Every story has a purpose: Gives you the ability to think critically and reflect on the application of information contained in the story. The purpose of this series is to use stories to develop critical thinking skills. These stories will promote the exploration of one’s imagination, practice listening skills, and help participants experience new cultures and values as they interpret and reflect on the cultural norms contained in the story.

Objectives:
- Using storytelling to teach about life’s values
- Develop understanding, respect and appreciation for other cultures
- Promote positive attitude and embrace of different cultural values
- Using stories to teach about life, about ourselves and about others
- To develop self-confidence and public speaking skills

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 2021
1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
CLICK HERE TO RSVP
David C. Butty  
*Storyteller, Journalist, Diplomat, International Educator*

David C. Butty was born in the African village of Jakakehn, Eastern Liberia, where he learned the art of storytelling from his parents and the village elders at a young age. Because storytelling is an important pastime within the Grebo Dako; children would gather around the campfire or under the palaver hut after the day's work was done and the evening meal was eaten; to listen to the elders teach the children the stories of their people. These stories are used to amuse as well as teach lessons about life. They are oftentimes in the form of proverbs, riddles, folktales, legends and parables. Some stories are tongue twisters. In the Grebo stories, animals are sometimes central characters; but there are stories, too, about the deities, especially, Nyesoa, considered the Giver of Life for the Grebos. Nyesoa means "old and wise one," and is featured prominently in most stories. Today, Butty, Executive Dean for International Studies, is proud to share the stories he learned when he was a child with others. Another of his accolades is Executive Dean for the WCCCD's Study Abroad Program, where he has successfully led students to more than 20 countries. He once served as an editor, columnist, and subsequently a reporter for *The Detroit News*.

Satori Shakoor  
*Artist, Storyteller and a Social Entrepreneur*

Satori Shakoor is a storyteller, an artist, social entrepreneur and a 2017 Kresge Literary Arts Fellow. Satori received early recognition as a background singer/recording artist when she toured with George Clinton, Parliament/Funkadelic as one of the Brides of Funkenstein. She expanded her performance career to include actor, comedienne, and television comedy writer. Satori was the catalyst and a founding member of the award-winning Obsidian Theatre Company in Toronto. Founded in 1999, Obsidian Theatre has become Canada’s leading culturally diverse theatre company.

In 2011, Satori began her professional career as a storyteller touring the country as a Moth main stage storyteller and host. She has told stories globally on many stages and storytelling platforms, PBS, NPR and podcasts. Satori hosts the Twisted Storytellers podcast produced by WDET Radio and 2021 Detroit Performs Live at Marygrove, produced by Detroit Public Television.

Satori is the Executive Producer for *The Secret Society Of Twisted Storytellers®,* which she founded in July 2012 in Detroit. TSSOTS has a global mission to connect humanity, heal and transform community and to provide an uplifting, thought-provoking, soul-cleansing entertainment experience through the art and craft of storytelling. In 2014, Satori became the Executive Director for The Society for the Re-Institutionalization of Storytelling, a Michigan 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

*The Secret Society Of Twisted Storytellers* partners with businesses, corporations, educational institutions and faith-based organizations to produce and program live events. TSSOTS designs and facilitates storytelling workshops in the art and craft of storytelling for organizations, corporations as well as individual coaching.

Ivory D. Williams  
*Storypreneur*

Bring your funny bone and thinking cap as Master Storyteller Ivory D. Williams displays his trademark wit, wisdom and humor throughout the Storytelling Symposium. As a professional storyteller and public speaker, his presentations are highly interactive, educational and fun. A retired Sales/Marketing manager at AT&T and a former elementary school principal and past president of Efficacy Detroit, Mr. Williams is equally adept at connecting with both youth and adults. His masterful use of story captivates and engages audiences of all ages, promoting and perpetuating the ancient art of oral storytelling to spread positive messages. A graduate of Wayne State University and a juried artist with the Michigan Humanities Council, Mr. Williams is a regular presenter at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Historical Museum, lecturer at colleges and universities throughout the region and numerous schools/libraries. He has served as president of the Detroit Association of Black Storytellers and Board of Directors-National Association of Black Storytellers, president of Powertalkers Toastmasters and is a U.S. Navy Vietnam Vet. Motto: “Life is short…eat dessert first!”

Veronica Obianwu  
*Master Storyteller*

I came to America in 1972 after my undergraduate degree in Nigeria. In 1977, I obtained a master’s degree in Library Science and another Masters degree in Education Administration both from Wayne State University. I retired in 2014 from the Detroit Public library as a Children librarian where I told stories in different libraries during the summer reading programs. I conducted many storytelling tours throughout Detroit to different schools in my area branches. I also belong to Detroit Area Black Storytellers (D.A.B.S.). During several events in the Nigerian community I have been invited to tell stories during their community events. Presently, I am very active in Toastmasters International, where my skills as a storyteller help me in my leadership and communication.