

# EMERGING SPIRIT: From Violence to Social Justice through Faith and Culture



Each year, the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs works to secure funds to provide Community Based Victim Assistance Programs and Stopping the Violence Counselling programs with a province-wide training event. This is an opportunity for us to focus on current and emerging issues in the field to assist frontline workers in the difficult and complex task of providing trauma response services.

Over the last few years we have been able to include community coordination initiatives and Stopping the Violence Outreach workers among our participants. Many thanks are owed to the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for once again funding the Annual Training Forum.

The 2006 Annual Training Forum will explore the ways in which culture, faith and spirituality can contribute to the healing processes of those who have experienced violence, and look at ways in which coordination with faith sectors can increase safety.

For many years, as anti-violence workers, we have heard many stories of how religious and cultural traditions have functioned to keep women and others in situations of danger and have placed responsibility on women for the violence they experience. In a post-9/11 world we have also been inundated with false constructions of faith and culture and an atmosphere of fear has been instilled. We are well aware of the problems within many faith/cultural communities where patriarchal power structures exist, where there is a secondary status for women, where teachings that support power imbalances or even forms of abuse exist.

However, for many women, faith and/or cultural communities are the first places survivors turn to when abuse happens. They are the places in which many find support and comfort. Often survivors don't access services like counselling, advocacy or court support until after getting connected with their own communities. It might be the minister who hears about the abuse first, or a friend or leader at mosque or temple or synagogue. And, once we as anti-violence service providers are no longer needed, those we work with return to their lives, seek support from their communities, be they faith or culturally based. This is why it is imperative that there is coordination between anti-violence services and faith/cultural communities.

In order to work effectively with women and others who have close connections to their faith or culture, we need to bring new language and concepts to our sector. We need to be able to engage with women as they draw solace from their faith or culture and/or assist them if they struggle with it. We need to understand as best we can the particular characteristics of faith communities—what aspects have helped, what aspects have hindered. We need to understand the layers that are added to the experience of abuse and of survival when people are deeply connected to their faith or culture.

It is time to look at the vast resources that culture, faith and spirit bring to a survivor's process. It is time to hear the voices of those within faith and cultural communities who have been advocates of integrity, safety and respect for all.

The Training Forum will provide an opportunity for anti-violence responders to

- Share inspiring and empowering stories about culture, faith and healing
- Learn about cultural and faith/spirit based programs and resources
- Strategize about how to work with these programs and resources in a coordinated, effective manner
- Learn culturally and spiritually based processes for addressing violence
- Build skills for respecting and understanding the inter-connections between culture, faith, spirit, violence and healing

We have gathered together keynote speakers and workshop facilitators from a range of backgrounds, with a variety of opinions. We know that the workers who attend the forum will, as always, bring a wealth of knowledge and experience of their own as well. We look forward to stimulating dialogue and a vibrant learning experience.

We hope you will be able to take the time from your very busy programs to join with your colleagues from across the province. Hope to see you there!

*Tracy Porteous  
Executive Director,  
BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and  
Counselling Programs  
On behalf of the Training Forum Planning Committee*

# 2006 Annual General Meeting



**Friday, December 1, 2006**

**9:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

**Plaza 500 Hotel,  
Vancouver**

**9:30 AM Welcome & Call to Order**

- The Year in Review
- Open Member Discussion
- Break (coffee, muffins & fruit provided)
- Association Business
- Board of Directors Election

Please join us for the BCASVACP's Annual General Meeting on December 1, 2006, just after the Fall Training Forum on November 29 & 30, at the same location. For those traveling from out of town, it is our hope that you will be able to stay through December 1 so that you can join us for the meeting. The BCASVACP's AGM is:

- A time for members to connect with other advocates, counsellors and managers from programs across the province and within your region.
- A chance to meet or reconnect with the staff and Board of the Association.
- A time to recognize the Association's accomplishments of the past year.
- A time to identify critical issues and look to the year ahead.

At the AGM, elections are held for regional representation on the Board of Directors of the Association for the coming year. With our bylaw change at the 2003 AGM, the term of office for Directors is now two years. Therefore, not all seats will be vacant. Please contact your current Board representative to inquire about her intentions and to see if there will be a vacancy in your region. We encourage prospective Board members to discuss your interest with other members in your region, get prior approval from your agency to sit on the Board, and come to the AGM prepared to speak about yourself and what you bring to the Association. Those members who are in good standing, and have paid their membership dues at least 30 days prior to the AGM will be eligible to vote at the AGM. If you are unsure about your membership dues, just give us a call. We hope that members, new and old, will join us at the upcoming 2006 Annual General Meeting!



*\* art throughout program by Sheila Norgate*



# Forum at a Glance



**NOVEMBER 29, 2006**

## **Wednesday AM**

**7:30 Registration & Coffee**

- Information tables

**8:30 Opening Welcome**

**9:20 Keynote Address**

*Gloria Morgan, LLB*

The Journey: Culture and Spirituality Strengthen the Body and the Soul

**10:30 Break**

**10:50 Keynote Address**

*Laura S Brown, PhD ABPP*

More Than A Flashback: Existential and Multicultural Issues in Trauma Treatment

## **Wednesday PM**

**12:00 Lunch Provided**

- Odin Books
- Canadian Shiatsu Society of BC
- Reflexology Association of BC

**1:00 Concurrent Workshops**

1. Which Self Am I For? Feminist Perspectives On Intersecting Identities
2. The Journey Within: Using Spirituality as a Vehicle for Change
3. Parole: Its Role in Creating Safer Communities
4. Indigenous Values: Healing Residential School Traumas
5. Multigenerational Experiences of Immigrant & Refugee Women: Across Faith & Cultural Boundaries
6. Challenges, Resources and Supports: Working with Immigrant Women Experiencing Abuse
7. Collaboration: A Bridge between Faith Communities & Secular Anti-Violence Services

**4:30 Adjourn**

**NOVEMBER 30, 2006**

## **Thursday AM**

**8:30 Registration & Coffee**

**9:00 Announcements**

**9:10 Greetings**

**9:20 Keynote Address**

*Rev Dr Sharon Davis Ellis*

Am I My Sister's Keeper?

The Church Responds To Violence Against Women

**10:30 Break**

**10:50 Keynote Address**

*Senator Mobina Jaffer, QC*

Why We Kill in the Name of Religion

## **Thursday PM**

**12:00 Lunch Provided**

- Odin Books
- Canadian Shiatsu Society of BC
- Reflexology Association of BC

**1:00 Concurrent Workshops**

1. To Forgive Or Not To Forgive: Which Is The Question?
2. Creative Process and Mindfulness Meditation: A Recovery Model of Trauma Counselling
3. Cultural/Religious Accommodations: Rights and Best Practices for Program Managers
4. Be My Spirit Whole: Practical Methods for the Feminist Warrior
5. Violation of Sacred Trust: Sexual Abuse of Women and Girls by Clergy
6. Leaving the Matrimonial Home, Leaving the Community: Impacts Immigrant Women Face When Choosing Safety
7. Strengthening Community Coordination with Christian Faith Communities to Increase Safety

**4:15 Closing Entertainment**



### The Journey: Culture & Spirituality Strengthen the Body & the Soul

Gloria Morgan, LLB



“You have to know where you have come from, and where you are today, to know where you are going tomorrow...” My whole life, I have worked for people, especially Aboriginal people. I have never wanted to be anonymous, to sit back, to not make a difference. My dad’s words and my mom’s words are still with me today as I continue on my journey to tomorrow. They say that my dad was the last good Chief in my community. I know what made him a good Chief, even though he had many personal challenges. That is what I aspire to be, to be known as ‘good,’ someday to be a good elder, someday to be good enough to be awarded an Aboriginal Achievement Award. I know where I came from, I know where I am today, and the journey into tomorrow is exciting, and I am walking forward with my arms and heart wide open...” Gloria is a survivor and will speak about the many ways that culture and spirituality have affected her life and her family members’ lives. She has also witnessed the healing aspects of culture and spirituality on many individuals, many families and many communities. Internal and external forces worked to limit the practice of cultural and spiritual ways. Despite these forces, Aboriginal culture and spirituality have survived and have been passed on and continue to be passed on from generation to generation. Statistics are clear that Aboriginal women and children suffer violence at a higher rate than the dominant population. One of the results of the violence is that Aboriginal women are separated from their homes, their families, and their communities. Even though Aboriginal women are separated by this violence, they continue to practice their spiritual and cultural ways. This practice is evidenced at times of extreme duress and works to support the women and families.

Since the age of 12, **Gloria Morgan** has worked in many areas ranging from an orchard fruit picker, playschool assistant, waitress, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officer, lawyer and Chief of the Spallumcheen (Splants’in) Indian Band. She received her law degree from UBC in 1994 and was called to the bar in 1995. She is currently a non-practicing lawyer. During her eight years in private practice, she specialized as a criminal defense lawyer, and for two years she served as a Crown

Prosecutor. Gloria sits on several Boards including the Enderby & District Chamber of Commerce, the Commanding Officer of “E” Division’s Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and the provincial working group of the Community Coordination for Women’s Safety Program. Gloria is currently working as a consultant and is involved in projects as diverse as a Wood and Coal Co-generation Power Plant, policy and strategy development with the Ministry of Forests, strategy development for accessing financial support for programs for Aboriginal women and families. Aside from Gloria’s work, she enjoys a 19-year marriage with Dennis, has a 33-year-old stepson, and a dog and a cat. She is an avid golfer. She is a life-long learner and strongly believes that wisdom and knowledge must be passed on.

### More Than A Flashback: Existential & Multicultural Issues in Trauma Treatment

Laura S. Brown, PhD ABPP



Trauma does not happen in a vacuum, or to some generic human being. Rather, trauma is each survivor’s unique event, one which evokes issues of gender, culture, and context, and which challenges meaning-making systems. Laura will discuss the importance of going beyond overt symptoms in working with trauma survivors, and of attending carefully to the meanings lent to trauma by personal and cultural histories of privilege or oppression. She will also discuss trauma as a meaning-making opportunity in the lives of both survivors and therapists.

**Laura S. Brown** is a feminist therapist and forensic psychologist. She has written and taught extensively on issues of feminist practice, including ethics, assessment, and the integration of anti-oppression work into feminist therapy. Her book *Subversive Dialogues: Theory In Feminist Therapy* won the Distinguished Publication Award from the Association for Women in Psychology. She earned a doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 1977 from Southern Illinois University, and lives in Seattle with her partner and her canine co-therapist, where she is completing a book on feminist and multicultural competencies in trauma treatment and writing her second mystery novel.





## Am I My Sister's Keeper? The Church Responds to Violence Against Women

Rev Dr Sharon Davis Ellis



For many years the church has remained silent on issues surrounding violence against women. However, towards the end of the 20th century and into the 21st century the voices of women have become even louder and stronger, demanding that which is just and righteous from our religious institutions. Because the church has been challenged to examine its participation in sexism, racism, and even homophobia, more programs are emerging that address violence against women. This presentation seeks to highlight the positive gifts of the churches, which have answered the question, Am I my sister's keeper? Many churches have responded with a resounding YES, and have developed programs and theology that empower women, heal and seek to restore the value of humanity.

**Rev. Dr. Sharon Ellis Davis** is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ (UCC), the Co-Founder and Senior Pastor of God Can Ministries, UCC, and a Certified Domestic Violence Counsellor. Sharon has provided training for churches to establish domestic violence ministries, and has conducted workshops in anti-racism and clergy ethics/boundaries. She is also a speaker for the Faith Trust Institute in Seattle, an agency that empowers faith communities to address sexual and domestic violence. She is an Adjunct Professor for the McCormick Theological Seminary and Police Chaplain for the Chicago Police Department. She has been a full-time police officer since 1978 and is the first full-time female chaplain on the force. Sharon does not separate the sacred and the secular. She sees all of her experiences and life's work as ministry. As a survivor of sexual and domestic violence, Sharon lives by her favorite scripture, Isaiah 40:30-31 (paraphrased): *Even the youth will faint and grow weary and young men and women may fall. But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not get weary. They shall walk and not faint.*

## Why We Kill in the Name of Religion

Mobina Jaffer, QC



Globally, women are experiencing all forms of torture and oppression under the guise of religious values. Senator Jaffer will reflect on the status of women's freedom globally and examine the use of violence against women as a means of furthering oppression. This examination will inform us of what many refugee women in Canada are facing in terms of their healing journeys and link us all to the need to be vigilant about rights and freedoms around the world.

*Born in Uganda, **Mobina Jaffer** was educated in both England and Canada, earning her LL.B. from London University in England and going on to complete the Executive Development Program at Simon Fraser University. The first East Indian woman lawyer in BC, Mobina has an extensive record of achievement in the areas of equality and justice for women of colour and the struggle to end violence against all women. Appointed to the Senate in 2001 as the first East Indian, first Muslim, first African, she continues to bring issues of human rights and other important issues to her colleagues in Parliament. From 2002 to 2006, she held the position of Canada's Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan. She worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Sudanese community and the diplomatic community to assist the people of Sudan in the search for peace. From May 2005 to March 2006 she was also a member of the Prime Minister's Special Advisory Team focusing on the implementation of the Peace Process in Sudan. Mobina's long-time advocacy to enable Sudanese women to participate in the Peace negotiations was finally successful for the first time in the fall of 2005.*

# Workshop Descriptions



Wednesday  
November 29, 2006

1:00 PM Concurrent Workshops



## 1. Which Self Am I For? Feminist Perspectives On Intersecting Identities

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to feminist models of identity development. The challenges faced by persons with multiple, intersecting, and apparently conflictual identities will be considered, and strategies for assisting ourselves and our clients to see such conflicts as signs of positive change and values clarification will be proposed. This workshop will include a large experiential component; participants should be prepared to examine their own multiple and intersecting identities and personal and cultural histories.

### Presenter

**Laura S. Brown**, PhD ABPP, is a feminist therapist, ethicist, writer and forensic psychologist from Seattle, Washington. See Keynotes for complete bio.

## 2. The Journey Within: Using Spirituality as a Vehicle for Change

This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to explore and identify their own spiritual selves while understanding the use of spiritual principles in their work. Specific examples will be used to demonstrate how spiritual principles (e.g. compassion) can be used to understand our relationship to the work and to overcome barriers and facilitate change. We will also explore ways in which spiritual principles can be used to resolve conflict and strengthen relationships, leading to better coordination and collaboration in our communities.

### Presenters

**Ninu Kang**, Director of Family Programs at MOSAIC, has worked in the anti-violence movement for the past 15 years. She has worked with immigrant women who have experienced abuse by providing counselling, support and advocacy. In the last ten years, she has worked with abusive men from the South Asian community by providing group treatment. Ninu has been a member of the Vancouver Coordination

Committee and is presently on the Board of Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) and Ending Relationship Abuse (ERA) Society along with being involved in various community development and policy change processes. She has provided training in the areas of men's treatment, cultural competency and racism.

**Dr. Harry Stefanakis**, registered psychologist, is an experienced counsellor and educator who communicates effectively with both humour and clarity. Harry has over 12 years experience working with victims and offenders in the field of family violence. He has worked with self-referred, court-ordered and incarcerated men across a variety of treatment modalities. Harry has provided supervision and training in understanding and facilitating the change process in men who use violence. He was a consultant to the BC provincial government for the family violence core program initiative, a visiting expert for the United Nations: Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and he is currently the co-chair of the Ending Relationship Abuse Society of BC.

## 3. Parole: Its Role in Creating Safer Communities

The National Parole Board contributes to the protection of society by facilitating, as appropriate, the timely integration of offenders as law-abiding citizens. This workshop will provide an overview of the National Parole Board (NPB), the factors considered during offenders' reviews and the ways in which NPB has adapted hearing styles to be more culturally sensitive to offenders and victims. Participants will learn what information victims may request as well as what information they may provide to NPB, including presenting statements at NPB hearings. Participants will also be given a mock file to vote upon as though they were Parole Board members.

### Presenters

**Evelyn** is the Regional Manager of Community Relations and Training for the National Parole Board



# Workshop Descriptions



*Pacific Region. She has been employed in the federal government since 1975 and has held numerous positions in the criminal justice system, including RCMP Special Constable, Military Police Officer, Regional Administrator Aboriginal Issues, BC Board of Parole Policy Analyst and several senior management positions at the National Parole Board. In her current position, Evelyn trains Board members and staff, oversees the victim unit, is the media relations officer and administers the public relations in the region. For several years Evelyn was the manager of Operations, which oversees the processing of Board reviews and decisions, legal advice and policy development.*

**Debra Kihara** is one of five communications officers at the National Parole Board's Pacific regional office. Debra has worked for the Board for more than 20 years and the majority of her last 13 years has been as a communications officer, exchanging information with victims, the media and other members of the public. She considers some of her most important roles to be briefing and escorting victims and other observers to Board hearings, notifying victims of Board reviews and decisions, and networking with victim-serving agencies.

## 4. Indigenous Values: Healing Residential School Traumas

Many indigenous peoples all across Turtle Island are on a healing path. They are addressing the multigenerational effects of the residential school experience. Helping residential school survivors and their families on this healing path is challenging. There is no single indigenous culture, faith or spirituality to base the healing process on. This workshop will provide participants with several indigenous worldviews/values that will help support workers understand the qualities of mind and spirit that characterize many indigenous peoples. These values are the main factors in the people's resiliency to survive the residential school experience and move forward with hope and healing.

### Presenters

**Gerald George** is a member of the Skwah First Nation near Chilliwack, BC. He spent three years attending St. Mary's Indian residential school and the Kamloops Indian residential school. He has a certificate in Focusing

*Therapy and is a certified trainer in the field. The biggest struggle First Nations are having, according to Gerald, is a struggle with trauma and the unresolved grief and shame from the loss of our Indian-ness and connection to and use of our lands. When he is not active with his work Gerald can be found exploring the traditional healing methods of many First Nation cultures.*

**Samaya Jardey** is a member of Snuneymuxw First Nation on Vancouver Island. Her late father and four of her older siblings attended residential school. Samaya, a second-generation survivor, and her family have experienced the devastation and destruction residential school caused. She is passionate about supporting residential school survivors in reclaiming their health, wellness and balance and she continues to speak out about the history and impacts of residential schools so that it can never happen again. She has completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and a Bachelor of Social Work degree at the University of British Columbia.

## 5. Multigenerational Experiences of Immigrant & Refugee Women: Across Faith & Cultural Boundaries

This workshop will be an opportunity to share the knowledge, and experience of multigenerational women from different faith and cultural backgrounds as they leave abusive relationships. Their particular experience often influences their choices and decisions as they rebuild their lives using all their support networks. The experience of a young woman whose parents migrated to Canada would be different than that of a recent immigrant when deciding whether or not to involve her family, community, culture and faith/spirituality network. Her reality in confronting the barriers and supports when she decides to leave an abusive relationship can vary from that of an older immigrant or refugee woman. Each culture comes with certain beliefs, faith values and practices. Multigenerational gaps can alienate women in their own communities. We hope to provide an insight into the dynamics involved in working with women with multigenerational experiences while sharing the same culture or faith, what helps, essential resources, and what you can do to make a difference. Your understanding of their experience and choices could make the difference in your assistance and intervention.

# Workshop Descriptions



## Presenters

**Kashmir K. Besla**, MA, has worked in the counselling field for over twelve years. She has worked as a Family Outreach counsellor, as a Specialized Victim Assistance worker, and as a Stopping the Violence counsellor. She also facilitates groups for children who have a parent with a mental illness. Kashmir is active in the community, working with various organizations to address the issues of violence.

**Kim Samra** (formerly Sanghera) has been working in the field of victim services for approximately eleven years. She recently joined the Surrey RCMP Victim Services Unit after a nine-year tenure with the Specialized Victim Assistance Program at the Surrey Women's Centre. Kim obtained her Bachelor's degree in Criminology at Simon Fraser University.

## 6. Challenges, Resources and Supports: Working With Immigrant Women Experiencing Abuse

This workshop will address the critical considerations and challenges that workers face in supporting immigrant women from multicultural and faith backgrounds. The cultural and faith community resources and support networks are sometimes the first point of contact and information for women experiencing violence in their lives. For immigrant and refugee women and children, the experience of dealing with the consequences of violence and the judicial system can be frightening due to the lack of knowledge about the legal process, language problem and age/cultural barriers. Through information and support, Vancouver Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society (VLMFSSS) empowers women to participate in the criminal justice system and to feel comfortable proceeding with court related matters. A case study, a video presentation and group discussion will be used to explore appropriate strategies, community resources and support networks that exist to empower immigrant women and their families while respecting their choices and needs.

## Presenters

**Anna Foschi** is the Volunteer Coordinator at Vancouver Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society (VLMFSSS). She joined the Agency in 1994. She works with multicultural women, helping them to practice or acquire skills for clerical jobs, and does orientation and training for practicum students placed

at the agency. She organizes several volunteer-led additional services for women, such as income tax clinics, food and clothing distributions and the annual Christmas Party. She conducts educational workshops on issues that are relevant to immigrant women. She facilitates the Leadership Training Program, a two-month self-development and motivational course. Anna is also an award-winning writer and a co-founder and two-time President of the Association of Italian Canadian Writers. She was inducted into the Italian Cultural Centre's Hall of Fame in 2005.

**Ana Vilma Gomez**, Hispanic Community Worker, was born in El Salvador and came to Canada in 1987. She joined VLMFSSS in 1995. Ana provides individual counselling, advocacy and support to Spanish speaking women, organizes educational workshops and women's groups and was a member of the Advisory Committee for the production of educational videos and a television series aimed at the Hispanic community. She holds a Family Studies diploma and a certificate in Social Services Studies from Langara College.

**Uma Grant** was born and educated in Fiji, where she was a high school teacher. She came to Canada in 1979 and joined VLMFSSS in 1994 as bi-lingual, bi-cultural Indo-Canadian Counselor and is now working as a Specialized Victim Support Worker. Uma has extensive experience working in transition houses and counselling South Asian women. She is actively involved in educational activities, as a workshop/panel presenter and as an advisory board member for educational television and video projects for the South Asian Community. Uma holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Services, diplomas in Women's Studies and a Social Services Worker diploma from Langara College. The immigrant experience remains close to her heart and she enjoys exploring other cultures and customs.

## 7. Collaboration: A Bridge between Faith Communities and Secular Anti-Violence Services

"None of us, as helpers, should ever put a battered woman in the position of having to choose between her safety and the support of her religious community. She needs both...and it's up to us to provide that" (Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune).



# Workshop Descriptions



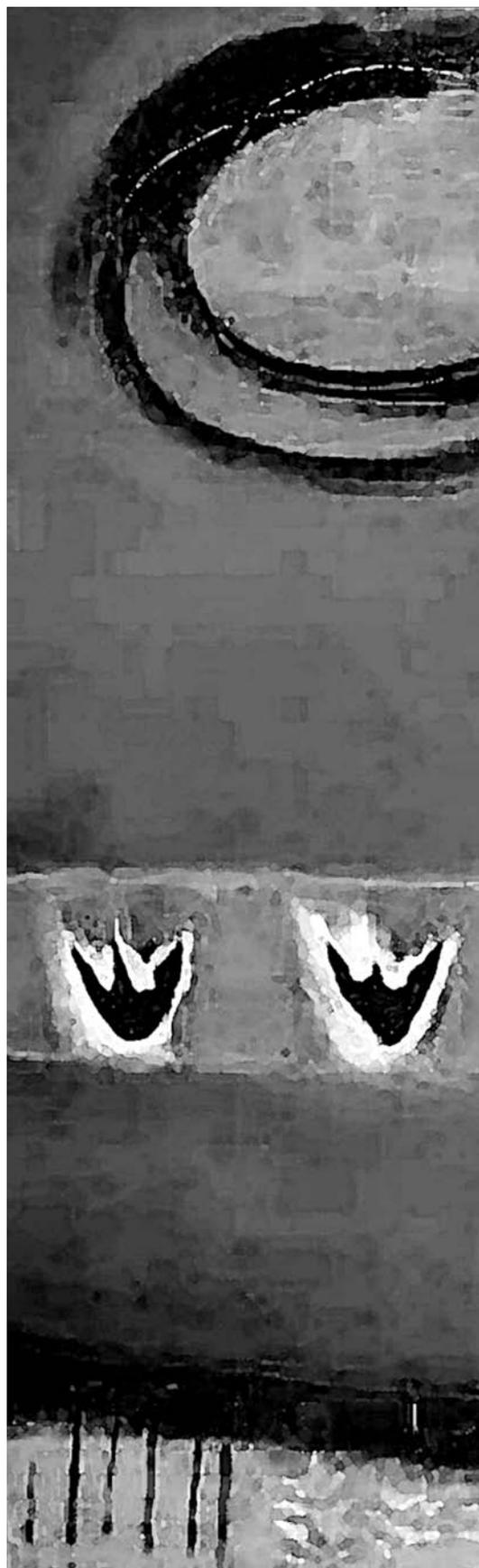
Because faith communities are a source of support for women experiencing violence and often a first responder, it is vital that coordination initiatives, faith communities and advocates work together. This panel presentation will engage participants with leaders of faith communities in a dialogue about strategies and practice that support and enhance women's safety through collaboration.

## **Presenters**

**Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan** has been the rabbi at Or Shalom Synagogue in Vancouver since January 2005. Before that, she served as Professor of Philosophy and Coordinator of Women's Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. There she worked closely with the Dean of Students office to develop life-educational programs and services for women students. Because much of her scholarly work was in the area of Peace Studies and Jewish Studies, she left her academic position in order to provide direct services to a religious community. She is one of only a handful of women rabbis in Canada. She earned many awards for her scholarship, teaching and service, including the prestigious U.S. Professor of the Year Award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Charlotte Jewish Woman of Strength Award.

**Reverend Dee McEachren** has been a United Church Minister for 20 years. For the past four years she has been in the Anglican/United shared ministry in the Robson Valley. She has a leaning to people in rural communities, their problems, concerns and their celebrations. She is a member of the Robson Valley Community Coordination for Women's Safety Initiative.

**Palbinder Kaur Shergill, LL.B.**, is a lawyer with her own firm, Shergill & Company. She is the General Legal Counsel for the World Sikh Organization and sits on the Board of the Fraser Health Authority and the National Sections Council Executive of the Canadian Bar Association. Palbinder is also involved in public interest advocacy. She has presented briefs on public law matters, including the Parliamentary Committee hearings on Canada's Anti-Terrorism Legislation. She provides voluntary legal services through the South Fraser Pro-Bono Legal Clinic and the Surrey Women's Centre, and is a recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for Community Service. She lives in Surrey with her three children and her husband, Amritpal.



# Workshop Descriptions



Thursday  
November 30, 2006

1:00 PM Concurrent Workshops



## 1. To Forgive or Not to Forgive: Which is the Question?

For centuries forgiveness has been a strong demand in the doctrines and dogmas of the Church. Yet, those who are usually challenged to forgive and forget are those who have been systematically oppressed by those challenging them to forgive. Forgiveness seems to be interpreted as a mandate for those who have been hurt, with no expectation of accountability for those who have harmed, hurt, and destroyed the spirits of those they were supposed to love, honor and protect. Victims and survivors of domestic violence are now challenging the very theological and doctrinal notion of forgiveness, yet they remain Christian in their religious orientation. It is now time to examine the main issues surrounding forgiveness. Should I forgive? This workshop will be an interactive workshop, as together we explore the positives and negatives of forgiveness as we individually discover what forgiveness means for ourselves.

### Presenter

**Rev Dr Sharon Davis Ellis** is a professor, outreach minister and pastor, certified domestic violence counsellor, advocate for victims of domestic violence and full time police officer from Chicago, Illinois. See Keynotes for complete bio.

## 2. Creative Process and Mindfulness Meditation: A Recovery Model of Trauma Counselling

This workshop introduces Margaret Jones Callahan's mindfulness-based model of working creatively with trauma and the process of recovery. Her model can be applied to historical abuse situations, addiction recovery, or to recent trauma experiences. In this seminar she will present the 3 stages of the model, introductory exercises for beginning the process and applications to client-oriented questions. Participants will be offered the opportunity to use art materials, learn basic meditation skills and discuss with each other in both small and large groups. Please come prepared to play and explore.

### Presenter

**Margaret Jones Callahan, MA, RCC, BCATR BC, Dip ED**, is the co-founder of TRUE POINT, a professional coaching and consulting firm based in Nova Scotia, where she leads seminars on organizational issues and needs and personal transitions. She also practices and teaches art, meditation and counselling, dividing her time between her personal creative process and working with others. Her workshops, *The Power of Painting* and *Cool Mind—Cool Water*, are popular personal growth retreats. Margaret has practiced and taught in the field of trauma for thirty years, working with women and children of all ages, and with many types of trauma. She has also been teaching and practicing meditation for thirty years and interweaving meditation with her clinical work.

## 3. Cultural/Religious Accommodations: Rights and Best Practices for Program Managers.

This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of human rights law, and how it applies to a manager's duty to accommodate employees with diverse cultural and religious requirements. Issues covered will include the responsibilities and rights of individuals requiring accommodation, the union and the collective agreement, and best practices for supervisors and managers. The workshop will also deal with conflicting rights; for instance, what to do when an employee seeks a bereavement leave that is longer than allowed for in the collective agreement due to cultural/religious requirements, or simply due to the location of the deceased.

### Presenter

**Susan O'Donnell** is the Executive Director of the BC Human Rights Coalition and has held this position since 1985. She oversees and directs the work of the Coalition's advocacy, law reform, and education programs. As senior educator she is also responsible for education and continuing consultation in human rights law and policy. She has been teaching human rights



# Workshop Descriptions



since 1978, as an instructor for the Coalition, for the Labour Studies Programme at Capilano College (1978 – 2000), and from time to time for the Justice Institute of British Columbia. For the past six years she has taught an extensive human rights program at the Winter School of the Canadian Labour Congress.

## 4. Be My Spirit Whole: Practical Methods for the Feminist Warrior

How do we mend a broken heart when ours is stretched? We are all born into a culture, a way of living, which perpetuates different levels of violence against women and children. How do I alone escape this violence? How do I alone deny differing acts of aggression within? Whether we are in solitude or in community, how do we nurture our spirit and heart? How do we honour our experience, our personal and political selves?

This workshop is two-fold. We will explore the roots of differing acts of aggression (violence) within and without, asking that question: Why is it that women doing violence seems unthinkable? How do I bear witness to the pain of others without losing touch with my own spirit, enthusiasm and joy? How do I create a sense of a community and a culture of healing? As well, throughout this workshop we will be exploring different questions and thoughts on ways of being in a therapeutic relationship to self and other. Creating a culturally safe and woman safe environment, this workshop will be in the style of a talking circle, at times utilizing ritual and music. Guided meditations and songs will bring us to places of contemplation and discussion, moving towards a celebration of life, community, culture and spirit.

### **Presenter**

**Donna Lee**, a feminist therapist and two-spirited grandmother, has worked in the field of family violence for the more than 20 years. Her area of concentration has been sexual abuse and trauma recovery, working with children, youth, women and families. Her work in the field over the years has given her a multi-faceted perspective in areas of tradition, culture, and cross-generational matters.

## 5. Violation of Sacred Trust: Sexual Abuse of Women and Girls by Clergy

What do survivors of clergy sexual abuse face in their healing journeys that is specific to this form of abuse? How do

counsellors and support people assist a woman in moving towards healing when her abuser is a leader of a faith community and the abuse threatens her connection to a community of support and inspiration?

This workshop will present research on the experiences of women and girls sexually abused by clergy, discuss specific aftermaths to this form of violation and explore ways in which we can support and advocate for survivors of clergy sexual abuse.

### **Presenter**

**Susan Armstrong**, M.Ed., R.C.C., is the Program Manager at BCASVACP. Susan has been a therapist, clinical supervisor and community educator for fifteen years. As a survivor of clergy sexual abuse, Susan has been very aware of the invisibility of women as victims of this crime. To fulfill her master's requirements she conducted interviews with other women who were survivors of clergy sexual abuse and wrote her thesis on this topic. Since then she has presented across Canada to religious and secular communities on the issue. She has had the privilege of counselling numerous women who have experienced and overcome sexual abuse by their religious leaders.

## 6. Leaving the Matrimonial Home, Leaving the Community: Impacts Immigrant Women Face When Choosing Safety

Immigrant women's lives in Canada are closely tied to cultural and familial communities. These communities hold invaluable resources for women, which may be threatened when she names the abuse she is experiencing and seeks to move towards safety. A woman's decision to leave a marriage radically affects her position and belonging in her community. This workshop will explore strategies to assist women who are faced with this dilemma, with a particular emphasis on working with Islamic women. Drawing on her many years of experience as a specialist in immigration law, Mobina will discuss avenues of support for immigrant women, ways in which we may support women in dealing with the loss of community they are experiencing and how to create other community ties.

### **Presenter**

**Mobina Jaffer** is a lawyer and Senator. See complete bio in Keynotes section.

# Workshop Descriptions



## 7. Strengthening Community Coordination with Christian Faith Communities to Increase Safety

Breaking the “holy hush” that often surrounds abuse in faith communities, a group of women storytellers tell their experiences of surviving abuse in intimate relationships. Each of them experienced abuse within a context of faith communities, and their engaging stories expose ways in which Christian teachings may be used as a weapon to harm women or as a source of support for healing. The skills training in this workshop offers tools to strengthen relationships and build understanding between secular and faith communities and to improve community coordination efforts.

### Presenters

**Elsie Wiebe Klingler** is the Abuse Prevention program coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee BC in Abbotsford. She has co-created the web site [www.mcc.org/labuse](http://www.mcc.org/labuse), a free skills training resource with step-by-step guidelines for leaders of faith communities. Elsie's work also involves advocacy for survivors of abuse by clergy, teaching a required course for clergy on sexual misconduct prevention and leading support groups for women experiencing abuse in intimate relationships. Elsie is a certified When Love Hurts Group Facilitator, and has worked at strengthening community coordination relationships as a member of the Abbotsford/Mission VAWIR committee, which she currently co-chairs.

**Karen McAndless-Davis** has led support groups for women for 10 years. She is co-author of *When Love Hurts: A Woman's Guide to Understanding Abuse in Relationship*. Karen frequently leads workshops on the unique woman-centred approach that is presented in this book. She has a master's degree in theology and is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. Before turning her attention fully to the issues of violence against women, she served a congregation as senior minister for 11 years in Surrey. She is passionate about helping the Christian community find helpful ways to support women experiencing abuse.

**Bernadette** describes herself as an “overcomer,” having left a long-time abusive marriage, followed by abuse from a church counsellor, the legal system and lack of understanding or assistance from the church and

its elders. After 25 years in the home, Bernadette returned to school, and now is employed as a primary care assistant in a medical clinic in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. Bernadette has participated in 4 support groups led by Karen McAndless-Davis as well as several years of counseling for PTSD. Bernadette says, “I have a story, but most importantly, I now have a voice.”

**Karen J** is a creative, loving mother of a 4-year-old daughter, a skilled and adored elementary school teacher and a loyal supporter of women experiencing abuse in intimate relationships. Karen's expertise has been shaped through her lived experiences of abusive dynamics in her 9-year marriage to her former husband who was the pastor of their church. Years of participation in support groups, gruelling and ongoing time in the court system and listening to countless stories of other abuse survivors have contributed to her skill as an articulate advocate, storyteller and educator on issues of abuse.

**Naomi** has focused her career on parenting her 2 children and creating a safe, healthy home. Naomi lives with health challenges, which were amplified by her husband's abuse during their 23-year marriage. Her husband and church twisted Christian teachings on forgiveness and submission, justifying his demeaning and harmful behaviour. Naomi's faith and marriage covenant were important to her and she believed the only way she could leave her marriage would be to die. Having survived, found support, educated herself on abuse and rebuilt faith, Naomi is passionate about life and supporting others who feel trapped like she did.

**Karen F** is a nutritionist at Langley Memorial Hospital and a mother of 3. Living in an abusive marriage for 17 years taught her that there are many life experiences that may cause us to internalize negative, harmful messages of self-doubt. Her faith community seemed to be caring but they didn't want to hear about the abuse, and a subtle yet strong message was that if you can't make your marriage work, you are a failure. Years of processing and reflection have allowed her to rebuild faith, embrace life and reframe negative messages into positive life-affirming beliefs.



# Registration & General Information



**Please register early to ensure your space! Note: While we can only cover travel and accommodation subsidies for one staff person from each STV Counselling Program, CBVA Program, Outreach Program and community coordination initiative in BC, you can send as many people as you like!**

## Training Forum Location

This year we respectfully acknowledge the traditional territory of the Coast Salish people, on whose land we will be gathering. The Training Forum will be held at the Plaza 500 Hotel, which is located at:

**500 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver**

This location is wheelchair accessible. The hotel's toll free phone number is 1-800-473-1811, and for local calls is 604-873-1811.

## Registration for the Training Forum

Please complete the attached registration form (one form for each person registering) and **submit with payment by Monday, October 30, 2006 to:**

BCASVACP

728-602 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1P2

The Training Forum registration fee includes lunch on Wednesday, November 29, and Thursday, November 30. Single day registration will include lunch on that day.

## Subsidies

PLEASE SEE EXPENSE CLAIM GUIDE

## Booking Accommodation

We have booked a block of rooms at the Plaza 500 Hotel, which is also the site for the Training Forum. Please call the Hotel directly at 1-800-473-1811 or 604-873-1811 to reserve your accommodation. You need to register no later than Monday, October 30, and specify the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs (BCASVACP) to receive the Training Forum rate. The quoted rate is \$82.00 plus taxes for single or double occupancy, which includes a free pass to Fitness World. Please note that breakfast is not included in this rate. SEE EXPENSE CLAIM GUIDE for more information.

## Driving Directions to the Plaza 500 Hotel

Please see [www.plaza500.com](http://www.plaza500.com) for driving directions from the airport, ferry terminals, etc.

## Parking

Parking at the Plaza 500 Hotel is \$3/hour, \$10/day (6 AM-6 PM), \$16/overnight.

## Environmental Sensitivities

For participants who are environmentally sensitive, smoking and strong scents can make the Training Forum inaccessible. By refraining from wearing strong perfumes, colognes or other scented products to the Forum, you can help create a "scent free environment".

## Professional Resources

Odin Books will have resources available for purchase. The Hotel also has an on site Business Centre (i.e. internet, photocopying, faxing, printing for a fee).

## Shiatsu and Reflexology Massage

Therapists from the Canadian Shiatsu Society of BC and Reflexology Association of BC will be offering neck, shoulder, head and hand massages free of charge during the Training Forum at specified hours.



# Expense Claim Guide



## BCASVACP Training Forum and AGM, November 29-December 1, 2006

### SUBSIDIES

We are pleased to announce that partial subsidies are available to one staff person from each STV Counselling Program, CBVA Program, Outreach Program and community coordination initiative in BC. Please note that subsidies are based on each person's individual expenses and cannot be accumulated or submitted as a group. Please also note that registration fees are not included in this subsidy. The subsidy formula is as follows:

- 1) The Association will reimburse 70% of travel, accommodation, and childcare expenses that total less than **\$800**.
- 2) The Association will reimburse 80% of travel, accommodation, and childcare expenses that total more than **\$800**.

**Note:** Single day registrants will receive the same subsidies for travel, childcare and up to two nights of accommodation. Single day registrants who require subsidy for more than two nights of accommodation must contact BCASVACP for prior approval.

We also offer subsidized Group Rates and Student Rate. The subsidy formula is as follows:

**Group Rates:** For groups of five registrants or more from the same agency, we will deduct \$20.00 off each registrant's standard rate (see Registration Form for more details). Single day registrations are not eligible for group rate subsidy.

**Student Rate:** Students with a valid student number will receive \$20.00 off general registration.

Please designate one person per category who will submit an expense claim for subsidy. The designated staff person or committee member will receive a travel/accommodation claim package at the training forum. Please keep all of your receipts to be submitted for reimbursement, and submit original receipts for reimbursement within 30 days.

### ACCOMMODATION

**Original receipts required.** The Association has booked a block of rooms at the Plaza Hotel at \$82/night. Registrants must pay for their room directly and then submit an expense claim to the BCASVACP after the training forum for reimbursement.

**Accommodation will be eligible for subsidy for November 28 and 29.** Accommodation may also be eligible for subsidy for November 30 for those who stay for the AGM, or in cases of

limited travel options. Please contact our office to receive prior approval. The maximum allowable accommodation charge per night is \$82 plus taxes. Lower Mainland participants can receive accommodation subsidy if travel is over 65 km each way from their office.

Private lodging will be eligible for subsidy at a rate of \$30/night. Specify "private lodgings" on your claim form.

### MEALS

Meals outside of the forum itself cannot be subsidized due to funding constraints. We hope that your agency can cover these costs. Lunch and refreshments are, however, provided on both days of the training forum.

### AUTOMOBILE TRAVEL

Mileage will be eligible for subsidy at the rate of 43 cents per km for individuals traveling more than 32 km from their office to the Training Forum and AGM. If you decide to drive instead of flying, please note that mileage will only be subsidized up to the amount of an advance, economy plane ticket from the same destination.

### PARKING

Parking costs will be reimbursed with original receipts.

### FERRY TRAVEL

Original receipts required. Costs for automobiles and foot passengers will be eligible for subsidy.

### AIR TRAVEL

Original receipts required. Air travel subsidy is based on seat sale and economy class prices. The BCASVACP strongly recommends that you/your agency purchase cancellation insurance, as we will not be able to provide reimbursements for unused airline tickets. Please note, however, that the BCASVACP will not be able to reimburse you/your agency for the cost of the insurance. Our recommendation for purchase is for your protection only.

### CHILDCARE

Please contact the Association office at 604-633-2506 ext. 10 for details.

### REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is not eligible for subsidy.



# Training Forum & AGM Registration Form



**Emerging Spirit: From Violence to Social Justice through Faith and Culture**  
November 29 – 30, 2006

**BCASVACP Annual General Meeting**  
December 1, 2006

**Plaza 500 Hotel, Vancouver, BC**

To register, please mail this form  
and the following two completed pages  
(one registration per person)

**with payment by**

**Monday, October 30, 2006 to:**

**BCASVACP**

**728-602 West Hastings Street**

**Vancouver, BC V6B 1P2**



**Do not fax your Registration Form—Mail in only!**

Registrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Specify with a check mark the Program or coordination initiative that you represent:

STV Counselling Program  Outreach program

CBVA Program  Community Coordination Initiative

Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you registering for Group Rate subsidies?

(i.e. you are part of a group of five or more registrants from the same agency)      yes       no

If yes, which agency? \_\_\_\_\_

# Training Forum & AGM Registration Form



## Please check the statement(s) that apply to you:

I will be attending the training forum on both days, November 29 – 30, 2006.

I will be attending the training forum on one day only.

I will be attending the BCASVACP AGM on December 1, 2006.

I am the person designated from my STV Counselling / CBVAP Program/ Outreach Program / coordination initiative who will be submitting an expense claim for subsidy. Yes  No

## Dietary Requirements:

Vegan (strict, no eggs or dairy)

Vegetarian

Other:  (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Accessibility:

I have access requirements (specify):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Forum Payment:

In continued recognition of the financial constraints that programs are dealing with, the Association is again pleased to offer reduced registration fees. Check the one that applies to you.

- BCASVACP Member Programs & coordination initiatives: \$150/person
- Non-Member Programs & General Registration (includes STV Outreach this year): \$180/person
- Group rate of five or more from same agency. \$20 off each registrant (\$160/\$130)
- Students: \$160/person. School name and Student number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Single day registration: \$100/person

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Registration Payment Enclosed**

- **Registrations must be accompanied by payment!** We regret that we cannot accept payment by credit card.
- Registration fee includes your participation at the Training Forum, handout materials, lunch and refreshments on both days (single day registration includes lunch and refreshments on one day).
- Please make cheque or money order payable to the:  
**BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Programs**
- Registration fees can be refunded until Thursday, November 16, 2006. A \$30 administration fee will be charged for each refund request. **Registration fees are non-refundable after this date.**

For more information call the BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs at 604-633-2506 ext. 10.



# Workshop Choices



Please select your first and second choice for each day (choices are not guaranteed):

## Wednesday, November 29, 2006

- 1. Which Self Am I For?  
Feminist Perspectives On Intersecting Identities
- 2. The Journey Within:  
Using Spirituality as a Vehicle for Change
- 3. Parole:  
Its Role in Creating Safer Communities
- 4. Indigenous Values:  
Healing Residential School Traumas
- 5. Multigenerational Experiences of Immigrant & Refugee Women:  
Across Faith and Cultural Boundaries
- 6. Challenges, Resources and Supports:  
Working with Immigrant Women Experiencing Abuse
- 7. Collaboration:  
A Bridge between Faith Communities and Secular Anti-Violence Services

## Thursday, November 30, 2006

- 1. To Forgive Or Not To Forgive:  
Which Is The Question?
- 2. Creative Process and Mindfulness Meditation:  
A Recovery Model of Trauma Counselling
- 3. Cultural/Religious Accommodations:  
Rights and Best Practices for Program Managers
- 4. Be My Spirit Whole:  
Practical Methods for the Feminist Warrior
- 5. Violation of Sacred Trust:  
Sexual Abuse of Women and Girls by Clergy
- 6. Leaving the Matrimonial Home, Leaving the Community:  
Impacts Immigrant Women Face When Choosing Safety
- 7. Strengthening Community Coordination with Christian Faith Communities  
to Increase Safety