

WATERFIRE PROVIDENCE

-CREATIVELY TRANSFORMING OUR CITY



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WATERFIRE ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF NEXT FULL LIGHTING ON SATURDAY, JULY 26

PROVIDENCE, RI – (July 17,2014) – **WaterFire Providence**, the award-winning sculpture by artist Barnaby Evans, announces the details of the next full lighting of the 2014 season, Saturday, July 26th. This lighting is sponsored by Gilead Sciences, Inc. Events start on Saturday, July 26th, at 6:00 PM with sunset at 8:11 PM. A special lighting ceremony with WaterFire, Festival Ballet Providence, and Gendo Taiko will begin at 8:05 PM, the fires will be lit shortly after sunset and will burn until midnight.

WaterFire is thrilled to join Gilead Sciences, Inc. and the RI Foundation in a public awareness campaign about hepatitis C as part of Dr. Lynn E. Taylor's larger RI Defeats Hep C campaign. The campaign includes information about hep C and new treatments that are now available. The WaterFire lighting will provide free hep C screening for those who are interested.

Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need. Gilead's employees are inspired by the opportunity to address unmet medical needs for people living with life-threatening diseases.

Dr. Lynn E. Taylor, MD, has been working for the last year with the Rhode Island Foundation and is a recipient of the RI Foundation Innovation Fellowship with her project ***RI Defeats Hep C***. Earlier this year Dr. Taylor convened a hep C educational conference in May bringing medical leaders and educators together to learn current best practise. The July issue of the RI Medical Journal of the RI Medical Society was dedicated to articles about hep C and the RI Defeats Hep C campaign.

Dr. Lynn E. Taylor, MD, says, "We are organizing a statewide campaign to eliminate hep C in RI. With the powerful new medicines we now have available and the cooperative networks for care in RI organized by the RI Department of Health we have a chance to greatly improve the health of all Rhode Islanders impacted by this disease. One of the challenges with hep C is that there are many people who do not realize they are infected. Thus getting the word out about the importance of getting screened is a major

focus. Working with WaterFire we are bringing more attention to this silent epidemic, providing up to date health information, and providing free Hep C screening. We are doing this in coordination with the World Health Organization's World Hepatitis Day. We are excited to work with WaterFire on this project, the first artistic event of this magnitude focusing on hep C that we are aware of anywhere in the world."

WaterFire and RI Defeats Hep C have created numerous events for the community to bring greater awareness about hep C, present updated health resources, and bring more attention to this silent epidemic. A population at particular risk are baby-boomers, with 1 in 30 individuals infected with hep C, although most are not aware that they have the disease. Special events include:

- The WaterFire lighting will be kicked off with a WaterFire Promethea Torch Ceremony at Waterplace Basin honoring medical and public health officials, Hep C Heroes, and organization on the front line of curing hep C. This will start at 8:05 in Waterplace Basin. Our special guest lighter is Dr. Scott Holmberg, MD, MPH, the Chief of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Beginning at 6:00 PM and running throughout the night until 11:30 PM, there will be a Hep C Information and Resource Fair on the College Street Bridge. The resource fair will provide hepatitis C information and free hepatitis C screenings for adults. There will also be information tents for the Rhode Island Blood Center, the Rhode Island Organ Donor Awareness Coalition and the Brown Medical School.
- Free screening for hep C is available for everyone 18 and older at the College Street Bridge Information Tent.
- Throughout the event Forget Me Not seed packets will be handed out to WaterFire visitors. These flowers represent 5 million people living with hep C in the United States. The packets provide more information and direct people to further web-based resources. If you or a loved one has hep C, you should know you have not been forgotten.
- The RI State House will be illuminated in yellow to bring more attention to hep C.
- 600 Yellow carnations will be distributed with information about hep C and with a website address for more information.
- **Festival Ballet Providence** is presenting five performances at the WaterFire Waterplace Basin Stage that are interpretations of the challenges of hepatitis C beginning at 8:15 pm. The performances are largely done to music from the era of the baby boomers to emphasize that baby boomers are particularly at risk with 1 in 30 people infected and usually unaware that they have the disease. (see below for more information)
- Gendo Taiko of Brown University and RISD is performing five Taiko drumming pieces as part of the opening ceremony. Taiko is a traditional Japanese form of drum performance that has early origins in the driving away of evil spirits. This evening's performances are given in the spirit of healing.
- Artist Boris Bally is donating one of his iconic large bowls hand made from street signs to be given by lottery to someone who chooses to get screened for hep C that night. Artist Mike Bryce is donating a 48" WaterFire painting to be given by lottery to a second person who chooses to get

screened for hep C that night. Both Boris Bally's bowl and a similar painting by Mike Bryce will be on display at the first art tent on Washington Street by the crosswalk at the entrance to WaterFire's Art Festival Plaza.

- RI Defeats Hep C t-shirts will be sold at the resource fair on the College Street Bridge.
- Dr. Lynn E. Taylor will be featured on WaterFire's radio station "WaterFire Ignites RI" on Talk & Business 790 AM on Wednesday, July 23rd from 3:00 to 4:00 pm talking about hepatitis C and her RI Defeats Hep C program.

FESTIVAL BALLET PROVIDENCE: As part of the events of the RI Defeats Hep C Campaign, WaterFire is also thrilled to announce that the Festival Ballet Providence will be performing on the WaterPlace Basin Stage shortly after sunset at 8:11 PM. Festival Ballet will be performing five pieces choreographed by Shura Baryshnikov and Andrea Dawn Shelley. Shura Baryshnikov is a Rhode Island-based educator, improviser, dancer, and movement designer. Shura has choreographed @ Last. Andrea Dawn Shelley received her classical ballet training from Magda G. Auñon and holds a BA in Dance Education from Florida International University. Andrea has choreographed a contemporary piece. Guests can expect to see both contemporary and modern pieces.

WATERFIRE ARTS FESTIVAL PLAZA: Visit the WaterFire Arts Festival Plaza on Washington Street. Starting at 6:00 PM, local artists and crafts-people will share their wares and fine works from photographs and sculptures, paintings and hand crafted ceramics, to jewelry and specialty textiles. Visitors can look forward to seeing work from Andrea Grimaldi, Shannon Caldwell Roche, Sema Gurerk, Monique Sousa, and many more.

SPOGGA RETURNS: WaterFire is excited to welcome back Spogga and his magnificent fire spinning. Spogga has been living in New Orleans both spinning fire and performing music with great success. We are delighted to have him once again back on the river at WaterFire.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS: WaterFire fire dancer Ben Reynolds will dazzle the crowds at different times and places throughout the evening. Make sure you visit the living statues in Memorial Park at the World War I monument. Ten31 Productions will return with their interactive living statues and gargoyles in Memorial Park shortly after lighting. Andrew Anselmo, the origami guy, will also be there, delighting the crowd near the RISD auditorium.

WaterFire is an independent, non-profit arts organization whose mission is to inspire Providence and its visitors by revitalizing the urban experience, fostering community engagement, and creatively transforming WaterFire for all to enjoy. This powerful work of art is installed on the three rivers of downtown Providence as a moving symbol of Providence's Renaissance. To learn more about WaterFire or make a donation visit www.waterfire.org or www.facebook.com/watefireprovidence.

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