ALL TOGETHER NOW: Why it’s on ALL of us to stop domestic violence

Naomi Tucker, Executive Director

Communal responsibility: It’s an idea that makes sense. Most of us can agree that we all have a role in making things better (or worse) in our environment. But how exactly does that concept apply to combating a specific problem like domestic violence? Why does it matter what one person does if they are not directly connected to this issue? Of all the important causes in the world, why choose this one unless you have been personally affected or know someone who has?

We dug deeply into this question at our annual Creating Hope celebration this year, where we heard a resounding message that domestic violence can only be stopped when we have everyone’s help. From men’s role in motivating their peers, to the ways that a community’s response can directly affect an abused woman’s ability to find safety and healing, to the especially important role played by those not directly affected by domestic violence, we need all hands on deck in order to shift the cultural norms that perpetuate the problem of domestic violence. Below are five key reasons why we need EVERYONE on board – and how your actions matter.

1. EPIC PROPORTIONS, EPIC IMPACT: While it may appear to be a narrowly-focused issue area, domestic violence is actually so pervasive, so ingrained in our society and so directly linked to other societal problems of our time that no one truly escapes its impact. It is the leading cause of homelessness among women. It costs billions of dollars annually in lost productivity, health care and mental health services, criminal justice and law enforcement. According to the CDC, battered women are 80% more likely to have a stroke, 70% more likely to have heart disease, and 60% more likely to have asthma than women who have not experienced intimate partner violence. One third of all women murdered in the US are killed by an intimate partner.

Because 1 in 3 teen girls and 1 in 4 adult women will be in an abusive relationship in her lifetime you probably know someone who has been abused…or who is affected because of that abuse. Will you know what to do if your daughter, son, cousin, client, patient, colleague or good friend is in an unhealthy relationship? If you are an employer, did you know that California law requires you to give time off to employees who are victims of domestic violence if they need to

Support Groups
Are you being hurt by someone you love?
Get support from your peers in a confidential space. Groups offered in SF, East Bay, Marin, and the Peninsula. FREE and open to women coping with controlling relationships, past or present. For details call our Bay Area Toll-Free Helpline

1-866-SHALOM-7
SF group made possible by the Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund and Mount Zion Health Fund.
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Thank you!

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SHALOM BAYIT
ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN JEWISH HOMES
Summer 2015 ~ Elul 5775

RABBIS’ CORNER: BEYOND SILENCE
Rabbi Nat Ezray

Sometimes pain and trauma catalyze change. While I do not know the pain of having experienced abuse – I know the pain of opening my eyes and heart to what is going on in the world around me and realizing that too much is being ignored.

My world changed a couple years ago upon hearing painful revelations reported in the J. about sexual abuse perpetrated by a trusted Jewish community member many years ago at a Jewish summer camp I attended as a young person. This man, who was a leader in the Jewish community I grew up in, not only abused young people in the community and at camp, but he also viciously abused his son – who finally found the courage to share his story after decades of suffering.

This drove home the reality that sometimes it takes years for victims to come forward, and that the painful impact of these acts affects people in dramatic ways. Writing about my pain in learning this and wanting to step forward in helping the healing process, I wrote an op-ed for the J. My public stance allowed others to speak to me and share their stories of abuse – often perpetrated by a trusted person. Each story is real, whether it took place in or beyond our community. Despite great strides in education and communal response, child sexual abuse remains a woefully under-addressed area in our community. I thought of stories and people who have spoken to me over the years. Not only are people reluctant to come forward, but more could be done as a unified community.

Several colleagues and experts in the field were eager to join me in saying: “Enough silence!” We created a group called Beyond Silence which seeks to educate, activate, support, communicate and advocate about child sexual abuse. Since starting our campaign a year ago – which crosses denominations – we have published a series of pieces in J. Weekly and are developing several related initiatives.

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Join us for...Upcoming Events
September 27th, 2015
Sukkot Community Gathering, Peninsula location

October 2015
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
November 18th, 2015
Beyond Silence Conference on Child Sexual Abuse, Peninsula Temple Sholom
May 17th, 2016
Creating Hope Celebration, JCCSF

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take care of legal proceedings? If you work in a synagogue or school, do you know how to guide families toward safety plans or talk to children about abuse they are witnessing in the home?

A problem with such broad reaching impact cannot be solved without universal response. We need everybody in this together.

2. PUBLIC RESPONSE CHANGES THE OUTCOME.

Stories of violence against women in the news are countless. But what is new and heartening is how the public is responding. If any good can come out of so much tragedy, it is the simple fact that we are talking about it more than ever. The public debate over the NFL’s response to domestic violence, the firing of a Silicon Valley CEO because of domestic violence charges, or even the way the citizens of San Francisco have responded to having an elected Sheriff with a domestic violence conviction on his record, are all signs that our community is more aware and less tolerant of intimate partner violence.

Most importantly, the public response is moving away from victim-blaming, toward a clear message of accountability where it belongs: with the perpetrators.

These public responses make a difference. A strong community response can discourage abusive behavior, can encourage survivors to seek support, and can influence policy change. Whether it’s a new law or a policy in place at a Jewish agency, institutional change can pave a safer path for many people.

What allows abuse to go unchecked is the lack of public outcry or social consequences. If our entire society truly rose up and said “NO MORE” to domestic violence it would actually stop. Perpetrators would not be able to get away with their abusive behavior. If everyone together – friends, families, congregations, social circles, workplaces and of course the criminal justice system – refused to let people get away with such atrocities, we could make it very difficult for anyone to abuse their partner. We need an unequivocal community response - ALL OF US - standing together, collectively saying no to domestic violence.

3. IT’S A CORE JEWISH VALUE:

The Talmudic teaching that Jews are all responsible for one another – “Kol Yisrael arevim zeh b’zeh” – specifically refers to a communal responsibility for one another’s behavior. At Yom Kippur we recite the al cheyt in the plural, seeking forgiveness for our collective misdeeds. We all say them even if we haven’t each committed all those “sins” because what one person does affects all of us living in community together, and we are each and all responsible for righting the wrongs of our collective humanity.

Similarly, from Torah we are commanded not to stand idly by when our neighbor is being harmed (Lev. 19:16) a clarion call for community involvement in domestic violence indeed. Finally, the Talmud teaches “Whoever destroys a soul, it is considered as if they destroyed an entire world. And whoever saves a life, it is considered as if they saved an entire world.” Judaism understands that our actions impact one another.

4. ALL CHILDREN NEED TOOLS FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE.

The home is where we learn our earliest lessons on how to treat others. All of us can make a difference by modeling healthy behaviors at home – from communication and nurturing to teaching children how to express feelings, set personal boundaries and resolve conflicts peacefully. If you are a parent, grandparent, teacher, or anyone who spends time with children, you have a tremendous opportunity to teach the next generation the skills they need in order to have healthy relationships.

5. SOCIETAL PROBLEMS REQUIRE A COMMUNAL RESPONSE.

Domestic Violence is not an individual problem or psychopathology. It is a control pattern and belief system learned through intergenerational cycles, media, societal values, how we raise our children, how we model conflict resolution and how we as a society view power, violence, women, and the construct of intimate relationships. What is needed is a shift in those societal attitudes and beliefs – and all of us can help make that shift happen.

Some examples and things you can do: don’t tolerate abusive behavior among your friends. Don’t let your friends get away with mistreating their partner, kids, coworkers or friends. Men: if you hear your friends talking disparagingly about their female partners, speak up. Help create a culture of respect in relationships. Encourage people to talk about their feelings, not blame them on others.

And so it takes all of us.

As our 2015 Creating Hope chairs Debbie and Barry Cohn noted, “Too often, the burden to expose this deplorable behavior is on the victim or their loved ones. We want to change that. We must change that. We want men and women to model healthy relationships. We want fathers and mothers to stand up and say NO to excuses and leniency for any type of abuse. We want Shalom Bayit to be a shared value throughout our community.”

Simply put, domestic violence is too strong a force and too widespread a problem to stop unless we have everyone on board. We need each of you. Thank you for joining us in this life-changing work. We hope in turn that you will spread the word to everyone you know – so that we can truly turn the tide of humanity to bring peace in the place that matters most.

Rabbi’s Corner

Continued from page 1

We are driven by the knowledge that abuse remains woefully under-addressed despite the earnest actions by law enforcement, social services, educators, mental health professionals and clergy. This is a societal problem that crosses social, religious and, and how we model conflict resolution and how we as a society view power, violence, women, and the construct of intimate relationships. What is needed is a shift in those societal attitudes and beliefs – and all of us can help make that shift happen.

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Thank you to our spectacular chairs Debbie & Barry Cohn, to our event committee and honorary committee members, to our generous sponsors and supporters and to all who celebrated Shalom Bayit’s 23rd Anniversary with us on May 6th.

What a truly remarkable experience. Keynote speaker Jackson Katz, PhD, along with the personal stories shared that evening, left us all deeply inspired to work together as a community to stop domestic violence — and in particular, to understand how men can be leaders in this work. From the actions we take to the language we use when speaking about violence, Creating Hope painted a vivid picture of how we all can make a difference and take steps toward Shalom in Every Home.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

You can help us raise awareness by encouraging your community, congregation or group of friends to demonstrate their commitment to a future free of abuse:

Shalom Bayit Community Sukkot Gathering
For more information and details: info@shalom-bayit.org

Purple Ribbons
Tie Purple Ribbons to your communal or family sukkah (Erev Sukkot 5776 is Sunday Sept. 27th) to honor those who do not dwell in peace and safety in their own homes. Place the ribbon on your sukkah with a “May our homes be a shelter of peace” blessing card. To request a ribbon/blessing card, call (510) 451-8874 or info@shalom-bayit.org

Thank you for helping us spread peace. Together we can make a difference in the coming year and for future generations.

Love Shouldn’t Hurt

Bring our healthy relationships education and dating violence prevention to your school or congregation!

Love Shouldn’t Hurt offers healthy relationships workshops to synagogues, religious schools, Jewish day schools, summer camps, and Hillels, providing information about relationship abuse and tools to promote healthy relationships from a Jewish perspective. Since 2002 over 11,000 youth (6th grade - college), parents, and educators have participated in these interactive, educational workshops.

Together, the components of Love Shouldn’t Hurt place abuse prevention squarely at the center of Jewish youth programming, strengthening our community by teaching youth, adults, and community leaders to prevent abuse before it starts.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, contact Love Shouldn’t Hurt at (510) 451-8874 or teen@shalom-bayit.org
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Raegan Shigeyoshi
Emily Silberstein
Lynn Simon
Seth Skotksy
Evan Smith
Abby Sny
Joan Sopher
Bracha & Don Stone
Michele Stone
Alicia Sullivan & Michael Baumstein
Sarah VanZanten
Ariel Waitz
Judith Waksberg & Philip Genty
Mariana Warmee
Ilene Weinreb
Sarah Weisman
Diane & Josh Wirtshafter
Frances & Charles Wisch
Marian Wolfe & Scott Scheffler
Amy Wollman & Gerry Berkowitz

(Continued on page 6)
Relationship Support Group for Women

Does your partner make you feel bad about yourself?
Are you scared to go home?
Are you being hurt by someone you love?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

No charge ★ Confidential ★ Free childcare

For information or to sign up: (866) SHALOM-7
or (866) SHALOM-7 [toll-free in the Bay Area]
Honorary and Memorial Gifts, July 2014 - June 2015

Honorary Gifts

In honor of Anya Tucker
Diane & Josh Wirtschafter

In honor of Rosyland Bauer
Renee Bauer & Laurie Zimmerman

In honor of Jon & Ellen Benjamin
Deborah Bloch
Kate Loring & Bob Benjamin

In honor of Amalia Bob-Waksberg
Ellen Bob & David Waksberg
Amy Ellerg & Louis Newman
Jeffrey, Amber, Rachel & Naomi Rosen
Preeva & Leonard Tramier

In honor of Nicole Brodsky
Rabbi Steven & Leona Chester

In honor of Carolyn Bushman & Mitch Forster
Richard & Victoria Burt

In honor of Rabbi Steven & Leona Chester
Flora & Bob Feldman
Miriam Goodley

In honor of Sandra Cohen
Rabbi Aubrey Glazer

In honor of Debbie & Barry Cohn
Ron Astor
Bob Corso
Marsha & Ralph Guggenheim
Jeffrey Halbrecht
Leslie Klonoff
Bruce & Kim Licht
Dan & Jackie Safier
Jeff & Joani Starkovich
Jessica Trubowitch
Jacob Winkler
Roberta Zucker

In honor of Kerry & Mari Cyphers
Greta Frantz

In honor of Zephira Derblich-Milea
Bab Freiberg & Lee Bearson

In honor of Wendy Feldman
Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn

In honor of Ari Friedman & Jade Raydin
Rivka Greenberg

In honor of Talya Gates-Monasch
Brenda Gates-Monasch

In honor of Phylis Godlove
Joyce & David Lewbin

In honor of David & Cheri Goldberg
Norman Schlossberg

In honor of Nicholas Reid Goldstein
Andrew Goldstein

In honor of Rivka Greenberg
Sally Brown

In honor of Desmond Griffith
Rivka Greenberg

In honor of Marion Griffiths
Robin Braverman

In honor of Celia Harms
Ruth Wilcox

In honor of Jan Herr
Aviva Herr

In honor of Leor & Nadav Hersh
Rivka Greenberg

In honor of Henry Hollander
Rabbi Aubrey Glazer

In honor of Mitch Hymowitz
Ira Hymowitz

In honor of Laia Idelson & Eitan Bencuya
Dona & Jordan Hopstone

In honor of Justin
Robin Braverman

In honor of Linda Kalinowski
Andi & David Arrick
Abby Caplin & Ami Goodman
Antonia Lavine
Kathryn Rudman
Gary & Linda Zellerbach

In honor of Minouche Kandel & Talia Korenbrot
Abigail & Brian BloomKing

In honor of Laura Katz
Jo Anne & Hank Lerner

In honor of Sophia Kaufmann
Anne Shmitz & Aaron Kaufmann

In honor of Jill Kneeter
Michael & Jan Yaffe

In honor of Pam Kramer
Donita Decker

In honor of Frank & Linda Kurtz
Antonia Lavine
Gail & Bernard Nebenzahl
Linda Wertheim

In honor of Eva-Lynne Leibman
Rabbi Aubrey Glazer

In honor of Sandy Lipkowitz
Ilen Levinson & Rem Van Tijen
Carolyn Power Perlstein

In honor of Rabbi Jacqueline Mates-Muchin
Luanne Jenkins & Jody Adelberg

In honor of Susan Moldaw
Lisa & John Pritzker

In honor of Jan Reicher
Donna & Joseph Fogel
Catherine Lewi
Ellen Rothmann
Abby Snay

In honor of Sue Reinholt
Rachel Brodie & Adam Weisberg

In honor of Jan Schmuckler
Rivka Greenberg

In honor of Susan Sugarman
Mark Aarsonson & Marjorie Gelb
Joanne Backman & Harry Pollack
Judith & Marty Berg
Merle Weston Fajans
Judith Offer
Edwin Richard
Donna Schempp
Margot Schevill
Fritz Schoener
Ruth & Scott Spear
Michele Stone
Laura Turbow
Maria & Henry Vogel
Ellen & Irving Zucker

In honor of Ingrid Tauber
Cantor Roslyn Barak

In honor of Mira Terdiman
Rivka Greenberg
Jan Cook Reicher

In honor of Naomi Tucker
Terry Pink Alexander
Robyn Carmel
Susan & Bill Epstein
Ruth Jaffe
Betty & Donald Stone

In honor of Sarah VanZanten
Sarah Cohn

In honor of Sarah & Kate VanZanten
Robyn Carmel

In honor of Christina Woo
Suzanne Sims Woo

In honor of the Women of Isaiah
Lynn Epstein

In honor of Rabbis Yoel Kahn, Rebekah Stern, & Reuben Zellman of Congregation Beth El, Berkeley

Susan & Paul Sugarman

In memory of Felice Berkman Brewer
Sherry Berkman

In memory of Russell Brasso
Robin Brasso

In memory of Abraham Brodsky
Rabbi Steven & Leona Chester

In memory of Lu Cotton
Van & Jeri Hart

In memory of Linda Danneberg
Diene Claerbout

In memory of Anne Feld
Celia & Terry Harms

In memory of Gertrude Gottlieb
Rivka Greenberg

In memory of Celia Kabakow
Claire D. Taylor

In memory of Evelyn Sholes Kagan
Karen Winkleman-Furman & Bruce Furman

In memory of Barbara Loeb
Ann Bogdanow
Judith Baily
Barbara Dukas
Melissa Fletcher
Joan Karlin
Rene & Henry Kim
Malcolm Witter

In memory of Frances Louise Martin
Rivka Greenberg

In memory of Michael Meltzer
Rivka Greenberg

In memory of Walter Monasch & Gretel Gates
Talya Gates-Monasch

In memory of Rita Robbins
Julie Robbins Cinti & Robert Cinti

In memory of Marilyn Rude
Judi Finkelstein

In memory of Ruth Naomi Sawyer
Rivka Greenberg

In memory of Judy Segol
Adrienne & Martin Segol

In memory of Milton Sigberman
Maxene Bodin

In memory of Gertrude Veiss
Rivka Greenberg

In memory of Daniel Schley

In memory of Janice & Paul Wolf
Cantor Roslyn Barak
Rivka Greenberg
Linda & Tom Kalinowski
Sandra Lipkowitz
Robyn & Loren Shalinsky

Memorial Gifts
Shalom Bayit is pleased to present, in collaboration with the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, Jewish LearningWorks and the Northern California Board of Rabbis

**beyond silence**

**A JEWISH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18TH, 2015**

Peninsula Temple Sholom, Burlingame

Jewish professionals, clergy, and community leaders serving at congregations, JCCs, schools, or wherever children gather will meet to learn about child sexual abuse and explore a Jewish approach to this important issue. Together we will and how we can make our community safer and develop a communal response.

**IF YOU INTERACT WITH KIDS OR TEENS DON’T MISS THIS**

For more information or to register: (415) 629-9841 or BeyondSilence@shalom-bayit.org

http://www.norcalrabbis.org/beyond-silence

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**CH...CH...CH...CHANGES...**

Shalom Bayit wishes a fond farewell to long-time Direct Services Coordinator Lisa Kahn-Tietz, who is relocating with her family to Portland, Oregon. Lisa has been the heart of our counseling program for 6 years, helping hundreds of women on their healing journey. We have all grown and benefited immensely from Lisa’s wisdom, humor, passion for this work and loving presence. Lisa will be greatly missed!

We’d also like to introduce you to two new wonderful staff members. Please give a warm welcome to Ruth Rotem (Program Associate) and Amalia Bob-Waksberg (Community Educator)

Ruth has worked for Jewish non-profits for 30 years, primarily in Israel as part of the Reform/Progressive movement. She returned to the U.S. in 2011 and is a recent transplant to the Bay Area, having traversed the US to join our team. A native of Detroit, graduate of the University of Michigan, and mother of 2 grown children, Ruth is also a history buff, and loves cooking and crafts. With her years of administrative assistant experience, Ruth is looking forward to contributing to Shalom Bayit and to her future here in California. **Amalia Bob-Waksberg**, a Bay Area native, first became interested in this work when she volunteered at a battered women’s shelter in Israel at the age of 18. At Brandeis University, she co-founded Brandeis Students Against Sexual Violence and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. Her experience in working to end violence against women includes internships at Emerge (a Boston-based batterer education program), MASUM (supporting survivors of domestic violence in rural villages in India) and her 2011 Kohn Internship at Shalom Bayit. She is thrilled to re-join the Shalom Bayit team as a staff member, coordinating our community outreach.

Stay tuned for more info as we introduce our next Direct Services Coordinator this fall. We are growing our staff team, expanding our offices and looking forward to sharing with you the many ways that we are growing to meet the community’s need for Shalom Bayit’s presence and programs.

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**In-kind & financial contributions are fully tax deductible**

Please send your gift to “Tides Center / Shalom Bayit” at PO Box 10102, Oakland 94610

or donate securely online at www.shalom-bayit.org

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**Shalom Bayit gets a new LOGO!**

Thanks to the Taproot Foundation, we are excited to announce that we are in the final stages of a visual re-branding project that will give Shalom Bayit a new logo, look and feel, and bring our visual materials up to date with our current programs and community presence.

While our programs have evolved over time (for example, we now serve a wider audience including teens and young adults), our visual identity has not evolved with that growth. Taproot provided a team of pro bono experts in marketing and graphic design, who for the past six months have been gathering input from our constituents to develop a logo that will represent Shalom Bayit’s mission and message.

For 23 years our logo has served us well. Now it’s time to grow and change, and we are excited to have a fresh, clean, professional look. We hope you will love our new logo, which is designed to convey the beautiful combination of warmth, compassion and strength that is Shalom Bayit’s hallmark in promoting healthy relationships in the Jewish community. The new logo will launch later this fall.