Unity: Strengthened through Diversity

by Eli Rogers

When I think of unity, I think of the heroes that helped free a continent from evil during WW2. These people had the courage to face something much bigger than themselves. A very famous quote from that time, spoken first by FDR in his inaugural speech in 1933 and later by Winston Churchill: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." I believe that this quote is still largely relevant to this day. Many people in this world are afraid of others simply because of the way they look. Sometimes when something isn't familiar to you, you're scared of it, but once you look deeper and actually get to know the people you're scared of, they're not scary after all. It's very important to meet others and to learn their culture so you can bring the community closer together by understanding each other instead of being scared. For example, one of my sister's friends, Mo, is Muslim. He prays and speaks Arabic with his mom and siblings. Some automatically place labels on him based on the way he looks and making generalizations about him. He has been called names without people taking the time to get to know him. When I met him, I learned that he is a very caring and funny person. He talks to his mother every day, despite her living across the world in Morocco. He came to America and is about to become a U.S. citizen; he's been to college, culinary school, and is considering going to law school. If you just looked at him, you wouldn't see that. Learning about others is very important in today's world, and if we all just got a minute to stop and talk, we'd all come together and be strengthened, through diversity.