

## DISCLAIMER

When I wrote this one-act play nine years ago, my intention was surely not to espouse prejudice, but to expose it. That mission has been pretty much rendered moot by the proud and unapologetic hatred that rings out in today's culture. My play reads now more like a time capsule, demonstrating both how far we've come, and, sadly, how far we've regressed. My deepest intuition is that the retrogressive element belongs to a minority, above all an aging one. In the case of one of the characters in the play, it's dementia that rears racism's ugly head, with its insidious effect of reducing the mind to a former, less evolved state, not to mention historical context. The subject of dementia is more relevant today than ever, considering the whole spirit of the age seems to be suffering from some form of it.

Nine years ago, when the play was showcased at the Darien Library, there was no need for a disclaimer. The actress who played the anti-Semitic Pamela Barry was Jewish, and totally 'got it.' Though, full disclosure, one of my friends, who also happens to be Jewish, got up and walked out on the performance. I still believe in the power of art to open eyes and change minds, and while every philosophical fiber in me is opposed to Cancel Culture, I do understand, and agree, that there is some need for it. I'm afraid 'All in the Family' would never fly today. Too many viewers would hold Archie Bunker up as a model of wisdom and fine ideals, and the rest would send him death threats.