

Cover

“In The Tradition . . .”

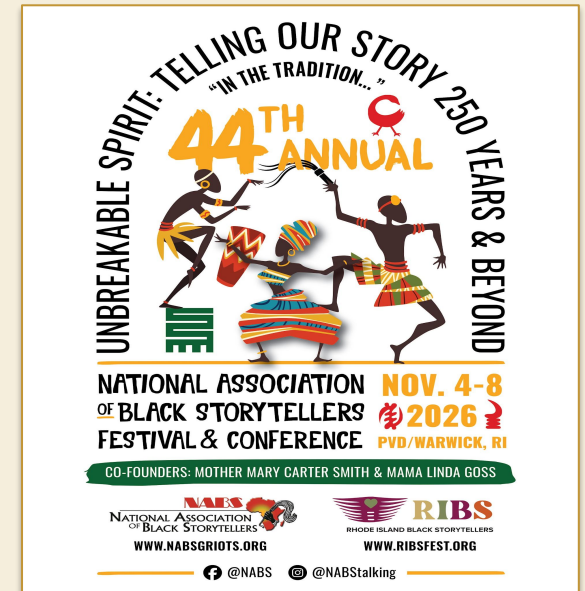
44th Annual National Association of Black Storytellers Festival & Conference

Theme:

“Unbreakable Spirit: Telling Our Story, 250 Years & Beyond”

Providence–Warwick, Rhode Island
November 4–8, 2026

Schedule subject to change without notice.



2026 Featured Tellers

- April Armstrong (New York)
- Baba C (Washington, DC)
- Paul Best (Philadelphia)
- Marlon Carey (Rhode Island)
- Fred Johnson (Florida)
- Baba Djeli (Vermont)
- Valerie Tutson (Rhode Island)

2026 Workshop Presenters

- Jocelyn Bell
- Paul Best
- Len Cabral
- Dr. Akeia de Barros Gomes
- Amanda DeGrace
- Fred Johnson
- Val Tutson
- Al Wiseman

2026 Special Presenters

- Tammy Hall
- Denise Manning Keyes Page

2026 Scholars' Panel

- Michael Van Leesten Family Story Research
- Dr. Akeia de Barros Gomes

2026 Youth Workshop Presenters

- Sarai Abdul-Malik
- Paul Best
- Willa Bingham
- Emily Hooper Lansana
- Onam Lansana

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Pre-Festival Event

10 am to noon Volunteer sign up Hotel Foyer outside Alfred's

10 to noon Registration Hotel Foyer outside Alfred's

9:00 am 9:45 am Bus Loading for Heritage Tour

10 am to noon Heritage Tour (Lunch available for Purchase)

1 pm Bus Returns to Hotel

5:00 pm 5:30 pm Bus Load for Pre-Festival Event

6 pm to 8 pm Pre-Festival Event (in the community)

8:30 pm Bus Returns to Crowne Plaza

9 pm to 10 pm BOD Meeting Elms

Thursday, November 5, 2026

7 am to 10 am Affiliates' Display Set-Up Plaza Foyer

Adult Workshops

9:00 am - 10:30 am Plaza B Jocelyn Bell: Joy

9 am am 10:30 am Plaza C Len Cabral: Nuts & Bolts

9:00 am 10:30 am pm Plaza D Al Wiseman: Finding the Funny
[10:30 am 11: 00 am transition]

11:00 am to 12:30 pm Plaza B Jocelyn Bell: Joy

11:00 am to 12:30 pm pm Plaza C Len Cabral: Nuts & Bolts

11 am to 12:30 pm Plaza D Al Wiseman: Finding Funny

(Box) Lunch at Village Tellin 1pm to 2 pm Atrium

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Conversation with Elders Plaza A

2:00 pm to 3:30 pm: Dr. Akeia de Barros Gomes: The Bundle Workshop
Plaza B

3:00 pm to 4: 00 pm Story Swap/ Akwaaba Gathering Plaza C & D

5:30 pm to 7 pm Dinner on own

Visit Marketplace

Thursday Youth Workshops Plaza A except where otherwise noted

9 am - 10 am Paul Best

10:30 am - 11:30 am Willa Bingham

Noon - 1 pm Onam Lansana

Lunch at Village Tellin 1 pm to 2 pm Atrium

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Conversation with Elders Sarai Abdul-Malik & Emily Hooper Lansana

Dinner on own 4:30 pm to 7 pm

Visit Marketplace

Thursday, November 5, 2026 Village Tellin': Affiliates' Luncheon Atrium

Special Presenter: Tammy Hall

1 pm - 2 PM (may be longer than hour)

Thursday — Mother Mary Carter Smith Love Circle Bristol A&B

Affiliates' March 6:30 pm

Concert

7 pm to 8:30 pm

Featured Tellers:

- Baba C
- Marlon Carey
- Djeli

MC: Emily Hooper Lansana

Libation/

Opening Circle Song: Sarai Abdul-Malik

Opening Circle: 8:30 pm to 9:00 pm

*Presidential Greeting: Kay Merrill



Friday, Youth Tour (Off-Site)

9 am to noon

Friday, November 6, 2026 Adult Workshops

9 am - 10:00 am Plaza B Paul Best: Bridging Futures

9 am to 10:00 am Plaza C Fred Johnson : Voice

9 am to 10:00 am Plaza D Amanda DeGrace: The Teller's Guide to Grants & Fundraising

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Plaza C Val Tutson Arts & Health

11: 00 am to 12:00 pm Plaza D Amanda DeGrace: The Teller's Guide to Grants & Fundraising

Friday, November 6, 2026 Scholar's Panel Bristol A&B

10:00 am to 11:30 am

**Panelists: Dr. Akeia de Barros Gomes Topic: Storytelling as a Pedagogy
Michael Van Leesten Topic: Genealogy**

Special Presenter: Denise Manning Keyes Page

Friday — Brother Blue and Mama Ruth Hill Circle of Elders' Lunch Rotunda

Noon to 1:00 pm: Buffet Lunch

Concert: 1 pm to 2 pm Featured Tellers:

- Paul Best
- Val Tutson

*12:15 pm 1:00 pm **BOD Awards** (Charles Brown and Linda Brown Nia Award for Service; Mama Linda Goss Presidential Awards) Baba Jamal Koram Youth Award. Elders' Circle Acknowledgment. *Closer to dessert.

MC: Len Cabral

Color: White or Blue



Friday, Black Appalachian Fellows Bristol A & B

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Dinner on own 4 pm to 7:00 pm *Visit Marketplace***Story Swap (5:30 pm to 6:15 pm) Tiverton**

Friday, November 6, 2026 “In The Tradition . . .”

Concert Bristol A & B

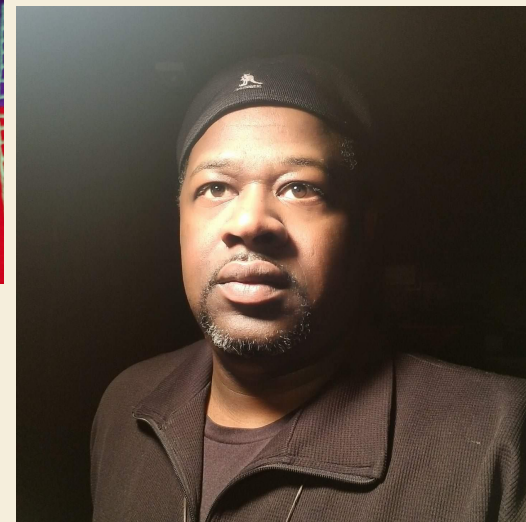
7 pm - Drum Circle

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm Concert

Featured Tellers:

- Marlon Carey
- Baba C
- April Armstrong

MC: Chetter Galloway



Saturday, November 7, 2026 Bristol A & B

9 am to 10:45 am Membership Meeting &
10:45 am - 11:15 am Passing of Presidential
Cowtail Switch

Presidents' Training with *Affiliates Presidents*
Only 11:15 am to 12:15 pm **Elm**

Lunch on own 11:30 am to 1 pm

Saturday, Baba Jamal Koram Youth Concert

Bristol A & B

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Saturday Jackie Torrence Tall Tales Contest

Bristol A & B

MC: Mitch 'Gran' Daddy Capel

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Auction 4:30 pm to 5 :30 pm

Visit Marketplace

Saturday, November 7, 2026

— Zora Neale Hurston Awards & Concert Atrium

6:15 pm to 7 pm Buffet

Dinner

7 pm to 7:30 pm

Presentation of ZNH Awards

7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Featured Tellers:

- April Armstrong
- Valerie Tutson
- Tribute to Diane Ferlatte

MC: Janice Curtis GreenE



Saturday, BOD Debriefing Meeting Wickford

9:15 pm to 10:00 pm

Sunday — Mama Linda Goss Spiritual Breakfast

Bristol A & B

Buffet Breakfast: 8 am to 8:45 am

Concert: 9:00 am to 10 am

Featured Tellers:

- Djeli
- Fred Johnson

MC: Queen Nur

Kunama: Special Drumming
Tribute

Closing Circle: 10 am to 10:30 am Queen Nur leads Circle. President's Closing Remarks. Closing Remarks from Mama Linda Goss

