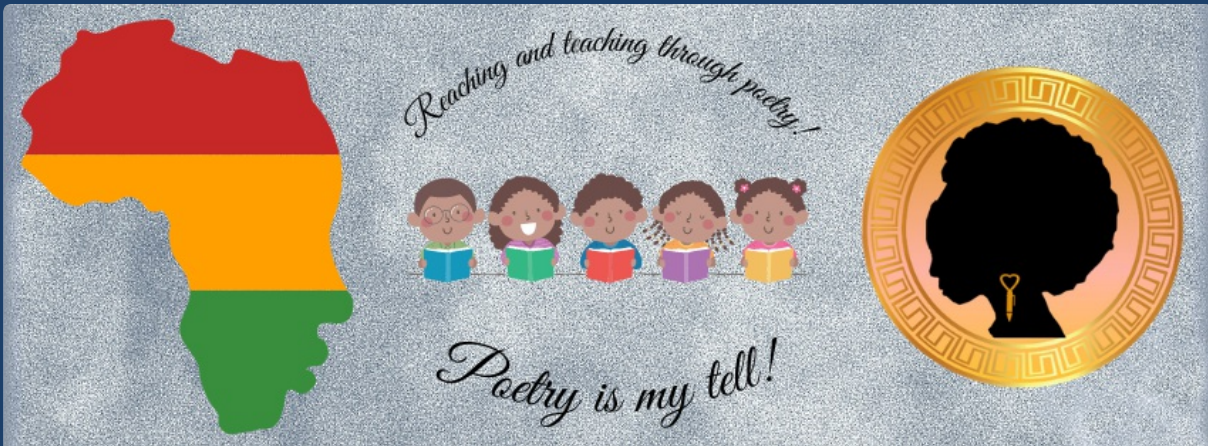


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Hello Supportive Subscribers!



What's New

A better question would be WHAT'S NOT! This has been the best quarter EVER!

* Jan. 1 - The button was pushed and **LIVING WITH TEXTURE!**, my seventh literary child was birthed.

* A copy of **LIVING WITH TEXTURE!** found its way to the Library of Congress to join her siblings.

Opportunities

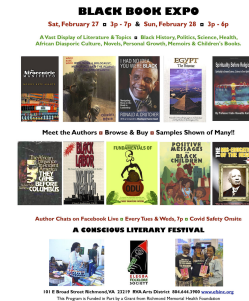
Many are aware of Nat's and my move to CrossRidge, a 55+ community. The community is comprised of 746 residences; to my knowledge, less than 2% are occupied by POC.

Being long time residents of Richmond with established friends and active lives, we have not participated in many of CrossRidge's offerings. However, an opportunity to share my poetry presented itself in January. An earlier community newsletter announced registration for a Book Writing Workshop, which was to be conducted by two resident authors.

Long story short, the workshop was conducted by *THREE* resident authors. Boring you with how I insinuated myself is unnecessary; let's just say -- I did not take "no" for an answer! As a result of my involvement, I received the following message from one of the other authors to whom I had given a copy of **LIVING WITH TEXTURE!** *"Yolanda, I read your book today. I found your poetry enlightening. Your style is informative and easy to understand. It is amazing in that way. You tell it like it is for black women. I learned from your prose. Thank you for Living with Texture!"* My response, *"Thank you! My note cards state, 'Reaching and teaching through poetry!' Mission accomplished!"*

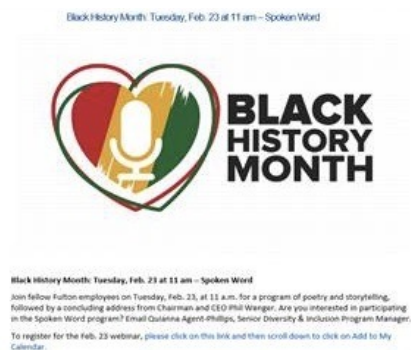
How the Quarter Progressed

As a result of my Facebook posting of "BLIND TRUST," from **LIVING WITH TEXTURE!** on January 4, I was invited to "The Gary Flowers Show" on RejoiceRichmond.com. Shortly after that, I was extended an invitation to participate in the League of Women Voters Annual Poetry and Prose Read. **Good fortune smiled** -- some of the readers were unable to read their original selections because of copyright infringements. As a result, I granted permission for a selection of my poems to be read by them. On the same day as the LWV read, I was able to participate in the Black Book Expo at the Elegba Cultural Center. All seven of my literary children were present at the Expo. However, since I have not mastered being in two places at the same time, I was able to video chat with Janine Bell a few days prior and the video was shown during the Expo. *A couple of unsold copies of each book were left at Elegba should you be in the vicinity.*



More Opportunities

The People of Color Experience Employee Resource Group of Fulton Bank requested my participation in their virtual Black History Celebration. Approximately 100 employees, including the Chairman and CEO, Phil Wenger, were in attendance for the virtual presentation. Appropriate for a financial institution with a focus on diversity, I read "LINES OF CREDIT" and "I HEAR EVERYTHING."



Y.B. (Yolanda) Taylor

• "We shall not be denied prominence; we shall not be denied contributions; we shall not be denied respect; and we shall not be denied equality. We are citizens of the first-class."

— Y.B. Taylor



I truly did not think much more could happen this quarter. However, at the encouragement of Daryl C. Dance, PhD, the author of the blurb on the back cover of **LIVING WITH TEXTURE!**, I entered the Furious Flower 2021 Poetry Writing Contest; the results will not be known until April. Keeping fingers crossed. Who knows where that might lead?

And, just when I thought everything was over and done, candidate for

In celebration of Women's History Month...

WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Saturday, March 20th at 7:00pm

A virtual event in support of Debra Gardner for Delegate. Zoom sent upon RSVP
RSVP Here: secure.actblue.com/donate/womeninthearts

Featured Guests & Inspiring Women in the Arts:



Best Selling & Award
Winning Author
Sadega Johnson



VCU Art History PhD Candidate
& Fulbright Alumna
Sarah Kleinman



Poet & Trailblazer
Yolanda Taylor



Recording Artist &
American Idol Alumna
Shayy Winn

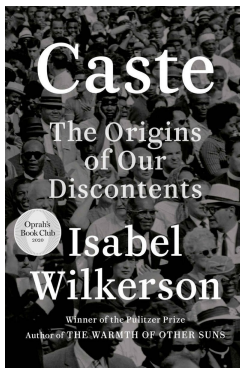
Paid for and Authorized by Debra Gardner for Delegate

Delegate of the 27th, Debra Gardner, invited me to participate in WOMEN IN THE ARTS!

It was a grand evening; I believe I may have been the only one without stellar credentials. *I was stepping in high cotton!*

All Good Things Must Come To An End!

Juneteenth 2020, I committed to posting a daily Ebony Moment on my YBTaylorWrites Facebook page. I do not wish to jinx myself, but I have been successful in doing so and have not missed a single day. By the time the second quarter newsletter hits inboxes, I will have completed 365-days of black historical moments. I even made a concerted effort to post female-only posts during March, which was Women's History Month. As this exercise culminates June 18, I hope all have learned and grown from the daily postings. I know I have!



What Do Authors Read?

In my youth, I was a voracious reader. Unfortunately, with the introduction of the internet, I find myself not challenging my mind by devouring books, but diminishing my brain cells by feasting on social media. I am determined to pick up and read more.

Upon speaking with friend, Kenneth Taylor -- no relations to hubby's family -- that we know, he mentioned **Caste**. I was unaware of this Oprah Book Club pick, but a few weeks later, I was reading the RTD Correspondent of the Day written by Jim Somerville, Pastor of Richmond's First Baptist Church. He and another were challenging the citizens of Greater Richmond to a citywide book read during Black History Month. The chosen read was **Caste**. Going one step further, citizens of Greater Richmond were not only being challenged to read but to participate in a Zoom discussion of the book on March 1. *The discussion was interesting and I lent my two-cents via the Chat. My second comment addressing "race" received an AMEN from Pastor Somerville.* I strongly feel this book is long overdue and right for the times. It should be read by everyone.

My Asks

I have been told my poetic words are insightful and a joy to read. I am not so proud that I will not ask for assist. Please ... take a few moments to put into effect at least two of the following.

- Visit my Author's Page on

Amazon.

FOLLOW

my
page.

And,
if

you
have

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any

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- Visit

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Fantastic Quarter

This has been a busy quarter! I pray the next three months are as busy, if not busier! Unlike many, I have not been bored and climbing the walls during this past year of quarantining and social distancing. I have learned quite a few things about myself -- one being, I can survive with less than twenty pieces of clothing. And, I **LOVE** me some leggings!



As I venture back -- slowly -- into society, I hope to be more mindful of the wants and needs of others less fortunate than myself. I pray the vast majority come out of the pandemic wiser and exhibiting more humanity to their fellow man regardless of race, creed, color or sexual orientation. Of course, I realize some are beyond hope, but that will not stop me from trying to **KEEP HOPE ALIVE!**

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter and feel free to share!

Y.B. Taylor, Writer & Author



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