

# SHALVA NEWS

22 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Giving voice to the unspeakable...  
responding to domestic abuse  
in Jewish homes.

SPRING 2008

## SHALVA ANNUAL LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

THE STANDARD CLUB | 320 SOUTH PLYMOUTH COURT | CHICAGO, IL  
DOORS OPEN: 11:30AM | PROGRAM BEGINS: 12:00PM | DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED

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### FEATURED SPEAKER: JUSTICE ANNE M. BURKE, ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT

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Throughout her long career in public service as a children's advocate and legal professional, Justice Anne M. Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court's First District has endeavored to provide a voice to society's most fragile citizens. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on July 6, 2006. Prior thereto, Justice Burke was appointed to the Appellate Court

in 1995 and was elected the following year to the Appellate bench where she served until July 5, 2006. Her judicial career began earlier, in 1987, with an appointment to the Illinois Court of Claims by Governor Jim Thompson. As the first woman to serve in that court, she was later reappointed by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

Before her appointment to the judiciary, Justice Burke was a leading advocate on behalf of Chicago's most vulnerable of young people. As a physical education teacher with the Chicago Park District, she worked with children with disabilities. Out of that experience, she went on to found the Chicago Special Olympics in 1968. She later served as a director of that organization as it grew to become the International Special Olympics represented in more than 160 countries.

Following graduation from law school, Anne Burke began a neighborhood law practice that included representing the interests of children and families involving issues of neglect, abuse, delinquency and parental custody. In addition, she developed a very diverse practice that included criminal trial work and defense advocacy.

#### **Civic and Professional Involvement**

Before serving on the Illinois Appellate Court, Justice Burke provided in depth leadership in reshaping and improving the Illinois juvenile justice system. Governor Jim Edgar appointed her Special Counsel for Child Welfare Services, as well as a member of his Legislative Committee on Juvenile Justice. As Special Counsel, Anne Burke brought about significant reforms in the Cook County juvenile justice system that resulted in

the improvement of child protection services. This was brought about by establishing a more unified coordination and cooperation among the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, city and county law enforcement agencies, as well as other governmental bodies charged with the protection of children. pointed by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar.

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed Justice Burke to serve on the Illinois Courts Commission, the Special Commission on the Administration of Justice and the Board of Admissions to the Bar. She is also a frequent speaker and panelist before many local Bar Associations. For more than two years, serving as Interim Chair, she directed the efforts of the National Review Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops investigating the causes and effects of the clergy abuse scandal and helping to establish guidelines and policies for effectively responding to this issue. She currently serves on the Ruth Page Foundation. She is a Dame of the Sovereign Order of Malta and a Dame Commander of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Issues and causes impacting the civic, cultural and educational life of Chicago have been a priority for Justice Burke throughout her professional career. In the past, she has served as Interim Chair of the National Review Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, a Trustee on the Board of Rush Medical Center, as well as the Board of Managers of the Chicago Bar Association and Director of the Chicago Bar Association. She has served as president of Special Children's Charities and the Caritas Foundation, as well as many other boards and foundations including trustee of DePaul University, Loyola University, the Chicago Public Library Foundation, St. Xavier University, the Hundred Club of Cook County, the Persons with Disabilities Fund Board of Advisors, the Chicago Community Trust, River North Dance Company, the Lincoln Park Zoological Society, and the St. Rose School for the Mentally Disabled. Justice Burke has been honored with honorary degrees from the Catholic Theological Union, the College of the Holy Cross, DePaul University, St. Ambrose University, and Aurora University.

**SAVE THE DATE: SHALVA UNITY DINNER, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008**  
DAVID BROWN - THE SHALVA AWARD RECIPIENT

# Letter from the President



As president of SHALVA, I have the opportunity to speak to many people about the important work of SHALVA. These people know that we provide assistance to victims of domestic violence in the Jewish community. I hear the words free, professional and confidential used in the community to describe

the services we provide and know that the abused women we do reach are getting the best assistance that SHALVA can offer.

I worry though about the people we are not reaching. The woman who is sitting at home, feeling she has no place to go for help. The woman at the grocery store who is trying to buy groceries, but her husband controls the family finances and has not given her enough money. The woman who hears everyday how stupid she is, so that she won't call her family and friends because she thinks she is worthless and they don't want to hear from her. None of these women have heard about SHALVA. How do we reach out to her to let her know she is only a phone call away from a safe caring place where she can rebuild her self esteem and find a peaceful existence? We reach her through each of you.

As part of our strategic planning process, we are reviewing how we reach out to the community and to see who we are reaching, as well as who we are missing. We realize we can't reach everyone who needs us, which is why we need your help.

- Share this newsletter with as many people as you can.
- Talk about the articles that you read in this issue.
- Volunteer to have one of our knowledgeable staff come to your home and talk to your friends.
- Come to the luncheon on June 25th and bring a friend who has never attended one of our events before.

I promise you will learn something new, and by exposing more people to SHALVA, you will help more people.

You will never know who you have helped, but I guarantee you that she knows that you have helped her and she thanks you.

Viki Rivkin

# SHALVA

## Board of Directors

**Viki Rivkin**  
Board President  
**Hilary Rosenthal**  
Chair of Development  
**Carol Gaines**  
Immediate Past President &  
Chair of Governance  
**Debby Hecht**  
Chair of Marketing  
**Fayge Siegal**  
Chair of Outreach  
**Dana Hunter**  
Secretary  
**Jill Lambert**  
Treasurer  
**Marilyn Eisenberg**  
Member At Large  
**Janice Wahnnon**  
Executive Director

## Board Members

**Sara Block**  
**Bluma Broner**  
**Cortney Stark Cope**  
**Faye Kroshinsky**  
**Oren Orkin**  
**Linda Schiffman**  
**Sheila Fox Tam**  
**Dianne Tesler**  
**Fredrick Weber**  
**Carolyn Winick**  
**Rivka Zell**

## Staff

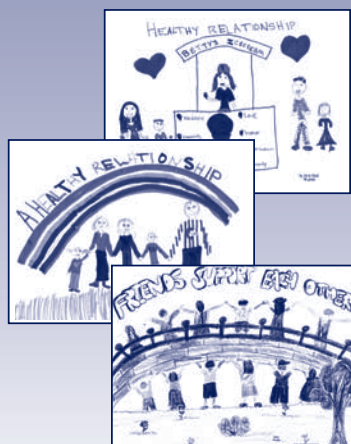
Clinical  
**Barbara Siegel**  
Clinical Director  
**Fraida Nathan**  
**Kimberly Shapps**  
  
Community Education  
**Bobbie Gordon**  
**Debbie Korman**  
  
**Leslie Berger**  
Volunteer  
  
**Keren Bider**  
Administrative Assistant  
  
**Myrna Cohen**  
Administrator  
  
**Ava S. Newbart**  
Director of Development

# SHALVA NEWS

published by SHALVA © 2008



**NEW DESIGN!**



Artwork by poster contest winners for Domestic Violence Awareness month

## TRIBUTE CARDS

New Design by photographer Robin Razowsky.

6 cards for ONLY! \$24

To order call 773-583-4673 or use the enclosed envelope.

## Client needs: WISH LIST

Many women come to SHALVA seeking emergency funds for basic needs – often clothing, food and household products. Your donation of gift certificates is an easy way for you to directly assist these women and children.

### Gift Cards from:

- *Dominick's*
- *Jewel*
- *Osc*
- *Target*
- *Walgreen's*
- *Wal-Mart*

### Volunteer needs:

- *Client Legal Representation*
- *PR & Media Consultation*



## Tribute to Sherry Dimarsky SHALVA Pioneer

Chicago's Jewish community mourns the passing of Sherry Dimarsky, nee Berliner, a young woman well-known throughout the Midwest for her tremendous dedication to the welfare of Jewish people. Sherry was raised in Cleveland but after receiving a law degree from Northwestern University, settled in Chicago to provide indigent clients with adequate legal representation.

In 1985, ten women came together to discuss the taboo topic of domestic abuse in "respectable Jewish homes." With disbelief and shock they began to explore the issue, hoping against all odds, that this possibility would prove false. They struggled to understand and meet the challenges of this frightening issue. It was clear that Jews were not immune from domestic abuse. How could they best help these women and their children find the peace and safety they deserved?

The little group turned to many experts and professionals for guidance. Sherry Dimarsky, with her legal expertise, unfailing tenacity and energy spent many long hours educating the group about various

legal topics that would be beneficial to abused women. She became a tremendous resource and was asked to become the first Executive Director of SHALVA. The Jewish community always came first in Sherry's life and the thought of being part of an organization that would provide free assistance to Jewish women experiencing domestic abuse, was something she felt duty bound to do.

Under Sherry's ten year direction, SHALVA grew from a grass roots organization to become a full service Domestic Violence agency with a broad range of services. With commitment and passion Sherry's vision to meet client needs for safety and healing became a reality. She would proudly say that, "SHALVA began with no office or staff, just an idea. From one room, to a suite of offices, from one client to seventy that first year."

As executive director, Sherry created inroads. Speaking the unspeakable to anyone who would listen, she targeted Rabbis, schools, the legal community and synagogues of all denominations. She was instrumental in ensuring community

support of SHALVA's goals as well as the financial ability to carry out its mission to ensure that all services would be free.

Sherry believed that, "We have learned that we cannot combat what we do not allow ourselves to see. Bringing domestic abuse out in the open, gives our community a chance to identify it and ultimately prevent it."

21 years ago, a Jewish victim of domestic abuse was not likely to be heard, believed or supported. Since that time SHALVA has helped more than 4000 women and has presented 1000's of hours of community education.

The staff, board and clients of SHALVA consider ourselves so fortunate to have had Sherry Dimarsky in our lives. We are truly honored that she was our guide and mentor, but above all else, she was our friend. She lived her life with courage and instilled that courage in others. She will be terribly missed but her spirit and wisdom will continue to inspire us; her legacy will live on in our work and in our hearts.

# DEVELOPMENTS

## Ways to Give To SHALVA

Supporting SHALVA is easy and the possibilities are as varied and diverse as the individuals and families whose generosity supports our mission of service.

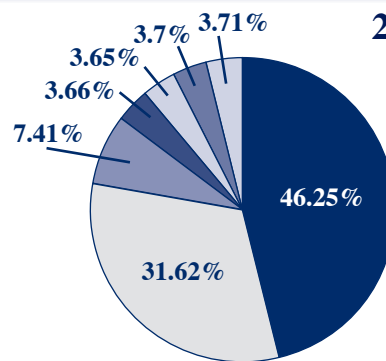
### Gifts of Cash

The easiest way to make a contribution is to donate to SHALVA by writing a check or by credit card. Unrestricted gifts of cash are used to fund the areas of greatest need. Cash gifts are deductible for federal income tax purpose, subject to some limitations.

### Make a Recurring Gift

SHALVA is excited to offer a new way for you to show your support and help us ensure that no Jewish woman face domestic abuse alone – recurring gifts. Recurring gifts offer the option to easily make regular donations in support of SHALVA's programs and crisis-intervention counseling, including our 24-hour crisis Hope-Line.

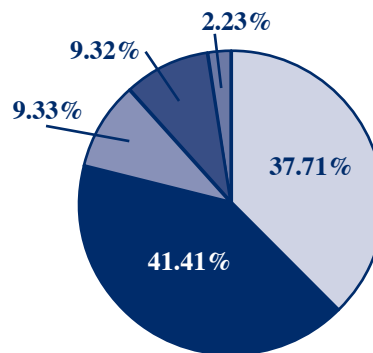
The idea is simple – choose a donation amount and decide how often you would like to make the gift. Your donation will automatically be deducted from your credit or debit card and you always have the option to change or cancel a recurring gift. You may also be able to double or even triple the impact of your recurring gifts to SHALVA if your employer offers a matching gift program.



### 2007 Fiscal Year Snapshot (June 1, 2006 – May 31, 2007)

#### Total Revenue \$595,311

Individuals	\$275,303
Foundations	\$188,211
JUF	\$44,128
Major Gifts	\$21,800
Miscellaneous	\$21,751
Outreach Programs	\$22,024
Restricted Income	\$22,094



#### Total Expense \$597,191

Clinical	\$225,205
Outreach/Prevention	\$247,324
Administrative	\$55,728
Fundraising	\$55,629
Restricted Expenses	\$13,305

## INVEST in a Healthier Community

You can make a lasting contribution to the struggle against domestic abuse in the Jewish community. A bequest gift to SHALVA – is an easy, yet very important, way for you to help.

If you don't already have a will or a living trust, consider consulting an attorney about drawing one up. Either will provide you with an excellent way to meet your needs and those of your loved ones while allowing you to continue supporting the organizations you care about. If you already have a will or trust, you can change it any time to include a gift to SHALVA.

**Here is some language you can use to make a bequest:**

I hereby give to SHALVA, 1610 W Highland #9, Chicago, IL 60660, the sum of \$\_\_\_ dollars (or describe the percentage of your assets or the specific property you intend to give).

Once you decide to make such a bequest, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your very special gift and make you a part of our Legacy Circle, which recognizes those forward-looking individuals who make bequests and other planned gifts to SHALVA.

**For information, please contact Ava Newbart, Development Director, at 773-583-4673.**

## Your Gifts Are Important. We Will Use Them Well.

The resources you share are very important to SHALVA, as are the needs of our clients.

- \$36 provides care for a client's child while she attends her therapy session
- \$54 covers the weekly expense of SHALVA's 24-hour crisis line 773-853-HOPE (4673)
- \$75 provides 1 individual therapy session for a client
- \$150 provides 1 training session for emergency room/hospital personnel
- \$300 sponsors a portion of a 10-week support group for 7 women
- ...a family's safety ...priceless

# A special thank you...

## State Representative Karen May's Office Collects Cell Phones for SHALVA

We would like to thank State Representative of the 58th District Karen May and her office for collecting cell phones on behalf domestic violence victims. They have already collected over 100 cell phones and will continue to collect them.

In keeping with her advocacy for quality-of- life issues in her district, Karen May supports the abused women and children that SHALVA serves in her community through these efforts.

Thank you for your support and bringing this issue to light in your community!

## 11,500+ Cell Phones Collected

Special thanks to volunteer extraordinaire, Leslie Berger, who coordinates this program.

**THANK YOU FOR DONATING YOUR CELL PHONES!**



### Cell Phones for Funds

**YOU can make a difference in the lives of those affected by domestic violence by donating your old and used cell phones. YOUR donated cell phone will be sold, refurbished or recycled and**

**the proceeds will benefit SHALVA. Each cell phone is worth an average of \$4.00 to SHALVA.**

**So, for every 100 cell phones collected \$400.00 is raised to support SHALVA's counseling services and programs.**

**This is a unique and simple fundraising opportunity for SHALVA.**

**A big thank you to our donors for giving SHALVA your old cell phones!**

**Thank you to our organizational and business supporters for collecting cell phones and for so generously providing space for cell phone drop offs!**

### Cell Phone Drop Off Locations:

Representative Karen May's Office, Highwood  
847-433-9100

Rush University Medical Center, Chicago  
312-942-5000

Contact: Sandy at ext. 28714

### Business Partners:

ABT

847-967-8830

Chicago Jewish Funerals, Buffalo Grove  
847-509-5011

Hungarian Kosher Supermarket  
847-674-8008

River Forest Dental Group, River Forest  
708-366-7100

Rosenblum's World Of Judaica  
773-262-1700

### Congregational Partners

#### Drop Off Locations:

Adas Yehuda V'Shoshana, Northbrook  
847-509-9204

Am Shalom B'nai Israel, Glencoe  
847-835-4800

Am Yisrael, Northfield  
847-446-7215

Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago  
773-281-1423

Anshe Shalom, Chicago  
773-248-9200

Beth Emet, Evanston  
847-869-4230

Beth Hillel Congregation B'nai Emunah  
Wilmette  
847-256-1213

Chicago Sinai Congregation, Chicago  
312-867-7000

Congregation Adas Yeshurun, Chicago  
773-465-2288

Congregation Beth Judea, Long Grove  
847-634-0777

Congregation Beth Or, Deerfield  
847-945-0477

Congregation Beth Shalom, Northbrook  
847-498-4100

Congregation B'nai Tikvah, Deerfield  
847-945-0470

Congregation B'nai Torah, Highland Park  
847/433-7100

Congregation Kol Emeth, Skokie  
847-673-3370

Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Chicago  
773-752-2770

Moriah Congregation, Deerfield  
847-948-5340

Ner Tamid Ezra Habonim, Chicago  
773-465-6090

North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe  
847-835-0724

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El  
Highland Park  
847-432-8900

Temple Beth El, Northbrook  
847-205-9982

Temple Chai, Long Grove  
847-537-1771

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield  
847-441-5760

Temple Menorah, Chicago  
773-761-5700

Temple Shalom, Chicago  
773-525-4707

**If you have ONLY 1 - 2 phones they can be mailed to SHALVA at  
1610 W Highland, #9, Chicago IL 60660.**

# SHALVA HAPPENINGS

## Synagogue Programs Beth Shalom Men's Club

Jewish men concerned about the safety of the women and girls in their lives came together on a frigid Sunday morning at Temple Beth Shalom in Northbrook. Barbara Siegel, clinical director of SHALVA, spoke about the intricacies and prevalence of Domestic Abuse in "respectable" Jewish homes. The purpose was to facilitate a dialogue in regard to what men can do to prevent domestic abuse and how to create a zero tolerance in the Jewish Community.

Domestic abuse is a community issue that erodes the very foundation of Judaism and men need to be involved and take the lead in changing the behavior in other men. The group was most receptive and asked very pertinent questions

expressing concerns for their daughters, as well, as their sons. Most Jewish men are not abusers but are more likely the bystander. Eager to learn how and what they can do to ensure that their children live free from fear and violence, the men discussed a list of "10 Things Jewish Men Can Do To Prevent Domestic Abuse." Recognizing what they can do, using their power and influence and then taking the initiative to make change, will have a significant impact on education and prevention of Domestic Abuse in our Jewish Community.

SHALVA currently has two men on its Board of Directors and looks forward to working with other men's clubs.



## SHALVA Game night



As the cold winter winds blow, it's hard to remember back to October 10th when SHALVA hosted our first Game Night. It was a lovely October evening when over 80 people came to the Highland Park Community House for an evening, literally, of fun and games.



There were tables of MajJong, Championship Scrabble Games, Rummy Cube, and Bunko, just to name a few. There were raffle prizes and great give aways. And of course, there was food donated

by Danzinger's Kosher Catering, Sunset Foods and Starbucks.

The event was such a success that we have already scheduled a Second Annual Game Night for October 29, 2008 at the Highland Park Community House.

So sharpen up your game laying skills and tell your friends to be ready for it!

**Save the date:  
October 29th, 2008  
from 7-10pm.**



## Police Department Outreach and Collaboration

Clients come to SHALVA by all sorts of means; their friends, their rabbis, outreach programs, ads they see in the JUF news, bathroom posters, word of mouth and police department social workers and counselors.

The Outreach Department at SHALVA recently spoke to suburban and city Police Social Workers and Counselors about the services SHALVA provides and how to collaborate with these local departments. Here are just a few of their comments:

Nancy Vacaro, the Northbrook Police Social Worker shared, "When I know one of our clients is working with SHALVA, I know they are getting the best in services!"

Lisa Fowler, the Buffalo Grove Police social worker, shared that according to her records over the last year she was involved in approximately 450 cases of which over 375 involved some aspect of domestic abuse. She refers to SHALVA whenever it is appropriate, but she wished that more of her clients would follow up on the referral. She says there is still a strong stigma about domestic abuse in the Jewish community.

SHALVA recognizes the importance of collaborating and networking with many Domestic Abuse and Jewish Agencies in order to provide the best possible resources for our clients, as well as, providing education about the needs of Jewish women. SHALVA continues to work toward a greater understanding and unified approach in helping women and children find the peace and safety they deserve.

# THANK YOU!

## A Very Special Thank You To BJBE Of Glenview...

SHALVA's staff and Board of Directors would like to express our most heartfelt thanks to Congregation BJBE in Glenview for their kindness and generosity providing Hanukkah gifts to SHALVA clients during the holiday season. Below are just a few of the heartfelt comments offered by clients who shared some personal details from their Hanukkah celebrations:

*"I'm not very comfortable accepting these gifts, but I will because I want my children to know how it feels to have a really nice Hanukah for once."*

*"My children were absolutely overwhelmed by the gifts. They had so much fun opening them and the gifts were just beautiful."*

*"The shoes my daughter received were absolutely gorgeous. She has been sleeping in her shoes at night, and won't take them off."*

*"My son is so proud of his sweater and shoes. He wore them to synagogue last Shabbos and almost seemed to be carrying himself with more confidence. He was so proud to be wearing his new sweater."*

Thank you again on behalf of our clients, staff and board for your thoughtfulness. You have helped create such lasting holiday memories for our clients and their children.

## Bev's Closet

Often time families set up distribution funds that can directly assist SHALVA clients. One such fund is "Bev's Closet," which was created by one family as a way to honor the memory of their beloved mother, Beverly.

Bev was a woman of valor and dignity who believed that abused Jewish women deserved the right of peace and safety. In order to ensure this, the fund was set up in the form of gift cards, given directly to individual clients, to be used at Target, Jewel, Walgreens, Dominick's, etc. The cards help to provide basic needs such as food, medication, clothing, baby needs, gas and other necessities to maintain a quality of life.

The generosity of "Bev's Closet" has impacted many of SHALVA's clients. One such client writes;

Acts of kindness are difficult for me to accept; there are usually so many strings attached. So when given Target cards for Hanukah, I was somewhat uncomfortable. With much encouragement and some reservation, I took my 3 daughters, ages, 6, 8, and 11 with me to shop.

After buying the essentials, I told them they each had \$5.00 to spend on anything they wanted. I expect their choices to range from candy to toys to clothes, but they sure surprised me when they pooled their money and picked out an electric can opener. (Which we really did need.)

I explained to them that this was their money to spend on themselves and although it was important to give to others, they were deserving as well. However, when my 11 year old asked what I was buying for myself, I confess, I was at a loss for words. Something for me? This was foreign concept. With much cajoling I allowed them to drag me to the beauty section and together we chose various luxurious lotions and perfumed candles.

Watching my 3 beautiful daughters animated with joy reminded me of why I could no longer stay in an abusive marriage. They deserved better and so did I. For that brief moment I had a glimmer into a future where I felt healed and whole again, a future where my girls respected who they were, never allowing anyone to treat them with cruelty.

Our thanks from our clients, their children, our staff and board go out to Bev's family for their insight and generosity.

*"In Torah, there can be no compromise on human dignity."*



*Giving voice to the unspeakable...  
responding to domestic abuse in Jewish homes.*

**773-583-HOPE (4673)**

1610 W. Highland, #9

Chicago, IL 60660

info@shalvaonline.org

www.shalvaonline.org

SHALVA, a partner in serving our community, a special grant recipient of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation.

Non-Profit Org.

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Permit No. 102

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SPRING 2008

## SAVE THE DATE BLOOMINGDALES SHOPPING BENEFIT AUGUST 27, 2008

### 13TH ANNUAL SHOPPING BENEFIT AT BLOOMINGDALES

BLOOMINGDALES AND SHALVA ONCE AGAIN INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 13TH ANNUAL SHOPPING BENEFIT TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 27TH. SHOPPERS WHO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR \$10 WILL RECEIVE 15% TO 20% OFF OF MERCHANDISE THROUGHOUT THE FOUR CHICAGOLAND BLOOMINGDALE STORES FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M. SHOPPERS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO ENJOY A DAY FILLED WITH ENTERTAINMENT, FASHION EVENTS AND COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS. SHALVA AS WELL AS OTHER CHARITIES WILL BENEFIT FROM THE FUNDS RAISED THROUGH TICKET SALES. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS,

**PLEASE CONTACT DEBBIE KORMAN AT SHALVA, 773-583-4673**