



# The First Order

## St. Stephen's Parish

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JUNE 2019

## Berkshire Interfaith Organizing

On Saturday, April 27th, BIO held a “party” celebrating our Home in the Berkshires. About 50 people attended which included 65-70% people of color (largely Latino immigrant community). There was music, dancing, poetry reading, fun and games for all. Interpretation, childcare and food made it accessible to all. As Wendy Krom, Lead Organizer of BIO states, “consensus is that this is the spirit of BIO that we want to have present at all of our events-to-come”.

Once a month, usually on the second Tuesday of the month, BIO members meet to share updates of the issues that are currently active. This meeting is called “PIRT” (Priority Issues Research Team) and is held at St. Stephen's at 6:00 p.m. in the Guild Room. Anyone interested in hearing about the issues or simply to learn more about B.I.O. is encouraged to attend. Remember – St. Stephen's is a member group of BIO and by extension....all of you.

### Highlights of one of the issues being addressed currently:

**Transportation...**At the April meeting of the BIO Executive Council...it was reported that the state budgeting process has begun and a budget figure of \$96.5 million has been proposed for transportation across the state. The Legislators make amendments and go through a complex negotiation process, says Jim Kolesar, BIO's Vice-President and a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Williamstown. Locally, he says, we are hoping that volunteer drivers will come forward in service to Berkshire County: BHS, VIM, Community Health Program, BCAS, Regional Planning Commission, Brien Center and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition are our primary partners in this endeavor to create a Volunteer Driver Program. Jim is chairing this process and

determining how much energy will be put into defining the “how to” of establishing a driving service funded by employers. Jim shared that he has been invited by Ben Lamb from 1Berkshire to be part of a steering committee for a potential Transportation Management Association. At the PIRT meeting of April 23rd, Wendy Krom, Lead Organizer of BIO, reported that all the local organizations that have participated in past years are planning to continue and that a new group has joined (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). The state coordinator of volunteer driver programs was a guest at the last meeting and made helpful comments.

If you would like to hear more about this campaign or would like to participate in the discussion, please join us at the next PIRT meeting on Tuesday, May 28th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's.

### Other issues BIO is currently working on:

- Racial Justice
- Immigrant Justice
- Addiction/Opioid Epidemic
- Lee Price Chopper Closing

Visit our website ([berkshireinterfaithorganizing.org](http://berkshireinterfaithorganizing.org)) to subscribe to our newsletter; follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Did You Know?

- That Herberg Middle school announced its Honor Rolls and the following were included: High Honors – **Ella La Malfa**; and Honors – **Brody Kaley** and **Grace Garinther**. Congratulations!!

# June

## Happy Birthday:

- 1 Stephanie Mansfield
- 2 Joseph Carchedi, Selah Ekstrom (21!)
- 6 Amanda Brunelle
- 7 Cricket Cooper
- 8 Brad Swanson (a milestone! – 90 years young!)
- 9 Priscilla Zuber
- 10 John Garinther
- 11 Audrina Michelle Maloney (12!), David Winchester
- 12 Dan Moon
- 13 Meilani Rene Hamilton (8!)
- 14 Taylor Eddy, Linda Engle (a milestone!)
- 16 Susan Bedard, Jim Day
- 17 David Turner
- 18 Avery Hartman-Caesar (16)
- 19 Peter Champagne (8!), Courtney Hamilton, Alyson Warman
- 20 Emilia Jade Cobb (6!)
- 22 Daniel James Lavery (8!)
- 23 Pam Aldrich (a milestone!)
- 26 Summer Casuscelli (10!)
- 29 Marietta Cawse
- 30 Jaylen Amari Hamilton (10!)

## Happy Anniversary:

- 6 Sue and Thom Smith (1971)  
Katie and Scott Haviland (2009)
- 8 Mary and David Turner (1985)
- 11 Beth-Anne Hamling and Stephanie Mansfield (2011)
- 14 Wavelyn and Jeffrey Hine (1969-50 years!)  
Debbie and Roy Stillman (1980)
- 17 Veronica and Christopher Fenton (1989-30 years!)
- 20 Ann and Don Phipps (1964-55 Years!)
- 21 Paula and Bill Morey (50 years!)  
Maria and Nathan Zuckerman (1970)
- 24 Martie and David Ekstrom (1961)
- 25 Josie and Scott Ellis (1994-25 years!)  
Nancy and Bill Travis (1972)
- 27 Kristen and Jim Currie (1993)
- 28 Jodi and Jay Roberts (2003)
- 30 Mary and Steve Wheelock (1972)

# Farewell to Cricket

So many parishioners and friends gathered to say farewell to Cricket – the tributes voiced how much she will be missed and how much she has given to all of us in her time here. We wish her well in the days to come...and to Tom, whose skills (as Santa for the cleaning crew, as organist, as choir member ... etc.), we also wish the very best! With mixed feelings, we said our good-byes

Special thanks must be given to Joan Evans and her crew (I would love to name them individually, but know that if I tried, I would forget at least one name) for arranging a delicious meal, and for making the Dining Room look so festive. Once again, Joan, we thank you for your organizing skills and for having everything come together at the appointed time!

# Prayer Chain

It has come to the attention of your Editor that some people are not receiving notification of new names for the Prayer Chain. I am notified by Sarah and now have just one person whom I call. Others have been notified via email. If you wish to remain on the Prayer Chain, please send me your name and current email address (JoanKurber@gmail.com) – and let me know if you have been receiving the names. Thanks! This is an important ministry and we don't want it to fall through the cracks.

## Dear Family and Friends:

Well, decisions have finally been made, checks written, and time set. On Saturday June 29, 2019 at 11AM we will finally lay the ashes of Stephen and Lenore Congdon to rest in lot 15C of Evergreen Cemetery, on 338 Cemetery Road in Arlington, Vermont 05250. It shouldn't take very long. Afterwards, we would like to invite anyone that can make it to lunch.

We realize that many of you may not be able to travel for many hours for a short gathering at the cemetery followed by a lunch. We understand. James and Charles hope to catch some of you as we make our leisurely way to Portland Maine to spend a few days exploring before we go home again. Eleanor will probably visit some other folks on her own way to or from Youngstown.

As this chapter closes, we ask that you pause to remember a happy time with Stephen and Lenore.

Peace,

Charles, Eleanor and James

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## Oh, the Places You Will Go

- **Meagan Ellis** will be graduating from high school on June 8th at Tanglewood. She will attend Merrimack College as an honor student with a major in Psychology
- **Anna Black** will graduate from Williams College on June 2nd with a BA, double major in Physics and statistics. In the fall, she will be enrolled in an atmospheric sciences PhD program at the University of Washington in Seattle to become a climate scientist
- Ginger and Craig's youngest, **Liza Smith**, graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans in May. She will travel to Asia after graduation, then return to New Orleans for work. (Proud parents are relieved that after 12 years they are done with tuitions).
- **Julia Pringle-Wallace** graduated May 16th with a master's degree in Social Work from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.
- **Andrew Macfarlane** graduated May 10th from RIT, Magna Cum Laude, with a BS degree in Computing Information Technologies and a concentration in Enterprise Administration.
- **Stephanie LeBourdais Staab, MD**, will complete a three-year Fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine on June 30. A board-certified Pediatrician, she is a 2013 graduate of UMass Medical School, completed her pediatric residency at Children's Hospital Colorado in 2016. Stephanie will continue her career as a PEM attending physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at CHCO beginning in July.
- **Hallie Novak** graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a BA in French, magna cum laude. She will be a teaching assistant in English at the University of Corsica, France, this fall.

We are all so proud of your accomplishments!

