

Happy Father's Day!

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Lifespan *news*

Volume 26 Number 4

Serving Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

June 1997

Congratulations! 1997 Mother of the Year *Martha Joyce Seay*

In conjunction with our Mother's Day Dinner on May 6th, we honored our 1997 Mother of the Year. She was nominated by her family and friends. Reprinted below is her daughter Catherine's nomination letter.

Dear Friends at Right to Life:

Let this letter serve as my excited and unqualified nomination of my mother, Martha J. Seay, for your yearly Right to Life - Lifespan Mother of the Year award. My mother has been a long-time, behind-the-scenes advocate of your organization for over 30 years. Her latest endeavors, though not obvious through your current membership mechanism, involve daily internet conversation on the topic of work chat rooms. Being serving of this award believably accepted in children, her firm stance moral and ethical stance, but anonymous, forts during the 57 years

My mom is not an Right to Life movement, Instead, she spends un- after chat room on the steadfast pro-life stance many tangible results. with intellectual debates ing out the lack of logic movement rationale, be ment, the "it's my body" argument or the "you are all irrational right-wing religious freaks" stance. My mother is a religious woman, but religion notwithstanding, she has challenged the perspective of many would-be proponents of pro-choice. She has proudly stated that many, many young women and men will e-mail her and vocalize their deepest, innermost concerns with the freedom of choice, and she feels that she has talked a few out of abortions.



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association member of the nor its Michigan chapters. told hours visiting chat room network, vocalizing her in a way that has realized She has involved herself with the best of them, point- of the standard pro-choice it the "fetus vs. baby" argu-

continued on page 10

Inside:

- **Death in the Netherlands**
page 3
- **Ban update**
page 4
- **All you need is love**
page 6
- **Bowl free**
page 9

News Notes

Texas teen

A sixteen-year-old girl in San Antonio died as a result of injuries inflicted by an abortionist who tore her uterus. The young woman died on April 15 after two emergency surgeries. Planned Parenthood officials defended the "safety" record of abortion clinics.

—Infonet, May 1, 1997

Bad option

"Physician-assisted suicide is a bad option," said Dr. Timothy Quill, the lead assisted-suicide advocate in the landmark Supreme Court case. "We need to work to find a less-bad option."

Speaking before an American Medical Association symposium on end-of-life care in New York, Quill stunned some doctors by saying he wouldn't mind if the court and society decide against physician-assisted suicide. "But we need to step up to the plate and say what we're going to do to relieve suffering," he said.

—The Detroit News, April 20, 1997

Ford—It's a bad idea

Former first lady Betty Ford received a lifetime achievement award from the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League at an abortion rights fund-raiser in San Francisco. The \$150-a-head "Power of Choice" luncheon raised more than \$200,000 for NARAL.

While her husband, Gerald Ford, was President of the United States from 1974-1976, Betty Ford praised the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision to the hilt.

—Infonet, March 25, 1997

Blink by blink

Jean-Dominique Bauby, 44, former chief editor of France's *Elle* magazine, suffered a stroke last year that left him nearly motionless, speechless and nearly deaf. Frustrated by his inability to express himself, he learned a special alphabet that allowed him to communicate by blinking his functioning eye.

Last summer, he blinked out the text of his 137-page novel word by word. Mr. Bauby died March 9 in Paris.

—Detroit Free Press, March 11, 1997

Save which children?

Leaders of the international relief agencies Save the Children and CARE sent a letter to Congress in support of U.S. funding of population control overseas. They refused repeated requests to reconsider their position. No support was given to adding the Mexico City Policy language which clearly separates "family planning" money from abortions.

—The Caleb Report, Life Decisions International, March-April, 1997

Number three

A 22-year-old woman died April 25 in St. Louis, Missouri, after an abortion at a Planned Parenthood clinic. The doctor who performed the abortion has twice before had patients die soon after the procedure.

—Infonet, April 28, 1997

Do not sign

A petition drive by Merian's Friends plans to collect 350,000 signatures in an attempt to legalize assisted suicide by putting the matter on the November 1998 ballot.

The group is named for Merian Frederick, an Ann Arbor woman who enlisted Kevorkian's help to end her life in 1993.

The proposed language is very similar to an assisted suicide law passed in Oregon in 1994 that has yet to go into effect because of legal challenges.

The new law, if approved by voters, would be known as the Terminally Ill Patient's Right to End Unbearable Pain and Suffering Act.

The assisted suicide issue is already before the Supreme Court, which is expected to decide in July whether terminally ill patients have a constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide.

—Infonet, March 14, 1997



As Ann mentioned in our last *Lifespan News*, we frequently

receive calls asking for an abortion, and the frantic mother is gently encouraged to call a crisis pregnancy center and is also told about our Wee Care program and how we can help with her precious little one's material needs.

A few weeks ago, we received such a call. The mother, seven months pregnant and feeling life, was terrified and desperate and thought she was calling to arrange a late-term abortion.

We put her in touch with a local crisis pregnancy center and told her about Wee Care.

She called again yesterday and said that after speaking with the counselors, she was still confused, but then driving home, she saw our billboard, "Abortion—the Ultimate Child Abuse" and began to cry.

Today, I am putting together a layette filled with everything she will need for her beautiful little son who will be born in July. Thank you for making this possible!

—Karen Patrosso, Director
Wee Care (313) 533-2727

A Program of Right to Life - Lifespan

Calendar of Events

June 14, 15 Candy Sale, p. 8
June 14, 15 Bake Sale, p. 9
June 26-28 ... National RTL Convention
July 19 Golf Outing, p. 11
July 27 Bowling for Life, p. 9
Aug. 19-Sept. 1 State Fair
Oct. 5 LIFE CHAIN, p. 5

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Death in the Netherlands

By Nat Hentoff

There is much interest in the Netherlands in the assisted suicide and euthanasia cases now before our Supreme Court. For more than 10 years, Dutch doctors have been empowered to help patients kill themselves, and, increasingly, physicians there have been directly killing patients, sometimes without being asked to.

A Dutch television crew came to the *Village Voice* to interview me because I have reported extensively on Dutch death on demand for this paper and *The Washington Post*.

I told the interviewer of the great respect I had for Dutch physicians during the Nazi occupation of that land. The Germans disbanded the Dutch medical association and ordered the doctors to join the new one headed by a Nazi sympathizer and anti-Semite. Ninety-eight percent of the Dutch physicians refused and were told that they were no longer doctors. The Dutch physicians took down their shingles and did not practice, even though they knew severe sanctions might well have been taken against them. And they continued to resist.

What surprises and angers me, I told Dutch TV, is that despite that courageous model of Dutch doctors during the Nazi occupation, doctors in the Netherlands today are engaged in terminating patients. Moreover, many ignore the guidelines that were set when physicians were given the power to kill: The patient must repeatedly, voluntarily, ask for death; the patient's suffering must be unbearable and without prospect of improvement; at least one other doctor must be consulted.

For Dutch viewers, I quoted Dr. Herbert Hendin, whose most recent book is *Seduced by Death: Doctors, Patients and the Dutch Cure* (Norton). Testifying before a congressional subcommittee, Hendin illuminated the irreversible Dutch slippery slope that American supporters of assisted suicide would wish upon us:

"The Netherlands has moved from assisted suicide to euthanasia; from euthanasia for those who are terminally ill to euthanasia for those who are chronically ill; from euthanasia for physical illness to euthanasia for psychological distress; and

from voluntary euthanasia to involuntary euthanasia (called in the Netherlands 'termination of the patient without explicit request')."

I then asked the Dutch TV interviewer how the Dutch people can justify not only this "quality of life" killing of adults, which brings back memories of the Nazi occupiers,—but also the liquidating of "defective" children.

An account of the euthanizing of children in the Netherlands comes from Dr. Richard Fenigsen, a cardiologist in the Netherlands. I got to know him about eight years ago, and he predicted that Dutch euthanasia would go inexorably out of control because there are no truly binding limits once society gives doctors the power to kill.

In a September 1996 report by our House Subcommittee on the Constitution, Dr. Fenigsen tells of a Dutch three-year-old who had spina bifida but was otherwise in "fair general condition." For two days, he did not feel quite well and his parents asked for euthanasia. (How could a three-year-old have protested?) One nurse, appalled, opposed the decision, and she and her husband offered to adopt the child. The offer was turned down. The boy was killed by physicians "with drugs administered with intravenous drip."

And dig this: "The nurse was reprimanded because by involving her husband in the adoption offer she violated professional confidentiality."

I used to think the Netherlands was an exceptionally civilized nation.

In January, during oral arguments in our Supreme Court on the assisted suicide and euthanasia case, Justice David Souter said, "Maybe the court should wait [to make a decision] until it can know more [about the actual risks]."

We know a lot now. The Netherlands is the only country in the world to have instituted wide-ranging legal killing by physicians, and the last 10 years have provided a full, detailed record of what that decision has led to. I would suggest that Justice Souter and the other members of the Supreme Court examine the Dutch record before bringing death on demand to the United States and creating a culture of death.

From the congressional subcommittee report on "Physician-Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia in the Netherlands":

"Dr. Fenigsen worries about the long-term effect of the permissive attitude in the Netherlands toward euthanasia for people with disabilities. There seems to be little tolerance for disabled children and the parents who raise them.

"In fact, Professor J. Stolk, a specialist in mental retardation at the Free University in Amsterdam, has documented cases where parents of disabled children are rebuked.

"For example, parents have heard statements such as 'What? Is that child still alive? How can one love such a child?'

"Nowadays such a being need not be born at all."

"Such a thing should have been given an injection."

Eight years ago, Dr. Fenigsen told me of elderly people in the Netherlands who were afraid to go to the hospital. They didn't want to die, and they feared that a doctor, feeling compassionate about these old folks' frailness, would decide to euthanize them. And they knew of others to whom that had actually happened.

A 1995 study of euthanasia in the Netherlands disclosed that 23 percent of the doctors interviewed reported that they had euthanized a patient without his or her explicit request. Furthermore, at least half of Dutch physicians involved made the initial suggestion that death should be embraced. That is, they suggested euthanasia to patients.

But what about the guidelines that said the request had to come *voluntarily* from the patient? Says Dr. Herbert Hendin: "Virtually every guideline established by the Dutch to regulate euthanasia has been modified or violated with impunity."

I wonder what the Dutch doctors who resisted Nazi orders would think of their successors? And if euthanasia becomes legal in this country, will future generations of American physicians feel no qualms about disposing of the "unworthy"?

National Right to Life News
March 24, 1997

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 Catholic Church, Plymouth

Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic
 Church, Berkley

Our Lady of Refuge Catholic
 Church, Orchard Lake



LIFE CHAIN

of Metro Detroit

National Life Chain Sunday

October 5, 1997 - 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Woodward Ave.

From 7 Mile Rd. to 12 Mile Rd.



Thousands of participants will stand on the sidewalks of Woodward Avenue from Seven Mile Rd. to Twelve Mile Rd., in witness to their commitment to love and protect the unborn and their mothers. LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care. The signs will deliver the messages that **Abortion Kills Children, Adoption is the Loving Option, Abortion Hurts Women and Jesus Heals and Forgives.** This is what is known as a LIFE CHAIN. This peaceful, prayerful event will provide a visual statement of unity by the metro Detroit church community. Our eighth annual LIFE CHAIN is scheduled in conjunction with National Life Chain Sunday. **Will you invest one afternoon to help save a lifetime?** Call (313) 533-9090 for details or complete the form below and mail to LIFE CHAIN Committee, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152.

Yes, our church/organization is interested in participating in LIFE CHAIN. Please send us more information.
(Individuals & families also welcome.)

Name

Phone

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City

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Our Lady of Victory Catholic
 Church, Northville

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St. Basil the Great Catholic
 Church, Eastpointe

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic
 Church, Grosse Pointe Park

St. Daniel Catholic Church
 Clarkston

St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic
 Church, Bloomfield Hills

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 Hazel Park

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 Livonia

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 Dearborn Heights

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 Detroit

St. Sylvester Catholic Church
 Warren

St. Theodore Catholic Church
 Westland

St. Thomas a' Becket Catholic
 Church, Canton

Shrine of the Little Flower
 Catholic Church, Royal Oak

South Redford Church of Christ

Stringham Missionary Church
 Waterford

Temple Baptist Church, Plymouth

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian
 Church, Livonia

Warren Road Light & Life
 Free Methodist Church, Westland

Wayne Wesleyan Church

Wyandotte Christian Church

Choosing the Unwanted Child All you need...

By Paula Ervin

It's been 20 years since that unforgettable call. My caller was a woman I scarcely knew. But, in a few quick minutes, she imparted a brief outline of her life.

My caller had recently encountered the then-popular slogan: "Every child a wanted child." This moved her to the sputtering rejoinder: "'Every child a wanted child' is ridiculous. I want you to know that I was an unwanted child."

At my end of the phone, stunned silence.

"My mother was in a miserable marriage. She had planned to divorce my father when she discovered she was pregnant with me. This was years ago. I was born. And, in all the years of my growing up, she never let me forget that *I was an unwanted child*."

"So now my mother is 93 years old, and guess who she lives with?"

Her unwanted child.

My caller went on: "When I was carrying my daughter, Mary, if I had known she would be a Down syndrome baby, I might not have had the courage to carry her to term. But I didn't know, and Mary was born, and there she was."

"But, if I could sit here all week and talk, I would never be able to tell you of the joy Mary has brought to this family, of the good she has drawn from our other children, of the beauty in them I might never have known was there..."

"And now Mary is 20 years old, and guess who helps me with Grandma? The two of them are like bugs in a rug. They have their little secrets and jokes...fun for each other...fun for all of us."

I ran into my caller a couple of years ago, and I asked right away, "Tell me about Mary."

There was little to report. Mary was gone. Grandma, too. Their lives had spelled out their mysterious "usefulness" to those who had loved without stint and cared without counting the cost.

Grandma had unwillingly given birth to a daughter who, however "unwanted," had returned the favor by

providing her with a serene old age of loving contentment. Mary, who in society's eyes, should have been aborted, had spread her innocent joy to every corner of her household.

Mary and her mother had not been wanted, all right, but they were sorely needed.

In 1950, Doctor I. W. Liley invented the process called "amniocentesis," which led to the solving of the RH-factor problem that had cost thousands of fetal and infant lives.

RH problems are virtually unknown today, but the test is widely used to spotlight babies in utero who may have birth defects—most of which are untreatable in the womb. Chief among these is Down syndrome.

The prospect of raising a handicapped child is an exercise in pain. Few have the courage to wade in to such a future. Now, as pre-natal testing becomes more sophisticated, the temptation to flee from the challenge is overwhelming.

Liley strongly resented the perversion of his invention's use. He and his wife adopted a Down child after their natural children were grown.

Strange as it may seem, there is now a lively demand for Down children by couples wanting to adopt. "Children with special needs" form a category of adoptees that many parents embrace.

Unrecognized among us are the courageous rebels who reject society's worship of genetic perfection and high IQs, who accept a human life for its mysterious and sacred value, however poorly understood it may be. These are the Lileys and the unknown individuals who tread, as the Apostle Paul said, "not in light, but in faith." They include my telephone friend who understood the quandary of "choice" only too well.

It is they who make you feel both humble and proud.

—Our Sunday Visitor
November 10, 1996

Reprinted with permission

Paula Ervin is a board member of Right to Life - Lifespan, Church Representative Coordinator and Committee of Correspondence Chairman. She is also a free-lance writer.

By Mary Jane Happy

Alyssa Bresso was born on May 7, 1994. One minute later, her twin sister Jaymie was delivered. Jaymie and Alyssa are fraternal twins, Jaymie has Down syndrome.

Terri and Rick Bresso have two other children, Danielle, 5 and Nicky, 7. What makes the Bresso family especially unique is not the special needs of Jaymie but the family's acceptance, commitment and love for each other.

Down syndrome is a genetic condition which occurs in approximately one in every 800 to 1,000 births. Down syndrome is caused when a child is born with one extra chromosome.

According to the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), the most common form of Down syndrome is Trisomy 21. This is the type of Down syndrome Jaymie was diagnosed with. The syndrome results when either the egg or the sperm contributes an extra 21st chromosome to each of the child's developing cells. It is this additional genetic material which causes the mental and physical characteristics associated with Down syndrome.

Down syndrome affects people of all social and economic levels. About 80 percent of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35, but there is a greater risk for women over the age of 35. At 35, a woman has a one in 400 chance of conceiving a child with Down syndrome. This risk increases gradually to one in 110 by age 40.

Terri Bresso found out in December that she would deliver twins the following May. The family began thinking in twos—two car seats, two highchairs, two cribs, two crying babies.

Because she was already the mother of two healthy children, Terri had no reason to believe the twins would be born with any disabilities. She didn't know until they were delivered by Caesarean section that Jaymie had Down syndrome.

"I was scared," says Terri. "I kept wondering what it was going to do to our lives—so many things could be wrong. I was in shock. They took her away saying, 'She doesn't look right.'"

continued next page

...is love

continued from previous page

Just hours after her birth, Jaymie was taken to Children's Hospital for surgery on an herniated umbilical cord. Before she was transported, she was wheeled into Terri's room for their first visit.

"I remember being angry. Here she was, such a little baby. Everyone was apologizing, doctors, nurses, social workers—like something's bad," recalls Terri. "But she's a kid first, not a Down syndrome kid. She's just a baby, a twin. I wanted to enjoy her."

Rick reassured Terri that having a Down syndrome child "wasn't going to change a thing." He spent the first week between the hospital where Alyssa and Terri recovered, Children's Hospital where Jaymie recovered from surgery and home where Nicky and Danielle anxiously awaited their twin sisters.

"Nicky and Danielle were totally excited," says Terri. "There would be one baby for each of them. Jaymie's Down syndrome has never made a difference to them."

Prior to the birth of Alyssa and Jaymie, Terri worked as a special education teacher in the Dearborn School District. She returned to work four months after their birth and now job-shares a third grade teaching position.

Her professional training in special education has helped her to better understand not only Jaymie's development but her potential as well. But the family philosophy and attitude is what really makes a difference.

"We've never treated Jaymie any differently than Alyssa, Danielle or Nicky. They all have special needs. Nicky wears glasses and Danielle never stops talking," jokes Terri.

Children with Down syndrome have a wide range of abilities. The degree of mental impairment can vary from mild to severe. They learn to sit, walk, talk and do most other activities, only they do so later than average. Their success can be influenced by their educational and family support situations.

"We don't anticipate the negative. We want all our kids to reach their full potential," says Terri. "We try and meet each of their special needs."

Speech and communication skills are often the most challenging for children with Down syndrome. At nearly two years old, Jaymie is just beginning to talk. The entire family, including twin sister, Alyssa and grandparents, Marge and O. J. Nori, are learning sign language to help develop Jaymie's communication skills.

"As with any child, age 0 to 3 is the period of life important to sensory motor skills. We've begun teaching the families sign language both traditional as well as allowing for gestures which signify obvious needs," says Karen Plasencia, Jaymie's early intervention teacher at the Bussey Early Childhood Center in Southfield.

Plasencia, who has been teaching children for 20 years explains that Down syndrome children develop in the same sequence as any child but their development is often delayed because they have difficulty communicating. "Sign language and gesturing helps these kids communicate so they can continue to grow."

Most parents of children with special needs aren't formally educated in caring for children with disabilities. Programs like Early Intervention in Oakland County where Jaymie attends once a week with her dad, teach parents of children with special needs how to help their children learn. Families are identified by doctors, hospitals and social workers, many at birth, and families are referred to special education directors or child find coordinators in the school district where they live.

Who administers the program may differ from county to county, but programs are mandated for children 0 to 3 years old under Michigan state law. They integrate occupational and physical therapists, speech and language teachers and parents to develop goals for the individual child and plans for achieving those developmental goals with each family.

These early intervention programs together with a supportive and stimulating home environment help children with Down syndrome develop to the full potential and become contributing members of their community.

"If these children are provided with experiences that allow them to get acclimated, and if they are in a play-based preschool setting where children learn at their own level, they can succeed, explains Plasencia.

Terri and Rick supplement Jaymie's language training at home with a program

called *Love and Learning*, an innovative series of video tapes, audio tapes and books that help develop vocabulary, pronunciation, comprehension and reading skills.

The program was developed by parents of a special education student mainstreamed into Terri's third grade classroom. The Bresso family uses it to further increase Jaymie's opportunities for learning. "It has helped both twins," says Terri, "encouraging their language skills."

According to NDSS, Down syndrome children are susceptible to infection, respiratory problems, obstructed digestive tracts, congenital heart defects and childhood leukemia with greater frequency than other children. However, advances in modern medicine have resulted in successful treatment of these conditions.

"Jaymie is healthy," says Terri. "She's prone to ear infections but she's doing great and continues to follow the average developmental scores on the pediatrician's growth charts."

The Bressos participate in a nutritional supplement program for Jaymie through Trisomy 21 Research, Inc. This protocol of vitamins is not endorsed or distributed in the United States but Jaymie's geneticist at Children's Hospital evaluated its contents and approved it for Jaymie. She continues on the program which the Bressos purchase from a company in Canada.

"Jaymie's been on the program for a year," explains Terri. "We think it's helping. I can't compare it to anything, but she's really developing and growing compared to others. Her teachers have noticed a change in her progress."

The Bresso family is a testimonial to providing an environment of success for Jaymie. With extended family support, a loving caregiver while the Bressos work and a positive attitude shared by each, Jaymie thrives in a family committed to love, learning and each other.

Plasencia agrees. "Children I worked with 20 years ago didn't have the chance kids do today. We can make a difference. Each year as we get better at what to do and how to help, we raise the range for success."

—*Metro Parent Magazine, April, 1996*

Reprinted with permission Mary Jane Happy is a mother of two children, and works and writes for Metro Parent Magazine.



Chapter

Office hours

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

Bouquets of thanks

Our annual Mother's Day flower sale was a great success thanks to all our dedicated church reps. Our sincere and profound gratitude for all you do to help us continue in our efforts to protect all life—born and unborn. A special thanks to Betty Queen who once again helped coordinate and distribute hundreds of roses and Madeline Satwicz for being our

west-side distributor. May God continue to bless you for all that you do for His children.

60 years of love!

Congratulations to Betty and Archie Queen who just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 10th! What an inspiration for all of us. The Queens have dedicated themselves to each other, and how blessed we are that they continue to dedicate their lives to help the pro-life cause.

May God continue to bless them with many more years together. We thank God for giving us such a fantastic role model, a truly inspiring couple who love life!

Garage sales?

Summer is a time for garage sales. Are you up to your neck in clutter after your spring cleaning? Why not use that unwanted junk and turn it into someone else's treasure, and at the same time help save lives by donating your proceeds to the Detroit Chapter.

Get your friends, neighbors and church involved. Let us know about it a month in advance, and we can publish it in our newsletter notes. Call (313) 874-0432.

Detroit Chapter

5930 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202-3516
(313) 874-0432

Office hours

MTTh 9-5; WF 9-2:45
Diane Fagelman, Chairman
Diane Trombley, Ofc. Mgr.
Mary Small, Adm. Asst.
Clare Schneider, Nwsltr. Coor.

Mother's Day delight

This year's Mother's Day Dinner was truly wonderful. A new site, beautiful decorations and a very warm, sincere and inspiring speaker all came together in an evening of great enjoyment. Everyone involved deserves a big round of applause. If you missed the dinner this year, circle Tuesday, May 5, 1998 on your calendar so you won't miss out next year.

Favorite father

We tend to celebrate Mother's Day in a big way, but never let it be said that we forget Father's Day. Many area churches will be offering Father's Day candy bars that come with a message, "Life is Sweet," on the label. Pick one

up for your Dad and watch his smile grow as the candy tickles his sweet tooth and your thoughtfulness warms his heart.

Future fairs

It is not too soon to be thinking of summer fairs and church and community festivals. These events are perfect opportunities for us to display our information booths. If there is an event upcoming in your area, give the office a call, and we will ask permission to have a booth.

Flower power

Judging by all the smiles seen on the faces of some very happy moms, those carnations were packed with power. Bouquets of "thank you" go out to all those who ordered, picked up, tagged and sold those flowers. The carnation donations were generous and gratefully received.

Dedicated Diane

Our own Diane Trombley was the 1997 Bishop Foley Catholic High School Faith Community Award Honoree. The award was presented at their 29th annual Academic Banquet on May 8. Past recipients include Rosa Parks, Cardinal Dearden and Fr. William Cunningham. Diane was honored for her "on going efforts and

dedication as vital spokesperson and advocate for the Right to Life in our society." Congratulations, Diane!

Crosses completed

There is a nationwide effort by churches and schools to visually demonstrate the number of abortions by placing thousands of crosses on their lawns. Our crosses are almost completed. We have a target date of July 1. Tom O'Neill has been working very hard on this project.

We are beginning to schedule the crosses for display, so please call the Oakland/Macomb office and arrange for your weekend. We request a minimum donation of \$100.

Each church or group will pick them up from the preceding group. If there is an idle time, the crosses will be returned to the Oakland/Macomb office by the last group to use them. We already have them scheduled for the first several weekends that they are available, so don't wait too long to contact us.

Oakland/Macomb Chapter

Coventry Place
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48064-3540
(248) 816-1546

News

wayne west/downriver

Office hours

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

Bowling for Life

Please consider supporting Lifespan's educational projects by taking part in our 15th Annual Bowling for Life and enjoying a fun-filled afternoon with other proliferers.

You don't have to be a good bowler to win exciting prizes as sponsors can pledge you by pin or a set amount of money per game. By collecting pledges, you are eligible to bowl 3 GAMES FREE and WIN U.S. SAVINGS BONDS. Woodland Lanes in Livonia is reserved for Sunday, July 27, from 2 to 5 p.m.

GRAND PRIZES in bonds for the most pledged money collected are: 1st prize...\$200; 2nd prize...\$100; 3rd prize...\$75; 4th prize...\$50; and 5th prize...\$50.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES in bonds are: High game scores (with handicaps) for men, women and children...\$100 in each category. High series score including men, women and children (with handicaps)...\$100.

To be eligible for any of the above prizes, at least \$50 in pledge money must be turned into our office no later than Monday, August 25, 1997.

A gold electroplated "precious hands pin" will be awarded to all who qualify.

Also, bowlers will be given a gift certificate donated by area businesses.

Call Lifespan (313) 422-6230 or Marie (313) 728-5856 for pledge sheets, further information or to donate gift certificates.

—Marie Gonzales, Bowling Chairman

Dust off your favorite cookbooks

Barb Schmid, Canton coordinator and church rep for St. Thomas a' Becket Church is hosting a bake sale at that church for our chapter on Father's Day weekend, June 14 and 15. Hopefully, many bakers, especially from the Plymouth/Canton area, will help to make this event successful by donating their special recipes.

Goodies may be dropped off at the Lifespan office on Schoolcraft at Inkster on Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or may be delivered to the church's back entrance on Saturday, 1-4 p.m. and Sunday before and after all the Masses.

All proceeds will be donated to Lifespan for a much needed printer and software.



Thanks so much

Pastors, church reps, volunteers and donors are responsible for making our Mother's

Day rose tribute a great success and WE THANK YOU!

With your constant support of pro-life activities, we are able to offer free literature, books, videos, fetal models, speakers, etc. to students, schools, churches and the general public.

Please stop in for a visit and become acquainted with us and the pro-life materials offered. Thanks again for your help.

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
27578 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150-2203
(313) 422-6230

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

Victory can be bittersweet.

When the Senate vote was announced on the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban, an excited prolifer called me. Yes, I told her the bill passed 64-36, but unfortunately three votes short. Three lousy votes! Not totally unexpected, the vote was nevertheless disappointing.

Clinton can now follow through with his pro-abortion rhetoric and veto the legislation. Without those three votes to ensure a two-thirds majority necessary for an override, the bill may die.

Clinton is such a hypocrite. He and Hillary are involved in a campaign to teach children to read. Yet he's in favor of sucking out the brains of a living child three inches away from being born. I'm not sure how he sleeps at night.

Then, of course, we have our own Senator Carl Levin who is also a pro-abortion fanatic. He has a nice little spiel about protecting women and doctors know best. Despite intensive lobbying efforts by tenacious proliferers and horrified prochoicers, even after the American Medical Association endorsed the bill, Levin still voted NO.

Yet we cannot lose heart. Public support for banning partial-birth abortions continues to grow. State legislatures all over the country have passed bans including Michigan.

And, after all, we are ONLY three votes short.

P.S. See page 4 for more information.

Mother of the Year

continued from page 1

Another topic she has been interested in and has discussed via the internet is that of post-abortion syndrome. Again, this has resulted in e-mail relationships with several troubled young ladies and sometimes, a guilty male or two. Her communication in his arena is global, constant, dedicated and probably anonymous to those within visible RTL circles, but what a worthy effort it is!

My mom is in some ways an unsung hero of motherhood. A woman with natural business instincts, she quit a well-paying job at a retail grocery store in her younger years to raise her children. Like many mothers of today, she found herself working more than 40 hours, carting her children off to worthy academic, sporting and recreational activities. It was well known in the community that my mother had natural business talents, was good at strategic planning, brainstorming and problem-solving and that integrity and honesty were an integral part of her character. Because of this, she turned down many opportunities as we were growing up—all to meet what she thought were essential child-rearing needs.

When I was a teen in the early 1980s, my mom saw the rapid rise of abortion as a means of birth control. She would often say to my sisters and me "whatever you do, if you find yourself pregnant, please, please do not ever consider abortion! We

take care of our own. We don't kill babies!" She understood the pressure of society on this issue, and was fearsome that we might get treatment without her knowledge, which was commonplace at that time. She did have an opportunity to test her convictions, since two of her daughters have been pregnant before marriage, myself being one of them. While I am ashamed that I did not keep pure before marriage, I am proud that I had a mother who taught me well and supported me through a short traumatic time. Thank God for my darling daughter, Claire! If not for the teachings of my mother, how easy it would've been to end Claire's life under anonymity and with government funds.

I would like to elaborate on my mother's anonymous benevolence over the years to causes which are worthy. All through her life, my mother has given actively to churches, organizations and charities. Last year, under my mom's direction, my parents outdid themselves. They decided to give a total of \$10,000 to various groups in 1996—each was able to earmark their own \$5,000. After their respective groups were picked and funds disbursed, the highly-publicized case of the child in Belleville with the degenerative disease (whose name slips my mind) was brought to my mom's attention. She quickly wrote out an additional check for \$1,000. Later, we were to find that the family was surprised by the anonymous \$1,000 donation from a single family. This is not really notable, I guess, unless

you consider our family's socioeconomic status and overall standard of living. My parents have always lived modestly, and continue to do so in their working class neighborhood. Any gift they decided to give was surely felt within the family budget. Indeed, the \$1,000 given to the family in Belleville was given with a great deal of love, not necessarily due to riches. It may not be decorous to brag about charitable contributions if you are the actual giver, but I feel justified in doing it for my mother, because I am sure only our immediate family is aware.

I am sure that I could continue to iterate my mother's virtues quite solidly for several pages, but I will close this nomination with one last plea: Consider a quiet, behind-the-scenes hero for this year's award. My mother is not a public figure, and she is not a woman of major renown in the community. But she is definitely worthy of your esteemed award. Your organization will never be able to quantify the amount of advocacy she has provided for you and society as a whole—but you can acknowledge the quality of it by presenting my mother with this honor. I believe this honor would be the highlight of her life and an enormous affirmation of our appreciation for her love and dedication. I also believe it would be a symbol to real mothers everywhere as they quietly go about the hard work of their motherly business, often without clear accolades from any source. If you need any further convincing, do not hesitate to contact me at home...at work...or electronically...

—Catherine A. Seay-Ostrowski



*Bob and Martha Seay
Family*

Bottom row, left to right:
Christopher Ostrowski,

Claire Ostrowski,
Martha Joyce Seay,
Crystal Donaldson

Top row, standing:
Tricia Seay, holding
Robin Seay, Robert
Seay, Catherine Seay-
Ostrowski, Kirsten
Seay, Bob Seay, David
Donaldson, Reynaldo
Martell, Kimberley
Seay, Dan Donaldson,
Cynthia Donaldson

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

Marie Tritle

Given by: Jean Martell

Thomas A. Ensich

Given by: Stephen Ensich
Jim & Barbara Burke
Bob & Carol Flash
George & Marie Russian
St. Thomas More Singles
Warren E. & V. Marie Marsh
Chris & Linda Clark
Paul & Karen Allmacher
Newcourt Financial
Ohio Bible Study Group
Patti & Paul Paterson
Donna & Walter Young, Jr.
Marth & Marc Junglen
Gerald & Nancy Buck

Edward L. Farhat

Given by: Doris M. Heikkinen
Robert & Betty Biehl
Tina Babusci
Maria DiPilla
Pat & Sharon Dreisig
Nasri & Carol Haddad
George & Lucy Kishigian
Mr. & Mrs. Youssef Sardy
Mr. & Mrs. Salim Sardy
Leslie Bono
Floyd & Rita Virant

Frank's Crafts Purchasing: Mary Aluia,
Sue, Mike Blood, Mary Kotcher, Kathy,
Eric, Diane, Frank, Lea, Tina, Barbara,
Sherri, Margaret Newmann, Mary
Coste, Jill, Debbie, Bob Z.

Madeline Lehr

Given by: Mike & Julie Weaver
Marilynn and Gene Weaver

Dr. Eugene Bownes

Given by: Joanne Stack & Family

Ray B. Weger

Given by: Russ & Katie Hesch

Baby Sara Jean Helquist

Given by: Detroit Chapter, Lifespan

Rita M. McMullen
Given by: Patricia Doyle
Bob & Rita Ketterer
Tom & Abbie Holden
Bill & Michelle Shailor

Charles Diven

Given by: Russ & Katie Hesch

Jack Bleim

Given by: The Trombley Family

Janice Canter

Given by: Kathreen Yarnevich
Gwen Spence
Betty Fitzpatrick
Art & Linda Kournoian
Bob & Pat Holscher
Ron and Sandi Ward
Joe & Carmen Mosquera
Nick Dattilo
Paula Benninghouse
Helen Kleinbrook
Wayne West/Downriver
Board & Volunteers

Bernice Brunton

Given by: Bob & Pat Holscher

**In Celebration of the
60th Wedding Anniversary of:**

Archie & Betty Queen

Given by: Alice Zegarski
Andrea & Charles Baier

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. Sorry, they are not tax-deductible.



**Educational
Center for Life**

Golf Outing

Saturday, July 19, 1997

THE SHORT GAME

located at 313 East Walton
(between Baldwin and Joslyn)
Your \$55.00 reservation includes:

- Shot Gun Start
- Golf Ball and Putter
- Luncheon at Bistro 313
- Fun for everyone, experienced or not

Hole Sponsors Needed

Corporate and Business

Sponsors Welcome

Donations Tax-deductible

Proceeds to benefit
Educational Center for Life
Call (248) 816-8489

**Educational Center for Life
Coventry Place**

**1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G
Troy, MI 48084-3540
(248) 816-8489**

Entertainment Books

There will be no pre-sale of Entertainment '98 Books this year. Also, only ONE edition for all areas is being offered, for \$40, and will be available after Labor Day. More details will be forthcoming.

Bill Knapp's coupons

We continue to save Bill Knapp Community Support Coupons. Due to space limitations in this month's newsletter, we cannot list the names of recent donors of coupons. When you present your check to the cashier at any Bill Knapp's restaurant, ask for a Community Support Coupon. Please send the coupons to Right to Life - Lifespan, 28200 Seven Mile Rd., #127, Livonia 48152. Thanks!

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.

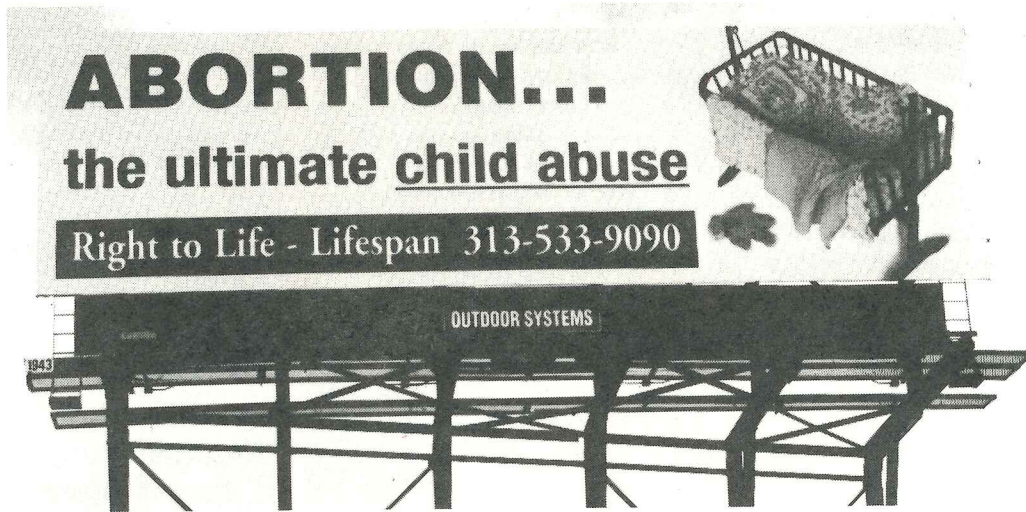
_____ Annual Membership	\$ 15.00	_____ Monthly pledge	\$ _____
_____ Student/Senior Member	\$ 7.00	_____ Other	\$ _____

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.

Thanks! We Did It!

All Saints Parish, Allen, Allen Park Church of the Nazarene, Anderson, Anderson, Angeliu, Archer, Armbruster, Arnett, Astalos, Babcock, Badowski, Barnes, Barrett, Barrett, Barron, Beaudoin, Bego, Belian, Berg, Bettega, Blastic, Bloomfield, Blucher, Bodary, Bodary, Bogedin, Bommarito, Borg, Boris, Borninski, Bottrell, Bowers, Bowker, Brachel, Bradley, Bradley, Brady, Brancheau, Brandi, Braunscheidel, Brotherhood Christian Church, Brown, Bruno, Burdis, Burgess, Burke, Burke, Burkhardt, Calderone, Callaghan, Cameron, Canzonetta, Caponigro, Cherniawsky, Church of the Holy Family, Collins, Compton, Condit, Consumer Think, Inc., Conti, Conway, Conway, Cormier, Couchman, Council of Catholic Women, Counsman, Covert, Crowley, Czarnecki, D'Angelo, Daily, Dalski, Daratony, Davidson, Day, Debono, Denton, DeSana, Detroit Chapter/Lifespan, Dettloff, Devlin, DeZell, Dobry, Docherty, Dompierre, Dorsey, Downriver New Covenant Church, Driessen, Dube, Dwyer, Ealovega, Ebaugh, Eichman, Ellsworth, Elsey, Ervin, Evans, Ezell, Falahee, Fanelli, Feldbauer, Fellrath, Finn, Fitzgerald, Flores, Flynn, Fogarty, Fogoros, Forgacs, Freda, Galloway, Gardner, Garrett, Gaule, Gauvin, Gawet, Gibbons, Goerss, Gonzales, Gorman, Gormley, Gorny, Gorski, Goshorn, Grabowski, Grace, Graham, Granlund, Grant, Grenn, Grimes, Griwicki, Gross, Gudewicz, Gullo, Gura, Halfpenny, Halpin, Harber, Har-
ris, Heaton, Heinlen, Henderson, Hennessy, Hessler, Hillebrand, Hillebrand, Hirsch, Hoch, Hocker, Hoefler, Hoffman, Hofstetter, Hogg, Hoover, Horvath, land, Itnyre, Jackson, Jakubowicz, Javelov, Johnson, Jones, Joyce, Jurczyk, K of C Council 1802, K of C



Council 4764, K of C Council 5452, Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council, Kopolnek, Karlson, Karpack, Kaza, Keena, Kell, Kelley, Kiernicki, Killinger, Kleinbrook, Konczal, Konopka, Kovach, Kral, Krieg, Krieg, Kruse, Kruttlin, Krutty, Krysmalski, Kuhr, Kwapisz, Kwiatkowski, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ladies of Charity/St. Vincent de Paul, LaPorte, Lark, Latimer, Law, Lawrence, Lazar, Léger, Lepri, Lidey, Lietz, Lilley, Lirette, Locke, Lomas, Lopez, Louwers, Lucas, Lupo, LVM Company, Mabry, MacDonald, Machovec, MacLean, Magers, Maggioncalda, Majcher, Makowski, Maladecki, Malen, Malerich, Malicke, Marentette, Marentette, Marks, Marshall, Martell, Martin, Marz, Masterson, Maxey, May, Mayhew, McBrearty, McCaffrey, McCall, McCarthy, McCoy, McInerney, McKeown, McKillop, McLaughlin, McNally, Meade, Melvindale Crisis Pregnancy Center, Merenda, Merlo, Meyer, Michelini, Milosch, Minard, Mitchell, Mitoraj, Modes, Moses, Mosquera, Mother & Unborn Baby Care, Mueller, Mylod, Nagle, Nannini, Nardi, Navarre, Needham, Nelson, Nelson, Neuville, Northville Christian Assembly, Nowak, Nugent, O'Brien, O'Brien, O'Brien, O'Callaghan O'Connell, O'Connell, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Connor, O'Donnell.

continued in next Lifespan newsletter

Right to Life - Lifespan of Metro Detroit

Wayne West/Downriver Chapter
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