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Martin Luther King Day Celebration!

Monday January 19

10:00 a.m. to noon
 First Baptist Church
 North Adams

Eagle Street entrance

Save the Date:
February 13 will be our next monthly forum, and we will discuss The Hoosic River Revival!



"A Banker, An Economist, And A Politician Walked Into The Room..." To Speak At The December Forum

Despite the forecast bringing the first major winter storm warning on December 12, the Coalition forum brought a group of 57 community members to gather at the First Baptist Church in North Adams. The topic of our discussion was a difficult one: the current and future state of our economy. An intriguing issue, yet one nobody seems fully comfortable addressing, nor that anyone can completely speak to as an expert. The forum began, as usual, with a round of introductions and announcements about community events. A panel of knowledgeable speakers then approached the subject of our economy to open the feature discussion. Panelists included State Senator Ben Downing, Steve Crowe, President of Mountain One Financial Partners, and Stephen Sheppard, an Economist from Williams College.



L to R: State Senator Ben Downing, Stephen Sheppard, and Steve Crowe stand together at the December forum

Stephen Sheppard spoke first, offering optimistic thoughts of recovery from what he calls "a serious crisis, but one that will not last forever." He spoke of the last severe recession, back in 1980-81, which became the beginning of the end for Sprague Electric. Sheppard believes we are far more equipped to bounce from economic hardship than we had been in the early eighties. He concluded by encouraging forum participants to continue to support schools and their after-school programs, and to continue to invest in the infrastructure.

Steve Crowe spoke next, tagging on Sheppard's optimism with a statistic: "twenty-some banks have failed this year; in the Great Depression, over one thousand banks failed, so we have seen worse times than this," he said. He clarified for us that community banks, such as Hoosac Bank and Williamstown Savings Bank, are coping just fine with this economic state, and continue to offer all lending programs. "Wall Street banks" certainly have suffered, but most banks in Massachusetts have adequate capitol and remain stable.

Senator Ben Downing began by giving some perspective: he was born in 1981, during difficult economic times. He was clear in saying "the state government's budget is affected now as much as an individual's budget or a municipal government's budget." The revenues of the state government have fallen this year for the first time in over 20 years, and more specifically Downing stated that "capital gains tax revenues are projected to decline approximately 50% this year." He went on to assure his listeners that the state budget includes more than a billion dollars in stabilization funds, which will help to off-set many costs of this economic struggle.

Several community members had questions for our panelists, and thoughts to share with them. One woman asked for clarification about the recent "bail out." Comments were made urging others to live simpler, and break away from the credit card economy we have been living in. All participants were grateful to our banker, economist, and politician for taking the time to speak with us. The current and future state of our economy remains a mystery novel in some sense, but one that we're all reading as it's written, and all at the same pace. Please visit our website, www.nbccoalition.org, for an online forum to continue this discussion.

-- Jenna Cece

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nbCC Welcomes Timothy Briggs To The NBN Staff

Tim Briggs, born and raised in North Adams, is the newest member of the Coalition staff. He has been hired as Program Coordinator for the Up the Hill program at the Brayton Hill Community. The program is supported by a North Adams Public School grant for after school and out of school programs. While working with the Coalition, Tim also juggles a full class load at MCLA where he is studying to be a social worker. Tim previously worked at Eagleton School as a Child Development Counselor. Tim enjoys spending quality time with his family, and also playing golf, softball, and fishing in his free time. Come visit the office soon to meet and welcome Tim!

Local Agencies Discuss Outreach Collaboration For the Future

A meeting hosted by the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition engaged twenty five partners in the work of community outreach. Our thanks go to Don Atwater and Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC) who brought two trainers to walk us through a database they use for all their casework called Octopia. Octopia is able to track program use by clients. BCAC uses it for their fuel assistance clients and have a rather large database at present. Octopia can be adapted to be used by other agencies as well, and if successful, we can build a broader understanding of our needs in Berkshire County as well as inform our clients of services they may not know they are eligible for.

In addition to seeing Octopia, participants heard of plans to create a public health e-zine and hopes for the community health worker initiative that the Coalition is beginning to undertake. Ultimately, we hope to learn from each other about available resources in the community so that we all become community outreach experts.

Communities Mobilizing For Change On Alcohol (CMCA) Seeks Strategy Team Leader

The underage drinking prevention program at the Coalition, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA), is seeking a strategy team leader for the towns of the Mt. Greylock Regional School District. This is a part-time (10 hours per month or less), stipended position that is perfect for someone who is passionate about this issue. Duties include facilitating a monthly CMCA strategy team meeting, taking minutes and disseminating them to strategy team members monthly, sending meeting reminders to members and potential members, attending a monthly meeting with the CMCA Program Coordinator to track progress, assisting with CMCA data reporting and bi-annual report, and submitting monthly invoices for work time and refreshments provided at meetings to the CMCA Program Coordinator.

Please send a letter of interest and resume by **Friday, January 23** to **Jenna Cece, c/o Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247.**

-- Jenna Cece

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Board of Directors

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

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Service-Learning Coordinator
North Adams Public Schools

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Northern Berkshire Legislative Contacts

Representative Dan Bosley

61 Main Street, Room 241
North Adams, MA 01247
(413) 663-7486
Rep.DanielBosley@hou.state.ma.us

Representative Denis Guyer

12 Depot Street
Dalton, MA 01226
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denis.guyer@state.ma.us

Senator Benjamin Downing

20 Bank Row, Room 202
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-4008
benjamin.downing@state.ma.us

Congressman John Olver

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Contact: Jason Ostrander

Senator Edward Kennedy

2400 JFK Federal Bldg.,
Boston, MA 02203
315 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4543
(202) 224-2417 (fax)
senator@kennedy.senate.gov

Senator John Kerry

One Financial Plaza
Springfield, MA 01103
304 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510
(413) 785-4610
(413) 736-1049 (fax)
(202) 224-2742
john_kerry@kerry.senate.gov

Governor Deval Patrick

Statehouse, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133
(888) 870-7770
(617) 727-9725 (fax)
www.mass.gov/governor

President George Bush

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202)456-1414
(202) 456-2461 (fax)
president@whitehouse.gov

February is Children's Dental Health Month

The New Year provides us with an opportunity to reevaluate priorities and renew commitments to ourselves and the children of North Berkshire. This year, let's work together to make children's oral health a top priority in the Commonwealth. The Watch Your Mouth campaign works statewide to increase public awareness on the importance of oral health as part of overall health. This February, we invite you to celebrate these accomplishments! Please join us on **February 2nd** to celebrate Children's Dental Health Month as we honor legislators and community members committed to promoting local and statewide solutions to the most common chronic childhood disease: dental decay.

Dental disease is a silent epidemic that profoundly impairs children's educational progress and most basic daily activities, such as eating and speaking. Approximately 51 million school hours are missed every year due to oral health related absence. Fortunately, dental disease is almost entirely preventable, but only when preventive care and access to health insurance is available. Through the Watch Your Mouth Campaign, health care professionals in Massachusetts are banding together to identify solutions and ensure that they are enacted.



Remember that February is Children's Dental Health Month and there is much to celebrate! Join us on **February 2nd at the Massachusetts State House in Nurses Hall, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.** To learn what you can do during Children's Dental Health month, please contact **Czarina Biton** at biton@hcfama.org or **617-275-2838**. Check us out at www.watchyourmouth.org/massachusetts.php. Let's watch our mouths, and use them to ask our legislators to ensure that the widespread problem of childhood dental disease is a thing of the past!

Northern Berkshire United Way Campaign Continues



We need your help – now more than ever.

Because of our united efforts, more children can access quality child care, more elders receive critical lifeline services, more people with disabilities can participate in mainstream community life, and more information reaches people in a timely manner. Youth are better served with coordinated transportation and high quality programs, more meals are being delivered to folks who find it difficult to cope with food insecurity, and more young parents are receiving prompt help as they struggle to meet their new responsibilities.

But the mission is far from accomplished. Our neighbors need our help. Please, give now. Give through a payroll deduction at work, or write a check directly to us: **Northern Berkshire United Way, 85 Main Street, North Adams, MA 01247**. Thank you!

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Special Feature: Brittany Shepard's Blog From the84.org

This fall, UNITY Youth Leadership Program member and Grooove co-chair Brittany Shepard applied for and was selected as a youth blogger for the anti-tobacco website the84.org. Brittany was one of only 6 youth chosen for this honor. With permission from both Brittany and The 84, we'll be re-printing some of Brit's blog entries in the newsletter. Hope you enjoy them as much as we do here at nbCC! (Originally Published 10-27-08)

“Work And Play, They’re Never Okay, To Mix the Way We Do”

The age old question is why are teenagers so immature? Most of the time older generations tend to look down on us, our actions, and our thoughts. We should be growing up, taking responsibility. But the thing is...we are. The only reason why they think we aren't is because we still enjoy holding on to what makes us feel alive, which, some of the time, happens to be things adults deem “immature”, “childlike”, and plain old “stupid”.

Just last night I spent a night at my friend's house playing Harry Potter trivia games. But then, for whatever reason, I decided to lie on the floor. Then my other friend decided it was time to have pull races across the slick, tiled floor. We paired off into teams of two, with one team member lying on their backs on the floor and the other team member standing and grabbing on to team member number one's arms in order to pull them as hard as they could across the floor.

From there on out - it was on. We started having races, timing ourselves, and inevitably hurting ourselves. I woke up this morning with a gigantic bruise on my right shoulder from where my arm whacked off the staircase. But it was all in good fun and most definitely enjoyable. Yes, I woke up in a bit of pain, but I'd do it all over again.

But why is it that the older society would look down on what I did last night? Why do you think it's obnoxious? I don't see what's wrong with it at all. We could have been doing what 75% of the rest of the kids in our school were doing last night - partying. We could have been out drinking, smoking, doing drugs, and engaging in other unhealthy activities.

But we didn't. So why are you looking down on us, when after a week of working so hard in school to maintain our near perfect grade point averages, we decided to hang out and act goofy rather than lying and harming ourselves and endangering others? In my opinion, we should be rewarded, or at least noticed, for being strong enough to turn down all the peer pressures high school has to offer.

So call us crazy, call us immature, call us whatever you will. We still know we did the right thing. We found entertainment in sobriety, granite floors, and a couple of bangs and bruises, rather than at the bottom of a bottle of Bud Light, at that final puff of nicotine smoke, or in a night full of things we'll never remember tomorrow.

-- Brittany Shepard

Safe Homes of North Berkshire - Calling All Parents!

If you are a parent/guardian of a student in grades 6-12 in North County, you can help reduce underage drinking by signing the Safe Homes pledge and joining our Parent Committee to plan for 2009 events. The Safe Homes program will have a brief Parents Meeting on **Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m at the Coalition Office** – 61 Main Street, Suite 218, North Adams. Our agenda will cover planning the Resource Guide for 2009 and a possible Movie Night for parents and kids. For more information, please contact **Lois Daunis at ldaunis@nbccoalition.org**, or call **663-7588**.

... and don't forget the pledge! If you need a copy, we'll get one to you!

-- Lois Daunis

Need Help Paying Your Heating Bill? You May Qualify!

If your income level is below the amount shown for your family size, you may be eligible for assistance with your heating bills this winter. Please call the Berkshire Community Action Council at 1-866-216-6200 for details and an application.

Family Size (# of people in household)	Income Level	Family Size (# of people in household)	Income Level
1.....	\$27,876	7.....	\$72,371
2.....	\$36,454	8.....	\$73,979
3.....	\$45,031	9.....	\$75,587
4.....	\$53,608	10.....	\$77,196
5.....	\$62,186	11.....	\$78,804
6.....	\$70,763	12.....	\$80,412

Groove Says Thanks And Goodbye To MCLA Interns

This fall, Groove had the benefit of support and energy from three students in Lauren O'Neal's Community Art Education course at MCLA. Tara Von Schmidt, Jessica Sweeney, and Ashley Mason spent eight weeks with Groove helping to develop new marketing plans, re-vamp the logo, and plan a very successful November show that everyone involved with Groove was proud of. Many thanks to Ashley, Jess, Tara, and Lauren for their time and commitment to Groove!

nBEAT Takes A Tour of MASS MoCA

In December, while visiting the Sol LeWitt exhibition at MASS MoCA, nBEAT participants explored how Sol LeWitt's wall drawings are affected by language, interpretation and architecture. The group explored the three floors of one artist's work and continued to learn about LeWitt while making artworks in his style during follow-up workshops. nBEAT is pleased to be extending workshops and continuing explorations through mid-February!



Youth Leadership Program Seeks Consultant To Educate On Suicide Prevention

The Youth Leadership Program participants are interested in addressing the issue of youth suicide through community service-learning projects this year. The group determined that, before we design any projects, we should all get some training and information on the topic. With this in mind, UNITY is seeking a community member who is knowledgeable on suicide prevention, adolescent depression, and also self-injury to conduct three sessions of training/discussion on Tuesday evenings in January or February. If interested, please send letter of interest and resume to **Kate Merrigan** by January 9th. Information can be sent to kmerrigan@nbccoalition.org or by mail, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247.

UPDATE: "411 In The 413" Berkshire Youth Development Conference

The third annual Berkshire Youth Development Conference will now be held at the Hancock Shaker Village on **Friday, May 8th 2009**. Due to limited conference funding, the "411 in the 413" committee has scaled the duration of the conference back to a one day event and Hancock Shaker Village has offered to be our host! High schools and students should expect more information and registration materials by early February.

-- Kate Merrigan & Alison Basdekis

“The mission of NBN is to connect and support residents within neighborhoods to build community, create stronger neighborhoods, and make linkages to groups, institutions and other resources.”

EXPO Proves To Keep The Berkshires Beautiful

The 11th Annual Neighborhood EXPO focused on enjoying and protecting the beautiful Berkshires through our theme “Keeping the Berkshires Beautiful.” The main focus was on the three morning sessions: “The Physical Effect of Our Environment” with Joe Manning; “Enjoying Our Area” with Gail Cariddi and Al Bashevkin; and “Improving and Protecting Our Environment” with Mark Rondeau and Kim McMann. A usual highlight was our lunch, “Taste of Northern Berkshire,” which featured food from local restaurants, along with a slide show by local artists Ian Grey and Kelly Lee. Special presentations included the youth SAY It Proud award to James Rancourt, followed by a special Environmental Advocate award to Gail Cariddi. Entertainment included dancing by the NBN Dance program and music by Eric Buddington with Tony Pisano; Jamie Choquette with Nick Raby; and Berkshire Idol adult winner, Kristina Clark. The displays and exhibits were great! The neighborhood EXPO was a totally free community event, thanks to the special support we received from: Hoosac Bank; Freedman, DeRosa, and Rondeau; Legacy Bank; REACH Foundation; Smith, Watson & Company; and Greylock Federal Credit Union.

-- Kathy Keeser & Natalie Cain

“How Our Physical Environment Shapes Our Culture And Economy”

My panel was a mix of educators, environmentalists, economists, farmers, and even a former Sprague engineer who has been recording the weather every day in his backyard for 30 years. As is common in these sessions, with the help of an engaged audience, the subject broadened further with each comment. We discussed the effect of the oil industry on New Orleans, the decline of farming in Williamstown due to tourism and the expansion of Williams College, and the lack of appreciation for the natural environment among our young people. One panelist related that a student said he hated going outdoors because, “there are no electrical outlets.” There was considerable back and forth about whether the physical environment is adversely impacted more by poverty, or more by prosperity. Nothing was settled, no problems were solved, and if the Taste of North Berkshire hadn’t been waiting for us at noon, we might still be talking.

-- Joe Manning

“Improving and Protecting Our Environment”

In the workshop on Improving and Protecting our Environment, we had a wide-ranging discussion. We talked about the Hoosic River, including the quality of its water and the art display in April in the flood control chutes in North Adams. More initiatives, such as murals in the chutes, should be explored.

We discussed how citizens can protect the environment through energy conservation, recycling and properly disposing of batteries and household appliances. Related topics included cultivating gardens to beautify neighborhoods, environmentally friendly lawn care and the importance of bees to the environment. With Rep. Dan Bosley, we spoke of the importance of a sustainable economy, living more simply and possibilities for economic development from a new energy economy.

Participants discussed how many local people don’t visit such attractions as Natural Bridge State Park in North Adams or Hopkins Forest in Williamstown. We noted the Mount Greylock State Reservation will open in the spring, after being closed to vehicles for two years during road construction. With climate change often in the news, and evident in our icy winters, environmental awareness is peaking in our area. New groups have formed, and more discussions such as ours would be beneficial.

-- Mark Rondeau

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Media Contacts for Northern Berkshire

All news outlets in Northern Berkshire are happy to receive press releases by e-mail. Be mindful of the deadlines for each outlet, and make sure the important details -- who, what, when, and where -- are clear in the beginning of your release. Include a contact name and phone number.

Sometimes a follow-up phone call is helpful, and if you have a relationship with a reporter, make sure he or she gets a copy, too.

Advocate	news@advocateweekly.com
Beacon (MCLA)	beacon@mcla.mass.edu
Bennington Banner	news@benningtonbanner.com
Berkshire Eagle	news@berkshireeagle.com
Berkshire Living	seth@berkshirelivingmag.com
CapNews9	news@capitalnews9.com
CBS6 Albany	mbw@wrgb.com
Gazette	gazette@berkshire.net
Hill Country Observer	calendar@hillcountryobserver.com
iBerkshires.com	info@iBerkshires.com
N. Adams Tourism Office (Rod Bunt)	tourism@northadams-ma.gov
Northern Berkshire Community TV	nbctc01@gmail.com
Time Warner	albch22ad@twcable.com
Transcript	news@thetranscript.com
WAMC Berkshire Bureau	news@wamc.org csaldo@wamc.org
WilliNet	willinet@williams.edu
WNAW	news@wnaw.com
WNYT	releases@wnyt.com
Women's Times	berknews@thewomenstimes.com
WUPE/WBEC	news@wupe.com

Wordplay @ Papyri Books

Wordplay is co-sponsored by Inkberry and Papyri Books. Held the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Wordplay hosts a guest author each month reading from his or her work, with a Q/A session at the conclusion of the reading. Refreshments, Open Mic and a visit to Papyri Gallery to see the work of local artists follow. Our featured author for January is **Rob Ronnow** reading from his collected poetry. Papyri Gallery features **Jennifer Smith** and her exhibit of pen and ink drawings. Open Mic is an opportunity for guests to share their written works-in-progress and five minutes is allotted for each reader. Join us **Saturday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. - Papyri Books, 45 Eagle Street, North Adams**. For more information please call **662-2099**. Hours are: Monday –Friday 12-6 and Saturday 10-6.

Snowfest Celebration in Williamstown

The Williamstown Youth Center will facilitate the 6th annual Snowfest celebration on **Sunday, January 11, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** at the **Williams Towne Field House and Chapman Skating Rink** on the campus of Williams College. Many family activities will be available, including ice skating, an inflatable obstacle course and bounce house, air brush extravaganza, photo puzzles, arts and crafts activities, pick-up sports, etc. The cost of the afternoon is **\$35 per family** or **\$5 per student**. Help support the Williamstown Youth Center as it continues to provide exemplary programs for children in the Northern Berkshires.

Northern Berkshire Adult Basic Education Program

Enrollment is beginning at the Northern Berkshire Adult Basic Education Program for **January 12**, start of classes. Enrollment is ongoing, and will continue until classes are filled. GED preparation at all levels, English for Speakers of other Languages and Basic Skills classes are offered. Computer Skills classes are available to all students enrolled in at least one other class. All classes, books and materials are free for students. For more information or to enroll, please call **662-5314** or **662-5310**.

Cross Cultural Action Network Meeting

The Cross Cultural Action Network (CCAN) will feature a presentation on the basic legal rights of immigrants at their next meeting on **Thursday, January 15 from noon to 2:00 p.m.** at the **First Baptist Church, 88 South Street, Pittsfield**.

CCAN is committed to engaging a diverse group of community members to discuss and work on cross cultural issues. Basic information on immigrant rights is critical to our understanding of the challenges faced by our new neighbors and friends. Laura Róto, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts and a graduate of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and American University's Washington College of Law, will present an overview of what agencies and their staff need to know about this important topic. The meeting will also afford the opportunity to network with more than 40 individuals and agencies that provide services to multicultural populations throughout the county. CCAN meetings are free and open to the general public. Light refreshments will be provided. Attendees are asked to enter the church through the side entrance near the Pittsfield Cooperative Bank. For more information, contact **Brooke Mead** at the Berkshire Immigrant Center at **(413) 445 4881**.

UNO Holiday House Decorating Contest Results Are In

Members of the United Neighborhood Organization went out on Thursday, Dec. 18 to judge the decorated homes in the UNO Neighborhood. They were absolutely beautiful with colored lights, all white lights, Santas, elves, reindeer and more. It was not easy choosing the winners; however, here they are: William Gardner, 71 Liberty St., Diane O'Brien, 137 River St., Richard Rancourt, 170 Bracewell Ave., John & Spring Williams, 281 Houghton St., and Ed Gagne, 82 Chase Ave. They each received a prize. Take a ride around our neighborhood to check out these homes.

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Berkshire AHEC Presents Program To Recognize Dr. Martin Luther King

Berkshire AHEC will present a continuing education program in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday entitled "Genes vs. Racisms: Exploring the Root Causes of Racial Inequalities in Health." The program will be held on **Thursday, January 15, 2009**, from **9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, at the **Crowne Plaza in Pittsfield**. Dr. Alan Goodman will discuss the connections between health, race, genetics, and racism and will examine the role of genetic explanation, and in particular, how it is applied to racial differences in health. Three contact hours will be available for social workers, nursing home administrators, licensed mental health and substance abuse counselors, pharmacists, nurses, dental hygienists and assistants, physical and occupational therapists and for EMT's at all levels. **Registrations received after December 31 will be \$56 and all registrations at the door will be \$61.** Please visit www.berkshireahcec.org to register online and for more information.

Railway Cafe Announces January Show

The next Railway Cafe will be on **Friday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m.** with Pittsfield native **Adam Michael Rothberg**. Admission will be **\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$8 for students and seniors**. Railway Cafe shows take place at **MCLA Gallery 51, 51 Main St., North Adams**.

Singer-songwriter, one-man-band Adam Michael Rothberg is new to the Boston area, but not new to the music world. Adam was named one of the 2008 Northeast Regional Finalists in the Mountain Stage NewSong contest. Berkshire Living's August 2008 issue calls Adam "the Berkshire's answer to Paul McCartney....ANOTHER SPIN is at once a testament to Rothberg's love affair with music and his love affair with love, and suggests that distinguishing between the two isn't always so easy."

Don't miss this month's Railway Cafe! For tickets and information, please call **664-6393**, or visit www.railwaycafe.org.

Come To The Berkshire Idol Semi-Finals!

Please come to the semi-finals of the 2009 Berkshire Idol Contest! This event will be held on **Saturday, January 24** at the **MCLA Church Street Center**. The day begins at **10:00 a.m.** and will continue until the last contestant has performed. Tickets are only **\$5**, and are good all day! Amazing talent has emerged in Berkshire County for the competition this year; you won't want to miss this!

United Cerebral Palsy Association Annual Telethon

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Berkshire County is gearing up for "Starfest" '09! UCP's annual Telethon is scheduled for **Sunday, January 25, 2009**. It will be live at the **NBCTC Studio at Heritage Park, North Adams**. It will be televised on NBCTC/Time Warner Cable, Channel 15.

UCP's goal is to raise \$35,000. All money raised remains entirely in Berkshire County. It will help UCP's mission of advancing the independence of children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities, by providing services which include: Advocacy, Assistive Technology, the Wheelchair Repair Clinic, a Loaner Program of durable medical equipment, individual and family support.

Please come down to the NBCTC studio to watch the show live, or tune in to Time Warner Cable, Channel 15. For more information, please contact **Leigh Harrington**, Director of Individual & Family Support at UCP, at **413-664-9345, ext. 11**, or email her at lharrington@ucpberkshire.org.

Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders

Adams

First Baptist Church 15 Commercial Street
Pastor Donald E. Gray
First Congregational 42 Park Street 743-1677
Rev. Mike Mullany
Notre Dame Church 21 Maple Street 743-1767
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle
St. Mark's Episcopal P.O. Box 191 743-0947
Rev. R. Ellen White
St. Stanislaus Kostka 25 Hoosac St., 743-0041
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle
St. Thomas Church Columbia Street 743-0575
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle

Cheshire

Cheshire First Baptist Church 743-3649
Pastor Rick Newton
St. Mary of the Assum. 159 Church Street 743-2110
Rev. David Raymond
United Methodist Church 743-0133
Pastor Warren Scamman

Florida

Florida Baptist Church Road 664-6055
Rev. Roy Burdick

Hancock

Hancock Baptist Church Box 10A
Rev. Angela Buchauer

Lanesboro

Berkshire Union Chapel Route 8 445-4299
Rev. William D. Furey
St. Luke's Episcopal 20 S. Main Street 443-0165
Rev. Mary Schreiber

New Ashford

Christian Harvest Cntr 199 Mallory Rd 458-1083
Pastor Joseph D. Slonski

North Adams

Northern Berkshire Christian Church
55 Harding Ave. 663-8998
Rev. Robert Bellofatto
Blackinton Union Massachusetts Avenue 458-8302
Pastor Eugene Kemp
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Holiday
Inn Annex of Amer. Legion Drive 802-694-1726
President: Jim Law
Congregation Beth Israel 53 Lois Street 663-5830
Rabbi Jeffrey Goldwasser
COTY Center 70 Marshall Street 663-3133
Sister Eunice Tassone
First Baptist 131 Main Street 663-3780
Rev. David Anderson
First Bible Baptist 35 Notch Road 662-2107
Pastor Eric Malachuk
First Congregational 134 Main Street 663-9940
Rev. Allen M. Comstock
First United Methodist 159 East Main 664-9655
Pastor Kim Kie
Jehovah's Witness 984 Union Street 663-5030
St. Andrews Episcopal 1438 Mass Avenue 662-2775
Rev. Peter Pierson
St. Anthony of Padua 68 Marshall 663-5316
Rev. William Cyr
St. Francis of Assisi 12 Union Street 663-5316
Rev. William Cyr
St. John's Episcopal 59 Summer Street 664-9656
Rev. Edward King
Salvation Army 393 River Street 663-7987
Lts. Russell & Cynthia Crowsen

(continued on page 10)

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Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders (Continued)

Savoy

Sovereign Grace Baptist 664 Main Road 447-8127
Pastor Kenneth Mick Jr.

Stamford, VT

St. John Bosco Chapel Main Road 802-694-1950
Father Joseph H. Tate
Stamford Community Main Road 802-694-1533
Rev. Bill Wilson

Williamstown

Baha'i Faith Williams College 458-8092
Sponsored by Williams College Baha'i Club
Community Bible Ch. 160 Bridges Rd. 458-5556
Rev. Douglas Duncan
First Baptist 731 Main Street 458-4811
Rev. Peter Daniels
First Congregational 906 Main Street 458-4273
Rev. Carrie Bail
First United Methodist 777 Main Street 458-3183
Rev. Michelle Grube
St. John's Episcopal 35 Park Street 458-8144
Rev. Peter Elvin
St. Patrick and Raphael 54 Southworth 458-5443
Rev. Mark Burke
Second Congregational 81 Hancock Rd. 458-3467
Rev. Penny Rich Smith
White Oaks Cong. 480 White Oaks Road 458-4633
Rev. Sue Stewart
Williams Coll. Chap. 39 Chapin Hall Dr. 597-2483
Rev. Richard Spalding

CORRECTIONS BOX:

No mistakes to report this month...please keep checking, and be sure to let me know of any corrections or updates in this and future issues!

Violence Prevention Task Force Re-forms

The Violence Prevention task force is re-forming. Interested individuals are invited to help this group to think through ways the community can support the prevention of violence. Join facilitator Sheri Simon and other community members on **Wednesday, January 28th at 1:30 p.m.** in the conference room of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247. For more information, please contact **Sheri Simon** at sherivpc@gmail.com or contact **Kathy Keeser** at the coalition, **663-7588**.

Informational Seminar On Care of Infants & Young Children

An informational seminar on "Infants & Young Children" will be held on **Thursday, January 29** at the **Williamstown Commons, 25 Adams Road, Williamstown**. The event begins at **6 p.m.**, with refreshments and Child Finger Printing by the Williamstown Police, followed by a presentation entitled "The Importance of Well Care and Immunizations for Children," by a local pediatrician. The Berkshire Humane Society will speak on "Pets and Children," followed by a CPR demonstration to end the program. Pre-registration is required by calling **458-2111**.

MCLA Celebrates National Girls & Women In Sports Day

MCLA celebrates National Girls & Women in Sports Day on Saturday, January 31, 2009. Girls in grades 3-8 and women (new this year) are invited to attend this free event. Sports clinics, dinner and a women's basketball game are included in the day's events. Pre-registration is due by January 21: please go to www.mcla.edu/athletics/ for a registration form. Please contact Dot Houston at 662-5437 for more information. Space is limited.

North Adams Reads

The North Adams Reads committee is pleased to announce the creation of a community reading project to engage the whole community in a common reading experience. The 2008-2009 theme is Building Community Through Local History and the Arts. The book selection for this year is a small collection of books, compiled into a kit, which explores the topic of local history.

The kits will be available for lending at each of the school libraries for school staff, the LINCS Parent Center for families, and to the community at the North Adams Public Library.

This project, which **will run through April 2009**, has been supported by a grant from the James and Robert Hardman Fund for North Adams, and the Gateway Fund, both of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Papyrus Books, in North Adams, will be offering a 10% discount on the three main books, Counting on Grace, Dear Mr. President, both by Elizabeth Winthrop, and Forbidden Friendship by Judith Eichler Weber, dependent on book availability. Please mention North Adams Reads to receive the discount.

More information can be found at the North Adams Public Schools web site at www.napsk12.org. The committee welcomes and encourages community organizations to offer programs based on this project. For more information, or to leave a message for the North Adams Reads committee, please contact the **LINCS Parent Center** at **664-7512** or email to northadamsreads@yahoo.com.

Save The Date: Bowl For Kids' Sake 2009

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Berkshire County is seeking participants for the annual Bowl for Kids' Sake to be held on **March 28th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at Mt. Greylock Bowl on Roberts Drive in North Adams. (Other dates available in central and south county.) No experience is necessary, but participants must like to have fun. For more information, please contact **Sarah** at bbbs@nbcoalition.org or **663-7588** or **Ray** at bbbs@rnetworx.com or **443-9471**.

Improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.

January 12, 7:30 p.m.
January 16, 8:00 p.m.

Northern Berkshire Tonite

The talk show of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, hosted by Al Bashevkin and Scott Nichols, each month takes a look at key issues of concern to the residents of Northern Berkshire County. This month Al and Scott will discuss the plans for the upcoming Martin Luther King Day celebration, with their guests Alex Daugherty and Sue Walker.

TBA in January, 5:30 p.m.
(Mt. Greylock)
January 28, 5:30 p.m.
(Adams)

CMCA Strategy Team Meetings

Adams Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (AMCA) and Mt. Greylock Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (MGMCA) are grassroots initiatives to reduce teenagers' access to alcohol. Strategy teams made up of local citizens meet monthly to guide project priorities and actions. To learn more about getting involved in the Mt. Greylock team, contact **Liz Shiner** by e-mail at dzzylizy59@hotmail.com or leave a message for her at the Coalition office (663-7588). For the Adams team, contact **Sarah Kline** at 663-7588 or bbbs@nbccoalition.org. For information about the CMCA program, please call or email **Jenna Cece**, Prevention Coordinator at the Coalition office, 663-7588 or jcece@nbccoalition.org.

February 4, 11:00 a.m.

Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative

The monthly meetings are held **the first Wednesday of each month (September through June) at 11:00 a.m.** at the Coalition, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams. At the February meeting, the group will hear from Maggie Bittman, who will discuss self-injury among adolescents in our community. To get on the group's e-mail list, contact **Kate Merrigan** at kmerrigan@nbccoalition.org.

February 6, 10:30 a.m.

Community Support for DCF (DSS) Families

The next meeting will be held in the conference room at the Coalition office, 61 Main St., Suite 218, North Adams, MA. Please contact **Kathy Keeser** at 663-7588, or email her at kkeeser@nbccoalition.org for more information.

February 13, 10:00 a.m.

Coalition Monthly Forum

Join us for the February monthly forum of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. The discussion will be about the Hoosic River Revival. The meeting is held at the **First Baptist Church in North Adams, at the corner of Eagle and Main streets.** Use the Eagle Street entrance.

2008 EXPO On TV

All on Channel 15:

Vol. 1 - Physical Effects of Our Environment
Jan. 17 - 5:30pm
Feb. 14 - 5:30pm

Vol. 2 - Enjoying Our Area
Jan. 24 - 5:30pm
Feb. 21 - 5:30pm

Vol. 3 - Improving & Protecting Our Environment
Jan. 31 - 5:30pm
Feb. 28 - 5:30pm

Slide Show and Awards
Feb. 7 - 5:30pm
Mar. 7 - 5:30pm

Each segment will also air at 1:30pm on the Wednesday following each air time.

Please Join Us!
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
CELEBRATION
Monday, January 19, 2009

(See article on page 2.)

January 2009

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Madeline King: msk1@williams.edu

Center for Community Engagement at
Williams, Take Charge Campaign

Final Thoughts . . .

It's New Year's Eve and snowing hard. Nothing like a bit of snow to help reflect on the past year. And what a year it has been.

So much has passed by this year. We've elected a new President. We've watched our economy decline quickly. We've seen leading financial corporations and our big three automakers begging for help. The golden rule of our economy, that housing prices will never decline, has been proven wrong. What was economically solid nationally is no more, and it makes me wonder what our world will be like a year or five years from now. And with the transition to the Obama presidency just a few weeks away, we'll begin to get a glimpse of how President Obama leads our world in this time of change.

As economic and political change swirls about us, it still snows in December, birds still flock to the birdfeeders, many will celebrate another new year, and we'll get a bit older and hopefully wiser. Time doesn't stop. There are predictable events that occur about us, and some of these predictable events keep our communities alive.

A few weeks back, there was a terrible ice storm that hit the hill towns of Florida, Savoy, and Clarksburg especially hard. They lost power. Trees were down everywhere. Roads weren't navigable. But the men and women who staff our volunteer fire departments knew this was their time. In Florida, every house was visited to be sure that everyone was OK. Chain saws were working to clear the roads. Shelters were set up for the many that lost power and thus their heat. All this occurred because in our communities, people take community seriously. They look after their neighbors. They work together to open up the roads. They feed and shelter those who need it.

While the world around us travels its unpredictable course, closer to home there is a different path, a more predictable path. Thank you to all of our volunteer firefighters, emergency crews, and civic groups who help to provide us with our community safety net.

--Al Bashevkin

61 Main Street, Suite 218
North Adams, MA 01247

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition



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