

ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER

February 2004

GREETINGS!

In this weather, it's even more amazing that you're willing to come out of your warm home, in the middle of the night, to help a stranger in need. If you're wondering if anyone notices the extra effort it takes to do this work in the middle of winter, WE DO! And we DO appreciate you, particularly now when it would be SO much easier to hide away for the winter and sign up (for on-call) when it gets a little warmer. So, THANKS!!!

ADVOCATE ON-CALL SCHEDULES: Speaking of signing up for on-call shifts, the Rape Crisis Advocate schedule for February looks really, really good so far. But let's not forget the Co-Advocate schedule. Rather than 2 primary advocate shifts, why don't you sign up for one primary and one co-advocate shift? The Domestic Violence schedule needs some help, so please have a look and see if you can cover any of the open shifts.

SAFE ON-CALL SCHEDULES: CALLING ALL SAFE EXAMINERS!!!.... We have not heard from you! The SAFE on-call schedule REALLY needs attention! SAFE Examiners, please check your schedules and sign up ASAP. We have back-ups but it usually takes longer to locate a back-up who is free to come in, resulting in patients waiting in the ED for treatment. This is not the best patient care. Sally, Lorraine or Kerry will be calling you if we have not heard from you. WE NEED YOU TO BE THERE.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: On February 3rd, Susan and several CVTC advocates journeyed to Albany to join with other NYS domestic violence advocates for the annual domestic violence legislative awareness day, sponsored by the NYS Coalition against Domestic Violence. We will speak to legislators in our districts and talk to them about the need for certain legislative change. We are lobbying for one omnibus bill, which has three components:

- Expanding the definition of household members in family court to be synonymous to criminal court. If enacted, this definition will expand to include non-married, non-parent victims of domestic violence who need equal protection under the law.
- Life-long orders of protection against batterers who have a history of felonies and violations of "O of P's".
- Mandating that a judge consider history of domestic violence in setting bail.

Wish us luck!!!

ADVOCATE UP-TRAINING: The last up-training held on January 30th was terrific!! Facilitated by CVTC's Jane Seskin and Nilda Lopez it was an informative and stimulating supervision session. NYPD PO Justin Garcia (DVPO, 25th precinct) spoke to advocates from "his" perspective as a domestic violence police officer and discussed the laws which impact on victims of domestic violence and the policy of the NYC Police Department.

Our next up-training is scheduled for the “Ides of March”. CVTC invited Scott Hodgeson, a Forensic Biologist from the NYC Medical Examiner’s Office. He will discuss what his office does AFTER the evidence kit is completed in the emergency department and the steps they take in the kit’s analysis. Forensic science is fascinating and this should prove to be an especially interesting evening. It will also be nice to have advocates and SAFE examiners together to discuss these issues. Following his presentation on collection and analysis of sexual assault forensic evidence there will be a joint case review for Advocates and SAFE Examiners. This meeting will be held in Conference Room B at the Roosevelt Site, from 6-8 pm.

REMINDER!!!: Advocates MUST participate in a minimum of 2 Up-Training Sessions within the year to maintain active status. (We all need supervision and mutual support. This is hard work!)

The following is the up-training schedule for 2004:

DATE	TOPIC
Monday, March 15 th Joint training: Advocates and SAFE Examiners.	Presenter: NYC Office of the Medical Examiner. Topic: Collection and Analysis of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence; What we do. What they do.
Tuesday, May 18 th	GUEST SPEAKER: TBA
Wednesday, July 21 st	Forms and Procedures
Thursday, September 23 rd	GUEST SPEAKER: TBA
Tuesday, November 16 th	Role Playing- Rape and DV

V-DAY AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY: Once again, CVTC has been named one of the beneficiaries of the annual performance of Eve Ensler’s “The Vagina Monologues” at Columbia University’s V-Day event. This year, the show will be held in the Roone Arledge Auditorium in Lerner Hall on Columbia campus, 116th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam on February 12th at 8pm. For more information please contact V-Day organizers at vday@barnard.edu. For those of you who have not seen these monologues, it’s been said to be life altering!!! The actors have consistently been award worthy. Treat yourself !!! And support CVTC!

ADVOCATE NEWS: Rape Crisis Advocate, **Anna Hindell** was accepted into the MSW Program at New York University. YES!!

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’re waiting to hear from you. To begin...

Beth, “I love the Eleanor Roosevelt sculpture, surrounded by benches, Riverside Drive and 72nd Street. She’s all calm, meditative, thoughtful. An oasis in the city.”

Lily; “Il Corallo Italian restaurant in SOHO, 176 Prince Street (bet. Thompson and Sullivan), Affordable - - a treat for myself, pasta with seafood and squid ink noodles.”

STAFF NEWS: From Jan 15th –17th, **Ruth Forero** and **Kay Johnson** attended the International Social Work and Research Conference in New Orleans. They submitted a research abstract, which CVTC may pilot in the future. They got great feedback and ...we hope to pursue a stronger research component at CVTC in the future. **Sally Clayton,** (who quit smoking on New Year’s Day!) is going to Louisiana later this month in search of Zydeco dancing and Mardi Gras festivities. **Louise Kindley** presented with Mike

Lew, nationally renowned author of *Victims No More*, the first book and “Bible” on male sexual abuse at a training symposium on the treatment of male survivors of sexual abuse in NYC. (Needless to say, Louise was spectacular.)

“**KLUB KA, THE BLUES LEGEND**” is a musical tale of becoming and overcoming, a mythical journey into the Underworld by a teenage girl who longs to be a poet and deals with the demon of sexual abuse. Written by James V. Hatch and Suzanne Noguere, directed by Tisch James with Christa Victoria as composer, musical director and actor, this production runs from February 5th through the 15th, Thursdays through Saturdays at 10 pm and Sundays at 5:30 pm at La MaMa E.T.C. (74-A East 4th Street between 2nd Avenue and Bowery). Tickets are \$15 at the box office (open from noon-10pm), by calling (212) 475-7710 or via on-line ticketing at www.lamama.org.

ADVOCATE AWARDS CEREMONY: It’s coming!!!...Thursday evening, March 25th! Put it on your calendars..... And all of you Advocates who were trained in the fall of 2002???? Expect to get invitations sometime in early March for you and your friends and family. It’s a WONDERFUL celebrating event.

DEAR CVTC:

Where can I get chocolate or snacks when I’m in the Emergency Room?

Chocoholic on-call.

Dear Chocoholic,

You must be rushing in to see your patients when you go to the ED not to have noticed there are vending machines in the waiting areas of both ED’s. They’re usually pretty well stocked.

Call in your questions...Ask...and CVTC will answer....

Remember: This is the month of Valentines - We're happy you've given us your hearts!!! Know you have our's!!!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Your work
Is to discover your life
And with all your heart
To give yourself to it.

Buddha