Conversations in a Civil Society: Agreeing to Disagree

"The right to criticize, the right to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest, the right of independent thought, all basic principles of Americanism."
- Margaret Chase Smith

Come join this discussion on how to navigate our differences: politics, religion, values, life style. How do we learn to have conversations around issues that sometimes divide us? How do we learn to listen better, discuss, and even bridge that divide?

Moderator: Ethan Hoblitzelle, Social Studies teacher, CCHS
Panelists:
Ona Ferguson from Consensus Building Institute
Robert Munro from Middlesex School
Rose Pavlov from Ivy Child

Tuesday, April 3rd, 7:00 pm at Concord-Carlisle High School

Tickets are $10 in advance; $15 at the door
Student tickets are $5

Visit www.concordcarlislepeace.org or call 978-318-1432
Moderator: Ethan Hoblitzelle Social Studies Teacher at CCHS

Ethan Hoblitzelle teaches courses in American Social History, Comparative Religion, and has taught a range of courses which generally combine history, arts, and literature. He began his career at Middlesex School working in the History Department, developed curriculum and taught at Boston University Academy and has been working with students at Concord Carlisle in a variety of capacities during the past twenty years. In addition to working with high school students, Ethan has taught at the Mercer County Correctional Facility and worked with Sarvodaya in Sri Lanka to create educational programming in impoverished rural areas. Ethan is also a contributing writer for America's Changing Neighborhoods: An Exploration of Diversity Through Places. He earned his B.A. from Princeton and an M.A. from Tufts in American History.

Panelists:

Ona Ferguson, Consensus Building Institute

Ona is a Senior Mediator at the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and lecturer at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. At CBI, Ona designs and facilitates meeting on a range of environmental and public policy issues, and on organizational and strategic planning. She specializes in helping groups work constructively together on natural resource and public policy issues. Ona co-leads CBI’s coastal and ocean practice. She has led collaborative dialogues and public processes on ocean planning, shoreline management, local land use disputes, and ecosystem restoration throughout the northeastern US. Her most recent work has focused on helping agencies in New York State jointly develop guidance for using natural shoreline features to reduce sea level rise risk to communities, on generating options for stakeholder engagement in Long Island Sound marine spatial planning, and on helping a partnership of the City of Cambridge, its institutions and businesses develop a strategic plan. Ona has conducted many assessments of complex situations and teaches negotiation, leadership and facilitation for graduate students, policymakers, non profit sector staff and volunteers. She is listed on the roster of conflict resolution professionals of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and the Massachusetts Office of Collaborative Practice. Ona is also the co-author of Land in Conflict: Managing and Resolving Land Use Disputes.

Robert Munroe, PhD, Middlesex School

After completing his PhD in 2012, Robert joined the Middlesex School History Department. Along with his role as Director of Global Studies, he teaches courses such as Ancient World History and West African History as well as upper level seminars in African Philosophy, The Harlem Renaissance, German Language and Culture, and Global Studies. As part of the Middlesex Global Studies Program, Robert developed and coordinates one of Middlesex’s signature courses: Dialogue Across Differences. This required, freshman course teaches students that positive learning and understanding come from having difficult conversations with people with whom and ideas with which one doesn’t identify. Using contemporary academic and popular writings, students are introduced to important current events from around the world and the skills necessary to think through and discuss them. Robert has published and given presentations on empathy and cross-cultural communication, as well as professional development workshops that guide educators on how to create safe spaces for difficult conversations.

Rose Pavlov PhD, Founder and CEO of Ivy Child

Rose Pavlov is the Founder & CEO of Ivy Child International, a non-profit that develops and facilitates mindfulness based health education programs for children and communities from across the globe. As a child specialist and educator, her research interests range from applied positive psychology and mindfulness based learning with children/youth to international issues such as overcoming devastation and trauma, as well as urban challenges. Her professional experiences have led her to partnerships with UNICEF and World Vision. The Worcester Business Journal honored Rose as one of the “40 Under 40 Rising Stars” in Central Massachusetts in 2010, 2011 "Young Leaders pioneering global social change," "Top 12 People Making a Difference in Central Massachusetts" in 2012 and named "Women Leading In Central Massachusetts" in 2013/2014 and a featured TEDx speaker on "Unlocking Children’s Potential Through Mindfulness" in 2014. Rose guides systems of education and care on developing mindfulness practices system wide in diverse organizations.

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