To All Friends, Family, Colleagues...

I had an update all ready to go and mistakenly deleted it ... so this is a briefer (perhaps preferable!) replacement.

First, I'm doubling up from last month's "Participation" as the Democracy word for this month too. Please reflect on the following famous, profound, and inspiring quote from Teddy Roosevelt known as *"In the Arena"*. Just make sure you include the word "women" (and related terms) along with "men"!

*“It is not the critic who counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually****in the arena****, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who knew neither victory nor defeat.”*

My personal hope is to live these words out through participation for the betterment of our Democracy.

This past month was quite active with three presentations including one at the Pittsford Barnes and Noble titled *"Bill Wynne and Friends".* See the attached picture with two friends of mine who spoke, Tiffany Porter and Alvin Mitchell, who described their respective programs, '*Being Black in the Burbs'* and *'Alwayz for the Kidz'.* Several attendees provided donations to them and if any reader is interested in supporting their work, please contact me.

Upcoming programs include:

* **February 13th at Brickstone by St. John's, an independent senior community**
* **February 28th, 5:30 - 7:00 PM at St. Anne Church (1600 Mt. Hope Avenue);** this program is presented within a series of Lenten Soup Suppers during the Wednesdays of Lent. After soup from 5:30 to 6PM, I will be speaking on the question, “What is your Vision of the Beloved Community?” The program will take place in the Social Hall at St. Anne and for more information, please call the church office at 585-271-3260.
* **March 14th, 6:00 - 7:30 PM at Hipocampo Bookstore (638 South Ave.,Rochester)** I will be joined by another local author, John Strazzabosco, and the program is titled '*Understanding, Combating, and Navigating Racism'.*
* **March 16th, 10:00 - 4:00 PM at Mount Irenaeus Franciscan Mountain Community (near Cuba, NY)**; registration is required and please go to  <https://mountainonline.org/event/social-justice-meeting/> for more details. You can also contact me directly with any questions.

As some of you know, I am presently a little more than half-way through what is known as the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. The

version I am doing is a thirty-two-week type of retreat which takes about an hour of my time each day in addition to weekly

 spiritual direction. It was suggested by my director that I write a type of “myth” story regarding this inner journey I am on; so

 you can find it at <https://www.wewynneauthor.com/2024/01/26/my-quest-in-response-to-an-invitation/>

Some important, useful links for your reference this month:

I highly recommend the movie *'Origin' ... see*<https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/movies/2024/01/30/ava-duvernay-aunjanue-ellis-taylor-origin-movie/72318501007/>

Exploring Racism Group (ERG) Weekly Update:

* <https://exploringracism.org/update-week-ending-01-27-2024/>

The Rochester Beacon:

* <https://rochesterbeacon.com/2024/01/11/fear-and-loathing-in-2024/>
* <https://rochesterbeacon.com/2024/01/23/a-portal-for-learning-about-racism-and-local-history/>

Letters from An American:

* <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/january-19-2024?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=20533&post_id=140858311&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=hzcbm&utm_medium=email> … a personal note: this monster must be stopped
* <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/january-25-2024?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=20533&post_id=141059884&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=hzcbm&utm_medium=email>

Robert Reich:

<https://robertreich.substack.com/p/resurrecting-countervailing-power?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=365422&post_id=139315360&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=hzcbm&utm_medium=email>

[https://robertreich.substack.com/p/the-final-battle-why-american-capitalism?utm\_source=post-email-title&publication\_id=365422&post\_id=140775743&utm\_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=hzcbm&utm\_medium=emai](https://robertreich.substack.com/p/the-final-battle-why-american-capitalism?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=365422&post_id=140775743&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=hzcbm&utm_medium=email)

<https://robertreich.substack.com/p/bluff-and-bluster-on-the-border?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=365422&post_id=141160135&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=hzcbm&utm_medium=email>

Richard Rohr: <https://email.cac.org/t/d-e-vuhkhlk-tlkrtkjkyd-jl/>

Urban league Letter to the Community:

<https://mailchi.mp/ulr/an-open-letter-to-the-rochester-community-in-response-to-the-amr-video-release?e=b4849a8e7b>

‘55+’ Magazine article (see pgs. 59-61): <https://issuu.com/roc55/docs/roc_55_jan_feb>

Lastly, please keep the Pines of Perinton residents in your prayers. Hopefully my 1/27 e-mail you all received might inspire some

of you to call or write to the Perinton Town Supervisor, other government officials, the media, or you might even consider

attending the next Town Board meeting on February 14th (7:30 PM) to voice your views.

Peace … Bill

*Author of: 'Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist'*

[*https://www.amazon.com/author/billwynne*](https://www.amazon.com/author/billwynne)

*Website:*[*www.wewynneauthor.com*](http://www.wewynneauthor.com/)

***My Personal Mantra***

*As a Servant Leader, strengthen and broaden relationships within a prayerful, vulnerable, inclusive, loving, nonviolent, forgiving (“70x7”), yet relentless “Jesus” spirit of allyship and solidarity in my never-ending pursuit of racial justice for the “common good”!*

*References: Luke 6:27-31; Matthew 5:16; Joshua 24:15; My memoir*