

# SHALVA NEWS

22 YEARS SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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



SPRING 2009

## SHALVA ANNUAL LUNCHEON TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2009

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

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FEATURED SPEAKER:  
**JULIE HAMOS**  
ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LUNCHEON CO-CHAIRS:  
SHEILA FOX TAM & RIVKA ZELL  
DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED

Julie Hamos has been the State Representative for the 18th District since 1998. Early in her career, Julie championed issues related to domestic violence by writing and lobbying for the first laws creating legal protections for domestic violence victims. She helped organize the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence to build shelters throughout the state and negotiated the first state dollars for services.

State Representative Julie Hamos' legislative priorities reflect her commitment to families throughout Illinois, including new laws to make housing more affordable and available statewide; health care legislation to expand access to reproductive, mental health and long-term care services; and measures to provide access to healthy, local food. As Chair of the House Mass Transit Committee, she led the 2008 rescue of the regional transit system with comprehensive funding and reform.

Julie Hamos has been guided by principles of justice and democracy since she fled Hungary with her family in the midst of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. She received an undergraduate degree from Washington University and a law degree from George Washington University in Washington D.C. She lives in Evanston with her husband, retired Appellate Court Justice Alan Greiman.



**Michael Bischof**  
Cynthia L. Bischof Memorial Foundation, President

Michael Bischof's life forever changed on March 7, 2008 when his sister, Cindy, was murdered by her ex-boyfriend following 10 months of terror and several failed restraining orders. Within two weeks of her death, Michael and three of Cindy's close friends founded the Cynthia L. Bischof Memorial Foundation.

As President of the Foundation, he led the immediate charge to change the way domestic violence matters are handled by the courts and law enforcement officials. Carrying through on a request that his sister made to a judge during several court appearances, Michael moved forward with The Cindy Bischof Bill. This bill provides judges the latitude to require offenders that violate restraining orders wear GPS Monitoring Bracelets to protect their victims.

On August 4, 2008, just 150 days after her death, The Cindy Bischof Bill was signed into Law by the Governor of Illinois. Since then, the foundation has played an integral role in helping many other states introduce similar bills.

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

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## Letter from the President

I recently wrote my lifeline as a leadership development exercise. This is an exercise where you reflect on your life and think about the significant events that shape you as a person. You then

graph those events on a chronological line graph with low, medium and high on the vertical axis. Like everyone, my chart has highs and lows.

One of the highs in my life has been my time on the SHALVA Board. Being the president made a great experience even better. I have learned so much from the Board and Staff about leadership and management; I could fill this entire newsletter. I have crossed paths with so many friends that I would not have met if I had not become involved with SHALVA. We have dealt with the economic downturn, the logistics of a huge

dinner, a strategic plan, a massive statistical research project, and a new legal program. Each of these events has a lifeline of its own with high and low moments.

However, at the end of the day, you just need to hear one story from our outstanding and dedicated Staff about someone we have helped. Our Staff always presents this information while respecting the confidentiality of our clients. The knowledge that the work of the Board improves the lives of families affected by domestic abuse is what makes my entire SHALVA experience a high point. In June, I will complete my term as president, but I will continue to be an active and passionate member of the Board. If the articles in this newsletter or on our website touch you, please consider becoming more involved with this wonderful organization. I am sure it will be a high point in your life, as well.

Viki Rivkin

### Board of Directors

**Viki Rivkin**

Board President

**Marilyn Eisenberg**

Chair of Development

**Carol Gaines**

Past President &

Chair of Governance

**Debby Hecht**

Chair of Marketing & Community Relations

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**Janice Wahnnon**

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### Board Members

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**Sara Block**

**Sharon Boner**

**Chasi Davis**

**Elky Davis**

**Ilana Neuman Fradkin**

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**Oren Orkin**

**Neil Posner**

**Hilary Rosenthal**

**Linda Schiffman**

**Anzhelika Shatrov**

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**Sheila Fox Tam**

**Rivka Zell**

### Staff

Clinical

**Barbara Siegel**

Clinical Director

**Fraida Nathan**

**Kimberly Shapps**

Community Education

**Bobbie Gordon**

**Debbie Korman**

**Rachel Heyman**

Legal Liason Program Director

**Andrea Altman**

Receptionist

**Leslie Berger**

Volunteer

**Keren Bider**

Administrative Assistant

**Myrna Cohen**

Administrator

**Debbie Kahn**

Volunteer

**Ava S. Newbart**

Director of Development

## 14,400+ 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.

This is a unique and simple fundraising opportunity for SHALVA.

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

Please visit our website for the complete list of drop off locations [www.shalvaonline.org](http://www.shalvaonline.org).

Or call the office at 773-583-4673.

## 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*
- *Osco*
- *Target*
- *Walgreen's*
- *Wal-Mart*
- *Gas cards*

### Volunteer needs:

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

## A Client Story: Marla\*

\*The names & details have been changed to protect the identity of our client.

"I work 2 days a week, but I keep to myself. I don't socialize with anyone at my office. If anyone knew what my life was like they'd probably blame me. It's better to keep my thoughts to myself. My husband says they're all superficial snobs. I guess he's right; he's always right. He's so much smarter than I am, actually brilliant and so respected at work and in the community."

"I know my husband is under a lot of financial pressure and that I can be a burden at times, but he needs me and I know I can help him. I just wish I had more energy. I keep getting these headaches and when he keeps me up at night, I have difficulty concentrating. He says that I am a weak, insecure person, incapable of taking care of myself. Occasionally, I have these fantasies of what my life would be like if I left him, but than I feel so panicky. I'm so confused by a man who professes his love for me and then treats me so poorly. I so want to be loved and desired."

"I suppose I should consider myself lucky that he stays with me. When we got married, I was thin and maybe kind of pretty. I'm 43 years old and I'm 50 pounds overweight. My husband hasn't gained a pound. He isn't even getting gray hair, and mine is almost all gray. I feel like such a failure. It's amazing that a good looking, trim guy like him would stay with me. So he yells a lot and says hurtful things, he has never actually hit me. He may have pushed me once or twice because I provoked him, it's not like he's abusing me or is he?"

"I once saw a poster for SHALVA in the bathroom at my synagogue and tore off one of the phone numbers. I kept it in the bottom of my drawer and would take it out so often, the numbers were beginning to rub off. One day, when my husband was not home, I called."

**To read the rest of Marla's story visit SHALVA's website, [www.shalvaonline.org](http://www.shalvaonline.org).**

## SHALVA Legal Liaison Program Kick-Off

SHALVA kicked off its groundbreaking Legal Liaison Program in order to meet the ever increasing demand for legal services by our clients. SHALVA is fortunate to have worked with a group of prominent family law attorneys and SHALVA board members to create this original program.

This program is a new and innovative model that differs from the other legal aid programs in the area. SHALVA has an attorney (Legal Liaison) on staff to assist clients (who are currently in therapy at SHALVA) with legal issues and provide legal advice. The SHALVA Legal Liaison will not directly represent clients or

handle cases. Rather, she will serve as a liaison assisting clients by working with the attorneys who represent them. The Legal Liaison will be available to provide educational programming in the legal community and will cultivate relationships with volunteer attorneys.

**If you are an attorney and would like to volunteer or would like to have an education event, please contact Rachel Heyman at 773-583-4673.**

**For more on this story visit [www.shalvaonline.org](http://www.shalvaonline.org)**



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

1610 W. Highland, #9

Chicago, IL 60660

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

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## **A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU... ELYSA FISHER**

Women who have suffered abuse usually have very little sense of “self.” Therefore, the idea of “self care” is a foreign concept for them. Dr. Elysa Fisher, director of Women’s LifeCenter in Wilmette, Illinois, recognized how important it would be for abused women to find a place where they could continue their quest toward self-worth and healing. By providing gift certificates for SHALVA clients for self-care services, she has been instrumental in helping abused Jewish women on the path to dignity and transformation. On behalf of our clients, our Staff and Board, we thank her for her kindness and generosity.

### **WONDERFUL CHANUKAH GIFTS FOR CLIENTS...**

**CONGREGATION BJBE IN GLENVIEW**

**CONGREGATION B’NAI TIKVAH; KINDERGARTEN, FIRST, AND SECOND GRADERS**

To see the heartfelt comments offered by clients who received these very special gifts visit our website at [www.shalvaonline.org](http://www.shalvaonline.org)