

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

December 8, 2020

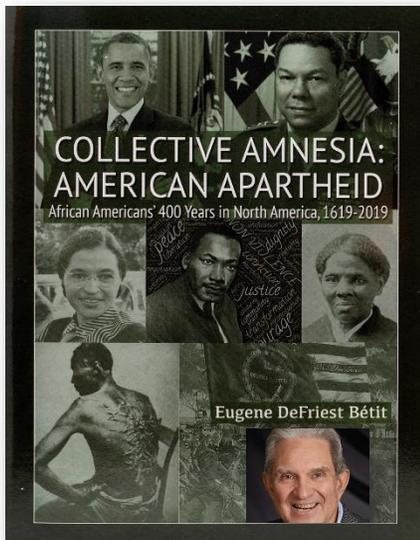
Although I grew up in a very “white” world, the beneficiary of “white privilege” in countless ways, I have long had a warm place in my heart for African-Americans. This was apparent to the Executive Officer of my second ship, who sent me to be trained to facilitate week-long “Racial Awareness” seminars that every member of the Navy had to attend in the early 70’s.



I have tried to develop relationships with Black pastors in the towns where I’ve served, and when I discovered that Bristol had two pastors’ groups, one mostly white and one all black, I joined both of them. And we did pulpit swaps more than once with black congregations who were our neighbors.

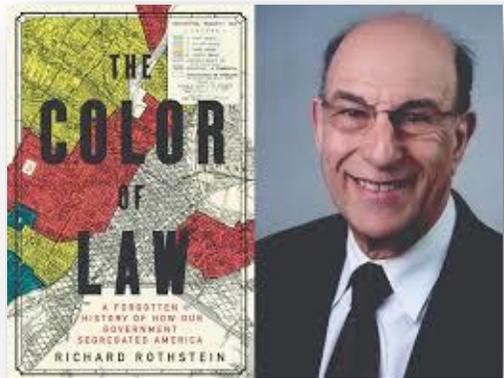
Even so, it was not until God’s mercy “parachuted” me into Black Culture as your pastor that I began to understand more fully what life is like “live while Black” in these United States, and my learning curve remains pretty steep, even now. I know I’m “preaching to the choir” here, but I hope the white folks who read this column will seriously consider what I’m about to propose.

What follows is information Black folks deal with every day of their lives, and we White folks need to familiarize ourselves with this information, dismal and shameful though it is, so that we can change these realities, forever. The four books I’m recommending here are my current reading list. They describe four different viewpoints on the experience of Black Americans and suggest rather similar directions for change.



The first, *Collective Amnesia: American Apartheid*, written by one of our neighbors at the lake, gives a well-documented account of the disgraceful ways European-Americans have treated African-Americans for more than four hundred years.

The second, *The Color of Law*, is a thorough description of how the many disparities between Black and White in America today are the baleful result of carefully-planned and purposefully-implemented policies of the Federal Government.



CBF: transforming Oakland Mills into a community others wish to replicate.

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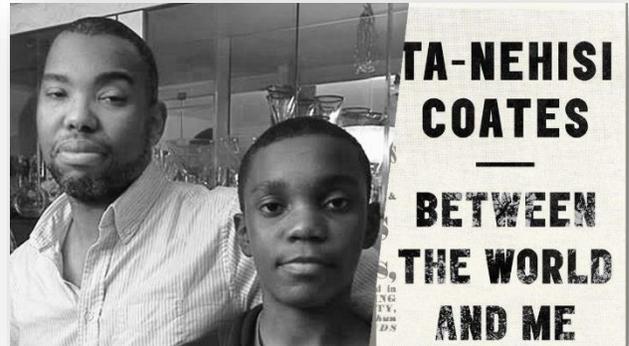
The third, *Between the World and Me*, is the award-winning “letter” that Baltimore native Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote to his son about being a Black youth and a Black man in the society the first two books describe.

And the fourth, *From Here to Equality*, is a scholarly argument for reparations the Federal Government should rightly make to African-Americans in order to take responsibility for what we have done and to provide a hope-full path forward.

None of this will be pleasant reading.

You should read it anyway.

Dave



Book Event

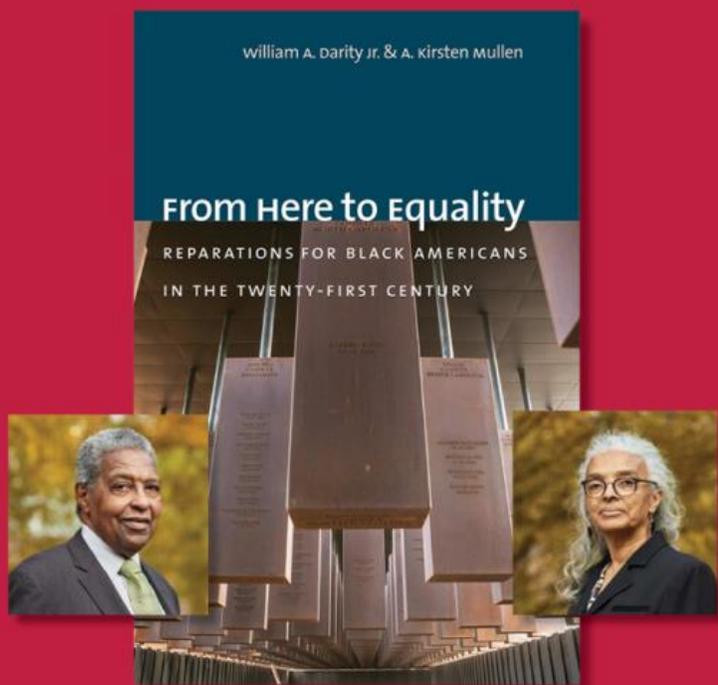
From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century

with **William A. Darity Jr.** and
A. Kirsten Mullen

May 27, 2020
2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. ET
11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. PT

Zoom webinar

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