



The Magic of
Civility

Welcoming Home
Our Long-Lost Friend

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for Wise Democracy

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The Magic of Civility: **Welcoming Home Our Long-Lost Friend**

Dear Program Director,

As local libraries continue to serve as the vital civic heart of our communities, creating welcoming spaces for meaningful, multi-generational connection has never been more essential.

My name is Sanford Hinden, and I am the founder of Wisocracy, dedicated to human development and wise public dialogue. I am reaching out to offer a highly timely, non-partisan public program designed specifically for adults aged 30 to 95, titled **The Magic of Civility: Welcoming Home Our Long-Lost Friend**

Rather than presenting civility as a rigid set of rules, this program uses a warm, relatable metaphor to explore how we can invite mutual respect back into our deeply divided communities. The program is structured as an interactive 90-minute session:

- **30-Minute Presentation:** A gentle look at the systemic forces that ran Civility out of town —such as bureaucracy, social media algorithms, status hunger, and polarization. We will explore the deeply human cost of this absence — including how systemic loneliness and isolation drive people toward unhealthy habits and addictions — and offer practical attitude shifts and communication skills to rebuild healthy, creative communities.



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- **60-Minute Community Dialogue:** A structured, safe discussion framework where participants reflect on their personal experiences, bridge generational divides, and walk away with actionable tools to practice civility in daily life (at the post office, grocery store, or right here in the library).

This program aligns perfectly with the library's mission to foster social cohesion, lifelong learning, and civic health. I have enclosed a brief overview of the presentation for your review

Are you currently booking adult or civic engagement programming for the upcoming season?

I would love to schedule a brief call to see how we might bring this program to your patrons.

Thank you for your time and your continued dedication to our community.

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The Magic of Civility:

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Audience: Adults aged 30 to 95.

Format: 30-minute presentation followed by a 60-minute community dialogue.

1) Civility — Our Long-Lost Friend (5 minutes)

The Metaphor: Frame Civility not as a rigid rulebook, but as a warm, missed companion.

The Feeling: Remind the audience of a time when neighbors looked out for each other, despite their differences.

The Goal: Establish a safe, non-partisan space for the multigenerational audience.

2) Where Did Civility Go? (10 Mins)

Who and what ran Civility out of town?

- **Bureaucracy:** Institutional silos replaced personal relationships with rigid paperwork.
- **Consumerism:** Viewing life as transactions turned citizens into competitive customers.
- **Status Hunger:** The constant pressure to outperform others eroded baseline humility.
- **Social Media:** Algorithmic outrage machines monetized our anger and amplified extremes.
- **Polarization:** Binary "us versus them" thinking turned neighbors into enemies.

3. Calling Civility Back Home (15 Mins)

- **The Cost of Civility's Absence:** Isolation and systemic loneliness drive people toward addictions and destructive habits.
- **The Civility Solution:** Rebuilding healthy, creative communities acts as the ultimate antidote to these societal addictions.
- **The Attitude Shift:** Cultivating an internal posture of genuine curiosity and collective goodwill.
- **The Skills Toolkit:** Practicing intentional, slow listening and de-escalating tense moments with grace.



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Question & Discussion Framework (60 Minutes)

Segment A: Reflecting on the Loss (20 Mins)

- **Prompt 1:** "Looking back over the decades, when did you first notice our friend Civility starting to pack its bags?"
- **Prompt 2:** "Which of the forces — like bureaucracy, consumerism, status hunger, social media, or polarization — do you feel most impacts your daily life here?"

Segment B: Connecting Loneliness to Healing (20 Mins)

- **Prompt 3:** "How have you seen isolation or the loss of community spaces feed into unhealthy habits personally, in your family, or in the community?"
- **Prompt 4:** "What would a 'healthy, creative community' look like to you in practice?"

Segment C: The Commitment to Return (20 Mins)

- **Prompt 5:** "What is one small, practical skill you can use this week to invite Civility back into our community, in the school, the post office, grocery store, or library?"
- **Prompt 6:** "How can the older and younger generations in this room work together to keep Civility home for good?"



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