



used language that provided a nod of approval to his white male base for their racism and often violent rhetoric. The prominence of social media and the tendency of like-minded people to isolate themselves on sites that create their own versions of reality only added to this crisis of misinformation.

Finally, democracy itself took a verbal assault that not only fostered "the big lie," but set the



stage for the January 6th insurrection that aimed to reverse the results of the 2020 Presidential election. Although the coup failed, repetitive pronouncements by Trump about "a fraudulent, stolen election" have created a situation where a majority of registered Republicans in this country still believe this lie. Certainly advocate

of equity, justice and the democratic process have had their hands full during this period of rampant misinformation and lies.

As we begin a new year, what can be done to diminish and counter the language currently promoting injustice and inequity? Some pundits pronounce that the losses absorbed by right wing extremists in the Midterm elections show that things are getting better. However, recent hateful rants and violent acts against Jews and the Gay community reveal that major problems still exist.

One necessary response is supporting fact-based journalism. With daily newspapers on the decline, we need to champion as many forms of responsible journalism as possible in order to counter the flood of misinformation and lies available through social media sites. Furthermore, a growing number of publications like StreetVibes, that are fact-based but also advocate for addressing inequities, also deserve our backing.

A final note should be aired concerning language and equity and justice. In this period when right wing extremists loudly express their untrue and hate filled views, we need a new generation of Martin Luther Kings to inspire people with their powerful words. Concerned citizens often need that kind of soaring rhetoric to give them hope as they work to combat homelessness or achieve more affordable housing.