As we finish this issue of Southern Jewish Life, Texas is in the early stages of what anyone who remembers the levee failure in 2005 or last year’s floods in Baton Rouge knows will be a long recovery process.

If there is any silver lining in the devastation that Harvey brought, it’s that it re-set — hopefully for more than a day or two — the narrative of who we are as a nation.

It has been a difficult month. As an alumnus of the University of Virginia, it was especially painful to see a group of white supremacists and neo-Nazis tromping through Mr. Jefferson’s hallowed Grounds, then rallying a couple of miles away in downtown Charlottesville the next day.

Ever since, the narrative has been how polarized our nation is over what is seen as widening racial fault lines.

But that is not where most people live. Most people live in the figurative Texas, if not the actual one. Most people live in a society where if there is a tragedy, a catastrophe, it doesn’t matter who you are or where you came from. Your neighbors are on the way to help. They’re not checking ethnicities, religious backgrounds, gender preference.

When the Cajun Navy reaches your street, does it matter if they voted for Clinton or Trump? Texas has reminded us that most people have learned lessons from the 1960s. While there is certainly a lot of work remaining, the idea that America is teeming with wide swaths of racists and anti-Semites simply does not resonate. When there are hate incidents, condemnation of the acts and demonstrations of solidarity are immediate and widespread.

As we enter this new year, let us ask ourselves why a few hundred cranks carrying tiki torches have been allowed to send our 300 million person nation into such a panic, and why we have allowed them to set the national dialogue.

We need to be celebrating the countless helpers who are rallying to the aid of fellow Americans, and starve the tiny band of haters from the publicity oxygen they crave.

We need the media to reflect a little perspective: What is happening in Texas is the real America, not the haters who invaded our Charlottesville.