

Lifespan *news*

Volume 42 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message in Southeastern Michigan Since 1970

June 2013

OVER 10,000 BOOKS!

HUGE Used Book Sale



St. Mary Church Fellowship Center

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak

North of 10 Mile Rd., East of Woodward Ave.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday ♦ July 11, 12 and 13 ♦ 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 14 (Bag Day) ♦ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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(call first to arrange drop-off)

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Near I-75 and W. Big Beaver, Troy

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Merriman and 7 Mile Rd., Livonia

734.422.6230

I-94 and Haggerty Rd., Belleville

734.697.2988

For more information, call Mary: 313.885.8238
Wayne County/Downriver Chapter: 734.422.6230
Oakland/Macomb Chapter: 248.816.1546

*\$5 Parking Fee for Book Sale**

(Free parking on Thursday and Friday)

**This is also valid for the HUGE Royal Oak City-Wide Garage Sale
at the same time*

Sponsored by Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund



GRADUATION... School is out... Summer Vacation...

Bike Riding, Skateboarding, Swimming, Camping..

Hello teens, college students, parents of teens, young adults, Youth Group Leaders in schools, parishes and churches, pastors, deacons, priests, teachers, principals and all others who work with young people!

Right to Life - LIFESPAN is already busy organizing the 2014 "Movement in Motion" Youth Bus Trip to Washington, D.C., for the 41st annual March for Life. We will have a record-breaking NINE buses (two will pick up in the New Baltimore area and the other seven will pick up in Troy with four of them picking up in Livonia as well). The end of the school year is a good time to remind you of the trip so you can start saving money to go (summer jobs will be very helpful in this area)! Please note that registration for the Bus Trip will be September 5th through October 15th (or until all seats are filled). More details will be published in the July / August issue of *Lifespan News*. Local college students who want to go on the Bus Trip—please call me at 248-816-1546 so we can talk about options to fit your college schedules.

Registration has begun for the "We are the Pro-Life Generation" event at Oakland University in August. See the flier on the next page. Be sure to invite your friends to come with you to this excellent event for students!

If you are looking for **volunteer work** this summer, and you live in Oakland, Macomb or St. Clair County, please give me a call at 248-816-1546. I would be happy to give you some computer work, phone calls, mailings, etc. to do. I can keep you busy for at least 4 hours in a day! Or, call the Livonia offices if they are closer to you: 734-524-0162 (Main Office, speak to Eileen), 734-524-0165 (Wee Care, outreach center for mothers and babies, speak to Karen) or 734-422-6230 (Wayne County/Downriver office, speak to Pat).

AND...we are in need for volunteers to help at our annual **Used Book Sale** this summer. If you are interested in helping the week of July 8th, call me at 248-816-1546 or 313-885-8238 (Mary, book sale coordinator) or e-mail me at oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org (put "Book Sale Volunteer" in subject line). Invite siblings and friends to come help with you!

Thanks to all those who came to the LIFESPAN Celebration of Life Dinner on Tuesday, May 7th at the San Marino Club in Troy! It was a super great evening from young volunteers helping out, to guests socializing and bidding on Silent Auction items and taking part in the Tin Can Raffle, to the largest number of college students/young adults who attended, to Greg Wolf, emcee and long-time supporter of LIFESPAN, to the upbeat and well-spoken Nick Rolling, President of Oakland University Students for Life and his announcement about upcoming events, to the awesome Crusaders for Life Detroit group singing/chanting pro-life songs, and finally to guest speaker, Jeanne Monahan, who gave a very inspiring, energetic presentation on what one person can do in the Pro-Life Movement to change hearts and minds!

NEWS TO NOTE!

◆ On May 13th, Pennsylvania abortionist Kermit Gosnell was charged with three counts of murder (third trimester babies born alive during abortions and killed afterwards) and one count of involuntary manslaughter of a woman who died (after complications from her abortion). The jury found him guilty on three of the four first-degree murder charges. —"Kermit Gosnell Found Guilty..." Steven Ertelt, *www.lifenews.com*, May 13, 2013. (See related article, page 5.)

◆ Pope Francis welcomed March for Life participants in Rome on Sunday, Mother's Day. He invited "everyone to stay focused on the important issue of respect for human life, from the moment of conception." The March's organizers said the Pope's greeting represented "the highest recognition of the initiative and confirms the sensitivity of the Pope to the non-negotiable principles, beginning with the right to life." —"Pope Personally Greets Rome March for Life Participants," Edward Pentin, *www.ncregister.com*, May 13, 2013.

◆ Who would have imagined a world where the nation's largest black civil rights groups would partner with the one organization that destroys innocent life for profit? —"Civil Rights Gone Wrong: The NAACP's Long Pro-Abortion History," by Ryan Bomberger of the Radiance Foundation, *LifeNews.com*, May 2, 2013.

◆ A two-year-old girl born without a windpipe now has a new one grown from her own stem cells, the youngest patient in the world to benefit from the experimental treatment. —"Hannah Warren, 2-Year-Old Girl, Gets Windpipe Made from Stem Cells," by Lindsey Tanner (Medical Writer), *Associated Press*, April 30, 2013.

Until next time...

Lynn Gura, Youth Director, Right to Life – LIFESPAN Educational Fund



We are the Pro-Life Generation



Featured Speaker:
Kristan Hawkins
Students for Life of America



Special Guest:
Evelyn Van Sloten
Crossroads Pregnancy Center

Event open to all High School Juniors/Seniors
and College Students

Saturday, August 10, 2013 from 10 AM - 2 PM
The Gold Rooms of the Oakland Center at Oakland University
2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester, MI 48309

Visit www.edcenterforlife.org or call 248.816.8489
Register online at edcenterforlife.eventbrite.com
Check it out on Facebook: facebook.com/edcenterforlife

Presented by Oakland University Students for Life
Sponsors: Educational Center For Life & RTL-LIFESPAN Educational Fund



Legislative Update

Michigan Pro-Lifers Pursue Ballot Measure to Stop Tax-Funded Abortions

By Steven Ertelt

Michigan pro-lifers are pursuing a ballot measure to stop taxpayer funding of abortions in the state. The measure is necessary because Governor Snyder vetoed a bill that would stop taxpayer financing of abortions under Obamacare.

At a meeting on May 22, Michigan's Board of State Canvassers approved the **No Taxes for Abortion Insurance** petition form. More than 258,000 valid signatures from registered voters will now need to be collected in order to prevent Michigan from subsidizing abortion coverage in insurance plans.

The Board of State Canvassers approved the group's petitions for a statewide ballot initiative. If they can get the required 258,088 valid voter signatures, the proposed law could be adopted by the Legislature or put before voters in 2014.

Right to Life is pursuing the legislation after Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed a bill last year that changed the legal structure of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and included requirements from the Republican-controlled Legislature that residents cover additional insurance to cover aborting pregnancies.

"People that are in favor of abortion would have to purchase that insurance," said Barbara Listing, president of Right to Life of Michigan. **No Taxes for Abortion**, the ballot committee, has 180 days to collect signatures and can start that process anytime during the next year.

If the Board of State Canvassers determined the group collected enough valid signatures for the proposed statute, the Legislature would have 40 days to either adopt the law or allow it to go on the ballot, said Fred Woodhams, spokesman for Secretary of State Ruth Johnson.

Rebecca Kiessling, a pro-life attorney based in Michigan, supports the effort and says it is also due in part to the desire to protect babies who are aborted after they are conceived in rape.

"The petition drive is to override Governor Snyder's veto of the opt-out of abortion coverage in Obamacare," she explained to LifeNews.

"Governor Snyder had issued a letter at the end of December stating that he vetoed the bill because it did not have a rape exception."

"Right to Life of Michigan tried to convince Governor Snyder to pass the bill without an exception but he refused. Therefore they decided to embark on this very costly endeavor of collecting 258,088 signatures within 180 days, which Right to Life of Michigan is confident they will achieve. This sets a great example to the pro-life movement that the least of these are worth fighting for," she said.

—LifeNews.com, May 22, 2013

Editor's Note: For more information on helping with this petition drive, watch for details via email, our website or Facebook page, or call Lifespan's Main Office at 734-524-0162.

Efforts to Stop Late-Term Abortions

The National Right to Life Committee announced that U.S. Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.) is authoring a bill that will ban late-term abortions nationwide when a baby is capable of feeling pain, generally said to be before 20 weeks in the womb.

The first hearing on what will become the nationwide Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 1797) will have taken place May 23rd in the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Volunteer Help Needed

Individual with good office skills needed in Lifespan's Main Office.

Please call 734-524-0162.

Contact Information

President

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
Opinion Line: 202-456-1111, M-F, 9-5
Fax Number: 202-456-2461
Web contact: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/
Dear Mr. President:

U.S. Senators

The Honorable (Carl Levin, Debbie Stabenow)
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-3121
Website/Email: www.levin.senate.gov/
Website/Email: www.stabenow.senate.gov/

Dear Senator (last name):

U.S. Representatives

The Honorable (first and last name)
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-224-3121
Website/Email: www.house.gov/
Dear Congressman/Congresswoman (last name):

Governor

The Honorable Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-3400
Opinion Line: 517-335-7858
Website: www.michigan.gov/snyder
Email: Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov
Dear Governor Snyder:

Michigan State Senator

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
Web contact: www.senate.mi.gov/
Dear Senator (last name):

Michigan State Representative

The Honorable (full name)
P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1837
Web contact: www.house.mi.gov/
Dear Representative (last name):

Kermit Gosnell Receives Third Consecutive Life Term

By Steven Ertelt

Abortion practitioner Kermit Gosnell received his third consecutive life prison term on May 15, this one for the baby he killed in an abortion-infanticide he said was so big it could “walk to the bus.”

Gosnell was convicted of first-degree murder in the deaths of three babies born alive after an abortion process that involved jabbing them in the neck with scissors. On May 14, Gosnell gave up his right to appeal the verdict that found him guilty on three of the four first-degree murder charges he faced. As a result, prosecutors agreed to two life terms in prison and Gosnell would not face the death penalty.

On May 15, Gosnell faced sentencing for killing a woman in a failed abortion. Gosnell was also sentenced to two and a half to five years in prison for that and will spend the rest of his life in prison.

The prosecutors originally sought the death penalty because Gosnell killed more than one person and because of the age of the newborn babies involved. They also agreed to the life sentences in prison because Gosnell’s age made it unlikely he would be executed before his appeals ran out, as he would die naturally beforehand.

Gosnell’s attorney, Jack McMahon, said the abortionist accepts the verdict and isn’t sorry he went to trial. He said Gosnell gave up a somewhat better deal early on but wanted to air the issues in court and is satisfied that he did so.

“He wanted this case aired out in a courtroom and it got aired out in a courtroom in a fair way. And now he’s accepting what will happen. He’s an intelligent guy,” said McMahon, who said Gosnell would now plead to federal drug charges that are still pending.

Gosnell was found guilty of killing Baby A, Baby C and Baby D and found not guilty of killing Baby E. He was also convicted on hundreds of lesser charges ranging from infanticide to running a corrupt organization.

Gosnell was also found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the death of patient Karnamaya Mongar, who died after a botched abortion. And he was found guilty on most of the more than 200 counts of violating Pennsylvania’s informed consent law.

In total, Gosnell was found guilty of 21 out of 24 felony counts of illegal abortions beyond the 24 week limit and found guilty on all but 16 of 227 misdemeanor counts of violating the 24-hour informed consent law.

Below are the details related to the four babies Gosnell was charged with killing:

Baby Boy A was the biggest baby that Kareema Cross had ever seen delivered at Gosnell’s abortion “House of Horrors” clinic in the four years she worked there. He was delivered to 17-year old Shaquana Abrams at 29.4 weeks gestation, according to an ultrasound record.

Baby Boy A was so large, he did not fit into the plastic shoe box that Gosnell tossed him in. Cross said she saw the baby pull in his arms and legs while Gosnell explained the movements as “reflexes” telling her the baby really didn’t

move prior to cutting the baby’s neck.

Baby Boy A was so large, Gosnell joked that “this baby is big enough to walk around with me or walk me to the bus stop.” Cross and fellow employees Adrienne Moton and 15-year old Ashley Baldwin were all so “startled” by the size of the baby that they all took photos of the baby with their cell phones.

Baby C was an intact baby of over 25-weeks gestation. Kareema Cross testified that she saw Baby C breathing and described the up and down chest movements she observed for 20 minutes. She told the court she saw Lynda Williams lift the baby’s arm and watched as the newborn drew it back on its own power.

Afterwards, Williams inserted surgical scissors into the baby’s neck and “snipped” the spinal cord. Gosnell was said to be in the room at the time. This baby’s murder charges were unintentionally dismissed in the place of Baby F, but were reinstated after Judge Minehart discovered his error.

Baby D was described by witnesses as 12-15 inches long with the head the size of a “big pancake” when he was delivered into a toilet. Kareema Cross testified that she saw the baby struggling, using swimming motions in an attempt to get out of the toilet bowl. Adrienne Moton pulled the baby out and “snipped” the neck, as Gosnell had taught her to do, while the mother watched.

Gosnell has also been charged with Criminal Solicitation of Moton to commit murder of Baby D.

Baby E was estimated to be at least 23 weeks gestation and maybe more. After Baby E was delivered, teen Ashley Baldwin heard the baby cry and called Kareema Cross for help. Cross described the baby’s cry as a “whine.” Baldwin said that Gosnell when into the room then came out with the baby—which now had an incision in its neck—and tossed it into the waste bin.

Eight other defendants who are former staffers of Gosnell’s Philadelphia abortion clinic have pleaded guilty to a variety of charges and are awaiting sentencing.

Previously, the judge in the case reinstated one of the murder charges and dropped another. Gosnell’s defense attorney asked the judge to drop three of the charges for killing the babies and the judge agreed with the contention there was not enough evidence to convict Gosnell on those charges. Another charge of infanticide was also dropped.

One of the dropped charges involved a 28-week-old baby Gosnell killed and whose remains were kept in an abortion clinic freezer.



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Lifespan Chapter News

Oakland/Macomb

Celebrate Life Dinner

Another Celebrate Life Dinner has come and gone. As usual, the number of people involved are too numerous to mention by name because someone is always left out. So, for each of you who worked the auction, set the tables, sold tin can raffle tickets (actually plastic containers, but let's not get picky!), distributed Resource Books, helped with registration, loaded and unloaded our cars, helped to clean up, and came to help us celebrate, we say THANK YOU.

Bishop Foley "Be the Difference" Students

Late last month, we had six Bishop Foley High School students and their chaperones help us in the office. Once each year, Bishop Foley sends all their students into the community to help with various community needs. Our six helped put tags on the ribbons that get tied to the Mother's Day carnations and they helped sort books for our Used Book Sale on July 12, 13 and 14. These young people are our future, and if these young people are any example, we are in good hands!

Email Address

Just a reminder that we need your email addresses. There are frequently things that happen in Lansing or

Washington or breaking news that needs to be communicated RIGHT NOW. The best way for us to get that information to you is via email. Our server is secure and you won't get hacked or spammed if we send you a message.

Board Changes

One of our long-time Oakland/Macomb board members has resigned. Doug Ritter has served on the board for about 15 years and his input, humor and dedication have been a blessing. Thank you, Doug, from us and all the babies and moms you have helped.

March for LIFE 2014

Lifespan has been asked if there is a possibility of our organizing an adult trip to D.C. for the March in January 2014. It would be independent of the student bus trip that we sponsor. It could be by plane, train or bus. Please call the Main Office, 734-524-0162, and advise us if this interests you!

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

Phone: 248-816-1546 • Fax: 248-816-9066

e-mail: oakmac@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9-3

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

Lynn Gura, Ofc. Staff & Youth Director

Wayne County/Downriver

Miracle Continues

Little Brayden now weighs 6 lbs., 2 oz. and is thriving at his home in Ohio. Doctors say he is developmentally on track for a three-week-old. He is beginning to outgrow his preemie clothing, too! He still may encounter some issues, but all the prayers are being answered. Continue to pray for him and his parents as he goes through tests and evaluations. Thanks for your love for Brayden!



Our Thanks

The silk roses and pens brought many smiles and giggles from both moms (the recipients) and their children (the gift-givers) on Mother's Day. Thanks to all of you who participated in this annual event—too numerous to mention by name.

St. Raphael Church in Garden City had their annual Mother's Day bake sale for Lifespan. Parishioners and Lifespan bakers stacked the tables with their favorite recipes which were snapped up by pastry lovers. A special thank you to Laurie Masiarak, Lifespan office manager and church rep, for organizing this event. We applaud Fr. Ray Lewandowski, pastor, for his total support. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this bake sale, including Garden City Bake Shoppe which contributed many tasty items—the grand total in receipts was \$610.23.

Father's Day Message

Happy Father's Day to all the special men who are fathers! The national **Silent No More Awareness Campaign** is a non-denominational Christian effort to make the public aware of the devastation that abortion brings to women, men and their families. It has three main goals: 1) Educate the public that abortion is harmful emotionally, physically and spiritually with lasting consequences. 2) Reach out to those hurting from an abortion and let them know that help is available. 3) Invite those who are ready to share their stories to join them in being "silent no more." Contact this group at www.silentnomoreawareness.org or call 1-800-707-6635.

Entertainment Books 2014

Entertainment is back in business almost as fast as it went out of business. **They definitely will be supplying us with books for 2014.** However, at this time, they have no further information as to a presale, arrival date or cost. They're in the process of rehiring employees to handle sales and scheduling. We'll send out postcards to previous buyers as soon as we have this information. **Please wait to buy them from us as we depend on fundraisers to help us through these difficult financial times.**

14600 Farmington Rd., Ste. 108, Livonia, MI 48154-5431

Phone 734-422-6230 • Fax 734-422-8116

e-mail: wcdr@rtl-lifespan.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10-4; Friday Closed

Patricia Holscher, Director • Laurie Masiarak, Ofc. Mgr.



Wee Care

It has been a very busy Spring at Wee Care! Many babies have been provided for—very lovingly! Wonderful baby showers have helped replenish our empty shelves, and some very special children’s groups have helped our little ones.

In March, I was privileged to attend a Brownie troop meeting at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Northville. The scouts had passed out Easter eggs at church that were filled with a jelly bean representing a tiny baby and a note asking for a baby item. They presented an overwhelming collection of gifts and told me of their project as they pointed to their beautiful, handpainted mural that depicted each step. What a sweet, caring group of little girls they are!



Our Lady of Victory Brownie Troop, Northville

On that same day, Sharon Neal, a very special volunteer, represented Wee Care at a Baby shower at St. Raphael’s School in Garden City. She was surrounded by kindergartners and 1st graders as they hosted the shower! She also was given so many adorable gifts and the children were so excited. I can’t thank her enough (or the children and their teachers!)



Kindergartners at St. Raphael’s Kindergarten/1st Grade Baby Shower Garden City



1st Graders at St. Raphael’s Kindergarten/1st Grade Baby Shower



St. Michael’s Student Pro-Life Club (Livonia) with Janine Pawelski and Judy Munro

the resources available to them for school projects and how they can make a difference. And finally, we spoke of Wee Care and how many precious babies would be helped, thanks to them and the caring people of St. Michael’s! The teachers and children’s parents at all three schools should be very proud of these students! The future of the Pro-Life Movement is in good hands!

I would also like to personally thank Joanne Moening for helping to make our Celebration of Life Dinner Auction so successful. She was responsible for over \$3,000 worth of donated items! She is a very special Lifespan volunteer and does so much throughout the year for my Wee Care babies! God bless you all!

Love, Karen

In May, the very active Student Pro-Life Club at St. Michael School, Livonia, visited Wee Care. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders unloaded a truck and mini van overflowing with beautiful gifts from the wonderful students and generous parishioners of St. Mike’s! We spoke of *Roe v. Wade* which has been the law of the land since before their parents were born and of Lifespan’s history—and mine—pushing two of their mothers in a stroller and passing out pro-life literature in 1971—(three of my granddaughters were present!) We spoke of

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

All material and monetary donations to Wee Care are tax-deductible. Checks must be made payable to Right to Life - LIFESPAN Educational Fund.

Scientists Claim They Have Cloned Human Embryos for Stem Cells



Researchers in Oregon claimed they have succeeded in producing cloned human embryos and obtained their embryonic stem cells.

They have engaged in the grisly research with the goal of producing genetically matched stem cells for research and possible therapies—even though embryonic stem cells have never helped human patients and cause tumors when injected.

The Oregon Health & Science University scientists published a paper on May 15 in the online journal *Cell* reporting on the use of cloning techniques to produce human embryos, 21 of whom they were able to sustain to the point in development at which stem cells were present, after which the human embryos were killed and the stem cells harvested.

Leading pro-life advocates quickly condemned the clone and kill methods that destroyed unique human beings.

“These researchers created many human embryos, male and female, and allowed them to grow for up to seven days, for the sole purpose of killing them and harvesting their stem cells,” said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. “We will certainly continue to oppose attempts in Congress to provide federal funds to create human embryos for the purpose of harvesting their cells—which is a step towards human embryo farms.”

Johnson said current federal law (the Dickey-Wicker Amendment) prohibits the use of federal funds to create human embryos. Bills to authorize the use of federal funds for such purposes have been proposed in Congress in the past.

The chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also condemned the cloning and said human cloning for any purpose is inconsistent with the moral responsibility to

“treat each member of the human family as a unique gift of God, as a person with his or her own inherent dignity.”

“Creating new human lives in the laboratory solely to destroy them is an abuse denounced even by many who do not share the Catholic Church’s convictions on human life,” said Cardinal Seán O’Malley, OFM Cap., of Boston.

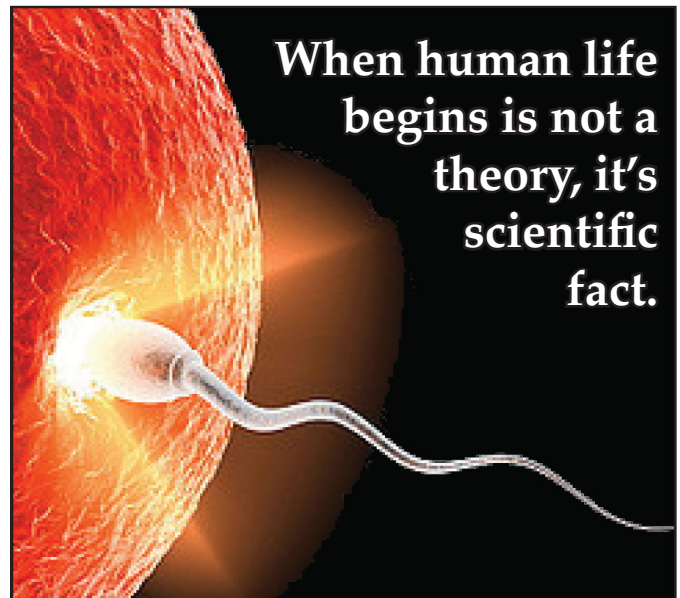
He said this way of making embryos will also be taken up by people who want to produce cloned children as “copies” of other people. “Whether used for one purpose or the other, human cloning treats human beings as products, manufactured to order to suit other people’s wishes.” He added, “A technical advance in human cloning is not progress for humanity but its opposite.”

He added that the researcher’s goal of producing genetically matched stem cells for research and possible therapies is already being addressed by scientific advances that do not pose the same more problems.

He said: “The news that researchers have developed a technique for human cloning is deeply troubling on many levels. Over 120 human embryos were created and destroyed, to produce six embryonic stem cell lines. Creating the embryos involved subjecting healthy women to procedures that put their health and fertility at risk. And the researchers’ alleged goal, producing genetically matched stem cells for research and possible therapies, is already being addressed by scientific advances that do not pose these grave moral wrongs.”

—Steven Ertelt, *LifeNews.com*, May 15, 2013

Visit the Stem Cell Research Facts website: <http://stem-cellresearchfacts.org/> to see a few examples of the continuing success of adult stem cells.



LiveAction.org

I Was Raped and Left Pregnant at 17, But I Love My Baby

By Deana Schroeder

I've been there. Not Todd Akin. Not Richard Mourdock. And certainly not their critics who sanctimoniously imagine that they know what pregnant sexual assault victims really want and need.

As my story shows, all too often, our self-appointed champions do more harm than good.

I was 17, drugged and raped. When I learned I was pregnant, my family, counselors and doctors took control.

They intended the best. They wanted to help me. And even though there are literally no studies showing any benefit from abortion, they had total confidence in the social myth that abortion is the best option, even the *only* option, in cases of sexual assault.

Even many pro-lifers approve of abortions in cases of rape. So surely it must be the best choice, right?

Not in my case. It just added more layers of trauma, self-doubt, grief and guilt. The negative impact lasted for years.

I'm not alone.

A national study published in 1996 found that half of the estimated 32,000 rape pregnancies which occur each year end in abortion. Note: *half*. Not even 60 percent.

That so many women choose to give birth after rape, despite the social expectations and pressure to abort, should give you pause. Why aren't all rape victims embracing the conventional wisdom that abortion is the best treatment for rape pregnancies?

A hint is found in another study of 164 women who had rape pregnancies (conducted for the book *Victims and Victors*). In that study, the majority of those who had abortions said it only caused additional problems and the vast majority regretted having abortions. By contrast, among those who delivered the child, satisfaction was higher and none stated any regret for giving birth.

Why are these facts so little known? It is because many people on both sides of the abortion debate are more concerned with their ideologies than they are the complex nitty-gritty details which confound sound bites.

Because the actual experiences of pregnant sexual assault victims have not been widely heard, the social myth that abortion is the best, or even the only, option in cases of rape pregnancies is almost universally accepted. This universal myth creates its own set of problems for women.

When a pregnant sexual assault victim balks at having an abortion, she will almost immediately face queries of suspicion from family and friends. How can any woman have a rapist's child, they wonder? And then the suspicion mounts...maybe she lied. Maybe she was not really the victim of a "legitimate" rape?

And so the assumption that surely a real rape victim would want an abortion creates a new pressure on hurting women, in a time of intense crisis, to accept the recommendation of abortion, despite moral qualms and heightened sensitivity to victimization, to swallow their reservations and have the abortion if only to silence the rising doubts about their rape story.

I hope I've convinced you that the rape and abortion issue is not as simple as you've always assumed.

This is why I have joined the Ad Hoc Committee of Women Pregnant by Sexual Assault (WPSA). For eight years, we have been petitioning Congress to hold hearings to allow us to describe our own experiences, insights and needs.

It is our hope that policy makers, the media and well-intentioned people on all sides of the abortion debate finally hear the truth from those who have been there. Only when our voices and experiences are included in future discussions and arguments over rape, incest and abortion will those discussions and arguments be less blatantly ignorant and hurtful.

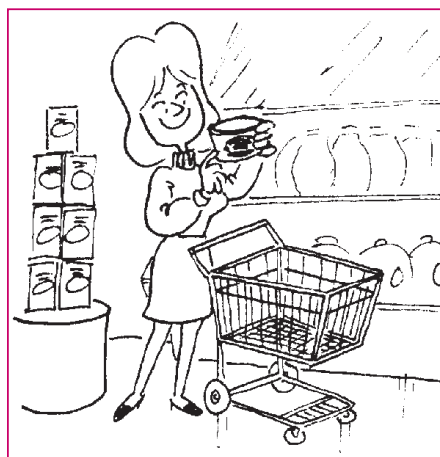
Whatever side of the abortion debate you are on, I hope you'll agree that our voices should be heard. Please call your representative and senators and ask them to endorse our petition.

It's time to replace posturing with knowledge. And in this case, knowledge can come only from those who have actually been there.

Deana Schroeder is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee of Women Pregnant By Sexual Assault (WPSA).

—LifeNews.com, November 12, 2012

Reminder—Kroger Customers!



Anyone who enrolled before April 1, 2013 in the Kroger Community Rewards Program to benefit Lifespan, must re-enroll to continue earning rewards for us.

Kroger requires re-enrollment in this program EVERY APRIL. So if you

have enrolled in the past for Lifespan to receive Kroger rewards, you must re-enroll after April 1st, EVERY YEAR.

It's easy to enroll or re-enroll in Kroger Community Rewards. All participants must have a Kroger Plus Card number and valid online account at Kroger.com. Visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

Log onto your Kroger account; use your email address and password to sign in. Click on "Edit Community Rewards Program" and input Lifespan's NPO number 83138, click "Search," then select "Right to Life - Lifespan Ed Fund," and save selection.

If you need more information, see "frequently asked questions" on the Kroger website or call Lifespan at 734-524-0162.

Gosnell

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Gosnell, whose squalid “house of horrors” abortion clinic has surprised even investigative officials, has had an almost flippant attitude toward his macabre abortion practices that have shocked the nation.

“The Gosnell case is a watershed moment for the issue of abortion,” said Troy Newman, President of Operation Rescue and Pro-Life Nation. “The discovery of his horrific practices helped shed light on an abortion industry that has run amok without oversight or accountability for decades, and has prompted significant changes in abortion laws and attitudes toward enforcement in several states.”

Previously, Gosnell’s wife Pearl pleaded guilty to assisting her husband at his Philadelphia abortion center where he killed a woman in a botched abortion and has killed hundreds of babies in abortion-infanticides. Pearl Gosnell was considering a plea deal similar to the one several of Gosnell’s former abortion center employees have made where they have pleaded guilty to receive a lesser sentence in exchange for testifying against Gosnell.

Pearl also worked at the abortion center Gosnell ran that had him kill and injure women in failed abortions and kill perhaps hundreds of babies in grisly infanticides by birthing them and “snipping” their spinal cords. She worked at the Women’s Medical Society abortion business her husband ran as a full-time medical assistant from 1982 until she married Kermit Gosnell in 1990, when she switched to only working on Sundays.

At that time, the abortion business was officially closed but would do its latest-term abortions possible. The grand jury report indicates Pearl Gosnell testified that she alone helped Kermit do abortions on Sundays when she would “help do the instruments” in the operating room despite no medical training.

The murder charges also came in connection with the botched abortion death of 41-year-old [Karnamaya Mongar](#), who died at Gosnell’s abortion clinic after a failed abortion. Mongar died November 20, 2009, after overdosing on anesthetics prescribed by the doctor.

Mongar’s family filed a lawsuit against Gosnell’s abortion business seeking damages. Gosnell and several staffers at his abortion center, including Pearl, were arrested in January after a grand jury indicted them on multiple charges after officials raided his abortion business following a woman’s death and discovered a “shop of horrors” filled with bags of bodies and body parts of deceased unborn children and babies killed in infanticides.

Meanwhile, women have spoken out about their treatment and one woman says she was drugged and tied up and forced to have an abortion. Authorities searching the facility found bags and bottles holding aborted babies scattered around the building, jars containing babies’ severed feet lining a shelf, as well as filthy, unsanitary furniture and equipment.

The grand jury investigation also shows state officials did nothing when reports came in about problems at Gosnell’s abortion center, which has upset incoming pro-life Governor Tom Corbett.

Gosnell’s abortion center was inspected only after a federal drug raid in 2010. It was the first time the facility had been inspected in 17 years because state officials ignored complaints and failed to visit Gosnell’s Women’s Medical Society for years.

The abortion industry has been forced to suspend two abortion businesses that employed embattled abortion practitioner Kermit Gosnell, who has been the subject of national controversy over his abortion business in Philadelphia.

—*LifeNews.com*, May 15, 2013

Networks Give Angelina Jolie 27 Minutes 56 Seconds for Gosnell Verdict

ABC and NBC led their morning shows on May 14 with nearly 10 minutes of “breaking news” coverage of Angelina Jolie’s double mastectomy. This celebrity-driven story was apparently deemed more important than abortionist Dr. Kermit Gosnell being found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder, as *Good Morning America* and *Today* devoted just 38 seconds to the Gosnell trial.

Altogether, the ABC and NBC morning newscasts aired 19 minutes and 3 seconds of coverage on Jolie. Tuesday’s CBS *This Morning* waited 12 minutes to cover the Hollywood news item, but ultimately ended up setting aside 7 minutes and 49 seconds of air time to the surgeries, versus a 18-second news brief on Gosnell.

The total Big Three coverage of Jolie on May 14, including CBS’s reporting, added up to **26 minutes and 52 seconds**, as opposed to **56 seconds** on the Gosnell case.

—*Matthew Balan*, *LifeNews.com*, May 15, 2013

President’s Letter

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Don’t we have enough sadness and tragedy in our lifetime? Do we need to create laws that bring about self-inflicted pain and sadness? We have millions of women hurting today because of their abortions; an estimated 55,772,015 babies have died in the U.S. between 1973-2012 by abortion. We cannot stop a tornado, but we can work together and change laws to protect the human person from being killed arbitrarily in the womb because he or she is not wanted.

I ask you, what is the difference between the baby inside the womb or one 5 minutes outside the womb? Gosnell killed children in the womb and pulled out dead babies—that’s legal abortion; but he also snipped their spinal cords and killed them outside the womb—that’s murder! Is this not total legal schizophrenia? It is madness! “Personhood” must be recognized for the preborn child. A Human Life Amendment is needed in our Constitution. Continue to use the tools Lifespan gives to educate family and friends on what is happening on all of the life issues. We can’t stop a tornado, but we can stop abortion. Let us work together to bring peace to the womb.

“No more children die, no more women cry”—this is our goal—this is my prayer.

Diane Fagelman, President

From the President's Desk

As I prepared to write this article, I thought about the natural disasters of the past week and their relationship to the issues we fight every day that disrespect the human person. We cannot solve all the problems of the world. Tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes—are a part of our lives, and the loss of life they bring always brings sadness and tears. The families and communities never completely recover from the devastation.

As I watched the horrifying coverage of the tornadoes in Oklahoma, I felt depression, despair, hopelessness and deep sadness for all those affected—especially for the loss of loved ones, their hopes and dreams extinguished, the community they lived in changed forever.

Like thousands of others, I just wanted to help them, I just wanted to stop the pain, but I had no control. So I prayed and turned it over to God.

I felt the same pain watching and reading of the trial of abortionist Gosnell. The butcher from Philadelphia preyed on vulnerable women, and brutally killed their children, and in one known case, caused the death of an unsuspecting woman.

Both the Oklahoma tornado and Gosnell's clinic of horrors caused death to the young and innocent. There are similarities between the two occurrences—they both killed, they both changed lives forever and they both left despair and sadness. But, there is a difference—one is preventable and the other is not.

Roe v. Wade opened up the doors to tragedies that occur daily all over this nation—the killing of thousands of our future citizens. But, because we cannot see this baby in the womb, touch her or hold her, she becomes a statistic; no secular media shows the truth of this event. Similarly, the woman whose thought processes are not clear, oftentimes is frightened, has feelings of hopelessness and despair, is forced to make a decision influenced by her parents, boyfriend, husband or friend to “just get rid of the problem,”—but she will live forever with the aftermath of her abortion—her life changed forever.

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Donations have been made—

*In Honor of the 70th Wedding Anniversary of:
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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 will be used to save the lives of many through our efforts. Send donations to your local Lifespan office.

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Right to Life - LIFESPAN 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 \$ 25.00 _____ Other
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Happy Father's Day!

Fathers, Grandfathers, Great-Grandfathers!



Dear Lord, bless the father of my children with good health and long life. Give him a loving enthusiasm for his role in our family, and let him hold dear our love for each other. When he faces worries or disappointments, keep him in your care. When he is beset by difficulties, give him your strength. May he find satisfaction and joy in his children. Help me be a worthy and confident partner in our shared vocation as parents. Help us support and empower each other to serve you better as we raise our children. Let us be of one mind and one heart in doing your holy will so our family reflects the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Amen.

—For the Father of My Child, Ligouri Publications