

## **ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER**

### **April 2004**

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#### **HAPPY SPRING!**

Greetings, one and all! April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and also the month for National Victims' Rights Week so we have a lot going on. We hope you'll be able to join us at some of the planned events. We love when you're involved- it makes everything we do so much richer when we have your input and the opportunity to see things from your perspective. If you attend any of the events listed in this Newsletter (details below) you'll also get credit for one of your two required up-trainings for this year! Another incentive to mark the dates!

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Sexual Assault Legislative Awareness Day will be held in Albany on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity to learn how our laws are made and also to get a sense of the impact individuals can make on our system. This day will be sponsored by The New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSCASA). The Alliance is organizing buses to leave at 6:15 AM from Vanderbilt Avenue between 41<sup>st</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Streets and return to NYC by 6:30 PM. The roundtrip cost of the bus trip is \$30 but CVTC will sponsor 4 seats on the bus for advocates. If you're interested in coming, please call us to reserve your space. You can get more information and a registration form on the Alliance's website, [www.nycagainstrape.org](http://www.nycagainstrape.org).

**CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK AND VIGIL:** This year, it's especially important that you make it to the Vigil if you can. Special tribute will be paid to the immeasurable contribution volunteers (you!) make in helping those who have been victimized. The date is Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and it will be held at West

End Collegiate Church at the corner of 77<sup>th</sup> Street and West End Avenue at 2PM. CVTC's Rape Crisis Advocate, **Renee Morris** will speak about her motivation for becoming a volunteer and how being an advocate has impacted her life. This event is co-sponsored by New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and the Downstate Coalition for Crime Victims. Light refreshments will be served following the service. We hope to see you there...

**ADVOCATE NEWS:** A lot has happened since Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Advocate **Kasey Gittleman** took her training in 2002! After volunteering for a few months, she took some time off and graduated (Magna Cum Laude!) from Columbia with a degree in Sociology. THEN, on November 10, 2003, she gave birth to her beautiful daughter, Charly. Welcome back, Kasey!

**ADVOCATE TIP OF THE MONTH:** Tell us your favorite restaurant, store, bargain, book, video, CD, poem, place. Share your experience of something, which makes the city special. We'd like to hear from more of you.

**Gina:** My current favorite CD is ANYTHING by Maia Sharp, singer/songwriter in the vein of Joni Mitchell. She's REALLY good...

**STAFF NEWS:** Dwarym's baby, Mahjaze (pronounced, mah-ja-ZAY) arrived at 12:09 AM on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pounds, 10 ounces and 20 ½ inches long! Mother and daughter are both doing fine.

**DEAR CVTC:**

What do I do if I'm signed up for a shift and become ill at the last minute?

Sick On-Call

**Dear Sick,**

If you're feeling too sick to advocate, before 5pm, you can call the CVTC office and we'll take you off the schedule. If it's after 5pm, you can call H-Link directly at (646) 354-2699 and let them know.

CVTC

Call or e-mail your questions to [cvtc@cvtc-slr.org](mailto:cvtc@cvtc-slr.org). Ask...and CVTC will answer.

**SURVIVORS' MOVIE NIGHT:** St. Vincent's Hospital Rape Crisis Program and the School of Visual Arts Office of Student Health Services are offering "Survivors' Movie Night" for survivors of childhood sexual abuse and their allies on the first Friday of the month in April, May and June. The films to be shown are: April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Monsoon Wedding; May 7<sup>th</sup> - Antwone Fisher; June 4<sup>th</sup> - Bastard out of Carolina.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** The Sexual Assault Awareness Month Planning Committee is organizing "Listen: 24 Hours of Survivors' Stories", 1000 testimonials by survivors of sexual assault. This will be the first annual 24-hour reading of original writings by survivors of sexual assault. The event will take place at City Hall Park beginning at noon on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and continue until noon the following day. Volunteers will read from the collection of published testimonials. CVTC will be sponsoring an hour (exact hour to be determined) and you are invited and encouraged to join us to take part in this experience, either as a volunteer reader or as a listener and part of the CVTC sponsoring team. Please call Erika at (212) 523-4728 if you would like to participate.

**TEDDY BEARS THAT CARE PROGRAM:**

This Program provides teddy bears to children healing from the trauma of sexual abuse or domestic violence, recovering from a disaster or suffering from a serious illness. A \$5.00 contribution buys a bear for a child in need. (They donated a box of bears to us for our child clients.) For more information, go to [www.teddybearsthatcare.org](http://www.teddybearsthatcare.org) or call Stephen Doyle at (212) 228-4759.

**NYSCASA GALA:** In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness month, another event sponsored by NYSCASA is their annual Gala, which will be held on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Taslima Nasrin, a physician specializing in women's health who lived in Bangladesh until her outspokenness regarding the sexual assaults perpetrated on women and girls in the Middle East on the basis of fundamental Muslim writings forced her to go into exile in Europe. For more information on this and other NYSCASA events, go to [www.nyscasa.org](http://www.nyscasa.org) or call (518) 482-4222.

**CVTC REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED:**

Vanguard High School is holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> semi-annual Community Health Fair sponsored by Hunter Health Links (a student health education and community health service organization at Hunter College) on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for one or two advocates to represent the Program at the Fair from 9AM to 11:30 AM. If you're interested, please call Sally at (212) 523-4494.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Beth Israel Medical Center's Social Work Department seeks a part-time Social Worker to work in the Emergency Room on alternate weekends. Successful candidate will be experienced with sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and discharge planning. Interested? Fax your resume to (212) 420-2012.

**THE GOOD GUYS:** Manhattan Color Studio, 157 East 64<sup>th</sup> St. at Lexington Avenue, (212) 517-3400. They generously provided a day of beauty including haircuts, coloring, styling, manicures, pedicures and make-up for 25 survivors of domestic violence from our program! The project was coordinated by Antonio Rosa from Manhattan Color Studio and CVTC's Jane Seskin.

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION MONTH:** April is National Volunteer Recognition Month. To celebrate this, the Volunteer Department of St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center is having its annual Awards Ceremony at Tavern On The Green. This year they are honoring the following advocates:

<b>150 Hour Pin (from United Hospital Fund)</b>	
Tamie Barsky	Clara Howell
Melissa Bennet	Stephanie Kubinak
Gail Brown-Phillip	Ilona Lewyckyj
Ying-Ling Chao	Julia Markham
Jennifer Coughlan	Dinorah Nunez
Sheila Feeney	Cynthia Ocasio
Ny Griffith	Tracy Ann Stewart
Dale Hirschman	Carmen Vega
<b>15 YEAR CERTIFICATE</b>	
Margo Cates	Aaron Frishberg
<b>5 YEAR CERTIFICATE</b>	
Jose Berroa-Saro	

**Thought for the Month**

**"There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness."**

*--Han Suyin*