

SHALOM BAYIT

ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN JEWISH HOMES

Spring 2011 ~ Nisan 5771



Community Partnerships: Working Together for Change

Support Groups

Offered in San Francisco, the East Bay, and the Peninsula, all healing groups are free and open to women who have been abused in a current or past relationship. For details call our Bay Area Toll-Free Helpline

1-866-SHALOM-7

San Francisco groups made possible by the Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund.

East Bay groups made possible by the Civic Foundation and by a joint grant from the Jewish Community Foundation and Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay. Thank you!

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Shalom Bayit is a beneficiary of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, a project of the Tides Center, and a proud member of the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

By Naomi Tucker, Executive Director

In this issue of our newsletter we explore the types of community partnerships that help our organization thrive and create real change. Each year, Shalom Bayit serves over 2,000 people in 9 counties through three programs (prevention, intervention and outreach). How can a small agency accomplish such big things? How do we address a complex social justice issue while providing critical social services? Shift public opinion while responding to immediate crisis? The answer is we don't do it alone.

It is our many partnerships that bring Shalom Bayit's work into the light. These range from longstanding interagency relationships, as with the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, to project-specific efforts such as our new national college dating violence prevention campaign through Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life and The Hadassah Foundation.

Some are community networks we've built from the ground up. The best example of this is our 70-member Rabbinic Advisory Council. The dedicated rabbis on the Council not only serve as advisors to Shalom Bayit, but help shift the paradigm in how the Jewish community responds to abuse. Other collaborations are existing networks we've joined, like the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium and the California Department of Public Health Teen Dating Violence Prevention Project. In these arenas Shalom Bayit plays a role in sharing our expertise, learning from colleagues to improve our

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SHALOM BAYIT:

A BLESSING THAT RESPONDS TO A CURSE

By Rabbi Steven Chester, Temple Sinai Oakland

As a Rabbi, one frequently is asked to serve on a board or advisory board of an organization which he or she deems extremely worthwhile. A number of years ago, I was asked to help create such an advisory board for an organization with which I had been interacting almost from the time of its formation. This organization was Shalom Bayit. When asked to help form the Rabbinic Advisory Council for Shalom Bayit, I did not hesitate. Why?

For me, Shalom Bayit was and continues to be one of the most important Jewish institutions in the Bay Area. Shalom Bayit helps women facing domestic abuse. Shalom Bayit, through its superb educational programs, helps teenagers understand the dynamic of abuse in their community and how to respond to it. However, most significantly as a Rabbi, Shalom Bayit helps me understand the enormity and frequency of domestic abuse in the Jewish community. It is the first place I call when a woman comes to me and shares with me that she is being abused by her partner. It is the first place I call when I find out a teenager is being abused by a

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Upcoming Events

Details on pp. 5-6

May 1 (SF & East Bay) • Chico's Shop for Shalom Bayit

May 14 (SF) • Jewelry Sale (private home)

May 23 (SF) • *Healing Together* Women's Healing Ritual

June 12 (San Mateo) • Challah Baking Demo & Brunch

August 2 (SF) • SAFE AT HOME Shalom Bayit Goes to Bat!
Jewish Heritage Night, pre-game dinner & SF Giants game

October 23 (SF) • *Creating Hope* Annual Benefit Luncheon
Raising hope and support for a violence-free future

October 27 (SF & East Bay) • Chico's shop for Shalom Bayit

Tickets, location & info: (510) 451-8874 or info@shalom-bayit.org

We're in this together

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programs, and jointly developing best practices in the field. Being part of a network supports our professional growth and increases our collective voice. Together, we generate a community response stronger than what we could accomplish alone.

With a broad mission (ending domestic violence) and a specific focus (the Jewish community), we can only succeed if our reach is wide. In a highly segmented world, Shalom Bayit has successfully involved all Jewish denominations in our work, bridged three Jewish community Federation regions, and crossed multiple spectrums of affiliation.

Though we do so because we believe in the power of collaboration as a force for positive change, it's truthfully also a matter of necessity. We cannot do this work alone; and we must work with everyone because domestic violence happens everywhere. The very nature of our work requires us to connect with as many agencies and individuals as possible — to reach those who might need us; to create the change we want to see; to build relationships with both those who support us and those who resist the notion that abuse takes place in Jewish homes.

We are all too aware that not everyone with a troubled home life is going to pick up the phone and call for help. They might, however, tell their doctor, teacher, hairdresser, therapist, clergy, friend, sister, uncle, mother—or



maybe you. That's why we need everyone to join us to raise awareness and ensure that when someone needs help, they are directed towards the right resources. We can all be part of the solution.

Community partnerships require care and feeding — but they are well worth the effort. To all our collaborative partners, thank you! Together we are paving the way for a violence-free future. ♪

A Blessing...by Rabbi Chester

Continued from page 1

person she is dating. I call Shalom Bayit because its counselors and volunteers have the skills to help these women and to help me help them.

Perhaps the most significant thing Shalom Bayit does is explode the myth that domestic violence does not exist in the Jewish community. The teachings of Shalom Bayit make Jewish professionals, including Rabbis

“Shalom Bayit continues to be one of the most important Jewish institutions in the Bay Area.”

and Jewish educators, face up to the extent of domestic violence in Jewish homes and that we must admit to this and deal with the problem, encouraging those suffering to feel they can come to us for help and to be assured we will help them.

Shalom Bayit does all of these things so effectively through the embracing of the Jewish values of "B'tzelem Elohim," that all human beings are created in God's image, and "Pikuach Nefesh," the saving of human life. It advocates that all are entitled to a life where they need not live with physical or emotional abuse but should be able live a life free of fear and filled with joy and calm.

I am proud to be a part of Shalom Bayit. It has enriched my rabbinate and has made me more effective as a Rabbi. Shalom Bayit is an integral part of Jewish life in the Bay Area and its leadership and staff deserve the highest of praise. ♪

Rabbinic Support Through Bay Area Jewish Healing Center

In the early 1990s, both Shalom Bayit and the Healing Center were pioneers in the Jewish healing movement, developing Jewish spiritual support programs for individuals in crisis. Demonstrating the power of our shared expertise and our common goal of providing Jewish healing to the community, for the past eight years our two agencies have collaborated more concretely to co-lead support groups for women healing from abusive relationships. Each year an eight-session group is co-led by a Shalom Bayit counselor and a rabbinic representative of the Healing Center. In this issue of our newsletter we bring you a first-hand account from Rabbi Elisheva Salamo, who has co-facilitated several of these groups and is a member of our Rabbinic Advisory Council.



Rabbi Elisheva Salamo: I want to share the wonderful experience I've had co-facilitating Shalom Bayit support groups. [Staff are] wonderful to work with, very aware of the dynamics and needs of the women, very gracious and helpful as we put the programs together. We spent time in sessions creating space for the women to grow, to find their own strength, to have tools and systems to draw on as they faced hardships, and to see their connection to G-d as always loving. We tried to mix our

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National Hillel Partnering with Shalom Bayit

Thanks to generous support from The Hadassah Foundation, Shalom Bayit is collaborating with *Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life* to begin to integrate dating violence prevention education into college campus programming nationwide. The collaboration includes a training of Hillel professionals which Shalom Bayit will lead on May 26th in Philadelphia, and the dissemination of our *Love Shouldn't Hurt* curriculum and its healthy relationship messages to college campus Hillels.

This project is helping make abuse prevention part of a national Jewish education agenda.

“We are ecstatic to partner with Shalom Bayit to benefit the entire Hillel field. The ability to provide Shalom Bayit’s curriculum and college toolkit to campuses is invaluable to our campus professionals. Our work at Hillel is rooted in relationships, so preparing Hillel professionals to engage students in important conversations around healthy relationships and dating is absolutely essential. We are grateful to the Hadassah Foundation for funding this very important partnership.”

- Jamie Schiffman, Director of Professional Development, Hillel



Thank you!

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Any omissions are
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Thank you, Shalom Bayit in-kind contributors!

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Donations received July - December 2010. Thanks to all who contribute to making our programs a success.

Any omissions are unintentional.

chico's ANNOUNCES "HAVE A HEART" DAYS TO BENEFIT SHALOM BAYIT

In a new partnership with Shalom Bayit, Chico's clothing stores in San Francisco and the East Bay will donate 10% of all sales to Shalom Bayit on their special "Have a Heart" charity days in May (for Mothers' Day) and October (for Domestic Violence Awareness Month). Chico's "Have a Heart" philosophy extends from Chico's values to the company's community involvement. By supporting programs focusing on women and families in crisis, Chico's hope is to make women's lives a little easier, to inspire confidence and to raise self-esteem. So bring your friends, support battered women and their children, and have fun! Don't forget to mention Shalom Bayit when you shop.

Sunday, May 1st ~ just in time for Mother's Day; buy a gift for mom (or yourself) & you'll be helping other moms in need!

Thursday, October 27th ~ October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Join the crowd and help raise awareness!

Participating stores are **Chico's Bay Street Emeryville** and **Chico's Laurel Village, San Francisco.**

This Mother's Day Honor an Inspiring Mom

Wondering what to give to that special mom in your life this Mother's Day? Back by popular demand, we are pleased to announce our Mothers' Day cards designed by the children of Shalom Bayit. Recognize a special woman in your life by making a gift to Shalom Bayit in her honor or memory. *Congratulating a new mom? Remembering a beloved Grandma?* **For every \$36 donation** we'll send a Mother's Day card to the mom(s) you designate. Your gift will support healthy motherhood, helping another mom spend Mother's Day safely with her children.

Give the gift that changes the world, one woman at a time. What could be more inspiring than your commitment to creating true *sh'lom bayit*—peace in the home—for moms everywhere!

To order your cards, call (510) 451-8874 or visit us on the web by May 5th (and see the card in full color) to ensure timely delivery. We'll be glad to personalize your cards with a special message. Happy Mother's Day!



Artwork by Miriam, age 10



Shalom Bayit

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www.love-shouldnt-hurt.org
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866-SHALOM-7



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EVENTS AROUND THE BAY...Announcements & Programs

SAVE THE DATE FOR

Creating Hope

A benefit for Shalom Bayit
Celebrating 19 years of changing lives

Speaker Luncheon & Silent Auction

Sunday, October 23, 2011
11:45 a.m.



Individual tickets: \$118

For location, sponsorship opportunities or more information,
call (510) 451-8874 or email info@shalom-bayit.org

Support Groups...

Continued from page 2

presentation—text, participatory art, ritual, meditation, conversation, and of course, food—to remind ourselves of the Divine presence in every aspect of life.

I found that the women came to me with an attitude of openness and reverence for the possible. We had hard discussions, and we were beautifully able to be supportive and truly caring as different women experienced particular hardships. Above all, there was an amazing and refreshing cloud of non-judgment that joined us every evening. I came to give what I might, and would leave feeling renewed myself. Their courage, power and bluntness touched my heart, and made me feel more real, somehow, than when I walked in. Every evening contained a transformative moment. I continue to send blessings for wholeness and healing to each woman there. Thanks to all at Shalom Bayit and the Healing Center for honoring me with this opportunity. ♡

Everyone has the right to be...

SAFE AT HOME

Come schmooze at the ballpark with us!

Bring your family and friends to join the Shalom Bayit contingent for Jewish Heritage Night at the Ballpark. World champion San Francisco Giants will face off against the Arizona Diamondbacks



August 2, 2011

5pm - Dinner / 7:15pm - Game
Reserve your tickets now! (650) 574-7233



Wish List ~

Flat screen monitor, laptop computer, food gift cards (Safeway, Albertson's, or Trader Joe's), Powerpoint projector, phone cards, 4-drawer locking file cabinet, household goods, office supplies, computer desk, and used cell phones.

Become a part of our life-changing work.

Help Shalom Bayit remain a lifeline for all who need us. Get involved. Donate. Volunteer. Tell your friends. Resolve conflicts peacefully. Bring Shalom Bayit to your synagogue, school or workplace. Encourage a friend or relative to call for help.



We all can take part in saving a life today.

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