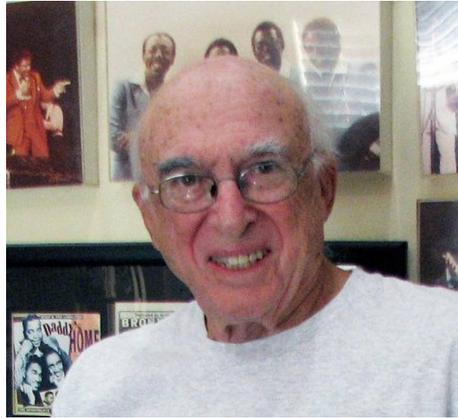


# DELRAY SUN

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## The storm is over | Opinion

By Steve West  
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Steve West (Mort Mazor / Courtesy / South Florida Sun Sentinel)

The hurricane has blown out to sea. We can move forward but with caution. Its destructive forces still sit right off the coast trying to regroup and return to us as a category 5.

Our eyes look upward with uneasy apprehension. Heavy gray clouds still hang menacingly above, but hope lives in the narrow yellow fingers of sunlight that have begun to lick the clouds away.

Before running its course, the storm's unrestrained winds animated the limitless flames that sucked the life from our parched Western timberlands. At that very moment, on our side of the continent the precipitation that was absent from the coast partnered with the wind to drown the earth. The plague-sourced stench of sickness and death still hovers over our land all the while.

Destruction surrounds us. We sob at our loss. The very foundations of our structures lay twisted and smoldering at our feet. The rubble greets our eyes from here to the horizon in every direction.

More than the physical loss, our beliefs have been shattered and our world turned on its head. Most tellingly, the murderous wind has blown us apart as a people leaving division and suspicion in its wake.

The damage is palpable but the spark ignites a candle in the dark. Our human nature cries out to pick ourselves up, clean up the wreckage and rebuild. Destruction of this magnitude affords us the opportunity to not only rebuild but to build back better.

We've never suffered such devastation. We struggle to know where to start to repair. We wonder how to go about the task. There will be lots of good ideas. There will be lots of investigations and commissions.

Here in Palm Beach County there is a plan, an existing infrastructure and an achievable goal. Here in Palm Beach County it will take a lot of hearts, minds, and hands to share the load. Together, we will build back better.

As the winds raged, they tore off the opaque curtain covering the injustice our Black and brown neighbors suffer. It is now clear that they are deprived of equal opportunity and equal justice simply by virtue of the color of their skin.

THE IN-CROWD Partnership is an alliance of like-minded people and organizations who act in unity to help Palm Beach County become a genuine exemplar of realizing the unrealized American promise of equality and justice for all our residents.

As we address the varied and challenging opportunities that lie ahead, we understand that the benefit of one is the benefit of all. Insuring that all segments of society are empowered to grow strong, especially those who may be marginalized or overlooked, makes Palm Beach County grow stronger.

Working to achieve community transformation begins with unity and a shared passion for achieving these common goals. All sincere partners of goodwill are welcome to take this journey together.

Good ideas are a dime-a-dozen. Bringing a good idea to fruition is priceless. If you are concerned and would love to do something, but you don't know exactly what to do, we'll give you a menu of many ways that you can take action. If you want to do something, contact me at [steve@therationalmajority.org](mailto:steve@therationalmajority.org).

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