

**Talk of the Town**  
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## **Dialing for dollars**

BARRE — Thanks to a challenge grant from the National Life Group and the use of its phone bank, volunteers working on behalf of Studio Place Arts kicked off the 2014 ART=LIFE membership drive this week by dialing for dollars.

If you didn't get one of these friendly calls Tuesday, then you weren't encouraged to join the Barre-based nonprofit art center and you weren't invited to attend this year's B.A.S.H. (Big Arty SPA Happening) on May 9 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Well, consider yourself both encouraged and invited.

SPA's annual membership is \$35 for most folks, though it's \$20 for students and seniors and \$50 for couples. Just to be neighborly, SPA is offering folks who work in the new building next door (Barre City Place) a special first-year rate of \$20, provided they sign on before May 31.

SPA Executive Director Sue Higby says annual dues provide the essential energy for everything that happens at SPA. That includes mounting original exhibits on all three floors of the building throughout the year, teaching a broad spectrum of visual arts and crafts for all ages and abilities, and creating opportunities for people to interact with working artists.

It also includes hosting the annual B.A.S.H., which is a separate fundraiser for SPA's art programs.

"We provide so many valuable activities to the public that are free of charge — an impressive year-round schedule of contemporary art exhibits, workshops for children, access to working artists, and much more," Higby says. "At the same time, we do not receive municipal, state or federal funding."

If you'd like to be a member just swing by the three-story brick building next door to Barre City Place and help them make art happen in central Vermont.