Seeking Reconciliation Post-Election

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munication equates to accepting or condoning what some (not all) of Trump's supporters are doing. One friend referred to his supporters as dogs needing to be tamed. There are stories, pains, and hopes behind positions that we often cannot see at the surface. This is what I strive to remember in the wake of an unprecedented and unexpected outcome to an election season that has introduced new levels of polarization, pain, and fear, leaving many of us afraid and uncertain of what lies ahead. The needs of an unheard portion of our country have finally been recognized; it is deeply unfortunate and concerning for the other half that this occurred within the context of unprecedently public prejudice, violence, and threatening policies towards our country's minorities and most vulnerable populations.

I fear that I may soon be coined a self-hating Muslim and child of immigrants for suggesting the humanity of the other side. But what I am speaking from is my training in mediation and conflict resolution. While recognizing and not denying nor excusing the real harm that has been done and which is still ongoing amid this national conflict, the best tool that mediators have to offer to parties in conflict is the question: "how do we want to move forward now?"

Amid this time of divisive politics and dehumanization, we each still have the power to decide individually how we engage with those who differ from ourselves in thought, word, and deed. It is our choice, always, as are the consequences of that choice.

Indeed, those choices are what lead us to where we are today: polarization, fear, prejudice. It is up to each of us now how we move forward, but that fate is shared by us all.

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Calendar December 2016

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 Eat a Red Apple Day **Rosa Parks Day** **World AIDS Day**	2 *David Macaulay born, 1946* National Fritters Day	3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities National Roof-Over-Your-Head Day	4 *Munro Leaf born, 1905* National Cookie Day *Phonograph Invented (1877)*
5 *Walt Disney's Birthday born, 1901* *Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)*	6 Mitten Tree Day St. Nicholas Day *13th Amendment abolishing slavery, ratified (1865)*	◐ 7 National Cotton Candy Day Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)	8 *James Thurber born, 1894* National Brownie Day *Inventor Eli Whitney born, 1765*	9 *Ball-Bearing Roller Skates Patented in 1884* *First Christmas Seals Issued in 1907*	10 *Rumer Godden born, 1907* Human Rights Day *Emily Dickinson born, 1830*	11 *UNICEF Anniversary Established in 1946* *Pilgrims landed on Plymoth Rock, 1620*
12 *Barbara Emberley born, 1932* *Hovercraft Patented (1955)* Poinsettia Day	○ 13 National Cocoa Day *Susan B. Anthony dollar coined in 1970*	14 *First Miniature Golf Course Opened, 1929* *South Pole Discovered, 1911*	15 Bill of Rights Day Underdog Day *David McCord born, 1897*	16 Beethoven's Birthday (1770) *Boston Tea Party Anniversary (1773)*	17 *Wright Brother's First Flight (1903)* National Maple Syrup Day	18 Wear a Plunger On Your Head Day *Baseball great Ty Cobb born, 1886*
19 Oatmeal Muffin Day *Dickens' A Christmas Carol published in 1843*	◑ 20 Games Day *Electric Light demonstrated in 1879*	21 ***First Day of Winter*** Humbug Day Bright Side Day National Flashlight Day	22 *First Christmas Lights, 1882* *Mercury Thermometer Invented, 1714*	23 Roots Day *Federal Reserve System established (1913)*	24 **Hanukkah Begins** **Christmas Eve** National Egg Nog Day *Apollo 8 reached moon, 1968*	25 **Christmas** National Pumpkin Pie Day
26 Boxing Day **Kwanzaa Begins** National Whiners Day	27 *Ingri d'Aulaire born, 1904* Visit the Zoo Day *World Bank created (1945)*	28 Card Playing Day *Iowa became the 29th state (1846)* National Chocolate Day	● 29 *Texas became the 28th state (1845)*	30 *Tiger Woods born, 1975* *Author Rudyard Kipling born, 1865*	31 **New Year's Eve**	