

Public Invited to “Raise Your Voice” Literary Event

Friday December 4, 2009 7:30 p.m. Java River Café Downtown Montevideo

The second annual literary gathering featuring an interchange of college students from the Twin Cities and community members of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed will be held Friday, December 4th from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Java River Coffee house on Main Street Montevideo. The “**Raise Your Voice**” event is free and open to the public and area writers and artists are encouraged to attend.

“**Raise your Voice**” is being co-sponsored by the Higher Education Consortium on Urban Affairs (HECUA) and Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) as a way to celebrate the arts and their power to impact social issues and create vibrant communities. For more information, contact Patrick Moore at 320-269-2984.

“Last year’s event was a huge success and we want to do it again,” said Julia Frost Nerbonne, Environmental Sustainability Program Director for HECUA. “The collaboration between higher education and community based CURE can have lasting impacts on the students we bring each year to visit the region,” Nerbonne continued. “The sharing of words and ideas combined with visible examples of on the ground work in rural community development is fun, meaningful and eye-opening -- it is a great field trip for our class!”

A total of 22 students and several faculty members will be coming to Montevideo at around 10:00 a.m. on Friday Dec. 4th to get an overview of CURE’s work in the region. On Friday afternoon, the students will have free time to explore the various restaurants and shops of downtown Montevideo. Starting at 7:00 p.m. the students will begin to gather at the Java River Coffeehouse at 210 South First Street in downtown Montevideo.

Any community members wishing to read at the open mic event are asked to arrive at Java River by 7 p.m. to add their name to the list of performers. After the event, the students will travel to Audrey Arner’s and Richard Handeen’s Moonstone Farm for an overnight slumber party and farm tour on Saturday morning.