



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## Inauguration Day

I'm writing this column having just watched Donald J. Trump come out of the White House, get on the helicopter to Joint Base Andrews where he engaged in a very Donald farewell speech and then got on Air Force One to fly off to his Florida retirement.

I watched it with the sound turned off, the same way I've watched him ever since he entered the race for the 2016 election. Some things are easier read in print than taken in by the ear.

Much of Trump's presidency was spent trying to undo the progress of decades, but explicitly and most forcefully, trying to undo the achievements of our first Black / bi-racial President.

From early on, his political tactic was one of fomenting identity-based hatred. And his party clearly believed that such hatred was in their best political interests. So they steadfastly refused to do anything significant to curtail his worst impulses.

It may be next to impossible for a person to achieve high office without acting at least a bit egoistical. But Trump's narcissistic displays, together with his unabashed use of the highest office in the land to benefit his brand, inflicted a deep moral gash in the collective psyche of the body politic. We are not done with his legacy.

As I am writing this at my dining table, Joe Biden is about to be sworn in. The mountain of work he must achieve in the first year in office is staggering. His will never be a normal presidency because so much of it will have to go to dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Donald.

Nevertheless, he will be the President. His success will be our success. His shortcoming, our shortcoming.

Yesterday, my most visibly Trump-supporting neighbor, a patriotic Vietnam veteran, told me he feared a civil war. He told me that, if it came to that and we needed a safe place, that Walter and I should come to his house. All through the campaign, I had wondered what his very vocal Trump support might mean to our neighborly relationship. But through it all, we had helped him with transportation issues and commiserated with him and his wife when they could no longer visit their incarcerated son because of COVID shutdowns. He had brought us eggs from his chickens and often wanted to shoot the breeze and be neighborly in many ways. He never once asked me about my politics and did not make a point of talking about his in those conversations. But the breaching of the Capitol shook him.

There is a lot to accomplish in Washington. But, as they say, all politics is

local. It is in our family and neighborly and work relationships that we build the possibility for overcoming differences and rebuilding something we all can live with.

Healing is going to take work. Of us. Of any “them” we define. Of all of us. May we prove equal to the task.

Peace and Blessings,  
Rev. Paul

### UUFW Activists



You may not have recognized the person with this sign pictured on the front page of Wednesday’s Staunton News Leader. It is our own George Thompson. Last Saturday, he

protested with about 50 others the actions of our 6<sup>th</sup> District Representative, who participated in an effort to overturn election results. According to George, the positive honks in support of democracy outweighed the negative by ten to one.

Last Friday, our members AJ and Adrienne Young were featured on the front page of the News Leader with a lengthy article describing all the work they have done to engage citizens and bring about positive community change in Waynesboro and beyond. They were recognized as 2020 News Leader Newsmakers.

### Member News

Our members Glen Patterson and Anne Armentrout, and her husband Russell, have contracted the Coronavirus. They are at home with non-respiratory symptoms or are asymptomatic.

Laura Riggan’s husband Kirk had a mild stroke. He is at home and doing well.

### Community News

The Beverly Street Studio School is planning a tribute to our recently deceased member, Mary Echols, beginning on April 30.



It will feature her work along with Virginia Deane’s. The BSSS is asking if owners of the works of either artist would be willing to loan them for this retrospective. If so, they may be dropped off at the BSSS office (540-886-8636) on Tuesday or Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or at the Co-Art Gallery during gallery open hours. All pictures will be returned after the show ends.

