

August 2026

Your DGB Cultural District E-News



Celebrating the Legacy of Elizabeth Freeman

From The Berkshire Edge - A ceremony was held on Saturday, August 22 at the Great Barrington town hall where the town unveiled a permanent informational kiosk on the life of Elizabeth Freeman.

The interactive installation demonstrates how public art and history can inspire new conversations about justice, freedom, and equity.



Born into slavery in Claverack-Red Mills, New York around 1744, Freeman sued for her freedom and won it in 1781, more than 80 years before the Emancipation Proclamation became law in January 1863. She died in Stockbridge in 1829.

The courthouse in which Freeman sued for her freedom once stood where Town Hall is located now.

The new kiosk was co-designed with the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the W.E.B. Du Bois Center. The kiosk features original art of Freeman created by students from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and its Center for Art and Community Partnerships.

Read more about the [Elizabeth Freeman kiosk and ceremony](#).

Legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma performs at Berkshire Busk! in Great Barrington

As part of The Berkshire Busk! summer festival series, cellist Yo-Yo Ma performed on Saturday, August 1.

The August 1 event, held at the Barrington House Courtyard, was entitled "Parading to Tanglewood" and included various Tanglewood performers including Kids 4 Harmony, TMC Brass Band, BUTI Saxophone Quartet, Ida Mae Specker, and local musician Robin O'Herin.



After a solo performance, Ma joined Kids 4 Harmony for a sing-along rendition of "Simple Gifts," a Shaker song written and composed in 1848.

Ma's performance is part of "We The People: Our Shared Past, Present, and Future," a week of events across the Berkshires that he curated to explore the American experiment.

Follow the link to read more about the event and watch the performance from [Yo-Yo Ma](#).

Festival Latino of The Berkshires

Festival Latino of the Berkshires celebrates its 30th anniversary!

Experience a day filled with vibrant, dance, and performances that will transport you to the heart of Latin America.

The Festival Latino of the Berkshires is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 with a mission to celebrate and promote Hispanic heritage throughout Berkshire County. Their primary goal is to educate both locals and visitors, including newer generations of Latinos in the area, about the rich and vibrant culture of the Latino community.

Festival Latino activities will take place at The Great Barrington Town Hall, Saint James Place, and the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center on September 26, 2026 from 2:00 to 6:00PM.

This event is free and open to the public.

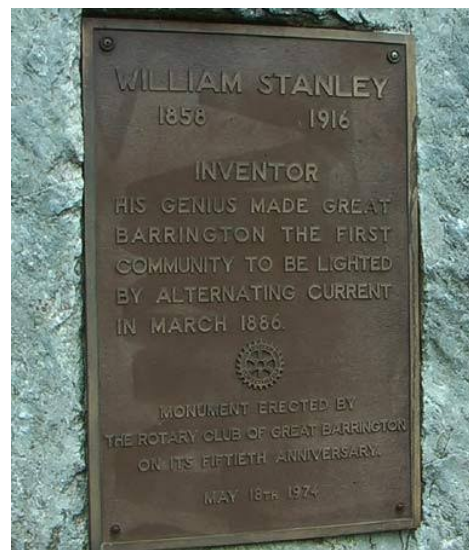
Click here to learn more about [Festival Latino of the Berkshires](#).



Rewind and Rediscover

On March 20, 1886 William Stanley provided alternating current electrification to offices and stores on Main Street in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Stanley demonstrated the first practical system for providing electrical illumination using alternating current with transformers to adjust voltage levels of the distribution system.

Stanley designed and built his own transformers for this installation. He demonstrated their ability to both raise and lower voltage.



Wires were run from his "central" generating station along Main Street in Great Barrington, fastened to the elm trees which lined the street. A total of six step-down transformers were located in the basements of some Main Street buildings to lower the distribution of volts. A total of twenty business establishments were then lighted using incandescent lamps.

The Great Barrington demonstration proved an economical, practical, safe and affordable method of providing electricity to general populations. It is a day to be celebrated in Great Barrington, and across the world. We continue to use the same basic features today to power homes, hospitals and businesses, from life-saving equipment to the common conveniences we rely on every day.

Follow the link to learn more about the [electrification of downtown Great Barrington](#).

Great Barrington Historic Walking Tours

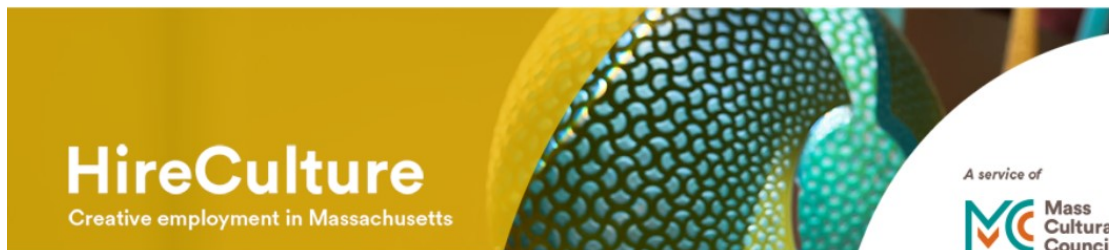


Creative Economy Jobs

You can also find exclusively creative economy jobs, including remote and hybrid opportunities, at [MCC's HireCulture](#). Several sample postings are below.

Find Berkshire County in-person, remote, and hybrid jobs that pay a minimum of \$40K a year in all fields, including arts, education, nonprofits, and related, at [1Berkshire's The Jobs Thing](#). Among some of the current openings of interest are:

- [Director of Advancement, Berkshire Natural Resources Council](#)
- [Marketing Associate, The Mount Edith Wharton Cultural Center](#)



- [Development Associate, Community Access to the Arts](#)

The National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH) provides transformational leadership to bring the arts in health together and advance the field.



Use the [NOAH website](#) to check out current open hybrid/remote positions in the field of arts in health.

Arts Funding and Resources

Curated information about funding and financial assistance for those working in the creative economy.



Learn about grants, events, and resources, find fellowships and apprenticeships, and identify art spaces by subscribing to [MCC's Monthly Newsletter](#).

[Opportunities & Resources for](#)

[Organizations](#)

The [Lenny Zakim Fund](#) is accepting applications to support grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit or fiscally-sponsored organizations with budgets less than \$350,000 that work to advance social, racial, and economic justice.

Deadline: September 1, 2026

The [Bolger Foundation](#) offers nonprofits grants for capital projects, with initiatives in conservation, underserved populations, health, community, and education.

Deadline: September 1, 2026

[TD Charitable Foundation's](#) next regional grant deadline is Sept. 11, 2026, and funds local programs making an impact in the communities that meet one of the their Ready Commitments.

Deadline September 11, 2026

[Adelard A. and Valeda Lea Roy Foundation's](#) grants support nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts and Northern New England working in the arts, education, health, and environmental sectors. Grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 and prioritize projects that improve food security, housing, cultural access, and opportunities for low-income youth, Indigenous communities, and immigrants.

Deadline: September 15, 2026

Follow the link for an overview of [MCC's FY27 Programs and Funding Opportunities](#) is available.



Creative Capital is a nonprofit, grantmaking organization funding artists in the creation of groundbreaking new work, amplifying the impact of their work, and fostering sustainable artistic careers.

[Creative Capital Artist Opportunities](#)

Find residencies, grants, and award opportunities for artists working in all disciplines.

Access online courses and resources designed to help artists build thriving practices at any career stage and in any discipline.

A new online professional development curriculum designed to help artists build thriving practices at any career stage and in any discipline. Free for individual use, courses are created by art professionals, industry experts, and fellow artists who share vital concepts, skills, and tools to help grow artists' careers—including courses on crafting artist statements, grant proposals, managing multiple income streams, and more.

Videos include ASL and Spanish interpretation, as well as CART services.



NEFA cultivates and promotes the arts in New England and beyond.

Check the NEFA website for a wide range of resources, including:

[Recent Publications](#)

[Arts & Accessibility](#)

[Community Initiatives](#)

[Racial & Social Justice Resources](#)



ArtsHub is an ever-evolving idea designed to highlight and bring together the amazing artists, organizations, and events that are happening within the creative communities of Western Mass.

The ArtsHub site regularly updates with opportunities, events, news, and more.

[See profiles and list yourself here](#) and [learn about promoting yourself on NEFA's related site: CreativeGround.](#)



Mass Creative advocates for a well-resourced and equitable creative sector essential to Massachusetts's economic and civic vibrancy.

MASSCreative's [Action Network](#) fights for policies that benefit cultural nonprofits, creative businesses, and individual artists in Massachusetts. Where arts, culture, and creativity are recognized as vital components of civically engaged, economically vibrant, and equitable communities.

Aug 21

READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN



Limited Engagement

Aug 21

Dominic Sessa
Emilia Jones
... Leo Woodall
... Antonio Banderas



"I Was -- To Be Frank --
A Spoiled, Miserable, Narcissistic,
Self-Destructive And Thoughtless Young Lout,
And Badly In Need Of A Good Ass-Kicking."

TONY

New Release

Aug 21



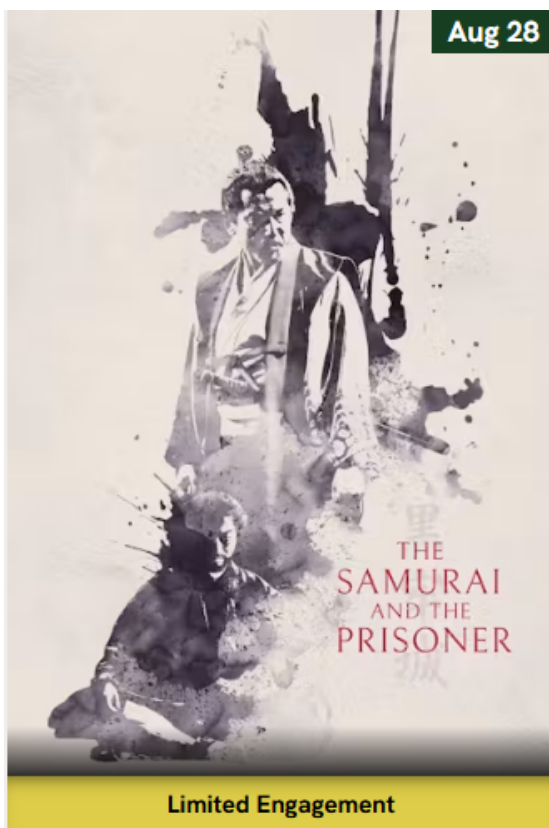
Special Event

Aug 28



FRIDAY THE 13TH™

Special Event



Be sure to click the link to view upcoming [Triplex showtimes and special events!](#)

Great Barrington Libraries - Mason Library

Adult Programming for August:

- Free 1 on 1 Financial Consultation: Luke Delorme, CFP, of Tableaux Wealth has offered to give 30 minute appointments to our patrons. Contact Dawn to schedule, djardine@townofgbma.gov
- Getting Started with Venmo: Learn how to set up and use a Venmo account to send and receive money and complete transactions. 4:30pm, 8/3
- Streaming and Smart TV: Join us to learn about streaming services and smart TVs. 4:30pm, 8/19
- American Mahjong for Beginners: Join us in the Mason Community Room for an introduction to American Mahjong. Feel free to bring your own covered drink. Exit is via Pleasant Street at 6:30. You may want to park accordingly. Sponsored by the Friends of GB Libraries. Registration required. 4:30pm, every Thursday
- OtherWords Poetry: Poets , and , curated by Evelyn Reilly and Michael Gottlieb. Sponsored by the Friends of GB Libraries and Board of Library Trustees. 4:00pm, 7/25

Children and Teen Programming for August:

- Dino Month Kickoff: Join us at Mason Library as we kick off Dinosaur Month with a roaring good time for children ages 2–6 and their caregivers! Ages 2-6, 10:30am, 8/4

- Dr. Nadine's Dinosaur Discoveries: Sign up to learn about paleontology, fossils, and more. Registration required, ages 6+, 10:30am, 8/12
- Dino Dig: Stomp over to unearth some exciting dino delights. Ages 2-6, 10:30am, 8/18
- Aw Shucks... Corn: It may sound a bit corny, but we're expecting to have knobs of fun! Ages 3-6, 10:30am, 8/26
- Sing & Dance: Looking for a way to get up, get out, and get moving? We'll sing, dance and play together with drums, bells, balls and hoops. Circle time, dancing and lots of fun! Registration required, ages 0-5, 10:30am, every Friday
- Youth Chess Club: Whether you're a beginner or a budding grandmaster, come learn, play, and sharpen your skills in a friendly, relaxed environment. Ages 6-18, 11:00am, every Saturday

OtherWords Reading Series - Please join us Saturday, August 29 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM for a poetry reading by Jan Conn and Orchid Tierney

Come for great readings and good company, along with drinks and food provided by the Friends of Great Barrington Libraries.

Jan Conn is a poet, biologist, and visual artist. Peony Vertigo is her most recent book. The Disruptive Ordinary, a chapbook, is forthcoming this autumn. Her visual art is represented by Lauren Clark Fine Art Gallery in Great Barrington. She recently retired as Professor and Research Scientist with the New York State Department of Health and SUNY-Albany.

Orchid Tierney is a poet and scholar, originally from New Zealand. She is the author of This Abattoir Is a College and A Year of Misreading the Wildcats as well as several chapbooks including Pedagogies for the Planthroposcene. She co-edited the Routledge Companion to Ecopoetics. She teaches at Kenyon College in Ohio and is a senior editor at the Kenyon Review.

This event is free and open to the public.

Be sure to visit the [Great Barrington Public Libraries](#) website to view more and programming and events!

What | When | Where



What: [GBPT Summer Series: Yellow Wallpaper 2.0 - 2020](#)

When: August 20 - September 6

Where: Saint James Place

Details: This play takes us down the rabbit hole of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's profound short story The Yellow Wallpaper, written in 1892, but re-imagined here in the early days of the pandemic. An overwhelmed adjunct professor, newly a mother, struggles to make sense of their suddenly chaotic reality, her postpartum depression and the mysteries hidden inside their inherited "prewar-6" apartment on the

Upper West Side. With humor, social critique and the quivering bones of a horror story, Jennifer Maisel's wonderful play will sweep you down the rabbit hole with our heroine, T, and bring you face to face with her deep- 2020 dilemmas, passions and choices. This play is directed by Judy Braha.



What: [Berkshire Opera Festival: Lucia di Lammermoor](#)

When: August 22, 25, 28

Where: Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center

Details: Lucia di Lammermoor reigns as the crown jewel of bel canto opera! Set amid the foggy moors and ancient castles of Scotland, Donizetti's masterpiece tells the tragic story of Lucia, whose forbidden love for her family's sworn enemy drives her to the brink of madness. When her brother forces her into a loveless marriage, Lucia's heart—and mind—shatter in one of opera's most unforgettable scenes. Renowned for its breathtaking drama and virtuosic singing, Lucia di Lammermoor remains one of the most celebrated works in the operatic canon, a timeless showcase of the full power and passion of the human voice.



What: [Intro to Cold Wax Medium](#)

When: Thursday, August 27 at 1:00PM

Where: Art in the Berkshires Creative Art Space

Details: Interested in creating some abstracted landscapes in cold wax medium and oils? This is your opportunity to join us for an intro+ class on the versatility and fun of painting intuitively and expressing yourself in color. All materials supplied. All levels of experience welcome. No previous art background necessary to avail yourself of tapping into your creativity through paint and color. The cost is \$125 for the session. Email cabrams09@gmail.com to register.



What: [Angels Calling Tour](#)

When: Saturday, September 12 at 6:00PM

Where: Saint James Place

Details: The Angels Calling Tour is a 75-minute immersive experience featuring Mary Verdi's original music, which has a distinctive angelic thread throughout. The trio is surrounded by a 28-foot Angel Installation creating a multi-sensory experience. Seven Angel Messages are featured throughout the concert. This is not a religious concert, Angels are Universal. The Flight Trio: Mary Verdi Creator, Songwriter, Vocals, Keyboard, Guitar
Eileen Markland Violin, Viola, Penney Whistle Adrian Bennett Hand Percussionist.

Be sure to follow the Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date on all the latest news and events happening downtown!



Mass Office of Travel and Tourism

The [Massachusetts Official Travel and Tourism \(MOTT\) website](#) includes a FREE business database where you can list your business! To get started, [visit their website](#), where you can sign on as a new business or update your information if you are already registered.

Are you making the most of the #mylocalMA campaign? [Submit Your Story](#) for a chance to be featured on social media and in MOTT's My Local MA e-newsletter. You can find more information and resources at [Lovemylocalma.com](#).

Downtown Great Barrington Cultural District | 334 Main Street | Great Barrington, MA 01230 US

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