

## *Binnie Tate Wilkin*

### PROFESSIONAL STORYTELLER AND LIBRARY SERVICES CONSULTANT

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**Binnie Tate Wilkin**, residing in Las Vegas, Nevada, currently is a Writer, Library Services Consultant and Professional Storyteller. In October, 2019, she will be inducted in the California Library Association's *Library Hall of Fame*. At the National Conference of Librarians of Color, 2019, she was the guest author for a presentation titled, "Cultural Survival and Preservation Through Organized Storytelling". In February, she spoke at the American Library Association on "The Future of Libraries." She has provided African American History Month storytelling programs at the Los Angeles County and City Libraries and at many schools. Since moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, storytelling workshops for adults and teachers, programs at the local gallery, and visits to schools have kept her active. Binnie Tate Wilkin is on the current roster of the Nevada Arts Council's performing artists. At the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Office of Lifelong Learning (OLLI) she teaches courses in storytelling. Wilkin also participates in the local storytelling guild composed of storytellers developing their skills and presenting community programs.

Ms. Wilkin consulted with the Salinas Public Library, Salinas, California providing an **instructional series with workshops in children's services in 2008**. From 1989 - 1991, Ms. Wilkin lectured, on all aspects of Children's Services in libraries including Storytelling, at Columbia University School of Library and Information Science in New York City. Prior to this, she was Public Services Administrator for the Orange County Library System where she directed the work of the Children's Services Coordinator, the Adult Services Coordinator, and the Archives Librarian. During this period, Binnie Wilkin initiated and coordinated new programs for Orange County libraries including homework centers and a teacher's newsletter. Preceding the Orange County experience, Ms. Wilkin served for three years as the Minority Services Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Library. There, she coordinated county-wide library services focusing on African Americans, Native American Tribal Nations, Asians, and Latinos. During each of these assignments, Ms. Wilkin instructed librarians in the art of storytelling and demonstrated her techniques of storytelling with movement.

Early in her career, Ms. Wilkin was a school librarian and a children's librarian. As Children's Specialist for the Los Angeles City Library, she received national attention for her creative participation in that library's federally funded outreach project, including unique storytelling programs. Subsequently, after writing several articles in library literature, Binnie Tate Wilkin was recruited to lecture at library schools throughout the country including: The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, California State University, Fullerton, The University of California, at

Los Angeles and at Berkeley, and The University of Hawaii, Honolulu. Courses taught included **Children's Literature, Children's Services, Young Adult Services, Minority Services, Public Libraries** and **Storytelling**. Among many citations and recognitions, Wilkin received an award in “**Recognition of Your Outstanding Contributions**” from the California Librarians Black Caucus, November 12, 2006. In October, 1996, Ms. Wilkin received a **Professional Achievement Award** from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. At the American Library Association's First National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color, 2006, she received an **Outstanding Achievement Award** from the cooperating minority caucuses. Ms. Wilkin worked on numerous committees and has done consultant work for the American Library Association. In 2014, she was chosen as one of the first twelve library leaders to be interviewed for the **California Library Leaders Memory Project**. The interview is now online.

Binnie Tate Wilkin has authored several well received professional articles. A book on storytelling titled *A **Life in Storytelling, Anecdotes, Stories to Tell, Stories with Movement and Dance, Suggestions for Educators*** by Ms. Wilkin was published by Rowman and Littlefield in 2014. The second edition of her book ***Survival Themes in Fiction for Children and Young People*** was published by Scarecrow Press in 1994. Other publications are ***African American Librarians in the Far West: Pioneers and Trailblazers*** released by Scarecrow Press in July, 2006 and ***African and American Images in Newbery Award Winning Titles, Progress in Portrayals*** published in August, 2009.