

NEYT night of diaspora stories benefits two organizations

BRATTLEBORO — Have you, or a family member, or friends, been forced to leave your homeland and travel far away, never to return? Was it war, famine, political upheaval, genocide, ethnic cleansing, religious persecution? Do you or someone you know have a compelling story to tell of this experience, and if so, would you be prepared to share it with an audience?

New England Youth Theatre opens its doors to the community on Saturday at 7 p.m., for an evening of shared stories of displacement and diaspora. Join us as a witness on this special evening as we help fundraise for three local organizations — Youth Services, Greenfield Family Inn and Keene's Community Kitchen.

In December, NEYT is presenting "Fiddler on the Roof" as its holiday musical.

This well-known and much loved show is based on the experiences of the Jewish people in Russia, who were systematically and ruthlessly expelled from their homes and villages and sent into exile, starting in the late 18th century.

Like the clearances in Scotland and Ireland, or the vast emigrations of people from Europe and Africa due to ethnic cleansing, these pogroms were sudden,

absolute, and irreversible. They invariably targeted ethnic, religious or racial minorities. From the Vietnam War to the Laotian boat people, from Kosovo, Uganda, Darfur, the stories go on and on.

NEYT will hosts an evening of storytelling and refreshments, followed by a panel discussion with presenters and community members.

There will be opportunity for chatting in smaller groups, comparing stories and anecdotes. There will be a Museum of Memories set up in one of our classrooms.

NEYT will accept donations for three area organizations that work with youth, families and the homeless — Community Kitchen of Keene, Service Net-Greenfield Family Inn and Youth Services in Brattleboro and Bellows Falls. There is no price for admission; donations at the door are to be divided between the three organizations.

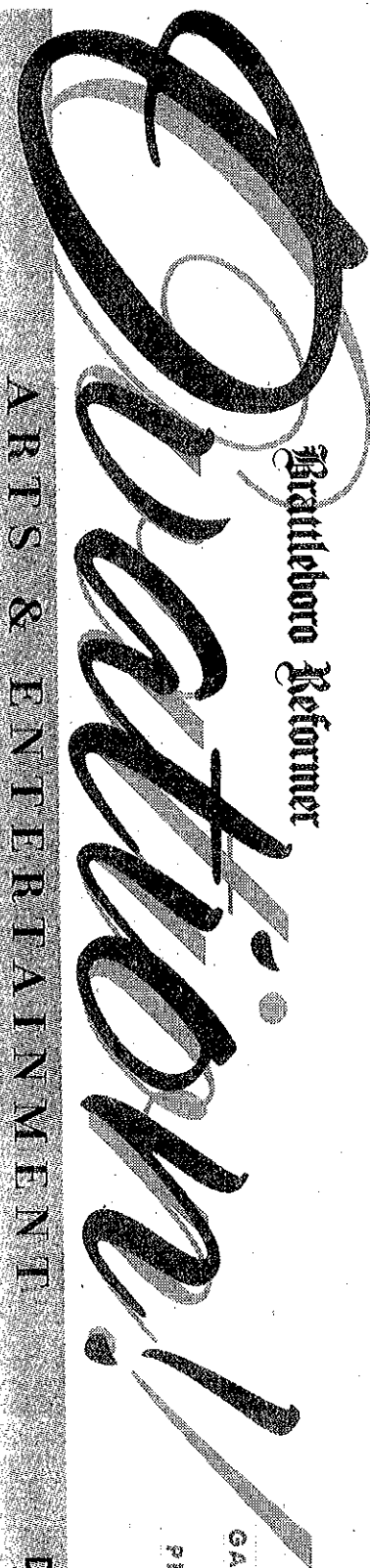
This special event is being presented as part of NEYT's fall/winter intensive concentration on themes of community, justice and redemption.

For information, contact 802-246-NEYT or www.neyt.org.

ONLINE www.reformer.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Thanks to United Way

Editor of the *Reformer*:

In my job as a Youth Services case worker for young people who are homeless or precariously housed, I face many challenges finding suitable housing my clients, who are between 18-21 years old. We were aware that we could access a federal housing voucher for clients who face the double challenges of being homeless and living with a mental illness if our non-profit agency installed a mandatory software program to track the program's successes.

An added expense beyond our reach, our local United Way recently stepped forward with funds to purchase the software package and pay the license and training fees that will allow us to utilize the required software program and thus secure housing for countless youth in need. We are very grateful.

Thank you United Way of Windham County. Your strategic donation will make a big difference in the lives of youth in our community.

Michelle Bos-Lun,
Youth-in-Transition
housing coordinator,
Youth Services,
Brattleboro, Dec. 21

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Saturday-Sunday, December 25-26, 2010 • Brattleboro, Vermont • www.reformer.com

The Weekend Reformer