

SHALOM BAYIT

ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN JEWISH HOMES

Fall 2012 ~ Elul 5772



20 Years of Saving Lives

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.

Eve Ensler Rocks the House

Naomi Tucker, Executive Director

It's a milestone indeed: this year Shalom Bayit turned twenty! Throughout the year we've been reflecting on what it means to have devoted two decades to empowering women to create safety in their lives.


In this issue of our newsletter you will find a timeline of our accomplishments over these 20 years – from a time when no synagogue would speak to us or lend a meeting room to our small collective of volunteers, to a time when 75 rabbis now proudly align themselves with our efforts. From a time when battered women were completely silenced and disbelieved within the Jewish community, to a new era where two major Jewish Community Federations (East Bay and SF-based) now recognize domestic violence programs as a communal priority. We have come a long way, yet we still have a long way to go. The fact is, domestic violence is still happening. Our helpline still rings daily with women needing help. Our clients still face unmet legal, financial, mental health, spiritual and Jewish communal needs. So we march forward: knowing how many lives we have changed for the better, and ever-aware of how much more change still needs to happen.

That is why we mark our 20th year with both celebration and renewed dedication. We are proud to have pioneered the first spiritual healing support groups for battered Jewish women in this country; to have created the nation's first peer-led healthy relationships education program for Jewish youth; to have brought our faith-based, culturally-relevant models of abuse prevention and response to many communities outside the Jewish world. We are proud to know that most Bay Area synagogues and Jewish day schools now include our *Love Shouldn't Hurt* program as part of their annual curriculum, giving teens tools for healthy friendships and relationships in their future. We are proud to have so much community support – because we know it will take all of us working together to bring about the real change needed to stop the cycle of violence in its tracks.

With that spirit of both honoring our past and
—continued on p.2

Reflections on Sukkot

Rabbi David Cooper

The liturgy of the Ma'ariv (evening) service includes the phrase "*U-fros aleynu sukkat shlomecha*" ("Spread over us the sukkah of your peace.") Now I have always had a problem with translating *sukkat shlomecha* as "the shelter of your peace." A shelter is a place which is fortified or well-protected and a *sukkah* is hut that is vulnerable to the wind and the rain—it is the last place someone would go to for shelter. And that's just the point. When we need a shelter for protection then it must be in response to danger. What we really want is to be as safe in a *sukkah* as we would be in a shelter. And this is only possible if, beyond and within our *sukkah*, we are enfolded in an environment of *shalom*, of peace and wholeness. To pray for a life in a shelter is insufficient as a prayer for *shalom*. So I pray for a time when we are at peace within our homes, with our doors unlocked and our windows open and where all in the household are at peace with each other. May it be so. 

Upcoming Events

October 7 • 2pm (Oakland)

May our Homes be a Shelter of Peace

Community gathering in the *sukkah*. More details on page 10. FREE.

October 15 (San Francisco)

New Spiritual Healing Support Group

begins for women in abusive or controlling relationships (past or present). Co-sponsored by Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. 8 weeks; confidential SF location; no charge.

Childcare available with pre-registration. For more info and to register, call us toll free at (866) SHALOM-7.

November 11 • 3pm (San Mateo)

Cantor Roslyn Barak House Concert at a private home in San Mateo, to benefit Shalom Bayit.

Tickets, location & info: (510) 451-8874 , (650) 574-7233 or events@shalom-bayit.org

looking towards our future, Shalom Bayit celebrated our 20th anniversary on May 31st with *Creating Hope*, a gala dinner and stellar evening of entertainment. Highlighting the thousands of lives that Shalom Bayit has changed over the past 20 years, *Creating Hope* reminded us of the profound transformation we create by empowering women to safety.

Nearly 300 people filled the room to honor this important occasion – more than doubling our expectations and usual attendance at Shalom Bayit’s annual event. The crowd was incredible – and **helped us raise over \$100,000 for our domestic violence programs**, making it the most successful fundraiser Shalom Bayit has ever held!

What a fantastic evening it was. Beginning with a reception and silent auction, we were then treated during dinner to a beautiful and heartfelt performance by Cantor Roslyn Barak. Well fed and entertained, we were ready for the impressive presence of Eve Ensler. And impressive she was! Tony award-winning playwright, author of the *Vagina Monologues* and founder of V-Day, a global movement to end violence against women and girls, Eve Ensler is much more than a performer. She is a fierce activist dedicating her life to ending violence against women and girls. Brilliant, funny, thought-provoking and utterly inspirational, Eve Ensler always has something new for us to learn.

She began by sharing a personal connection to Shalom Bayit. Revealing that her own childhood in a Jewish home was marked by abuse from her violent father, Eve Ensler knows all too well why our work is so important. In the very places we hold most sacred, where we should feel most safe and secure, it is unimaginable and unforgivable to be victimized by one’s own partner or parent. Yet this is the lived experience of those who seek Shalom Bayit’s support.

Eve shared her righteous rage, her boundless energy and contagious desire to create positive change. She described her efforts around the globe to stop violence against women and girls. Eve helped us all see the connections between the mass rape of women in the Congo and the media’s portrayal of girls in the United States; between the way a nation resolves its political power struggles and the way we resolve our conflicts in the most intimate settings. To conclude, she treated us to a rousing excerpt from her new play, *Emotional Creature*, about the inner lives of

girls, which premiered at Berkeley Repertory Theater in June.

We could have stopped there – but at Shalom Bayit we always like to bring it back home and make it real. So in honor of our 20 years of saving lives, 20 brave individuals filled the stage following Eve Ensler, representing the voices of Shalom Bayit. One by one, each revealed how domestic violence had affected their lives.

They were ordinary people – attorneys, secretaries, Jewish community leaders, philanthropists, working moms, grandparents, even a 7th grader and his mom; all genders and sexual orientations; a range of denominations; a broad sweep of our beautiful Jewish community. Their common tie? All were victims of abuse, or lost someone close to them because of domestic violence. For many, it was the first time sharing this personal information in a public way. Courage, tears and so much heart filled the silent moments between each speaker like a heavy coat: both warming and difficult to bear. It was a most extraordinary moment – one that we will never, ever forget. We all understood the breadth of who is impacted by violence in Jewish homes, and the power of how a life can change for the better.

“Lasting social and cultural change is spread by ordinary people doing extraordinary things.”
— Eve Ensler

Eve Ensler just finished building the “City of Joy” in the Democratic Republic of Congo – a center for empowerment, healing and leadership for victims of the mass rapes of 16,000 women in Bukavu. Shalom Bayit’s work is directly parallel: creating a sanctuary in our community where abuse victims can feel safe and empowered. Together we are ending violence, empowering women, transforming our world to one day be free of violence.

At *Creating Hope* we were all moved to laugh, cry, celebrate, and take action. As we continue celebrating our 20th year throughout the remainder of 2012, please join with us in making a difference. There are many ways you can join in: Be part of blessing our homes with peace at our Sukkot gathering on October 7th. Join a Shalom Bayit committee that speaks to your interests, like our *Love Shouldn’t Hurt* advisory group or our JPH Jewish Physicians and Health Care outreach project. Sponsor a family in need for Chanukah. Purchase a 20th anniversary mezuzah or charm, giving your home and family the blessing of *sh’lom bayit*. Volunteer, donate, join our board, get involved in whatever way speaks to you. Or just call and we’ll talk about how you can make a difference today. Thank you. ♡

Love Shouldn’t Hurt Reaches More Teens Than Ever!

Healthy Relationships Education & Dating Violence Prevention Programs at Shalom Bayit

Love Shouldn’t Hurt continues to positively impact the Jewish community by educating youth and their allies about healthy relationships — and how to prevent abusive ones.

As of August 2012, Shalom Bayit has already **led 59 workshops for over 1,000 youth, parents, and educators in the Bay Area Jewish community**. That’s more than we usually reach in an entire year — and it’s a lot of teenagers who now have tools to make healthy relationship choices in their future!

On the national scene, Shalom Bayit is also making a difference on college campuses with our *Campus and Beyond* project in collaboration with Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. Thanks to our partnership with Hillel and support from The Hadassah Foundation, we traveled to Chicago in May to

train 20 Hillel professional staff from 15 different campuses on how to integrate dating violence prevention into their campus programming, and how to help students who may be in unhealthy or dangerous relationships.

Now in our second year of collaborating with National Hillel, the project has also provided free copies of our *Love Shouldn’t Hurt* curriculum and Hillel Toolkit to 37 campuses — bringing this important topic to hundreds of Jewish college students.

For more information about *Love Shouldn’t Hurt* and how you can bring a workshop to your community, email teen@shalom-bayit.org.

Everyone Deserves Healthy Relationships!

20 years of Vision: A Taste of Shalom Bayit History, 1992 - 2012

In 1992, a small dedicated group of women had a vision of generating a Jewish response to domestic abuse. Gathered around a kitchen table, they created Shalom Bayit—an all-volunteer collective that would become Northern California's first and only Jewish domestic violence program. Today, Shalom Bayit is a thriving Bay Area-wide organization providing a vital service to improve the lives of women, children, youth and families.

MARCH 1992

1st task force: meets to address DV in the Jewish community. Name and mission statement chosen • Begins meeting monthly at SF JCC preschool • Incorporates as a task force of the Northern California Coalition for Battered Women and their Children, now CPEDV (California Partnership to End Domestic Violence).

OCTOBER 1992

1st public awareness event held during Sukkot at SFJCC, launching what would become annual "May Our Homes Be A Shelter of Peace" purple ribbon / Sukkot campaign for national Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

1993

Shelter basket program for Chanukah and Passover established • Educational campaigns begin • Women begin to find out about us and ask for help.

1994

Voicemail-only phone line opens • Volunteer counselors take crisis calls and meet women in cafés to offer support • G'varim men's auxiliary begins • First rabbin training and teen program (BBG) held • First Chanukah party and Adopt-a-Family program to sponsor families in need.

1994 - 1999

Jewish Women International (then B'nai B'rith Women), Women's American ORT, and synagogue groups help SB organize community education. • Shalom Bayit continues to run as an all-volunteer collective.

1998

Jewish battered women's support group begins in collaboration with La Casa de las Madres • Tides Center becomes new fiscal sponsor.

2000

Decision to transition from volunteer-run to professional agency • Board of directors forms • Co-founders Naomi Tucker and Sherry Brown-Ryther become first part time staff.

2001

With seed funding from the Walter & Elise Haas Fund and Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund, Shalom Bayit opens its current confidential office location; hires Counselor, Executive Director, and Associate Director • (866) SHALOM-7 toll free helpline opens.

2002

Love Shouldn't Hurt teen program begins. 10th anniversary is celebrated with our first gala fundraising dinner at Sur La Table on Maiden Lane.

2003

Rabbinic Advisory Council forms with 20 members, led by Rabbis Pam Frydman Baugh, Helen Cohn and Sydney Mintz • Shalom Bayit helps plan the first Conference on Domestic Abuse in the Jewish Community (Washington DC) with Jewish Women International.

2004

CA Dept. of Public Health contracts with Shalom Bayit to co-author statewide training curriculum for clergy. Faith in Violence-Free Families has since trained hundreds of clergy of all faiths throughout California to prevent & respond to DV in their congregations.

2005

Hadassah Foundation helps volunteer-run teen program become professionally staffed • Love Shouldn't Hurt begins providing middle school through college age students around the Bay with healthy relationships education.

2007

Love Shouldn't Hurt dating violence prevention curriculum is published, and distributed nationally • Shalom Bayit becomes a beneficiary of SF-based Jewish Community Federation-Peninsula satellite office opens, expanding service to San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

2008

Community Education program begins, expanding SB professional team to four part time staff.

2009

Crisis line calls increase by 65%. Youth program expands to college campuses nationally with the publication of Jewish Dating Violence Prevention Toolkit for campus Hillels.

2010

Requests for service increasing • Shalom Bayit celebrates 18 years of saving lives with a concert by Debbie Friedman, z'l in March and the Creating Hope Chai anniversary luncheon in October.

2011

Collaboration begins with Hillel to bring Love Shouldn't Hurt to college campuses nationwide • Over 1,000 Bay Area youth and their grownups take part in LSH healthy relationships workshops; 96 Jewish battered women receive counseling and support; community education programs reach 805 people, developing a Jewish communal response to abuse • Shalom Bayit speaks at Vice President Biden's Regional Town Hall Meeting in Oakland on engaging men & boys in preventing violence against women.

2012

Now in its 20th year, Shalom Bayit is known nationally for cutting-edge models of culturally-specific domestic violence prevention and response. Our unique cultural approaches to violence prevention create profound change in community and individual responses to domestic violence.

Shalom Bayit is a place where battered Jewish women can seek support safely, confidentially, and comprehensively. Bringing Jewish understanding and approaches to healing from abuse, we focus on community-wide strategies to reduce and prevent violence in the home. Our programs combine transformative community education and training with crisis intervention services, to create a comprehensive prevention and intervention response to domestic violence. As we pursue our work to change the Jewish community's understanding of domestic violence, we work to build its capacity to respond to actual situations of abuse. Our dynamic team of four part-time staff now provide programs and services to over 2,000 individuals throughout the Bay Area each year. We are a thriving organization with a vital purpose: to improve the health and vitality of the Jewish community by ensuring everyone's right to healthy, violence-free relationships.

Social justice begins at home. Together with all of you, we can fulfill our vision of a more peaceful and just society where everyone is SAFE AT HOME.

Creating Hope, May 31st 20th Anniversary Celebration



Cantor Roslyn Barak



Ilene Levinson, Executive Director Naomi Tucker,
Host Sandy Lipkowitz



Josiane Feigon & Debbie Cohn



Artist Aimee Golant, Event Co-Chair Linda Kainowski,
Nancy Goldberg



Shalom Bayit Board members
Ellen Benjamin &
Rivka Greenberg



Special guest Eve Ensler



Jan Reicher



Sandy & Selma Tandowsky



Rabbi David Cooper, Jerry Derblid,
Rabbi Dan Goldblatt

Photos by Larry Rosenberg

Thank you to all who supported and celebrated Shalom Bayit's 20th Anniversary on May 31st recognizing two decades of life-saving work to help Jewish battered women and their children. Together, we can transform our community by promoting peace in the place that matters most.

Support Shalom Bayit's 20th Year!

You can help mark this momentous occasion

by purchasing a 20th anniversary commemorative *mezzuzah* or pendant. These commissioned pieces were designed especially for Shalom Bayit's 20th year by local metal artist Aimee Golant. Both the pendant and *mezzuzah* feature a unique design with the Hebrew letter "Shin" (for *shalom*) inside a house (*bayit*) — representing *shalom bayit* or peace in the home.

Order now by phone or mail. This beautiful commemorative art will also be available for sale in person on October 7th at our *Sukkot* celebration (see page 10 for details).

Don't miss your chance to purchase one for yourself! They make great gifts, too — the perfect way to bless our homes with peace and ensure everyone's right to healthy relationships.



Pewter mezzuzah



Charm necklace
available in silver
or pewter

Pewter Mezzuzah ♦ \$85 each
Kosher Mezzuzah Scroll ♦ \$30 each
Non-Kosher Mezzuzah Scroll ♦ \$2 each

Pewter Charm Necklace ♦ \$65 each
Sterling Silver Charm Necklace ♦ \$110 each
18" sterling silver chain included for both

To place an order:
email info@shalom-bayit.org or
call (510) 451-8874

Honorary and Memorial Gifts, July 2011 - June 2012

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In honor of Rabbi Leslie Alexander
Rabbi Melanie Aron

In honor of Hope Alper
Jane Falk
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Shira Chester's Bridal Shower**
Shira Chester and friends

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Volunteers of Shalom Bayit**
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Thank you!

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Sunday, October 7th • 2-4pm

May Our Homes Be a Shelter of Peace

Shalom Bayit's annual prayer for
peace in the home and
community gathering in the Sukkah

**Featuring Joshua Safran, keynote speaker
and Rabbi Jacqueline Mates-Muchin
PLUS raffle, refreshments, ritual and more!**

Meet artist Aimee Golant,
creator of our 20th anniversary *mezzuzah* and charm which will be
available for purchase (*see page 4 for art details*)

This is a FREE, family-friendly event. Oakland location.

For address, RSVP & more information:
(510) 451-8874 or events@shalom-bayit.org

A Tribute to Deborah Edelman z"l

Laura Katz, Former Board Member

Shalom Bayit mourns the loss of founding board member Deborah Edelman, who lost her battle with breast cancer at the end of last year. Deborah was a public health journalist, published author, devoted mom and all-around incredible woman.

With her bright smile, charming manner and incisive mind no one would ever suspect that Deborah was a survivor of an abusive marriage. But make no mistake: Deborah was not a victim. She used her many talents to advocate for those who were not able to speak for themselves. As a founding member of Shalom Bayit's first official board in 2000, she worked tirelessly to improve and expand services for Jewish battered women and their children, and to educate our community regarding the presence of abuse. Deborah was an early champion of Shalom Bayit's teen dating violence prevention program and shared her vision to build its national presence. She actively recruited talent for the Shalom Bayit advisory board and was very persistent. I should know; as a result of her urging I served on the board for seven years.

Deborah's understanding of Shalom Bayit's importance was deep and personal: herself a client many years ago, she spoke highly of how much this organization made a difference in her own life and the lives of her children. She remained a staunch supporter even after moving to Baltimore in 2005, returning to speak at Shalom Bayit's 17th anniversary, in honor of Naomi Tucker. Until her death in 2011 Deborah remained a powerful advocate for the organization she believed would help to end domestic violence. We will all miss her very much. ❧



Wish List ~

Flat screen monitor, laptop computer, grocery gift cards, Powerpoint projector, phone cards, 4-drawer locking file cabinet, queen size bed, small refrigerator, short curtains, and used cell phones.

In-kind & financial contributions are 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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