



## Greetings Fans of Poetry!

I will not lie! The first quarter was brutal. I was and remain emotionally drained! Like an addict, I am taking one day at a time and trying to ignore the *self-indulgent, monstrous, felony-ridden leadership of this country.*

Last September, I excitedly birthed *JOY!* with high hopes of there being a reversal of the negativity and hatred in this country. But, January 20, 2025, legitimized November 5, 2024, and there has been a steady decline in the integrity of our government.

I am reminded I am a child of change -- born into segregation, raised, educated and employed through integration!

My related and unrelated elders fought for rights and liberties which many now take for granted. I wax poetically from experiences of my own as well as others and history. We must expose and attack the blatant maneuvers to negate and erase those rights as if they never existed. If we are negligent in our attention to what is going on, we will find ourselves losing the ground gained and in far worst predicaments. Having tasted and devoured the fruit forbidden for so long, **We are not going back!** We must be vigilant and aware of daily micro-aggressions as well as the blatant macro-aggressions. We cannot turn a blind eye! We are literally in a fight for our lives **AGAIN!**

In the 1950s and 1960s, boycotts, marches, sit-ins, etc. brought change. The

Montgomery Bus Boycott started December 5, 1955, and ended the following year on December 20, 1956. Current day economic boycotts are asking we *inconvenience* ourselves for one week at a time, and encourage us to hold out for even longer periods if not indefinitely. Do we have the conviction of our elders to support economic boycotts which can bring about change?

### **SCHEDULED ECONOMIC BOYCOTTS** (Mark your calendars)

**February 28 (DONE):** Economic Boycott I

**March 7-14 (DONE):** Amazon

**March 21-28 (DONE):** Nestle

**April 7-14:** Walmart

**April 18:** Second Economic Boycott

**April 21-28:** General Mills

**May 6-12:** Amazon

**May 20-26:** Walmart

**June 3-9:** Target

**June 24-30:** McDonald's

**July 4:** Independence Day Boycott

Latinos are also being encouraged to freeze spending in response to freezes on DEI policies, funding for the National Institutes of Health and actions on immigration. #LatinoFreeze and #LatinoFreezeMovement urge Latinos to purchase essential items only and focus on shopping at "Latino American, Black American and Allied American Businesses that are supportive to this movement."

*I self-publish through Amazon's KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing platform; please provide alternatives, if you know of any.)*

### **STEPPING DOWN FROM MY SOAPBOX!**

---

## **1Q2025 Happenings**

- Read  
*CITIZEN:*  
*An*  
*American*  
*Lyric*  
by  
Claudia  
Rankine;  
was

inspired  
to  
start  
a  
memoir  
with  
inclusion  
of  
my  
poetry.  
The  
working  
title  
is  
/  
*Don't  
Play!*  
At  
171  
pages,  
it  
is  
still  
very  
much  
a  
work  
in  
progress  
because  
the  
memories  
keep  
coming!  
If  
I  
actually  
complete  
writing  
this  
memoir,  
I  
will  
credit  
author  
Judith  
Bice  
for  
suggesting  
I  
read  
CITIZEN



and  
for  
encouraging  
me  
to  
write  
about  
my  
own  
life  
experiences.

*I  
promise  
to  
keep  
everyone  
up-  
to-  
date  
on  
my  
progress  
or  
non-  
progress  
with*

***I  
DON'T  
PLAY!***

- Invited  
to  
participate  
in  
35th  
Annual  
Oratorical  
Contest  
sponsored  
by  
Arts  
and  
Letters  
Committee  
of  
Richmond  
Alumnae  
Chapter,  
Delta  
Sigma  
Theta  
Sorority,  
Inc.

Selected  
NOISE  
from  
*Let  
Truth  
Shine!*  
A  
Book  
of  
Poetry.  
From  
the  
nodding  
of  
heads,  
I  
know  
my  
words  
were  
well  
received!

- Participated  
at  
Open  
High  
School  
in  
RAC  
Deltas  
READ  
(Ready  
to  
Educate  
All  
who  
Desire).  
Open  
is  
an  
alternative  
public  
high  
school  
in  
Richmond's  
urban  
Oregon  
Hill.  
It  
was

established  
in  
1972  
with  
the  
intention  
of  
helping  
students  
become  
independent,  
self-  
determined  
thinkers  
and  
learners.

I  
shared  
my  
personal  
experiences  
of  
being  
born  
into  
segregation  
and  
growing  
up  
through  
integration.

- Contacted  
by  
an  
author  
I  
met  
at  
last  
quarter's  
James  
River  
Writers  
Conference.  
She  
asked  
if  
I  
would  
read  
her  
manuscript

and  
access  
whether  
the  
Black  
characters  
were  
authentic  
in  
their  
actions  
and  
vernacular.  
Later  
learned  
what  
she  
was  
asking  
of  
me  
has  
the  
occupation  
title  
of  
"sensitivity  
reader."  
I  
need  
to  
add  
that  
to  
my  
résumé  
-  
-  
LOL!

- Replenished  
inventory  
of  
*JOY!*  
*Another*  
*Book*  
*of*  
*Poetry*  
at  
VMFA

Gift  
Shop;  
they  
only  
had  
one  
copy  
when  
I  
popped  
through.  
There  
were  
no  
copies  
of  
*Let  
Truth  
Shine!  
A  
Book  
of  
Poetry.*

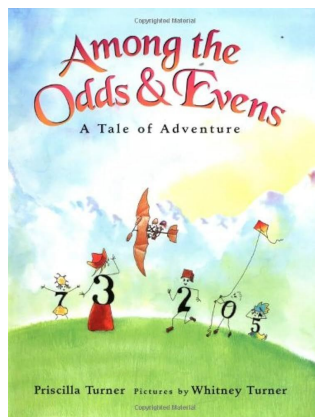
- Participated  
in  
R.E.A.D.  
Across  
America  
at  
Dumbarton  
Elementary;  
read  
*Among  
the  
Odds  
&  
Evens*  
to  
a  
class  
of  
3rd  
Graders.  
The  
book  
was  
loaned  
to  
me  
by  
my  
three



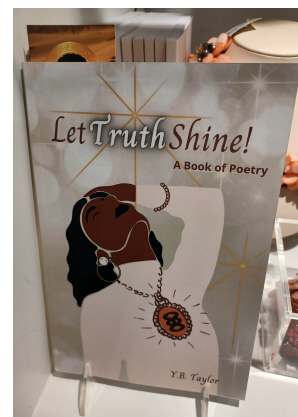
and  
one-  
half  
year  
granddaughter.  
The  
storyline  
is  
a  
clever  
way  
of  
exposing  
youth  
to  
diversity  
and  
acceptance  
of  
those  
who  
are  
different  
from  
themselves.



VMFA display



R.E.A.D. Across America



Source of "Noise" read at  
35th Oratorical Contest

---

## **"Noise" [Read at 35th Oratorical Contest]**

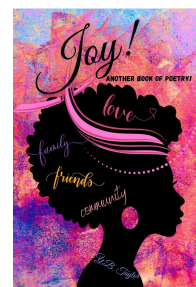
**Not formatted as printed in LET TRUTH SHINE!**

*Sitting with silence*

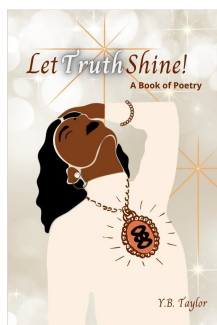
But – not in silence

*Deafening din seeps in*

Disruptive of bliss I pursue  
*Exterior distractions*  
Hard to ignore  
*My attempts to evade fail*  
Cynical blitz of media  
*Social and televised*  
Dominating  
*While benevolent suffer*  
But, all is not lost  
*As dawn of day*  
Follows dusk of night  
*There is hope on the horizon*  
Hope  
*Attainable, through our youth*  
Whom many fault  
*But, are not in default*  
Challenging instability of government  
*Instability of environment*  
Instability of stability  
*They rise!*  
They stand!  
*They protest!*  
They make noise of solace  
*They make noise of righteousness*  
Seeking silence from hurtful noise  
*I am consoled by noise of youth*  
Filtering through destructive disruptions  
*Stepping into roles of leadership*  
Reassuring old and weary souls  
*The fight will continue*  
And ...  
*Their noise – will not – be silenced!*



©2024



©2023



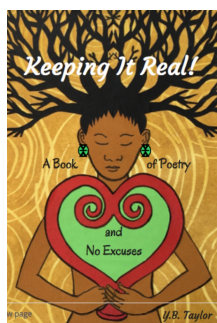
©2021



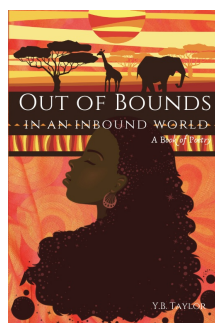
©2019



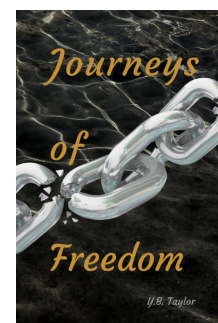
©2017



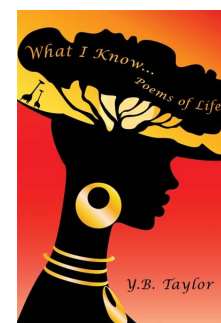
©2015



©2014



©2011



©2009

You may have been added as a subscriber because I thought you might have interest in a featured item. You may **UNSUBSCRIBE** at anytime.

Subscribers may read and/or **SHARE** past issues by downloading from my [website](#). The current and past 14 newsletters are available for download.

Thank you for your support and encouragement,

Y.B. Taylor, Writer



©2025 Y.B. Taylor, Writer | 3408 Corrotoman Road, Glen Allen VA 23060, US

Like

Web Version

Forward

Unsubscribe

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®