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# The Poverty Program

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**JAN. 26, 2007**

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## **COMMUNITY POVERTY PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**JAN 21, 2 PM BELLEVILLE CHURCH OVERVIEW POVERTY WORLDWIDE**

**FEB 18, 2 PM BELLEVILLE CHURCH, chairperson Margot Siegman  
US POVERTY - Movie *THE RED WAGON***

**MAR 18, 2 PM BELLEVILLE CHURCH , chairperson Ross Varney  
EDUCATION AND POVERTY - Movie *BOYS FROM BARAKA***

**APR 15, 2 PM BELLEVILLE CHURCH, chairperson Bob Crofts  
AID/DEBT- Movie *LIFE AND DEBT***

**MAY 20, 2 PM UNITARIAN CHURCH, chairperson Rob Burnham  
HUMAN RIGHTS - Movie *SOLDIER CHILDREN***

**JUN TBA QUAKER MEETING HOUSE, chairperson Sam Baily  
ARMS TRADE - Movie *LORD OF WAR***

**JUL 22, 6:30 PM CONG. AHAVAS ACHIM, chairperson Rabbi Sadinsky  
GENOCIDE - Movie *DARFUR DIARIES***

**AUG 19, 2PM TBA, chairperson Whitney Erskine  
AIDS/HIV - Movie *FACING AIDS***

**SEP 16, 2 PM BELLEVILLE CHURCH, chairperson Helen Hatcher  
UN Peace Event- Movie *PEACE ONE DAY***

**OCT TBA: Millenium Goals, Vol. Job Fair**

**NOV TBA: Coming Together Event**

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We had a successful first program with about 25 people attending, including a reporter, Michele Curans, from the Current. Many, many thanks to all who helped make this a successful event. Ross Varney for his advice on public speaking; Diane Crofts for photocopying, set-up, publicity, moral support; Rob Burnham for technical support, publicity; Sally Eames for a great letter to the editor; Jim Marshall and Bob Locke for audio tech help and lending equipment; Bob Gould for listening over and over again to the presentation, moral support and all his help with the presentation. Thank you all!

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## AMERICAN POVERTY

FEB. 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2PM

BELLEVILLE CHURCH

Margot Siegman, Feb. chairperson, has put together an interesting and informative program. Donna Sylvester, social worker at the Salvation Army will talk about poverty here in Newburyport, Ed Cameron will talk about homelessness, followed by the documentary *The Red Wagon* (see below for description) and a discussion/question period.

**The Red Wagon: Facing Hunger**

[http://132main.com/projects/projects\\_redwagon\\_review.htm](http://132main.com/projects/projects_redwagon_review.htm)

Although maple syrup and idyllic mountains are more likely to come to mind when people think of Vermont than the subject of hunger, the fact is that many Vermonters don't have enough money to buy groceries. Interviewing those who work in or use Vermont food assistance programs such as food shelves, food pantries, and soup kitchens, Jim Ritvo and Dave Raizman's *The Red Wagon: Facing Hunger* tells the story of people who experience food insecurity every day, many of whom are already vulnerable, including single mothers, children, the elderly, the disabled, and the working poor. Increasingly, middle class residents, either because of layoffs or unexpected expenses, need food assistance too. "Anybody can end up at a food shelf or food pantry," says Wanda Hines, director of the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, echoing a theme expressed by others throughout the film and the country: namely, that many people are only one paycheck away from needing a helping hand. This awareness motivates the dedicated, supportive food assistance program staff and volunteers, who go to great lengths to allay the stigmatism of asking for help.

**Let's all try to attend the Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>**

**presentation on American Poverty.**

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## PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

If you haven't seen it, go see it. I highly recommend it. A wonderfully acted movie about homelessness.

Heart wrenching, heartwarming

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# **SPECIAL PROGRAM**

## **REFUGEES AND CHILD SOLDIERS**

**FEB. 25<sup>TH</sup> , 12 NOON**

**UNITARIAN CHURCH**

**The Unitarian Church will be having an exciting, informative program on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 12 noon. Please try to attend this presentation.**

**Welcome our African Neighbors and learn why they have come.**

You may see these African neighbors on our streets or in the supermarket. Do you know who are they and why have they come here to our community? At this forum we will meet some of them, young and old. We will be able to learn about the countries these refugees have fled and hear about their lives here. The director of the Shalupe Foundation will talk about the services they provide to teenagers, young adults and families who are here in their Massachusetts centers and their programs for street children and their shelters in the Congo.

**Featuring a Conversation about youth and war:**

Two young Congolese college students living in the US have made a movie about Child Soldiers. We will be able to watch this movie and talk to some of the young refugees who were part of this experience. Barbara Hildt, founder and director of Youth Empowerment Services and director of Help Increase the Peace, will lead this discussion.

All are welcome from the church and wider community to attend this eye- and heart-opening event. We especially invite young people to come and participate in a youth to youth discussion.

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# **THE DARFUR/DARFUR EXHIBIT**

## **COMING TO BOSTON IN THE SPRING**

DARFUR/DARFUR is a traveling exhibit of digitally-projected changing images that provide visual education about the richly multi-cultural region while exposing the horrors of the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The event will present photographs taken in Darfur by former U.S. Marine Brian Steidle and photojournalists Lynsey Addario, Mark Brecke,

Helene Caux, Ron Haviv, Paolo Pellegrin, Ryan Spencer Reed, and Michal Safdie accompanied by traditional Sudanese music.

Clips from several documentaries in current production will be shown throughout the event. For more information on some of the films, visit: [darfurdarfur.org](http://darfurdarfur.org)  
<http://www.thedevilcameonhorseback.com/home.html>

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# UPDATE:

Since our last meeting:

- Margot Siegman, a local artist, has agreed to chair Feb's program on American poverty with the film being "The Red Wagon". She will be presenting along with Donna Sylvester, social worker at the Salvation Army.
- Pastor Ross Varney, Belleville Church, has agreed to chair March's program on education.
- Sam Baily and the congregation of the Amesbury Quaker Meeting House has agreed to chair June, Arms Trade.
- We are still looking for hosts for the following months: Oct - Vol. Job Fair, Nov - Coming Together event as well as help with publicity. Let's all try to spread the word about the upcoming programs and try to bring a couple of non-members to the events.
- We have several new people who will be helping with the programs and I have enclosed a revised contact list.
- Please make note of the following contacts for publicity. Please contact them 14 days prior to the program date:
  - Daily News: Sonya Vartabedian - svatabedian@ecnnews.com
  - Current: Gage Gagwell - 978-739-8513
  - Amnesty Newsletter: Cynthia Gabriel cgabriel@aiusa.org
  - Church notices, articles are do by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. Please email to catherine\_gould@hotmail.com and I will forward.

Thank you all for joining with me on this program and feel free to call/email with any questions or if you need any help. I will contact the chairpersons as their months approach to make sure everything is all set but unless there is a need, we won't be having any meetings as a group until late spring to start working on the fall programs. I truly believe that education is the key to solving poverty and the more people we educate about the issues, the more people who will make an effort to help solve world poverty.

**Gandhi once said "The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems".**