

# The Freeman Flash

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE XXIII



**Happy fall to all! October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is here, and Elizabeth Freeman Center will be getting the word out in many ways. Join us at these upcoming events.**



## Thursday, October 3: Workshop for Peace

7:30pm, Unitarian/Universalist Church  
175 Wendell Ave, Pittsfield

Janis Broderick, our Executive Director, and Nakeida Bethel-Smith, one of our youth educators, will speak about domestic and sexual violence and what we can do to end them, as part of a workshop series sponsored by the Berkshire Citizens for Peace and Justice.



## Saturday, October 5: Berktoberfest

12:00-6:00pm, \$26/ticket  
McKay Street, Pittsfield

It's October, which means it is Berktoberfest time! Elizabeth Freeman Center has been tabling at Berktoberfest since it began and appreciates that the local organizers recognize the importance of our work, and highlight and support our efforts.

Berktoberfest is a fun and family-friendly celebration of craft beers and local brews, and features local restaurants and local musicians. We meet a lot of new people, connect with old friends, and find it a great venue for getting the word out to people whom we might not otherwise reach. Stop by and say hello at our table!



## Sunday, October 6: Northern Berkshire Fall Foliage Festival Parade

1:00pm, Downtown North Adams

Join us at the Fall Foliage Parade! The theme is "Haunts, Legends, and Ghost Stories," so naturally Elizabeth Freeman Center and our marching partners from MCLA's Women's Center will be celebrating legendary local women like Mumbet (see next page) and Susan Brownell Anthony, whose spirits live on in all of us who work for equality, justice, and safety.



## October 17: Third Thursday

5-8pm, North  
Street, Pittsfield

Stop by our table during the last Third Thursday of 2013!

## Saturday, October 19: Immigrants' Day

4-8pm, Morningside Community School  
1 Burbank Street, Pittsfield

Immigrants' Day is a free event with something for everyone. It features: music and dancing; an incredible selection of delicacies from immigrant-owned businesses; free consultations from an experienced immigration attorney; a kids' room with a puppet and clown show, drumming session, games, crafts, or musical activities; and tabling by local businesses, employers, and organizations, including Elizabeth Freeman Center. See you there!



## Wednesday, October 23: Public Hearing on Women's Issues

4:30-6:30pm, Berkshire Athenaeum  
1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield

Women, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women wants to hear from you. Care about economic or reproductive justice? Combatting violence against women? Affordable housing and childcare? Now is your time to be heard!



**Pittsfield** - 43 Francis Ave.  
(413) 499-2425

**Gt. Barrington** - 40 Railroad St.  
(413) 429-8190

**North Adams** - 85 Main St.  
(413) 663-7459

**24 hour Hotline 1-866-401-2425**



Supported locally by: Berkshire United Way • Northern Berkshire United Way • Williamstown Community Chest • City of Pittsfield • Town of Great Barrington • Verizon Foundation • Women's Fund of W. Mass. • Aria Foundation • The Green Foundation • Berkshire Bank Foundation • Many community members, groups, businesses, and towns •





"From the days leading up to the event as team members collect money ...to the camaraderie and fun we have as we walk...I cannot describe to you how powerful this event is to our team at Goodwill."  
 -Frank Engels, CEO of Goodwill in the Berkshires

See more photos at [www.facebook.com/elizabethfreemancenter](http://www.facebook.com/elizabethfreemancenter).

### A Walk to Remember...

Thank you to everyone who made Elizabeth Freeman Center's third annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes International Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault, and Gender Violence such a success! On September 19th, almost 500 people, many of them in heels, gathered in a community-wide march to end domestic and sexual violence. Together they raised over \$28,000 to fund services for survivors at the Elizabeth Freeman Center. We are grateful to everyone for their of support.

And we'd like to give a special shout-out to our underwriters: Donovan & O'Connor, LLP, Berkshire Bank Foundation, Berkshire Health System, Onyx Specialty Papers, Inc., WJ Blueprint and Digital Graphics, Cain, Hibbard & Myers, Iredale Mineral Cosmetics, J.H. Maxymillian, Inc., Mountain One Bank, and Rotary Club of Pittsfield.

We can't wait to see you all at next year's Walk a Mile, on September 18, 2014!

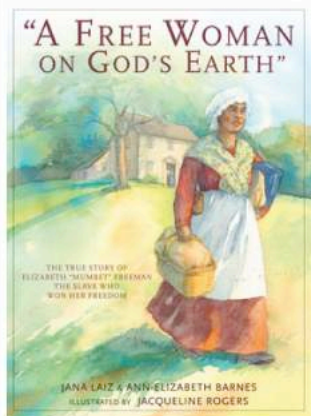
### Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman: Part III

*We've teamed up with Jana Laiz, local co-author of a book on Mumbet, to bring you a six-part series on the life of our organization's namesake.*

In 1776, the Colonies declare war on Britain over high taxes and infringements on their freedom. Meanwhile, Mumbet continues to play an integral role in the Ashley household. By 1777, slaves are asked to enlist in the Continental Army in exchange for freedom at the end of the war. It is believed that Mumbet's husband enlists, planning to work for pay after the war until he can buy his family's freedom. But he is killed at the Battle of Saratoga. On that day, Mumbet loses both her partner and her family's hope for freedom.

Mumbet and her daughter try to make their lives bearable. One day her daughter is in the kitchen preparing a little corn cake made from leftover scraps. When Hannah Ashley sees this, she goes into a rage, declaring the child a thief, picks up a red-hot poker from the hearth, and raises it to strike her. Mumbet hears the commotion and runs in just in time to put her own arm up to block the blow. She is burned to the bone. She never covers the hideous scar, and when she is asked about it, her answer is invariably, "Ask Madam."

The war rages on and in 1780, when the newly ratified Massachusetts Constitution is read on the Sheffield green, Mumbet knows that freedom is a law now. She looks down at her scar and realizes that she can no longer bear to be enslaved.



### MA Immigrants' Housing and Safety at Risk

The Massachusetts State House recently passed an amendment to its housing bill that would make undocumented and many documented immigrants ineligible for public housing. Following an outcry from immigrants' rights groups, the State Senate voted to reject the amendment. The two versions of the bill are now being worked out in Committee.

If the amendment were to be included in the bill, domestic violence victims, crime victims, "Dreamers" (young people brought to the country as children), and others would be denied access to safe, affordable housing, compounding danger and risk to already vulnerable families.

