



Because, I Can ...

This is **my** platform to SHARE **my** writings and writing-related activities as well as anything else I choose to share! I have never shared my platform, but less than two-weeks ago, I decided *if not now -- when!*

If you had googled **Zyahna Bryant** a few years ago, you would have read a BIO about a young, accomplished student activist, community leader, first-generation college, etc. Unfortunately, in today's climate, googling her name will also produce right-wing sites with titles such as "BLM activist ruined white University of Virginia student's rep." **#1** - Why aren't we informed that Zyahna was also a student at the University of Virginia? Not just a student, but an exemplary student leader serving on various councils including the University President's? **#2** - Why aren't we informed that the white student was sanctioned for her comments at a protest in which Zy was exercising her civil rights?

Add being a participant in the Dove® "body positivity ad" campaign to Zy's extensive list of things doing and done. Her inclusion in the campaign has spawn calls and posts by right-wing supporters to boycott/cancel Dove®. Zy's name googled with the ad campaign will produce a plethora of disinformation. She has been advised not to speak out in defense of herself in spite of the verbal and social media assaults. Because of activities under investigation, she has obtained security. **SECURITY IS NOT CHEAP!** Having a security detail may sound over the top, but remember the climate in which we live. *Verbal and social media assaults escalated when a former FOX news darling, billionaire Xtremist, and conspiracy theorist congresswoman weighed in to push the lies.* One must wade through pages and pages of sites with fabricated lies to find

one with unadulterated truth. #LetTruthShine!

THE ASK: I have never done this before and will probably never do again, but, if after reading Zy's BIO, *not the far-right nonsense*, you feel so inclined, please contribute to the [GoFundMe](#) to make certain Zy is **SAFE** and **PROTECTED**.

THANK YOU!

Hello, Friends!

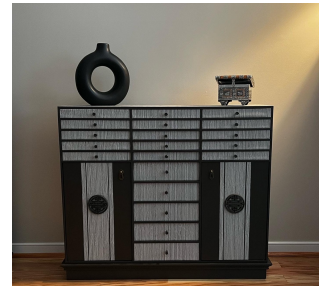
This quarter was slow in regards to writing. There were many moments of inspiration, but words would not cooperate and formulate or they did not formulate to my satisfaction. However, those who know me know I have multiple outlets for creativity. This quarter, I tapped into my DIY persona and repurposed a piece found on the back wall of a consignment shop. The piece was acquired months ago, but sat in our garage until my plans were fully formulated for its conversion to a jewelry chest. The piece is even more dear to me as my brother-in-law cut and assembled the four-inch base just weeks before his unexpected transition. He saw photos of the finished product but never got to see it in person.



BEFORE



LET THERE BE LIGHT!



AFTER

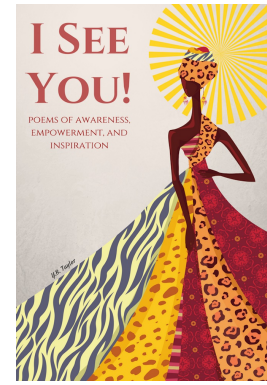
Thank you brother-in-love for lending your woodworking skills to my project!

I Started This Thing!

At the end of August, I was feeling some kind of way and decided to select poems -- mine of course -- to post weekly. The selected poems reflect the "societal boomerang" which has occurred after eight-years of POTUS Obama! The first post appeared Saturday, August 26; I have and hope to continue to post each successive

Saturday until my cache of poems is exhausted.

I have taken note of the darkness of my poems starting with my fifth literary child, **I SEE YOU!** ©2017, when *HWSNHBIO* (He Who Should Not Have Been In Office) occupied The Oval. As of this writing, I am still posting from **I SEE YOU** because the downward spiral of integrity and humanity became apparent for all to see and witness, thus becoming a focal point of my writings.



The posts appear on my [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

I Cannot Tell A Lie - A Random Commentary!

Okay, that's a lie! I am perfectly capable of lying, but my personal preference is not to do so and not to be around those who do. With that said, I see color! There are those who say, even argue, they never see color!

TRUTH: My first impressions/observances are physical -- height, weight, age, hair, eyes, clothes, and YES --- color! Until there are social exchanges, I have nothing else to go on. Depending on the reason for the encounter, I generally continue to see color until I have reached a level of comfort where I see only the person. A level of comfort is usually reached sooner when the individual or individuals are POC. But, even that is not a given because all POC are not created equal -- case in point -- Tim Scott and Clarence Thomas -- both, externally black, *but I digress*. With non-POC, I am cautious to let down my guard, but when I do, I am ecstatic because then I know I have grown beyond the stereotypical differences. It is then, and only then, I will say, "I see only the person, not their color."

Y-E-A-H!

I love it when friends see one or more of my books in a retail display, take photographs and send them to me. This photo was taken in the VMFA Gift Shop. The Gift Shop Buyer placed an order to replenish their inventory. Thanks Soror Lynne R!

I found out it was another soror who purchased the last copy prior to the replenishing of the gift shop's inventory. Thank you Soror Angela R!





What I Am Reading!

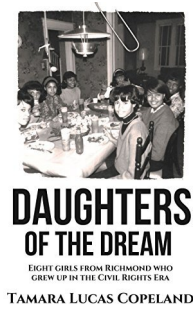
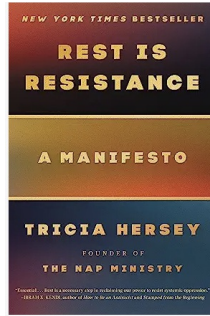
I "acknowledged" July 4 quietly by finishing my read of **The 1619 Project**. I have nothing new to add to my previous assessment. However, I reiterate, **1619** should be read by EVERYONE. It should be mandatory reading in high schools. It should be mandatory reading for universities. It should be mandatory reading for delusional politicians and their followers. There is much in this book of which many are totally unaware.

Following "1619," I toggled back and forth between "**Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto**" by Tricia Hersey and "**Daughters of the Dream**" by Tamara Lucas Copeland. Both books were interesting reads for totally different reasons.

"**Daughters**" was recommended by author Judith Bice after listening to some of my life experiences of growing up in Civil Rights Richmond when we first lunched. I found this read about eight Richmonders, one whom I know quite well, to be interesting. The eight female protagonists are three or four years older than me, but the author's telling of how their parents shielded them from the atrocities of the 50s, 60s, and even 70s was VERY familiar. Ms. Copeland does an excellent job of transitioning between yesteryear and today, and correlating their past personal experiences to today's America.

"**Manifesto**" was a gift from older daughter; the book arrived while we were still in Greece. It is an interesting read touting the benefits of REST and how we have allowed ourselves to be subjected to the *Grind Culture*, which promotes *rest as a luxury, privilege, and an extra treat to be given to ourselves only after suffering from exhaustion and sleep deprivation*. This book contained many gems, e.g., *We are not resting to be productive. We are resting simply because it is our divine right to do so* and *"Social media is an extension of capitalism."* At one point, I thought the text to be redundant, but it dawned on me the author was purposely repetitive because we, especially African Americans, have been conditioned NOT TO REST and she wants it to sink in that we, again African Americans, are entitled to rest because we have toiled long and hard and continue to do so to rightfully bring our chairs to sit at the table (a la Shirley Chisholm).

I am just starting my read of "**When I Was White**" by Sarah Valentine. It is too soon for an assessment of this one. It will definitely be included in the fourth quarter newsletter.

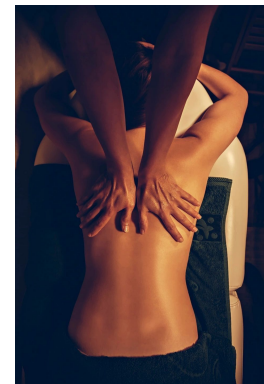


Opportunity!

I was provided an opportunity to be a supporter of *Raise Your Hand for Healthy School Environments* hosted by **4 Public Education** and **Virginia Public Education Partners (VPEP)**. The goal of the non-partisan event was to empower families, students, teachers, communities, and other stakeholders to be informed supporters for and of public education. One of the panel discussions was "**Censorship, Book Banning, and Their Effect on Student Learning.**" Unfortunately, I was not able to attend, because of my 50-year celebration in Charlottesville, but I provided bookmarks for the resource table.

My Village

My village is deep and diverse! Residents of my village may not be present every minute of my life, but are present when they are needed most. Thank you **Camille B.** for being a resident of my village. Your words, embrace of comfort and sharing of **video** were needed and appreciated.



Closing Out the Quarter with a OO-OOP+ Birthday Celebration!

September is my SUPER MONTH! 50-years ago, on the the 29th, I and my 14 line sisters chartered the Kappa Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at the University of Virginia. We were the first black sorority established on the grounds of Mr. Jeffersons Academical Village.

The next day, on the 30th, I celebrated my 19th revolution around the sun.

It is now 50-years later! Let the celebration towards 70 revolutions commence!



I welcome any and all suggestions for the making of my last year in my 60s memorable!

For those recently added to my mailing list -- by me -- you were added because I felt there may be something of interest in this particular issue. Feel free to **UNSUBSCRIBE** at anytime.

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**Thank You for your continuing support,
"Y.B."**



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