“As a Filipino/American woman living in the Bay Area, I’m committed to continue this struggle as long as there are women at home and abroad who are subjected to such violence as rape. I’m inspired by the work of SFWAR and I will continue to support these efforts that build community and raise awareness on this issue.”

— Gala King, Board of Directors, FACES
MARGIN TO CENTER,
A LETTER FROM SFWAR'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One of SFWAR’s strengths is its commitment to working with communities most impacted by sexual assault. These communities often experience high rates of sexual assault precisely because they are marginalized by mainstream society. This also means that they often face additional obstacles in accessing support services. Two communities that face disproportionately high rates of sexual violence are people with disabilities and transgender communities.

We know that people with disabilities are sexually assaulted at a much higher rate than people who are considered able-bodied. Two deeply disturbing statistics illustrate this fact: (1) Women with disabilities are raped and abused at a rate at least twice that of the general population of women and (2) More than 90% of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives.

Recognizing that working effectively with any given community must begin internally, SFWAR invited two advocates from the disability rights community to lead a disability oppression training for SFWAR: Patricia Berne, president of SFWAR’s Board of Directors and Laura Hershey, a consultant with more than 25 years experience working professionally in the disability field. Their training not only provided space for SFWAR’s staff and Board to understand and challenge some of our own ableist assumptions, but also provided SFWAR a social justice framework for understanding disability oppression.

Another step that we are taking -- a milestone in SFWAR’s history -- is engaging directly with communities most impacted by sexual assault. It’s not always easy; it requires making mistakes, and having the humility to learn from those mistakes. In this process of learning and growth, we are deeply grateful to our allies: individuals and organizations from the disabled and transgender communities who have been willing to share their experience and wisdom with us. In particular we would like to thank the individuals and partners who have facilitated trainings and worked with us as consultants, and organizations like Trans/Gender Variant in Prison Committee (TIP), the Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project (TGI Justice Project), and World Institute on Disability (WID) who have been willing to share their experience and wisdom with us. We also remain grateful to all of you who have supported us over the years. We need your continued support to end sexual assault against all communities. And, if you have ever considered becoming a SFWAR volunteer or making a donation to SFWAR, we encourage you to act now.

In Strength and Unity,
SFWAR Board of Directors

Endnotes

GIVING VOICE

OUR BODIES GIVE VOICE

By Lisa Thomas-Adeyemo, Director of Counseling

The universe works in mysterious ways. When I began to ask myself questions and seek healing around my own internalized beliefs about ability and power, and how these beliefs play out in my life, interesting things began to happen. An invitation was extended to me to bring my gift of voice and song to Sins Invalid, a cultural performance featuring artists “speaking truth about their bodies, stripping taboos off of sexuality and disability, and revealing the beauty of disability and the pain of dehumanization.” My contribution to this evening was bringing awareness to the high rates of sexual violence and rape experienced by communities and individuals with disabilities.

We are surrounded by a rape culture where rape is used as a tool of oppression to take power from individuals and exercise control over them. Research shows that people with disabilities experience sexual violence at a much higher rate than people without disabilities. We also know that these assaults and abuses of power come at the hands of partners, family members, caregivers/attendants, and strangers. Moreover, we know most people with disabilities who’ve experienced sexual violence never tell anyone about the trauma. When survivors with disabilities do disclose, they are more likely to tell friends and family and less likely to turn to more formal systems (i.e. rape crisis centers). Both of these factors make it even more likely that survivors report sexual violence in a delayed fashion, if at all.

Margins to Center, continued from page 2

a step towards implementing this policy, SFWAR recently held an organization-wide conversation about transgender inclusion facilitated by Malachi Larrabee-Garza. This conversation was an important first step, but there are many steps that still need to be taken to implement full transgender inclusion at SFWAR.

It’s an exciting time to be part of SFWAR, especially as the organization takes on the responsibility of working more directly with communities most impacted by sexual assault. It’s not always easy; it requires making mistakes, and having the humility to learn from those mistakes. In this process of learning and growth, we are deeply grateful to our allies: individuals and organizations from the disabled and transgender communities who have been willing to teach us to be stronger and more effective allies. In particular we would like to thank the individuals who have facilitated trainings and worked with us as consultants, and organizations like Trans/Gender Variant in Prison Committee (TIP), the Transgender, Gender Variant, and Intersex Justice Project (TGI Justice Project),
Beyond Resistance Toward Liberation

Beyond Resistance Toward Liberation on June 30, 2007. This dynamic event featured 14 local poets, dancers and visual artists speaking out and healing from sexual violence. It builds an anti-violence movement that prioritizes survivors, people of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, low income individuals, queer people youth and others who have been marginalized or silenced.

This year’s event raised $5,000 through the silent auction and entrance donations. All proceeds go directly to programs supporting our mission of empowering survivors and supporting their healing.

Deep gratitude and appreciation to all the performers and artists for their courage and strength and for allowing us to be a part of their healing process. Thank you to San Francisco Arts Commission for funding the event, to the generous donors of the silent auction, to the volunteers who made this possible, and to you supporters for coming out.

In addition, our chapbook, containing the text of all performances and visual art, continue to reach those unable to attend the event. We still have chapbooks available for $15.00. If you would like your own copy, please contact SFWAR and we will send you one—they make an excellent gift and serve as a powerful resources for survivors and friends. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Janet Upadhye at 415.861.2024 ext 301 or at janetupadhye@sfwar.org.

Please join us in 2009 when we continue this tradition of healing and transformation through the arts!!

Emotional Rape

To not be believed
Is like having your body dragged over hot coals
Exposed to ridicule
Unprotected
Unnurtured
tel
People who drag degrees behind their names
Can be dangerous
They think they know everything
No humility
No teachability tel
They victimize the victim a 2nd time
And think nothing of it
I pull myself out of the fire
I surround myself with healing light
I call in the Ancestors
I join the universe as a warrior
Ready to do battle for what is Right

By Gloria Darlene Mann, 11th Annual Artists Against Rape
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROGRAM

By Amal Kouttab, Director of Community Initiatives

As the new Director of Community Initiatives (DCI), I would like to express how honored I am to join the dedicated staff of San Francisco Women Against Rape. Community Initiatives (CI) took form under the leadership of Roopa Singh, who worked as the first DCI from 2005-2006. During the program’s first year of implementation, an extensive community mapping process was conducted to assess the needs of various San Francisco City and County neighborhoods. By the end of this process, it was determined that the CI program would initially prioritize working in one geographic area—the Mission District. This enables the program to build a solid foundation, increase capacity and expand resources before partnering with other neighborhoods to conduct similar intervention strategies.

In support of our on-going prevention education efforts, the CI team has created new curriculum addressing drug facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) and internet and technology based violence. Both are steadily on the rise, particularly among youth. CI staff are now offering these two new workshops, in addition to presentations on sexual assault and prevention, sexual harassment and healthy dating.

Here are some things participants have to say about our presentations:

“I learned that there is a difference between flirting and sexual harassment.” High School Student

“The style of the presentation was original and engaging.” Adult, Training for Trainers

“I really enjoyed watching the final scenario with the instructor. I was reminded of more effective ways to facilitate.” Adult, Training for Trainers

“I learned how many types of sexual harassment there are.” High School Student

Other CI efforts include conducting monthly Spanish language popular education presentations at La Raza Centro Legal with men who are part of their Day Laborer Program. Juan Cuba and Mateo Nube are currently facilitating this initiative by providing a space in which participants can discuss issues related to gender, family, and community violence.

In conjunction with the Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center (LYRIC), Community Educators, Mary Miller and Juan Cuba, co-facilitated two 2-hour presentations for their Queer Women of Color Video Project. Presentations focused on sexual assault and harassment, rape prevention education, and group facilitation skills. Upon completion of the program, participants completed short films that were publicly screened in mid-July 2007.

In addition, self-defense groups were conducted with members of The Women’s Collective of La Raza Centro Legal. A total of 60 women attended two 1-½ hour groups and learned basic self-defense techniques. Long-time SFVAR collaborator and experienced self-defense instructor, Janet Gee, facilitated both groups. These groups were provided in Spanish.

As previously noted, CI conducted two focus groups this fiscal year one with young women and one composed of queer women of color. These focus groups allow us to assess the needs of communities and to determine what responses they deem most effective to prevent sexual violence. During 2007–2008, CI will conduct focus groups with immigrant men and women of Latin descent, formerly incarcerated women, and marginally housed and homeless women. This is a formative time for the CI program, one where we are building new relationships and strengthening existing ones. It is powerful to be part of a program that genuinely reflects the commitment of SFVAR to support both the healing of individuals and entire communities. ●

Our Bodies Give Voice, continued from page 3

crisis centers, law enforcement, the behavioral health system. Reasons for not disclosing are often related to shame, embarrassment, fear and the lived experience of not being believed. In addition, many survivors with disabilities choose not to disclose because they rely on the perpetrator to assist or care for them.

During the spring of 2006, the Direct Service Team at SFVAR began to have serious conversations about creating a support group space to address the healing needs of survivors with disabilities. We recognized that throughout history women have raised their voices in song to express their pain, tell their stories, find hope, and heal. This led to our inspiration to use song, vocal expression, and breath-work as the key modality of healing for this support group and the project, coined “Our Bodies Give Voice,” began to take shape. This support group asks participants to explore questions like “What is the sound of your shame?” and “How do you put voice to the sound of your strength?” The goal is to use the enduring cultural art of song, and community united in song, to find joy, break silences, and to heal.

“Our Bodies Give Voice,” is a nine week support group beginning September 2007. Each support group session is two hours in duration, and assistance with transportation and attendants is provided upon request. A mixed ability co-facilitation team comprised of the SFVAR Director of Counseling Services and SFVAR Board Chair Patty Berne lead the group; both of us have been active in racial justice and the gender based violence prevention efforts for over fifteen years each. Patty Berne currently directs the Project on Race, Disability and Eugenics at the Center for Genetics and Society. In that capacity she works with multiple constituencies concerned about the social justice implications and eugenic potential of emerging genetic and reproductive technologies. Patty is an active member of the SFVAR Board of Directors, and has facilitated both SFVAR writing workshops and support groups for survivors of sexual violence. Previously, Patty worked with the SFVAR Teen Education team facilitating youth workshops about sexuality, pleasure and consent. Her background includes community organizing within the Haitian Diaspora, advocacy with incarcerated youth toward implementing alternatives to the criminal legal system, and cultural activism to centralize marginalized voices—particularly those of people with disabilities.

The journey that led us to the development of this support group has been rich. While developing the curriculum for the group, we have been blessed to work with amazing consultants and collaborate with incredible organizations that will further our ability to extend our services to the disability community in San Francisco. Upon completion and evaluation of “Our Bodies Give Voice,” we look forward to sharing this curriculum with other agencies committed to disability rights and healing all communities. The personal act of examining areas requiring individual growth and self healing often causes a ripple effect of healing for entire communities. Yes, the universe truly works in mysterious ways!

Case Manager Julie Batidsay and Counseling Director, Lisa Thomas-Adeyemo. Photo by Frolayne Carlos

3rd Annual Walk Against Rape, April 2007. Photo by Teresa Martyny.
SFWAR reached over 6,827 people through our Annual Events, Direct Services, and Prevention Education Programs.

SFWAR served over 2,533 people on the hotline during the 2006-2007 fiscal year, providing crisis intervention to 676 survivors of sexual assault. Certified counselors are on standby 24-hours a day to offer crisis counseling and community referrals. Multi-lingual counselors are also available in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Farsi, Russian and Ukrainian.

Adult and Teen Education

Our Preventative Education Team directly reached over 3,318 people last year. Our Adult Education Program organized 16 Rape Prevention classes reaching 456 people. 2 self-defense classes for 65 people, tabled 13 festivals, fairs and community events reaching 750 people, and conducted 10 presentations for community organizations serving diverse communities reaching 151 people.

Our Teen Education Program conducted 74 classroom presentations to over 1,590 youth, and held 4 eight-week support groups reaching 35 young women and men. We provided 1 peer education training to 11 youth who will continue their work with SFWAR by going out and educating their peers. Additionally, we conducted 2 student assemblies to 200 students, and provided technical assistance to 5 schools and community based organizations.

Community Initiatives

The Community Initiatives (CI) Program encompasses both our adult and teen rape prevention education efforts and adds the component of supporting communities in mobilizing to confront (and ultimately end) rape. The CI Program recognizes that education of communities is a necessary precursor to community organizing/mobilizing. Therefore, every prevention education training/presentation SFWAR facilitates provides and opportunity to build authentic relationships with participants toward developing and implementing community-based approaches to address sexual violence. The SFWAR CI Program is predicated on building authentic community relationships, supporting communities as they work on their own solutions to confront violence, and aiding in connecting diverse communities with one another. In this way we are working toward the prevention of rape and sexual assault.

Based on an extensive community mapping process conducted in 2006, it was decided to initially focus our efforts on one geographic community—the Mission District. Moreover, there were five identity-based groups who were prioritized in this phase of CI; these groups were prioritized based on the high rates of sexual violence they experience. These groups are youth, immigrants, women who are marginally housed or homeless, queer women of color, and formerly and currently incarcerated women.

The CI program has conducted three focus groups with 12 youth and queer women of color, and 8 immigrant day laborers to assess existing and needed community responses to sexual violence.

Counseling

SFWAR’s Counseling Program provides free and confidential short term in-person peer counseling to survivors and their friends and family members. In 2006-2007, our Counseling Program reached 69 survivors and 8 significant others. We also offered two series of 8-week support groups to a total of 13 survivors. Realizing healing is a life-long journey, SFWAR offers referrals for long-term clinical counseling and support groups. For SFWAR volunteers who provide peer counseling, monthly meetings are in place to offer on-going support. Furthermore, during the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Counseling Program has continued its ability to offer survivors Somatic-based healing modalities.

Volunteer and Interns

SFWAR is alive and thriving because of the commitment of over 60 volunteers. Volunteers staff the hotline, offer in-person peer counseling, join committees to assist with events like Artist Against Rape, and provide administrative office support.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, 38 volunteers graduated becoming state-certified sexual assault counselors. After an intensive 80-hour certification training, volunteers are required to participate in continuing education via the counselor support meetings held monthly. In 2006-2007, SFWAR offered 13 counselor support meetings and 2 support meetings for volunteers providing in-person peer counseling. In addition, throughout the year 16 interns offered support to the Volunteer & Hotline Program, Counseling Program, Community Initiatives and Development Program.

Funding Update

In 2006-2007, the Development Team at SFWAR continued to diversify funding with a focus on grassroots fundraising. We raised $20,975 through our annual Phone Bank and Canvass, reaching over 2,500 people. In December 2006, we sent a Holiday Mailing to approximately 2,500 people. From this effort we raised $8,000 to support our crisis intervention services. Private Foundations donated over $50,000 in FY 06-07! Our 11th Annual Artists Against Rape, held in June 2007, was a successful night, raising $5,000 through entrance donations, chapbook sales, and our silent auction. Dine for a Change, a day where restaurants donate a portion of their proceeds to SFWAR, raised over $8,000 on April 5, 2007. Drawing from a small group of new and long time donors our Major Donor Campaign raised just under $12,000. SFWAR put on our second annual Walk Against Rape which raised over $21,000! Finally, we want to thank our faithful Monthly Sustainers who donated just under $20,000 this year! On behalf of the Development Team at SFWAR, we thank everyone who has given so generously this year. Your support allows SFWAR to provide services to survivors of rape and sexual assault while working to end sexual violence.

Coalition and Community Building

In order to address all aspects of sexual violence, SFWAR works in collaboration with multi-disciplinary organizations. Examples include the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Adult Sexual Assault Task Force (ASATF), Expect Respect San Francisco (ERSF), and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA).

Toward our goal of organizing to end sexual violence with prioritized communities of the Mission District, we have begun significant work with two communities of this San Francisco neighborhood: (1) the homeless and/or marginally housed and (2) immigrant workers. Through our partnerships with the Mission SEIU Collaborative, St. Peter’s Housing Committee, and the Day & Domestic Labor Program of La Raza Centro Legal, we are connected to two of the constituencies we have prioritized through our extensive community mapping needs assessment process: SRO tenants and immigrant workers of Latin descent.

Toward strengthening collaborations with immigrant communities, since November 2006, SFWAR has provided monthly sexual assault prevention education to members of the Day Laborer Program of La Raza Centro Legal. SFWAR Community Educators meet with the men of this program as part of on-going popular education sessions coordinated by the staff of La Raza Centro Legal.
Second Annual Walk Against Rape

By Janet Upadhye, Director of Development

Over 300 people marched through San Francisco, for the Second Annual WALK Against Rape. As survivors celebrated the power of community to end rape, their loved ones, friends, and committed residents of San Francisco were present bearing witness. SFWAR intern and WALK participant Camille Bates said, “Just when the heat had gotten to me and my energy was waning we reached the Duboce intersection with the freeway over head. We stopped here to take a break; our break almost broke the bridge as we raised our voices in a unified yell, shout, cheer, scream. It was as if the strength of survivors and those supporting us were in harmonious agreement, reinforcing that we can keep surviving. This moment embodied the spirit of the entire walk.” The WALK culminated in a celebration in Dolores Park where youth dance troupe performed, spoken word artists entertained, guitars blared healing music, and speeches compelled us to come together and stop sexual violence.

This year SFWAR partnered with the Activism and Social Change Program of New College in promoting and coordinating the WALK. With “Imagine a World Without Rape” signs taped to their clothing, students engaged in street outreach at Montgomery, Powell and Embarcadero BART stations. These students helped break the silence surrounding sexual assault by distributing flyers announcing the WALK and information about sexual violence, including resources for survivors. During the WALK, they led chants, held signs that read IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT RAPE, and created an interactive art-based healing space at the rally.

WALK Against Rape embodies the type of community action SFWAR views as essential in ending sexual violence. Over the last thirty-five years the anti-rape movement has truly changed how the world views sexual violence; by continuing to create spaces like WALK, one day we will end the epidemic of sexual violence. I’m proud and grateful to be a part of this community and to witness the individual and collective healing this event promotes.

To see part of the Second Annual WALK Against Rape, visit http://www.youtube.com/ and search for San Francisco Walk Against Rape. If you want to be involved in WALK 2008, contact Janet Upadhye at janetupadhye@sfwar.org, or at 415 861 2024 ext. 301.

The Filipino/American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity (FACES) is a transnational environmental justice organization that organizes and works in solidarity with communities impacted by the US military and corporations. FACES joined the hundreds of SFWAR supporters in their annual walk against rape, as an act of solidarity with Nicole and other Filipina women who sustain ongoing abuse by the over 100 years of US military presence in the Philippines. In November 2005, Nicole was raped by US navy officer, Daniel Smith, while his ship was docked in Subic Bay Olongapo. In a landmark decision by the Philippine Courts, Smith was convicted. Since his conviction, Smith was taken into the custody of the US Embassy in the Philippines and his whereabouts are unknown. FACES will continue to pursue justice for Nicole and other women who survive violent acts at the hands of the US military.

To see FACES at the WALK finish line, April 2007. Photo by Teresa Martyny
Get Involved Volunteer!

Next Certification Training is January 2008, Applications due December 5th

Train a new volunteer by volunteering yourself!

• Ask your job about matching gifts to double the impact of your donation.

In-kind Donations

• Round up your old clothes and bring them to Community Thrift (23 Valencia St, Mission District). Donate
• Donate an old car to Donate-for-Charity (donateforcharity.com or toll free at 866.392.4483).

Contact Teresa Martyny at teresamartyny@sfwar.org or at 415.861.2024 ext. 319.

In SFWAR’s name, and a percentage of the proceeds benefits SFWAR directly!

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### October 2007

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**
Volunteer Training! October 3–November 3rd.

### November 2007

**She Who Laughs Lasts**  
*Featuring Karen Williams, Micia Mosley, Kristina Wong, Sam Chanse*  
Friday, November 9 at 8 pm.  
Rhinoceros Theatre, 2926 16th Street (and Van Ness).  
Sliding scale $15-50, no one turned away for lack of funds.  
Wheelchair accessible, ASL interpreted.  
Visit www.sfwar.org for details.

**Sins Invalid: An Unshamed Claim to Beauty in the Face of Invisibility**  
Friday, November 2 & Saturday, November 3 at 8 pm.  
Brava Theater, 2789 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110  
Sliding scale $15-50, no one turned away for lack of funds.  
Wheelchair accessible, ASL interpreted.  
Visit www.thedancingtree.org for details.

### December 2007

**Become a Certified Rape Crisis Counselor, Applications for Volunteer Training due December 5th**  
Contact Teresa Martyny at 861.2024 ext. 319 for details.

### January 2007

**Planning for 3rd Annual Walk Against Rape begins.**  
To be involved, contact Janet Upadhye at 415.861.2024 ext. 301.

**Planning for 11th Annual Dine for a Change begins.**  
To be involved, contact Janet Upadhye at 415.861.2024 ext. 301.

**January 23rd – Volunteer Training Begins.**  
Contact Teresa Martyny at 861.2024 ext. 319 for details.

*These events will be held in April 2008 during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.*