



Monthly Visions

Attend a performance of the *Vagina Monologues* near you!

• **University of Michigan**

Date/Time: Feb. 18, 2pm and 7:30pm

Location: UM Power Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets: \$11.50 students, \$13.50 general admission

Beneficiaries: SafeHouse Center

• **Eastern Michigan University**

Dates/Time: Feb. 15-17, 8pm

Location: EMU Student Center

Tickets: \$8 students, \$10 general admission

Beneficiaries: SafeHouse Center and First Step

• **Michigan State University**

Dates/Time: Feb. 15-16, 8pm

Location: MSU Fairchild Auditorium

Tickets: \$11 students, \$15 general admission

Beneficiary: MSU Safe Place

New Visions is a grassroots organization whose mission is to inspire and support sustainable community action for ending violence against women in Asian communities of Southeast Michigan. Affiliated with the University of Michigan School of Social Work, we are a partnership of local Asian communities and domestic violence-related agencies dedicated to one vision: "Asian women are safe, and Asian communities are free of violence."

Reflection on DV 101 Training and "Challenges and Strategies in Dialoging on Culture and Violence Against Women" Training

By Mahmooda Kalique Pasha, Project Coordinator, *The Shanti Project*

My understanding of domestic violence (DV) has been very limited. The knowledge that I possess comes from hearing about it, from talking about it and from seeing it on various forms of media. All these sources provided me with an overview of the issue, heavily skewed toward one extreme of physical violence as the only type of abuse within intimate partner relationships. I had a general concept of the issue, some of the main components of it, and an understanding of what to do; however, all of this information was present without an overarching framework.

Recently, I attended the DV 101 and training on culture and violence against women offered by New Visions. Both trainings were an eye-opening experience for me as it was the first time I was able to put all of my existing knowledge and experience within a known framework. The trainings provided an overall definition of DV and the cultural implications that affect it. The trainings were a wonderful resource in not just providing information, but also in actively engaging me through realistic and applicable exercises. For example, at the DV 101 training, we first learned and discussed the Power & Control Wheel. Then, we applied what we learned using case studies. Taking the time to

delve into each case study and evaluating it using the power and control wheel were helpful as the cases illustrated the different facets of DV and showed what the victim was feeling and how the perpetrator maintained control. Also, during this time we were able to better understand the avenues of help that exist and what we could do in the future to help the victims.

Another rewarding experience of the trainings was having the chance to interact with people who were equally interested in the subject and in learning more about their motivation and the degree of sacrifice that they put into working on this issue. I was truly inspired in seeing the examples set forth by the speakers, facilitators, and the participants.

Being new to this field, I feel that these two trainings gave me the stepping stones for beginning my work. I feel that I am prepared and know that I have a strong network that I can rely on for support and mentoring. I urge community members to attend such trainings as they educate you on the subject of DV, and in understanding how it happens. Furthermore, these trainings allow one to place their observations and stories within the construct of violence against women.

Vagina Monologues

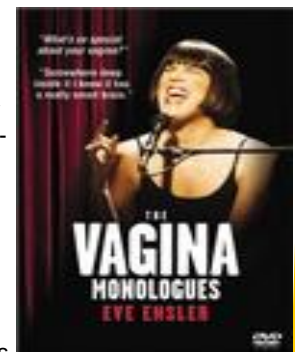
Adapted from <http://www.vday.org/contents/vday/aboutvday/eveensler>

Eve Ensler is an award-winning author of *The Vagina Monologues*. Her experience performing *The Vagina Monologues* inspired her to create V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. Ms. Ensler has devoted her life to stopping violence, envisioning a planet in which women and girls will be free to thrive, rather than merely survive. *The Vagina Monologues* is based on Ensler's interviews with more than 200 women. The piece celebrates women's sexuality and strength.

V-Day promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. V-Day generates attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery. Through V-Day campaigns, local volunteers and college students produce annual benefit performances of *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness and funds for anti-violence groups within their own communities.

V-Mail Registration

V-mail is the V-Day newsletter. It includes news of upcoming events, messages from Eve Ensler, and opportunities for participating in campaigns that will change the world. Sign up today!!! To sign up, visit <http://www.vday.org/contents/action/vmail>



CAT Updates:

New Visions is always looking for individuals or organizations to work together in ending violence against women in Asian communities in Southeast Michigan.

If you would like to learn more about our organization, our activities, and how to get involved, please contact Eun Joo Lee (eunj@umich.edu, 734.615.2106) or Neel Pandya (pandyan@umich.edu, 734.615.2123).

- **AA CAT Casting Call:** Feb. 15, 2007, 5:15-6:15pm. UM School of Social Work (B-631, basement, Research Center)
- **APA Youth Camp Planning Committee:** If you would like to be involved in planning and developing the youth camp for Summer 2007, please contact Neel Pandya.



Training on Jan. 27th, 2007

New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian/Asian American Communities

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Reflections on "Challenges and Strategies in Dialoging about Culture and Violence Against Women" Training

By Mehvash Ali, Organizational Accountability CAT member

On January 27th, 2007 New Visions invited Dr. Sujata Warriar for a day of training on dialoging about violence against women. The training was sponsored by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Dr. Warriar is the Director of the New York City Program of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. The goals of the training, which was attended by 14 individuals, were to: increase our understanding of culture, oppression, and politics as they relate to violence against women in Asian communities and to explore personal biases. Participants of the training included New Visions members, staff of domestic violence programs, and community members.

Even though it was a day-long training, Dr. Warriar's enthusiasm and energy were contagious. Not only did she present us with an updated definition of culture that allows for evolution of culture in response to social and political pressures and cultural competence, but also encouraged us to draw on our own experience of doing this work such as exploration of our prejudices, problems and limitations we have encountered when dialoging with oth-

ers regarding domestic violence. As a group we worked towards possible solutions to problems that limit this discourse. The training was a great balance of explorative group work and seminar-type learning. Throughout the training, Dr. Warriar pushed us to challenge our own biases. She started with the meaning of cultural identity and the ways in which our own identities limit and enhance our work in this field. Dr. Warriar was very receptive to our questions and walked us through obstacles we have experienced ourselves in talking about violence against women with real-world examples. We considered the role of patriarchy and family dynamics on perpetuating the cycle of power and control over women. We ended the training by considering ways to use our own privileges to develop a framework for our community-based work. Dr. Warriar was an inspiring speaker who used her wealth of experience to bring the subject matter to life. I commend New Visions for arranging this training and hope for more great speakers in the future.

Member Spotlight!: Hyojin Lee

Hyojin Lee, MSW, is a first-year law student at the Wayne State University. She served as the Korean Community Coordinator for New Visions from 2004-2006. She is now a member of the Outreach and Engagement CAT.

As the Korean Community Coordinator, Ms. Lee reached out and engaged Korean community members and organizations in Southeast Michigan. She shares that while serving as the Coordinator, she recognized how difficult community organizing was, especially around such a sensitive issue as domestic violence. She also realized how slow the process was in entering the Korean community, building relationships and trust with the community, and challenging norms and traditions that contribute to domestic violence. Ms. Lee knows how difficult it may be for members to do this work, "community organizing around domestic violence prevention is a tedious process. It may be discouraging because you may not be able to see immediate results. To work with New Visions, one needs to embrace the issue of domestic violence first, and that, in itself, takes a long time. However, if you do not have the strong conviction that domestic violence is wrong, you cannot affect change in the community around it."

As a first-year law student, Ms. Lee shares how different the field of law is coming from a social worker's perspective. Too often, law does not recognize the climate of fear that victims live in and punishes them for defending their lives. Courts are extremely cautious about making changes to the rules that they have been following. However, she adds, "Law does not instantly respond to the society and this is why I think New Visions' work is so important. If we raise our voice and show why the courts should consider the unique situation of domestic violence victims, then, we will be able to see the change in the legal system sooner."

Monthly Visions is a collaborative project between New Visions and authors. The views of the authors may or may not reflect the views of New Visions. We encourage submissions (poetry, artwork, articles, short stories, prose in English or your native language) to further the mission and philosophy of New Visions. Submitters will work with New Visions staff to ensure content is consistent with its philosophy and mission. For more information about the newsletter, please e-mail us at monthlyvision@umich.edu.

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