



**Rested
Recharged
Ready for Fall!**



LIBRA sun - SCORPIO moon - TAURUS rising

Some may notice this newsletter has arrived in their mailbox a few hours earlier than usual! In celebration of my 68th revolution around the sun, this edition was scheduled for delivery at the precise time I made my grand entrance into the world! Also, this birthday, I checked another item off of my bucket list. **FAITH - HOPE - LOVE** to all!

Time to Sit Back and Chill!

The first two months of this quarter were "uber" busy -- half of the time I did not know if I had been there and done that or still needed to go somewhere and get things done. Let's just say, I hit the wall on multiple occasions before I was fully recovered. By the end of August, with a lot in my rearview mirror, I was ready to kick back and do what I wanted, when I wanted, and how I wanted! AND, what I wanted to do was get back to writing! Literary child #8, "**LET TRUTH SHINE!**", momma's back and ready to complete and publish you!

Getting My House in Order!

Apparently, writing was not the only thing not getting done in July and August. With the culmination of a regional conference, I was finding reminder notes which needed to be addressed quick, fast and in a hurry! PLUS, I needed to start giving thought to this newsletter, which provides the perfect segue way to **ORCHESTRATING A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!**

My mom is always surprised by the length and amount of information included in my newsletters. She *would have been happy* to see this newsletter *was going to be* an abbreviated version, but as time did its thing, I continued to add more ... sorry mom! However, the good news -- this newsletter is not as long as it looks, there are a lot of photographs!

ORCHESTRATING A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER! - Everybody has a plan for getting things

done! Mine is quite simple -- as soon as a newsletter hits mailboxes, I start a list of what I wish to include in the next. Trust me, there would be a lot of oversight if I did not maintain a bullet list of books read or if I did not jot a quick note of events attended. Had I not kept such a list, there would be NO NEWSLETTER this quarter. *Just kidding ... I would have gotten creative and made up stuff ... remember, I am a writer!*

But, I Digress!

Remember this title -- it will appear in "**LET TRUTH SHINE!**"

Many are aware of my love of playing with graphics. While the past few months were not conducive to writing, I found myself participating in a weekly #canvadesignchallenge. Here are a few of my submissions



UFO'S



DIAMONDS



PRIDE



THE OCEAN



PINEAPPLE



FURRY FRIENDS

New York ... for the first time!

Nat and I closed out August with a trip to New York, which is a place both of us have been visiting since our respective childhoods. We did our usual of seeing a Broadway play ... **Hadestown** was phenomenal! However, on this trip, we both enjoyed first-time experiences. Thanks to daughter, Erica, and son-in-love, Keith, we enjoyed for the first time ...

* **IMPRESSIVE DINING:** River Café and Tavern on the Green

* **TRANSPORTATION:** Pedicab ride

* **VENUE:** Grand Central Station and wait for it ... wait for it ... Flushing Meadows for the first day of the U.S. Open



RIVER CAFE



PEDICAB RIDE



GRAND CENTRAL STATION



SIMONA HALEP



UNISPHERE - I first viewed this sphere in 1964 when I attended the New York World's Fair with my parents. It is my only memory of the Fair.

Had To Share!

Some months ago, a call went out to UVA alum requesting they send photos of personal UVA memorabilia which they considered a keepsake. They asked and I responded with a photograph of my baseball cap purchased on The Corner sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

I was contacted and a photographer came out to capture me in the cap. I did not realize at the time I would get an entire page to myself. *Click photo to see online version of article.*



What this author is reading!

Did not get a lot read this quarter, but a little bit of something is better than a whole lot of nothing ...

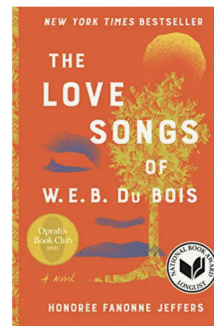
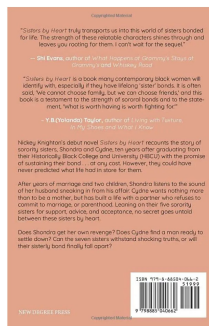
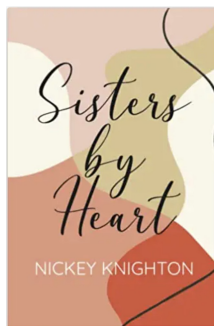
An Invisible Thread, was my first read this quarter. As a Black woman reading about a White woman making a BIG difference in a



little Black boy's life in the tough streets of New York, I had to admonish myself several times for thoughts I had. The book is based on the true story of both parties having benefitted from their relationship which had an unusual beginning. But, then again, we are talking about the streets of New York; perhaps their initial encounter was not that unusual. From the book, "*Some may call it heart. It drew me to him, as if we were bound by some invisible, unbreakable thread. And whatever it is, it binds us still.*"

Some may remember I was asked to read a draft of *Sisters by Heart* by Nickey Knighton, and provide a back cover blurb for the first time author. TRANSPARENCY: I did not have time to finish the read prior to Nickey's submission deadline, however, I was able to provide a blurb based on the provided synopsis of each chapter. Better late than never! I completed the draft and still stand by the back cover blurb I wrote.

I started *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois* a few weeks ago. It is lengthy and toggles back and forth with stories about generational members of a family with origins in Africa and the family's journeys since enslavement. I have not completed this read; my thoughts will be provided in the next newsletter.



History vs. Hollywood

Here we are in October, four-months away from February -- BLACK HISTORY MONTH -- and we have a plethora of not just good, but excellent Black movies streaming or are about to stream as well as be seen on the big screen. In 2018, "Black Panther" introduced those of us who were NOT Marvel Universe followers to the Dora Milaje, fearless Black women warriors who protected the king. Everyone loved these formidable women of Wakanda, a fictitious kingdom. Fast forward four-years and the world is introduced to the Agojie in "The Woman King." Again, formidable Black women, fearless warriors who protected the kingdom of Dahomey. The kicker BEING these women actually existed; they were not made up and Dahomey was not a fictitious kingdom.

If you have not seen "The Woman King," go see it NOW and then see it again. We picked up on a few things we missed the first viewing! It is a powerful movie with exceptional acting! Viola Davis et al. trained hard and did their own stunts. Again, formidable women! If this movie does not garner several nominations and awards, to quote my mother, "Something is amiss!"



DORA MILAJE/"BLACK PANTHER"



AGOJIE/"THE WOMAN KING"



AUTHENTIC AGOJIE

Also, add to your MUST SEE list Tyler Perry's "A Jazzman's Blues" on Netflix and "Sidney" on Apple+. "A Jazzman's Blues," a far cry from Perry's Madea shenanigans, is one of those stories which you know will have a tragic ending, but you watch anyway. "Sidney," about Sidney Poitier, is biographical and provides a lot of information about him of which I was unaware. What he accomplished given his humble and meager beginnings is astounding.

Latest Upload to Youtube

I realized it has been well over five-months since this author's last visualization of one of her poems. Ooooo, look at me speaking in third person! With so much CRAZY going on, I reached back to my first literary child, **WHAT I KNOW ... POEMS OF LIFE!** (©2009) and decided to breathe life into "The Apocalypse Is Now!" The last line brings us full-circle to "But, I Digress!" which will appear in "LET TRUTH SHINE!"

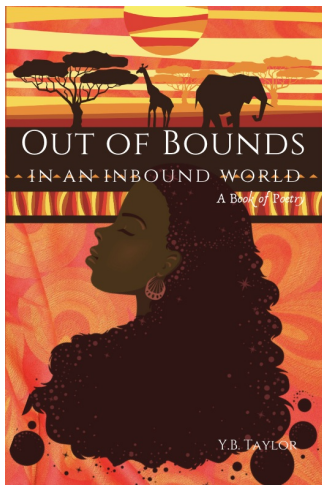
WARNING: The selected audio is very somber. The poem was written September 4, 2005, post Hurricane Katrina. It remains relevant!

Evolution of Thought

I am not ready to release poems written for my 8th literary child. Therefore, I decided to share a poem from my third literary child. But first, some background about the poem.

We ALL know miscegenation is NOT a 21st century phenomenon. If it were, there would be less ambiguity of racial identities in today's society and 'passing' in the past. I, and many my age and older, was told races did not mix and those who did were spoken of in hushed tones. Often times, mixed race children were ostracized, referred to as mutts, put up for adoption and even murdered. Thankfully, there has been evolution of thought. Today, the relationships and the children produced by these relationships are rarely shamed, ostracized or killed. Please NOTE, I stated RARELY, not NO LONGER. Mixed race children, for the most part, are evidence of an abundance of love between two people who saw beyond race! I am the proud mother of two Black women who chose love over color; both of my sons-in-love are White men who respect our Black daughters for who they are in all of their naturalness! Slowly, but surely, may we ALL evolve and witness the beauty of love over color. WHITE CHOCOLATE, written after the birth of our first grand baby, will be the first poem in "LET TRUTH SHINE!"

The following epigraph and poem first appeared in the original printing of "OUT OF BOUNDS IN AN INBOUND WORLD" (©2014). The cover shown below is my ©2020 reimagined version, which is available through [Amazon](#) and on my [website](#). The poetry contained within remains the same.



"To be a great musician, you've got to be open to what's new, what's happening at the moment. You have to be able to absorb it if you're going to continue to grow and communicate." - MILES DAVIS (1926-1991)

I was raised believing Black and White did not mix
 But, they did ... just not in "polite" company
 ... and not, in the light of day
 Societal norms changed
 And, 'jungle fever' became the rage
 Clinging to my childhood beliefs
 I was not ready
 My unreadiness to accept was challenged
 Change was going to move forward with or without me
 Challenge brought forth my capitulation to acceptance

Capitulation to acceptance brought forth my progression
 My progression brought about my evolution of thought ... I adjusted
 Adjustment, acceptance and progression
 Not wanting to be left behind
 I accepted Black and White do mix
 And the mixture is not gray
 The mixture was never gray
 The mixture is beauty in acceptance
 The mixture is the beauty of love
 With love ... there are no lines of demarcation
 I have evolved!

Last, but Not Least!

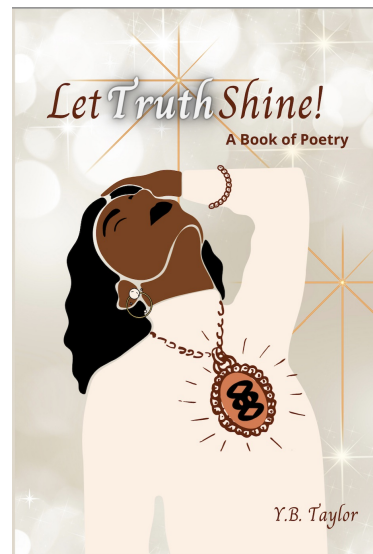
With life a little slower and having relinquished a few responsibilities, I can concentrate on writing ... **YEAH!**

With that said, I am back to working on "**LET TRUTH SHINE!**" -- writing new poems, making edits, retitling poems, doing total rewrites, tweaking the cover, etc.

As for rewrites and edits, so much has happened locally, regionally, nationally, and worldwide, some of my words no longer contained the spirit and fervor they did when first written.

STAY TUNED -- PERHAPS THERE WILL BE A RELEASE ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR!

J. Fleming, I have not forgotten! You will receive a complimentary copy for being the first to respond to a challenge issued some time ago!



COVER ... FOR NOW! SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

"Poetry is my tell!"

Y.B. Taylor



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