

BUILDING BRIDGES Group at The Pinehills

Bridging the partisan divide through deep cross-partisan exploration of today's serious threats to US Democracy.

- ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR COUNTRY?
- DO YOU LIKE TO DISCUSS AND MORE FULLY UNDERSTAND TODAY'S TOUGH ISSUES?
 - DO YOU BELIEVE WE CAN ALL DO BETTER?

Building Bridges is a productive way to discuss many of today's most divisive issues and to work toward being a positive and productive "influencer" by your uniting and depolarizing presence.

To make this experience valuable, the group has balance of perspectives with a similar number of dedicated participants from across the political spectrum – liberal, moderate, and conservative.

The Primary Goals of this Group include:

- *Enrich* both the depth and breadth of understanding of top divisive issues
- *Identify* and *build* common ground
- *Learn* ways to disagree without being disagreeable
- *Develop* skills to become a uniting and depolarizing presence in your daily life

Additional Details:

Major issues that threaten our democracy are going unresolved with ever-widening partisan division. This division is playing out badly among family, friends, neighbors, communities, organizations, cities, states, and the federal government. The purpose of the club is to enable participants to develop deeper full spectrum understanding of today's most divisive issues AND become better depolarizing influencers/uniters in their spheres of influence.

We encourage the participants to be serious, active, curious, listen well, open minded, available and have a sincere interest in a better community and country. We will meet in-person each month on the *first* and *third* Mondays 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in the **Stonebridge Recreation Room**. Zoom participation available, but not preferred. We plan to meet May through July - **5/16, 6/6, 6/20, 7/7 (Thursday), and 7/18.**

During the first May 16 session we:

- *provided* a short introduction and set expectations
- *explored* and *built* a deeper understanding of the causes and accelerators of the US "divide" problem
- *reviewed* and *agreed* on a methodology for conducting difficult conversations on issues
- *selected* a single tough and divisive "threat to US democracy" issue – **Income Inequality**

During next Monday's 6/6 session we will:

Share some additional suggestions on how to have impactful conversations

Personally *engage* in our Triads with a narrow focus on **Income Inequality**

Share **experiences** and influencers that shaped our **values**

Share our personal **vision** of the desired **outcomes**

Suggest possible alternative **paths** to get there

To prepare for the next session go to www.BuildingBridgesPH.com for readings and preparation requests.

If you have questions or comments contact either Arlene Samuel (630-577-7888, ahsamuel@comcast.net) or Rick Frazier (978-852-5402, rick.frazier@comcast.net).

Pure Disgust → Anger → Disagreement → Civil Dialogue