

# Womenews

Women's Center of Montgomery County

## Presidential Notes By Joyce Skobinsky



September arrives and it's back to school and back to work. One can feel a new energy beginning to buzz along with a different mind set that is more goal and results oriented. This feeling comes from childhood when September, not January was the beginning of a new year. Anticipation of meeting new people and making new friends, setting goals with determination to get results! I am happy to have that memory to experience each September (even though as adults we don't have the luxury of kicking back all summer).

For our Jewish community it actually is a celebration of the New Year, and may I wish all of you a very happy and a healthy new year. L'Shanah Tovah!

A feeling of well being pervades as we take up residence in our new Elkins Park office. The re-location of our thrift shop to a busy area in the heart of Jenkintown is exciting and should bring us a lot more traffic and (hopefully new members) as people come to shop and find out about the center. Please keep the thrift shop in mind if you have some really good up-scale items to donate so that we can compete with the consignment shops near by. There is great potential for meaningful revenue from this endeavor, and with the dedication and hard work of our thrift shop volunteers I know we will be successful! If you would like to sell and can donate some hours, please contact Paula at the Elkins Park office. We will need lots of help.

There are many planned activities this fall. Please do try to support as many as you can. Your sister volunteers, staff and board members need your support for these activities to be successful.

Every October, we hold our annual Phon-a-thon which depends on you our members to make it successful. This is the only time we ask our members for a donation to the cause you care so deeply about. The donation of your time is unquestionably "invaluable" and I wish we didn't need to ask you for anything more; however your generous gift of time does not pay the rent or staff salaries, or our hotline or any of the myriad necessary expenses to keep us up and running, so please, give if you can. Each gift is so appreciated and truly is a blessing to the women we help thru the center, and is not to be compared with what you do for them on a daily basis.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and there are some wonderful events being planned. Board member Thom McGowan will kick off the month by promoting our "Hands are not for hurting" program with an interactive presentation of music, and fun activities for parents and children. This community education program is especially important as we look to the future to educate our youngest population about appropriate ways to communicate with family and friends. Attending this event will give you a first hand look at how we are accomplishing this task. So bring your kids and grandchildren and have fun! There is no charge for this special event, so just come and enjoy. Special thanks go to board members Michael Owens and Sandy Hyman and staff member Janine Kelly who have been working closely with Thom on this project.

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My best wishes and special thanks goes to our Norristown & Pottstown staff for taking up the challenge of fund raising by organizing a walk-a-thon on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Please let's all empower and support their efforts by participating and cheering them on to a successful event. YEA STAFF!!!

Yes there is lots of positive energy to kick off the "new year" from staff and volunteers alike. I offer my thanks to you on behalf of the many people who will benefit from your creativity and hard work.

Please make note of our new address in Elkins Park:   The Women's Center of Montgomery County  
Suite 200  
8080 Old York Road  
Elkins Park, Pa. 19027  
Business Phone:   215-635-7340

All members are invited and urged to attend board meetings. The next board meeting is on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. at the Elkins Park office.

I look forward to seeing you soon and thank you thank you for the incredible work that you are doing.

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## **NORRISTOWN VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

*Submitted by Jenn B., Volunteer Coordinator*

I hope you all have enjoyed the summer months with family and friends! It went so fast, but I am definitely looking forward to the fall weather ahead!

Our "Welcome back" inservice will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 from 1-3 in the Norristown office. We will have a full agenda with announcements from the summer, and advocates issues to discuss. We will also have a guest speaker from CADCOM, who will tell us about their services. Snacks will be provided. Let me know if you are able to attend.

The LEGAL REMEDIES INFORMATION SESSION will resume September 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Norristown Office. Topic is OPEN and the Attorney presenter – TBA. Contact Denise to refer someone to attend or to sign up (610) 279-7474.

Please save the date for the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on October 23, 2005 from 11-2 at the William Penn Inn.

The volunteer assessments are slowly coming in, please remember to complete your assessment and return it to your volunteer coordinator.

We are currently looking for interested volunteers to help facilitate volunteer trainings. If you are interested in finding out more details or becoming a facilitator, please contact me at the Norristown office (610) 279-7474.

A special thanks to those volunteers filling in extra days while many of our volunteers are out on summer vacations. Your help is much appreciated by the staff and the women we serve!

See you all soon!

## **The More Lives We Will Save**

By Josh Runyan

As Congress takes up the question of whether to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, state legislators in Harrisburg have moved on their own to better protect women.

The state House of Representatives recently approved legislation that would expand Pennsylvania courts' power to seize firearms from those accused of domestic abuse. State Rep. Kathy Manderino (D-District 194), the Philadelphia and Montgomery County lawmaker who co-sponsored the bill along with the state Rep. Katie True (R-District 41), said that she hopes the state Senate moves quickly on the bill and sends it to Gov. Es Rendell's desk for his signature.

"The sooner this legislation is enacted, the more lives we will save, and the more peace and security victims of domestic violence will have," she said.

The bill's June 22<sup>nd</sup> passage in the House occurred against the backdrop of federal action on the issue in Washington.

Sens. Joe Biden (D-Del.), Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) introduced a bill on June 8 that would make permanent many of the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, which expires in September. A House bill would simply extend the law, which funds shelters and anti-violence initiatives.

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### **Mission Statement of the Women's Center of Montgomery County**

The Women's Center of Montgomery County is a volunteer, community organization with a primary focus on freedom from domestic violence and other forms of abuse. Our programs, policies and procedures reflect our strong commitment to empowering women.

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### **Women's Center Book Club Update**

Sept 21 "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" by Harriet Jacobs.  
Caren will lead discussion which will be held at her house.

Oct 19 "Heart is a Lonely Hunter" by Carson McCullers.  
Discussion will be led by Ruth at Sunny's house.

Nov 16 "Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett.  
Discussion will be led by Helen at Ruth's house.

Dec 21 "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien.  
Discussion will be led by Ellen at Elaine's house.

All book club meeting start at 7:30 for socializing and 8:00 the discussion begins. Any questions call Dorothy at 215-782-2259.

## **COMPENSATION FOR OLDER CRIME VICTIMS**

**Crime can affect anyone, at anytime, and almost anyplace. Imagine:**

- An 80-year-old woman was pushed to the ground and had her purse snatched, with \$200 and her eyeglasses in it.
- A 69-year-old man paid \$500 for a vacation over the phone. When he was to depart, the bus never showed up and he realized he had been scammed.
- A woman hired a contractor to fix her roof. She paid a \$1000 down and the contractor never showed up to do the work.

These are just a few of the more common crimes that cause older victims to file compensation claims. They are also the types of crimes where the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) is able to offer financial help.

### **What types of crimes may be eligible for compensation?**

Burglary, robbery, theft, theft by deception, identity theft, homicide, assault, physical and sexual abuse, and certain motor vehicle crimes, such as Driving Under the Influence are examples.

### **What benefits do older crime victims most often use?**

- ✓ Replacement of cash that has been stolen or defrauded from the victim.
- ✓ Payment of hospital bills, doctor and or dentist bills, physical therapy charges, medications, and ambulance bills.
- ✓ Payment to repair or the replacement of eyeglasses or other corrective lenses, hearing aids, canes, walkers, and dental devices either stolen or damaged as a result of the crime.
- ✓ Payment for home nursing care (including personal hygiene) and services provided by someone who replaces services the victim normally provided himself/herself, but cannot due to the crime.

### **Where can you get more information and assistance?**

Information on Pennsylvania's Victims Compensation Assistance Program can also be obtained by calling 800-233-2339 or at [www.pccd.state.pa.us](http://www.pccd.state.pa.us), and clicking on the "Victims" tab.

07/05

**The Women's Center of Montgomery County  
Presents**

A Community Event to Recognize That  
October is Awareness of Domestic Violence Month

Hosted by Starbucks Coffee  
738 Bethlehem Pike Montgomeryville, Pa. 18936

October 1, 2005  
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Children's Hour: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m

**Hands Are Not For Hurting (ages 3 to 7)**  
with Janine Kelly on Acoustic Guitar Fun Music For Children both young and old.

**7:00 to 10:00 p.m.**  
Silent and Live Auction  
Live Music  
Michael Owens on Piano  
JT and Company on Guitars

**Presenting Sponsor:  
Abington Bank**

"Hands Are Not For Hurting" Coloring Books  
Funded by Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc.

Also join us on any or all of 4 Saturday mornings from  
10 to 11 a.m. as we present the "Hands Are Not For Hurting" Hour at Starbucks:  
9/1 9/17 10/15 10/29 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

There will be entertainment for children ages 3 to 7 and a free gift for all children  
participating in the Hands Are Not For Hurting Program

Go to our website for details on all events: [www.wcmontco.org](http://www.wcmontco.org)



*The Women's Center of Montgomery County*  
**PLEASE MAKE US  
 YOUR HIGHEST PRIORITY**

**United Way  
 Donor Option Number  
 00433**

Your United Way Contribution can be directed to the  
 Women's Center of Montgomery County.

When it is time to make your United Way pledge, ask your employer for  
 a donor choice form and designate as YOUR agency of choice—the  
 Women's Center of Montgomery County.

## **Benefit the Women's Center When You Shop On-Line! Website Shopping Links**

The Women's Center of Montgomery County will earn a percentage of each purchase you make with our online vendors if you link to their site through the Women's Center website at [www.wcmontco.org](http://www.wcmontco.org):

- Staples.com
- Boscovs.com
- Barnes&Noble.com
- IBM.com
- PetSmart.com
- Priceline.com
- MusiciansFriend.com
- Kmart.com
- Amazon.com
- OldNavy.com
- Modell's Sporting Goods
- Verizon Wireless
- Proflowers.com
- Entertainment Book

## **Support the Women's Center Through your Genuardi's Purchases**

**Buy participating products at Genuardi's and earn 10% for the Women's Center of Montgomery County.** Our group number is 2298334.

**Program Dates:** July 20th through September 6<sup>th</sup>

Please confirm that the Women's Center is your designated charity! You can sign up at your local store, at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) (after July 1st), and in the upcoming eScrip Magazine!

# **Upcoming Events: Community Education**

ALL VOLUNTEERS:  
WELCOMED, NEEDED, AND WANTED!

## **MY HANDS ARE NOT FOR HURTING:**

September 3, 2005 – Starbucks in Montgomeryville – 10:00AM – 11:00AM  
September 17, 2005 – Starbucks in Montgomeryville – 10:00AM – 11:00AM  
October 5, 2005 YWCA - Pottstown – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM  
October 9, 2005 – Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford (Late morning – exact time tba)  
October 15, 2005 – Starbucks in Montgomeryville – 10:00AM – 11:00AM  
October 29, 2005 – Starbucks in Montgomeryville – 10:00AM – 11:00AM

## **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOPS:**

September 13, 2005 – Brooke Glen Behavioral Hospital – 12:00PM – 1:00PM Beginning  
September 19, 2005 – On-Going Monday workshops for Lower Merion Township Adult School – 9:30 – 11:00  
October 5, 2005 YWCA – Pottstown – 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM  
October 9, 2005 – Grace Lutheran Church in Royersford 1:00 – 3:00 PM  
October 17, 2005 – Visiting Nurses Association – 7:00PM- 9:00 PM  
October 27, 2005 – New Choices – Montgomery County Community College – Blue Bell 11:00AM – 12:00PM  
January 9, 2005 – Visiting Nurses Association – 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
Beginning July 14, 2005 – On-Going Thursday workshops on “Successful Aging” – 10:00AM – 11:00AM at the Ardmore Senior Center  
Beginning July 26, 2005 – On-Going Monday workshops at “A Woman’s Space” 2:00 –3:30 in Ardmore

## **TABLE EVENTS:**

September 7, 2005 – Merck and Co. Inc. “Partnership for Giving” – 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM at 3 different locations:

351 Sumneytown Pike in Upper Gwynedd  
785 Jolly Road in Blue Bell  
1684 South Broad Street in West Point

September 13, 2005 – Penn State Volunteer Fair 11:00AM – 2:00PM  
September 17, 2005 – Univest Helping Hands Day 10:00AM- 1:00PM

October 1, 2005 – Montgomery County Community College Annual Community Day (Blue Bell) 11:00AM – 3:00PM  
October 26, 2005 – Montgomery County Community College Health Fitness and Safety Fair  
11:00 – 2:00 PM

**WOMEN'S CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
and  
SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL of POTTSTOWN  
present  
"UNMASK THE ABUSE" 5K (3.1 miles) WALK-A-THON**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Oct. 29, 2005 10:00 am – 12:00 noon  
@ Montgomery County Community College, Athletic Field, Blue Bell Campus

**\$10.00 for all walkers, senior citizens and walk-day registrations. Proceeds will benefit the Women's Center of Montgomery County.**

**For more information, contact:  
Denise (610) 279-7474 or Brenda (610) 970-7364**

**Do your part to Stop Domestic Violence—> Walk with us to "Unmask the Abuse" at MCCC>  
Sponsors, Donors, and Walkers are needed. Contact us today!**

**Women's Center  
of Montgomery  
County**

**Jenkintown Office**

215-635-7344

Thrift Shop: 215-885-0620

FAX: 215-635-7347

**Norristown Office**

610-279-1548

FAX: 610-279-7740

**Pottstown Office**

610-970-7363

FAX: 610-970-0705

**Lansdale Office**

215-853-8060

FAX: 215-853-8065

**Bryn Mawr Office**

610-525-1427

FAX: 610-525-1429

[www.wcmontco.org](http://www.wcmontco.org)

**1-800-773-  
2424**



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