



## A Quarter of Celebrating!

This quarter, I was blessed with a second invite to New York for *Women & Words2*. I birthed my ninth literary child, **JOY! Another Book of Poetry**, and celebrated my 70th birthday. The entire year has been better than anything I could have imagined AND there are three months before we usher in 2025. What more can happen?



## Save the Dates!!!

I hinted of a **BIG ANNOUNCEMENT** in the last newsletter. Well, here it is ...

"MIDDLE PASSAGE," from **JOY!** will be performed in PAGE TO STAGE III. Starr Foster of [Starr Foster Dance](#), an award winning dance company, is the choreographer. The production will run Thursday, December 5, through Sunday, December 8.

I am beyond over the moon in anticipation of the performance -- my poem -- choreographed and danced beautifully and erratically.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the performance and to obtain tickets!

## Quick Quarterly Catch-up!



## JULY

- \* Participated in Inaugural ERSSE (Evelyn Reid Syphax School of Education) Book Fair at Virginia Union University; great networking opportunity
- \* Poetry Reading at "Joy in July with the Women of Riverview Tea." Did someone leak the title of my book?

## AUGUST

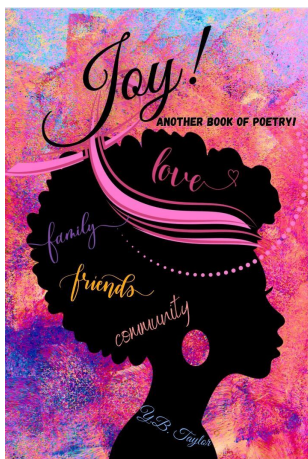
- \* VMFA Gift Shop requested more copies of LET TRUTH SHINE!
- \* Received email stating my manuscript was selected to move forward in the *Women & Words2* incubator program. Back to New York!

## SEPTEMBER

- \* Hit APPROVE to publish button; copies of **JOY!** received and delivered to VMFA Gift Shop
- \* Absorbed comments of agent and editors at *Women & Words2*, I am considering taking on the monumental task of a historical fiction ... considering!

## What the Author is reading!

Very little reading this quarter. I was concentrating on completing and publishing **JOY!** I hunkered down and reread my poems so many times, one would think I was memorizing them in preparation for a poetry slam. It is amazing how many errors you overlook because you are NOT reading what is actually printed, but what you think it should be printed. With each proof copy -- there were three -- I was floored by errors not seen with previous reviews. Sadly, I am certain there are still more I may have missed.



Considering how many times I have read, reread and re-reread **JOY!**, I decided to provide an unbiased review!LOL

**This book is GREAT! 'Nuf said!**

Because I strongly feel one can "reach and teach through poetry," **JOY!** not only contains 26 poems, 26 quotes, and 26 inspirations, but it also contains 69 footnotes, Adinkra symbol charts and a genealogy summary which some may or may not find interesting; some might even say implausible!

Readers may not agree with everything written in **JOY!** but, spirited discussions will certainly be prompted by some of its content.

**JOY!** is available through my [website](#), [AMAZON](#), and the VMFA Gift

Shop.

Some may remember my requesting suggestions for light summer reading at the close of the second quarter newsletter. None offered, I picked up *Bits and Pieces* because its Whoopi Goldberg and I thought it would be funny! Obviously, I had not read any reviews. This was not the light reading I was seeking, but I still found it interesting.

Whoopi is forthright about her struggles to making it to where she is and she is brutally honest about the loss she felt with the death of her mother and then her older brother. I have always liked and admired Whoopi. My admiration for her has grown after reading this book.



*3 SHADES OF BLUE* was gifted by a gym friend. Actually, it was originally a loan and then he said to keep it. Nat was surprised I was reading this book because he knows I am not into "serious" jazz.

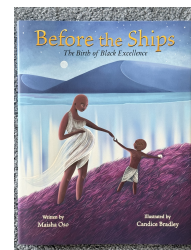
Surprisingly, I have found this to be an interesting book. It is not strictly about jazz but about the lives and inner workings of the musicians ... how they got to where they were, how black jazz musicians were snubbed, how musicians succumbed to drugs or continued to function in spite of drugs, and how jazz is an industry where "stepping out out of bounds" was acceptable and sometimes expected behavior.

## Books of Diversity for Children

For friends and family seeking "banned" books of diversity for children, pop into [bbgb](#) at 3003 West Cary Street. I ventured in for a book reading by Dionna L. Mann, author of "Mama's Chicken and Dumplings." Before leaving with a signed copy, I also purchased another recently published book which caught my eye. "Before the Ships" by Maisha Oso is a must-have for every child's library!



DIONNA L.  
MANN



## An Ask!!!

If you have read any or all of my books, please take a few minutes and write a review on Amazon. Good, bad or indifferent ... reviews are evidence of readership. Of course, I would prefer positive feedback, but negative feedback can be turned into a positive because your words might provide something for me to work towards. **THANK YOU!**

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If you were recently added to my mailing list (by me), I thought you might have interest in a featured item or you might wish to know what I am up to. 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,  
Y.B. Taylor, Writer**



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