

Don't be shy about climate change discussions

David Ignatius wrote about Americans having trouble assessing if facts are reliable. This is critical to well-working democracy which needs an informed and empowered citizenry.

Ignatius mentioned climate change as one example of Americans not accepting facts. The Yale Climate Communication Center reported in October 2017: Although 54 percent of Americans (correctly) understand global warming is mostly human-caused, 33 percent (wrongly) say it's due mostly to natural changes.

Why so uncertain when more than 90 percent of climate scientists agree? When I began volunteering on climate change, I found on-line information was confusing. Two websites looked alike, talked alike, but reached opposite conclusions. Eventually I learned the Guardian.co.uk newspaper (free on-line), presents reliable climate articles, using language that non-scientists (like me) can understand.

Only 38 percent of Americans say they discuss global warming with family and friends "often" or "occasionally." Most "rarely" or "never" discuss it (62 percent).

How is good information transmitted if people who understand climate don't discuss it with family or friends? I used to avoid discussing climate because I didn't want conflict. Eventually, I found it easier to discuss climate with strangers: I would say one quick sentence at a display counter or checkout line. Store employees must be polite; talking to them was good practice and helped me feel comfortable sharing information.

Although 48 percent of Americans say humans could reduce global warming, they also say it's unclear whether we'll do what's necessary. And 25 percent say we won't reduce global warming because people are unwilling to change behaviors. Avoid being a downer. Read optimistic, trustworthy information about climate, and clean energy at Bloomberg.com.

Add to your optimism by volunteering. There are tons of different climate groups--Democratic, Republican, libertarian. Find one that helps you feel empowered. Tell everyone about the group.

Judy Weiss

Volunteer, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Brookline

The newspaper's website failed to link to their letters on Dec 3, 2017
a scan of the paper is below:

right by the Orpheum and pursue a restoration. ORPH, Inc shared with the owner all the pertinent information we have gathered that could be critical in bringing a restoration to reality: the application for recognition from the National Register of Historic Places (prepared by WHALE and contributed to and partially paid for by ORPH, Inc), the sources of funding such as the Mass. Cultural Council,

est in sharing art work with an Orpheum art gallery, the two level auditorium venue complimenting not competing with the Zeiterion Theater, the unequaled ball room that can be used for conferences, weddings (and yes, dancing!) other development ideas such as a housing component, a rooftop cafe/terrace with 360° views of the city, the harbor and beyond, as well as an outline of construction/

Orpheum Theater building and is eager to take the next step. The funds donated for this cause are in the bank and will be used for their intended purpose. We are extremely thankful for your donations, trust and continued support. Visit us at www.orphinc.org or call us at 508-996-3673.

Ricardo Romao - Santos, RA, is president of ORPH, Inc, New Bedford.

LETTER

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Judy Weiss, Volunteer Citizens Climate Lobby Brookline

LETTER

Trump retweets signal a new American low

President Trump's tripping down on his hatred of minorities marks the lowest point in the history of the American Presidency in modern times. His retweeting of three virulent anti-Muslim videos first posted on the internet by a British extremist is a hate crime, pure and simple. Monday it was Native Americans that he disparaged. Last week he hammered black American athletes for protesting police shootings of

black suspects. Now the Muslims.

His behavior struck one British Member of Parliament as so abhorrent that the country should immediately withdraw its invitation to Trump to visit his country. He told reporters that "The President of the United States is promoting a fascist, racist, extremist hate group whose leaders have been arrested and convicted. He is no ally or friend of ours."

Trump did find an ally in David Duke, the former Klu Klux Klan leader, whose reaction was "Thank God for President Trump. That's why we love him." To make matters worse, the GOP leadership in Congress has seen fit to ignore the president's hateful performance. The president has no shame. Neither do they.

David R. Anderson, Mattapoisett

below: