

Community Time Banking is the Topic at Graze

In New London on February 4

Press release

If the idea of using skills you enjoy in exchange for getting work done that you cannot do yourself sounds appealing, you're invited to join the Conversation Café on Tuesday, February 4, beginning at 5 PM, at Graze Sustainable Table, 207 Main Street in New London. Sponsored by the Kearsarge Valley Transition Initiative (KVTI), discussion of "Sharing The Wealth: Community Time Banking" will be led by Lisa Conlan, former CEO of Timeberbanks USA, founder of a time bank in Providence, Rhode Island, and co-trainer of hOurworld cooperative, a software design non-profit that assists local communities in establishing time banks.

Put simply, a time bank is a local organization whose members agree to supply goods or services to one another in return for other goods or services. The value of the exchange is measured in terms of hours donated rather than in dollars, valuing the work one enjoys and the development of community relationships.

This event is the third in the monthly Conversation Café series planned by the Kearsarge Valley Transition Initiative to encourage local folks to think

about how their communities can be more sustainable and resilient. The series offers an opportunity for residents to share conversation, a glass of wine, and some outstanding, specially prepared hors d'oeuvres with friends and neighbors on a night Graze is usually closed.

Conversation and food begins at 5 PM. At 6 PM, Ms. Conlan will talk about the growing popularity of the time bank concept, how it works, and how it can benefit local communities. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions, continued discussion, and eating until 7:15 PM.

Since Graze is usually closed on Tuesdays, and in order to prepare enough food for everyone, it is suggested that to ensure a spot, those interested in attending call Graze at 526-2488 by 5 PM the preceding Friday, January 31, to make a reservation. The cost is \$15 per person for food, with a cash bar.

The Kearsarge Valley Transition Initiative encourages the nine towns (including Andover) in the Kearsarge Valley to develop a greater reliance on local resources – food, energy, and human resources in particular. For more information, visit KearsargeTransition.wordpress.com, and check upcoming events at MeetUp.com/Transition-Kearsarge.

Free Speaker Series Continues in South Danbury

February 7 and 21 at the church

Press release

In January, the South Danbury Church kicked off the second year of its Speaker Series with the addition of supper – a light meal of soup and salad – offered before the presentation to help "warm up" the audience.

"People enjoyed the Soup Nights last month so much that we've decided to keep it going for the rest of our winter session," explains Kathy Neustadt, one of the series' organizers. "Everyone seems to enjoy a warm bowl of soup, especially in the winter."

The meal begins at 6:30 PM and is free to the public (though donations will be accepted), followed by the talk at 7 PM.

The topic for Friday, February 7, is "Making Wine in New Hampshire," presented by Eric and Erin Wiswall

of the Haunting Whisper Vineyards in Danbury. The couple bought their 75-acre property in 2005 and – lots of work and hundreds of vines later – in 2009 produced their first wine.

Neither of the Wiswalls had experience in making wine originally. They both came from a corporate background: she as a biochemist, and he as an engineer and manager for several networking start-ups. But they've learned by doing. They will talk more about how they started, where the business is today – the Haunting Whisper Vineyards is now producing more than 15,000 bottles of wine annually – some of the complexities of growing grapes in New Hampshire, and the kinds of wine they produce with those grapes.

The South Danbury Christian Church is located at 1411 US Route 4 in South Danbury. For more information about the series, call 768-3191.

Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force Reviews its Year

Thursday, February 13, at Franklin Opera House

Press release

The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force would like to invite members of the community to attend its next meeting on Thursday, February 13. The meeting will be held at 5 PM at the Franklin Opera House, and light refreshments will be served.

"This event is a great opportunity for members of the community to find out what the Task Force is doing in their community," says Coalition Coordinator Brandy Underwood. "We truly hope that people will take the time to learn about the good things happening with the Task Force, and how they can be involved."

The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force recently moved into a new, more visible and accessible space at the Besse Rowell Community Center and is excited about what the future will bring. The February meeting is going to be a "year in review." Information and data about 2013 Task Force initiatives and updates about initiatives that are in progress will be shared. Katy Shea, evaluator from the Community Health Institute, will be reviewing the results of the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey completed by Franklin and Hill youth.

When first established, the Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force identified three substance abuse issues to address: prescription drugs, underage drinking, and marijuana. In the past three years, the Task Force has made significant progress including the establishment of a free 24/7 Disposal Box for prescription medications at the Franklin Police Department; media campaigns and educational outreach; and the establishment of the Franklin Youth Initiative (FYI).

The Franklin Mayor's Drug Task Force began with the vision of Mayor Ken Merrifield. It has since grown into a coalition of actively engaged individuals and organizations from all sectors of the community working together for a common goal: a healthy environment for the drug- and alcohol-free development of our youth and families.

Like all good coalitions, the stronger the collaborations, the bigger the rewards! More Task Force members are needed and wanted. You are invited to attend our February meeting to learn more about what the Task Force is doing to achieve its goals and how you can be part of the solution.

For more information, contact Brandy Underwood at 998-5337 or TaskForceInfo@FranklinNH.org. You can also click on the link at the bottom of the page at FranklinNH.org.



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