

Lifespan *news*

Volume 36 Number 3

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

April/May 2007

Right to Life - LIFESPAN



Invites you to its 17th Annual

Mother's Day Dinner

Monday, May 7, 2007

San Marino Club, Troy

Honoring

Mother of the Year 2007

Student Art Contest Winners

See page 3 for reservation information



You know why you're pro-life, but how do you share your beliefs with others, especially when they say they support abortion?

The "LIFESPAN TEEN LIFE LINK" (aka LTL²) group is hosting an interactive seminar titled "Making Abortion Unthinkable" designed for high school and college students.

The seminar is a frank, intense presentation of the pro-life position that equips participants with the needed information and ability to offer the pro-life position in an informational not confrontational way.

Date and Time: Saturday, April 21st from 12:30-9:00 p.m.

Location: St. Michael Media Center in Ferndale
(between 8 and 9 Mile on Woodward Avenue)

Cost: \$15.00 per person

(includes seminar materials, snacks, beverages, and a pizza dinner)

Note: If the cost is a problem, please let us know!

Contact: LTL² Student Leaders Ken Pietro at 586-739-4047
or Kathryn Stickley at 248-342-3465 to find out more
about the seminar!

PRE-REGISTRATION IS A MUST due to the cost
of the seminar

Your Help is Needed: A Pro- Life Film Project!



Independent filmmaker David B. Thompson of Oakland County, has just announced plans for a short film entitled "The Meaning of 'Choice.'" In the film, young pro-life activist Sarah O'Conner addresses a pro-life gathering and relates the story of Angela, a young woman whose decision to let her child live nearly precipitates her own murder and reveals the true nature of the "pro-choice" movement.

The budget is extremely limited and volunteers are needed for this project! Principal photography is planned for May.

The completed film will be submitted to a number of international film festivals—including the San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival—and released on DVD in the Fall after a possible Church release nationwide.

Mr. Thompson is seeking volunteers for cast and crew positions, as well as locations in and around Oakland County for holding auditions, filming and possibly recording the musical score.

To find out how you can help with this unique project, go to *www.MeaningofChoice.com* and click on the links under the "How You Can Help" section of the navigation bar. Additional questions may be sent to: *WriterDirectorProducer@hotmail.com*.

Please note that applications need to be in by **April 15** if possible.

NRLC Convention

The 35th Annual National Right to Life Convention will be held June 14-16, in Kansas City. See <http://www.nrlc.org/convention> for details.



Mother's Day Dinner



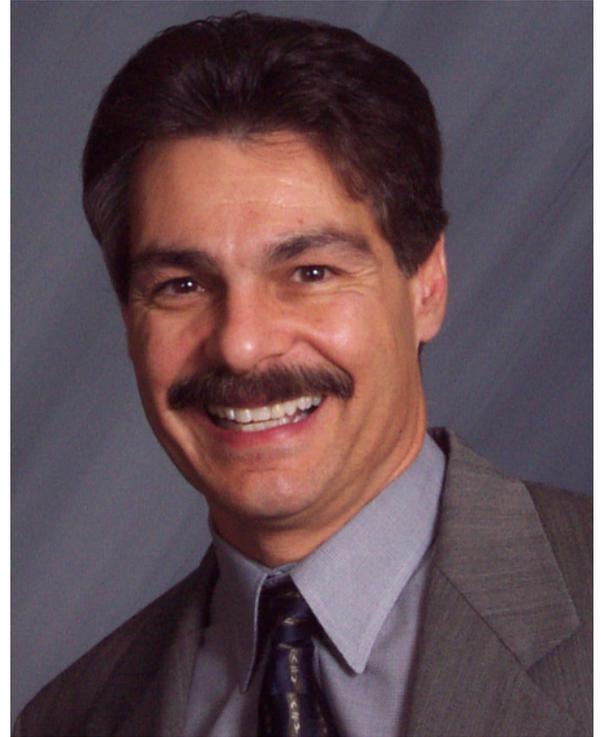
Monday, May 7, 2007

Silent Auction 5:45 p.m. • Dinner 7:15 p.m.

San Marino Club • 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy

Dr. Ray Guarendi is the father of ten adopted children, a clinical psychologist, author, public speaker and radio host. His experience includes school districts, Head Start programs, mental health centers, substance abuse programs, inpatient psychiatric centers, juvenile courts and a private practice.

Dr. Guarendi is a member of the Catholic Answers Speakers Bureau, delivering talks throughout the country. He appears once a month on Catholic Answers Live. He has been a regular guest on national radio and television including Oprah, Joan Rivers, Scott Ross Prime Time, 700 Club, Gordon Elliot and CBS This Morning. He's appeared on regional radio and television shows in over 40 states and Canada. He has been the program psychologist for Cleveland's Morning Exchange, Pittsburgh 2-Day and AM Indiana. He has written several books including *You're a Better Parent Than You Think!* now in its twenty-first printing, *Back to the Family* and his newest book, *Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime*.



Dinner Reservations: \$50 per person/\$475 per table of 10. Students (under 21) \$25 per person.

Advance reservations required by May 1.

Yes, I (We) plan to attend. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ reservations. (Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. Tickets will be held at the door.)

Seat with _____

Yes, I (We) plan to sponsor a table of 10. Enclosed please find **one** check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ tables. (Please list names of all those for whom table reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper. Tickets will be held at the door. Table arrangements will be determined by date of receipt of paid reservation.)

I (We) are not able to attend. Enclosed is a donation of \$_____ to support your pro-life efforts.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (area code) _____



*For Dinner reservations, please make checks payable and mail to:
Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Ste. G, Troy, MI 48084
For information, call 248-816-1546
(Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible.)*

The Threat Of Health Care Rationing and The Denial Of Lifesaving Drugs

Part 1

By Wanda Franz, Ph.D.

Pro-lifers rightly take satisfaction in the fact that abortion rates are down, that public support for unrestricted abortion has significantly declined, and that there is now majority support to severely restrict abortion or outlaw it altogether. We have made encouraging progress in our long campaign to secure the right to life for the child in the womb.

In fact, some have been so preoccupied working on behalf of the right to life of others, namely the unborn, that they have paid insufficient attention to the looming threat to our own right to life. This threat arises from demographic, political, and cultural trends that play into hands of those obsessed with “end of life solutions.”

The demographic trends are simply this: A tidal wave of “baby boomers” is approaching retirement. In 2005, the number of U.S. citizens 65 years of age or older was 36.8 million. In 2010, just three years from now, the number will be about 40.2 million. And in only eight years, in 2015, it will be 46.8 million. Not only will there be more elderly citizens than ever, they will also tend to live longer—albeit with frailties of varying degrees. From these trends it is obvious that a significant number of us will face disability and chronic medical conditions.

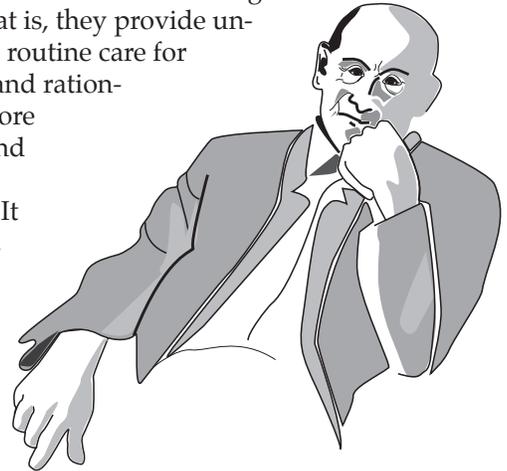
You must now realize that you may be denied life-saving medical care and drugs if the wrong policy decisions are made about your future health care.

Implicit in the demographic trend is the “resource” trend as it relates to funds for Medicare. Currently there are about 3.3 workers per Social Security recipient. In 2031 there will be about 2.2. The ratio of workers to Medicare recipients is similar to that for Social Security recipients. Hence, while the number of Medicare recipients will increase, the funds available for Medicare will not proportionally increase. So here is the problem: a compulsory government program (everyone over 65 must participate by law) is running short of funds. And what can be done about it?



■ Raise taxes. There are political limits because those still working will object to excessive taxation. A generational clash is looming here between those who consume medical care and those whose taxes pay for it.

■ Do the “progressive” thing and transform U.S. health care into a Canadian or British-style one-size-fits-all nationalized system. As anyone studying these programs can see, the nationalized programs simply establish huge bureaucracies to “manage” the shortage; that is, they provide uncomplicated routine care for everyone—and rationing of the more expensive and important procedures. It is, of course, those procedures that can make all the difference for you. Beyond that, the



elderly tend to receive less care than younger patients. The elderly have medical needs that the system simply may not provide (that is why elderly Canadian patients cross the border and shop for medical procedures here). Moreover, some available procedures have outright age limits or are delayed so much that patients die or give up before they get treatment.

The point of nationalized health care is that it does not eliminate the shortage of funds for medical care; it simply allocates that shortage.

To be blunt about it: there is something deeply un-American about this approach. To surrender decisions about our well-being—about our very survival—to a bureaucracy goes against our deepest convictions. It conflicts with the fundamental notion that we are responsible for ourselves and that we should be free to spend our own money on our health care.

A change to a nationalized health care system is often justified with the assertion that it serves “social justice” and that it is “fair” by “equalizing the burden” of the shortage of resources. First of all, this approach is blind to the possibility that the shortage of resources could be alleviated. Second, it is wedded to the notion of the citizen as a ward of the state. And third, it has a primitive concept of fairness that would require all of us to have the same cars and houses, etc.



■ Use private funds to enlarge the resources available for medical care of the retired. That approach has obvious virtues. It doesn't tax the working citizens. There are considerable resources available that the retired could use to supplement their medical care. And it increases the range of treatments available to the elderly. Exercising such treatment options is currently legal. In fact, NRLC was in the forefront in securing such rights with legislation in 1995-1997 and 2003.



Unfortunately, the 2006 elections have emboldened those who promote the "government-does-all" solution. In fact, the House of Representatives has already taken the first step towards imposing government price controls that would limit your access to lifesaving drugs. President George W. Bush has threatened to veto such legislation. But don't relax. The next president might very well sign such legislation.

The political and demographic problems are exacerbated by cultural trends promoting the notion that the disabled and the chronically ill lack "quality of life" and constitute a burden to the rest of us: We should withhold therapy that does not improve the condition of a disabled or chronically ill person (remember, this was part of Hillary Clinton's health care plan). We should deny (what someone other than the patient considers) "futile care." It is unfair to the rest of us to let "them" consume such a large portion of limited medical care. In fact, denial of care is in their "own best interest" and they are better off dead. And so on.

Oh, in case you forgot: providing food and water is now "medical treatment." It may even be withheld; because for the Terri Schindler Schiavos of the world it would be "extraordinary medical treatment" and it would be "in their best interest" to be starved to death. The courts can't interfere with their right to privacy, their right to be starved to death in a most public way.

It is time you get concerned about your own right to life.

Wanda Franz, Ph.D., is president of National Right to Life Committee.

—National Right to Life News, February 2007

Editor's Note: This article will continue with Part II in the June issue of Lifespan News.



How Medicare was Saved from Rationing— And Why It's Now in Danger

continued from back page

However, a concerted effort is now underway in Congress to take away this option and force older Americans back into those aspects of the Medicare program that limit the availability of health care essentially to what the government is willing and able to pay for. House Health Subcommittee Chair Pete Stark (D-Ca.) hopes to abolish the private fee-for-service option. While clever attempts are being made to couch the assault on private fee-for-service plans as protecting consumers from exploitive insurance companies, there is little doubt about Stark's underlying motivation.

As far back as 1997 Stark introduced a bill to repeal the private fee-for-service option, scornfully stating, "This proposal is the brainchild of some in the right-to-life community who believe that Medicare payment rates are so strict that some doctors may not provide adequate care under traditional Medicare. Therefore, to avoid euthanasia one can join one of these plans and let your doctor charge you extra. It is too bad that those who care about killing seniors spend so much time helping the rich find fire escapes, and so little time helping the uninsured and those who are not rich live in a good system."

Apart from Stark's apparent assumption that middle-income senior citizens are "rich," this perspective apparently assumes that if we care about the poor, the "just" thing to do is to force everyone to be equally at risk of rationing regardless of economic status.

In fact, trying to subject everyone to equal rationing, regardless of income, will cause greater harm to the very group whose interests it is supposed to protect—those who are poor. When people are permitted to spend their own money for health insurance, and those who can afford it select the more expensive unrationed, unmanaged fee-for-service plans, this adds money to the system. Part of that extra money becomes available for private-sector cost-shifting to help meet the needs of the poor.

This provides the means for doctors and health care facilities to continue to provide services for poorer people at government reimbursement rates below actual costs. If it is illegal for older Americans to use their own money to supplement government payments when buying health insurance, little or no such cost-shifting will be possible. Poorer people will be far more likely to be denied lifesaving medical treatment than if supplementation were permitted.

There is a particular irony in Stark's attack on allowing those who can afford to do so to use their own money to escape rationing. Unlike Medicaid, which is designed specifically to help those of low incomes, Medicare covers everyone of retirement age, regard-

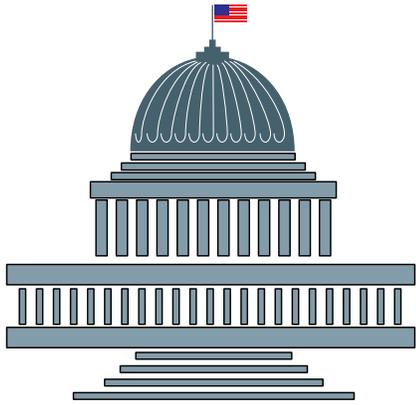
continued on page 14

March for Life January 22, 2007 Washington, D.C.

Thank you to all those who took part to march in defense of human life! We are deeply grateful. Many of us could not attend—you represented us all. And, many thanks to Lifespan's Oakland/Macomb Chapter for organizing the bus trip.







LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Contact Information

President

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Opinion Line 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5
Fax Number: 202-456-2461
e-mail: comment@whitehouse.gov
Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3121
www.senate.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202-224-3121
www.house.gov/
Dear Congressman/Congresswoman (last name):

Governor

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
Opinion Line: 517-335-7858
e-mail: migov@aol.com
Dear Governor Granholm:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
www.senate.mi.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
www.house.mi.gov/
Dear Representative (last name):

Embryonic stem cell research

The U.S. Senate won't take up a contentious bill that would force taxpayers to fund embryonic stem cell research funding until after Easter. However, Senate leaders from both parties are negotiating the debate details for it and an alternative bill may be included for a vote as well.

Once the Senate debate begins, lawmakers may likely vote on two bills—the funding measure and an alternative bill sponsored by Republican Sens. Norm Coleman of Minnesota and Johnny Isakson of Georgia. That legislation is still under construction, but Coleman told *Roll Call* magazine that their bill “doesn't cross the moral line” by funding embryonic stem cell research and would, instead, allow funding of adult stem cells and other alternatives. Sen. John Cornyn, a Texas Republican, endorsed the bill saying, “I hope it'll provide common ground for those like me who want to see scientific research go forward, but are concerned about sacrificing human life.”

National Right to Life Committee and other pro-life organizations remain opposed to the embryonic funding bill, which would mandate taxpayer funding for the destruction of human embryos leftover in fertility clinics in scientific research.

The House has already voted on its version of the bill, which it approved on a 253-174 vote in January. The Senate is expected to approve its measure, S. 5, and then it would get a House vote before going to the president.

President Bush has promised to veto the final bill again because he doesn't want taxpayer funds to pay for research that involves the destruction of human life.

The House vote was well short of the two-thirds needed to override his veto and the Senate will be one or two votes either direction of the two-third needed to override.

—Life News.com, March 15, 2007

A victory for pro-life issue ads

In the case *Wisconsin Right to Life (WRTL) v. Federal Elections Committee (FEC)*, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on December 21, 2006, ruled that McCain-Feingold's “electioneering communication” provision, which prohibits corporations, such as National Right to Life Committee, from running broadcast ads mentioning the name of a federal candidate within 30 days of a primary and 60 days of a general election, is unconstitutional as applied to grassroots lobbying ads which urge citizens to contact their representatives to influence them about upcoming votes in Congress.

Wisconsin Right to Life had argued that the law restricted its constitutional right to petition the government.

James Bopp, Jr., attorney for WRTL said the McCain-Feingold law was flawed because politicians assume people only care about elections and don't care about public policy.

The court's decision has been appealed to the Supreme Court.

—Excerpted from *Choose Life*
January/February 2007

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Contributors: Patricia & Robert Holscher, Diane Trombley

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Silent Auction!

Sponsored by Educational Center  for Life

In conjunction with Lifespan's annual Mother's Day Dinner (Monday, May 7, 2007), the Educational Center for Life sponsors a Silent Auction.

Each year, proceeds from the Auction help to pay for the guest speaker at the Dinner. ECL needs your help with donations for the Auction. Suggested items include:

- ◆ Use of a condo for one week
- ◆ Jewelry
- ◆ Framed Artwork
- ◆ Gift certificates from restaurants, bookstores or clothing stores (denominations of \$25.00 or more)
 - ◆ Baby clothing items
 - ◆ Event tickets: sporting, movie theatre and live theatre
 - ◆ Handmade items: quilts, afghans, pottery, ceramics, etc.
- ◆ Hotel package for two: overnight or weekend package including one or all of the following—breakfast, dinner, flowers and/or champagne in the room, etc.
 - ◆ Monetary donations in any denomination

***Please contact Educational Center for Life AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
if you have an item or items for the Auction: 248-816-8489***

The cost of a child

The government recently calculated the cost of raising a child from birth to 18 and came up with \$160,140 for a middle income family. Talk about sticker shock! That doesn't even touch college tuition. But \$160,140 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into:

- * \$8,896.66 a year,
- * \$741.38 a month, or
- * \$171.08 a week.
- * That's a mere \$24.24 a day!
- * Just over a dollar an hour.

Still, you might think the best financial advice is don't have children if you want to be "rich." Actually, it is just the opposite. What do you get for your \$160,140?

- * Naming rights. First, middle, and last!
- * Glimpses of God every day.
- * Giggles under the covers every night.
- * More love than your heart can hold.
- * Butterfly kisses and Velcro hugs.
- * Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and

warm cookies.

* A hand to hold, usually covered with jelly or chocolate.

- * A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites.
- * Someone to laugh yourself silly with, no matter what the boss said or how your stocks performed that day.

For \$160,140, you never have to grow up. You get to:

- * finger-paint,
- * carve pumpkins,
- * play hide-and-seek,
- * catch lightning bugs, and
- * never stop believing in Santa Claus.

You have an excuse to:

- * keep reading the Adventures of Piglet and Pooh,

- * watching Saturday morning cartoons,
- * going to Disney movies, and
- * wishing on stars.
- * You get to frame rainbows, hearts, and flowers under refrigerator magnets and collect spray painted noodle wreaths for Christmas, handprints set in clay or Mother's Day, and cards with backward letters for Father's Day.

continued on page 15

Thank you!

Educational Center for Life wishes to thank those persons who have donated this past year to the Center through United Way. Your generous donations are most appreciated.

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone contributing to United Way may request that the donation (matching funds donations or regular donations), be made to any non-profit organization, including Educational Center for Life. Many employees are expected to make an annual contribution, through their employer, to United Way, but are hesitant to do so because they don't know where their money will end up. These folks may choose ECL, and be assured that their contribution to United Way will be sent to the Center.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Educational Center for Life also accepts donations through Charity Motors. Anyone donating a car, boat, etc. to Charity Motors can specify that the money garnered from the sale of that vehicle be sent to ECL. Call us for more information. All who have donated to the Center through Charity Motors in 2006 are sincerely thanked for their kind donations.

Educational Center  for Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540

Phone 248-816-8489 • Fax 248-816-9066



detroit

P. O. Box 24774
Detroit, MI 48224-1906
Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)
Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Mary Cascos, Office Manager

Showers of love and thanks

Lifespan held its 18th annual Baby Shower in March. Hundreds of beautiful baby items were donated to local pregnancy aid centers. Because of your generosity many mothers decided to give life to their babies. The following Detroit churches participated this year: Christ the King; Assumption Grotto; Old St. Mary's; Sts. Augustine and Monica; St. Mary's of Redford; St. John Church, Deaf Center; Brightmoor Bible Missionary Church and St. Clare of Montefalco, in Grosse Pointe Park. Thank you all and may God bless you for all you do.

Mother's Day roses

If you belong to a Detroit area church and your church does not distribute our beautiful

silk roses on Mother's Day, please volunteer to help us this year. This is one of our most important fundraisers. All it takes is a contact with your pastor for permission, placing an article in your church paper, which we can provide, and finding a few of your family and friends to help you sell the roses at all your services on Mother's Day.

Isn't this a beautiful tribute to your own Mom for giving you life by helping educate other young women to do the same?

All roses not sold can be returned so there is nothing for you to risk, and you will gain a great feeling and many blessings knowing you are helping us in our efforts to promote the dignity of all life, from the womb to the tomb. Call today to order your roses—313-640-8534.

Membership drive

Lifespan Detroit is now in the process of a membership drive. Please help us reach our goal by asking all your pro-life family and friends to join LIFESPAN. As you know, through our *Lifespan News*, we keep you updated on the pro-life issues. We do not receive any federal money. Our membership dues are our backbone. Help us keep the Detroit office open by helping us increase our membership.

A membership application is in the back of this newsletter. Please feel free to copy it and distribute it to all who can help. Thanks and God will bless you for your efforts.

livingston

P. O. Box 1532, Brighton, MI 48116-9998
Phone 810-220-LIFE (5433)
Judy Zabik, Jane Thierfeldt, Co-Directors

Mother's Day flowers

Tell Mom "Thanks for LIFE" with a flower from Lifespan. We have silk flowers and real flowers. If you or your church are interested in spreading the message of LIFE, please contact our office. We'll arrange to have flowers delivered in time for Mother's Day. Sale proceeds go to our local chapter of Lifespan.

Mother's Day Dinner

Mark your calendar for May 7th for our Mother's Day Dinner. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Ray Guarendi, a clinical psychologist and father of 10 children. There will be a silent auction with many wonderful items. Join us for an evening of fun and inspiration.

Mother's Day prayer

Dear Lord, today I turn to you to give you thanks for my mother. With your own gift of life, she bore me in her womb and gave me life. She tenderly, patiently cared for me and

taught me to walk and talk. She read to me and made me laugh. No one delighted in my successes more; no one could comfort me better in my failures. I am so grateful for how she mothered me and mentored me, and even disciplined me.

Please bless her, Lord, and comfort her. Help her loving heart to continue to love and give of herself to others. Strengthen her when she is down and give her hope when she is discouraged.

Most of all, Lord, on this Mother's Day, give my mother the graces she most needs and desires today. I ask you this, in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior forever and ever. Amen.

Wanted - YOU!

Lifespan needs YOU to join us in our LIFE-saving work! Become a member and be involved in many different ways; be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. Fill out the membership form on page 15; you will receive regular issues of *Lifespan News* informing you of current events and issues of interest.



*The very word "motherhood"
has an emotional depth and significance
few terms have.*

*It bespeaks nourishment and safety
and sheltering arms.*

—Marjorie Holmes

oakland/macomb

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e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M, T, Th, F 8-4; W 9-3
Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Lynn Gura, Tanya Wrenn Ofc. Staff

Shower smiles

It was showering smiles and baby items on March 11th! LIFESPAN hosted 55 simultaneous baby showers this year, and 25 were in the Oakland/Macomb area. We would like to thank the following hostesses and their committees for their hard work: Mary Alice Merlo, Margaret Joyce, Margaret Merrill, Colleen Beaton-Walters, Mary Ellen Lewandowski, Paula Patterson, Darcy Mazza, Mary Ann Bodary, Regina Wachtel, Judy McDaniel, Jill Jones, Jean Stolzenfeld, Ron and Judy Stec, Holly Ruhle, Janet Babuska, Anne Kraemer, Sharon Boekhout, Mary Ann Stockwell, Gretta McKinney, Cathy Rozanski, Deacon John Vanneste, Tina Rashid, Dolores Melnyk, Christine Snyder, and Phyl Sallee. Good Job!!

wayne west/downriver

27592 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150-2203
Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116
e-mail: wwdr@rtl-lifespan.org
Office Hours: M-Th 10-4; F Closed
Patricia Holscher, Director
Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Mgr., Melanie Bruss, Ofc. Staff

Bake Sale needs bakers

Our big, big, big Bake Sale will be at St. Mary Church in Wayne on Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22. Lifespan members, even those who live outside that parish, may help with this annual event. Baked items can be dropped off at our office in Livonia on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or at the church after 2 p.m.

Wine tasting event

Resurrection Parish of Canton will be hosting a wine tasting event. The theme is "Celebrate Life Around the World," and the proceeds will benefit Right to Life - LIFESPAN, Wayne West/Downriver Chapter and La Mora Medical Clinic in El Salvador. This event will showcase 150 wines from around the world, 25 premium beers and a variety of hors d'oeuvres and desserts. The event will be held on Friday, April 27, from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m., at All Saints Catholic School, 48733 Warren Rd., Canton. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Contact Sarah Zydeck at 734-667-2287 or e-mail, szydeck@aol.com.

Crosses

Our cross display has been cleaned up, repaired and refreshed and is ready to be reserved by your faith community or group. The dates are filling up quite quickly so if you were thinking about using them this year, don't delay. They can only be put up when the ground is soft enough to allow the supports to be inserted, so time is limited. Please call the office, and we will get you started—248-816-1546.

Fashion fun

Oakland/Macomb Chapter and the Educational Center for Life hosted LIFESPAN's first-ever fashion show for young ladies on March 18th. Designed to feature clothing that is fashionable, trendy and modest—no exposed middles or plunging necklines! Desserts, finger sandwiches and tea and lemonade were offered. Volunteer models from our LIFESPAN teen list showed clothing from area merchants as well as web site sources. Since it was a first time effort, there was no way of knowing how many would attend. 200 moms, grandmothers and young women came to the Fashion Show!!! What fun we had—a totally worthwhile event and one that will surely be repeated! Congratulations to Lynn Gura, Phyllis Sullivan, Linda Seng and Marilyn Schepansky for putting on a wonderful event!!

Mother's Day Dinner

Lifespan's Mother of the Year has been selected from your nominations and will be honored at our Mother's Day dinner. We always have outstanding speakers, and this year we've done it again in the person of Dr. Ray Guarendi. You won't want to miss meeting this remarkable man; see page 3. As in the past, our Chapter will have transportation available to take dinner guests to the San Marino Club in Troy. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call the office for reservations and pick-up points.

Mother's Day tribute

Now is the time to order silk-like long-stemmed roses for your church. They are tagged, "Thanks, Mom, for Life," come in various colors and can be taken on consignment. The rose, the symbol of Life, is a tribute to mothers on their special day. We also have a fine selection of pins which celebrate motherhood. Call to reserve flowers and/or pins.

Father's Day recognition

We will be offering candy bars and pens for dads on Father's Day for a donation. These neat items will be printed "Thanks Dad, for Life!"—"Happy Father's Day." If you'd like your church or school to participate, call as soon as possible, so that enough quantities are ordered.

Pro-Life speakers

Lifespan has professional pro-life speakers including doctors, lawyers, nurses, the medically challenged and others who are willing to speak at church services, public forums, meetings and schools. Call 734-422-6230.

Pearls of Wisdom

Anything Goes

The International Society for Stem Cell Research issues its “ethical guidelines”

By Wesley J. Smith

The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) recently announced its “Guidelines for the Conduct of Embryonic Stem Cell Research.” The results are not encouraging.

The Guidelines claim to “emphasize the responsibility of scientists to ensure that human stem cell research is carried out according to rigorous standard of research ethics.” But saying it doesn’t make it so. What the document actually does is paste a veneer of ethical analysis on top of the “anything goes” mentality that suffuses biotechnology and mainstream bioethics today.

Of course, what is deemed “ethical” in biotechnology depends in large part on, to borrow a phrase from President Bush, the deciders. Unsurprisingly, many of the members of the ISSCR “International Human Embryonic Research Guidelines Task Force,” who wrote the Guidelines, are well known for advocating that scientists be given an open field.

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Not anymore...*

University of Wisconsin bioethics professor R. Alta Charo, for example, has stated that a legal ban on all human cloning would violate scientists’ First Amendment right to conduct research. Another task force bioethicist, Northwestern University’s Laurie Zoloth, previously advocated applying what she considers a “Jewish” understanding of the moral status of human embryos to guide the ethics of stem-cell research—which is to say, she would give embryos no moral status at all when outside the womb, and treat them “as if they are simply water” for the first 40 days of gestation.

Stanford University stem cell biologist Irving Weissman, another task force member, made headlines in 2005 when he reportedly announced plans to create a mouse with a human brain. Then there is Ian Wilmut, who supervised the cloning of Dolly the sheep, and who supports reproductive cloning at least for people who can’t otherwise bear genetically related offspring. He also recently suggested tossing aside the usual rules that govern human medical experimentation in order to

allow dying patients to be injected with embryonic stem cells, even though they are currently unsafe for human use.

So, how far do the ISSCR Guidelines want to allow embryonic stem cell researchers to go? A lo-o-o-ong way. Remember when embryonic stem cell activists assured the nation that *all* they wanted to do was conduct experiments with leftover IVF embryos that were going to be destroyed anyway? Not anymore. The “rigorous” ISSCR research guidelines explicitly endorse *the creation of new human embryos*—both through IVF fertilization and somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning—for use and destruction in stem-cell research.

As with most bioethical documents of this kind, much emphasis is given to self regulation. Accordingly, the task force suggests that research be regulated by “institutional review.” These may not be rubber stamp committees, but you can bet that the boards will also not be heterogeneous in bioethical outlook: No stem cell skeptics need apply.

The guidelines also permit the buying of human eggs for use in cloning and other biotechnological research—potentially putting the health and fecundity of poor women at material risk. Human egg procurement is an onerous procedure that requires a donor to be injected with high doses of hormones to hyper-stimulate her ovaries so that they release 10 to 20 (or more) eggs in a cycle, instead of one. The oocytes are then extracted through the vaginal wall. Side effects can include sterility, high fever, infection, pain, and in a few cases, even death.

But have no fear: The Guidelines suggest that the institutional overseers monitor “recruitment practices to ensure that no vulnerable populations, for example, economically disadvantaged women, are disproportionately encouraged to participate as oocyte providers for research” and that “financial considerations of any kind do not constitute undue inducement.” Sure. How many wealthy women will willingly donate eggs, given the potential side effects and discomfort? And what, exactly, constitutes “undue” inducement?

Is there anything that the Guidelines suggest not be done? Sort of. Animal/human chimeras “with the potential to form gametes [sperm and eggs] are not to be bred to each other.” Also, research embryos are not to be maintained for more than 14 days. But that isn’t saying very much since after that, maintaining the embryos would require implantation into women’s uteruses. Moreover, it isn’t clear how long this “limitation” would last—particularly if artificial wombs are developed that would permit technological gestation for a few months in laboratory settings. And it is worth noting in this regard, that the Guidelines explicitly state that they

are “incomplete,” because they omit any discussion of harvesting “various types of fetal cells.” The ISSCR Task Force is still considering that issue.

...through a cynical process of policy creep, the National Academy of Sciences...intends to take us down that long and winding road that leads from embryonic stem cell research, to human cloning, to whatever human biotechnological research scientists decide they want to do next...

There is also the usual discouragement of reproductive cloning. However, the Guidelines do not claim that creating a cloned human embryo for gestation and birth is morally wrong. Rather, they provide a strictly utilitarian analysis: “Given current scientific and medical safety concerns, attempts at human reproductive cloning should be prohibited.” Of course, today’s safety concerns may be overcome tomorrow. Indeed, the very research that the Guidelines encourage—e.g. creating cloned and natural embryos for experimentation—

could provide information about early gene expression needed to eventually make reproductive cloning “safe.”

None of this should shock us. The ISSCR Guidelines merely reflect the already existing ethos in the field. Indeed, it is striking the extent to which the ISSCR paper mimics a similar set of guidelines issued in 2005 by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), which gave the prestigious scientific organization’s imprimatur to the creation of embryos for use and destruction in research.

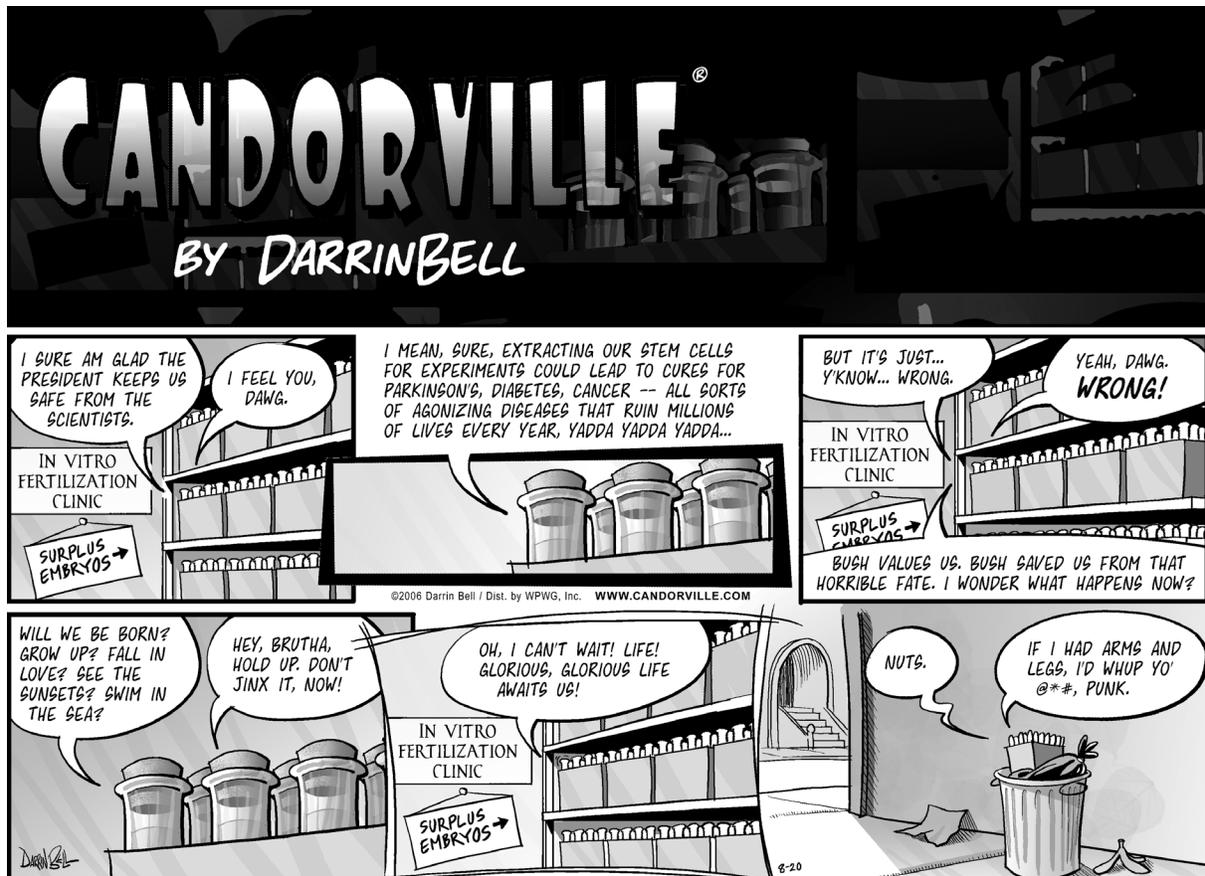
I wrote about the NAS guidelines at the time and what I asserted then applies just as well to the ISSCR paper:

Most of what can be done today, the NAS [and ISSCR] recommends be permitted today, while that which can’t be done, the NAS [and ISSCR] agrees to prohibit ‘at this time.’ But these guidelines are intended to be ephemeral. When today’s permitted research expands the capacities of the biotechnological enterprise tomorrow, we can expect the NAS’s [and ISSCR] suggested “ethical guidelines” to “mature.” Thus through a cynical process of policy creep the NAS [and ISSCR]intends to take us down that long and winding road that leads from embryonic stem cell research, to human cloning, to whatever human biotechnological research scientists decide they want to do next.

Or, to quote Cole Porter: Anything goes.

Wesley J. Smith is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and a special consultant to the Center for Bioethics and Culture. His website is wesleyjsmith.com.

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From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

What are the advantages and benefits of a pro-life Congress? Last year's election was not kind to the pro-life movement. We did have some wins, but the outlook of the new House of Representatives puts fear into the hearts of pro-lifers. The headlines in *National Right to Life News* reinforce those fears. Consider some of these headlines: "U.S. House of Representatives May Act Soon on Legislation to Curb Rights of Citizen Groups," "How Medicare Was Saved from Rationing—and Why It's Now in Danger," "The Threat of Health Care Rationing and the Denial of Lifesaving Drugs."

It has not taken long for the anti-life forces to push for more liberal end-of-life legislation. Make no mistake—this will eventually lead to permissive euthanasia in this country. There are two kinds of euthanasia—passive and active. These current bills would allow for passive euthanasia. Passive euthanasia allows the indirect killing of a person by lack of treatment or action to save that life. Active euthanasia is taken to directly end a person's life, i.e., a lethal overdose of medication.

I believe, though no studies have been done to my knowledge, that due to the destruction of so many little people in the womb, there does not exist the population of workers to support the demands of Medicare. There have been approximately 48 million human lives lost to abortion since 1972. Half of those (24 million) would be working and contributing today to the Social Security fund.

The government is looking for ways to bail out the large Social Security deficit that is looming. What better way to solve the problem than to decrease the elderly population. This will be done by not treating those elderly or even the mentally and physically challenged—those that are deemed by some to be unproductive and draining the system. For more indepth reading on these issues, you can refer to the web site of National Right to Life, www.nrlc.org. We have included some information in this issue, but space will not allow the full stories.

In two years, another election will occur. Your vote is important. Even if you may not like the candidate for all of his or her stances on the issues, be sure to consider your future; ask if he or she is pro-life, then cast your vote. And whatever you do, don't sit home and hope that by not voting, it will take care of itself.

This newsletter will keep you informed. Do yourself, your family and friends a favor—invite them to join Lifespan so that they too can stay informed, and write your legislators! If we want a pro-life country, we must work to change hearts and minds, one person at a time. To do this, we must educate—together we will change the anti-life direction of this country. **There is power in numbers.**

How Medicare was Saved from Rationing— And Why It's Now in Danger

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less of income or assets. Yet, because of budget constraints, the Medicare reimbursement rates for health care providers tend to be below the cost of giving the care—a deficit that can only accelerate as cost pressures on Medicare increase with the retirement of the baby boomers.

This means that providers engage in "cost shifting" by using funds they receive in payment for treating insured working people to help make up for what the providers lose when treating retirees under Medicare. Thus, comparatively low-income workers often effectively subsidize higher-income retirees.

However, when middle-income retirees are free voluntarily to add their own money on top of the government contribution, through a private fee-for-service plan, they stop being the beneficiaries of cost-shifting and become contributors to it. If successful in abolishing the private fee-for-service alternative, Representative Stark will be locking in subsidies to the more well-to-do at the expense of retirees who are poor.

Thus, the lives of older people of all income levels hang in the balance in the critical battle that will be fought in Congress this year over Medicare rationing. In the absence of a truly massive outpouring of protest from grassroots Americans outraged that government could take away their right to spend their own money to save their own lives, there is grave danger that Stark and his allies will succeed in abolishing that choice in all of Medicare.

Burke J. Balch, is director of National Right to Life Committee's Powell Center for Medical Ethics.

Post-Abortive Recovery

The Detroit-area community has much to offer in terms of confidential healing and help to those who have experienced abortion, including:

Healing Hearts Ministries offers support group counseling to anyone suffering from the effects of abortion. Contact: Madelyn, 248-545-3542; e-mail: mchealinghearts@comcast.net
<http://www.healinghearts.org>

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreats are for anyone who has experienced abortion, including couples, parents, husbands, grandparents, siblings of the aborted and medical personnel who have been involved in abortions. Call 734-878-2217, ext. 214; e-mail: lpbbauer@yahoo.com
<http://www.rachelsvineyard.org/>

Project Rachel offers healing for the hurt of past abortion through counseling, reconciliation. Call 888-RACHEL5; e-mail: Projectrachel@aod.org

**Donations have been made—
In loving memory of:**

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Judith Schreiner
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Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Brown
Pat and Bob Holscher
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Wayne West/Downriver Board and Friends

Joseph Gregor

Given by: John and Doris Gregor

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Given by: Mary Jo and Michael Ervin
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Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died; a memorial card will be sent by Lifespan in your name to the family of the deceased. Donations may also be made to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...

You can live on after death by helping those whose lives are threatened by abortion, euthanasia or infanticide. A bequest in your will to Right to Life - LIFESPAN will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

The cost of a child

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For \$160,140, there is no greater bang for your buck. You get to be a hero just for:

- * retrieving a Frisbee off the garage roof,
- * taking the training wheels off a bike,
- * removing a splinter,
- * filling a wading pool,
- * coaxing a wad of gum out of bangs, and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

You get a front row seat to history to witness the:

- * first step,
- * first word,
- * first bra,
- * first date, and
- * first time behind the wheel.

You get to be immortal. You get another branch added to your family tree, and if you're lucky, a long list of limbs in your obituary called grandchildren and great grandchildren. You get an education in psychology, nursing, criminal justice, communciations and human sexuality that no college can match.

In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there under God. You have all the power to heal a boo-boo, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a slumber party, ground them forever, and love them without limits. So...one day they will, like you, love without counting the cost. That is quite a deal for the price!

Love and enjoy your grandchildren and grandchildren!

Garden Party!!

Crossroads Pregnancy Center, of Auburn Hills, is hosting its Annual Garden Party on July 22, 3:00-6:00 p.m. The event will be hosted at the beautiful HGTV-featured home and gardens of Jack Krasula in Bloomfield Hills. The guest speaker will be Norma McCorvey, formally "Jane Roe" of the infamous Supreme Court case, *Roe v. Wade*. Tickets are \$75 per person; call 248-293-0070.

Right to Life - LIFESPAN Membership Form

Right to Life - LIFESPAN believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you the monthly newsletter as well as educational materials and special mailings.

_____ Annual Membership \$ 25.00 _____ *Angel in the Waters* Special Membership _____ Other
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 15.00 \$40 or more; (call a Lifespan office for details)

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar, Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152-2193.** For more information, call 248-478-8878. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

How Medicare Was Saved from Rationing—And Why It's Now in Danger

By Burke J. Balch

Editor's note: Since its inception, the National Right to Life Committee has been equally concerned with protecting older people and people with disabilities from euthanasia as with protecting the unborn from abortion. We have recognized that involuntary denial of lifesaving medical treatment is a form of involuntary euthanasia, and therefore have opposed government rationing of health care. In 1997 and 2003, NRLC successfully fought to amend Medicare by allowing older people the right to use their own money to obtain unrationed care; shockingly, under the new leadership of Congress that right is now at risk. Here's the background:

Most people are aware that Medicare—the government program that provides health insurance to older people in the United States—faces grave fiscal problems as the baby boom generation ages. Medicare is financed by payroll taxes, which means that those now working are paying for the health care of those now retired. As the baby boom generation moves from middle into old age, the proportion of the retired population will increase, while the proportion of the working population will decrease. The consequence is that the amount of money available for each Medicare beneficiary, when adjusted for health care inflation, will shrink.

Three alternatives exist. In theory, taxes could be increased dramatically to make up the shortfall. Few knowledgeable observers consider this likely, regardless of which party is in power in Washington.

The second alternative—to put it bluntly but accurately—is rationing. Less money available per senior citizen would mean less treatment, including less of the treatments necessary to prevent death. For want of treatment, many people whose lives could have been saved by medical treatment will perish against their will.

The third alternative is that, as the government contribution decreases, the shortfall is made up by payments from older people themselves, so that their Medicare health insurance premium is financed partly by the government and partly from their own income and savings.

Although it goes against the conventional wisdom, there is reason to believe that on average Americans could afford to pay for this. (See "Why America Can Afford Unrationed Health Care," p. 16.)

What most people do not realize is that, as a result of legislative changes in 1997 and 2003, supported by the National Right to Life Committee, this third alternative is now law. Under the title of "private fee-for-service plans," there is an option in Medicare under which senior citizens can choose health insurance whose value is not limited by what the government may pay toward it. These plans can set premiums and reimbursement rates for providers without upward limits set by government regulation.

This means that such plans will not be forced to ration treatment, as long as senior citizens are willing and able to pay more to choose them. Over 1 million older Americans are now enrolled in private fee-for-service plans, about 2% of all Medicare beneficiaries.

This option means that Medicare can operate in such a way that whatever the government provides serves as the floor, not the ceiling, for what health care senior citizens can get. As government contributions sink, private fee-for-service plans can provide an escape hatch from rationing.

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