Reflections from the Director’s Desk
Leisa Pollander, Executive Director

Spring brings the usual whirlwind of activity as the Sara Holbrook Community Center preschoolers are preparing to transition to kindergarten, staff are gearing up for elementary summer camp, teens are signing up for the Green Family Youth Adventure Camp or for summer enrichment and learning experiences, English Language Learners are completing applications for New Arrivals, the Center’s flagship summer school. The annual Festival of Cultures, held at the Davis Center at UVM was a smashing success. This event garners community support from a variety of businesses and individual donors, and has established a reputation as an engaging family activity. Multitudes of performers share their talents, while craftspeople have avenue to market their wares. This event would not be possible without the scores of volunteers who turn out to work in a variety of tasks, from mailing event notices, postering Chittenden County, and carrying in supplies for vendors.

On April 12th, the SHCC Preschool was honored with a visit from Governor Peter Shumlin. He had an individual conversation with each child, and acknowledged staff and volunteers for the great work they do in preparing little ones for life.

On a sad note: In January, we lost someone who has long had a tie to the Center. Maggie Green served first on the board of directors; she also was the Executive Director from 1975 – 1988. Maggie was very proud of her roots in the old north end, and she had a deep commitment to serving her community. She was a visionary and the ultimate force to be reckoned with! Together with her husband Bob, she helped innumerable kids and families in more ways than can be counted. Thank you, Maggie for all of your work, dedication and compassion.
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Creating Connections
The Creating Connections Mentoring Program at Sara Holbrook is a community-based mentoring program with the goal of matching youth in the community with caring and responsible adults. In its third year, Creating Connections currently has 11 dedicated mentor matches and we hope our number will only continue to grow. Mentors and mentees are matched based on personality and interest and mentor matches enjoy exploring the community together by going to the movies, plays, or simply hanging outdoors and enjoying each others company.

If you are interested in making a difference in a child’s life and becoming a mentor, learn more at saraholbrookcc.org/mentoring or contact Elissa May at 862.6342 or mentoring@saraholbrook.org.

Hunt Middle Schoolers Dive Into Activity
Sara Holbrook Community Center runs the afterschool program at Hunt Middle School giving the kids the opportunity to try many different activities. Our vision has always been to give our middle schoolers programming and homework help, as well as a place to hang out (the NNEY Youth Center), which are all safe and well supervised. We are proud to provide places for youth to be occupied in the after school hours, so parents can work without the stress of wondering where their children are.

Activities Enjoyed by the Kids This Year
Gardening • Bowling • Break Dancing • Piano Lessons • Jazz • 4H Robotics • Movie Making • Rock Climbing • Music Production • Learning How to Be a Disc Jockey • Cooking • Biking/Bike Repair • Creative Writing • Floor Hockey • Basketball • GeoCaching • Drumming • Cupcake Baking & Decorating • Playing Strategic Games • Arts-Pottery, Painting & More • Singing with the Madrigal Choir • Sewing of Every Kind from Fabric Art to Jewelry & Stuffed Animals • Book Club • Girls Group • Boys Velocity • Beading • Crochet • African Dance • Circus Arts • Back Country Skiing • Before & After School Homework Help

Summer Fun to Come
SHCC will be running a five week summer program for Hunt middle schoolers from June 27-July 29. We will offer week-long activities for students to choose from.
Jumpin’ Through Hoops in the Teen Program (Literally)

This school year the Teen Program has continued to offer fantastic after school opportunities to hundreds of middle and high schoolers. The foosballs were flying, basketballs bouncing and markers sketching during Middle School time. We have had fantastic attendance and have been able to get to know a great crew of kids. We even added a new table game: skittles (bonus points to whoever knows that one). During High School time we have had continued success in our Girl’s Group, Fire in the Kitchen and Friday Outings. We have also seen a large jump in our gym night attendance. This was helped by an event we held in collaboration with BHS After School in late January called “Let Loose Week”. In honor of the end of exams, High School students were invited to come by the youth center for activities such as, dodge ball and basketball tournaments, movies, pizza, art demonstrations, ice skating and more. It was extremely fun and helped raise the profile of the New North End Youth Center. Thank you to all who donated prizes, space and those who helped out.

After School Tumblers

Our after school program for kindergarten through fifth grades has had a great year with a ton of activity. Circus Smirkus generously shared an artist in residence with our kids. Christine Landon gave us two hours, three days a week for the whole fall semester. She was simply wonderful and inspired the kids with many exciting activities. The children enjoy tumbling, balancing on boards, juggling with scarves and balls, throwing devil sticks and spinning the Diablo. They also learned how to work together by putting on skits, learning how to spot each other for flips, and riding the UniCyle. During the next semester the kids were given the opportunity to learn Hip-Hop. They worked hard with Maya Grevatt and Beth Hartman to put on a fabulous show for the Festival of Cultures. Other activities enjoyed by the kids were swimming at the Edge; cooking with Nansea Cassler; learning about healthy habits with Champlain College students, Robin Jirikovic, Caitlin Ackerman, Brianna Fitzpatrick & Emily Cobb; running with Girls on the Run with Alison Turnbaugh; ice skating at Leddy Park; reading with UVM’s Mortar Board Honor Society; being entertained by Gary Dulabaum and more.
A Festival of Cultures: Celebrating Diversity in Burlington & Beyond!

The Davis Center was crowded for the whole day with people dancing, swaying, and bopping to the rhythms of a full day of performances. For the sixth consecutive year, the Center celebrated the community’s cultural diversity by hosting A Festival of Cultures on April 2, 2011. We were very pleased to host: Japanese ensemble drumming of the Burlington Taiko Youth Ensemble; traditional dance from the Viet Ngu Vermont School; cool hip hop moves by the Sara Holbrook Hip Hop Superstars; Brazilian carnival style drumming with Sambatucada; Irish cultural dancing of the McFadden School of Irish Dance; children’s entertainment with Gary Dulabaum; drumming and dancing from Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, and Guinea with Africa Jamono; contemporary a cappella singing with Root7; and traditional a cappella voices of the Champlain Echoes. Vendors sold arts and crafts as well as decorated hands and faces with henna & face paint. We also held a silent auction to benefit the Center’s programming. A special thank you to all the performers, vendors, sponsors, advertisers, silent auction donors, volunteers, and community supporters who always go the extra mile to make this event a great success!

Thank you to the following sponsors that helped make the Festival possible:

**Event Sponsors**
- WCAX-TV • People’s United Bank • The Amy E. Tarrant Foundation • Sara Holbrook Community Center

**Corporate Sponsors**
- August First • Business People Vermont • City Market/Onion River Co-op • CSE • Doubletree Hotel Burlington • Farrell Real Estate • Ferguson’s Waterworks • Gonzo’s Indoor Golf • Hackett Valine & MacDonald • Lake Champlain Chocolates • Main Street Landing • McSoley McCoy & Co. • Northfield Savings Bank • Pizzagalli Construction • Priority Express • Queen City Police Foundation • RPM Logos • Trowel Trades Supply, Inc. • Vermont Family Pharmacy

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Preschool Learning

The preschoolers have been exploring weather and seasonal changes this past winter and spring through a wide variety of books and activities. They also have been learning about health and safety through regularly practicing yoga, making stone soup, learning about fruits and vegetables, having a dental clinic and a doctor’s office as part of our dramatic play area, and practicing bike safety with helmets. We also went on a trip to the Flynn Theater in March to see the children’s play *Knuffle Bunny*.

Summer Programming in the Works

**Preschool Graduation**—7 out of 15 children will be moving on to kindergarten

**Summer World Academy**—6 weeks of full-day Summer Camp for Kindergarten through 5th grade beginning June 27th and ending August 5th operating out of the Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barnes.

**New Arrivals**—5 weeks of half-day English Language Learning for preschool through 8th grade beginning June 27th and ending July 29th.

**Green Family Youth Adventure Camp**—6 weeks of adventurous outings for teens who want to explore the Green Mountain State.

**Hunt Middle School Summer Program**—5 weeks of 62 program choices for Burlington School District students entering grades 6th through entering 9th.

SHCC Mission Statement

The mission of the Sara Holbrook Community Center is to develop responsible and productive children, youth and families through social development, educational and recreational opportunities. The Center serves Chittenden County primarily focusing on the North End of Burlington.
Support Burlington’s Kids Through an Evening of Laughter!!

Please join us for the first night of our series, *Comedy for the Sake of Kids*. Host Sponsored by Main Street Landing, SHCC will present a night of stand-up comedy and improvisation.

**Stand-Up Comedians**
- Host - Dustin Bruley
- Headliner - Jason Lorber
- Featuring - Colin Ryan
  - Mike Thomas

**Improv Artists**
- Dustin Bruley
- Jason Lorber
- Mike Thomas
- Liz DeAngelis
- John Donoghue
- & Others

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**Date:** June 25, 2011  
**Time:** 8:00PM  
**Location:** Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center at Lake & College  
Waterfront Theatre Black Box  
60 Lake Street, Burlington, VT  
**Ticket Price:** $10

www.saraholbrookcc.org