

Inspiring Friendship Podcast and User's Guide
A Production of Tools for Change, Town of Rye, New York
June 2021

“With every true friendship, we build more firmly the foundations on which the peace of the world rests.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Tools for Change, Rye Town is an inter-district community-based program made up of students from Blind Brook, Rye Neck and Port Chester High schools and experienced adult research leads. For the past twelve years Tools for Change has been addressing community challenges that require new data and engaged thinking and doing in Westchester county. This year our team focused on strengthening the relationships within our communities and leveraging the talents, skills, and gifts of all our neighbors. The program has been supported by private donations as well as the League of Women Voters of Rye, Rye Brook and Port Chester, the Town of Rye and the Westchester County Youth Bureau.

This guide is intended to accompany the podcast that features two close friends, who are both longtime residents of Westchester County. In the podcast, the student interviewers ask the pair to talk about their friendship, their work in the community, and how they together modeled a form of bridge building that might inspire others. We want this podcast to be a resource that residents can draw on to connect and reconnect, to recognize the value of existing relationships, inspire new friendships, and to remind us all that together we have much to offer each other. We wanted the podcast to start some group conversations and spark connections. And we wanted to start these conversations in organizations like yours that have interest in strengthening our communities.

Here is a link to the podcast:

<https://soundcloud.com/toolsforchangeresearch/dave-thomas-and-joe-carvin-interview>

This guide is designed to function like a discussion guide for a book group. That is to say, it is meant to help groups of listeners get the most out of the podcast. There is no one *right* way to use this guide or to listen to the podcast. Some groups will listen to the 30-minute podcast together and then use—really, select from-- the prompts below to have a discussion. Other groups will have their members listen to the podcast on their own and then come together to discuss what they heard, selectively using the prompts below as a resource.

If questions or concerns arise or you just want to talk please contact us at toolsforchangeresearch@gmail.com or at 919-323-5916 (Bill Tobin, Director, Tools for Change)

I. Some Hints to Get the Most out of the Podcast:

1. Find a comfortable setting and set aside a least an hour for the conversation.
2. Appoint two facilitators to select questions and lead the discussion.
3. Try to come to this podcast with an open mind.

II. Possible Discussion Questions:

1. At the end of the podcast Dave invites Joe over to listen to some music together, if you had to guess, what kind of music will Dave share with Joe?
2. What did you like most about the conversation?
3. What aspect of the conversation did you find hardest to relate to?
4. Do you have a friend you respect enough to work through disagreements? If not, what would have to happen to allow you to develop that level of respect?
5. What role does family and community play in developing friendships? Are you motivated to introduce your family to new aspects of the community? Does this podcast inspire you to connect or reconnect with family?
6. After listening to this podcast are you motivated or inspired to step outside of your comfort zone to build a new relationship? Where are there opportunities for you to connect with people who have differing views?
7. What could *you* do to strengthen the connections among people both within your organization/unit and outside the organization?
8. Did the conversation leave you more or less hopeful about your fellow citizens and our community?
9. Do you know any friendship pairs we should be interviewing for our podcast? If so, let us know via the contacts above.

10. Your own questions??????