

An open letter to the American people:

The heart of creation transforms the mind of man

Positive aspects from the recent presidential election

by Gail Peck

The 2016 presidential election has provided the citizens of America a massive opportunity, not a mandate on how to abuse your neighbor.

Neither major party candidate won the popular vote – the silent majority did. Of the 231 million eligible voters in America, 96 million did not bother to vote. And some who did, left the top of the ballot blank -- 88,000 Michigan voters did not vote for president.

The silent majority is not really silent. It spoke very loud. Is anyone listening?

No nominee appealed to the majority of Americans. Clinton's popular vote was 64.6 million compared to Trump's 62.4 million. With 96 million uncast ballots, the silent majority won by 31.4 million votes.

Unfortunately, some have taken the election results as permission to treat people they disagree with (or do not understand) like the Republican candidate did in his divisive campaign. Hopefully, he will set a better example during his presidency. It's up to us to make sure he does. America's greatness depends on it.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) gained 150,000 new members in post-election week and a record \$7.2 million from 120,000 individual donations. The Anti-Defamation League also reported a dramatic increase in donations since the presidential election as the number of hate crimes continues to escalate.

This election violated the basis on which America was founded and it certainly did not insure domestic tranquility! Remember religious freedom, divine providence, spirituality, unity, cooperation and respect for diversity?

It also exposed several vulnerabilities facing our nation. The recent election taught us to be more aware of institutional integrity, conflicts of interest, the importance of setting an example, and protecting the unalienable rights of all citizens.

We need elected officials to remember why they were elected and ran for office in the first place: to serve the public. It's time to put aside political affiliations, govern on issues and work in good faith for the people who elected you, not against them.

Forget party lines. Not everyone is a democrat or republican. But everyone is a human being endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights. Party time is over. The United States of America was founded on sacred honor, freedom from tyranny, equality and the right of just representation. It's time we remember why our forefathers came to America.

Basically, the same reasons many come here today. For religious, political, economic, social, or educational advancement, and to avoid persecution. Most immigrants have a strong work ethic and add about \$10 billion annually to the US economy. Except for those of pure Native American origin, everyone in this country is of immigrant descent. It's who we are.

Truth has also taken a beating in America lately. Scores of unsubstantiated articles and accusations have polluted print and broadcast media, and flooded the internet. A responsible press ensures a free society and provides accountability. Fair and honest reporting exposes corruption and separates just government from tyranny. Propaganda has raised its ugly head and it seems the truth is whatever you choose to believe.

Choose wisely, my friends. The world is watching. God is waiting for an answer. If we choose correctly, perhaps everyone can cast their fearsome worries aside as easily as some people cast their votes.

Surely, an easier transition would occur if the majority of those 4,000 government jobs (the civil service ones) stayed intact and did not automatically change at the start of a new presidency. And, if Supreme Court justices were not lifetime appointments.

How does one get rich applying the constitutional standard "of the people, by the people, for the people?" Share the wealth. If Trump is no longer interested in his business or taking a presidential salary, he could cash it all in and give it to the American people. Then he would not have any conflicts of interest and could ethically appoint his children to help him run the country.

Or, we could just apply the principle of eminent domain as outlined in the Fifth Amendment to the U.S Constitution.

47 positive aspects from the recent presidential election

- Okay for women to run for high office;
- A billionaire businessman can make a significant political impact;
- Exposure of fake online news;
- The world still pays attention to the United States;
- Our children mimic mass behavior (good or bad);
- Young adults care about their country;
- Unexpected results affect economic markets;
- Minorities express global concerns;
- People exercised their right of assembly;
- Increased connection to God through worldwide prayer;
- Massive numbers of people got involved, decreasing interest in apathy;
- Families united in open discussion;
- The forgotten man questions established norms;
- Permission granted to talk about sexual assault;
- Common man has a voice and includes minorities and those of all faiths;
- Dialogue opened concerning a free press;
- Public scrutiny and accountability are necessary in a democracy;
- Racism, misogyny, hatred and hypocrisy exposed;
- News stories are only as accurate as their sources;
- Highlighted need for vigilance against propaganda and intolerance;
- Every person matters;
- Females can achieve lofty goals;
- Youth emulate the manners and examples set by role models and elders;
- What you say and how you say it affects others;
- Community awareness for immigrants, racial, religious and sexual minorities;
- Freedom of the press is vital to a democratic society;

- Lack of compassion and understanding creates a revengeful eye-for-an-eye retaliation mentality that could leave the world blind, faceless and crippled;
- Negativity begets negativity;
- Added new words to our vocabulary (misogyny and xenophobic);
- Historic global response;
- Where's the evidence?
- Importance of fact-checking;
- An uninformed electorate has consequences;
- Protect ethics, moral decency, human dignity, equality and social justice;
- We learned to listen;
- Witnessed a walking contradiction;
- Things are not always as they appear;
- Watch out for those cyberbullies;
- The actions of one reflect the actions of many;
- The truth is relative. It is whatever you choose to believe;
- Social media needs regulation;
- False words often translate into undesirable actions;
- Candidates lose credibility when they deny reports documented on TV, revealed in personal e-mails or posted by them on Twitter;
- Information super highway derailed right off its tracks;
- America has always been great. It was founded on greatness;
- Respect the magic of this unprecedented moment;
- Love is the answer to every question and the solution to every problem.

I have high expectations we will learn the above lessons this election has offered. Although it may emulate physical therapy -- two steps forward, one step backward.

While some of the above may sound negative, exactly the opposite is true. Exposure of such actions leads to correcting them. Thanks to this election, we are well on our way to identifying what needs to be corrected in our society. I have faith Americans will do exactly that.

I also have faith we don't need to worry about any of the racist, misogynistic, bigoted campaign rhetoric. It was just locker room talk.

Gail Peck graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1976 with a BA in journalism. She started writing for the *Capitol Hill Beacon*, a weekly newspaper in south Oklahoma City at age 14 and has worked for the *Oklahoman and Times*, *Oklahoma Daily*, *Oklahoma Living Magazine* and the Mental Health Association in Oklahoma. Actively involved with statewide Holistic Health Fairs and EarthWind Holistic Center, the Oklahoma City resident incorporated 7 Hawks Publishing Company in September of 1998, and has written two books: *Oklahoma Labyrinths – a path to inner peace* and *The Napkin Series*, a book of inspirational poetry written on napkins at fast-food restaurants.