

Mrs. Joann Frasier Dasent
aka
Auntie Jo Jo "The Storyteller"
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Artistic and Professional Resume

Founder of **Regenerating Our Offspring Through Stories, Inc.** 2008 a 501 C (3) non-profit
Mission: To use the art of storytelling to promote literacy, in order to reach the various types of learners in a multicultural society.

A proud partner of Philadelphia Read by 4th and Reading Captain.

- Current member of National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc.
- Has performed at over 500 venues in the tri-state area. List included but is not limited to: parochial, public, charter schools, hospitals, libraries, day care centers and museums.
- Early morning reading program collaboration with Springside School and Francis D. Pastorius School, 2001.
- Made storytelling debut at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and "Sunday on Stage" Central
- Performed Storytelling on Stage at Free Library of Philadelphia, 2001-2009.
- The Creative Director of Pre-Kwanzaa program held for Pan-African Studies Community Education Program at Temple University, 2002.
- Helped to coordinate "First Read A Loud" at alma mater Anna B. Pratt Elementary School. Was named "Pride of Pratt" by faculty and staff, 2002.
- Introduced "Storytelling in The Classroom" as a tool to promote literacy in order to reach the various types of learners.
- Presented stories during African Family Festival – Celebration African Culture at International House.
- Included African Drummer from Ghana who performed at Scranton High School, to educate migrant workers' children about the African American culture, 2003.
- As a member of Keepers of The Culture, I was the Creative Director for Sunday on Stage at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2003.
- Performed "Fun and Games Auntie Jo Jo use to Play" on the streets of Philadelphia at Haverford Library, 2004.
- Presented an all day Black History program at Brookdale School located in Bloomfield, N.J.,2004.

- Performed for Sunoco Welcome America, The Mayors Educations “Go 4th & Learn” with Philadelphia Reads who donated over 1,000 books to children around the city.
- Executed performance was held at the African American Museum 2004 ***
- Conducted a two-hour workshop titled “Introduction to Storytelling” for teachers who were interested in cultivating the art of storytelling in their classrooms, 2004.
- Dedicated dictionaries to 3rd grade students at Anna B. Pratt Elementary School and Women’s Christian Alliance, In memory of Annie O. Plummer “The Dictionary Lady.” 2005
- Published in the National Association of Black Storytellers first anthology “Sayin’ Somethin’ a revised Aesop fable entitled: “A Farmer, His Son and Their Mule” a teachable moment, 2006.
- Conducted Auntie Jo Jo’s Afternoon of Discoveries: African-American Inventions, Oak Lane Library, 2007.
- Taught “Introduction to Storytelling” class at Cheltenham Township Adult School, Fall 2007.
- Facilitated graduate thesis entitled: Recognizing a Rites of Passage for Pre-Adolescent Girls. Sharing various perspectives from storytellers, educators and students. Event was held at the African American Museum of Philadelphia, 2007.
- Presented storytelling workshop with Auntie Jo Jo at the African American of Philadelphia, 2008.
- Led “To Be a Drum” by: Evelyn Coleman workshop: Listening to the rhythm of your heart and mind to become living drums. Held at the African American Museum of Philadelphia, 2009.
- Facilitated several 10 weeks workshops for the new Sankofa Youth Theater (a division of R.O.O.T.S, Inc.) held at the historical La Mott Community Center, 2009-2016.
- Supported Sister Circle Rites of Passage Program spear-headed by Karen Warrington. The 12-week Saturday morning program took place at Temple University, 2014.
- Self-published my revised Aesop fable “A Farmer, His Son and Their Mule.” 2016. Pilot program for seniors “Afternoon of Spirituals and Hymns held at my mother’s church, PDT, 2018.
- Presented 6-week program at Arcadia University “Preserving The Oral Tradition: One Story at a Time.” Youth were paid by UAC to participate in program, 2018. Youth who revised the Aesop fables presented their fables to a nearby day care. The youth fables were published, printed and filed with the Library of Congress.
- Self-published “A Cool Windy Day on Table Mountain” based on the song “Straighten Up and Fly Right” by: Nat King Cole, 2019.
- Combined books “Freedom Over Me by: Ashley Bryan and To Be a Drum by: Evelyn Coleman” Via Storytellers and Poets to honor the late Ashley Bryan with our version of the two books. Grateful that Ashley was able to see our production via a DVD and gave us his blessings. Evelyn Coleman gave us her blessings as well. Due to the pandemic we had to postpone our showing at the Penn Museum.
- Afternoon of Spirituals and Hymns for seniors was held in the castle at Arcadia University, 2019.

I was determined to bring my undergraduate thesis (a portion of the above title) to life. I it was presented in the castle fifteen years earlier in 2004.

- Mentored the founder of SNAPCO who recently opened her dance studio in Chestnut Hill, PA. 2019.
- Became Reading Captain for Philadelphia Read by 4th during the pandemic, 2019.
- Supplied schools, a laundromat and neighbors with books either purchased by R.O.O.T. S, Inc. via Amazon, First Book, Reading Recycled, TreeHouse books and other resources to children in and around the tri-state area.
- Family Literacy Event held at Mander Playground Recreation Center, 2021
Donated books and shared “A, Farmer, His Son and Their Mule” with families at Big G. Laundromat on Cheltenham Avenue along with Senator Art Haywood., 2021.
- Encouraged families to share fables with children at Coast to Coast Book Fair, 2019.
Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service donated knitted items and books to babies in NICU at Thomas Jefferson Hospital, 2022 & 2023
- Maintain and stock Reading Spaces Everywhere Libray in Glenside, books are donated by Reading Recycled, Treehouse Books, First Book, Amazon, R.O.O.T.S, Inc. and other resources.
- Introduced: A, Farmer, His Son and Their Mule and Drummer Boy John John along with David Steel Pan Player and Uncle Ron. Introduced children at F.A.C.T.S School to the origin of the Steel pan, 2022.
- Staged and introduced children to the limbo stick and the origin of the steel pan at Dare to Imagine Church, 2022.
- Literacy Day at the Treehouse, donated books and read to children, summer 2021
- Donated copies of students revised Aesop fables during Coast to Coast Book Fair, 2022.
- Held SuperHero Summer Camp at Arcadia University, summer 2022.
- Participated in Keepers of The Culture, Inc. Free Library of Philadelphia Sunday on Stage. Share my “Back In The Day: In My North Philadelphia” memoir. Event took place via zoom, 2022.
- Read by 4th event at Malcolm X memorial Park collaboration with West Philly Reading Captain, 2022.
- R.O.O.T.S, inc. purchased the following books for 3rd grade students at A.B.Day School.
- On various occasions we will visit the classroom and read the books a-loud, 2023.

*Knots of A Counting Rope by: Bill Marin, Jr.

*Anansi and The Moss Covered Rock by: Eric Kimmel

*The Fortune-Tellers by: Lloyd Alexander

*Lon Po Po Red-Riding Hood Story from China by: Ed Young

Grace for President: by Kelly DiPucchio

I AM Courage by: Susan Verde

Change Sings by: Amanda Gorman

Students were given crates to use for their home libraries

Books from First Book grant was donated to the classroom.

Books with * indicates the books were/are part of the classroom curriculum

Employment:

Cheltenham Township Recreation and Parks - Theatre Instructor 2009-2017
(Saturdays only)
Springside School for Girls – Accounts Payable Manager- 1998 – Retired 2012
Elf Atochem formerly Pennwalt Corporation – Accounting – 1974 – 1991
Bell Telephone – Operator 1968-1969

Certificates:

Toastmasters International
Francis D. Pastorius School In grateful acknowledgement for hours of service and dedication to children and staff. 2001
Anna B. Pratt Academy Read-A-Loud Certificate 2005
Dr. Howard Gardner – Multiple Intelligences: The Theory, The Practice and The Future
Teaching for Understanding In and Across the Disciplines April 21, 2006
Certificate of National & Community Service AmeriCorps 2016
AARP Foundation Experience Corps – Author for participation 2017-2018
AARP Foundation Experience Corps- “Meet the Author Series”
Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township – MLK Day of Service
donation of knitted items in partnership with R.O.O.T.S, Inc. and Rondalyn Dockery and
Kelly Rebitz. 2008-2021
Urban Affairs Coalition 2020 SYE Employer to recognize the “RESILIENCE
DEDICATION, PASSION and SUPPORT for our 2020’s Summer Program in the light of
COVID-19”
The Dictionary Project ROOTS, Inc. donates dictionaries to 3rd graders in memory of Annie
Plummer “The Dictionary Lady” whose motto is “a mind is a terrible thing to waste.” 2015-
Present
2022 Coast To Coast Children’s Book Expo & Tour

Education:

M.A. Oral Traditions, Graduate Institute, New London, Connecticut
B.A. Liberal Studies/Applied Social Science, Arcadia University, Glenside, PA
A.S. Business Administration, Peirce Junior College, Philadelphia, PA

Volunteer:

AARP Experience Corporation Read by 4th (over 300 hours)
AARP Experience Corporation “MEET THE AUTHOR” SERIES 2017 -
Mentor/Tutor 2015 – Present A. B. Day School, Mrs. Okonski’s 3rd grade class
Philadelphia Book Bank
Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church Scholarship Committee

One of my greatest awards was received
From: Emmanuel United Methodist Church
Year: 1985

“The Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for untiring service to the United Methodist Youth”
In 1986 my brother was murdered.
I don’t know what I would have done without these youth being in my life to hold me up.

Member of:

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators
Manuscript Academy
The Highlights Foundation
Children Book Insider
Keepers of The Culture, Inc.
The National Association Of Black Storyteller
Read By4th
Storytelling Academy
Children's Book Academy
Scholarship Committee @ Enon
Seniors Ministry @ Enon

Mentors:

The late Annie D. Hyman founder of PASCEP
The late Josephine B. Johnson – Community Activist
The late Maggie Lane – Community Activist and co-founder of PASCEP
The late John Seawright introduced me to the church and a local credit union

Language:

American Sign Language

Hobbies:

Crocheting
Genealogy
Knitting
Mentoring
Photography
Quilting
Sewing
Tap dancing
Writing