

Birth & Beyond

Advocates for Woman Centered Healthcare

June 2008

Summer greetings as we rapidly approach the longest day of the year!

We are busy with several projects this year...

The Education Committee is focusing on a 'birth options' class they would like to present at several locations around the city. If you would be interested in joining this group of women in their efforts to educate women that they do have options (and what those options are) you are welcome to come to one of their meetings. Email edcom@birthnbeyond.org if you would like to get involved.

Looking for a Fourth of July Event?

Look no further....

At the home of the Cincinnati Family Enrichment Center (the former home of Midwives Care, Inc) and Hygeia (Jackie Gruer's private practice) we are having a viewing of the Northside 4th of July Parade.

Lots of shade on usually one of the hottest days of the year! A table on the front porch for any potluck items that happen to arrive.

Bring your lawn chair to watch a parade rich in diversity and lots of politicians!

There is a 4th of July Festival at Hoffner park to follow the parade, there will be a water slide and mist tent along with edibles and lots of fun!...

We look forward to seeing you!

Park on Pullen if you don't make it to the building parking before the barricades go up. The parade starts at noon.

Our BIG, BOLD project over the summer is to produce **BIRTH**, a play by Karen Brody. BIRTH is an inspiring and sometimes humorous play based on over 100 interviews playwright and activist Karen Brody conducted with mothers across America who gave birth between 2000 and 2004. It tells the true stories of 8 women, painting a portrait of how low risk, educated women are giving birth in America today. Moving between first-person monologues, some dialogue, and the voices these women heard on the day they gave birth, BIRTH confronts, what City Light Theatre Company has called, "The naked truth about childbirth in America." **BOLD** (Birth on Labor Day) was founded in 2006 as a movement to make maternity care mother-friendly through education, truth & action. It envisions a global culture that uses the Arts to celebrate woman-centered birth, honor diversity, and create space for a woman to make empowered choices about her birth experience. www.boldaction.org. Auditions are next week if you have any interest (not necessarily experience!). Following is the Casting Call but even if acting is not your thing, read on as we also need volunteers for numerous other jobs that don't involve acting!

Casting Call for "BIRTH"

Auditions for the Cincinnati Aug 29 - Sept 7 benefit production of Karen Brody's critically acclaimed play "Birth", directed by Bet Stewart, will be held 7-9pm:

Tuesday June 10
Wednesday June 11
Wednesday June 18
at the

North Presbyterian Church
4222 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45223

8 open roles for women about 25-45
3 roles for walk-ons and understudy

Mothers Encouraged
Cultural Diversity Encouraged
Honorariums Available

Dress comfortably for movement
Acting experience helpful but not required
Resume optional

Script provided for cold readings

Bring your summer calendar/schedule with you!

Rehearsal Schedule will run from late June through August, 2-4 times per week

Cincinnati is one of many cities around the world organizing productions of "BIRTH" as part of BOLD 2008 (www.boldaction.org). BOLD (Birth on Labor Day) is a global movement that raises awareness about maternity care issues, raises money for organizations working to make maternity care mother-friendly, and validates mothers' birth experiences in all communities worldwide.

Proceeds from the play will benefit Birth & Beyond, a local nonprofit organization which advocates for woman centered health care that supports and provides options for women of all socioeconomic means and their families, through education, resource and referral, community relations and healthcare policy.

www.birthnbeyond.org

For more information or to schedule an audition time:
Bet Stewart 542-2231 bet@intuitiontheatre.com

Production volunteers are also needed for lighting, sound, set building, props, costuming, and videographer. Contact Rich Goldman at rich@birthnbeyond.org if you are interested in volunteering for stage production.

Other volunteer opportunities include program/playbill design, program advertising, publicity/public relations, childcare, talkback panelists, and donations for printing services, concession items, snacks and activities for childcare. Contact us at BOLD@birthnbeyond.org if you would like to get involved!!

We are also looking for businesses to sponsor this event or to advertise in the program. Contact BOLD@birthnbeyond.org for more information.

We hope to see you all soon and hope you enjoy your summer solstice!

Jackie Gruer and Leah Terhune

and

The Board of *Birth & Beyond*