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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 WWAC screens film, hosts discussion on origins of
2 'America the Beautiful'

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 Windham World Affairs Council will screen the film
6 *From Sea to Shining Sea: Katharine Lee Bates and the Story of*
7 *America the Beautiful* on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 5:30 p.m. at 118
8 Elliot St.

9 The screening of the 37-minute film will be followed by
10 a discussion with filmmaker John de Graaf.

11 "America the Beautiful" might be the most beloved song
12 in the United States, yet few know about the life of its author,
13 Bates. The film tells the story of this poet, Wellesley College
14 professor, and social reformer, beginning with her childhood in
15 Falmouth, Massachusetts. She became an anti-imperialist who
16 fought for the rights of women, workers, people of color,
17 tenement residents, and immigrants.

18 "As we count down to the United States' 250th
19 anniversary, this film invites us to recommit to the ideals Bates
20 embedded in her timeless anthem, which celebrates both the
21 country's natural beauty and its philosophical commitments," the
22 event organizers write.

23 "While acknowledging that the United States has often
24 not lived up to its ideals, the poem honors the unbroken chain of
25 Americans who have strived to make it all it can be. It is a
26 powerful reminder that making America beautiful requires
27 justice, empathy, and civic courage."

28 Over more than 40 years, de Graaf, an author, filmmaker,
29 speaker, and activist, has produced and directed 50 films,
30 including 15 prime-time PBS specials, which have won more
31 than 100 regional, national, and international awards.

32 He is the author or co-author of four books, including
33 *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic*. The John de Graaf
34 Environmental Filmmaking Award, named for him, is presented
35 annually at the Wild and Scenic Film Festival in California.

36 This program is part of the America 250 Series, a
37 collaboration with Brooks Memorial Library, Windham World
38 Affairs Council, Vermont Independent Media (publisher of *The*
39 *Commons*), and 118 Elliot.

40 Admission is by donation (\$10 suggested), and no one
41 will be turned away for lack of funds. Tickets can be reserved at
42 PurpleMountain.eventbrite.com.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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