

**2010 Hubbard House Lecture Series**

**Lecture Title: African-American Oral Tradition and Folklore (January 23, 2010 11:00 – 12:00)**

Allison Smith, M.Ed.

Storyteller, teacher

Allison Smith is an artist with a B.S. in Public reaction with a minor in African heritage from Cuyahoga Community College. She also holds a Masters of Education degree from East Tennessee State University. She is an Adjunct Instructor for Ashland University where she conducts story telling workshops. And she is a tutor and special education teacher for the Ashtabula School District. She has performed her work throughout the nation. She will be giving a "Healing Stories" workshop at Lakeside High school in June of this year.

**Lecture Title: Genealogy: Researching Slave Ancestry (Dates: June 5, 2010 11:00 – 12:00)**

Deborah A. Abbott, Ph.D.

Counselor/Professor, (retired) Cuyahoga Community College

Deborah A. Abbott, Ph.D., is president of the African-American Genealogical Society, Cleveland, Ohio (AAGS). She is a retired professor of Counseling from Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio. She holds both the Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education degrees from Tuskegee University (Alabama) and the Ph.D. degree from Kent State University (Ohio). She is an adjunct faculty member at the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research at Samford University (Alabama). She has presented lectures at a variety of local genealogical societies, libraries, schools, and churches throughout northeast Ohio and the surrounding states. Even though Dr. Abbott specializes in African American genealogy, she enjoys teaching genealogy methodology. Her love for genealogy shows through her talks as she lectures on a wide variety of topics suited for all levels of genealogist. She is presently working on a genealogy project which will contain a newly discovered court document entitled "*The Register of Free Negroes in Boyle County, Kentucky, 1852*". Dr. Abbott is a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG) and many local genealogical societies. She has been researching in

the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky since 1990

**Lecture Title: The Genealogy of Hip Hop Literature (Dates: June , 19 2009  
11:00am – 12:00pm)**

Gayle Williamson  
Asst. Prof., English  
Cuyahoga Community College, Western Campus

Gayle Williamson was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She attended Adrian College, a small liberal arts college in Adrian, Michigan where she majored in English with a minor in Creative Writing. Upon graduation she worked first for the Traverse City Record Eagle in Traverse City, Michigan as a rookie reporter and then moved to Toledo, Ohio and began working for *Toledo Metropolitan*, the city magazine where she worked her way from Editorial Assistant to Editor. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from Bowling Green State University in 1993. In 1992 her play "Mirror Mirror" took second place honors in the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting competition hosted by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Her play was also given a public reading by Karamu House as part of their Festival of New Plays. She has participated actively in the Kuntu Repertory Theater Writer's Workshop. She has also published short stories and book reviews for various publications. She teaches Creative Writing, African American Literature and Composition for Cuyahoga Community College. She is currently working on her first novel.

**Lecture Title: A History of African American Poetry (Dates: June 26, 2010  
11:00am – 12:00pm)**

Elaine Shelly, M.S, Poet, Writer

Elaine Shelly is a writer, journalist and poet. She holds degrees from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Elaine was selected to study poetry at Cave Canem, a poetry retreat for African American poets. She has led poetry workshops and taught literature classes at Hamline University, Macalester College and the University of Minnesota. She has

worked at daily newspapers and freelanced with publications such as Hope Magazine and the National Black Review of Books. Elaine has performed her work at venues such as Patrick's Cabaret, Intermedia Arts and the Walker Arts Center.

**Lecture Title: "Wild Women Don't Have the Blues": African American Women Blues Singers and Working Class Resistance (Dates: To Be Announced)**

Margo Bohanon, Ph.D.

Margo Bohanon is retired from Cuyahoga Community College where she was an Associate Professor of English and taught composition, African American literature and creative writing. She is a graduate of Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in English and creative writing. She earned her Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University in American Studies with an emphasis on African American history and literature. Her most recent research has been focused on themes of artistic resistance in the songs of African American women blues singers.

**"Meet the Lecturer" breakout sessions will be held after the lecture at the Harbor Perk Coffee Shop on Bridge street**

Visit our website for updates/changes to the lecture schedule:

<http://www.hubbardhouseugrrmuseum.org/>