

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Valencia through our relatedness as a family. I am a senior member. She has always impressed me as an ambitious woman destined to go places. Her quiet spirit leads one to think of her as a deep love thinker who expresses her feelings through the power of words and visual images. In her work, her writing is imaginative, creative, scholarly, and, sometimes edgy. When I think of her writing style, James Baldwin's words comes to mind, "not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." Valencia Benjamin seeks truth, and she has faith in God, and, in mankind. She deserves an opportunity to showcase her skills and talents to a broader audience that she will be allowed to connect with as a writer. I believe she is ready and now is the time.

Sincerely,

Dorothy B. Reid, *MPA, MS, LPC*