

Lifespan *news*

Volume 45 Number 6

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

August 2016



Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Pro-Life Luncheon

Protect Yourself & Your Loved Ones!

Saturday, October 22, 2016



FEATURED SPEAKER: Jason Negri.
Jason is a practicing attorney and the Assistant Director for the International Task Force on Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide.

We are all only Temporarily Able-Bodied/Able-Minded; at any time, we could have an accident, stroke, or other medical issue that would make it impossible to advocate for our own healthcare. *This can happen at any age to any person.*

Attend this luncheon to gain information and resources that will help you protect yourself and your loved ones in this age when euthanasia and assisted suicide are being forced on society at an alarming rate.



See page 3 for registration details...

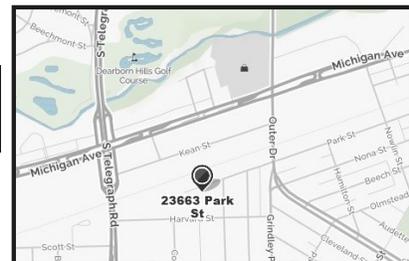
**For information, please
call: 734.422.6230**

**Registration at 10:30 AM
Program begins at 11:00 AM**

Want to sit with specific people?

Send in your registration forms together or list out the names below.
We will do our best to accommodate seating requests! Table = maximum of 8.

O'Kelly Banquet Hall
23663 Park St
Dearborn, MI 48124

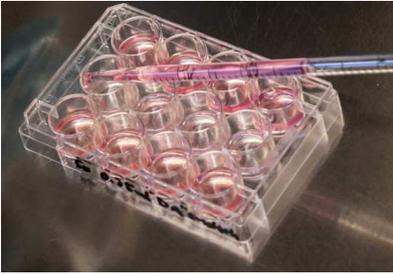


News and Notes

Major embryonic stem cell biotech company going out of business

By Lisa Bourne

A California biotech company specializing in the use of fetal stem cells for research is going out of business.



StemCells, Inc. will cease operations, *Reuters* reports, in the wake of the company terminating a mid-stage test of its spinal cord injury therapy, and six months after it had said the therapy was showing promising results.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved StemCells, Inc.'s research using fetal brain tissue to treat macular degeneration in 2012, with the fetal brain tissue coming from miscarried or aborted children.

The biotech's press release on the FDA authorization at the time referred to its proprietary product in the trial, HuCNS-SC, as "purified human neural stem cells." However, the description of the HuCNS-SC as "fresh human fetal brain tissue," available at the time elsewhere on the StemCells, Inc. website, has since been removed.

StemCells, Inc.'s focus remained on its HuCNS-SC for research on spinal cord injury, retinal disorders and neurodegenerative diseases.

The company opted to end the spinal cord study after an in-depth review of data from the study and getting "concurrence" from the study's Interim Analysis Data Monitoring Committee, with analysts saying "a tough market environment and long clinical path ahead drove a financial/clinical failure."

"In light of the decision to terminate the Pathway Study, the company's available strategic alternatives and its current cash position, the board of directors approved a plan to wind down the company," its announcement on terminating the study and ceasing operations stated. "As part of this process, the company will evaluate opportunities to monetize its intellectual property, including data collected in its studies and trade secrets, as well as the transfer of its proprietary HuCNS-SC cells and other assets through a potential sale."

StemCells, Inc. said it will lay off its 50 employees and record a one-time charge of approximately \$1.25 million in the third quarter ending September 30. The company's stock plunged 85 percent with the announcement.

The controversial concept of fetal tissue research has received renewed attention in light of the Planned Parenthood fetal tissue trafficking scandal.

—*LifeSiteNews.com*, July 6, 2016

Pro-Life advocate demolishes abortion in United Nations speech: "Every human being has a Right to Life!"

By Bill Poehler

Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life's Global Outreach program (MCCLGO) addressed a session of the United Nation's Human Rights Council in Geneva. Mary Langlois, representing the organization, made the case that legalized abortion is not necessary to ensure women's health and is not required under international law.

The Human Rights Council, an inter-governmental U.N. body founded to promote and protect human rights worldwide, is holding its 32nd session this month. Langlois presented an oral statement during a meeting considering the issue of discrimination against women.



A Working Group report on the subject has called for the legalization of abortion around the globe, even condemning so-called "barriers to access" such as waiting periods prior to abortion.

"Legalized abortion is not required by the right to health. Maternal health depends on the quality of medical care, not on the legal status or availability of abortion," Langlois said. "We can save women's lives in the developing world by ensuring proper care before, during and after childbirth, including adequate nutrition, prenatal care, skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care, clean water and sanitation."

MCCLGO noted that there is no right to abortion under international law. On the contrary, said Langlois, various international human rights instruments—such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child—"provide support for the equal protection of human beings at all developmental stages and in all conditions, which should include human beings *in utero*."

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states, "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life." The Declaration of the Rights of the Child affirms that "the child...needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth."

Langlois concluded her statement by urging the Human Rights Council "to recognize that abortion is not required by international law, and to respect the sovereignty of countries to determine their own abortion policies."

LifeNews.com, July 21, 2016

**Where do the candidates stand on pro-life issues?
Watch for LIFESPAN's September/October newsletter.**

Bigot Peter Singer: Don't pay to treat disabled babies

Peter Singer is a bigot. Rather than believing in universal human equality, he would invidiously measure the capacities of human beings to determine whether they are "persons." Those with insufficient capacities, are to be deemed human "non-persons," are to be viewed of lesser moral value, and hence, potentially subject to both killing and objectification for harvesting, medical experimentation, etc.

He also supports health care rationing based on quality of life. This blatant medical discrimination would victimize babies born with severe disabilities—whose care, Singer argues, should not be paid by national health insurance schemes.

The National Council on Disability is not amused.

From its press release: On Sunday, April 16, contentious Princeton Professor Peter Singer, once again argued that it is "reasonable" for the government or private insurance companies to deny treatment to infants with disabilities. Singer's remarks were made on "Aaron Klein Investigative Radio," which is broadcast on New York's AM 970 and Philadelphia 990 AM.

In the interview, which was perhaps ironically conducted as part of a press tour Singer is currently on promoting his new book about charities, "The Most Good You Can Do: How Effective Altruism Is Changing Ideas About Living Ethically," the professor advocated the shocking claim that health care laws like the Affordable Care Act should be more overt about rationing and that we should acknowledge the necessity of "intentionally ending the lives of severely disabled infants."

"Mr. Charity" then makes an uncharitable utilitarian assertion:

Without offering any concrete measure on how quality of life could or should be determined, Singer admitted, "I don't want my health insurance premiums to be higher so that infants who can experience zero quality of life can have expensive treatments."

The NDC makes a point about Singer that is also lost to the media slavishly pushing assisted suicide/euthanasia, which also threatens the lives and bodily integrity of people with disabilities:

Increasingly, negative predictions of quality of life have little to do with the actual life experiences of people with disabilities. People with disabilities commonly report more satisfaction with their lives than others might expect.

Though it might surprise Singer and those with limited imaginations, even people with disabilities who encounter obstacles, prejudice, and discrimination, derive satisfaction and pleasure from their lives.

Singer is something of the ethicist in chief for such liberal organs as the *New York Times* and leftist columnists like Nicholas Kristof. That says a lot about liberal thinking, it seems to me.

The Left talks a good game of equality, but when it comes to people with disabilities (among other categories of human life), they don't really mean it. Indeed, when they support Peter Singer, they validate invidious quality-of-life bigotry.

—*The Pulse Bioethics, National Review.com, May 11, 2015*

Saturday, October 22, 2016 Pro-Life Luncheon Registration Information and Form

Registration at 10:30 AM
Program begins at 11:00 AM

O'Kelly Banquet Hall
23663 Park St
Dearborn, MI 48124

Want to sit with specific people?

Send in your registration forms together or list out the names below.
We will do our best to accommodate seating requests! Table = maximum of 8.

YES! I want to attend LIFESPAN's Pro-Life Luncheon! Reservations required by **Friday, October 14th**. *ALL tickets will be held at the door.*

____ Tickets @ \$25 each (Current LIFESPAN Members)

____ Tickets @ \$30 each (Non-Members, *Free One Year LIFESPAN Membership Included!*)

____ Tickets @ \$15 each (students 21 or younger)

**Make checks payable to: *Right to Life-LIFESPAN* and send to:
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Suite 210, Livonia, MI 48150**

____ I am unable to attend, but please use this donation of \$_____ to help LIFESPAN in its work.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

If you would like to sit with anyone specific, please send in your registration forms together or list names here; tables seat maximum of 8 people (we will do our best to accommodate seating requests): _____

Photos/video may be taken at this event by LIFESPAN and may be used by us on the web, in publications and/or other media.
If you would prefer that your image not be included, please contact the Main Office: 734.524.0162

Editor's note: The role of the United States Supreme Court, and its justices, is to examine laws and determine their constitutionality. Theoretically, the justices are not to be swayed by political interests. Looks like that idea is lost on Justice Ginsburg.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Promotes Abortion: "No Law Should Deny a Woman Her Right to Choose"



Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has become a favorite figure among abortion activists because she does not shy away from pro-abortion politics.

Ginsburg gave a rare interview to the *New York Times* recently and talked about her pro-abortion position and the presidential race. She was one of the five justices who sided with abortion activists in the recent decision *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, which struck down Texas abortion clinic regulations.

At the end of June, the Supreme Court reversed part of the pro-life Texas law that protected women's health, saved the lives of thousands of unborn children and closed abortion clinics that could not ensure adequate health and safety protections for women. At issue in the ruling were two provisions: that abortion clinics meet the same building standards as ambulatory surgical centers and that abortionists have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital for situations of medical emergencies.

Ginsburg and four other justices ruled that these safety regulations were an "undue burden" on women's access to abortion. Justice Anthony Kennedy, a swing vote on abortion decisions, sided with the pro-abortion justices in the case.

Ginsburg described Kennedy as "the great hero of this term" because of his vote on the Texas case. She said laws should not deny a woman "her right to choose" abortion. She told the *New York Times*:

Asked if she had been pleased and surprised by Justice Kennedy's vote in the Texas case, Justice Ginsburg respond-

ed: "Of course I was pleased, but not entirely surprised. I know abortion cases are very hard for him, but he was part of the troika in *Casey*."

Justice Breyer wrote the methodical majority opinion in the Texas case, and Justice Ginsburg added only a brief, sharp concurrence.

"I wanted to highlight the point that it was perverse to portray this as protecting women's health," she said of the challenged requirements. "Desperate women then would be driven to unsafe abortions."

The decision itself, she said, had a message that transcended the particular restrictions before the court.

"It says: 'No laws that are meant to deny a woman her right to choose,'" she said.

Ginsburg also appeared to imply that Justice Antonin Scalia's death was a boon for the high court's liberal policies.

"Think what would have happened had Justice Scalia remained with us," she said.

In a bold, political move for a U.S. Supreme Court justice, Ginsburg also openly criticized presidential candidate Donald Trump, who says he is pro-life. High court justices tend to avoid talking about politics in public because it could lead to the appearance of bias in their decisions.

Ginsburg, however, had no qualms about criticizing Trump and the power he would have as the next president to nominate justices to the Supreme Court.

"I can't imagine what this place would be—I can't imagine what the country would be—with Donald Trump as our president," Ginsburg said. "For the country, it could be four years. For the court, it could be—I don't even want to contemplate that."

—*New York Times*, July 10, 2016

Editor's note: Justice Ginsburg later said that she regretted her statement and should have not said it. Just as one cannot "un-ring a bell," this glimpse into her judicial temperament cannot be ignored.

Personally Opposed, But...

If someone tells you they are personally opposed to abortion but..., ask them why they are opposed. Likely, you will get some vague and not particularly responsive reply. It is like saying I am personally opposed to rape, or child abuse, or human trafficking, but I won't stop someone else from raping, murdering or trafficking. Such a philosophy simply makes no sense.

Lifespan News

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Co-editors: Marge Bradley, Diane Trombley

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email: mainoffice@rtl-lifespan.org

website: www.miLIFESPAN.org



Right to Life – LIFESPAN

2017 “MOVEMENT IN MOTION” Youth Bus Trip to Washington, DC for the Annual March for Life



**Depart evening of January 26th
Arrive home morning of January 29th**

7th-12th Grade Students and College Students are Invited!
(7th/8th grade students must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.)

**Cost is \$185.00 per person
Includes bus trip, host church for Friday night,
and 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner (two more meals than last year)**



*Add an extra \$9 if you do not have
the required LIFESPAN beanie hat
that we will use for identification in the crowd.
We will order one for you!*

**Registration begins September 1st
and ends October 31st**
(or sooner depending on how quickly the LIFESPAN buses fill up)

For further information about the trip and to get registration forms when they become available in August, please e-mail Lynn Gura, Youth Director, at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org and she will respond!
If you need to speak to her by phone, call the office at 248-816-1546



LIFESPAN Chapter News

Oakland/Macomb

ROAR for Tigers—ROAR for Life

We had our first, but not our last, bus trip to Comerica Park on July 19th.

Twenty-six brave Tiger fans boarded a bus to Comerica Park in hopes of seeing the Tigers beat the Twins. Well, that didn't happen (Twins 6, Tigers 2), but we did have a great time. The bus dropped us off near the giant tiger and while we had a rather long walk to our seats, it was fun to see all the other Tiger fans in their hats, shirts, backpacks, flags and even orange shoes!

We were on the sunny side of the ball park at the beginning of the game, but as the sun went down, the evening was just perfect—clear skies, pleasant temperature, light breeze. Our hot dogs tasted especially good—they always do at a baseball game—and there were a lot of French fries, nachos, ice cream, sugared almonds and popcorn moving up and down our rows.

Next time, we will better coordinate our bus drop-off and pick-up with our seat locations so that the walk to and from the bus is not so long (we learn as we go!).

This has all the earmarks of a yearly (or more) event for our LIFESPAN families, so look for announcements of future trips to ROAR for the Tigers—Roar for Life!

Wayne County/Downriver

Pro-Life Luncheon

You've read that correctly. Our Annual Pro-Life Breakfast has become a Pro-Life Luncheon! Be sure to get your reservations for this important presentation that could, literally, save your life and/or the lives of your loved ones.

Knowing how to handle end-of-life decisions, including the paperwork, is so important in today's world. Come to the O'Kelly Banquet Hall in Dearborn to learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones. See page 3 for registration details.

Thank YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated with silk roses and pens for Mother's Day! With your help, smiles and cherished memories for some incredible women were made. Also, thank you to everyone who participated with Father's Day Candy and Pens! LIFE truly is sweet, especially with all of the amazing men in our lives!

Mother's Day Roses (and Pens) and Father's Day Candy (and Pens) are not only a fundraiser to ensure that the important work of LIFESPAN continues—they also provide an opportunity to be a witness for pro-life issues and maybe even start a conversation. We never know what small pro-life

Pro-Life Information for College Students

If you have a student going off to college in September and would like him or her to receive our monthly student email, please send us his or her email address. This mailing highlights pro-life activities on college campuses across the country and provides informative articles and links to pro-life organizations and campus resources. Just send an email to the attention of Lynn Gura at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org and we will be happy to include your student on the list.

Diaper Commercial

Be sure to catch the Huggies commercial of the mom writing to her unborn child and saying, "You're the only one who knows what my heart sounds like from the inside." Somebody at Huggies gets it!

Christmas Cards

Would you like to offer LIFESPAN Christmas Cards to your organization, service club or faith community? It is really easy to do and the cards send a greeting to your family and friends and a gift to LIFESPAN. Call us!

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

Phone: 248-816-1546

e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9-3

Diane Trombley, Director/Ofc. Mgr.

Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff & Youth Director

moment or gesture may change a person's heart or provide them an opportunity to ask a question. Let's keep the conversation going and change hearts and minds!

Christmas Cards

What? Who is thinking of Christmas Cards in August? Well, we are. We need to know how many of you will be participating. If you have never offered Christmas Cards to your faith community or group, this would be a great time to call the office and find out how it is done. Give us a call at 734-422-6230.

VOTE!

We cannot stress enough how important your vote is in this election. Your ideal candidates may not have made it through the primaries, but please remember to vote for the people who most closely reflect your values.

The incoming president will have a lasting impact due to nominations to the Supreme Court. Make no mistake, your vote counts and will have a lasting impact on the direction of our country for generations to come!

32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 210, Livonia, MI 48150-4305

Phone: 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116

e-mail: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9-2:30; Friday Closed

Eileen Brandt, Director

Anne Marie Morin, Office Assistant



Wee Care

Dear Friends,
I would like to share a special note that came in today's mail:

"Dear Karen, When I was a baby and my family was in a critical situation, they placed a call to Wee Care. Thank God for people like all of the helpers @ Wee Care who tend to the needs of desperate mothers and their babies. I am 17 and have committed to U of M as an English major. My passion is helping children. My inspiration comes from your program. I will always remember you."

Tucked inside this precious note, was a graduation picture of a beautiful young lady, who I am sure will go far and will have such a wonderful future! (I still have her baby picture on my bulletin board in my office!) I will cherish this note, just as I cherish your friendship, your love and your support for our babies. You touch lives like this every day! God bless you and God bless this sweet, young lady!

Love, Karen

A Program of Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305
Phone: 734-524-0165 • Fax: 734-524-0166
Office Hours: By appointment; Karen Patrosso, Director

GENERATION TRUTH

All youth and young adults, parents, those who work with young people,

The times we are now living in the history of our country are the most dangerous against human life—in the womb and out of the womb, no matter what color of skin we are, no matter what religion we practice, no matter where our parents and/or grandparents came from, no matter what our ages or job status, etc.—we are all Americans and we must be committed like never before to stop the madness, division, disrespect and disobedience to stand up for Life which, as we so clearly are witnessing, is being snuffed out at any moment for any reason each day.

Helping elect men and women running for office who respect Life is extremely critical for our future, our children's future and their children's future! An upcoming special edition of LIFESPAN's newsletter containing a Candidate Survey for the general election will be available in late September. We ask candidates certain questions to discover where they stand on Life issues and we publish their responses. It is very helpful when voting. Contact me if you want a copy mailed to you!



*Great Grandpa
with Baby Gabriel*

This summer has brought some happier moments to me and my family—wonderful reasons to celebrate Life. On the 4th of July, I met my youngest great nephew, Gabriel, born on June 18th, a day after my birthday! It had been a while since

Benefits of LIFESPAN Membership

- ◆ Receive Right to Life – LIFESPAN's newsletter
- ◆ Receive candidate surveys and be an informed voter
- ◆ Join a network of other like-minded pro-life people and organizations willing to advocate for restoring respect for life
- ◆ Have access to unparalleled resources on the life issues including alternatives to abortion, life-affirming stem-cell research, proper and respectful care of the elderly and handicapped
- ◆ Opportunities for youth to participate in various activities, contests
- ◆ Invitations to annual banquet, meetings, speakers, certified seminars
- ◆ Meet with legislators at annual breakfast/luncheon
- ◆ Opportunity to participate in the Washington, D.C. March for Life
- ◆ Receive notices to attend the National Right to Life Convention; sign up for the National RTL publication
- ◆ Receive guidance and assistance in creating local pro-life groups in your school or church
- ◆ Opportunities to donate food and clothing for infants in our Wee Care Program
- ◆ Empower others to enter the educational process of changing culture and laws

holding a very new baby—so precious and tiny! I was really happy to share in the joy that my nephew, Matthew, and niece, Kayla, have in the gift of this child. After close to 64 years of marriage, my parents have 15 grandchildren (from 8 to 44-years-old) and now 16 great-grandchildren (from 3-weeks-old to 21-years-old), and the family will continue to grow as time goes on! One of my nephew's, Kaleb, was married on June 18th (the day Gabriel was born), and so a new niece, Rachel, was added to our family, and one day they will begin a family of their own!



Rachel and Kaleb

See the 2017 Youth Bus Trip flier on page 5 of this newsletter. If you are planning on going on the trip, you'll have the flier as a reminder when registration begins and how much the cost of the trip is especially if you are working a summer job in order to pay for the trip. If you are interested in getting the registration forms when I have them finished by the end of August, please let me know by emailing me at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org and putting in the subject line: YOUTH BUS TRIP. I'll be sure to get the forms to you.

Until next time...keep on defending all lives! We all have a very special purpose to fulfill!

Love Life! Lynn Gura

Lynn Gura, Youth Director
Right to Life – LIFESPAN Educational Fund
Phone: 248-816-1546 • Fax: 248-816-9066
e-mail: youth@rtl-lifespan.org
www.facebook.com/lifespan.officialpage

Michigan Nurses For Life 2016 Conference

The Tragedy of Human Trafficking in MI

Saturday, October 1, 2016 • 8:00 am—12:30 pm

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital • Pontiac, Michigan



“Life: Respect and Dignity in the Streets”

Sheila Meshinski, BSN, CEN, CFN, a certified forensic and sexual assault nurse examiner serving on the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force



“Slavery in the Land of the Free”

Theresa Flores, LSW, MS, human trafficking survivor, author, victim’s advocate and founder of S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution)



“Legislation in Michigan”

Michigan State Senator Judy Emmons, serving the 33rd District, continues to be an influential leader in raising awareness on human trafficking

Phone: 248.816.8489 ♦ Email: info@mnfl.org

www.mnfl.org ♦ Online Registration: minurses.eventbrite.com

Presented by:

Michigan Nurses for Life in cooperation with **Educational Center for Life**

A certificate of attendance will be awarded for nurses. The public is welcome.

Words of Wisdom

The Truth is On Our Side

By Julie Szydowski



With the recent striking down by the U.S. Supreme Court of pro-life laws in Texas, the timing of the National Right to Life Convention (NRLC) in Herndon, VA, July 7-9, couldn't have been better—and, as a member of Right to Life - LIFESPAN, I couldn't have been more pleased to attend the event in person.

Does that mean the NRLC was an entirely feel-good event? To be honest, no. After all, we were there to talk about some of the most difficult issues of our time: abortion, the growing trend of euthanasia and the health care rationing inherent in “Obamacare”—to name just a few.

These are hardly happy topics. But they're topics we need to address—courageously, unabashedly, truthfully—if we're to be worthy witnesses to life. In fact, it is in that commitment to truth that we find hope of turning things around in favor of a culture of life.

So how do we share that hope, especially with those hurting from the aftermath of abortion? First, in this particular area, we need to share the truth about how abortion harms women. Denying the consequences doesn't diminish the harm, it only forces women to suppress their own trauma. By acknowledging a woman's suffering, we can then offer her compassion and information on how and where she can find healing.

Unfortunately, one thing we hear very little about in the “mainstream” culture is that abortion does indeed harm women. But if abortion is no big deal, like the abortion industry would like to have us believe, then why was one of the most common themes at the NRLC centered on the emotional and physical consequences of abortion? Why is there such a contrast between truth and society's willingness to admit it?

HUSH, a documentary shown at the NRLC (www.hushfilm.com) does an incredible job of exposing this. Not only does it detail the alarming link between abortion and breast cancer, premature birth and other risks, it reveals the astonishing silence of the abortion industry and others regarding these risks.

As *HUSH* details, it took only seven studies establishing the link between tobacco and cancer to get the federal government to mandate warnings on all tobacco products. Yet despite over 120 studies concluding that abortion greatly increases breast cancer risks, the National Cancer Institute and other prominent organizations refuse to even acknowledge these findings, let alone push for government mandates to warn women of the risks.

In other words, politics, not science, is steering the issue right now. Denial like this makes it increasingly appalling to hear abortion advocates refer to any of this as women's healthcare, when clearly women's health and well-being are not the primary concerns of this billion

dollar industry. Then again, can we genuinely expect those who don't value pre-born life to value any life?

This devaluing of human life is especially evident today toward the elderly and otherwise medically challenged. Addressing this, speakers at the NRLC gave extraordinary testimonies about the need to be stalwart advocates for our and our loved ones' healthcare. From one mother's experience with a hospital encouraging her to stop treatment for her son's Trisomy 18 condition, to a brother dealing with a hospital's stonewalling to administer food and water to his elderly brother, it was chillingly clear that just because someone is in the healthcare field, it isn't a guarantee he or she will do everything possible to save a life.

With government policy like Obamacare increasingly demanding cuts in health spending, coupled with our throwaway culture of death, we may find ourselves at the mercy of faceless bureaucrats who will decide which of our lives are worthy of the cost to preserve them.

Even worse, we may find ourselves at the mercy of health professionals under pressure to keep costs down, the same professionals who may also share in today's rising attitude that healthcare should be less about restoring health and preserving life, and more about eliminating suffering at all costs through things like euthanasia. That's why, by the way, it's critical to have pro-life Will to Live documents, and even carry them with us in our wallets (e.g., in the form of a mini-card you can attach to your insurance card). Even then, you or your loved ones better keep an eye on the medical facility treating you to make sure they're adhering to your wishes.

Despite the hard issues addressed at NRLC, the prevailing attitude was assuredly one of hope. As mentioned before, fundamental to that hope is that we have truth on our side: simply put, the value of every human life is not up for debate. But how do we present the truth of the pro-life movement in the most effective way to change hearts? That is the million dollar question indeed.

Of course it starts with being witnesses ourselves to the joy and value of life. But one other thing we must continue doing is acknowledge that while facts are necessary to share, simply bombarding others with nothing but statistics, judgments and atrocities may just further harden the hearts we want to change. To the best of our ability, we need to share the truth we know, but must share it with calmness, compassion and love to a society desperately in need of these things.

The bottom line is, whatever your job, whatever your vocation, whatever your place in life, you have it in you to change hearts because you have the key ingredient already in you: the truth that every life matters, from conception to natural death. It is in sharing that truth that we can ultimately make ours a Culture of Life, one heart at a time!

Julie Szydowski is a Right to Life - LIFESPAN Board Member of the Oakland/Macomb Chapter.

You Won't Believe How Much Psychological Damage Abortion Causes Men

By Micaiah Bilger

Abortion often does tremendous physiological damage on the fathers, as well as the mothers. Speakers recently discussed the important, but often forgotten, need for counseling post-abortive fathers during a Project Rachel orientation day at the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, *Catholic Philly* reports.

Guest speaker Victoria Thorn, founder of the National Office for Post Abortion Reconciliation and Healing and Project Rachel, explained how abortion affects many individuals in addition to the mother. Other family members and even friends experience the impact of a woman's abortion decision. Research has found that abortion often affects the aborted babies' siblings, too.

"Few people ever address the psychological impact. People are hurting from this because they have all kinds of emotions around this. Some men are walking around being so angry because a woman had an abortion and didn't tell them," Thorn said.

She explained that some fathers don't fully realize the effect the abortion has had on them.

"Since men are not as expressive, they do not know where to channel that anger. Sometimes they take that anger out on every woman who comes into their life. Everyone is wondering why he is so angry, and it is from a pain that he just stuffed inside."

The event's moderator was Steve Bozza, director of the archdiocesan Office for Life and Family, according to the news outlet. He addressed the common misconceptions surrounding abortion: "Many do not realize that many lives can be ruined or shattered by an abortion. Whenever a child is lost there is a need for social services and resources. Unlike a miscarriage or stillbirth where there is no choice, this is something that is a choice. Many only come to grips with that after the fact."

"Sometimes the men are angry and you touched on every topic, and the rage is still there," Bozza said. "Now, this is one of the things I will bring up when listing things that could have happened. I found it helpful to discuss something even we as counselors really do not discuss. I am sure as counselors we have had clients who are ashamed to bring it up."

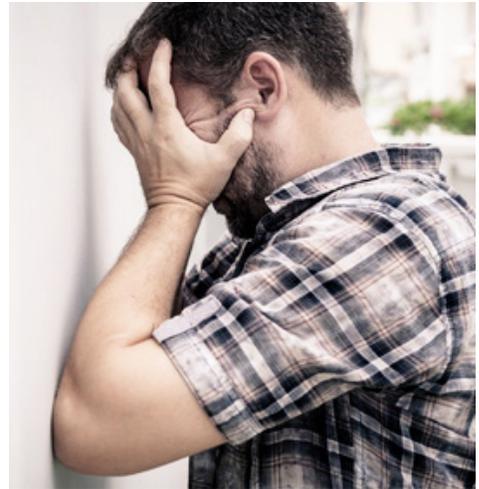
The program had several other key speakers, including Kathryn Dobbs, Mary McGinley and Kevin Burke, according to the *Catholic Philly*. Burke is a director of Rachel's Vineyard, which reaches out to people adversely affected by an abortion and provides hope and healing.

In a 2007 interview, Burke said men are involved in 95 percent of all abortion decisions and often are "profoundly impacted" by the abortion of their child. He said the program has seen a steady increase in the number of men seeking healing after an experience with abortion.

"Similar to women, when men experience deep healing of post abortion pain, they are freed from the shame and guilt that feeds silence and isolation," he said. "There is a willingness to share their experience with others because they finally recognize that their feelings are normal, they are not alone."

In the midst of important conversation regarding abortion and the mothers, the negative effect it has on fathers is often forgotten. Abortion isn't just something between a woman and her doctor. It impacts countless individuals. It is excellent that these issues are being discussed in places such as the Philadelphia Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, so that church leaders can more effectively counsel people experiencing post-traumatic repercussions.

—LifeNews.com, June 8, 2016



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From the President's Desk

We are in the middle of summer and the days are hot and dry. As most of us are enjoying our families and summer activities, I cannot help but think of the millions who have been aborted and will never enjoy the summer breezes or the feel of water and sand while walking on the beach or the feel of the sun on their faces as it warms the body.

As I contemplate this, I feel the sadness that accompanies these thoughts—I try to put these negative thoughts aside and remember that God will take care of these little ones: they are with Him now! It is our loss—and it is a great loss to our American society. It is our shame that these human beings were never allowed to reach their potential because of their premature death, at the hands of an abortionist.

I hope and pray for the day that we stop the slaughter of the innocent. It is also my hope that we can curtail the euthanasia movement through education. Hope keeps me motivated and working in the pro-life movement. Respect for human life comes first within the heart. This fact allows me to dream. To dream that all our actions in the pro-life movement will one day give the majority of people in this country the knowledge to know, in their hearts, that life begins at conception and that it must be protected by our laws and action.

Do we want laws that reflect protecting life from conception to natural death? Do we want to change our society to reflect the values upon which our country was founded—LIFE, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?

You must speak out with your vote, but choosing a candidate for political office is a serious matter. We have an obligation to consider the statements and promises made by the candidates and then see which is most in line with our values. Sometimes those are clear, sometimes less so, but if our goals are to be realized, we MUST vote. To not vote is to allow a candidate to win by default—we owe the preborn child, the disabled person and the elderly more than that! We owe them LIFE. The choice is now in your hands. It's up to you! May God give us the courage to do the right thing!

Diane Fagelman, President, Right to Life - LIFESPAN

Vindicated! All Charges are Dropped Against Pro-Life Advocate David Daleiden

By Kirk Walden

On July 26, the Harris County District Attorney's office dropped all charges against Center for Medical Progress CEO David Daleiden, clearing him of any prosecution in what started out as an investigation of Planned Parenthood's attempts to sell human body parts procured from abortion.

Daleiden's videos spawned several investigations of the abortion giant, some of which are still ongoing.

But in Houston, TX, the investigation curiously turned away from Planned Parenthood and its outrageous acts and onto Daleiden, who was attempting to shine light on the dark, back-alley side business of Planned Parenthood.

In January of this year, Harris County, TX District Attorney Devon Anderson not only dropped the investigation of Planned Parenthood; she went on to lead the grand jury to target Daleiden and one of his co-workers, Sandra Merritt.

While many were shocked, the pro-life community quickly understood: When Planned Parenthood is attacked, it pulls out all stops.

—LifeNews.com, July 26, 2016

To read more on this story, go to: <http://www.lifenews.com/2016/07/26/vindicated-all-charges-are-dropped-against-pro-life-advocate-david-daleiden/>

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DATED MATERIAL

Man Gets Married 16 Months After Nearly Dying and Having All of His Limbs Amputated

By Micaiah Bilger

An Illinois couple's love story almost came to a tragic end 16 months ago when Ethan Menges contracted a deadly illness. Menges lost all four of his limbs and almost his life to the virus, but his fiancée Jordan Mathieu stayed by his side and devoted herself to helping him recover. *ABC 13* reports the couple's rocky journey led to a joyous occasion this May when the two walked down the aisle together and were married in Roscoe, Illinois.

"It's weird because for the majority of our relationship, this past year and a half, two years, was in a hospital setting, not the typical things you do going out on dates, going to movies, hanging out with families, it was bedside," Menges told reporters.

Menges said he even proposed to Mathieu in his rehab room. He said his bride's devotion during his near-death experience really touched him.

"That means more than the world to me, because I know she'll always be there, she's been there through that, I'd have to really screw something up," he said.

The young man collapsed at a sports game last January after contracting a flu-like virus; the illness developed into walking pneumonia and spread across his body, infecting his lungs and bloodstream, according to the report. The illness affected his circulation and forced doctors to amputate all four of his limbs. At one point, doctors even told Menges' family to start planning his funeral, his sister Brittney said. Though hope was slim, Menges pulled through with encouragement from his family and his soon-to-be bride. Menges went through months of intensive therapy and now has prosthetic limbs. They allowed him to walk down the aisle with Jordan on May 14. Jordan could not put a ring around her husband's finger, so she placed a necklace with the ring around his neck instead, the report states.

The couple's beautiful story of devotion and perseverance is a stark contrast to the message of a new summer romance film, "Me Before You." The film romanticizes assisted suicide through the story of a rich young man who becomes a quadriplegic and gives up on life. Despite his caregiver-turned-lover's attempts to show that his life has meaning, he chooses to commit suicide anyway. She even caves into his decision to kill himself. The film has disability rights advocates and pro-lifers upset because of its pro-euthanasia tones.

British actress Liz Carr told *The Guardian*: "We have so few opportunities in the media to explore disability. But there is a disproportionate number of stories which relate to the 'problem' of disability being solved by death. Television and film seem to love those individuals who want to die. They're less keen to cover the rest of us who might want to live but are struggling to get the health and social care resources to do so."

Unlike "Me Before You," Ethan and Jordan Menges' real-life love story has the type of happy ending that should be celebrated in the media. The couple did not let Ethan's disabilities or his illness stand in the way of their joy. Their story is an example of how true love never gives up hope and always perseveres.



Danielle Guerra/Daily Chronicle via AP