

THE

TRANS

PARTISAN

REVIEW

WHAT TRANSPARTISAN MEANS...

INSIDER ISSUE • SPRING 2019

There are times when transpartisanship must be used to set a system right, to overcome decades of extreme views and cultural wars, to intervene in times of extreme emergency, or even to appear when a country is evenly divided into two camps.

- Don Beck



THE TRANSPARTISAN REVIEW

VOLUME ONE : ISSUE THREE

www.transpartisanreview.com

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In 2018, as part of our own continuing exploration of the topic, we reached out to several notable proponents of *transpartisan* to learn how they interpreted the word and the movement -- and requested from them an article on the subject. In this short issue of *The Transpartisan Review*, we share a few of our favorites, along with links to other articles of note on The Transpartisan Review website (www.transpartisanreview.com).

CONTRIBUTORS

A. LAWRENCE CHICKERING

A. Lawrence Chickering is co-founder and co-executive editor of *The Transpartisan Review* and author of *Beyond Left and Right: Breaking the Political Stalemate*. He has helped establish several public policy organizations including, in 1999, Educate Girls Globally, an India based project which leverages community resources to ensure that all girls go to school, graduate, and lead.



JAMES S. TURNER

James S. Turner, founding partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Swankin & Turner, is co-founder and co-executive editor of *The Transpartisan Review*. As one of the original Nader's Raiders, he directed the project and wrote the report, *The Chemical Feast: The Ralph Nader Study Group Report on Food Protection and the Food and Drug Administration*.



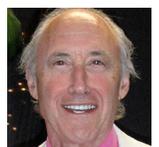
JOAN BLADES

Joan Blades is a co-founder of Living Room Conversations, an open source effort to rebuild respectful civil discourse across ideological, cultural, and party lines while embracing our core-shared values. Blades is a Great Work Cultures champion and co-author of *The Custom-Fit Workplace: Choose When Where and How to Work and Boost Your Bottom Line*.



JOHN STEINER

John Steiner currently works full time helping to build the transpartisan/bridge field as a co-founder and board member of the Bridge Alliance, as co-founder and senior advisor to YOUNify (formerly the Bridge Summit), as a board member of the Mediators Foundation and BridgeUSA, and as an advisory board member of The Transpartisan Review.



MATTHEW CASSIDY

A politically active millennial, Matthew Cassidy is an officer candidate in the U.S. Army and has worked on all levels of government ranging from the Delaware State Legislature to the U.S. Department of State. His work with American Enterprise Institute's *Critical Threats Project* was a result of his post-graduate research on *ijtihad* (independent reasoning) in the contemporary Islamic world.



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FROM THE EDITORS



WHAT TRANSPARTISAN MEANS TO ME

A. LAWRENCE CHICKERING

I call myself transpartisan because:

1. I see important truths in **both left and right**.
2. In our **Four-Quadrant Transpartisan Matrix** each quadrant—Order-Right, Freedom-Right, Order-Left, and Freedom-Left—holds part of the truth, and all quadrants need the others to be ‘complete’.
3. Applying this **Matrix** guides me to what I support and can agree on with others:

I am for the Order-Left’s commitment to the disadvantaged and marginalized; and I am also, like the Order Left, for using government as a major instrument (not the only or even primary instrument) to solve issues of the disadvantaged and marginalized;

I am for the Order-Right’s commitment to promoting change for and through people ‘close by’. I oppose government’s ‘centralized ‘solutions’, which tend to mechanize the personal engagement that I believe is essential to solve problems;



I oppose Order Right's commitment to engagement limited to particular communities or clans. It, like centralized 'solutions,' ignores the crucial role played by *freedom* (freedom quadrants), which creates spaces for people *different from each other*;

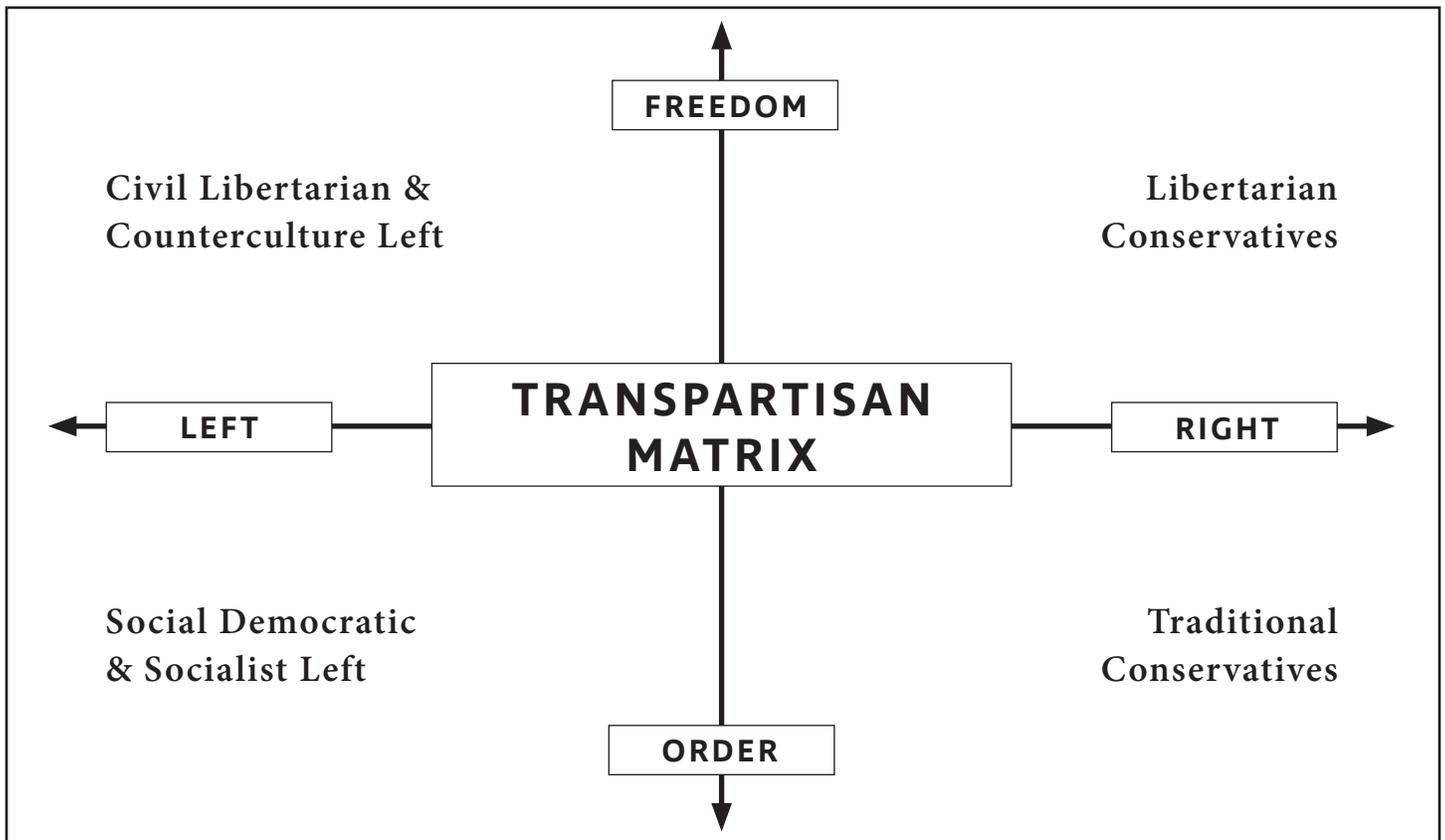
I am for the Freedom-Right's commitment to freedom from order imposed either by the Order Right (tradition) or by the Order Left (government); and

I am for the Freedom-Left's commitment for the same reason: for its commitment to freedom from order imposed either by the Order Right (tradition) or by the Order Left (government).

4. **When the government is everything, it disempowers** and crowds out any significant role for citizens in public institutions, much as religious systems did in the past. Both major political parties support a *weak concept of citizenship*, with citizens having little or no active role in public institutions and policies.

5. Real experiences, in both the U.S. and globally, show that **active citizenship** is crucial both to bring people together and to solve many, if not most, issues such as those affecting public schools, health care, and foreign and security policy, among many issues.

6. **Both left and right use identity politics** as political weapons. Each forcefully appeals to 'victims' beaten down by 'oppressors'. The Order Left advocates for *its* 'victims' especially on RACE. Republican 'conservative' Donald Trump advocates for new 'victims'—white, ethnic workers oppressed by Order Left policies claimed to help them.



7. **I am concerned that** under left identity politics, all blacks are victims of (oppressed by) white racism. As with all victim groups, this means that black victims have no control over their own lives or opportunities. Black victims can succeed only when their oppressors change.

8. **I am concerned that** under Trump right identity politics, all working class whites are victims of (oppressed by) left government policy. As with all victim groups this means these whites have no control over their lives or opportunities. These white workers can succeed only when their oppressors change.

9. **I am concerned** that both black and white victims are said to be controlled and oppressed by the poorest, least educated, and perhaps most reviled people in the society—poor whites and poor blacks. The racism underlying these widely expressed sentiments, especially by major media, as the highest idealism regarding both blacks and whites is unfathomably vile.

10. I am concerned about the deep **alienation that is evident among the electorate** toward our political system, especially the major political parties (there are now more Independents than either Democrats or Republicans). This alienation is growing, and Donald Trump's election is one expression of it.

11. I am concerned that ***the greater the conflict, the better the television as an entertainment medium.*** One great cause of alienation is the extreme conflict in the mainstream political debate as, inflamed by the media, parties push to extremes. Principals in the political system, including our political leaders, get headlines, whether they seek them or not, by advocating extreme positions.

12. ***Increasing individuation since WWII—advancing consciousness of the subjective self—tends toward/offers an antidote for ideological swings.*** It increases the possibilities for empowered citizens to play active roles in public institutions. Individuation reflects increasing demands for *self-expression*. Growing demands for self-expression reflect a growing demand for *self-governance*. *Self-governance requires strong citizenship.*

13. Increasing individuation—or *potential* for it—is a reality in most parts of the world: even in rural India where traditional girls are breaking out of repressed cultural roles that keep them down. Real experiences in empowerment show that such girls can become empowered to be powerful leaders and role models.

14. ***The institutional and policy challenge is to promote freedom to choose the good.*** Real experiences guide these choices in many countries. They occur with *personal engagement* of people in civil society.

15. Increasing individuation increases citizen demands for active political and social roles—or *self-governance*. It explains why the authoritarian religious model has lost its relevance as a governing structure. This model is now fueling increasing alienation from political systems and from the major political parties that sustain them.

16. Citizens in this new era of individuation need to be regarded as capable of self-governance and operating in active citizenship, actively working with governments to make 'government' institutions work. They need to do this in *informal spiritual relationships* in which they see past superficial differences among them and embrace each other as human.

17. *Shared property rights in public spaces such as schools, housing projects, and community health centers* are powerful instruments for promoting human connection. Economics can *help human association and connection* by expanding its interest in rights beyond private to public space. Common ownership institutionalizes decentralization, an Order Right value, in a form embraced by Order Left as empowerment.

18. With increasing individuation for everyone including the disadvantaged, The Transpartisan Matrix may help understand the disadvantaged. Real experiences now show that *every* disadvantaged group can be empowered.

19. **The Four-Quadrant Transpartisan Matrix** *creates space for integrating the entire values reality*. Important issues may be missed without sorting the values of the ‘political class’—people who both operate and influence the government—into these quadrants. Different forces affect different matters in different ways at different times.

20. Understanding what [values/factors/material] *have been omitted* is essential to imagine a combination of values and actions that form a coherent ‘whole’. Recognizing that the whole includes left and right, integrating freedom and order, helps me make political decisions and explains why I call myself transpartisan.

A. Lawrence Chickering

St. Helena Napa Valley

June 30, 2018

WHAT TRANSPARTISAN MEANS TO ME

JAMES S. TURNER

I call myself transpartisan because:

1. I find each individual’s politics to be as unique as their fingerprints;
2. I find that recognizing this individual political uniqueness helps me listen to and speak with virtually any/all individual(s) in terms of the Transpartisan Matrix.
3. From these conversations, I experience Transpartisan as more an adjective than a noun—a way of acting or being more than a place to argue from or defend—a vibrating essence more than a static structure;
4. Listening this way, I’ve noticed that the more or less conservative and more or less ordered an individual is tends to vary with specific issues, precise times, contrasting views and a wide variety of other variables and is in constant flux;



5. In this context, I have so far met no one who is always more conservative than I, more order friendly than I, or more partisan than I on every issue, indeed I almost always find some—usually many—matters on which any individual and I agree...profoundly;

6. This recognition of agreement and investment in pleasurable human interaction seems to create an emotional resonance--an account of good feelings--that my conversational partner(s) and I can draw on when we discover items upon which we appear to differ;

7. For me these conversations fuel the transpartisan process calling forth creative solutions that draw on and integrate differences into newly discovered viewpoints, approaches, policies, shared goals, etc.;

8. In this context the more diversely partisan the individuals involved the more powerful the Transpartisan effect; in my experience partisan and Transpartisan go hand and hand;

9. The Transpartisan process, like walking (an action that integrates the right leg and the left), seeks integration rather than compromise—it embraces and transcends, thus “trans,” perceived differences.

As a part of my Transpartisan experiences, I strongly believe that each individual is best served by using the words that work for them. Transpartisan has worked, and continues to work, for me, in ways suggested above and others, for over a decade.

James S. Turner
Washington, D.C.
September 1, 2010

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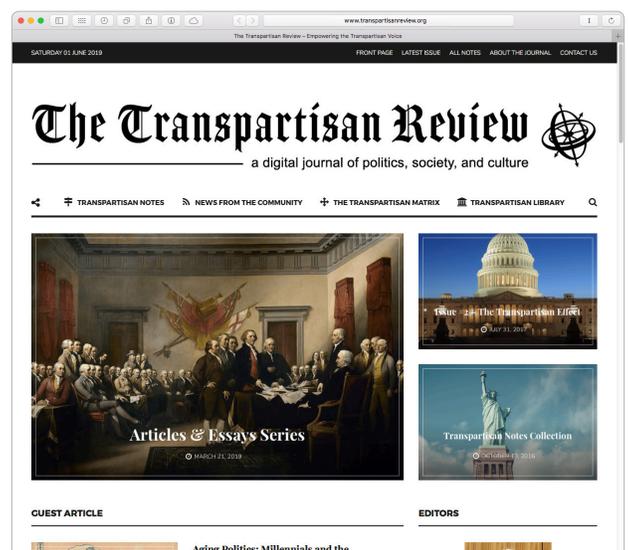
Launched in July 2016, *The Transpartisan Review* website provides a thoughtful examination of historical and current events from a transpartisan perspective.

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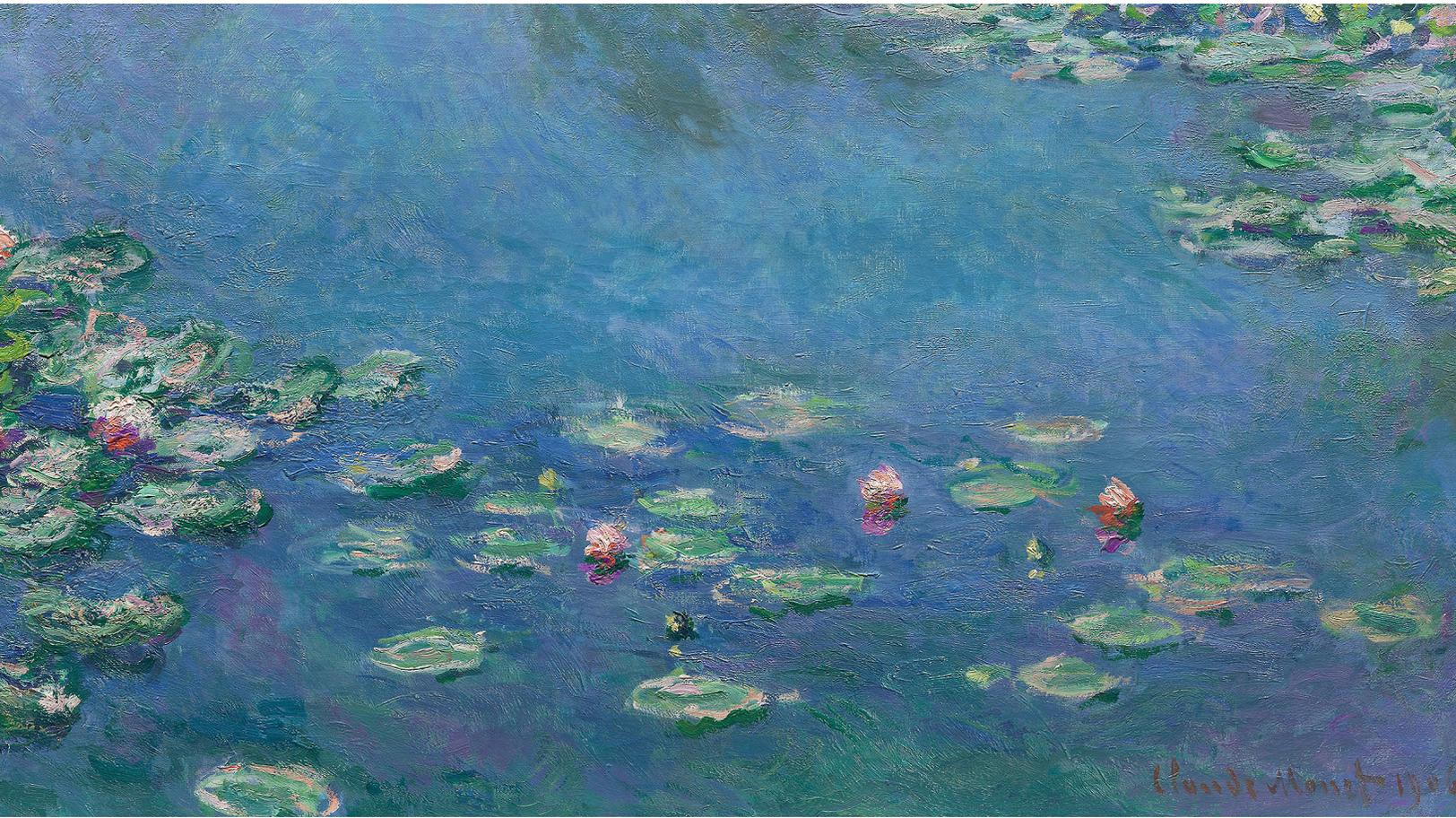
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FROM OUR COMMUNITY



WHAT TRANSPARTISAN MEANS TO JOAN BLADES FROM A CONVERSATION WITH THE EDITORS

Editor's Note: *In 2018, we reached out to several notable proponents of transpartisan to learn how they interpreted the word and the movement. First amongst our interviewees was Joan Blades, co-founder of Living Room Conversations and MoveOn.org. As a member of The Transpartisan Review advisory board, Joan plays a major role in shaping our thinking on this subject, and it goes without saying we were very interested in her specific understanding of transpartisan.*



The following article is an excerpt from a conversation we had with Joan in June of 2018. At that time, a policy, advocated by the U.S. President and implemented by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, to separate children from their immigrant parents divided America and created a conversational opportunity which Joan believed could benefit from the transpartisan nature of Living Room Conversations.

MoveOn.org and **Living Room Conversations** co-founder Joan Blades' contribution to the transpartisan movement cannot be understated. MoveOn.org grew from a very transpartisan desire voiced by citizens

representing all sectors of our *Transpartisan Matrix* to “move on” from the tabloid-headline politics plaguing Washington D.C. in the wake of the Clinton/Lewinsky scandal and subsequent impeachment.

Living Room Conversations, originally conceived collaboratively in 2010 by representatives of the transpartisan and engagement communities, was developed to be a “structured, intimate conversation format that would empower everyday citizens to discuss important issues with friends of differing political affiliations and backgrounds”. In 2013, as *described on their website*, Living Room Conversations hosted their first high profile conversation, which featured Joan and the co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots, Mark Meckler. Together, with friends from both sides of the political divide, they discussed crony capitalism and identified the need for criminal justice reform as an area of 100% transpartisan agreement. Featured in the 2018 documentary, *American Creed*, this initial conversation has grown to encourage deeper “discussion and impactful collaborative action”.

When asked specifically what transpartisan meant to her, despite the impact she has had on the national conversation, she predictively returned to the living room:

“For me, transpartisan is about getting everyone in a room -- regardless of their political leanings -- to embrace their natural desire for healthy community and encourage them to listen to each other, and yet be willing to have a very different viewpoint and still be respectful of one another.”

Joan would then go on to share the transpartisan history of her most recent work.

“I started Living Room Conversations with partners [believing] ‘this polarization is bad for us and we can’t deal with complex problems’. We need *everyone’s* best ideas and we need to be able to do collaborative problem solving. And I still believe that deeply. It started to become clear to me that this was a ‘domestic peace initiative’ because it just seems like we’ve gotten to the point where we are looking at our counterparts in politics as the enemy rather than our fellow citizens.

“One of the things I appreciate about Mark Meckler, when we had our conversations together, [was that we each] believe deeply in certain -- progressive for me and conservative for him -- values, yet we can like each other and respect each other. That’s something we seem to be struggling with right now. We’re finding it necessary to think “those people” are somehow less than because they don’t share our beliefs. I struggle with it still because there’s part of me that struggles with what’s going on. Taking children and parents and separating them is just horrific to me. I just have to remind myself that a lot of people implicitly or explicitly supporting this¹ are hearing a very different story than I am.”

Further discussion with Joan revealed immigration policy as a sensitive and difficult issue for her, however she naturally approached the topic from a transpartisan perspective identifying it as ripe for the type of conversation she developed Living Room Conversations to facilitate.

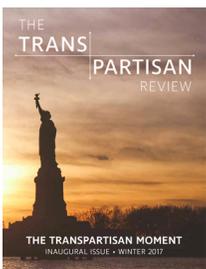
“I heard leadership from the [Trump] administration talking about how the children are getting medical care and being well cared for. For me, taking a child from their parent, no matter what medical care or food is available, ‘that’ is not ‘well cared for’. Someone else could listen to [the administration] and think, ‘well, they are taking good care of the kids’. That’s what they’re being told. Although I disagree as passionately as I do, I will do my best to recognize that people are seeing it differently and that it would be better if we were to have a conversation with each other.”

The transpartisan movement is as much about building healthy citizen and community relationships as it is about finding solutions to the political hostility crippling progress in Washington DC and across the United States. The first step to moving beyond this hostility is to encourage the conversations which Joan advocates. Tools like our own *Transpartisan Matrix*, when used with conversation methods like Living Room Conversations, can assist in mapping the roads to healthier political dialogue and more meaningful problem solving.

[1] *The USCIS family immigration policy of separating children from their parents.*

A stand-alone, downloadable version of this article can be found on The Transpartisan Review website:
www.transpartisanreview.org/files/What_Transpartisan_Means_to_Joan_Blades.pdf

PAST ISSUES OF THE TRANSPARTISAN REVIEW



ISSUE ONE: THE TRANSPARTISAN MOMENT INAUGURAL ISSUE • WINTER 2017

“The ‘transpartisan moment’ refers to our belief that democracy in the United States has reached a turning point in its history. It is a time of change, a transitional phase between the extended post-war period of the last century and the much different world of the 21st.”

www.transpartisanreview.org/TTR_Issue_One.pdf

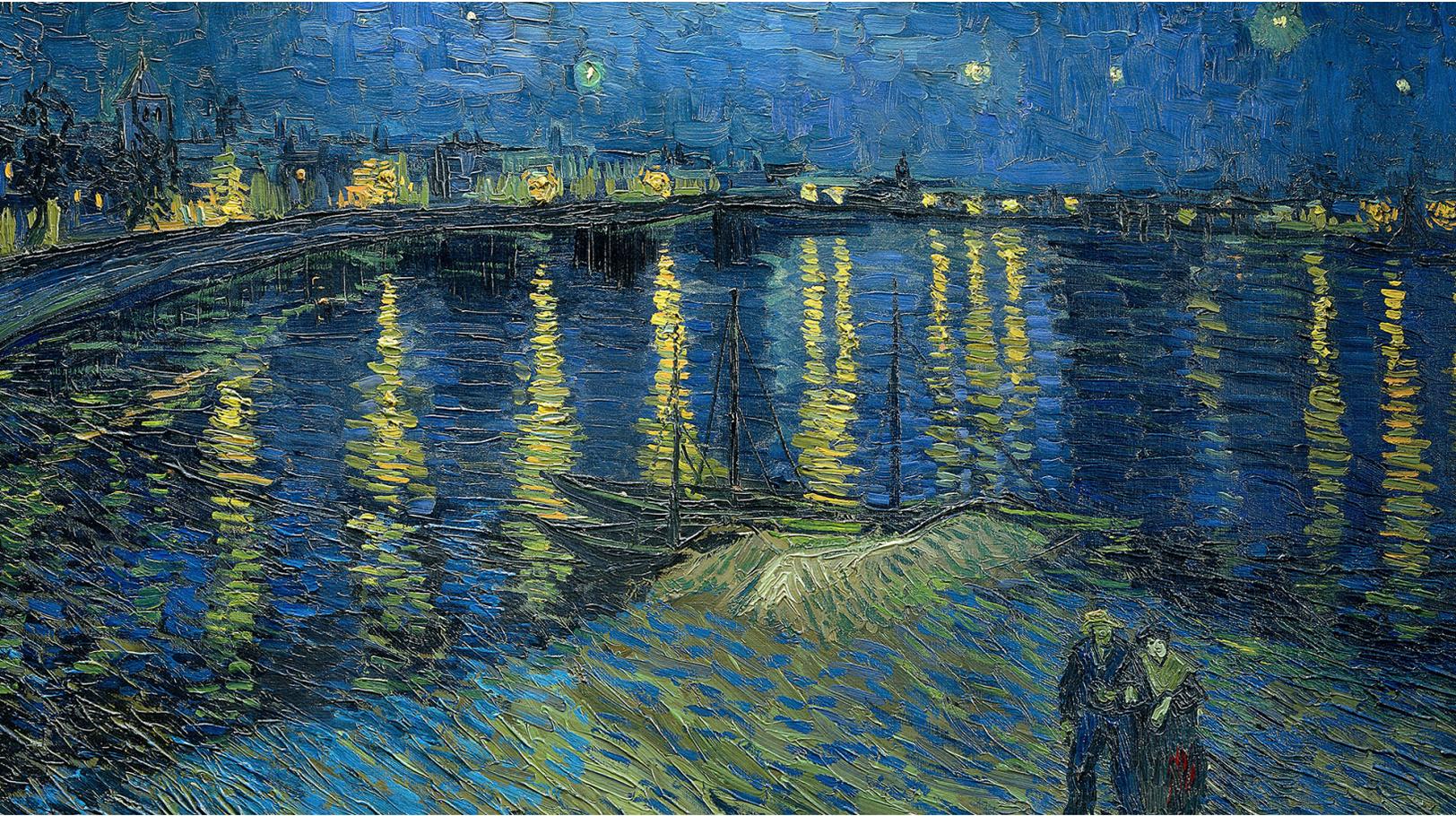


ISSUE TWO: THE TRANSPARTISAN EFFECT INTROSPECTIVE ISSUE • SUMMER 2017

“One strand of the contemporary American narrative holds the current President responsible as the chief cause of the daily chaos in our politics. We contend that the upheaval stems, rather, from deeper social forces, within which the President plays the role of an effect at least as much as that of a cause.”

www.transpartisanreview.org/TTR_Issue_Two.pdf

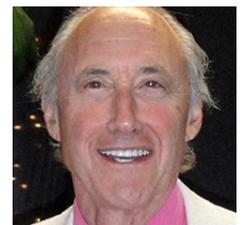
FROM OUR COMMUNITY



WHY I AM TRANSPARTISAN

JOHN STEINER

***Editor's Note:** John Steiner, one of the most active and supportive advocates of the transpartisan movement, responded to our query with the following heartfelt exploration of the concept. As a member of *The Transpartisan Review* advisory board, John plays a major role in shaping our thinking on this subject, and it goes without saying we were very interested in his take on the meaning of transpartisan.*



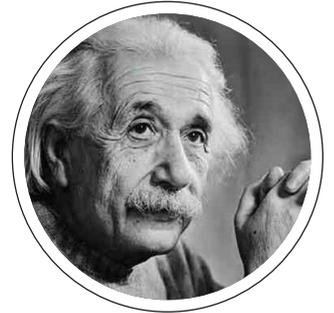
*John's impact on the movement is monumental. There is not a modern transpartisan figure that he hasn't consulted or worked with. Chief among his accomplishments are his roles in establishing or supporting important transpartisan projects and programs, including Reuniting America, the [Bridge Alliance](#), the [Mediators Foundation](#), [BridgeUSA](#), [YOUunify](#), and *The Transpartisan Review*.*

For me, transpartisan describes a meme, a field, a constituency, a dynamic, a movement, and even a philosophy. Like pragmatism – its homegrown, American predecessor from the late 19th to the early 20th century –

transpartisan has emerged as an important political expression in the 21st century, recognizing differences agreeably while mostly focusing on our commonalities.

The word transpartisan is relatively new, perhaps first used, about twenty years ago, by Spiral Dynamics guru, *Dr. Don Beck*, who has written on the subject. It has a number of different meanings and associations and can be used as a noun, an adjective, even as a verb and an adverb!

Although many use the word bridge to denote the transpartisan dynamic (and others hyphenate the word partisan in a variety of ways to indicate cooperation), I believe transpartisan best expresses the idea that there is one big, transcend-and-include “tent” where we find transpartisan Democrats, transpartisan Republicans, transpartisan Independents, Libertarians, Greens, etc. coming together with dignity, civility, and respect, to listen and learn on behalf of resolving political conflict, while pursuing the very natural, very human impulse toward inclusion. Albert Einstein once wrote:



“Our task must be to free ourselves ... by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”



Thich Nhat Hanh deepens this notion of inclusion: “We need the vision of interbeing — we belong to each other; we cannot cut reality into pieces. The well-being of “this” is the well-being of “that,” so we have to do things together. Every side is “our side”; there is no evil side.”

And Martin Luther King, Jr., gives us this poetic in his *Letter from Birmingham Jail*: “We are an inseparable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.”

Being a transpartisan includes a willingness to expand our sense of who we are -- to grow up -- as our colleague, *John Kesler* writes, “Being able to see only your own point of view is less developed than seeing several positions and choosing one, which is less developed than realizing that multiple perspectives can be complementary, which is less developed than having the capacity to weave together optimal solutions which honor everyone’s concerns and needs.”

While we all retain our political DNA in the voting booth, a transpartisan recognizes, within themselves and others, the need — indeed the evolutionary imperative — to work together and mutually benefit from the opportunities before us. This transpartisan dynamic represents perhaps the best hope for our democratic aspirations and institutions to endure. We can bring “the other” to the table and discover out-of-the-box, common/higher ground inclusive, workable solutions. The best example that I know in this realm is the brilliant work of the *Convergence Center for Policy Resolution*, which effectively pursues a significant aspect of the transpartisan dynamic known as multi-stakeholder, collaborative problem solving.

Brian Clancy, co-founder and co-director of *Big Tent Nation*, expressed to me in an email what I embrace as another element of the transpartisan dynamic.

“There is a heartfelt need for an authentic new path in American politics. A vast number of Americans, well over a majority, are tired of simply lunging from right to left and now left to right in recent elections -- a period during which the American Dream has dangerously eroded. For too many, the good life American’s seek is getting farther and farther from reach - and our toxic partisan politics are blocking constructive action. The big challenges fracturing our nation and putting broad-based opportunity at risk will always remain beyond the capacity of any one side to resolve unilaterally and sustainably. Harnessing American ingenuity to achieve economic opportunity for all requires respecting and incorporating perspectives from across the political spectrum. Just as we cannot walk on one foot alone, we must integrate the best of left and right to restore and renew the American Dream.”

One of the best, if not the best, viable, transpartisan solutions to our economic challenges, has to do with the *Automated Payment Transaction Tax*, which Jim Turner and Lawry Chickering wrote about in their *40th Transpartisan Note*.

The transpartisan dynamic recognizes an emergence of a new politics. As *Rob Stein*, transpartisan progressive and founder of the *Democracy Alliance*, shared with me:

“We are a nation of 325 million people, scattered across 50 states, holding different values and beliefs, and adhering to a range of ideologies, tribes and perspectives. Our magnificent diversity, and the inherent complexity of our times, are challenging the effective functioning of democracy. Self-governance is dependent on a twenty-first century vision rooted in respect for individual dignity and our increasing interdependence. Though we are individuals, our prosperity requires our collective wisdom and energies. Though we embrace our individuality, our security requires shared responsibilities. Though we are many, we share a common destiny. E Pluribus Unum Destino. Acknowledging our common destiny is necessary, but not sufficient, to achieving political renewal. We must also inspire and align millions of Americans committed to bridging our differences, renewing our political systems and structures and healing our republic.”

Transpartisan is also a political synonym for, and an expression of, love. Some might call it *Heart Politics*, as did our old friend, Fran Peavey in her book by that title. The essence of the transpartisan dynamic is the will to engage with dignity, respect, and kindness; ultimately treating the other as we would like to be treated ourselves, namely

with love. The Golden Rule becomes self-enforcing. When putting oneself in other’s shoes with both an open mind and open heart, empathy, compassion, kindness, and generosity arise. Nelson Mandela wrote in his autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*, “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”



Martin Luther King, Jr. expressed a very similar idea in October of 1952, “I am convinced that men hate each other because they fear each other. They fear each other because they don’t know each other, and they don’t know each other because they don’t communicate with each other, and they don’t communicate with each other because they are separated from each other.”



For me, transpartisan is a deep calling. I was deeply moved to find this remarkable quote in *Walking with the Wind: Memoir of the Movement*, the memoir of Congressman John Lewis:

“It was at this time that I began believing in what I call the Spirit of History. Others might call it Fate. Or Destiny. Or a Guiding Hand. Whatever it is called, I came to believe that this force is on the side of what is good, of what is right and just. It is the essence of the moral force of the universe, and at certain points in life, in the flow of human existence and circumstances, this force, this spirit, finds you or selects you, it chases you down, and you have no choice; you must allow yourself to be used, to be guided by this force and to carry out what must be done. To me, that concept of surrender, of giving yourself over to something inexorable, something so much larger than yourself, is the basis of what we call faith. And it is the first and most crucial step toward opening yourself to the Spirit of History.

“This opening of the self, this alignment with Fate, has nothing to do with ego or self-gratification. On the contrary, it’s an absolutely selfless thing. If the self is involved, the process is interrupted. Something is in the way. The self, even a sense of the self, must be totally removed in order to allow this spirit in. It is a process of giving over one’s very being to whatever role history chooses for you.”

Jim Turner and Lawry Chickering have done a masterful job in laying out the transpartisan dynamic -- recognizing the innate intelligence of the body politic through this journal, the Transpartisan Voice, their notes, books, etc. A deep bow to them. I’m proud to be part of the transpartisan tribe!

I look forward to hearing from anyone (steiner_king@earthlink.net) about why you are a transpartisan!

A stand-alone, downloadable version of this article can be found on The Transpartisan Review website:

www.transpartisanreview.org/files/Why_I_Am_Transpartisan-Steiner.pdf



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FROM OUR COMMUNITY



AGING POLITICS: MILLENNIALS AND THE TRANSPARTISAN MOVEMENT

MATTHEW CASSIDY

***Editor's Note:** Matthew Cassidy's response was particularly exciting as it represents the newest voices in the transpartisan movement. In this short piece, he explores the transpartisan nature of our youngest generation of voters, highlighting how Generation Y's unique differences from previous age-defined voting blocs make them exceptional allies in the transpartisan movement.*



Millennials have an untapped superpower: the power to decide the next leaders of the United States. In almost logarithmic fashion, the Millennials have ascended to a role unseen since the baby boomers. They are a political force. Advertisers covet this demographic; establishment politicians fear them. Millennials represent the young generation that grew up at the dawn of the internet.

The date range for Millennials has been subject to debate, but the U.S. Census Bureau identifies 1982 to have ushered in the end of Generation X and the start of the Millennials. While on paper, 1982 may seem

unremarkable, members of the Millennial generation are incredibly distinct from their predecessors. Millennials favor more nomadic or mobile lifestyles: they stay at jobs for shorter durations, they marry later in life, and have kids later too. They are incredibly tech-savvy and prefer change over stability; Millennials appear far more flexible than previous generations. They grew up with personal computers, internet, and mobile technology that mirrored their lifestyles. The 24-hour news cycle began with the Millennial generation. Moreover, this generation comes from all different backgrounds. 44.2% of Millennials identify as a minority race or ethnic group, a sizable chunk of the 83 million Millennials in the United States. Research surveys have indicated that Millennials hold more racially tolerant views and care less about work ethics compared to preceding generations. Most notably, in a seemingly divisive political environment, Pew research indicates Millennials get along with others the most, recording fewer tensions between older generations, immigrants, different races, and genders than their parents. Millennials' sheer size and uniqueness make them a driving force for change.

Millennials are disinterested in the current political debate in the United States. The issue with this country's current political debate does not stem from the topics; Millennials want to engage in challenging discussions and thoughtful disagreements. In a study, conducted by Tuft University's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), titled "*Millennials Talk Politics: A Study of College Student Political Engagement*," researchers noted that Millennials do not wish to be removed from politics. Instead, they seek authentic opportunities for discussing salient issues. Young voters dislike the spin and polarized debates that currently exists within the realm of politics. This generation feels that today's polarized debate leaves no options for compromise or nuance. Framing, not content, lies atop Millennials' biggest issue with the nation's current political debate. The framing does not encompass the multiple facets of an issue; it focuses far too much attention on governments as the only entities for creating policy and casts aside the role citizens play. Contemporary policy debate also pits one side against another, creating a highly confrontational dynamic not attractive to many Millennials.

Millennials seek various avenues to create change, including entrepreneurship, which has reshaped the role individuals play in our society. Governments are no longer the sole proprietors of driving change. Communities and individuals can solve major issues independently or together with government. The transpartisan ideology believes topics such as poverty and policing can be addressed by policy reform and community action. Young Americans naturally follow this philosophy through social entrepreneurship and grassroots campaigning, which have surged with the millennial generation.

The sheer number of Millennials, coinciding with their energy and passion for change, display strength when mobilized. Pew data states Millennials represent 31% of the overall American electorate, and 69% of Millennials are eligible to vote. In 2016, the American people saw a preview of this voting bloc's power with the ascent of dark horse Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, who nearly zipped to victory for the party's nomination against the heavy favorite, Hillary Clinton. This generation has not taken full advantage of this momentum, however. In

the 2012 election, Millennials made up a fifth of the electorate with less than half casting ballots. Turnout has not been good for this bloc. The Greatest/Silent generation, representing a sixth of the electorate punched well above their collective weight by turning out at 72%. Millennials have the lowest participation rates relative to the other three main generations: Greatest/Silent, Boomer, and Gen X. Fifty percent of voting eligible Millennials voted in the 2016 election, which was lower than every preceding U.S. generation by roughly 11%. Millennials also voted third-party more than any other generational demographic, with 8% voting for a candidate outside the two major parties compared to only 3% in 2012.

Moreover, social media, a favorite tool of Millennials, revolutionizes the manner in which Americans engage with policymakers and each other. The 2016 election demonstrated the power of social media in shaping both the topic and framing of the debate. Millennials have turned to social media to influence the topics of America's debate; now they can turn to the *transpartisan movement* to redefine that debate.

The transpartisan movement operates outside the traditional language utilized in the classic left/right debate. Language frames communication, so unsurprisingly most of the today's political debate cannot be expressed with the traditional political language that exists outside the transpartisan movement. The muddled language of political discussions have hindered the framework of policy debate and confined it to the outdated philosophy of a two-dimensional, political spectrum. However, the 2016 presidential primaries demonstrated the fissures within both main political parties who represent left and right ideologies. Libertarians and progressive Democrats, blue dogs and evangelical liberals, showcase the issue Millennials have with traditional left/right labels. Ideological straitjackets have lost their fashion. The *Transpartisan Matrix* solves this ideological conundrum by operating on multiple axes. Individuals' views fall on different locations in the matrix, both socially and economically. Transpartisan debate recognizes the ideal logical matrix, and creates a language and framework to debate policy without inaccurate, incomprehensible labels.

Millennials should look to transpartisanism as a framework to view politics through a multi-dimensional lens that cuts out the disdain and distrust. The Brookings Institution *recently analyzed data* from CIRCLE on the level of trust amongst Millennials. Less than 30% and 20% of Millennials trust the Democratic and Republican parties respectively, and less than 20% of Millennials trust the United States' major news media. The issue amongst younger voters does not revolve around lack of information but rather an abundance of news from sources they do not trust.

Millennials are the future. Their ever-changing lifestyles reflect the type of change they seek in society and from government. Transpartisanism packages diverse ideologies with dynamic ideas to advance society in a rapidly transforming world. It is about time the Millennials have a political framework that meets their demands like *transpartisanism*.

TRANSPARTISAN NOTES SERIES INDEX

An essay series exploring transpartisan themes from history and current events
written by The Transpartisan Review editors A. Lawrence Chickering & James S. Turner.

www.transpartisanreview.org/transpartisan-notes

Introducing the Transpartisan Review

Note #01 - July 4, 2016

Introducing the Transpartisan Review.

Understanding Brexit

Note #02 - July 11, 2016

The British vote to leave the European Union caught everyone by surprise.

The Transpartisan World of Subjects

Note #03 - July 18, 2016

Adding the subjective to political discourse expands how we view reality.

Government and Civil Society

Note #04 - July 25, 2016

Recruiting citizens requires seeing everyone as independent and capable of self-governance.

The Conventions I

Note #05 - August 1, 2016

Reports agree: the Republican and Democratic conventions differed profoundly.

The Conventions II — Media

Note #06 - August 8, 2016

Seventy percent of voters say they think the country is going in the wrong direction.

The Conventions III — Republicans

Note #07 - August 15, 2016

Featuring an excerpt from a *Bold.global* article by Rich Tafel and Ted Buerger.

Bridge Alliance: Transpartisan Gathering

Note #08 - August 22, 2016

Featuring an exciting event announcement from David Nevins and Debilyn Molineaux.

Antidote to a Poisoning Epidemic

Note #09 - August 29, 2016

Featuring an excerpt from a Huffington Post article by Jacob Hess.

The Many Faces Of Transpartisan I

Note #10 - September 5, 2016

The contemporary Transpartisan movement appears to have two quite different faces.

The Many Faces Of Transpartisan II

Note #11 - September 12, 2016

Left and right agree that both freedom and order are essential for solutions to social issues.

Transpartisan Bridge Alliance Enters Washington

Note #12 - September 19, 2016

The Bridge Alliance made its first appearance in the nation's capital last week.

Colin Kaepernick & The State of Political Debate

Note #13 - September 26, 2016

Among factors influencing Transpartisan action, the state of debate is important but often ignored.

Glenn Beck? Transpartisan?

Note #14 - October 3, 2016

The State of Political Debate: Powerful factors influence Transpartisan realities.

Subjectivity and Police Community Relations

Note #15 - October 10, 2016

Community policing is a public-safety philosophy based on partnership and cooperation.

The Conservative Transpartisan Role

Note #16 - October 17, 2016

It will take more than 'arm-waving' from the Oval Office to reduce racial intolerance.

Expanding the Media Role in Politics

Note #17 - October 24, 2016

The Presidential campaign has offered little substantive discussion of issues.

The NCDD National Conference

Note #18 - October 31, 2016

NCDD held its latest conference on October 14-16 in Boston.

Now, The Vote

Note #19 - November 7, 2016

We are led by a minority of voters—a small minority, in fact.

What Just Happened?

Note #20 - November 14, 2016

It is impossible to comment on this election without retreating into clichés.

A text-based list of all Transpartisan Notes with links can be found online at www.transpartisanreview.org/notes-list.

Authoritarians, Half the Matrix

Note #21 - November 21, 2016

The problem is deep divisions in our society's political party culture.

Hidden Challenges In Security Policy

Note #22 - November 28, 2016

Traditional foreign policy institutions have no capacity to promote subjective changes in identity and culture.

Non Voters: Transpartisan Base?

Note #23 - December 5, 2016

The Trump/Clinton contest leaves the party relevance question open.

The People vs. Presidents

Note #24 - December 12, 2016

"One might as well make a sailor of a cock, or a soldier of a goose, as a President of Andrew Jackson." - Thomas Jefferson

American Nation: Transpartisan Structure?

Note #25 - December 19, 2016

The people are the only legitimate fountain of power, and it is from them that the constitutional charter is derived.

Transpartisan Imperative: Busting Out All Over

Note #26 - December 26, 2016

The American experiment enters the next phase of its development.

Happy New Year 2017 – A Transpartisan Year?

Note #27 - January 2, 2017

Burkian vision offers a guide to action. Welcome to a happy 2017!

Language, Trances & Myths

Note #28 - January 9, 2017

People in trances are not in control of themselves; they are not fully alive.

Thomas Jefferson: Democratic Republican Transpartisan at Dawn

Note #29 - January 16, 2017

'Old friend and adversary' captures a key aspect of Transpartisan politics.

Martin Luther, Pope Francis and Printing — A Cautionary Transpartisan Tale

Note #30 - January 23, 2017

Transpartisan sensibilities may help us navigate the treacherous road ahead.

Cat Fight: Trump and the Media Attack Each Other

Note #31 - January 30, 2017

Mr. Trump talks the way any number of people would over drinks.

Institutional 'Push-Back' Against Twitter Policy

Note #32 - February 6, 2017

In his first days, President Trump has revealed the weaknesses of policy made by Presidential tweets.

Glimpses of a Transpartisan Foreign Policy

Note #33 - February 13, 2017

U.S. policy experts widely believe that the world order requires strong American engagement.

Ronald Reagan — Liberal Democrat, Conservative Republican, Transpartisan?

Note #34 - February 20, 2017

We call this Transpartisan.

He's Back! Arnold Schwarzenegger Blasts Gerrymandering

Note #35 - February 27, 2017

Terminating gerrymandering is excellent transpartisan work.

Oscar's Transpartisan Moment

Note #36 - March 6, 2017

"What? You guys, I'm sorry, no. There's a mistake. Moonlight, you guys won Best Picture." - Jordan Horowitz

100 U.S. Senators Seek Trump Help In Ending Anti-Semitism

Note #37 - March 13, 2017

This nearly universal condemnation of anti-Semitism is a profound expression of the transpartisan impulse.

Remembering Stephen P. Cohen: Transpartisan Pioneer

Note #38 - March 20, 2017

"The key to trust is doing things together. It is engaging people in common purposes." - Steven P. Cohen

Transpartisan Health Within Reach?

Note #39 - March 27, 2017

Through the haze we see the outlines.

Transpartisan Tax Time

Note #40 - April 3, 2017

Now Tax Reform arrives on the Congressional agenda.

Syria and the Importance of Trump's Subjective Core: Dangerous Possibilities

Note #41 - April 10, 2017

US bombing of Syria clarified important aspects of Mr. Trump's nature, his presidency, and the American nation.

Ownership As Key To Empowerment

Note #42 - April 17, 2017

Shared ownership of public spaces is a key to the subjective change that is at the heart of the transpartisan vision.

Reconciliation

Note #43 - April 24, 2017

The Taney/Scott moment underscored reconciliation, a touchstone component of a transpartisan approach.

A text-based list of all Transpartisan Notes with links can be found online at www.transpartisanreview.org/notes-list.

Broadway Musical Captures Canada's 9/11 Response

Note #44 - May 1, 2017

The Gander experience demonstrates that ordinary people can confront daunting problems and solve them together.

Introducing Educate Girls Globally

Note #45 - May 8, 2017

Educate Girls Globally promotes positive social changes in the most "difficult" populations in rural India.

Search For Common Ground, Transpartisan In Action

Note #46 - May 15, 2017

Daryl Davis, African-American R&B and blues musician, works to improve race relations.

President Trump on the Abraham Path

Note #47 - May 22, 2017

A Presidential trip successful in advancing this spirit will advance the best hopes for humanity.

Introducing Voice for Hope – Healers of Planet Earth

Note #48 - May 29, 2017

Integrative health is enormously important for policy on health.

A Comment on Needleman's American Soul

Note #49 - June 5, 2017

Dr. Needleman captures an essential aspect of Transpartisan politics and policy.

Transpartisan Europe: A Tale of Two Countries

Note #50 - June 12, 2017

This transpartisan moment calls for resistance and creation.

'Taco Trucks at Every Mosque'

Note #51 - June 19, 2017

Personal, local, subjective experience like this, occurring at these events lies at the heart of the transpartisan political impulse.

MATRIX: Broadening the Left/Right Spectrum

Note #52 - June 26, 2017

People feel an increasing desire for active citizenship that is found in all successful social models.

Trump As "Disrupter"

Note #53 - July 3, 2017

Voices are now starting to be heard that Trump's "abdication" may push Democrats and Republicans to work together.

Independents Day

Note #54 - July 10, 2017

Today we present The Centrist Project's announcement of its first Washington, DC press conference.

The Centrist Project Meets the Washington Press

Note #55 - July 17, 2017

The ultimate goal is to elect Centrist candidates to the U.S. Senate, where they can deny both parties an outright majority.

Possibilities for Transpartisan Governance

Note #56 - July 24, 2017

The aim is to get a 5 Independents into each state legislative house, and in the US House and Senate.

The Transpartisan Effect

Note #57 - July 31, 2017

The Transpartisan Review Issue #2 Available Today!

A Black Republican President? Part I

Note #58 - August 7, 2017

Could a black conservative soon become President of the United States?

A Black Republican President? Part II

Note #59 - August 14, 2017

Empowerment depends on treating people, including blacks, as individual subjects.

Bridge Alliance Members Denounce Nazis, White Supremacists, and the KKK — Call for All Leaders to do the Same

Note #60 - August 21, 2017

We are asking you to make your voices heard.

Partisans Transcend Differences on Eru Island

Note #61 - August 28, 2017

"Out here it doesn't matter if you're a Republican or a Democrat... you have to help each other..." - Jeff Flake

40+ House Dems & Reps Caucus To Solve Problems

Note #62 - September 4, 2017

Let's modernize the government money discussion.

Transpartisan Action: Five Presidents Address Storms' Impact

Note #63 - September 11, 2017

People united solve even the biggest problems.

Dick Gregory: Transpartisan Spirit

Note #64 - September 18, 2017

We find a transpartisan spirit in this expression of life by Dick Gregory.

Post Columnist Says 2016 Election Not A Fluke

Note #65 - September 25, 2017

Political realignment is underway, and those who cannot see it could end up powerless and irrelevant.

A text-based list of all Transpartisan Notes with links can be found online at www.transpartisanreview.org/notes-list.

Trump and the NFL: The Real Issue of Race

Note #66 - October 2, 2017

Transpartisan action begins with human engagement.

The Nuclear Threat Returns

Note #67 - October 9, 2017

Warning about the Nuclear Threat stirs powerful transpartisan interest.

When to Wage War Transcends Partisan Passion

Note #68 - October 16, 2017

Let your Congressional representative know how you think the nation should go to war. Peace depends on it.

Alternative Futures, Transpartisan Options

Note #69 - October 23, 2017

The Institute for Alternative Futures describes its mission as 'a leader in the creation of preferred futures'.

Transpartisan Voice Joins Maven Digital Publishing

Note #70 - October 30, 2017

Check out The Transpartisan Voice and join in the conversation.

Center-Right / Center-Left – Transpartisan Americans All

Note #71 - November 6, 2017

We are all left. We are all right. We are all Transpartisan.

Does Anyone Care About the Poor?

Note #72 - November 13, 2017

The subject here is the most difficult population: people at the economic bottom in a society that values monetary achievement —the demoralized poor, people without hope.

Peace Drums USA: Jewish and Arab Youth in Israel Make Music and Peace

Note #73 - November 20, 2017

Harvey Price has created a program that provides an excellent opportunity to show these kids a better path.

Race, Sex & Power: Transpartisan Canvas?

Note #74 - November 27, 2017

The complicated impact of race, sex & power offers opportunities for learning and understanding.

The Centrist Project's Report On The 2018 Election

Note #75 - December 4, 2017

The transpartisan voice for more effective politics grows.

Gerrymandering: Michigan Citizens Launch Grassroots Challenge

Note #76 - December 11, 2017

Count MI Vote exemplifies local actions across the country that bridge partisan divides and reshape future politics.

Personal Engagement: Reagan Then, Us Now

Note #77 - December 18, 2017

Reagan could never have accomplished these major tax reforms without active Democratic support.

The Transpartisan Matrix: Help Understanding Our Volatile Politics

Note #78 - December 25, 2017

The Four Quadrant Transpartisan Matrix will help us find opportunities and manage threats.

The Transpartisan Matrix: Help Understanding Our Volatile Politics II

Note #79 - January 1, 2018

Individuals participating in electoral efforts provide real opportunities for the big brand parties.

Resolving the #MeToo Controversy May Offer Transpartisan Opportunity

Note #80 - January 8, 2018

The real issue here is about engagement, just as many or most other political and social issues are about engagement.

What We Agree On – Transpartisan Agreement?

Note #81 - January 15, 2018

A recent Washington Post feature highlights seven recurring themes about what unites America.

The Parties' Losing Strategies Could Become Wins For Them and the Country

Note #82 - January 22, 2018

Part One: Republicans - Republicans could focus on that which is essential for both rich and poor, on promoting community.

The Parties' Losing Strategies Could Become Wins For Them and the Country II

Note #83 - January 29, 2018

Part Two: Democrats - As the parties rebrand themselves, their competition might shift to 21st century issues.

What Is Your American Dream? Check Out "The Chisel"

Note #84 - February 5, 2018

We are not alone. Americans together share important goals, values, and dreams.

Korea and the Olympics: Moral, Therapeutic & Transpartisan Values

Note #85 - February 12, 2018

In a carefully designed public relations maneuver, Kim Jong-un aimed at radically changing the world's perception of North Korea.

A text-based list of all Transpartisan Notes with links can be found online at www.transpartisanreview.org/notes-list.

Unrig The System: Watch The Summit, Be Energized

Note #86 - February 19, 2018

A sense of the significance, power and imagination animating transpartisan initiatives can be found in Unrig the System!

Blockchain & Hernando de Soto: A Transpartisan Path To Reducing Poverty

Note #87 - February 26, 2018

Using blockchains to protect the land ownership rights of the poor.

"Americans Agree," The Chisel Tells Washington Press

Note #88 - March 5, 2018

TheChisel.com provides a significant piece of what we call the 'Transpartisan Impulse'.

Pennsylvania Voters: What Did They Say?

Note #89 - March 12, 2018

Transpartisan non-voters offer an untapped or modestly tapped resource for every candidate seeking elective office.

Warriors For Peace

Note #90 - March 19, 2018

Stories like this present useful ways to build trust, the essential element in the transpartisan spirit.

Transpartisan Opportunity In Foreign Policy

Note #91 - March 26, 2018

We propose that a Working Group, made up of both government and civil society members, be assembled to examine "non-state" challenges.

Gorbachev & Reagan: International Transpartisans

Note #92 - April 2, 2018

A transpartisan awareness may help us see new alliances creating greater freedom within new forms of order.

David Brooks & The Matrix

Note #93 - April 9, 2018

Brooks argues that excessive individualism is undermining the institutions essential for society to exist.

How The Transpartisan Vision Gains Traction

Note #94 - April 16, 2018

Examining the history of the Transpartisan Notes and the partisan dichotomies that have informed the series.

The Royal Wedding: Transpartisan On Display

Note #95 - May 21, 2018

That Royal Wedding - A transpartisan kaleidoscope of integrating political and cultural memes.

The Korea Summit

Note #96 - June 11, 2018

Korea, Kim, and Trump exhibit one exasperating feature of today's political debate.

The Korea Summit II

Note #97 - June 18, 2018

The deep forces shaping contemporary society move all parties. For the moment only Trump seems able to exploit these forces.

Growing Out Of Identity Politics

Note #98 - July 9, 2018

We think Trump found and exploits a powerful contradiction in the current terms of American and even global political discourse.

Identity Politics: Transpartisan Story

Note #99 - July 16, 2018

This story of Yale grad Rob Henderson reveals the transpartisan nature of success in light of childhood adversity.

The Political Challenge of Reforming Government Schools

Note #100 - July 30, 2018

It is unnecessary to destroy old, failed schools to work toward the creation of new schools.

A Transpartisan Challenge for Leaders of an Independent Politics

Note #101 - August 20, 2018

Our impressions of the Unite America Summit and the transpartisan challenge the gathering revealed.

We All Love Our Country

Note #102 - August 27, 2018

With the benefit of the presumption that we all love our country, we will get through these challenging times.

Shared Rights In Public Space: A Transpartisan Key

Note #103 - September 3, 2018

People working together for the common good build strong democracies. Strong democracies build strong communities and strong countries.

Challenges of Gaining Transpartisan Traction

Note #104 - September 10, 2018

National politicians seem to be playing a game that minimizes or disregards the concerns and interest of their local communities.

Challenges of Gaining Transpartisan Traction II

Note #105 - September 17, 2018

Attempts to shoe horn contemporary politics into a left/right spectrum obscure the real nature of current politics.

Musing On Trump

Note #106 - October 29, 2018

Many people cannot get past President Trump's tone. Consider the impact of him celebrating positive initiatives run by those who hate him for it.

A text-based list of all Transpartisan Notes with links can be found online at www.transpartisanreview.org/notes-list.

Transpartisan Cheer: Criminal Justice Reform

Note #107 - December 24, 2018

Big stories often get lost in political chaos. The First Step Act's success offers an example of how transpartisan forces succeed.

New Year

Note #108 - December 31, 2018

As we begin 2019 well and serenely, we remind all that every year is the best year.

A Quilt of Compassion

Note #109 - January 21, 2018

Our Martin Luther King Day voyage across the web opened us to a new appreciation of the complex interweaving of sensations.

The Dealmaker is Stumbling

Note #110 - March 4, 2018

From the beginning Donald Trump marketed himself as "The Man Who Knows How to Get Things Done".

Transpartisan Take on the Mueller Report

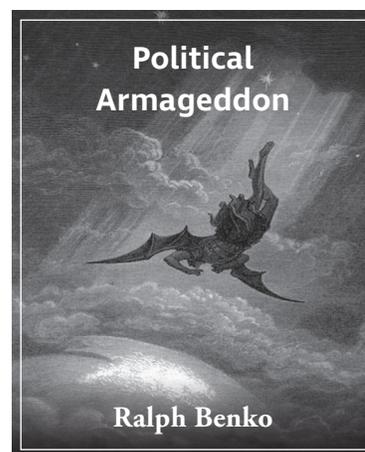
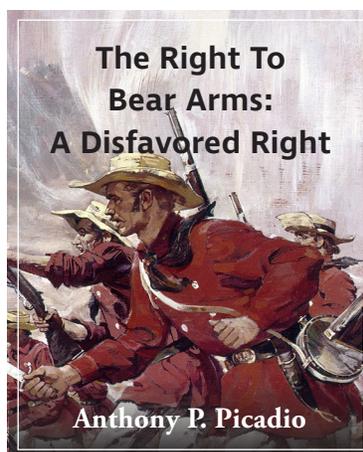
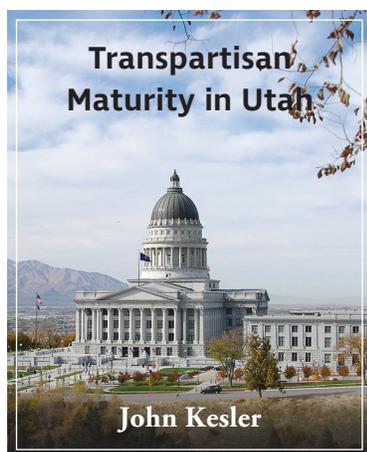
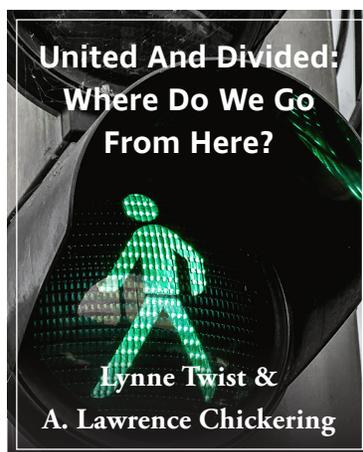
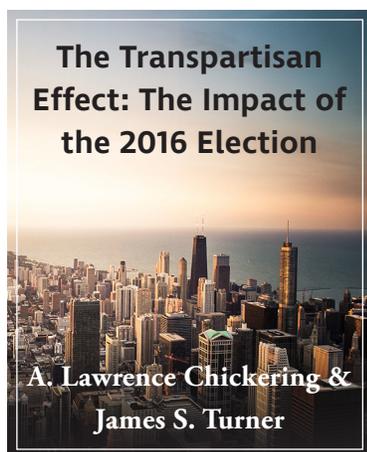
Note #111 - April 29, 2018

Mueller hits a single. Next up, Congress. On deck, the people. The Report is out.

A text-based list of all Transpartisan Notes with links can be found online at www.transpartisanreview.org/notes-list.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES ONLINE

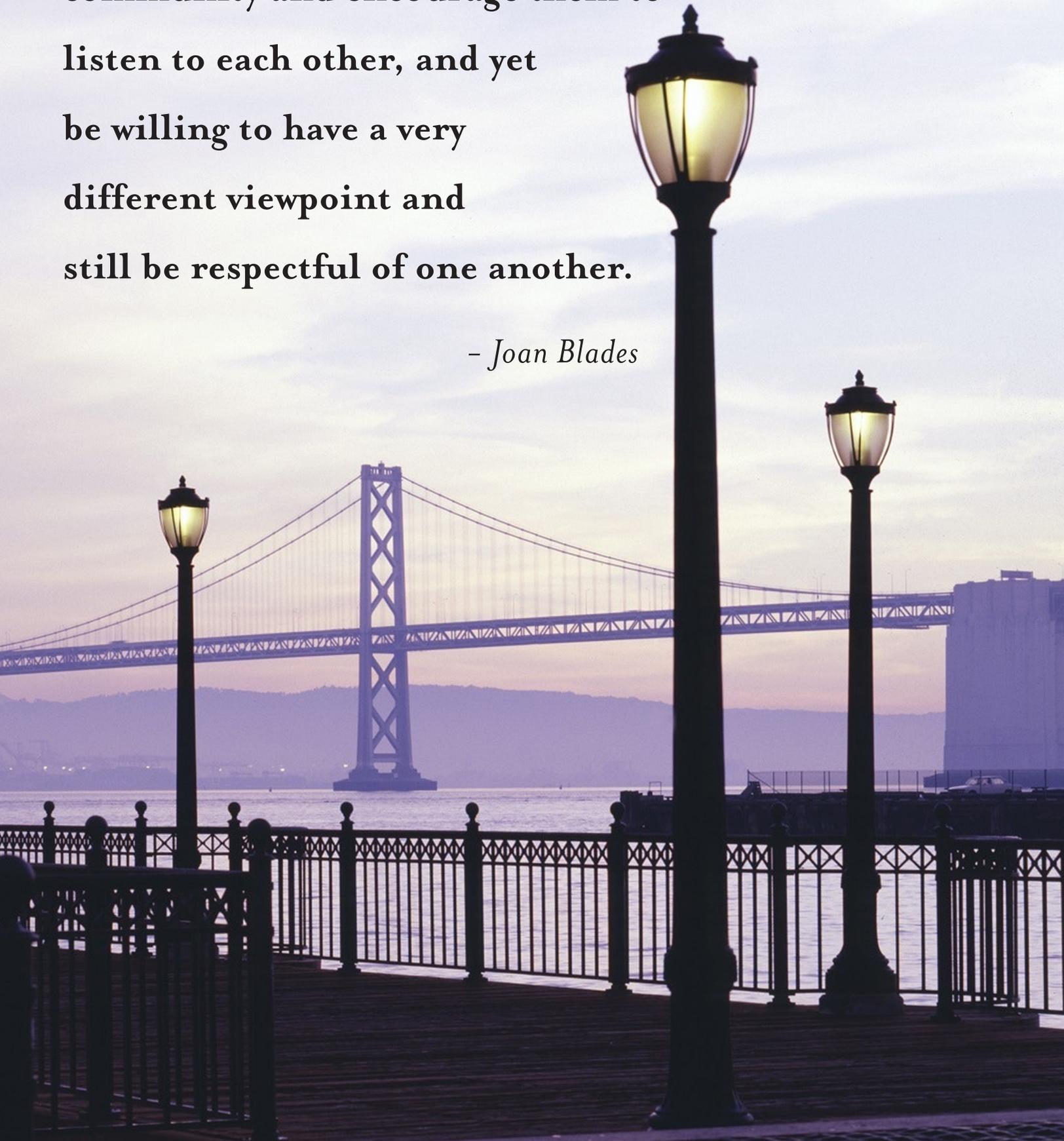
These and many other articles can be found on *The Transpartisan Review* website, www.transpartisanreview.com.



The above artwork links directly to the article in the digital edition of this issue.

Transpartisan is about getting everyone in a room to embrace their natural desire for healthy community and encourage them to listen to each other, and yet be willing to have a very different viewpoint and still be respectful of one another.

- Joan Blades





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