

## RUBY "BEE" BLOESER

Book this popular speaker and be immersed in a world few have experienced. . .

**VACCINES & BAYONETS:  
*Fighting Smallpox in Africa  
amid Tribalism, Terror and  
the Cold War***



**Speaker, author, storyteller**

Bee will engage and move you deeply while sharing her personal journey in Africa during the eradication of smallpox. With a backdrop of corruption, genocide, and oppression of women, she still provides an insightful tapestry of victories won and hope for the future. I highly recommend her to your group.

—Linda Herzog, J.D.

A riveting account of the events, effort and victory of the eradication of smallpox. Bee makes the facts come alive—the devastation of the disease as well as other heart-rending realities. . . A 'must-hear' for all.

—Kay M.

Bee Bloeser's story reads like a political thriller, women's history, and African adventure rolled into one. An alert witness to a breakthrough in world health, she brings insight and humor to a dark tale of disease, corruption and genocide that unfolds around her, her visionary husband and their two young children. Riveting.

—Pamela Alexander, Pulitzer nominee

### **WHY IS BEE THE ONE TO TELL THIS STORY?**

Bee was there. While her husband worked to eradicate smallpox from the planet, the family encountered tribal pogroms and a princess secluded in a mud-walled palace. They lived on a sinister equatorial island where the murderous dictator burned all boats and shut down the press. Bee reveals a story largely unknown to the outside world, one that is timely today. She is the author of the forthcoming historical memoir *VACCINES & BAYONETS: Fighting Smallpox in Africa amid Tribalism, Terror and the Cold War*.

Bee and her late husband served the diseased and disabled around the world and among Native Americans. She is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the UN Association, USAID Alumni, P.E.O., a philanthropic education organization, various writers' groups, and is on the board of Tucson Tellers of Tales.

## *BEE'S MOST-REQUESTED TALKS*

- ***The Global War on Smallpox—An Embedded Family's View***—The dreaded scourge of smallpox, the formidable challenges in the campaign to eradicate it, and the victorious conclusion. A current concern: potential weaponization of the virus, is addressed.
- ***If You Scream in Africa and Nobody Hears***—A time and place cut off from the outside world, Francisco Macias Nguema's murderous regime, The Terror—crushing his country and his people. In this context, the smallpox eradicator is on the frontline for health and American security. His family is on a frontline of a different sort.
- ***Barriers to Education for Girls in Northern Nigeria***—The author's visits with women isolated behind walls, progress in educational opportunities, and the courageous women who now dare to run for office despite attacks and kidnappings.
- ***An Empty Harbor: When a Dictator Burned all Boats***—History of a strategic African harbor four blocks from the author's house (1970), embassy escape plan, boats destroyed, evacuation bedlam, and an open-source glimpse at Churchill's WWII "Operation Postmaster" and 2004 coup attempt led by former SAS officer Simon Mann.
- ***Fighting Smallpox in Africa amid Tribalism, Terror and the Cold War***—Bee's memories of smallpox, its eradication ("a medical moonshot"), tribal pogroms, oppression of girls in Nigeria, The Terror in Equatorial Guinea, and risks to a smallpox program family. This talk can be any length, from a brief overview to an in-depth half-day program.

## *SPEAKING/PERFORMING EXPERIENCE*

Public speaker: e.g. Pepperdine University, Santa Barbara Yacht Club, various philanthropic and service organizations; storyteller

B.A., Speech/Theatre; M.A., Speech-Language Pathology, performer in plays and quartets.

## *THE BENEFITS FOR YOUR AUDIENCE*

- An introduction to the world's only global eradication of a human disease
- Knowledge of hidden facts about little-known countries and cultures
- Insight into why what happened then matters now, e.g., in today's news of:
  - Vaccinating against Polio and Ebola; battling malaria and unsafe drinking water
  - Smallpox bioterrorism fears: the disease is gone—the virus isn't
  - Denial of education, oppression of women and girls—Boko Haram fights gains
  - Politics of oil—petro-dollars, power and palaces
  - Press suppression—when nobody knows what's happening

## **CONTACT**

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Bee is based in southern Arizona and the Santa Barbara, California, area.

## **BEE'S NOTE TO EVENT ORGANIZERS**

### **Program Options**

Content and length of my talk can be customized for your group. Here are some options:

- Single talk: 25 to 60 minutes, ideally 40 to 60 minutes
- Serialized presentation over two to three consecutive talks
- Half-day program
- Storytelling: two to three 10-minute stories

### **Fees**

My fees are negotiable. I donate 20% of the speaker fee to either P.E.O.'s international scholarships or a charity that provides clean water in Africa.

In certain circumstances, I waive my speaking fee for groups or organizations working on national or global philanthropic causes.

### **Travel**

- Booking contracts must cover my travel-related expenses if outside southern Arizona or the Santa Barbara, California, area.
- Travel arrangements subject to booker approval and to be reimbursed within 14 days after the event.

### **Venue Logistics**

In addition to a microphone and audio system, my presentations require a projector/screen and WiFi. I use my own laptop. For small groups, a TV with HDMI connection may suffice.