

RESPONSE TO THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP Bob Klein 11-9-16

I've decided to delay my move to Canada, at least temporarily after hearing from my kids and listening to Tim Kaine and Hillary Rodham Clinton's concession speeches. Yes, I am deeply disappointed in the outcome of the election for so many reasons. I am very worried about my LGBTQ friends and family members. I am very concerned about the rampant Racism and Sexism that Trump's campaign has unleashed. I also have some concern that the Affordable Care Act looks to be one of the first targets of Trump and the Republican Congress, since that is how I get my barely affordable insurance costing almost a thousand dollars a month and going up. I am concerned about the racial, social and economic divisions which have been exacerbated by Trump's campaign which currently plague our nation. I am very concerned that the anger, hatred, and disillusionment of so many Americans was misdirected at one of the hardest working, most competent, and most effective civic leaders that this nation has ever seen by so many lies and empty promises from someone so ill fitted to be our next President.

There were tears in my eyes this morning as I listened to Tim Kaine and then Hillary Clinton speak. (Fortunately, I had spoken to my daughter a few minutes earlier—when did she become so wise and aware? I am so proud of all 3 of my children and their spouses and partners—they are amazing caring people!) Hillary spoke of the need to continue to work to make our nation what it could be, to continue the effort to bring justice and compassion, to continue the struggle until there is justice for all Americans, including immigrants and LGBT persons, and disabled persons. Hillary talked about the greatness of the United States and the strength afforded by our Constitution and the peaceful and smooth transition of power, and she talked about the work still to be done, calling all of her followers to continue the effort. I don't know if I am ready to move on quite yet, but neither am I willing to give up on the dream of what this nation can be.

Since my alarm dog wouldn't give me the four more years under the covers I asked her for this morning, I guess I will just have to keep at this. I certainly don't know where this American adventure is going next under Trump and a Republican Congress, but this is my country too, the land where I was born and have studied, preached and toiled throughout my life. It will be harder and sadder now to say farewell to President Barack Obama, a brilliant, honest and effective man who has accomplished so much with integrity and humility even in the face of constant racism and obstructionism. Even against great odds, we are called to work for Justice and Compassion. With the limited energy I have left, I will do all that I can to help to build a healthier more caring world, and I know that once the grief has passed we will all continue the work together. Cry if you must, curse if you will, then roll up your sleeves and get back to work, for there is much to do!