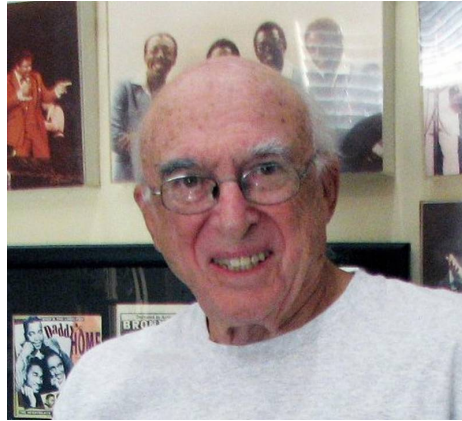


# DELRAY SUN

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## Make the pledge | Opinion

By Steve West  
Special to the Sun Sentinel  
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Steve West (File photo)

So much has happened in our country since George Floyd gasped out his now-iconic departing words. You and I were eyewitnesses to a brutal and senseless murder. Like a royal palm in a hurricane, our country has been shaken to its roots. Forgotten phantoms reappear — long tucked away beneath dusty cobwebs shrouding dark corners of our memory. Shadowy images of sturdy oaks hung heavy with the forbidden fruit of hatred dangling from their boughs.

We thought those days were past but a chill wind recently blew down from Minnesota to commingle with a scorchingly hot Mississippi breeze. These fusing currents generated a tornado of anguish, which has ripped the gossamer curtain off our old memories and shockingly revealed that lynching is not a relic of the past.

With the curtain torn asunder by the icily dispassionate murder spotlighted right before our eyes, many Americans of all persuasions are awakened to the fact that equal justice, while always promised, is not yet the way in our land.

“...all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Thomas Jefferson felt strongly enough to make these words the second paragraph of our Declaration of Independence. He wrote them and the other patriots all signed on. In 1892, the Pledge of Allegiance reaffirmed the original aspiration of the Founding Fathers and Mothers when Balch and Bellamy ended their pledge “.....with Liberty And Justice For All.”

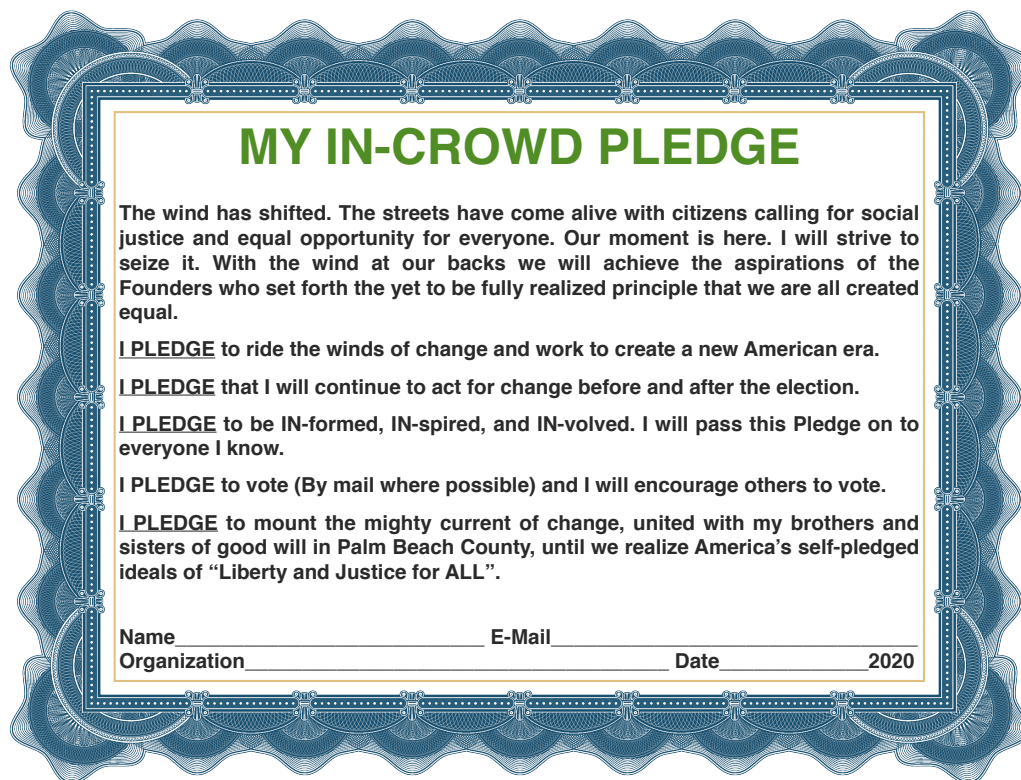
These words have been implanted deeply into our psyches — but words are not actions. We’ve trudged down the road to achieve this vaunted national ambition for almost two and half centuries and,

although we've made progress, we still have not neared that laudable destination. Today, even with the lethal brew of perverted politics and plague, we finally have the wind to our backs.

The Minnesota murder has been such an outrage to our souls that we are awakened to the appalling reality of the silent sin of bigotry that obscures our vision from simply seeing each other as the fellow human beings we are.

Masses of people are out on the street to express their discontent. Laws are being enacted, companies are withdrawing racially insulting products. Times are changing. Many of my friends are morally distressed. They know the problem and they discuss it but they are frustrated because they think that they are mere observers, powerless to do anything but watch.

Here's the good news: We can be proactive. Moreover, it's easy and we can make a measurable difference together. A new movement is afoot in Palm Beach County for all residents of goodwill to join hands and ride the winds of change into the America that we pledge when we stand with hands over hearts.



**MY IN-CROWD PLEDGE**

The wind has shifted. The streets have come alive with citizens calling for social justice and equal opportunity for everyone. Our moment is here. I will strive to seize it. With the wind at our backs we will achieve the aspirations of the Founders who set forth the yet to be fully realized principle that we are all created equal.

I PLEDGE to ride the winds of change and work to create a new American era.

I PLEDGE that I will continue to act for change before and after the election.

I PLEDGE to be IN-formed, IN-spired, and IN-volved. I will pass this Pledge on to everyone I know.

I PLEDGE to vote (By mail where possible) and I will encourage others to vote.

I PLEDGE to mount the mighty current of change, united with my brothers and sisters of good will in Palm Beach County, until we realize America's self-pledged ideals of "Liberty and Justice for ALL".

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2020

Visit [friendsofmama.org](http://friendsofmama.org) and make the IN-CROWD pledge. This pledge is one you make with yourself. You promise to stand up for the American dream of equal justice and opportunity. It invites us to join hands and take meaningful actions that will make Palm Beach County a bastion of equal opportunity and justice for all our residents.

This is the perfect time to get involved. Don't let this moment pass you by. Make the pledge now.

*Steve West is a social justice advocate and entrepreneur living in Delray Beach.*