

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*WREN announces workshop for middle school students during February school vacation*

This February school vacation, WREN is excited to offer *Sing Out!* a zine making workshop for area middle schoolers.

This workshop is offered at no cost, and is made possible by grants from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation and Granite United Way.



In two instructional sessions, February 27th and March 1st, workshop leader Julia Butterfield will share the grassroots, guerrilla history of zine-making, and then provide guidance as each participant makes their own zine.

Participants will debut their zines at the opening of WREN's next exhibition, *Women in Print: Four Printmakers*, on Saturday, March 4!

Participants are encouraged to register for either the Monday or Wednesday session by visiting [wrenworks.org/classes-events/](http://wrenworks.org/classes-events/). Space is limited, so don't hesitate to sign up. For more information, email Julia Butterfield at [juliab@wrenworks.org](mailto:juliab@wrenworks.org) or call 603 869 9736.

*Sing Out!* is a program of WREN's *Women's Work Initiative*, which seeks to empower North Country women and children and create pathways to life-long success. By amplifying our children's voices, we reinforce their inherent value to our community and empower them to share their unique worldviews.

### ***Why make zines?***

The process of creating zines has tremendous value for their makers, particularly middle school students; it is an empowering creative endeavor that culminates in a tangible way in which to share the maker's worldview. Zine making traditionally amplifies marginalized voices, such as the zines of the Riot Grrrl movement.

There's no traditional rubric for success with zine making, so it's not intimidating for those who might not have happy associations with art class or other structured creative activities. The process isn't graded, or impacted by the metric of likes and shares. Your success is defined by your satisfaction with what you've made.

There is also inherent value in doing a hands-on craft -- it's a grounding activity, and a break from today's near-constant consumption of media via our ubiquitous screens.

Zine making is a project that's accessible. There's no pressure to make it perfect! Zines are imperfect by design, so making them should be a very low-stress activity that's fun and empowering. The goal outcome for participants of this workshop is for them to come away from the experience feeling empowered to share their voices and make art that has meaning for them.

Tweens and teens often feel marginalized, and that their voices are not being heard. The intention of this workshop is to amplify these marginalized voices, and reinforce to the participants their inherent value to the community -- and the world. One of WREN's organizational goals is to build and strengthen community connections, and that goal is at the heart of this workshop.

### ***About Julia***

Julia Butterfield is a North Country NH native and second-generation WREN contributor. Julia's mother, Laura Giveen, was a founding WREN member, and Julia herself went through WREN's pilot program WINGS (Women Invested in Nurturing Girls' Success) in the mid-1990s. It was through her involvement in WINGS that Julia first learned about zine making and zines' emphasis on individual expression and empowerment. Julia went on to study education at Goddard College in Plainfield, VT, and her path eventually led her back to Bethlehem. A life-long creator and crafter, Julia now works at WREN as the financial coordinator and administrative assistant. Julia is excited to use her background in education to lead Sing Out!, a zine-making workshop geared to middle-school aged local adolescents.

### ***About WREN***

The Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network (WREN) is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization in Bethlehem, NH. WREN provides classes, workshops, community work space, networking, and events to support better lives and livelihoods, access to markets, and rural economic development in the North Country.