

NEWS RELEASE

BEE CAVE PUBLIC LIBRARY, Bee Cave, Texas
LAKE TRAVIS COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Lakeway, Texas
SPICEWOOD COMMUNITY LIBRARY, Spicewood, Texas

March 12, 2009

LAKE TRAVIS READS presents "Afghanistan: Building Bridges Between Cultures"

Lake Travis area "One Book, One Community" program tied to New York Times best seller, *Three Cups of Tea*

The local "One Book, One Community" program LAKE TRAVIS READS 2009 book selection is *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*. When author Greg Mortenson found himself near death in a remote Pakistani village after an unsuccessful attempt to climb the world's second-tallest mountain, he promised to return and build a school for the village that sheltered and nursed him back to health. His project grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since built more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan.

On Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 PM, a program entitled "Afghanistan: Building Bridges Between Cultures" will be presented by local residents who were similarly mobilized into action when they became aware of the suffering and poverty in Afghanistan after years of war and oppression. Hear how they were able to build schools in Afghanistan, and build friendships between students in Afghanistan and Austin. Public and private schools have been involved, artwork exchanged, and gifts of friendship displayed in both countries. The story is ongoing, and the public is invited to Emmaus Church in Lakeway to hear their compelling stories.

Lake Travis Reads is a joint program of the Bee Cave Public Library, Lake Travis Community Library and Spicewood Community Library, and their respective Friends of the Library groups. Each year, the program selects a book for the community to read and discuss. Voting took place online and at the three libraries in January, and *Three Cups of Tea* was selected from among the list of nominated titles. Book clubs at each of the libraries have been discussing the title throughout March. For more information, visit www.laketravisreads.org, or any of the participating libraries.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, please contact Barbara Hathaway or Angela Palmer at Bee Cave Public Library at 767-6620; Sue Gilman at Lake Travis Community Library at 263-2885; or Jim Lamar at Spicewood Community Library at (830) 798-9259.

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LAKE TRAVIS READS PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL Pennies for Peace CAMPAIGN

Popular cultural education program tied to New York Times best seller, *Three Cups of Tea*

The local "One Book, One Community" program LAKE TRAVIS READS is sponsoring a *Pennies for Peace* campaign, tied to the 2009 book selection *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*. When author Greg Mortenson found himself near death in a remote Pakistani village after an unsuccessful attempt to climb the world's second-tallest mountain, he promised to return and build a school for the village that sheltered and nursed him back to health. His project grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since built more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. The *Pennies for Peace* campaign was begun by the author's mother as a way to involve schoolchildren in raising awareness and funds for the project.

How can a penny bring peace? It doesn't buy much in the Lake Travis area. But in the villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan, it can buy a pencil, start an education, and transform a life. In a region where terrorist organizations recruit uneducated, illiterate children, that pencil can empower a child to read, write, and learn. The *Pennies for Peace* program goal is to encourage children, who are ultimately our future leaders, to learn the value of philanthropy by collecting pennies for global peace. Penny collection jars will be placed at each of the libraries throughout March. "Denominations larger than pennies are welcome, of course," added Lake Travis Reads spokesperson and Bee Cave library director Barbara Hathaway. "We hope the *Pennies for Peace* campaign will raise awareness in our community about the book and the author's crusade to build peace by building schools. Since the community voted to read *Three Cups of Tea* as this year's Lake Travis Reads

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