

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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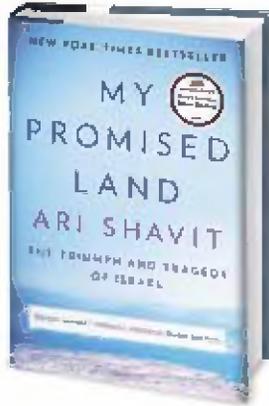
## JCRC Fall Lecture Featuring Ari Shavit Set for November 4



Ari Shavit

Please join us for the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council (JCRC) Annual Fall Lecture on Wednesday, November 4 at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts at Shalom Park.

Our featured guest speaker will be Ari Shavit, one of the most influential Israeli journalists writing about the Middle East today and author of "My Promised Land"-an authoritative and deeply personal narrative history of the State of Israel. Ari Shavit is a leading Israeli columnist and writer. Born in Rehovot, Israel, Shavit served as a paratrooper in the IDF and



studied philosophy at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Ari serves on the editorial board of the

local Israel newspaper, *Haaretz*, and is also a leading commentator on Israeli public television.

Mr. Shavit will discuss "Promise and Peril, Why Israel and the Diaspora Need Each Other" explaining how Israel's complex past ought to shape its still-uncertain future. Ari Shavit through illuminating powerful and compelling moments of the modern Zionist state of Israel will challenge Diaspora Jewry to be bold in imagining the next challenging chapter for Israel. No country is more emotionally connected to the United States, and no coun-

try's fate matters more to many Americans.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Tal Stein, Director of Community Relations and Israel Affairs at 704-944-6757 or tal.stein@jewishcharlotte.org.

This event was made possible by a generous gift from Harry and Gloria Lerner ☆



Jewish Community Relations Council

## Do Jews Really Do That?

### Learn the Facts for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In 2009, nineteen Jewish agencies in Charlotte-Mecklenburg banded together to formally acknowledge that domestic abuse exists in our Jewish community and to take a visible stand against it. Every October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, they join forces with others to sponsor programs that educate and raise public awareness about domestic abuse.

"Domestic abuse is as common among Jews as any other religious or secular community," notes Jewish Federation Executive Director Sue Worrel. "As leaders, it is our obligation to break the wall of silence and help establish a safe haven for our

women, men and teens in need wherever they seek it in our community."

Domestic abuse in Jewish households mirrors that in any other home; one partner exerting power and control over another. It can be as subtle as an unkind word or as blatant as a slap across the face. "Children and teens who hear and witness the abuse are often affected as well," says Stephanie Starr, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services. Even for those pre-teens and teens not in abusive homes, damage is being done to this vulnerable audience by cyber abuse and textual harassment which is growing to alarming degrees,"

she noted.

There are many myths about domestic abuse (see boxed area), but one undeniable fact is that Jewish women take far longer to leave – seven to fifteen years versus three to five years compared to those of other faiths (according to studies in Toronto and California).

"This isn't an issue for 'victims'; it's an issue for everyone," says Marsha Stickler whose volunteer group, Shalom Bayit, is working to end domestic abuse in our Jewish community. "When we talk about domestic abuse and get it out in the open, it's easier for those affected to get help," she continued. "October is aimed at sparking the resounding message that our Jewish community is actively working to create a safe, respectful, just environment for all our people," Stickler said. She encouraged everyone to begin in October by:

\* Wearing a purple pin in October; purple signifies the fight against domestic abuse. The pins will be available at reception desks at most Jewish agencies throughout October.

\* Becoming better informed. See [www.shalombayit-nc.org](http://www.shalombayit-nc.org); get informational brochures including "Stories of Crisis" which includes local resource information; read stories of survivors on life-size silhouettes displayed throughout Shalom Park; attend sermons or workshops on healthy relationships, abuse, and safety given throughout October. Listings are as follows:

**October 10 – Temple Beth El:** "Top Ten Tips for a Healthier Relationship" Workshop (see article

page 21), followed by a survivor speaking at morning service.

**October 23 – Temple Kol Tikvah**

**October 11 – Levine Jewish Community Center:** Self Defense Course Taught by Sheriff Irwin Carmichael

**October 17 – Charlotte Torah Center**

**October 27 – Congregation Ohr Hatorah**

**Each Saturday in October at Temple Israel:** Recognition, including moment of silence at morning service. ☆

## Myths and Facts about Domestic Abuse

**Myth – Jews Don't Abuse.**

**Fact –** Abuse happens in Jewish relationships at about the same rate as it does in families of other religions – about one in four – and occurs in all socio-economic levels regardless of background, level of education or denomination.

**Myth – It is only domestic abuse if it is physical.**

**Fact –** Most abuse is emotional and psychological which can be more damaging in the long run since fewer people seek help. This may include humiliation, excessive criticism, forced isolation, threats or destruction of property, and economic control. Abuse can also take sexual or religious forms.

**Myth – Domestic abuse is a one-time occurrence and usually a momentary loss of temper.**

**Fact –** Battering is a pattern of behavior meant to establish control and fear in a relationship. It happens over and over and escalates in severity/dangerousness over time.

**Myth – The batterer is not a loving partner.**

**Fact –** The batterer does not always batter and in fact the relationship is almost always cyclical – loving and then abusive. The partner sees the generous and affectionate partner and believes there can be change if only the victim does the "right" thing.

**Myth – Those being abused have done something to cause this.**

**Fact –** Abusers choose their actions. Abuse is never the fault of the person being abused.

**Myth – Drinking and/or drug abuse cause battering.**

**Fact –** Although they may increase the likelihood of violent behavior, they do not cause or excuse it.

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