In the Streets

Making Noise

Building Community
Welcome to New Staff!

We’d like to welcome the new staff of 2011 and acknowledge the individuals who laid the groundwork for the new incoming staff. Deep gratitude to Amal Kouttab, former Director of Community Initiatives; Isaac Brown, former Community Educator; and Erna Guajardo Johnson, former Development Associate. Good luck to you all and you will be missed!

Sandra Sandoval
Director of Community Initiatives

“I strongly feel that we can end violence through healing, education, respect, and understanding for the rights of others. I have learned to use music and art as therapy and have been a witness to how this expression can empower others to heal and develop their voice. I am passionate about connecting healing practices to create change. As a mother, sister, friend, co-worker, daughter, and ally I am ready and prepared to embody and develop that mission for my family, community and for all of our future.”

Camille Bates
Community Educator

With a vested interest in healing and sustainable change, Camille moved from years of mobilization-activism in educational spaces to the direct service field supporting young people through violence-based trauma.

Camille has worked with youth from ages 10-25 in a variety of support capacities, while always strengthening her firm resolve that healing from violence is achieved primarily through educational and loving means. In the Bay Area for almost a decade and an avid practitioner of Buddhism, Camille currently fills her time with Graduate Studies in Education with an emphasis in Social Justice and Equity at San Francisco State University, while making time for her queer family and her 7 pound Chihuahua who is affectionately named Texas.

Briana Shewan
Development Associate

From human trafficking to jail construction to queer politics to education, Briana has continually worked with women around gender based violence and oppression. She is honored and inspired to be joining the SFWAR team as Development Associate. She deeply believes in investing in a community free of sexual assault.

Taking Action, Inspiring Hope

Few months ago, the Center for Disease Control and the National Institute of Justice released the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) Summary Report. While the findings were assuredly not hopeful, this report reveals critical insights regarding the extent of sexual violence in the US. The 2010 NISVS measured types of violence that have not previously been considered by national survey research. More specifically, it included measures for sexual violence other than rape, such as sexual coercion, non-consensual sexual touching, threats of sexual violence, and verbal or behavioral sexual harassment.

What the survey data reveals is troubling. One in 2 women (34.6%) and 1 in 5 men (22.2%) have experienced sexual violence other than rape throughout their lifetime. In 5 women (18.3%) reported being raped at some point in their life. An estimated 13% of women and 6% of men have experienced sexual coercion (i.e. unwanted sexual penetration after being pressured in a non-physical way) at some point in their life.

Nearly half of female identified survivors (42.2%) experienced rape before the age of 18. More than one-quarter of male identified survivors (27.8%) experienced their first rape when they were 10 years of age or younger. Close to 22 million people in the US. are survivors of rape, with more than 2 million of these survivors living in California.

While many of us are not unfamiliar with the prevalence and magnitude of sexual violence in our society, this data only further underscores the urgency for rape crisis services and sexual violence prevention efforts. It is this urgency that compels SFWAR’s commitment to supporting survivors and ending rape. In fact, our awareness of the vulnerability of young people to sexual violence, as reflected in the NISVS data spurred our collaboration with the Center for Young Women’s Development and Mission Girls Service to enhance our crisis intervention and advocacy services for high-risk youth. Through this collaboration, young women access age-sensitive and culturally relevant direct services and they receive training and support to provide counseling to their peers who are in crisis.

The SFWAR Peer-2-Peer Outreach & Organizing Project (P2P) connects our support of survivors who are homeless or marginally housed with our commitment to eliminate rape. Many of the P2P organizers are survivors and, with SFWAR support, they have been able to undertake rape prevention work in their communities. (Please see the testimonial of P2P organizer Julia Mae Thies on page 7). These are just two new projects we have launched over the past two years. In addition, SFWAR continues to provide our long-standing continuum of services, including 24-hour hotline intervention; individual and group counseling; medical, legal, and social service advocacy and accompaniment; and prevention education for youth, adults, and professionals.

Of course, we do the enormity of our work in a context of ever shrinking funding. California Rape Prevention Education awards have been reduced by 40% from previous years. Moreover, the Center for Disease Control will not release $7 million of “Rape Set Aside” money that has historically been allocated to rape crisis centers throughout the US. Because of the funding dedicated to rape crisis centers is delivered from the federal budget, not the state budget, this is particularly challenging. Actually, California allocates only about $45,000 annually to groups addressing rape and sexual assault. The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault estimates that translates into an allocation of about $1.50 for each individual seeking sexual
Annual Report 2010-2011

SFWAR reached over 9,558 people through our Annual Events, Direct Services, and Prevention Education Programs.

24 HOUR CRISIS LINE
SFWAR served 2,375 people on the crisis line during the 2010-2011 fiscal year, providing crisis intervention support to 645 survivors of sexual assault and 215 family members and friends of survivors. Certified counselors are available 24 hours a day to offer crisis counseling and community referrals. Multi-lingual counselors are also available to provide services in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, Farsi, and Russian.

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS
SFWAR is alive and thriving because of the commitment of 87 volunteers. Volunteers staff the sexual assault crisis line, offer in-person peer counseling, join committees to assist with events like Walk Against Rape, and provide administrative office support.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, 61 volunteers graduated and became state-certified sexual assault counselors. After an intensive 72-hour certification training, volunteers are required to participate in continuing education via counselor support meetings held monthly. In 2010-2011, SFWAR offered 12 counselor support meetings and 2 support meetings for volunteers providing in-person peer counseling. In addition, throughout the year 30 interns offered support to the Volunteers & Hotline, Counseling, Community Initiatives and Development Program. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, SFWAR provided state-certified sexual assault counselor training to 24 Mujeres Unidas y Activas members and staff, all of whom completed the two month long training in August 2011 and are now staffing the ALMA (Ahora! Llame a Mujeres contra el Abuso) crisis line: a Spanish language rape crisis line staffed by and serving Latina immigrants.

COUNSELING
The SFWAR Counseling Program provides free and confidential short term in-person peer counseling to survivors, their friends, and family members. In 2010-2011, 107 survivors received in-person counseling. We also offered 2 series of multi-week support groups to a total of 15 survivors. One support group was a 10-week general support group that used movement as a modality of healing. The other support group was for women of African descent; this group met monthly from July through November and used somatic practice to work with trauma tapped in the body. In addition, SFWAR provides survivors referrals for long-term clinical counseling and support groups. The Counseling Program continues building its capacity to offer survivors somatic healing modalities.

CASE MANAGEMENT / ADVOCACY
Advocates act as a liaison between survivors and medical, legal and social systems, with the goal of supporting and empowering survivors of sexual assault. We connect survivors to community resources, provide advocacy related to sexual assault and offer accommodations to legal proceedings, medical appointments, and meetings with social service providers. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, SFWAR also had medical advocates on-call 24 hours to provide medical accompaniment to survivors at San Francisco General Hospital. Our advocacy supported 29 survivors at the hospital and helped 89 survivors navigate complex legal and social service systems.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
The Community Initiatives (CI) Program encompasses both our adult and youth rape prevention education efforts and adds the component of supporting communities in mobilizing to confront (and ultimately end) rape. CI recognizes that education of communities is a necessary precursor to community organizing and mobilizing. Therefore, every prevention education training/
In spite of this, I continue to have hope. The following are some of recent actions that inspire my hope:

Recognizing the fact that even progressive social movement spaces are susceptible to gender violence, OCCUPY SF organized a panel and speak-out on sexual harassment and assault.

In 2011, approximately 5,000 people from a wide cross section of San Francisco communities took part in WALK Against Rape to raise awareness about sexual assault and be a part of the solution to end it.

Everyday, your support of SFWAR: be it through volunteering; monetary or in-kind donations; grant awards; participating in community events; referring individuals for services; scheduling rape prevention training; community collaboration – gives me hope. It reflects our collective belief that sexual violence does not have to be inevitable and that together we can create a world without rape. Thank you for being part of the SFWAR community.

FUNDRAISING

In 2010-2011, SFWAR continued working to expand our grassroots fundraising approach. We raised $1,802 through our annual Phone Bank and Canvas, reaching over 2,400 people. In December 2010, we sent a Holiday Mailing to approximately 2,500 people. This effort, coupled with the mailing of our Newsletter and Annual Report, raised $30,415 to support our crisis intervention services. Private Foundations donated $22,500. The Thirteenth Annual Artists Against Rape, a night of healing through cultural work, raised $5,783 through entrance donations. Our newly launched House Party Campaign along with our long-standing Major Donor Campaign raised a total of $6,778. SFWAR held our sixth annual WALK Against Rape in April 2011, which raised $54,879. Over $4,397 was donated by individuals and groups who held Special Events benefiting SFWAR. Finally, we want to thank our faithful Monthly Sustainers who donated $13,377 this year. SFWAR thanks everyone who has given so generously this year. Your support allows us to provide critical intervention services to survivors of rape and sexual assault, while we simultaneously work to end sexual violence.

These schools include Mission High School, Horace Mann High School, O’Connell High School, Balboa High School, and Burton High School. In 2011, SFWAR commenced our partnership with the Center for Young Women’s Development and Mission Girls Services to expand direct services to young women who are survivors of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. This work is supported by a federal grant from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

In the past week, a Bay Citizen reporter wrote a story on sexual violence on public transportation without there being a shocking or sensational local/state/national incident to spur this interest. In 2011, approximately 2,500 homeless and marginally housed individuals were interviewed as part of the 2003 Archives of Internal Medicine study. 32% of women, 27% of men, and 89% of trans-gendered identified persons reported sexual or physical assault in the previous year.

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A TRIBUTE TO A FIERCE ACTIVIST AND SFWARrior

We want to take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate SFWAR's outgoing Board Chair Patricia A. Berne. Patty's commitment to SFWAR spans over a decade. She started her work with SFWAR in 1998 facilitating writing support groups for sexual assault survivors and working with SFWAR's Teen Education team facilitating workshops about sexuality, pleasure and consent. In 2002, Patty joined the SFWAR Board of Directors where she served as Board Chair until December 2011. As Board Chair, she not only carried out responsibilities typically associated with board membership (i.e. fundraising, fiscal oversight, ED supervision), she also took on a wide-range of activities to enhance and expand the work of SFWAR, including providing professional training for staff and volunteers, finding funding for and co-facilitating a pilot support group for survivors with disabilities, and playing a key role in the development of our organizational principles of women of color leadership. SFWAR has truly thrived thanks to Patty's compassion and strategic guidance. Saying thank you does not seem like nearly enough.

~ Janelle L. White, 1997-1999 Director of Recruitment & Training; 2007 - current Executive Director

Anyone who knows Patty knows what a phenomenal person she is; I think the longer you have known Patty, the more you understand how phenomenal she really is. I have known Patty for a long time, about 20 years. And while she was the one who invited me to join SFWAR's Board and I am deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such an amazing organization, I primarily think of Patty as a friend, and I feel truly blessed to count her as one of my closest friends. I'd like to share some of Patty's qualities as a friend, which I believe have also made her such an asset to SFWAR for so long: her loyalty and unconditional support to the people she loves, her patience, her impatience, her capacity for self-reflection, her stubbornness, her generosity of spirit, her gentleness, her ferocity, her sense of humor, and her bottomless commitment to ending oppression and creating a world founded on love and justice. I know that SFWAR will miss Patty, but I also know that SFWAR is a stronger organization thanks to Patty's presence there.

~ Hilary Klein, long time friend and former SFWAR Board Member

Thank you for your leadership, vision, dedication, and community-building skills, Patty. Your generosity of spirit and commitment to justice are a real inspiration to everyone you work with.

~ Elaine Beale, former SFWARD Development Director

Patty continues to be one of my most prized friends and teachers for her exemplary modeling of commitment to social change and spiritual reflection and growth. She is as sharp minded as the best scientist, has the patience and physical endurance of a mountaineer, and the compassion and mindfulness of a Bodhisattva. Everything she touches grows -- the growth she has supported in me and facilitated with her years of work within SFWAR is in my mind immeasurable. I have thanked Mrs. Berne on more than one occasion for bringing Patty into our world. Now we thank Patty for making our world brighter with her bright light.

~ Mordecai Ettinger, proud former SFWAR Volunteer and Board Member

Patty Berne is one of the most creative, sensitive, giving, committed and smart activists that exist in this world. She makes organizing look easy because she has handled so many tasks for so long...has such a long list of accomplishments, collaborations, products and successes. I am most grateful for Patty's companionship when I was at SFWAR back in the late 90's. Her leadership and governance of the organization, her tireless dedication, should be applauded loudly and with vigor. We have been lucky to have worked along side her. Thank you Patty for all the love you give through your service and congratulations on a decade of helping SFWAR and survivors of sexual violence live, heal and thrive.

In Sisterhood always,
Jamie Lee Evans, 1993-2001, Former Recruitment & Training Director and Teen Education Director

Its so easy for me to write something in praise of my younger sister Patty. Although I don't work with her, I can certainly speak to her character since she was born. Patty is the most generous, compassionate, loving, giving person that I know. She always makes sure everyone around her is happy and comfortable and to tell you truthfully, she's simply just one of the greatest people I know!

~ Mary, Patty's Sister

Thank you Patty, for the many hours you spent mentoring me actively around the art of support group facilitation. Thank you for trusting me to deliver your words and poetry and sharing my song in the first 2 years of Sins Invalid. Thank you for standing beside me as an ally when I called upon you for help in jumping into the waters of mediation for community based groups. Thank you for trusting my partner to feed you and your “family” over and over again! Thank you for being a dedicated Xena warrior princess as you struggle for Disability Justice and the acknowledgement of ALL of our bodies as beautiful, desirable, and sacred!! You have taught me so much in my journey here in the Bay Area and I will never have the words to repay you for the gift of sharing your insight, love and vision with me and so many others!

~ Lisa Thomas Adeyemo, 2005 - current Director of Counseling

Thank you for the many hours you spent working with SFWAR, learning about the work of support groups and facilitating workshops about sexuality, pleasure and consent. Your contributions have been invaluable to the growth of SFWAR and its mission.

~ Mary, Patty's Sister

Thank you Patty for always being there for me and the community. Your dedication to social justice is truly inspiring. Your tireless efforts have made a significant impact.

~ Janelle L. White

Thank you for everything you have done for the organization and the community. Your leadership has been invaluable.

~ Hilary Klein

Thank you for being such a wonderful friend and colleague. Your wisdom and support have been a constant source of inspiration.

~ Elaine Beale

Thank you for your leadership and vision in creating a world founded on love and justice.

~ Jamie Lee Evans

Thank you for your compassionate and mindful approach to organizing.

~ Mordecai Ettinger

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to social change. Your leadership has been truly inspiring.

~ Mary, Patty's Sister

Thank you for your mentorship and guidance. Your dedication to the movement is truly remarkable.

~ Lisa Thomas Adeyemo

Thank you for your contributions to the work of SFWAR and for inspiring us all with your vision for social change.

~ Janelle L. White
From Camille Bates, Community Educator

Despite having this new role as a staff member at SFWAR, I have been involved in work to end sexual violence for nearly 5 years now and every time I tell someone this they have a sudden look of confusion. I wait calmly for their response to follow and it is frequently something along the lines of the following, "Oh, that’s really serious" or, "But you are so happy / fun".

I mean really? What did they expect? That the people who are on the frontlines of combating sexual assault are billowing around in dark cloths and generally downtrodden? This would make for a pretty unappealing movement.

It is in the classrooms that I see humor dismantling fear and opening room for people to relax and normalize this work that is so deeply needed. As much as we need laughter to heal, we need laughter to enable crucial engagement; thus, humor becomes an integral tool to how laughter serves to heal. Comedian Karinda Dobbins had me rolling with her monologue about navigating relationships with youth. Although Karinda was speaking as a parent, this rang true for me in my position as community educator working with youth. In teaching youth to prevent sexual violence, humor is often my first point of contact.

This work is immeasurably difficult at times and what is also true, that keeps us from taking on the lurky/sad/eeyore-type depictions, is that we have a vast supply of healing strategies. Of them, my personal favorite is humor. She Who Laughs Last is a true highlight of this year’s SFWAR’s programming.

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San Francisco’s 7th Annual
WALK AGAINST RAPE

10AM The Women’s Building (Registration)
1PM La Raza/Potrero del Sol Park (Finish Line)

Saturday April 28, 2012

Register NOW and join the movement to end sexual violence

www.SFWAR.org | 415.861.2024

Organized by SFWAR as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Proceeds benefit SFWAR services