



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

GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL IS SAT., FEB. 19, IN MAZOMANIE

"Afghan Women: Facts and Myths" is Sun., Feb. 13

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. Grassroot's Leadership Council member John Simonson, UW-Platteville economics professor emeritus, will talk about "US Economic Policy - Down the Rabbit Hole" at an 11 a.m. breakout session. "Healthcare Reform or Repeal" with Robert Kraig will be discussed at another morning breakout session (11 a.m.). Simonson will lead a second discussion about "Volunteerism - Vital for Economic Progress" in an afternoon breakout session (1:30 p.m.)

For the complete schedule of festival speakers and breakout sessions, check out our Grassroots website at http://www.grassrootswi.org/what_is_hot/

Sun., Feb. 13, 2 p.m. (Dodgeville) AFGHAN WOMEN - Facts and Myths An engaging speaker, Dr. Aaliya Bibi will offer her unique perspective on the facts and myths about Afghan women. She is eager to build bridges of understanding between her culture and American women and men. LOCATION: Stonefield Apartments, 407 E. Madison in Dodgeville. A medical doctor, Dr. Bibi has worked with Afghani and Pakistani women along the border for over 10 years. She currently lives in Madison where her husband, Rehman Khan, is pursuing a PhD, but will return to her native land. Her son, Michael, is also visiting schools in the Greater Iowa County area to help build bridges of understanding with his fellow middle schoolers. This event is part of the all-Community Read project.

RESCHEDULED for Tues., Feb 8, 7 p.m. (Cobb) COBB LIBRARY

Stones into Schools book discussion will now be Feb. 8. Join us. Afghan artifacts and clothing to be shown.

Sat., Feb. 12, 10 a.m. (Mineral Point), Stones into Schools book discussion at Set in Stone Bookstore, corner of High and Commerce Streets. We'll be showing off Afghan artifacts and clothing.

For an up-to-date list of Stones into Schools events go to
http://www.grassrootswi.org/stones_to_schools/
or "friend" the Uplands Stones into School project
on FACEBOOK

Fri., Feb. 11, 4 to 5:30 p.m. (Dodgeville) PEACE AND JUSTICE GROUP MEETS

The group's work will continue on organizing the Stones into Schools all-Community Read project. Meeting will be held at Joan Mish's home, 301 Virginia Court in Dodgeville.

OTHER NEWS --

Thurs., Feb. 10, 5 to 7 p.m. (Ridgeway) THANK YOU CELEBRATION FOR REP.

STEVE HILGENBERG Join the celebration in Ridgeway. Let Steve know how much you appreciated his service to the 51st Assembly District. Free hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. RSVPs appreciated. Email svans@countyspeed.com or call 935-9392. LOCATION: High Point Steak House, 6900 Hwy HHH, Ridgeway,

HELP THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE OF SW WISCONSIN PROGRAM - in two important ways:

***Volunteers are needed now.

***Or vote (early and often) to support the program's bid for a \$10,000 Heartland Credit grant

As a follow up to the Grassroots Bullying and Teasing workshop, we are strongly supporting the work of the Restorative Justice of Southwest Wisconsin program (in both Iowa and Lafayette Counties.) This innovative program, headed by Susan Hepler, brings selected victims and perpetrators of certain crimes together in an attempt to build understanding of the damage the crime has done and to deter such crimes in the future. The program involves a well tested multi-step process. Experienced facilitators do the initial screening to make sure the process is appropriate in the particular situation. Volunteers are trained to mediate the follow-up victim-offender conferences in which the two parties are brought together face-to-face. The initial volunteer training is 2 to 3 hours, with various options for additional training as needed, such as shadowing another facilitator to see how it is done. This is important and satisfying work. If you are interested in learning more about the Volunteer Training, which will be held as early as March, contact Susan Hepler at 341-8600 or go to <http://www.southwestwirjp.org>.

Also Restorative Justice of SW Wisconsin is one of 12 finalists (including several in Dane County) in the exciting Heartland Credit Union competition for a \$10,000 donation. The winner is the finalist receiving the most on-line votes. So that's where you come in. Vote early - AND OFTEN. In fact, you can vote daily (from the same computer) through April 6 by clicking on the following link: <https://www.heartlandcu.org/Go-Local/Finalists/Restorative-Justice.aspx>

MARY LOUISE SYMON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are now available.

Applications are now available for the annual Grassroots-sponsored Mary Louise Symon award given to an outstanding graduating high school senior who exemplifies Mary Louise Symon's lifelong commitment to community service. A founding member of Grassroots, Mary Louise was the first woman chair of the Dane County Board among many other accomplishments. We invite you to encourage young people you know to apply for the scholarship. Applications for the 2011 award(s) are now available in high school counselors' offices in high schools in Dodgeville, River Valley, Mineral Point, Highland, Iowa-Grant, Barneveld and Pecatonica.

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.

To remove your name from our e-mail list, please click on "Reply" and write "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.