

## Anita Kuennen returns to BMC, takes reins as Executive Director

Our new Executive Director will take over the reins May 15 but she won't be new to the job. Anita Kuennen is a familiar face at the clinic and we are happy to welcome her back.

Kuennen's ties with the clinic go back more than 15 years. She started working originally as a counselor in 1990 while she was in nursing school, then put her nursing skills to work for us and eventually came to be Executive Director in the late nineties.

Kuennen has spent the past seven years working both nationally and internationally for the National Abortion Federation based in Washington, D.C. During her time with NAF she worked in the D.C. office for three years then moved back to Missoula while



continuing to work for NAF remotely. She's traveled all over the world working on issues surrounding abortion and abortion care and has a lot of share with the staff and volunteers at the clinic.

Kuennen is working with interim director Wayne Chamberlain to transition

back into the executive director role. We are excited that Anita has returned to BMC. Her large-scale work on abortion issues these past seven years will offer a wonderful perspective for the clinic and its mission. Welcome back Anita. We're so glad you are here.

## BMC turns 30, come celebrate

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2007**

**NOON AT BLUE MOUNTAIN CLINIC**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY AND A SENSE OF HUMOR**

**TO HELP US PAINT, SCRUB AND SHINE THE CLINIC IN**

**HONOR OF 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO**

**THE MISSOULA COMMUNITY.**

**FOOD PROVIDED**



THE U.S. SUPREME  
COURT UPHOLDS  
RESTRICTIVE  
ABORTION LAW  
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SAVE THE DATE FOR  
OUR 24TH ANNUAL  
BLUE MOUNTAIN  
ALL WOMEN'S RUN  
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HOW YOU CAN HELP  
PROTECT CHOICE IN  
MONTANA  
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## A Note from Wayne Chamberlain



In this first issue of Blue Muse for 2007, our 30th Anniversary year, I wanted to express my gratitude for the opportunity to re-connect with the clinic. Old friends and new have made my brief stay truly rewarding. I have been able to carry forward many of the projects that were in progress and help in the most important issue of finding a new Executive Director. I spread the word among the faithful on the web and made a few calls locally to people I knew that had all the skills needed to rocket the clinic forward into the next 30 years of success. After a couple of meetings one person, Anita Kuennen, agreed to meet with the Board and discuss her ideas and desires for the clinic's future.

The Board agreed that she was the person we needed to move us forward and we began the transition with a target date of May 16th. From that moment, I went from interim director to a facilitator for Anita and the Board and I have never been happier. Anita brings not only historical perspective to the job but world-wide management experience in the field of reproductive rights and training. I have complete confidence in Anita and look forward to helping in any way that I can in the future. Defending Choice, after all, is a core value that cannot be marginalized or negotiated away.

As Blue Mountain moves forward strengthening our Family Practice and defending our freedom to choose our own destiny, it may be useful for us to remember all the women and men who have stood up when called upon and protected Choice as a right, as a core value and as a duty to ourselves and our children. Hundreds upon hundreds of you have come forward with your time and money when asked. The Clinic could not have survived without you. We look forward to continuing that sustaining relationship into the future.

## CHOICE IN THE NEWS

# U.S. Supreme Court upholds federal ban on abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision April 18 upheld a law passed by Congress in 2003 called the Partial Birth Abortion Ban. This is the first time since the landmark 1973 Roe Vs. Wade decision that the court has passed a restriction on abortion without the caveat of protecting a woman's health.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote the majority opinion saying, "The government may use its voice and its regulatory authority to show its profound respect for the life within the woman." He said the ban on the controversial method for ending a midterm pregnancy is valid because other abortion procedures are still available.

In essence, Kennedy along with justices Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, and recent Bush appointees to the court, Chief Justice John Roberts and Samuel Alito, opened the door for state legislatures to pass laws that will restrict abortion further and challenge the protections guaranteed by Roe.

The alarming change reflected in this opinion is that Congress and the Court are willing to disregard the health of pregnant women and the medical judgment of their physician. The specific procedure referred to in this opinion does not exist in medicine and the banning of this will not affect the num-

ber of abortions that occur. However it may endanger a woman's health and access to safe care.

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) has denounced this opinion and calls it "shameful and incomprehensible."

The anti-choice faction has taken this decision as a monumental victory in their quest to end abortion or at the very least seriously curtail abortion rights in the United States. The decision, while significant, only affects a small number of procedures each year. Blue Mountain Clinic performs first trimester abortions and nearly 90 percent of all abortions performed in this country fall into that category.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg in an eloquent and biting dissent read her opinion from the bench.

The majority opinion, she said, "cannot be understood as anything other than an effort to chip away at a right declared again and again by this court -- and with increasing comprehension of its centrality to women's lives."

She added that: "A decision so at odds with our jurisprudence should not have staying power."

Blue Mountain Clinic defends a woman's right to choose every day by providing the best possible care to our patients and we will continue to do so.

# 24th All Women's Run set for October 6, 2007



Tie your laces and hit the road. It's time to start training for our 24th Annual Blue Mountain All Women's Run.

Blue Mountain Clinic will sponsor the run this year October 6 at Fort Missoula.

Join us and run the family fun run, a two mile event that the whole family (dad included) may participate in. For a fun fall jaunt try our 5k or 10k. If you run long distances, you don't want to miss one of the most scenic and challenging half marathons in the northwest. The course winds up and up O'Brien Creek past horse farms to the turn around then it's back down the hill to finish at Fort Missoula. The 13.1 mile course is a favorite among distance runners and promises a challenge for even veteran runners. After July

I check our website , [www.bluemountainclinic.org](http://www.bluemountainclinic.org), for training tips, advice from avid runners or to register for the race.

As always, runners will receive yummy snacks the day of the race, a professionally timed event and a T-shirt featuring the work of local female artists.

If you've never participated, this is the year to join in one of the most openly supportive group of runners around.

The run is a great way to show your support for Blue Mountain Clinic and the work we do.

This year we're encouraging supporters like you to "Run for Choice."

So come out, stand with the clinic staff, volunteers and other supporters in a show of solidarity for protecting a woman's right to choose.



## A Note from Anita Kuennen

On May 15th I will begin my second run as Blue Mountain Clinic's Executive Director. Much like the first time, I am excited to work at the clinic and to get a pulse on the local healthcare scene.

For the last seven and a half years, I've observed, audited, educated and trained in abortion care for the National Abortion Federation. This work took me throughout the United States, Canada, and Eastern Europe. I served initially as the Training and Education Director in the main office in Washington DC, and then the Clinical Services Director for almost four years as a telecommuter from Missoula.

The opportunity to return to BMC, and work with past and new colleagues is an honor. I cannot imagine a place I'd rather be than here. Regardless of where I have traveled, the care at BMC has always defined compassion and quality. Working at a broad level perspective helped me to realize how unique it is to provide a full continuum of health care within a social justice framework. There are few clinics that provide abortion care in a family health setting. Too often this reproductive health service is separated out from other areas of care. BMC made the shift to primary care in the early 1990s as a way to bridge health care for our clients that wanted more than reproductive health. Today individuals and their families can receive all their primary care under one roof.

In today's health care market there are new services being offered in all directions. With the mercurial climate in medicine, BMC continues to assess and alter the way we provide care. Our goal is to meet the needs of the community and to manage sustainable health care services. Think of the clinic for your immediate and long term health care needs and support the clinic with your health care dollars. Know that the money the clinic earns in health care goes to support our mission of socially conscious and accessible medicine.

I hope Missoula is proud of this health care enigma that has provided care for thirty years with heart and integrity. I know I am. There really is no place like home.

## blue mountain clinic our mission statement

To provide high quality, reasonably priced  
health care services;

To provide information and education on  
health care in order that persons seeking  
care will have the maximum involvement in  
the care they receive;





To provide educational materials and infor-  
mation to all persons, regardless of income.

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## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE FEDERAL ABORTION BAN

-  The U.S. Supreme Court upheld April 18 a law restricting an abortion procedure. The alarming change reflected in this opinion is that Congress and the Court are willing to disregard the health of pregnant women and the medical judgment of their physicians.
-  The specific procedure referred to in this opinion does not exist in medicine and the banning of this will not affect the number of abortions that occur. However it may endanger a woman's health and access to safe care.
-  The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) has denounced this opinion and calls it "shameful and incomprehensible."
-  This opinion sets a dangerous precedent of politicians interfering with medical decisions and emboldens them to proceed with other misguided restrictions in abortion care. This is anticipated at the State and Federal level.

## HELP PROTECT CHOICE. SUPPORT BLUE MOUNTAIN CLINIC.

The threat to providers of abortion care is imminent and we need your help to make sure we can continue to provide this critical service to our community. Please consider a tax deductible donation today.

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