

# Lifespan FREE COPY news

Volume 28 Number 3

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

April/May 1999

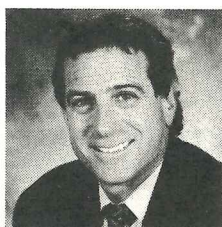
## *Right to Life - Lifespan Cordially Invites You to Its Mother's Day Dinner*

*Tuesday, May 4, 1999*

*6:30 p.m. Silent Auction • 7:00 p.m. Dinner  
San Marino Club • 1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy*

*Honoring Lifespan's 1999 Mother of the Year  
Edna Pietrzyk*

*Featuring best-selling author and nationally-known speaker Dr. Ira Byock*



*Ira Byock, M.D.*

*Michigan Defeated Proposal B—Now What?*

*\$40 per person/\$350 per table of 10; please make reservations by April 27*

*Silent Auction and Speaker Sponsored by Educational Center for Life  
For Auction information, call (248) 816-8489*

*For more Dinner information, see page 7*

### **Happy Mother's Day!**

*"The most important person in the world is a MOTHER. It is true she cannot claim the honor of having built the Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something far more wonderful and lasting...the cathedral of her child's immortal soul. Not even the angels have been so honored as to share with God in His work of creation. What in God's green earth is more wonderful than this...to be a mother?"*

*—Josef Cardinal Mindzenty*

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# News & Notes

## Greedy geezers

The founder of the Hemlock Society has declared that physician-assisted suicide will ultimately be accepted as an important "method of cost containment." The elderly, says Derek Humphry, are increasingly recognized as "greedy geezers" are "putting a strain on the health care system that will only increase and cannot be sustained."

—*Life at Risk*, January 1999

## Not so fast

A *Washington Post* article questions whether human cloning is even possible. Scientists attempting to clone a monkey have "utterly failed," despite some 135 attempts. Said researcher Don Wolf of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, "It's clearly not a trivial undertaking." *Post* reporter Rick Weiss writes, "the failures suggest that anyone trying to clone a person should be prepared to work at it a long time and have a large supply of volunteers willing to be experimental subjects."

—*American Life League communiqué*  
February 19, 1999

## Support for abortion declines

Only 51 percent of college freshmen believe that abortion should be legal, a decline of 14 percentage points since the beginning of the decade, according to a broad annual survey of freshmen.

The survey, now in its 33rd year, is conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute, at the University of California at Los Angeles. It is intended to provide a look at how the attitudes and aspirations of college freshmen have changed over time. This year's report is based on the responses of 275,811 students at 469 two and four-year institutions.

According to past surveys, support for legal abortion has been volatile, soaring to a record high of 64.9% in 1990.

—*The Pro-Life Infonet*  
([infonet-mod@prolife.org](mailto:infonet-mod@prolife.org)), February 3, 1999

## Help wanted

Right to Life - Lifespan is looking for a pro-life administrative assistant to work part-time in Lifespan's Main Office in Livonia. Duties, in this hourly position, will include coordinating special projects.

Send letter or resume with references to: Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia, MI 48152. No phone calls, please.

## If you oppose abortion

If you are interested in opposing abortion in a peaceful and prayerful manner, you may wish to join others as they pray the rosary at 4132 Schaefer Ave., two blocks south of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.

The rosary is prayed on Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m. and Saturday at 9:45 a.m. For further information, call Frank at (313) 274-0428 or Kathy at (313) 274-5459.

## National Convention

"Building a New Millenium" is the theme of the 1999 National Right to Life Convention to be held June 24-26 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Featured speakers include Chris Burke, best known for his role as "Corky" on the hit ABC series, *Life Goes On*; Paul Greenberg, editorial page editor of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*; Fr. Mike Mannion, author of *Spiritual Reflections of a Pro-Life Pilgrim* and *Abortion and Healing*; Mary McBride, comic writer for Phyllis Diller; and Charlie Sykes, radio host and author.

The Hyatt Regency Milwaukee is reserving a block of rooms for NRLC '99 attendees. Reservations must be made before May 28 to insure the special room rate. Call (414) 276-1234 and mention the convention.

Special travel arrangements for NRLC '99 attendees are also available; call (248) 777-9090 for further information.

## Prayer for LIFE

*Let us thank God that our parents loved us. Thank God. Let us pray today that every mother will want her child. That no mother will use means to destroy it. That no mother will have that feeling of not wanting the unborn child. That no mother will be afraid to feed one more child, to educate one more child, to take care of one more child. —Mother Teresa*

## Join America in prayer

There are many ways you can participate in the 48th annual National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 6. To find out what you can do to encourage others to pray for our nation, to join an existing observance or to obtain copies of the Michigan Prayer Guide, call: 1-800-644-9111.

## Calendar of Events

April 24 .....Nurses for Life Conf., p. 11  
May 4 .....Mother's Day Dinner  
May 6 .....National Day of Prayer  
May 8, 9 .....Mother's Day Rose Sale  
May 9 .....Mother's Day  
June 24-26 ....Nat'l. Right to Life Convention  
Oct. 3 .....LIFE CHAIN

## Lifespan News

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# Slaying the Corporate Goliath

## How Two Little Shareholders Helped Stop General Mills Funding Planned Parenthood

By Charles Kleinbrook

**F**or years I tinkered with the idea that if corporate America stops funding abortion service providers, then our other collateral battles will be easier. A good hunter follows the money trail. And in the corporate jungle, shedding light on corporate directors at shareholder meetings can have very interesting results. I had the dual objective to defund the enemy and at the same time spread our message of love for all humanity. To do this, you have to know a bit about corporate dynamics.

First, corporations must make money. If they don't, the company won't be around much longer. If directors give away corporate profits, there is a compelling argument that doing so is tantamount to giving away dividends; a venial, if not mortal, sin in business. Shareholders, even minority shareholders, have certain rights.

Secondly, even if the corporation does give away money, they must be able to prove that the Board of Directors are acting consistently with their fiduciary duty. What is a fiduciary duty? It is a high standard imposed under law on directors of any organization to act not with just simple reasonableness, but with prudence. So, the rule requires that directors are held to a higher standard, higher than say a clerk accounting to his boss for the money in the cash register. Fiduciaries must be scrupulous.

With that said, here is where the story starts. My mother and I bought at least \$1,000 worth of General Mills stock. We had to hold it for a year as required by the SEC in order to be permitted to introduce a resolution at the yearly stockholder meeting. After we submitted our request to the Board, its legal counsel asked to speak with us, to which we had no objection. Legal counsel politely indicated that the

company only gives to Planned Parenthood's local affiliate for sex education purposes and that there were hundreds of other deserving charities that it gives to. Recognizing that there may well be deserving charities, we went ahead and asked that our resolution be at least considered by the shareholders. Our resolution would permit shareholders to get a charitable dividend each year. This enables the individual shareholder the freedom of choice [sound familiar?] as to which charity shall receive that shareholder's charity donation.



After months of technically sculpted legal machinations by the company's legal counsel, the SEC ruled that General Mills must allow us to have the resolution on the ballot. We were at a disadvantage because by the time we received notice that the resolution would be on the ballot, it was only weeks away, hardly enough time to notify other shareholders similarly sentimental. Further legal technicalities by General Mills presented themselves, but finally we attended the shareholders meeting in Minneapolis in September, 1998. The meeting was televised throughout the company to its employees.

Recognizing that people are primarily emotional beings, I tailored arguments that emotionally appealed to a broad spectrum of shareholders regardless of their view on abortion. We had the opportunity to address the crowd and after presenting our arguments, we were well received by the crowd [surprisingly well, with a round of

applause]. The Board's position, articulated at the meeting, was that General Mills wanted to engage a policy that discourages babies having babies. We anticipated that our resolution would fail but, surprisingly, we obtained enough votes to automatically be included on 1999's ballot!

Fortunately, I never had to rebut their contentions because the company notified us that they are no longer contributing to Planned Parenthood.

The moral of the story is that by using a well-worn, properly crafted paper trail, minority shareholders can make a quantifiable impact in non-political arenas. And the best part—now I can start eating Cheerios again!

I encourage you to give serious consideration to join us as we work for life with other corporations who have yet to be convinced.

I would be happy to meet with you and share the details and documents for your own little foray into changing corporate America—one company at a time.

Anyone needing more information and a recipe for repeating the process is welcome to contact us at the address and number below, or by email at MRCHIP1234@aol.com

*Charles and Helen Kleinbrook*

*8201 Hazelton*

*Dearborn Heights, MI 48127*

*(313) 561-8303*

*—Charles Kleinbrook is an attorney and member of Lifespan's Advisory Council. Editor's Note: Right to Life - Lifespan wants to thank Charles and Helen Kleinbrook for their efforts in stopping General Mills from funding Planned Parenthood.*

*We hope you will write or call General Mills and thank them for discontinuing their support of Planned Parenthood. Write: Mr. Stephen W. Sanger, Chairman & CEO, General Mills Inc., One General Mills Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55440; phone 1-800-328-6787.*



# Legislative Update



## Addresses

### **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

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 John Engler  
P.O. Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 373-3400  
Opinion Line: (517) 335-7858  
e-mail: migov@aol.com

Dear Governor Engler:

### **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):

## **"No" to Harmful Embryo Research**

Current law—first passed in 1995—prohibits the use of federal funds for research in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed. However, in January, the General Counsel for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) claimed the current law does not apply to research using cells *derived* from human embryos, even though the harvesting of their cells directly kills the embryos. This opinion assumes the derivation of the embryonic cells—and the killing of the embryos—is done with private funds. Once the deadly deed is done, the derived cells “are not a human embryo within the statutory definition” and thus, the memo asserts, the funding ban does not apply to their use in research. To the extent such cells are considered human fetal tissue, they are subject to laws regulating fetal tissue transplant research—but the HHS memo brushes over the fact that these laws only allow the harvesting of cells from an embryo or fetus already dead from other causes.

Subsequently, Dr. Varmus, Director of the National Institutes of Health, announced NIH’s intention, after the development of guidelines, to fund research using pluripotent embryonic cells in stem cell research.

First HHS narrowly interprets the funding ban on embryo research to ban only the *specific* act of destroying an embryo. So long as embryos are destroyed with private funds, federal funds can be used for every other part of an experiment that depends upon such destruction. But this ignores the wording of Congress’ ban, which forbids all support for “research in which” human embryos are harmed or destroyed. If destroying embryos is a necessary part of a research project, federal funds cannot be used for other parts of that project.

Second, HHS creates a new and narrow definition of “embryo” to evade the law. It claims that a human embryo is not really an “organism” unless it is proved that the embryo *would* have become a “human being” (by which HHS seems to mean a liveborn infant) if implanted in a woman’s womb. NIH Director Varmus went even further, defining a “human being” as “an entire *mature* organism.”

There is nothing new or unexpected about embryonic stem cell research. These experiments—dissecting “spare embryos” from fertility clinics for their stem cells, and creating embryos by cloning for the same lethal purpose—are *exactly* what the National Institutes of Health wanted to fund in 1994. They are exactly what Congress has chosen to deny funding for since 1995. The fact that some experiments have now been done with private funds, and researchers want taxpayers’ money to pursue them further, does not change the moral equation.

Current law against funding research in which human embryos are banned and destroyed reflects well-established ethical norms against misusing any human being for research purposes. Those norms have been applied to unborn children at *every* stage of development in the womb since 1975; since 1995 they have been applied to the human embryo outside the womb as well.

Such exploitation of human life for research purposes is also unnecessary. At least eight avenues of promising research involve harvesting stem cells without harming human embryos, or using other means to replace or regenerate diseased or damaged human tissues.

On February 17th, 70 Representatives sent a letter to Donna Shalala, Secretary for HHS, objecting “in the strongest possible terms” to the HHS legal opinion and NIH’s intended action. The Representa-

*continued on page 10*

# Free Ticket to Eternity

By Nat Hentoff

**H**aving become, in 1997, the first state to legalize physician-assisted suicide, Oregon, out of further compassion, has decided to provide this service to 270,000 low-income residents without charge. Death does not discriminate—why should Oregon?

As of December 1, the Oregon health plan provides state funds for diagnostic and counseling sessions to verify the desire for suicide. And, of course, the lethal drugs to fulfill that desire will be free.

State funds for this act of extreme compassion will be segregated from federal Medicaid money because Congress has not yet permitted death to be subsidized under Medicaid.

As Richard Doerflinger reported in *Life at Risk* (a newsletter published by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops), there were angry dissenting voices at a November hearing on this dividend for the economically challenged.

Ric Burger—a diabetic, a wheelchair user and a spokesman for disabled citizens in the state—noted: “The fact that the state of Oregon will not properly fund our personal attendant services, yet will pay for us to die, amounts to nothing less than cultural genocide.”

Another group, Physicians for Compassionate Care, charged that “bureaucratic barriers have already been placed in the way of providing state funding for state-of-the-art antidepressant medication and even pain medicines, while full funding of assisted suicide for this same vulnerable population is being promoted.”

Last year, the *Economist* praised Oregon’s Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber for rationing health care in the face of limited resources and observed that Oregon no longer pays for such treatments as “efforts to fight the final stages of AIDS.” But now, AIDS patients can be lawfully assisted to kill themselves—thereby saving the state even more money.

Despite the recent defeat in Michigan of an assisted-suicide proposal, other states are likely eventually to allow doctors to provide patients the means to dispose of themselves.

Polls indicate much popular support for state-aided “death with dignity.” Many doctors agree. Some are neutral, like the Oregon Medical Association.

Yet in 1994 the New York State Task Force on Life and Law issued a report—“When Death is Sought: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia in the Medical Context”—that warned doctors and patients of the dangers in the state’s hastening of death.

This group, created by then-Gov. Mario Cuomo, consists of lawyers, physicians and an ecumenical roster of religious leaders. The task force pointed out that “in light of the pervasive failure of our health care system to treat pain and diagnose and treat depression, legalizing assisted suicide and euthanasia would be profoundly dangerous for many individuals who are ill and vulnerable. The risks would be most severe for those who are elderly, poor, socially disadvantaged or without access to good medical care.”

The task force also noted that “racism, ageism, bigotry against disabled people, and issues of class and economic status would materially affect killing decisions.”

The Supreme Court refused on June 6, 1997 to declare physician-assisted suicide a constitutional right, but in the decision for a unanimous court, Chief Justice William Rehnquist encouraged the states to explore ways of dealing with this rising issue.

Rehnquist emphasized that “the lives of the terminally ill, disabled and elderly people must be no less valued than the lives of the young and healthy.” Otherwise, he said, they would become victims of “abuse” by compassionate expeditors.

And Justice David Souter, in a concurring opinion, stated his concern that assisted suicide could slip into euthanasia: “Whether acting from compassion or under some other influence, a physician who would provide a drug for a patient to administer might well go the further step of administering the drug himself, so the barrier between assisted suicide and euthanasia could become porous as well as the line between voluntary [and involuntary] euthanasia.”

Souter also recognized “the financial incentives” in this new era of managed care.

In the sweepingly compassionate new world ahead, I would not be surprised if Oregon became the first state to legalize the right of physicians to directly kill a patient. At no cost to the departed, of course. —Nat Hentoff is an internationally-known author and journalist with the *Washington Post* and *Village Voice*.

—*Washington Post*, February 6, 1999  
Reprinted with permission

## It’s a baby!

In *Letters to Gabriel*, Karen Garver Santorum includes a moment that should not be forgotten. In the Senate her husband Rick Santorum was in 1997 leading the fight on behalf of a ban on partial-birth abortion. Senator Barbara Boxer of California, in opposition, thanked the women who had had such abortions for coming forward with their stories and declared, “They are crying. They are crying because they do not understand how Senators could take away an option. They are crying because they do not believe that those Senators truly understand what this meant for their families.” Santorum said in response, “The Senator said she hears the cries of the women outside this Chamber. We would be deafened by the cries of the children who are not here to cry because of this procedure.” The *Washington Post* described what happened next: “Republican Sen. Rick Santorum turned to face the opposition and in a high, pleading voice cried out, ‘Where do we draw the line? Some people have likened this procedure to an appendectomy. That’s not an appendix,’ he shouted, pointing to a drawing of a fetus. ‘That is not a blob of tissue. It is a baby. It’s a baby.’ And then, impossibly, in an already hushed gallery, in one of those moments when the floor of the Senate looks like a stage set, with its small wooden desks somehow too small for the matters at hand, the cry of a baby pierced the room, echoing across the chamber from an outside hallway. No one mentioned the cry, but for a few seconds, no one spoke at all.”

—*First Things*, December 1998  
Reprinted with permission



# Help After Hurt: Finding Post-Abortion Reconciliation

## Her Choice to Heal: Finding Spiritual and Emotional Peace After Abortion

By Sydna Masse, Joan Phillips  
Chariot Victor Publishing, 1998,  
Paperback, 144 pages, \$9.99. To order:  
<http://www.prolife.org/rvw/books.html>

Review by Steven Ertelt

The hot topic these days in the pro-life community is "post-abortion healing." And for good reason. According to Planned Parenthood's research department some 43 percent of women will have had an abortion by the time they reach 45 years of age. And who better to help women find hope and healing than two who have experienced the tragedy of abortion themselves.

Sydna Masse and Joan Phillips, the authors of *Her Choice to Heal: Finding Spiritual and Emotional Peace After Abortion*, are leading the charge to provide women with spiritual renewal following abortion. Their recently-published book is an excellent guide for women seeking to accept forgiveness and reconcile with God.

Masse and Phillips have written *Her Choice to Heal* in a workbook style that combines helpful advice and choice Biblical passages with writing spaces where a woman can reflect on her own abortion situation and what she's read.

Speaking about women beginning to come to grips with their abortion, they write, "For months and even years, the only apparent truth is that she made the right decision for that time in her life." Yet women eventually find themselves with overwhelming feelings of denial, anger and tremendous guilt. *Her Choice to Heal* addresses each of these feelings in various chapters.

Masse and Phillips are intimately familiar with abortion decisions. Both are former leaders of the Crisis Pregnancy outreach of Focus on the Family and have previously suffered from abortion's lasting effects.

Despite attending a "private Christian college," Sydna Masse found herself pregnant. She faced a dilemma that seems to typify the desperate situation young women find themselves in—one that compels them to feel they have no other choice besides abortion.

Her boyfriend threatened to "turn my whole world upside down" if she chose to carry the pregnancy to term. He threatened to divulge her pregnancy and refuse any support for her and her child, to reveal the pregnancy to her mother (who would likely not support her), and to get Sydna kicked out of school. "You'll be on your own! It doesn't look like you have much choice." Sydna chose abortion and began "drowning my feelings with drugs and promiscuity"—a lifestyle she would unfortunately "continue for many years."

Joan Phillips' story shocks even readers most familiar with tragic abortion experiences. Following a high school romance that turned into a domestic abuse nightmare, Joan made an appointment for an abortion after gathering her two sons and leaving her husband. But no one heard the "silent screams" she cried during the abortion.

Phillips soon begins a sordid affair with a married man. This produced two abortions but millions of heartaches. By day she became a "supermom" to her kids; by night she'd "smoked pot until I couldn't see, cry for no reason until the tears were gone, and wonder what was wrong with me."

This book is not just for those who have a personal abortion experience or know someone who does. Every pro-life activist needs to purchase *Her Choice to Heal* for the outstanding explanation, in layman's terms, of post-abortion syndrome. We all should have a working understanding of the types of emotional and psychological torment women who have had abortions face. After sharing their personal stories, the authors outline just that in the first chapter.

Joy comes in the mourning. *Her Choice to Heal* isn't simply a plunge into the roller coaster world of post-abortion emo-

tions. In the final chapters, Sydna finishes her personal story by touching on her new-found Christian life and husband, her work at Focus, and her goal to produce enough "courage to face my emotions and release them" and to "release my long-lost baby as well."

The authors define their mission well. "As two of those who have experienced first-hand the lasting effects of abortion, we believe that post-abortion syndrome does, indeed, exist, but that it can be overcome. To the woman who is struggling, we would like to extend you our compassion—as well as a supporting arm to guide you along the way to healing through the pages of this book. You are in our prayers as you begin your journey toward peace."

Sydna Masse and Joan Phillips have presented a masterpiece to millions of post-abortive women desperately seeking God's forgiving touch. The brilliant combination of personal testimony, dry facts and Biblical wisdom provide women with a solace many thought they might never find. The book's interactive nature, fostered by the inclusion of "Healing Place" writing spaces for reflection, dramatically enhances women's ability to understand the message and apply it to their own situations.

I encourage you to purchase *Her Choice to Heal*. If you have had an abortion experience, know someone who has, or simply want to better understand how abortion hurts women and how to help, *Her Choice to Heal* is a must-read.

—Steven Ertelt is executive director of Women and Children First.

—The Pro-Life Infonet ([infont-mod@prolife.org](mailto:infont-mod@prolife.org)), February 3, 1999  
Reprinted with permission

## There is Hope and Healing After an Abortion By Mary Small

It's easy to forget the second person victimized by an abortion. We see the baby as the one who is lost through the abortion. We forget about the other lives

continued on page 10

*Right to Life - Lifespan Cordially Invites You to Its*

# *Mother's Day Dinner*

**Tuesday, May 4, 1999**

**6:30 p.m. Silent Auction**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner**

**San Marino Club**

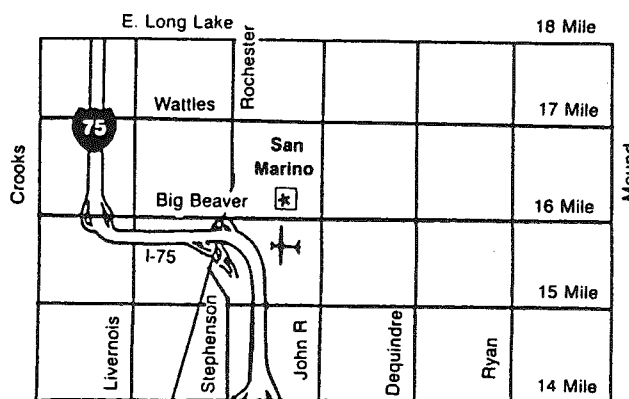
**1685 E. Big Beaver Rd., Troy**

Honoring Lifespan's 1999 Mother of the Year  
Edna Pietrzyk

Silent Auction and Speaker Sponsored by  
Educational Center for Life (248) 816-8489

## **Featured Speaker Ira Byock, M.D.**

Ira Byock, M.D. is the Director of the Palliative Care Service in Missoula, Montana and is the past president of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Dr. Byock is the author of the well-known book, *Dying Well: The Prospect for Growth at the End of Life*. In 1995, he was the recipient of the National Hospice Organization's prestigious Person of the Year award. A nationally known speaker, Dr. Ira Byock has also been a featured guest on many television shows including *Nightline*, *Dateline*, *CNN Today* and the *Jim Lehrer News Hour*. Involved in hospice work since 1978, he believes that all pain can be eliminated so that the end of life can be a time of personal growth and understanding for the dying person as well as for family members.



**Dinner Reservations: \$40 per person/\$350 per table of 10 (one check only, please)**

Number of dinner reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Advance reservations required by April 27.**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**

**(Dinners, personal ads and donations are not tax-deductible.)**



# Chapter

## Office hours

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

## Showers of thanks

Continuing the tradition of caring for both mother and child (born and yet to be born), Lifespan held its 10th annual Baby Shower to benefit local pregnancy help centers. The following Detroit churches helped mothers in crisis decide to keep their babies because they received "a little help from their friends"—Christ the King, Assumption Grotto, St. Joseph and St. Suzanne. May God continue

to bless all who help those who cannot help themselves.

## Mother's Day Dinner

Reservations are still being taken for our wonderful celebration of motherhood being held at the fabulous San Marino Club in Troy on May 4.

This is one of Lifespan's most important fundraisers. Come celebrate with outstanding guest speakers, delicious food, loving friendships and fun-filled entertainment. Show your support for all of Lifespan's pro-life programs by calling its Main Office today at (248) 777-9090.

## Easter Bible reflection

We just celebrated the greatest event of the Christian year, the resurrection to new

life. Let us take some time to do a little Bible study on what God says about life—for God is the Supreme Judge, not the U.S. Supreme Court—The Bible condemns murder: Exodus 20:13; Proverbs 26:16. God's view of the beginning of life: Jeremiah 1:4-5; Psalms 139:13-16; Genesis 25:23; Galatians 1:15; Luke 1:15, 26-38. The personhood of the fetus: Genesis 25:21-23; 2 Samuel 1:5; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:36, 41. The silence of the saints: Ezekiel; Proverbs 24:10-12; John 10:9-16. Forgiveness: John 1:9.

## Detroit Office

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

## Office hours

M-F 9-2:45  
Diane Fagelman, Director  
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.  
Mary Small, Adm. Assistant

## End of life editorial

A portion of a recent editorial in one of our daily newspapers regarding Jack Kevorkian's trial gives us a reason to hope that end of life care may take on the kind of dignity and compassion we all seek.

In part, the editorial read "...Kevorkian's trial and the principle of 'right to die' are quite apart from the end-of-life issues that most people will face. The profound question for society to resolve is whether people will have the ability to finish their lives in peace. It's up to medicine, insurance companies and government to eliminate the appeal of the Kevorkians. It's up the public to insist that they do."

This is not exactly a whole-hearted embrace of the kind of

end-of-life care we in the pro-life movement might seek, but it is light years away from Merian's Friends, Jack Kevorkian and the Hemlock Society!

If we seek a plan for providing loving, life-affirming end-of-life care, we need look no further than our Mother's Day guest speaker, Dr. Ira Byock. Some of us heard him speak in Florida recently, and many more of us have read his book *Dying Well: The Prospect for Growth at the End of Life*.

Dr. Byock addresses the issues of pain, anxiety, fear and depression that can so overwhelm a person at the end of his/her life. He explains that these issues can be resolved and allow the patient and his/her family to grow in love and respect.

Come and hear him on May 4. It may be the best thing you do for yourself and your loved one all year.

## Colorful carnations

On Mother's Day, we will again be offering live carnations for our moms. Each of these flowers is tagged with the message. "Thanks, Mom, for Life."

If your faith community has never participated in this project before or if you would like to do something for Lifespan

that is only a two-day commitment of time, this is the thing for you.

The time spent is more than compensated when you see the happy smiles on the faces of all the moms who receive the flowers. The only people with larger smiles are the little children who are often the ones who give the flowers!

If you would like more information, call the Oakland/Macomb office.

## LIFECCHAIN lines

Great news!! Oakland/Macomb will have two, 2, two LIFECCHAINS in October! We will still have the one on Woodward Ave., but this year we are going to have another one on Gratiot, north of 10 Mile.

We haven't decided just exactly where, but all you folks in Macomb County get ready, because LIFECCHAIN is coming to your backyard.

## 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, Director  
Linda Kournoian, Ofc. Mgr.

## Mother's Day Dinner

Lifespan's Mother of the Year has been selected from your nominations and will be honored at our Mother's Day Dinner.

We always have such marvelous speakers and after their presentations, I always wish we could fill the San Marino Club again so more people could hear the speaker's riveting experiences.

And this year, we've done it again in the person of Ira Byock, M.D. Since you probably won't have a second chance to hear Dr. Byock, plan to attend the dinner and be a part of the fun and fellowship.

If transportation is a problem, let us know and we will try to accommodate you. See page 7 for further details.

## Church baby showers

Thank you, pastors, hostesses and all "who came bearing gifts" to one of the 36 Lifespan Baby Showers. The pregnancy help centers were truly grateful for your generosity to the moms and their babies.

## Family baby showers

Are you having a baby shower in your own family? Why not consider giving your guests a "feet pin" depicting an unborn baby's feet at 10 weeks. People are amazed at the size and perfection of the little feet.

Wearing the "feet pin" elicits questions from others and gives you a chance to elaborate.

There are many people who don't realize that by 8-1/2 weeks every organ is present. Heart beats. Stomach produces digestive juices. Liver makes blood cells. Kidneys begin to function. Taste buds are forming. Fingerprints are being engraved and eyelids and palms of the hands are sensitive to touch. By discussing these facts openly, you may save a baby!

## Thanks

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church hosted a bake sale for us. Parish and Lifespan bakers really outdid themselves. Buyers were many and the special confections went quickly. We sincerely thank those who helped earn \$465 for our treasury which should make a good down payment on a new computer.

Special thanks to Fr. John Sullivan who allows his parish to hold this event annually to help Lifespan with their pro-life work. Your loyalty to the right to life movement is sincerely felt.

Note: If you are willing to bake in the future, call us—we need more volunteers.

## Mother's Day roses

Now is the time to order silk-like, long-stemmed roses for your school or church. They are tagged, "Thanks, Mom, for Life," come in various colors and can be taken out on consignment. The rose, a symbol of Life, is a tribute to mothers on their special day.

## Resource Book '99

Don't miss the opportunity to be listed as a patron in the "Book of Life."

\_\_\_ Gold Patron \$100 \_\_\_ Silver \$50

\_\_\_ Bronze \$10 Nurse (any amt.) \$\_\_\_

Deadline for these ads is Friday, April 16. If each member bought or sold an ad, this would be a very successful endeavor. Call the office for further information.

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter

27592 Schoolcraft

Livonia, MI 48150-2203

(734) 422-6230

Fax (734) 422-8116

## From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Two of my four children live out of state. Michael, in Georgia and Mary, in Texas. Whenever they're in town and we have a family get-together, I always get to hear a litany of things I did wrong as a mother.

I "made" one of them eat fish sticks (I can't believe I ever ate them myself.) They had to take turns doing the dishes and chores (forced labor). Then, of course, there were the hand-me-downs and the inevitable stories about being "on restriction." Sometimes, I think a meaner mother never walked the face of the earth.

It isn't easy being a mother. Ask any mother...adoptive, foster, step or birth...we are expected to instinctively know everything about being a good parent. We love our children unconditionally, even though sometimes we don't like them very much. We have to know when to say "yes" and when to say a firm "no." Mothers are not perfect, we even make mistakes sometimes.

I didn't really appreciate how much my mother had done for me until I had children myself. I'm certain I also concentrated on the "mean" things when I was a child...now I know she was doing what she thought was best.

On Mother's Day, the child in all of us remembers not just the bad times, but all of the good times too. We send cards, candy and flowers. We take her out to brunch or call long-distance. We try to say thanks, but somehow, it just doesn't seem enough.

And even though it isn't enough, Mom, Happy Mother's Day... thanks for everything...I love you!



## There is Hope and Healing

*continued from page 6*

that the abortion has touched. We forget about the women and men who are lost. They have lost their soul, their selfworth and the value of life they held up until they made that decision—the decision to end their child's life.

No one can fully comprehend the magnitude of living with the guilt and shame of having made a choice of death for their child unless they have experienced an abortion themselves. I am speaking from the voice of experience. I am a post-abortion woman. My decision to come out and say, "this has happened to me," is so other men and women will step forward. My journey back took many years. The depth of the pain I felt over the years has been removed and replaced with God's joy and His love and compassion. I can really laugh again and enjoy and love the people God has surrounded me with in my family, work place, community and church. I have been forgiven and set free.

It is to let you know there is hope and life after an abortion. You can find forgiveness and peace. There is healing. We need you to speak up. Our voices are the one's that need to be heard so we can be a bridge between those who are suffering the aftermath of an abortion and those who have been healed. It is to reach those who cannot fully understand why we would make such a decision. To let them know we aren't always fully culpable of the decisions we make. We want to be forgiven, loved and reconciled to God.

For those who have not experienced an abortion—please, understand us, don't judge us. Love us and embrace us. Become informed on post-abortion healing so you can reach out and help those who need healing.

I know the pain you are feeling. Please come forward. Let someone know. You can be set free and reconciled to God and your church.

For help and healing from your abortion, you can contact the following: Project Rachel at 1-(888) RACHEL5; P.A.C.E. (Post Abortion Counseling and Education) at (734) 722-2839 or Mary Small at Right to Life - Lifespan, Oakland/Macomb Chapter (248) 816-1546.

## Legislative News

*continued from page 4*

tives called upon the Secretary to correct HHS's interpretation of the law and to reverse the Varmus decision. In a February 23 response, Shalala rebuffed the lawmakers' appeal. She reasserted that the federal ban does not apply to research "preceding or following" the destruction of human embryos and that NIH would continue with its plans to fund such research.

Through legal hairsplitting, the Clinton-Gore Administration seeks to subvert existing law and to fund unethical research that Congress once stopped.

### Action Alert

Contact your U.S. Representative and two Senators with this message: "I urge you to stop efforts of the Clinton-Gore Administration to use taxpayer dollars to fund research that requires the killing of human embryos. The government should protect these living members of the human family, not fund their destruction. I support funding of alternative avenues for research into 'stem cells' or 'master cells' that do not require the killing of human embryos."

### How to Be Heard

To voice your pro-life opinion call, write or e-mail the members of the Michigan congressional delegation. All telephone numbers have a 202 area code.

#### Senators

**Senator Spencer Abraham:** 224-4822; 329 Dirksen, Washington, D.C. 20510; e-mail: senator@abraham.senate.gov

**Senator Carl Levin:** 224-6221; 459 Russell, Washington, D.C. 20510; e-mail: senator@levin.senate.gov

#### House of Representatives

**Rep. Debbie Stabenow:** Dist. 8; 225-4872; 1516 Longworth Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20515; e-mail: debbie.stabenow@mail.house.gov

**Rep. Dale Kildee:** Dist. 9; 225-3611, 2187 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; e-mail: dkildee@mail.house.gov

**Rep. David Bonior:** Dist. 10; 225-2106; 2207 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; e-mail: david.bonior@mail.house.gov

**Rep. Joe Knollenberg:** Dist. 11; 225-5802; 1511 Longworth Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. To message him, visit the House's e-mail website at: www.house.gov/writerep/

**Rep. Sander Levin:** Dist. 12; 225-4961; 2209 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; e-mail: slevin@mail.house.gov

**Rep. Lynn Rivers:** Dist. 13; 225-6261; 1724 Longworth Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; e-mail: lynn.rivers@mail.house.gov

**Rep. John Conyers:** Dist. 14; 225-5126; 2426 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; e-mail: john.conyers@mail.house.gov

**Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick:** Dist. 15; 225-2261; 503 Cannon Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; e-mail: andrea.bragg@mail.house.gov

**Rep. John Dingell:** Dist. 16; 225-4071; 2328 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515; e-mail: public.dingell@mail.house.gov

#### Other members of Congress

Call the House switchboard at (202) 225-3121 and ask for the member's office. Or write to the individual member at: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

#### White House

Call the White House at (202) 456-1414 or leave your comments on a taped line at (202) 456-1111. Or write the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500. Send e-mail to:

#### The President:

president@whitehouse.gov

#### Vice-President Al Gore:

vice.president@whitehouse.gov

#### First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton:

first.lady@whitehouse.gov

## Donations have been made In loving memory of:

### Dorothy Spietz

Given by: Kathleen Plutschuk  
Gunter & Joan Reuss  
Thomas & Debra Rodriguez  
Joy Harrison  
Julia Fagelman

### Matthew Fary

Given by: Rich & Mary Ann Dixon

### Michael H. Krause

Given by: Mary Krause  
Mary Mattar  
Janice & Gary Shapiro  
Bob & Ann Wolf  
Dorothy Wolf  
Germaine Door

### Jack Jones

Given by: The Holscher Family

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.

## Bill Knapp's coupons

Please save Bill Knapp Community Support Coupons for our next project. Send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., Ste. 127, Livonia, MI 48152. Thanks!

## Crisis hotline numbers

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Call your Lifespan office listed on pages 8 or 9. Bethany Christian Services has a 24-hour hotline number **1-800-BETHANY**.

For people with life-limiting illnesses, call Angela Hospice (734) 464-7810 or Cranbrook Hospice (248) 334-6700.

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**.

## Educational Center for Life

Michigan Nurses for Life will hold its third annual conference on Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Kresge Hall, Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, in Livonia. Scheduled speakers include: Kaye Lani Rae Rafko-Wilson, R.N., former Miss America and hospice nurse, Gino Vitale, local pro-life activist and Gabriel Richard Institute instructor, and Phil Holsinger of the Family Care Network.

The cost of the seminar will be \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members and the general public. All are welcome. Please register by April 20. Lunch will be provided. 4.8 Continuing Education Units will be given. For registration and additional information, call (248) 816-8489.

Memorial donations were made to ECL in memory of:

**Msr. F. X. Canfield**

Given by Irene M. Leach

### Dorothy Spietz

Given by Paul and Phyllis Sullivan

## Educational Center for Life

**Coventry Place**  
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G  
Troy, MI 48064-3540  
(248) 816-8489 • Fax (248) 816-9066



The phone rang—it was the hospital; she was in labor, dilated to seven, destitute, frightened, in pain and alone—a nurse had just told her about Wee Care—could we help?

The phone rang—it was the abusive shelter—a mother and her baby had arrived during the night with nothing but the clothes they had on and one thin blanket—could we help?

The phone rang—it was a young couple in a state of shock—he had just lost his job and the “baby-to-be” that they were struggling to prepare for—turned out to be triplets—could we help?

The phone rang—it was a homeless shelter—they were driving a woman to the hospital to have her baby and when she would return 24 hours later with her newborn, she would have nothing for him—could we help?

The phone rang—it was a church—a young girl, after telling her parents that she would not have an abortion, had been thrown out of their home that morning and sought aid at the only place she could think of—could we help?

Because of all of you—I was able to say, “Yes, Wee Care can help!”

Because of all of you—almost 500 babies this past year were kept warm, dry and fed. You touched their hearts and made such a difference in so many lives. The moms and babies were truly “touched by an angel,” and that angel was YOU!

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

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

PS: There is a desperate need for gently-used, clean, newborn to size large stretch sleepers or outfits. Call (248) 777-2727.

## 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership	\$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly pledge	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior Member	\$ 7.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.  
Donations are not tax-deductible.

# Jews Choosing Life

By Paula Ervin

**O**n November 12, 1998 at the Catholic University of America, sponsored by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor Institute, an unprecedented conference was held, calling itself "Affirming the Sanctity of Human Life." It brought together 100 or so Jews who are troubled by the Jewish community's stance toward the unborn.

According to the Mishnah Sanhedrin, "Whoever destroys one life is as if he had destroyed the whole world, and whoever preserves a life is as if he preserved the whole world." At this conference, hasidic rabbis with their long beards engaged in dialogue with each other and with Protestant and Catholic pro-lifers in an effort to become informed.

"In the morning session, three orthodox rabbis, a reform rabbi and a law professor lamented the fact that Jews support 'abortion rights' more than any other religious or ethnic group by 15-20% above the norm."

Barry Freundel, an orthodox rabbi from Georgetown, spoke about Jewish fears that abortion was symbolic of a Jewish culture clash with conservative Christians and they have fears that government restrictions on abortion would curtail personal freedoms and impose Christian religious standards on Jewish life. (Has anyone seen any government restrictions on abortion lately?)

The Jews find gray areas in their consideration of the fetus that have caused confusion among themselves, but Rabbi Freundel cautions his flock that the "absolute license to abort" as practiced in this country is absolutely against traditional Jewish teaching.

A reform rabbi from Massachusetts, Clifford Lebrach, challenged his associates by asking what if the sages had the knowledge that 23 chromosome pairs "form the signature of each human being" or that a fetus exhibits brain waves at 10 weeks or that fetuses are sensitive to music and human voices? Lebrach noted at other times, however, the reform rabbinate shows pro-choice confusion, euphemisms and self-contradiction.

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***"Whoever destroys one life is as if he had destroyed the whole world, and whoever preserves a life is as if he preserved the whole world."***

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One speaker, Ben Stein, argued for bringing the pro-life case to the Hollywood Jewish elite, and he spoke approvingly of the TV series "Touched by an Angel." He said there was already "upward seepage" of pro-life sentiment in Hollywood from the industry's blue-collar support people.

Moses Birnbaum, a conservative movement rabbi, was among the 450 rabbis, under the sponsorship of the Institute for Religious Values, who

wrote an open letter to Jewish members of the Senate, urging an override of Clinton's veto on the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban. The National Council of Jewish Women countered with a pro-abortion letter from 500 rabbis. However, Rabbi Birnbaum said the group was unable to refute the medical or religious arguments of the first letter.

The Institute for Religious Values, headed by Chris Gersten, has a familiar list of names among its sponsors—Maggie Gallagher, Michael Novak, Jean Kirkpatrick, Catholic Campaign for America, among others. This first conference was titled "Exploring How the Jewish Community Can Work to Reduce Abortions."

Conference organizer Chris Gersten thanked the pro-life movement and Catholic University for "creating space" for a specifically Jewish pro-life group that is unified, at least for now, only in its opposition to partial-birth abortion. That might be the beginning of a larger Judeo-Christian consensus on life, but to help end this one particularly heinous procedure would, in itself, be a great good. As Sandi Merle, a Manhattan-based writer and founder of STOP (Standing Together Opposing Partial-birth) put it: "Ultimately, we will have to explain to our children, and our children's children, *L'dor va-dor*, from generation to generation, we may have to explain the evil that lives after us."

*These notes were taken from an article entitled Jews Choosing Life, by Matthew Berke, in the publication First Things, February 1999.*

**Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit**  
**Wayne West/Downriver Chapter**  
**27592 Schoolcraft Rd.**  
**Livonia, MI 48150-2203**



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