

Dear Virginia,

Going Forward



Where do we go from here?

Given a rough election month I want to share some thoughts from others that have helped me regain some balance, energy and enthusiasm for going forward.

"To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness.

"What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives. If we see only the worst, it destroys our capacity to do something.

"If we remember those times and places—and there are so many—where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act, and at least the possibility of sending this spinning top of a world in a different direction.

"And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory." —Howard Zinn



**Stories, insights
and action for a
world that works
for all of us**

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love
looks like in public.*

Jim Hightower

~ ~ ~

Favorite Resources

[Fix the News](#)

(Future Crunch)

[Reasons to be Cheerful](#)

[Chop Wood, Carry](#)

[Water](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality](#)

[Project](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Desert Rose Press](#)

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Post-election Thoughts

**Reflections after the election of a convicted felon to
be President of the United States**



“To those feeling despair: I understand. But remember, every step toward progress in American history came after the darkness of defeat. Abolitionists, suffragettes, Dreamers, and marchers for civil rights and marriage equality all faced impossible odds, but they persisted. Now it is our turn to pull up our socks and get back in the fight.” Senator Elizabeth Warren

“Trump’s victory is a grim day for the United States and for democracies around the world. You have every right to be appalled, saddened, shocked, and frightened. Soon, however, you should dust yourself off, square your shoulders, and take a deep breath. Americans who care about democracy have work to do.” – Tom Nichols, *The Atlantic*

“To those anxious about what the future holds, I understand. After being shot in the head and nearly killed, it would have been easy to lose hope—but I never did. Despite all the pain, I held onto my hopes for this country every bit as tightly as I did the hope that I would one day take a walk or talk with my family. I learned that trying times bring out the power of the human spirit. I also saw how the support of others—family and strangers alike—can be transformative. So, now is the moment for us to stand together. Link arms with your friends and neighbors who are immigrants, LGBTQ+, survivors of gun violence, Black, Brown, Muslim or Jewish. As my friend and personal hero Congressman John Lewis used to say, we ‘must be bold, brave, and courageous and find a way to get in the way.’ Now is the time for taking a stand—together—against division, against hatred, and against the erosion of truth. And to women everywhere: I won’t rest until every one of our rights and freedoms has been restored.” Gabby Giffords



Action Sites for Democracy and Our Planet

Given the continued threats to our democracy and our Earth, this resource guide lists my favorite sources of information, opportunities for action and hope.

Protecting Our Democracy is Forever

[Chop Wood, Carry Water](#): Provides daily actions for our democracy. Always encouraging.

[steady.substack.com](#): Dan Rather's excellent commentary on current affairs.

[RobertHubbell.substack.com](#): Reflections on and summary of today's news.

Climate Action: Every Action Counts!

[100 Things You Can Do to Help in the Climate Crisis](#)

[15 Actions to Make a Difference](#)

"We can mourn a loss, but we can't linger in despair. Our planet doesn't have time for that." See [my column](#) for more thoughts from Al Gore and how this election relates to our work for a healthy environment and climate justice.

All Kinds of Good News



Britain Ends Coal Power

Klamath River Dam Removal

After years of negotiating—and decades of activism—the Klamath River is free of four huge dams, reopening more than 644 kilometres of free-flowing water. It's a landmark moment for the Shasta Indian Nation, who are restoring 2,800 acres of their ancestral land that is no longer under water for the first time in a century. A Yurok Tribe member said, "The biggest thing for me, the significance of the dam removal project, is just hope — understanding that change can be made." [Here's the article.](#)



Rio's Reforestation Success

A restoration program has made Rio de Janeiro a much more livable place. The Refloresta Rio project was set up by the city government in 1986. By 2019, it had transformed the city's landscape, having trained 15,000 local workers who have planted 10 million seedlings across an area ten times the size of New York's Central Park. See fascinating time lapse videos in the article showing the transformation. [Read more.](#)

Britain became the first G7 country to formally eliminate coal-fired power generation when it closed its final coal power station, Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire. This historic occasion marks the end of over 140 years of coal power in the United Kingdom and a big step forward in the country's decarbonization efforts. The decline in coal power has helped Britain cut its greenhouse gas emissions by more than half since 1990. [Read more here.](#)



California Schools Serving Vegan Meals

A recent report shows that the number of schools in California serving vegan meals has skyrocketed over the past five years. Although experts say this growth is partly a reflection of demand from students and parents, they also credit several California state programs that are helping school districts access more local produce and prepare fresh, plant-based meals on-site [Read here.](#)

Wisdom for Our Time



"On the campaign, I would often say when we fight, we win. But here's the thing... sometimes the fight takes a while. That doesn't mean we won't win. The important thing is don't ever give up. Don't ever stop trying to make the world a better place. You have power. And don't you ever listen when anyone tells you something is impossible because it has never been done before. You have the capacity to do extraordinary good in the world...do not despair. This is not a time to throw up our hands. This is a time to roll up our sleeves. This is a time to organize, to mobilize, and to stay engaged for the sake of freedom and justice and the future that we all know we can build together." Vice President Kamala Harris

Small Worlds



**NEVER
GIVE UP**

After this election that



Nikon's Small World photomicrography competition

started in 1975. The contest celebrates the beauty of images taken through a light microscope. Scientists and hobbyists alike enter, and the winner receives a \$3,000 prize. This year, the competition celebrates its 50th anniversary, and it received about 2,100 photo entries from 80 countries. Pictured above is a grain of sand! [Look closely to see more.](#)

*I hope you have a beautiful
and hopeful holiday season.*

Virginia / Gibi

must be our guiding principle, and the only thing we *can't* do if we are to resist fascism.

Read comments by Rebecca Solnit, Al Gore and Angus Hervey of *Fix the News* in [My Column](#)

And along with our renewed effort to fight for our democracy, human rights and for Nature, let us also double down on being kind, respectful, generous, compassionate, decent human beings.

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