

LET TRUTH SHINE! Birtthed Super Bowl Sunday

Not going to bury the lead -- I am proudly announcing my eighth book of poetry has been published, in paperback and Kindle format! LET TRUTH SHINE! has joined her literary sisters and can be found on Amazon, at Elegba Folklore Society, in the VMFA Gift Shop and of course, my website.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INSPIRATION!



JANUARY - *J'ai deux amours! Correction, j'ai trois amours!*

Nat and I celebrated the incoming New Year in Paris by dining at the Eiffel Tower. It was quite the "once in a lifetime" experience. The whole city was festive and we enjoyed a couple of new activities including the Festival du Merveilleux which was open to the public, without appointment, December 26 thru January 2, 2023.

WALKING WITH HOOS! - Fresh air and exercise are good for generating thoughts and ideas for writing and

even more enjoyable when with a group. Talking while walking led to an invitation to present my poetry to fellow UVA Alum in March. We hiked Forest Hill Park; my total steps by end of day were 18,050 (7.11 miles). And yes, I wore my kente UVA baseball cap!



Thank you for hiking with us!

More than 20 Hoos joined our hiking outing around Richmond.
Visit our social media channels to learn more about Hiking with Hoos!



FEBRUARY - The following was included in a CrossRidge Community "Happening This Week" email.

Black History Month is a perfect opportunity to learn about Black authors, playwrights and poets. Did you know CrossRidge is home to Yolanda Taylor, an African-American woman, who has written several books of poetry and donated copies to the CrossRidge Library. Check one out today. Titles include: "Keeping It Real!", "Journeys of Freedom", "Living with Texture!", "What I Know...Poems of Life", "Out of Bounds in an Inbound World", and "I See You!"

A copy of LET TRUTH SHINE! has been delivered to the library to join her literary sisters.

33RD ORATORICAL CONTEST - This poet was a program participant for the attendees of the L. Rita Davis Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Arts & Letters Committee of the Richmond Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. The presentation included the reading of a poem from LET TRUTH SHINE! which had not been released at the time and the provision of encouragement and pointers for the young K-12 orators.

2023 BLACK BOOK EXPO A CONSCIOUS LITERARY FESTIVAL

2023 BLACK BOOK EXPO - I was honored to have been invited to participate in the expo sponsored by Elegba Folklore Society at the Dominion Energy Center. After my reading, an attendee commented I and my poetry resembled

Nikki Giovanni. I have heard this before, but I was still humbled.

SOCIAL MEDIA - During BHM, 28 epigraphs from newly released LET TRUTH SHINE! were posted daily with accompanying graphics to Facebook and Instagram.

February was a busy month!

MARCH - It is said that March roars in like a lion and out like a lamb. I suppose that could be true but March is also Women's History Month and Sisterhood Month for members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Therefore, I could not allow the month to roar in or 'baa' out without daily posts of graphics honoring WHM as well as acknowledging history making members of my illustrious sorority of more than 300,000 phenomenal women.



Woo Hoo! Imagine my delight to see I had been tagged and LET TRUTH SHINE! was displayed on VMFA Gift Shop's Instagram page. Of course, more prominent women authors have the entirety of their book jackets displayed, but I ain't hating! My book jacket is in the mix and a good portion of her can be seen!

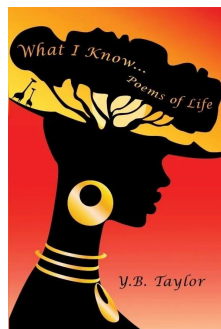


Also, I previously mentioned the opportunity offered while "Walking with Hoos!" Well, it came to fruition at The Book Bar in Richmond -- Poetry Reading and Wine Tasting -- what a wonderful combination! It was a wonderful evening and I even amazed myself with my comfort level of presenting for over an hour!

"THANK YOU" UVA Club of Richmond for the opportunity to share and present poetry from my eight literary children and *"thank you"* to Kendra Pugh for capturing the moment in time!

HEADS UP! April is National Poetry Month! I am working on daily postings of poems from all eight of my literary children. April 1 - 8 will focus on women since we just exited Women's History Month; April 9 - 14 will feature title poems from six of my eight literary children; April 15 - 19 will feature poems prompted by travels; and the remainder of April has yet to be determined!

AN UNANTICIPATED REVIEW



WHAT I KNOW ..., the first of my literary children, was birthed in April 2009. Twelve-years later and I received a second review. I am again humbled.

Hello Yolanda- A friend loaned me a book of your poetry: WHAT I KNOW and I've read through it twice. Thank you for writing so honestly and authentically. I liked the way you paired your poetry with the quotes & I love the idea of the "romance between my heart and head." I felt a connection with so much about your need to write, how you felt about your daughter leaving for college & the one about stress. But mostly I was challenged as a white woman by "I knew you when" & "wrong expectations."

I know this book came out in 2009- but I thought you should know your words are still powerful as they are being discovered. Be well- J.B.

WHAT THE AUTHOR IS READING

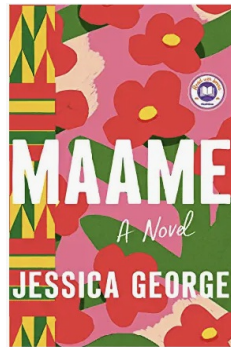
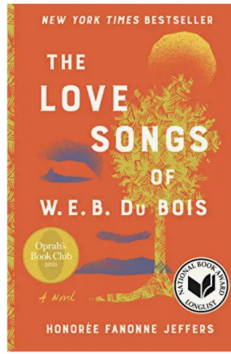


No quarterly newsletter would be complete without a mention of what this author is reading and has read. Since I was busy with completing and publishing my eighth literary child, I did not get a lot of outside reading done. However, I am ecstatic to announce I *'finally'* finished "Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois" by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers. As mentioned in previous newsletters, this book confounded me because it was multi-generational and I found the back and forth of the timeline to be confusing. Perhaps, if I had read "Love Songs" in a matter of days vs. months, I would not have gotten the characters confused. All in all, it was a good read once I understood the dynamics of the various characters and their places in the family's tree.

"My Name Is Ona Judge: An absolutely gripping historical novel" by Suzette D. Harrison was an easier read than "Love Songs". With references to enslaver, George Washington, it held my attention and I finished it in days. After reading this novel and others, I believe I have discovered a fondness for historical novels with African American characters as the protagonist(s).

I am currently juggling two books -- "The 1619 Project" and "Maame - A Novel" by Jessica George. Needless to say, I am further along in "Maame" than "1619".

There are two more books worth mentioning. I purchased for grand baby, "That Flag" by Tameka Fryer Brown. She is not old enough to read much less comprehend the meaning of the story, but I can't wait to share it with her when she is. The other is "Hey White Girl," of which I recently became aware and started reading -- making three juggled books, not two -- after receiving the **Unanticipated Review** from its author, Judith Bice. I hope to complete reading and provide reviews of "The 1619 Project" and "Hey White Girl" as well as "Maame" in the next newsletter.





Here's hoping to being as active second quarter as I was first quarter.

**Ta-Ta for now,
Y.B. Taylor**



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