

AUNTIE BEVERLY COTTMAN

March 11, 2023



February 20, 1943



LIGHTS THE WAY

PRAISESONG FOR AUNTIE BEVERLY

*By Mama Linda Goss,
Co-Founder of the National Association of Black Storytellers
with Assistance and Guidance from
Queen Mother Onawumi Jean Moss*
ASANTE SANA!

**I ASK PERMISSION FROM
THE ELDERS TO SPEAK!
ASANTE SANA!**

**“RING A LING A LING A LING!
RING A LING A LING A LING!”**

**MY BELLS ARE RINGING!
MY SOUL IS SINGING!
ASE! ASE!**



Lighting the way
Story walkin'
Lighting the way
Rhythm talkin'
Through the night
Through the day

STORYTELLERS ARE LIGHTING THE WAY.

When a storyteller crosses over
Their stories and their legacy
Become a part of a
*Community Memory Bank.
ASE! ASE!

The Community Memory Bank is
Enriched continuously and
Overflows with golden treasures
From the Ancestors.
ASE! ASE!

MY BELLS ARE RINGING!

We Remember! We Reclaim!
We Recall Our Ancestor's Name:
BLACK ANCESTOR WARRIOR QUEEN
MAMA AUNTIE BEVERLY COTTMAN
ASE! ASE!

AUNTIE BEVERLY

Was a beloved storyteller
For the whole community.

ASE! ASE!

Her golden light shined
Through our hearts
And lifted up our spirits.

She was a lamppost
In a foggy night.

ASE! ASE!

AUNTIE BEVERLY said,

*"I aspire to be a teller of universal truths...
to provide emotional depth by the way I tell,
and to bring wisdom of the ages to these troubled times."*

**BLACK ANCESTOR WARRIOR QUEEN
MAMA AUNTIE BEVERLY COTTMAN**

Crossed over in Egypt in the
Motherland, Mother Africa,
The Birthplace of Humankind.

ASE! ASE!



Everyone speaks of her gentleness, her gentle spirit.
She was sincerely kind with a genuine smile.
She had manners in an impolite society.
She was no pushover.
She had real determination and strong convictions.
ASE! ASE!

AUNTIE BEVERLY said,
*"An imaginative mind can overcome many obstacles.
Storytelling is the key to developing an
imaginative mind."*

**BLACK ANCESTOR WARRIOR QUEEN
MAMA AUNTIE BEVERLY** was a
Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sisterfriend,
Biology Teacher for 30 years,
Storyteller, Poet, Dancer, Teaching Artist,
Cultural Historian, Fiber Artist, World Traveler,
Soulful Cook and so on and so on and so forth and
Most importantly she was a Child of God!
ASE! ASE!



AUNTIE BEVERLY said,
*"A story that makes you feel as if you can do anything,
that you have the ability to reach and surpass your goals,
or that you have the wisdom of the Ancestors
pushing you forward with love, is perhaps
the most powerful tool of storytelling."*

SAY HER NAME! PRAISE HER FAME!
BLACK ANCESTOR WARRIOR QUEEN
MAMA AUNTIE BEVERLY was:
A Life Member of the National Association of
Black Storytellers, Inc. (NABS).
ASE! ASE!

She was a Member of the Black Storytellers Alliance of
Minnesota (BSA), an Affiliate of NABS.
ASE! ASE!

She was a Board Member for the
National Association of Black Storytellers.
ASE! ASE!



She was the second NABS Member to design the Wisdom Pouch which is used in the Passing of the Cowtail Switch Swearing in Ceremony of the New President of NABS.

ASE! ASE!

AUNTIE BEVELRY'S WISDOM POUCHES



Front and back of the wisdom pouch made for NABS 18th and current President, Baba Dr. David Fakunle



Front and back of the wisdom pouch made for NABS 17th President, Sister Kwanza Brewer

She was an Esteemed Member of the Brother Blue Circle of Elders which is sponsored by NABS.

ASE! ASE!

She was the Cultural Historian for the Preservation of the Legacy of the Great Storyteller, Black Ancestor Warrior Queen Mama Jackie Torrence.

ASE! ASE!

AUNTIE BEVERLY was a poet.

One of her poems entitled,
“How I Learned to Withstand the Bombasts of Hate”
was published by Moonstone Arts Press in
Philadelphia, PA in their Poetry Anthology, entitled,
24th Annual Poetry Ink for 2020. Vol. One
ASE! ASE!

How I Learned to Withstand the Bombasts of Hate
for my Aunt Charlene

...I watch as a starched, ironed, and neatly folded uniform is
made ready for tomorrow's *day work*.

She rides a streetcar to the other side of town where her '*family*'
waits to be taken care of.

When she returns we wonder what will be in the bundle of,
“Don't think we will be needing this anymore.”

For her *real family* — always taken care of — the wait is over.

She deflects the bombasts of hate with defiance, dignity, and grace in a
clean mended house dress and sturdy shoes. Her cross-backed apron pocket
holds peppermint candies to soothe sobs and a handkerchief to wipe away tears
caused by the cruelties of injustice.

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AUNTIE BEVERLY was a "Vital" part of the Blackstorytellers Alliance and their Signifyin' and Testifyin' Festival. She not only provided food and story for thought, she also provided food and soul for the storyteller's belly. The featured tellers would gather at her beautiful warm home for a homecooked meal. Folks forgot their manners and fought over the last piece of **AUNTIE BEVERLY'S** peach cobbler pie. My, O My! I don't want to Signify, but I will Testify, and this is No Lie, that it was Gran'ddaddy Junebug and Baba Vuzi who fought over that last piece of **AUNTIE BEVERLY'S** pie.

MY DINNER BELLS ARE RINGING!

ASE! ASE!

AUNTIE BEVERLY was a story traveler. She and her husband, **BLACK ANCESTOR WARRIOR KING BABA WILLIAM JAMES "BILL" COTTMAN, JR.** traveled the world. They went to Mexico, Thailand, Singapore, and so many other places. The two Lovebirds meet while they were at college at Howard University in Washington, DC. They had a beloved daughter, Kenna and two grandchildren, Yonci and Ebrima. **AUNTIE BEVERLY'S** backyard and Sister Kenna's backyard faced each other. They connected. **AUNTIE BEVERLY WAS CONNECTED**

TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

ASE! ASE!

**This is the last email I received from
AUNTIE BEVERLY.
ASE! ASE!**

**On Sun, Feb 5, 2023, 6:51 PM Beverly Cottman
<beverlycottman@gmail.com> wrote:**

Greetings Mama Linda,

The daylight is increasing and the nights are getting shorter even though the temperatures are still very low. 🌺 Spring will come 🌺 I hope you are well and being well taken care of as you take such good care of us all. February 20 will mark the 80th anniversary of my birth. I am so very grateful for every blessing and the opportunity to celebrate this milestone.

**Peace,
Beverly**



**BLACK ANCESTOR WARRIOR KING
BABA BILL COTTMAN**

crossed over in 2021.

AUNTIE BEVERLY missed him so much.

God has brought them together

So they will always be in touch.

Our hearts are filled with sorrow

For we believed that we would see our

DEAR SWEET BEVERLY

Today, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

(Pause)

What we must do is sit

On the bank of memory

And soak our feet in the waters

Of legacy and story

And reflect upon

Our **DEAR SWEET**

**BLACK ANCESTOR WARRIOR
QUEEN MAMA AUNTIE BEVERLY.**

ASE! ASE!



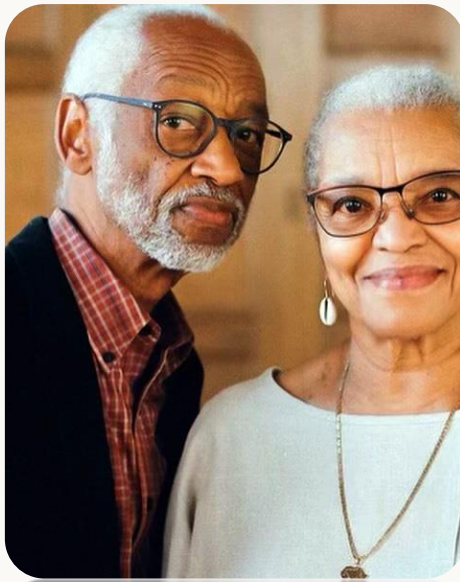
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Story walkin'
Lighting the way
Rhythm talkin'
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Through the day**

STORYTELLERS ARE LIGHTING THE WAY.

ASE! ASE!

***Phrase: Community Memory Bank
created by Queen Mother Onawumi Jean Moss
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BABA BILL & AUNTIE BEVERLY COTTMAN



Designed by Tonja Caldwell