



ECUMENICAL CENTER  
at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** Adi Redzic, Ecumenical Center-UWGB, (920) 465-5133,

[aredzic@ecuwgb.org](mailto:aredzic@ecuwgb.org), [www.ecuwgb.org](http://www.ecuwgb.org)

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 pm**

**Remembering a Peaceful Afghanistan**

**GREEN BAY, Wis.-**On Sunday, **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 pm** the Ecumenical Center will host a presentation that will show Afghanistan from a different, generally unknown viewpoint.

**Remembering a Peaceful Afghanistan** is a story about Steve Weerts who joined the Peace Corps at the age of 19, and worked at the Parwan Province, enhancing the lives of the local population. During that time he saw a peaceful country – an image rarely talked about in today’s mainstream media.

On his first trip to Afghanistan, Steve worked with the citizens there to help build civil projects. Under the project title “Food for Work,” wheat was distributed to a famished population. In return, citizens helped work on civic projects that built roads, bridges, dams, irrigation canals and schools.

The country had created such a strong impression on Steve that he returned in 1990 to assist Afghan refugees that were in Peshawar, Pakistan. He and his family, over the course of one year, assisted some of the 3 million Afghan refugees that were displaced as a result of the Soviet invasion.

Steve Weerts and his family worked with USAID Narcotics Awareness and Control to educate Afghan farmers on crops that could provide an economic equivalent to that of the poppy plant. This was in effort to reduce the poppy trade as well as educate about the dangers of Heroine and other narcotics.

Afghanistan had changed Steve Weerts life. He now is a Public Defender in Shawano, defending indigent people within the courtrooms. The country and the people of Afghanistan have touched Steve’s life, and as a way to give back, he will be giving a presentation on what peace was like before the Soviet invasion and what peace may look like in the years ahead.

For more information, contact Adi Redzic at 920.465.5133 or [aredzic@ecuwgb.org](mailto:aredzic@ecuwgb.org).

*The Ecumenical Center is a non-profit organization that operates within the scope of the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, and serves its students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the local communities in their pursuit of self-discovery and spiritual exploration. The mission of The Ecumenical Center is to provide opportunities for the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay community to explore faith, nurture the spiritual life, and serve others. The Center's vision is to be recognized as a leader in promoting spiritual development and the values of respect, peace and justice. The Center welcomes all people and all spiritual perspectives.*

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