



**The Colonial Theatre**  
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The **BARKA** Foundation  
BARKA MEANS 'THANK YOU, PLEASE'

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**The Colonial Theatre & The BARKA Foundation To Celebrate Pangea Day**

Together with Community Partners: Monument Mountain Regional High School, Railroad Street Youth Project, Pathways to Peace and GreenAgers/Center for Peace through Culture

**Pittsfield, MA** - On May 10, The Colonial Theatre together with locally based non-profit The BARKA Foundation will join forces with several community groups to celebrate Pangea Day. The slate of events includes a Pangea Day Screening, a Walk for Water, and the announcement of a Consortium of partners to achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goals in Burkina Faso, Africa.

The Pangea Day Screening at The Colonial Theatre is sponsored by The Colonial and The BARKA Foundation with special support from Time Warner Cable. The event is FREE to the public with festivities beginning at 1PM in the Colonial's lobby and screening starting at 2PM - 6PM. Through a partnership with Emerging Pictures, the Colonial will broadcast LIVE the Pangea Day program that includes powerful films, visionary speakers and uplifting music aimed at strengthening tolerance and compassion while uniting millions of people to build a better future. Together with sites in Cairo, Kigali, London, Los Angeles, Mumbai and Rio de Janeiro, the Colonial will be a place for the community to gather to celebrate this historic event.

Immediately prior to the screening, Pathways to Peace and The BARKA Foundation (Barka is African blessing that means 'thank you, please') will announce plans to develop the BARKA Burkina Consortium, a collective of NGO's (non-governmental organizations), nonprofit and for-profit businesses, UN and governmental agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, civic leaders, philanthropic foundations, arts organizations and interested parties to join hands together to achieve the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) in Burkina Faso by 2015. The MDG's are aimed at eradicating poverty worldwide and were agreed upon by every nation state of the UN. Burkina Faso, a small country in West Africa is the 3rd poorest in the world and is the area of primary focus for The BARKA Foundation's humanitarian work with regard to indigenous culture.

"The Colonial Theatre is proud to be a founding partner of the BARKA Burkina Consortium. Our primary focus is to serve the people of the Berkshires. But we are conscious of the larger leadership role all service organizations play in inspiring people through their actions. As an institution that is dedicated to bringing the world of music and arts to the people who live here, we are excited about building a relationship with the people of Burkina Faso and look forward to the day when the challenges of survival they face can be solved and the richness of their music and dance will become familiar to Berkshire audiences," said David Fleming, Executive Director, The Colonial Theatre.

The BARKA Burkina Consortium plans to create a model for achieving MDG's that can be replicated anywhere on the planet. A large part of its strategy for the first phase (2008-2010) of this 7-year project is to work locally both in the Fada region of Burkina Faso and in Berkshire County to create a relationship of reciprocity in which schools, women, businesses, political and religious leaders can be connected to one another through the Consortium for the mutual benefit of all involved.

An example of that reciprocity is happening the morning of Pangea Day. The first step for the BARKA Burkina Consortium is literally to Walk for Water, a fundraising event by the Berkshire community to collect the \$7,000 required to drill the first well in a drought-stricken area of Burkina Faso. The 3-mile walk, sponsored by The Colonial Theatre, Monument Mountain High School, Railroad Street Youth Project, GreenAgers, Center for Peace through Culture, Pathways to Peace and The BARKA Foundation, is also designed to create awareness about issues of water scarcity worldwide. Students in schools throughout Berkshire County have been asked to join the effort.

“Through the Walk for Water, students around the Berkshires are becoming aware of important global issues concerning water scarcity. This local fundraising effort led by BARKA and MMRHS enables our community's youth to actually do something about it. Barka!” says Maeve Hitzenbuhler, Principal, Monument Mountain Regional High School.

“Clean water for all is a good first step to achieving the MDG's. It is wonderful that the work of the Consortium can begin here in the Berkshires through wide community support to drill this first well in Burkina Faso,” said Michael Johnson, Monterey resident and UN Representative for Pathways to Peace.

The walk is open to all community members in exchange for a donation of any amount. Starting at 9AM at Old Searles Middle School on 79 Bridge Street in Great Barrington, the walk will continue on a route to Lake Mansfield where there will be live drumming and special announcements. Indigenous African women walk an average of 6 miles carrying 40 pounds on their heads to transport water to their families every day. At the Walk for Water, there will be a 40-pound container of water for participants to jointly carry to Lake Mansfield and back.

To get involved and for further information about the walk, contact MMRHS 11th grader, Emilyn Bona at (413) 269-6543. Donation forms and information kits can be downloaded from The Colonial Theatre's Pangea Day website at <http://www.thecolonialtheatre.org/PangeaDay>. To make a tax-deductible donation to this cause directly, please contact Ina & Esu Anahata, co-founders of The BARKA Foundation at (413) 528-3360.

#### **About [The Colonial Theatre](#)**

Located in downtown Pittsfield, the Colonial is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. This year-round performing arts center presents Broadway, live music, film, comedy, family programs and international artists.

#### **About [The BARKA Foundation](#)**

BARKA is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization based in Housatonic, MA dedicated to preserving, documenting and sharing indigenous spiritual healing traditions and to create the conditions for those wisdoms to be shared with the world in order to create a sustainable and peaceful planet.

#### **About [Pathways to Peace](#)**

Pathways To Peace (PTP) is an international PeaceBuilding, Educational and Consulting organization. “Peace” as it is defined by PTP, is both an innate state of being and a dynamic, evolutionary process. Peace begins with ourselves, living in harmony with one another, the Earth and all Circles of Life. PTP is an official Peace Messenger of the United Nations. PTP is a 501(c)3 Non-partisan Corporation.

#### **About [Railroad Street Youth Project](#)**

The mission of the Railroad Street Youth Project is to empower young people by supporting the creation of youth-generated activities that promote self-worth, responsibility and intergenerational respect and communication. RSYP is an advocate and catalyst for opportunities that integrate young people into the community. RSYP provides a safe physical, intellectual and emotional space to support its mission.

**About [GreenAgers](#)**

GreenAgers is a program of the [Center of Peace through Culture](#) (CPC), a non-profit organization whose goal is to promote a culture of peace through transforming personal and cultural beliefs that create conflict and division among people, into attitudes of inclusion, acceptance, and cooperation. CPC strives to bring people together from diverse groups to creatively and cooperatively address the issues of the world that cause suffering and discord. GreenAgers supports this mission by working to unite the young people of the Berkshires through recognizing our shared consciousness, ideas, and pursuits—and most importantly, our shared future.

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