

Alternative Currents

Fall 2010

A publication for Alternatives Federal Credit Union members

125 N. Fulton St., Ithaca, NY 14850 • 607-273-4611

Alternatives a Finalist for Prestigious Award

Alternatives is one of two finalists for the Opportunity Finance Network NEXT Award. The award recognizes innovation in providing financial services to underserved people and communities. It is the largest prize of its kind in the United States. Should Alternatives win, we would receive a \$500,000 grant and a \$5 million low-interest loan that would be used to support growth of our products and services.

New Loan Discount for Cars 30 MPG (HWY) or More!

Ever since the hybrid car debuted, we have offered a .50% APR discount on new and used hybrids. But hybrids can be expensive, so we decided to extend the .50% APR discount to all new or used cars with a current MPG (highway) of 30 or more. If you're in the market for a car, or interested in refinancing your current high MPG car, check this website to show all cars in this range: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/byMPG.htm>. Alternatives' auto loan rates are as low as 4.5% APR!

In the Market for a New House? Fixing Up Your Current Home?

Fall is a great time to get pre-qualified for a mortgage if you are thinking about buying a home. A short appointment can help you discover any issues on your credit, help you organize your finances and arrange your goals so when the right house presents itself, you can act fast! Schedule your pre-qualification interview by contacting our Mortgage Loan Officer, Brian Kunk-Czaplicki at bkc@alternatives.org, or call 607-216-3409.

If you already own a home, now is a great time to get those interior fixes/upgrades done. Use a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC) to accomplish your renovation goals. The residential energy savings income tax credit expires this year.

Qualified purchases need to be made by **December 31, 2010**. The credit applies to improvements such as adding insulation, energy efficient exterior windows and doors, and energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems. Please note, not all

ENERGY STAR qualified products qualify for this tax credit. Manufacturers need to certify that their products meet the new standard. The amount of the credit is 30 percent of the cost of all qualifying improvements to your personal residence. This credit is limited to improvements placed in service during 2009 and 2010 up to a maximum credit of \$1,500 for both tax years combined.

Holiday Market – Convenient Local Shopping

In 2008, we began holding a December Holiday Market in our lobby. In 2009 we added a Thanksgiving Market. Alternatives is a cooperative of over 9,400 members. The Holiday Markets are a way for credit union members to support each other. Business members not only sell their products to their fellow credit union members, it's also a way to introduce products to many potential new customers.

The tentative dates for this year's markets will be November 19 through 24, and Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays, December 6 through 24. While the December Market featured a wide variety of products, the focus of the Thanksgiving Market was primarily prepared foods (baked goods, jellies, jams, etc).

If you have a product you're be interested in selling in our lobby during one of the Markets, e-mail Karl Graham at kgraham@alternatives.org, or call him at (607) 216-3422. Please include your mailing and/or e-mail address, and the type of product you offer.

More detailed information about the Markets to come!

October 19, look for the table in our lobby for books and information about the Community Build.

Best Bank Teller – Rachel Minklei



Congrats to our Rachel, who won the *Ithaca Times*' "Best of Ithaca" poll under the category "Best Bank Teller"! And thanks to all of you who voted for us in any category in this poll – it's much appreciated. We're grateful that the *Ithaca Times* brought back the "Best Bank Teller" category this year after a few years absence – we always have a great shot at winning it with such amazing frontline staff.

MLK Jr. Community Build

The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Build kicks off at 6:30pm on Monday, October 18th at the Greater Ithaca Activities Center.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Build, is a collaboration of several non-profit and educational organizations in Tompkins County. The mission of The MLK Community Build is to engage all sectors of the community in realizing, as King said, that "we are tied in a single garment of destiny." The Community Build will bring members of the community together through shared readings, discussions, and events based on the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

10,000 copies of Dr. Martin Luther King's last book "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?" have been reprinted especially for people in the Tompkins County area. The books will be distributed to people of all ages via schools, book clubs, non-profit and social service agencies, etc.

Alternatives is proud to participate as a book distribution site. We will have books available for members interested in being part of this unique community building experience. Beginning Tuesday, October 19, look for the table in our lobby for books and information about the Community Build.

Student Credit Union – Back to School

With the kids heading back to school, it's time to think about helping your students build their financial knowledge as well. Opening a student savings account is a great way for students to build a savings habit and to become more financially literate. Accounts can be opened at any of our school branches or at Alternatives. The membership fee is \$2.00 and a \$1.00 initial deposit is required. For students whose parent or guardian is already a member of Alternatives, membership is free. More information about the student credit union can be found at <http://www.alternatives.org/studentcreditunion.html>.

Student Credit Union Operating Hours:

TUESDAY			WEDNESDAY			THURSDAY		
Enfield	7:45	8:15	CHES	7:45	8:15	Belle Sherman	7:45	8:00
Boynton	8:45	9:00	Fall Creek	7:45	8:00	BJM	7:45	8:00
			LACS	12:30	1:00	Caroline	7:45	8:00
						IHS	3:30	3:50

Art Gallery

July: **Benn Nadelman**
 August: **MoneyWise students**
 September: **Kat Hauger and Altera**

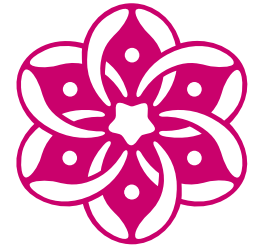
RoundOff

July: OAR (Opportunities, Alternatives & Resources), who advocate for the rights and welfare of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated community members and their families in Tompkins County.

August: Tompkins County Workers Center, whose mission is to stand up with all people treated unfairly at work or faced with critical poverty, racial, housing, health care or other social and economic issues.

September: Members of the Alternatives staff will be taking part in the Tompkins County SPCA's March for the Animals on October 2. To donate online: <http://www.firstgiving.com/alternativesFCU>

Interested in either the Art Gallery or RoundOff program?
 Please contact Suzanne: suzanne@alternatives.org.



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www.alternatives.org

Toll-Free Member Service 877-273-AFCU
 Fax 607-277-6391
 Fortune Teller 607-273-4611 ext. 1
 Balance Financial Counseling 888-456-2227
 Anytime LoanPhone 866-529-8722

Alternatives CU@Home on-line banking:
www.alternatives.org
 email: afcu@alternatives.org

Debit Card (VISA), lost or stolen
 800-554-8969

Credit Card (MC), lost or stolen
 888-428-4721

Hours:

Tellers: Mon-Fri 9-3, Sat 10-1
 Drive Thru: Mon-Fri 12-6, Sat 10-1
 New Accounts, Loans: Mon-Fri. 9-5

Board of Directors:

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president@alternatives.org
 Ian Schachner, Vice President
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 Alison Christie, Secretary
 Jim Fravil, Bill Goodman, Peter McCracken,
 Diana Drucker, Kimberly Gazzo,
 Leslie Strelbel, Shannon Higgins

Supervisory Committee

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607-273-4611, Ext:

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Tolkyn Aidarova	413
Bob Anderson	446
Everett Boutillet	461
Alison Cahill	442
Joe Catlin	472
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Junito (Gilberto) Cubero	439
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Daleah Dent	462
Karl Graham	422
Kat Hauger	402
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Leni Hochman	418
Larry Honigbaum	406
Renee Kern	469
Miroslav Knezevic	430
Brian Kunk-Czaplicki	409
Courtney Lawrence	425
Lynn Lauper	407
Greg Lee	447
Eric Levine	421
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Rachel Minklei	449
Rubi Noe	448
Anita Ocasio	457
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Melissa Pollack	420
Amanda Rohrer	411
Lauren Samuelson	471
Reiley Schoen	414
Rebekah Scott	400
Deirdre Silverman	416
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