Community News 1

Resolution Adopted on Domestic Violence

Task Force Appointed

A Task Force on Domestic Abuse has been appointed by Temple Beth El President Jonathan Howard to recommend ways to implement a Board

Resolution on Domestic Abuse Temple Beth El

WHEREAS Judaism affirms the sanctity of life and the inherent right of each person to a life of dignity and respect, and to a home that embodies such values, and WHEREAS a Jewish House of Worship should be a safe haven for anyone who is suffering from any form of domestic abuse, and WHEREAS domestic abuse, especially the battering of women, is a problem that has too often been minimized, ignored, or denied in the Jewish community, and WHEREAS certain misconceptions exist regarding battered women and men that dismiss, deny, and blame the victim rather than the perpe-

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Temple Beth El and its members acknowledge the presence of domestic abuse in our Temple family and the Jewish community.

BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that Temple Beth El and its leadership will offer guidance about domestic abuse and make it known to our congregants that victims may come to us for help and that we will educate our congregants in order to recognize and help prevent domestic abuse.

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED that Temple
Beth El will take the steps
that are necessary and appropriate to become a safe and
welcoming place for anyone
in our Temple family who is
in a domestic abuse situation.
BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED that Temple
Beth El leadership will offer
educational and ethical action
programs, about domestic
abuse, and that we will institute appropriate forums in our
congregation and community
regarding the issue of domestic abuse.

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED that Temple
Beth El will call upon and
work with other religious and
secular organizations throughout our community to educate
and engage in a campaign of
outreach and awareness
regarding domestic abuse.

Resolution passed on December 3, 2008. The Resolution, based on one adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 1990, affirms that domestic violence exists in the Jewish community and that each House of Worship should be a "safe haven" for anyone who is suffering from abuse.

"We are saying we recognize the problem, we have taken a principled stand, and we will go forward," said President Howard. Rick Glaser who as Vice-President for Planning introduced the Board Resolution, added, "Because we know there are many people, especially women, suffering in silence and isolation right now, we have set a very short time-frame for the work of the Task Force: we hope to begin implementation in April of this year."

The Board action culminates almost two years of work at

Temple Beth El when the issue of domestic abuse became one of the platforms of the Social Justice and Action Committee. Along with clergy and Sisterhood and in coordination with other Temples and Jewish organizations, educational forums for adults and children, cell phone collections, cards in restrooms, promotional activities, and sermons have been part of TBE life.

"The role of the Task Force is to find ways to make the fight against domestic abuse part of the fabric of our Temple – to develop an institutional rather than a one-on-one response," said Task Force Chair Marsha Stickler. Adjunct member Moira Quinn Klein emphasized, "We want to establish the kind of Temple where each member can be confident that, 'It's safe to say; It's safe to tell. Domestic Abuse isn't tolerated at Temple Beth El." ♥

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