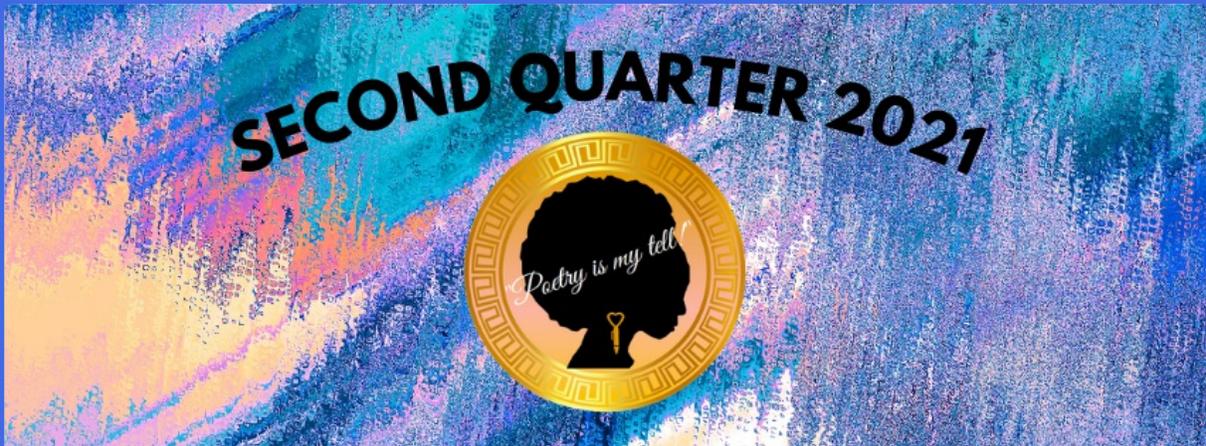


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## 2nd QUARTER NEWS

The flurry of first quarter activities finally slowed and I was able to get a few chores completed, i.e., posting past quarterly newsletters to the [website](#) Please excuse the redundancy of some of my news, but this newsletter WILL BE shorter than past.

- A lovely THANK YOU was received from the League of Women Voters® of Richmond Metropolitan Area for my participation in their Black History Month Poetry Reading event. Not only was I asked to read, but I was

asked  
permission  
for  
others  
to  
read  
selections  
of  
my  
poetry.

- During  
a  
Delta  
Author  
Chat,  
sponsored  
by  
the  
Richmond  
Alumnae  
Chapter's  
Arts  
&  
Letters  
committee,  
I  
was  
honored  
to  
provide  
the  
introduction  
of  
[Victoria  
Christopher  
Murray](#)  
who  
has  
been  
blessed  
to  
have  
many  
of  
her  
books  
optioned  
for  
movies.  
Ms.  
Murray  
provided  
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books  
and  
movies.  
Others  
may  
be  
aware,  
but  
I

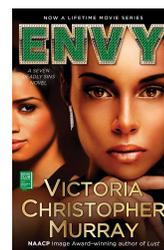
was  
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is  
a  
blockbuster.

## READING, 'RITING, BUT NO 'RITHMETIC!

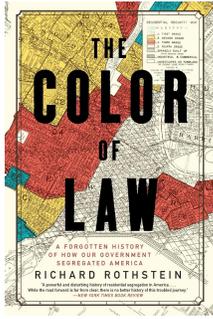
Somewhere, at some time, I was told in order to write cohesively and intelligently, one should read ... extensively! I made a commitment to UP my reading game.

In last quarter's newsletter, I shared I was reading "**CASTE - The Origins of Our Discontents**" by Isabel Wilkerson. I thoroughly enjoyed the read as it enlightened me on some subjects and validated my thoughts on others. I highly advise ALL, regardless of race, creed or color to pick up a copy.

This past April, in order to provide a proper introduction of Victoria Christopher Murray for the Delta Author Chat, I read "**Envy**," the first in her seven deadly sins series and one of her books made into a movie. "Envy" was light reading after "**CASTE**."

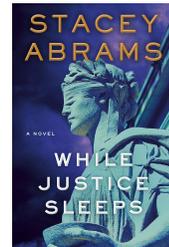


After "Envy," I turned my sights to "**The Color of Law**" by Richard Rothstein. I thought I was somewhat knowledgeable about redlining and other legislated discriminatory actions which kept blacks from rightfully attaining and achieving. But, "**The Color of Law**" opened my eyes to the flagrant means the U.S. government, insurance companies, etc. consciously



and blatantly contributed to placing and "maintaining a knee on the necks" of its black citizens.

I decided to alternate my reading selections between fiction and non-fiction to maintain some semblance of objectivity, civility and humanity. Therefore, I am now reading "While Justice Sleeps," by Stacey Abrams. Yes, that Stacey Abrams! I read the first few paragraphs of the Prologue and ordered a copy. A couple of days ago, I started my read; it is quite the page-turner. Brava Stacey Abrams! Brava!



As for my personal 'Riting, with all the coverage of the one-year anniversary of the killing of George Floyd, the 100-year anniversary of the Greenwood Massacre in Tulsa, the acknowledgments of Red Summer (1919), \*\*Juneteenth, etc., I am now inspired to write *something* daily. Sometimes, it is just a title and other times, words flow. Nothing concrete yet, but foundations for multiple poems are developing. I am not rushing the process!

## CULMINATION CELEBRATION



Many are aware of my commitment to *myself* just over a year ago. Juneteenth 2020, I committed to post daily black facts, i.e., EBONY MOMENTS, for an entire year, to [Y.B. TaylorWrites Facebook page](#). At the time, the commitment sounded good in my head, but I cannot tell a lie, remembering to research, validate and post historical black facts daily was not always an easy task. However, I surprised myself by not missing one solitary day. There were a couple of times I had retired for the evening and had to rise and post because I had forgotten, but not a day was missed. HALLELUJAH!

**GOOD NEWS!** June 18, 2021, I posted my last EBONY MOMENT. It was in the form of a [visual presentation](#) of my poem, *YOU NEED TO KNOW*, from **LIVING WITH TEXTURE!** The poem was chosen because of its references to the 1921 massacre of the Greenwood Community in Tulsa (OK) as well as Juneteenth, the day the enslaved in Galveston, Texas, were finally informed one-year and six-months late of their emancipation! With the Juneteenth Bill being signed by President Biden making it the twelfth federal holiday, we can truly say this is one of many NEW DAYS in America. I pray the history of the day is always honored and does not become commercialized. The poem was also chosen because it references July 4, which will occur in a couple of days, making *YOU NEED TO KNOW* an appropriate choice for my inaugural presentation.

Unlike my commitment to post EBONY MOMENTS for a year, frequency nor an ending date has been established for visual presentations of my

poems. However, I am planning to present others in a visual and sometimes audible format on my [Y.B. TaylorWrites Facebook page](#). If you have a favorite poem or poems you would like to see presented, please let me know, because as you all know ... "Poetry is my tell!"



## ONE LAST THING!

I donated a set of my books to our 55+ community's library. I am guessing with less than 3% representation of POC in this community, my books will not be checked out frequently. I signed each and wrote, "Honoring Juneteenth Bill 2021."

## THAT'S IT FOR THIS QUARTER ... LIKE I SAID, SHORT & SWEET!

Always writing,  
Y.B. Taylor



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