



The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin.

**FREE SHOWING OF
"AFGHAN STAR" - an Afghan TV takeoff on
American Idol
It's moving, funny and revolutionary!
Fri., Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Mineral Point Opera House**

Friday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. (Mineral Point) FREE SHOWING OF "AFGHAN STAR" Set in Kabul, this film is an award-winning documentary which tells the story of the wildly popular American Idol-style TV show "The Afghan Star." The movie follows four young finalists - two men and two women - who hazard everything to become the nation's favorite performers. What Americans consider frivolous entertainment is downright revolutionary - and more human - in this troubled part of the world. After 30 years of war and Taliban rule, "pop culture" is returning to Afghanistan but not without its price. Two thousand people auditioned for the show, including three extremely brave women. Americans and Afghans may seem to have little in common, but this movie proves otherwise - although many "Afghan Star" viewers voting on their cell phones for their favorite contestants are encountering a democratic process for the first time. This event is part of the Uplands All-Community "Stones into Schools" project. Moderating a discussion following the film will be Sanad Shah, a Pashto Language instructor at UW-Madison.

Sat., Feb. 19, 9:30 to 4 p.m. (Mazomanie) WISCONSIN GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL (Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.) Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (9:45 a.m.) is the headliner for this all-day festival and workshop which will be packed with speakers, breakout sessions, food and fun. The theme for the day is "Let's Move Forward." LOCATION: Wisconsin Heights High School, on Hwy. 14 between Black Earth and Mazomanie.

For the complete schedule of festival speakers and breakout sessions, go to http://www.grassrootswi.org/what_is_hot/

Sun., Feb. 27, 9 and 10:30 a.m. (Mineral Point and Dodgeville) A

DISCUSSION OF THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

Hidayeth Ansari of the Islamic Center of Madison and Rev. Todd Lippert will offer their perspectives on Christianity and Islam during the morning service at the Mineral Point Congregational UCC (9 a.m.), 300 Maiden St., and the Plymouth Congregational UCC (10:30 a.m.), corner of Main and Merrimac in Dodgeville. Everyone is welcome. An adult education discussion with Ansari and Lippert will follow from noon to 1 p.m. at Plymouth Congregational in Dodgeville.

ACTION



ALERTS WASHINGTON AIMS AT HUMANITIES

The U.S. House of Representatives debates this week a continuing resolution to reduce services and funds to humanities organizations, libraries, schools and other civic organizations. LET YOUR CONGRESS PEOPLE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT.

Federal funding for humanities is barely more per capita than the cost of a postage stamp - 1/21,000th of the federal budget. Yet the benefits to our society are enormous - educating citizens about our state and national history, preparing workers to compete in the global economy, encouraging informed, non-partisan public discussion of the challenges we face. THE HUMANITIES DID NOT CAUSE THE CURRENT FISCAL CRISIS - BUT THE PERSPECTIVE THEY OFFER WILL HELP US SOLVE IT.

CHECK OUT THE GRASSROOTS WEBSITE

For contact info on YOUR LEGISLATORS:

<http://www.grassrootswi.org/legislators/>

and for more about the Humanities Funding issue:

http://www.grassrootswi.org/what_is_hot/

THE GRASSROOTS GAZETTE IS THE VOICE OF THE GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, an energetic group of over 1000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Richland, Lafayette and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state and national issues. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Shirley Barnes, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI. 53533, 608-623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.

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