



**THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US! MAY YOUR  
CELEBRATIONS WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY BE  
FILLED WITH JOY, LOVE AND HAPPINESS!**

### **Breaking With Tradition!**

Usually, quarterly newsletters drop the first day of the next quarter. I am not waiting!

As we ring in 2025, with its good, bad and ugly, know there are many ways to approach and deal with life. One can choose to grumble about everything and do nothing OR one can choose to do something and be an agent of change for the better! I choose to be an agent of change for the better! *See you next year!*



### **This happened!**

One week prior to the PAGE TO STAGE III production by Starr Foster Dance at the Firehouse Theatre, an article appeared in StyleWeekly. In case you missed it, here's a [link](#) to the article.

The performances were beautifully choreographed and captured the words and emotions of each writers' submission. I was and still am filled with gratitude for having MIDDLE PASSAGE selected as one of seven works presented. I am

even more grateful for it being presented as the finale for each of the five-show production.

A video of the performance is not available, but here is a digital copy of the [program](#).

Again, *THANK YOU* Starr Foster and Company for selecting MIDDLE PASSAGE; *THANK YOU* Starr for the choreography; and, *THANK YOU* company and guest dancers for your exquisite execution of the choreography. Also, *THANK YOU* friends and family who attended the performances in support and appreciation of the arts ... and me!

## Highlights of the Quarter

In an effort to be mindful of everyone's time ...

- Attended  
James  
River  
Writers  
Conference  
in  
October
- **JOY!**  
and  
**LET  
TRUTH  
SHINE!**  
on  
display  
and  
available  
at  
VMFA  
Gift  
Shop
- [Bookshop.org](http://Bookshop.org),  
which  
supports  
local  
independent  
bookstores,  
is  
an  
additional  
source  
for



acquiring  
my  
books

- December 2, 2024, was the inaugural National Day of Rest for Black Women. WALKING IN FREEDOM from **JOY!** was [posted](#). If you missed the inaugural "Day of Rest," the second NDR4BW is March 10, 2025, in commemoration of the passing of Harriet Tubman.
- A Chatbot has been added

to  
my  
website  
as  
a  
communication  
tool.  
Feel  
free  
to  
let  
me  
know  
how  
you  
feel  
about  
it.  
As  
easily  
as  
I  
added  
it,  
I  
can  
take  
it  
away.

▪ **SAVE**

**THE  
DATE:**

February  
22,  
2025

•

Second  
Annual  
VUU  
ERSSE  
Literacy  
Symposium  
and  
Book  
Fair

•

9:30  
am

—

2:00  
pm

•

L.  
Douglas  
Wilder  
Library  
and  
Learning  
Resource  
Center

•

**Event**  
**Theme:**  
160th  
VUU  
Anniversary  
-  
-  
School  
of  
Education  
Celebration  
of  
Faith,  
Literacy,  
and  
Freedom

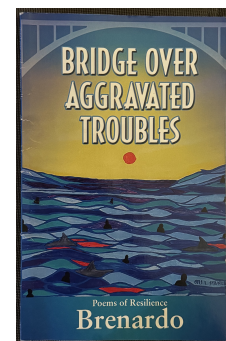


## What This Author Is Reading

TRUTH: I did not get much reading done this quarter. Received a copy of **BRIDGE OVER AGGRAVATED TROUBLES: Poems of Resilience** by Brenardo, whom I met when I traveled to Egypt and Turkey earlier this year. He and his brother were the only two males in our group. We discovered we share the same last name and that he also writes poetry.

Because I have not completed reading, I am borrowing another's words ... *At the heart of BRIDGE OVER AGGRAVATED TROUBLES is the desire to speak truth about what the world is, and how it has been experienced by a man that has been hailed for his vision and insight as a prophet, a healer, a teacher, a preacher, and a revolutionary.*

I will say my two favorite thus far are "The Finding" and "I Believe in Poetry."





## Last, But Certainly Not Least ...

A phenomenally gifted poet/wordsmith, activist, educator, author, orator, etc. has gained her wings. I was blessed to have been in Nikki Giovanni's presence on a few occasions. I wish I could say I was named after her, but I know I was not!



UVA's Kappa Rho Chapter  
with Soror Nikki (1975)



Yolanda and Yolande - both  
short - both natural - both  
poets! (2010)



River Road Church  
"Distinguished  
Speaker Forum"  
(2023)

## R.I.P. Soror Nikki!

If I added you to my mailing list, it was because I thought you might have interest in a featured item. Feel free to **UNSUBSCRIBE** at anytime.

*Subscribers may read and/or **SHARE** past issues by downloading from my [website](#). Only the current and past 14 newsletters will be available for download.*

**Thank you for your support and encouragement! ALSO, ...**



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

"Y.B."



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