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“Uplands Stones into Schools Community Read” Receives Grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council*

Co-sponsors: Dodgeville Public Library
Folklore Village, Dodgeville Kiwanis and
Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin

The “Uplands Stones into Schools Community Read” includes the purchase of multiple copies of three books by Greg Mortenson for the libraries in Dodgeville, Spring Green, Mineral Point, Barneveld, Hollandale, Cobb, and Blanchardville. The adult book, Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, will become the focus of a community read in libraries, book clubs, civic groups, and faith communities in Greater Iowa County. The middle/high school version of Three Cups of Tea and the kindergarten/elementary school picture book, Listen to the Wind, will be integrated into the youth programming within each of the participating libraries and made available to the local school districts. This unique intergenerational read of Greg Mortenson’s books will acquaint readers with the author’s personal story and his remarkable efforts to build over 130 schools in remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

We chose these books because Greg Mortenson’s partnership with tribal elders to build schools in rural, northern Afghanistan and Pakistan has caught the imagination of many Americans. His work is being seen as both a successful humanitarian project and a promising nonviolent alternative to the war. Greg Mortenson, and the U.S. military in Afghanistan, believes that the most effective way to establish lasting peace in the area is to educate the children - especially the girls. Education not only increases literacy, but also decreases infant and maternal mortality, develops job skills, and improves community life. Greg Mortenson’s first book, Three Cups of Tea, was a national best seller and is now required reading for military personnel deployed in Afghanistan. His second book, Stones into Schools, reiterates Mortenson’s personal story and describes the expansion of his school building projects into Afghanistan.

On Thursday, October 28, at the Dodgeville Public Library from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. there will be training for anyone interested in facilitating a book discussion. The “reads and conversations” will take place throughout Iowa County from November 2010 to March 2011. If you are interested in being a facilitator, please contact Vickie Stangel, Dodgeville Library Director – 608-935-3728 ext. 12 or vstangel@swls.org

A culminating, intergenerational, “Community Conversation and Cultural Celebration” will be held April 10th from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Folklore Village.

* The Wisconsin Humanities Council (<http://www.wisconsinhumanities.org/>) supports and creates programs that use history, culture, and discussion to strengthen community life for everyone in Wisconsin. This project is funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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