



***Johnnierenee Nia Nelson***

(619) 479-4425

### **Background**

Johnnierenee, an award-winning writer, has published five volumes of poetry, her latest titled *Classic Kwanzaa Poems*. Her poems have appeared in more than 100 literary journals, newspapers and anthologies including *The Best of Border Voices* anthology. Johnnierenee has been poetry editor of the San Diego Monitor, and has taught workshops and given readings at hundreds of schools, colleges, and festivals from Cairo to Carlsbad. As a performance poet she has appeared with Urban Bush Women, was a featured performer for the Third Annual El Cajon International Friendship Festival with her creation A Taste of Kwanzaa, a featured guest poet on KPBS' These Days and appears in the Emmy-award-winning documentary Lighting The Way. She serves on the Executive Board of the San Diego Book Awards Association and shares the office of Area Coordinator for California Poets in the Schools.

### **Teaching Approach**

Johnnierenee integrates visual and performance art and music with her poetry sessions.

### **Special Emphasis or Special Skills**

Having traveled extensively throughout Africa, Europe, Mexico, the Caribbean and Canada, Johnnierenee presents a variety of cross-cultural "hands-on" sensory activities to engage students.

## **Johnnierenee's References**

Christine Calabria	Central Elementary	(619) 477-4155
Sarah Karp	Longfellow Academy	(619) 276-4206
Sonja Taylor	Gompers Secondary	(619) 263-2171