



# Strength & Spirit

The Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 1 — Winter 2004 — Kislev 5765

## Chocolate Extravaganza Successfully Sends Message

### SPEAKER INSPIRES CROWD

JCADA hosted its third annual fundraiser, a Chocolate Extravaganza, on Sunday, October 31, 2004. Almost 200 guests participated in the event, which featured Dr. Amy Robbins Ellison, a survivor of domestic abuse, in conversation with CBS News Weekend Roundup host Dan Raviv.

Dr. Ellison's extraordinary credentials as a cardiac anesthesiologist and professor belied her susceptibility as a victim of domestic abuse. "I was accepted into an accelerated six-year liberal arts medical school program when I was 16. I graduated medical school at 23 ... and I was battered for 10 years."

After ten years as a victim, she finally admitted to herself that she needed help. With the support of her friends and a variety of lawyers and counselors, she was able to permanently extricate herself from the horrible situation. Nevertheless, she and her daughter must still carry legal documents with them wherever they go to ensure that her ex-husband does not stalk or approach them.

JCADA plays a crucial role in supporting victims of domestic abuse, like Dr. Ellison, who are seeking to extricate themselves from situations that seem completely hopeless and overwhelming. By providing counseling, financial assistance, referrals to professionals and a safe space to discuss their fears and grief, JCADA serves a desperate community need.



Dr. Amy Robbins Ellison and Dan Raviv in conversation with the audience at JCADA's 2004 Chocolate Extravaganza.



Congressman Chris Van Hollen (right) presents Community Service Award to Rabbi David Rose.



Marna Tucker (right) receives Eshet Chayil award from Linda Greenhouse.

### LEADERS HONORED

JCADA honored two community leaders with awards at its annual fundraiser. **Marna Tucker**, an attorney and nationwide expert on domestic violence, as well as a staunch advocate on behalf of abused women, received the Barbara Rabkin Eshet Chayil (Woman of Valor) Award. **Rabbi David Rose** of Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac received the Community Service Award not only for his work counseling many of his congregants on domestic abuse issues, but also for his vocal recognition that domestic abuse is a problem that exists within the Jewish community. *New York Times* journalist **Linda Greenhouse** and U.S. Congressman **Chris Van Hollen** presented the awards to Tucker and Rose respectively.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The majority of JCADA's funding comes from private contributions.

Your donation can make a real difference in the life of a victim of domestic abuse.

**Visit us online at:**

[www.jcada.org](http://www.jcada.org) **Email:** [jcada@jcada.org](mailto:jcada@jcada.org)

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JCADA is a CFCNCA Beneficiary—#7481

## From the Executive Director



Executive Director Marilyn Moskowitz, MSW.

Welcome to the first issue of JCADA's newsletter. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past three years and could not have reached our goals without your financial and volunteer support. By providing a safety net for Jewish women caught in abusive relationships, JCADA has helped victims move from helplessness and hopelessness to independence and self-sufficiency.

Our **Hotline** has received over 425 calls; our **Helpline** has responded to 125 callers. We have provided counseling for 31 women and their children and provided client follow-up/case management. Our pro bono lawyers have provided more than \$30,000 in free legal services.

We are very proud of our Prevention Program for Youth. With grants from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, we have developed a curricula for youth from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> and for the college campus. Our program includes such important topics as healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, warning signs of abuse, a relationship questionnaire, date rape and how to help a friend. These programs have been held in area day schools and synagogue schools. With the financial resources of our community, we can hire a Youth Prevention Coordinator who will expand this program reaching out to more schools as well as youth groups and service organizations.

We look forward to continued growth with our education program and to reaching out to more victims and their children. With your financial support, we can **break the cycle of violence and help prevent abuse from occurring in our children's generation.**

*B'Shalom,*

*Marilyn Moskowitz*

## Do you know the facts?

**DOMESTIC ABUSE** is a systematic pattern of coercive behavior for the sole purpose of manipulating and/or dominating a partner in an intimate relationship. It is a learned behavior and **will not stop without intervention.**

**Abuse occurs in Jewish families at the same rate as the general population, regardless of socio-economic status, religious affiliation, age, race or education.**

- 95% of reported domestic abuse victims are women.
- 20% of all women will experience some form of abuse by a partner in their lifetime.
- 90% of children are aware of the abuse directed at their mothers.
- Battering is the single greatest cause of injury to women.

### Forms of abuse:

There are various forms of abuse. Physical abuse is the easiest to detect. Other forms of abuse are ongoing and are more difficult to recognize. Patterns of verbal, emotional and economic abuse are used to diminish and destroy the inner self of another and often escalates to physical abuse.

### Upcoming JCADA Events:

Purim Megilla Reading  
Passover Seders at Area Synagogues

Call Marilyn Moskowitz at 301-230-7284 for further details.

### JCADA BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee:	Coalition Partners:	Advisory Board:
<p><b>President:</b> Barbara J. Zakheim</p> <p><b>Vice Presidents:</b> Sabine Himmelfarb Cindy Zitelman</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Liza Levy</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> George Wollner</p> <p><b>Members:</b> Rise Ain Dorothy Fait Ed Farber Dede Feinberg Ellen Ginsberg Sylvia Goldberg Norman Goldstein Ellen Haber Judy Kermaier Rabbi Saul Koss Gordon Lederman Shoshana Riemer Gail Rubinson Cathy Silberman</p>	<p>Chabad of Potomac</p> <p>The Greater Washington Chapter of Hadassah</p> <p>The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington</p> <p>Jewish Women International</p> <p>NA'AMAT USA</p> <p>National Council of Jewish Women Montgomery County Maryland Section</p> <p>Congregation Beth Emeth Sisterhood</p> <p>Temple Sinai Sisterhood</p>	<p>Rabbi Lia Bass Douglas Bloomfield Erica Brown Sharon Butler Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb Kathleen Dumais Shulamith Elster Jodi Finkelstein Rabbi Lyle Fishman Sharon Freundel Sharon Grosfeld Ron Halber Cheryl Kravitz Rabbi Elly Krinsky Hadassah Lieberman Rabbi Jack Luxemburg Nancy Meyer Rabbi Tamara Miller Rabbi David Rose Steven Silverman Rabbi Warren Stone Michael Subin Rabbi Joel Tessler Marna Tucker</p>