



A CURRICULUM OF
HOPE FOR A
PEACEFUL WORLD

A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

VOLUME XLI
ISSUE 3
FALL 2025

Editor's Message

Dear Readers,

A post I recently saw on social media has stayed with me for a while now. It had to do with how in the world we will ever get our collective selves out of this mess that we are in. The gist was that we can make the desperately needed, critical change in our culture by bringing back kindness and civility, by making them the expected norm again. Making the world more kind starts with small, intentional actions that ripple outward. We begin with ourselves, and our own lives, and ideas and suggestions will be featured in this edition of our newsletter.

The year 2025 is an off election year. New Jersey and Virginia are holding gubernatorial races, and there are many mayoral elections that will be held in November. Six special elections were held or will be held in 2025 to fill vacancies for the 119th U.S. Congress. More than 70 state legislative elections are scheduled. Gubernatorial candidates for 2026 are beginning to put their toes in the water. It is a perfect time to let the candidates know that we are demanding a shift in what behavior and actions we expect from our leaders.

How do we get politicians to be more kind? Here is a bold move that each one of us can take. It starts with changing the culture of leadership and holding politicians accountable to higher standards. We need to make it known— we need to yell it from the rooftops— that we will only elect kind and ethical leaders, people whose policies, tone, values, and treatment of others demonstrate compassion, service and human dignity. We need to support candidates who show empathy – those who listen, unite, and don't bully or mock. We must demand civility in public discourse and we need to call out cruelty – insults, lies, or divisive language. We need to have public dialogue and use social media for accountability. We need to write or email officials respectfully when they behave unkindly or unfairly and praise kindness when we see it. Positive reinforcement works, even in politics. We must encourage debate over division – push for town halls, community forums, and bipartisan collaboration. We need to contribute to campaigns of kind leaders, whether financially or by volunteering our time.

Take this message and share it, whether with a neighbor over coffee, parents at the playground, your book club or another group you belong to. Find like-minded people and figure out what you can do to begin to build a new culture of kindness from the ground up. It may take a while, but it will be worth it.

—Janice McKusick
Editor

**“When more of us choose kindness,
systems, cultures, and even history can change”.**

—Author Unknown

