

I like receiving letters and cards at Christmas time. Beautiful cards and pictures of people we know are a real treat, but best of all are the personal letters and messages that accompany a lot of them.

That has been especially heartening this year, as we are still in distress about the November Presidential election, and we are in a state of mourning for our country that is not likely to change soon. So, when friends and relatives expressed their similar feelings, it gave us a sense of reassurance that not all Americans are accepting of the situation that has developed in the nation.

Here are just a few of the sentiments that have been expressed in letters we have received at this holiday time:

“We are appalled at the outcome of the last election. I thought we were a more intelligent nation?!! I do believe _____ will be out in 2 years, through impeachment or just plain quits. We’ll see and hold on for dear life.”

“Apparently, I have stepped off from my planet and have landed in the twilight zone.I started off December by coming to terms with the sad fact that _____ is going to call himself President of the United States and we are living in a country of fools! November 10th found me sitting in the parking lot of the grocery store bawling like a baby, parked in my car. It’s been a long process of mourning, and now I’m trying to find a silver lining (which is a huge stretch.)

“Today’s thoughts are 1—that these ugly people have been out there all along, lurking in the dark corners, and now they are out in the open where we can see their faces, and 2—We had become complacent in recent years, chugging along as good little liberals, trusting and on auto pilot. It’s now time to WAKE UP and read up and fight. We have opened our wallets to Planned Parenthood, ACLU, NPR, Syrian refugees, and Greenpeace! I will be going to Washington, D.C. by bus on January 20-22 for the Women’s March on Washington.”

From a wonderful relative with 90 years of wisdom behind her remarks: “I feel the election was so bad. I feel Mr. _____ will be a ‘me-myself-and I’ waving his arms and saying how bad the Democrats have been! Wish with all that goes on now with Russia entering the picture, we

could just say goodbye to _____ forever. He's so 'power-hungry!' Don't know how he fooled so many people."

From a wonderful history and government teacher: "I live in despair after the election of _____. My sister and I have mourning wreaths on our doors. I doubt if I will ever take it down. All those years I 'taught' and tried to exemplify a life opposed to despotism, racism, sexism seem to have been for nought. We, as a people, are ignorant and not inclined to wanting to become 'educated.'His 'appointments' add to my despair. My dad used to say 'we get what we deserve.' Yikes! This?" " And, continuing on the outside of her envelope: "Don't worry—while there is a breath within me I can and do say, this is wrong!"

From a friend on the road: "It would be good to move beyond the sadness, but I don't want to stop feeling; we must find something to DO with it. Abolishing the Electoral College would be good. Thousands have sent postcards to _____ organization saying 'NO BANNON'. More are donating to Planned Parenthood in Mike Pence's name (he gets a card for every one.). Rather than running away from political involvement, I hope many more women will step up—every local board and council, state gov't and national. I have to believe that much good can come from the blood letting—some glass ceiling breakers are out there. But, mostly, I am just so sad, that anyone would vote for him."

And, from a niece with both intelligence and good sense: "Despite the national situation—we have a lot to be thankful for—family, good health, friends, and books! I have faith we'll get through this—together—maybe with the help of ping-pong, coffee, and sarcasm."

And, I might add—we READ those books. And lack of doing just that may be one of the main reasons our country made such a bad choice in November. Many people don't seem to realize that we need our brightest and best people in the highest offices in this nation. And, doing some reading of something more than escapist entertainment—or worse, plopping oneself down in front of Fox News—might go a long way to remedying that situation.