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Council of Churches
of
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January 19, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam:

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” is a laudable aspiration but one that is not always reflected in our social interactions today. We say we want to treat others the way we wish to be treated, but there are daily occurrences that should shock us: instances of bullying and violence that are too common in our lives, particularly among youth.

The pathway to civility starts with examples of civility from nearby and abroad. There are profound examples of courageous civility such as that of Malala Yousafzai, the brave girl from Pakistan who would turn the other cheek if confronted again by the Taliban, saying, “I’ll tell him how important education is, and that I even want education for your children as well.” There are many examples we can share of civility, both large and small, from near and far. That’s why it is time for civili-tea which will provide an opportunity to share those examples.

In June 2014 we want to give our youth the opportunity to share instances of civility in their lives and to express their concerns about the incivility they see and experience at the First Annual Civili-Tea Citywide Creative Expression Contest sponsored by the High Tea Society in collaboration with PEPCO, DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative and Washington DC Council of Churches.

The citywide Creative Expression competition will be open to Washington, DC, youth in 5th grade-10th grade. Each school can submit three entries that must be submitted by May 20, 2014. The judging will take place at the PEPCO Art Gallery and winners announced at a reception in June 5. Monetary prizes and certificates will be awarded. Our youth will lead the way to civility. Enough incivility, it is time for the 5th Annual Civili-Tea and the First annual Civili-Tea Artistic Expression Competition. For more information, please contact Judge Mary Terrell at marytea1997@yahoo.com. Applications will be available on the websites of PEPCO, DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative, Washington DC Council of Churches and the High Tea Society.

Sincerely,

Mary Terrell
Founder