

# SHALOM BAYIT

ENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN JEWISH HOMES

Summer 2015 ~ Elul 5775



## 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.

East Bay groups made possible by the Civic Foundation & The Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.

Thank you!



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## 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

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## 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

*Sukkot Community Gathering, Peninsula location*

**October 2015**

*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

**November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

*Beyond Silence Conference on Child Sexual Abuse, Peninsula Temple Sholom*

**May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

*Creating Hope Celebration, JCCSF*

## All Together Now

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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

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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 economic strata and includes the Jewish community. The Beyond Silence rabbinic statement (*j. Weekly*, 2/7/14) affirms that we will reach for *tikkun* – repair of this real problem. One aspect of the rabbinic statement is framing the issue of sexual abuse through the prism of Jewish values. As we listen and open our doors and hearts to stories, we affirm that every human being is created *b'tzelem elokim* – in the Divine Image. Each person deserves to thrive in a safe environment where we can realize our full potential. To foster *tzelem elokim*, we pledge to be present, to listen and to act.

***Na'aseh – We are acting.*** On November 18<sup>th</sup> 2015 we'll be holding a Day of Learning on child sexual abuse, where educators and communal professionals will come together for training. Shalom Bayit is a leader in this effort and I feel honored to have such wise experience and compassion to rely upon. We hope that educators, communal professionals, clergy, and lay leaders will join us on November 18<sup>th</sup> to learn and collaboratively generate a clear, strong community response to child sexual abuse. Together we say,

***Hineini – Here we are.***



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 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary with us on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

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.**



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Jackson Katz, PhD



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## 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](mailto:info@shalom-bayit.org)



### Purple Ribbons

Tie Purple Ribbons to your communal or family *sukkah* (Erev *Sukkot* 5776 is Sunday Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>) 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](mailto: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 (6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:teen@shalom-bayit.org)



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(Continued on page 6)

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**THANK YOU**  
to the many individuals,  
foundations, businesses  
and organizations who  
make our programs a  
success. We couldn't do  
this without you!  
*Any omissions are  
unintentional.*

## 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.**



Do you know someone  
who could use our support?  
We are here to help, whether  
coping with unhealthy dynamics  
from the past or present.

**New 8 Week Group Forming  
This Fall in San Francisco**

Funding generously provided by  
the Jewish Community  
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Counseling services also  
available in the Peninsula,  
Marin, South Bay & East Bay.

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 Marion Griffiths Robin Braverman	In honor of Susan Sugarman Mark Aransonson & Marjorie Gelb Joanne Backman & Harry Pollack Judith & Marty Berg Merle Weston Fajans Judith Offer Edwin Richard Donna Schempf Margot Schevill Fritzi Schoener Ruth & Scott Spear Michele Stone Laura Turbow Maria & Henry Vogel Ellen & Irving Zucker	In memory of Felice Berkman Brewer Sherry Berkman
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In honor of Amalia Bob-Waksberg Ellen Bob & David Waksberg Amy Eilerg & Louis Newman Jeffrey, Amber, Rachel & Naomi Rosen Preeva & Leonard Tramiel	In honor of Leor & Nadav Hersh Rivka Greenberg	In memory of Anne Feld Celia & Terry Harms	In memory of Gertrude Gottlieb Rivka Greenberg
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## Memorial Gifts

In memory of Al Rivka Greenberg	In memory of Edith Katz Nelson Arrick Rochelle B. Weil	In memory of Arlene Barondess Larry Jerome Erica Lander Emily Silberstein Samantha Snirow



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## AROUND THE BAY...Announcements & Programs

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



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

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 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 find 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](mailto:BeyondSilence@shalom-bayit.org)

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



### Wish List ~

A double bed with mattress, microwave, vacuum cleaner & sewing machine. Don't forget to send us those old cell phones, iPods & iPads which benefit our clients and raise funds for Shalom Bayit too!

## 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, bringing 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.

### 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. ☺

### 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](http://www.shalom-bayit.org)**