

A DONATION APPEAL FOR AAUW'S COMMUNITY-WIDE "BELONGING: UNITY IN COMMUNITY" RESIDENCY IN BEAVER DAM.

The Beaver Dam AAUW is providing a unique week-long residency, "Belonging: Unity in Community," in Beaver Dam, featuring internationally recognized author, photojournalist, and peace advocate, John Noltner, who is originally from Beaver Dam (photo below). From September 14 through September 20, 2025. John will offer a variety of programs and photo/interview sessions at about ten community sites, cross-generational, from students to seniors. The committee has a commitment of \$10,000 from pledges and donations and welcomes contributions to help fulfill the \$15,000 budget. To contribute or for more information, email Committee Chair Annette Kamps at annette71363@gmail.com.



News release

03/05/2025

Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation Supports John Noltner Residency

The AAUW (American Association of University Women), Beaver Dam branch, has received a \$1,000 grant award from the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation in support of its week-long community-wide residency program, featuring award-winning photo journalist, author, and peace advocate, John Noltner. During the Beaver Dam residency, September 14, through September 20, 2025, at least ten community entities, schools and other civic organizations, will

experience a variety of programming, including classes, workshops, lectures, and exhibits. There will be opportunities for the general public to attend Noltner's gallery exhibit at the Dodge County Arts Center, to enroll in several portrait and interview sessions, and to attend a culminating presentation at the BDACT Fine Arts Center. Annette Kamps, Chair of the AAUW's "Unity in Community" committee that is facilitating the residency, said, "This unique, wide-ranging project is only possible because of support by community organizations like the Foundation. It is especially exciting that we will be celebrating John Noltner, a highly recognized writer/photographer who has dedicated his profession toward peace and good will and whose roots are in Beaver Dam."

Noltner, a Beaver Dam High School graduate, has traveled 90,000 miles across the country, gathering portraits and personal stories to "bridge divides and encourage dialogue." He has collected stories of human courage, grace, and resilience across four continents and produced four books reflecting those journeys. His photographs have been published in multiple outlets, including Forbes Magazine, National Geographic, Smithsonian, and Reader's Digest. The University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin hold his work in their permanent collections. His "A Peace of My Mind" photographs has been exhibited at the Nobel Peace Prize forum and has been widely shown throughout the U.S. In preparation for the Noltner residency, AAUW and the Beaver Dam Community Library will continue its annual collaborative community summer read to feature Noltner's books, including his most recent award-winning book, "Lessons on the Road to Peace."

In addition to the Foundation's grant award, the project is receiving fiscal support from several participating entities and civic organizations. Additional support is welcome. For contact information, see <https://beaverdam-wi.aauw.net/contact-us>. To learn more about John Noltner, see <https://apeaceofmymind.org/about>



Tom Heffron, Advisory Board President of the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation, presented a grant award of \$1,000 to the AAUW, Beaver Dam branch, in support of its upcoming community-wide residency featuring nationally recognized photographer, journalist, and author, John Noltner, a Beaver Dam native. (L. to R.) Andrea Utrie, AAUW Vice-President; Annette Kamps, committee chair, and Robin Hanson, committee member

