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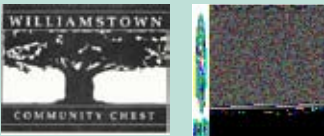
NEXT COALITION MEETING:

Teen Pregnancy

Friday May 14

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

Eagle Street entrance



Intersecting the Faith Community with Social Issues

There was a chill in the gray air outside on the morning of Friday, April 9, but the conversation inside at the First Baptist Church North Adams was warm and inviting. A group of 50 community members came together to discuss “Intersecting the Faith Community with Social Issues,” at the monthly Coalition forum. Several faith leaders representing various denominations and lay people from different sectors of the community joined in conversation about how to cultivate social action through the faith community.



The forum began with three personal accounts of how faith has helped shape life choices to a path of religious commitment. Rabbi Jeff Goldwasser, of the Congregation Beth Israel, told about his past as an organizer in the environmental movement and about the clear connection he felt between social change and entering rabbinic school. Sally Sussman grew up with a broad variety of religious exposure, explored many areas of faith, and now believes in “social activism with religion.” Carrie Bail, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Williamstown, first joined the choir at a church as a young adult, and later became involved in social missions as her interest in the church heightened. The theme among these personal stories was clear; getting engaged in social action has motivated many to become part of a faith community.

Community members at the forum were asked to consider two contrasting questions: In what ways is formal religion a barrier to the changes we try to make in our community? In what ways do faith organizations help to advance change? Participants at the forum mentioned many current initiatives led by faith groups, including Habitat for Humanity, the St. Vincent De Paul Society, Salvation Army, local food pantries, and others. Several people noted the use of churches and synagogues as public spaces, often donated at no cost for community meetings and events. As the trend of having to close local faith buildings continues, the community could come together with a goal of maintaining these buildings. It was also mentioned that community groups often work within a small network to make change, yet change is far more plausible if multiple groups, both faith-based and non-faith-based, come together to work on common projects.

As the forum came to a close, questions and concerns arose about what would happen as a result of the conversation. After all, the discussion had been about social action, and change can only come where action is evident. Faith leaders announced that a clergy association has existed for many years, but that a local group is now re-branding themselves as The Interfaith Council of Northern Berkshire. These leaders urged forum participants to join together in forming an interfaith organization of lay people, with the intention to work alongside the leaders’ council. In response to this enlightening challenge, a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for interested lay people. We hope you’ll join us on Friday, May 21 at 10 a.m., at the First Baptist Church for this information session.

-- Jenna Dickinson

nbCC Thanks Our May Newsletter Sponsor:



COALITION NEWS

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

Our Mission

“Dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in Northern Berkshire by organizing, supporting, and empowering the community.”

In pursuit of this mission, we place particular emphasis on the following:

- Strengthening neighborhoods and community life
- Preventing alcohol and substance abuse
- Fostering economic development
- Mitigating poverty
- Supporting positive youth development
- Building bridges between residents and service agencies

Coalition Supporters

Public Sources

- MA Department for Children & Families
- MA Cultural Council
- US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- MA Department of Public Health
- MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

Foundation Supporters

- Fund for North Adams
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Local Support

- North Adams Human Services
- Contributions from our many individual supporters

The Coalition is a member agency of the **Northern Berkshire United Way** and the **Williamstown Community Chest**.

To submit announcements to the Coalition News:

The *Coalition News* is a publication of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. We encourage submissions of announcements from local organizations.

Summer Newsletter Deadline May 20, 2009

Please submit announcements (100 words in paragraph form) via e-mail to: jcece@nbcoalition.org or abashevkin@nbcoalition.org. If necessary, announcements may also be faxed to 413-663-9877. Thank you!

May Coalition Meeting: Teen Pregnancy

Please join us on **Friday, May 14** for a conversation about “Teen Pregnancy” at our monthly Coalition forum. Coalition monthly forums are a vehicle to address current issues. At the forum discussion about teen pregnancy, you can expect to demystify the issue of teen pregnancy by hearing from many experts in the Northern Berkshire community. We will hear about teen pregnancy rates, how they have changed over time, and their importance in our work. Come to be part of a county-wide initiative to affect teen pregnancy rates, and help strategize how we can make a difference in the lives of teens. We will discover new ways to get involved with the issue of teen pregnancy, and consider next steps in this process.

We will begin, as always, with a round of introductions, followed by brief announcements of your upcoming events or new projects. Please do not forget to bring flyers about your announcements also, as there will be a display table in the middle of the room for them. Childcare can be available for our meeting; please contact Liz Boland at the Coalition office (663-7588) by May 12th if you need it.

We hope to see you on **Friday, May 14, 10 a.m. to noon, at the First Baptist Church in North Adams.**

-- Al Bashetkin

Youth Collaborative Explores Service-Learning, Youth Anxiety

On Wednesday, April 7th, Anne French (Drury High School) and Caitlin McConnell (COTY) offered a primer in service-learning as a teaching tool, covering things like the differences between community service, community-based learning, and service-learning as well as the benefits of using service-learning. Many thanks to Anne and Caitlin for their time!

Coming up at Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative meetings, we have a presentation on Youth and Anxiety Disorders on Wednesday, May 5th. Donna Rempell and Amanda Blanchard of the Brien Center will offer information and discussion on anxiety issues that affect adolescents. All Northern Berkshire Youth Collaborative meetings are 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Coalition office, with lunch served, unless otherwise noted. For more information, you can contact Kate Merrigan at kmerrigan@nbcoalition.org or 663-7588.

-- Kate Merrigan

Please visit the following URL:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LY8CQSD>

**Tell us how we're doing with the Coalition Newsletter!
(survey is available until May 21)**

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

Follow-Up Meeting to April Forum Discussion About Faith

Please join us for our follow-up meeting of the April forum that addressed the intersection between the faith community and social action. Our follow-up meeting will be **Friday, May 21st at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of North Adams**. At our April forum, Mark Rondeau and Al Nelson both expressed a wish to continue our conversations about social action within the faith community. A challenge was set out by faith leaders, who are under increasing time constraints, to see if the lay community could lead this process. No one wanted the sense of commitment to community issues from a faith perspective to go away. Bennington, VT has examples of faith-led initiatives that address food and fuel for families, as well as a health clinic that operates for those without access to care. The St. Vincent DePaul Society is an example of the Catholic community banding together for the betterment of families that fall through the safety net.

So, this follow-up meeting was scheduled and all interested in participating in a conversation about faith and social action are encouraged to attend. For more information or with questions about this gathering, contact **Al Bashevkin** at the Coalition office, **663-7588**. We hope you will join us on **Friday, May 21st!**

-- Al Bashevkin

County-wide Youth Worker Summit

Registration is open for the May 13th Youth Worker Summit to be held at Camp Stevenson-Witawentin in Pittsfield. The event, which is sponsored by the Berkshire Youth Development Project, is a follow-up to a successful and energizing initial Summit in September 2009. The event is an opportunity for anyone who works with youth or who has an interest in supporting Berkshire County youth to come together to discuss topics of key concern and to network with colleagues. We will meet from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to explore current and emerging needs and assets of our local youth and think about how we, as youth workers, can best respond to and support these phenomena. After the event formally closes, participants are invited to stay for an optional, informal coffee hour at which they can continue meaningful conversations or engage in additional networking.

To register, please fill out the complete registration form (which you can find at nbcoalition.org/forms). You can hit the "submit via email" button or send it as an attachment to kmerrigan@nbcoalition.org. There will again be a \$10 registration fee to cover the cost of lunch, payable upon check-in on the day of the Summit. Cash will be accepted as will checks made out to the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. We hope to see many youth workers come together for a great Summit event!

-- Kate Merrigan

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Board of Directors

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

JEFF GOLDWASSER, President
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Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

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Northern Berkshire Health Systems

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Business Owner

PAUL HUTCHINSON
Town Clerk, Adams

EDNA RUDNICK
Community Resident

JONATHAN SECOR
Director of Special Programs, MCLA

**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
(413) 684-0033
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
78 Center St
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 442-0946
Contact: Jason Ostrander

Senator Paul Kirk, Jr.
188 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4543
(202) 224-2417 (fax)

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

Take Charge Will Present An Environmental Forum

Please join us on Friday, May 7th at the North Adams Public Library where Take Charge will host our 2nd Environmental Forum from 10 a.m. to noon. Panelists include MCLA and Williams College affiliates, local officials, and community organizers who will lead an open discussion on local sustainability in the Berkshires. Topics will highlight community and college-based initiatives, city-wide efforts, and information about accessing local resources. All are welcome to attend.

Take Charge is a partner of nbCC that is committed to making the homes of the Northern Berkshires more energy independent. Its work revolves around education, outreach, and action in collaboration with community members, schools, local government, businesses, and organizations. Please contact **Becky Eakins** (rael@williams.edu) or **Jaimie Wallace** (jw2606@mcla.edu) with any questions.

-- Jaimie Wallace

How Can Communities Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking?

According to the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation, "Childhood drinking is a problem for the entire community. It does not have a single solution. It must be addressed by many different kinds of people, because solutions will depend on actions by everyday people, community organizations, and government." The organization examines the question: **How can we prevent and reduce the number of children drinking alcohol?** Communities are encouraged to look closely at the following three major themes while carefully considering this question:

- o **Reach** children with problems early
- o **Remove** access and incentives
- o **Help** children through difficult times in development

The Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation has created a discussion guide helping community leaders look at how our communities can prevent and reduce underage drinking by children aged 9-15. The discussion guide is available at DrugFreeActionAlliance.org. Additional resources and information about the Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Foundation is available at www.alcoholfreechildren.org.

-- Lois Daunis

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**Welcome
our Keynote Speaker,
State Representative
DAN BOSLEY,
reflecting on his 24 years
of service to the state,
as we celebrate:**

**Northern Berkshire
Community Coalition's
24th Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, June 3
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
@ The Williams Inn**

**Honoring this year's
Northern Berkshire Hero
JUDY GRINNELL
Hoosic River Revival Coalition**

Please return by May 28 with a suggested donation of \$20 or request for scholarship to:
Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, 61 Main Street, Suite 218, North Adams, MA 01247

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

Check here to reserve a table (8 seats) @ \$160; Name of Company _____

Indicate here an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____ to support nbCC Annual Meeting scholarships.

4th Annual 411 in the 413 A Success!

Perhaps you've already read about it on iBerkshires.com, in the North Adams Transcript, or in the Berkshire Eagle. The 411 in the 413 Youth Conference was held on April 9th and 10th at YMCA Camp Becket-Chimney Corners. Approximately 65 students from 12 Berkshire County high schools gathered to discuss issues, learn skills, and explore career paths together. While the conference featured activities ranging from large-group icebreakers to a campfire (with s'mores!) to a concert featuring local youth musicians, the participants seemed to enjoy the workshops the most. Also enjoyable was a series of impromptu musical performances by a group of BARt and Drury students. There are many, many thanks in order after this event, but I want to make sure especially to mention our Drury Intern, Suzannah Grant, who worked long and hard to pull together the event, and BARt, Drury, McCann, and Mount Greylock for making it possible for students to attend.

Teen Writing Workshop Year-End Reading

The Teen Writing Workshop's year-end reading was held on Wednesday, April 28th, at the Main Street Stage in North Adams. The public was invited for an opportunity to hear work from students ages 14-19 who have been in this year's Writing Workshop, which runs from October to April. Somewhere Between, our journal of student work, is typically released at this event. This year, because funding dictated a slightly shorter program but attendance has remained high, the book release has been delayed a little bit. Stay tuned for details on the book release date!

UNITY SUPARs Visit to MA State House & Brittany Shepard Receives Award!

On March 24, the UNITY SUPARs (Special UNITY Participatory Action Researchers—a new group this year who, as part-time paid employment, research community issues relevant to teens) participated in Kick Butts Day in Boston. KBD, sponsored by The 84 (the84.org), was a day of training, action, and celebration connected to youth efforts to reduce youth tobacco use and fight the presence of big tobacco companies in Massachusetts. As part of the day's events, the group visited the offices of Senator Ben Downing and Representative Dan Bosley to present the research they've done on the availability of smokeless tobacco products in northern Berkshire stores and how these products are marketed to youth. Later in the day, there was a ceremony recognizing the great work that young people across the state have been doing. There were two highlights special to UNITY during this presentation. First, Brittany Shepard had been selected ahead of time by The 84 to speak about her experiences as an anti-tobacco activist. Second, The 84 awarded Brittany their Youth Achievement Award. She was presented this award by DPH Commissioner John Auerbach. Congratulations to the SUPARs on a great day of sharing their efforts with those in Boston and to Brittany for her personal recognition!



*Top photo: Christin, Brittany and Katelyn walk with The 84 to share their anti-tobacco message in Boston
Bottom photo: Brittany Shepard receives The 84's Youth Achievement Award from DPH Commissioner Auerbach*

Youth Leadership Program Wraps Up An Exciting Year

The Youth Leadership Program wraps up on Tuesday, May 25th. Lately, the group has been working on decision-making skills and preparing for park clean-up details as part of the North Adams Community Day of Service on May 1st. We've also spent some time reviewing and discussing the final draft of a proposal to create a City of North Adams Youth Commission. Hopefully, the City Council will be voting on the Commission on May 11th and we'll soon see the creation of an important body in our local government dedicated to the needs of local young people.

-- Kate Merrigan & Robin Lehleitner

"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."

Community Outreach Workers Complete Initial Training

From mid-January through April, 10 area residents have been meeting weekly to prepare themselves for the work of Community Outreach. In addition to the two-hour training sessions, they meet regularly with NBN Coordinator Ashley Benson, for guidance on projects and help with developing skills. Each person chose an area to explore, based on interest, location and availability. Guest presenters from local agencies have come each week to share their expertise and answer questions and concerns. As the weeks progressed, each outreach worker took a turn facilitating the group. As individuals came up with project ideas, they had the help of the group for support and encouragement. As they complete their initial training, the outreach workers will receive ongoing support from the Coalition. They will continue to meet monthly at the Neighborhood Summit to support one another in the ongoing development of their projects. Below are the Outreach Workers, with the areas each represents listed below their photograph.



*Aldona Adams, Williamstown
Historic Mill District*



*Corinne Case, Adams
Unemployment Issues*



*Dan Soha, Adams
"the man on the street"*



*Andrea Peters, Adams
Renfrew Neighborhood*



*Kelly Heller, North Adams
Greylock Valley*



*Kellie Morrison, North Adams
Greylock Valley*



*DeeDee Vigna, Clarksburg
Hilltown Representative*



*Peggy Diggs, Williamstown
Artist Community*



*Janitza Williams, North Adams
NB Hispanic Population*

ArtWorks Offers Free Art Classes To Local Families

ArtWorks is a collaborative program between Kidspace and NBN designed to offer free art classes to Neighborhood families. The group met for the first time Saturday, April 17, with four participating families. The morning began with an orientation to MoCA and Kidspace, discussing the current exhibits and getting to know one another a bit. We wrapped up the day by doing a family mobile project, encouraging families to form their own creative masterpiece. In preparation for our next project, we planted seedlings. I wonder what we will be doing next?! For many of the children that attended, MoCA is a staple of arts and culture in their life; they were excited to show their parents what they know about art! Upcoming dates: May 15, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18 and October 16. There is still space for more families to participate! If you are interested, please call Ashley at 663-7588 ext. 13.

-- Ashley Benson, Natalie Cain & Tim Briggs

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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	albh22ad@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

Elizabeth Freeman Center Needs Volunteers, Offers Training

The Elizabeth Freeman Center is offering a domestic violence/sexual assault training for persons wanting to work with survivors through its hotline, in its shelter or its offices. All persons who work with survivors must complete this training to be certified as counselors protected by state confidentiality laws. The Elizabeth Freeman Center has been providing frontline emergency and ongoing support services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their families in Berkshire County for 35 years. Services include a toll-free emergency response hotline with counselors available to accompany victims to hospitals, police stations and safety; shelter; individual counseling; support groups; legal advocacy in county courts to assist victims obtain 209A restraining orders; supervised visitation; community education and prevention work. In the past year, the need for help has grown while funding has been reduced. The Center needs volunteers, particularly to cover evenings and weekends on its hotline and to work hours in the shelter with children. Other volunteer opportunities are available. The training will run **Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-9 p.m. beginning May 4th, 2010 through June 3rd, 2010** at the **First Congregational Church Parish House on Park Street in Adams, MA**. To register, please call the Center at **413-499-2425** and speak to **Linda P.**

First Fridays @ First Baptist Church

Delicious food, generous portions, take-out option and friendly faces will be found at any First Friday Dinner at First Baptist Church North Adams. On **May 7th**, our menu will include: meatloaf, mashed potato, gravy, corn, strawberry shortcake, and beverages. The meal will be served from **5:00 -7:00 p.m.** with adult tickets at \$8.00 and children under 12 at \$4.00. Proceeds from the meal will benefit the missions of First Baptist. For more information, please call **663-3780**. Please use the Eagle Street Entrance.

Wordplay @ Papyri Books

Held the second Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m., Wordplay hosts a guest author each month, followed by refreshments, open mic and a visit to Papyri Gallery to see the work of local artists. Jim Ciullo, a Pittsfield resident, will be reading from his second book, Maracaibo. He joined us last year to read from Orinoco and both can be described as political thrillers. Papyri Gallery will feature the work of local artist Edward Cating for the months of May and June. Open Mic is an opportunity for guests to share their own work or a personal favorite with a five-minute time limit allotted for each participant. Join us **Saturday, May 8th at 7:00 p.m. – Papyri Books, 45 Eagle Street, North Adams**. May-December store hours: Monday-Saturday 12-6 p.m. Wordplay is free and open to the public.

Ancestors Mothers' Day Concert to Benefit Berkshire Hospice and Elizabeth Freeman Center

Percussionist, author, activist, and Pittsfield native Royal Hartigan brings his Blood Drum Spirit ensemble to Pittsfield to honor our ancestors on Mothers' Day, **Sunday, May 9, at 3 p.m.** The concert will take place at the **First Congregational Church at 27 East Street, Pittsfield, at Park Square**. A free will offering is suggested and all proceeds from offerings and CD sales will be donated to Hospice Care of the Berkshires and the Elizabeth Freeman Center. Hartigan will be joined by saxophonist David Bindman, pianist Art Hirahara, bassist Wes Brown, and Asante dancer Kwabena Boateng. The Blood Drum Spirit ensemble brings a global vision to music, exploring into the world's great traditions through the prism of live jazz performance. For more information contact **Royal Hartigan** at **(508) 999-8572** or at royalhartigan@yahoo.com, or go to www.blooddrumspirit.com or www.royalhart.com/ensembles.

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You Can Be a Special Education Surrogate Parent

Are you interested in supporting kids in your community? You can help by volunteering to become an important member of the special education team for a student in the custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Involvement includes collaboration with DCF, the child's school and community partners to ensure the student has access to educational services and supports. Join us at our **free training at the Lee Public Library on Friday, May 14, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**, where you will learn about the role of a Special Education Surrogate Parent, the special education process, resources in the community and how you can make a difference in the life of a child! For additional information and to register, please call **508-792-7679** or visit the website @ <http://www.sespprogram.org>.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Announces NAMIWalks for the Mind of America

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Berkshire County affiliate announces that it has been chosen as a site for a nationwide fundraising and mental health awareness program called NAMIWalks for the Mind of America. One in four adults—approximately 57.7 million Americans— experience a mental health disorder in a given year. One in seventeen lives with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder, and about one in ten children have a serious mental or emotional disorder. The proceeds of this walk will be used to help NAMI fund support, education, and advocacy programs for all those whose lives are affected by mental illness in Berkshire County. We are seeking local residents to serve as committee members, team captains and volunteers for the event. Companies, organizations and families are encouraged to organize teams of walkers. To date, sponsors include: The Brien Center, Gould Farm, The Kiwanis Clubs of Berkshire County and The Damaged, Western MA Punk Rock. Berkshire County's Walk will be held on **May 15 at Burbank Park at Onota Lake. Registration is at 12 p.m. and the walk starts at 1 p.m.** If you are interested in the walk as a sponsor or participant, please contact: NAMI-BC at **413-443-1666**, or email bgarcia@namibc.org.

Berkshire Idol Finals!

The finals of the 2010 Berkshire Idol competition will take place on **Saturday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m.** The event will be held at the **Barrington Stage Company, 30 Union Street in Pittsfield**. Come to support local contestants, and be a part of the live audience as the 2010 winner is announced!

Northern Berkshire United Way Restores its Summer Campership Program

The Northern Berkshire United Way is pleased to announce the restoration of its Summer Campership Program for the up-coming camping season. The program offers financial support to individual campers through sponsoring agencies, not to camping programs. Although there are no specific income guidelines, it is the program's intention to provide a summer camp experience to local youth who would otherwise be financially excluded. Preference will be given to sites offering a traditional camping environment. Day camps are eligible. To receive an application, sponsoring agencies with camping programs should contact **Mary Field** at **413-663-9062** or email her at mfield@nbunitedway.org. Applications from individual campers will not be considered. The **deadline for applications is May 14, 2010**.

Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders

Adams

First Baptist Church 15 Commercial St. 743-5680
Pastor Donald E. Gray
First Congregational 42 Park Street 743-1677
Rev. Mike Mullany
Pope John Paul The Great Parish 21 Maple Street
Rev. Daniel J. Boyle 743-1767
St. Mark's Episcopal P.O. Box 191 743-0947
Rev. Edward A. King

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 134 Main Street 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. Elizabeth's of Hungary 68 Marshall 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 Crowzen

Savoy

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

(continued on page 10)

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Northern Berkshire Faith Institutions and Leaders (Continued)

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 458-4946
Rev. Wayne C. Biernat
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

Oldies But Goodies Rock n' Roll Show

The Oldies But Goodies Rock 'N' Roll Show has announced their upcoming show entitled from *"Grease to Peace."* The show will be at the **Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.** This all-volunteer cast of local entertainers invites you to a night of favorite songs of the fifties and sixties, along with a pasta dinner. Proceeds will benefit the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Berkshire County. The "Oldies" gang has been the opening act for well-known entertainers such as "Danny and the Juniors," "The Platters" and "The Coasters." For information, call **Elaine** at **442-7291**. Tickets are \$25.00, and are available at the UCP Pittsfield office, 208 West St. or call **Joni** at **442-1562 ext. 11**.

United Cerebral Palsy Hosts "Walk & Roll"

UCP will be hosting its 1st Annual 5K Life Without Limits *"WALK & ROLL"* on June 6, 2010 on the beautiful Ashuwillticook Trail in Cheshire, MA. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the walk will be from 10:00 am. to noon. You can register online at www.ucpberkshire.org. For information, call Joni at 413-442-1562 ext. 11. Incentive prizes will be awarded to participants who raise the highest donations! Team-up with your colleagues, or ask your employer about a gift matching program. T-shirts are provided to all participants. United Cerebral Palsy of Berkshire County, Inc. has been committed to providing services and supports to children and adults with disabilities and their families for close to 50 years! We strive for excellence by ensuring that our mission, to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with disabilities, is achieved. All dogs, including service dogs, must be on a leash for this event.

Berkshire AHEC Conference

On **Thursday, June 10**, Berkshire AHEC will present a conference entitled "Dementia & Driving Impairments: Improving Outcomes through Early Diagnosis & Assessment," at **Cranwell Resort in Lenox, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Four credits will be offered for nursing, social work, mental health & substance abuse counselors, OT's, nursing home administrators, psychologists, CME and more. Please visit www.berkshireahec.org for more details and to register online.

Hoosic River Revitalization Community Meeting

Save the Date! There will be a Hoosic River Revitalization community meeting on **June 26, 2010**. The meeting will be held at **St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Center, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** "Imagine a downtown North Adams where the Hoosic River is lovely to look at, suitable for fishing and recreation, bordered by trails running through parkland, and where people come for business and socializing." Come to learn how this image could become a reality!

Berkshire AHEC Seeks Youth Health Service Corps Fellow

Massachusetts Promise Fellows deliver the resources that young people need to be successful in life by mobilizing and organizing community activity, creating and leading powerful initiatives, and training and inspiring citizen volunteers. Fellows are placed with non-profit organizations and state/local government agencies that focus on fulfilling the needs of our youth by providing; a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and an opportunity to give back. Berkshire AHEC works to address health disparities in the region through workforce development for students and professionals, and through public health initiatives addressing various needs. The Fellow will coordinate the Youth Health Service Corps (YHSC). YHSC is a nationwide health careers recruitment program that provides training for high school students for success working in a volunteer setting.

With questions, call **Lisa** at **413-447-2417** or email her at **lfletcher-udel@berkshireahec.org**. Apply by May 28, to: **Lisa Fletcher-Udel**, Berkshire AHEC, 703 W.

Housatonic Street, Suite 208, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

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!

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

May 10, 7:30 p.m.

May 14, 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 offer a preview to the upcoming monthly forum, entitled "Teen Pregnancy," with their guest Kate Merrigan.

May 7, 10:00 a.m.

Take Charge Environmental Forum

Please join us for our 2nd Environmental Forum, to be held at the **North Adams Public Library**. Panelists include MCLA and Williams College affiliates, local officials, and community organizers who will lead an open discussion on local sustainability in the Berkshires. Topics will highlight community and college-based initiatives, city-wide efforts, and information about accessing local resources. All are welcome to attend. For information, please contact **Becky Eakins** (rae1@williams.edu) or **Jaimie Wallace** (jw2606@mcla.edu).

May 14, 10:00 a.m.

Coalition Monthly Forum

Join us for the May monthly forum of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. The discussion is entitled "Teen Pregnancy." 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.

May 18, 6:00 p.m.

Foster Family Connections

Foster Family Connections meets on the third Tuesday of each month at St. John's Parish Hall in North Adams. The time allows for foster parents to connect with one another over a topic or activity. Families interested in attending should contact **Natalie Cain** at **663-7588** or ncain@nbccoalition.org.

May 21, 10:00 a.m.

Interfaith Action Initiative Meeting

This meeting is a follow-up meeting to the April forum, entitled "Intersecting the Faith Community with Social Issues." Please join us at the First Baptist Church, using the Eagle Street entrance. For more information, please contact Al Bashevkin at 663-7588.

May 26, 5:30 p.m.

(Adams)

May 25, 4:00 p.m.

(Mt. Greylock)

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. For the Adams team, contact **Corinne Case** at **743-7455** or ccase@nbccoalition.org. For the Mt. Greylock team, contact **Sally Sussman** at **458-4670** or s.suss@verizon.net. For general information about the CMCA program, call or email **Lois Daunis**, CMCA Coordinator at the Coalition office, **663-7588** or ldaunis@nbccoalition.org.

June 3, 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

nbCC's 24th Annual Meeting

Please join us for the 24th Annual Meeting of the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition. Our keynote speaker will be State Representative Dan Bosley, reflecting on his 24 years of service to the state. We will honor Judy Grinnell of the Hoosic River Revival Coalition as our recipient of the 2010 Northern Berkshire Hero Award. Lunch will be served. Please see p.5 for the mail-in form for this meeting, and return by May 28.

May 2010

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Final Thoughts . . .

Those attending the April Coalition meeting discussed the intersection of the local faith community with social issues. On the national level, the intersection of faith and social issues results at times in culture-war collisions in the public square. Not as well publicized, however, are the many areas where believers from varied faith traditions work together in good will on issues they can agree on: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, providing fuel for those who may have to choose between eating or paying for oil. The list goes on and on.

In fact, in the Northern Berkshires in recent decades, the clergy association, working with nbCC, was instrumental in forming Ecu-Health Care, the Family Life Support Center and establishing the Martin Luther King Day observance. It's apparent that local mainline faith communities are aging, shrinking and shedding buildings they can neither fill nor afford. It's also apparent, however, that faith is not going away and can be an amazing force for good. Working in nearby Bennington, Vermont, I have seen Bennington Interfaith Community Services Inc. run a highly successful food and fuel fund and a free clinic that for more than a year has been providing medical care for those without insurance. In the Northern Berkshires, clergy members are trying to revitalize their association. Some at April's meeting felt that laypeople should also be joining together in work for the community. Our individual congregations can only benefit when committed laypeople band together and show that faith still can be a vital force on the street.

A meeting to discuss what we're calling an Interfaith Action Initiative will be held on **Friday, May 21, at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church**. Members from faith communities of all types in the Northern Berkshires are encouraged to attend. I will bring this question: What needs could we possibly fill? Can activists and volunteers from our faith communities, working with others of goodwill, help provide for the needs of our neighbors?

-- Mark Rondeau

Return Service Requested

61 Main Street, Suite 218
North Adams, MA 01247

Northern Berkshire Community Coalition



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