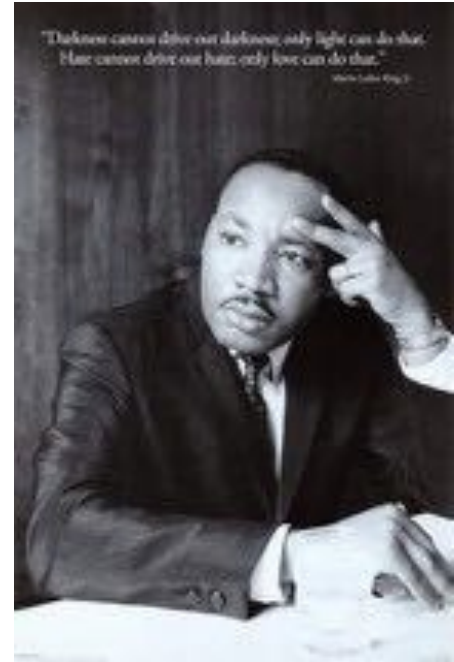


STEMMING THE TIDE OF HATE TO BECOME A "BELOVED COMMUNITY"

In various writings and occasions, Martin Luther King, Jr. lifted up the notion of a beloved community, which he envisioned as a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of one's fellow human beings.

In the January 14, 2019 edition of *The Capital City Hues* newspaper, editor Jonathan Gramling cited a recent rise in overt racist acts and inflammatory language and in response asked several Madison community leaders reflect on how **all of us** can stem this tide of hate. Following are a few excerpts from their reflections -



Rev. Joseph Baring Jr. Pastor of St. Paul AME Church

"Currently there is an atmosphere of hatred permeating the hollowed halls of Congress. Such attitudes stand in opposition to the attitudes cited by Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address. In that address Lincoln called for **"malice toward none, with charity toward all."**

Samba Baldeh, Madison Alderman and Common Council President

" Madison appreciates the contributions of immigrants from all over the world and we'll continue to work for **a city that is welcoming to all** and where every person is a valued community member. Perhaps, it is in this area that Madison can be a model for the rest of the nation."

Frances Huntley-Cooper, Former Mayor of Fitchburg

" **I have hope** because of leaders like Jack Daniels !!!, President of Madison College, who won't give up on making education, not only an option but also a reality for our young folks getting an education at Madison College." "I believe we stem the tide of hope by doing good things, showing respect, electing and appointing good public servants, collaboratively working with others in our community and never giving up. "

Representative Shelia Stubbs, District 77 - Wisconsin Assembly

"Dane County and Wisconsin face enormous challenges on the fronts of racial equality and justice. Issues ranging from infant and maternal mortality and low birth rates to eviction and lack of educational opportunities, many families of color are in crisis in our communities." **"For too long, children of color have been neglected in our state.** There is no greater moral imperative than addressing these systemic issues in the legislature so every family has the opportunity to thrive in our state."

Sharyl Kato Executive Director and Child & Family Therapist at the Rainbow Project. "We all need to find our own way in **countering negativity.**"

"Because of my work I am more aware of the actual impact that separating children from their families has that can damage a child for a lifetime. However, creating positive experiences and celebrating good deeds and supporting all children needs to be increased a hundred fold to counter the negative. There are many great things happening in the world due to leaders who take a stand out of integrity and kindness. We need positive unity to support one another **for the common good.**"

Greg Jones President NAACP Dane County Chapter

"All voters, esp. millennials of color, must stand against forces of bigotry and prejudice. We must instill the value-laden concept that elections at all levels matter. **We cannot sit out any election.**" "Use our voice so others cannot speak for us. We must begin now to prepare the next generation of civil rights leaders." "Let no issue go unnoticed, unstated and unrecognized that has the potential of producing negative life options for residents of the community."

Sheri Carter City of Madison Alder & Vice-President of the Common Council
The process begins and ends with us. The movement must involve each of us.

We must acknowledge the **basic rights of humankind and fold in the elements of respect and civility.** This movement is not for the next generation, not for our children or grandchildren, this movement is for you and me to be the epicene of the change. We need to provide the tools for the generation that has just been born to carry the torch forward and never sit on the sidelines allowing the discourse of today to become the new normal.

