

# Vanora F. Legaux

154 Cameron Drive • Gretna, LA 70056 • 504-394-2585 • vanora@vanorathestoryteller.com

Vanora Franklin Legaux, a long time, story loving, storytelling native of New Orleans, is a life member and Past President of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. (NABS). Founder of the Stronger Hope Biblical Storytelling Guild; a member of Cenla Storytelling Guild, National Storytelling Network, and the Network of Biblical Storytellers; She is the Griot for the Southern Region Youth Affiliates of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

She delights many with her wealth of woven tales. Among them are her personal favorite works: The Autobiography of Della Foster- One Step at A Time (true story of her 107 year old grandmother); Evelyn Teasing Tan & Big Sis; and For Sisters Whose Month Outlast Their Money.

Vanora is a retired teacher and counselor with 33 years of service in the Orleans Parish School system, a member of the National Black Women's Health Imperative, is a life member and the Immediate Past Southern Region Area VI Coordinator of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.



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## PROFESSIONAL STORYTELLER EXPERIENCES

Performing Artist (Storyteller) Very Special Arts 2002 - Present

Engage and entertain regular and special need students in audience participation through the oral tradition.

\*See Appendix for school performances.

Storytelling Residency 2006 - Present

Promote storytelling to special need students for a 6 week term; increase opportunities for literacy enrichment, enhance creative problem solving, and encourage students to explore other sources of stories through reading and library services.

\*See Appendix for Storytelling Residencies.

Artist (Storyteller), Extended School Year Program 2006 - 2007

Developed and implemented a series of hands on skill-based storytelling activities for identified special education classes.

\*See Appendix for Extended Year Programs.

Prime Time Family Reading Time, Westbank Regional Library 2007

Prime Time Family Reading Time, Lincoln Elementary School 2008



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## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

Orleans Parish School Board, New Orleans, Louisiana Counselor 1997 - 2000

Worked with parents and teachers to evaluate children's strengths, problems and special needs; Provided preventive and developmental counseling, alcohol and drug prevention programs, and conflict resolution classes.

Orleans Parish School Board, New Orleans, Louisiana Teacher 1965 - 1996

Provided the tools and environment for students to develop problem solving skills; Introduced children to mathematics, language, science and social studies through use of games, music, artwork, films, books, computers and other tools to teach basic skills; Used storytelling, rhyming games and acting games to further language and vocabulary development.

## **LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY**

2009 - 2010 President, National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.

2007 - 2008 President Elect, National Association of Black Storytellers Inc.

2004 - 2006 Secretary, National Association of Black Storytellers Inc

## **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

1975 Master of Education in Counselor Education Degree  
Southern University Baton Rouge, Louisiana

1965 Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education Degree  
Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

## **CERTIFICATION**

Type 03 Elementary Teaching Certificate Grades 1-8  
Endorsement in Guidance and Counseling



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## APPENDIX

### **Performing Artist (Storyteller) Very Special Arts List**

- Schneckenburger Elementary School
- George Cox Elementary School
- Kate Middleton Elementary School
- Ames Elementary School
- Livaudais Trudeau Middle School
- Hope Haven
- Waggaman Special School
- Bunche Middle School
- Norbert Rillieux Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- St. Ville Elementary School
- Paul Solis Elementary School
- Estelle Elementary School
- William Hart School
- Ella Dolhonde Elementary

### **Storytelling Residency List**

- Lillie White Ruppel Elementary
- Norbert Rillieux Elementary
- Hazel Park Elementary School
- Vic Pitre Elementary School
- Joshua Butler Elementary School
- C.T. Janet Elementary
- Strehle Elementary
- Pierre Capdau Charter School
- Medard Nelson Charter School
- George Cox Elementary School
- Roosevelt Middle School

### **Extended School Year Program List**

- Phoebe Hearst Elementary School
- Estelle Elementary School
- Riverdale High School
- Truman Junior High School

### **Performing Artist Evangeline Parish Library**

- Turkey Creek Branch
- Ville Platte
- Pine Prairie Branch
- Mamou Branch
- Basile Branch
- Chataignier Branch



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## **Life Member and Past President of the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.**

Vanora knows that the art of storytelling is the art of spoken love, oral history, and poetic expression. The beauty and power of her richly told and uniquely crafted tales has captivated audiences in cities across the country and brought delight to the hearts of countless listeners. Passionate, enthusiastic, and devoted to the age-old art and practice of the African griot, Vanora has amassed a catalogue of beautifully written stories that seem tailor-made for the oral tradition. Among Vanora's personal favorite works are: The Autobiography of Della Foster-One Step at a Time (a true story drawn from the life of her grandmother who lived to be 107 years old); Evelyn Teasing Tan & Big Sis, and lastly, For Sisters Whose Month Outlast Their Money.

Available for:

- School Assemblies
- PTA/PTO Functions
- Library Programs
- Storytelling Workshops
- Retreats
- Church Festivals and Functions
- Young At Heart Groups
- Intergenerational Events
- Holiday Celebrations
- Summer Camp Programs
- Performances/Workshops/ Residencies

