

# Multicultural Storytellers

## Bay Area Resource List

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Here is a growing list of highly accomplished local storytellers and performers. Many listed here are award-winning professionals, with great reviews from teachers and other educators. These storytellers have a specialty in stories from around the world that encompass story traditions of People of Color. (Most of the storytellers on this list are People of Color, with the exception of two.)

**Awele** (ah WAY lay) is an award winning and internationally known storyteller/teaching artist, literacy specialist, and recording artist recognized as a "truth teller," an artist for social change. She researches, writes and performs hidden African American history, folklore, and personal tales.

Website: [www.awele.com](http://www.awele.com)

**Beatrice Bowles - World Wonder Tales for Children.** She loves telling stories from different cultures around common themes such as "Why Kindness Matters," themes focusing on bullying, the seasons, and others. Visits to the East Bay range from \$50-100.00. Lower prices with purchase of her CDs and books are possible.

Website: [www.beatricebowles.com](http://www.beatricebowles.com)

**Diane Ferlatte** has Louisiana roots, but spent her teen years in the Bay Area. She is an internationally known storyteller who has performed in India, South Africa, Jamaica, and many other countries. In addition to historical & personal stories, Ms. Ferlatte draws from folktales, myths, legends, and fables to inform, inspire, and entertain. While many of her stories and songs, and handclap games, have African and African American roots, she loves to tell any story that holds truths based in our common humanity. Tales from many cultures, with African, Southern, and African-American roots. She does many school performances; pre-school through high school. American sign language, and reading-readiness are aspects of school performances. (School performances are typically 45 min to one hour. She has received the National Storytelling Network Oracle Award. She has also received a Grammy Nomination. There is California Arts Council Roster support for Artist Fee Support for Diane Ferlatte.

Website: [www.dianeferlatte.com](http://www.dianeferlatte.com)

**Grace "Megumi" Fleming** Japanese storyteller - folktales and more! Grace Fleming is bilingual and biracial—Japanese mother and American father. She tells Japanese folktales she learned during childhood. She also tells traditional tales from various countries that convey themes such as "Respect for Differences", Peace and Conflict Strong and Resourceful Girls and Women and interactive storytelling. Reduced fees are available for schools, libraries, and other non-profits.

Website: [www.megumitales.com/indexstory.htm](http://www.megumitales.com/indexstory.htm)

**Ruth Halpern** Tales of adventurous heroines and stories brought to life with words and dance. She has been telling stories for over 20 years. She collects stories, performs and teaches workshops. She focuses on stories of adventurous heroines, folktales of the world. As a storyteller, her passion is helping students find their authentic storytelling voice. She utilizes story circles and story games.

Website: [www.ruthstory.com](http://www.ruthstory.com)

**Mary Ellen Hill** performs storytelling for all ages. She focuses on fairy tales, multicultural folktales, and creation myths and weaves science and myth. She is based in Oakland.

Website: [www.mehstories.com](http://www.mehstories.com) and email: [mehstories@netzero.com](mailto:mehstories@netzero.com)

**Matilde Hollander** is a Bilingual author, storyteller, and retired Montessori teacher. She specializes in helping children develop their love for dual language learning, leads workshops, shares fun activities, songs, rhymes, books and stories.

Email: [Hllnder@aol.com](mailto:Hllnder@aol.com)

**Muriel Johnson** shares her passion for storytelling with audiences of all ages with her interactive style. She performs for Pre-K and up. She has performed at Children's Fairyland in Oakland, as well as at local schools and libraries, and is a former elementary school teacher. She has performed in South Africa and was a featured teller at the Sierra Storytelling Festival in California.

Website: [www.forherstories.com/home.html](http://www.forherstories.com/home.html) and email: [forherstories@gmail.com](mailto:forherstories@gmail.com)

**Olga Loya** is a Bilingual storyteller who shares personal stories, folklore, and myths and legends, Latin American Folk Tales, and historical stories. She draws upon the stories her Mexican grandmother and father would tell her. Her children's show includes, includes a morning song. She has been a featured teller at many festivals the Guadalajara, Mexico Festival and the Jonesborough National Storytelling Festival. Loya also performs and teaches workshops in museums, theaters, conferences, correctional facilities, universities, libraries, festivals, concerts, and schools throughout the United States and Mexico. Loya is the National Storytelling Network recipient of the 2013 Oracle Award, a circle of excellence award.

Website: [www.olgaloya.com](http://www.olgaloya.com) and email: [info@olgaloya.com](mailto:info@olgaloya.com)

**Kirk Waller** utilizes music, movement, and spoken word to create a unique storytelling experience. Folk tales, African-American Stories, multicultural tales, and personal stories. He has gained national recognition for his abilities, including being awarded the J.J. Reneaux Emerging Artist Grant by the National Storytelling Network, receiving a Parent's Choice Foundation GOLD award for his latest CD, "But Why? Stories, Music and Songs", First Place in the Phi Rho Pi National Forensics Speech Championship and was also a Marin Arts Council Community Arts Grant recipient for his work with Fair Housing of Marin, Colors of Diversity Storytelling Project. He has performed at festivals, schools, libraries, churches and special events in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he is based and across our nation. He tells cultural stories from around the world, animal tales, African and African American folktales, and stories and legends from around the world. He is the Director of Storytelling Programs for Stagebridge Senior Theater Company in Oakland.

Website: <http://www.kirkwaller.com>