

Free Copy

A Message to Adoptive Parents,
p. 10

Lifespan *news*

Volume 32 Number 5

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

July/August 2003

Right to Life - Lifespan

General Meeting Breakfast & Legislative Update

Saturday, October 11 • 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Burton Manor, Livonia

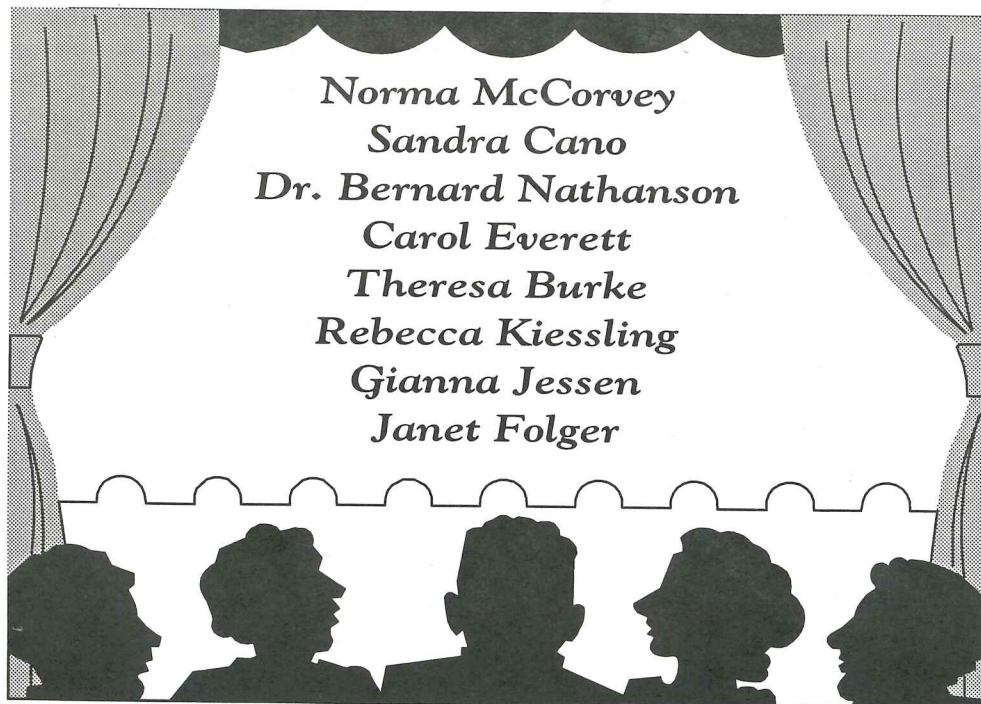
Presenting *Life Stories*

~ in dramatic reading and song ~

A play representing well-known personalities involved
in the *Roe v. Wade* decision and its aftermath



Norma McCorvey
Sandra Cano
Dr. Bernard Nathanson
Carol Everett
Theresa Burke
Rebecca Kiessling
Gianna Jessen
Janet Folger



See
page 3

News Notes

Democrats for Life of America

On June 25, Democrats For Life of America (DFLA) held its second annual Hall of Fame dinner, in which the organization honored pro-life Sen. Ben Nelson (D-NE) and pro-life Rep. Charlie Stenholm (D-TX) with its Leadership Awards for 2003. Kristen Day, DFLA's Executive Director, said "Democrats For Life hopes to allow committed Democrats who happen to be pro-life to maintain their true views and support them in seeking higher office without feeling pressured to abandon their pro-life commitment."

Democrats For Life has been lobbying the Democratic National Committee to include a link to the DFLA home page on its website. Day says representatives from the organization have been meeting with party operatives in an attempt to secure agreement on the issue.

For information on the Choose Life Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party, call Rep. Bill O'Neil, 313-389-2255.

—Edited from *LifeNews.com*, #3009, June 27, 2003

Pro-abortion poll shows majority of women are pro-life

A recent poll conducted by the pro-abortion Center for the Advancement of Women found that a majority of American women take a pro-life position on abortion. Only one-third (30%) say abortion should be generally available. Fifty-one percent took a pro-life position saying abortion should be illegal (17%) or restricted only to the rare cases of rape, incest or to prevent the death of the mother (34%).

Faye Wattleton, president of the group, bemoaned the results of her own poll. "There is significant and growing support for severe restrictions on abortion rights," Wattleton said.

The poll also found that keeping abortion legal was the next to last most important priority for women.

"The poll clearly demonstrates that after 30 years of legal abortion, too many women know the truth—either personally or from a friend or relative. Women in increasing numbers are rejecting the '70s notion that our right to education, participation in the workplace, our status in society or politics are linked to the idea that women have to pass as men in order to be equal," explained Feminists for Life President Serrin Foster.

The son of the founder of a leading national pollster said the results were not far off the mark. Those findings on abortion do not surprise pollster George Gallup, Jr. "We pretty much show the same thing."

The study, is the result of two national random surveys of more than 3,300 women, and was conducted over two years by Princeton Survey Research Associates. The margin of error is 2 to 3 percentage points.

—Edited from *LifeNews.com* #3008, June 26, 2003

The Pampered Chef

The Pampered Chef is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing kitchenware companies. The company,

founded in 1980, by professing Christian and stay-at-home mother, Doris Christopher, has been driven mostly by stay-at-home moms who sell the products from home. The company boasts more than 67,000 "Kitchen Consultants" and sales of \$700 million annually.

But now, according to *Citizen* magazine, many Christian mothers are walking away from the company because Pampered Chef's new owner, billionaire Warren Buffett, is a huge supporter of abortion. His Buffett Foundation, using company profits, has donated tens of millions of dollars to abortion-related causes.

Citizen reports that Buffett's conglomerate, Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., owners of such well-known names as Dairy Queen, See's Candy and Fruit of the Loom, has funneled millions of dollars to the Foundation. The Foundation, in turn, last year donated at least \$11 million to pro-choice and "reproductive-rights" groups.

—Excerpts from *Citizen Magazine*, June 16, 2003

Walt Disney Company

The Walt Disney Company is no longer funding Planned Parenthood. Now there's a reason to smile!

But there's more. After more than a decade as a boycott target, Life Decisions International, is thrilled to report that the American Express Company is no longer on its boycott list of companies which support Planned Parenthood. Now there's a reason to dance!

If you would like to become a Life Decisions International partner so you may receive the boycott list as it is published, contact P. O. Box 75161, Washington, DC 20013-1061; phone 202-347-3066; email: www.fightpp.org.

—Family Resources Center News, June/July 2003

What about the right to draw?

How exactly do you celebrate the 30th anniversary of women having the right to kill their unborn babies? If you're Planned Parenthood, you build a poster contest around the theme "Behind Every Choice is a Story."

Well, behind this story is some choice hypocrisy.

In the contest blurb on Planned Parenthood's SaveRoe.com website, the one urging entrants to "join our ongoing efforts to keep abortion legal," the fine print reveals the following rule: "Children under age 18 must have a parent or legal guardian's permission to submit their designs and for us to publish it along with their name." On the "Terms and Conditions" page, you can download your very own parental consent form, complete with a line that mom or dad must sign. Odd requirements these, coming from an organization whose "ongoing efforts to keep abortion legal" include fighting laws requiring parental consent before girls can snuff out the life inside them.

Who'd have guessed that a teen's inviolate right to choose doesn't extend to her use of watercolors?

—*Citizen*, February 2003

Join Us For Breakfast! Saturday, October 11

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

Burton Manor

27777 Schoolcraft, Livonia

(south side of I-96 service drive, between Inkster and Middlebelt)



~ Lifespan will present *Life Stories* ~

There will also be a legislative update presented by one of our Michigan Legislators

Life Stories is an informative and entertaining new pro-life program presented in Readers Theatre format combining personal testimonies, dramatic readings and song.

The following well-known personalities involved in the *Roe v. Wade* decision and its aftermath will be represented in the program:

- *Norma McCorvey*: "Jane Roe" of *Roe v. Wade* and founder of Roe No More Ministry
- *Sandra Cano*: "Mary Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton*
- *Dr. Bernard Nathanson*: Former abortionist, co-founder of National Abortion Rights Action League, author and lecturer
- *Carol Everett*: Former owner/operator of abortion clinics in Texas, founder of The Heidi Group, author
- *Theresa Burke*: Clinical therapist, founder of Rachel's Vineyard Retreats for post-abortion healing
- *Rebecca Kiessling*: Attorney in high profile lawsuits, daughter of rape, nearly aborted
- *Gianna Jessen*: Survivor of mid-term saline abortion, singer, activist
- *Janet Folger*: Past director of Reclaiming America, founder of Faith 2 Action, author, lecturer, radio host

Life Stories includes original pro-life music written and performed by Patty Ward.

Yes! I will attend Lifespan's General Meeting Breakfast on Saturday, October 11!

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.

Judges

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cial emergency." The court normally has 16 members, but half of those seats are now empty.

The Levin/Stabenow maneuver is the culmination of a conflict that has been years in the making and involves Democratic accusations that Republicans mistreated appeals court nominees selected by President Clinton.

When President Bush took office, Levin and Stabenow demanded that he renominate two Clinton appeals court nominees from Michigan, Helene White and Kathleen McCree Lewis, whose nominations had not been acted on by the GOP-controlled Senate. White is married to Sen. Levin's cousin. In a letter sent to White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, Levin and Stabenow wrote, "On more than one occasion, the White House counsel has stated that some nominees during the previous administration were wrongly treated....We have said repeatedly that it would be wrong for the president to seek confirmation of his nominees to the Michigan seats on the Sixth Circuit before the acknowledged wrong was corrected."

The White House has refused the demand, saying that it would be an unprecedented surrender of the president's constitutional authority to nominate federal judges. The story of Levin's and Stabenow's demands and the White House's response are extensively documented in two letters written by Gonzales more than a year ago. One was to the Senate Judiciary Committee's then-chairman Patrick Leahy on August 17, 2001, and the other was to Levin and Stabenow on November 2, 2001.

"Although I understand [Levin's and Stabenow's] desire to have the president renominate two of President Clinton's candidates for the court of appeals...we believe it would be unfair to expect the president to do so," Gonzales wrote to Leahy that August. "The net result of our discussions is an apparent standoff in which the two Michigan senators are attempting (inappropriately, in my view) to use the threat of negative blue slips against President Bush's Michigan circuit nominees to compel the president to renominate Clinton nominees based on grievances in which President Bush played no part."

"Neither man ever claimed a right to be renominated by the new administration, and all participants in the process accepted and adhered to the time-honored understanding that the accumulated inventory of judicial vacancies at the start of a new presidential term was the new president's to fill."

Gonzales said the White House had offered to consider the two failed Clinton circuit court nominees, White and Lewis, for nomination to lower federal courts. "In our view, this was a proposal that reflected exceptional generosity, good faith, and respectful bipartisanship," Gonzales wrote. "No similar generosity was ever shown to John Smietanka or Henry Saad during the previous administration."

In the end, none of the talking did any good, and...Levin and Stabenow blocked every nominee from Michigan.

The move suggests that the Democratic strategy to block Bush judges extends far beyond selected targets like Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen. Indeed, it appears that Democrats may plan to use a variety of techniques to try to block every Bush judicial nominee to the federal courts and to the U.S. Supreme Court.



The treatment of two highly qualified judicial candidates, Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen, whose nominations have been blocked by a weeks-long filibuster, is a clear indication of the Democrats' unwillingness to approve President Bush's nominees. Their basic objection appears to be that both Estrada and Owen have rendered decisions favorable to pro-life issues.

With the above information in mind, the critical nature of President Bush's United States Supreme Court nominees becomes clear. Mr. Bush has repeatedly stated that he will nominate individuals to the U.S. Supreme Court who will not seek to revise the Constitution, nor to make new constitutional law from the bench. He is expected to nominate judges who are more conservative than liberal, and who have demonstrated their understanding of the law. Several announced Democratic candidates for the presidency have publicly stated that, should they defeat Mr. Bush in 2004, they will only nominate individuals for the U.S. Supreme Court that are supportive of the *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973. This, of course, becomes a *de facto litmus test* for the prospective candidate, something that the Democrats claim they abhor.

When a vacancy does occur in the Supreme Court, the nominating process for a new justice will require that all people who support the protection of human life be prepared to let their elected officials know that they want the Supreme Court made up of individuals who will be willing to provide that protection.

—Edited from National Review April 7, 2003

Please write to Michigan Senators, Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow, and ask them to support the nominations of Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owens.

Contact information for Senator Carl Levin

E-mail: senator2@levin.senate.gov

269 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-2202

Phone: (202) 224-6221; Fax: (202) 224-1388

Contact information for Senator Debbie Stabenow

E-mail: senator@stabenow.senate.gov

702 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-2204

Phone: (202) 224-4822; Fax: (202) 228-0325



Dear Friends!

Summer has finally arrived! The only difference at Wee Care with the change of seasons is that the moms receive sunsuits instead of snowsuits!

There is no "down time" at Wee Care—every day welcomes another one of our precious babies into this world.

As I came into work this morning—there were twelve messages on my answering machine—two were from homeless shelters, one from an abusive center, one from a hospital, one from a grandmother, one from a mother who had aborted her baby, one from a mom whose baby was born with Down Syndrome and a few others who were referred by their social workers.

The call from the hospital was for tiny clothes for a preemie girl. Her parents struggle to provide for their children, but were not prepared for this little one's early arrival. The nurse referred to her as their "miracle baby" who weighed one pound at birth and now weighs a hefty two pounds!

The call from the grandmother was for her two granddaughters who desperately needed supplies for their toddlers. The grandmother started to cry when she said that it breaks her heart not to be able to help her grandchildren as they have cared so lovingly for her during her illness.

(My heart went out to her—one grandmother to another.)

The call from the distraught mother who had an abortion was a plea for help. (From books to brochures to retreats to beautiful programs called "Project Rachel" and P.A.C.E. to a listening ear—there is help available).

The call from the mom who's sweet baby girl has Down Syndrome started out with so much fear and sadness and ended with a little glimmer of hope, a little bit of information on the "Michael Fund" and a promise of prayers for mom and the baby.

As you can see—every day—every hour at Wee Care is so different. Please know that your support of our program touches each one of these families and hundreds more in ways that you can't imagine.

For more information, contact: **The Michael Fund (Down Syndrome) 412-823-6380 or www.michaelfund.org; Project Rachel (Post-abortion healing) 1-888-RACHEL-5 or P.A.C.E. (Post-Abortion Counseling and Education) 734-455-5255.**

—Karen Patrosso, Director

Wee Care (248) 777-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

2004 Entertainment Book presale

Order and pay for a 2004 Entertainment Book for the reduced price of \$30 and receive a 2003 Book FREE—until July 31st. Call your local Lifespan office, pp. 6, 7.

Pro-Life 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 5, 2003, and mailed or delivered to: Student Essay Contest 2003, Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, 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, 2004. 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) 777-9090.



Did you know?

The American Medical Association is reported to represent one-third of all medical doctors. Did you know that at its recent conference in Chicago, the AMA's Counsel on Ethical and Judicial Affairs declared that human cloning was "not unethical."

Did you know that human embryonic stem cell research and human cloning create new human life—knowing it will be killed within nine days?

What do you think?

We invite readers' comments and suggestions about Lifespan—how are we doing? What can we do better? How's the newsletter, our projects, educational effectiveness, outreach, member information? We want to know what you think! Call the Main Office at 248-777-9090 or email: rtlilifespan@earthlink.net. Thanks!



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 our booth. Your admission is free, and if you are a "New Volunteer," you will be placed with an experienced veteran.

We will need two volunteers for each four-hour shift. The Detroit Chapter is responsible for filling Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24. Shift times are 9:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 1:45 - 6:00 p.m., and 5:45 - 10:00 p.m. Call now to get your desired shift.

Besides having a great time exploring the fair before or after your shift, you will also feel good about helping us spread the pro-life message to the thousands who walk by our booth. Call today—313-640-8534!

livingston

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

New pro-life medical center

"Proclaiming the Kingdom of God through ministry to the sick"—The Sacred Heart Medical Center is now open for business.

It has primary care specialists in Internal Medicine and Family Practice, including women's health and obstetrics care. Dr. Jeffery Berger, M.D., husband of Ann Berger, a member of this chapter and St. Joseph Catholic Church, Howell, and Dr. Stephen W. Bishop, M.D., a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Hamburg, advocate chastity in their medical practice. They have a laboratory and radiology, mammography and physical therapy facilities, plus a pharmacy—all on site.

The Medical Clinic is located at: 37595 Seven Mile Road, Suite 430, Livonia, MI 48152. Phone: 734-542-6135; web site: www.sacredheartmedical.org

Editor's note: We provide the above as information only; it does not reflect an endorsement by Right to Life - Lifespan.

Memberships needed

If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving our monthly *LIFESPAN NEWS* please pass on the form at the back of this newsletter or call the office at 313-640-8534 today. As we all know, local newspapers are very biased when it comes to Life issues and with human embryonic stem cell research and cloning on the horizon, it's more important than ever to get the pro-life side of the story told. Why not give a membership subscription to your best friend or relative? Do you have a Christian Service Commission at your church which would like updates on current pro-life issues? Send them and/or your pastor a membership subscription. The Detroit Chapter is funded solely by donations. Help keep our office open, and spread the pro-life message at the same time.

Message from God

When God wants an important thing in this world done 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

Father's Day fundraiser

Our Lifesaver lollipop sale at area churches was a tremendous success. Many thanks to all who put in the time and effort; it is much appreciated.

Fowlerville Fair

We are moving ahead with a pro-life booth at the Fowlerville Fair, July 12-20. We still need volunteers for July 17-19. If you can volunteer your time to help work the booth, please contact us!

Dresser ministry

We presented a completely filled (over-filled!) baby dresser to Pregnancy Helpline. They informed us that it was given to a 16-year-old mother-to-be, still living at home with her parents, and in great need of assistance.

The parishioners at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Hamburg are to be congratulated for filling the dresser. A similar dresser is in the process of being filled at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Howell. It will also be given to the Pregnancy Helpline for distribution to a needy mother.

We have informational packets available to anyone interested in this ministry at their church.

Car wash

Holy Spirit Church's youth group, in Hamburg, is sponsoring a car wash on a Saturday in August to raise funds for our Livingston Chapter. Call our office for details.

oakland/macomb

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

Phone 248-816-1546 • Fax 248-816-9066

e-mail: rtllspan@htdconnect.com

Office Hours: M-F 9-3

Irene Tharp, Director; Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.;

Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff

Fair fun

There is still time left to become one of our fair table staffers. We participate in three fairs each year and need smiling faces to staff our tables. The State Fair is in need of seven or eight more people. We promise to pair a new volunteer with an experienced staffer. This is a really fun time; it is amazing how many people thank us for being there. Pats on the back, elephant ears, hot dogs on sticks and lemonade—what more could you ask?! Please call the office 248-816-1546 to sign up.

Planning progress

Various board members from all chapters of Lifespan met on two consecutive Tuesdays in June to exchange ideas and plan the future activities of our organization. The dedication of all these people and their willingness to

work really hard to keep Lifespan vibrant and growing is truly amazing. Having such people in our lives is a blessing to all of us.

Christmas cards

It is hard to think of Christmas cards when the temperature is almost 90 degrees and the humidity matches it, but we have selected our 2003 Christmas cards! As usual, we all think they are beautiful and hope you will too. We always need folks who are willing to offer our cards to their faith communities and other organizations—so call the office to help out.

Entertainment Books

Last call for a super bargain. If you purchase a 2004 Entertainment Book now (available in late August), you will get a 2003 book that is usable until November 2003 at no additional cost. The price is the same as last year—\$30.00—and remember, they make great Christmas gifts!

Love letters

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her, all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. (From a list by children about what love means to them.) Love comes in many forms—be open to it, and it will come to you, too.

wayne west/downriver

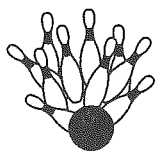
27592 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150-2203

Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116

Office Hours: M-Th 10-4; F Closed

Patricia Holscher, Director; Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Staff

Reminder: 21st annual "Bowling for Life"



Don't get left out of the fun! Join other proliferers on Sunday, July 27, 2 to 5 p.m. at Woodland Lanes, 33775 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, to bowl three Games FREE and have the opportunity to win exciting prizes.

If you're a senior member and don't bowl anymore, let your kids and grandkids know about our "Bowling for Life FUNdraiser." *Grandpa Bob and Grandma Pat Holscher are inviting their five-year-old grandson, Jake, to play bumper bowl!* Call the office for information and sponsor sheets.

State Fair

Volunteers are needed to work at our pro-life educational booth at the Michigan State Fair. The WW/DR Chapter shift is August 15 through August 22. 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 liberal media regarding 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

can 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! The only qualifications are a friendly smile and love for the unborn. Give it a try; I know you won't be disappointed. Call to volunteer.

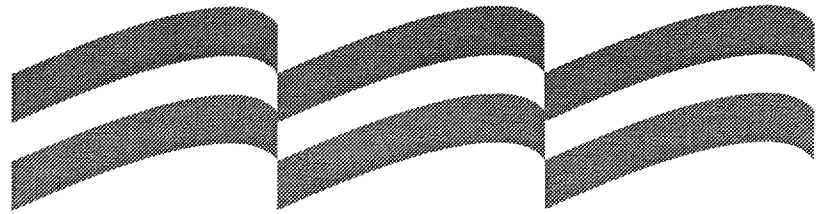
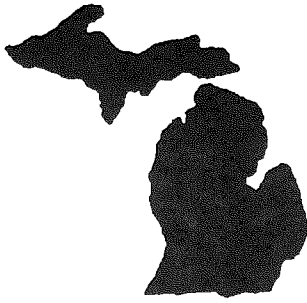
Fairs and festivals

Is your church having a fair or festival? Ask if you can have a Lifespan educational booth. We can supply literature, fetal models, sale items and some volunteers to help staff it. Thirty years ago, we were asked regularly to tell the pro-life story at these events, but we are rarely asked anymore. The subject is the same, the outcome is the same and the answers are the same.

Most people think abortion is legal only during the first three months, but we know that abortions can legally be performed anytime during the entire nine months of pregnancy. Please help Lifespan obtain a booth. Call us.

Out of the mouths of babes...

Recently, Lifespan Church Representative Susan Stepien, from St. Dunstan, visited our office with her three daughters. While waiting for their mother, the girls busied themselves by drawing pictures. To my surprise, Krystina, age 9, drew a picture of a baby with a big heart, with the caption *Abortion Stops a Beating Heart*. That drawing is now displayed on our bulletin board with other important messages. *Isn't it ironic that a little child understands what abortion means while so many adults refuse to understand?*



LEGISLATIVE

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):

Michigan House Votes to Tighten Parental Consent Law

The Michigan House of Representatives voted June 24 in favor of a bill to strengthen the state's parental consent law. The House voted 73-32 to send the pro-life bill to the Senate, but the Senate will not take action on the bill until the fall.

Rep. William O'Neil (D-Allen Park) introduced House Bill 4478 to make improvements to the 1990 Parent Rights Restoration Act.

The current parental consent law allows minors to procure an abortion without the knowledge or consent of their parents through a parental bypass waiver that can be granted by a judge. The State Court Administrative Office reports that up to 800 bypasses are applied for each year and approximately 90% of those judicial bypass waivers are granted. In many instances, the judicial bypass system has become a rubber-stamp process.

In response to complaints from local judges, the bill would define standards for when an abortion could be requested without parental consent, allow the judge to appoint an attorney as a parental advocate, and prohibit minors from petitioning another county court if the first court denies their request. In other cases, they may still appeal to a higher court if they are not satisfied with the first ruling, but can no longer go "judge shopping" for a county judge that will grant a parental bypass waiver.

"Parental involvement has helped reduce the number of children undergoing abortions while simultaneously reducing the number of children having children. The language [of the bill]

is strong because I'm trying to be a real parent advocate," O'Neil said.

According to the new guidelines, the judges will have to take into account certain factors, such as maturity of the teen girl, academic history, medical history, efforts to learn of alternatives to abortion and sexual history. The measures are intended to help the judge determine if the teen would return with another abortion request.

While it appears that there will be enough votes to pass the measure, Robyn Menin, president of the Planned Parenthood Mid-Michigan Alliance, told the *News-Herald* she believes the measure will be ruled unconstitutional.

The abortion consent waiver bill is House Bill 4478. Contact your senator and encourage support of the Senate companion bill.

—Paul Nowak and Steven Ertelt
LifeNews.com Staff Writer/Editor

Legal Birth Definition Act

Contact Governor Jennifer Granholm, and urge her to support HB4603, the Legal Birth Definition Act, which effectively bans partial-birth abortion by declaring a child to be legally born once any part of that child is delivered outside his or her mother.

Governor J. Granholm
P. O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
email: migov@aol.com



UPDATE



Stem cell imports

A bill that would make it illegal to import stem cells from destroyed embryos into Michigan for research purposes was approved May 13 by a State House committee.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jacob Hoogendyk, R-Kalamazoo, was approved 11-4 by the House Health Policy Committee. It now goes to the full House. The bill would amend the Public Health Code, which already prohibits a person from performing nontherapeutic research on an embryo or fetus that the researcher knows is the subject of a planned abortion.

Hoogendyk said his bill would prohibit a company in Michigan from importing from another state or country embryonic stem cells for the purpose of research. "You can't go around the law by destroying the fetus in Ohio...and then importing the fetus to a lab in Michigan," Hoogendyk said.

Supporters of the bill said embryonic stem cell research is unnecessary because adult stem cells can be used effectively.

Many researchers say embryonic stem cells hold more promise than adult stem cells, but an embryo must be destroyed to obtain them.

Embryonic stem cells are normally collected from embryos that have been frozen in fertility clinics and are no longer needed by those who have conceived.

The Michigan Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League said approval of the bill would be a step backward and that embryonic and fetal tissue are vital to research.

Call your State Representative now and ask him/her to support HB4507.

As the following information will show, it is critical that we communicate with our elected officials regarding judicial nominees. While they deny that they impose a "litmus test" on President Bush's judicial nominees, it is clear that any nominee suspected of being pro-life will be met with extreme hostility by those members of the Judiciary Committee who are pro-abortion. It seems that such pro-abortion legislators are more than willing to work closely with pro-abortion organizations to discredit, insult and even filibuster judicial candidates who have ever concurred in a pro-life decision.

Democrats move to kill slate of Bush nominees

Although it was overshadowed by the beginning of war, on Capitol Hill [recently] there was a major escalation in the conflict between Senate Democrats and the White House over the president's judicial nominees.

The escalation had nothing to do with the ongoing Democratic filibuster over appeals-court candidate Miguel Estrada. Instead, it involved a Democratic decision to block, and, at least for the moment, kill a total of four Bush nominees to the federal courts of appeals.

Acting in concert, Michigan Democratic Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow told the Judiciary Committee they will block the nominations of Richard Griffin, David McKeague, Susan Bieke Neilson and Henry Saad to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition, Levin and Stabenow said they will block the nomination of Thomas Ludington to a seat on the U.S. District Court. That means the two senators are attempting to kill every Bush nominee from the state of Michigan.

Levin and Stabenow stopped the nominations by returning negative blue slips, which are the documents in which senators indicate approval or disapproval of judicial nominees from their home states.

Blue slips are a Senate custom with a long and controversial history, but both parties concede it is nearly impossible for a nominee of either party to win confirmation over the objections of both of his or her home-state senators. That means the nominations of Griffin, McKeague, Neilson, Saad, and Ludington are effectively dead.

It was an extraordinary move on the part of Levin and Stabenow, a kind of Wednesday-night massacre that sent Republicans scrambling to research whether such wholesale obstruction had any precedent in Senate history, and what a GOP response might be. The move is all the more remarkable because much of the Sixth Circuit is in what the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts calls a "judi-

continued on page 4

Informative Websites

www.michiganlegislature.org

This website provides information on Michigan legislative sessions and laws.

thomas.loc.gov

Maintained by the Library of Congress, Thomas offers a searchable database of congressional activity from 1969 to the present.

www.nrlc.org

National Right to Life's site has up-to-date information on pro-life issues, federal legislation and voting records.

A Message to Adoptive Parents

All children are a blessing.
They are precious gifts from Heaven.
Each one is special in God's eyes
No matter how they're given.
For though most children have the bond
Of flesh and blood to start,
So many come a different way—
They're born within the heart.
So know, adoptive parents,
That your child was meant for you.
God searched throughout the whole wide world
And no one else would do.
He saw within you both
A strong reflection of His love
So now He gives your child to you,
A gift from heaven above.
Like all children they will need so much
Throughout their growing years,
And many days, you'll find, will have
Both laughter and some tears.
You'll see your life rewarded
With a joy you'll know is true.
Just remember, that the child you have
Is also God's child, too.
So teach your child about Him
For He yearns to keep them near.
Like you, He always wants their love.
To Him they're just as dear.
Though years will pass by swiftly
All the happiness they'll bring
Will give your life such meaning
That you wouldn't change a thing.
Yes, dear parents, you were chosen
For your child right from the start.
It was you that they were meant for—
They were born within your heart.

—By Kathy Sabol

Oakland/Macomb Lifespan Member

Lifespan News

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"Created by His Hands... Vessels for His Purpose"

St. Peter Lutheran Church in Macomb will host the annual Lutherans for Life Conference on Saturday, September 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. St. Peter Church is located at 24 Mile and Romeo Plank Rds. Registration for the conference is \$15 (\$10 half-day) and should be made payable to "LFL of Michigan;" send to Donna Zuehlk, 13613 27 Mile Rd., Washington, MI 48094 by September 10. For more information, contact Donna at 586-781-3986 or bzuehlk@comcast.net.

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The Preborn Christ

Precious Life Ministries presents *The Preborn Christ—A Story of God in the Womb*. It is the first book of its kind ever—a unique, beautifully illustrated picture book for children of the Life of Jesus—from conception to the Resurrection. It is a book for people of every age and denomination. Call Precious Life Ministries for special discounts to use the book in your prayer groups, Bible studies, schools and churches. Contact: **Precious Life Ministries, P. O. Box 1948, Lewisburg, TN 37091; toll free: 866-266-4358; www.preciouslifeministries.org.**

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Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a *crisis pregnancy*, help is available. Call your Lifespan office listed on pages 6 or 7. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hot line number 1-800-BETHANY.

Sheltering homes are available to women in crisis pregnancies, call Abigayle Ministries 586-326-0459 or Casa Vitae 248-559-5407.

For *post-abortion counseling*, call PACE 734-455-5255 or Project Rachel 888-722-4355.

For those with *life-limiting illnesses*, call Angela Hospice 734-464-7810; Cranbrook Hospice 248-334-6700, or Hospice of Michigan 888-HOM-5656.

Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, offers pastoral guidance to persons considering *abortion or assisted suicide*. If a relative, friend or even yourself are in need of this counseling assistance, do not hesitate to call 1-800-281-2102.

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Calendar of Events

Through July 31 Entertainment Book Presale
July 12-20 Fowlerville Fair—Lifespan Booth, p. 6
July 27 Bowling for Life, p. 7
August (Date TBD) Youth Car Wash, p. 6
Aug. 15-Sept. 1 State Fair—Lifespan Booth, pp. 6, 7
Sept. 20 Lutherans for Life Conf., p. 10
Oct. 5 LIFE CHAIN, back page
Oct. 11 General Meeting/Breakfast, pp. 1, 3
Nov. 5 Student Essay Contest Deadline, p. 5

What's Up With the YOUTH?

Dear Friends for Life,
Hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer!

Two students from Notre Dame Prep, Christina Cracium and Clarisse Kowalski, attended Lifespan's Planning Session in June, where discussions took place concerning Lifespan's goals for the next few years—getting the youth more involved was one of the topics. I would like to invite all the youth out there to give us your feedback via e-mail on ways you think the youth in our area could be more involved in pro-life issues...thanks!

Plans are underway for a Lifespan Concert! We have targeted the first weekend in September, but are still looking for bands and location. If you want to get in on this, e-mail me at kdisalle@comcast.net.

Hopefully, I will be able to teach a class on Theology of the Body, by Pope John Paul II, next summer for our area's young adults (high school, college). Keep in touch if you are interested in taking this class. I would only ask you to buy the book at your local book store; no other fee would be asked of you—just your hearts and willingness to spread the truth!

A local pro-life student from Madonna University needs your prayers. Jennifer Pless was in a bad car accident in May; please pray for the healing of her ability to walk and the full function of her brain. Jennifer wanted to become a nurse. Please pray for her desire to become a reality again.

That's all for now. Seize the day!

Kim DiSalle, Youth Coordinator

College LIFEsavers

If you provide Lifespan's Oakland/Macomb Chapter, 248-816-1546, with the name and college address of your favorite student and \$5.00 for shipping, we will send him or her a Lifeline Gift Pack which includes several items: a pro-life T-shirt, a pen with the notation "My Dad Loves ME," a flexible 12-inch ruler that shows the accurate development of a baby in the inch increments, a button bearing the slogan, "Abortion is Mean," a "Tiny Feet" lapel pin...and more...call today!



Donations have been made—

In loving memory of:

Joseph Moleck

Given by: Diane and Jerry Fagelman
Pat and Bob Holscher

Wayne West/Downriver Board of Directors & Friends

In gratitude, on his retirement, to:

Deacon Rudy Piro

Given by: Mark and Joanne Moening
Pat and Bob Holscher

Wayne West/Downriver Board of Directors & Friends

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 of Metro Detroit will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

Educational Center for Life

Donations have been made—

In Honor of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of:

Tom and Marilyn Schepansky

Given by: Ken and Evelyn Stockman
Paul and Phyllis Sullivan
Bill and Linda Seng
Norv and Diane Trombley
Jeff and Lynn Gura

Educational Center for Life

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

248-816-8489 • Fax 248-816-9066

e-mail: info@edcenterforlife.org

website: www.edcenterforlife.org

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit 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
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 10.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Suite 127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736. For more information, call 248-777-9090. Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.

Two Additional
Locations—
in Livingston
County!



WE NEED
YOU
TO STAND
WITH US!!

LIFE CHAIN of Metro Detroit

National Life Chain Sunday

October 5, 2003 • 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

On Woodward Ave., from 10 to 12 Mile Rds., in Royal Oak, Huntington Woods and Berkley

On Gratiot, at 6 Mile Rd., in Detroit

On Gratiot, from 13 to 16 Mile Rds., in Roseville and Mt. Clemens

On Middlebelt Rd., from Jamison (2 blks. s. of 5 Mile Rd.) to 7 Mile Rd., in Livonia

At intersection of Wayne and Warren Rds., in Westland

At Michigan Ave. and Grand River to Fowler, in Howell

At Grand River and Main to Hacker, in Brighton

Thousands of participants will stand 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, as it has for the past 13 years. 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.** It can, and will, make a difference if we stand together! **WE NEED YOU.** Will YOU stand with us on October 5? Help **STOP** abortion and the devastation it causes! Gather your family, friends, neighbors and fellow church members to join LIFE CHAIN. Call today to register your church or organization—**248-777-9090.**

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27592 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150-2203

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