

Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2004

Bowling for Dollars Bowlathon 2004 A Big Success

Friends, family, and supporters joined the Board, staff, and Volunteers of the Barbra Schlifer Clinic for another fun filled afternoon of strikes and gutter balls when the Clinic held its Third Annual Fundraising "Bowlathon" on September 11th 2004. This event could not have been a success without the commitment of the many individuals who gave pledges, the businesses who sponsored the event and donated gifts-in-kind, and everyone who bowled in order to raise over \$16,000 to help the Clinic continue its vital services for women who are survivors of violence.

The Clinic would especially like to thank our lane Sponsors: Thomson Rogers (Barristers and Solicitors); Perlmutter, Kavassalis (Barristers and Solicitors); Murray and Gregory (Barristers and Solicitors); Lerner LLP (Barristers and Solicitors); Davine Burton (Barrister and Solicitor); Melanie Sager (Barrister and Solicitor); Timothy's World Coffee (500 Church Street); Mantis Investigation Agency; JohnLynn Carpentry Ltd.; Claudia Eichhorn and an Anonymous donor.

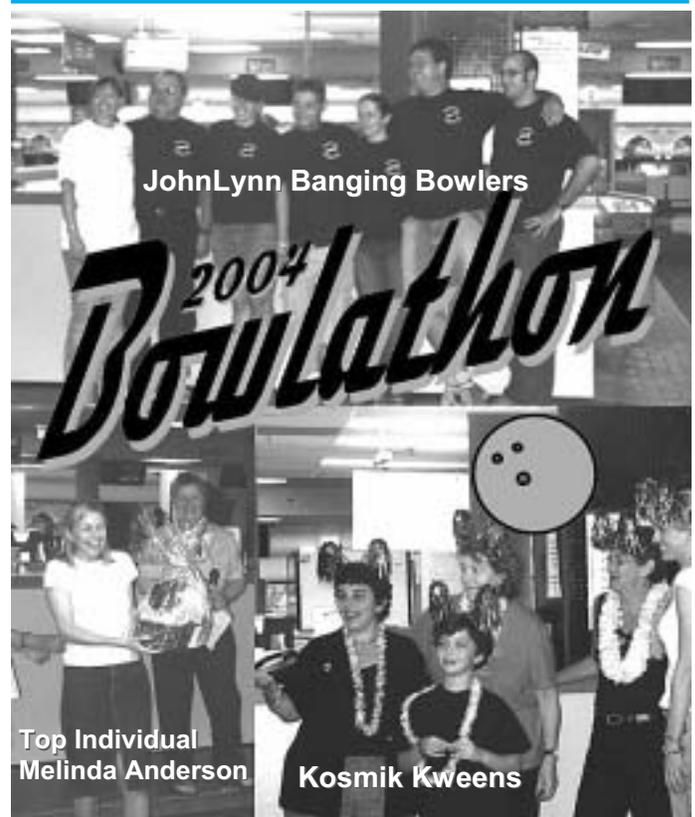
Special thanks to all our Team Captains, to the "JohnLynn Banging Bowlers", our top team who raised more than \$2,000, and to our runner up team of Board Member Anne Scott and her team "I Can't Believe its Not Gutter". Congratulations to our top individual- Board Member Melinda Anderson, and to Cherie Miller who raised the most money among the staff! Best Team name went to "The Shining Path Bowlers" and best costume to the "Kosmik Kweens".

In 2005 the Clinic will celebrate its 20th Anniversary and our "Fourth Annual Bowlathon" will be a smashing event. We invite you to join us; we promise you a fabulous afternoon.

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Everyone's a Winner!



Upcoming Events

Join us for Our Special 20th Anniversary
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic

11th Annual "Tribute"

A special evening of music, food and celebration at

The Boiler House

In the Distillery District

55 Mill Street (Front & Parliament)

Thursday, February 24, 2005

Doors open at 6:00 pm

For more information call:

(416) 323-9149 x237

Featuring Jeff Healey!

Volunteer Corner

New study on Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector, First Of Its Kind

Findings from a landmark study on Canadian nonprofit organizations and registered charities were released on September 20, 2004 at the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy's annual symposium in Toronto. The results paint a first-time portrait of the size and scope of the voluntary sector, illustrating the challenges it faces and identifying significant hurdles. This research is the first comprehensive snapshot taken of such Canadian organizations and is expected to be instrumental in determining strategic solutions to community issues.

The study of 13,000 nonprofits and charities was sponsored by a consortium, including the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, and carried out by Statistics Canada. Entitled the National Survey of Nonprofit and Voluntary Organizations (NSNVO), it illustrates the huge impact the sector has on Canadian economies and communities.

Approximately 161,000 incorporated nonprofit organizations and registered charities operated in Canada in 2003. They affect all aspects of Canadian life. Most organizations are governed by Volunteer Boards and more than half are run entirely by Volunteers. Canadians are volunteering 2 billion hours every year, fill 19 million volunteer positions and donate \$8 billion annually

One of the key findings of the study shows that most organizations face enormous challenges in recruiting qualified Volunteers and obtaining Volunteer Board Members. "Results such as this are crucial to the understanding of the role and impact of Volunteers in Canada—how and when they are mobilized, their importance to our economy, and how organizations engage, recruit and retain Volunteers. Until now, this has remained largely undefined," says Marlene Deboisbriand President of Volunteer Canada. "With a more complete picture of the sector, its influence and potential, we can target and expand our efforts related to Volunteer engagement."

The NSNVO is the result of over two years of work by organizations involved in the research of social issues. In addition to the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, the consortium includes: l'Alliance de recherche universitiés-communautés en économie sociale à l'Université du Québec à Montréal; the Canadian Council on Social Development; Canada West Foundation; Capacity Development Network; Community Services Council of Newfoundland and Labrador; University of Victoria and Queen's University; and Statistics Canada. The study was supported by funding from the Capacity Joint Table, through the Social Development Partnerships Program of Social Development Canada. The full report is available at www.nonprofitscan.ca

The Clay Remembers Everything

The clay remembers everything,
More than even me,
The clay sees all the details
That are hidden far beneath.

The clay opens all the dreams
All the wonders that have been,
All the secret hiding spaces
The silent moment's scream.

If we name it with the words
The clay has given us
Will it finally go away
So we can heal ourselves.

The clay
It has a memory.
And so do we.

Mina Stauber

June 25, 2004

Opening of Gardiner Museum of Ceramic
Arts Exhibition, Expressive Arts Group.

BARBRA SCHLIFER CLINIC TURNS 20 IN 2005

Our 20th Anniversary is fast approaching. We are beginning to plan a number of fundraising, public education and Commemorative functions for what promises to be a memorable and important year in the history of the Clinic.

If you are interested in participating on the 20th Anniversary Planning Committee, please contact Julia Sanchez at:

416-323-9149 Ext.240.

or e-mail her at:

j.sanchez@schliferclinic.com

Board of Directors News:

Welcome to New Board Members:

We are pleased to welcome several new Board Members who bring energy, enthusiasm, commitment and a wide range of skills, experience and expertise to the Clinic. The following Members have recently joined the Board.

Melinda Anderson:

Melinda was a Volunteer at the Clinic many years ago and she has returned to us after becoming a lawyer, employed at Torys LLP. She has consistently demonstrated her deep commitment to a feminist-informed legal practice and issues. Melinda has already proven her great fundraising abilities by winning the prize for individual pledges at our recent Bowlathon. Thank you, Melinda.

Paula McGirr:

Paula began her involvement at the Clinic as a member of the Legal Advisory Committee for our Associates Program. She has a deep commitment to "advancing the rights of women in the justice system". Paula has over 15 years of experience representing women dealing with partner abuse and child welfare issues. Currently, Paula works for the Legal Aid Ontario Family Law Office. Her sensitivity, experience, and knowledge of the complex legal situations that our clients face are great contributions to the Board. Thank you Paula.

Gina Papageorgiou:

We are very fortunate to have Gina as a member of our Board of Directors. She was formerly a partner at McCarthy Tetrault. In September, Gina returned to school to do a Masters of Law program at York University. Gina brings skills related to fundraising, organizational change, and policy development. She wants to help create social change through participating in our Board of Directors. Thank you Gina.

Anne Scott:

Anne is a Communications Consultant for GPC International Public Affairs and Communications. She has extensive experience doing Pro Bono work with non-profits, including the Children's Aid Foundation and the CIBC World Market Children's Miracle Foundation. Anne brings valuable knowledge related to marketing, media, research, fundraising and corporate environments. We appreciate Anne's enthusiasm and commitment on our Board. Thank you Anne.

The Clinic's 23rd A.G.M was held Monday October 25,2004.

Pictures top left to right:

- Staff member Maricela Lozano and law student Yeon Pak at registration desk.
- E.D. Darlene Lawson gives her report.
- Julia Sanchez, Volunteer Coordinator, thanks our volunteers.

Bottom left:

- The crowd at the A.G.M.

Bottom right :

- Legal volunteer Natalie Zawadowsky and staff members Alice Cranker and Rebecca Teshome.

Special thanks to the Organizing Committee:Gisela Vanzaghi, Patricia Arango. Blanca Alvarado and to Dufflet's for their donation of the delicious desserts.



COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

New Group Programs in the Counselling Department

The Counselling Department has recently developed two new group programs for women survivors of trauma designed to address the limited availability for individual counselling combined with accessibility restrictions that are two barriers that have prevented some women from accessing the support they need. For additional information on all our groups please visit our website at www.schliferclinic.com or contact Nicole Biros at 416-323-9149 xtn. 234.

Women's Open Trauma Group

This is an introductory group for women who have experienced trauma. It is an open group and does not have a waiting list, allowing women to access support immediately. The focus of this group is to provide information about referral sources, psycho-education around the impact of trauma and emotional support for current life situations.

Participants receive resource information about how different community agencies may address their needs and will be given the opportunity to develop self-care practices and learn various methods of healthy coping. The group is currently running each Friday from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Clinic. For further information or to register for this group, contact Nicole Biros at 416-323-9149 xtn. 234.

Abuse/Trauma Survivors Support Group for Women with Mobility Disabilities – Closed Group

In partnership with Education Wife Assault, the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic is offering a trauma support group for women with mobility disabilities. The group will provide women living with mobility disabilities an opportunity to enhance their strengths, create new coping skills, reduce isolation, as well as offer them a safe environment to acknowledge their experience, gain support, and receive validation from others with similar experiences. Women will have an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of how current behaviours are linked to living with a disability and the impact of past abuse and trauma.

This group commenced on October 8, 2004 and will run for 8 consecutive weeks. For more information or to arrange an appointment, please contact Nicole Biros at the above number.

We gratefully acknowledge financial support for this project from the Ontario Women's Directorate (OWD). Views expressed in the group do not necessarily reflect those of the OWD or the Government of Ontario. The Anne Johnston Health Station has generously donated the space for this group to be held.

A New Face

We are pleased to welcome Nicole Biros, the new Intake Counsellor/ Advocate, to the Counselling Department. Nicole began working at the Clinic on April 1, 2004. Previously, Nicole worked at the Office for Victims of Crime, Victims Unit and the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, College Park. Nicole brings a calm, focused, and enthusiastic attitude to a very demanding role. She is compassionate, flexible, and dedicated in her work with clients. We are very fortunate to have Nicole as a new member of our team. Welcome Nicole!

Thank You is Very Much in Order. But to Me, it is Not Enough.

It is with mixed emotions that I take this time out to say 'Thank You' to **ALL** the members of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic for their continuing help and support during my greatest time of need. One may wonder why mixed emotions? But, yes I say mixed, because I am feeling happy and sad at the same time.

I am happy because I feel I have been given a new lease on life and I am no longer the person who first went to the Clinic. At that time I was a broken woman, feeling lost, lonely and depressed, with not even the Will to go on.

The help I received has given me an incentive to go on and to move forward with my life. It has given me the determination and empowerment to help others in situations like myself, to encourage abused women to seek help instead of covering it up. Now it is a joy to give back as freely as I have received and to show far and near the virtues of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic. Thank you everyone.

I am sad, because I feel incapable of showing all my appreciation for the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic. But I hope that expressing my feelings on paper will do so in some small way.

I know that some of the help I received at the Clinic came from staff members behind the scenes, but, I must mention three staff members in particular who hold special places in my heart - Claudia, Susanna and Alice.

Individually and collectively they have played an unforgettable part in my life. Together they created an atmosphere of Love and Understanding that encircled and buffeted me to enhance the healing and spiritual growth that has indeed taken place within me. I am today a new person, no longer afraid.

Thanks once again to my special heroes Claudia, Susanna and Alice and everyone at the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic.

As a token of my appreciation I would like to give the Clinic a small donation. I can never repay the indebtedness I feel, so that is why I say 'Thank You is Not Enough'. It and this letter however come from the heart of one who has been helped and greatly appreciates that help.

Thanks Again.

Jocelyn

A New Group for Spanish-speaking Women who have experienced Childhood Sexual Abuse

The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, the Centre for Spanish Speaking Peoples and the Jane and Finch Community and Family Centre have created a partnership in order to offer a group for Spanish-speaking women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse and to fill what has been a great gap in services. The United Way identified the need for services in the northern part of Toronto in the report "Poverty By Postal Code" and we are very pleased to be able to offer this group in the Jane/Finch part of the city.

In January 2004 we started the first group and the experience of working with the women was very painful but at the same time very rewarding. We listened to and witnessed how their childhood experience of sexual abuse had shattered their identity and destroyed their sense of trust in themselves and others. On the other hand, we also had the privilege to see how each woman in the group began to regain her trust and to acknowledge her shame and guilt. Through understanding the effects of the abuse, and identification of the way she learned to cope with the traumatic experience, each woman was able to start transforming her self- image and to begin to recognize and distinguish between healthy and unhealthy ways of coping with the trauma.

Currently, we are running a second group. Although this is a first stage group, it has been very rewarding to see how most women begin to thrive by understanding how the abuse has impacted their lives and the way they relate to themselves, others and the world.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Update

The Barbra Schlifer Clinic Legal Department is staffed by three lawyers, Alice Cranker, Caroline Sand and Nilufa Husein as well as a Legal Intake Worker, Paula Alves. The team is supervised by the Director of Legal Services, Mary Lou Fassel. Our services include the provision of legal information and advice; advocacy within the legal system and Domestic Violence Courts; referrals to lawyers, Legal Clinics and assistance with Legal Aid; representation before various Tribunals such as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board; representation in Family Law Applications for Child Custody, Child & Spousal Support and Restraining Orders; and representation in Immigration Applications for women who have experienced sponsorship breakdown and/ or are victims of violence. The Department receives over 100 calls each month. Most callers are referred externally, many to Legal Aid. When a woman who is a victim/survivor of domestic violence is referred to a member of the Family Law Private Bar, the Clinic provides a 2 hour Duty Counsel Certificate to a lawyer of her choice in order for her to receive Summary Legal Advice.

Internal referrals are based on a screening for eligibility. The criteria include whether a woman is a survivor/victim of violence; whether she would qualify for a Legal Aid Certificate and could be referred to the Private Bar; the size of our caseload at the time services are requested; the Clinic's resources to take the case presented; and the stage at which the proceedings, if any, are at.

Our qualified and experienced Legal Team works in conjunction with Counsellors, other service providers and the Private Bar, often under extreme time constraints with limited resources, tackling complicated legal issues. They are truly committed to assisting the Clinic's clients to utilize the legal system effectively in their pursuit of justice and violence-free lives.

Goodbye to Sudabeh

Sudabeh was hired by the Clinic in 1999 and was our first Immigration Lawyer. With her considerable skill and experience, she established a dynamic and quality Immigration Law service at the Clinic which continues to be a highly valued service in the community. Sudabeh possessed great expertise in the area of Refugee Protection Law and Violence Against Women and utilized a well developed and complex gender analysis of the law in both her day to day legal work and in the area of law reform. She participated in many Coalitions addressing Immigration Law policy and created a considerable profile for the Clinic in the Immigration Law community. Most significantly, Sudabeh commonly represented many women who had experienced gender persecution in their country of origin and women abused by partners who had sponsored them, and achieved great success in even the most difficult of cases. Sudabeh left the Clinic in September to become Equity Counsel at the Law Society of Upper Canada. We wish her the best in her new job. Thank you Sudabeh.



INTERPRETER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Interpreter Service of the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic is now in its 17th year of operation serving non-English speaking immigrant and refugee women, who are victims of domestic violence. Over the years, women victims of domestic violence have been served by Language Interpreters to access a variety of services, mainly shelters, lawyers, and other agencies in the mental/medical health, legal, housing and social welfare systems. BSCC Language Interpreters, who are all Independent Contractors, have also served women at agencies who work with their children, as well as in groups while they attend educational workshops.

BSCC IS closely monitors statistics on language demand. This helps us to continuously serve the needs of the clients by directing our efforts in recruiting needed Language Interpreters. The Ministry of Citizenship, which is the sole funder of the VAW Interpreter Services Program, has in its roster 200 Language Interpreters, available to all the 10 Interpreter Sites throughout Ontario. Of the 200, 104 list BSCC as their main site, which means that our site recruited and trained those Interpreters.

The top 10 Languages served by BSCC Interpreter Service in the period covering April 2004 to present are:

Spanish	371
Mandarin	272
Farsi	180
Tamil	104
Polish	76
Somali	75
Korean	75
Urdu	70
Vietnamese	72
Bengali	65
Twi	64

These figures are consistent with Toronto's current population demographics. The increase in immigrants coming from China, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Iran and Hong Kong explains the increase in demand for Mandarin, Farsi and Tamil.

The next 11 languages by demand are:

Russian	60
Cantonese	56
French	46
Hindi	44
Portuguese	43
Serbo-Croatian	42
Turkish	42
Romanian	41
Amharic	29
Tagalog	26
Macedonian	25

There are 67 service agencies and organizations which are on BSCC's list of sites where we provide interpretation, of which 35 are agencies specifically serving women and their children. We continuously work with service providers who give us their invaluable feedback and input about Language Interpreters' services. At the moment, BSCC is working on performance evaluation measurement tools to augment the input coming from service providers. Undertaking this kind of evaluation will help us continually improve the quality of service and performance standards.

BSCC also maintains a high level of interaction with Language Interpreters on its roster by conducting regular meetings and through phone calls. Interpreters are encouraged to report concerns and ask for our assistance whenever they need to. We are also making efforts to increase the involvement of Language Interpreters in the evaluation of BSCC IS Administration.

Calling For New Board Members!

The Clinic is looking for Board Members who bring a range of skills and talents to our organization, such as fundraising and program development and evaluation knowledge. In order to reflect our client population, we invite women representing the diversity of our community to apply.

For more information about
Joining the Board
Contact:

Cherie Miller at 416-323-9149 Ext. 235 or
Julia Sanchez at 416-323-9149 Ext. 240

OUR 20th ANNIVERSARY IN 2005

The Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic marks 2005 as the 20th year of our opening and start of provision of free legal and counselling support to female victims of violence. It is also the 25th anniversary of the death of Barbra Schlifer, who was killed on April 11, 1980, after returning home from celebrating her call to the Bar of Ontario that same day. To commemorate Barbra's life and her passion for social justice, her friends and colleagues including founding members Patricia Ashby and Frances Rapaport, worked to create a holistic, comprehensive and coordinated service which responds to women from a gender-based and systemic analysis of violence, and where women who had experienced violence could receive multidisciplinary help under one roof. On April 11, 1985, five years after Barbra's death, then Mayor Eggleton declared Barbra Schlifer Day in Toronto and the Clinic officially opened its doors in September 1985.

From a staff of 7 and a budget of \$60,000 in 1985, the Clinic has grown to 20 staff and a budget of almost \$2 million. From 160 women served by the Clinic in its first 4 months of operation, currently the Clinic serves 3,000 women each year. From a limited counselling service, 2 group programs and legal service provided by 1 lawyer in 1985, today the Clinic offers 4 Counsellors, 3 Transitional Support Workers, 10 group programs and 4 lawyers with experience in Immigration and Family Law. In 1987, the Clinic introduced the Interpreter Services Program, to provide interpretation for non-English speaking immigrant and refugee women who are victims of partner assault. From 8 Interpreters who spoke 6 languages and 400 requests for service in 1987, today 199 Interpreters speak 41 languages and the program fulfills 4,563 assignments per year. Since its inception, the Clinic has been involved in Public Education, Professional Training and Community Development for the purposes of advocacy on behalf of women survivors of violence and to work for the eradication of violence against women. We continue to be active participants in a wide range of community events and organizations.

During our 20th Anniversary, we will be celebrating the many accomplishments of the past 20 years and those who have contributed so much to the Clinic, commemorating Barbra Teena Schlifer, acknowledging the courageous women who have worked so hard to regain control of their lives and overcome the trauma of violence, and reiterating the need for social change to stop violence against women- with events such as a special "Tribute" fundraiser on February 24, 2005, and public education initiatives about the Clinic and the issue of violence against women. Please visit our Website www.schliferclinic.com as we will be posting additional information on the events for our 20th Anniversary year over the coming months.

Thanking Our Funding Partners

Ministry of the Attorney General
 Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration
 Ministry of Community and
 Social Services
 Ministry of Health and Long -Term
 Care
 Legal Aid Ontario
 City of Toronto
 United Way of Greater Toronto
 Toronto Community Foundation

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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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.



United Way
of Greater Toronto

A United Way member agency