



Brattleboro Area Hospice *Newsletter*

October 2008

Brattleboro Area Hospice • 191 Canal Street • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
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COLLEGE GOSPEL FESTIVAL LIVE AT THE LATCHIS

New England's premiere College Gospel Choirs will perform at an evening to benefit the Brattleboro Area Hospice

November 1st, one of the hottest concerts at the Latchis Theatre is happening! **The Inaugural College Gospel Festival Live at the Latchis will be on Saturday, November 1st at 7:30 pm.** The evening will have something for the whole community and the entire family. Once narrowly defined as religious, gospel has transcended those limits to become a profound force in American music and popular culture.

The College Gospel Concert features three amazing college gospel choirs: The **KUUMBA Singers of Harvard College**, founded in 1970 to celebrate the creativity and spirituality of black culture and today one of New England's premiere college choirs; the **Yale Gospel Choir**, which was founded as an undergraduate organization at Yale University in 1973; and the **Amherst College Gospel Choir**. In addition, *The Sisters & Brothers of Kuumba*, two smaller subsets of the Kuumba Singers will perform a varied collection of a cappella pieces from the black musical tradition. Two of the college groups will be bringing their back up bands as well, so the sound will be rich and varied, along with a social commentary on Gospel music and black culture and history as related to this music—audiences should expect the music to range from traditional African songs, like *Malibongwe*, to contemporary R&B and Hip-Hop music.

The Concert will also feature a high school choir, the BUHS Madrigals, under the direction of Patty Meyer. A surprise treat for concert goers will be the performance of local composer and Grammy nominee and Emmy award-winner, Billy Straus's song, "Change in My Life," a song that is experiencing a rebirth on the college a cappella circuit. Straus has had a long career as a musician, producer, and composer. He has worked with Bruce Springsteen, Miles Davis, Joni Mitchell, AC/DC and many more, including the famed Edwin Hawkins Singers.

The event is being produced by Dede Cummings for the full benefit of Brattleboro Hospice. Volunteers, additional sponsors, and teachers from area schools interested in bulk ticket orders can contact Cummings at 802-254-9076. Tickets are \$50 for contributors/\$25 for front orchestra/\$18 for rear orchestra/\$15 for balcony and \$10 for students, and are on sale at Experienced Goods in Brattleboro. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.brattleborotix.com, and are also available by cash or check at the Hospice Office. Visit the concert website for more information: <http://collegegospelconcert.googlepages.com/>

SUPPORT BAH WITH A GENERAL AD OR MEMORIAL NOTICE IN THE COLLEGE GOSPEL FESTIVAL PROGRAM BOOK.

Ads cost from \$40 to \$150 depending on size and are a tax deductible contribution to Brattleboro Area Hospice. We can do the ad layout for you. Contact Greg Moschetti by 5 PM October 6 at 254-8714 to place an ad.

GROWTH

One definition from the New Oxford American Dictionary defines growth as, “the process of developing or maturing physically, mentally or spiritually.” This first season in the new garden has certainly experienced that developmental process. The growth of the plants of course is the easiest to see and talk about. The mental and spiritual realms water and prune the plants that reach so high we see them from the road. A garden, the Hospice Memorial Garden, I cannot think of a more perfect, available, non-threatening resource for those in grief.

As we begin to put the garden to bed we continue this process of development. Organisms will be churning the soil. It seems like a restful time but life is abundant and vibrant as manure and mulch blanket the soil. Grief is similar, sometimes on the outside we appear calm and functional. On the inside our thoughts and feelings are turning over dizzily. This turning over is essential for the “maturing” part of Oxford’s definition. Gardeners know that plants go through growing pains with insect invasions, drought or drench conditions. We humans are like those plants wanting to reach high and then our grief comes and the process can feel interrupted. Yet I believe that grief can lead to growth: willingness to look within can

be transformative, sometimes finding the path of least resistance is what allows one to move forward a little at a time, not aggressively but deliberately like the *Nicotiana* growing in between the stones.

Another kind of path is the one we use to approach the garden. Now, as visitors walk up it they will see a mailbox with information about the garden and Hospice services. There is also a blank journal Lerna christened with a drawing and entry. Visitors are welcome to add their comments too. In addition to putting in the mailbox, the core group of garden volunteers started to cut back plants. Alison McCrae from Verde donated a razor sharp edger to keep the path neat looking. If the bulbs arrive by our Oct. 7, Tues. 12-2 pm. work session, we’ll have at least 200 bulbs to nestle into the ground. Please join us as we clean up, plant and anticipate colorful splashes of spring tulips, daffodils, allium, crocus and the continuing process of a thriving garden.

I’m wishing you all a growthful process, physically, mentally and spiritually as we all venture into a new season. Many thanks again to all those who help keep our eyes full of color and hope.

Cheers, Frances

THINGS SHOULDN’T BE SO HARD

A life should leave
deep tracks:
ruts where she
went out and back
to get the mail
or move the hose
around the yard;
where she used to
stand before the sink,
a worn-out place;
beneath her hand
the china knobs
rubbed down to
white pastilles;
the switch she
used to feel for
in the dark

almost erased.
Her things should
keep her marks.
The passage
of a life should show;
it should abrade.
And when life stops,
a certain space—
however small —
should be left scarred
by the grand and
damaging parade.
Things shouldn’t
be so hard.

by Kay Ryan, the new U.S. Poet Laureate

JENNIE REICHMAN: TENURED SHOP VOLUNTEER AND RENAISSANCE WOMAN

by Dana Renault, Experienced Goods Volunteer Coordinator

As I start to get to know our volunteers here at Experienced Goods, I am continually impressed with the dedication they have offered us over years and years! Jennie Reichman is no different. She started as a volunteer in 1998, was hired as staff, promoted to assistant manager, and is now volunteering again, ten years later.

Jennie grew up in rural Oregon, an only child to her first-generation German mother. As a young woman, she moved to Colorado where she lived for ten years, until her heart called her to live among the lush greenery of Vermont fifteen years ago. With her new husband, her two step-children, her cat, and her gardens, Jennie has rooted in Marlboro, and truly found herself at home. With no living parents, Jennie claims fresh territory, chooses her own family, and continues to create her own story.

"I've been searching for the last two years for what I want to do," Jennie says. "My heart is really in music. That's my big passion -- since I was thirteen it's been driving me, but I can't really make any money at it. So I decided to look at another passion, which is making things. I thought I would funnel that into a business. So I am start-

ing my own sewing and alterations business. I am spreading the word."

"It's not really about sewing," Jennie continues, "I talk to people. I love connecting with people. This gives me the opportunity to do that. I find I have great conversations while I'm pinning up a skirt. It's intimate, in a way, like hairdressing. [Clients] have to get out of their clothes and into that dress. They are vulnerable."

Jennie spent last month in Nova Scotia on an annual vacation to her family's primitive cabin. There, life slows down and days are filled with hauling water, writing poetry, playing music and being with family.

Jennie is now working with an engineer and several local musicians she admires to create an album of her own music. She is ecstatic to find her one woman solos, many of them written on the front porch of her Nova Scotia getaway, blossoming into fully orchestrated works.

Jennie's subtle, easy-going, multi-talented nature and patchwork Renaissance lifestyle have inspired me. I am grateful for her generous presence with us here at the shop and out in the community.

HELPING GRIEVING CHILDREN AND TEENS

This experiential training, facilitated by Elizabeth Ungerleider and Elizabeth Pittman, is offered for those who are interested in working with young people either individually or in groups. Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 23 late morning into the afternoon, we offer this in conjunction with the current Bereavement Training but others are welcome. Call the office for details.

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Calendar

October 3. Volunteer Report Forms due.

October 3, 10 & 17, noon-1:30 pm. Healing Grief: A Six-Week Writing Series. Facilitated by Cheryl Wilfong. Open to adults grieving a death loss. Call to ask if there's space.

October 6 & 20, Monday, 5:30-7 pm. Grief Support Meeting. Cheryl Richards facilitator. Open to any who have experienced a death loss.

October 7, Tuesday, 12:00-2:00 pm. Memorial Garden Workday—come help us maintain our garden.

October 8 & 22, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 4:30-6:00 pm. Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group. Facilitated by Cheryl Richards. Call Melissa (x108) or Elizabeth (x104) to register.

October 9 & 23, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30-8 pm. Bereaved Parents Support Group. Facilitated by Lynn Martin. Upstairs meeting room. Call Melissa (x108) or Elizabeth (x104) to register.

October 11, Saturday, 10 am-12 noon. Second Saturdays. Mixed Media Creations for "Day of the Dead" Altar. Come decorate glass candle-holders or make fabric or other creations to add to our November 7th Day of the Dead altar and also to take home. Materials will be provided but you may want to bring copies of your loved one's picture or handwriting. Facilitated by Elizabeth Ungerleider and Elizabeth Pittman.

October 11, Saturday, 7:30 pm. Noche de Muertos: Welcoming our Ancestors Home, a multimedia celebration of the Mexican holiday Day of the Dead. At The School for International Training. More information at <www.bcv.org>

October 17 & 18, 9-5pm, Caring for Your Own Dead workshop, contact Bettina for more info; website info: <www.crossings.net>.

October 13, Holiday, Hospice Office closed

October 20, Monday, 5:30 pm. Board of Directors Meeting, Hospice Office.

October 23, times TBA. Helping Grieving Children and Teens. An experiential training facilitated by Elizabeth Ungerleider and Elizabeth Pittman.

November 1, 7:30 pm, College Gospel Festival Live at the Latchis, a benefit of Brattleboro Area Hospice. A wonderful evening of uplifting gospel music from Harvard, Yale and Amherst, with BUHS as well.

COMING UP...

November 7, Dia de los Muertos Community Altar at Experienced Goods Thrift Shop. More information in the November newsletter.

Brattleboro Area Hospice
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