

Tenor of Our Times

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Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Solomon Schechter, a 19th century Moldavian-American rabbi, once said, “Ages employed in making history have no time for studying it.” This year, however, we find ourselves faced with an historic crisis, with the coronavirus sweeping across the globe and shutting down our world not seen in a century. Our commerce is paralyzed, our social events cancelled, and daily workings of business and academics are relegated to computer screens in home offices.

While all this history is being made, the majority of us find ourselves with plenty of time. In fact, we seem to have nothing but time. With death tolls rising and public agitation steadily increasing, it is easy to spend that time caught up in the anxiety of today and the dread of tomorrow. But now, more than ever before, it is vital that we look back at the past to help us navigate the crisis of the present.

In compiling this year’s edition of *Tenor*, we have decided to focus on the theme of Community, Crisis and Identity. These three concepts are fitting for a time such as this. The connections of our community, already fractured by deep ideological and cultural divides, are being further strained by the social distancing orders of the corona era. More than ever, it seems, our country and our world is divided and pitted against itself.

In this issue, we offer a journey. We will pace the graveyards of Victorian England, scale the cliffs of ancient Nubia, and witness the birth of empires and the collapse of kingdoms. We’ll trudge across the great expanse of western America, lift the massacred off the bloodstained plains of the Dakotas, and sing spirituals in Georgia. After a myriad of other stops, we will end up back at a small-town Arkansas University whose doors are shut, whose students at home, and whose world stands paralyzed.

Our goal with this journey is perspective. Our aim is that through the stories of the past, the reader will realize and appreciate a bit more the character and resilience of humanity. Mankind has endured countless bleak situations. Time and time again, things have seemed dire, and

every time, without fail, we have always come back. And we will come back again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grady Moore' with a stylized 'ME' at the end.

Grady Moore, Managing Editor