



Issue 21

# South Shore Women's Resource Center (SSWRC)

Proudly serving Carver, Duxbury, Halifax, Hanson, Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Middleboro, Norwell, Pembroke, Plympton, Plymouth, Scituate, and Wareham



October 2014

## OCTOBER is "Domestic Violence Awareness Month"

The month of October is "Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

It is a time to remember the victims who lost their lives, honor those who have survived, and to renew our commitment to ending a crime that exists all too often within our homes, schools, workplac-

es- society. Domestic violence has been in the news recently because of the release of the video of NFL player Ray Rice beating his then fiancé in an elevator. With horror, many watched the large football player punch his fiancée in the face and knock her out. Many were horrified as he



Sandra Blatchford

spit on her and dragged her out of the elevator, never once checking to see if she was alive. Her limp body was dragged, and the culprit just looked down at her. Sportscasters questioned NFL Commissioner

Roger Goodell; they could not believe he had not seen the video prior to giving Ray Rice a 2-game suspension. If he had seen the video, the 2-game suspension was incomprehensible. Prior to the release, many domestic violence advocates, sports announcers, and others questioned the 2-game suspension, stating that having a drug offense merits a 6-game suspension. The criticism

*Please see "Awareness" pg. 6*

### Why Purple?

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the color purple, which symbolizes 'domestic violence,' is displayed throughout this newsletter.

### Why We Support the New DV Legislation

By Sandra Blatchford  
Program Director

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, new domestic violence legislation was enacted. There are many positive additions that are intended to in-

crease victim safety. One change prohibits police departments from releasing reports or daily logs with any information about arrests or incidents related to domestic violence. Prior to

this change, police departments were required to include domestic violence calls with other police activity in a daily log that was available to the public.

*Please see "Law" pg. 3*



Turn to pg. 3 to see what the eye means

### Join Us For Domestic Violence Vigil October 8

The South Shore Women's Resource Center is celebrating its 36th year (including when it operated as the South Shore Women's Center), serving domestic violence victims

and their families.

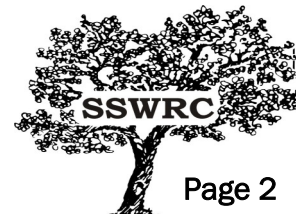
It holds an annual peace vigil/open house each October, honoring domestic violence victims, their families, and friends and family of homicide

victims. This year, the vigil will be on Wednesday, October 8, on the lawn of the 1820 courthouse on Russell Street in Plymouth. Liam Lowney from the Massachusetts Office for

Victim Assistance is the guest speaker. Light refreshments will be served from 3-4 PM, and the vigil starts at 4 PM. Everyone is invited, but is asked to RSVP at 508-746-2664.



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## Plymouth Thrift Boutique Now on Facebook



Those of you who are into social media can help us spread the word about supporting our thrift store by visiting our new Facebook page. Share information about donating and purchasing items. Isn't it time to update your wardrobe with Talbots and Chicco and Jones

New York for under \$10.00? Patrons are amazed at the selection (which changes daily) and pricing.

Proceeds after expenses help support the South Shore Women's Resource Center, our domestic violence program.

### Tell Me About the Lisa Project

By Sandra Blatchford  
Program Director

South Shore Women's Resource Center (SSWRC) has, along with five other domestic violence agencies, partnered with South Coastal Counties Legal Services to offer low income victims of domestic violence legal assistance.

The program, titled Project LISA, provides free holistic civil legal services to vulnerable residents of Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the islands of Mar-

tha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The project's goal is to expand availability for free legal services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. This project also addresses the varied gaps in legal services experienced by many of SSWRC's clientele.

Currently, an attorney comes to SSWRC monthly and provides free legal services to clients. The attorney is available from 12-3 PM on the last Thursday of the

### A Visit to the Peace Garden Invites Reflection

By Amy  
DDTF Advocate

As I stood in the Garden of Peace, which is tucked between the Saltonstall and McCormack buildings in downtown Boston, with the dusk of a September evening closing in, a tall dark-haired woman came up and stood beside me.

"Isn't she beautiful?" she asked as she

pointed to a small picture, illuminated by a cluster of tea lights, propped against a stone wall just underneath the engraving of a woman's name.

"Yes," I agreed, "She is beautiful." The woman told me the picture was of her sister Valerie, who was murdered in 2010 by her daughter's ex-boyfriend

*Please see "Peace" pg. 4*

## Fall Hours: Plymouth Thrift Boutique

Mon.-Fri.: 10 AM to 4 PM; Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM

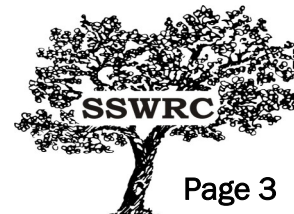
SPECIAL SALE THRU OCTOBER ON  
CLOTHING, SHOES, & KITCHENWARE

Buy 1 item, get a 2nd item of equal or lesser value for HALF PRICE

16 Samoset Street Plymouth 508-746-4557



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## Eye See Into Your Future...

South Shore Women's Resource Center's annual psychic fair is at a new venue this year: Quincy College's Cordage Park site. This means ample parking!

The fair will run from 10 AM to 4 PM, and a \$2 admission fee is requested. Additionally, individual



readings/services are \$20 each. Two mediumship circles will be held with Kathleen Hoffman.

Vendors will sell jewelry, aura photography, crystals, gems, and stones. This is a popular event, and interested parties are encouraged to call with questions: 508-746-2664.

## "Law" Continued from page 1

The legislation requires that this information cannot be released until the offender is arraigned. This component of the law has come under scrutiny. Some argue this diminishes offender accountability and keeps the seriousness of domestic violence out of public view. Opponents maintain the public has the right to know the gravity of the crime, and this prohibition minimizes the prevalence and seriousness of domestic violence.

Supporters of the change assert the law is designed to protect victims and safeguard their privacy. The law is designed to increase victim safety by keeping the initial disclosure out of public view. Frequently, victims are

disinclined to make a report fearing the publication will further incite the abuser. Public release may also cause their children to be ridiculed or teased in school. There are many reasons why a victim may not want public notification; consequently, a victim may choose not to report a potentially dangerous situation.

Domestic violence (DV) advocates strongly support the new law. They maintain that while printing the offender's name in the log may hold the offender accountable, it does not guarantee the offender will take responsibility. In fact, the publication of the incident provides the opportunity for the abuser to further blame the victim.

The abuser will argue if the victim had not called the police, the school, neighbors, employers and friends would not have been made aware.

The offender uses the notification as a chance to discourage the victim from reaching out to the police in the future. Publication of the abuser's name does not act as an effective deterrent. Advocates maintain the focus should remain on victim safety, and there are other avenues to achieve abuser accountability.

The new law is an added protection. DV is a crime; however, the dynamics of abuse are complicated. It is important to hold the abuser accountable. Yet, printing his/her

name typically does not alter abusive behavior. The publication of the incident enables the abuser to blame the victim for contacting police and subsequently having the incident publically disclosed. It gives the abuser an opportunity to further abuse the victim, which, in turn, may result in the victim deciding to never contact the police again.

Public disclosure of DV calls does offer the opportunity to observe the prevalence of the crime, but it does not serve as a stimulus to reduce incidents of victim blaming. Public notice may provide a small measure of offender accountability, but it is not enough to sacrifice victim safety and privacy.





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## Why is Santa Making an Appearance Here?



Mr. Claus

Because before you know it, you and I will be immersed in our own holiday celebrations. Thanksgiving arrives with Christmas nipping at its heels. That means our asking you

to consider helping our clients, families who otherwise will not have much to celebrate.

Gift cards in any denomination are always welcome. In addition, we

invite you to consider sponsoring a family for Christmas.

If you are interested or wish to learn more, please call 508-746-2664, or e-mail [joan@sswrc.org](mailto:joan@sswrc.org).

## “Peace” continued from page 2

Her voice choked with tears as she told me her sister's body was cremated, and the family really had no place to visit until now, when her sister's name was added to the Garden of Peace. We watched the tea lights for a moment before we hugged and said good-bye.

September 18th marked the tenth anniversary honor program in the Garden of Peace, a memorial to victims of homicide. The garden honors people who are homicide victims. It is a quiet oasis in the middle of a bustling downtown, not far from the State House.

All of the victims have a connection to Massachusetts. The garden features a dry creek bed filled with river stones of differ-

ent shapes, colors, and sizes.

Engraved on the stones are the names of loved ones. There are stones for politicians like John F. and Robert Kennedy, stones for babies and children who will never have the opportunity to grow up, and stones for the men and women who are victims of homicide.

When the garden ran out of space for river stones, officials began engraving names on stone seating walls. The garden also features a sculpture of the “Ibis Ascending” rising from a fountain.

This year's program featured Martha Coakley as master of ceremonies, and keynote speaker Will Morales, Executive Director of Boston

YMCA Achievers and the Egleston Square Youth Teen Center, as well as Annie Cox, mother of murder victim Dana Cox. Music was provided by Wil Darcangelo & the Tribe, a group of young people from a Fitchburg after-school arts program. Forty-



one names were added to the garden this year, names that were read out loud by some of the founding members of the Garden of Peace.

Hundreds were in attendance from conserva-

tively dressed officials, to young men and women in jeans and memorial T-shirts, to elegant women in high heels and designer dresses. They were brought together to, as one speaker said, “a club no one wants to belong to.” Tears were shed, quiet laughter shared, and support and friendship given. It is an evening and a place I will never forget. The Garden of Peace is a reminder that with turmoil and violence occurring all over the world making headlines every night, we should not neglect the violence in the homes, communities, and streets of Massachusetts.

Words from a classic song ring true: “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”



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## Giving That Doesn't Cost You a Penny, Let Alone a Dime

Spread the word. iGive.com is changing the way online shopping is done. And that's good news if you're a supporter of our domestic violence program.

Now, more than ever, smart shoppers are looking for ways to stretch every dollar. In these un-

certain economic times, we all face hard choices as we plan for special occasions, buy gifts, and figure out how to handle charitable giving.

With iGive.com, you don't have to choose between buying something or sending a donation to us. You can buy the things you

need, save money with exclusive iGive coupons and deals, and feel good knowing that a portion of each purchase benefits South Shore Women's Resource Center. To learn more, please visit

[www.iGive.com/SouthShoreWomensResource](http://www.iGive.com/SouthShoreWomensResource)—and look under 'Donations' on the toolbar.

## Calling All Older Cell Phones



We're "Calling All Old Cell Phones" when you upgrade. To make the drop-off process easier, deliver phones to Plymouth Thrift Boutique, 16 Samoset Street in Plymouth. Please do not include attachments as they will only get thrown away. We ship phones to a company on behalf of SSWRC, which then receives a check. The phones are then reconditioned and given to DV victims to call 911 if they need to.

Plymouth Thrift Boutique is open Monday-Friday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM.

## "Lisa" Continued from page 2

month, and an appointment must be made by speaking to and completing an intake with SSWRC staff. Confidential sessions consist of completing a client intake, discussion regarding the client's legal issues, evaluation of the other legal needs of the client, and development of legal strategy that will best support the needs of the individual.

The sessions are 45 minutes, and in some circumstances, depending on

legal need, the attorney may take the case on from start to the case's conclusion. Every individual who meets with the Project Lisa attorney will be given referrals to SCCLS for full representation.

This is an exciting collaboration and a first step addressing the many gaps in legal services that face victims of sexual assault, DV, and stalking. Research suggests access to legal aid provides real and

tangible economic help, as well as a chance for a victim to maintain custody and potentially receive child support. For non-English speaking victims, access to bi-lingual services breaks down barriers that are far too common and often prohibit victims from seeking assistance. We are pleased to be part of this collaborative. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 508-746-2664.

## SSWRC

### Fall Domestic Violence Volunteer Training Schedule

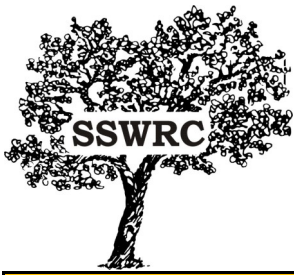
SSWRC's annual fall domestic violence training schedule is set to begin on October 27th.

The full schedule is on page 6. If you have a desire to help provide direct services to victims of domes-

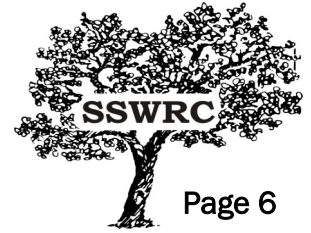
tic violence or you simply would like to learn more about this issue, you are encouraged to contact staff

at 508-746-2664.

Class dates are subject to change.



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## SSWRC Fall Domestic Violence Volunteer Training Schedule

Monday, Oct. 27, 6:00-9:30 PM

Thursday, Nov. 6, 6:00-9:30 PM

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6:00-9:30 PM

Saturday, Nov. 8, 9:00-4:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 1, 9:00AM-4:00 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6:00-9:30 PM

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6:00-9:30 PM

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:00-9:30 PM

### “Awareness” Continued from page 1

has led the NFL to develop a more comprehensive policy against both sexual and domestic violence. After the video's release, the firestorm began. The Baltimore Ravens released Ray Rice who was subsequently barred from the game. In the weeks to follow, domestic violence became a hot topic.

Sportscasters were questioning the prevalence of domestic violence within the NFL and wondering if the percentage of abusers is higher than the national norm. Unfortunately, the number of offenders within the NFL provides a representative sample of United States society as a whole.

The video that went public, while terrifying, is something experienced by many victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence is not an uncommon occurrence; rather, it af-

fects nearly one in three women in her lifetime. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011).

It is important to recognize the pervasiveness of domestic violence and take the Ray Rice incident and the NFL's response as a teachable moment. Take this as an opening to educate the public and ask other national sports leagues to follow suit by creating policies that will not tolerate or accept domestic or sexual violence.

Each and every one of us has an opportunity to play a role in ending domestic and sexual violence. We have a chance to turn our focus from victim-blaming to offender accountability by raising our voices in unison and not remaining silent or condoning intimate partner or sexual violence.

Domestic and sexual violence is not a private problem; it impacts on all of us; it does not have boundaries nor does it discriminate. We can take this 'new' notoriety and turn it into a positive by engaging others in the conversation to take action. It is our social responsibility to move forward, accept the prevalence of the crime, understand the underlying causes, and work to support or develop policies that will increase offender accountability.

It is time to stop focusing on the victim by blaming the victim for violent and abusive actions. Instead, we must move to create a society that does not condone violent actions of individuals.

Through education and awareness, we can demonstrate that abuse comes in many different

forms: physical, sexual, emotional, verbal, and financial.

Today, we have an opportunity to increase our understanding and though this, increase our support of victims. It is time to turn the tide and strive to understand the complicated dynamics of domestic violence and through these actions, decrease victim isolation and thereby increase victim safety.

October is “Domestic Violence Awareness Month.” Let's take recent events as opportunities to change our attitudes about domestic and sexual violence.

Let's use our voices to support victims and hold offenders accountable. Through the power of example, we can change attitudes, and let it begin today.