TRADITION KEEPERS OF BUFFALO NEW YORK, 2024 ANNUAL AFFILIATES REPORT

Greetings from the Black Storytellers of Buffalo New York Executive Board and members giving honorable recognition to NABS co- founders, Queen Mother Mary Carter Smith and Queen Mother Linda Goss. In appreciation of leadership given we say “Thank you”, to NABS president, Dr. David Fakunle, Executive Director, Vanora Leagux and Board of Directors.

Taking into account the cautionary ReEmerging of social gatherings, most of our meetings are conducted on social media (zoom). This was also the time of election of new officers. We have, however, merged back into the limelight of our cultural society with storytelling, story teaching workshops and youth recruitment…making our presence known. Anticipating our upcoming festival we have spent the last few (8-10) months working diligently within our communities to make this event a wonderful experience for all.

January

Four separate one hour sessions were held at Bennett High enlightening participating students on the art of storytelling.

February

HOW TO TELL A STORY WORKSHOPS

What is a story - Sharon and Sandra

Recognition of Mother Mary Carter Smith

How to find a story

Learning and presenting a story

Participation in Public Education Read Across America

Black History Week participation in local schools

MARCH

Story Presentations

Student’s Presentations

Buffalo African-American Museum hosted storytelling by Tradition Keepers on sold out bus tour

We received the status of 501(c)(3)

APRIL

**Black Women Inspired Me:** Concert a collage of stories of inspiring women by women inspired by them

Perpetuating Storytelling in Cleveland Hill Public School, Earth Day Activities

MAY

Workshops at YMCA, grooming Storytellers of Tomorrow, our youth component

JUNE

Annual **"Git on"Da" Bus"** four stop mystery tour with stories at every stop and an introduction to the hosting local black owned businesses

Recruiting children after COVID has been a social gathering challenge but we took on the challenge by Individually working with Storytellers of Tomorrow sometimes one on one as well as short gathering

JULY

Storytelling at Freedom Park

Individually working with Storytellers of Tomorrow

AUGUST

Storytelling at Freedom Park

Museum tour guides at Freedom Park

Annual gathering of TK members for food and exchange of stories

Individually working with Storytellers ofTomorrow

SEPTEMBER

Individually working with Storytellers of Tomorrow

Unity meeting of the young storytellers

OCTOBER

Promoting on various media outlets the upcoming 42nd NABS FESTIVAL

Billboards, Television interviews 10/15, local newspapers flyers and of course orally

Training sessions with Storytellers of Tomorrow

As black storytellers we continue to highlight the sacred cost of our history and the wisdom of our elders.

Respectfully submitted,

Tradition Keepers Black Storytellers of WNY