

February 2009

Dear Yoga Community:

We are living a moment of transformation and jubilation but we must be careful to manage our expectation and participate as a community to accomplish our future goals.

In 1787, our country was experiencing an economic crisis amid widespread questions about the nation's ability to defend itself. After much debate, a group of diverse individuals finalized the US Constitution.

A little over 200 years later, we face similar challenges and like then, we must establish a framework for realistic expectation of what we can and should demand of our government, our community, and ourselves. In Sanskrit, this work is know as tapas and clearly it is understood that we cannot sacrifice our tapas to one person.

Instead, our work comes primarily from participation in broad-based movements. So, if we want transformational change of our government, environment, and social system, we need to get out and participate. In John Adams's view, a "passion for the public good" was "superior to all private passions."

Accordingly, as February celebrates Black History, Presidents Day and Valentines Day, it seems appropriate for us to share the common task of leadership and a love for public good, for a sense of promise and potential is upon us.

Namaste,
Michael Ruccolo
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