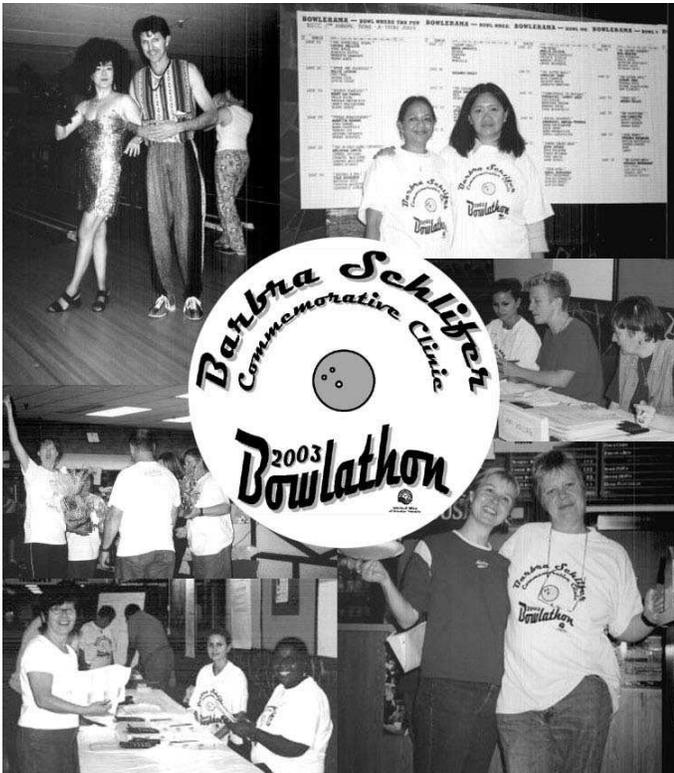


Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2003/04

Second Annual Bowlathon 125 Bowlers and over \$19,700 Raised.



Bowlers, Volunteers and Staff make our Second Annual Bowlathon a Success!

One hundred-and-twenty-five bowlers enjoyed an afternoon of fun at the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic's Second Annual Bowlathon on September 13th, 2003 at Thorncliffe Bowlarama.

Board, staff, families, volunteers and friends of the Schlifer Clinic got together to test their skills at ten pin cosmic bowling on twenty-six lanes.

This entertaining afternoon resulted in over \$19,700 raised in pledges and sponsorships.

The net proceeds from this fundraiser will support the counseling, legal and interpretation services of the Schlifer Clinic, helping to continue these vital services to women survivors of violence.

Our special thanks go to Thorncliffe Bowlarama, and to our lane sponsors: Shamin Shivji (Barrister and Solicitor), Melanie Sager (Barrister and Solicitor), Ellen Murray (Barrister and Solicitor), Thomson Rogers (Barristers and Solicitors), Winnie Wong (Barrister and Solicitor), Judith Arrillaga (Barrister and Solicitor), Katherine Kavassalis (Barrister and Solicitor), Renuka Satchithanathan (Barrister and Solicitor), Timothy's World Coffee, Davine Burton (Barrister and Solicitor), Lillian Adamakis (*Re/Max Hallmark Realty Ltd.*).

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are now needed for our major fundraising event of the year, "Tribute", to assist us in the promotion of the event, securing sponsors for the event and the acquisition of gifts in kind for our silent auction.

Call Julia Sanchez at:

(416) 323-9149 ext 240

or e-mail her at :

j.sanchez@schliferclinic.com

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Upcoming Events

Join us for The Tenth Annual
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic's
"Tribute"

A special evening of music, food and celebration at

The Boiler House
In the Distillery District
55 Mill Street (Front & Parliament)
Thursday, February 26, 2004
Doors open at 6:00 pm
For more information call:
(416) 323-9149 x237



Volunteer Corner

Board Of Directors News

Appreciating Lisa Clarkson:

Lisa Clarkson stepped down as our Board President in April 2003 having occupied that position since August 2000. Lisa originally joined our Board in 1999 and since then has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the Schlifer Clinic. A lawyer by trade, Lisa brought a range of skills and expertise to her position including a keen understanding of legal service-delivery, extensive analytical skills and a capacity to design and implement strategic and developmental processes. Early in her presidency, Lisa set in place an Organizational Review that resulted in a re-structuring of the Clinic's management. Since the fall of 2001 Lisa has Chaired our Long Range Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Lisa oversaw these two critical processes with great leadership and energy. For three years, Lisa also Chaired the Clinic's Board Recruitment Committee. Throughout all these of initiatives, Lisa encouraged and valued the skills and expertise of the Clinic's staff both as it related to organizational issues and to the programmes/services and advocacy initiatives we deliver. We thank her for her commitment and support as President and look forward to her continued participation on our Board of Directors in the future.

Some Members of the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting



Linda Robinson, Lisa Clarkson, Wendy Kelley, and Priyanka Sheth.

Saying Goodbye to Elizabeth Stewart:

Liz Stewart joined our Board of Directors in 1999 and has been a significant contributor to both our organizational development and to the development of our fundraising capacity. In April 2003, Liz became our new Board President and in her short tenure in that position, provided great leadership and direction to the Clinic. Most notably, Liz was a strong advocate for the Clinic within the legal community and was instrumental in raising the profile of the Clinic within that community. Liz also committed enormous time and energy to the Clinic's various fundraising activities, in particular, the "Tribute", our major event of the year. As a result of Liz's efforts, "Tribute" has become broadly supported by large law firms and the corporate community. Liz has also Chaired the Legal Working Group of the Strategic Planning process where she contributed her vast legal expertise in determining the focus of our legal services into the long-range future. Liz retired from our Board of Directors in September 2003 when she was appointed to the Bench of the Superior Court of Justice. We congratulate Liz on this wonderful appointment and know that her contributions to the justice system of this province will be enormous. Though Liz's time as President was relatively short, her contributions will have a long-lasting significance.

Announcing Our New President:

The Clinic is pleased to announce the appointment of our new Board President, Priyanka Sheth. Priyanka has been a member of our Board of Directors since the year 2000. When she joined our Board, Priyanka brought extensive non-profit experience in women's services and a wealth of knowledge and expertise on social service provision to women who are survivors of violence. During her time on the Board, Priyanka has sat on our Interpreter Services Advisory Board and more recently, Chaired the Board Recruitment Committee. Her leadership qualities and her commitment to providing high quality services to women who have experienced violence and to addressing the unique barriers experienced by culturally diverse women, will greatly benefit the Clinic as we implement our new Long-Range Strategic Plan and introduce new service and advocacy initiatives in the coming years.

Continued on page 6...

LEGAL DEPARTMENT UPDATE

New Community Development Initiatives Focus On Access To Justice

As we enter the last quarter of fiscal year 2003/04, we are fully involved in the design and implementation of a number of exciting new initiatives to promote access to justice for women who are victims of violence. Funded in part by the Ministry of the Attorney General, (through the Ontario Women's Directorate), Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) and a number of foundations and individuals, these projects will increase women's access to justice in significant ways. Following is a brief synopsis of these projects:

- Multiple Services Enhancement Project: Funded by LAO to enhance the effectiveness of service delivery to assaulted women, this project is focused on the development of referral and service-delivery policies and protocols to ensure coordinated responses to victims across the legal clinic system, the LAO Area Offices in the GTA, Duty Counsel in the Family Courts and other non-profit service providers.
- LAO Manual For Victims of Violence: The Clinic is designing a Manual for victims that will assist them in making effective applications for legal aid certificates in family law. It includes sections on the LAO certificate programme, practical points on documentation required by LAO and effective on ways of disclosing the existence of domestic violence.
- Public Legal Education Conference For Immigrant and Refugee Women: Scheduled for the Fall of 2004, this Conference (partially funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate) will focus on the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and the impact of changes to the refugee determination process that will impact on victims of violence. The conference will also include workshops on other areas of law and a number of settlement issues experienced by non-English speaking women.
- The Associates Programmes: Partially funded by LAO, this innovative new model of service-delivery will be up and running by January 1, 2004. The Clinic has entered into an agreement with two family law lawyers who will locate their practices within the Clinic's offices. In return for the provision of various infrastructure and other supports, these lawyers will accept a designated number of referrals from the Clinic for the delivery of comprehensive legal services as well as provide summary legal advice to women seeking the Clinic's assistance.
- Domestic Abuse Survivors Empowerment Project: Funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario, the Clinic and its two project partners, Pro Bono Law Ontario and New Directions, will produce a video for survivors of partner assault on how to maintain a healthy and productive relationship with their family law lawyer. Through a combination of interviews with real survivors, dramatizations, and commentaries by lawyers, the video will depict some of the common problems experienced by women and suggest ways and means of ensuring that the solicitor-client relationship meets the needs and expectations of the client. The video is scheduled for completion in late spring, 2004.
- Family Law Clinics: In partnership with Pro Bono Law Ontario, the Clinic will design and deliver a series of quarterly "summary legal advice clinics" on family law for survivors of partner assault. Clients will meet with a family law lawyer providing summary advice to them on a pro bono basis. Simultaneously, the Clinic will conduct seminars on the family law system.
- Lawyer Development Project: This two-part project is designed to facilitate the professional development of family law lawyers currently working with survivors of violence and to establish a new process for the ongoing recruitment of new lawyers to the Clinics' Lawyer Referral System.
- Unrepresented Litigants Project: In the new year, the Clinic will engage in research designed to determine the numbers of survivors of violence who are unrepresented in the Family Courts in Toronto and the reasons that they are unrepresented. The information acquired through this research will assist the Clinic in designing its future service and advocacy initiatives in the area of family law.

New Legal Staff, Students and Volunteers

Since April, 2003 a number of new staff members have joined our organization: Shirlee Lee is our new Legal Assistant who comes to the Clinic with 7 years of experience in family law. Debra Callandar is the Clinic's new Legal Intake Worker/Advocate. Debra has worked on the front lines of the battered women's movement as a service provider and legal advocate for 15 years. Nilufa Husein, the Clinic's new family law lawyer, has practiced family law for 6 years and has considerable experience representing assaulted women. Alice Cranker is a lawyer newly called to the Bar who is replacing our family lawyer, Caroline Sand who is on maternity leave. Alice has worked as a legal volunteer at the Clinic for the last year and has wide-ranging interest/knowledge in the area of constitutional rights. Blanca Alvarado assumed her new position in the Clinic as our Community Legal Worker. Blanca brings many years of legal service delivery experiences to her new job.

The legal department is also pleased to welcome law students Katie Wood, Shabnum Durrani and Rosa Kim who are participating in the Clinical Education Programme through the University of Toronto Law School as well as Jasmine Ngan from the George Brown College Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate Programme. In addition, we welcome a number of legal volunteers: Christina Shalaby, Saba Zarghami and Sheerin Kalia.

A New Girl for Our Team!



The Legal Department is pleased to announce the arrival of Noa Irene, the 7lbs, 5 ounce new baby daughter of our staff lawyer, Caroline Sand and her partner, Angus Grant. Congratulations to them both!

Client Services

In this fiscal year, the Clinic has experienced unprecedented demand for its' legal services, on average receiving 150 calls per month for assistance. The Clinic is addressing this demand through the delivery of many of the new initiatives highlighted on page 3, as well as through the use of law and social work students to assist in client case work and intake services.

A Woman's Lament

Hello, my name is Freda. I just emigrated from India. Somebody gave me your phone number and I am just calling to see if you might be able to help me. My husband hit me again last night and told me to leave the house. I have nowhere to go with my two young children. Asha is 4 years old and Amit is only 18 months old. I am so scared. I don't want to go back to India. You know they killed my mother and brother right in front of my eyes..... I am not sure who they were... I was only a child when it happened and then my father re-married a younger woman who thought I should get married too. So they arranged for me to marry my husband when I was only 14 years old. I had never met him before or spoken to him. My father knows my husband's family so they made the arrangements for me to marry and come to Canada. It was supposed to be a better life here than where I came from. I am not so sure of anything anymore. My husband keeps telling me that I will die in the same way that my mother and brother did if I don't listen to him and do what he says. I try to do what I think he wants me to do. I take care of the children, clean the house, and do all the chores. I even cook his favorite foods. But it happens even when I don't expect this. He comes at me with the phone, with the knife, with the children's toys. Sometimes it really hurts me. Most times, I just go to my room and cry. Last month, my nose was broken and there was a lot of blood on my face. I did not tell anyone. I lied to the doctors and told them I fell down. Then he tried to hurt me again and the children called 911. The police brought the children and me to this shelter. Could you please help me to go back home because the children don't like it here. I think everything will be all right if we just go back home and forget everything. I promise to be good. Can you please make him stop hitting me in front of the children because Asha is having nightmares about daddy hitting mommy. Please help me to stop this. I don't want to call the police and I don't want to go back to India. I have nobody there. Please, I have nowhere else to turn. I have no money today to buy food for the children. I need to go back home... what should I do... who will help me? thanks so much for listening to me.....

COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT UPDATE

An Expressive Arts Project for Women: "Out of the Mud The Lotus Blooms"

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic, Sistering, and The Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art joined together to provide an expressive arts group for women who are survivors of violence. Eleven women constructed individual ceramic, totem-like structures, each of which told a unique story of their hopes in surviving the violence they experienced. The women designed and installed an exhibition of their artwork at the Gardiner Museum. The group ran from May to July, 2003 and the exhibition was on view for the public for one week in July.

The women involved in this significant and inspiring project worked with Suzanne Thomson an art therapist, counsellor and sculptor who assisted them on this healing journey. They identified experiences that shaped their lives. Through their artistic creations, they transformed their pain and celebrated their strengths. This important project brought recognition to violence against women as well as understanding and prevention of abuse to the community.

One woman's Artist Statement included: "I ... trust my inner voice and celebrate my being. Alive I do not allow others to crush my hope, my spirit, and my heart. My hope circulates within and without me, to allow me to bloom, to shine on those who are in the dark". Another client said, "I was given the chance to grow, learn and be me which allowed me the opportunity to.....contribute to society".

At the Art Exhibit opening, the participants sang original songs, recited poems, and publicly celebrated their accomplishments.



Staffing Changes

We were sorry to say good-bye to Lynn Cohen who has dedicated over 16 years to counselling clients at the BSCC. Her warmth, openness, and compassion have been highly valued. Her colleagues and her clients will miss her greatly.

We were very pleased to hire Ketrina Delo, on a one-year contract. Ketrina brings years of experience in the area of trauma, specifically violence against women. She has worked with women who were survivors of war trauma, including rape, in her home country of Albania. Ketrina worked in a shelter for abused women in Toronto before joining us. We thank Ketrina for her willingness to jump into all aspects of the BSCC work, including picking up Lynn's caseload and group projects.

Community Development Initiative

Cherie Miller, Director of Counselling Services, has been actively involved in designing the Woman Abuse Council's new High Risk Consultation Team. A cross-sectoral team has been meeting since September 2002 on this project. The High Risk Consultation Team will use the resources and knowledge of various key sectors to increase individual woman's safety and constrain their abusers.

Counselling Students

Welcome to our new students who joined the Clinic in September 2003: Bernadette La Porte, George Brown College, Human Services Counsellor Program, Yarla Rabelo, University of Toronto, Master of Social Work, Mariana Huesca, Seneca College, Social Service Worker Program, and Tayech Berhanu, Centennial College, Social Service Worker. These students will engage in their placements under the supervision of our counsellors and Transitional Support Counsellors. During the summer, Afroza Begum, New Experiences for Women, and Danijela Stajic, George Brown College, Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate Program, joined the team. Thank you to the students, as well as their supervisors, who are committed to educating new counsellors in best practices to help women lead violence-free lives.

Thanking Our Funding Partners

- Ministry of the Attorney General
 - Ministry of Citizenship
- Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
 - Legal Aid Ontario
 - City of Toronto
- United Way of Greater Toronto
- Toronto Community Foundation

Continued from page 2...

Welcoming New Board Members:

The Clinic welcomes two new members to our Board of Directors and welcomes back a third!

Rhia Newton joined our Board in June 2003 and brings a wealth of skills and experiences in the non-profit community to the Clinic including expertise in administrative and financial management, fundraising, and communications/public relations. Rhia also possesses considerable knowledge in the provision of counseling/therapy services and is committed to empowering women who are survivors of violence.

Sheryl Beckford joined our Board of Directors at our Annual General Meeting in October 2003. Sheryl is a lawyer who possesses extensive skills in the area of financial administration, policy development and programme evaluation. She has also worked in and is deeply committed to, social justice and to women's human rights. Sheryl also has experience with non-profit legal service delivery through her association with community-based legal clinics.

Lastly, the Schlifer Clinic is pleased to welcome back our past Board member and friend, Nicole Stewart-Kamanga. Nicole is a lawyer with extensive practical experience and expertise in the area of family law. She is deeply committed to the delivery of legal services to low income individuals and to ensuring fairness and justice for women who are survivors of domestic violence. Nicole brings a range of skills including a creative and critical analysis of law as it relates to the pursuit of legal remedies for victims of violence. We are fortunate that Nicole has rejoined our Board.

INTERPRETER SERVICES

The Interpreter Services Department receives an average of 25-30 requests for Language Interpreters every day, and an additional 7 calls in the evenings, totally 990 calls per month. For each request for service, we make and receive approximately 15 calls to set up interpretation.

The Interpreter Service has filled 3,798 assignments, representing 7,365 hours of services, for 960 victims over the course of the first nine months of this year.

The top 10 languages sought for interpretation from January - September 2003 were Spanish, Mandarin, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Farsi, Somali, Korean, French, Cantonese and Russian. The Clinic currently has over 180 Language Interpreters on its roster who speak 46 different languages. To manage our interpreters as well as process the requests for interpreters, the Interpreter Services uses a Database system developed by the Ministry of Citizenship called (IAS), the Information Assignment System. The IAS site management system also allows both the Interpreter Services and the Ministry of Citizenship to generate the reports it needs to monitor and assess the service.

YOUR DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

Although the Clinic receives funding from our partners listed above, we also greatly rely on the generosity of individual donors. If you wish to make a contribution in support of our Counselling, Interpretation and/or Legal Services for female survivors of violence, please send a cheque to the address below. Your donation, large or small, is vital to the operation of the Clinic and is sincerely appreciated. Income tax receipts will be provided.

Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
489 College Street, Suite 503
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M6G 1A5

You can also call us at (416) 323-9149 x 237 or e-mail us at: fundraising@schliferclinic.com

with your

Visa, MasterCard or Amex number.



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