

Hi, I'm Bob Weintraub, TMM P9. I first want to thank Paul Harris for his passion and commitment on this article. Here's a story:

"Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

"But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink, or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

"A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety, and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts," Mead said.

Warrant Article 34 brings this story to life, today, in Brookline. It is all about helping our neighbors through

their challenges, particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19. It is a moral statement about how we choose to live together.

Our nation, and our community, have dramatic and growing disparities between those with great wealth and those with little wealth. These disparities have been exacerbated during the pandemic. Warrant Article 34 asks that those with significant wealth consider contributing additional tax dollars so that families with little wealth can receive goods and services that they need to live more dignified and less stressful lives — like food, improved housing and Internet service, and social workers to help and support our most vulnerable children and families.

So many of our wealthiest neighbors are already incredibly philanthropic, contributing to causes that reflect their values. We are asking that one of their causes be the well-being of the community where they live.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. said, “Taxes are the price we pay for civilization.” Margaret Mead says civilization starts when we are helping our neighbors through difficulties. I say, please support Article 34 and give our most

fortunate neighbors an opportunity, every year, to engage in a local mitzvah! Thank you.