Director's Reflections
Kathi Anderson, Executive Director

In the last newsletter, I shared that when I was in Berlin in December, I attended the first general assembly of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). What I did not share was that during the assembly, I had the privilege of hearing Dr. Steven Miles of Minnesota present a keynote address about torture, medical complicity and the war on terror. Because his presentation had a profound effect on me, when I returned to San Diego, I requested from him a copy of his talk. Not only did he send me a copy, he graciously offered to give a similar talk in San Diego as a fundraiser for Survivors of Torture, International.

On April 21, more than 150 guests attended our tenth anniversary event “Oath Betrayed.” Dr. Miles, an expert in medical ethics, human rights and international health care, again passionately spoke about the involvement of medical professionals in torture under the purview of the U.S. military. He based his talk and book by the same name on meticulous research and a wealth of resources which he has since posted on the website www1.umn.edu/humanrts/OathBetrayed/index.html.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the audience gave Dr. Miles a standing ovation. On the stage, William Aceves, professor of law, joined Dr. Miles for a thoughtful question and answer session. The audience seemed as moved as I had been when I first heard Dr. Miles in Berlin. His books sold out during the reception of chocolate, cabernet and music performed by Dornob.

The evening was also memorable because we honored two very dear friends of SURVIVORS.

The Rev. George Falk, one of the co-founders, graciously received a proclamation from the Office of Congresswoman Susan Davis for his ten years of dedicated service on the board of directors.

(Continued on page 2)

Clients Reflect & Share During Nature Walks

Earlier this year, SURVIVORS’ expressive arts therapy group participated in five walks in San Diego’s natural areas. The walks nurture a sense of peace and safety and encourage natural expression by our traumatized client community. The walks are led by Elizabeth Jacobowitz, a volunteer expressive arts therapy intern, and Dr. Crystal Green, associate clinical director, whose account follows.

At a recent meeting at Torrey Pines State Reserve, five clients attended, representing four different countries. For every one of them it was the first time to touch the Pacific Ocean. We all went together to the shoreline and “shook hands with the ocean.”

For one participant, however, it was a very special introduction: he had never seen an ocean before! He was thrilled to see it and commented many times that he was surprised he could not see the other side. He smiled wide and repeated, “It is very big!”

Elizabeth brought many drums to the sand and we all sat in a circle, learning to drum the sound of our names. “EEEE-LIZ-A-BETH JAAAA- CO-BO-WITZ!” she drummed out for us, and we all followed with our own names and our own rhythms. It was a wonderful way to experience each person’s name and to allow individual expression to be shared and admired.

(Continued on page 3)
**Words from the Chair**

Jeanette Barrack, RPT

**SURVIVORS** will complete its five year strategic plan this year. The board and staff are in the process of creating another five year plan. You might be asking: what is a strategic plan, and why does **SURVIVORS** need one? Strategic planning is an organization’s process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its limited resources to pursue this strategy. It is figuring out how to apply scarce resources to multiple priorities.

Strategic plans are important for the following reasons:

- The plan sets a strategic direction for an organization;
- It creates a common language and understanding for an organization;
- It is a concrete document for measuring progress;
- The plan serves as a communication vehicle and selling point for an organization;
- The plan builds relationships and a sense of individual ownership within an organization;
- It keeps the executive director sane and focused.

The plan is a living document that is referred to and changed if necessary during the lifetime of the plan, which for us is five years. The strategic planning process includes several phases, from the initial organizational meetings to the approval and implementation of the plan by the board.

I was involved in the initial plan that we are completing this year. We were a much different organization five years ago. **SURVIVORS** has grown financially and programmatically. We have more staff members as requests for services have increased. Our mission continues.

The board and staff have worked extremely hard and stayed focused on the plan. I look forward to **SURVIVORS**’ growth in the next five years.

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**SURVIVORS** Presents the

George Falk Human Rights Champion Award

At **SURVIVORS**’ 10th anniversary event, “Oath Betrayed,” Dr. Antra Priede received the first-ever George Falk Human Rights Champion Award. The award is named for the Reverend George Falk, one of **SURVIVORS**’ co-founders who recently announced his retirement from **SURVIVORS**’ board of directors.

Dr. Priede was born in Riga, Latvia. Displaced by World War II, she moved to the United States when she was nine years old. Dr. Priede grew up in Ohio, graduated from Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, then moved to California for her professional career.

In 2001, Dr. Priede began her work with **SURVIVORS**’ clients. As a volunteer physician, she has met with clients to document the physical consequences of torture and prepare written affidavits for presentation to the immigration court as part of the application for asylum. She has also participated in training other physicians for this task.

“The process of working with asylees is demanding — emotionally and medically,” she said. “But I found it a worthwhile challenge.”

“Dr. Priede’s work has been central to the success of the medical affidavit program at **SURVIVORS**,” said Dr. David Gangsei, clinical director for **SURVIVORS**. “Through her own evaluations and those of the others she has trained, she has contributed to saving the lives of many torture survivors.”

Dr. Priede now works part-time for Kaiser Permanente and lives in Point Loma with her husband of 35 years. She said that her work with **SURVIVORS** has affected her worldview: “I received a broader perspective of all the different experiences in the world.”
Clients Reflect & Share During Nature Walks
(Continued from page 1)

After packing up the drums, we walked the Guy Fleming Trail together. As the trail twisted and turned Elizabeth instructed us to walk in silence, then to walk with a partner, and then to walk carefully – noticing what sights, sounds, and smells the trail had to offer. We stopped once to draw, then stopped again to write in our journals.

We stayed a long while at the overlook, admiring the ocean view and the sights of others enjoying the beach below. One client offered this reflection:

“I realize that this is the safest I have ever felt. I see these people doing whatever they want to do. They walk, run, swim. They bring their children out into the public. They are free to do whatever they want to do. And they are able to do it in complete safety. I have never felt this feeling until now. It is wonderful.”

At the end of the trail we gathered to reflect on our experiences. It was late afternoon and the sun shone softly on the landscape. A pair of ravens played in a puddle of fresh water that had settled on the rocks nearby. Other hikers passed us silently, nodding hello. Each client shared a special moment, realization, or memory from the hours we had spent on the trail getting to know Torrey Pines State Reserve.

One young man commented:

“Back home in my country everything is sharp-edged. Life is hard and dangerous. Here, I see that everything is soft and looks like it has been watercolor painted. I see the horizon here, soft and green, and I can hardly know where the land ends and the sky begins. Here in this place, I remember that the earth is round.”

Elizabeth finished the day by sharing a poem one of her friends had written. It was a thoughtful piece that reminded us that we are all visitors in some way or another. In the poem a man asks a dolphin why it visits the shore when it can roam a vast ocean. The dolphin in return asks the man why he visits the shore when man has the vast land to roam.

These nature walks are giving all of us a chance to experience a new perspective of the world and of ourselves in the world.

Office of Refugee Resettlement Program Officer Visits SURVIVORS

SURVIVORS is able to provide many services to clients because of support from the U.S. Torture Victims Relief Act. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) facilitates this funding opportunity and provides grants for SURVIVORS to provide services to meet the physical, psychological, social, and legal needs of torture survivors.

On April 19-20, Holly Herrera, from Washington, D.C., visited SURVIVORS’ office. Herrera is the program officer for ORR, and she is the agency contact to whom SURVIVORS submits semi-annual reports that include data such as the number of clients served and the educational activities conducted during the time period.

SURVIVORS’ board and staff members were excited about the opportunity to show Herrera our office, introduce her to some of our key community partners, discuss the work we are doing here in San Diego, and thank ORR for its support.

- June 26 -
A Day to Recognize Torture Survivors Around the World

June 26 is the U.N. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. It’s a day for the international community to remember the suffering and courage of torture survivors and to express concern about the continued use of torture in more than 100 countries.

The date is significant because the Convention Against Torture entered force 20 years ago on June 26, 1987. More than 100 nations ratified this convention thereby agreeing to a universal definition of torture and accepting obligations to prevent acts of torture, prosecute those responsible, and ensure proper rehabilitation for torture victims.

On June 26 of this year, SURVIVORS is joining with torture treatment centers across the state for an awareness campaign that will culminate in Sacramento. In Sacramento, representatives from the centers will educate their elected officials about the unique needs of torture survivors living in California.

The other torture treatment centers in California include the Center for Survivors of Torture in San Jose, the Program for Torture Victims in Los Angeles, and Survivors International in San Francisco. SURVIVORS’ pro bono law firm Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP has also been instrumental in planning this day.

To learn more about the U.N. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, please visit SURVIVORS’ web site at www.notorture.org.

Use Your IRA to Donate to SURVIVORS

In August, President Bush signed into law new tax incentives for charitable gifts from donors who are 70 ½ years or older. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 encourages financial support of charitable organizations like Survivors of Torture, International.

Under the law, you can make gifts to charity using funds from your individual retirement account (IRA) without undesirable tax effects.

You may contribute funds this way if:
• You are age 70 ½ or older;
• The gift is $100,000 or less each year;
• You make the gift on or before December 31, 2007;
• You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA;
• You transfer the gift outright to one or more public charities, but not supporting organizations or donor advised funds.

If you are interested in making a gift, please call your IRA plan administrator to arrange for a direct transfer.
Thank You, George Falk!

After ten years of dedicated service as a SURVIVORS' board member, the Reverend George Falk recently resigned from the board to spend more time with his family.

George immigrated to the United States from Germany after World War II. As a result of his experiences during the Nazi years and his international travels, George has been a strong advocate of human rights issues for more than 50 years.

George has been an integral part of SURVIVORS' success, both as co-founder in 1997 (with Kathi Anderson and Bill Radatz) and as a member of the board of directors.

George said that his favorite memories of his work for SURVIVORS are about the first months of the organization: “Kathi, Bill, and I met together at the Presbyterian Crisis Center on Market Street to familiarize ourselves with the need to embrace that diverse immigrant population coming to us here in San Diego seeking asylum and new life from the oppressive and brutal circumstances they experienced in their homelands.”

As a board member, George was involved in numerous aspects, including development, communication, and public relations. Luckily for SURVIVORS, even in “retirement”, George will continue to volunteer with the organization in other capacities.

SURVIVORS Welcomes Eliza Kane and Marian Hart

Earlier this year, Eliza Kane became the administrative assistant at SURVIVORS. In this role, Eliza provides support to the executive director and performs administrative and clerical duties for the overall agency.

Eliza has a bachelor’s degree in English literature from Emmanuel College in Boston. She has worked in many departments of publishing as a writer, editor, and promotional coordinator. In her most recent position, she was the associate director of Stellar Medical Publications based in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Eliza said she is excited to use her skills at a nonprofit organization working on behalf of human rights.

“I’ve always thought that with our relative affluence and the freedom and good will to make real improvements in global conditions, U.S. citizens should be spearheading every campaign for human rights. But the shock of 9/11 really showed me how sheltered we are from the very conditions we could ameliorate. Ever since, I have sought out opportunities to promote awareness and affect change. Naturally, I leapt at the chance to apply my efforts and energy toward the mission SURVIVORS had in place.”

Also this spring, SURVIVORS welcomed back Marian Hart. Marian left SURVIVORS in August of 2004 to move with her husband, Wayne, to Atlanta where he was transferred for work. In Atlanta she received her M.A. in Applied Linguistics from Georgia State University and worked as a literacy tutor and ESL teacher.

After three years and many adventures, Marian and Wayne have returned to San Diego. Marian is thrilled to be back in San Diego, the place she considers to be her home. She is also delighted to return to her position as SURVIVORS’ development coordinator.

“In so many ways I have had a really very happy homecoming,” she said.

Resilience of the Spirit Festival Continues

In April, SURVIVORS joined with Hillcrest’s 6th@Penn Theatre to hold post-show discussions after performances of the dance “Backbone: A Personal Story of Triumph.” The dancers’ performances expressed the voice and physical reality of torture and its aftermath. This was the first piece in a series of artistic events included in 6th@Penn’s Resilience of the Spirit Festival.

The human rights festival continues through July with plays such as Ana Castillo’s “Pst...I Have Something to Tell You, Mi Amor.” This play is based on the real story of Sister Diana Ortiz, a torture survivor who has spoken at SURVIVORS’ events in past years.

Other plays focus on refugees living in America, genocide survivors, and individuals living with internal struggles. While theatre is at the core of the festival, it will also include dance, photography, multimedia performance, film, poetry, and a literary program.

In her “Letter from the Producer,” Catherine Kineavy, Resilience of the Spirit’s producer, said she hopes that the series will create a better world beyond 6th@Penn.

“It is our belief that art can transform society; we hope that by telling these stories, we can engage our community in the conversation about human rights,” she said. “We, along with you, can change the world by participating in a dialogue for social justice.”

The complete performance schedule is posted at 6th@Penn’s website, www.sixthatpenn.com, and also at the festival’s website, www.resilienceofthespirit.com.
SURVIVORS Co-Hosts Clinical Methods Institute

In mid-April, SURVIVORS and the Center for Victims of Torture co-hosted an advanced clinical methods institute. More than 30 individuals working in the torture treatment field traveled from around the country to gather in San Diego for the institute.

Presenters included Dr. Donald Meichenbaum, who spoke about the application of cognitive behavioral interventions, and Dr. Richard Mollica, who discussed promising practices in torture treatment. SURVIVORS' staff members Dr. David Gangsei and Dr. Crystal Green discussed ways of adapting clinical practices to torture treatment.

The institute concluded with a trip to the El Centro Detention Facility, where some asylum-seekers entering the United States are detained. The facility is operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This trip was of particular interest to institute attendees who live far from U.S. border regions.

“I didn't realize the detention center was actually a prison,” said one participant in a survey about the trip. “It brought the topic of what could happen to torture survivors much closer to home.”

Congress Introduces the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act

On April 25, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007. Introduced as H.R.1678 by Congressman Chris Smith, R-NJ, the bill received overwhelming bipartisan support. Introduced in the Senate as S. 840 by Senator Norm Coleman, R-MN, the bill was still pending as of early June.


The legislation authorizes the appropriation of $25 million to be disbursed as grants to domestic treatment programs through the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Currently, there are 20 programs in 15 states that receive such funding.

This act also authorizes $12 million for USAID to support foreign treatment centers and a $12 million contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. The fund supports almost 200 treatment centers in 70 different countries including many in the United States.

In conjunction with other leaders in the torture treatment field, Survivors of Torture, International’s co-founder and current executive director, Kathi Anderson, successfully lobbied for the drafting and passage of the Torture Victims Relief Act. The legislation was passed with wide bipartisan support in 1997 and was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1998. The first funds were appropriated in fiscal year 2000, and appropriations have been reauthorized in all subsequent years.

Survivors of Torture, International has received $3,490,290 in Torture Victims Relief Act funds since 2000, more than any other U.S. treatment center or program.

Continued funding will allow survivors of torture, including the estimated 11,000 living in San Diego County, to receive the services and treatment they need to become productive, valuable members of their communities. This legislation will directly impact Survivors of Torture, International’s capacity to provide the healing services our clients have come to depend on.

You have the opportunity to demonstrate your support for torture treatment by contacting your senators and urging them to co-sponsor the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007.

SURVIVORS Introduces Its Medical Advisory Committee

In February 2007, SURVIVORS began forming a Medical Advisory Committee to address the need to strengthen the quality and increase the quantity of medical services provided to SURVIVORS’ clients.

The Medical Advisory Committee is a collaboration of physicians, healthcare providers and professionals dedicated to developing and providing oversight of SURVIVORS’ medical program. Their first meeting occurred in May 2007.

SURVIVORS recognizes those who have committed to participating on the Medical Advisory Committee: Jim Jaranson, M.D.; George Longstreth, M.D.; Margaret McCahill, M.D.; Tejal Kaur, M.D.; Marianne Reiner; Kathi Anderson; David Gangsei, Ph.D., and Sarak Suon, P.A.

Others interested are encouraged to contact Dr. David Gangsei by phone at (619) 278-2403 or by e-mail at dgangsei@notorture.org.

SURVIVORS Joins MySpace

SURVIVORS has a MySpace page. If you use myspace.com, please check out our site and add us as your friend. Our news, events and volunteer opportunities are updated frequently.

Visit our official page online at http://www.myspace.com/notorture

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

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Thank You to All of Our Community Supporters

January 1, 2007 through April 30, 2007

We are grateful to the following individuals and companies for your generous support. Your donations of time and in-kind goods and services help SURVIVORS’ programs run smoothly.

Companies and Organizations

- Anonymous
- Joyce Anderson
- Paul Anderson
- Stephanie Andrews
- Andrew Askin
- Diana Avalos
- Gale Barlow
- Chris Baron
- Holly Bibler
- Linda Bright
- Sheila Coomes
- Harry Coots

- Jill Cottel-Poole
- Nelia Dailey
- Ana Diaz
- Patrick Dunah
- Virginia Dunn
- Eli Folkes
- Christina Frausto
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- Lydia Grypma
- Savanna Hawkins
- Michael Heidenreich
- Paul Habley

- Elizabeth Jacobowitz
- Ayan Ali Jama
- Malorie Jollett
- Taurianne King
- Jaime Kobayashi
- Takashi Kuwahara
- Thomas Lange
- George Longstreh
- F. Marian McGee
- Steven Miles, M.D.
- Dianne Miller
- Ryoko Nagata

- Peter Natter
- Nicky Nicho
- Roberto Nova
- Bilia Oceha
- Amy Okamura
- Pat Olafson
- Genevieve Parshalle
- Sabiha Pasha
- Deanna Price
- Zachary Rivera
- Steve Rabin

- Presbyterian Crisis Center
- Our Savior’s Lutheran Church – San Diego
- Ralph’s – Hillcrest, Mission Valley, Kearny Mesa
- Rehab Strategies – La Mesa
- San Diego Culinary Institute – San Diego
- Southern Wine & Spirits
- Starbucks Coffee Store 6716 – Sports Arena
- Starbucks Coffee Store 9735 – San Diego
- Starbucks Coffee Store 10124 – San Diego
- Sweet Factory – San Diego
- Sweet Nicole’s – El Cajon
- Trader Joe’s – Hillcrest

Individuals

- Beam Wine Estates
- Big City Bagels – Hillcrest
- Corporation for National & Community Service (AmeriCorps*VISTA)
- Claim Jumpers – La Mesa
- Dornob Persian Musicians – San Diego
- Family Health Center of San Diego
- French Gourmet – Pacific Beach
- Girl Scouts San Diego Imperial Council, Inc. – San Diego
- Great News Culinary School – Pacific Beach
- Got Great Wine – Carlsbad
- King Leo’s Candies – Alpine
- Michael's Printing – San Diego
- Presbyterian Crisis Center
- Our Savior’s Lutheran Church – San Diego
- Ralph’s – Hillcrest, Mission Valley, Kearny Mesa
- Rehab Strategies – La Mesa
- San Diego Culinary Institute – San Diego
- Southern Wine & Spirits
- Starbucks Coffee Store 6716 – Sports Arena
- Starbucks Coffee Store 9735 – San Diego
- Starbucks Coffee Store 10124 – San Diego
- Sweet Factory – San Diego
- Sweet Nicole’s – El Cajon
- Trader Joe’s – Hillcrest

We apologize for errors or omissions and extend our gratitude for support that may not have been recognized.

Top 10 Ways to Support SURVIVORS

1. **Volunteer time.** We need volunteer receptionists, drivers to take clients to appointments, interns, and energetic people to help publicize special events. Do you have an hour or two to spare?

2. **Spread the word.** Do you have a media contact who can help us publicize SURVIVORS?

3. **Make in-kind donations.** We can use a variety of items throughout the year. Keep an eye on the newsletter and e-blasts for updates on our current needs.

4. **Donate a car.** Did you know that we are a partner with Cars 4 Causes? Your tax-deductible donation of a vehicle turns into a cash donation that can fund client services.

5. **Prepare the newsletter for mailing.** Every quarter, we need people just like you to come help us prepare the newsletter you’re reading for mailing. Meet people with like-minded interests, enjoy delicious snacks and help spread the word about SURVIVORS.

6. **Introduce us to someone you know.** Do you know a doctor who could do medical evaluations? How about someone interested in serving on a board committee or interpreting? The more people we know, the better we can serve our clients.

7. **Introduce us to an organization you know.** The best way to successfully solicit a corporate or foundation donation is through a personal connection.

8. **Use your company’s matching program.** Many companies offer matching donations when employees donate to their charity of choice. Does yours?

9. **Include us in your estate planning.** Did you know that SURVIVORS has a planned giving program? Leave a lasting legacy of hope with our program.

10. **Make a cash donation.** Of course, every nonprofit can use additional monetary support. We are careful stewards of the money you entrust to us. Thank you for your continued support!
SURVIVORS’ Financial Supporters

January 1, 2007 through April 30, 2007

Healing broken hearts and restoring the spirits of torture survivors in San Diego County is accomplished with the help of our financial supporters. Because of you, the survivors are able to rebuild their lives. We are grateful.

Foundations, Corporations, and Organizations

The Bishop’s School—San Diego
Change a Life Foundation
Citigroup Inc. Foundation
College Lutheran Church—San Diego
County of San Diego, Health and Human Services
Grossmont Healthcare District
Local Independent Charities
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Starbucks Coffee Company Foundation
The Fieldstone Foundation
University of San Diego
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

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Dee Aker & Bill Smith
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Daniel & Carroll Anderson
Joyce & Paul Anderson
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Bianca Molinari
Carol Morabito
Pilar Hernandez
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James Jaranson
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Carissa Murphy & Dean Williams
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Bill & Martha Radatz
Nicola & Ron Ranson
Marriane Reiner-Caputo
Cecily Resnick
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Daniel Stracka
Richard Strawinsky & Astrid Falkenberg
Margaret Sunde
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Lawrence Sweet
Andrew Taylor
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Cosette Thompson
Viraj Ward
Lowell Waxman
Dolores Welty
Kristin Westerman & Linda Bright
Bryan Wildenthal
Jeremy Wustner-Brown
Thank you!

We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude to donors who may not have been recognized.

This project publication was sponsored by Grant Number 90ZT0070 from the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Points of view are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

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SURVIVORS of Torture, International
... was incorporated in February 1997 in response to a need in our community to bring assistance to that segment of the population which struggles with the wounds of politically-motivated torture.

Since then, SURVIVORS has engaged a caring network of professionals — board members, attorneys, interpreters, therapists, physicians — and all of YOU in the community who give faithful support and encouragement in many ways.

We serve survivors who reside in the greater San Diego and Southern California area, but are prepared to assist the legitimate needs of all survivors of politically-motivated torture.

For more information about SURVIVORS, or to participate in our mission, please visit our website at: www.notorture.org — or contact us by e-mail at: survivors@notorture.org.