

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Andrea Bishop
Public Services Librarian
Bloomsburg Public Library
abishop@bloomsburgpl.org
570-784-0883

Bloomsburg Public Library will sponsor a Braver Angels Skills for Disagreeing Better Workshop on May 4, 2024

Bipartisan group to teach residents from local counties skills for having difficult political conversations.

BLOOMSBURG, PA—On May 4, 2024, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at Bloomsburg Public Library, 225 Market Street, Bloomsburg, Braver Angels will hold a workshop designed to teach skills for having political conversations across the divide.

In today's polarized environment, political conversations often turn angry and counterproductive. Braver Angels' skills help people listen and understand without arguing to build trust, clarify disagreements, and find common ground based on common values and humanity. Karen Cotter, a co-leader of Braver Angels and a member of the Bloomsburg Public Library social work team, will facilitate the workshop.

Interested members of the press should reach out to Andrea Bishop, Public Services Librarian, for details to observe the workshop.

Launched in 2016, Braver Angels is a non-profit bipartisan citizen's movement to unify America. By bringing Red and Blue Americans together into a working alliance, Braver Angels are building new ways to talk to one another, participate together in public life, and influence the direction of the nation.

The Braver Angels Bloomsburg Alliance organized three debates in Bloomsburg in 2022.

Recent polls show that a majority of Americans feel our country is more divided than ever, and increasingly view members of the opposite political party as not just wrong—but bad people. At the same time, Americans are increasingly divided into

bubbles and echo chambers with limited exposure to “the other side,” consuming news that confirms their opinions and stereotypes.

By creating opportunities for meaningful discussions, the Braver Angels work to dial down the heated rhetoric that gets in the way of real conversations and an accurate understanding of our differences. The objective is not to push an agenda or change participants' minds but rather to provide a safe place for deeper understanding.

The public is invited to take part in this free workshop by registering online at bloomsburgpl.org/event/skills-for-disagreeing-better.

The Bloomsburg Public Library was founded in 1889 and is proud to serve all of Columbia County with our partners the Columbia County Traveling Library and the Orangeville Public Library. It is the mission of the Bloomsburg Public Library to provide a welcoming, inclusive, and lively environment that inspires and enriches our community through access to materials, resources, innovative programs, and experiences that promote lifelong learning, literacy, and creativity. For more information about the Library, its services, programs, and events, visit the website at bloomsburgpl.org.