



## Wisconsin Teachers of Local Culture Local Culture News

February 20, 2014

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There is **a lot** of news and many fascinating opportunities, events and resources to catch up on regarding local culture in Wisconsin and beyond. Enjoy!

### LOCAL CULTURE IN THE NEWS

#### [The Round Barns of Vernon County](#)

Vernon County, Wisconsin has the highest concentration of round barns in the world. Through roadside interviews and beautiful pictorial vignettes, "The Round Barns of Vernon County" explores these unusual structures, their enigmatic African-American builder, Algie Shivers, and his unique mixed race community, the Cheyenne Valley. Historians and decedents alike describe Shivers and his anomalous early 20th-century community with a common idea: people from various backgrounds all got along and helped each other survive.

Also: [LSS filmmaker David Macasaet's film selected for 2014 WI Film Festival](#)

The 2014 Wisconsin Film Festival selections were recently announced, and amongst the chosen was 'The Round Barns of Vernon County.'

#### [Vocations: The Court Interpreter](#)

*The New York Times*

Speaking Their Language

Farah Elahi, 57, of Waukesha, Wis., is a court interpreter. Farah Elahi speaks Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi.

#### [Scientists Turn Their Gaze Toward Tiny Threats to Great Lakes](#)

*The New York Times*

The newest environmental threat to the Great Lakes is very, very small. Tiny plastic beads used in hundreds of toiletries like facial scrubs and toothpastes are slipping through water treatment plants and turning up by the tens of millions in the Great Lakes. There, fish and other aquatic life eat them along with the pollutants they carry — which scientists fear could be working their way back up the food chain to humans.

#### [Teaching City Dwellers How to Make It in the Wilderness](#)

By COREY KILGANNON

*The New York Times*

Jens Rasmussen, who was raised in what he called a "back to the land kind of family" in Wisconsin, teaches urbanites how to survive in the backwoods — of Brooklyn.

#### [University markets its own art paper: UWSP departments work together to create fine-art product](#)

*Stevens Point Journal*

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point officials hope a high-quality fine art paper produced on campus soon will be used by artists across the country.

### [Public art project enriches Milwaukee's inner-city landscape](#)

*Wisconsin Gazette*

The project, titled Typeface Milwaukee, was orchestrated by ArtMilwaukee. A loosely organized group of mostly millennial public art advocates and civic boosters, they're working on bringing a 21st-century vibe to the city's cultural scene. ArtMilwaukee's goal for Typeface is both micro and macro — to engender local pride and engage neighborhoods through public art, and also to further Milwaukee's growing profile as a hub of artistic activity.

*This café was a delicious and interesting lunch stop for the WTLC Here at Home tour in 2010.*

### [The Buzz: Kitchen to close at Harmony Cafe](#)

*Appleton Post-Crescent*

Harmony Cafe, 233 E. College Ave., downtown Appleton, has a sister Harmony Café in Green Bay that also will close down its food operation. Both are nonprofit businesses under the umbrella of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin. "We're changing the business model," said Bob Pedersen, president and chief executive officer of Goodwill NCW. "We're getting out of the restaurant business."

### [Workshop helps people share stories](#)

*Baraboo News Republic*

Ellen Schroeder and Shirley Haugen, both 76, have been exploring some interesting stories at their local libraries. The stories are the women's own, and they've decided to share them.

The two are regular participants in the monthly Palm of the Hand memoir writing workshop, co-sponsored by the Baraboo Public Library and the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo/Sauk County T.N. Savides Library.

### [Twinned Cities Now Following Different Paths](#)

*The New York Times*

Duluth, Minn., and Superior Wis., are so close physically and culturally that they are known as the Twin Ports. But much began to change when Minnesota government went all Democratic and Wisconsin all Republican.

VIDEO FEATURE: [Divided States of America](#)

By Emma Cott and Monica Davey

Residents in the twin ports of Duluth, MN and Superior, WI find their lives diverging.

### [Farm to School Projects Funded in Wisconsin](#)

*DPI ConnectED*

Three Wisconsin organizations won federal Farm to School grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which they will use with school districts partners: Bayfield, Madison and Winnebago County.

### [Ice caves at Wis. park draw surge in visitors](#)

*Reuters*

Thousands of people have visited Wisconsin's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in recent weeks to see ice caves that have become accessible on foot for the first time in five years. "It has been a bit overwhelming, but it has been great for the local community, and they are gorgeous," park spokeswoman Julie Van Stappen said. The caves are on Lake Superior and can be reached on foot when the lake is frozen over.

Also: [Winter Storm Forces Temporary Closure of Access to Apostle Islands Ice Caves](#)

### *National Park Service*

The NPS will temporarily close access to the ice caves due to the impending winter storm. The National Weather Service has issued a “significant winter storm” warning for the area until noon Friday, projecting heavy snows up to 14-18 inches. More importantly for the stability and safety of the ice pack, the NWS is forecasting strong winds tonight and throughout the day Friday, with gusts up to 40 mph. Major weather events such as this storm could significantly affect ice conditions. Rangers will check ice conditions as soon as feasible after the storm ends. If the ice remains stable, the earliest that access will be re-opened will be sunrise on Saturday, February 22.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

### [Training Opportunities for K-12 educators in Folk Arts, Folklife, and Oral History](#)

Educators interested in learning more about employing folk arts or oral history in the classroom will find a roster of institutes and workshops around the country on the home page of the Local Learning web site. You may also link to the latest [Local Learning E-Bulletin](#) there.

### [Call for Presentations](#)

#### *Educators Network for Social Justice*

Application deadline February 21, 2014

Consider contributing to the social justice messages promoted at this conference by submitting a proposal. Do you have expertise in the following areas: restorative justice, specific social justice teaching examples, special education, ways that language is used in the media to represent and misrepresent topical issues, privatization of public schools? Whatever your expertise may be, submit a proposal today!

### [Teachers for Global Classrooms](#)

[globalwisc@lists.dpi.wi.gov](mailto:globalwisc@lists.dpi.wi.gov)

Applications due March 11, 2014

Middle and High School teachers, want to globalize your classroom? Consider Teachers for Global Classrooms, a professional development program funded by the US Department of State that includes: -An online Global Education course, a Global Education Symposium in Washington, DC, a two to three-week international travel fellowship, and grant opportunities for alumni.

### [NRPA 2014 Out-of-School Time Programs Grant Application](#)

Applications due March 6, 2014.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds to support children’s health through park and recreation out-of-school time programs. One-year grants are available and are expected to range from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Additional in-kind nutrition literacy materials valued at \$10,000 will also be provided to each grantee

## **RESOURCES**

### [Q&A: Teaching Reading, History, and Art With the Mississippi Blues](#)

#### *Education Week*

Last week, the Associated Press published a piece about Chevonne Dixon, a 4th grade teacher in Mississippi who is teaching cross-curricular lessons around a topic of the utmost historical importance in her state: the blues. The article described a classroom in which students write blues songs about math

and the weather, learn about growing cotton through blues lyrics, and produce videos on legendary blues singers.

Also: [Mississippi children learn with blues curriculum](#) and [Blues curriculum finds receptive audience with Tunica students](#)

Fourth-graders at Tunica Elementary School are exploring the Delta's homegrown music to learn about rhythm, rhyme and chord progression. Their teacher is also using the new [Mississippi Blues Trail Curriculum](#) to help the children absorb information in unexpected ways.

### [Wisconsin Life](#)

*Wisconsin Social Studies, Issue 4, 2013-14*  
*Kris McDaniel, DPI*

Wisconsin Life is a series on Wisconsin Public Radio. It airs Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:35 am and 8:35 am on the WPR Classical Music Network, and on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30pm on the Ideas Network program "Central Time". They will also be starting a television show on WI Public Television in February (Mondays at 8pm). One of the fun and interesting parts of Wisconsin Life is the social history you can learn about our state. Just looking at the most recent episodes, you'll find information on holiday cocktails, winter in Wisconsin, growing up in a Wisconsin Hunting Clan, and A Cider Apple Guide.

### [Fashion Muslima: Unveiling Muslim Women Power and Beauty](#)

Fashionable Muslim Women Project

Many Westerners believe that the restrictive dresses and veils worn by Muslim women are a sign of male oppression and primitive thinking. After all, we are told that freedom is all about heels, legs and lipsticks. But the phenomenon of modern Muslim women confidentially testing our new styles and fashions has challenged the old notion of what is considered beautiful and fashionable. This has been true in Muslim and non-Muslim countries alike. In the Fashionable Muslim Women Project, we want to show you what you might be missing in mainstream media. We want to show you that the Muslim community in the U.S. and other Western countries is a proud, beautiful and open society.

### [Wisconsin Women of Style](#)

*Wisconsin Historical Museum*

On exhibit January 14, 2014–March 29, 2014 "Wisconsin fashion" often refers to cold-weather clothing rather than stylish designer wear from Paris and New York. Yet beginning in the late 19th century, there have been Wisconsin women with the means and interest to wear extraordinarily expensive and fashionable clothes. Wisconsin Women of Style showcases significant pieces from the Mount Mary University Historic Costume Collection and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Explore these spectacular gowns and garments and discover the stories of the remarkable Wisconsin women who wore them.

## **EVENTS**

### [American Birkebeiner](#)

*Travelwisconsin.com*

February 20 – 23, 2014

Cable, WI – Hayward, WI

North America's largest and most prestigious cross-country ski marathon happens this weekend. 8,000 skiers of all ages, genders and nationalities will participate in the 50K Birkebeiner, the 23K Kortelopet, Prince Haakon 12K, the children's Barnebirkie, Junior Birkie, Elite Sprints, and Family Fun Ski.

### [2014 International Festival](#)

February 22, 2014

Overture Center for the Arts, Madison

Experience a rich tapestry of cultures woven by Dane County artists. Featuring arts, crafts, food, and performances representing more than 25 cultures, International Festival is a delight of sights, sounds and flavors!

### [Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation 3, Contemporary Native Art from the Northeast and Southeast](#)

February 22, 2014

Chazen Museum of Art, UW-Madison

Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation 3 presents works by Native artists in regions east of the Mississippi and recasts these works through the lens of contemporary art and design from around the globe. In connection with the exhibition, you can experience Native American pow-wow dancing performed live. Featured performers will engage the audience in a variety of styles of dance and teach the history, technique and significance of modern pow-wow dancing. Native craftsman will also construct a traditional pow-wow drum on site. Special tours of the Exhibition will also be available. Audience members of all ages are welcome and should be prepared to learn, laugh and participate in the fun, interactive afternoon.

### [2nd Annual Wisconsin Global Youth Summit](#)

*Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium (WIOC) International Opportunities Bulletin*

February 22, 2014

UW-Milwaukee Student Union

the 2nd Annual Wisconsin Global Youth Summit will explore what it means to be a part of a global society through small group learning activities, interactive simulations, and facilitated discussions with speakers. The summit is a great opportunity for high school students to develop global engagement and understanding, build skills in cross-cultural communication, strengthen leadership abilities, and connect with other students and young adults across Wisconsin and beyond. Educators and interested adults will participate in similar programming throughout the day in parallel sessions separate from the students.

### [Day in East and Central Europe](#)

*Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium (WIOC) International Opportunities Bulletin*

March 5, 2014

UW-Madison Union South

"Day in East and Central Europe," CREECA's most popular annual event for high school students, is open to high school juniors and seniors. It will bring together a variety of local experts on the histories, cultures, languages, politics, and traditions of the countries of East and Central Europe. There is no charge to schools to participate in "Day in East and Central Europe."

### [15th Annual White Privilege Conference](#)

March 26-29, 2014

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison, WI

THEME: Building Relationships! Strengthening Communities! Seeking Justice!

FEATURES: HS Youth Leadership Conference, Pre-Conference Institutes, Evening Film Series, Caucuses for: People of Color, White Anti-Racist Activists/Support Groups, Meet the Speakers/Book Signing Reception and Undergraduate, graduate credit in Sociology or Education available

[Day in Africa 2014 & Teachers Workshop](#)

*Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium (WIOC) International Opportunities Bulletin*

April 11, 2014

UW-Madison Union South

An annual event for Wisconsin high school students DAY IN AFRICA welcomes high school juniors and seniors from across Wisconsin to explore the languages and cultures of Africa in a variety of sessions led by UW-Madison faculty, students, and staff. DAY IN AFRICA features a variety of sessions where students can explore everything from the East African clothing, the music that conquered apartheid in South Africa, to the literary works of renowned African authors.

[Day in Africa Teachers Workshop](#)

April 11, 2014

UW-Madison Union South

The Day in Africa Teachers Workshop with the theme “Teaching About Africa: Resources” will be held on April 11th 2014 in conjunction with the annual Day in Africa event for high school students. The event will be held at the Union South, University of Wisconsin Madison campus from 8:30-1pm. The event is free, and teachers from around Wisconsin are welcome to attend. Experts in African studies will share resources in teaching about Africa and suggest ways of incorporating African cultures, histories, current events, human rights and Francophone Africa into your curriculum.

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