

LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINE

THE HOGGES, COWINS & SMILEY
SOUTH FLORIDA WRITERS OF COLOR

AUGUST 2022

LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINE



YOUR WORDS MATTER – WORDS HAVE POWER

Words can create the Power of Faith and Hope.

Words can create the Power of Love and Compassion.

Words can create the Power of Unity and Cooperation.

Words can create the Power of Truth, Honesty and Fairness.

Words can create the Power of Freedom, Justice and Equality.

Embracing our Literary Voices,

The Enduring Power, Creative Joy,

And Beauty of Words,

We Unleash Our Infinite

Power of Imagination and Creativity.

-Ralph Hogges

August 2022

**The Hogges, Cowins & Smiley
South Florida Writers of Color
Literary Arts Magazine**

An Online Literary Arts Magazine

**“WHEN LIVES HAVE NO VALUE: GUN VIOLENCE
AND DEATHS**

When we Value Power more than we Value Lives,
When we Value Money more than we Value Lives,
When we Value Control more than we Value Lives,
Our Children die at schools from Guns.
People die here, there and everywhere, from Guns.

It is an Inhumane Obsessive Greed for Power, Money and Control by Politicians,
the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the Gun Industry.

The Questions are:

1. When will it Stop?
2. Who is going to Stop It?

Answer these Questions about When and Who:

- 1. If not Now, then, When?**
- 2. If not Me, then, Who?**

The Realities of Gun Violence and Deaths are:

- 1. Thoughts and Prayers are Not Enough.**
- 2. All of us have a Responsibility, an Obligation, to do what is necessary to
Make it Stop Now.**
- 3. It is Late and the Clock of Urgency is Ticking. Let's GET IT DONE.**

--- Ralph Hogges”

The Hogges, Cowins & Smiley
South Florida Writers of Color
Literary Arts Magazine
(An Online Literary Arts Magazine)

August 2022, Volume 4, Number 1

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WHEN WRITERS OF COLOR BECOME LITERARY ARTS ENTREPRENEURS: POWER, CONTROL AND PROFITS

By Ralph Hogges

There should be no doubt that the publishing industry has been challenging, especially for writers of color. They welcome with open arms and publish books by and for great African American athletes and famous entertainers, but neglect and reject many of the other gifted and talented writers. Literary agents have very little, if any, interest in their literary works and readily decline to represent them. Many of the African American writers self-publish, then, most bookstores refuse to stock and sell their books.

For too many writers of color, it has been a struggling journey of being overlooked, underestimated, neglected and rejected. As the President of The Ralph Hogges, Benjamin Cowins and Delores Smiley Writers Group of South Florida, with more than 60 members, I decided that it was time for us to free ourselves from that devastating dependency on others doing for us what we can do for ourselves. I felt that it was time for us to step up and take control of our literary arts destiny.

More specifically, I wanted us to focus on thinking, believing and promoting our “writing as a business,” establishing ourselves as independent, self-sufficient, literary arts entrepreneurs. Advocating and promoting my philosophy that – “Ownership is Power and Partnerships provide the Powerful Equalizing Enablers of Successful Entrepreneurs of Color,” I put forth the following challenges to my members:

June 9, 2021

The Hogges Challenge # 1: Create Your Literary Agency and I will be your first client

On June 16, 2021, one member, then, later, two others, gathered and created a partnership and accepted my challenge. Dr. Shelly Cameron, Dr. Thea White and Dr. Susan Lycett Davis became the co-founders, owners, managers and leaders of CWD Media Agents.

August 14, 2021

The Hogges Challenge # 2: Create Your Online Bookstore and I will be your first author

On September 7, 2021, one member, then, later, two others, gathered and created a partnership and accepted my challenge. Rosemarie Cole, Carla Bennett and Arnetha Thomas

became the co-founders, owners, managers and leaders of the COBETH ONLINE BOOKSTORE, LLC.

As of this writing, August 2022, their literary agency and bookstore are providing special, great and grand opportunities to writers of color, not only in South Florida but throughout the global community. As literary arts entrepreneurs, their ownership gives them unprecedented and unlimited power, control and profits.

To me, this is a minor beginning. There is much more that we should do, can do, and must do to reach our full and maximum potential and determine our own Destiny.

“The Clock of Your Destiny

**If you want to:
Break down the Racial Barriers,
Break through the Glass Ceilings,
Open the Doors for Others,
And, be in the room and sit at the Table of Power, Authority and Control,
Ownership and Partnerships are the Powerful Ways and Means to Make it Happen.
It is Late. The Clock of Your Destiny is Ticking.
Make it Happen.**

--- Ralph Hogges”

FEATURES

LAST TIME

By S. Ettosi Brooks

The last time I saw Jamaica I'd said goodbye to my heart.
I lost it somewhere between Hope Gardens and Constant Spring.
So we meet, So we part.
I remember staring at the bus as it retreated from me carrying my love, hopes and dreams.
The moon, impassive to human foolishness, sent a soft shimmering sound floating by.
I looked through tear veiled eyes at her hard, bright fulness.
A baby in her mother's arms stared at me. You know, the way children do as if it was God looking at you through their eyes?
Now, the child full blossoming with the careless beauty of youth, sashays past me. I knew it was her at once, but she did not know me. How could she?
It had been twenty years.
She was elbowing me. Smiling. " 'memba? "
"Yes."
Early morning. The birds were singing – percussive patterns skipping like a game of Dandy Shandy through the sultry air.
Drum...
Riiiiidim...
In the mall people, step, stride, shuffle.
Riiiiidim...
The same ones the taxi driver used to navigate the streets.
And Stop!!!
Someone break the ridim.
Almost cause an accident.
The driver slowed down, cursed.
And, six eight time sped toward the hills.
My eyes clung to them – a life support till we reach.
Masses of yellow butterflies swarmed soft.

The child again... this time she was flying. Circling above my head.
"Take my heart with you."
"But... What will you do without it?"
"Silly!" said the wise one.
"I won't care because you will always be a part of me."

So every now and then, sitting at my desk frozen shouldered, she comes by wafting her rose apple perfume, tapping out a rhythm with slender fingers on the wooden desk.

"memba?"

Shoulders drop soft, no snap, no pop in my spine. Now they undulate like the Red Hills.

"Yes, of course. Ah 'memba."

Highlights of My Literary Profile: Sharing Insightful and Inspirational Wisdom for Aspiring, Beginning and Emerging Writers

By Indiana Robinson

My name is Dr. Indiana Robinson. I am a Jamaican-American author of 50 books, primarily in the nonfiction genre, and minimally in the fiction genre. Among the nonfiction topics I have published and am publishing are memoirs, biography, history, unsung heroes, visual arts, poetry, academics, music, ancestry, children's activity, animals, meteorology, geography, spirituality, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), proverbs as social commentary, leadership, sports (cricket), culinary arts, and business. My sole fictional work is a novella comprising three short stories on companionship, trickery, and fable. I publish my books under the pen names of Inyaso, Dr. D., and a few others.

I am also an educator/dissertation chair and earned my doctorate at Nova Southeastern University a decade ago. My books are available from: <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/Inyaso>.

Dr. Ralph Hogges asked me to answer the following questions. I hope my responses will be insightful and inspirational to aspiring, beginning and emerging writers.

Why do you write?

First, as an educator, I write to inform and impart knowledge on various nonfiction topics with instructional and historical-based books geared towards adults and children. Second, as an artist, I love to create and share my works of art with like-minded folks. Third, I write to express my inner thoughts such as on controversial topics like questioning my spirituality or lack thereof. Fourth, I write persuasively (more subtly than through poetry) to engage readers on issues relating to gender disparity, discrimination, and racism. Fifth, I write because I am curious. As a multiethnic character, I am also curious about my complex and multiracial ancestry to determine who I am literally.

By reflecting on my past via my 7-part memoirs, a biography on my parents, and an investigating piece on my grandparents, I hope to stumble on the answers. I also write to express myself and release pent-up energy. I have a lot of things on my mind and a way to get them off my chest, so to speak, is to write about them. Writing is a nonverbal platform I use to express myself and reach out to audiences around the globe without eye-to-eye contact. I get nervous and suffer panic attacks when I speak to live audiences. It helps me to release stress. Penultimately, I write because it is expected of me.

Our writers' group leader, Dr. Hogges, encourages us, members, to write books. Finally, I write to entertain. I fancy myself as a comedienne of sorts like my mother before me, so, I infuse humor mostly in my poetic endeavors.

Why do you write in a variety of genres?

Growing up with a nomad for a mother did not give me much time to settle down and write but I always harbored the thoughts of writing. Also, my mother always begged me to write her story, or biography using the technical literary term, but I kept putting it off. When I found the time after my graduate educational pursuits, it was too late. Late-stage Parkinson's disease had beset her and she lost her power over recall. Fearing that the "Like Mother, Like Daughter" theory may beset me, I decided, with urgent abandon, to get my ideas – my thoughts, my words, and my deeds on paper before it's too late, given my health issues.

Because we lived in several different ghettos in Kingston, Jamaica, my family life experiences are vast as they are varied. Today, I will be with my mother, and tomorrow, I could be living with my father and different step-mothers, my grandmother, or at a classmate's house. This escapism life and "run-away bride" mindset have beset me to present times. So far, the ideas for new books keep flowing and I kept responding thus leading to my multi-genre works such as interviewing artists, venturing into what my future might entail now that I am very close to my biblical three scores and ten, honoring local heroes, and comparing myself to artistic greats to see how I stack up – based on a compliment you once gave me. These are the things that drives me into genre variety – blame it on my mother.

When and where do you do your writing?

When I started college circa 1990, I used my spare time to jot down poems and story ideas and plays informally and stuck them in a folder. I recall writing a poem for my first English teacher and leaving it on her chair, anonymously, and never owned up as the author when she inquired. Speaking of shy and bashful! My life changed when I met Dr. Ralph Hogges and Dr. Delores Smiley in academia 20 years later. They invited me to join various institutional committees that they chaired and took me out of my concentric circles and into a new world. The paradigm shift came when Dr. Hogges invited me to co-author a book (*Lifting Our Literary Voices: An Anthology of Poetry, Short Story and Essays*) with him and other work colleagues, Dr. Marva Hare Morris and Dr. Clyde A. Bailey, at Nova Southeastern University. The rest is history as they say – I never looked back from 2010 to the present. Thank you, art, spirit and compassionate change agent for believing in me and untapping my "hidden" talent. You forced me to invade my old writing folder and unleashed its contents into that first book and now nearly 100 books later (only 50% published), I kept on trucking.

As to where I write? I write anywhere and mostly in the wee hours of the night, which is actually my uninterrupted daylight when everyone else is asleep. I write on several note pads when I am fast asleep in bed and an idea pops into my head, or I see something interesting on TV or hear it on the radio (remember that?). Even in my downtime, I write in my hospital bed. My husband knows to bring my laptop, thumb drives, and notepads when I am institutionalized in a medical facility. The same goes when I travel. Be it Jamaica or Europe, my laptop is the first item packed so I can write, write, write.

What advice would you give to aspiring, beginning and emerging writers?

When Dr. Hogges and Dr. Cowins founded the Writers Group of South Florida in 2016, I became one of the founding members. For several years, I served as it's Coordinator of The Author's Speak, Sign and Sell Books Circuit (fashioned off the legendary Chitlin Circuit for black entertainers throughout the Deep South). During our events, I met numerous aspiring, beginning and emerging writers and shared words of advice and encouragement to and for them, including: One is never too young or too old to write. I challenge you to start jotting down your ideas, be it the arts, climate change, politics, career pathing, or whatever your passion is on a napkin even, but a journal book, a tablet, a cell phone voice, or video messaging feature is preferable. Cover topics that readers can connect with and enjoy reading and sharing with their friends, family, and colleagues. Another technique that I use is pseudonyms when I am venturing into unfamiliar territory and testing the market.

If writer's block rears its ugly head, it's best to join a writer's group to benefit from the synergy or start a YouTube or a Facebook channel. Next, find a mentor. I had Dr. Hogges as a guide by my side not only to discover me but to help me channel my writing efforts in the right direction. That start that he gave me as well as following in his footsteps as a writer has propelled me to do bigger and greater things, that hopefully, will help me inspire and motivate aspiring, beginning and emerging writers to follow suit. Newly minted writers should learn how to conduct research so that their work is factual. Be direct; do not beat around the bush. You want readers to know that you are genuine and truthful.

Most of all, believe in yourself. Know that your work will be challenged, so be prepared to defend it. It happened to me when I was editing my second book and I asked someone for feedback. It was so scathing that it almost derailed my writing career. Listen to your inner voice and ignore the negativity of naysayers. Stay positive and create works worthy of readership.

Finally, another tip I give to aspiring, beginning and emerging writers is that writing and getting your book published is a great accomplishment, but it takes time, effort and dedication. Write a little each day and aim for small accomplishments. Remember though that if your project

is ambitious and is big as a chocolate-covered elephant, cut it into small, bite-sized pieces so it's easy to swallow and enjoy.

Here are some additional tips for sourcing topics as well as setting up your legacy:

- What are the major turning points in your life? What are some notable events in your life?
- What are your most significant accomplishments/insights/discoveries?
- What are you most obsessed with? What themes run through your life?
- What haunts you from your childhood? What have you struggled with your entire life?
- What relationships shaped you the most?
- What inspires you? Where have you traveled? Know any career people to target such as diplomats, military families, or CEOs?
- What puzzles you that you would like to make sense of? For me, the book titled: "You did it Unto Me.": The story of Alpha and the Sisters of Mercy in Jamaica by Sister Bernadette Little (2013) was a crucial factor in tracing my mother's life as an inmate in a convent when, as a child, she was abandoned by her own mother.
- Finally, have you been laying the groundwork for your legacy using the triangular method of assessment? First, what would you like to be remembered for as a living subject or subject living in memory? Second, what have you done with your life so it can be assessed now or when you depart this world? Are you kind? Generous? Are you socially responsible? Did you overcome adversity issues such as child abuse? Did you have to fight for your rights? If not your own accomplishments, what about impacting others such as caring for an elderly family member with a debilitating disease or a child facing challenging abilities? Have you been doing good deeds such as volunteering at church to cook and feed the homeless? It can be as simple as sharing your expertise and knowledge with others or donating books to a school in a low-income neighborhood. Always bear in mind that the impact/effect of your legacy should be positive so do good and good will follow you – to your grave.

Chapter 1 – Our Growth Process
Excerpt from the Book: Power of the Blood at Work in You
“Veil Torn in Two” Volume 2
Release Date TBA

www.neatbooks4u.com

By Arnetha Thomas

We already said, “Our growth process is inevitable for maturity.” I’m reminded of the title “No pain, no gain,” secular hit song of 1988 by the late Betty Wright. Her lyrics are prevalent for today’s problems. She sang about life troubles and to gain something, we must go through something. The late Betty Wright lived and grew-up in Miami, Florida.

However, our thoughts and feelings about what we have or have not yet fully become or attained are influenced by life circumstances and obstacles. Our outcomes are positive, negative, and maybe in between. Despite what it is or may not be, we must recognize God’s blessings, grace, and mercy upon us. So, the impact of life events may develop over periods of time or occur suddenly. Then, how do we handle or cope with these events?

Much depends upon our history of success, failures, support systems and/or faith in God. We may encounter doubts, insecurities, anxieties, and/or other adverse emotions. But one’s outlook during personal growth process is to increase our knowledge, patience, and faith in God. The Epistle of James is noted as one of the most practical books of the New Testament. It offers instructions and exhortation for Christians who are experiencing problems as we all do. It is like a “How-to-do” book. James 1:2-4 says, “My brethren (All believers), count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

What is James telling us? He is saying, “Trials are conflicts, sufferings, troubles and grievous, but to consider as opportunities for rejoicing.” He further instructs trials are tools to refine and purify our faith. More importantly essential for Christian maturity. OMG! Frequent thoughts like, “LORD, I prayed and prayed. Disappointed you didn’t answer my prayer. I trusted You LORD,” then You said, “You would never leave me or forsake me.” The question is had you or I forsaken God?

During our trials, life events or interactions with others, do we honestly examine ourselves? Not to put self-down, but to identify errors for repentance, to be more forgiving of others including ourselves or ask for forgiveness if we wronged someone else. Then,

remembering to thank God for what He has already done for us, as well as, for the expectations of getting through the trials and storms in our lives. Regarding self-examinations here are mine. I thought my relationship with Christ was strong, but it was weak. The enemy not only crept in, yet he was unknowingly invited in. How is this my sister? God was not the primary focus in my life.

During that time, I lacked maturity in Christ. Yes, a Christian, youth leader and an intercessor at my church. "Laugh out loud" yall. Maybe it's not funny, but we need some humor. I put my retirement monies, gifts, skills, and talents before God. I clearly remember thinking, "God I know everything is Yours', but all I got to do is call my financial planner. He will send me some money." At some point, the Holy Spirit led me to study the "Whole armor", which are the weapons of spiritual warfare. I studied at first, then later told God, "I don't have time for this." I pushed God's study to the side picking it up years later after repentance. Question: What were my trials or troubles during that time and after? Well, retirement monies dried up, pending foreclosure, lost grants, no earned income, received unemployment compensation and as I think about it depression set in. I was not happy or joyous. But when I cried out to God about my condition, my outlook and sadness changed. Yes, the situations that I experienced were painful but needed to refine and purify my faith in God. A friend at the school said, "Ms. Thomas, I'm glad to see you are back to yourself." Thank God she recognized my joy. Yet, I was not back to myself but filled with newness in Christ. My growth process continues to evolve striving for perfection in Christ – becoming fit for His Kingdom. Now more thankful like the Book of James says "For the Opportunities of Christian maturity" hallelujah, restoration and believing more to come.

Now, "Our Growth Process" also expounds on the Family Life Cycle System which is based on Social Work theories. These theories are principles, ideas, and beliefs that guides or put our lives in some type of order for anticipation of what to expect. Therefore, this system describes what most individuals experience seemingly from the latter stage of childhood to old age consisting of five different groups or stages which are: Independence, Coupling, Parenting, Empty Nest and Retirement. We thank God for equipping the Social Work profession with the knowledge to help us as we experience or navigate through different stages of our lives.

We have given recognition to man which is the Social Work profession for their knowledge in developing the Family Life Cycle System. We now offer support and knowledge about the WORD of God-the scriptures to navigate and/or cope with the stages of independence, Coupling Parenting, Empty Nest and Retirement. Many of us can identify with these stages, in addition to the different life experiences that we may have encountered. For instance, finding myself connecting with the Empty Nest and Retirement stages. I am close to those whose children have recently left home for college and retired twice, even though recently returned to work full-time.

Admitting to immediate thoughts of peer pressure and maintaining good grades are challenges that my loved ones and others may face in college. Easily to think since I am a Social Worker with many years to include Juvenile Probation Officer. Thus 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." First, let us dismantle (demolish/take down the stronghold of fear). Read verses 1-6. In response Yes, I am and as a believer in Christ so are you, "A child of the King of kings." Now read the above scripture this way. "For God has not given us (Arnetha & you) a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." Then I/we take this scripture and meditate (Think it over and over in my/your mind. Let it take root in my/your heart. I/we must believe/trust what God says is true).

Psalms 1:1-2 helps me and maybe others as we speak what we want to see in our loved ones and other young people. "Blessed is the man/woman (Loved ones or say their names) who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly (negative peer influences), nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful (Lifestyles to be avoided like gambling, vaping, drugs, promiscuous and Casanova behaviors); But his/her (Loved ones or say their name) delight is in the law (WORD/way) of the LORD, and in His law (WORD/way) he/she meditates day and night. We are not asking them to be like old people, but to exercise wisdom and discipline. For more please visit website www.neatbooks4u.com to receive free downloads of the Introduction and Chapter 1. Also, join us on www.blogtalkradio.com/neatbooks. Finally, hope what you have read thus far adds more blessings for you and your family.

Love,
Arnetha of neatbooks4u

A Woman's Worth

Excerpt from the Book: Rhythm and Hues – Twenty-Three Stories of Hardship and Hope

By Corey B. Collins

At times like these, the woman wonders what the point of it all is. Recent news of the unexpected death of yet another close friend, a mere two years her senior, came out of nowhere and rained down on her like a storm for which she was woefully unprepared. Sorrow cements her to the cream-colored recliner in her living room. She looks down. Her lap cradles the framed photo. Moisture wells just beneath the lower lip of her left eyelid. Knowing she must conserve the lion share of her sadness for the marathon day of grief lying in wait at her friend's funeral, she rations just one tear. It eventually breaches the rim of her eyelid, journeys the length of her cheek and pools at the bottom of her chin. Then, gravity continues to have its way. The picture frame intercepts the liquid before it meets the ground. She wipes the droplet from the glass housing the most recent image of her dog Ozzie. Her furry friend had been gifted by her older brother fourteen years ago as a comfort in the wake of the untimely passing of her longtime human companion and soul mate of thirty-six years. Lung cancer had been the thief that stole her husband. A familiar ring abruptly invades the woman's airspace, rescuing her from her melancholy malaise. She answers her smart phone.

"Hello?"

"Hey, Mom," the woman's daughter replies. "I'm getting the girls ready for church and thought I'd check in to let you know we're praying for you today."

"Hang in there, Nana!" her nine-year-old granddaughter exclaims, her voice barely audible in the background. "We love you."

"Well, thank you," the woman replies. "I love you too!"

"She just left the room," her daughter says.

"I'm not surprised," the woman replies, laughing. "Cannot sit still."

"That's for sure," her daughter says.

"And my other granddaughter? Where is she?"

“Here in my lap, taking a bottle,” her daughter replies. “Well, give us a call later if you need to talk. We’ll be here.”

“I will, baby,” the woman replies. “Y’all take care.”

“Mommy, don’t hang up yet!” the woman’s older granddaughter exclaims. “I almost forgot. I need to talk to Nana.”

“Well, here,” the woman’s daughter says. She passes the phone.

“Hey, Nana.”

“Yes?” the woman replies. “I’m still here.”

“Okay, so,” her older granddaughter begins. “At school we’re going to start having these theme days once a week where we have to dress up to match the theme and Mommy showed me some pictures of you when you were, like, younger.”

“Uh-huh,” the woman replies.

“Okay, so, I like that picture Mommy showed me of you with my grandad when your hair was, like, poofy and stuff.”

“You mean the one with my Afro?” the woman asks.

“Um, yeah, your Afro,” her older granddaughter replies. “Well, Mommy said that picture was taken in the nineteen seventies. Is that right?”

“Yes, the early seventies,” the woman says. “Before your Mommy was even born.”

“Oh, cool! Well, the next time you come visit, can you show me how to get my hair like that?” her older granddaughter asks. “I wanna wear it like that when we have our seventies theme day.”

“I sure will show you,” the woman replies.

“Yea!” her older granddaughter exclaims. “Thanks, Nana. I love you. And don’t cry too much today.”

“I love you too, baby,” the woman replies. “And, I won’t cry too much.”

“Okay, bye!”

“Bye, baby,” the woman replies.

The woman glances over at the photo of her with her husband. She smiles briefly, then unfolds and lifts her body from the recliner and begins to walk toward her bedroom.

“Hmmm. What to wear, what to wear,” she mutters to herself. “Something that will look good with my polka dot scarf perhaps.”

LET HEALING RISE

By Rosemarie Cole

You are divided red and blue
My heart ache for you
If - My people pray
There will be ray
Of light and hope
Fill your crevices with love
Then blessing will come from
above
If – My people seek
I will speak
Of life and peace
I set you on a hill
For the earth – void to fill
If – My people turn
You will not be burn
By sparks of fire

Mentors Matter: Memories of My Lifelong Mentor, Dr. Ulysses Van Spiva

By Ralph Hogges

Looking back over my life brings forth memories of my struggles to achieve educational and career opportunities in the White Supremacy's Deep South and the special person that God put in my life to protect, teach and guide me. His name was Dr. Ulysses Van Spiva. He was an amazing blessing in my life. I write to share some of those memories of my lifelong mentor with you.

After earning my master's degree at Tuskegee Institute (University) on May 16, 1972, I was hired as a personnel administrator in the University Personnel Relations Department at Florida International University (FIU) on August 28, 1972. FIU was a new university in the Florida's State University System, scheduled to officially open on September 14, 1972.

Standing on the elevated steps of the Primera Casa (First Building) on that Grand Opening day ceremony, with city, county and state VIP officials and numerous other leaders, I glanced here and there, searching for some black employees, but finding only a few. They were mostly janitorial and lawn workers.

Then, it began to dawn on me. I was twenty-five years old, beginning my first professional job, at a predominantly white university. As a native of the Deep South, born and raised in Georgia and educated in Alabama (B.S. & M.Ed. at Tuskegee Institute), I knew and understood the history and traditions of White Supremacy. No matter how exceptionally well credentialed and experienced black professors and administrators were at historically black colleges and universities, very few of them were hired at predominantly white universities.

Standing on those steps as one of the few blacks, I realized that I was one of the founding administrators of a new, predominantly white university. Although feeling blessed and being grateful, my thoughts and concerns were: Would I survive? What would it take for me to excel and thrive?

During the academic year, I was anxious to pursue my doctorate, but FIU was an Upper Division University offering junior and senior level courses for the bachelor's degree, and master's degree courses, but no doctorates.

Tuition was free for fulltime employees, so I decided to take a master's degree level course of my interest, EDU 607: Administration of Secondary Schools. The class was taught during the evening, one night per week, and that was where I met Dr. Ulysses Van Spiva.

It was obvious to me that he was a master teacher. Standing there, walking back and forth in front of his class, confident and in command of the content and delivery, he painted the picture and told the story. Dr. Spiva kept us mesmerized throughout the class as he methodically intertwined educational administration theories and its practical application to managing and leading schools as principals and superintendents.

Deep within me, I had an urge to get to know him. We had seen each other on campus and exchanged greetings, but I viewed him as a distant executive who probably had no interest in getting to know a low-level employee like me. Although apprehensive, during one of our class breaks, I forced myself to begin a conversation with him and found him to be friendly and easy to talk to. Thereafter, during breaks and after class, we talked a lot about our lives and happenings on campus.

This black man was a Professor and Executive Assistant to the President of Florida International University, Charles Perry. He was the highest ranking black administrator and the ranking number two senior executive at the institution.

Like me, Dr. Spiva was a native of the Deep South, born and raised in New Market, Tennessee. He earned his B.S. in Mathematics and Physics at Tennessee State University, the M.S. from Case Western Reserve University, and the Ph.D. in Education Administration and Political Science at Stanford University.

He began his professional career in the Cleveland, Ohio Public School System, first as a mathematics teacher, then, on to Department Chair and Evening School Principal. During the summers, he served as a mathematics coordinator at the Amherst College and Dartmouth College Summer "A Better Chance Programs."

After earning his Ph.D. at Stanford University, he was hired at the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C. as a Washington Policy Fellow. In this capacity, he served as Special Assistant to the Director of the National Follow Through Program.

Now, he was Executive Assistant to the President of Florida International University, with a position of influence and power that was rare for a black man in the South. Yet, he regularly reached out and invited me to have lunch with him wherein we discussed college and university management, leadership and politics. Not only did he become my best friend, but he also became my lifelong mentor. I was 25 and he was 41.

He took me along with him to attend the Miami-Dade County School Board Meetings and introduced me to the board members. On Saturday mornings, we attended the Overtown Ministers' Laymen Voter Registration Committee breakfast gatherings at Pastor Thedford Johnson's St. John Baptist Church. It was a must appearance for white local, state and national candidates running for political office and seeking the endorsement of Miami-Dade County's African-American leaders and the community constituency they represented. Those experiences gave me the opportunity to meet, engage with, and get to know local political leaders and community power brokers.

At social gatherings and professional events, he introduced me to many of his friends and prominent leaders. He was a master speaker, always in high demand for radio, television, churches, conferences and conventions. From him, I received a Master Class in delivering speeches and presentations. He taught me the value and successful approaches to networking, cultivating relationships and connections.

Our favorite sport was tennis and we played often and competitively. Our passion was politics. We prided ourselves on predicting political election outcomes, especially presidential elections. His presidential prediction was Hillary Clinton and mine was Barack Obama. You know who won.

Because of his wise counsel, I went on to earn my Ed. D. in Higher Education Administration and Leadership at Nova Southeastern University. I also did post-doctorate studies at the University of Miami (Organization and Administration of Higher Education) and Harvard University (MLE Certificate - Harvard Graduate School of Education's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education).

We co-authored scholarly articles for journals. He was the author of these three books:

- Leadership Plus Administration in School Management: Selected Readings
- Legal Outlook: A Message to College and University People
- How to Get a Grant for Your Own Special Project

When my wife, Lilia, and I were dating, got married and had our first child, Alicia, he and his wife, Libby, were always there to support us. When we arrived home from the hospital after the birth of Alicia, Libby, a nurse, was there to teach and support us in nursing her. He and Libby volunteered to baby-sit Alicia for us when we were exhausted and needed to get away for some relief. In grateful appreciation, Lilia and I chose him to become Alicia's Godfather.

We lived about five minutes from each other. From him I learned to be a good husband to my wife, and a good father to my children. I also learned from him to be a good Christian.

Dr. Spiva was a deacon at the Second Baptist Church of Richmond Heights in Southwest Miami-Dade, and I became a member because of him. Although I was called to preach at the age of twelve, I refused to accept my call for 32 years. In 1991, at the age of 44, I became an Associate Minister at the Second Baptist Church of Richmond Heights.

In preparation for my ministry, I earned the Certificate in Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) of Atlanta, Georgia. Concurrent with my university academic work, I served as an Associate and Senior Associate Minister for twenty-one years.

For forty years, thanks to the wonderful blessings of my mentor, Dr. Ulysses Van Spiva, I successfully served as a professor and administrator at Florida International University, Florida Memorial University and Nova Southeastern University (NSU). I was the founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Executive Leadership in Higher Education (designed to prepare college and university presidents and vice presidents), at NSU. Appointed by the Florida Governor and confirmed by the Senate, I served a four-years term as a member of the Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC) and helped to develop and implement a Master Plan for all colleges and universities in the State of Florida. As an academic scholar (co-founder and co-moderator of The Monthly Scholars' Roundtable and Forum, at NSU), fiction and nonfiction writer, I authored 16 books. Along the way, I reached out and mentored numerous young brothers and sisters, helping them charter and achieve successful careers.

On March 29, 2016, God called Dr. Spiva home at the age of 85. At his funeral on April 2, 2016, I spoke about his 44 years of love, caring and kindness to me and my family. In closing my comments, I stated that "God's Grace is Truly Amazing. I know because he blessed me with Dr. Ulysses Van Spiva."

Chapter 5 – Lifelong Learning is Important to Your Retirement Journey

Excerpt from the Book, *Retirement: The Journey and The Destination*

By Patricia Reid-Waugh

A positive senior mindset rejects the idea that “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” This adage has proven not to be true. Instead, we have embraced the reality of lifelong learning. While that adage may have originated from some people’s *preference* not to have to learn new things in old age, it says nothing about our *ability*.

Experience shows that it is never too late to pursue a dream. A positive retirement mindset is being willing to start from scratch where necessary. Early in retirement, I realized that almost everything I wanted to do involved learning some new skill or technique to complement the competencies I had acquired over the years. Was this a problem? Not at all.

I wanted to play the violin and the steel pan. Although I was an accomplished pianist and organist, fully functional in music theory, the violin and steel pan required different skills that I had to learn from scratch. I had to put on the beginner’s mindset and become that little girl learning music once again. At first, the idea was intimidating. But then it was invigorating!

I wanted to have an active presence on the Internet to maintain social engagement, access entertainment, improve my knowledge, and buy and sell products and services, among other things. This meant developing a broader range of digital skills than the basic computer competencies I had acquired to get by in the working world. I had to delve into topics like digital marketing, webpage building, and e-commerce, learning these tools and technologies for the first time. These skills did not even exist when I was in school. But, was I able to learn them at seventy years old? Absolutely.

It is Time to Renew Your Learner’s Permit

Learning any new skill at any age is possible. It just requires “beginner’s mind – a tolerance for the discomfort of feeling that you don’t know anything. As children and adolescents, we are accustomed to beginner’s mind because we are not *expected* to know much about the skills we will need as adults. As older people, we do not lose our ability to learn at all. What we lose is the sense that it is *okay* for us to be beginners.

For so many years, people around us have looked up to us as experts. For this reason, when we undertake new skills we have no familiarity with, we may feel as though we are failing somehow by not knowing how to do them. Nothing can be further from the truth. In fact, any learning at all is a success. Place yourself in the mindset of a student again.

There are countless opportunities to learn any skill you desire to enhance your retirement experience. This is the Information Age: classes and how-to guides on any subject exist in the form of books, videos, and online classes. Many are even free, or of negligible cost.

Why do we still think of learning as taking place in a classroom and being primarily for children? Continuing to include education as a normal aspect of your lifestyle can increase your financial empowerment, inform your exercise and dietary choices, and provide options for socializing and entertainment. Engagement in the process of lifelong learning should be an expected norm rather than a surprising exception. Reviving and pursuing a previously discarded dream now that we have time to get back to it should be a routine feature of our older years and not a novelty.

We often see videos or postings on social media with stories of seventy and eighty-year-olds gaining undergraduate or graduate degrees or accomplishing feats that our minds have been socialized to believe are the purview of the young. These postings are frequently couched in the kind of language that suggests an aberration has occurred, and oftentimes the coverage is presented as an oddity rather than a respectful human-interest write-up.

The reality is, as more ambitious seniors set out to pursue their dreams, we see how achievable – and how wonderful – this really is. There is increased recognition of the continued learning and athletic abilities of older people, and of the fact that retirement can represent a time to embark on an entirely new “career” – one that is less burdened with the necessity of making money and therefore allows more freedom to pursue our causes, gifts, and passions than our working career might have been.

“MUM”

By Patricia Reid-Waugh

There are a hundred things I wished I'd said
Before the telephone line went dead;
Feelings I didn't have courage to express,
Buried confessions discretely suppressed.
Should a maiden open her burning heart
To reveal deep passions tearing it apart?
Would words filtered through a cordless phone
Convey intended tenor and tone?
Perhaps the sentiments left unsaid
Are best delivered in person instead
Where the eye can spy any fleeting glance
That betrays a heart willing to take a chance.
So, until then, let “Mum” be the word
And my beating heart be all that's heard.

“This poem was awarded a Silver Medal in the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) 2021 Creative Writing Competition.”

PERSON OF INTEREST

By Patricia Reid-Waugh

O thou person of interest -
There's no place I'd rather be
Than in your mind
Hearing your intellectual clock
Going 'tick', 'tick', 'tick';
Feeling the rhythm of your brain
Rushing through its mental paces
Swaying with the cadence
Of raw emotions

As they rise and fall
And fall and rise in sync
With the vagaries of your day;
Hearing the words you tell yourself,
Arguments and counterarguments
That wrestle for greatest prominence;
Watching the cerebral gyrations you perform
At the height of your decision-making.

O thou person of interest –
If only I could see what your eyes see,
Hear what your ears hear,
Discover the length of time
One fleeting thought takes
To push through and transform itself
From idea to words to action.
If only I could unearth
The source of your dreams
To see how deeply burrowed they are
In the silence of night.
Do you fall into sweet slumber
When you lay your head to rest
Or roll in fitful torment
Burdened by the weight of unfinished business?

O thou person of interest –
If, perchance these mysteries
Disrobe themselves
And my probing questions
Find their truthful answers,
You will remain an interesting person
Though no longer a person of interest.

“This poem was awarded a Bronze Medal in the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC) 2021 Creative Writing Competition.”

I'm Not A Politician

By Susie L. Ingram

And now I ask "what did I do with my life?" I reflect on the beginning of this earthly chaos
Which I now reside in. The ugliness, the wickedness, and deceit has become the systemic way
My skin has been labeled. The power of my color has been lessened with abuse and controlled
Arrest. And even now my life is come to its fruition and I rest among the peace I find within me.
The peace I restore to my neighbor and abroad, to every opportunity that permit this glory. And,
through this battle this fight I find through this calm, this I write...

I'm Not A Politician
But If I Think Like This
Then What Am I?

Democrats/Republicans alike, say what is being done, says our leaders are not doing enough
surely we've succumbed.

All the people are making deals,

Decisions awry, every opportunity for steals.

Unity no longer holds weight,

Everyone fearful, rather carry their own fate.

The divisiveness looks each one of us in the face,

And in and out of fear, we shoot each other no matter the race.

Surely, I hear the bells of vanity,

As quickly I reflected on my sanity.

This garden is hell,

So is this fruit that's offered up for sell.

The rave, the bicker and rant,

Continued through leadership of Moses where blame was found in his plant.

Let us come out of this wilderness in great numbers, strength and unity,

Let the Lord open our eyes that we may see.

Now what are you going to do?

Our strength is in unity and most definitely God first,

So let us be vigilant in our thirst.

Soon all will be vanity,

Come together and reason in our sanity.

Gleanings of Hope, Leadership, Success, and Inspiration

By Shelly Cameron

The inner feeling that quietly tugs at your heart. Look closely. Listen quietly. You will hear. For years, my mom wanted to write her story. She wrote on notepads, pieces of paper, the typewriter, then reached for the computer. A journey that lasted decades throughout her life. A journey that was never to be fulfilled. My sister too-like a Martyr stricken by the ravishes of cancer, dreamed of telling her story. But, like my mom, she too passed away with it in her heart quietly waiting. She accomplished much yet still had that silent dream that was never fulfilled.

The grave is filled with dreams that were never realized ~Les Brown

Today I write to inspire you, you, and you to go after your dreams, goals, and aspirations. A Certified Professional Coach, I smirk as I reflect on God's sense of humor. I write on all things business gleaned from my research on success, leadership, and change. Strides before the pandemic I followed the Quest to write on stories of inspiration from over a decade of blogging and journaling. Intrigued by the quiet tug, I followed the lead as the inspirational series unfolded. It began with **Green Light: When God Says Go**; then **My Safe Place** and the soon to be published **Red Light: When God Says No**. Red Light came through a child's handwritten note on a napkin. It was voiced by my daughter's 10 year-old son who giggled as he asked me to write it. Intrigued, I looked up with a smile to the Lord and nodded in surrender. The prequel – My Safe Place was just being published. Who am I to disobey? The series unfolded.

My Quest to see others grow led to publishing the book, **Your Career: Ditch It, Switch It** which was published mid-pandemic. The purpose is to help others live a fulfilled life, to create the what is next of our lives as Mark Twain alludes.

Here, I share a synopsis of books available in audio and other format with the hope that one, two or more may inspire you to go after your dreams.

Green Light

Green Light is about finding out the will of the Lord. We find that out step by step walking with Him. We cannot get green lights before we are on the road. At the lights, we are told what do. When we get to life's intersections whether it is decision-making, career, business, or relationships, He tells us what to do. The book shares:

- Inspirational Short Stories and Exhortations to Uplift You
- Prayers for Difficult Journeys

- Devotions to Boost Your Prayer Life

My Safe Place

A Captivating Book About Life's Tragedies, Disappointments and Finding Strength during Difficult Times. Are you discouraged and feel like giving up? What is going on in your life that feels like a giant? Is it a career decision? A conflict on the job? Your health? A conflict at home? When you think about your future, does it look bleak? If so, be confident that it does not have to be. In *My Safe Place*, you will learn what to do when life's tragedies hit, when you feel stuck, confused, and your life spirals out of control, where do you turn? How do you handle it? Where is your Refuge? In the book, you will find:

- Inspirational Short Stories and Exhortations to Uplift you
- Prayers and Encouragement for Difficult Journeys
- Guidance to Identify God's Purpose and Leading when you are Confused
- What to do when Enemies Strike
- What to do when Waiting on God. If you feel like giving up and do not know where to turn, then this book is for you.

Your Career: Ditch It, Switch It

Ditch It, Switch It, was written for those who are miserable, stuck, dissatisfied, afraid, stressed, longing for personal growth or those who have a passion for entrepreneurship – a desire to leave a legacy. If you identify with any of these signs, it might be time to ditch your job! And yes, that is what the book is about.

The top signs to identify when it is time to leave your job:

- You lack passion – that fired up feeling you had when you started
- You are miserable every morning and dread going to work
- Your company is sinking
- You really dislike the people you work with or your boss
- You are consistently stressed, negative or unhappy at work
- Your skills are not being tapped
- You have been passed over for promotion or more challenging assignments
- Your job duties have changed or increased, but your pay has not

This book will help you prepare to take the plunge. Learn how to get out of your comfort zone to do what you have always wanted to do to Ditch that job or Switch to a new Career.

I SEE WALLS

By Shelly Cameron

I see walls on every side of me.
Dark walls.
Brick walls.
Walls that are made out of steel and the toughest stones.
I can't see my way through.
I'm overwhelmed.

But then I am comforted in the knowledge that you Lord can see for me.
As I hold onto you,
You embrace me and hold me firm,
You comfort me with the words,
All will be well
Everything I going to be alright.

But still my heart longs for those days when I don't have to worry.
Lord, you are in control and I long for quiet peace.
A peace that passes all understanding.
Unto you I lift up my praise.
My heart yearns for you in a dry and thirsty land.
For with Christ in the vessel I know I can smile at the storm.

© Shelly Cameron

Writers of Color in South Florida

Some were born in the United States. Others were born in Jamaica, Bahamas, Haiti and numerous other countries. They are the writers of color in South Florida pursuing their literary craft as beginning, emerging and established writers.

Adhering to the Philosophy, *those who don't know, come to learn; and those who know, come to teach others*, as put forth by The Ralph Hogges, Benjamin Cowins and Delores Smiley Writers Group of South Florida, they are the creative and intellectual writers, entrepreneurs and leaders of the Literary Arts Renaissance of Color in South Florida.

Because we want you to get to know about them and their books, we have provided this contact information, including their names, titles of some of their books, email addresses, and websites. We encourage you to communicate with them. Invite them to do book readings, signings and keynote speeches at your venues and events, and serve as special guests on your television, radio and social media platforms. Buy their books and share their contact information with your relatives, friends and others.

Name & Title of Books	Email Address	Website
1. Linda Adderly Book: <ul style="list-style-type: none">From Where I Stand: Living and Breathing Words	addlmh@aol.com	
2. Lorraine Allen Book: <ul style="list-style-type: none">57 Poems Of & For Life	lallen5915@aol.com	
3. Carla Bennett Books: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Strayed (My Journey Back) Part 1Strayed (My Journey Continues) Part 2	cben.ct@gmail.com	
4. Dr. Nivia Binett-Carroll	niviaphd@gmail.com	
5. Vivian Bromfield Book: <ul style="list-style-type: none">On Eagles Wings	vbrom1061@yahoo.com	

6. Ettosi Brooks tosisong@gmail.com <https://ettosibrooks.org>
 Book:
 • Stori, Stori: Caribbean Tales with a Little Jazz
7. Aymer Caldwell Seafmannaministries@hotmail.com
8. Thelma Calloway thelma48@bellsouth.net
9. Dr. Shelly Cameron shelcame@gmail.com www.shellycameron.com
 Books:
 • Success Strategies of Caribbean American Leaders in the United States
 • Motivation Quotes to Boost Your Success
 • Green Light: When God Says Go
 • Your Career: Ditch It, Switch It
 • My Safe Place
10. Jeff Carroll coachyojeff@gmail.com <https://www.amazon.com/default/e/BOONEN9GOA/>
 Books:
 • The Harlem Shake
 • Welcome to Boss Lady's Planet
 • Rasheeda the Zombie Killer
11. Dr. Joan Cartwright asalhsouthflorida@gmail.com
 Book:
 • Blues Women: First Civil Rights Workers
12. Dawn Ellicott Clinkscale anuday4you@gmail.com
13. Rosemarie Cole ocole8760@aol.com rosemariecole.com
 Books:
 • The Playground Bully
 • A Call to Repentance
 • Please Orate Enlighten Me
 • The Biker and the Dancer

14. Corey B. Collins 8277co@bellsouth.net

Books:

- The Thanks You Get
- Rhythm and Hues – Twenty-Three Stories of Hardship and Hope

15. Sheila Cottingham q24sheba@yahoo.com

16. Steven Cottingham q24sheba@yahoo.com

17. Dr. Benjamin Cowins, Sr. cowinsb2002us@yahoo.com

Books:

- Positive Thoughts – They are in the mirror with you: Valued Affirmations, Motivating and Inspirational Sharings for Youths and the Young-at-Heart
- The Cowins History and Heritage: A Literary Journey about an African American Family that was anchored by Albert and Sarah Cowins in the 1800s in Warren County, Georgia
- The Vietnam War – Black Bullets, Flashbacks & Untold Truths
- The Art of Good Cursing
- High Hopes and Challenging Realities: Defeating Racial Problems at Florida International University 1972 – 1982
- Blesses and Too Smart to Fail: Inspirational Affirmations with Biblical Scripture References for Youths and the Young-at-Heart

18. Melissa Hunter Davis editor@sugarcane-media.net

19. Dr. Susan Lycett Davis drsueandyou@gmail.com www.drsueandyou.net

Books:

- I am Jamaica
- Ode to Miss Lou... From the Soul of Dr. Sue
- Living a HIP LIFE – Humble Intentional Prepared

20. Dr. Raymond Dunn Dunnsr859@bellsouth.net

Books:

- The Robin That Could Not Sing
- The Little Scrub Christmas Tree

21. Vernell Everett vern1936@bellsouth.net

Books:

- Beyond Fear
- The Shady Side of the Street
- Unknown Heroes

22. Daisy Ferguson promed007@att.net

daisymferguson.com

Books:

- Congregational Prayer by the Word
- Congregational Prayer by the Word – Volume 2

23. Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields djf@bellsouth.net

24. J. Nell Ford 143jford@comcast.net

Books:

- The Doodle Bug Story
- Champ: Our Neighborhood Dog
- A Visit to Doodle Bird Island

25. Gary Francis gary@touchingmiamiwithlove.org

Book:

- Where's My Father?

26. Camille Frazer camfrazer@yahoo.com

Book:

- The Unveiling

27. Richard Gibson rgibson66@yahoo.com

28. Valda Hayden revvaldah@gmail.com

29. Bea L. Hines bea.hines@gmail.com

Book:

- The Ugly Feeling

30. Dr. Ralph Hogges ralphhogges@bellsouth.net www.ralphhogges.com

Books:

- Inspired by the Harlem Renaissance
- Poetic Splendor of the Morning
- The Love of Books and Academic Excellence: A Memoir
- Crossing the Jordan River: Reflections on My Spiritual Journey
- Forty Years in Academia: Farewell to My World of Great Books and Renowned Scholars
- Me and My Best Friend: Making the Best of Our Later Years
- Living a Purposeful and Meaningful Life: Sermons and Words of Wisdom to Help You along the Way
- Seven Short Stories and Eight Poems
- Dr. King's Dream and Barack Obama: Yes We Can
- Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama: Presidents Extraordinaire of the World
- Lifting Our Literary Voices: An Anthology of Poetry, Short Stories and Essays
- High Hopes and Challenging Realities: Defeating Racial Problems at Florida International University 1972 – 1982
- First Black Police Chief of Jeffersonville: My Uncle Lawson Burnet

31. Susie Ingram richleeing@yahoo.com

Book:

- God Lives Here Too

32. Donald Irving acts238_us@yahoo.com

33. Rudy Jackson rdjackson2@comcast.net aplus-computers.com

34. Lisa James lisajames1166@gmail.com

35. Esther Johnson queenestherj@att.net

36. Lateresa Jones lajonesusa@gmail.com

37. Willie LeLand rhodessia@aol.com

38. Lyra Brizzard Logan lyra@webmaster-e.net
 Book:
 • Learn to Program with App Inventor
39. Dr. Willie Logan logan@olcdc.org
40. Emma Martin emmalemartin777@gmail.com
 Book:
 • I Cried Out and He Heard Me
41. Audrey Moss mossr1971@yahoo.com
42. George Moss george@GMOSSDESIGN.COM www.gmossdesign.com
 Book:
 • The Chronicles of Ann & Lo
43. Rev. Robert Moss mossr1971@yahoo.com
44. Rudy Murray, Jr. None
45. Lillie Q. Odom oneabeba@gmail.com
46. Dr. Kitty Oliver oliverko@aol.com www.kittyoliveronline.com
 Books:
 • Multicolored Memories of a Black Southern Girl (University Press of Kentucky)
 • Voices of America: Race and Change in Hollywood Florida (Arcadia Press)
 • Multicultural Reflections on Race and Change (Bordighera Press)
47. Angela Thomas Peterson freeanntp@yahoo.com
 Books:
 • This Too Shall Pass (Christian)
 • Through the Eyes of God... Poetic Messages of Hope (Poetry)
 • I'm Not a Giant, I'm Just a Big Kid! (Children's anti-bullying book)
48. Dr. Anne S. Pruitt-Logan annepruitt19@msn.com www.lucydiggslowe.com
 Book:
 • Faithful to the Task at Hand: The Life of Lucy Diggs Slowe

49. Patricia Reid-Waugh preidwaugh@yahoo.com www.reidwaughbooks.com
 Book:
 • Retirement, A New Adventure
 • Retirement: The Journey and The Destination
50. Sharon Ritchie-Brown srbrown6176@gmail.com
 Book:
 • Retribution of Madness
51. Dr. Indiana Robinson inyaso@hotmail.com www.lulu.com/spotlight/Inyaso
 Books:
 • Pioneers: First and Second Book of Proverbs and Social Commentary in and of Songs
 • The ABCs of APA: An Incoming Student Inspiration Guide
 • Confronting Escapism: Retreating Back to Reality
 • See her website for additional copies of her books.
52. Stephanie Cottingham Rodriguez scottingham88@gmail.com
53. Kyrie R. Samuel gracecos1@gmail.com
 Book:
 • Kyrie Love Grandma Soooo Much
54. George Simpson georgeasimpsonjr@mail.com
55. Dr. Delores M. Smiley mixsmi45@bellsouth.net smileypresentations.com
 Books:
 • The Harvest: Keeping it Real
 • The Journey: From the Garden of Eden to the Promised Land
56. Dearta Smith dcstherapy@gmail.com www.deartasmith.com
 Books:
 • Will You Read With Me?
 • A Snack for Samuel
 • I looked in the Mirror

57. Aliya Stanford ananda0601@bellsouth.net
Book:
• Princess So'la, In My World
58. Dr. Rose Stiffin rstiffin@FMUNIV.EDU
Books:
• Casino Blues
• Groovin' on a Half Shell
• A Winter Friend
59. Rhodesia Strong rhodesia@aol.com
60. Clarice Tanelus cptanelus@hotmail.com
61. Rev. Abraham J. Thomas athoma43@bellsouth.net
Books:
• Gilbert Lawrence Porter, Ph.D.
• Everybody Loves Skeeter
• The Heat Man
62. Arnetha A. Thomas arnethathomas@aol.com
Books:
• Get Through, Going Through Life
• Power of the Blood at Work in You, "Veil Torn in Two," Volume 2
63. Dr. Thea Long White theawhite8910@gmail.com
Book:
• Sprouting into Success
64. Ella Williams smeinc@hotmail.com
65. Dr. James R. Williams doctorjrw4@gmail.com
Book:
• To God be the Glory
66. Nikisha Williams nikisha@omiokunbooks.com

67. Tameka Williams-Walker williamseducationfl@gmail.com www.williamseducationfl.org

Books:

- 10 Questions to Help You Find That Amazing Partner
- Take Back Your Life: How to Triumph through Adversity

68. Virginia Williams vwilliams53@bellsouth.net

69. Asiah Wolfolk-Manning asiahunlimited@gmail.com www.asiahunlimited.com

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