

shanti-chi presents
Nne Agwu
Storytelling Retreat
10th Anniversary programme 2020



In honour of
Nne Dimela Yekwai
1944 - 2017

A melanin rich storytelling compound.
On Albion soil this great gift can be found.
A place to honour our cultural treasures.
A place of healing and divine pleasures.



“Self-Love is the Revolution”
Griot Chinyere

Ndeewunu - Welcome

Shanti-Chi produced the first the celebration of our ancient oral traditions 10 years ago. Griot Chinyere is the founder of the Nne Agwu (Mother of Divine Nation) & dedicates this year to honour Nne Dimela Yekwai, our literary storyteller Mother famed for plucking stories from the air and telling them like a well rehearsed soliloque inspiring and healing us as we journey. We bring her work to life with our professional artists who will deliver a daily programme of innovative workshops, enthralling performances & engaging discussions. Isé

Nne Dimela Yekwai performed and supported the growth of this community spirit since our inception gathering 2010 in Oxleas woods. An evening of storytelling, music, night walking, chanting and celebrating. And with the final happy ever after of the evening, the people asked for “more.” Storytelling enables us to evolve and yet remain within the remit of our divine order: Masculine honours the Feminine, the Feminine nurtures the future and the future serves us all. In honour of ancestor Nne Dimela Yekwai. Isé

Griot Chinyere’s vision during the evolution of the Storytelling festival, remains constant; by inviting exclusively the Indigenous melanin rich people of the world to this 4-night camp, we create a space in nature where we gather to share our culture, embed ourselves in our heritage to create place of powerful healing visions . We celebrate, preserve and promote the oral traditions of our storytelling artform. Isé

Let us reclaim our purpose and our freedom: to be guardians of Mother earth and the natural forces of the universe. And in return full joy the abundance she offers us. Let us honour Chineke the feminine melanin rich conscious divine womb of creation, the ancestors who protect and guide us, our ancient stories and our children: ancestors returned. Isé

The meditation of all our storytelling gatherings is to vision the dawning of a new day. Let us accept we will return in 300 years after our death. Imagine the world we want to be born into. What does it look like? How does it function? The future transformation of the world comes from focusing the imagination today, followed by planning the action and then actioning the plan to ensure the world we vision comes to pass? Isé

Work with us to honour our core values: work competently; express in an honest and open way with due consideration for others; always seek to be divine in all circumstances; show pride in our ancestral lineage and engage with others in a way that positively demonstrates this! Full joy yourself with love in your heart and a skip in your step! Isé

The Volunteer Dream Team

Our planning committee and volunteers have taken on the task of working with Griot Chinyere to create a dream team. A dedicated and honourable group of people who are trained in the art of bushcraft, camping, customer service, first aid and mental first aid well being. They are beautiful spirits come to support the village vision in all that we do. Please support them by treating them with love and respect for giving up their time and energy to serve their community. The ethos is each one teach one. Let each encounter be fruitful and beautiful for all concerned. Let us share skills and love. We are here to build a beautiful world where melanin rich people serve each other with divinity and dignity in their spirit and hearts.

“Melanin rich is the great gift, Wear it with attitude, Wear it with gratitude”

Griot Chinyere



BIG THANKS to our supporters & sponsors: BB3D Media, Galaxyafiwe, Rebirth of the Griot, Omega radio, Bless radio, Sister empowerment circle, 1000 Afrakan drum salute, Sister Empowerment, Nabss, Black People Giving, Jolivette Anderson-Douoning, JS Downer and Jason Page!

FEATURED ARTISTS:



Jali Bakary



Griot Chinyere



Eli Anderson



Spirit of Nne Dimela



Sola Story



Aamasade



**Omowale Ru
Pert-em-Hru**



The Griot Way Essemble

Griot Chinyere Award winning national and international grassroots storyteller. The artistic director for Shanti-Chi and the founder of the Nne Agwu Afrakan Storytelling festival is an English born Igbo from a long line of storytellers, Dibias, herbalist, healers, chiefs, historians, soothsayers and mystics. She focuses on developing the ancient storytelling artistry in the diaspora. She has gathered, globe trotting through Africa, Europe and the Middle East, knowledge and experience of the oral traditions and wishes to share. Griot Chinyere will storytell and take us on magical night walks to honour our ancestors. "Storytelling is how we prophesise the future of our imaginings".

Jali Bakary Konteh is the son of Dembo Konte and Alhaji Bai Konte's grandson, two of the best known Gambian kora players ever. Like his forefathers, his exceptional talent gives him both flexibility and musical originality. Jali is a master of traditional Gambian folk songs with the unique and special Gambian line, which is not heard much these days. What a treat, Jali will be teaching traditional Kora folk songs during the Nne Agwu retreat.

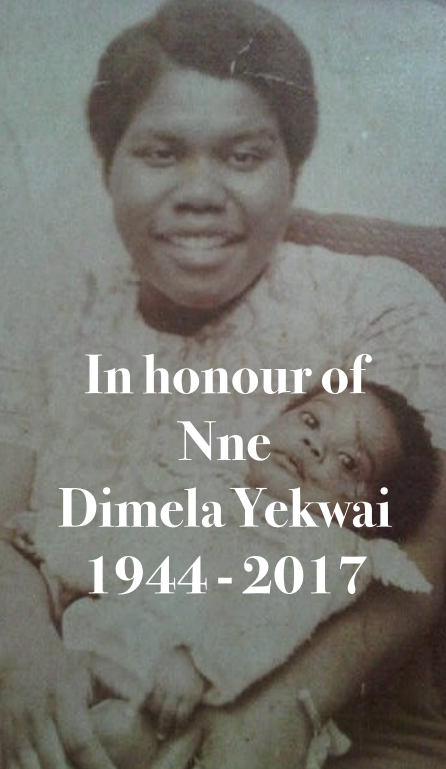
Eli Anderson uses the ancient craft of storytelling and drumming to reflect positively upon the critical issues of life. He truly enjoys the opportunity to share this craft through storytelling in a variety of environments where people are seeking intuitive answers to difficult and challenging questions. Eli will be delivering workshops in the initiation of becoming an elder, connecting to the oral traditions.

Sola Story is a creative facilitator and performance storyteller with an international profile. He is the founder and director of Narrative Mindfulness Ltd and co founder of Rebirth of the griot a monthly Afrakan storytelling and spoken word showcase. At Nne Agwu Storytelling family retreat, Sola will be telling stories, delivering Kazimba Ngoma: Afrakan martial art.

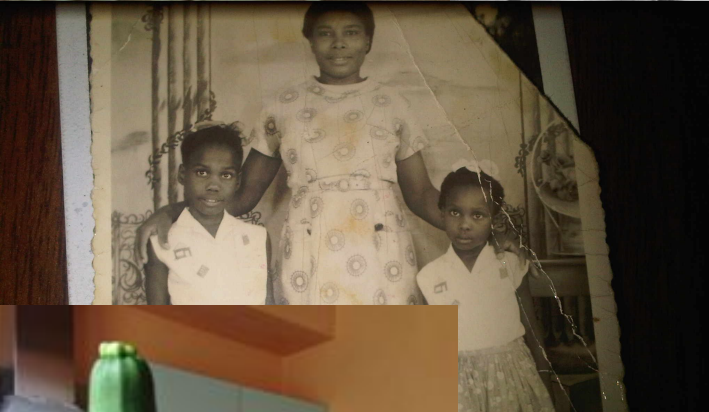
Aamasade Shamanic Energy Balancing & Realignment ~ Naturopathic Guide & Percussionist. "It's a pleasure to be co-creating sacred space once again with Griot Chinyere at the Nne Agwu storytelling family retreat 2020. Holding innerchi, we will all journey together to create the opening and closing ceremony. I request you bring an open heart and playful soul".

Omowale Ru Pert-em-Hru name is defined by primarily two cultures: Kemet and Yoruba. Pert em Hru means coming forth by day, from Kemet. Omowale means the one who has returned, from Yoruba. He is the co founder of the 1000 Afrakan drum salute. At the Nne Agwu storytelling family retreat, he will deliver drumming meditations. Come with a drum!

The Griot Way ensemble are graduating from the Griot Way training designed and delivered by Griot Chinyere. This year the training focuses on Igbo storytelling and explores the role of the feminine in spirituality through the exploration of alusi (archetypes). Six feminine melanin rich energies took a journey into the story of Ezigbo the obange child: Chinyere Onyekwere, Paula Cameron, Shediyah HatNebMaoo, Sheda D Felix and Flavia McDonald. The results are mystical.



In honour of
Nne
Dimela Yekwai
1944 - 2017



My mother
worked too
hard for me
not to be
great.

Nne Agwu Activities:

Friday 28th August 2020

1pm - 3-30pm (All)

WELCOME TENT Registration
Tent erecting and settling

3.30pm snacks available

4.30pm House Keeping, (All)

Health & Safety, Ask your questions

Storytelling Games (All)

Free up your spirit

6pm Drum Call (All)

Opening libation Ceremony

Griot Chinyere, Aamsade

Omowale, Sola, Eli

Words from contributors

Go through the programme

Storytelling Games (All)

Free up your spirit

7pm Dinner

8.30 - 10pm Fire side Stories (All)

Traditional storytelling with

Griot Chinyere

Eli Anderson

Sola Story

Flavia McDonald

10.30pm - midnight Acoustic (All)

Jali Bakary

Joy to the world,

Saturday 29th August 2020

6am - 7.30am Adult Kazimba: Sola

7am Breakfast begins

8am - 9am Childrens Yoga: Michelle

9.30am -11am Workshops

Storytelling: Eli Anderson

11.30am - 1pm Workshops

Storytelling with Sola Story

1pm Lunch starts

3pm - 4.30pm Workshops

Singing with the Kora (All): Jali Bakary

5pm - 6.30pm Workshops

Drumming mediation: Omowale

6pm Dinner

8.30pm - 10pm by the fireside (All)

Traditional storytelling with

Griot Chinyere

Eli Anderson

Paula Cameron

Vanessa Matthews

10.30pm - midnight Acoustic (All)

Jali Bakary,

Joy to the world

Midnight walk (All) Griot Chinyere

KEY: All workshops are family orientated unless otherwise stated.

NB: Parents / Guardians are responsible at all times for their children.

Programme maybe subject to change

Nne Agwu Activities:

Sunday 30th August 2020

6am - 7.30am Adult yoga: Imani

7am Breakfast begins

8am - 9am Childrens Yoga: Michelle

9.30am -11am Workshops
Storytelling: Eli Anderson

11.30am - 1pm Workshops
Storytelling with Sola Story

1pm Lunch starts

3pm - 4.30pm Workshops
Singing with the Kora (All): Jali Bakary

5pm - 6.30pm Workshops
Drumming meditation: Omowale

6pm Dinner

8.30pm - 10pm by the fireside (All)
Traditional storytelling with
Griot Chinyere
Griot way ensemble
Akadi
Sabu

10.30pm - midnight Acoustic (All)
Jali Bakary,
Joy to the world

Midnight walk (All) Griot Chinyere

Monday 31st August 2020

6am - 7.30am Tai Chi: Itricia

7am Breakfast begins

8am - 9am Childrens Yoga: Michelle

9.30am -11am Workshops
Storytelling: Eli Anderson

11.30am - 1pm Workshops
Storytelling with Sola Story

1pm Lunch starts

3pm - 4.30pm Workshops
Singing with the Kora (All): Jali Bakary

5pm - 6.30pm Workshops
Drumming meditation: Omowale

6pm Dinner

8.30pm - 10pm Closing ceremony (All)
Retreat participants
Griot Chinyere
Griot way ensemble
Professional performamnces

10.30pm - midnight Acoustic (All)
Jali Bakary,
Joy to the world

Midnight walk (All) Griot Chinyere

KEY: All workshops are family orientated unless otherwise stated.

NB: Parents / Guardians are responsible at all times for their children.

Programme maybe subject to change

Nne Agwu Activities:

Tuesday 1st September 2020

A free day

- to explore surrounding area
- swim in the river
- chill with friends

1pm Lunch starts

3pm Clean up, Pack up, and home time

Nne Agwu Code Of Conduct

- Carry your cleansing pack with you at all times
- You are responsible for your well-being
- Please respect peoples personal space
- Please check in & out when leaving or arriving to Nne Agwu village
- We support your health & safety within the boundaries of the retreat
- Car park is for weekend pass holders
- Welcome tent is for information, first aid, lost property, bin liners & resolution
- Keep the retreat site clean and tidy, Clean as you go, Use designated areas for your rubbish, Any rubbish that can be burnt please do so
- Clean toilet seat above and underneath as you enter and after leaving.
- Clean sink bowl and underneath before washing hands
- For safety there will be one designation fire place
- Fires must always be attended
- Children must always be attended
- Children remain the responsibility of their parent(s) / guardian(s)
- Respect the surrounding community and the Nne Agwu community
- No loud music or noise after 10pm
- Drumming is permitted 5 to 6.30pm also during storytelling 8pm to 10m
- This festival is FREE of alcohol, drugs, smoking, meat, fish, dairy. Repect that!
- Respect the nature and the outdoor environment that gives life
- Do not cut / break tree branches, nor kill inscets, nor trample flowers etc
- Respect and nurture each other and each others property
- Give thanks daily to our ancestors for their protection and guidance
- We are a community so let's look out for each other
- Nne Agwu Constituion is not liable for losses and or damages
- Meet people and make new friends. Full joy this amazing experience!

Self love with delicious food

Our Caterers Award Winning “**Kye's Healthy Choices**” is the brainchild of Shani & Jeff. Our mission is to share knowledge and love of wholesome, healthy vegan food and drinks with those seeking a healthier way of life. All our products are made with love and wholesome ingredients to the best of our ability. We deliver a fusion of different flavours from our caribbean heritage. We are thrilled to be collaborating with Shanti-Chi on the Nne Agwu Storytelling Family retreat as our previous experience of this amazing space has left us wanting more. This is an opportunity to experience authentic storytelling as we have never experienced and the opportunity to embrace the warmth and giving of mother earth. What more could we ask for?

Kye's Healthy choices will cultivate vibrant flavours giving us vital super hero energy so we can reclaim plant power and resurrect vegan values. Their culinary kitchen creates the finest recipes based on ancient melanin rich culture. The foods activate the divinity within. They cater for people with special diets, such as raw food, lactose and gluten intolerance; who seek to improve their physical health and spiritual well being. The menu is delicious, nutritious and tasty. It will enhance your senses and tantalise your taste buds. MENU IS SUBJECT TO UPDATE!

Kye's healthy choices will be operating a pre-order service. Order your meals on arrival for next day or for the whole weekend to help make sure you are fed and watered in time to full joy the activities of the Nne Agwu retreat.

Ayoola's well loved raw vegan snacks are ideal healthy snacks will leave you satisfied for longer. Packed with maximum amounts of nutrition these raw power packed organic snacks are tasty and made with love. They are gluten free, nut free, stored with energy enhancing enzymes and nutrients come in sweet and savoury options: coconut & plantain granola, linseed & agave bites, kale & callaloo crisps, garlic & thyme with himalayan salt and more. Eat naturally at the Nne Agwu storytelling family retreat 2020.



info@shanti-chi.com



0758 222 8967



www.shanti-chi.com

Well-Being and Stalls

- **Matiga** is a qualified massage therapist offering reduced rates of hand, body and head massage at the Nne Agwu Storytelling family retreat starting at £14 for 20 mins using essential oils specifically blended for you. ***"Massage in the wilderness, could it get better?"***
- **Koya Therapy** is a therapeutic well-being practitioner and dramatherapist who provides psychological and emotional well-being to those on their journey of self-discovery and personal development. The session consists of creating a safe space to explore personal issues by applying a range of healing techniques that include ancestral prayers, mindful movement meditation, energy readings with cards, talk therapy and role play.
- **Kandake's** Herbals offers top quality products for all types of ailments. Kandake is medically and traditionally trained will also offer Holistic consultations at a discounted rate during the Nne Agwu storytelling Family retreat. If you want purely traditional knowledge then the Earth Centre's dogon products will also be available on the same stall from magazines, books, calendars, posters, and the chance to learn more about the Kemetic culture.
- **Blyssful Union** sells smoothly wiped shea butter from Ghana. A natural holistic product containing vitamin A, that helps the body neutralise the sun and protects the skin from radiation. Shea butter is good for cell and tissues repairs on and in the body by absorption. They also sell black soap which protects against free radicals and is an antioxydant keeping the skin looking marvellous. Black soap is made from the ash of plantain leaves and the oil of palm kernel blended carefully over a number of days to ensure your melanin rich is poppin and your skin shines.

Well-Being and Stalls

Nne Agwu Welcome & registration desk is the place to go for information. We do ask that you have a can do will do attitude at all times knowing you have the ability to find solutions to any & all given circumstances. Come and support our store and buy: The festival programme; a Shanti-Chi t-shirts; Griot Chinyere story CD; incense; charcoal. Please observe our code of conduct. Thank you!

Our **Nne Agwu Well-Being Centre** is a space that promotes the powerful themes of the Storytelling Festival: self-love, self-revelation, self-realisation and self-actualisation. Our practitioners are: Sister Matiga, Sister Kandake, Sister Koya, Sister Michelle, Sister Itricia and Sister Imani offering a range of ancient holistic healing practices to support the repair of the melanin rich mind, body and spirit. Book directly with practitioners.

Our **Nne Agwu Afrakan Market** promotes melanin rich economics where we vision our future with a clear plan outlining aims, objectives and outcomes. Support our entrepreneurs here at the festival. Develop communication links, stay connected and support their melanin rich trade throughout the year.

Join our online **Membership Scheme** & become partners to raise required funds to enable us to acquire land. Let us be land guardians. Let us fulfill the purpose of our path. Nne Agwu is in search of land guardians to help claim our inheritance. Find the Nne Agwu team and let them know you want to be part of this powerful vision. Isé (as it is spoken, so will it be)

Our **Nne Agwu Thanks** goes to Chineke the divine womb of creation, our sponsors, stakeholders and supporters: Griot Chinyere the founder; Shanti-Chi the producer; our Nne Agwu team; our amazing volunteers; our supportive entrepreneurs and you our highly favoured participants. You all enable the story of the melanin rich original people of the universe to live on in our hearts, minds & souls. The truth of our power will set us free! Nne Agwu - inspires visions with oral traditions!