

PEOPLE

Madison Muslims spread meaning of Islam

Path of peace predates premise of terror



By Jennifer Fetterly

The Northside News

Members of the Madison Muslim Dawa Circle hope education and patience will be the tools used to create understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims.

"It's been a lot of patience," said Amir Saleh Erschen, director of the Madison Muslim Dawa Group, before a Wednesday night Ramadan prayer session at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. The group has been on a mission since 2003 to help people understand Islam and the Muslims who practice the religion. The group started with a handful of members and now boasts about 25-30 members, according to Erschen.

Erschen, who grew up Catholic in Wisconsin, said he converted to the Islam religion 11 years ago. He said it was an eye-opening experience.

"Before I came to Islam, I never heard about the Quran," Erschen said. Even today he is surprised by how little non-Muslims know about Islam. For two years Erschen along with others from the group have been talking to church, youth, community groups and anyone else who is open to learning. He said people who come with an open

mind benefit the most from the group's talks. "People generally leave finding out something they did not know about Islam," he said.

Through a Madison Muslim Anti-Terror Pact, the group, along with the Muslim Student Association, outlines its non-tolerance policy against terrorism. On the group's Web site, www.madison.com/communities/mmd c/ the issue of Sept. 11 and current events are addressed. Erschen said Muslims and non-Muslims alike have



been hurt by the misrepresentation of the religion.

"We therefore state that terrorism is forbidden in Islam," Erschen said on the group's Web site. "As Allah says in the Quran that 'If one person is killed unjustly then it is as if all humanity has been

killed,' (Meaning of Quran 5:32). The path of Islam naturally rejects the premise of terrorism by enjoining just behavior and forbidding injustice. Thusly; all acts of terror whether suicide bombing of terror is outside the limits of Islam."

Another tool the group uses to spread understanding and education is television. Group members participate in the WYOU-4 cable show Garden of Truth. The show features guests who talk about current events, Islam and the Muslim population. Erschen said the show invites questions and feedback from audience members during live call-in sessions.

Every Friday the group invites people to participate in a community prayer (Al-Jumah) held at 12:30 p.m. in the Warner Park Community Center. Erschen said the prayer sessions help create community for area Muslims. Erschen said the public is welcomed to attend.

"We want to share Islam with people who are interested in learning about the religion," he said.



Book Review by Marlene Hardick

The Northside News

Mai Ya Xiong graduated from East High School, went to college, and is now a young professional woman who works as a buyer for Kohl's Department Stores. Her life story is presented in a recently released book, *Mai Ya's Long Journey*, by Sheila Cohen.

Mai Ya was born in a Hmong village in Laos during the Vietnam war. With her family, she escaped to Thailand at a very young age. For several years she lived at Ban Vinai refugee camp.

Mai Ya's Long Journey

She started school at the refugee camp, where she was taught the Thai language and other subjects under harsh discipline.

When her family was allowed to enter the United States, they spoke no English. They arrived in Wisconsin and lived on Madison's West side and South side. Mai Ya says, "I attended Toki and Randall Elementary. I am not sure why I ended up attending East High School and graduating from there." Her former classmates will enjoy reading "the rest of the story," a story that is very familiar to many Hmong families and a story that is important for all of us to understand.

The book is written for young people, but presents a true story that readers of all ages will enjoy. It highlights the challenges that all Hmong children face as they try to balance the Hmong traditions of their families and the very different traditions of Wisconsin and America.

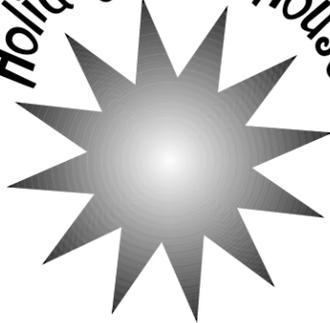
The author was an English-as-Second Language (ESL) teacher at Randall Elementary School when Mai Ya became her student. "We knew

nothing about the Hmong culture or language when these students first came to us," she says. "I felt that this book needed to be written. I wish it had been available to us when these students first arrived. It is my hope that this story will enlighten Hmong children and instill a sense of pride in who they are while enabling all young readers to develop a better understanding of their Hmong classmates and neighbors."

Ms. Cohen has spent more than 20 years working with Hmong refugees and now serves on the Board of Directors of United Refugee Services of Wisconsin.

Mai Ya's Long Journey is the first book in a series called Badger Biographies, published by the Wisconsin Historical Society. These books are written to help young readers explore the stories of real Wisconsin people. It can be purchased at the Historical Museum on the Square, by calling 888-999-1669 or at www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress.

Holiday Open House



Sally K's

Saturday December 10

11am to 5pm

Handmade Crystal and Glass

Jewelry & Gifts by
Pink House Designs!



Sterling & Semi-Precious Stone

Jewelry by
Debbie Garten!

Aveda™

Holiday Gift Packages
Free gift wrapping!
Refreshments!

Sally K's Salon

521 North Sherman Ave.

Madison, WI

608-249-5293

www.sallyks.com



1008 Fish Hatchery Road
Suite #8
Madison, WI 53715-1906

residential
alaloans.com@tds.net
commercial
alabizloans.com@tds.net

residential
<http://alaloans.com> 608.441.8820
commercial
<http://alabizloans.com> 800.518.0843 toll-free
608.441.8823 fax

America's Lending Authority.com LLC

Call **John Walrath**, president of America's Lending Authority.com (ALA) for comprehensive, objective, personalized mortgage advice and guidance.

We have the wholesale rates and programs of many major lenders and offer great rates and terms to meet your mortgage lending needs. Please feel free to call and discuss any neighborhood issues that you may have. "It is our neighborhood and collectively we can make it a great place to live and raise our children."

"The finest compliment I could ever receive is a referral from my neighbors, friends and clients."

— John Walrath

America's Lending Authority.com LLC

Free Home Loan
Appraisal

— \$250 Value —

1008 Fish Hatchery Rd, Suite 8, Madison 608.441.8820

Please present coupon when applying. Not valid with other offers. Expires 12/31/2006



- ★ North Mendota Neighborhood Association Vice-President
- ★ John resides at 2 Crownhill Circle with his wife, Maureen, and their children, Nicole, Shane and Ian.
- ★ Northside Planning Council member
- ★ Member of the Mendota Elementary School Steering Committee and Endowment Fund Workgroup
- ★ **Integrity and Trust**—John served as a Regulator and Bureau Director for the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institution's Mortgage Banking Section for over eleven years.
- ★ **Industry Dedication**—John is an active member of the Madison Area Builders Association and serves on the Association's Government Affairs Committee.

Local artists wanted to show their artwork in May exhibit

New submissions sought for second annual community art exhibit

By Dana Slowiak

The Northside News

The Northside Artists Group (NSAG) will hold its second annual community-wide art exhibit in May 2006. This year's show shares gallery space between the Coffee Gallerie and Lakeview Public Library. The opening reception is slated for Saturday, May 6, 2006 at the Coffee Gallerie.

NSAG was developed to reveal the many artistic talents from local residents. The Northside is home to many creative artists working in many different mediums and backgrounds. Last year's show brought together wood chip carvers, photographers, painters, and drawers. Each of the 13 artists brought unique and valuable perspectives to the show.

Local artists are invited and encouraged to take part in this exhibit. The show welcomes artists of all ages and backgrounds to share their talents. Show requirements are simple; artists must live or work on the Northside.

This year's show also welcomes artwork from local youth. If you know of a student with talent, please encourage him or her to submit work to the show. If you are a youth group leader or teacher, please contact the NSAG coordinators for more information about coordinating youth artwork.

Artwork must be able to hang on a gallery wall. Two-dimensional artwork is most common, but if you have a piece that is not two-dimensional but you can find a way to hang it, feel free to submit that work. Each artist decides whether or not to sell his or her work. Artists may exhibit work that is not for sale. Artists may choose which venue, either Lakeview Library or Coffee Gallerie, to show their work. Artists may show both pieces on one



venue or choose to show one piece in each venue. If too many artists choose one venue, NSAG coordinators will draw names out of a hat to distribute artwork evenly between the two venues.

There is no registration fee for the show. However, donations are welcome to help cover costs.

The show is juried by NSAG coordinators. Subject matter is open, but please remember the Coffee Gallerie and Lakeview Library are public spaces where people of all ages can view the artwork.

The deadline for new artist submissions is January 20, 2006.

Artists who participated in last year's exhibit should receive letters, welcoming them back to the show, that provide further details for this exhibit. If you are a returning artist who did not receive your letter, please contact one of the NSAG coordinators.

If you have any questions, please contact coordinators Steve Roffler (241-7039 or skr1@charter.net) or Dana Slowiak (241-3669 or danaslowiak@hotmail.com).

To apply, please assemble:

- ❖ Photographs of the works you intend to exhibit (maximum of two pieces)
- ❖ Titles & medium of the works
- ❖ Artist statement for the works
- ❖ Preferred venue (Lakeview Library or Coffee Gallerie)
- ❖ Contact information

Mail to: NSAG, c/o Dana Slowiak, 414 N 7th St, Madison, WI, 53704.

Nature and life slide into focus

Photographer's trained eyes delve into nature's details

By Dana Slowiak

The Northside News

Photographer Steve Roffler learned early in life to look at nature and to see through it. Two childhood memories lured him to his art. He remembers an uncle photographing his local city clock, moving back one step for each exposure. When his uncle could no longer read the numbers on the clock, he started over, mastering how resolution figures into photographs. To this day, resolution and how it captures images intrigues Roffler.

"I was fascinated with his basement," Roffler recalls. Photo chemical smells and developed film strips dangling from rafters were an aspiring photographer's dream.

The second memory was a way of life for Roffler. He grew up on a small farm in Idaho, complete with chores, chickens and acres of gardens.

"I remembered we were buried in vegetation," Roffler says. "I had days to myself, and I was never bored." He spent days studying leaves and insects flourishing around his home.

"I learned to control my focus," he says. While on his belly, in the prairie grasses, he trained his eyes to look past the first objects he saw. He peered past grasses, noticing spider webs weave intricate designs. Beyond the webs, he saw small bugs skitter and scatter. He focused on each level of nature, looking deeper and deeper, learning to see small slices of life hidden from the average observer.

Roffler received his first camera in high school. To this day, his first roll of film remains undeveloped. The images captured long ago remain a mystery. After he graduated from college, he and his first 35-millimeter camera traveled to Chili with the Peace Corps. There he captured life images, not typical tourist images, of local people and places. Shapes, people and buildings drew him into a small darkroom owned by a Chilean local.

When Roffler photographs, the first images he captures are his favorite. The first few seconds are the most powerful.

"I wonder what catches my eye," he says. "What happens in the brain? What synapses fire?" If he fusses with an image, the initial attraction blurs



Photo by Steve Roffler

Artist Steve Roffler captures an everyday object, such as this children's slide, with the eyes of an artist accustomed to looking deeper into his surroundings.

and becomes laden with premeditation. He still sees himself as the kid crawling around in the grass, fascinated by split-second images.

Roffler's challenge is figuring out his photography plays a role in the grand scheme of his life.

"There are more photos than molecules in the universe. What am I doing this for?" he questions. His best answer is that he captures images and shares them with people. He often gives photographs away to people intrigued by his images. He once gave a woman a photograph of his dog. She helped Roffler in a pinch, and she fell in love with his furry friend. He gave her the photo to say thanks.

He also worked with children from Packer Community Townhouses over the summer. The children captured images of their surroundings as insiders to their lives, and Roffler captured images as an outsider. The two perspectives hang in the Packers Community Learning Center, and at the project's end, Roffler presented his viewpoints, as photographs, to the children.

"Some of the kids really looked at the photos. Some came up to me and really talked about them. Maybe they are the kids in grass," he says.

Madison Chiropractic
Quality Care Close to Home LLC.

244-0044

Brent R. McNabb, D.C. & Ross S. Royster, D.C.
NORTH 2205 North Sherman Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

Are you a first-time homebuyer?
Are you interested in sustainability?

Then you may be interested in a home at Camino del Sol

- Energy Star and Greenbuilt certified new construction
- 1,536 Square feet of living space
- 3 bedrooms, 1 and 1/2 baths
- **Only \$140,000**

www.affordablehome.org

(608) 280-0131



Madison Area Community Land Trust
creating affordable and sustainable housing in Madison

North/Eastside
SENIOR
Coalition

Your information source for services to senior adults (age 55 and older).

Services Include:
Case Management
Support Groups
Lunch (served weekdays)
Social/Educational Programs

www.nescoinc.org
info@nescoinc.org

30 years
Enhancing
the lives of Seniors

Become a 2006
Member Today

In addition to receiving a free subscription and home delivery of our monthly *Golden Times* newsletter, members will receive discounts at the following businesses: *Coffee Gallerie, Culver's of Northport, Esquire Club, and Runway Pub & Grill*

The North/Eastside Senior Coalition is celebrating 30 years of service while earning the reputation as one of Dane County's premier senior centers. We work hard to maintain state accreditation by the Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers and received the prestigious North Star Community

BUSINESS NEWS

Southern cuisine migrates North

Gaston's bring southern-influenced eats and hospitality to the Northside



Photo by Dana Slowiak

Chef and owner Tom Cooler creates a flambe at Gaston's.

By Dana Slowiak
The Northside News

"Laissez le Bon Temp Rouler!" greets customers at Gaston's, which features Chef Tom Cooler's family Southern recipes and hospitality. Shrimp Creole and blackened catfish top the menu, along with Po' Boy sandwiches, roasted chicken and other authentic Southern cuisine.

Cooler believes high quality food and personal relationships lure customers back.

"People want something outside the mainstream," he says, referring to his menu. "You should feel like part of the family and have a relationship with the person who makes your food. You

should always be able to ask the chef for something. They can ask, 'Tom, I have friends coming. One's a vegetarian and one needs no salt. What can you do?' And I will have something for them."

Hurricane Katrina spread its wrath to Gaston's. Cooler orders many "real deal" items from the Gulf Coast. Crawfish and catfish farms flooded out of commission for awhile, and Crescent City Meats in Louisiana only recently began shipping Andouli sausage again. Oysters won't return to the menu for a year, Cooler predicts, since oyster beds must regenerate enough for harvesting. He won't order oysters from elsewhere; they don't live up to his standards.

Cooler's generosity extends beyond his menu. He relishes opportunities to chat with customers. Knowing people and their lives intrigues him, and he welcomes anyone who comes through his doors.

"Maybe that's why I like the restaurant business so much," he says. "People can be beat. Who knows what calamity just happened to them? Give them a cup of coffee and a biscuit and chat. Everyone appreciates being listened to. I can do something right here, right now for someone."

Knowing a bit about Cooler's life path explains his food philosophy and approach to life. Cooler, a Savannah, Georgia native, stepped into the restaurant business 27 years ago as a table waiter in a Masonic temple. He fol-

lowed the college road in marketing, but he switched gears and headed to Florida when he realized marketing wasn't for him. He entered a management training program at Boca Raton Resort and Club, an upscale 356-acre resort in south Palm Beach County, the heart of Florida's Gold Coast.

"For the first week, I polished silverware," Cooler says. "Discipline. I learned it." The captain of the dining room was a hefty, hard-core German man who demanded perfection in food quality, service and presentation from his future protégés.

"Everything had to be picture-perfect," Cooler recalls. All salt and pepper shakers on the tables had to line up perfectly along the diagonal from corner to corner. A misaligned shaker earned a fierce talking-to. Cooler loved learning from the man and carried his knowledge forward.

Life brought Cooler to Madison ten years ago. While discovering black ice and snowplows, he worked in a Tex-Mex restaurant then moved to a sister restaurant in Illinois. When his now 6-year-old daughter started school a year ago, she informed Cooler that 'Daddy has to come home.' Cooler obliged and decided to begin his own Tex-Mex restaurant. He learned that Las Palmas resided in the space before him and panicked.

"What is a middle-aged white guy going to do with tacos?" he asks. He went back to his roots and pulled family recipes from his mother and grandfather. He combined family recipes,

Ultimate Indulgence brings comfort home

Ultimate Indulgence weaves dinner by a private chef and massages by a certified massage therapist into a relaxing evening in your home. Renee Kolz, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, and Jan Thompson, of Jan's Professional Massage Therapy, handle everything from set up to clean up, whether it be a girls' night "out" baby shower, romantic evening or dinner party.

Choose from a customized menu selection, including buffet-style or sit-down dinner options. Kolz buys the groceries, prepares the meal, and cleans the dishes. Choose your massage style and length. Thompson sets up your massage area, complete with massage table, sheets, scented oils and music.

Dinner costs are determined by the number of people and menu option. Massage rates are based on Thompson's normal rates. Call 441-9770 or 358-2799 to set your special night!

childhood memories of old-time Southern restaurants and ingrained Southern hospitality and launched Gaston's. This happenstance combination was just the ticket for his success. Nearly a year later, Cooler sees many return customers and likes that Gaston's claimed the role of the neighborhood place to get dinner or have a drink.

Gaston's is located at 2105 Sherman Avenue, and hours are Sunday and Monday, 4 to 11pm and Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 11pm, but closing hours are flexible if your hunger strikes at 11:02 pm. Reach Gaston's at 301-0532, and ask Cooler about the legend of Gaston Broussard and daily specials.

Two great stores in one location - Lakewood Commons located at 301 North Sherman Avenue in Madison



We specialize in putting memories where you can see them.



Place an order for custom-framing before December 9, and we'll treat you to a 15% DISCOUNT and a box of holiday sweets from James J. Chocolate Shop!

242-0707

www.silverleafdesigngallery.com

It doesn't matter if it's tailor-made or all ready made.

It's always custom.



301 N. Sherman Ave • Madison (608) 251-7705
729 N. High Point Rd • Madison (608) 824-0858

Stop in for special savings during December for our month-long ANNUAL CHAIN SALE!

Monday 10-5 • Tuesday thru Friday 10-7 • Saturday 10-5 • Sunday Closed



Jan has been certified and state registered since 1997.

The Power of Healing Touch

Jan's Professional Massage Therapy

621 North Sherman Avenue, Suite B3
441-9770 or 358-2799 (cell)
Flexible hours by appointment, 7 days a week.
Email or card gift certificates available.

Services Include:

- Professional Sunless Airbrush Tanning (Jan is a Certified Body Bronzer.)
- La Stone Certified Therapist, Deep Tissue
- Expert in "Ear Candling" for Sinus/Ear Problems
- Corporate Massage and Massage Parties by Jan

Ask about **Ultimate Indulgence**, a dinner and massage party for a few, or just 2! Ultimate Indulgence includes a professional culinary dinner prepared by a chef and a professional massage by Jan's Massage in your home.



Spirits Liquors

Northside TownCenter (formerly Sherman Plaza)
204-3804

Your holiday wine headquarters. Largest selection on the Northside

15% off

Any case of mix/match wine expires 1-15-2006
Good only at Spirits Liquors

15% off

Any case of mix/match wine expires 1-15-2006
Good only at Spirits Liquors

FOCUS ON FOOD

Pierce's
cont. from page 1

ly about. Kay said "Kohl's has been closed way too long (since April 2003), and we need more businesses on the Northside for all the residents that do not have cars." Geannine Shoemaker exclaimed, "The people over here have been forgotten."

There was a sense of urgency for some Northsiders to Pierce's approaching grand opening, "I take the bus to Copps to get groceries." said John Daugtry, "Getting on the bus with groceries and two kids is hard and hectic. I can't wait for Pierce's to open."

In addition to improving the quality of life by bringing into walking distance a grocery, new employment was on the minds of people; even Mr. Daugtry claimed, "I'm definitely going to apply."

Grocery and similar businesses do not foretell negative consequences arising from possible competition with the new grocery store.

Aaron Redfern, who works for his brother at Spirits Unlimited, talked about how the Northside needs a grocery. "We have a give and take relationship with neighboring businesses. We are pumped up and know Pierce's will bring in traffic and more business." He added that "the Northside needs a grocery," and he and his broth-



er are happy that the residents will have more choices.

Barbra Stenhagen, a Brennan's Country Farm Market employee, commented, "Business didn't really change when Kohl's closed.... we don't expect customer flow to change when Pierce's opens. We are more of a specialty store."

"I can't wait for Pierce's to open."

"It's about time."

"We are pumped up."

Martha DiJulious, of Madison Chiropractic on N Sherman Avenue, commented, "I used to shop at Kohl's until it shut down. Pierce's will help for lunch. It will be very convenient."

"Its about time," shouted Star Kimball, standing outside the Madison Public Library, "I take my mom to the grocery store, and after Pierce's opens it'll take a lot less time."

People working on the Northside, neighboring businesses, and especially residents were all excited as Pierce's is set to open in March of 2006.

Tell our advertisers you saw their ad in the Northside News

"What do you think about the new grocery store coming to Sherman Plaza?"

Interview & Photos by Dave Meyer
The Northside News



Karen Thompson, Branch Manager, Anchor Bank

"I'm really looking forward to the new store. I first worked here in 1978 and, except for the last three years, there's always been a grocery store in this shopping center. It will be great for all the businesses here and for the neighborhood."



Tom Meikle, Owner, Meikle's True Value Hardware Store

"We've been here a long time so we have lots of steady customers but our foot traffic and impulse buys are down. Having a new grocery store is certainly not going to hurt our business. It's also great for neighbors who can't easily get to another grocery store."



Kevin Schaefer, General Manager, Subway

"A good chunk of our business was lost when the grocery store closed. Our Middleton store was hurt even worse when both a Kohl's and Sentry left. Our store here has been helped by Rhythm and Booms and the Mallards games. The Farmers Market was a big help on Sundays but we are definitely hoping to see business grow every day of the week with a grocery store coming back."



Katie Scharf, Head Librarian, Lakeview Branch Library

"I'm very, very happy for the neighborhood. After our recent renovation was completed, nine out of ten people who came in said ... this library is beautiful, now all we need is a grocery store! This is going to be just great."

Hairstylist
Kelly Peterson



Located at
5321 Arapahoe Lane

In the Cherokee neighborhood.

Specializing in hair design for the individual. Texture, color and movement to fit your personality, lifestyle and facial features.

Call for an appointment today!
608-628-4590
or
608-246-4027



MADISON SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RECREATION

Sign up now for Adult Fitness classes at Warner Park Community Recreation Center.

Sessions start in January & February.

Try:

- Mondays, Aerobics, 6-7 pm
- Tuesdays & Thursdays, Cardio-Kickboxing, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Wednesdays, Pilates, 7:30-8:30pm
- Wednesdays, Pilates 2, 6:30-7:30pm or Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 am

Also try Cooking classes, Knitting or Scrapbooking and much more!
Call 245-3669 for more information.



MSCR offers a variety of affordable recreation programs for all ages. Scholarships Available.

Fitness • Arts • Dance • Cooking Child Care • Adventure Soccer • 50+ Fitness Sports • Swimming

Rules for Investing
in Today's Stock Market

During periods of uncertainty in the stock market, it's more important than ever to remember...

the Basic Rules of Successful Investing

- Buy quality
- Diversify
- Invest for the long term

Whether your investments are with Edward Jones or elsewhere, I'd be happy to discuss how well your investment portfolio may stand the test of time.

Call or stop by today to arrange a free, face-to-face portfolio review.

Jeff Prebish
1732 Fordem Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 244-8793
www.edwardjones.com

Paul Benrud
4512 East Washington Ave., Suite 13
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 242-0591
www.edwardjones.com

Kevin Faulkner
301 North Sherman Ave., Suite 200
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 241-4796
www.edwardjones.com

Member SIPC

Edward Jones
Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

“Healthy children, healthy planet,” showing the way through the fast food world

By Bryant Moroder

Sustain Dane

By the age of 18 the average child has been exposed to over one quarter of a million advertisements. As outside influences on children's worldview have become widespread it has become more difficult for those who care about children to reinforce parental values around healthy lifestyles.

Sustain Dane, a local non-profit organization, is offering its newest program “Healthy Children, Healthy Planet” through the support of Madison Community Foundation to Northside area residents. The “Healthy Children, Healthy Planet” discussion course allows participants an opportunity to discover ways to create healthy environments for children.

An example of a theme addressed in the program is the growing impact of commercialism in schools. It may be surprising, but in some Northside schools, corporate name-dropping does occur. This may be great for company brand development, but is it truly a good thing for our kids? Branding may appear painless, but it can burn in deeply, contributing to fast food and soda habits in children that are hard to break. In the program, participants talk openly about this issue and how adults might help children navigate their way through our very mobile consumer culture.

The “Healthy Children, Healthy Planet” course is not just for parents, but anyone who is involved in the life of a child. Concern for the wellbeing of children and their children is something that every Northsider shares.

Sarah Kissel, a Madison mother of a 1 ½ year old and a 4 ½ year child, recently hosted a course in her home with 7 other community members who she had not known before the course began. The course had a significant impact on Kissel's sense of responsibility: “It (the course) has made many goals I had for me and my children seem not only possible, but also necessary. I am experiencing a renewed feeling of conviction that we can live our lives according to our values and we don't have to give in to peer pressure or commercials.”

In Dane County alone, over 1,000 community members have participated in one or more of the six discussion courses offered by Sustain Dane. Groups usually consist of eight to twelve people and include a supplemental course book which costs \$20.

To learn more about participating in the program, Northside residents are invited to attend an introductory presentation on Monday, January 9th at 6:30pm Warner Park Community Center. For more information contact Sustain Dane at 608.819.0689 or visit www.sustaindane.org for a complete list of upcoming courses in the Madison area.

Brentwood Village food drive a success

By Mo Cleland

Brentwood Village

The Brentwood Village Food Drive on November 5 was a huge success, with over 970 pounds of food and personal items donated, plus several cash contributions. According to Randi Matthews, the Lakeview Lutheran Food Pantry Coordinator, this was the largest neighborhood food drive that she has seen in a long time.

The quarterly Meeting of the Neighborhood Association was held October 24, and the annual Holiday Party on December 5. Ruth Miller of MG&E gave a presentation at the quarterly meeting to share energy conservation tips with neighbors and answer questions on rising energy costs. Gil Gonzales represented the Village Board at the neighborhood round table at the Warner Park Center on November 5



Photo provided by Dave Meyer

The food drive pick up crew included Margaret & Sanford Cook, Mo Cleland, Guy Webster, Rachel Inland, Barbara Weitz, Paul Rusk, Pete Raymond & Dave Meyer (not all shown here)

and learned a lot about the influx of gangs in Madison and how to recognize if they are in our neighborhood.

Membership in the Brentwood Village Association is open to all Brentwood residents at \$5 for singles and \$10 for families. Checks should be sent to Camille Zaroni at 2210 Calypso Rd, Madison 53704.

Lerdahl Park carolers to sing Dec. 23

By Jocelyn Miller

Nova Way resident

Although the official Lerdahl Park neighborhood association has been hibernating for the past several years, there is an unofficial and intrepid group who will be traveling around the neighborhood to sing Christmas carols on December 23rd. This is the 9th year that we will be serenading our neighbors starting around 6:30

p.m. Our group ranges in age from 3 years to 60+. We sing holiday standards such as “Jingle Bells” and “Joy to the World,” always finishing with “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” If you would like for us to sing on your front porch or lawn, please leave your porch light on and be prepared for a surprise ring of your doorbell.

You never know where we will turn up to spread holiday cheer!

Heritage Credit Union

Opening January 2006



- ★ Large lobby and waiting area
- ★ State-of-the-art teller area
- ★ Private rooms for loan inquiries
- ★ ATM
- ★ 4 drive-up lanes

New location, same friendly service

2555 Shopko Drive
241-2191

www.heritagecu.org



Holiday wish list

By Judy Metz

The Northside News

The holiday season is supposed to be a happy time celebrating with your family. But for a lot of people they are unable to enjoy the season for a number of reasons: loss of job or home, death in the family, illness or mental health concerns.

Consider doing something different with your children and put the emphasis on GIVING instead of RECEIVING.

Some suggestions are:

1. Consider contacting one of these churches on the Northside and see what their needs are:

- First Assembly of God, 709 Northport Drive, 241-1474
- St. Peter's Catholic Church, 5001 N. Sherman Ave., 249-6651
- Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd., 244-6181
- Bashford United Methodist Church, 329 North Street, 249-9222
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2126 N. Sherman Ave., 244-8077
- Mandrake Road Church of Christ, 4301 Mandrake Road, 249-8049
- First Church of the Nazarene, 5011 Commercial Ave., 249-1810
- Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1926 Elka Ln. 249-0974
- Faith Baptist Church, Warner Park Community Center, 850-7333

2. American Red Cross, 227-1258. Volunteer for the Annual Holiday Blood Drive. It is held on December 24th at the Alliant Energy Center. The blood you give may save someone's

live.
3. Atwood Community Center, 241-1574, Ext.17. Help during the holidays delivering baskets.

4. Big Oaks Child Care Center, 249-3991. Read to children and assist the teachers.

5. Options in Community Living, 249-1585. Invite an adult over for a holiday meal or take them to see the lights at Olin Park, the Holiday display at Hilldale or Olbrich Gardens.

6. Parental Stress Center, 241-4888, ext.13. Adopt a family for the holidays.

7. The Salvation Army, 250-2218. Help set up for the toy and food distribution for Dec. 16th and 17th. This is handed out on Dec. 19th, 20th and 21st. Also sign up to be a Bellringer. They have openings at Shopko, Walgreens, and Eastowne. The schedule can also be found on their website at www.ringbells.org.

8. Stoughton Tornado Fund. Send a check to Wells Fargo Bank, 911 W. Main St., 53589. Make the check out to Stoughton Area Tornado Relief Fund.

9. United Way, 246-4380. For more information on other possible needs call for their 2005 Holiday Wish List Book.

10. Visit the elderly that are in a Residential Care Center or call a nursing home and find out which residents don't have any family visiting.

Start something new for the holidays. Put a smile on some else's face, and see how good it makes you feel.

HAPPY HOLLY DAYS!

Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Events

22nd Annual Breakfast Observance
January 15, 2006
8-9:30 am
Edgewood High School

Middle and high school students of color are inducted into the National Achievers Society and the Outstanding Young Person Awards are presented. Students are nominated and then selected based on academic excellence, school involvement and community service. This event is open to the public and is one of the most well attended King Holiday events.

-O-O-O-O-

8th Annual Youth Service Initiative
January 16, 2006
Monona Terrace

On the King Holiday, a diverse group of youth join together and commit themselves to 100 hours of volunteerism over the next, performing ser-



vice projects that meet critical community needs. Interactive educational workshops, speakers and creative expressions round out the event. U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin will present the President's Volunteer Service Awards.

For more information, contact Scott Gray at the Urban League of Greater Madison at 251-8550 or visit www.ulgm.org

Christmas Candlelight Choral Concert



Celebrate the Christmas Spirit with the Lakeview Choir!

- * Music from Händel's Messiah
- * Choir Settings of Favorite Carols
- * Christmas Sing-along
- * Refreshments

Sunday, December 18 at 7 p.m.
Lakeview Lutheran Church
(Northport & Mandrake)

Free Admission. Donations support the church's outreach ministries.

Timothy Mueller, Dir. Liturgical Arts

Accessible—Convenient Parking

Grassroots Leadership College Accepting Applications until Dec. 15

"Do it. Live it. Be it! Anywhere you are, about anything that you believe in, go ahead and be it, if it's about healthy lawns, or EnAct or whatever it is. Just don't sit on your buns. Be a part of what it is." - GLC grad Tamra Oman

The GLC offers developing leaders an opportunity to work with volunteer coaches on a community project of their choice. Madison's Northside has seen the benefits of the GLC through the revitalization of Lake View Hill Neighborhood Association, the design of the Market Basket Survey that was key to bringing a grocery store back to the Northside, and development of the food co-op.

Applications available online at www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org or call 441-0085.

A Stephen Ministry — Care Ministry Congregation

ChristCare Small Group Ministry

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2126 N. Sherman Ave 244-8077

Youth Ministries
Promiseland for Kids
Sunday 9:00 a.m. {Pre K -5th Grade}
Life In Jesus
Tuesday 5:30-7:30 p.m. {Grades 6-8}

Worship Times
Sundays 8:00 a.m. Traditional
10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Blended

Bringing People into a Saving Relationship with Jesus

Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor Jakes Voker
3705 N. Sherman Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53704
608 244 0868 shermanumc@sbcglobal.net

Free Breakfast: Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Church School: Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Worship Hour: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

HUGE!! Rummage Sale, Collectibles, and Bake Sale Indoors, Jan. 27 & 28, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **HUGE!!**

FOR TICKETS: 608-661-9696 EX5

Mercury Players Theatre presents

WALMARTOPIA THE MUSICAL!

DEC 9 THROUGH JAN 14

BARTELL THEATER
113 EAST MIFFLIN

WORT 89.9 FM



CHURCH NEWS

Enter the Season with Song XIV

Celebrate the holidays with "Enter the Season with Song XIV" at St. Peter Catholic Church on December 11 at 2 pm. Soloists Bill Frederick, Steve Johnson, Ann Simonson and Gail Wagner will perform, along with musicians Mike Hirsch (bass violinist), Elaine Jaeke (recorder, percussion, and hammer dulcimer), Dave Miller and Pam Miller (guitar), and Mike Welch (woodwinds).

Copies of the CD *Enter the Season with Song* will be for sale for \$15. Call 249-6652, ext. 25 for more information.



St. Paul Lutheran announces December events

Christmas services include a family service at 4 pm, a Cantata at 10 pm on Christmas Eve and a 9 am service Christmas Day. A New Year's Day service will be held at 9:00 am.

A sermon series based on C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" from *The Chronicles of Narnia* begins on December 11 at both the 8 and 10:30 am worship services.

Homes For The Holidays, a joint effort of Slumberland Furniture Inc. and Living In Community Inc., will be delivering brand new mattresses to families identified by Joining Forces For Families, the Atwood Community Center and social workers at area schools. Deliveries will take place December 10 between 10 am and 2 pm.

Lakeview Lutheran Church

Corner Northport and Mandrake
244-6181



December 11 Children's Christmas Program and Lunch-10:30 am
December 18 Christmas Candlelight Choral Concert-7:00 pm
December 24 Christmas Eve Worship-5:00 and 10:00 pm
December 25 Christmas Day Sunday Worship-10:00 am
December 31 Name of Jesus Worship-5:00 pm
January 1 Name of Jesus Sunday Worship-10:00 am
Holy Communion at all worship services.

Dean Kirst, Pastor—Timothy Mueller, Director of Liturgical Arts—
Anne Tigan, Parish Nurse

All are Welcome—Accessible—Convenient Parking!

We Like to See New Faces!



Madison Credit Union is your neighborhood, financial-services friend!

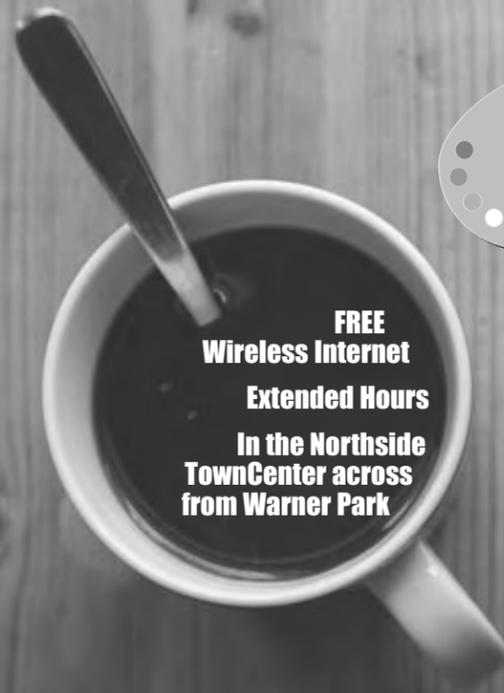
Take advantage of:

- Fee-Free Checking
 - Free Online Banking
 - Direct Deposit
 - ATM and Debit Cards
 - Saturday Drive-Up Hours
- and more!

We'd like the opportunity to meet you face-to-face! Bring in this ad and receive a \$5 Culver's gift card when you become a member!*

949 East Washington Avenue • Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2945
www.madisoncu.com

*This offer expires January 31, 2006



FREE
Wireless Internet
Extended Hours
In the Northside
TownCenter across
from Warner Park



THE COFFEE
GALLERIE
IS A COZY
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD PLACE
TO MEET
FRIENDS,
SURF THE
INTERNET
OR READ
BY THE
FIREPLACE.

NEW: Three Different Savory Soups Daily and Salads, Salads, Salads!

NOT NEW: Sandwiches Too Big To Finish

NEW: 16oz Milky Way Chocolate & Carmel Latte and Other Specialties

NOT NEW: Easy Parking & Handy Dive Thru

NEW: Drink of the Month Special: December: Egg Nog Latte

4TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL
FREE BOOK WITH EVERY \$4 PURCHASE!

Faith Baptist Church
of Madison's Northside

Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth.
John 17:17

Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.
Children's Church and Nursery
Thursday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
Children's program, too!

Meeting at the
Warner Park Community Recreation Center

For more information, call the church office at 850-7333.

ENVIRONMENT

Hill

cont. from page 1

View property.

In 1988 another appraisal recommended that the county sell the open area of the property for multi-family development. As recently as 2004, a portion of the land was again up for grabs.

In 1990, then Supv. Gerhardt submitted a resolution to rezone the 22 acres of woods to conservancy status. There was tremendous neighborhood support for this proposal. Board proceedings indicate that 166 supporting phone calls were received, a petition from "Children for Conservancy" with 245 signatures was submitted, and nearly 50 residents registered to speak in support of the resolution at one county board meeting. The roll call vote shows some notable ayes: Tammy Baldwin, Dave Cieslewicz, and Dave Ripp. This placed the woods north of the building into conservancy but the hill south of the sanatorium building was still zoned for residential development.

In 1993, then Supv. Eisman successfully led the County Board to amend the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan to include protection of Lake View Hill as urban green space.

When communications companies were seeking permission to install antennae and equipment on the water tower in 1997, then Supv. Mohrbacher skillfully hammered out an agreement in which a portion of the revenues from communication licenses was segregated as a fund for improvement of the Lake View grounds and conservan-



Lake View Woods & Hill
Madison WI
Scale 1" : 300'

The area bounded in yellow is now protected parkland; the Dane County Human Services building and grounds are within the smaller "Reserved Area."

cy area. "We are fortunate in this county to have such commitment to our quality of life," Mohrbacher recently observed. "The long-term planning by the board and support of the neighborhood has preserved this important feature of the Northside."

This steady revenue source has allowed the Friends of Lake View Woods to study the environment and implement a 10-year management program, which has been described in past issues.

In 2004, the county accepted the donation of land from the Esch family,

which had lived on the Hill since 1941, to the Lake View Conservancy, agreeing to preserve it as natural open space.

Even after these protections were put in place, neighbors were still nervous about possible permitted and conditional uses of conservancy in the zoning code. Significant "open" development can be approved for conservancy-zoned land. Proceeds from the sale of conservancy by the county are put into the General Fund. Parkland, on the other hand, is controlled entirely by the Park Commission, which is mandated by state statute to protect and preserve natural lands. This legal status makes parkland the most protected land in our county and state.

These factors prompted current Supv. Wheeler to work with the County Parks Division and Commission, Friends of Lake View Woods and the County Board to place Lake View Hill and Woods under Park

Commission jurisdiction.

Supv. Wheeler stated, "The existence of the Friends of Lake View Woods was a key factor in supervisor support." She also reported that the funds allocated from communications contracts due to the efforts of former Supv. Mohrbacher were greatly appreciated by the Parks Division and helped in gaining their enthusiastic support.

The Friends is anticipating working with the Parks Commission to develop the educational and ecological poten-

tial of the property, with a long term goal "to maintain Lake View as a natural and cultural centerpiece for the Lake View neighborhood, as well as an important natural resource for the Dane County Parks system, and to protect and enhance the oak woodland community through an ongoing restoration, management, and monitoring program, which includes volunteer stewardship, training and public education, focused on enjoyment, appreciation, and protection of the natural environment."

And remember those supervisors when you walk the woods, see birds at your feeders, sled down the hill or watch next Rhythm & Booms from the Hill.

**Friends of Lake View
Celebration & Meeting
Saturday, Dec. 17
10:00 - 11:30 am
Warner Park Center**

*Celebrate the preservation of
Lake View Woods & Hill!*

*Learn more about this amazing
community resource*

- History of Lake View hill & woods
- Ecological restoration with Susan Lehnhardt of Applied Ecological Services
- Winter & spring volunteer opportunities

Become a founding Friend

Info: Friends' volunteer coordinator
Maria Powell (240-1485 or
powell@wisc.edu)

Northgate Shopping Center

Located
at the
intersection of
Sherman Avenue
&
Aberg Avenue.

Plenty of parking!



**China
Palace**
310-8818

1291 North Sherman Avenue
True Szechuan and Mandarin food.
New Management and
Remodeled Atmosphere
Full Bar and Happy Hour
Lunch Buffet with free soda...\$5.95

10% off
your order
with this coupon



NEW AND USED COMPUTERS

- REPAIRS AND UPGRADES
- SENIOR AND STUDENT DISCOUNTS

PHONE 608-245-9838
FAX 608-245-9840

**AMERICAN
TABLE**
Family Restaurant

- Serving Breakfast All Day
- Daily Specials
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Nightly Specials
All You Can Eat!
Monday Fish and Chicken
Tuesday Italian Night
Wednesday Broasted Chicken
- Friday Fish Fry
All You Can Eat, All Day Long!

244-5663

SEPARATE SMOKING
AND NON-SMOKING ROOMS



**USED
& NEW**

- Books
- CDs
- Cassettes
- Audio Books
- LPs
- Videos

and much,
much more!

BOOKS
MUSIC • VIDEO 242-0000

246-0880

1171 N. Sherman Avenue

**We're a quality full-service
salon that fits your budget.**
Haircuts just \$12.95
Color Services only \$34.95 & up
Perms just \$39.95 & up
NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY -
COME ON IN! OPEN SUNDAYS!
*Senior Days Now
Wednesdays only, 9am-3pm*
Experience. Quality. Services. Value.



just your style

SAVIDUSKY'S

Fur & leather
cleaning,
repairs, alter-
ations, restyles,
and accessories



*New & used fur
leather sales*

Insurance & estate
appraisals

*Climate controlled
secure storage*

255-5191

Tuesday-Friday
10am-5pm

Saturday
10am-3pm

Sunday &
Monday
Closed

KIRBY

Kuhn & Associates Inc.
dba Madison Kirby Co.
1203 N Sherman Ave
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 244-7745



**Quality, Reliability,
and Performance**

HOURS
Monday Thru Friday
8am-6pm
Saturday, 9am-2pm
Closed Sundays

Like Any Piece of Fine Machinery,
Your Kirby Needs Periodic Care to
Ensure Peak Performance.

North Sherman Avenue

TROY GARDENS

Give the gift of Troy Gardens this year!

By Marge Pitts
Friends of Troy Gardens

Troy Gardens is offering its first ever catalog of gifts from the gardens. Choose among six different items from the catalog, which is available by mail and at our website, www.troygardens.org. A gift from Troy Gardens is perfect for anyone who appreciates having healthy food and the beauty of nature right outside our doors, here on the Northside at Troy Gardens.

When you give a gift from Troy Gardens, you're also helping us do our work. In the coming year, Troy Gardens will continue growing our organic farm internship program; restoring native tall grass prairie and maple woodlands; teaching children, teens and adults about gardening, health and nature; and offering 330 garden plots to diverse community members.

The gift catalogs are sent to all members of the Friends of Troy Gardens. If you are not yet a member or would like additional catalogs, please call Troy Gardens at 240-0409 or email info@troygardens.org. You can also order your gifts through our website, www.troygardens.org.

Give a gift that benefits everyone on the Northside—Troy Gardens!



Photo by Mark Dohm

Left: This youngster had the Troy Gardens gift-giving spirit at our Savor the Summer festival. **Below:** Nature photographs, like this beautiful columbine blossom, brighten the gift card sets from the Troy Gift Catalog



Photo by Amy Martin

Garden Delights

A Bounty of Bouquets. Cut-your-own flower bouquets at Troy Farm next season. Set of 6 or 12. Take a pleasant walk back to the farm with your punch-card and cut your own bouquet—whenever the spirit moves you!

Troy Gardens Gift Certificates. Offered in any amount, minimum \$10. Use these for a Troy Farm CSA share, a Troy Community Garden plot, farm produce at any of our farm stands, or any of our Educational Workshops on topics like mosaic garden tiles, seed saving, nature photography, and Indian mounds. Help your loved ones eat better—Troy dollars equal yummy vegetables!

The Gift of Gardening. Give the gift of a garden plot for a full season to a low-income family. You will receive a “Gift of Gardening” card and photograph of Troy Gardens. The ideal gift for the idealist who has everything!

Pictures Worth a Thousand Words. The beauty of Troy Gardens captured in a series of gorgeous photographs. Set of five cards, blank inside, suitable for any occasion or just for a thoughtful note.

Visit www.troygardens.org for more great gift ideas!



Photo provided by Marge Pitts



Photo by Maury Smith

Left: This detail highlights the complex designs of traditional Hmong dresses. **Right:** This mosaic garden tile, by Megan Cain, was created at the Mosaic Workshop. (Both images are part of the gift card set from the Troy Gift Catalog.)

Your Northside Neighborhood Shopping Center

DORN HARDWARE
True Value
Help Is Just Around The Corner.
244-5403
Discover Unique Gifts!

- Tools
- Appliances
- Lawn & Garden
- Sporting Goods

VIDEOLAND
All the Hit Movies & Video Games!

Hours
Monday thru Saturday
10am - 10pm
Sunday
NOON - 9pm

241-0588

Where "to do" lists get done.

Let us help you with that.

- Shipping Services
- Packaging Services
- Mailbox & Postal Services
- Copying Services
- Finishing & Printing Services

ups

The UPS Store®

The UPS Store
Northgate Shopping Center
1213 N. Sherman Ave.
663-9090

EXTREME

Free

Two-liter of RC Cola, 7-Up, Dr. Pepper or A&W Root Beer with any single pizza order

244-7700

NORTHGATE ANTIQUE MALL

HOURS
Monday thru Saturday
10am-7pm
Sunday
10am-5pm

Flea market every other Sunday beginning in May

246-8402

WEAVER

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS & ACCESSORIES
Import
Domestic
Truck
Tractor

COMPLETE MACHINE SHOP SERVICE
Open Daily
241-4006

LAUNDRYLAND

Drop-off Laundry Service (by the pound)
Dry Cleaning
Self-Serve Laundromat
King-Size Washers
Fully Attended

Mon-Fri 7:30am to 9:30 pm
Sat & Sun 7:30 am to 8pm

244-4030

Mattresses & More

1137 N Sherman Ave
661-2814

Mattress Prices Starting At:

Twin	\$99
Full	\$125
Queen	\$150

Delivery Available!