



NO SHAME IN MY GAME!



LIVING IN TEXTURE Due in 2021!

I have been diligently working on my seventh literary child. With effort, she could have been ready for her delivery fourth quarter 2020. BUT, with all the turmoil, HATE and divisiveness of 2020, I did not wish to birth her into the taint and negativities associated with the year. However, while I may not be publishing until 2021, be assured many of my words reflect the joyless roller coaster ride we are enduring.

I pray my fourth quarter newsletter brings jubilation of election results and a new year with **RE:BIRTH OF A NATION!**

Daily Ebony Moments

Juneteenth 2020, I committed to posting daily factoids of Black history to my [Y.B. Taylor](#) page. What many do not know ... in the 1990s, I researched and created "works of art" based on the history of significant dates in people's lives, i.e., birthday, anniversary, etc. The finished printout was matted with kente cloth and framed. Fast forward to 2020. I no longer research for the purpose of framing, but I am still interested in OUR history, which is often buried and not always accurately stated.

I am not alone in posting factoids. Lately, many are posting well known as well as "little known Black history facts." My intent in posting of Ebony Moments is not to rewrite history but to write history accurately as it should have been written from the beginning. As HAMILTON'S Thomas Jefferson states in a nod to Biggie's "Juicy" -- "And if ya don't know, now ya know"

Speaking of Jefferson, we must always be vigilant. In a recent issue of UVA's VIRGINIA

Magazine, three words were omitted in the editing process, which totally changed the history of Virginia State University. The omission would have one to believe VSU did not exist until 1935, rather than being founded in 1882. I am certain the majority of UVA alum did not pick up on the error, but those of us who might have attended an HBCU know better. A correction is supposed to appear in the next issue. We'll see!

A Day Trip Inspires

Nat and I decided we needed a change in what we were daily seeing. We ventured up to Charlottesville to see the recently installed **Memorial to Enslaved Laborers** on the The Grounds of Mr. Jefferson's Academical Village or more commonly known as the University of Virginia, my alma mater. The memorial is simple in design, but speaks volumes of the realities of UVA's beginnings. It was a day trip worth taking; I would love to go back and simply sit in the circle and meditate on the ancestors.



ZOOM to the Rescue!

We are ALL tired of ZOOM, but the reality is without it and other virtual applications, those of us adhering to the guidelines would literally be climbing walls. Phone conversations are nice, but sometimes you just want to see a face other than your own or face(s) with whom you have sheltered in place since March. KUDOS to the organizers of our Hamlin family reunion (*I AM HERE BECAUSE*, "Keeping It Real! ©2015). Initially, I was going to pop-in and then pop-out, because anyone who has participated with more than five people on ZOOM knows how chaotic it can be with everybody trying to talk. I believe we were 67+ on the ZOOM and I remained on until the end ... a little over two-hours. I missed seeing you guys in person, but the ZOOM was great! As much as I hate to admit it, ZOOM has probably helped me maintain some sense of sanity until we are vaccinated and can safely meet in person! Until then, I am *"MASKED"* and sending virtual hugs.



Rev. C. T. Vivian



John Lewis



Chadwick Boseman

Gone Too Soon!

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the loss of two Civil Rights greats, John Lewis and Rev. C.T. Vivian, who passed within hours of one another on July 17, Chadwick Boseman, who in real life embodied all one could want in a Black superhero but succumbed to an adversary he could not defeat on August 28, and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg aka "The Notorious RBG," a bad ass in her own right, who transitioned September 18. The loss of Vivian and Lewis was a heartbreak for many adult Americans; the loss of Boseman affected young and old internationally, and the loss of RGB could possibly affect generations yet born. *"GOOD TROUBLE"* and *"UNEXPECTED"* are my tributes to John Lewis and Chadwick Boseman. The epithets preceding both poems are in their own words.



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Unlike Boseman, we were aware of Ginsburg's illness. Like Boseman, she suffered bravely and fought a good fight. Like Lewis, Ginsburg knew how to get in "good trouble." As of this newsletter, I have not penned a tribute to Ginsburg, but if I do, I promise the epithet will be in her own words.

Justice Ginsburg, just days before her death told her granddaughter, "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." I pray her words are honored.

"REST IN PRIDE ... YOU LIVED BY STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY YOU!"

Since I started this quarterly with encouragement to **VOTE**, marinated on these meaningful last words from Chadwick Boseman, who brought back to life - Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall, and James Brown and then took us to an African nation we wish truly existed.

WAKANDA FOREVER!

Boseman's last tweet was the support of Harris, a fellow Bison, being nominated for VP.

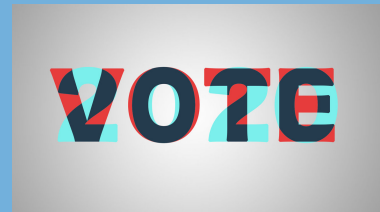
"YES," he wrote, "@KamalaHarris! #WhenWeAllVote #Vote2020."

Best Voting Advice

Voting isn't marriage. It's public transportation. You're not waiting for "the one." You're getting on the bus. And, if there isn't one going exactly to your destination, you don't stay home and sulk. You take the one that's going closest to where you want to be.

Dates and deadlines

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.
- The deadline to register online to vote is Tuesday, October 13, 2020.
- The deadline for registering by mail to vote is (postmarked by) Tuesday, October 13, 2020.
- The deadline to register in person to vote is Tuesday, October 13, 2020.
- The deadline to request a ballot by mail is (received by) Friday, October 23, 2020.
- The early voting period runs from Friday, September 18, 2020 to Saturday, October 31, 2020, but dates and hours may vary based on where you live.



These dates are applicable to Virginia; please, Please, PLEASE confirm and verify your dates if you are outside of Virginia because **EVERY VOTE COUNTS! I WILL VOTE** is a great place to start if you are uncertain about where to obtain the correct information for your locality or state.

Sources of Inspiration

I am thankful for friends who know what I like to view and read. I may not act immediately on suggestions, but when I do, I SHARE! A couple of the following links are purely informational, while the other two are inspirational.

* I turned 14 in 1968; I am not certain I realized how momentous this was. ['The Sit-In': Revisit the 'Lost' Week in 1968 When Harry Belafonte Hosted 'The Tonight Show'](#)

* Truth is the light, let it shine! [The Truth about the Confederacy in the United States \(full version\)](#)

* Brian Palmer was the photographer for the "Growing Up Civil Rights Richmond" project at the University of Richmond; my father fought in the Korean Conflict. This one was of particular interest to me. [Fighting Together in Korea](#)

* As a charter member of the Kappa Rho Chapter (DST@UVA), I celebrated 47-years uninterrupted membership in this illustrious sorority September 29. [The Black sorority that faced racism in the suffrage movement but refused to walk away.](#)

Lastly, an offering from LIVING IN TEXTURE!

Last quarter's newsletter spoke of the toppling of Confederate monuments, in Richmond and worldwide. Caroline Randall Williams, a writer in residence at Vanderbilt University wrote an op-ed to the New York Times, titled "You Want a Confederate Monument? My Body is a Confederate Monument." She is the great-great-granddaughter of Edmund Pettus. Yes, the Edmund Pettus who was a senior officer for the Confederate States Army, a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, and for whom the bridge of "Bloody Sunday" was named. Her words hit me hard and I put them into a poem (still a work in progress).

MONUMENT ME

You wish to honor a monument
Honor me

You wish to treasure a monument
Treasure me
You wish to look up to a monument
Look up to me
All that you wish to honor
To treasure
To look up to
Is embodied in me
Who am I?
I am the product of "our"
Yes, "our" ancestors
I am your unacknowledged kin
I am evidence of late night visits
To slave quarters
I confirm conjectures of rape
I am living, breathing, and
Monumental DNA of the history
You wish romanticized,
Remembered and revered
So ... honor me
Look up to me
Treasure me
"I am a monument to ALL of OUR ancestors' sins"
I am the sole monument
Worthy of praise!

"Poetry is my tell!"
Y.B. Taylor



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