



Photo submitted  
Donna Sheridan (white dress) is played by Mattie Isaac and Sam Carmichael (blue shirt) is played by Brian Miller.

## VACT presents two weekends of 'Mamma Mia!' performances

NEAL PATTEN  
Unified Newspaper Group

The Verona Area Community Theater will present two weekends of the hit musical "Mamma Mia," Jan. 17-19 and Jan. 23-25.

The show will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, and Saturday, Jan. 18, as well as Thursday, Jan. 23, to Saturday, Jan. 25. The show on Sunday, Jan. 19, will be held at 2 p.m. The performances at the Verona Area Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.

Tickets are \$12 for seniors ages 65 and over and for students through high school. Tickets for adults are \$17.

The VACT performance will feature a cast of 70 performers from the Verona and Madison area.

"Mamma Mia!" uses decades of hit songs from the Swedish pop group ABBA to tell the story of a young woman searching for her birth father. She invites three different men to her wedding, all whom she suspects could be her father based upon her mother's diary. Drama and comedy ensue on the Greek Island where her wedding is due to take

place.

Many of ABBA's best known songs are featured throughout the musical, including "Dancing Queen," "Money Money Money," "Voulez Vous," and the eponymous "Mamma Mia."

Mamma Mia is currently the ninth-longest running show in Broadway history and to date has been performed in more than 50 countries across six continents and in 16 different languages.

In 2018, amateur licensing rights became available for the first time, allowing for groups like Verona Area Community Theater to perform the show.

For information and to purchase tickets, visit [vact.org](http://vact.org)

### If You Go

**What:** "Mamma Mia!" performances

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17-18; 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23-25; 2 p.m. Jan. 19

**Where:** Verona Area Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.

**Info:** [vact.org](http://vact.org)

## Students to perform 'Macbeth'

NEAL PATTEN  
Unified Newspaper Group

Verona Area High School students are set to perform one of William Shakespeare's most famous tragedies.

The Fair Verona Area Shakespeare Company, a student-led organization, is set to perform "Macbeth," 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, and at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11.

The shows will be held at the Verona Area Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St. Tickets are \$5.00 for students and seniors and \$7.00 for general admission. Tickets are purchased at the door.

Each year Fair Verona Area Shakespeare Company performs two shows a year with a cast of students from Verona Area High School and the Exploration Academy.

The show is directed by Kristy LaCount and Hannah Amell with Parker

Mindermann serving as tech director.

"Macbeth" tells the story of a Scottish general who, after being told in a prophecy by a trio of witches he would someday become king of Scotland, fulfills the prophecy himself by killing the king and assuming the throne. He is then consumed by paranoia and guilt over his actions.

### If You Go

**What:** "Macbeth"

**When:** 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11

**Where:** Verona Area Performing Arts Center, 300 Richard St.

**Cost:** General admission (\$7), Students and seniors (\$5)

**Info:** [fairveronashakespearecompany.weebly.com](http://fairveronashakespearecompany.weebly.com)

# Salem UCC to host photo exhibit

## Highlights stories of immigrants, refugees who came to United States

EMILIE HEIDEMANN  
Unified Newspaper Group

Salem United Church of Christ will highlight stories about immigrants and refugees in a touring photo exhibit starting Sunday, Jan. 12.

The exhibit, titled "Building Bridges: Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees," includes photographs and interviews with people who have come to the U.S. from around the world. The

exhibit is being sponsored by the Family Diversity Project.

Salem UCC will kick off the event with a reception and a border presentation offered by the members of Plymouth United Church of Christ in Madison.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, at 502 Mark Drive, with the presentation starting at 7 p.m.

The exhibit can be viewed until Sunday, Feb. 2.

In an email to the Press from Salem UCC, Jon Pundt, who oversees communications for the church, said the group participated in an immersion mission experience at the United States southern border. Madison-area

### If You Go

**What:** "Building Bridges: Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees" photo exhibit

**When:** Presentation: 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12; Exhibit: Sunday, Jan. 12 to Sunday, Feb. 2

**Where:** Salem United Church of Christ, 502 Mark Drive

**Info:** 845-7315

organizations that provide assistance to immigrants and refugees – such as Wisconsin Faith Voices for Injustice and Open Doors for Refugees – will be at the reception to share how they are working to improve the lives of people who have been displaced, Pundt said. The event will also serve

as an information fair to connect community members interested in helping the organizations.

For information about the presentation or the exhibit, call 845-7315.

Email Emilie Heidemann at [emilie.heidemann@wcinet.com](mailto:emilie.heidemann@wcinet.com) or follow her on Twitter at @HeidemannEmilie.

## Verona Press journalists to host 'Coffee With a Reporter'

NEAL PATTEN  
Unified Newspaper Group

If you have story ideas, concerns about the city or feedback about Press stories, our reporters invite Verona residents to share their thoughts during "Coffee With a Reporter."

From 2-3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10, reporters Kimberly Wethal and Neal Patten will be available to hear from citizens at The Sow's Ear, 125 S. Main St. Group editor Jim Ferolie will be available, as well.

The three will talk with and listen to Verona residents during the inaugural "Coffee with a Reporter" discussion and will consider potential story ideas generated from the conversations.

These informal feedback sessions allow for

community residents to engage with reporters from Unified Newspaper Group, which in turn helps the reporters better serve the community.

Wethal and Patten plan to begin hosting "Coffee with a Reporter" sessions regularly and welcome suggestions on times and locations for the discussion.

Neal Patten, Verona Community Reporter, can be contacted at [neal.patten@wcinet.com](mailto:neal.patten@wcinet.com).

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Pet Adoption and Resource Center, 161 Horizon Drive Ste. 106, Verona

### If You Go

**What:** "Coffee With a Reporter"

**When:** 2-3 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10

**Where:** The Sow's Ear, 125 South Main St.

**Info:** Email [kimberly.wethal@wcinet.com](mailto:kimberly.wethal@wcinet.com)

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