From the EDITOR

BE THE CHANGE

This issue has a lot to do with changes taking place in our communities and in the world. Traditionally, this time of year is one in which many people contemplate how they want to change themselves for the better; starting the coming year with a clean slate. This type of change begins in one’s head. Statisticians say that the resolutions people make for the new Year are usually personal, often pertaining to weight loss, working out, saving money, or quitting smoking. Sound familiar? May I suggest taking a few minutes to think about how you want your community, and your world to change—or not change—as well?

Visionary leader Mahatma Gandhi of India once said, “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” People can feel frustrated when their plans to change the world on a grandiose scale don’t work out. But as Gandhi suggested, you can lead by example.

People, businesses, and governments are taking positive actions to reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases, cut waste, promote green infrastructure, and conserve water and energy in our everyday activities. As this issue of Wrack Lines demonstrates, communities trying to adapt to a changing climate are working hard to become more resilient in the face of natural disasters.

Pop artist Andy Warhol said, “They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.” This holds true whether we are talking about erosion and coastal flooding, or anticipating a thriving clam and oyster industry for Long Island Sound, or losing those extra holiday pounds. Real change begins with individuals setting goals, taking steps, and engaging with others. Some ways that you can engage for change in the community include participating in local government, serving on planning commissions, and volunteering at churches, hospitals, libraries, nonprofit organizations, animal shelters, and more. If you have a strong opinion on an issue, let your voice be heard by speaking up at meetings, writing an op-ed or letter to the editor, or calling in to that radio talk show. Or simply let your everyday activities and attitude inspire others. It’s up to you.

Above all, best wishes for a happy and healthy new year that is full of new possibilities.

Peg Van Patten

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