

The Freeman Flash

AUGUST 2017

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE XLX

Walk a Mile In Her Shoes

to End Rape, Sexual Assault and Gender Violence:
Third Thursday,
September 21st, North St Pittsfield

At 6 pm on September 21, we will be marching to spread awareness of gender violence and raise needed funds for survivor services at EFC! Join us on North St in Pittsfield to march with us, or to cheer on those who will be walking a mile in her shoes. Walkers are encouraged to register ahead of time, and to gather pledges to fund services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Walkers who raise \$55 or more get a free 2017 Walk A Mile shirt!



Corner of North and Columbus Street,
Pittsfield

Registration at 5pm,
Walk Begins at 6 pm
Rain or Shine!

To sign up, visit
www.elizabethfreemancenter.org/wam

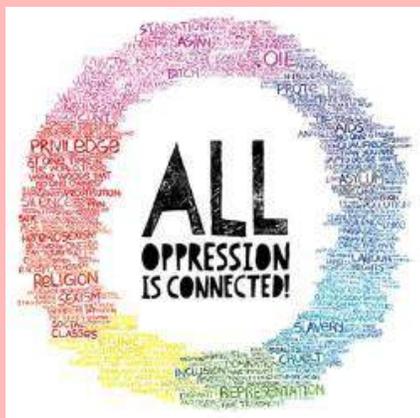
Honoring Mumbet



August 20 was Elizabeth Freeman Day, honoring the life and legacy of our namesake. Also known as Mumbet, she was the first enslaved person to sue for and win her freedom in Massachusetts. She inspires us with her bravery in fighting for her rights, and in all the women she helped as a nurse, healer, and midwife as a free woman. We carry

on her legacy by working for a world in which all people can be safe and free.

Action of the Month: Stand against Oppression



Our hearts grieve for the injury and loss of life that occurred in Charlottesville. EFC stands against racism, religious persecution, sexism, and oppression of any kind. We believe no one should be terrorized or threatened with violence, in public spaces or in their relationships. This month, talk with an elder who lived through World War II and ask their opinion on why it was important for Americans to fight against and defeat the rise of fascism. Or, read or watch something about that time period. Then, lend your support to organizations and individuals working now to end white supremacy and Nazism. Local organizations include: Northern Berkshires

for Racial Justice, Four Freedoms Coalition, Multicultural BRIDGE Race Task Force, and Indivisible Pittsfield. National organizations include: Charlottesville Solidarity Legal Fund, Black Lives Matter Network, Equal Justice Initiative, Color of Change, NAACP, Women's March, and Southern Poverty Law Center.



24 hour hotline 1-866-401-2425

Pittsfield
43 Francis Ave.
(413) 499-2425

New address!
Great Barrington
168 Main St., Ste. 4
(413) 429-8190

North Adams
61 Main St., Ste. 202
(413) 663-7459

www.elizabethfreemancenter.org



Welcome Jenn G!

We are delighted to welcome Jenn as EFC counselor/advocate and site supervisor of our Great Barrington office! Jenn will be bringing her extensive background in social services administration and community engagement to our South County office. You can drop in to meet her Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in Great Barrington.

In her own words: "I am passionate about human & social services and the accessibility to resources that are available. In my free time I enjoy learning, reading, baking and fishing!"

Back to School

We send good wishes to all the students returning to school over the next few weeks. A new school year is a great time to have conversations about preventing sexual harassment, sexual assault, and dating violence. Many schools have policies to protect students and staff. If you are unsure what your school's policies are, ask!

Have a happy, healthy, and safe school year!



Quote of the Month:

"I am not going to allow your client to make me feel like it is any way my fault because it isn't."

-Taylor Swift on August 10, giving testimony during her successful trial against a man who sexually assaulted her in 2013 (Buzzfeed)

Turning Trauma Into Art

We are always amazed by the strength and creativity of survivors. Somehow, the people who have overcome the hardest challenges retain their ability to love, grow, and create beauty. The survivor group "Transitions" meets weekly to support each other and find healing through the creation of art. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Heather at (413) 499-2425.



SCOTUS Decision Improves Safety

In a 6-2 decision on July 29th, the US Supreme Court banned domestic abusers from owning firearms. While convicted felons were already banned, there was a loophole that allowed abusers who were "reckless," rather than pre-meditating, to still own guns. The court decision closed this loophole and made it clear that any history of committing domestic abuse makes a person unfit to own firearms. This is important since firearms in the home increases the risk of death by an abuser for all family members. This decision means safer homes for everyone, and reinforces the fact that no violence, impulsive or not, is acceptable within intimate relationships.



Above: Justice Elena Kagan, who authored the majority opinion