

## **ADVOCATE NEWSLETTER**

### **March 2004**

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#### **GREETINGS!**

**ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY and ADVOCATE CELEBRATION:** The invitations will go out soon!!! Check your mailbox. The big night is Thursday evening, March 25<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to have NYC Council member Gale Brewer as a guest speaker. In addition to the rape crisis and domestic violence advocates and SAFE examiners who were trained in fall of 2002...we will also be honoring Susan Morley, Deputy Inspector, Special Victims Division, NYPD; Susan Wilt, PhD, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Department of Health for her groundbreaking domestic violence research and Ralph Bernardini, MA, who has been co-facilitating support groups for adult men sexually abused as children with CVTC's Louise Kindley. The evening begins with refreshments at 6 p.m. The program starts at 6: 30 p.m. at St. Luke's Hospital, Muhlenberg Conference Center, 4<sup>th</sup> floor. We'd like all of you to be part of this evening. It's fun and moving. Bring your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, NYS Domestic Violence Legislative Awareness Day, Susan X and Advocate Patria Weston-Lee traveled to Albany to talk to our legislators about DV policy and legislation. We managed to rally significant support for a number of bills. We'll be lobbying again on Sexual Assault Legislative Day, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK AND VIGIL:** Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> is the date for the Crime Victims Ceremony and Vigil for NYC. It will be held at West End Collegiate Church. Check out the attached flyer. This is a powerful and healing ceremony for all. This year, the theme will be focused on thanking those who volunteer. That's you. More to come.

**ADVOCATE UP-TRAINING:** On Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll have joint up-training for all Advocates and SAFE Examiners with guest speaker Scott Hodgeson, a Forensic Biologist from the **NYC Medical Examiner's Office**. Following his presentation on collection and analysis of sexual assault forensic evidence there'll be joint case review so think about a case you may want to discuss that involves the interaction of the Sexual Assault Response Team in the ED. This meeting will be held in Conference Room B at the Roosevelt Site, from 6-8 pm. **Don't forget that all Advocates MUST participate in a minimum of 2 Up-Training Sessions within the year to maintain active status!**

**ADVOCATE NEWS:** Advocate **Margo Cates** was featured in *The City* section of the *NY Times* (2/15/04) with picture and all...advocating to keep the railroad cuts between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues in the 40's, Hells Kitchen area. This is about the survival of these historic communities. Margo is active with the "Coalition to Save the Clinton/Kitchen Rail Cuts". If you're interested in this cause you can call Margo at 212-956-2879.

**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. The staff chimes in...

**Susan**, "Just found out that Gennaro's, one of the best Italian restaurants around and located on Amsterdam in the 90's, delivers! No more waiting on long lines!" (212) 665-5348

**Kerry**; "Quiet is the New Loud", a CD by the Kings of Convenience- acoustic melodies, highly addictive- excellent sleeptime music.

**DEAR CVTC:**

I was called in for a DV case and the doctors and nurses didn't know about the DV Medical Form and Certificate of Treatment. Where are these forms located in the ED's?

Form Seeker.

Dear Seeker,

This does happen from time to time. In the St. Luke's ED, the two-page DV Medical Form is located in metal wall pockets attached to columns across from the whiteboard in the main nurses' station. The Certificate of Treatment can be found on the desk nearest this column of wallpockets. This is the area where the ED keeps all its forms. In the Roosevelt ED, both forms are found on the shelves in the main nurses' station, where all the ED forms are located.

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

**FOCUS GROUPS:** We want to do a better job. We want advocates to feel better about their work. One way is to facilitate focus groups consisting of advocates, to learn what works and what doesn't. We'd like volunteers but will also randomly choose advocates to participate. We believe this could be a good thing to do. So...you'll be hearing from us...and feel free to call if interested.

**CALLING ALL SAG MEMBERS!!!:** Members of the "Screen Actors Guild", that is....We had many and still do...Advocates who are actors and also SAG members. SAG will be holding its annual Joseph C. Riley Awards event, at Roosevelt Hospital on May 17<sup>th</sup>. They intend to turn Conference Room B and C into a nightclub atmosphere with entertainment, great cocktails, food and laughs. They've chosen to give special honors to SAG members who volunteer as rape crisis and domestic violence advocates!!! SO please...call in ASAP and tell us you're a SAG!!!!

**STAFF NEWS:** As of this moment, Dwarym Ruiz has NOT given birth. She left for maternity leave on 2/13 and is due any minute. We'll keep you posted.

## Thought for the Month

"Do the thing you think you cannot do."

--*Eleanor Roosevelt*