



AN AFTERNOON IN SHALOM

A Spiritual Observance of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Interval House Crisis Shelters and Centers for Victims of Domestic Violence is proud to introduce you to our *Afternoon in Shalom Toolkit*, designed to serve as a guide to assist you in planning and implementing a gathering for healing, reconciliation and worship for annual observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. *An Afternoon in Shalom* brings together speakers, followers and believers from a wide range of faith traditions—Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Catholicism, Unitarian Universalism, Baha’i, New Thought, Religious Science, Center for Spiritual Living—who are male and female, progressive and traditional, Immigrants, LGBTQ, elders and youth, and secular allies. The Black faith community in its totality is diverse.

We encourage local congregations, religious conferences, and denominational associations to revisit, reclaim, and redeem sacred texts and teachings that are historical, prophetic and pragmatic. These texts and teachings reveal Divine Will for right relationships in every aspect of our lives; a Divine love ethic practiced in all that we do; and our spiritually endowed role affirmed as people of faith, reconciliation and restoration. *An Afternoon in Shalom* can be a powerful step forward on this journey.

Domestic, intimate partner, and gender-based violence creates dysfunctional family units, chaotic neighborhoods, and communities in crisis, and perpetuates itself through succeeding generations if there is no intervention.

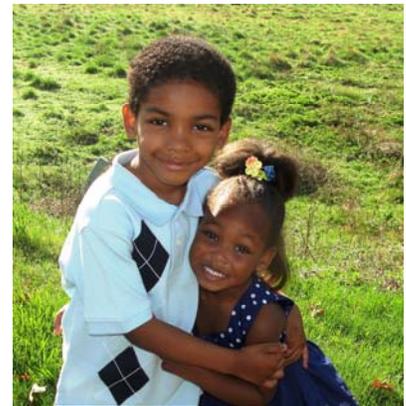
You may be wondering, what can I do? What can we do? *An Afternoon in Shalom* is one way that you can help break the silence on this epidemic, stop the cycle of violence, plant seeds of peace, and reap a harvest that ushers in change in our communities and the wider world. *An Afternoon in Shalom* is an opportunity to be the change that you wish to see in the world.

A Faith-Based Toolkit

Additional resources at thecasepartnership.org

“Violence in the home is an incubator for violence in our communities.”

*-Rev. Dr. Mary L. Walton,
Senior Management Advisor
Interval House Crisis Shelters*



Peace on Earth begins at home

Why Host *An Afternoon in Shalom* Gathering?

- ◆ Black women account for 22% of intimate partner homicide victims in the U.S., but only 8% of the population
- ◆ In 2003 national study, 1 in 7 African American teens reported that intimate partner had “hit, slapped, or physically hurt them on purpose” during the previous year
- ◆ Every 9 seconds a woman experiences violence
- ◆ 1 in 6 women have been a victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime,
- ◆ 1 in 4 girls will be a victim of an attempted or completed rape by age 18
- ◆ 1 in 6 boys have experienced abusive sexual experiences by age 18.



Your Tools

- Sample Order of Service
- Planning Your Gathering
- In Shalom
- Sobering Facts

This toolkit is funded by the Blue Shield of California Foundation

Order of Service from a 2014 Gathering

An Afternoon in Shalom: An Interfaith Gathering for Connection, Reconciliation, and Healing

October 26, 2014

Holman United Methodist Church

Gathering Music

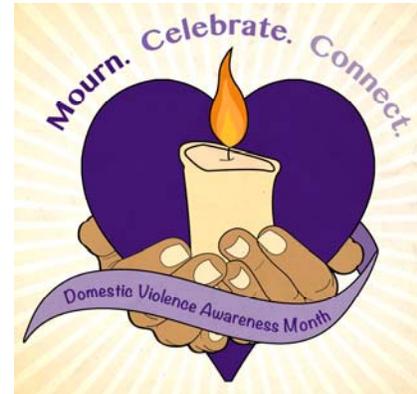
Robert Johnson

Welcome

Rev. Kelvin Sauls, Pastor, Holman UMC

Litany to Break the Silence (Psalm 133)

How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.



Musical Selection — “Shalom for the City”

Rev. Dr. Mary Walton & Dr. Michael Lyde

Introduction of Speakers

Rev. Dr. Arneha Inge, Interval House

Musical Selection— “God Weeps”

Rev. Dr. Mary Walton

Meditation

Patricia Jo Titus, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge

Survivor Story

Josephine Gardner

Meditation

Imam Ameer Omar, Masjid Al-Shareef Mosque, Long Beach, CA

Musical Selection — “Balm in Gilead”

Rev. Kelvin Sauls & Dr. Michael Lyde

Meditation

Rabbi Howard Laibson, Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis

Recitation — U. S. Presidential Proclamation for 2014 DV Awareness Month

Dr. Michael Lyde

Spoken Word — “Never Again”

Donna Richardson, Holman UMC

Meditation

Rev. Adrienne Zackery, Pastor, Crossroads UMC, Compton, CA

Musical Selection — “Break Every Chain”

Keschia Potter, Saxophone

Service of Healing

Rev. Kelvin Sauls

Spoken Word & Candlelight Vigil — “Our Wholly, Holy Circle”

Peggy Dammond Preacely, Holman UMC

Sending Forth

Rev. Judi Wortham-Sauls

We thank you for sharing this afternoon with us and invite you to share a light reception.

Planning your Observance

The preceding page details the order of service for *An Afternoon in Shalom* gathering in Los Angeles in 2014. There is not a “one size fits all” approach to planning a gathering. Three planning issues to consider are purpose, audience, and tone.

Purpose

What is the purpose of your observance service? In our experience, *An Afternoon in Shalom* gatherings are intended to:

- ✔ Acknowledge and commemorate lives lost and compromised by violence
- ✔ Unite the community around peaceful and healthy relationships
- ✔ Engage, educate and empower bystanders of violence
- ✔ Organize and call the community to stewardship, advocacy and action

In planning your gathering, some important questions to answer are:

- ✔ What is the desired outcome of the observance service?
- ✔ What knowledge or awareness do you want participants to have when they depart?
- ✔ In what ways do you want the minds of participants to be changed (or begin to be changed)?



Audience

Your intended audience and purpose of your gathering must overlap with your audience enough for them to engage with the overall purpose of your gathering. Planning questions to consider include:

- ✔ What do they already know about domestic, intimate partner and gender-based violence?
- ✔ What myths about domestic violence do you need to dispel?
- ✔ What do their spiritual beliefs and prevention of domestic violence?
- ✔ Where would they go for assistance and guidance if they witnessed or experienced domestic violence?

If you desire to inspire audience members to stretch beyond what they already know or are comfortable doing, then it is important to lay out a spiritual roadmap with touchstones to encourage them along their journey.



Tone

The tone, or mood, is dictated by the purpose—and to a lesser degree the audience—of your program. The environmental space, music, readings and use of survivor testimonials can all be used to shape the tone of your program. Equally important in setting the tone are the identity, language, and tone of voice of the speakers on your program. Tones can be solemn, reverent, celebratory, grateful, determined, and hopeful. Use music, novel instrumentation, scripture, and current events as touchstones to engage and inspire your audience. Consider evoking emotions through the use of original poetry, choreographed dance, and rituals such as [An Empty Seat at the Table](#), candlelight vigils, libations, and calling upon ancestors.



In Shalom

Shalom is a Jewish greeting that means peace. *An Afternoon in Shalom* provides an opportunity for religious institutions to partner with social service providers and advocates, dispel myths and misunderstandings, and lay the foundation for collaborative partnerships in service to survivors.

Sacred teachings are “the good news” of life that can inspire survivors to forgive themselves, their abuser, and the sin of silence. In their season of forgiveness, religious institutions have an opportunity to focus on the safety, recovery, and holistic healing of abuse survivors. Healing and wholeness are the goals of religious and social service advocates.

Just as domestic, intimate partner, and gender-based violence can take many forms, so can the solutions to this public health and spiritual crisis. There is no one way to minister to and help survivors and their families to heal. Similarly, there is no one way build your program. This toolkit and the supplemental materials on our website are intended to inspire brainstorming, careful thought, and awareness of the many ways to engage your community and this important work. We hope that the source material in this concise toolkit will help to provide a solid foundation for not only your gathering, but also for the collection action of your members as part of an interfaith coalition to address and prevent domestic, intimate partner, and gender-based violence.

Visit <http://www.thecasepartnership.org/> to access the digital version of this toolkit

Learn More

Contact us for more information about our programs and services

Interval House Crisis Shelters and Centers for Victims of Domestic Violence

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(562) 594-9492 Phone
(562) 596-3370 Fax
admin@intervalhouse.org

24-Hour Crisis Hotlines

(562) 594-4555
(714) 891-8121

Fighting Words

Domestic violence and intimate partner violence and abuse are patterns of abusive behaviors—including physical, sexual, verbal, and psychological attacks as well as economic coercion—that adults and adolescents use against a spouse, cohabiting, intimate or dating partner. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner’s consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other partner.

Gender-based violence is an emerging term that encompasses domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and other forms of violence toward friends, acquaintances, unknown persons, and groups along with assault, stalking, sexism, and sexual harassment.



Artwork by Shauna Marshall

Sobering Facts

In a global study, [Behind Closed Doors](#), researchers found that children raised in homes where they witnessed violence had an increased risk of:

- Experiencing physical and sexual abuse
- Acute stress and trauma that can harm brain development and impair cognitive and sensory growth.
- Academic performance and behavioral problems in school,
- Substance abuse, juvenile pregnancy and criminal behavior.
- Continuing the cycle of violence in successive generations.

