



*Retired Marian College professor and Vietnam veteran, Bill Zierdt, will share his wartime experiences as part of a community workshop following the movie, "Voices in Wartime." Katie Kleine photos*

by Katie Kleine

**War has been in the human vocabulary since the beginning of civilization and can be seen in almost every lifetime.**

Triumph, defeat and death have filled history books predating the Sumerian cultures in the 2500s BC.

It seems as though war is something that the human race will never retire, as it has become a part of our daily lives. Plotted in books, on stage, across news desks, radio waves and silver screens, warfare is part of educational curriculums, taught not only as history, but also as current and unfolding future events.

In conjunction with the movie screening, there will be a community workshop and learning forum Saturday, Feb. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Henken Room, A-219.

Cost for the workshop is \$35 and includes materials, lunch and a snack. The workshop is limited to 50 participants.

This community workshop and learning forum will introduce the history of Opening of the Heart in Fond du Lac, including a presentation that highlights the values of compassionate listening.

This will introduce guidelines for listening during the community stories panel which will take place from 9 to 10:30 a.m. during the workshop.

"The intent of the program is to respect the service of our veterans and discuss the difficulty that comes with being in armed conflict," said Maass.

Participants should be reminded that this program is

Just as war has left imprints on the pages of history books, it has also left an impression on the lives of those who have experienced it.

As part of a process to better understand the effects of war on society, as well as the individual, Opening of the Heart, along with the Fond du Lac Area Foundation and the Sophia Foundation, is presenting "Voices in Wartime," the movie, along with a community workshop and learning forum.

The movie screening will take place Friday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m., in the UW-Fond du Lac Prairie Theatre, followed by a post-film dialogue in the campus commons with CEO, Dean Dr. Daniel Blankenship, of UW-Fond du Lac and "Voices in Wartime" producer, Andy Himes.

Introducing the film will be Dr. Greg Maass, superintendent of the Fond du Lac School District. Maass will also give remarks about the international launching of the Imagine a Culture of Peace: Impressions of Youth program.

Bill Zierdt, retired Marian College professor and Vietnam War veteran, will also share comments.

The "Voices in Wartime" documentary incorporates poets and poetry from around the world in an attempt to humanize war. The documentary includes interviews with service members, journalists, historians and combat experts showing war's role in our nation and world. "Voices in Wartime" explores the effects war has on individuals and the result of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"I can understand veterans from different times of war. The technology may have changed, but the psychological effects haven't. We can identify with each other," said Bill. "This program is trying to make people aware that no one who experiences war is unaffected."

nonpolitical and is neither anti nor pro war, rather it is looking at the long-term effects of war.

Four community members from families affected by or involved with war, such as service members, spouses, children and parents, will take part in a story panel, facilitated by Dr. Martin Dronsfield, director of intentional communication. The story panel will provide a cross section of the community.

Speakers on the panel will include Zierdt, a Vietnam veteran, and retired Marian College professor; Katrina Burns, daughter of Bill Zierdt, who grew up while her father was in service; Kristan Goehenaer, a spouse of a veteran stationed in Kuwait; and Marcus Oksa, a veteran of three wars - the Cold War, Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism.

Bill, who served in the U.S. Army for 20 years as a cobra helicopter pilot and had two tours of duty in Vietnam, will share his experiences of being in a war and the lasting effect it had on him.

Bill commented on the need for better communication in families saying, "Thirty-five years ago, no one would have paid attention to this video, and today we can see the toll of psychological damage.

"Our nation has come a long way since the troops came home from Vietnam, but as far as communicating experiences on an individual or family level, we haven't moved an inch. The effects of war have not changed, and PTSD can even be seen in Homer's, "The Iliad."

Organizers of the event have expectations that the community will learn how to communicate with service members reentering the community after serving in a war.

For more information on the "Voices in Wartime" program or to register, visit [www.openingoftheheart.org](http://www.openingoftheheart.org) or contact 929-3602.

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