

What is Hospice?
p. 10

Lifespan *news*

Volume 27 Number 3

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

April/May 1998

Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 5

6:30 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Dinner

San Marino Club, Troy

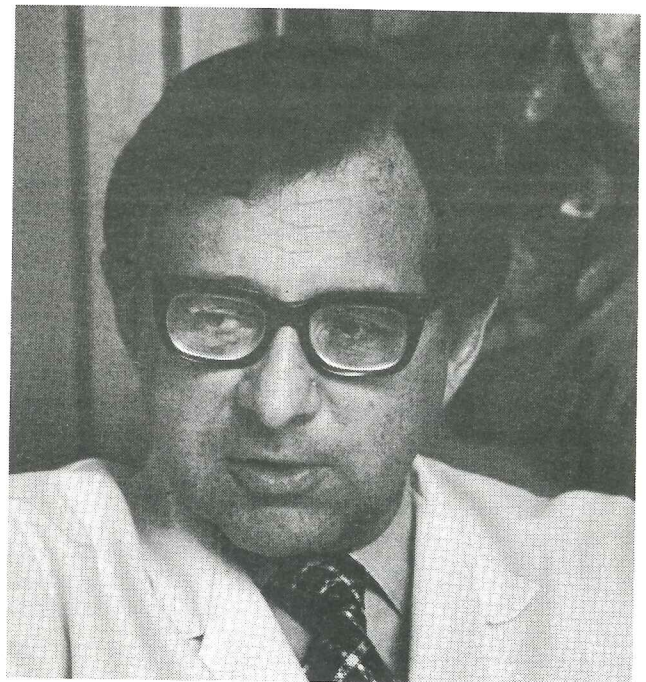
Featured Speaker

Bernard Nathanson, M.D.

As director of the world's largest abortion clinic and the nation's most prominent abortionist, Dr. Bernard Nathanson presided over 60,000 abortions. As co-founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League, he helped make abortion legal.

Then, in a conversion in the late 1970s, that made headlines and astonished both sides of the abortion debate, he renounced his profession to become a pro-life advocate, authoring *Aborting America* and producing the pro-life video, *The Silent Scream*. Dr. Nathanson is currently Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Medical College.

An added feature of our dinner this year will be a silent auction. For more information on dinner reservations, see page 3. For Resource Book advertising information, see page 7.



News Notes

Europe

35 nations are dying in both Eastern and Western Europe. Fifteen European countries now fill more coffins than cradles. Only two countries are above replacement birth rates—little Malta with 2.4 children per completed family and isolated Muslim Albania with 2.8.

The average married European woman now has 1.35 children in her lifetime. Russia, at 1.1, has the lowest overall birth rate in the world. Last year its death rate was 70% higher than its birth rate.

—*Life Issues Connector*, January 1998

Twins

A rare set of Siamese twins, connected at the side and with only two legs between them, was born in California February 10.

The 21-year-old mother, Karen Crowe, who already has another child, had declined to have an abortion when she knew the twins were joined. "I'm not going to play God," she said. "If God takes my babies, that's up to Him," she told Los Angeles TV station KNBC before the birth. "I had to give them a chance of life, whether they are crippled or not. Either they will survive or not."

—*The Pro-Life Infonet* (infonet-mod@prolife.org), February 11, 1998

Practitioners

The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research arm of Planned Parenthood, reports that "the number of physicians in the United States willing to perform legal abortions has dropped 18%—from 2,908 [in 1982] to 2,380 in 1992."

—*American Life League communiqué*
February 6, 1998

Error possible in cloning

The Scottish scientist who cloned Dolly the sheep said he may have made a mistake and will try the task again with other kinds of animals, *The Louisville Courier-Journal* reported.

"There is a remote possibility that the cell came from a fetus rather than from the adult," Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute said Monday at a genetics forum at the University of Louisville. Scientists have been able to clone mammals from fetal cells for two decades. Wilmut has strongly opposed the cloning of humans.

The Pro-Life Infonet (infonet-mod@prolife.org), February 17, 1998

World's oldest newborn

An embryo kept on ice for seven years has developed into a healthy baby boy, with experts calling the 8-pound, 15-ounce infant the world's oldest newborn.

The embryo was frozen in 1989. The parents forgot about the frozen embryo until last year when they received a letter asking what they wanted to do with it.

The Pro-Life Infonet (infonet-mod@prolife.org), February 17, 1998

Boycott update

The following corporations have been added to the boycott list released January 21, 1998 by Life Decisions International of financial supporters of Planned Parenthood, the world's largest promoter and provider of abortion:

Sony Corporation of America—Write: Mr. Howard Stringer, CEO, Sony Corporation of America, 550 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022.

The Walt Disney Company—Write: Mr. Michael D. Eisner, Chairman & CEO, The Walt Disney Company, 500 S. Buena Vista St., Burbank, CA 91521.

—*The Caleb Report*, Jan./Feb., 1998

Calendar of Events

Apr. 1 ..Mother of the Year Nominations
Apr. 6 ..Early Bird Dinner Reservations, p. 3
May 5Mother's Day Dinner
May 7National Day of Prayer
Oct. 4LIFE CHAIN
Oct. 17Legislative Breakfast

Lifespan News

Apr./May 1998 Vol. 27, No. 3

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Layout/Design - Marge Bradley

Contributor - Paula Ervin

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit is a non-profit organization, and is funded entirely by membership dues, private donations and fundraisers. Donations are not tax-deductible.

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<http://www.ring.com/nprofit/lifespan/main.htm>
RTLifespan@aol.com



Nurses for Life

Michigan Nurses for Life is an educational pro-life group for nurses established in the metro Detroit area in March of 1996. Membership is open to RNs, LPNs and student nurses.

Nurses for Life meets bimonthly to hear an educational speaker discuss a relevant issue. We uphold the God-given sanctity of all human life and believe it is a nurse's calling to protect it. We believe in speaking the truth with love to our opponents.

We are planning a **half-day seminar at Madonna University on Saturday, May 16, entitled "Death with True Dignity" addressing hospice care.** Continuing education credits will be applied through the Michigan Nurses Association. Health care professionals as well as the general public are invited. Speakers include a hospice physician, a hospice nurse, a compounding pharmacist who specializes in pain control, a spiritual care provider and a woman living with multiple sclerosis who speaks on the value of life.

If you have questions, would like a membership brochure or information on the May seminar, please call or write our office at **Michigan Nurses for Life, Coventry Place, Suite G, 1637 Big Beaver Rd., Troy, MI 48084. Phone: 248-816-8489.**

Faith unto Life Hope unto Death Love unto Eternal Life

Blessed are you, Lord, God of life. We praise you today for the gift of life. Teach us to live according to your will. Prepare us for the end of our days and weeks by opening our eyes to the reality of death and calming our hearts of their fears and anxieties.

Help us to be compassionate to those we know who are sick and dying.

Show us how to give them loving care.

Protect the dying and preserve the dignity and rights of those who will soon die.

Welcome these your children into your kingdom so they may have eternal life with you.

Bestow on all of us the grace to have *Faith unto Life, Hope unto Death, Love unto Eternal Life. Amen.*

—*Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit*

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

INVITES YOU TO ITS

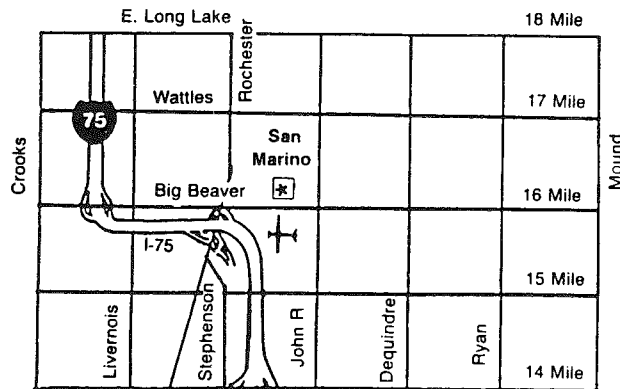
Mother's Day Dinner

Tuesday, May 5, 1998

Doors open - 6:30 p.m. • Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Bernard Nathanson, M.D.
Guest Speaker

San Marino Club
1685 East Big Beaver Rd., Troy



**Silent Auction
this year!**

Dinner Reservations: \$35 per person/\$300 per table of 10 (one check only, please) received by April 6
\$40 per person/\$350 per table of 10 (one check only, please) received after April 6

Number of dinner reservations _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____ Advance reservations required by May 1

(Please list names of all those for whom reservations are made on a separate sheet of paper.)

Seat with _____

(Table arrangements will be determined by date of receipt of paid reservation in the Main Office.)

☐ **Gold Patron \$100**

☐ **Silver Patron \$50**

☐ **Bronze Patron \$10**

Please print name (s) exactly as you wish it to appear. Names of patrons will be listed in the 1998 Resource Book.

Patron name _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Deadline for submission is April 6, 1998

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (include area code) _____



Make checks payable, and mail to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia MI 48152
For further information, or for an advertising contract for the 1998 Resource Book, call (248) 777-9090
(Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible)



President

President Bill Clinton
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 (Spencer Abraham, Carl Levin)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3121
1 (800) 522-6721

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 224-3121
1 (800) 522-6721

Dear Congressman or Congresswoman
(last name):

Governor

The Honorable John Engler
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-3400
e-mail: migov@aol.com

Dear Governor Engler:

Michigan State Senator or Representative

The Honorable (full name)
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 373-1837

Dear Senator (last name): or
Dear Representative (last name):

It would be a federal offense for an adult to take a minor across state lines for an abortion without parental consent according to a bill introduced February 12 by Senator Spencer Abraham of Michigan and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida.

About half the states, including Michigan, have enacted laws requiring consent or notification of at least one parent, or judicial authorization before a minor can get an abortion.

Each year, there are thousands of cases in which an adult, other than a parent or guardian, takes a minor to another state for an abortion in order to circumvent parental consent laws. Often this is done to conceal criminal activity such as statutory rape.

Please contact your U.S. Representative and Senator Carl Levin and urge support for this legislation. Call or write today. Also, thank Senator Abraham for introducing the bill.

The Michigan House passed SB200, a bill banning assisted suicide, 66-40, on March 12 after more than two hours of emotional debate, but supporters fell short of the two-thirds majority needed for the measure to take effect immediately.

The amendment that would have repealed the law unless it was submitted to voters at the November 3, 1998 general election was defeated on the House floor prior to the bill's passage.

The bill now goes back to the Senate, where minor House changes are expected to be adopted before it goes to Gov. John Engler's desk, who has vowed to sign it. The ban would then take effect April 1, 1999.

Key X - In favor of Ban
O - Opposed to Ban
? - Not Voting

4

Infanticide for Beginners

By James Neuchterlein

It was the issue of abortion that taught me to be suspicious of the word "reform." It was the early 1960s and all right-minded people were in favor of "abortion reform." I assumed I should be too until it gradually dawned on me, slow learner that I was, that people speaking of abortion reform were speaking of making it easier to take human life.

That made a powerful impression on me, and ever since I have been acutely aware of the ability of people of liberal persuasion, especially when it comes to life issues, to obscure what is actually going on through artful semantic evasion.

That art has, it seems, taken a great leap forward. In an article entitled "Why They Kill Their Newborns" in the *New York Times Magazine* (November 1, 1997), Steven Pinker, a professor of psychology at MIT, suggests we ought to lighten up about infanticide, and he begins the process of thought reform by eliminating the word "infanticide." In its place he proposes two words: "Neonaticide," the killing of a child on the day of its birth, and "filicide," the killing of a child at some later point.

You see the advance. Who would not more lightheartedly engage in neonaticide or even filicide than something so off-putting—even, might one say, *so infra dig* [undignified]—as infanticide?

Not that Prof. Pinker, author of the recent and widely noticed *How the Mind Works* and currently a hot intellectual property, actually comes out in favor of infanticide, under whatever name. Indeed, he courageously affirms that "killing a baby is an immoral act" and adds that while we can try to understand what would bring a mother to such an act, "to understand is not necessarily to forgive."

But he then sets out on a mode of analysis that, forgive baby-killing or not, renders it not much more than a moral misdemeanor. Not much more, perhaps, than abortion.

Pinker's point of departure is the recent spate of headlines regarding young women who, in a variety of circumstances, have killed, or left to die, their newborn babies. Such behavior, it turns out, is built into "the biological design of our parental emotions." For us mammals, parental in-

vestment is a limited resource, one we must decide to allot either to newborn or to current and future children. Human evolutionary history, with its record of high infant mortality, has taught us to make hard choices, including, where necessary, consigning the newborn weak to death. "We are all descendants of women who made the difficult decisions that allowed them to become grandmothers in that unforgiving world, and we inherited that brain circuitry that led to those decisions." My hard-wiring made me do it.

Well, not quite. Natural selection does not "push the buttons of behavior directly," but it does endow us "with emotions that coax us toward adaptive choices." Thus it is, Pinker says, that "a new mother will first coolly assess the infant and her current situation and only in the next few days begin to see it as a unique and wonderful individual." (To which Michael Kelly, writing in the *Washington Post*, responded, "Yes, that was my wife all over, cool as a cucumber as she assessed whether to keep her first-born child or toss him out the window.")

Not that those who opt for defenestration don't feel bad about it. Anthropological students of neonaticidal women in hunter-gatherer societies, Pinker reports, "discover that the women see the death as an unavoidable tragedy, grieve at the time, and remember the child with pain all their lives."

It is not just new mothers, Pinker suggests, who come equipped with the brain circuitry to countenance neonaticide. How else to explain the leniency with which, he says, society deals with first-day baby killers? "Prosecutors sometimes don't prosecute; juries rarely convict; those found guilty almost never go to jail." Such leniency Pinker goes on—driving now to the heart of his modest proposal—"forces us to think the unthinkable and ask if we, like many societies and like the mothers themselves, are not completely sure whether a neonate is a full person."

Our problem is that while we need "a clear boundary to confer personhood on a human being and grant it a right to life," we have a most difficult time, as the abortion debate reveals, marking that boundary. Up till now, Pinker concedes, most everyone has agreed that the line must be drawn no later than birth. But

"neonaticide forces us to examine even that boundary." "To a biologist," he cheerily informs us, "birth is as arbitrary a milestone as any other."

Moral philosophers instruct us, Pinker says, that a right to life must come from "morally significant qualities that we humans happen to possess." "One such trait is having a unique sequence of experiences that defines us as individuals and connects us to other people. Other traits include an ability to reflect upon ourselves as a continuous locus of consciousness, to form and savor plans for the future, to dread death, and to express the choice not to die. And there's the rub: our immature neonates don't possess these traits any more than mice do." That being the case, Pinker reports, "several moral philosophers have concluded that neonates are not persons, and thus neonaticide should not be classified as murder."

But most people, he concedes, flinch from following their brain circuitry to that logical endpoint.

"So how," Pinker wonders, "do you provide grounds for outlawing neonaticide?" The "facts," the reader by now is not surprised to learn, "don't make it easy." Some philosophers have argued, for example, "that people see neonates as so similar to older babies that you couldn't allow neonaticide without coarsening the way people treat children and other people in general." But again, "the facts say otherwise." Studies show, Pinker insists, "that neonaticidal women don't kill anyone but their newborns, and when they give birth later under better conditions, they can be devoted, loving mothers." So it is that "the baby killers turn out to be not moral monsters but nice, normal (and sometimes religious) young women."

By this point, Pinker's whole analysis would lead to the conclusion that neonaticide is not the "immoral act" he called it at the outset but rather, at worst, the "unavoidable tragedy" that the hunter-gatherer women endure. But at the brink, Pinker blinks. Just as the reader steels himself for a proposal for "infanticide reform," Pinker retreats to a dying fall. "We will probably never resolve" the dilemmas surrounding neonaticide, he lamely concludes. "We will most likely muddle through, keeping birth as a con-

continued on page 6

March of Dimes

continued from back page

made a better laboratory tool and began to look around for an abortion method that would deliver a live baby with less trauma to the mother.

Dr. Kurt Hirschhorn of New York's Sinai Hospital, long time advisory Board member and grantee of MOD, author of its original Birth Defects Article Series, wrote, "With prostaglandins you can arrange the whole abortion...so the fetus comes out viable in the sense that it can survive hours or a day."¹ Thereupon, it can be said that "a new and deep relationship between abortion and fetal experimentation was formed. It heralded the concept of a fetus as an organ farm in the real sense."²

The drug, Prostin Alpha 2, manufactured by Upjohn Pharmaceuticals, when used in second-trimester abortions, sometimes delivered a live baby. "...In 1982 the National Right to Life Committee reported that, in separate studies, Prostin Alpha 2 resulted in 7 to 9 (live) births in 100 abortions, a rate 30 times higher than with saline."³

It was found that this "fresh material" did offer viable tissues (as Dr. Hirschhorn predicted), and as two other MOD grantees wrote, this material "might be suitable for organ transplants...for vaccines, and for basic research." These researchers were Dr. Mitchell Golbus and Dr. Robert Erickson, who wrote while working on a 1973 grant from MOD.⁴

Recently, WELS Lutherans for Life, alarmed by a paper published by MOD (*Strategies in Genetic Counseling: Reproductive Genetics and New Technologies*) began a dialogue with MOD about the use of aborted fetal tissue in their studies. They invited Dr. John Willke, (originally president of the National Right to Life Committee, now president of Life Issues, Inc.) to study the MOD reply. He summarized his reaction to the MOD letter (4/15/97) in these words: "...the letter is a mixture of some truths, some half truths and some false statements. It certainly would have been better had the MOD limited its comments to issues directly relating to diagnostic, mid-trimester amniocentesis rather than mixing many issues and then drawing sweeping conclusions."⁵

WELS Lutherans then joined the established boycott of MOD and adopted

the Michael Fund of Pittsburgh, PA for its research donations.

The strictures placed on government-funded laboratories were lifted by executive order of President Clinton the day he took office in 1992, thereby placing virtually unlimited freedom in the hands of scientists who believe that the end justifies the means. It must be said, in justice, that some scientists stand tall in opposition.

In our original statement of protest to MOD policies, we absolved it of any close relationship to abortion itself. However, the passage of time and the literature have rendered this attitude extremely naive. A wealth of scientific articles places MOD hand in glove with the abortionists and reinforces Lifespan's original boycott of the March of Dimes.

Footnotes:

¹ Suzanne M. Rini: "Beyond Abortion," *A Chronicle of Fetal Experimentation*, TAN books and Publishers, Rockford, Illinois 61105, 1993, p. 81.

² *Ibid.*, p. 80.

³ *Ibid.* p. 79, quoting Jeff Lyon, "The Doctor's Dilemma: When Abortion Gives Birth to Life, Physicians Become Troubled Saviours," *National Right to Life News*, September 16, 1982, p. 8.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 80. Taken from the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 1974.

⁵ WELS Lutherans for Life, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222.

—Right to Life - Lifespan Policy Statement
Revision adopted January 19, 1998

The Michael Fund

Who's in favor of birth defects? Nobody! Yet for some strange incomprehensible reason, more than 90 percent of all prenatal genetic research today is aimed at detecting the "defective" child in the womb. The "cure"? Abortion.

Only the Michael Fund—International Foundation for Genetic Research, provides 100% of its dollars to research aimed at preventing and correcting birth defects. Their number one priority right now is Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21). They are proud to report that The Michael Fund has the support of Down Syndrome International.

Their research, if successful, will not only prevent this defect but will enable even more Down Syndrome children to live near normal lives. There used to be 7,000 babies born every year with Down Syndrome. Now the annual rate is down to 3,500. The difference is the result of prenatal testing such as amniocentesis for

"defective" babies in vitro which the March of Dimes sponsors and promotes. This search and destroy mission kills the "defectives" before they are born.

Please send contributions to:

The Michael Fund
500A Garden City Dr.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15146
(412) 823-6380

All contributions are tax-deductible.

And, please, before you give to organizations that say they are fighting birth defects, look beyond their headline. Look at the bottom line. Are they trying to kill or cure the patient?

Infanticide for Beginners

continued from page 5

spicuous legal boundary but showing mercy to the anguished girls who feel they had no choice but to run afoul of it." If I were one of those "anguished girls," I would feel justified in suing Pinker for breach of implied intellectual promise.

Just why Pinker pulls back from the brink one cannot tell. Perhaps because he recognizes that his argument has led him further than he originally intended. He wants to maintain a clear distinction between neonaticide and filicide. But consider the "morally significant traits" he invokes as necessary to a claim of a right to life: "A unique sequence of experiences that defines us as individuals and connects us to other people...an ability to reflect upon ourselves as a continuous locus of consciousness, to form and savor plans for the future, to dread death, and to express the choice not to die." Those are traits unavailable not just to mice and newborn babies, but to all people up to several years of age. From such a brink only a moral idiot would not pull back.

But no doubt future moral explorers will venture where Pinker, for now, fears to tread. That's the sort of thing that happens when you start "thinking the unthinkable." Which is a good reason for people possessed of moral common sense politely to refuse invitations to such thought experiments.

Abortion on demand, neonaticide, filicide. Next thing you know—to echo [the late Senator] Everett Dirksen in a different context—you're talking real people.

—First Things, January, 1998
Reprinted with permission



Right to Life - Lifespan 1998 RESOURCE BOOK

Advertising Contract

This book will contain informational material that will be used throughout the year. Your ad represents support for Lifespan's educational efforts. Fill out the form below and send it to us with your remittance included. **Deadline for submission is Monday, April 6, 1998.**

Advertising Contract: I wish to publish _____ page ad for the sum of \$ _____

Full page (7.5 x 10) \$200 Back cover (inside) \$250 Back cover (outside) \$350	1/4 page (3.75 x 5) \$75	
	1/8 page (3.75 x 2.5) \$40	
	Half page (7.5 x 5) \$125	

Please attach copy-ready advertising slick, business card, business letterhead or typed copy of ad. Black and white is preferred. All advertisers will receive a copy of book. Lifespan reserves the right to refuse any advertisement it deems unsuitable.

A complimentary dinner ticket to the 1998 Mother's Day Dinner on Tuesday, May 5 will be given to any individual for every \$200 worth of new ads obtained for the Resource Book. The ad seller's signature must appear on the contract below when the ad and remittance is received by Right to Life - Lifespan.

Contact Person _____	Phone (area code) _____
Name of Advertiser _____	
Address _____	City _____
Zip _____	
Ad Seller's Signature _____	Phone (area code) _____

Make checks payable, and mail to:
Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia MI 48152
For further information, call 248-777-9090

Contributions to Right to Life - Lifespan, Inc. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.



Chapter

detroit

oakland/macomb

Office hours

MW 10-2; TThF Closed
Carol Smith, Director
Mary Cascos, Ofc. Mgr.

Sad farewell

The Detroit Chapter Board regretfully accepted the resignation of our Director, Carol Smith. Her dedication and love of all life has been inspirational to all with whom she came in contact. Her love of Detroit has been evident as she has worked tirelessly over the years to hold rallies at Kennedy Square. She has made countless speaking engagements to our young people in schools and churches throughout Detroit and even spearheaded an outreach to the

more "liberal-minded" youth by organizing a booth at Earthfest. We will sadly miss her direction.

The Detroit Chapter Board is looking for a new director. Please contact the Main Office at 248-777-9090.

Showers of thanks

Thanks to all our Detroit churches which hosted Baby Showers to benefit local pregnancy help centers: St. Suzanne, Christ the King, Assumption Grotto and St. Clare of Montefalco.

Mother's Day roses

If you belong to a Detroit church and your church does not sell silk flowers to "Thank Mom" for life on Mother's Day, please volunteer to help with our main fundraiser. Consider becoming a church representative; call 313-874-0432.

Office hours

MTTh 9-5; WF 9-2:45
Diane Fagelman, Director
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Mary Small, Adm. Assistant

Dinner delight

We are adding something new to our Mother's Day Dinner this year—we will be having a silent auction that evening. We will start out small, with only ten or so items, and see if our dinner guests enjoy it. Sorry, it won't include any trips to Tahiti, or 60-foot yachts, but we already have some very nice items that will provide for some lively bidding and result in a special gift for you or someone you love.

Oh yes, we do have one extra special, super-duper item, which will be a surprise, but is sure to be a special addition to someone's collection (those are all the clues you get—you'll have to come to the dinner to

find out!) We have six items already in hand and are looking for about four more.

If you would care to donate an item, or a sum of money for the purchase of an item, please call the Oakland/Macomb office, 248-816-1546.

One thing that we could really use is a gift certificate for a special dinner at one of our fine restaurants, or a "weekend getaway" at a local hotel. Check with your friends and see if you can help.

Christmas card kudos

A special thank you goes out to all you super Christmas card sellers in the Oakland/Macomb area. As usual, you did an outstanding job. Our cards were beautiful and our buyers really seemed to like them. Great work, folks!

St. Vincent Ferrer school cares about kids

The Oakland/Macomb office received a very generous donation from the students at St. Vincent Ferrer School in Madison Heights. Each week, they choose a group to support in a special way. This past month, they remembered all the ba-

Mother's Day ads & dinner

Lifespan celebrates 28 years of service in the pro-life movement! Come celebrate with us at our annual Mother's Day Dinner on May 5th. Let us know that you support our efforts by becoming a GOLD PATRON for \$100 or a BRONZE PATRON for just \$10.00. Your name will be included in our 1998 Resource Book where you can publicly acclaim that you are PRO-LIFE! We also need you to help us solicit your church, school or business to advertise in our Resource Book. Ads range from \$40 to \$350.00. See pages 3 and 7.

Detroit Chapter
5930 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-3516
(313) 874-0432
Fax (same as phone)

bies and moms who need some extra love and help. You guys are super stars!!

Terrific Ts

We have a few of our pro-life t-shirts left. (They were a big hit at the Rally.) They have a very positive, upbeat message and are suitable for any age. Give the Oakland/Macomb office a call. They are only \$10 and with spring coming, (it will come!) now is the time to get one.

Carnations are coming

It will soon be Mother's Day and as has been our practice for many years, we will be offering carnations, tagged with the words, "Thanks Mom, for Life!" These pretty flowers always seem to put a smile on Mom's or Grandma's face, and on the face of the giver too! If you would like to use this project in your area, give us a call at the office, 248-816-1546.

Oakland/Macomb Chapter
Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(248) 816-1546
Fax: (248) 816-9066

News

wayne west/downriver

Office hours

M-Th 10-4; F Closed
Patricia Holscher, Chairman
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

Join the Committee of Correspondence

Lifespan, finding the press and electronic media heavily stacked on the side of abortion advocacy, has developed a "Committee of Correspondence." Its purpose is to bypass media distortions and deal directly with our elected representatives.

You can join this group and become a lobbyist from your kitchen table. You are the grass roots. Do not let the powerful media act as a barrier between you and the people who represent you.

The office will send you the information you need so you feel comfortable writing a message in your own words. They need not be long—just polite and sincere.

We know from experience that all letters are not read personally, but they are counted and those numbers are passed on. And, numbers do count!

Telechain—the missing link

In the past few months, the office has had to get messages out quickly about impending legislation regarding the Life issues. Timewise, this feat would have been accomplished more smoothly and rapidly if a telechain could have been activated.

We know that one of the most effective kinds of communication between our legislators and our pro-life mem-

bers is through a telechain when speed is vital. These calls can make the difference between life and death—a good pro-life bill or an anti-life bill being introduced or enacted. A few good people can make the telechain work efficiently.

Please contact us so that we may get this missing link between Lansing or Washington operating successfully within our Chapter.

Your calls will usually be taken by an aide. You rarely will reach a legislator. You simply express your concern, give your name and address and ask for a response. It's as simple as that.

Alternative to above

If you can't be on the Committee of Correspondence or the Telechain, make a pledge now that you will send five letters a month (more often if possible) to the President, Governor and other lawmakers expressing your views on abortion, partial-birth abortion (genocide), assisted suicide, medicare rationing and other related Life topics. You have the ability to change minds and hearts. Will you take this challenge to save a life?

To join, please fill in this coupon and mail to RTL - Lifespan, 27578 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. We will contact you when proposed legislation is on the way.

- () Yes, I want to be part of the Committee of Correspondence.
() Yes, I want to be on the Telechain.
() Yes, I will pledge to write letters on my own.

Name _____
Address _____
City, Zip _____
Phone _____
County of Residence _____

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(734) 422-6230
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From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

It was originally known as "infantile paralysis," but polio struck indiscriminately.

One day in August of 1921, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was stricken with polio and left paralyzed. He was never able to walk again.

One day in October of 1952, my mother was stricken with polio and left paralyzed. The doctors said she would never walk again.

My mother, with five young children, was faced with an enormous challenge. With faith and determination, she came home after three months in the hospital. Eventually, she did walk again and credits the March of Dimes (MOD) with aiding her recovery.

Almost fifty years later, the MOD still appears to be a very positive organization worthy of our support. After all, nobody is in favor of birth defects, and wouldn't it be great if every baby was healthy.

But please read Lifespan's updated policy statement on the MOD which begins on the back page. Then ask yourself which is more humane—to cure the defect or to kill the "defective"?

What if the MOD had decided that the best course of treating those with polio was euthanasia?

This country would have lost a popular president and I would have lost my beloved mother.



PS: Please join us at our Mother's Day Dinner on May 5 with our guest speaker, Dr. Bernard Nathanson. I promise you it will be an exciting event!

What is Hospice?

By Marianne Potter, B.S., B.S.N.

In the middle ages, hospice was a place where sick or weary travelers would stay while on a long journey. In a spiritual sense, hospice carries some of that same meaning today. Hospice is care that is provided to people with a life-limiting illness. It is becoming more of a common term but has a long way to go before it is a household word.

The media has placed an image of death in our heads that it is a treacherous and painful experience—one that is feared by everyone. I will testify that death, although emotionally draining, can be an uplifting experience. To be able to give someone the feeling of comfort and love and the assurance that life will continue, is truly a gift. Regardless of the illness, the body has a certain way of shutting down. In hospice, we call this “the dying process.” With each stage of the dying process, there are certain symptoms that are expected. Medications are given to ease any symptoms that may be uncomfortable. Whether it be pain, altered bowel or bladder habits, shortness of breath or anxiety, hospice professionals are trained to handle these symptoms.

Hospice should be viewed as a specialty. If your heart is not functioning you go to a cardiologist, if your hip is broken you go to an orthopedic surgeon. Why aren't more people saying, “If I have a life-limiting illness that cannot be cured, let me go to hospice?” I believe it is the fear of the unknown that is causing despair. It is up to us to educate to stem the fear.

Hospice is focused on palliative care principles. This means that medical care is geared towards symptom management, not curative treatment. I like to say that we focus on living life rather than dying. Hospice uses a team approach to meet physical, psychological and spiritual needs. Every person has a registered nurse, social worker, certified home health aide, doctor, spiritual support and volunteers available to them. Care is focused on the needs of the person with a life-limiting illness as well as those in their social or family circle.

Care can be provided in a place that the person chooses to call home whether that be their home or a friend or family member's home. We refer to the care provided in someone's home as home

care. Insurances, including Medicare and Medicaid, cover this 100%. That means there is no out-of-pocket expense. This coverage includes all staff that is involved, all medications related to the life-limiting illness and all equipment needed to support the person's needs. The other place that care can be provided is in a nursing care facility or a designated hospice facility. This is referred to as inpatient care. Insurance coverage may vary at this point. Most insurances will cover the cost of staff, medications and equipment (just like it will for home care services) but will not cover the cost of room and board. An average range of out-of-pocket expenses are between \$100 and \$200 per day. To find out if you have any room and board coverage on your insurance, it is best to call your insurance company and ask for verification of benefits or talk with the facility you are interested in using.

The purpose of hospice is not to limit what health care is available to you. It's purpose is to enhance your life by controlling your symptoms and providing support to everyone involved. It is to stop the unnecessary testing and “needle pokes.” If we know what the problem is and we know that no known therapy is going to cure us, why do we need to know that our lab values are still abnormal and the scans show the illness still exists? We need to change our focus back to living our lives and stop spending our time in waiting rooms and hospitals. Did you know that if you sign onto hospice and your illness reverses, you can come off hospice? Did you know that when you are on a hospice program, you can visit relatives out of town and still be covered under what we call “courtesy coverage” from a hospice in the area to which you are going? Did you know that if you are signed onto hospice because of a type of cancer and you have had diabetes, that you still receive aggressive treatment for your diabetes as needed?

So we come to the question, how do we know when it is time to sign on to hospice? I lived this question first-hand, and it was terrifying. I had to stop being a hospice nurse and try being a daughter-in-law. We were told that no more treatment would cure my mother-in-law. I went for a second and third opinion and still the answer was the same, “There is nothing more we can do.” To me this made hospice the only

option. So why didn't one of the doctors suggest it? Essentially, it is the doctor who certifies that a patient is appropriate for hospice. Many times patients are afraid to ask; doctors reluctant to tell that hospice is appropriate now. I knew enough about hospice to go back and force the issues with the medical staff and finally got the okay to bring her home with hospice. She lived only 15 days with us, but they were 15 days of laughing, crying, talking, praying and spending time together. They were the best 15 days I ever spent with my mother-in-law. I am glad to have no regrets. I was fortunate enough to know about hospice and force the issue with the doctors. Otherwise, she may never have left the hospital. I hope that, with what you have learned here, you would feel more comfortable questioning when hospice might be appropriate.

You may have questions specific to your needs and concerns. There are always gray areas. I encourage anyone who wants to know more to contact a hospice and find out the facts. If there are specific questions and concerns, a hospice professional might better answer those questions, one on one. Although all hospices may focus on the same thing, one hospice may better meet your needs than another.

When you go to buy a new house or car, don't you shop and compare? Do not treat health care any differently. Ask questions about the type of care that can be expected, how after-hour calls are handled and how often nurses visit. You may even want to exchange viewpoints on moral or ethical issues. Keep in mind that any decision you make can be changed. You can choose to stop receiving hospice care at any time or you can choose to switch hospice programs without penalty.

I encourage you to take what you have learned here and use it—whether to help someone you know or to find out more information. With every patient I have cared for, I have learned and taken a part of them with me. Most of all, I take the conviction that hospice provides a means of living life while going through the stages of dying with dignity and comfort. —Marianne Potter has worked for four years in hospice, the last three at Angela Hospice.

For more information, call:

Angela Hospice (734) 464-7810

Cranbrook Hospice (248) 334-6700

Hospice of Michigan (248) 559-9209

Donations have been made—

In honor of the birth & baptism of their first grandchild:

Nicholas Jon Dattilo

Given by: Dee & Nick Dattilo

In honor of the birth of:

Jake Ryan Holscher

Given by: The Venditti Family

In loving memory of:

William Radack, Sr.

Given by: Russ & Katie Hesch & Family

Paul Esch

Given by: Eleanor Esch

Marge Pepper

Given by: Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hutira

Charlotte G. Hertenstein

Given by: Russ & Katie Hesch & Family

Baby Matthew

Given by: Rich & Mary Ann

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. Donations may be sent to your local Lifespan office.

Dear Lifespan News:

January was a very busy month for members of Harper Woods Regina High School Teens for Life!

Several members helped distribute programs at the Rally at Wayne State on January 18, and seven members were able to go to Washington for the March, thanks to the generous sponsorship of fellow pro-lifers.

President Jaclyn Toepel and Vice-President Laura Yousif planned a beautiful and educational memorial prayer service that was broadcast over the Regina television monitors into every classroom. Many other Teens for Life members helped plan or did readings for the service. Several faculty members and students commented on how much they learned from and appreciated this school-wide experience.

Regina Teens for Life is alive and well! How about all your other high schools out there?

—Hank Forys, Moderator
Regina Teens for Life

Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. There are 23 pregnancy help centers located throughout the metro Detroit area.

For more information, you may call your Lifespan office listed on pages 8 or 9. Bethany Christian Services also has a 24-hour hotline number; please call 1-800-BETHANY.

Project Life, Archdiocese of Detroit, also 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.



A mother, 16-years-old, scared but determined to give life to her baby—

A mother, homeless and living in a shelter with her three little ones—

A mother, proud and off welfare, but reluctantly having to ask for help—

A mother, abandoned by her family and about to give birth—

These are some of the faces of our Wee Care mothers.

Because of you, they receive sleepers and t-shirts to clothe their babies, blankets to keep them warm, diapers to keep them dry and formula to keep them fed. They also receive information to help their situations and the gifts of your love and concern for them and their little ones.

On Mother's Day this year, may all of our mothers, and all of you who provide for them, receive a special hug and realize just how loved and cherished you are.

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care 248-777-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

Marian Peace Center

The annual conference of the Marian Peace Center of Detroit will be held Saturday, April 4, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Novi Hilton in Novi.

Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, a highly respected philosophical lecturer in the pro-life movement, is a guest speaker. She speaks on women's issues throughout North America and Europe. Other speakers include Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Donna Lee and Joe Tabers. For more information, call 248-559-4544.

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 \$ 15.00
_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 7.00

_____ Monthly pledge \$ _____
_____ Other \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please detach at the dotted line and return to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152-3736.
Memberships and donations are not tax-deductible.

The March of Dimes

By Paula Ervin

In the years before Drs. Salk and Sabin, the March of Dimes had endeared itself to the American people by its unrelenting drive to eliminate polio, and by its beneficent support for the victims of the dreaded disease. Those of us who remember the fears we entertained for our children then, will be forever grateful.

Since their efforts were crowned by the glittering successes of Salk and Sabin in the late 50s, polio has been swept from the American scene. This left the March of Dimes (MOD) with a sophisticated national organization that had shown itself gifted in attracting scientists of renown, and in the art of raising money. Its leaders, then, sought a worthy cause that would fill a need and arouse the public conscience. They settled on Birth Defects—tragic occurrences that are visited on many families. The MOD has contributed to much worthy research since, although new therapeutic treatments within the womb are rare.

A controversy erupted between MOD and the pro-life movement in the 70s that centered on the genetic testing that has searched out defects that are untreatable in the womb. The work of amniocentesis was to insert a long needle into the mother's abdomen during the 14th to 18th week of gestation and withdraw fluid which took four to six weeks to yield answers. Accord-

ing to MOD's own reports, when results were positive, 97% of the parents opted to abort. Such abortions, of time necessity, were therefore done in the second trimester.

Since 1976, Right to Life - Lifespan has adopted a non-support policy toward the March of Dimes.

At the same time, grantees from MOD, speaking around the country, left no doubt that they welcomed liberated abortion and some told their audiences that they would refuse to use amnio unless parents promised to abort if tests were positive. (Now amnio is done in the 11th week of gestation which accommodates earlier abortions and another test, chorionic villi sampling, is done earlier still and for the same reason.)

In January, 1976, Lifespan and our pro-life comrades in Michigan, adopted a policy of non-cooperation with MOD, and across the country the entire pro-life movement eventually followed suit. Then and always, we pointed out that whenever medical intervention in the womb could correct a defect, we welcomed that move. Then and always, we expressed our deep sympathy with parents of an affected child but that to kill is not to cure.

Although we had broken with MOD because of genetically triggered abortions, the facts of fetal experimentation, which followed speedily, had not yet come to the public view. Even today, the public is largely innocent of how far down the ethical slippery slope our beloved country has fallen.

When *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion in 1973, an abundance of aborted fetuses became available and a fast bandwagon of fetal research was set in motion onto which scientists leaped exultantly. At first, pro-life influences encouraged strictures to be placed against much experimentation in government-funded laboratories, but MOD is a private group and is not subject to the same rules.

In the use of fetuses for research purposes, the human fetus was divided into two classes: The first was the fetus as a patient, i.e., a "wanted" child, therefore, a person. And this is where medical intervention sometimes found happy solutions. The second class was the "abortus," the product of a planned or accidentally terminated pregnancy during the first 20 weeks of gestation. This second class was given no protection or status.

The ethical controversy sharpened when some abortion methods delivered a live baby (i.e., hysterotomy—a miniature Caesarean) and though first viewed as the "dreaded complication," some researchers noted that tissues from a live baby

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Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

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