

CABIP CONNECTION

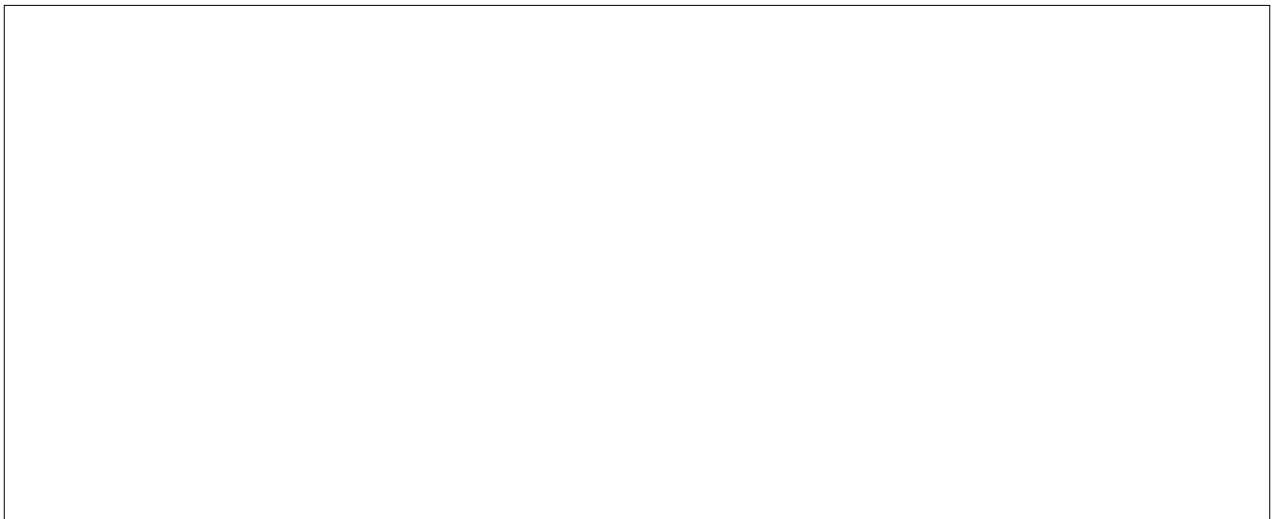
Newsletter of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
BATTERERS' INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

Volume 2 • Number 2 • Winter 2002

A Vision for Violence Prevention, Treatment & Education

CABIP MEETS WITH ISRAELI GROUP IN NY TO CREATE 'COBI' — A COLLABORATION FOR BATTERERS' INTERVENTION INTERNATIONAL

A few
very
fortunate
CABIP
board
members
came
together
with an
Israeli
delegation
to make
dreams
come true.



CABIP and Israeli delegates gathered in New York City, near the site of the September 11 tragedy, to share concerns about violence worldwide and to explore possible collaborations through the creation of an international organization for violence prevention and peace.

By **Gail Billings-Beck**

Alternatives Ltd,

Mid-October on the East Coast, the leaves turn from green to brilliant shades of yellow-gold, fiery orange, reds and blues. It is glorious. Everything and anything seems possible. Mother Nature proves the point.

New York City sparkled last year. Three million donated daffodil and tulip bulbs in full blossomdecorated street sidewalks and store fronts.

The parks were alive with multi-colored leaves and people. New Yorkers had begun to rise from the ashes left in September. And, a few very fortunate CABIP board members came together with an Israeli delegation to make dreams come true.

I really do wish you could have been there. We shared a life-affirming, transformative experience, each one of us. We were — myself, Gail Billings-Beck from Encino, and other members of the board, Alyce LaViolette from Long Beach and Roe (Rosario) Roberts, from Los Molinos, Renata Vaselle Augenstein from Washing/Oregon, Paula Nedelkof, Eureka, Dottie Curtis, New Jersey.

From across the seas, Israel specifically, we were joined by Hannah Rosenberg, Ruth Ben-Ami, Ruthi Rak, Yaffa Sapir, and a young Palestinian man, Ibraheem Agbaria.

We met together under the auspices of the Phillip Morris Co. for five days, eight to nine hours each day, plus time off (together) for lunches and dinners. We gave ourselves three days to share dreams and goals, whatever

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It is the ultramasculine male who is most admired by both boys and men.

Violence is both a tool and the ultimate confirmation of identity for the ultramasculine male.

From the Editor...Michael Levittan, PhD

Men's Violence Toward Women: Fear of the Feminine and Ultramasculinity

What is the biggest insult, the nastiest put-down that a boy can suffer? What is the most shameful indignity, the most humiliating comment that a man must endure? It is to be referred to as a woman! It is to be called a name that compares one to a woman or to a part of a woman's body.

Why is this feminine reference or comparison the biggest insult? Because, beginning in childhood, boys are not just taught, but conditioned to live up to the prevailing male standards of their place and time.

If the once-innocent child falters or fails in any way to exhibit masculine qualities, then he is often picked-on, left out, shamed, scorned, scapegoated, or beat-up by other boys. In some cases, he may be degraded or beaten by his own father.

So, for most men, the biggest insult is really their greatest fear! The cost of failing to maintain their fabricated masculine identity is frightening to men at a core level. They feel compelled to continually reassert and prove themselves as a man.

In order to both appease the demands of the "Masculine Ideal" (which is perpetuated by the "Patriarchal Society") and create as much distance as possible from the feminine, boys attempt to attain "ultramasculine" qualities.

They aspire to be the strongest, toughest, bravest, coolest, baddest, wealthiest male. They try to acquire the hottest car, truck, or motorcycle, the biggest house, best office, most fascinating toys, prettiest women, most sexual conquests, or one could say, the biggest penis!

CABIP MISSION STATEMENT

- **CABIP** shall organize and maintain a statewide providers' network with supportive services.
- **CABIP** shall address clinical issues and legal concerns with the focus always on victim safety.
- **CABIP** shall continue to network statewide with various agencies, associations, and legislators to increase awareness, provide training, education, and expert testimony.
- **CABIP** recognizes that the facilitation of batterers' programs is a specialized field and that there are a variety of intervention approaches to the core issues of partner abuse.
- **CABIP** shall develop research tools and provide opportunities to conduct original research through cooperation with well respected researchers throughout the U.S.
- **CABIP** is an inclusive association, committed to maintaining a high standard of effective interventions.
- **CABIP** is committed to domestic violence issues, while being good models for those we treat, for ourselves and the community.

It is the ultramasculine male who is most admired by both boys and men. Ultramasculinity mandates that males act with aggression, competition, authority and domination. It mandates that men control and triumph over the women in their lives.

Violence is both a tool and the ultimate confirmation of identity for the ultramasculine male.

It is logical to conclude that fear of the feminine fuels men to strive for ultramasculinity, value aggression over emotionality and use "power" to control the women in their lives.

The acceptance and integration of the fear of the feminine represents the ultimate liberation from the trap of masculinity and the confines of having to oppress women! It also represents an enlightened and promising path out of the oppressive confines of domestic violence!

MEN IN MASSACHUSETTS SEND A MESSAGE AGAINST DV: 'STRONG MEN DON'T BULLY'

Some 485 men in Gloucester, Massachusetts have created a male-initiated billboard campaign to address domestic violence.

The billboard message was paid for by carpenters, fisherman, mechanics, plumbers, veterans, doctors, gay men, teenagers, athletes and many men whose fathers were abusive towards their mothers. Space was donated by a local media company.

"We cannot be strong and be abusing women or children. We need to talk among ourselves, to our male friends and family members and send this message of what it means to be a strong and healthy man. We have been silent way too long, and our silence has been condoning emotional abuse and physical violence," according to William Greenbaum, a leader of the Help for Abused Women and their Children and Gloucester Men Against Domestic Abuse.

The billboard was developed by men to send the message to women, the community and other men that domestic violence and abuse are not acceptable. Barry Rower donated his services to design and produce the billboard.

For more information on the billboard program, which is being adopted in other Massachusetts communities, call William Greenbaum, 978-282-4611, or email: greenbau@shore.net.

*Reprinted from The Grassroots Connection, Spring/Summer 2002
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.*

Researchers Agree Women May Hit Their Male Partners, But Infrequently 'Batter' Them – Pattern of Coercion Is Seldom Present in Female Aggression

By *Alyce LaViolette*, CABIP Co-Chair, South
Alternatives to Violence

Are men and women mutually abusive in intimate partner relationships? This question is fueling passionate controversy within the domestic violence community. The debate has primarily revolved around surveys conducted by Murray Straus, Richard Gelles and Susan Steinmetz (1979, 1980, 1990) using the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS).

The results of this research indicated that men and women initiate aggressive acts (slapping, pushing, kicking, punching, etc.) with about equal frequency.

In the arena of domestic warfare, proponents of gender equivalence use these and similar studies measuring acts of aggression not only to justify an increased need for services for abused men, but also to create a quasi "level playing field" of violence between the sexes.

First of all, does an act of aggression define a relationship as abusive? According to Murray Straus, "The number of assaults by itself ignores the context, meaning and consequences of those assault." (Straus, 1991, p.11). Context is a crucial issue. The CTS asks only about aggression that occurs within the context of an argument. Domestic violence can occur without an apparent conflict.

There is a lack of information regarding the motivation for the aggressive behavior (self-defense, control, frustration, intent to injure) and a lack of information about the outcomes (fear, end of argument, escape, injuries, nothing significant). There are also flaws in self-report data. These were the telephone interviews. Would you tell a stranger on the phone that you had physically or verbally attacked a loved one?

There is evidence of gender mutuality regarding acts of aggression, but not in regard to patterns of violence. It is interesting to note that other national surveys (NCDVS, NSFH and the NVAW) do not find that males and females are mutually aggressive (see Bachman and Saltzman, 1995; Tjaden and Thoennes, 1998; and Zlotnick, et.al., 1998). Dr. Straus comments, "The fact that women produce less injury than men is a critical difference."

Perhaps we should examine what we are talking about. Bob Geffner and Alan Rosenbaum did a good job of differentiating between aggression and abuse in their new book.

"Aggression is an action, abuse is a dynamic. Partners may be mutually aggressive, and the evidence suggests that they are, but they are rarely mutually abusive.

"Women may hit their male partners, but infrequently batter them, because battering or abuse includes

a pattern of coercion, intimidation and control, which is less frequently present in female-to-male aggression." (*Domestic Violence Offenders*, Geffner and Rosenbaum, 2001, p. 2.) Johnston (1995) postulated a continuum of spouse assault anchored on the "low end" by common couple aggression and on the high end by patriarchal terrorism.

Common couple aggression may include relatively infrequent, non-injurious behavior that can occur in many intimate relationships. It may or may not be mutual, does not victimize the partners and does not create a mood of fear, oppression and control.

Patriarchal terrorism includes a pattern of physically and/or psychologically abusive behaviors, including threats, assaults, isolation, humiliation, etc. This violent behavior is controlling and produces fear as well as injury to the body and spirit. The term "patriarchal" can be dropped when referring to female perpetrators or to gay and lesbian relationships.

It is important to keep in mind that people on both sides of the debate believe that there are abusive and violent women. They also believe that there are battered men.

No one (to my knowledge) in the domestic violence movement would support battering behavior by either gender. Beliefs about the extent of women's violence differ. The resulting arguments can resemble a battering relationship between experts.

We need to question our rhetoric, allow for respectfully dissenting opinions and provide services for ALL VICTIMS. I know that shelters provide hotel vouchers, counseling, hotline and referral services for men, and that there are shelters (very few) for battered men.

Having said that, I will end by quoting Ola Barnett and myself: "There is no research that can say that the cost of women's violence — emotionally, physically, or in regard to property damage — in any way matches the violence perpetrated by men.

"The body of evidence suggests that there should be no argument. Diffusing energy in an ongoing gender war takes away from the critical task of developing effective prevention and intervention strategies." (*It Could Happen to Anyone*, LaViolette and Barnett, 2000, p. 109)

Aggression is an action; abuse is a dynamic. Partners may be mutually aggressive, and the evidence suggests that they are, but they are rarely mutually abusive.

"The fact that women produce less injury than men is a critical difference."
— Straus

CABIP CONNECTION
is published by the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
BATTERERS' INTERVENTION PROGRAMS
3703 Long Beach Bl. # E10 • Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562-426-9611
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Letters to the Editor & Article Submissions are welcome.
Publication is at the discretion of the Editors.

Worldwide Peace Cells Will Be Part of Non-Violence Organization

Continued from page 1

Wherever a group of us might go in the world, learning what that part of the world has to teach us about who they are would be as important as anything we might offer to teach them.

was closest to our hearts, even if it seems impossible.

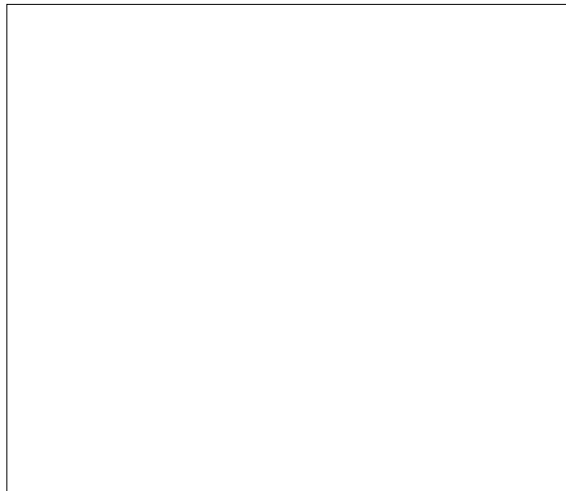
The next two days were set aside for making hard choices, planning, organizing, budgeting.

Except for Alyce and Hannah, none of us had ever met. Could a group like this do anything in five days? To do it or not to do it was never the question. We just did it.

We were amazed at how alike our experiences and values were. We were amazed at how in-tune with each other our thinking and feelings really were.

We dreamed of a worldwide alliance of communities and people working together in the service of prevention of violence for the purpose of peace. We wanted to create 'Peace Cells'. LaViolette coined the term. We named ourselves COBI, Collaboration for Batterers' Intervention, International.

Our own collaboration allowed each of us to both learn and share our knowledge and perspectives. That was essentially the transforming aspect. Peace Cells would embody just that.



Paula Nedelkof and Roe Roberts, both from CABIP, were among those participating in intense planning sessions.

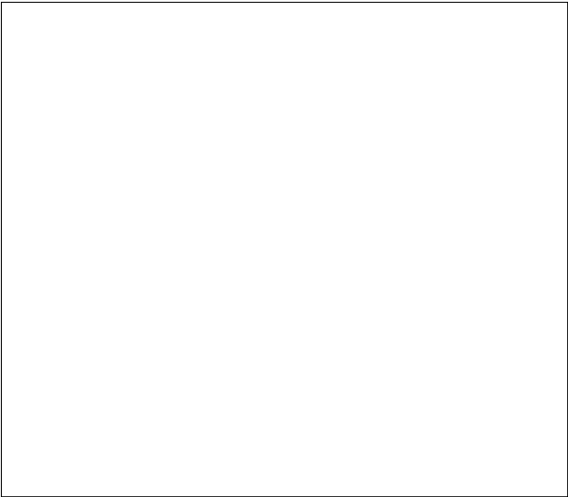
The world is a neighborhood. Your neighbor and mine have the right to his or her past and a future in peace.

Wherever a group of us might go in the world, learning what that part of the world has to teach us about who they are would be as important as anything we might offer to teach them.

Ideally, the essence of COBI's outreach training will recreate the experience all of us had with each other in New York those five days.

We demonstrated our respect, empathy and willingness to listen and understand each other. Building on this foundation came strategies to introduce choice as power, healthy communication as a means to move toward the changes we each valued.

Because technology has made our world so small,



Coby Huberman, from Israel, volunteered his services to facilitate discussions on the goals and implementation of COBI at the recent meeting in New York City.

we have the need and responsibility to know each other as individuals with faces, feelings and family.

The world is a neighborhood. Your neighbor and mine have the right to his or her past and a future in peace. That's what COBI has set out to support.

COBI came up with four primary objectives:

- Hold a conference seeking international and intergenerational attendance, planned for Las Vegas in the Fall of 2003.
- Develop a Beit Noam (residential) model for batterers' 24-hour intervention in the Los Angeles area of California.
- Organize training groups, potential Peace Cells, to reach out to people in countries from the seven continents where our intervention might make a difference.

• Create a Board of Directors reflective of global diversity. So, as we have grown from Los Angeles County's local (ABIP) Association of Batterers' Intervention Programs to a statewide (CABIP) group, to a national and international group, so does our work towards peace in a violence-free world begin locally.

Peace does begin at home. One person, one client at a time, has always had, and more than ever still has, the potential to change the world.

Risk of Abuse Rises for Pregnant Women

In the United States, 152,000 - 324,000 women will experience physical violence during their pregnancy each year.

*Maternal and Child Health Journal
Vol. 4, No. 2, Pg. 80, 2000*

Why Bother? ...Reminiscences of Conferences Past

By *Donna Mognett*
San Luis Obispo County

When asked to contribute an article for the *CABIP Connection* newsletter, my first thought was, "Why bother?" I'm semi-retired, living the good life on the Central Coast and have only a few domestic violence cases in my practice.

What could I possibly write that would be interesting and worthy of publication? With some reluctance, I began to review my material from all the conferences I've attended over the past decade. Even before mandatory continuing-education in my licensed field, I participated in, and attended, workshops and conferences concerning individual abuses and traumas within the family.

My attendance at my first CABIP conference was in 1996. In some respects it was a difficult conference for me to participate in. There was a diversity of facilitator experience, training, education and licensure. There were attendees who insisted on group facilitation being stated in black and white terms. And then there was the leadership group, headed by Alyce LaViolette, with her humorous delivery and deliberate stance that we must allow people to think and run groups "outside the lines, or maybe inside," as long as the groups were effective.

With Probation monitoring groups and insisting on specific group content at the time, Alyce's message spelled relief. This was no ordinary leadership with preplanned notions that specific expertise was the solution.

Since there was no law governing domestic violence groups until 1995, my office had been networking with victims' organization and we felt little support for those of us working with perpetrators of domestic violence.

Yes, there was some conflicting discussions in that first conference, but I venture to say that the majority of those in attendance came away feeling encouraged in their approach to group facilitation, and challenged to participate in the growth of this new field.

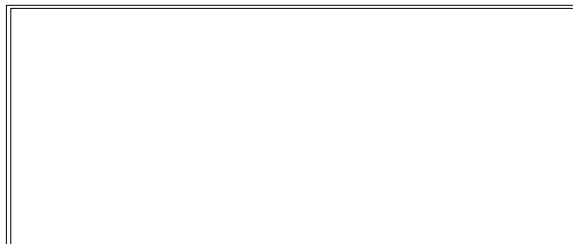
How do I know these statements to be true? Because I have attended every conference, with only one exception, since that first conference in 1996. I have interacted with old and new participants.

The association has sought quality assurance through participant feedback. And their remarks attest to the quality of the conferences. However, the mark of quality in any field is repeat business and growth of the organization....CABIP continues to experience both.

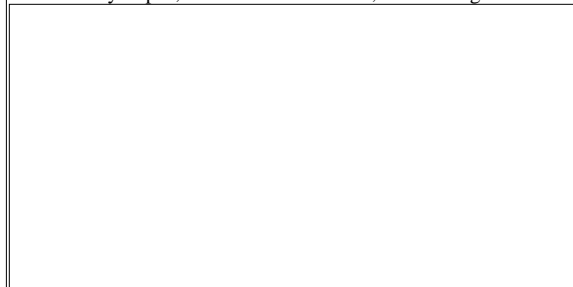
At the most recent conference, there were both national and international participants. There was great enthusiasm from the participants to unite with CABP and expand across the nation.

It's an exciting time to be involved with such a supportive and progressive organization.

Here's Why... Reminiscences of a Conference Present - 2002



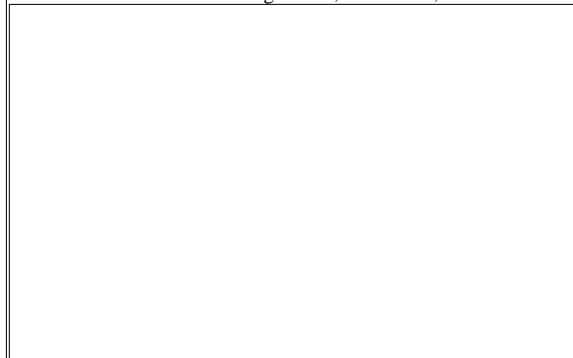
Gabby Lopez, Charmaine Primavera, Donna Mognett



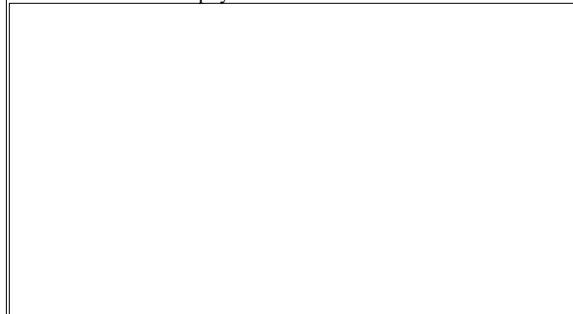
Gail Billings-Beck, Marc Sadoff, Karen Goodwill-Freida



Top: Bobbi Stewart, Brenda Gage
Bottom : Renata Vaselle-Augenstein, Dan Chinn, Sheila Hazlett



Janet Murphy Ted Knoll



Alan Rosenbaum, Bob Geffner

Despite the fact that all the photos opposite appear to have been taken in various eating establishments, a lot of very important business was conducted at the 8th CABIP Conference & Meeting in Long Beach last May.

Perspectives on the TIMEOUT

WHAT IT IS... By *Kendall Evans*
Another Way

To a victim, abuse is power and control behavior. Abuse is being intimidated, humiliated, coerced and hurt.

To an abuser, abuse is more complicated. Abusers abuse for a variety of reasons, and are rarely conscious of exerting power and control *per se*, even when, to an observer, it would be obvious. Some abusers experience themselves as being controlled by the victim or as being themselves out of control. Some are consciously determined to control the victim but feel at a disadvantage.

At the moment of being abusive, most perpetrators report conditions that are recognizable as states of intense negative emotion. The abusive behavior is really directed at controlling the intense emotional state. The victim may or may not have had anything to do with creating that state, but is an available scapegoat for trying to control the negative feelings.

TIMEOUT is a technique of interrupting the abuse process, and giving the potential abuser time to think about his or her feelings and behavior, instead of reacting impulsively. It is a 'band-aid', a short-term and temporary measure. TIMEOUT is a first step toward taking responsibility for one's own behavior and its effects on others.

During a proper TIMEOUT, a potential abuser leaves the situation and examines his or her feelings and thoughts, the situation and the problems he or she experienced. The potential abuser uses positive self-talk to calm down and look for appropriate and safe behaviors to use. Then the person goes back into the situation calmer and more prepared to be appropriate.

Abusers can, and do, misuse TIMEOUT, just as they can and do misuse almost any other new behavior they learn. It is important to teach it carefully. Abusers need to say explicitly, "I am taking a timeout; I will be back."

They need to not drink or drive, and to focus on calming down and cleaning up their own behavior. They need to return within one hour, and not avoid whatever was going on when they left. TIMEOUT should not be used to punish or inconvenience the victim.

Abusers need to be told that misusing TIMEOUT is abuse. Properly used, TIMEOUT is more than a behavior — it is an attitude and commitment to self-control and respectful interactions with others.

HOW I TEACH IT... By *Jeffery Shively*
DV Counselor/Group Facilitator

I teach a TIMEOUT technique to my group members so that they can use it to avoid using violence. This, in turn, helps them keep their families safe for anymore damage inflicted by domestic violence.

I teach TIMEOUT to give clients an option other than using violence, to give them a chance to get out when their feelings are escalating.

In my experience, many clients express fear of their own violence and state that they "cannot control it." I do not allow the excuse of uncontrollable behavior, and TIMEOUT gives them a way to help alleviate their fears. It puts them in control of their behavior and gives them options. It also teaches them that they do not have to be violent.

Many clients express that they learned to deal with their internal environment through violence, whereby they take their internal issues and relieve them by making them external.

I suggest to clients that TIMEOUT is not a way to avoid an issue with their partner.

When I explain TIMEOUT to a client, I start with 'Step Zero': Tell the partner what a TIMEOUT is, as it was explained in group, what you will do, how long you will be gone, that it is for their safety, etc.

Step 1: You leave the situation. Ideally this would be getting out of the house/apartment, but this can also be done by going into another room. Once you are really in tune with yourself, it is possible to take a time out internally, but don't try this yet.

Step 2: Go somewhere you feel safe, or do an activity to help you calm down. Going for a walk or shooting pool is a good idea. During this time, think of the following things:

- a) What is my part in this?
- b) What can I do to improve the situation?
- c) How might my partner be feeling about what is going on? How am I feeling?

Do not: Call your partner names, engage in physically violent activity (i.e. hitting a heavy bag) or call someone who will "talk you up".

Step 3: After you are calm, and have thought about the above questions, it's a good idea to call your partner to make sure it's okay to come back.

Step 4: Talk about the issue calmly, and try to resolve it. If it can't be resolved and you are escalating again, take another TIMEOUT.

TIMEOUT is a first step toward taking responsibility for one's own behavior and its effect on others.

Many clients express fear of their violence and state that they cannot control it.

Violence Against Women...a World View

INDIA - Up to 45% of married men acknowledge physically abusing their wives, from a 1996 survey of 6902 men.

KOREA - 38% of wives reported being physically abused by their spouse based on a random sample.

EGYPT - 35% of women in a nationally representative sample, reported being beaten by their husbands at some point in their marriage.

KENYA - 42% of 612 women surveyed reported ever being beaten by a partner; of those, 58% reported they were beaten often.

NICARAGUA - 52% of women, in a representative sample from Leon in 1996, reported being physically abused by a partner at least once; 27% reported abuse in the previous year.

POLAND - 60% of divorced women, surveyed in 1993 by the Centre for the Examination of Public Opinion, reported having been hit at least once by their ex-husbands; an additional 25% reported repeated violence.

CANADA - 20% of women, in a nationally representative sample of 12,300, reported being physically abused by a current or former partner from the age of 16.

JAPAN - 59% of 796 women in a 1993 survey reported being physically abused by their partner.

Statistics from "Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls", Innocenti Digest, United Nations Children's Fund, May 2000

"The Apology" By Dan Chinn San Luis Obispo County

Seems I've been spending more time in groups lately, talking and processing issues about apologies in relationships. They routinely come up in the calming phase of the cycle of violence at the point the aggressor, or batterer desires to reconnect with their partner.

The concern is that in the cycle of violence, without effective intervention, an apology oftentimes becomes an empty process, a false promise of change. It may meet an immediate emotional need for reconnection and relief from the uncertainty of separateness.

An apology in no manner guarantees a change in behavior or increased long-termed safety. That the cycle often continues is often the unfortunate experience of many.

Just because a sentence has "I'm sorry!" in it does not make it an apology. For example, "I'm sorry I hit you. You know how I get when you....." This is disguised victim-blaming and an indirect threat that the hitting can happen again.

Or how about, "I've said I'm sorry; I've said it so many times. Stop bringing it up. Get over it." The partner is being warned off, ordered to be silent on the issue.

There are plenty of variations on these themes of control. An apology is effective in domestic violence intervention if it promotes self-understanding and leads to changed behavior.

Too often, the apology is simply a manipulation to continue the relationship at any cost. "I would say anything to get my partner back."

Continuing the relationship becomes the primary goal, perhaps at the expense of safety and respect for the partner.

A more complete apology can be thought to have several parts that assist in promoting behavioral change.

The first is to own the behavior

as under your personal control and not blame others for what you do.

The second is to acknowledge the hurt your partner has experienced, physically and emotionally. This develops empathy.

The third part is the personal action plan to change the behavior in question. Those familiar with relapse prevention will recognize this area of the apology as essential to halting the cycle of violence.

Without the behavior change, an apology is only an invitation to continued abuse – "I've said I'm sorry. What else do you want? Don't be so unreasonable."

The answer is that we want the abuse to stop. We want the abuser to take responsibility for their behavior and keep their behavior safe and respectful at any cost.

I encourage participants in the groups to accept the apology as an evolving process that promotes healing for individuals and relationships.

There is no question that, over time, group participants are better able to appreciate the wrongfulness of their actions, the adverse effects of their behavior on their partners, and to fine-tune action plans that change their behaviors more successfully.

Apologies become more meaningful over time as they evidence continuing commitment to safe and respectful partnerships.

Apologies do not need to stay shame-based and may reflect the pride and understanding that is associated with growth toward a healthier relationship.

For those who do not continue in their relationship, the apology can become the basis of a personal standard for the future.

An apology in no manner guarantees a change of behavior or increases long-term safety.

Apologies become more meaningful over time, as they evidence continuing commitment to safe and respectful partnerships.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

'HOT BUTTON' ISSUES FOR FACILITATORS

By *Mark Sterling Miller & Patricia E. Patton*

*Emerge From Anger
Santa Clarita*

Facilitators for DV treatment groups often face difficult legal, ethical, treatment and case management issues. The following vignette offers general guidelines and is intended to trigger ideas about how to handle these complex situations. As DV matters are usually complicated, decisions are best made on a case-by-case basis. We invite your comments and questions.

SIDE-STEPPING THE 12 STEPS

One of your group members, Don, has three prior DV convictions, and is facing seven years in prison if he is convicted one more time for domestic violence. He is an alcoholic and often blames his drinking for the previous incidents of domestic violence.

Besides attending a batterers' group, he is also court-ordered to attend AA meetings and have random alcohol testing. You have confronted Don nearly every week in the group because, although he has been sober, he is not working the 12 Steps.

His attitude is that he has stopped drinking and, "That's all I need to do." Although he has not physically abused his children, there have been so many charges of domestic violence that he must have monitored visits with his four children. Don is actively "pushing" the court to allow him to return home permanently.

As your group is about to begin one evening, you notice that Don is talking in a very animated way with a new client. The new client is court-ordered for the 52-week program for battering his wife.

When you do the weekly check-in, Don announces that the new group member is his AA sponsor. He says that he really likes his sponsor because he understands how difficult it is being married to an angry wife.

Do you see any "hot button" issues?

Well, there are plenty of "hot button" issues in this situation. First of all, it is not a good idea to have an AA sponsor and the person he is sponsoring in the same batterers' group. The sponsor deserves his own privacy in a DV treatment group; otherwise, he might feel embarrassed or ashamed to speak freely in front of the person he is sponsoring.

In this case, Don may over-identify with the sponsor, as they both have DV offenses, which might increase Don's rationalization of his anger problems.

We are concerned about Don's remark that both he and his sponsor have an "angry wife" because it sounds as if they are both blaming the victim for

their anger, instead of taking responsibility for their actions. Secondly, since the sponsor is just beginning batterers' treatment, he does not have the knowledge to help Don with his issues of anger, and may inadvertently add to Don's defensiveness and denial.

In addition, we are concerned about the sponsor's effectiveness in working with Don, as he is not working the 12 Steps. Don thinks that by stopping his alcohol use, he has solved two problems at once; that is, he is no longer an alcoholic and that he will never again batter his wife because he is sober.

This is a dangerous rationalization, as Don is truly not in recovery because he is side-stepping the 12 Steps – the heart of AA – as well as blaming his battering on alcohol abuse.

Although Don has not been using alcohol, according to his random testing, he has not yet started the recovery process. As facilitators, we would predict that Don is at risk for drinking again and for battering his wife because he remains in denial about both issues.

In order to confront Don's "side-stepping" the 12 Steps, we'd ask other group members how working the Steps have helped them in their own recovery process. We'd also ask them how they overcame their denial initially and started working the first Step. With Don, we'd ask him what he thinks is preventing him from working Step One.

This case points out the importance of the facilitator having knowledge about chemical dependency and the 12 Step programs, as many of the group members have problems with alcohol and drug abuse.

As facilitators, it is our general policy not to have friends in the same treatment group, as they can form a small subgroup of their own and disrupt the group process. Friends can collude in a group situation, split off from the rest of the group, hold secrets and challenge the authority of the facilitator and the treatment techniques. In this case, we'd talk to Don and the sponsor at the end of the group and express our concerns about the two of them being in the same group. We'd confront the sponsor and ask him why he did not tell us at his initial interview that he wanted to be in the group with Don. We would have the sponsor change groups to protect his anonymity and privacy as he goes through his own growth process.

For those facilitators who may not be too familiar with the 12 Step program, try attending AA and Al-Anon groups to help understand the issues involved. Also reading the AA *Big Book* is very informative. There are many continuing education classes available about the dynamics of chemical dependency.

It's not a good idea to have an AA sponsor and the person he's sponsoring in the same batterers' treatment group.

Friends in the same group can form a small subgroup of their own and disrupt the group process.

Unique Program for Japanese-Speaking Batterers Explores Cultural & Legal Differences in U.S. & Japan

By *Harumi Takahama*
Little Tokyo Service Center
Los Angeles

Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) is a non-profit organization committed to offering comprehensive social services to low-income, disenfranchised individuals and families.

We have been dedicated to empowering individuals and families by providing services that include counseling, case management, welfare assistance, support groups and advocacy to the Japanese American community for the past 22 years.

One of the programs is "Stop the Violence" for Japanese-speaking batterers. The program was approved by the Los Angeles County Probation Department in 1994 and is the only program for Japanese-speaking males in Southern California.

Since its inception, a number of men have enrolled in the program. Although all the men enrolled were born and raised in Japan, their backgrounds are different — businessmen from Japan, students and retirees. Some are permanent residents and some are temporary.

The period of time they spend in the United States and the experience that they have are different from one batterer to another. Age varies, as well. The youngest was 19 and the oldest 83.

The curriculum includes the following topics: 1. What is domestic violence? 2. power and control issues; 3. how to take timeout; 4. anger control; 5. stress management; 6. good communication skills; 7. looking at alternatives; 8. real power — self-empowerment.

In addition the groups discuss: 1. understanding U.S. law; 2. gender role differences; 3. values and customs differences between the U.S. and Japan; 4. different styles of communication in each country.

The emphasis on understanding United States law is very crucial for

batterers. They usually display anger towards not only their partner, but also the system in the U.S.

Since they grew up in an environment where no strict law against domestic violence was enforced, they have a mentality such that this would not have happened to them. Or nobody would have cared if they had abused their partner in Japan.

Despite enrolling into the program, some decide to leave for Japan for good, for various reasons, before the completion of the program. Referral to a therapist in Japan is arranged before they leave the U.S.

They must understand that they cannot get away with what they have done and they have to follow the court order no matter where they might be. The law treats them all equally regardless of their nationality.

I often share the following incident with batterers so they will understand the legal system in the U.S.:

There was one member who left the group without a word. He could have completed the program if he had attended one more session. LTSC notified the court of the situation. One day, this person was arrested on a DUI and his criminal record showed incompleteness of the domestic violence program. He was sent back to the group to complete the court order.

Batterers somehow utilize the program as a peer group as well. They have never had a place like this where they can open up to discuss marital or family issues. In Japan, culturally, men do not share personal matters with others.

Discussing family problems is intolerable because of the existing values that believe that men should be tough and strong in order to survive in society and to support their own family.

Many participants comment that they appreciate the program because they would never have had an opportunity to learn about domestic violence unless there had been a court

order. Although progress among members varies, this program provides batterers the opportunity to learn an alternative approach to leading a life without domestic violence.

New Domestic Violence Law in Japan

Japan's first domestic violence law went into effect October 13, 2001. The Law on Prevention of Spouse Violence and Protection of Victims represents the first time that spousal battery will be dealt with in the criminal courts in Japan. It allows district courts to evict abusers from their homes for up to two weeks, and issue restraining orders for six months.

Violations of the court orders can result in fines of up to one million yen (\$8000). The law also requires the government to provide services to victims of domestic violence, including supplying financial support to organizations that assist victims, and establishing counseling centers in each of Japan's 47 prefectures. These centers also serve as shelters for women during the court-ordered six-month separation.

Women's rights groups in Japan have stated that this is a good first step but acknowledge fundamental problems with the law, namely that it does not make domestic violence a crime. Also, the burden of proof rests solely on the victim and she or he is expected to leave the home during the six-month separation.

Still, the law represents progress in a country where domestic violence has long been seen as a family issue and where it is considered shameful for a victim to discuss the issue publicly.

This culture of silence led some to believe domestic violence was not a crime in Japan. Studies by the government in the late 1990s found, however, that domestic violence occurs as frequently in Japan as in other countries.

Five percent of the wives experience spousal abuse and one in seven women receive medical treatment as a result. The government also found that one-third of the women murdered in Japan each year are killed by their husbands.

Studies also show that attitudes have begun to change among younger Japanese, who are more likely to view domestic violence as a problem than are their parents and grandparents.

Reprinted from "Program Notes"
Sorooptimists of America, March/April 2002

Japanese batterers usually display anger not only at their partner, but also at the system in the U.S.

The culture of silence has led some to believe that domestic violence was not a problem in Japan.

VIEWPOINT.....

WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION BILLS INCLUDE \$320 MILLION TO PROMOTE MARRIAGE FOR THOSE RECEIVING TANF FUNDS

The new welfare plan encourages women to marry as a way to escape poverty.

The government should not expect battered women to marry or stay married to men who physically assault them.

Congress is currently including in most of its welfare reauthorization bills millions of dollars that will be directed toward the promotion of marriage among Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients.

These programs, some of which pay poor women to marry, are extremely dangerous for victims of domestic violence. In addition to the risk of coercing battered women to remain with, or return to, their abusers, the marriage promotion program wastes \$320 million that could better be spent on programs proven to reduce poverty and improve economic self-sufficiency.

Battered women are victims of crime. Just as the government does not expect victims of rape or robbery to marry their victimizers, it should not expect battered women to marry or stay married to the men who physically assault them and their children.

Although 80% of the American population believes the government should not engage in marriage promotion, the new welfare plan encourages women to marry as a way to escape poverty.

On May 16 of this year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2002 (HR 4737), which reauthorizes the welfare program. The bill allocates money for education, job training and assistance for the nation's poorest families.

What is shocking is the \$320 million allocated to "marriage promotion" or "family formation" program.

This overwhelming sum of money, which could be spent, for instance, on programs that have been proven to pull families out of financial destitution, is being authorized without any conclusive evidence establishing that marriage promotion reduces poverty.

The bill provides the funds for grant programs that would promote "healthy" marriages.

Experience has shown that many women already find themselves unable to leave a violent relationship for fear that they will be unable to support or find housing for themselves and their children.

The marriage promotion programs and additional funds possibly attached to marriage may further embed this fear.

While the government seems to believe that women will rise out of poverty through marriage, Congress is treading on dangerous ground. Congress claims that these programs will target only "healthy" families. Yet, the majority of women on welfare, as many as 60%, report having been victims of intimate

partner violence at some point in their adult lives, and 30% report abuse within the last year.

For these women and their children, marriage is not the solution to economic security. Instead, marriage could mean death for women who are being encouraged to marry and stay with the very abuser they should be trying to leave.

These programs also further stigmatize single or divorced parent, and as a result could make it difficult for victims to leave a violent relationship.

Finally, there is a real risk of people being coerced into marriage if participation is, or is perceived to be, linked to receiving their TANF, or any other benefits.

Views expressed are those of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV).

For additional information on the bill, contact Juley Fulcher, Reva Gupta or Allison Randall, at NCADV.

Phone: 202-745-1211 - Fax: 202-745-0088

E-mail: policy@ncadv.org.

POST Study Concludes That DV Is Still Most Dangerous Call for Law Enforcement

A recently published five-year study of peace officers killed and assaulted in the line of duty in California concluded that, "Domestic violence/disturbance calls continue to be the number one cause of peace officer felonious deaths".

Published by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) in November 2001, the report cites 33 peace officer felonious deaths, and 33 accidental deaths, throughout the state from 1995 to 1999.

Of the 33 felonious deaths, seven peace officers were murdered while handling domestic violence situations.

Among the 33 killed, two were murdered at one incident as they approached the location. One was murdered with his own weapon after being knocked to the ground.

In all but one of the seven domestic violence cases, the suspects were armed or had access to firearms before the victim officers made the initial contact.

The Southern region of the state led in the number of felonious deaths, with 20 peace officer victims. Central California reported, with 3 victims; San Francisco Bay Area, 7 victims, and Northern region, 3 peace officer deaths.

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L.A. County Death Review Team Examines DV Homicides, Murder-Suicides

Los Angeles County's DV Death Review Team (DVRT) has, as its objective, the discernment of domestic abuse patterns and the improvement of agency response to abuse victims and perpetrators. A recently published report looks at 33 closed cases from the year 1997. (Death review teams traditionally only look at closed cases, thus the delay in their publication.)

A total of 39 domestic violence fatality events occurring in 1997 were identified. However, six were identified after the deadline to be included in the study. The remaining 33 were reviewed. Among the team's findings were:

- The 33 fatal events led to 53 total deaths: 38 were homicides and 15 were suicides. There were five additional homicide attempts and one suicide attempt.

- In 1997 there were 17 homicide incidents that resulted in the death of 17 individuals and two fetuses. The 16 murder-suicide events led to a total of 21 homicides, 15 suicides and one suicide attempt.

- The perpetrator's partner was the primary target in all of the 17 homicides. In one case, the perpetrator was unsuccessful in killing his partner, but did kill her new boyfriend.

- In 13 of the homicides, a male perpetrator killed his female partner. In three homicides, the perpetrator was a female, and in all three cases, there were allegations of prior abuse by

the male partner toward the female perpetrator.

- Among the 16 murder-suicides, 13 had the perpetrator's partner as the primary target. However, multiple targets were much more likely to occur in murder-suicides than in homicide cases. Additional victims in the 13 cases where the perpetrator was the primary target included a child of the couple, the mother-in-law of the perpetrator's partner, and a new boyfriend of the perpetrator's partner.

- In two of the remaining murder-suicides, the children of the couple were the primary targets, and in one of these two cases, there was additional attempt to kill the perpetrator's wife. In the last case, the nephew of the perpetrator's partner was the homicide victim, although there was also an attempt to kill the perpetrator's partner.

- In the homicide cases, 14 were male and three were female perpetrators, with ages from 20 to 81 years. In the murder-suicides, all 16 perpetrators were male, ages from 19 to 70 years.

- In all types of DV fatalities, the majority of perpetrators were Hispanic/Latino (11 homicides, six murder-suicides). In homicide cases, four perpetrators were White; two, African-American and none were Asian/Pacific Islander. In the murder-suicides four perpetrators were African American; two White, and four Asian-Pacific Islander.

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