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JAN 31 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

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25 January 2017

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

Given the poisonous political atmosphere shrouding our country in vitriol, making effective governance all but impossible, we, as owners of Chapter One Book Store, decided to challenge not only our customers, but also government officials at all levels of government, to expand their frames of reference, providing them with the tools to engage both supporters and opponents in safe, respectful, and constructive ways. We created a twelve point challenge designed to promote tolerance and peaceful dialogue in an effort to reinvigorate political discourse in an atmosphere where those traits are vanishing. We first need to know how to talk with one another. Hence, we only choose one specific book to read: *Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall Rosenberg. Other than this one title, you are given a fair amount of latitude as to what you read within the constraints of the challenge.

We have enclosed our challenge and invite you to participate.

Best regards,

Mara Luther



Shawn Wathen



Owners, Chapter One Book Store

Sent to  
each BCC  
member

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JAN 2 1957

Walsh County Commissioners

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# Chapter One Reading Challenge 2017

## *To Promote Peace and Tolerance in our Community*

We challenge you *and ourselves* to broaden our understanding of the human condition, to help us grow into a community that can respectfully communicate our way through conflict towards intelligent and compassionate success.

### Reading List:

1. *Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall B. Rosenberg
2. Any title by Thich Nhat Hanh
3. Writings by a favorite activist (if you don't have a favorite activist...find one)
4. A book by someone of a different ethnicity than you
5. A book that makes you feel powerful
6. A book that makes you feel small
7. A book of history that isn't taught in school
8. A book written by someone over the age of 70
9. A book you think you'll disagree with
10. A book about a place in strife
11. A book of philosophy (Not Hegel)
12. A book about gender

**Are you brave enough to stretch your perceptions? Will YOU take the challenge?**