



It's Summer Again!

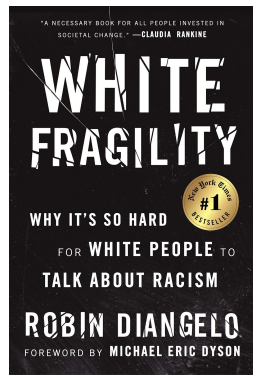
It seems like it has been a lifetime since my last newsletter; a lot has happened in the pass three-plus months. The first quarter newsletter arrived in mailboxes before the end of March because I wanted to make certain those who wished to register for the Eastern Region DAOT had time to do so. I will try to be brief, but I make no promises. This newsletter may very well end up being one of my *grab your favorite beverage and settle in for a lengthy read*.



Hello Fellow Book Lovers!

Let's get the easy stuff out of the way first! I am trying to remain true to my commitment of keeping you abreast of what this author reads. I think this quarter, the variety of books read may have included something which might be of interest for everybody.

WHITE FRAGILITY by Robin Diangelo

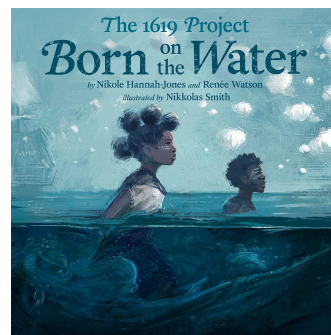


Prejudice is foundational to understanding white fragility because suggesting that white people have racial prejudice is perceived as saying that we are bad and should be ashamed. We then feel the need to defend our character rather than explore the inevitable racial prejudices we have absorbed so that we might change them. In this way, our misunderstanding about what prejudice is protects it.

In March, I was still reading **White Fragility** and constantly reminding myself the author, Robin Diangelo, a white woman, was directing her text to others racially like herself. That is not to say I did not find the read interesting because it was. As a matter of fact, I may find myself actively using some of her techniques in the future when confronted by those who find it difficult to talk about racism in America, i.e., she states, *When white people ask me what to do about racism and white fragility, the first thing I ask is, "What has enabled you to be a full, educated, professional adult and not know what to do about racism?" It is a sincere question. How have we managed not to know, when the information is all around us. When people of color have been telling us for years?* **White Fragility** is definitely NOT light summer reading, but it is worth putting on your book list!

BORN ON THE WATER by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson

As you might imagine, *White Fragility* was not a book I read in a matter of days. As a matter of fact, I took extended breaks to mull over what I was reading. During one of the breaks, I read **Born on the Water**. Younger daughter is building a library of banned books for our grand baby. The library has become a cornucopia of books on race relations, sexual orientation and every thing else being banned. It's going to be quite some time before Robin is ready for **Born on the Water**. The book is intended for children, but is intense and not for immature audiences.



DON'T START DINNER WITHOUT US! by Erica Bradley



An attribute of being a first-time grandparent is becoming more attuned to children's books. Erica Bradley is a first-time author. **Don't Start Dinner Without Us!** was prompted by her own challenges of getting her wee ones to eat veggies. Erica was also amongst the nine authors on tour with the Eastern Region DAOT. The premise of this book is cute! I bought a copy to read to my grand baby and later, to help her read for herself.

BLACK WAS THE INK by Michelle Coles

The irony of reading **Black Was the Ink** immediately after *White Fragility* was in no way lost on me. And 'yes', the lower case 't' is intentional.

First, a little background. The author, Michelle Coles, is an alum of UVA (many years behind me) and an alum of UVA's Kappa Rho chapter.

Quite a few months back, I received an email asking sorors to support Michelle's first outing as an author. I would be less than honest if I stated I am always supportive of other authors, but there was something about the premise of her book which made me hit the BUY button.

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT READ! It will probably be banned in several school districts but Michelle has a "novel" way of relating the truths of Reconstruction and their correlation to much of what we are experiencing today. Without giving anything away, the protagonist is a sixteen-year old Black male facing contemporary issues. A summer visit south to Mississippi from his hometown of D.C. helps him to put his life in perspective after several historical encounters.

If you do not believe my assessment, this book was presented in support of the NMAAHC exhibition *Make Good the Promises: Reconstruction and Its Legacies*

I highly recommend picking up copies; keep one for yourself and gift others. I did!



SISTERS BY HEART by Nickey Knighton

I was honored to have been asked to provide a back cover blurb for first time author, Nickey Knighton for **Sisters by Heart**. Nickey entrusted her manuscript to me along with a chapter summary of her novel. I was not able to complete the manuscript by deadline, but based on what I did read and the summary, I believe Nickey (another soror) has a future in writing. Bon Chance! Nickey, I promise to get back to your manuscript and provide a more substantial review once I get past the South Atlantic Regional Conference ... Delta pinky swear!

Time To Get Caught Up!

Now that you know what I have been reading, let me detail my adventures since the last newsletter. But first, I forgot to mention in said newsletter my participation in January's UVA (virtual) Book Discussion of **The Personal Librarian**. It was interesting and probably something I would not have participated in had it not been for COVID.

I believe all in receipt of my newsletters prior to now are fully aware of my participation in the Eastern Region's Delta Authors on Tour 2022. This was a great experience! Not only did I get to work with -- virtually -- sorors in another chapter and in another region, but I developed a connection with my assigned shadow, Caron Robinson, which I believe will not be broken. We are still in touch even though the "tour" ended in early April.

Hi Soror Caron!



At the VIP Reception on the Friday before the actual tour, each of the nine featured authors were gifted with a "Writing Angel" (no two were alike), a tasty treat, and a special blend of tea. The angels were created by www.godblesstheirsoles.com, the tasty treat was provided by #kimonescakeartstudio and the tea, which had been blended specifically for the chapter, was from www.fruitfulascensionwellness.com. My angel started out on the bookcase in the tv room and has since taken up residence on the mantel next to Nat's night time photograph of the Eiffel Tower. She will be the center of attention and inspiration regardless of wherever she settles.

One last thing ... in my exuberance to fulfill orders, I may have duplicated one or two shipments. My inventory is off! If you received a double shipment, please let me know. I **do not** wish the books returned. Gift them to someone! I simply wish to rectify my inventory because being a little OCD, I can't seem to let it go!

THANK YOU again to the sorors of the Eastern Region's New Haven Alumnae Chapter for inviting me to participate.

In A Minute!

At the end of February, I was contacted by the editor of our 55+ community's monthly newsletter. She was apologetic for not having contacted me prior to February for a poem to print for Black History Month. Since March was National Women's Month and April was National Poetry Month, she inquired if I would provide a poem for one of the community's next newsletters. Last year, I had dropped off a set of my books for the community's library and told her she could peruse them at her leisure and had my permission to print a poem. I also forewarned her of the task she was about to undertake as many of my poems may not sit well with my majority white neighbors. I did not followup to see if she was successful in locating my books and if she had, if she was able to find a suitable candidate for printing. Imagine my delight in seeing "In A Minute" from my second literary child, **Journeys of Freedom** ©2011, in the April newsletter.

Undoubtedly, given the 55 and up ages of our community, many could relate to my words of how quickly time passes. This poem is one of a handful which does not have a reference to race. I don't know how long and hard she looked before settling on this one, but I give her an "A" for effort.

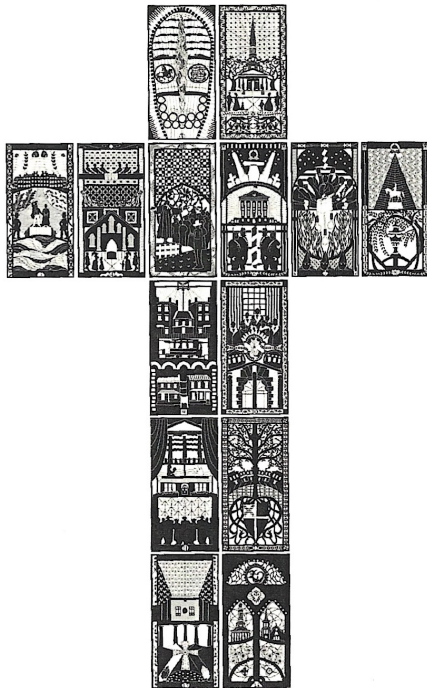


In A Minute

Time passes, never standing still
Not waiting, not slowing down
Time is an anomaly
Time for a child is forever
Time for an adult is never enough
Time for an elder is fleeting
And yet, we all share the same time
A minute, any minute, is the same for all
Sixty seconds make a minute
Only one separates life from death
Sixty seconds make a minute
And yes, 'in a minute'
A minute becomes an eternity
An eternity of seconds
An eternity of time
An eternity of forever
An eternity of never enough
An eternity that ceases and no longer
fleets
When 'in a minute' we pause...we stop
We can cease to be
In a minute of life

*Poem from "Journeys of Freedom" by
Y.B. Taylor, a CrossRidge Resident*

Seeking Inspiration



Inspiration everywhere -- in words, images, and song.

I never know when I might be inspired to put in words something I have seen, heard, or experienced. Sometimes the words flow with immediacy and other times, they simply sit in the recesses of my mind until they are ready to make themselves known.

In April, hubby and I ventured downtown to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church (815 East Grace Street) to view the *Stations of St. Paul's*. The fourteen individual stations were depicted on the front of the take away booklet in the form of a cross. Unfortunately, the stations will have been removed by the time this newsletter hits your mailboxes. If you did not get to see them, you missed the beauty and intricacy of their visual messages. I cannot imagine creating one of these stations much less a collection.

Fourteen stations, each approximately 2' x 4' and mounted throughout the sanctuary, were created by self-taught paper-cut artist [Janelle Washington](#). Each station depicted a specific moment in St. Paul's history with a focus on race relations: **Station 1: Slavery Takes Root in Virginia**, **Station 2:**

St. Paul's is Consecrated, **Station 3: Parishioners Profit from Slavery**, **Station 4: Few Black Communicants at St. Paul's**, **Station 5: Slavery Justified as Christian Duty**, **Station 6: St. Paul's Commits to the Confederacy**, **Station 7: Reconstruction and Recommitment to White Supremacy**, **Station 8: Confederate Memorial Embraced**, **Station 9: St. Paul's Supports Jim Crow Laws and Practices**, **Station 10: The Social Gospel Preached**, **Station 11: Resistance to School Integration**, **Station 12: Black Organizations Funded**, **Station 13: St. Paul's Works to Alleviate Oppression**, and, **Station 14: St. Paul's Works Toward Reconciliation**. Never say never, St. Paul's has come a long ways.

Website Orders & Shipping

USPS continues to increase making it hard for me to charge flat rate shipping for small orders. Orders of \$100 or more will continue to ship FLAT RATE PRIORITY at NO CHARGE, but lesser orders will be shipped using MEDIA MAIL.

PROMOTION during the South Atlantic Regional Conference: I decided some time ago to provide a coupon code for orders placed during the conference. I know many of my sisters are like me and really do NOT read handouts until they have returned home from conventions and conferences. At that point, one thinks *DANG*, if I had known, I could have Well, in light of that reality, I am running a promotion from the 22nd of July through the 22nd of August.

ALL ORDERS placed between July 22 and August 22, 2022, will ship FREE, if ordered from my [website](#) and if code **sarc2022** is used!

FINALLY: An update on Book 8: LET TRUTH SHINE!

Surely, this newsletter would not be complete without an update on my next literary child. **LET TRUTH SHINE!** is still a work in progress. I am not rushing the process as writing poetry is my outlet for self-expression. Sometimes I am willing to shout from the mountains what I am thinking and other times, I contain my thoughts until I feel the time is appropriate. With **LET TRUTH SHINE!**, I feel I am on the verge of another evolution or progression of thought. I find myself returning to poems and rewriting and tweaking them based on current events, books recently read and personal experiences. Evolution and progression is good -- right?

AND, with all the crazy that is going on in THIS country, in THIS world, in all of OUR lives, the regressions which have our heads on swivel, there is a lot for me to contemplate before I start putting my words together for public viewing. *Be patient, they're coming!*

DISCLAIMER: If you were not a subscriber prior to now, your name and email address were added because (1) of your involvement as an author in the Eastern Region's Delta Authors on Tour in April; (2) you were on the DAOT2022 host chapter committee -- New Haven Alumnae Chapter; (3) you recently purchased a book from me; or, we recently met and you inquired of my books. ***If you do not wish to remain on the quarterly distribution of my newsletters, you are WELCOME to UNSUBSCRIBE at any time.***

Sincerely,
Y.B. Taylor, Author



©2022 Y.B. Taylor, Writer | 3408 Corrotoman Road, Glen Allen VA 23060, US

Like Tweet

Web Version Preferences Forward Unsubscribe

Powered by
[GoDaddy Email Marketing](#)®