

# Brazos Progress

A Monthly Newsletter

April 2011

*Brazos Locavores*

**BRAZOS VALLEY PEACE WATCH**

**Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death  
Penalty- Brazos Valley Chapter**

**Brazos Natural Foods**

**brazos buddhist  
association**

**Village Foods**  
We make it easy to eat better

**THE VILLAGE  
Downtown**



Renee Bork,  
Licensed Massage  
Therapist, Certified  
Trager(R)  
Practitioner



Paul Brannon,  
Realtor(R),  
Green



**The Unitarian Universalist Church  
of the Brazos Valley**

**King Vending**



**Coalition for Support  
of Public Schools**



## Upcoming Events

### **Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History's Rockin' and Rollin' 50's Style Birthday Celebration**

**April 2, 7:00-11:00**

This event held at the Brazos Center Ballroom celebrates the Museum's 50 years of service to Brazos Valley and the State of Texas. The evening will feature dancing with authentic 50s music by DJ Stevo, a performance by M.A. Sterling and the Brazos Valley Troupe, a 50s dance lesson and demonstration, delicious desserts, a soda fountain, and classic cars. The Museum will be open free to guests, and party activities will also include a prize for best 50s attire, and one for best 50s style couple dancing. There will be a raffle ticket for \$10 each or 11 for \$100. For more information visit

[www.brazosvalleymuseum.org](http://www.brazosvalleymuseum.org).

### **KEOS Fundraiser Featuring Sam Baker**

**April 8, 8:00-10:00**

On the day of each execution, the Brazos Valley chapter of the Texas Coalition to : KEOS and the Village Cafe proudly present Sam Baker in concert at the Village Cafe. Local favorites Dharma Cowboys will be the opening act. There is a suggested \$8 donation at the door. All of the funds raised go to support community radio, 89.1 FM. Before the show, 6-7 pm at the KEOS studios, KEOS listeners are welcome to a special "meet & greet" with Sam Baker before he heads to Village for the show. Advance tickets (\$20) are available at the Arts Council of Brazos Valley (2275 Dartmouth St) for the meet & greet (2275 Dartmouth St.). A ticket to the meet & greet gets you into the show later at Village. Again, all proceeds go to benefit KEOS 89.1 FM.

### **Brazos Progressives Meeting**

**April 15**

On April 15, the National Day of Silence (<http://www.dayofsilence.org>), GLBTA encourages people to wear "gay? fine by me" t-shirts on the TAMU campus and in the B/CS community in order to increase awareness about anti-GLBT name-calling, bullying, and harassment in schools and to show support for GLBT individuals in our community.

## Organization Highlight

# Coalition in Support of Public Schools

The Coalition in Support of Public Schools (CSPS) is a local, non-profit, grassroots organization founded in 1995 by concerned parents and residents of CSISD. CSPS is dedicated to supporting the independence and excellence of our public schools. CSPS is committed to the institutional principles of the separation of church and state, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech.

The goals of CSPS are to sustain and improve local public schools, to disseminate information regarding public schools, and to inform citizens about local government and state government affairs related to local public schools. For more information, visit their website at [philebus.tamu.edu/CSPS/csps.html](http://philebus.tamu.edu/CSPS/csps.html) or contact Kate at [katherinekel@gmail.com](mailto:katherinekel@gmail.com).

# The US and the Muslim World: Where do we go from here?

*"It is not a conflict between civilizations."*

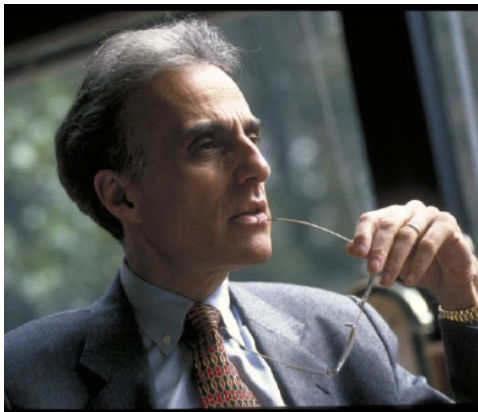
-Dr. John Esposito

On March 2, the Texas A&M Arabic and Asian Languages Offices hosted a lecture by Dr. John Esposito. Dr. Esposito is a Professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University. He is the Founding Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim/Christian Understanding in the Walsh School of Foreign Service. He has served as a consultant to the US Department of State, European and Asian governments and the media worldwide.

## Popular Opinion in the Muslim World

Despite the large amount of media coverage, Americans do not really understand the desires of the world's Muslim population. Media tends to cover the view of extremists and not popular opinion. Those who condone acts of terrorism are a minority and they

are no more or less religious than mainstream Muslims. In fact, many Muslims say that they admire the West for its technology and democracy. Muslims and Americans are equally likely to reject civilian attacks and deem them as morally unjust.



Muslims desire democracy, however, they support religious law as a source of legislation. Both Muslim and American critiques of the West is also the same: The West is perceived to have moral decay and is experiencing a breakdown

of traditional values. Muslim women in fact do not believe that wearing the hijab is a violation of their human rights, instead they want to have human rights hand-in-hand with their religion. In the end, Muslims claim that they just want respect. They claim that the one thing the West can do to improve their relations with their societies is to moderate their views towards Muslims and respect Islam.

## Reconciling with the Muslim World

Self-determination is of importance to Muslims in the Middle East. In order to reconcile with the Muslim World, we must first understand what Muslims want. In his book, "Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think" (2011), Dr. Esposito clearly displays the desires of Islamic peoples. For more information about US/Islamic relations, make sure to check out one of Dr. John Esposito's many books about Islam.

### Business Highlight

## Brazos Natural Foods



Brazos Natural Foods provides the Brazos Valley with local, organic, and health food products and supplements. Brazos Natural Foods is very different from other alienating, corporate grocery stores and has a friendly, knowledgeable staff that provides a welcoming shopping experience. By focusing on the community, Brazos Natural Foods connects people with their shopping experience.

Although the store is small, the selection is not. Brazos Natural Foods has dry groceries, frozen foods, dairy products (including vegan substitutes), yerba mate', breads, fresh organic produce, low-carb and no-gluten foods, dried herbs, herbal products, vitamin and mineral food supplements, homeopathic remedies, essential oils, books, candles, incense, clothing eclectic music CDs, and various forms of beauty, face and body care products. Brazos Natural Foods has most of the things that you need to have a healthy mind, body, and soul.

Brazos Natural Foods is located at 4303 S. Texas Ave in Bryan, Texas 77802. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 to 6 and on Saturdays from 9-4. For more information about the numerous products offered by Brazos Natural foods call 979-691-2733 or visit their website at [www.brazosnaturalfoods.com](http://www.brazosnaturalfoods.com).