

THE SUPPORTER

WINTER 2020 | ISSUE 9

A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Where does one begin to discuss the legacy of **Carolyn Fish**? If you knew Carolyn, you know she was a force of nature, a visionary who worked tirelessly and established herself as the go-to person on issues surrounding intimate partner violence, gender-based violence and women's rights. She was a nationally recognized expert and lecturer in the field. Carolyn was a trailblazer, becoming an advocate for social justice long before the term advocate was commonplace. In the 1970s, she became involved in the Women's Movement and focused on issues largely unheard of at the time - the needs of "battered women."

In 1979, Carolyn and a group of concerned citizens founded Rockland Family Shelter and our 24-Hour Hotline that provided a lifeline to women and children escaping violence and abuse at the hands of their partners. Under Carolyn's leadership and vision, the Center expanded services to include non-residential offices where survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault could turn for advocacy, safety planning, legal assistance and crime victim services. Carolyn and her team established our education and training department providing educational program outreach in schools and offering the Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program, the first of its kind in the county.

Our agency is truly fortunate to have had Carolyn as our leader. On Valentine's Day, I celebrated 20 years of service at Center for Safety & Change. Carolyn hired me as a part-time evening hotline receptionist and mentored me to be the Chief Executive Officer. **I learned many lessons from Carolyn.** She taught me what it meant to be a true advocate for others. Carolyn continuously reminded me that domestic violence and sexual assault are part of a larger societal problem of oppression. She also taught me that focusing on domestic violence without focusing on sexism, racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia was not looking at the person as a whole and made me realize that we cannot fight this alone. The fight must include the entire community - that is the only way to change attitudes and behaviors, while recognizing that violence and abuse are unacceptable. For these life lessons and many others, I am so grateful.

With each day, as we continue to support victims and survivors of all crime, the Center will hold Carolyn Fish in our hearts. As always, she will continue to shine a bright light on our path, guiding the way and teaching us so many more lessons as we work together to end gender-based violence and other forms of oppression.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Santiago".

Elizabeth Santiago



IN LOVING MEMORY OF CAROLYN FISH



IN LOVING MEMORY OF CAROLYN FISH



“
She blocked him and her ex-boyfriend would still find ways of contacting her.
”

Seventeen-year-old Vanessa was a senior at a local high school who loved art, music and acting. She was extremely talented with very well-known colleges and universities courting her. She was hopeful that going away to college would mean getting away from her ex-boyfriend, Rob, who had been emotionally and physically abusive throughout their relationship. Vanessa broke up with Rob, but more than a month later he was still not taking no for an answer. Rob would show up uninvited to her drama club practice and sit in the audience making her feel uncomfortable. Vanessa blocked him on social media, blocked him on her cell phone and told her close friends about his abusive behavior. Her ex-boyfriend would still find ways of contacting her. He would threaten her, call her names because of what she wore in school, and would force her to stay away from her friends. Vanessa was distraught. Constantly worried about what Rob might do next, she had difficulties paying attention in class. She did not want to tell her parents because they were very good friends with Rob's parents, and she didn't want to cause trouble.

While in health class, Vanessa learned more about the teen dating violence prevention program at Center for Safety & Change. The Center's community educator spoke to the class about what healthy relationships look like and what consent was all about. It was after this class that Vanessa spoke to the community educator to ask questions and seek services. The community educator connected Vanessa with an advocate who helped Vanessa understand technology-facilitated abuse and how she could document her boyfriend's abuse in case she wanted to report it to law enforcement. With Vanessa's consent, the advocate made an appointment to meet with her, her parents and the school counselor to discuss this situation and assist with getting her back on track at school.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

Dating abuse can take many forms including mental and emotional abuse, physical violence and sexual abuse. It transcends all racial, economic and social lines. Most victims of dating abuse are young women.

Studies have shown that:

One in three teenagers has experienced or will experience violence in a dating relationship

Approximately **one in five female** high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner

40% of **girls ages 14 to 17** report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend

Established in 1999, the Center's Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program (TDVPP) is an in-school-based prevention program where youth learn they can create better, safer relationships when they have reliable information, guidance, experience and models of healthy, respectful relationships. This three-day training program creates an engaging learning atmosphere for meaningful and interactive classroom discussions regarding respectful and healthy relationships, dating violence, sexual assault, consent, gender roles and stereotypes. In Rockland County, the repeated, high demand for TDVPP training among all public school districts is particularly significant evidence of the ongoing need for this program. **More than 20,000 students in Rockland have been trained in this program, all at no cost to the schools or districts.**

TAKE MY ADVICE

Ask Andrea!



What is an Order of Protection?

An Order of Protection is a court document issued by a judge to restrict the behavior of someone who has harmed or threatened to harm another person. It is used to address various types of safety issues, including, but not limited to situations involving domestic violence. Family Courts, Criminal Courts and Supreme Courts can all issue Orders of Protection, also known as restraining orders in other jurisdictions. Violation of an Order of Protection can result in arrest, sanctions, contempt and incarceration.

What are the benefits of an Order of Protection?

An Order of Protection may direct the offending person not to injure, threaten or harass you, your family, pets or any other person(s) listed in the order. It may include, but is not limited to, directing them to:

- stay away from you and your children
- move out of your home
- follow custody orders
- pay child support
- not have a gun

Where can I get an Order of Protection?

A Family Court Order of Protection is issued as part of a civil proceeding. There is no requirement for the victim to report the offending party to law enforcement. Its purpose is to stop violence within a family, or within an intimate relationship, and provide protection for those individuals affected. All Family Court proceedings are confidential. To obtain an

(continue on next page)



I am committed to helping victims and survivors find their way and rebuild their lives. You are not what happened to you. You are what you choose to become!



JENNIFER HAMMER

Jennifer Hammer is the program manager for the Center's Anti-Human Trafficking Program. She can be reached at jhammer@centersc.org or call the 24-Hour Hotline at (845) 634-3344.

TAKE MY **ADVICE** - *Ask Andrea!*

order of protection in the Family Court, your relationship to the other person must fall into one of the following categories:

- current or former spouse
- someone with whom you have a child in common
- a family member to whom you are related by blood or marriage
- someone with whom you have or have had an “intimate relationship”

An intimate relationship does not have to be a sexual relationship. A relationship may be considered intimate depending on factors such as how often you see each other, or how long you have known each other.

How Do I Get an Order of Protection?

If you are a victim of domestic violence and reside in Rockland County, call the Center for Safety & Change 24-Hour Hotline at (845) 634-3344. An advocate will connect you to an attorney who can provide an emergency consultation and discuss your options and the process. All services are free, confidential, multi-lingual and available regardless of immigration status.

Andrea Panjwani is Chief Legal Officer at Center for Safety & Change. With more than 28 years as a lawyer, Andrea co-chairs the Rockland Immigration Coalition, sits on the New York State Advisory Council of Immigration Issues in Family Court, ICE Out of Courts Coalition, Statewide Coalition for Court Simplification and facilitates the Justice for Families collaborative in Rockland County.

For more information, please contact Andrea Panjwani at apanjwani@centersc.org or call our 24-Hour Hotline at (845) 634-3344.



Gender-based violence is shockingly common but it doesn't always get the attention it deserves. As a volunteer, I am about changing the narrative to ensure that violence stops against women and girls.



KATHY PERROTTE

Kathy Perrotte is the current co-treasurer and past president of Center for Safety & Change Board of Directors, where she has volunteered for close to 20 years.

CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE TURNS 40!



ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Carolyn Fish*



Caroline Lexow Babcock*



Mary Barbera



Ellen Burstyn



Simona Chazen



Dr. Arlene Clinkscale

More than 800 supporters participated in our **40th Anniversary Celebration** last October. The weekend began with an unveiling and dedication of the first-ever Rockland Women Leaders Hall of Fame. We continued the festivities on Saturday night and inducted 38 phenomenal women leaders into the Rockland Women Leaders Hall of Fame with **Carolyn Fish** as the first inductee, which reflected the day we opened the doors to our Emergency Shelter on October 5, 1979. We ended our celebratory weekend on Sunday, with a champagne brunch leaving everyone inspired, uplifted and charged to do more in ending gender-based violence.

Our sincerest thanks and congratulations to our Rockland Women Leaders Hall of Fame inductees

(Inductees are highlighted on the sidebar through page 14.)

Special thank you to our Event Chairs **Kathy Bookman, Jill Kaliff, Linie and Joe Rand, Diane Sussman** and **Elisabeth Voigt**, along with their sensational committee for planning all three perfect parties; our fabulous Emcee's **Nina Pineda** and **Cathleen Trigg-Jones** for keeping us informed and on time; our Keynote Speakers Academy Award-Winning Actress **Ellen Burstyn** and **Gretchen Carlson** who spoke so poignantly about our mission and how there is so much more work to do in ending gender-based violence; our courageous survivors for sharing their personal stories - **Angela Accomando, Jeremy Brown, Anita Kopacz**; our future speaking his truth - **Davonte O'Neal**; and to our inspirational performers who left everyone feeling uplifted and empowered - **Vaneese Thomas and Band, Marla Pasquale and the Women in Song - Shirley Crabbe, Alice Leon, Lorena Mann** and **Korliss Uecker**.

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who made a tribute gift in honor or in memory of a loved one and especially our Founders who have committed to sustaining our vital programs over the next five years. A huge thanks and appreciation to our Appeal Auctioneer **Joe Rand** for his leadership and vision.

We cannot thank each and every one of you enough for making this an unforgettable and magical weekend.

CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE TURNS 40! (cont.)



Ribbon Cutting

ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME HONOREES



The Honorable Harriet Cornell



Dr. Lucy Virginia Meriwether Davies*



Muriel Fox



Phyllis B. Frank



Susan G. Gordon, MD*



*in memoriam

CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE TURNS 40! (cont.)



Ribbon Cutting

ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Helen Hayes MacArthur*



Mimi Hoffman



Ellen Holtzman, Esq.



Georgine Hyde*



The Honorable
Ellen Jaffee



*in memoriam

CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE TURNS 40! (cont.)



Hall of Fame Dinner

ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Brigadier General
Cindy Glazier Jebb



Regent Judith Johnson*



Sister Ursula Joyce, OP



Edythe Eleanor
Levin Kurz*



Mary P. Leahy, MD



*in memoriam

CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE TURNS 40! (cont.)



Hall of Fame Dinner

ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Megan Leavey



The Honorable Nita Lowey



Kathleen Lukens*



Dr. Stella Marrs



Martha MacGuffie, MD*



*in memoriam

CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE TURNS 40! (cont.)



Anniversary Brunch

ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Dr. Frances Pratt



Marsha Rand



Martha Robles



Lee Sennish*



Amy Stern



Diane Sussman



*in memoriam

CENTER FOR SAFETY & CHANGE TURNS 40! (cont.)



Anniversary Brunch

ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME HONOREES



Gerri Viant



Elisabeth Voigt



Randi Weingarten



Maria Luisa Whittingham



The Honorable Linda Winikow*



Belle Mayer Zeck*



*in memoriam

CENTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS

Board of Directors

Linie Rand | *Chair*

Jill Kaliff | *Vice Chair*

Mark Jacobs | *Co-Treasurer*

Kathy Perrotte | *Co-Treasurer*

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Nancy Durand, Esq.

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Cheryl Ross

Samina Sabir

Jonathan Schlosser, DO

Helen Siegal

Barbara Smith

Diane Sussman

Jen Laird White

Roberta Zahl



Center announces the election of a new Board President, Vice President and the appointment of new board members. Newly elected **Board Chair Linie Chang Rand** will take over from outgoing President Kathy Perrotte. Kathy served on the board since 2012 and was elected Board President in 2016. Kathy was instrumental in keeping the agency afloat during the government shutdown last year and has established various vehicles ensuring the agency's future financial viability. Kathy will remain on the executive board and serve as co-treasurer along with Mark Jacobs, succeeding Ray Hegarty who will continue board membership. Jill Kaliff, an 18 year veteran on the Board will succeed John J. Manna as Vice President; however, John will remain on the Board. Sandy Page-Cook will continue the role of secretary. We thank Kathy, John and Ray for supporting the agency in this volunteer capacity and welcome Linie and Jill in their new leadership roles.

Linie and Jill recently co-chaired the agency's 40th Anniversary Weekend Celebration last year raising a record amount for the agency. The Board also appointed several new members who will help raise awareness for and expand existing programs and initiatives.

"We are thrilled to have a strong board who embody the spirit of community and bring a variety of talent, expertise and energy to the table. Our commitment and dedication are stronger than ever in supporting community members impacted by gender-based violence and all crime in Rockland and beyond," said Elizabeth Santiago, CEO of Center for Safety & Change.

22ND ANNUAL STOP F.E.A.R. COALITION CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

More than 200 attorneys, law enforcement, judges, social workers, medical professionals and advocates attended our **22nd Annual STOP F.E.A.R. Coalition Criminal Justice Conference** at RCC. **Richard King, MD, Detective Terry Collazo** and **Cherron Petruzzi, LMSW** were honored for their work in supporting victims and survivors while holding perpetrators accountable. Keynote Speaker **Amy Herman** presented on “Art of Perception,” a training for law enforcement with the objective of enhancing their observation, perception and communication skills through the analysis of art.

Led by Elizabeth Santiago, the Center’s CEO, and Harriet Cornell, Rockland County Legislator, the STOP F.E.A.R. Coalition was formed in 1986 to provide a coordinated community response in supporting survivors of gender-based violence. In 2013, the Center, in collaboration with other entities, formed the STOP F.E.A.R Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, which has helped develop a coordinated community response to trafficking in Rockland County.



BUSINESS LUNCHEON RECAP

Tony Porter, CEO of A CALL TO MEN, was our keynote speaker at our **14th Annual Simona & Jerome A. Chazen Business Luncheon** this past December. We publicly launched our new “Engaging Men Initiative” encouraging men to join the movement in ending gender-based violence. Thank you to our incredible supporters Simona & Jerry Chazen for hosting this important event every year. Thank you to our sponsors Orange Bank and Trust and Spolzino, Smith, Buss and Jacobs for your generous support. From attendance, to purchasing a journal ad or donating, our sincerest thanks to all who supported in their own special way.

If anyone is interested in joining our new Engaging Men Initiative with Tony, please reach out to Rowan Reyes at (845) 634-3391 or info@centersc.org.



BUSINESS LUNCHEON RECAP (cont.)



CENTER MOURNS EDUCATOR AND ROCKLAND WOMEN LEADERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Center for Safety & Change joins the community in mourning the death of New York State Regent Judith Johnson. Regent Johnson was a career educator and respected thought leader with an unwavering commitment to ensuring all children acquire essential skills, knowledge and competencies. Last year, we had the distinguished honor to induct Regent Johnson into the first-ever Rockland Women Leaders Hall of Fame. Regent Johnson was a warrior for education, equality and social justice for all. The world is a better place because of her. May she rest in peace.

CENTER IN THE COMMUNITY



Spring Valley NAACP Honors Center for Safety & Change

More than 250 guests attended the Spring Valley NAACP Dinner honoring Center for Safety & Change with the 2019 Humanitarian Award. As we continue to support victims and survivors of gender-based violence, it is important to note how the Center is a social justice agency viewing our vital work through an anti-oppression and anti-racist lens. Thank you to President Willie Trotman and the entire Spring Valley Chapter, as well as their supporters for this incredible opportunity.



Center Board & Staff Attend BNY Mellon Philanthropy Presentation

Center for Safety & Change board members and staff attended "The Future of Giving Luncheon & Discussion" at La Moderne Barn in Armonk, NY. Hosted by BNY Mellon Wealth Management, this informative presentation touched on how philanthropic behavior and attitudes have changed along with the different expectations that donors look for from non-profits. Pictured here from left to right are Center Board Members Jen Patuto, Jill Kaliff, Anita Kopacz, Ray Hegarty, Center Chief Development Officer Tracie McLee and John J. Manna. Our sincerest thanks to Center Board Member Ray Hegarty and his team for inviting us every year to another well-done event.

HOLIDAY WISHES PROGRAM

Holiday Wishes is our annual gift drive program that helps hundreds of children and families in need during the holiday season. Our team of holiday helpers sponsor families with the necessary essentials and wish-list items. Since the inception of this program, we have sponsored thousands of families who have been impacted by violence and abuse. Thank you to everyone who hosted toy drives, dropped off gifts, purchased gift cards or made donations to brighten the darkest days for our families.

If you are interested in sponsoring a family or host a holiday drive for the 2020 Holiday Season, please call Danielle Watson at 845-634-3391 or email dwatson@centersc.org.



HOLIDAY WISHES PROGRAM (cont.)



UPCOMING EVENTS

A NIGHT FOR Change

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH
THE TIME NYACK



DRS. RUBA AND JAMIL RIZQALLA

*2020 Carolyn Fish Human Rights
Award Recipients*

Visit www.centerforsafetyandchange.org/NFC
for tickets, journal ads and sponsorships

— 33RD ANNUAL —
**WOMEN'S
DISTANCE
FESTIVAL**

— 5K RUN • WALK —

Presented By:



Saturday, July 11th

Rockland Lake State Park • Congers, NY



FREE ADMISSION

Monday, April 20th

10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Hudson House of Nyack
134 Main Street, Nyack

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Jill Kaliff | *Vice Chair*
Mark Jacobs | *Co-Treasurer*
Kathy Perrotte | *Co-Treasurer*
Sandy Page-Cook | *Secretary*

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Nancy Durand, Esq.
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Alex Francisco
Lisa Brooks Greaux, EdD
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Sandra Ortiz, MD
Jennifer Patuto
Vanessa Reiser, LCSW
Jamil F. Rizqalla, DO
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Elisabeth Voigt
Gail and Ronald Walerstein

In Memoriam

Edward C. Coury
Carolyn Fish
Dick Voigt

**Center for Safety & Change
Executive Staff**

Elizabeth Santiago
Chief Executive Officer
Tracie D. McLee
Chief Development Officer
Andrea Panjwani, Esq.
Chief Legal Officer
Michael Nicholson
Chief Financial Officer

Development

Danielle Watson
Development Manager



Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Safety & Change is to develop strategies to end gender-based violence and provide shelter and supportive services that empower survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse and other crimes.

Value Statement

The values of the Center for Safety & Change are built on a foundation of knowledge that gender-based violence is a historically deep-rooted and pervasive reality. The Center is committed to changing systems that tolerate and perpetuate the oppression of women and violence against others. We are bound by these values to offer services that are both relevant to and respectful of the diverse communities we serve.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Center for Safety & Change is to help create a society in which all individuals can live with dignity and equality, free from fear, violence and oppression.

centerforsafetyandchange.org

development@centersc.org

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24-Hour Hotline: (845) 634-3344



WE ARE *Hiring!*
[Click here to view current job openings.](http://centerforsafetyandchange.org/careers)
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