Betty Shabazz (1934 - 1997) was an American educator and civil rights activist.

Also known as Betty X, she was the wife of Malcolm X and mother of their six daughters.

Regarding her youth, Shabazz wrote: “Race relations were not discussed and it was hoped that by denying the existence of race problems, the problems would go away. Anyone who openly discussed race relations was quickly viewed as a ‘troublemaker’.”
In 1967, the 25 black students at Mount Holyoke formed the Afro-American Association. In 1969 the group was offered the house on 2 Dunlap Place, behind the Health Center, still used to this day. In 1973, the house was formally established as the Martha Rolston Perkins Cultural Center, named for the oldest living African American alumna at the time (class of 1898).

The group changed its name to the Association of Pan African Unity in 1980 and rededicated the meetinghouse to Betty Shabazz after she spoke to students at Mount Holyoke during a week dedicated to black culture.

In the spring of 2015, Ilyasah Shabazz, oldest daughter of Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X, delivered the keynote address at Mount Holyoke’s Hortense Parker Celebration and the annual Women of Color Conference, both events that celebrate alumnae of color at Mount Holyoke College. Now known as “The Betty,” this cultural center serves as a space for education and community for students of color.

The student organizations currently affiliated with the Betty Shabazz Cultural Center are the Association for Pan-African Unity (APAU) and the Mount Holyoke African and Caribbean Students Association (MHACASA).

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Events

2.11 @ 4:30pm
DAISY HERNÁNDEZ
GAMBLE AUTITORIUM
A TALK ON MEMOIR, FEMINISM AND QUEER CUENTOS. AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST DAISY HERNÁNDEZ WILL DISCUSS REPORTING AND WRITING AT THE INTERSECTION OF RACE, GENDER AND LGBT ISSUES, AND HOW INTIMATE STORIES SHAPE POLITICAL NARRATIVES.

2.13 @ 10pm
DRAG BALL
CHAPIN AUDITORIUM
TICKETS: $3-5 PRESALE; $7 AT DOOR
LIVE DJS CHAMBA AND DJ AFROPANTHER.
5-COLLEGE STUDENT DRAG SHOW, BAR TENDING, COTTON CANDY, PHOTOBOOTH!

2.27 @ 5pm
AC DAY
CHAPIN AUDITORIUM
MHACASA WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE TO THE ANNUAL AFRICAN CARIBBEAN DAY THEMED "ROOTS: UNTOLD STORIES OF AFRICA & THE CARIBBEAN"

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Org blurbs:

The Coalition for Gender Awareness supports and affirms the various gender identities existing within the MHC community through cultivating a safe space, educational outreach, and visibility. We aim to work as a liaison between marginalized groups (specifically individuals of variant gender) and the power structures here on campus. One of our major goals is to give those silenced individuals a change to have their voices heard.

OUTreach is a student org that aims to promote unity in the queer community through connecting with various groups in and outside of campus. Stay tuned for upcoming events from OUTreach such as Drag Ball, an open mic/coffee house event, a Chai Dialogue about gender, sexuality, and religion with Kuch Karo, a photo project on (in)visibility within the LGBT+ community, Monthly Movie Nights, and a Queer Alumnae Conference.

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