

Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Nevada

Across our state and the nation, experts and those who work with victims of domestic violence organized Domestic Violence Awareness Month events educating the public, inspiring action, and informing victims of the help and services that are available as they seek violence-free lives.

Domestic violence affects us all—every family, every workplace, and every community. But it is a problem we can solve, and each one of us has a role to play in stopping domestic violence. Advocates concentrate all their efforts on eradicating violence, but many others take action as simple as contributing money or clothing to a local shelter, volunteering time to a program that aids victims of abuse, talking to a child about relationship violence, offering support to a victim of violence, or posting awareness materials in public places.

This October, domestic violence experts joined forces with concerned citizens across our state to speak out against domestic and sexual violence. While the activities came in all shapes and sizes, the goals were the same: to raise awareness about the prevalence and cost of domestic violence, the need for prevention, and the services that are available to victims and their families.

The Douglas County Purple Ribbon Coalition's campaign is a great example for citizen action; the Record-Courier published each edition for the first four weeks of October with a purple ribbon above the fold "in recognition of efforts to combat violence in the home". Minden/Gardnerville businesses along the main road participated by lighting their buildings with purple lights, emphasizing the powerful message of the purple ribbons placed along the road by the Family Support Council advocates. Domestic violence was also the topic of presentations to various community groups in the area by the 2009 Miss Nevada, Christina Keegan, who spoke along with Family Support Council's Director, Kristie Traver.

Residents and library-goers in Las Vegas were offered a different way to engage in dialogue and learn more about intimate partner violence: movie nights in area libraries reviewed *There Is No Place Like Home: Growing Up with Family Violence*. The screenings were organized by Safe Nest advocate Maria Outcalt, who spoke after the screenings about the prevalence of violence and services available for

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Learn more about the Give the Gift of Peace Campaign

Buy a Dove for one dollar and help us stop violence in the home. Jacksons will match customer donations up to \$25,000.

Jacksons

The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence is partnering with Jacksons Food Stores in Northern Nevada to launch the Give the Gift of Peace Campaign. Proceeds from the campaign will benefit NNADV that will direct 100% of the funds to the Jan Evans Direct Assistance Fund.



DVAM in Nevada, cont. from page 1

people affected by domestic abuse. Outcalt describes how each night, after seeing the movie and hearing about the help available, victims and survivors reached out to share their painful experiences and seek assistance to break free from violence.

The following are events submitted to the statewide DVAM calendar compiled and published by the Network:

To kick off the events, the Washoe Co. DV Task Force organized their *Annual Safe and Healthy Homes 5K River Run/Walk* on Sept. 27th in Reno.

On October 1-30, Advocates Against DV placed purple ribbons along the main roadways and sold handcrafted ribbon pins at local businesses in Carson City.

On October 1-6, Storey Co. District Attorney's DV Task Force hosted an event at the local high school, where Attorney General Cortez Masto spoke about 'sexting' and healthy relationships. The red T-shirts of the 2005 Memorial Exhibit were displayed at the high school event and later at the District Court, while the commissioners were invited to take a pledge against DV. Virginia City High School student group Peace, Love, Stop distributed purple ribbons in honor of victims.

On October 1, Family Support Council began their purple ribbon campaign, followed by the purple lights the next day.

On October 1-28, Safe Nest held movie screenings at area libraries; exhibited the Silent Witness silhouettes at the university women's center during the *Take Back the Night* event, at the District Court and at the United Health Care facility fund drive; and held their *Annual Luncheon* with a keynote from Judge Chuck Weller, who spoke about responsible reporting of DV by the media. Safe Nest also participated in the area's *Interfaith Candlelight Vigil*.

On October 3, S.A.F.E. House organized their 1st *Run for Shelter* fund drive in Henderson.

On October 3, Tahoe Women's Services held a benefit at the *Truckee Wine and Walk*. During the day, local men walked in solidarity, and on high heels, participating to *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* and voice their opposition to domestic abuse.

On October 4, Winnemucca DV Shelter held the *Providing a Light* banquet & vigil with guest speakers from Senator Reid's and the Attorney General's offices.

On October 7-28, the Committee to Aid Abused Women trained future advocates in Reno.

On October 10, Lander County Committee Against DV organized their fourth *Annual Fun Run/Walk* in Battle Mountain.



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS; violence against women and children continues to become more prevalent as a social problem due to the imbalance of power due to gender and age; and

WHEREAS; the problems of domestic violence are not confined to any group or groups of people but cross all economic, racial, and societal barriers; and supported by societal indifference; and

WHEREAS; the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity, due to systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse; and

WHEREAS; the impact of domestic violence is wide ranging, directly affecting women and children and society as a whole; and

WHEREAS; it is battered women themselves who have been in the forefront of efforts to bring peace and equality to the home;

THEREFORE, I, JIM GIBBONS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim October, 2009

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 8th day of September, 2009

Jim Gibbons
Governor

By the Governor:
Chris Miller
Secretary of State

By _____ Deputy

Advocate's Corner: Thoughts for the Fall

JUDY HENDERSON – PROGRAM SPECIALIST, TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Each year October presents a time to celebrate the survivors of intimate partner violence and the advocates that work with them as they continue their struggle toward a violence-free life. As advocates we continue to educate ourselves on the development of this profession, discover new ways to be creative, and explore more options and resources. Even though our paths bring challenges, these are the successes we celebrate.

Also during the fall season, it is time to remember the victims and their children who are at their journey's end and died as a result of intimate partner violence. Nationally, of all women murdered in the United States, 40-50 percent were murdered by their intimate partners and 45 percent of these murders occur when the woman is trying to leave her abusive partner. Women threatened with a gun are 20 times more likely to be murdered (Government Innovators Network, 2009).

The Network collects the stories of intimate partner homicides that are published in print media, and compiles yearly memorials of the lives lost. Our 2008 memorial has a total of 17 women and 3 men who lost their lives due to intimate partner violence. Recently in Las Vegas, according to the public information office, the Metropolitan Police Department has had six murder-suicides or murder-attempted suicides in its jurisdiction so far this year. All of these involved the potential break-up of a relationship and financial concerns. (Las Vegas Review-Journal, September 2009).

While these statistics are sobering, they become a strong motivational factor for advocates to learn more about lethality assessment. The following are key risk factors identified by a majority of experts (see for example Campbell, 1995; Websdale, et al 1998):

- ✓ History of prior abuse
- ✓ Access to/ownership of guns
- ✓ Telling him 'in person' that she is leaving
- ✓ Use of weapon in prior abusive incidents
- ✓ Threats of suicide or threats to kill the victim
- ✓ Drug or alcohol abuse, particularly immediately prior to the killing
- ✓ Forced sex of female partner
- ✓ Obsessiveness/extreme jealousy/extreme dominance
- ✓ Failure to be deterred by police intervention, TPO, or other criminal justice initiatives

With the knowledge of these risk factors, there are tools available for advocates to use interactively with battered women, advocates, and other professionals, as a basis for their safety planning. The use of an instrument improves an advocate's judgment by reminding her of the most important questions to ask. As always, the victim is the best source of information. According to a study conducted by Dr. Jacquelyn C. Campbell, approximately half of the women killed by their partners underestimated the severity of risk they were facing.

If your program is interested in obtaining more information regarding

risk and lethality assessment and safety planning, contact Judy Henderson at NNADV to request the training. As a final remembrance, I wanted to share the thoughts of Carol Geneya Kaplan in her poem *Another Dead Woman*.

Another Dead Woman

Today another woman died and not on a foreign field and not with a rifle strapped to her back, and not with a large defense of tanks rumbling and rolling behind her.

She died without CNN covering her war. She died without talk of intelligent bombs and strategic targets. The target was simply her face, her back, her pregnant belly. The target was her precious flesh that was once composed like music in her mother's body and sung in the anthem of birth. The target was this life that had lived its own dear wilderness, had been loved and not loved, had danced and not danced.

A life like yours or mine that had stumbled up from a beginning and had learned to walk, and had learned to read, and had learned to sing.

Another woman died today. Not far from where you live; just there, next door where the tall light falls across the pavement. Just there, a few steps away where you've often heard shouting.

Another woman died today. She was the same girl her mother used to kiss; the same child you dreamed beside in school. The same baby her parents walked in the night with and listened and listened and listened for her cries even while they slept. And someone has confused his rage with this woman's only life.

Carol Geneya Kaplan

(Retrieved 10/27/09 from: www.domesticviolence.org)



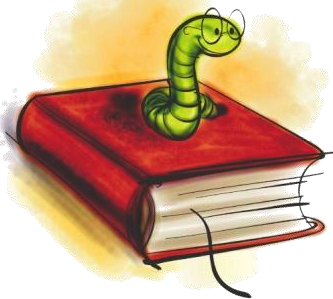
Resource Center Update

NINA EDGEMON, PROGRAM ASSISTANT – EDUCATION & OUTREACH

A Friendly Reminder!

Please remember to return your resources on the due date indicated on the form located in the front of the books/manuals and on the back of the videos. All resources are due within 30 days from the date the resources were checked out. If you are unable to return the books, videos, or manuals within that time frame, please contact Nina to extend your due date. NNADV has limited resources available and keeping the books longer than needed prevents others from accessing the materials.

A total of three (3), resources can be checked out at the same time by each individual. When checking out books for a group, please note that the individual whose name is on the check out card will be the person who is expected to return the resources, not your organization or other people whom the materials were passed on to. You are personally responsible for replacement if materials are lost or damaged.



DVAM Information Packet

Each year prior to Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Network develops a packet of information for programs to assist advocates with ideas for events, media outreach, etc. In addition, a calendar of events

is created so that programs can share information about their events and find out what other programs are doing to bring domestic violence awareness to their communities.

The following are brand new resources we have in the library.

These and other materials are available for anyone interested in learning more about domestic violence.

Abuse: a Way of Life

Catharine Schneider (2008)

Learning early in life not to be able to trust the men she loved, Catharine's life was a turbulent roller coaster ride. Her father was an alcoholic, her husband abusive. This autobiography proved to be an unsettling experience: "It was as if I was living through it all again; the pain, the heartache, and the suffering all came flooding back along with feelings of fear, helplessness, and despair." Enduring heartache after heartache, Catharine forged on searching for the happiness she deserved.

Abuse and Violence Information for Teens

Sandra Augustyn Lawton (2007)

This health series provides basic health information for teens about risk factors, consequences, and prevention of various types of abuse and violent behaviors. Included are facts about the warning signs of abusive and violent behavior, health concerns of victims, and information on getting help and staying safe.

Violence Against Native Women

Office on Violence Against Women

This manual is intended to serve as a guide to practitioners who represent Native women victims of domestic and sexual violence, and presents the basic legal protections that exist for crime victims. Sections include: the right to notice, the right to protection from offender harm, the right to attend the trial, and victims' rights at the juvenile level.

SILENT WITNESS & 2005 MEMORIAL EXHIBITS

The Network offers two exhibits for advocates and others who wish to create awareness. Though October is behind us, there are many other opportunities ahead! The **Silent Witness Exhibit** depicts the stories of intimate partner homicides in Nevada during 1995 in 20 life-sized silhouettes. The exhibit is widely known to be an effective way to create dialogue about the crime. The red T-shirts of the **2005 Memorial Exhibit** represent the 18 victims of intimate partner homicide during 2005, providing a powerful statement in an easily transported and displayed format.

To obtain these exhibits or other materials from our Resource Center, please call NNADV at 775.828.1115, or email us at ninae@nnadv.org and let us help you find the materials best suited for your current needs.

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STATEWIDE STATISTICS
FOURTH QUARTER FY 2008-2009

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTACTS: 17,755

◆ First Time:	9,581	◆ Telephone:	7,354
◆ Repeat:	5,925	◆ Face to Face:	<u>10,401</u>
◆ Follow Up:	<u>2,249</u>		17,755
	17,755		

BEDNIGHTS:

	Adults	Bdnts.	Children	Bdnts.	Total Adults & Children	Total Bdnts.
◆ Shelter	289	4,574	318	5,862	607	10,436
◆ Shelter Services	0	0	11	0	0	0
◆ Safe Homes	0	0	0	0	0	0
◆ Em. Motel	27	42	29	32	56	74
◆ Carry Over	0	0	0	0	0	0
◆ T. Housing	7	563	7	430	14	993
TOTAL:	323	5,179	354	6,324	677	11,503

TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIMARY VICTIMS: 9,581

<u>Age:</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Race:</u>	
0-12	23	11	Caucasian	3,391
13-17	212	21	African-American	904
18-29	2,266	158	Hispanic	2,627
30-44	2,839	310	Native American	95
45-64	1,179	195	Asian/Pacific Islander	239
65+	159	32	Unknown	2,201
Unknown	2,146	30	Mixed	124
TOTAL	8,824	757	TOTAL	9,581

LOCATION:

Carson	465	Lyon	51
Churchill	64	Mineral	4
Clark	6,430	Nye	0
Douglas	81	Pershing	3
Elko	41	Storey	0
Esmeralda	0	Washoe	2,171
Eureka	0	White Pine	0
Humboldt	2	Unknown	171
Lander	3	Out of State	94
Lincoln	1	TOTAL	9,581

These statistics were compiled by NNADV from reports submitted by domestic violence programs in Nevada.

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence is a grassroots organization funded by its members, grants, and private donations. Cash or in-kind donations are accepted throughout the year and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We welcome new members and volunteers, as well as monetary donations!

I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER, RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP, OR SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER!

- \$35.00 Individual Membership fee
- \$10.00 Student/Retired/Limited Income Individual Membership fee
- \$200.00 Organizational Membership fee

Please specify and fill in below:

- New member Membership renewal
- Gift membership for (name): _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE:

- To the **Jan Evans Direct Assistance Fund**; check enclosed
- One time cash gift; check enclosed
- Supplies (copy paper, postage stamps, etc.)
- Equipment or Services: _____

Annual pledge, payment as specified:

- Monthly Quarterly Semi-annually

I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: () _____

Best hours/days to call: _____

Please mail this donation/membership/volunteer coupon and, if applicable, check (payable to Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence) to:

NEVADA NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
220 S. ROCK BLVD., SUITE 7, RENO, NEVADA 89502

You can also donate online at: www.nnadv.org

THANK YOU!

GET INVOLVED!

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Editor/Design/Layout: Maria Kies Contributing Editors: Nina Edgemon, Bonnie Haney, Katy Hanson, Judy Henderson, Susan Meuschke, Dawn Napier, Elizabeth Stoffel, and Ji Hye Yim



THANK YOU! ...TO OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

INDIVIDUALS:

Leon Aberasturi	Jaculine C. Jones
Aida Almufdi	Gayle Kern
Faye Andersen	Irving Krauss
Christine Bailey	Maxine Lantz
Stella Barkhurst	Diana Lee
Patricia Barnes	Stephanie Liester
Candy Behan	Vicki Losasso
Jane Boucher	Kathryn McClain
Karen Carey	Juleen J. Marcuerquiaga
Valerie J. Cooney	Christel Neldner
Nancy W. Dallas	Julianna Ormsby
Myllie-Jo Donnels	Paula Riley
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Jon & Martha Greene	Richard E. Steinberg
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Elisa Hahl-Harwick	Robert & Dorothy Thompson
Donna & Wilton Herz	Maggie Tracey
Judy Humphrey	Mary B. Walton
Jennifer Jacobsen	Kathleen Weber
Bernice Jaeger	Ellen Wendt
Betty Johnson	Clydell Wert
Laurie Johnson	Yvonne Youmans
Nancy Johnson	

ORGANIZATIONS:

Advocates to End Domestic Violence
 Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
 LRS Systems
 Nevada Office of the Attorney General
 Westcare Arizona

TO THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE NETWORK:

Leon Aberasturi
 Aida Almufdi
 AT & T
 Valerie J. Cooney
 Nancy Johnson
 Stephanie Liester
 Juleen J. Marcuerquiaga
 Kathryn McClain
 Maggie Tracey

TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO THE JAN EVANS DIRECT ASSISTANCE FUND:

Attendees of the August '09 BOD Meeting
 Bonnie Haney
 Stephanie Liester

TO OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS:

Sabina Coronado, Nicole McCleary, Dawn Napier, and Linda Reeves. **THANK YOU!**

How are we doing?

We value all comments, suggestions, and inquiries. Please contact the editor and let us know how we are doing.

Call 775.828.1115, or email us at mariak@nnadv.org.

The Network News is also available in hardcopy and in Spanish.

If you would like to receive yours in these other formats, please contact

NNADV at 775.828.1115, or email us at mariak@nnadv.org.



Domestic Violence-Related Deaths in Nevada: 2008

During 2008, a total of 17 women and 3 men lost their lives due to intimate partner violence. One of the victims was pregnant at the time of her murder, and another victim who survived suffered a miscarriage as a result of the attack. This information is compiled from newspaper articles in Nevada; therefore, it may not be an all-inclusive list and is not intended for use as a definitive source of information.

Mariela Moreno, Henderson

DOD: January, 2008

Age: 20

Mariela Moreno was last seen on Dec. 31st as she was leaving for a New Year's Eve outing with her boyfriend. Moreno's boyfriend told police he dropped her off at her house about 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 1st, but didn't watch her go inside. She failed to show up for work in Henderson the next day, and missed a January 2nd court date involving a domestic violence charge against her ex-boyfriend. Police interviewed Moreno's boyfriend shortly after her disappearance, but didn't find cause to take him into custody. On February 29th, officers were called to a construction site where workers had found Moreno's body under some bushes. Henderson police have interviewed all pertinent witnesses, and have not named any suspects in the case.

Jana Adams, Las Vegas

DOD: January 16, 2008

Age: 42

Police were called to the scene when Jana Adams' 16-year-old daughter came home from school and found her one-month old sister unsuper-

vised and her mother fatally wounded in the garage. Adams' on-and-off boyfriend, 42-year-old Jesse Lucio, reportedly confessed to the crime. Police report that Adams was trying to break up with Lucio, who is also the father of the infant, when he stabbed her with a metal spike; she later died at the hospital. Lucio was arrested on charges of murder with a deadly weapon.

Katherine Jimenez, Las Vegas

DOD: January 16, 2008

Age: 16

16-year-old Katherine Jimenez died of gunshot wounds to the head, allegedly killed by her 20-year-old ex-boyfriend, Omar Rodriguez. Police arrived on the scene after Jimenez's roommate called 911; she died soon after medical personnel arrived at the apartment. Rodriguez, who has also been accused of attempted murder for allegedly stabbing Jimenez's new boyfriend in November of 2007, was reportedly near the apartment shortly before the gunshots occurred. Police located him later that day and he was arrested on a charge of murder with a deadly weapon. During the investigation, it was discovered that Jimenez was pregnant at the time of her death.

Allainna McClain, Las Vegas

DOD: February 17, 2008

Age: 24

Allainna McClain was found dead inside a car in her mother-in-law's garage. Clark County coroner ruled her death a homicide as a result of strangulation. Allainna's ex-husband, 29-year-old Clifford McClain, was arrested in March 2008 and has since been convicted of first-degree

murder in her death, and sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole after 20 years. Allaina leaves behind two young children.

Edith Calderon, Las Vegas

DOD: April 9, 2008

Age: 32

Edith Calderon's 14-year-old daughter reported her missing when she didn't come home from work. While detectives were interviewing her former boyfriend, 28-year-old Gonzalo Tejada-Rivas, about her disappearance, Calderon's abandoned car was found in a neighborhood nearby. The police were then directed to a remote desert area near Boulder City, where Calderon's body was found. Tejada-Rivas was arrested and charged with one count of murder and one count of kidnapping. Calderon leaves behind her daughter and three other children.

Sabrina Dena McMillon, Las Vegas

DOD: April 10, 2008

Age: 37

Firefighters found the body of Sabrina Dean McMillon, a 37-year-old mother of two, at a construction site fire. Investigators on the scene discovered that she had suffered severe head injuries. McMillon's ex-husband, 29-year-old Andre King, has been accused of killing McMillon and starting the fire to cover up the crime. Three days before her murder, McMillon had filed a request to have a restraining order against King extended. King was indicted on multiple charges, including murder, in May.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE



Domestic Violence-Related Deaths in Nevada: 2008

Lisa Onyon, Fallon

DOD: May 5, 2008

Age: 51

Deputies were called to the home of 51-year-old Lisa Onyon by her boyfriend, 49-year-old Michael Johnson. Upon their arrival, they found evidence of an altercation in the home and Lisa Onyon with a stab wound to the chest. Johnson was arrested on scene, and has since been sentenced to life in prison with parole possible after 10 years.

Sharon Clause Randolph, Las Vegas

DOD: May 8, 2008

Age: 57

Police were called to the Randolph home by 53-year-old Thomas Randolph, who claimed that an armed intruder had entered his home and shot and killed his wife, and that he had then shot and killed the intruder. However, authorities allege that Randolph hired 38-year-old Michael James Miller to kill his wife, then killed Miller after he murdered Sharon, all in a plot to collect more than \$400,000 in insurance money. In the 1980s, Randolph stood trial and was acquitted of murdering his wife at that time, Becky Randolph. Thomas Randolph is currently in jail awaiting trial on murder charges.

Sherryl Guevarra-Sacueza, Las Vegas

DOD: July 2, 2008

Age: 29

29-year-old Sherryl Guevarra-Sacueza was found strangled to death inside a sport utility vehicle in front of her home. Police have named Sacueza's ex-boyfriend and the father of her children, 32-year-old Jesus Roberto Munguia, as the suspect in the crime. Police say Munguia contacted Guevarra-

Sacueza on the evening of July 2nd and threatened to hurt their children unless she came over to see him. Upon her arrival, Munguia lured her into the SUV where he beat her with a weapon and strangled her; he was then seen fleeing in a white Honda civic. Munguia is still at large, and may be hiding out with family in California.

Denise Adams, Tonopah

DOD: July 13, 2008

Age: 54

The Nye County Sheriff's Office discovered the body of 54-year-old Denise Adams when they were dispatched to her residence responding to a report of a deceased person. Adams had been sharing her house with an individual who was thought to be her boyfriend, 48-year-old Jeffrey Schilling. Schilling, who had reportedly been telling people who were looking for Adams that she was "asleep" or "in the shower," disappeared before Adams' body was discovered by police. Sheriff's office personnel estimate that Adams had been deceased for five to seven days when they found her, and have reportedly found cause to believe that she was "intentionally killed in her residence." Schilling was located in Las Vegas on July 18th and arrested on a charge of first-degree murder.

David Manriquez, Las Vegas

DOD: July 18, 2008

Age: 18

Police are still searching for 17-year-old Jonathan Romero, who is suspected of killing his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend, 18-year-old David Manriquez, in a morning home invasion. Jonathan Romero disappeared shortly after the confrontation on

July 18th, which began with him knocking on the door at his ex-girlfriend's residence and bursting into the two-story house after she answered. Romero then went upstairs and shot Manriquez, who tried to hide in a closet. Police found a trail of blood leading away from the house and believe Romero severely cut his arm on the mirrored closet door when it broke during a struggle with the victim.

Eduardo Velasquez, Las Vegas

DOD: July 26, 2008

Age: 26

Police officers responding to a report of a woman stabbed, found a 30-year-old unidentified female with a stab wound to the leg, and 26-year-old Eduardo Velasquez dead from a stab wound to the chest. The unidentified woman was treated for non-life threatening injuries at the hospital and released. Homicide detectives determined both victims had been stabbed by the woman's ex-boyfriend, 47-year-old Ignacio "Cesar" Mirando, who was arrested and charged with attempted murder and murder with a deadly weapon.

Channel Melendez, Las Vegas

DOD: August 7, 2008

Age: 33

Police responding to a report of a woman shot found 33-year-old Channel Melendez dead from a gunshot wound to the head. Officers interviewed her husband, Mauricio Melendez, who denied any involvement in the shooting. However, after interviewing the couple's seven-year-old son, they found that Mauricio allegedly shot Channel—he was arrested and charged with murder.



Domestic Violence-Related Deaths in Nevada: 2008

Loretta Naumann, Las Vegas

DOD: August 20, 2008

Age: 70

Police responding to a disconnected 911 call found 76-year-old Charles Petrovic with blood on his clothing. Upon entering the residence, officers found his 70-year-old girlfriend, Loretta Naumann, suffering from severe stab wounds. Naumann was taken to the hospital, where she died a short time later. Neighbors who knew the couple say that Petrovic was abusive, both physically and emotionally, to Naumann. Petrovic was arrested at the scene, and taken to the Clark County Detention Center where he's being held without bail.

Maria Sanabria-Mendoza, Las Vegas

DOD: September 25, 2008

Age: 36

Police officers responding to a report of a male and female deceased inside a residence discovered the bodies of 36-year-old Maria Sanabria-Mendoza and an unidentified man. Homicide detectives believe this case may have been a murder-suicide.

Natalia Sirven, Ely

DOD: October 17, 2008

Age: 30

30-year-old Natalia Sirven died in an apparent murder-suicide on Oct. 17th. A business partner of Natalia's husband, 61-year-old Faustino Juan Sirven, contacted Nye County Sheriffs after receiving an email from Faustino indicating that he planned to take his own life. Upon arriving at the home, officers found Natalia's body—she had been shot twice with a .22-caliber handgun; and Faustino, who was dead from a self-inflicted

gunshot wound. The couple had been married for four years.

Jonathon Lestelle, Las Vegas

DOD: November 3, 2008

Age: 26

Police officers responding to a report of a shooting at an apartment found 26-year-old Jonathon Lestelle dead from multiple gunshot wounds. A pregnant woman, also suffering from gunshot wounds, was found in the apartment as well—she was transported to the hospital, where she underwent surgery. The injuries caused the termination of her pregnancy, but the woman survived. Las Vegas police have named the female's estranged husband, 25-year-old William Keck, as a suspect in the crime. Keck has been arrested and charged with attempted murder and murder with a deadly weapon.

Victoria T. Whitmarsh, Las Vegas

DOD: November 7, 2008

Age: 54

54-year-old Victoria Whitmarsh was fatally stabbed, allegedly by a man police believe was her boyfriend. Officers were dispatched to a report of a violent domestic disturbance on Nov. 7th—upon their arrival at the apartment they found Whitmarsh dead from multiple stab wounds. Police arrested 45-year-old Brian Kerry O'Keefe after a brief struggle, and held him without bail on a charge of murder with a deadly weapon. Court records show O'Keefe was found guilty of battery and domestic violence in 2006, and served two years in prison.

Kimberly Long, Las Vegas

DOD: November 13, 2008

Age: 31

31-year-old Kimberly Long was beaten to death by her boyfriend's father, 61-year-old Edward Preciado-Nuno. Long's boyfriend, Jeffrey Preciado, reportedly asked his father for assistance in evicting Long from his home. Preciado-Nuno, a former FBI agent, confronted Long in the garage of Preciado's home on November 13th, where he allegedly beat her with a hammer. Long's 9-year-old son and the couple's 10 month-old son were both at home when the murder occurred. Preciado-Nuno was arrested and booked on a charge of murder with a deadly weapon—he's currently awaiting trial.

Susan Levin, Las Vegas

DOD: November 27, 2008

Age: 59

59-year-old Susan Levin and her unidentified husband were found dead in an apparent murder-suicide on Nov. 27th. Police were called to the Levin home to check on the welfare of the residents; upon their arrival, they found Susan and her husband dead from gunshot wounds to the head.



These histories leave many of us heartbroken. While commemorating the lost lives, you may refer back to the Advocates Corner on pg. 3 and reflect on some of the thoughts for the fall.

Jan Evans Direct Assistance Fund

Jan Evans was one of Nevada's most beloved and accomplished legislators. As the volunteer lobbyist for NNADV, Jan Evans worked to pass landmark marriage license fee legislation in 1981 to increase funding for victims of domestic violence in Nevada. During her seven terms in the Assembly, Jan worked tirelessly as a champion for women's and children's issues, even during her struggle with cancer. To commemorate the compassion, courage, and integrity of Jan Evans, NNADV inaugurated the Fund in 2005. It provides direct emergency financial assistance grants of up to \$500 to battered women and their children who are fleeing abusive relationships or attempting to reestablish themselves after leaving such situations.

How to contribute? All donations to the Jan Evans Fund are tax-deductible as allowed by law. No administrative costs are covered—100% of all donations goes directly to meet the needs of victims. To make a financial contribution, please fill out the donation form on page 5, and mail it in with your cash or check donation. We need your help to continue providing these valuable resources to victims of domestic violence. Thank you for your support.

Who can apply? Nevada-based DV programs can apply for funds on behalf of individual battered women and their children. An applying organization must be a non-profit, tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code and must be a member program of NNADV. If you would like more information about applying for a grant, please contact Elizabeth Stoffel, NNADV, at 775.828.1115, or elizabeths@nnadv.org.

Give the Gift of Peace Campaign

During this holiday season, you can contribute to the Jan Evans Fund by taking part in the Give the Gift of Peace Campaign at Jacksons Food Stores (Carson City, Fallon, Fernley, Reno and Sparks). The campaign allows customers to purchase a Dove for a dollar, with each contribution matched dollar for dollar by Jacksons CEO, John Jackson. Campaign proceeds collected in Nevada will benefit the Jan Evans Direct Assistance Fund!



NEVADA NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

220 S. Rock Blvd., Ste 7
Reno, NV 89502

PHONE

775.828.1115

FAX

775.828.9911

OUR MISSION

In an effort to promote social change and empower women and all persons affected by domestic violence, NNADV is an inclusive network which supports member programs, communities, and individuals to work on the elimination of domestic violence and core issues of societal oppression.



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