

PROGRAM NEWS

Summer, 2009

Hey People!

Are you as totally excited as we are about the season we currently find ourselves in!? Well, since we can't hear your answer we'll assume that was a yes, and continue on this mission of agreement by saying the following summery things are awesome*: [free outdoor movies](#), [free concerts](#), [ice cream](#), vacation, uncrowded August subway commutes, triathlons, [picnics](#), [beaches](#), the shedding of coats, barbeques, and of course, a filled-up Advocate and SAFE Examiner coverage calendar! Whatever you fancy, enjoy it, and remember to hydrate!

* No offense to forgotten items/ places/ concepts.

Our Rejuvenating Retreat

If this issue of the newsletter could have one prevailing message, it would be: Thank you, [Omega Institute](#)! CVTC was one of a handful of chosen organizations that took part in Omega's *Service Week*. For a week each year, Omega opens its doors, free of charge, to deserving non-profits in need of time away from the office to plan, reflect, relax, and bond. So from May 27th-29th, we packed our bags and headed upstate to Omega's beautiful campus in Rhinebeck.



We were treated like royalty – between the vegetarian cafeteria smorgasbord, the yoga and meditation classes, our very own little building to brainstorm in, the super friendly and helpful staff, and of course, nature, we were terrifically well-equipped to do some serious retreating. We talked about our mission, our vision for the future, and came up with new ways to make CVTC a better place for us, for you, and for our dear clients, all while strengthening the bonds between us. Our very own **Sally Clayton** complemented the group talks with a powerful shamanic journey and a drum circle she co-led with **Rommell Washington**. A lot of progress was made, and we're already hopeful of and looking forward to the next one! So once again: thanks, Omega – we definitely benefited from the amazing opportunity you gave us!



An Incredible Exhibit

Jana Leo, a former CVTC client and current friend, has an exhibition from June 26th to July 3rd entitled *Rape New York* at INVISIBLE-EXPORTS, a gallery on the Lower East Side. We are extremely... proud, impressed, blown away, inspired, amazed, speechless... As you read on, you'll learn that the exhibition focuses solely on her rape, and the many documents collected/created as a result. This is such a huge accomplishment! From the gallery's [website](#):

In January 2001, soon after moving to New York, Jana Leo was held hostage and raped during the course of an afternoon in her apartment.

The documents assembled here, seven years in the making, accompany the release of her book RAPE NEW YORK. The archive consists of photographs from her emergency visit to the hospital, police reports, crime scene photographs, notes from her therapist, as well as records from the civil suit and other assorted items and documents related to the rape and the legal case that followed, none of which can be reproduced, or even reviewed without the victims' consent. The documents are kept in organized boxes to be retrieved by the archivist, not displayed on the gallery walls. The archive is not presented to the visitor; instead, each guest must fully identify oneself (photo ID is required), and request materials from the archivist. This way, the visitor takes responsibility for what's requested, making private again what was made public by Leo—the latest revolution in a cycle of public and private that began with the rape itself.

It is difficult to talk about rape, and even more so to allow strangers to sift through the private and often disturbing materials. But to Leo, the archive is a necessary investigation into the "disruption of [her] close memories." RAPE NEW YORK is a raw, deeply personal work, but also a fully public endeavor, in which the artist asks the viewing public to reexamine in clinical detail her own harrowing experience. Leo has censored nothing, and asks the same clear-eyed focus of all archive visitors.

We will most certainly be attending, and encourage you to do so as well. In addition to the exhibit itself, we are brainstorming with Jana about other venues she could present her work at (one of which could be CVTC). If you have any ideas of places a slideshow or presentation could/should happen, let us know – she'd like to reach a wide audience! Here's a link to an [interview with Jana](#) (note: contains a graphic photograph).

Hello, Summer Interns

We are pleased to welcome **Mia Mazer** and **Jillian Ruggiero** to CVTC for the summer. We've already got them working hard at different projects, most notably the final organization of our library and resource center. They're learning a lot in the front office as well, and if you give us a ring it just might be one of them who answers the phone. Welcome!

ED Activity

Lookin' good! Great work, everybody. Just remember, the summer always sees a drop on the schedule, so if you're around, pick up some extra shifts!

May 2009			
Crime	# Pts seen in ED	Had Advocate or Social Worker	Had SAFE
DV	15	15	N/A
Rape	9	9	8
TOTALS	24	24	N/A

Advocate News

We'd like to take this opportunity to give a HUGE shout-out (write-out?) to **Melanie Fuller**. So far this year, she has been called into the ED a whopping *seventeen* times. She has signed up for a great deal of shifts, and has also been a backup for a few months now. So Melanie: Thank You!

SAFE News

Seleem and Caroline Choudhury said hello to their newborn son, Ezra Sebastian, on June 12th. Congratulations!

Staff News

Former staff member **Jane Seskin**'s company, [plainjane-cards](#) was featured in [Travelgirl Magazine's Stuff We Love](#) section, with the quote "Why not send some attitude through the mail? Full of cheer, wit and inspiration, plainjane-cards are great to hang on a bulletin board or mail to a friend." We totally agree! If you haven't checked out her website, do!

Goodbye, Elishka

The sad, depressing time has come again wherein we must say goodbye to our psychiatrist. CVTC enlists the services of a third year psychiatric resident to see our clients that are in need of medication. They hold weekly office hours, and rotate every year or half year. The beloved **Elishka Caneva** has seen her last client, and graduates on June 25th. We send her off into the world and, more specifically to The Institute for Family Health in the Bronx, with warm wishes and tons of confidence that she'll continue with her greatness. We'll miss her!

Bulletin Board

Job Opening at CONNECT

As many of you know, [CONNECT](#) is the program that supplies us with our beloved legal advocate, Liz Kenney. They are currently hiring for a legal advocate position (hers – sad goodbye on its way)... click [here](#) for more details.

Radio Piece on Male Sexual Assault

Oprah Radio host Dr. Robin Smith talks with Curtis St. John, former president of [MaleSurvivor](#), an organization that helps victims of sexual assault. He shares his story of being sexually abused when he was 10 years old. You can listen to the piece [here](#).

Thought for the Month

It's never too late to become what you might have been.

-George Eliot

Birthday Wishes... to all our Advocates, SAFE Examiners and staff who were born in the summer months:

Carolyn Glass – 5/1; Jordan Neter – 5/3; Jane Cafilisch – 5/4; Jane Seskin – 5/8; Kamil Renee Fulwood, Roni Patterson – 5/14; Patricia Coleman, Ann DeVries, Diane Nord Vega – 5/15; Nicole Onni – 5/19; Paul DeSandre – 5/28; Bibiana Geller – 5/30; Sybil Washington – 6/2; Abbe Frank – 6/7; Lucy Willis – 6/8; Lorraine Giordano, Delores Keitt – 6/9; Laila Abou-Rahme – 6/11; Keri Hicks – 6/12; Erika Guzman – 6/14; Laura Dimon – 6/16; Jacqui Cox – 6/17; Renee Morris, Cara Ochsenreiter – 6/18; Alberto Hazan – 6/19; Helen Borten, Anna Hindell – 6/20; Keesandra Agenor – 6/21; Maegan Corcoran – 6/23; Emily Berninger – 6/27; Katrina Vue – 7/8; Dania Liebergesell, Bodden Sween – 7/17; Suzy Parker – 7/18; Amal Jasentuliyana – 7/21; Susanna Beacom, Clara Howell – 7/23; Kathleen Barrett, Molly Sugarman – 7/24; Cheryl Greenstein, Nilda Lopez – 7/26; Elizabeth Buening – 7/30; Fatima Burton – 8/2; Reshma Patel – 8/7; Susan Xenarios – 8/8; Sally Clayton, Cate Leonard, Linda Mastercola – 8/9; Jasanne Odum – 8/10; Luz Saldana – 8/14; Karin Anderson – 8/17; Shelly Hod, Frances Whisnant – 8/21; Rommell Washington – 8/23; Julie Malyn – 8/24; Elizabeth Brown-Whetstone, Rose Thayaparan – 8/29; Amber Amendola – 8/31



Crime Victims Treatment Center Staff

Susan Xenarios, LCSW, Director
Andrea Dixon, LCSW
Lisa Haileselassie, LMSW, DV Coordinator
Kay Johnson, LCSW
Amie Karp, LMSW
Louise Kindley, LCSW
Zoe Landers, LMSW
Mônica Pombo, LCSW, SA Coordinator
Rommell Washington, LCSW

Sally Clayton, Complementary Therapist
Erika Guzman, Secretary
Michael White, Volunteer Coordinator

Elizabeth Kenney, Legal Advocate
Lorraine Giordano, MD, SAFE Medical Director
*Barbara Schnoor, RN, CNM, SAFE Clinical
Manager*
Anne Skomorowsky, MD, Psychiatric Supervisor
Elishka Caneva, MD, Psychiatric Resident

Mia Mazer, Summer Intern
Jillian Rugierro, Summer Intern

Crime Victims Treatment Center Funders

New York City Council
New York State Crime Victims Board
New York State Department of Criminal Justice
Services
New York State Department of Health
New York State Legislature
Scaife Family Foundation
St. Luke's – Roosevelt Hospital Center