

From AAUW-Beaver Dam

A special opportunity for everyone!

Sept 14 through Sept. 20, 2025

“Belonging: Unity in Community”

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Internationally acclaimed photographer, author, and peace advocate John Noltner will share his commitment to bridging the gaps that divide us while he traveled over 90,000 miles across the U.S. to gather stories and portraits from people of many and diverse cultures.



AT DODGE COUNTY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

130 W. Maple Ave., Beaver Dam

“Peace of My Mind” Photo Exhibit:

Monday, Sept. 15, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Tuesday, Sept. 16 – 9 AM to 6 PM

Wednesday, Sept 17 – Noon to 7:00 PM

Thursday, Sept. 18 – Noon to 8:00 PM

7 PM – Exhibit Commentary by John Noltner

Friday, Sept. 19 – 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday, Sept. 20 – 10:00 AM to 5 PM

AND THESE PROGRAMS:

Tuesday, Sept. 16 – 7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

Beaver Dam Chamber Breakfast with John Noltner

Saturday, Sept. 20 -1:30 to 3:30 PM, “Meet John Noltner”

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At The Watermark, 209 S. Center St.

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 8:30 AM Presentation by John Noltner

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At Beaver Dam Community Library

(Temporary location: 1701 N. Spring St.)

Thursday, Sept. 18, 10:00 – 11:30

Book Discussion with John Noltner

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At Art on the Town, 127 Front St.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 AM to Noon

Photo Techniques Class by John Noltner (Register at [www.artonthetownwi.com](http://www.artonthetownwi.com))

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At the BDACT Fine Arts Center, 117 W. Maple Avenue

Saturday, Sept. 20, 6:00 PM – Appreciation Reception

7:00 PM - Closing Keynote Address by John Noltner

AAUW sincerely appreciates support for the John Noltner residency from The Beaver Dam Community Foundation, Moraine Park Technical College, Marion Wild Slovak, Beaver Dam Community Library, WBEV/Good Karma Brand, Beaver Dam High School, Wayland Academy, Rotary Club of Beaver Dam, Beaver Dam Noon Kiwanis.



*"In a world that asks us to focus on the things that can separate us, A Peace of My Mind invites us to explore the common humanity that connects us."*

## About John Noltner

John Noltner is an award-winning internationally acclaimed author, photographer, journalist, and peace advocate. Originally from Beaver Dam, WI, and a Beaver Dam High School graduate, he resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he works as a freelance photographer. His stories and images have been in major publications, including Forbes Magazine and National Geographic. His latest of four books, "Lessons on the Road to Peace," received the Non-Fiction 2024 Minnesota Book Award. His multimedia project, "A Peace of My Mind," reflecting stories that bridge divides and encourage dialogue, is widely shown throughout the country.

## Learn More

### What is a portrait/interview session?

In addition to programming at community and school sites, John Noltner will be taking portrait photos and asking for responses, written or oral, to "What does 'belonging' mean to me?" With consent, he will include some of the portraits/interviews in his presentation on September 20. A release form will be available. A photo download can be ordered for \$2.00. (Session length about 15 minutes.)

### How do I inquire about a session?

Send your inquiry by Sept. 8, to <https://beaverdam-wi.aauw.net> and go to the contact tab.



Beaver Dam Community 2025 Summer Read  
Presented by AAUW-Beaver Dam and  
Beaver Dam Community Library  
Photo/journal books by John Noltner  
"Portraits of Peace," "A Peace of My Mind,"  
"Lessons on the Road to Peace," at  
Beaver Dam Community Library  
Rosalee's Book Boutique  
<https://apeaceofmymind.org/shop>

For more information: [apeaceofmymind.org](https://apeaceofmymind.org)  
[www.facebook.com/john.noltner](https://www.facebook.com/john.noltner) and  
[beaverdam-wi.aauw.net](https://beaverdam-wi.aauw.net)



## Belonging: Unity in Community

September 14-20, 2025

**A community-wide residency  
presented by  
AAUW Beaver Dam, WI  
featuring John Noltner  
founder of  
"A Peace of My Mind"**

## What does "Belonging" mean to you?



From September 14 -20, 2025, the Beaver Dam AAUW, (American Association of University Women), with support from multiple community entities, is offering the larger Beaver Dam community an opportunity to explore that question with internationally acclaimed author, photographer, and peace advocate, John Noltner.

Noltner will share and inspire cross-generational, diverse perspectives. He will conduct classes, workshops, and talks for schools and civic organizations. The public will have opportunities to experience his residency through portrait/interview sessions, his "Peace of My Mind" photo exhibit, a photography class, and a "meet the author" session. His closing keynote talk will include selected portraits and interview responses that he has gathered from local people.

**FREE**

## Residency Events OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

### At Dodge County Center for the Arts

130 W. Maple Ave., Beaver Dam

### **"PEACE OF MY MIND" PHOTO EXHIBIT**

**Monday, Sept. 15** – 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, Sept. 16** – 9 AM to 6 PM

**Wednesday, Sept. 17** – Noon to 7:00 PM

**Thursday, Sept. 18** – Noon to 8:00 PM

**7:00 PM – EXHIBIT COMMENTARY BY JOHN NOLTNER**

**Friday, Sept. 19** – 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Saturday, Sept. 20** – 10:00 AM to 5 PM

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### At Art on the Town, 127 Front St.

**Saturday, Sept. 20** – 10 AM to Noon  
Photo Techniques Class

(Register at [www.artonthetownwi.com](http://www.artonthetownwi.com))

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### From Beaver Dam Community Library

(Location TBA)

**Thursday, Sept. 18** – 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Beaver Dam Community Library Book Club

**Saturday, Sept. 20** – 1:30 to 3:30 PM

"Meet John Noltner"

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### Portrait/Interview sessions

(Inquire at <https://beaverdam-wi.aauw.net> and contact tab.)

**Monday, Sept. 15**

At Beaver Dam High School - 3:15 to 5:00 PM

**Tuesday, Sept. 16**

At Moraine Park Technical College  
4:00 to 5:30 PM

**Thursday, Sept. 18**

At Beaver Dam Middle School  
3:00 to 5:00 PM

## FOR EVERYONE!

**Saturday, September 20**

**At the BDACT Fine Arts Center**

117 W. Maple Avenue

**6:00 PM – Appreciation Reception**

**7:00 PM – CLOSING KEYNOTE**

**ADDRESS by John Noltner**

(Including showing selected portrait interviews from local participants.)

### **RESERVED PROGRAMS (for these entities only)**

**Monday, Sept. 15**

At Beaver Dam High School

**Tuesday, Sept. 16**

At Dodge County Center for the Arts  
hosting Beaver Dam Area Chamber of  
Commerce and At Moraine Park Technical  
College

**Wednesday, Sept. 17**

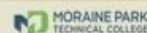
At Watermark Community Center and  
Wayland Academy

**Thursday, Sept. 18**

At Beaver Dam Middle School

**NOTE:** Schedules are subject to change,  
pending unknown factors. See  
<https://beaverdam-wi.aauw.net> for updates.

**This AAUW project is  
supported by these  
community entities and  
more. – Thank you!**



BEAVER DAM  
Area Community  
FOUNDATION



BEAVER DAM  
Community Library



Beaver Dam  
High School



Wayland  
Academy



Noon Kiwanis  
Beaver Dam

Marian Wild  
Slovak

95.3 WBEV



Rotary  
Beaver Dam

On September 14 through 20, AAUW-Beaver Dam branch will host acclaimed author, photographer, and peace advocate John Noltner in Beaver Dam, originally his hometown, to share “A Peace of My Mind” stories and photos that he has gathered from people across this country. Throughout the week, his exhibit will be at the Dodge County Center for the Arts, 130 W. Maple Ave., free to the public, including extended hours. During the week-long community-wide residency, Noltner will be collecting more stories and photos from a broad representation of local people who will sit for a portrait and answer the question, “What does ‘Belonging’ mean to you?” His closing keynote address on Saturday, September 20, will include some of those participants.

In addition to the exhibit and portrait sessions, AAUW is collaborating with community entities to provide the following free programs by Noltner: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7:30 to 9:00 AM - Exhibit commentary at the Dodge County Center for the Arts during the Beaver Dam Area Chamber of Commerce Breakfast; Wednesday, Sept. 17 – 8:30 AM, a presentation at The Watermark; Thursday, Sept. 18, 10 to 11:30 AM – A discussion at the Beaver Dam Community Library about Noltner’s books, including his latest award-winning publication, “Lessons on the Road to Peace,” at the library’s temporary location, 1701 N Spring St.; Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 AM to noon - A free Photo Techniques class at Art on the Town, 120 Front St. (**Register at [www.artonthetownwi.com](http://www.artonthetownwi.com)**); 1:30 to 3:30 - “Meet the Artist” at the Dodge County Center for the Arts, sponsored by the Beaver Dam Community Library. To conclude those activities, on Saturday, September 20, there will be a public reception at 6:00 PM at the BDACT Fine Arts Center, 117 W. Maple Ave. followed by Noltner’s closing program at 7:00 PM.

Also, Noltner will be conducting classes, workshops, and programs at Moraine Park Technical College, Beaver Dam High School, Beaver Dam Middle School and Wayland Academy.

Throughout all of his endeavors since his graduation from Beaver Dam High School and UW-Eau-Claire, Noltner’s guiding words continue to be, “In a world that asks us to focus on the things that can separate us, A Peace of My Mind invites us to explore the common humanity that connects us.” His multi-media project is based on the belief that art and storytelling can help individuals, organizations and



communities articulate their deepest values and encourage action toward building social capital and community connections.

Although his home base is Bloomington, MN, since 2009, Noltner and his wife Karen have picked up stakes to travel over 90,000 miles across four continents and at hundreds of campuses and diverse communities to “bridge divides and encourage dialogue.” Recently, he led a team of college students to make connections with the people of Northern Ireland.

With images and words as his medium, Noltner has been telling stories for twenty years for national magazines, Fortune 500 companies, and non-profit organizations. His work has appeared in National Geographic Traveler, Forbes Magazine, Midwest Living, and the New York Daily News, among other publications. He has produced several books reflecting his journeys and his “A Peace of My Mind” exhibit which has been widely displayed throughout the U.S. has been shown at the Nobel Peace Prize forum. The University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin hold his work in their permanent collections.

In anticipation of his return to his hometown to ask the question, “What does ‘Belonging’ mean to you?” Noltner shared what belonging meant to him while growing up in Beaver Dam. "Beaver Dam's music and theater community gave me a sense of belonging by offering a supportive place to explore my creativity, and it laid the foundation for all the work I do today."

The residency is supported by the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation, Moraine Park Technical College, Marie Wild Novak, the Beaver Dam Community Library, Beaver Dam High School, Wayland Academy, WBEV/Good Karma Brand, Beaver Dam Noon Kiwanis, and Rotary of Beaver Dam.

To express interest in participating in the portrait and “belonging” statement or for details about the residency, see [beaverdam-wi.aauw.net](http://beaverdam-wi.aauw.net). For more about John Noltner, see [apeaceofmymind.org](http://apeaceofmymind.org).



*PHOTO COPY: AAUW-Beaver Dam branch is hosting award-winning photographer, author, and peace advocate John Noltner, originally from Beaver Dam, for a week of programs and his exhibit, "A Peace of My Mind" in Beaver Dam, September 14 through September 20.*



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

*(A summary from Noltner's web site)*



***"In a world that asks us to focus on the things that can separate us, A Peace of My Mind invites us to explore the common humanity that connects us." – John Noltner, founder, A Peace of My Mind***

A *Peace of My Mind* is a multimedia arts project, created by award winning photographer John Noltner, that uses portraits and personal stories to bridge divides and encourage dialogue around important issues. A gifted storyteller, Noltner has worked on four continents, gathering stories of human courage, grace, and resilience.

***His project reflects his belief that art and storytelling can help individuals, organizations and communities articulate their deepest values and encourage action toward building social capital and community connections.***