President of NCABS, Inc.