

# The Freeman Flash

MAY 2018

ELIZABETH FREEMAN CENTER'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 53

## Remembering Kassedi Clark



Kassedi Storm Clark, 24 years old of Hinsdale, was killed on April 13th, 2018. Her ex-boyfriend has been charged with her murder. She leaves behind 5 young children and countless people who she helped in various ways.

Her loss is a loss to our entire community. Intimate partner violence is not just a private matter, but a crime against all of us. We are sending love and healing to those who knew Kassedi best and who are suffering most. And we are dedicated to fighting even harder to create a county, country, and world where violence is replaced by safety and justice.

### From the obituary of Kassedi Storm Clark:

*Kass was a beautiful, intelligent, compassionate, young lady with so much life to give. She was the most passionate, goal-oriented, driven woman many of us would ever have the pleasure of knowing. She was a student R.N. and aspiring mid-wife who inspired many. With grit and over-whelming perseverance, Kass attended classes at BCC for her nursing degree, cared for her four children and a fifth whom she loved and cared for as her own, and somehow managed to make time for all else who loved her. She had a passion for fairness and loved everyone with an open mind and heart. She was a bright light who refused to waste her potential; she worked hard, and was immensely proud of her children. She was what many of us wished we could be.*

## Upcoming Events

**May 31: Morningside Neighborhood Pride Night.** 4:30-7 PM at Morningside Community School, 100 Burbank St. See you there!

**June 2: Berkshire Pride.** Free LGBTQ+ Pride Festival at First Street Common, Pittsfield. 2-5:30 PM, Rain or Shine. Come show your Pride at the EFC table!

**June 3: Pancake Breakfast to Benefit EFC.** The ACES of Pittsfield UNICO are hosting this fundraiser at Hillcrest Academy, 8-11 AM. Only \$5 a person!



EFC staff tabling at Northampton Pride

## EFC is Hiring!



Thanks to a state/federal grant we received to serve victims of crime, EFC is hiring for three new positions! Join our fabulous team:

**Economic and Housing Advocate**  
(countywide)

**Bilingual South County Counselor**  
(Great Barrington)

**North County Counselor,**  
(North Adams), including 10 hrs/wk specialized work with LGBTQ survivors

More info: [elizabethfreemancenter.org/jobs](http://elizabethfreemancenter.org/jobs)



## Action of the Month



Please attend the fundraiser for the children of Kassedi Clark and celebrate her life

**A Celebration of Life and A Trust Benefit  
for the Children of Kassedi Storm Clark**

Remember Her Name. Sunday, June 10, 12 PM - 8 PM

Tavern at the A, 303 Crane Ave, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Donations for her children's future can be made at

[www.gofundme.com/family-expenses-for-kassedi-clark](http://www.gofundme.com/family-expenses-for-kassedi-clark)



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

*New address!*  
**Great Barrington**  
168 Main St., Ste. 4

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

24 hour hotline 1-866-401-2425

[www.elizabethfreemancenter.org](http://www.elizabethfreemancenter.org)



## Gratitude Corner

Thank you to everyone who participated in Sexual Assault Awareness Month events in April! We raised awareness and funds, and celebrated the tenacity and strength of survivors at the same time. Thank you to all the donors who contributed, especially **Flavours of Malaysia Restaurant** owners Sabrina Tan and Chin Lee, **GB Eats** for hosting fundraising events, and all the contributors to the raffles and silent auction. Thank you as well to our community partners, including **Stockbridge Library**, for the work we do together to create safety and justice.

A HUGE thank-you to **Berkshire Running Center** for organizing the Women's Running Race, community race, and kids' fun run on Mother's Day and donating all proceeds to EFC. It truly takes a community!

Thank you most of all to you who are survivors, whose strength and resilience give us hope and motivation every day. EFC is proud to be survivor-staffed and survivor-led.

Clockwise from right: Blue flags representing the 328 survivors of sexual assault EFC assisted in 2017, adorn EFC's Pittsfield office lawn; Sabrina Tan and Susan Gordon celebrate at Flavours of on International Women's Day; EFC staff and supporters rallying for survivors in Great Barrington on April 26; runners at the Mother's Day 5K.



## EFC Excellence

Director of Programs Deb Parkington has been nominated by the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires for a lifetime achievement award! Her work at EFC is only the latest in her impressive history of fighting for justice and safety for women and survivors.



Deb Parkington



Jean Clarke-Mitchell

Director of Clinical Services Jean Clark-Mitchell MSW, LICSW was awarded the MCLA Susan B. Anthony Women's Center 5th annual "One Of Us" Award on April 26th. The award honors Jean's years of human services work.

*Best Lawyers* has named EFC board member Diane M. DeGiacomo as 2018 "Lawyer of the Year." This distinction is presented annually to one outstanding lawyer in a particular specialty and geographical area who has achieved the highest consensus opinion of their professional abilities by their colleagues.



Diane M. DeGiacomo

## Mumbet Film

A new film will depict the life of our namesake Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman, based on the book "A Free Woman on God's Earth" by Jana Laiz and Ann-Elizabeth Barnes! In 1781, Elizabeth Freeman became the first enslaved person in Massachusetts to sue for her freedom and win. Her victory helped end slavery in Massachusetts. We try to follow in her footsteps by fighting for survivors' autonomy, safety from violence, and justice for all. Filming will occur in Berkshire County beginning next year.

"I'm extremely proud to be a part of helping to tell such an important story. It's time for everyone to know about Elizabeth 'Mumbet' Freeman."

-Octavia Spencer, producer



Producer Octavia Spencer