

## **Letter from the Editor**

### *Encouraging Dialectic*

Dear Readers,

On behalf of our organization, I would like to thank everyone who has shown support for *American Dialectic*, including our contributors, respondents and readers. As we proceed with our unique publication format, I would like to share some developments we have made that we hope will make the journal a more active venue for discussion by bringing about an even greater exchange of ideas. For the time being, we are accepting responses to all the articles we have published and we will continue to do so as long as is practicable. As our back catalog grows, however, we will begin to close older issues in order to keep the number of discussions manageable as well as focused on the most recent articles. We are also putting a number of tools in place so that our readers can stay current with all new content added to the site. To this end, you can now subscribe to receive email notifications indicating when new articles and responses have been published, or you can simply follow us on Facebook or Twitter. By making it easier to stay abreast of all new updates, we hope to foster a sense of community amongst our readers and to stimulate broader engagement.

I would also like to say a word about the kind of responses and articles we are interested in publishing. While philosophy is an activity that requires great care and attention when done professionally, it is also one that can benefit from being open to less purely academic approaches. Here at *American Dialectic* we find great value in the Socratic approach to philosophy, and we believe anyone can make a valuable contribution to a discussion so long as it is done in a serious and thoughtful manner. Moreover, we believe that philosophy has something to contribute to the life of anyone who is willing to engage with it. It is one of our goals, then, to serve both the scholarly and pedagogic sides of philosophy by fostering discussions in which high-level and well-thought out philosophical positions are open to investigation and exploration by those still developing their philosophical point of view.

In an attempt to meet this goal, we will continue to publish excellent scholarly writing while also being open to insightful philosophical essays that are accessible to a wide-ranging audience. As for responses, we are certainly interested in high-level academic discussions, but we also welcome open-ended and even simple questions or comments aimed at pointing the conversation in new and interesting directions. With this in mind, we would like to encourage everyone to feel comfortable submitting a response. Our response-editing process is intended to give respondents any guidance they may need, while also ensuring that only those responses that make a genuine contribution to the discussion are given a place within it. In this way, we hope American Dialectic will bring a greater number of people into serious philosophical conversation with each other; for the shared exploration of an idea is one of the heights of a philosophical life.

Thank you for your continued interest in American Dialectic. We look forward to your contribution.

Sincerely,

Andrew Romiti, *Executive Editor*