

[Back](#)

## Program stresses impact of war

By Sharon Roznik

*The Reporter* sroznik@fdlreporter.com February 19, 2006

Local residents learned about the generational impact of war and shared their own stories as part of a program during the weekend tied to the international Opening of the Heart organization.

Members of the community braved frigid temperatures Friday night to view the movie "Voices in Wartime" and meet executive producer Andy Himes.

The Seattle, Wash., film maker visited Fond du Lac to tout his film and a message about war and its impact on generations of families.

On Saturday dozens of people — many of whom were and are personally affected by war — gathered at University of Wisconsin-Fond du Lac to share their own stories.

Presented through the international Opening of the Heart organization, the weekend's offerings were meant to help people learn how to welcome veterans home by understanding the accompanying pain, grief and isolation any soldier feels returning from war.

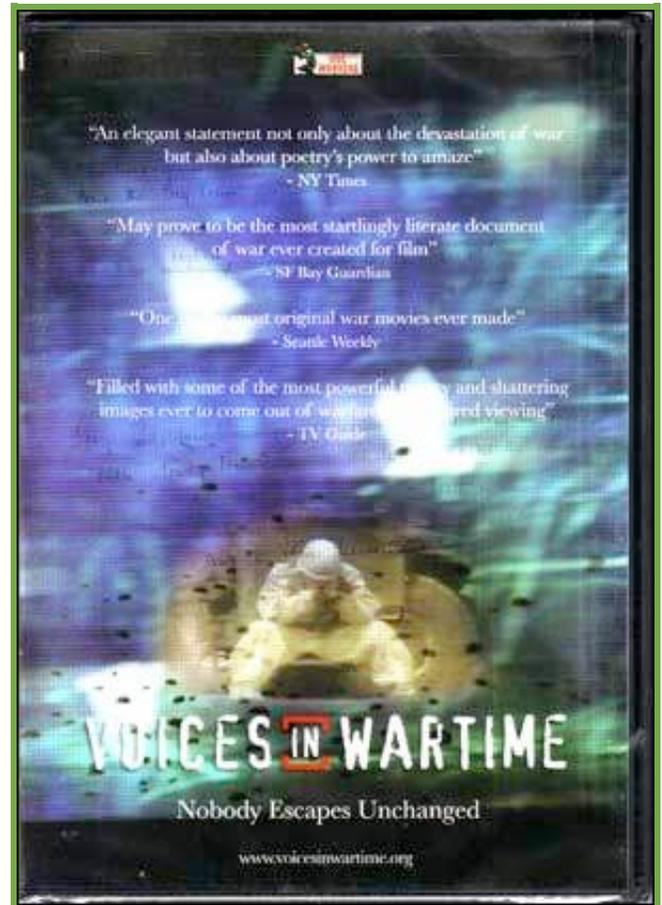
"Until I was married, I never discussed war," said Kristan Grochenauer of Fond du Lac, whose husband Vince is doing his second tour in Iraq. She shared intense emotions with 30 other people who attended a Saturday morning story panel.

After viewing the movie Friday night, Grochenauer went home and e-mailed her husband in Iraq.

"I asked him if he was scared and if there were things he felt he couldn't tell me," she said. His answer will be shared in a feature story Tuesday on the Mind, Body and Soul page.

Katrina Bruns of Illinois said she recalls being a child of an alcoholic mother, and though she was only 10 years old, caring for her younger siblings. Her father was in Vietnam at the time, enduring his own horror.

Facilitator Martin Dronsfield of Hamburg, Germany, talked about his own experience growing up in



"Voices in Wartime" Executive Producer Andy Himes visited Fond du Lac Saturday to discuss his film and give a message about war and its impact on generations of families. Many of the area residents who gathered at UW-Fond du Lac shared their own stories. *Submitted*

### Local stories

Local people will share personal stories Tuesday on The Reporter's Mind, Body and Soul page about how war has impacted their lives. The page will feature stories from the wife of a soldier in Iraq, a veteran of the Persian Gulf War, and a Vietnam veteran and his daughter.

Germany with several family members having served in the military, the physical abuse endured by his mother, and the consequences that have visited him some 80 years later.

Himes said he comes from a long line of fundamentalist/conservative Republicans that prompted him to make a movie about war.

"I wanted to explore and offer an experience, using dialogue and poetry, that was outside politics and partisanship," he said.

The feature-length documentary delves into the experience of war by using powerful images and the words of poets from around the world.

More information is available at [www.voicesinwartime.org](http://www.voicesinwartime.org).