

Thom's Thoughts on Building an Inclusive Community:

I am especially passionate about inclusiveness. My siblings and I are founding members of the Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza (keeling-puri-peaceplaza.com) in our childhood hometown of Rockford, Illinois. Since 2002, each September we have hosted approximately 1000 elementary school students from local area schools for a celebration of the International Day of Peace which focuses on messages of mutual understanding, tolerance and respect. This year, because of the Covid pandemic, we have moved to a virtual program and now school districts from across the US (including Mendham Township) are participating in this wonderful and free program and its celebration of diversity and inclusiveness. In today's world, it is so critically important that we instill in our children a greater awareness and respect for all others. For more information, visit our website.