From the Prez

Be Brave!

Abraham Lincoln once said, “I don’t like that man. I must get to know him.” That little known statement embodies the spirit of Braver Angels, a nonprofit national organization with which some of you might be familiar. Good news! We have now started a Rhode Island Alliance, joining more than 100 registered state Braver Angels alliances across the country. I am thrilled to be involved with this.

If you’re like me, you’ve been hearing, reading, and experiencing the stark divisions and polarization we face in this country. And, hopefully, like me, you’re interested in doing what you can do to make our country less divided.

The situation in our country is dire. Americans on opposite sides of the political spectrum don’t only disagree on issues, they increasingly dislike one another. Many of us, (I include myself), can barely tolerate hearing about opinions that differ from our own – let alone talk with someone holding those opposing opinions. Polarization and the lack of ability to calmly discuss issues is alarming. This growing partisan animosity is, arguably, the crisis of our time and threatens our nation, our very democracy.

Braver Angels exists to address this challenge.

At Braver Angels, through workshops, moderated debates, and other programming, people across the political spectrum speak courageously and honestly, and leave with a greater understanding of their neighbors. We are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all along the political spectrum. And this is critical: our goal is **NOT** to try to change the other person’s mind; the goal is to **LISTEN** and understand each other. From this understanding comes more collaborative solutions. Research shows we have more in common than we think!

Imagine the impact we could have if everyone approached our country’s issues following the Braver Angels principles. We need to be brave and show the courage needed to address our country’s divide. I hope you will join me in Braver Angels of Rhode Island to help reduce polarization and strengthen our democracy.

In Peace,

Nancy

Check us out: Braver Angels RI Alliance