



Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative  
a collaborative program of the Twin Cities Jewish community

presents

## NOT 'JUST' A WOMEN'S ISSUE... UNDERSTANDING DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

### A CALL TO ACTION

January 15, 2006  
8:30 to 4:00  
Temple Israel  
2324 Emerson Avenue South  
Minneapolis

Presented by JDAC with generous support from the  
Minneapolis Federation Women's Endowment Fund



**RABBI MARK DRATCH** is a respected leader in the Jewish community, with expertise and experience in issues of domestic violence and abuse. He has a successful track record of achievement – counseling, advising, writing, lecturing,

advocating and formulating policy – and has recently founded *JSafe: The Jewish Institute Supporting an Abuse Free Environment*, a not-for-profit organization committed to affecting the way the Jewish community addresses issues of domestic violence and child abuse.

Rabbi Dratch served as a congregational rabbi for 22 years. He was a Vice President of the Rabbinical Council of America, chairman of its Task Force on Rabbinic Improprieties and was responsible for spearheading and formulating its new policy guidelines for responding to allegations against member rabbis. Rabbi Dratch is an instructor of Jewish Studies at Yeshiva University.

He is a member of Jewish Women International's Clergy Task Force on Abuse, a member of the Jewish Advisory Committee of the FaithTrust Institute, a member of the Editorial Board of *The Journal of Religion and Abuse*, and a sought after speaker and consultant in matters of domestic violence and clergy abuse.



Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative  
c/o JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE  
1633 WEST 7TH STREET  
ST. PAUL, MN 55102

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Paul, MN  
Permit No. 1297

### PROGRAM

- 8:30–9:00 **Registration, Refreshments**
- 9:00–9:15 **Welcome**  
Betsy Sitkoff, JDAC Coordinator  
Sandy Unger, JDAC Co-Chair
- 9:15–10:15 **Keynote**  
Introduction by Doreen Frankel, JDAC Co-Chair

Rabbi Mark Dratch

***Daring to Disturb the Sounds of Silence:  
Family Violence and Abuse in the Jewish Community***

The secret is no longer a secret. Domestic violence exists in the Jewish community; it crosses all socio-economic levels and religious denominations. It exists despite the denials, despite the skepticism that such ugly behavior cannot exist among our people always so proud of our exemplary home-life; despite the fear that exposing it will bring Jews into disrepute; and despite the apprehension that our reputations will be tarnished. By continuing to deny and refusing to act we shirk our responsibilities to our daughters and sons, our mothers and sisters, our fathers and brothers. Rabbi Dratch will discuss the incidence of such acts in our community, the problems and hurdles that victims and their supporters must overcome, and new initiatives in addressing these problems.

- 10:30–11:45 **Morning Breakout Groups**
- 12:00–1:00 **Kosher Lunch, Resource Tables  
Survivor Presentations**
- 1:00–2:15 **Afternoon Breakout Groups**
- 2:30–3:30 **Debrief, Plans for the Future, and Closing**

OPEN →

## BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

Except for the Rabbis' Discussion, all breakouts are intended for professionals who work with domestic abuse victims as well as family members, friends, and interested community members. Certificate of Attendance will be offered.

### MORNING BREAKOUT GROUPS ■ 10:30–11:45

#### 1. Promoting Healthy Relationships Among Jewish Teens

Participants will receive a brief overview of the development of healthy relationships as well as the ability to identify unhealthy relationships in Jewish teens. A video illustrating the unique issues surrounding teenage dating abuse will be shown and discussed.

*Naomi Kahn, LICSW at Southwest Family Services*

#### 2. Legal Issues and Resources

Orders for Protection (OFP) are often the first step needed to assure the safety of woman and children. Participants will learn what OFPs are, what relief they provide, what the process is to obtain one, what happens if it is violated, and how OFPs are different from other orders. We'll discuss why victims of abuse are often afraid to file for an OFP and ways advocates can be of help to victims.

*Rachel Ratner, Legal Advocate, Sojourner Project, Inc., Nancy Libman, Manager, Ramsey County Court Domestic Abuse Center and Harassment Office and Sue Stein Striker, Paralegal, District Court Clerk, Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center*

#### 3. Elder Abuse

A brief overview of the complex issue of elder abuse: What is it? How are people affected? Where can you turn for help or information?

*Beth Shaw, Senior Service Supervisor, JFS, St. Paul and Ruth Paley, ACSW, Program Supervisor, Mental Health Support Services and Older Adult Services, JFCS, Minneapolis*

#### 4. Healing Through Journal Writing

How your words can turn your life into a journey of self-discovery. Learn about reflections, repressed feelings, re-inventing who you are through the magic strokes of your pen. Hear the stories of healing through a journaling artist. This session is for those who have experienced domestic abuse and for those who want a better understanding of how journaling can help assist with the healing process.

*Jamye Chanen, writer and Licensed Social Worker*

#### 5. Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse involves much more than physical violence. It is a pattern of behavior perpetrated by abusers to gain power and control over their victims. This session will explain the dynamics of domestic violence, examine the tactics of batterers, and offer insight into the response of victims.

*Dorian Eder, Program Manager, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project*

#### 6. Rabbis' Discussion (For Rabbis and clergy only.)

Rabbi Dratch will continue his talk on breaking the silence and open a dialogue discussing the role of synagogues and clergy.

#### 7. Our REAL Tradition: Building Healthy, Peaceful Jewish Families (This workshop is offered both morning and afternoon)

Jewish tradition does not promote or condone violence in families, yet far too many families find themselves suffering. We must build and promote systems to respond and provide services to families suffering, and work to prevent violence from occurring in our homes. We will explore a deeper understanding of how violence can arise in the most well-meaning homes and steps we can take as individuals and as a community to prevent and heal from family violence.

*Ramsey County Department of Public Health Violence Prevention Initiative:*

*Donald L. Gault, Healthy Communities Section Manager, and Darleen Simmons, Health Educator*

### AFTERNOON BREAKOUT GROUPS ■ 1:00–2:15

#### 8. Domestic Abuse in the Immigrant Population

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights recently completed a fact-finding project examining the severe challenges that immigrant and refugee women affected by domestic violence in the Minneapolis/St. Paul community face. Project findings and an outline of the barriers will be presented. The ethnic and religious diversity within the Russian-speaking community and its effects on the dynamics of domestic abuse will be highlighted in this session.

*Rebecca Palmer, staff attorney, MN Advocates for Human Rights and Natalie Levin, MA and Licensed Psychologist*

#### 9. Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter

Participants will gain an understanding of the controversies over the perceived causal factors for domestic violence, the differences between battering and other types of violence, what abusive men need to do to change their behavior, and ways to promote victim safety and offender accountability.

*Michael Paymar, MN State Representative, is the author of "Violent No More: Helping Men End Domestic Abuse," and is associated with the nationally recognized Duluth Domestic Abuse Intervention Project*

#### 10. Empowering Women Through Physical Strength

Highlighting ways for women to stay safe, participants will learn techniques to fight off an assailant when faced with sexual assault. Among the techniques stressed are striking utilizing the hands, legs and feet, followed by methods of escape. Also discussed will be the psychology of the predator and the prevention mindset.

*David Meyer, PPCT Certified instructor in Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention*

#### 11. Building a Coordinated Community Response

Jewish Women International's needs assessment studies provided a greater awareness of domestic abuse and the impact that it has on the entire Jewish community. We will examine the key findings that were revealed in the studies and explain how they can inform and strengthen personal and community-wide collaborative efforts to prevent, address and respond to abuse in an effective manner.

*Amy Rubin, National Outreach Manager, Jewish Women International*

#### 12. Working with Children in Abusive Homes

Domestic violence has short-term and long-term consequences for children of all ages. This presentation will focus on the impact of domestic violence on children, the co-occurrence of domestic abuse and other forms of family violence, and how professionals can help children describe their experiences through talk and play.

*Mindy F. Mitnick, Ed.M., M.A., Licensed Psychologist specializing in the divorce process with victims of abuse and their families*

#### 13. Our REAL Tradition: Building Healthy, Peaceful Jewish Families (This workshop is offered both morning and afternoon)

See #7 for description.

### Survivors' Suite

A suite will be available to survivors **only** as a place to share, talk, and receive resources and referrals. For the location ask anybody wearing a purple "ask me" tag.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Registration requested by January 7

Please make your check to **Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative** and mail with this form to JDAC at Jewish Family Service, 1633 West 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102

or register on-line at [www.jewishminnesota.org](http://www.jewishminnesota.org)

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please register \_\_\_\_\_ people for the conference.

I/We cannot attend. Please add the name and address above to the JDAC mailing list for future programs.

Our choices are:    Person 1    Person 2

Morning Breakout    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

Afternoon Breakout    \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_

A voluntary contribution is enclosed:

Supporter    \$20

Friend    \$36

Benefactor    \$50 or more (listed in program)

Check enclosed

Credit Card: Visa/MasterCard/  
AmEx/Discover (circle one)

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_