

# African American History Month Celebration 2020

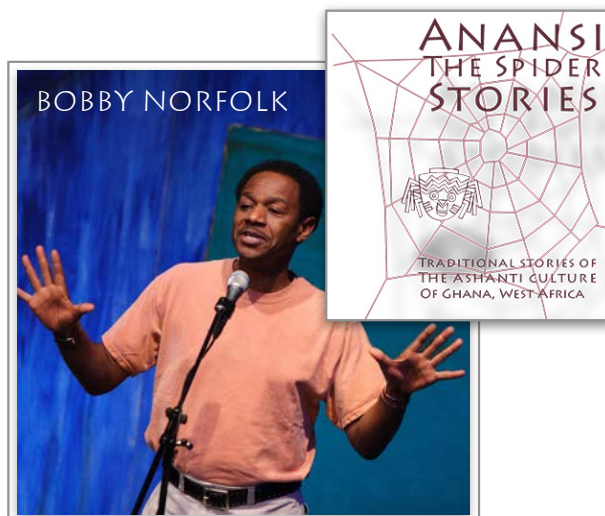
A collaboration between Cedarhurst Center for the Arts,  
Mt. Vernon City Schools-District 80. and Rend Lake College

## Program Sponsors:

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# AFRICAN AMERICAN FOLKTALES

African-American folktales are a storytelling tradition based in Africa containing a rich oral tradition that expanded as Africans were brought to the Americas as slaves. New tales based on their experience in the Americas emerged as well as new characters and themes (e.g. birds and people with magical powers who could fly away.) In general, most African-American Folktales fall into one of seven categories: tales of origin, tales of trickery and trouble, tales of triumph over natural or supernatural evils, comic heartwarming tales, tales teaching life lessons, tales of ghosts and spirits, and tales of slaves and their slave-owners. Many revolve around animals which have human characteristics with the same morals and short comings as humans to make the stories relatable. Folktales belong to all of us. They are part of our American history.



While these classic stories are not only highly entertaining, they also play an important role in passing along core values or character traits. Folktales were often employed to share a common history (which doesn't always make it into the history books) and to reinforce cultural values.

For several generations, stories from Africa have traditionally been passed down by word of mouth. Often, after a hard day's work, the adults would gather the children together by moonlight, around a village fire and tell stories. This was traditionally called 'Tales by Moonlight'. Usually, the stories are meant to prepare young people for life, and so each story taught a lesson or moral.

In African folk tales, the stories reflect the culture where diverse types of animals abound. The animals and birds are often accorded human attributes, so it is not uncommon to find animals talking, singing, or demonstrating other human characteristics such as greed, jealousy, honesty, etc. The setting in many of the stories exposes the reader to the landform and climate within that region of Africa. References are often made to different seasons such as the 'dry' or 'rainy' season and their various effects on the surrounding vegetation and animal life.

*Some information used in the above program description has been taken from the Anike Foundation website. For more information on the efforts of Anike Foundation visit [anikefoundation.org](http://anikefoundation.org)*

## Featured Art and Performing Artist:

- Bobby Norfolk [bobbynorfolk.com](http://bobbynorfolk.com)

- The Anansi Spider – A West African Folktale

Origin – Present day Ghana, off the coast of West Africa, is home to the Ashanti (or Asante) people whose oral tradition of storytelling eventually brought the story of Anansi to life. Bobby Norfolk's performance will include the story of the Anansi Spider.

**Culminating Program: February 27, 2020 | 6:00 pm**

**Casey Middle School Gymnasium - Free Admission - Open to the public**

## Suggested Music Playlist

Available on Cedarhurst's YouTube channel

Use this URL as a short cut to hear all the tracks listed below: <http://bit.ly/AAHM2020>

### Raffi song about Anansi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZjtDMLvpAk>

### Ella Jenkins: Jambo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaHDh2nDYsY&list=PLzD-uZXPaxWdgJuebUmuY9Twa6cJMWNfP&index=10>

### Ella Jenkins: Who Fed the Chickens?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-wzAo9w6Hw>

### Ella Jenkins: Did You Feed My Cow?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjXJ1Q\\_VpfY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjXJ1Q_VpfY)

### Ella Jenkins: The World is Big The World is Small

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaqmeU60qMY&list=PLzD-uZXPaxWdgJuebUmuY9Twa6cJMWNfP&index=14>

### Ella Jenkins: No More Pie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1esLotkAC0&list=PLzD-uZXPaxWdgJuebUmuY9Twa6cJMWNfP&index=8>

### Ella Jenkins: I'm Gonna Sing

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG3QeY4\\_R8k&list=RD2ZaZfqlnp4&index=19](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uG3QeY4_R8k&list=RD2ZaZfqlnp4&index=19)

### Ella Jenkins: Barreling on Down the Highway

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZaZfqlnp4&list=RD2ZaZfqlnp4&start\\_radio=1&t=44](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZaZfqlnp4&list=RD2ZaZfqlnp4&start_radio=1&t=44)

### Ella Jenkins: Performing Folk Artist website

<https://ellajenkins.com/>

### Sona Jobarteh - GAMBIA:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtmmlOQnTXM>

### Sona Jobarteh - JARABI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oToZfPGMMBY>

### Sona Jobarteh-Performing artist website-

<http://www.sonajobarteh.com/>

### Ali Farka Toure' – Ali's Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FO9lLi-Rt8>

### Ali Farka Toure' – Allah Uya:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CrwLL8f3DA>

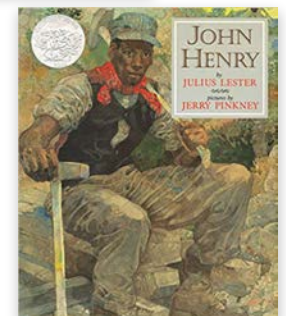
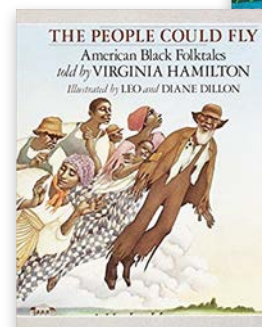
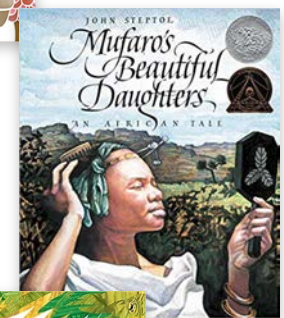
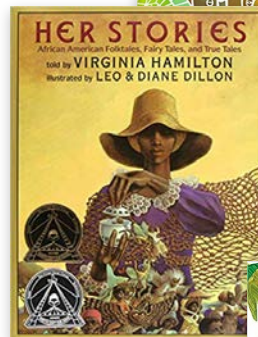
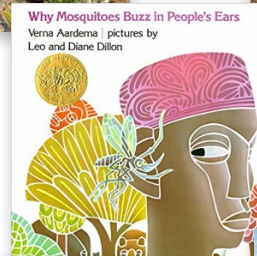
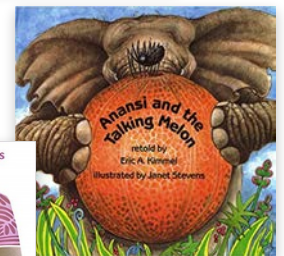
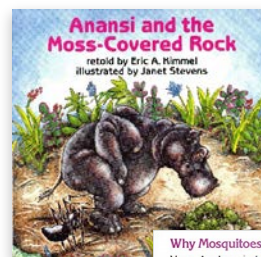
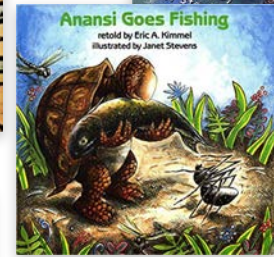
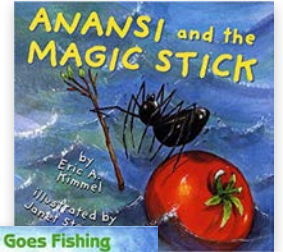
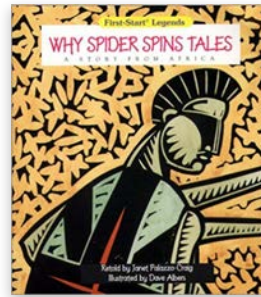
### More information on artist Ali Farka Toure':

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali\\_Farka\\_Toure%C3%A9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ali_Farka_Toure%C3%A9)

## Suggested Children's Books

Find links to all the suggested books at:

<https://www.cedarhurst.org/african-american-history>



## Art Projects:

After teachers introduce this year's theme students will create works of art inspired by traditional African colors, patterns and symbols. Students will look at the artwork created by different countries in Africa and learn of how different cultures have identifying patterns unique to their culture and heritage. A variety of drawing, painting and mask making materials will be used.

### **Primary Center – Teacher Mrs. Amanda Bathon**

Students will begin by watching folk tales from the Cedarhurst Youtube playlist and then select a few animals to inspire their art. Using the diffusing paper they will trace the outline of an animal and add details with sharpie. Liquid watercolor will be used to create vibrant colors. A black and white, monochromatic, tribal patterned frame will be painted to complete the project.

### **J.L. Buford – Teacher Mrs. Janna Edwards**

### **Casey Middle School – Teacher Mrs. Amy Seifert**

Inspired by traditional African masks students will use paper-mache/plaster gauze strips to create their own unique animal mask. Paint, recycled materials, yarn and beads will be used to adorn each mask.

### **Dr. Andy Hall Early Childhood Center – Facilitator: Carrie Gibbs.**

*Lessons taught by individual home room teachers. Featured book: "We All Went on Safari"*

**T.A.G. Program: Talented and Gifted:** TBD, Carrie Gibbs will be meeting with the TAG educator team on Tuesday, January 7, 11:00 a.m.

**Music:** Special musical selections inspired by this year's theme are being planned and will be performed at the Culminating Program. - Primary Center 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Choir, J.L. Buford Choir, and the Casey Orchestra.

## Featured Artist Bobby Norfolk Performance Schedule:



*bobbynorfolk.com*

### **Monday, February 3**

- **Primary Center** - (grades K-3) | **2 performances**  
9:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.
- **Dr. Andy Hall Pre-K Center** (ages 3 to 5) | **2 performances**  
12:30 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.
- **Rend Lake College**  
3:00 p.m. (Free and open to the public)

### **Thursday, February 27**

**PUBLIC EVENING PERFORMANCE - 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

*The program is one hour long. Bobby will perform a 20 minute piece. Free admission and open to the public.*

### **Friday, February 28**

- **JL Buford School** (grades 4 & 5) | **2 performances**  
9:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.
- **Casey Middle School** (grades 6,7,8) | **assembly performance**  
2:45 to 3:15 p.m.