

Book Review - The Civility Mosaic

The spirit of America has often produced a book, a speech or a leader needed specifically for a challenging period of our history. In many of these instances, it has been a Mason who provided that leadership. Going from Paine's "Common Sense," which Worshipful George Washington read to his troops, to Brothers Will Rogers' humor and FDR's reassuring Fireside Chats during the Great Depression, we have, as a people, risen to address the problem of the times.

The book that Most Worshipful Charvonia and Brother Ashley have co-written fit into the category described above. Restoring civility is no longer an option. It is a matter of survival. Many have lamented the decline of civility and ethics in our society. This book provides a path to restore civility in our society. My initial thought about this book was that it would address the usual topics of incivility - cyberbullying and the current state of politics. But the book doesn't limit itself to these two topics. It boldly goes into every sphere of life - the workplace, houses of worship, family relations - parents, in-laws, and any area where incivility can erupt - and be extinguished.

Using Masonic history and teachings, academic research, the book discusses how society went wrong, and how we apply Masonic lessons and take the civility of the lodge into the world. This is a great book - based in Masonic principles, but not for Masons only. Any person can read this book and apply the teachings it espouses. Masonic Light can drive out the darkness that has engulfed our modern society and Masonic principles applied in all of the orbits of our lives can bring about a more civil society. While we might not be called upon in the way that Washington and FDR were, we can still make a big difference in restoring civility in our own communities.

MW Charvonia has led the crusade for civility since 2013, conceiving of the idea of using Masonic teachings to restore civility, beginning with a discussion with fellow Grand Master John Cooper. Together, they launched the Masonic Family Civility Project in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Brother Steven D. Klein, Guest Columnist/Reviewer

"The Civility Mosaic - How Anyone Can Use the Principles of Freemasonry to Repair the World" \$29.99

<https://www.maco.com/The-Civility-Mosaic>

