

LIFE LINES

A Publication of

Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, Inc.
and the Education Fund

Summer 2013

“Voluntary palliated starvation” – the newest “compassion”

Julian Savulescu, a British bioethicist, has suggested another step in euthanasia: “voluntary palliated starvation.” That means that the patient requests that the doctor sedate him, with no feeding, until he dies of starvation. In this case, “starvation” may be a misnomer, because if water is also withheld at any point the patient will probably die much sooner from dehydration.

In any case, he says in his abstract (<http://jme.bmj.com/content/early/2013/07/17/medethics-2013-101379.extract>) that this is a method of assisted suicide that could fall within the limits of the law in Britain.

http://www.bioedge.org/index.php/bioethics/bioethics_article/10618

Family sues to stop spoon-feeding

The staff of Abbotsford nursing home in Canada is performing an act of abuse, according to the family of an 82-year-old woman who has Alzheimer's. The abusive act is spoon-feeding her.

Margot Bentley's daughter says that her mother earlier expressed the wish not to have food or liquids under these circumstances. She has filed suit to have the feeding stopped, expecting that her mother would die one to two weeks afterwards.

Bentley has been described as “completely unresponsive” or that she is in a vegetative state. Yet, she does open her mouth to take food such as mashed potatoes, which she can swallow. A social worker assessment in March said that she “does have one way of communicating. She often closes her mouth to main course foods, but she opens it for sweet desserts.”

Wesley J. Smith points out that one has the right to refuse medical treatment, “but spoon feeding is *humane care* that should never be denied.” He agrees that this court case will set a precedent and wonders “what will happen to the nursing and medical professions if they are required to deny people the basics of life until death?”

<http://www.leaderpost.com/health/Patient+family+sues+nursing+home+keeps+alive+against+wishes/8756167/story.html>

<http://www.nationalreview.com/human-exceptionalism/355300/nursing-home-wont-starve-mother-family-sues-wesley-j-smith>

Eugenics in Australia

Phillip Burcham has osteogenesis imperfecta or “brittle bone disease.” He has had multiple broken bones as a result, and was not surprised when his daughter had to be treated for a broken bone at a very young age. He was referred to a specialist afterwards, and was hopeful that perhaps there were some potentially helpful treatment developments.

The specialist, it turned out, wasn't interested in helping the child. The specialist was a geneticist, who said disdainfully, “We want to ensure you don't have another one of those.”

One can only imagine the pressure to abort that would occur after a prenatal diagnosis of such a condition.

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/91/i24/Greater.html>

Osteogenesis imperfecta foundation www.oif.org
Resource for parents with a bad prenatal diagnosis
www.benotafraid.net

Progress in Texas

Texas, in a special legislative session made necessary by screaming disruption in the state legislature by pro-abortion activists, passed an abortion restriction bill. Rai Rojas summarized, “Women in Texas will be forced to decide on having an abortion before the 5th month of pregnancy and when they do they must go to a clean and sterile environment to have a doctor with hospital privileges perform the abortion on them.”

It was signed into law on July 18 by Gov. Rick Perry. Elizabeth Graham of Texas Right to Life said, “The majority of Texans support limits to abortion, and we are pleased that legislators responded to their constituents and enacted this important piece of legislation .that protects unborn children in Texas.”

<http://www.nationalrighttolifeneews.org/news/2013/07/pro-abortionists-go-on-nation-wide-rant/#.Ufae3m3A9OI>

<http://www.texasrighttolife.com/a/1085/Perry-signs-prolife-omnibus-bill-HB-2-into-law>

Is abortion safer than childbirth? Part 3 of 3

If abortion was safer than childbirth, then the countries with permissive abortion laws would, for similar health systems, have the lowest maternal mortality rates. In fact, it's the opposite, as pointed out by Evangeline Jones, of Americans United for Life.

- Ireland, where the unborn are constitutionally protected, has the lowest maternal mortality rate in Europe, 1 per 100,000 live births.
- Poland, with restrictive laws, has 9 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- The US has 11 deaths per 100,000 live births.
- In Chile, mortality was high in 1961 when abortion was legal. In 2007 after abortion was banned, maternal mortality had gone down 97.9%

<http://www.aul.org/2010/03/real-reproductive-justice-relies-on-medical-reality/>

Stem cell pioneer Hannah Warren dies

Two-year-old Hannah Warren was the youngest ever to receive a transplanted windpipe fashioned from her own stem cells. The new windpipe worked successfully. However, three months after the implant, on July 6, Dr. Rick Pearl announced that Hannah had died of lung complications following a second surgery.

Hannah had been born without a trachea. An international stem cell team built her a plastic scaffold for a windpipe and seeded it with adult stem cells from her own bone marrow. They then implanted it on April 9 of this year, at a hospital in Peoria, Illinois.

Her parents, Darryl Warren and Lee Young-mi, were grateful to have had her with them for 34 months. They said, "We are humbled and blessed. She is a pioneer in stem-cell technology and her impact will reach all corners of our beautiful Earth."

AAP Medical writer Carla K. Johnson in <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/toddler-lab-made-windpipe-dies>

Help Hannah Breathe <https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/qbr/helphannahbreathe>

Earlier tracheal transplants

Ciaran Finn-Lynch is now 13. His congenital rare condition was a small windpipe that does not grow (long segment tracheal stenosis). Two years ago he was the first child to receive a transplanted windpipe. As of a year ago, he was "breathing normally" and his trachea had grown 11 centimeters since the transplant.

Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, was the head surgeon. He and his team first transplanted a trachea in 2008 for a woman in Barcelona. Doctors are in agreement that the method is still in early stages of development. <http://news.yahoo.com/stunning-recovery-first-child-stem-cell-trachea-024532746--abc-news-wellness.html>

A new kind of adult stem cell

Thea Tlsty and colleagues, of the University of California at San Francisco, had been studying wound-healing cells in the breast "known to divide furiously in response to injury." They noticed that a small number of these cells were different; they had molecules on their surfaces that were like the molecules on the surfaces of embryonic stem cells.

They put some of these "different" cells into a nutrient solution that fosters the development of heart muscle cells and were elated when the developing cells began to "beat" like heart muscle. Other nutrient solutions produced cells that looked like different kinds of body cells.

They're calling the newly-found cells "endogenous pluripotent somatic" cells.

Smithsonian magazine, July-August 2013 and <http://scitechstory.com/2013/03/06/epsc-a-new-type-of-pluripotent-stem-cell/>

Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast and Medicaid Fraud

According to the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), a whistleblower lawsuit was filed alleging that, over a period of ten years, PPGC had "knowingly engaged in continued violations of both federal and state law" for financial benefit.

An agreement was reached in July that PPGC will pay a penalty of \$4.3 million. Since Medicaid is a joint state and federal government program, the money will be shared between the state and federal governments, with a share going to the whistleblower. PPGC stated that the agreement is not an admission of guilt.

<http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2013/08/planned-parenthood-gulf-coast-acknowledges-4-3-million-penalty-for-medicaid-fraud/#.UfsVbG3A9OI> <http://aclj.org/planned-parenthood/challenging-planned-parenthood-court-again-this-time-texas>

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Congratulations to Rev. Jason McGuire on LHHL Award

The Leo Holmsten Human Life Award Dinner is Friday, October 11, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency in Rochester. Rev. Jason McGuire will receive the 17th Annual Award.

McGuire was instrumental in coordinating the recent (successful) battle to defeat the Governor's abortion expansion bill. He is President of New Yorker's Family Research Foundation and Executive Director for New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms. When the NYS legislature is in session, he spends most of his time in Albany working with legislators.

Tickets are \$50 and there is a choice of menu, selected when the reservations are made. Reservations are required. Further information will be available shortly on the website www.LHHL.org or by calling (585) 342-4175.



Can unborn children really feel pain?

Yes, they can. Here is a statement from a group called Doctors on Fetal Pain: "For the purposes of surgery on unborn children, fetal anesthesia is routinely administered and is associated with a decrease in stress hormones compared to their level when painful stimuli are applied without such anesthesia."

This is one of eleven statements of varying levels of technical detail to support the contention that unborn children do indeed feel pain. Each point is backed by substantial articles in medical journals.

If you need more information, check their website or look at the information NRLC has on theirs. Both are excellent.

<http://www.doctorsonfetalpain.com/?/www.doctorsonfetalpain.com/fetal-pain-the-evidence> www.nrlc.org/abortion/Fetal_Pain/index.html

Polls say women favor protecting 20-week babies

Women seem to support the Republican-sponsored bill in the House for banning abortions on unborn children who can feel pain. A recent article in the Washington Post says that "of four major polls conducted in recent weeks on the 20-week abortion ban, each one shows women are actually more supportive of the law than men." The polls also show that, even among women who think that abortion should be legal, many are open to the idea of some restrictions like this.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2013/08/02/guess-who-likes-the-gops-20-week-abortion-ban-women/>

SLED Reminder: Size, Level of Development, Environment, Degree of Dependency

SLED is the acronym for Stephen Schwartz' list of nonessential traits distinguishing between unborn children and the rest of us. These traits are often used in excuses for why it's acceptable to do abortions: Described briefly in the winter edition of Life-Lines, more detail is offered here and in the next several issues.

Since you asked: Why are you against early abortions? After all, the fetus is only an inch long.

Answer by Dcn. Dennis Lohouse

Size or Physical Appearance

We expect that children will be a certain size. Likewise, we expect adults will also be of a certain size or at least in a normative range. When we see a picture of a 6 week human unborn baby, it doesn't seem human. It is so small. Abortion becomes easy when an unborn child is the size of a dime, or an aspirin.

As a result, we have accepted the idea that only a fully formed, birthed child is actually human. It becomes easy therefore to abort a "thing" that is too small to be a human person, a baby. While a fetus in the early stages may not appear to be a human person is it not still genetically a human? Do humans lose value when they don't look right? Does size equal value? Men are generally larger than women. Does that mean men are more human than women? Of course not. The size of the unborn is irrelevant.

We must not let the size of any person, born or unborn, be the basis of assessing their value. All humans have value from the moment they are conceived until the moment of their natural death. Do not let the size of the unborn stand as a justification for abortion. The zygote is fully human even if it cannot be readily seen with the human eye.

Silent Dancers for Life

Dancing can be a form of prayer, say the Silent Dancers for Life, and that is what they are doing outside buildings where abortions take place. For them, dancing is a prayer initiative to raise awareness of the injustice of abortion, the death of babies in the womb, and the subsequent silence of shame among the men and women involved.

Dancers plan to dance together for an hour in a public place, but do not use pre-planned choreography. Each dancer has an individual source of music and will move accordingly, although at times, they may move in unison, mirroring each other. They are silent, designating only one person to speak for the group, so that they can focus on their prayer for the lives of those who are threatened.

To the right is Michelle Pauly, dancing near the Planned Parenthood facility on University Avenue in Rochester. Unseen in the photo are the other five dancers who participated that day.

Silent Dancers was founded locally by Sandy Arena, who knows well the silence of shame that can follow an abortion. She hopes that other communities will follow Rochester's lead.

For more information or to find out how to participate, please go to www.silentdancersforlife.com or call Sandy at (585) 350-9012.



Parental win in Illinois

In Illinois a long court battle has reached a probable end with a pro-life win in the state Supreme Court. According to Reuters, "a parent must be notified 48 hours before a girl under the age of 18 gets an abortion in Illinois." They said there are now 22 states requiring such parental notification.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-usa-abortion-illinois-20130711,0,297898.story>

Opportunities of interest to pro-lifers

Saturday, September 8 Golf Tournament at Deerfield Country Club (Knights of Columbus) to benefit the Womens' Care Center and Focus Pregnancy Help Center. Call Cole Townsend (585) 317-1351.

Mondays beginning September 16 Up From The Ashes Post Abortion Bible Study at Sandy Arena Studios from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Call 585-350-9012 for more information and to register to participate in this 10-week study. Books and materials are required (\$10 fee for the book). Sandy Arena Studios is located at 875 Main Street, Rochester, NY, in the Auditorium Center.

Saturday, September 21 at Roberts Wesleyan and

Sunday, September 22 at St. John Fisher **Birthright's Walk for Life**, 1 PM – 3 PM. Call the Birthright office for information and application forms. 385-2100.

Tuesday, September 24 40 Days for Life Kickoff Rally 6:30 PM at the Focus Pregnancy Center on University Ave.

September 25 through November 3 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil at Planned Parenthood, 114 University Ave. Planning help needed now. For more information, visit www.40daysforlife.com/Rochester or phone (585) 489-9555

Saturday, September 28 Magnificat Breakfast with speaker Christine DiNovo. Airport Holiday Inn. Contact them at MagnificatRochester@frontier.com

Monday, September 30 Abby Johnson speaking at Roberts Wesleyan College, Hale Auditorium at the Cultural Life Center. 4:00 PM

Thursday, October 3 Awards Dinner of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of New York. 6 PM at Glendovers at 2328 Old Browncroft Rd. in Rochester. For tickets, call Ayesha at (585) 615-9551, email at info@fdfny.org or visit the website www.fdfny.org

Friday, October 11 Leo Holmsten Human Life Awards Dinner, honoree Rev. Jason McGuire (see details page 3)

Saturday, October 19 New York State Right to Life Convention in Oneonta, NY Details at <http://nysrighttolife.org/convention-registration>

Thursday, October 24 RARTL Annual Meeting, speaker Dr. Keith Sanger (see details page 6)

Save The Dates:

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Saturday, April 5, 2014 Break for Life Youth Conference at McQuaid

Saturday, April 12, 2014 RARTL Oratorical Contest for high school juniors and seniors and others

NEW YORK STATE: The “Abortion Expansion Act” in review

Congratulations to the pro-lifers of New York State for their solidarity in defeating the Women’s Equality Act, introduced by Governor Cuomo. There were rallies in Albany, with multiple buses converging on the area from all over the state. Locally, the Catholic Diocese of Rochester coordinated buses to Albany. Doctors gave interviews explaining how abortion in New York State would be expanded and the harmful effect it would have on women. Concerned citizens deluged legislators with phone calls, letters, and other.

The Governor’s package consisted of ten planks, of which only the tenth was a problem for those who oppose abortion on demand. The pro-life community united in their opposition to the tenth plank.

The opposition ran ads targeting certain legislators, including local Senator Joe Robach, and hammered them with calls demanding that they vote for WEA. Robach

announced that he would vote against the bill if it included the tenth plank.

The NYS Senate had elected to break the ten planks down into ten different pieces of legislation. They passed the



Sen. Robach

first nine. The NYS Assembly refused to consider the ten planks separately. As a consequence, there was no bill passing both houses and therefore no bill for the Governor to sign into law.

The next round begins ... now.

The legislature is now in recess until 2014. And with the new year, the abortion issue will return in some form. We don’t know exactly when or exactly what form it will take, but we must begin to prepare now. Now!

It would not be surprising, for instance, if the WEA were again introduced, this time in the opening hours of the new session, together with a Letter of Necessity from the Governor indicating that the matter was of such urgency that it must be acted upon without allowing time for the public to be allowed to speak on the issue. No, it would not be surprising at all.

Keep it in mind. While your state legislators, especially your senators, are at home, take the opportunity to call their local offices and remind them that the recent battle was close. Ask that they protect women’s real health by opposing abortion expansion in New York State.

Other New York State bills to watch:

Sex Selection Abortion Ban S.2286 (Ball) / A.2533 (Crespo) - Bill to prohibit sex selection abortion, which is used to prevent the birth of a child of an unwanted sex.

Parental Notification A.3040 (Reilich) - Would place notification requirements on abortions performed on minors.

Unborn Victims of Violence S.1950 (Ritchie) / A.3128 (Cusick) - Provide that an unborn child at any stage of gestation may be the victim of an assault. This law would have no effect on the practice of legal abortion.

WASHINGTON:

Protecting pain-capable unborn children

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 1797) passed the House by a vote of 228-196, with six House members crossing party lines in each direction. [[[check for our area]]]

It is considered to have little chance in a Democrat-controlled Senate and it faces a certain presidential veto. However, the publicity surrounding such a bill helps to inform the public of the realities of abortion.

Nine states have passed similar bills to protect pain-capable unborn children.

http://www.nrlc.org/press_releases_new/Release061813.html and www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/06/18/bill-banning-abortions-after-20-weeks-passes-the-house

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



Come Join Us!
RARTL Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 24, 2013
Potluck Supper and Speakers



Dr. Keith Sanger, DDS

Hear his story of gratitude. He was adopted as a baby into a loving family. For many years he was not curious about his birth mother, but life brought them together.

Enjoy. And find yourself, in the end, equipped with more tools to counter the abortion mentality of our current culture.

Our Mother of Sorrows Church
 5000 Mount Read Blvd.
 Rochester, NY

All are invited. No charge!

5:30 PM Doors open for you to nibble finger food, and chat with your fellow pro-lifers, and peruse the displays.

6:00 PM Supper

7:00 PM Program

Please call the office at (585) 621-4690 to tell Pat if you're coming and if you can bring a dish to share.

Also, please tell her if you need a ride or would be able to offer a ride to someone else.

Can't bring anything to share? Come anyway.

Can't call? Then JUST COME!

Reminder: Thursday, October 24

RARTL – what are we?

or

Why doesn't RARTL speak on capital punishment and war?

RARTL is a single-issue, nonsectarian, pro-life organization that focuses on abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, all immediate threats to innocent human life.

Restricting ourselves to a single issue allows participation by people who differ on a huge range of issues from political party to climate change. People can unite for the purpose of protecting those most vulnerable among us. Without life, all other issues are irrelevant.

We are an independent local pro-life organization that by mutual choice is affiliated with New York State Right to Life (and therefore National Right to Life) because we share their single-issue focus on protecting people's right to life, focusing on those who cannot speak for themselves – unborn children, handicapped newborns, and the ill/elderly.

<http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2013/08/statement-of-national-right-to-life-regarding-the-importance-of-the-single-issue-focus-of-the-right-to-life-movement/#.UgJsVG3A9OK>

Suggested prayers

Please become a **prayer partner**. Spend 5-10 minutes daily in prayer about life issues to provide a 24-hour prayer shield over our area. Join in the following monthly prayer themes that

September: families will be able to find school choices that respect life.

October: nurses assisting with abortions decide to stop taking life. May they be successful at finding good jobs.

November: we remember to be thankful for the babies who were born because their mothers changed their minds.

December: abortionists find it impossible to avoid realizing the real impact of their actions and turn to another road.

January: that the March for Life is successful in reminding legislators of their duty to all their constituents.

In Memory of

Kathleen L. Jensen

by Thomas and Jean Sweeney

Rita Heagerty

Long time RARTL volunteer



In Honor of

Wilda and Henry Liana

by Wilda Yakish

Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney on his retirement

by Nora Coco

Congratulations! And thanks!

A big thank you to everybody who pitched in and helped at RARTL's garage sale!

Key figures: \$1881, \$40, and 132. That's dollars from sales of donated items, revenue from knife sharpening, and number of bottles of ice water consumed by people working hard in mid-90-degree heat.

We had enough donated material that it didn't all fit inside the garage at Marylee Wilk and Tom Tripiciano's house. The remainder, held in someone else's garage until the morning of the sale, filled a 14-ft U-Haul truck. The quantity was stunning!

Congratulations to all who donated, all who worked in the broiling heat, all who fixed food and nagged everybody to drink water, and all who came and shopped! A special thumbs-up to Marylee and Tom who donated their garage, their house, and ALL their leisure time for RARTL's sale.

RTL MEMORIAL/HONOR TRIBUTE

You are welcome to remember an event/achievement or a deceased loved one with a memorial/honor/tribute, tax-deductible, donation to the **RARTL Education Fund**. A card in your name will be sent to the family/person you designate; contribution amount is confidential.

Mail form & check payable to RARTL Education Fund to RARTL; 675 Ling Road; Suite 3; Rochester, NY 14612

Enclosed is gift of \$_____ in memory/honor

Of/for _____

(occasion) _____

My/our name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Please notify _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Life-Lines Subscription

Would you like a subscription to Life-Lines? We can send it to you on paper or via e-mail. Please call the office (621-4690) or e-mail us at RARTL@righttoliferochester.org with your contact information. We need your name and street address and, if you would like it e-mailed, your e-mail address.

There is no charge for a subscription, although donations are gratefully accepted.

Want source materials?

Want some source material cited in an article in this newsletter? No computer to use to look it up? Call the office and Pat will help you.

States make pro-life progress

Pro-life legislation was passed in many states, including Arkansas, where the legislature overrode a Democratic governor's veto.

Other states include Alabama, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/high-levels-of-pro-life-state-legislation-passed-so-far-this-year/>

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“Choice” is one-sided at MWIA

Shelley Ross, a Canadian, is the Secretary–General of the Medical Women’s International Association (MWIA). She recently demonstrated what “choice” really means when applied to anything relating to abortion.

The MWIA conference in Seoul, South Korea, was under way, with attendees from around the world. The Korean Medical Women’s Association had organized it, including an invited panel to discuss “Pregnancy and Abortion.” Three American doctors invited for that panel were astounded when, the night before the panel discussion, their presentations were cancelled.

The Korean host, Anna Choi, decided to set up an interview for them during the time that the presentations were originally scheduled to take place. The interview was well under way when Ross “burst into the room” demanding that the interview stop. She stood in front of the TV camera and announced, “This interview is over.”

In vain did the reporters object. Ross would not budge. When the doctors and reporters then moved from the interview room to the hallway, people with Ross “harassed the Korean translator, mocking, grabbing and snapping pictures in her face.” The Korean hosts ushered the group to a commons area.

Dr. Mary Davenport said, “We were able to complete the entire interview, and instead of our audience being a few women doctors from the conference, we now have an audience of probably a few thousand.”

Professor Afua Hesse, President of MWIA states “that as President I have intervened to ensure that there will not be such presentations that have no scientific merit and threaten women’s reproductive rights and therefore do not belong at our triennial meeting.” The three doctors were: Donna Harrison, Mary Davenport, both ob-gyns, and Martha Shuping, a psychiatrist. No scientific merit? All three doctors have extensive experience and their presentations had been approved by the Scientific Committee of the conference. You can look at the slides for their presentations on the AAPLOG website.

Claudia Morrissey Conlon, an American, is the Regional Vice President for North America for MWIA. She is also a senior advisor with USAID, which is the federal government agency primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid. Calls to her office inquiring whether or not any American tax dollars supported this conference were not returned by press time.

<http://www.aaplog.org/get-involved/letters-to-members/mwia-confrontation/>

<http://www.aaplog.org/get-involved/letters-to-members/mwia-cancellation/>

<http://www.aaplog.org/news/banned-at-mwia/>