

# Lifespan *news*

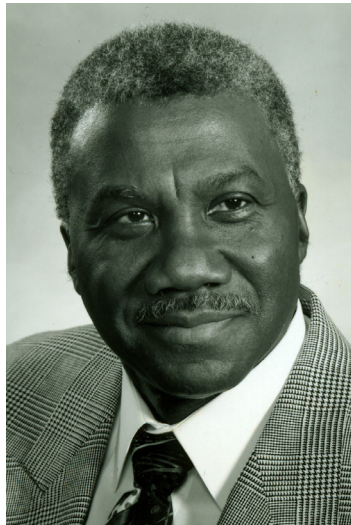
Volume 34 Number 5

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

July/August 2005



## Right to Life - LIFESPAN Pro-Life Breakfast and Legislative Update



*Elder Dr. Levon Yuille  
Pastor, The Bible Church, Ypsilanti*



*Michael Bishop  
Michigan State Senator*

**Saturday, October 29**

**9:00 - 12:00 noon • Registration: 8:30 a.m.**

**Burton Manor**

**Livonia**

**For reservation information, see page 3**

# News Notes

## Drug companies & stem cell research

In April of this year, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that some large corporations such as Becton, Dickinson and Company, Invitrogen Corp. and Johnson and Johnson plan to conduct stem cell research using days old embryos. General Electric Co. and the U.S.-based headquarters of the Swiss drug giant Novartis AG may also begin research programs involving human embryos.

Because embryonic stem cells have yet to produce any treatments or cure any patients, large corporations have mostly stayed away from the stem cell research area.

Other drug companies such as Eli Lilly and Co., GlaxoSmithKline and Baxtor do not use embryonic stem cells. WSJ, Merck and Company purchased some embryonic stem cells, but destroyed them before using them and company policy prohibits its scientists from using them.

## American Cancer Society and human embryonic stem cell research

Are you wondering about the positions of certain organizations or associations with regard to pro-life issues and whether or not you should donate to them? You can e-mail the particular organization and ask specifically or query its websites' search feature for particular issues. Printed below is the American Cancer Society's position on embryonic stem cell research.

*The American Cancer Society has supported, both in its written formal testimony and in oral testimony, the proposed National Institutes for Health (NIH) guidelines for scientific research using human embryonic stem cells. The Society believes that such research holds extraordinary potential in the fight against a variety of life-threatening diseases currently afflicting an estimated 140 million Americans. The American Cancer Society also believes that the Federal government remains the institution best suited to both fund and oversee research using human embryonic stem cells. The Society commends the Administration for allowing this vital scientific research to proceed - even in a limited way. For its part, the Society — with its tightly targeted niche research focus and limited financial research resources — has consistently expressed a willingness to contribute to the exploration of stem cell research by funding investigations into the specific efficacy of human adult stem cells or umbilical cord blood. The American Cancer Society remains hopeful that both the government and commercial sectors will continue to work collaboratively and with an open mind to explore additional solutions that will allow for the continuation of human embryonic stem cell research as necessary and appropriate.*

Contact: Joann Schellenbach, National Director Media Relations, American Cancer Society, 212-382-2169, jschelle@cancer.org

## National Organization of Women & choice

As everyone knows, NOW has been a leader in assuring that every woman has the right to choose. Pro-lifers know

that "the right to choose" is a code word for the right to abortion. According to NOW president Kim Gandy, it appears that the right to choose is not total.

During a three-day meeting held by the Food and Drug Administration to discuss lifting the 13-year-old ban on silicone gel breast implants, groups such as NOW and the Feminist Majority Foundation lined up to demand that the FDA keep the ban. When the panel recommended by a 5-4 vote to continue the ban, Gandy called it a "tremendous victory for women's health." Those women who had testified that they wanted the ban lifted insisted that they should have the "right to choose" what to do with their own bodies. When confronted by a woman insisting that "women need choices," Gandy responded, "Choice? The choice is to be sick."

It would seem that some women's organizations think that the only choice women can make for themselves is the choice to destroy their own child.

## "Yew" gotta wonder!

The following item appeared in a special issue of *Newsweek* magazine, Summer 2005, devoted to "Your Health in the 21st Century."

"The discovery of Taxol (ed note: used in the treatment of breast cancer), derived from the bark of the Pacific Yew tree, set off a debate in the late 1980s. Should we destroy forests to save lives? In the end, scientists found a substance in the stems and needles of the European Yew that could be made into Taxol."

Let's see if we understand this. A debate raged about the ethics of cutting down trees to save human life, but pro-life people are told we are wrong, cruel and unreasonable when we object to the destruction of human embryos for experimentation. It is hard to believe, but it seems that yew trees are held in higher regard than human life when it comes to medical experimentation.

## Lifespan News

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# Right to Life - LIFESPAN

## Pro-Life Breakfast and Legislative Update

Saturday, October 29, 2005

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon      Registration: 8:30 a.m.

### Burton Manor

27777 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan  
(south side of I-96 service drive, between Inkster and Middlebelt)

**Reservations are required by Wednesday, October 19**

**\$18.00 per person (\$7.50 for students 21 or younger)**

**Make check payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN and mail with  
registration form below to: 29200 Vassar St., Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152**

**Special Guest Speaker** Elder Dr. Levon Yuille has been Pastor of The Bible Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan for over thirty years. Along with his work in the ministry, he has been a community activist, which has given him opportunities to work with numerous groups and individuals for the good of society. He is the *National Director, National Black Pro-Life Congress*. This position has allowed him to speak for over a decade around the United States and in three countries in Africa for the cause of the unborn. As *Host of the Radio Talk Show, Joshua's Trail*, he can be heard every Saturday on radio station WDTK 1400 AM Detroit. For many years, he has spoken throughout Michigan to pro-life organizations. Rev. Dr. Yuille has received over forty awards, plaques and letters of recognition, which include being named "*Person of the Year*" by the *Ypsilanti Press*. On two occasions the City of Ypsilanti declared "*Pastor Yuille Day*." He and his wife Sally have been blessed to raise eight children and have twenty grandchildren.

**A Legislative Update** will be given by **State Senator Michael Bishop** who represents the 12th District in the State Senate which includes communities in the Pontiac and Rochester areas. As a lifelong resident of the district he now represents, Senator Bishop has spent a lifetime serving his community. He understands the importance of public service and the need for strong, ethical leadership in government. He was elected to the Michigan Senate after two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives. He was chosen Assistant Majority Leader and Chairman of the Senate Banking and Financial Institutions Committee. When he leaves elected office, Mike wants to be able to say that because of his efforts in government, our families are stronger, our streets are safer, our students are smarter, our roads are better, and most importantly, our government is smaller and less restrictive. Senator Bishop has co-sponsored many pro-life bills in both the House and Senate and has a 100% pro-life voting record. Mike's greatest joy comes from his family, his wife Cristina, and children, Benjamin and Gabriella.

For more information call 248-478-8878 or 734-422-6230

**Yes! I will attend Lifespan's Breakfast and Legislative Update on Saturday, October 29!**

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$18.00 each; \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$7.50 each (students 21 or younger); \$\_\_\_\_\_ total enclosed

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code/Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a complete list of names and addresses for all people for whom you are ordering tickets.



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Addresses

### **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: President@whitehouse.gov

Dear Mr. President:

### **U.S. Senators**

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow)  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-3121

Dear Senator (last name):

### **U.S. Representatives**

The Honorable (first and last name)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-224-3121

Dear Congressman or 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

Dear Senator (last name):

### **Michigan State Representative**

The Honorable (full name)  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909  
517-373-1837

Dear Representative (last name):

### **Infant Protection Compliance**

The Bush administration is planning to check nationwide compliance with a federal law that requires health care professionals to provide proper medical care for newborns who survive botched abortion attempts. Reports have surfaced that some hospitals are not following the law.

In 2002, President Bush signed the Born Alive Infants Protection Act after a Chicago-area nurse discovered staff at her hospital were allowing newborns to die after failed abortions.

In May, 2004, it was reported that babies were being left to die in some Florida hospitals. It was thought that some hospitals may not be aware of the new law, the first pro-life bill approved since the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalized abortions.

In addressing the problem, Mike Leavitt, secretary of HHS said he would "vigorously" uphold the law. "We took the first of these educational steps today by notifying relevant entities that we aggressively enforce federal laws that protect born-alive infants." Leavitt explained, "We issued clear guidance that withholding medical care from an infant born alive may constitute a violation of federal law." Leavitt vowed to "investigate all circumstances where individuals and entities are reported to be withholding medical care from an infant born alive in potential violation of federal statutes."

—*LifeNews.com*, April 25, 2005

### **The Filibuster "Compromise"**

In order to stop the constant and prolonged filibuster of President Bush's judicial nominees, Republicans had threatened to change the number of Senators needed to close a filibuster. (Filibusters are generally reserved for legislative efforts—the judicial filibusters were a way to prevent judicial candidates from receiving the up or down vote required by the constitutional mandate for the U.S. Senate to "advise and consent" to Presidential offerings.)

In order to head off what was considered by some to be a dangerous change to Senate procedure, a compromise was reached.

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) announced the terms. "We have reached an agreement to try to avert a crisis in the United States Senate and pull the institution from a precipice that would have had, in the view of all 14 of us (committee formed to study the issue) lasting impact, damaging impact on the institution."

The compromise averts the change in Senate rules on filibusters in exchange for a promise to not filibuster judicial nominees, except for "extraordinary or extreme circumstances."

As with many compromises, not everyone was pleased with the outcome. President Bush indicated that he expected all candidates to get an up or down vote. "My job is to pick people who will interpret the Constitution, not use the bench from which to write law," he said.

The key objection is that there is no definition for "extraordinary circumstances" or "extreme" candidates. The fear is that those in opposition to the president's philosophy could name any potential high court candidate as "extreme" and institute a filibuster anyway.

Judges William Pryor, Priscilla Owen and Janice Rogers Brown have been, or are expected to be, approved by the entire Senate now that the filibusters against them will be ended.

The next challenge will come when Mr. Bush nominates judges to the Supreme Court.

### **Embryonic Stem Cell Research**

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved two measures concerning taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research. HR 810 (Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005) would require federal taxpayer dollars to be used in such research. HR 810 was introduced by Michael Castle (R-DE). Michigan co-sponsors were

Joe Swartz, Sander Levin, Carolyn Kilpatrick, John Conyers and John Dingell. The measure passed 238-194, with Michigan Representative Fred Upton joining the Michigan co-sponsors in an affirmative vote. The measure was opposed by Michigan Representatives Camp, Ehlers, Hoekstra, Kildee, Knollenberg, McCotter, Miller, Rogers and Stupak. The measure now moves to the senate.

At the same time that HR 810 was introduced, Representative Chris Smith(R-NJ) and Representative Artur Davis (D-GA) introduced HR 2520 (C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program). This measure would create a new federally funded stem cell therapeutic and research program for the collection and inventory of umbilical cord blood. Michigan co-sponsors were John Conyers and Thaddeus McCotter. Such cells are considered adult stem cells and have a proven record of treatments and cures. The measure passed 431-1 with two not voting. The measure now moves to the Senate.

President Bush strongly opposed HR 810 which, he says, "would compel all American taxpayers to pay for research that relies on the intentional destruction of human embryos for the derivation of stem cells." The statement from the White House made it clear that Mr. Bush would veto HR 810 if approved by Congress. On the other hand, the President strongly supports HR 2520.

## Ultrasound Images at Abortion Clinics

In May, State Representative Dave Robertson (R-Dist 51) introduced a measure to the Michigan House of Representatives (HB 4446) which would require abortion businesses to allow women considering an abortion to see ultrasound footage of their unborn child. The measure was co-sponsored by, among others, Representatives Garfield, Palmer, Gosselin, Taub and Pastor.

Governor Granholm and the ACLU oppose the measure as does Planned Parenthood of Michigan. A spokesperson for Planned Parenthood stated that most women do not want to see

ultrasound pictures of their babies. Since no woman would be required to see the ultrasound image, this objection does not seem terribly serious.

A poll, commissioned by CareNet and conducted by The Polling Company, found that, of 802 registered women voters, 87% said that it is important for non-profit women's health centers to provide ultrasound services.

The measure now moves to the Michigan Senate.

## President Bush and the Abortion Rate

In an opinion piece found in the web and e-mail publication of *Sojourners*, a Christian magazine, in October, 2004, Glen Harold Stassen, an ethics professor at Fuller Theological Seminary claimed that the incidence of abortion had climbed during the presidency of George W. Bush. In the article he stated, "Under President Bush, the decade long trend of declining abortion rates appears to have reversed." "Given the trends of the 1990s, 52,000 more abortions occurred in the United States than would have been expected before this change of direction."

Politicians such as Hillary Clinton, Howard Dean and John Kerry quoted the Stassen article at length, sometimes indicating that there had been a 25% increase in abortions under President Bush.

Now comes a study by The Alan Guttmacher Institute (the research arm of Planned Parenthood) of 43 states that show that abortions have actually decreased under President G. W. Bush. It was determined that Stassen used incorrect data, included only 16 states in his research and did not allow for the fact that two of those states had recently changed their reporting methods, causing a statistical increase and even used the birth rate instead of the abortion rate in one state.

Though rebutted by pro-life advocates days after its release, the Stassen article was widely quoted, even appearing in the Letters to the Editor of the *Michigan Catholic*. Now Mr. Stassen concedes that the Guttmacher study, "is significantly better" than his own.

There has been no comment on the Guttmacher findings by those who quoted the original Stassen analysis.

## Senate Committee Hearing on Abortion Previews Supreme Court Battle

In light of a potential battle over a possible nominee to the Supreme Court, a Senate panel held hearings on June 23 on the effect of one of the high court's most contentious decisions—*Roe v. Wade*. The former Roe in the case testified on abortion's effect. Norma McCorvey, the former Jane Roe of the infamous case that legalized abortion, became pro-life years ago. She shared that story and the tale of pro-abortion attorneys who used her plight to overturn pro-life laws. McCorvey was a single mother with drug and alcohol abuse problems who found herself pregnant again. She wanted a divorce, not an abortion, but Texas attorney Sarah Weddington chose to use her case to junk a state law prohibiting most abortions. "Instead of getting me financial or vocational help, instead of helping me to get off drugs and alcohol, instead of working for open adoption or giving me other help, my lawyers wanted to eliminate the right of society to protect women and children from abortionists," McCorvey said. Now a pro-life advocate who has tried to have the courts overturn the original case, McCorvey told her story to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would be the first battleground in any fight over a Supreme Court pick. That battle could begin as early as the week of July 3, when Washington insiders say Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who was one of two judges dissenting in the *Roe* case, plans to retire. —*LifeNews.com*, June 27, 2005

### Informative Websites

[www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

National Right to Life's site provides the latest information on pro-life issues in Congress.

[michiganvotes.org](http://michiganvotes.org)

For the most up-to-date information on Michigan legislation regarding abortion or any pro-life issue, visit [michiganvotes.org](http://michiganvotes.org).



## detroit

17336 Harper PMB 293, Detroit, MI 48224-1980  
Phone 313-640-8534 • Fax (same as phone)  
Office Hours: MW 10-2; TThF Closed  
Mary Cascos, Office Manager

### State fair volunteers needed

Lifespan will again be at the Michigan State Fair and will need volunteers to work the booth. Your admission is free, and if you are a new volunteer, you will be placed with an experienced veteran.

We need two volunteers for each four-hour shift. Why not sign up with a friend? Besides having a great time exploring the Fair before or after your shift, you will feel wonderful knowing you helped spread the pro-life message to the thousands who walk by our booth.

Detroit needs volunteers for August 15 and 16. The shift times are: 9:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 1:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Call today to get the shift you desire 313-640-8534.

## livingston

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

### Life Chain participation

Life Chain will be held this year on October 2nd from 2:00 - 3:30. We will have four locations in Livingston County where you are invited to stand in silent prayer and be a witness to life—Pinckney, Fowlerville, Brighton and Howell. See page 9 for more information and/or call us with any questions.

### Father's Day tribute

We like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting our Father's Day Life-saver Sucker sale. It was a resounding success and a wonderful opportunity to say "Thanks!" to Dad for Life. Thank you, once again, for your continued support.

### Thanks, Knights of Columbus!

We'd also like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to the Knights of Colum-

### 2005 Entertainment Books

The new 2006 Entertainment Books will be in the office the middle of August. Order a book for yourself, your relatives and friends for just \$25, and, if you order a 2006 Book now, you will get a free 2005 book that you can use until November. They make great gifts, and at the same time you will be helping the Detroit Office in its efforts to spread the pro-life message in Detroit. Talk to your church members, your clubs, your choir and friends. Call the office today to reserve your book 313-640-8534.

### Message from God

"When God wants an important thing in this world or a wrong righted, He goes about it in a very singular way. He doesn't release His thunderbolts or stir up His earthquakes. He simply has a tiny baby born, perhaps in a very humble home, perhaps of a very humble mother. He puts the idea into the mother's heart and puts it into the baby's mind then...God waits. The greatest events are babies, for each child comes with a message that God is not yet discouraged with man, but is still expecting goodwill to become incarnate in each human life." (Edward McDonald) *(Special note: I became a grandma for the first time this year! What a special joy to hold the next generation in my loving arms and to know that God continues to bless us with His special gift of LIFE.)*

bus Council at St. John's in Hartland who made a very generous donation to Lifespan. These funds will go a long way towards the purchase of materials for the purposes of educating our community on all the life issues. We look forward to continue working together with the Knights of Columbus in defending life.

### Memorial planned

Pro-life organizations of Livingston County are planning a memorial on behalf of the unborn immediately following the Life Chain on October 2nd.

It is currently in the planning stages right now. However, if you're interested in helping to plan this event or are just interested in joining us in remembering our unborn children, please contact our office for further details.

### Black Family Festival

Lifespan will have a booth at the Black Family Festival at Cobo Hall on October 8. Watch for details in the next issue of *Lifespan News*.



**Pray to Stop Abortion!**

## oakland/macomb

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G, Troy, MI 48084-3540  
Phone 248-816-1546 • Fax 248-816-9066  
e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org  
Summer Office Hours: MWF 9-12; TTh 8-3:30  
Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.  
Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff

### Fair fun

We are still looking for a few smiling faces to help staff our educational tables at the 4-H fair in Davisburg and the State Fair. Along with getting to eat elephant ears and corn dogs, this provides an opportunity to share the pro-life message. We always pair a newcomer with a veteran. High school-age students are a welcome asset to our tables, and we welcome your participation. The friendliness of the people who visit our tables is always amazing, and this is a volunteer opportunity suitable for the whole family. Call the office for available shifts.

### Entertainment excitement

Take advantage of Entertainment's 2 for 1 offer. If you order a 2006 book now, you will receive a current 2005 book that is good until November. You can visit all your favorite restaurants and businesses again and use the

## 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.

### Reminder: 23rd annual "Bowling for Life"

Don't get left out of the fun! Join other proliferers on **Sunday, July 24th, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**, at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Rd., Livonia. BOWL 3 GAMES FREE with your sponsored pledge sheet and help Lifespan financially. Get your family or church members to make up a team or come alone—no one is a stranger in a pro-life crowd.

We've added bumper bowling for children. The prizes for most money collected, high game and high series are great! Everyone has a good time; it's a good cause and everyone gets a free gift certificate donated by area merchants. Call 734-422-6230 for complete details and pledge sheets.

### State Fair

Volunteers are needed to work at our pro-life educational booth at the Michigan State Fair. The WW/DR shift is August 10 - August 14. If you have not done this before, you will be paired with an experienced worker.

Our presence is important because many people only know what they see or hear from the media regarding

money-off coupons you have enjoyed since last November! Call and order yours today—remember, they make great gifts!

### Christmas in July

Christmas in July used to be the name of a perfume, and now it is a reminder that we have selected and ordered our 2005 Christmas cards. If you will be offering them to your faith community, now is the time to arrange the date and get your order into the office. As usual, the cards are beautiful and send a pro-life Christmas message. Call us.

### Good games

On the back of this newsletter is information about the Youth Night on August 13. **YOUNG PEOPLE:** Are you ready to have a challenging yet fun night of participating in either the Jeopardy Games or Spelling Bee Contests? You'll be surprised and delighted at some neat twists that have been developed into both activities. The excitement is building as the time draws closer. We are happy to report that there is a good mix of "seasoned" youth who played last year and also newcomers. Sign up today!

### Simple suggestions

The following was found on the instruction label of the product: On a frozen dinner, "Serving suggestion: Defrost." That's almost as obvious as "Choose Life!!"

abortion and euthanasia, and many churches do not address these issues either. At the fair, we have the opportunity to share the realities of these Life issues and suggest legislative action. Our fetal models are a big hit with the youngsters who are sometimes learning their first biology lesson at our booth. Fairs are FUN and ENLIGHTENING—you won't be disappointed! Call 734-422-6230.

### Life Chain

This year the Life Chain will be on Middlebelt Rd. from Jamison to Six Mile Rd., NOT Seven Mile Rd. as in previous years because we want a continuous human chain without gaps. The second chain will be at the intersection of Wayne and Warren Roads. The third chain will be in front of the Antioch Baptist Church at 6538 Rawsonville Rd. (1 1/2 miles south of I-94) in Belleville. All the churches in surrounding cities are invited to participate.

It's going to take a lot of proliferers to cover these areas. If your church is not participating in a Life Chain, ask your pastor to support this pro-life effort and become a part of this national event. When pastors become actively involved, usually their congregations are eager to join them.

If your church has not received a registration form, call the Lifespan Main Office at 248-478-8878. See page 9.

### 2006 Entertainment Book presale

Order and pay for a 2006 Entertainment Book now for the reduced price of just \$25, and receive a FREE 2005 Book which can be used until November 1. Call 734-422-6230.

## Do not push gently into that good night

By Rosie DiManno

I have spent most of the past three weeks inside a hospital room, watching a person I love fight for his life.

It is in this frame of mind—raging helplessly against the ever-mutating cleverness of disease, how hungrily and with such stealth malignancy hovers, circles, teases, even retreats just long enough to kindle hope—that I come, with outrage, to the reignited debate of assisted suicide.

Torn from the current headlines, it's a trendy issue. But morally hollow. So profoundly abominable that it provokes in me a fury I can barely control.

Death is never a mercy. To characterize death as merciful is to invest it with nearly altruistic qualities, with tenderness, which is a kind of anthropomorphizing, as if death has a personality and we can alter its features, render it more kindly, make of it even a friend.

Merciful death—it was for the best...at least he's not suffering any more—is but a shallow platitude, seized upon most eagerly by those who cannot otherwise admit their own relief in being released from the exhausting burden, emotional and otherwise but essentially vicarious, of illness and infirmities and frailty; of how awful life looks, wasting and desiccated and necrotic, when it's trickling away.

This is, I think, the unbearable heaviness of being.

Of growing old and feeble, or not even so old but terribly sick, losing one's faculties, one's mobility, one's mind—reverting, yes, to the helplessness of infancy. But it is inevitably the healthy who recoil from this, as if even death were a preferable alternative to such dependency and deterioration.

We project our revulsion—which is essentially rooted in fear of our own mortality—and convince ourselves that somebody else would be better off dead because look, just look, at how wretched their existence has become or will become. And that says a great deal about the value that we subtract from a life when it is no longer vigorous and productive; when it just lies there, maybe thinking, maybe dreaming, maybe remembering.

Little wonder that the sick and dying begin to see themselves as valueless, too, abhorrent, ashamed, unworthy because they can no longer walk or talk or feed themselves.

It is precisely the lame, the enfeebled and the despondent who most need our protection, our gentling, to assuage their pain and respect the essence of their being. This essence is not held hostage to the ravages of the flesh.

A mother who helps a son take his own life—as that misguided woman in Montreal last week, her son just 36 and only in the early stage of multiple sclerosis, is charged with doing—has, if she did it, committed both a crime and a grievous sin. Suicide is the murder of self. Assisted suicide is just plain murder, however some might rationalize it as a supreme act of compassion.

It takes gall—or guile—to call what this woman did selfless love.

She must not be absolved for it, out of mercy.

There's an immense difference between declining to apply extraordinary life-extending measures—respecting do-not-resuscitate orders—and intervening not merely to hasten death but to inflict it. Abetting suicide in the irreversibly ill or

the utterly incapacitated is not a kindness; it's an abuse of power.

This young Montreal man was not incapacitated, although he was surely depressed, and chronic depression crushes reason. He had an illness that couldn't be cured, that would assuredly get worse. But he wasn't in insupportable physical pain and he could have lived a productive life—one that contained pleasure and curiosity and wisdom—for decades, with MS, as have hundreds of thousands of other Canadians.

What he needed was a professional to treat the sadness and fatalism that had settled in his bones. The last thing he needed was a mother in emotional thrall to his deranged thinking or seduced by his need to bail prematurely from an envisioned existence he could not, in that agitated state of mind, bear to contemplate.

Don't speak to me about opinion polls that show most Canadians favour a legal option for helping someone to die. This is not a question that can be posed in the abstract, and then answered in the affirmative by those not immediately or imminently facing that acute, bewildering, agonizing dilemma. The young and the healthy are in no position, certainly shouldn't be, to tilt the debate on the depth of their beautiful, enviable ignorance. More illuminating, more intuitively informed, are the views of physicians and palliative care professionals and those involved with disabled people's organizations who are, in the main, strongly opposed to both euthanasia and assisted suicide.

Do not harm is the core code of doctors. That is the antithesis of beckoning death.

It is not in our nature to truly imagine ourselves, or those we love, at the fraying end of the mortal coil. We're only pretending, and the real thing isn't like pretending at all. We might think we know what we'd want for ourselves or for those we care about, but believe me, we do not. I've seen enough of dying—in all its grotesque manifestations and most especially in those who never saw it coming—to have learned that nobody, no mentally lucid human being, is ever eager to depart this world.

It is indeed different for those who aren't lucid, for those in unspeakable pain, and those so intractably depressed that life doesn't seem worth living. But physical pain can nearly also be effectively managed, in this advanced society, and those unable to think clearly should not be making this most irreversible of all decisions for themselves.

Killing the terminally ill or the dreadfully enfeebled must never become the expedient thing to do, dressed up as pity. It must not be legislatively condoned, even that we know full well that it happens in furtive ways, sometimes with physicians involved. There are occasions when it's better to leave some things unexamined.

The moment we condone murder—assisted suicide—even for those just tenuously still attached to life, we set ourselves upon a wicked path, one where the worth of a person is measured empirically. Assisted suicide begets euthanasia and a society that makes intellectual peace with euthanasia is one that puts at risk every human being in it, but most especially the constituency of the vulnerable: The grievously ill, the chronically ill, the mentally ill, the unproductive, the economically draining, the recidivist, the subversive. Maybe you, maybe me.

*continued on page 10*





# LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 2, 2005

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

- ☆ Woodward, from 11 to 12 Mile Rds.—Berkley, Royal Oak
- ☆ Lapeer Rd., at Indianwood—Lake Orion
- ☆ M-24 (Main St.) & M-21—Lapeer
- ☆ Gratiot, from 15 to 16 Mile Rds.—Mt. Clemens
- ☆ Gratiot, at 6 Mile Rd—Detroit
- ☆ Intersection at Wayne and Warren Rds.—Westland
- ☆ Middlebelt, from Jamison (2 blks. south of 5 Mile Rd.) to 6 Mile Rd.—Livonia
- ☆ Michigan Ave. & Grand River to Fowler—Howell
- ☆ Grand River, from Ann to East—downtown Fowlerville
- ☆ Grand River & Main to Hacker—Brighton
- ☆ M-36 & Dexter/Pinckney Rds.—Pinckney
- ☆ 6538 Rawsonville Rd., (1-1/2 miles south of I-94)—Belleville
- ☆ Pontiac Trail, btwn Maple & Walled Lake Dr.—Walled Lake
- ☆ 620 General Motors Rd., btwn S. Milford Rd. & Main St.—Milford

Thousands of participants will stand in the 16th annual LIFE CHAIN in witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs we hold deliver the messages that **Abortion Kills Children, Adoption is the Loving Option, Abortion Hurts Women, Pray to End Abortion and Life, the First Inalienable Right.** Will YOU stand with us on October 2? Gather your family, friends, neighbors and fellow church members to join LIFE CHAIN. Call **248-478-8878**.

Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN



and



WUFL/1030 AM

## Student Essay Contest

### ELIGIBILITY:

Any student in grades 9-12, in public, private or home school, who resides in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb or Livingston Counties, is eligible for the contest except for students in the immediate family of a board member of Right to Life - LIFESPAN.

### RULES:

1. The topic of the pro-life essay entry must feature one or more aspects of abortion, infanticide or euthanasia. The essay must be titled.
2. The essay shall be a minimum of 500 words, a maximum of 1000 words. No poems will be accepted.
3. The essay should be typed, but may be legibly handwritten.
4. Each entry must be the student's original work. One entry per student.
5. On the BACK only of the last page of the essay, the student must PRINT neatly his/her name, address, phone number, age and grade, name of school, plus the names of his/her parents or guardian.
6. Each entry becomes the property of Right to Life - LIFESPAN, and each student who enters the contest assigns copyright for the entry to Right to Life - LIFESPAN.
7. The essay shall be judged on content and style.
8. All entries shall be considered by impartial judges selected with experience in the content. Judges reserve the right to award no prize winner if no entry is deemed meritorious of the prize.
9. Decisions of the judges shall be final.
10. All entries must be received by noon, Wednesday, November 2, 2005, and mailed or delivered to: Student Essay Contest 2005, Right to Life - LIFESPAN, 29200 Vassar St., Suite 545, Livonia, MI 48152.

### PRIZES:

- First: \$1000 Savings Bond
- Second: \$400 Savings Bond
- Third: \$200 Savings Bond

Prizes will be awarded at the Rally for Life, January, 2006. The first-prize winner shall also be invited to read the winning essay at the Rally, and the winning entry shall be printed in *Lifespan News*. Call Lifespan's Main Office **248-478-8878**.

## LIFEsaver Packs

Do you have a son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild, sister, brother, cousin or friend who would like to receive our very special LIFEsaver Pack? It is a super gift idea for a birthday, graduation, confirmation, reward for good grades, to say thank you or just because! This pro-life gift pack is designed for junior and senior high school students as well as college students. It includes:

- A pro-life t-shirt
- Pen
- Blue silicone bracelet that proclaims "PROLIFE"
- Flexible 12" ruler that shows the accurate development of a baby in inch increments
- "Abortion is Mean" button
- "Precious Feet" pin
- Wall poster, stickers and postcard
- Chastity bookmark and a pro-life bookmark that reads, "Take My Hand, Not My Life"
- Lifesaver candy (a reminder that life is sweet and should be savored)
- Educational materials (age appropriate)
- Lifespan newsletter

Please contact the Right to Life - LIFESPAN Oakland / Macomb Chapter, **248-816-1546**. A \$10 donation is asked for each LIFEsaver Pack to cover the cost of contents and shipping.

*Thanks for supporting the young people as they courageously stand up to defend the sanctity of human LIFE in today's culture!!*

## Happy Mother's Day?

On its website, NOW featured a bracelet for Mother's Day. The ad read, "7-inch link bracelet with 'Keep Abortion Legal' round charm and lobster closure." Silverstone finish over solid brass, packaged in drawstring pouch." Its price is listed as \$11.95. Apparently, NOW does not think that some people might have difficulty equating "Happy Mother's Day" with abortion.

*Right to Life - LIFESPAN is offering a blue silicone bracelet, packaged in a clear plastic bag, for \$1.00. Call 248-816-1546; 734-422-6230; 313-640-8534 or 810-220-LIFE.*

## Do not push gently into that good night

*continued from page 8*

I put my hand to my father's cheek—but only when he's sleeping because we are not a family that touches—and I feel the warmth of a living person. I feel a heart beating for all the damage that's been done to it. Not even the stench of gangrene assaulting my nostrils can occlude the sweetness of life still being lived. I am so pitifully grateful for every day, for every minute, for every breath.

It's the sadness that must be borne. Sadness and anger and impotence and fatalism—all the emotions that combine to plant in a person's mind the seductive belief that it's better to rush toward death in one final damn-you rebel yell, an assertion of individual will. As if to say, I am the master of my fate.

None of us is. And none of us will make it out alive.

—Toronto Star, October 4, 2004

*Reprinted with permission — Torstar Syndication Services  
Rosie DiManno is a columnist for the Toronto Star*

## "Throw Away" People

*Dedicated to Terri Schiavo and helpless people like her  
Oh bitter pangs of sorrow!*

What's become of all I've known?

What's happened to our world?

In what direction have we grown?

We feel we are advancing

Yet I see another trend,

For life's no longer sacred.

That's the message we now send.

If the world sees you as "perfect"

You're allowed to have a voice,

But if, sadly, you are helpless

You're not heard not given choice.

Achieving earthly pleasures

Has become our only goal,

Yet in striving for this end

We have betrayed our very soul.

But the world sees not as God does.

This our actions have displayed.

For, to Him, no one's unwanted

And they're never thrown away.

God sees inside each person

Whether challenged, born or old.

He knows each life has value

Just as I had once been told.

He'll receive each soul discarded

That He wanted to see live,

And then give them all the love

That we on earth had failed to give.

Safe within His arms

Their pain shall finally cease to be.

Only joy and love they'll feel

As they begin eternity.

So for us still here on earth

God sends this message that is true.

Treat every person you will know

The way you'd want them to treat you.

—Kathy Sabol; Lifespan Oakland/Macomb member

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

As we enjoy the beautiful days of summer, let us not forget the constant assault on human life. Summer is a time to deviate from the norm of daily living and set aside time to relax the body and mind. It is the time to contemplate the months ahead and plan for a productive future. This is what we do at Lifespan. We still have activities, but we are not quite as busy as during the winter months, allowing us to plan for the future. We must, and do, take time out to relax with our families and enjoy God's wonderful world, but we all must never stop working on changing hearts and minds. This can be done in so many simple ways—put a bumper sticker on your car or leave a Lifespan brochure or other pro-life literature at your doctor's office, beauty shop, grocery store, auto shop, etc. Give our brochure to friends and family members. Most importantly, say a prayer for the success of the pro-life movement. Have a wonderful, peaceful and blessed summer.

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

**Carl Cook**

Given by: Joanne Burgess  
Daisy and Francis Kisosondi  
Blanche and Harold Fiebelkorn  
Marilyn McCardle  
Martin Carter  
Mary and Joseph Kelty  
Joann Seidel  
Laura and Robert Cloutier  
Stan and Sharon Polkowski  
Celia Adams  
Jeffrey and Christine Briggs  
Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Schimanski  
Donald and Audrey Upward

**John W. Vincent, M. D.**

Given by: Jerry and Anne Vincent

**Fonnie McCall**

**Chris Thomas**

Given by: Larrie and Tanice Fox

**Judy Iskra**

**Liz Collins**

Given by: Pat and Bob Holscher

**Bill Boylan**

Given by: Tom and Katie O'Reilly

**Norbert J. Veit, Sr.**

Given by: Raymond J. Veit Family  
Tracy and Mike White  
The Boguslawski Family  
Koziara Family  
Pat and Bob Holscher

Wayne West/Downriver Board of Directors and Friends

**In honor of the Graduation from  
Lutheran High West of:**

**Sarah Sapienza**

Given by: Beckie Mitchell

**In honor of the 50th Wedding  
Anniversary of:**

**Don and Audrey Convery**

Given by: Maureen McClorey

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.

**Calendar of Events**

July 13 ..... Registration Deadline  
Youth Jeopardy Game/Spelling Contest, back page  
July 24 ..... Bowling for LIFE, p. 7  
July 26-31 ..... 4H Fair, p. 7  
August 10-21 ..... Michigan State Fair, p. 6, 7  
August 13 .. Youth Jeopardy Game/Spelling Bee, back page  
August 15 .. Deadline for Bowling for Life pledges  
Sept. 15-18 ..... Troy Daze Fair  
October 2 ..... LIFE CHAIN, p. 9  
October 8 ..... Black Family Festival  
October 29 ..... Lifespan Breakfast, front page, p. 3

**Coming Soon!**

Watch *Lifespan News* for information on an upcoming "Making Abortion Unthinkable" Seminar to be held in Walled Lake. Time and specific location are yet to be determined.

**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 \$ 20.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Student/Senior Member \$ 10.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# ATTENTION: Young People ages 12 - 18 years old



The Pro-Life Youth Jeopardy Game  
will be back again in August,  
and will be even better than last year!!!

We have added a Pro-Life Spelling Bee Contest to the evening!!!

*Come, join us as a Participant!*

Saturday evening, August 13th from 5:30 - 10:00 p.m.  
at the Auburn Hills Christian Center, located at 2592 East Walton Boulevard  
(East of Opdyke, west of Squirrel)

All Participants must submit a registration form with their entrance fee to the  
Oakland/Macomb Chapter office by Wednesday, July 13th.

The entrance fee for Participants is \$10.00. All others who attend as part of the audience will pay \$5.00.  
Children 5 years old and under are free. The maximum charge per family is \$45.00.

Pro-Life t-shirts will be given to all Participants to wear that evening and  
special prizes will be given to all winners of the Jeopardy Games and Spelling Bee Contests.

All Participants will be mailed study materials and game/contest rules after July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Pizza, pop, munchies, desserts and beverages will be provided.

Call 248-816-1546 to get a registration form mailed to you and to find out further information about the evening.  
You'll need to specify on the form if you want to participate in the Jeopardy Game or the Spelling Bee.



Sponsored by Right to Life-LIFESPAN, Oakland/Macomb Chapter • In cooperation with Educational Center for Life



**Right to Life - LIFESPAN**  
Wayne West/Downriver Chapter  
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