



University of Minnesota
College of Human Ecology
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*****DATE AND VENUE CHANGE*****

What: Exhibit will showcase uniquely-designed, handmade shawls to raise awareness and money for domestic violence prevention in honor of Sheila Wellstone

When: Exhibit: May 23 to June 15, 2004
Christina Crawford book signing and lecture: May 27, 2004, McNeal Hall, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN
Auction: June 16, 2004, 5-8 p.m.

Where: Exhibit: The Goldstein Museum of Design, 244 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave, St Paul, MN
Auction: The Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota

Who: University of Minnesota School of Social Work in the College of Human Ecology, The Goldstein Museum of Design in the College of Human Ecology, and The Silent Witness National Initiative

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DESIGN AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INTERSECT AT SPECIAL EXHIBIT OF HANDMADE SHAWLS

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (3/1/04)-- Skilled knitters and prominent women in Minnesota and across the country are creating shawls to honor the late Sheila Wellstone, an advocate for victims of domestic violence and wife of the late Sen. Paul Wellstone. Each shawl will be exhibited as part of a special installation at The Goldstein Museum of Design created to raise awareness and money for domestic violence prevention.

“The Goldstein Museum of Design is uniquely situated through its exhibitions to educate students and the public about the relationship of design to societal issues,” said Becky Yust, head of the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel at the University of Minnesota. “This exhibit is an opportunity to explore design as a mediator of support in people’s lives through the issue of domestic violence.”

Shawls will be knit, crocheted, woven, embellished with embroidery, and sewn. Some will be created in unique shapes, including in the shape of a butterfly. Another contains a map of the African continent woven into the shawl. Each shawl will be identifiable with a Sheila Shawl Extravaganza private label.

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“The shawls’ beauty, warmth and technical magnificence embody the concern of their makers and sponsors for all victims of domestic violence,” said Lindsay Shen, director of The Goldstein Museum of Design. “We hope that through their display in The Goldstein and subsequent sale, these shawls will bring comfort as well as broaden a public commitment to end domestic abuse.”

The shawls will be auctioned on June 16, 2004, at a special event and fundraiser called the Sheila Shawl Extravaganza. The Extravaganza is a special component of the Sheila Shawl project, an idea developed and brought to life by Janet Hagberg. Hagberg is the executive director and founder of The Silent Witness National Initiative, an organization that works to end domestic violence murders.

The news of Sheila Wellstone’s death, along with her husband and daughter in a plane crash on October 25, 2002, brought grief to many in the domestic violence community.

“Upon learning of Sheila’s death, I sat with a shawl I had knit wrapped around my shoulders. It felt like she was in the room with me, comforting me,” said Hagberg. “I thought that if I felt this much comfort with my shawl, how would families who had lost a loved one to domestic violence feel?”

In just fourteen months the Silent Witness National Initiative has given 250 shawls to families of victims of domestic homicide through the Sheila Shawl project.

The Extravaganza shawls will be auctioned at an event emceed by KARE-11’s Kerri Miller on June 16, 2004 from 5 to 8 p.m. at The Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota. A silent auction and online auction hosted by eBay.com will also be available. An RSVP and a \$25 minimum donation (\$35 at the door) are required to attend the live auction. RSVP to 612-625-9340 or at www.sheilashawl.umn.edu. Money raised from auctioning the shawls during the Extravaganza will be used to endow a Sheila Wellstone fellowship in the School of Social Work at the University of Minnesota and for Silent Witness programming.

The Extravaganza shawls will be on exhibit from May 23 to June 15 at The Goldstein Museum of Design, 244 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul. Stories of victims of domestic violence will also be displayed. Christina Crawford, author and advocate for abused children, will speak and sign books to celebrate the shawl exhibit on Thursday, May 27.

For more information about the Sheila Shawl Extravaganza, see <http://www.sheilashawl.umn.edu>. For more information about Silent Witness and the Sheila Shawl project, see www.silentwitness.net, and for more on the School of Social Work visit <http://ssw.che.umn.edu>.

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