

# The Berkshire Eagle

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## **Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship awarded to Zachary S. Robarge, Pittsfield High School Class of 2011**

Pittsfield High School student Zachary S. Robarge has won the 2011 Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship.

Robarge is the son of Donald and Cynthia Robarge of Pittsfield. He is a member of the National Honor Society, plays and manages his own jazz combo band, and played lead alto saxophone in the high school's concert and jazz bands, as well as in the Berkshire County Youth Jazz Band.

The award is given annually to a Berkshire area student who intends to follow one of Daniel Pearl's twin passions, music and journalism. Robarge plans to major in music and music education at the University of Massachusetts.

Robarge is also interested in raising awareness of global issues and conflicts, and working toward solutions. At PHS is was active in the school's Peace Jam team, and attended the Northeastern Peace Jam Conference, which was addressed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian human rights activist.

The Peace Jam conference experience inspired Robarge to organize a benefit concert, to take place Thursday, June 16 at the high school, to support water cleaning programs in Burkina Faso, Africa. The concert features Katrina Valenti with Robarge's band Black on Black, opening for roots rock band Barefoot Truth. Tickets are available at the door

"I know that music is a powerful thing," he wrote in the scholarship application. "It is the universal language. I hope that one day, I am able to use this universal language to broadcast messages of peace to people from all over the world."

Pearl, a former reporter for the North Adams Transcript and The Berkshire Eagle, was the south Asia news bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal in 2002. He was pursuing a news story when he was kidnapped on Jan. 23, 2002, by Pakistani terrorists. He was

murdered six days later, and his body was found in May 2002.

At the time of his death, Pearl, 38, was expecting a child with his wife, Mariane. Mariane Pearl's 2003 book about the ordeal, "A Mighty Heart", was turned into a movie starring Angelina Jolie, released in 2007. A collection of Pearl's writings, "At Home in the World," was published in 2002.

The Daniel Pearl Foundation was established by Pearl's family and friends to continue his life work by promoting cross-cultural understanding through journalism, music and dialogue. (For more information: [www.danielpearl.org](http://www.danielpearl.org).)

The Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship was established in 2003 with contributions from the Transcript, The Eagle, and friends of Pearl. This year's award, in the amount of \$1,000, is the ninth annual, and the third awarded to a Pittsfield High School student.

Judges for the scholarship competition since its inception have been journalists Ruth Bass, a former Eagle editor; William Sexton, a retired international correspondent; and Daniel Bellow, a former Eagle reporter; along with Glenn Drohan, editor of the North Adams Transcript, who served until his death last month.

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