

editor's message



America Will Be Better Again

As the new year takes hold, I find myself alternately disconsolate by the state of the country as a whole yet heartened and proud of the community in which we live.

By now, I believe, most honest conservatives realize the guy in the White House is dangerous and not fit to be there. Although those on the right continue to support long-held conservative platforms, only the greedy rich, the sadly uninformed or misled, and racists still support the man himself. That these groups constitute a not insignificant portion of the population is depressing beyond words.

Thankfully, the vast majority of *Bloom* readers are not among them. I was pretty sure I knew this before asking readers to write in on the subject "Where I Stand." We published six pages of those letters in the previous issue of *Bloom* and more can be found herein on pages 14–17. We have many more letters which will be published in the next issue. Almost all are critical of the direction the nation is taking under the present administration and Congress. Many readers also wrote that they take solace in knowing that Bloomington continues to be a city where civility, inclusion, and charity prevail.

We will be sending the issues with these letters to our elected representatives, including the president. On their own, I don't expect them to do

an ounce of good. But Bloomington is not the only place that has not succumbed to the president's doctrine of hatred and fear. There are hundreds, nay thousands, of communities across the country where people still care about truthfulness and science, refugees and climate change, fair elections and competent judges, the value of art and the danger of guns, affordable health care for all, and treating people with dignity no matter their race, color, religion, or gender identity.

Collectively, their letters and protests, combined with ours, do make a difference. I thank all of you who wrote for taking the time to compose your thoughts and for sending them to us.

In this issue, we celebrate kindness. We decided to do so by highlighting 25 couples who contribute to the well-being of our community. I'm quite sure there are hundreds of other couples who are just as worthy of recognition as the ones we've chosen. So, consider these 25, who come from all walks of life, as a representative sample.

I know working on this story and reading the letters sent by readers made me more optimistic about the new year. I hope it does you as well. For as long as our nation's generous spirit is alive, and we don't ever give in to a despot, we will make America better again.

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