

Portland author offers ideas on DIY politics



COURTESY SEVEN STORIES PRESS

The cover of Anthony Alvarado's 'D.I.Y. Resistance: 36 Ways to Fight Back.'

On the day before Independence Day, I treated myself to a day trip. I'd heard about a new documentary I wanted to see that was opening on the West Coast in several California locations but, in the Pacific Northwest, was showing only at the Liberty Theatre in Camas, Washington. So off to Camas I went.

While on the road, I listened to a radio interview with Iraq War veteran and memoir author ("Eat the Apple") Matt Young, who talked about the nature of patriotism. The show also featured a sampling of widely divergent opinions about "patriotism today" from folks who had called in to the show.

As I whisked across county lines, I saw thickets of brightly hued signs touting various candidates in the upcoming primaries, as well as one sign that simply said, "Be Bold – Vote Republican."

Liberty – veterans – patriotism – elections – small town America ... on the eve of the anniversary of our nation's signing of the Declaration of Independence, it was a fitting blend of ideas and images to ruminate over on my road trip.

**"DIY Reistance:
36 Ways to Fight Back"
By Anthony Alvarado
Seven Stories Press
192 pp
\$14.95**

The other element that fed into my thoughts was the book I've been reading this week.

"DIY Resistance: 36 Ways to Fight Back!" is a manifesto from Portland writer/podcaster Anthony Alvarado.

While Alvarado makes no bones about his antipathy for the Trump administration, this book deals with more than the present day. It dips into a deep well of strategies that have been used throughout history by people who have mobilized to confront tyrants, demagogues and fascists.

Alvarado talks about the founding principles of this nation: the importance of defending free speech and freedom of religion, and the imperative, in a democracy, of practicing tolerance toward those whose backgrounds or beliefs differ from one's own. He contemplates the long

fight for civil rights because our Founding Fathers didn't get it entirely right.

Alvarado believes that people can fight oppression and build a stronger democracy in any number of ways, and he offers his menu of 36 strategies with a pick-and-choose attitude.

One that you and I can agree with him on is the importance of reading books. He calls them a "natural antidote to the shallow information overload that we constantly swim through these days, thanks to the Internet."

"Books are strange and fresh, and subversive by nature," he writes, "because they ask us to imagine worlds and realities that are different from our own."

And he recommends a shelf's worth of books that he finds thought-provoking, from

Thoreau and Hemingway to Anne Frank and Octavia E. Butler.

Other strategies he offers include prayer and meditation, diversifying your news sources, volunteering and giving feedback to your elected officials. He also advocates for tools such as impeachment, protesting and boycotts, but ultimately holds that "The best path forward is inclusive, not divisive; it is about togetherness, not us versus them."

You may not agree with everything Alvarado has to say, but his values are as American as mom and apple pie.

The Bookmonger is Barbara Lloyd McMichael, who writes this column focusing on the books, authors and publishers of the Pacific Northwest. Contact her at blkmonger@nwlink.com.

Crossword Answers

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SEASIDE BEACH RUN!

SATURDAY JULY 21, 2018

8:30 AM ON THE PROM AT 12TH AVENUE, SEASIDE

- 5K & 10K Races
- Kids' Sand Dash
- 5K Prom Walk
- Treasure Hunt
- Awards Picnic
- Souvenir T-shirt

For further information, or to register: **Call (503) 738-8304,**
or visit us online at www.SeasideBeachRun.org

Proceeds support Clatsop County youth fitness opportunities.

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THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

JULY 6 - AUG 5

FRI & SAT @ 7PM
SUN @ 2PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE
ONLINE @ PAPATHEATER.ORG
(SPECIAL & OPEN SEATING AVAILABLE ONLINE)

FORT COLUMBIA THEATER | OKIE'S MARKET | OCEAN PARK
CHINOOK, WA
Discover pass not required

ADULTS \$17, CHILDREN \$7
(ONLY OPEN SEATING AVAILABLE)

More Info about the show and our organization @ papatheater.org

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Music by Alan Menken. Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice. Book by Linda Wolverton. Originally Directed by Robert Jess Roth. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIshows.com