

MCFL News

March/April 2009
Volume 30 Number 1

The Schrafft Center
529 Main Street
Boston, MA 02129

US Postage Paid
Boston, MA
Pending Periodical
Permit #PP597

Mailing Label

Tragic Choices: As her doctor predicts a child with Down Syndrome, one woman is pressured to abort



A TRAGEDY AVERTED - Kathleen Heaslip ignored advice to abort Conrad when a doctor diagnosed Down Syndrome.

Having had four boys already, Kathleen Heaslip could detect the unspoken words in the nurse's eyes: 'you already have so many...' So when her obstetrician diagnosed her fifth pregnancy with trisomy 21, known popularly as Down Syndrome, the tone of the pregnancy changed.

It was a tough moment, and a tough thing to hear. It meant her baby wouldn't be "normal" but also meant she would be pressured to abort the child.

Of women who receive a diagnosis of Down Syndrome, an estimated 90% choose abortion

Her prenatal pregnancy test at seven and a half months was met by a staff reminding her of the obstacles her baby would face. Kathleen said "the nurse practitioner asked me that in carrying the child to term, that I realized he was going to have problems. I waited for her to go into more detail, but she left it at that. It was a very emotionally vacant environment. The day after the same nurse called me back to read off a list of problems the baby was likely to have, and then pointed out that I had 'chosen not to terminate' as though it was on a piece of paperwork that I had to opt-out of the abortion. I was shocked at her suggestion and left that practice immediately for another more welcoming

Kathleen had not asked for a test or a diagnosis of the potential problems her baby would face. Many women undergo an amniocentesis test to screen such problems, which has become increasingly accepted despite its risk to the child considering that such testing carries a 0.5-1% risk of miscarriage and also that such testing has a 10% error rate. No, her doctor has predicted Down Syndrome due to wrinkling on the back of the head in the ultrasound and fading which he thought indicated holes in the back of the head.

She thought of the children she had already been blessed to give birth to, and the support network afforded to them. She had already had four boys, and none had any problems. She was one of five and her husband one of two, none of whom had any similar issues. Her mind raced through the possibilities. Raised in a religious family and surrounded her entire life by pro-life activism, abortion wasn't a consideration.

And yet when she went in for her tests she noticed a common theme, the medical practitioners couldn't understand why she would keep this imperfect child. Even though she had good health insurance through her husband Steve's job at Babson College, her medical choices were limited. The two doctors she had gone through the previous pregnancies with had gone to another practice. Those that replaced them were less inclined and less supportive of what choice she planned to make despite their prognosis. There are over 450 different issues that can be screened. Even though only 1% of abortions are reported for the reasons of fetal abnormalities, the rates of women testing their children in the womb have been rising with new tests such as blood tests early in the pregnancy and amniocentesis testing at about seven months. Both tests carry certain risks, and often detect items which serve no purpose except to point out abnormalities that cannot be changed such as Down Syndrome. Some religious leaders have even asked

scientists to stop such genetic testing in the womb as its only consequence can be abortion. In previous years amniocentesis, specifically, was only given to women having children later in life, thought at greater risk for abnormalities such as Down Syndrome and autism.

"I've noticed they treat you very differently when you have a child past age 35," Kathleen said. "They're looking for trouble, they test you and make it an anxious situation. All this technology is supposed to help us solve SynS

see TRAGIC CHOICES - Page 12

Laura's Law

Would Laura have changed her mind if she had had the chance to see her unborn child through ultrasound?

Ultrasound option added to the "Woman's Right to Know Bill." **3**



Assembly for Life

"Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" was the theme of the afternoon as WBZ's Dan Rea spoke out publicly on abortion to a packed house at Faneuil Hall. **4-5**



Join us for the Convention!

"The Life You Save Will Be That of a Loved One" is the topic of this year's convention. Nationally known expert, Burke Balch, will be the keynote speaker. **8-9**



Baby Safe Haven Law

Norwood Police Chief Bartley E. King, Jr. and Fire Chief Michael J. Howard lead the way for placement of these life-saving signs. **12**



Birth Control Pills and Pollution

Synthetic estrogens contribute to contamination of waterways and are being blamed for a disturbing effect on wildlife. **14**



Conrad Heaslip



THE HEASLIP BROTHERS - Conrad (left) is a very typical three year old shown here enjoying a beach day with his family.



Life In Massachusetts

The Status of Abortion and Euthanasia Issues in Legislation and Culture

by Anne Fox

MCFL President

I love celebrating Advent and Christmas. We don't light our lights or decorate our big tree until Christmas Eve, but we stretch the season to the Feast of the Presentation. Last year, my son, John Paul gave me an ornament of the White House. As I took it off

the tree a few days ago, I realized how much we are going to miss President George W. Bush. I packed away the ornament in its presentation box and put it in the special Christmas drawer. I wish I could keep as carefully and safely the things President Bush did for life!

Even in the depths of contemplating the Obama Abortion Agenda, as the National Right to Life Committee has dubbed it, just the thought of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito is enough to make us eternally grateful to President Bush.

The contrasts are stark. His first day in office, President Bush reinstated and enforced the Mexico City Policy. As soon as the Marchers left D.C., President Obama demolished it. In spite of Obama's incredible popularity, only 35% of people approve. Mr. Bush banned federal funding of research that required the destruction of human embryos. That seems to be one of Mr. Obama's pet projects. Mr. Bush talked about welcoming every child into life. Mr. Obama talked about being punished with a child.

Mr. Bush signed into law the Partial Birth Abortion Ban, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, and the Born Alive Infants Protection Act (the starkest contrast!). His administration issued regulations to protect the consciences of all health care providers and recognize the unborn child as a "child". He repeatedly vetoed millions of dollars in appropriations for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) because of its complicity in the coercive One Child Policy in the People's Republic of China. President Bush advocated a complete ban on cloning and was instrumental in the UN passage of such a ban.

"Fr. Richard John Neuhaus, in one of his last speeches, spoke for us all, "We shall not weary. We shall not rest until every unborn child is protected by law and welcomed in life."

The international forces of death were stymied at the UN during his administration.

As we know, President Obama has promised his radically pro abortion supporters that he will wipe every protective anti-abortion law off the books. It looks as though the Freedom of Choice Act may be too hot for the public to swallow whole, so he will attack the laws one by one, probably starting with the Hyde Amendment. Now that you and I are again funding groups like Planned Parenthood International which perform abortions and advocate for legalization of abortion in developing countries, where the people view this as cultural imperialism, making

us fund abortions in this country appears trivial. That will be followed by ending the ban on partial birth abortions, removing parental consent, etc.

On Inauguration Day, a reporter from the Wall Street Journal shadowed me and talked to the pro lifers I worked with that day. The paper wanted to cover people who weren't mesmerized by the proceedings in DC. The reporter was really curious about the juxtaposition of the dates - Inauguration on the 20th, March on the 22nd. I'm sure he thought we had chosen Jan 22nd with the Inauguration in mind. I explained to him that both dates are immutable, but it got me thinking. All of the subsequent Supreme Court abortion decisions have come down near the fact that Roe v Wade and Doe v Bolton came down in January near the beginning of the Court's calendar tells us the Court was so arrogant that they thought their decisions would be uncontroversial, that everyone would go along with their view of a world where human worth and dignity depend on the whims of others. Well, we are here to show them how wrong they were! We have worked hard for 36 years and we are going to be working harder than ever.

There is another serious life concern with the Obama Administration. That is Health Care. In my last column, I described a number of anti-life practices that are becoming standard operating procedures here in Massachusetts. If Obamacare is enacted, there is the real potential that as many lives will be intentionally taken at the end of life as at the beginning. Please post the save-a-life magnet I have mailed you and plan to attend our Convention, "The Life You Save Will Be That of A Loved One" (see p 8).

Fr Richard John Neuhaus, in one of his last speeches, spoke for us all, "We shall not weary. We shall not rest, until every unborn child is protected in law and welcomed in life"

MCFL News - PP 597 is published bi-monthly by Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Inc., 529 Main Street, Charlestown, MA 02129-1100. Application to mail at periodical rate is pending at Boston, MA Postmaster. Send address changes to: Life Times, 529 Main St., Charlestown, MA 02129-1100

Massachusetts Citizens for Life

MCFL News

Anne Fox, President, Publisher Marie Sturgis, Executive Director
Henry Luthin, Chairman of the Board Helen Cross, Editor

Mission Statement: In recognition of the fact that each human life is a continuum from conception to natural death, the mission of Massachusetts Citizens for Life, is to promote respect for human life and to defend the right to life of all human beings, born and preborn. We will influence public policy at the local, state and national levels through comprehensive educational, legislative, political and charitable activities.

The Schrafft Center; 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129
(617) 242-4199, fax (617) 242-4965

Web address: www.masscitizensforlife.org

Pioneer Valley Office: P.O. Box 96, Ludlow, MA 01056 (413) 583-5034

MCFL News - PP 597 is published bimonthly by Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Inc., 529 Main Street, Charlestown, MA 02129-1100. Application to mail at periodical rate is pending at Boston, MA Postmaster. Send address changes to:

Massachusetts Citizens for Life - 529 Main Street - Charlestown, MA 02129

Events Calendar

Pioneer Valley Annual Mother's Day Dinner

Thursday, May 7, 6 pm, Chez Joseph, Springfield

Keynote Speaker: Rod Murphy

For more information: Monica Butler (413) 746-0655

MCFL Annual Dinner

Keynote Speaker: Anthony Esolen, PhD., author of

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Western Civilization

Friday, September 18, 6 pm, Lantana, Randolph

www.masscitizensforlife.org - (617) 242-4199 - MCFL@masscitizensforlife.org

AIM: massprolife - Twitter: massprolife - blog.masscitizensforlife.org

“Laura’s Law,” Woman’s Right to Know

Life-saving legislation introduced by MCFL

by Marie Sturgis

MCFL Executive Director

Laura Hope Smith was a lively, perky, attractive 22 year old woman. She came from Honduras and was the adoptive daughter of Tom and Eileen Smith. She loved the color blue, walks on the beach and the man she hoped to marry very soon. Laura came from a strong Christian home and was opposed to abortion.

Few people know what really motivated Laura to make an appointment to end the life of her unborn child that September. Laura brought her girlfriend Karen Trott for emotional support for the first of two appointments that day.

Laura Hope Smith’s life was suddenly cut short when on September 13, 2007, when she at 13 weeks pregnant, died during an abortion performed by Dr. Rapin Osathanondh. Like most of us, Laura did not realize that this would be her final day on earth.

Laura’s parent’s are convinced that their daughter would be alive today if she had been given truthful information about her unborn child and the risks of abortion.

Her parent’s addressed their concerns in a letter to MCFL in which they stated:



“Laura’s Law”

Affirming Women’s Right to Know Essential Information Before Abortion

A Legal Summary

Section 1 Finds that an important state interest exists in ensuring a fully informed choice and sufficient reflection time for women seeking abortion, and that key provisions of the current informed consent law (M.G.L. ch. 112, § 12S) are either inadequately enforced or are not enforced at all.

A federal court in Massachusetts declared the fetal description and 24 hour reflection period sections unconstitutional in 1981. This judgment was never vacated even after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld similar provisions in Pennsylvania in 1992. Thus, these portions of the current law are not being implemented. Moreover, the current abortion consent forms fail to provide sufficient information about abortion risks and alternatives and the consent process needs to be strengthened. Enacting a new statute would bypass the old judgment and strengthen protections for women.

In addition, this section establishes

“We think Laura’s death epitomizes the need for such a law (“Laura’s Law”/“Woman’s Right to Know” bill). We truly believe that Laura would be with us today had this Bill been passed prior to her death in September 2007. The decision Laura made to abort her child was misinformation at best, or with no information, at worst. If Laura had truly been told and understood the correct information, if Laura had seen the sonogram of her 13 week child with 10 fingers and 10 toes, we know her heart and conscience would not have allowed her the action she choose.”

The Smith’s requested that the name for the “Woman’s Right to Know” bill be changed to “Laura’s Law”. The MCFL Board of Directors unanimously agreed.

The bill was filed on 1/12/09 with House docket number #1037 as of this writing. Please thank Representatives Elizabeth Poirier (R-N.Attleboro), Angelo M. Scaccia (D-Boston), Jeffrey Perry (R-Barnstable) for taking action to introduce and co-sponsor the measure.

The bill before the Massachusetts legislature will make sure women are fully informed about abortion, fetal development, options, and childbirth before they make any hasty, life altering decisions. There is little question that legislation like this merits bi-partisan support.

(Photos of Laura courtesy of Eileen Smith)



Present consent law on the books needs to be updated and current abortion consent forms, like the one given to Laura, don’t provide sufficient information about abortion risks and alternatives.

Reflection time - women need time to think about what they are doing and have a right to know all the medical risks associated with abortion procedure. Laura did not have this opportunity - knowing the risks she would be alive today.

Requires doctors to inform each woman of pertinent information that is considered a core part of the abortion decision. Laura deserved to be fully informed about the dangers of abortion.

Requires the Department of Public Health to provide comprehensive information in a pamphlet, web page and telephone recording formats. Laura’s life could have been saved by a telephone call.

Provides that fetal development information be given and if the woman requests to see an ultrasound it will be provided. Laura never got to see the 10 toes and 10 fingers of her unborn child.

Quick facts on the “Laura’s Law”/“Woman’s Right to Know” bill:

1. Current law allows abortionists to control the amount of information given to women

2. Abortion business practices try to rush women into a hurried decision

3. Informed consent is a basic human right

4. It is the duty of state government to provide its citizens with information on health issues

5. Ultrasounds reduce the number of abortions

LAURA DESERVED NO LESS!

WOMEN DESERVE NO LESS!

the Act’s purpose—to ensure that every woman considering abortion receives complete information and sufficient reflection time, thus reducing the possibility of harm arising from inadequately informed choices. Women deserve no less.

Section 2. Titles the bill as “Laura’s Law,” referring to Laura Hope Smith, a Massachusetts woman who died in 2007 as a result of complications from a legal abortion.

Section 3. Reaffirms the original but never enforced requirements in M.G.L. ch. 112, § 12S that women must be provided with a description of fetal development, allowed a twenty four hour reflection period before an abortion, Also reaffirms the current written consent requirement.

Strengthens the original law by requiring the Department of Public Health to provide comprehensive information in pamphlet, web page and telephone recording formats. Such information shall include a description of the woman’s

rights under the Massachusetts patients bill of rights, a listing of agencies providing pregnancy and adoption services, pictures and scientifically accurate descriptions of each two-week stage of fetal development and factual summaries of the risks associated with abortion and childbirth. Also ensures that the woman is offered the opportunity to view an ultrasound or to hear the heartbeat of her unborn child.

Requires that before an abortion is performed a physician orally inform each woman of information considered material to the abortion decision of a reasonable person in her circumstances. Also requires the woman to be asked whether she has seen the materials described in this section, considered alternatives, and wants the opportunity to pursue other options.

Section 4. Amends M.G.L. ch. 111, § 70 to expressly include all abortion providers in the list of facilities subject to the requirements of the Patients Bill of Rights Act. This law applies already to all “clinics,” and yet testimony before

the General Court has indicated that abortion clinics do not provide all of the protections guaranteed by the Patients Bill of Rights.

Section 5. Provides that any parts of the Act not found unconstitutional shall remain enforceable.

Section 6. Requires the Act to take effect immediately upon passage.

Please feel free to copy or clip out the quick facts or legal summary for distribution or to send to your legislator. Also, be sure to ask your legislators to sign on and co-sponsor this pro-woman bill.

www.masscitizensforlife.org - (617) 242-4199 - MCFL@masscitizensforlife.org

AIM: massprolife - Twitter: massprolife - blog.masscitizensforlife.org

MCFL Assembly electrifies crowd

by Elisabeth Cross

It's the afternoon of January 25, 2009 and Boston's historic Faneuil Hall is the site of the 36th Annual Massachusetts Citizens for Life 'Assembly for Life'. As spectators filed in and took their seats, the speakers for the event were seated on the stage, below a large painting of the Founding Fathers in diplomatic action. The aura of excitement surrounding the event was heightened by the anticipation of hearing WBZ's Dan Rea's first speech in such a public setting, on his opposition to abortion.

Eve Lindquist, Executive Director of Visitation House would be accepting the first ever 2008 Thomas J. Flatley Award later that afternoon. The Worcester, Massachusetts home for pregnant women received the award as the organization that registered the most walkers for the 2008 Respect Life Walk to Aid Mother's and Children

Asked what it meant to receive the Flatley Award, she said, "It's a great honor to be the first. This award is important to me because in life, he was a great supporter of Visitation House. Mr. Flatley was one of our benefactors and he

of which was "spiritual shift." His words were echoed, in many other speeches of the afternoon, that we were "ready to continue the fight" against abortion.

MCFL President Anne Fox. Fox started out by saying how

“Without life, there's no liberty, and there can be no happiness.” Dan Rea

the Pro-Life movement had been "working hard for 36 years." She remarked that numbers collected from Thursday's March for Life in Washington, showed that the number of people from Massachusetts had grown from 1,000 the year before to 1,500 this year, and asked everyone to call their congressman to "make noise".

Rabbi Henry M. Morse of the Messianic Congregation Sha'ar Hashamayim, who had served as a missionary for Jews for Jesus. Rabbi Morse was to give the Intercessory prayer, which he did, rather humorously; keeping the audience laughing almost continuously the entire time. But there were also moments of seriousness, as when he

echoed Pastor Yarde by describing a 'spiritual battle'. "We're not just fighting the law" he said. The Rabbi urged people to mobilize, to impart, to be a "doer, not just a hearer", that we should "celebrate life", and spoke out against the "culture of death". Speaking from the Book of Deuteronomy he shouted, "We choose life!" twice

before inviting the crowd to join him on one last *loud* "We choose life!" Having thoroughly fired up the room, Rabbi Morse closed with a Hebrew blessing and returned to his seat.

Rev. David Mullen of the MCFL Board of Directors. stated, "Mass Citizens for Life is your voice," a plea for funding while a basket came around for collections. He spoke of an "uphill battle" and

asked everyone to speak out to their friends and legislators.

18-year-old Christina Bennett, a student at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and MCFL oratory contest winner won a standing ovation for her

speech on the immorality of scientist's use of embryonic stem cells for research.

When Pastor Yarde returned to the podium he said there needed to be more young people like Christina Bennett whose "thinking is right". He then introduced Nightside Radio Host Dan Rea to deliver the keynote address. As soon as Rea took his place at the podium he took the opportunity to praise the speeches that day as "inspiring". In an aside to Rabbi Morse, Rea said that while the Rabbi was a "Jew for Jesus", he was a "Christian for Israel".

Rea began his address by reading the "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" part of the Declaration of Independence. He talked about how Pro-Lifer's could win the abortion argument by "convincing the American people that life begins at conception", but also said that he believed that there good people on both sides, just not the "extremists". He also called to attention how abortion disproportionately affects poor, black and, and Hispanic women and that these should not be having abortions at this rate because of their circumstances. Rea ended his address by reaching back to it's beginning and telling the audience "without life, there's no liberty, and there can be no happiness".

Auxiliary Bishop of Boston; Rev. Robert Francis Hennessey, attended the Assembly in place of Cardinal O'Malley. In his Benediction Rev. Hennessey stated that the Pro-Life movement must renew the appeal to join the "culture of life" and told the story of how, as a young priest, he tried to help a friend who had confided to him that she had had two abortions. It was from this friend that Rev. Hennessey said he learned that abortion was not a "sterile



IN THE HALLS OF DEMOCRACY - Father David Mullen prepares to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. (All photos by Ben Wetmore)

procedure". "We're engaged in a battle," he said, and it would only be won when people's minds we're changed about abortion.

The Assembly for Life ended with the chorus singing *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, after which MCFL News was able to interview keynote speaker Dan Rea. Rea told us that "To see the amount of spirit in this room is uplifting" and talked a little about his radio show. He said that the show got caller's from as far away as Siberia and South America and that those who call in seem to know more than the average person about the issues. When reminded of his comments in his speech about how there are good people on both sides and that you can

win the abortion argument by convincing those people, Rea was asked what you could do to facilitate good will. "I firmly believe that in your own community you can reach out to people you have a lot in common with", he answered, and "Maybe they have a different opinion, but can better understand your point of view".



THE FOUNDING FATHERS are good company for Master of Ceremonies Rev. Basil Yarde and keynote speaker WBZ's Dan Rea.



FLATLEY AWARD WINNER Executive Director Eve Lindquist receives the award on behalf of Visitation House.

recognized the importance of this life saving ministry. Visitation House opened in 2005 on the Feast of the Visitation and since then we've saved 54 babies".

The Cardinal Spellman Chorus opened the Assembly with a rousing rendition of *He Reigns*. Pastor Basil Yarde, Director of Church Relations at WEZE Radio and First Thrust Ministries took the podium for the Invocation, the theme



Rabbi Rocks Faneuil Hall

Thunderous chants for life in response to rabbi's request

“We Choose Life!”



YOUR MAMA CAN DANCE - The Assembly for Life proved to be a family friendly event and a chance for moms to show off their dance steps.



ROCKIN' RABBI Henry M. Morse of the Messianic Congregation Sha'ar Hashamayim inspired the Assembly with exhortations to join with him in proclaiming, “We Choose Life!”

“We Choose Life!”



INNOCENCE ABOUNDS in the face of a youthful participant.



THE CARDINAL SPELLMAN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR with soloist CJ Hawes signing *How Great is Our God* infected the Assembly with youthful exuberance and joy.



MUSICALLY ENTHUSED audience members joined along with the Cardinal Spellman choir and rock band with clapping and song.

“We Choose Life!”

Video of this event including Dan Rea's speech is available on our web site.

www.masscitizensforlife.org - (617) 242-4199 - MCFL@masscitizensforlife.org

AIM: massprolife - Twitter: massprolife - blog.masscitizensforlife.org

Chapter Challenges

How would you respond in this situation?

#1 Harassment on a Life Chain

An article entitled, "Everyone Knows That!" from the December 2008 issue of the *New Oxford Review* described the author's disturbing encounter with an abusive woman during an otherwise uneventful life chain. While adults and children were distributed along the road peacefully holding pro-life signs to be read by passing motorists, a woman stopped her car, took pictures and then started a frightening, expletive-laden personal attack against the author, his friend, pro-life people in general and the Catholic Church in particular. The "obscenity-laden verbal barrage" continued despite whatever the two gentlemen said to her. When a hand was put on her shoulder to keep her from walking into traffic while she was blinded by her anger, she yelled, "take your hands off me, I'm going to have you arrested!"

Fortunately, this type of situation is a very rare occurrence. But it offers a reflection on two ideas, one practical, one philosophical: How should a problem like this be handled, and how can people be better trained to deal with anger?

Practically, it's better not to try to engage the other side when they are blinded by rage. These hurting souls are not capable of nor are they interested in rational debate when they are caught in an emotional firestorm. Any compassionate pro-life person can recognize the tormented conscience of a person scarred by an abortion experience.

In *Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion*, author Joseph Scheidler, advises people to avoid arguing with passersby. "Step out of the line to discuss the issues, don't shout back at hecklers, and always be courteous."

This can be a tall order for many of us who are not trained counselors, policemen, or work at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The natural reaction to personal abuse is either fear or anger, especially when children are involved.

In general, never touch someone in this type of rage, it can be seen as a physical attack or harassment. A better way to keep this woman from walking into the street would have been to back-up away from the oncoming traffic, reducing the unintentional threat that touching produced.

A column on *eHow.com*, entitled "How to Deal With An Angry and Bitter Person," says, an optional response that is "the hardest but the most rewarding, is to listen to that person and let them throw all the anger they can muster at you because the angry person isn't really striking out at us to hurt us. They need someone who is strong enough to handle what they are throwing at us, needing someone not to run away, but to listen to them."

Chapter meetings are a great place to practice possible confrontational situations. Just as troops are never sent into battle untrained, chapters are the natural training grounds to better equip our members for presenting the pro-life view in the public square.

Seasoned veterans may not need this type of training, but negative experiences can easily scar new recruits to the pro-life movement and discourage them from further participation.

I am timid by nature and shrink from confrontational situations. One day I asked my son, a Marine with combat experience in Iraq, how he dealt with the fear of injury or death as he patrolled the mean streets of Fallujah. He said, "you remember the mission, you keep forefront in your mind, what it is that you're here to do."

We are here to defend life, to save lives, to create a culture of life and for life.

Everything we do should be with this in mind, that someone's life depends on us and that this is OUR mission.

If you would like to respond to this column send to:

chapters@masscitizensforlife.org

Your Generous Gifts for Life

In Honor of Bernadette and Jim O'Connor
by Bernadette Berset

In Honor of Dr. Trudy Murphy
by Jean Healey

In Honor of the Marriage of Dr. Anne Osowski to Robert J. Rutkowski
by Joanne Osowski

In Memory of Leonard Peterson
by Richard Howard and the Reading Cursillo Community, Noreen A. Normand, Co-workers at the Guidance Department of Valley Stream High School, Mary R. Young, Bud and Emelie Burnham, Richard Homewood, Edward and Christine Lehman

In Memory of Anne-Marie Stubbs
by Gilbert G. Stubbs



Life Chain along Route 5 in Longmeadow. (File Photo)

When Confronted:

- 1) Stay Calm
- 2) Ask children to leave
- 3) Remember that any unwanted contact can be considered assault
- 4) The leader should address any uncomfortable or controversial issues
- 5) Don't try to convert the individual. The purpose of a life chain is mass communication.



Angry protester at 2004 March for Women's Lives (Photo Ben Wetmore)

Chatter Box : What's on your mind?

Theresa Gorey: "Many are wondering where the news coverage was of the 2009 March for Life in Washington. This is the largest annual protest held in our nation's capital, yet media outlets never seem to think that it is newsworthy. I think that there is fear of making the general public aware of the magnitude of the pro-life movement. They fear the enormous crowd of young adults who turn out; young people who understand that they are true survivors."

Theresa Gorey writes from Andover, Massachusetts

Colbe Mazzarella (Commenting on an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that criticized a new South Dakota Law which says that abortionists must show women a booklet and discuss it.)

"NEJM says that telling women how developed their baby is, describing the after effects of abortion, etc. would 'threaten the physician-patient relationship.' Just what relationship is that? Post-abortive women describe a ten minute procedure with few words and no discussion. Most fast food drive-through workers have a deeper relationship with their customers than most abortionists."

Colbe Mazzarella is an MCFL member and a lawyer who works with post-abortive women

Linda Kinsey: On January 22, I attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Two days before the March, I had an incident occur with my eyes while opening a hot oven. I had assumed that my eyes would be okay, but I was mistaken.

I had stopped into Senator Kerry's office after the March to sign my comments about the rights of unborn babies, and I asked his aides for help with my eye problem. I was only interested in getting information on a place to go that could help me. The aides, though they seemed willing to help, were not willing to provide information such as hospitals or facilities with phone numbers that I could check out.

I was told, "It's a liability issue." I am very familiar with the liability issue when it comes to the rights of unborn babies. What I wasn't expecting, was that as a born person from the senator's state, I would face such treatment.

An aide from a Montana senator's office gave me the name of a nearby hospital along with directions to get there. At no time did concern for their liability seem an issue.

Linda Kinsey is co-chair of the North Adams Chapter.

Send submissions to Chatterbox at: chapters@masscitizensforlife.org

www.masscitizensforlife.org - (617) 242-4199 - MCFL@masscitizensforlife.org

AIM: massprolife - Twitter: massprolife - blog.masscitizensforlife.org

All the Chapter News that's fit to print

Where we are

Contrary to whatever the New York Times would like people to believe, pro-life activity is flourishing. The grass-roots movement of Massachusetts Citizens for Life is best exemplified by its chapters, which are alive and well as a recent survey revealed.

Fully 20 chapters have had some type of life-saving activity during the past year, whether large or small, MCFL chapter members have saved babies by:

Rose Drives

Rose Drives raise money to send Marie Sturgis to the State House to speak against deadly embryonic stem cell research

Life Chains

How many lives, hearts and minds are changed by the roadside presence of members witnessing for a culture that respects life?

Educational seminars

Fr. Tad Pacholczyk led a seminar on ethical stem cell research and end of life care to vulnerable patients.

Baby Showers

Chapters support a number of crisis pregnancy centers. While these events provide vital material needs to mothers and babies, they also educate the public, many of whom have never heard of the myriad of support services available to women in need.

Bake Sales

The lowly bake sale is a gold mine that savvy chapters take advantage of! The money received from a bake sale can be used to fund an intern to call potential members or print an educational brochure about the dangers of the morning after pill.

Support Pro-life Political Candidates

By electing pro-life political candidates for office, legislation that protects innocent life stands a better chance of being enacted. When a candidate tells why he is pro-life, his message is a powerful tool to change hearts and minds

Chapters can help by distributing literature, holding signs, or making phone calls.

and Where we're going...

MCFL proudly announces the hiring of Ben Wetmore as outreach director

Ben Wetmore was hired in January as the Outreach Director, overseeing a new push to develop chapters, memberships, donations, web presence and the overall pro-life outreach of the organization.

We're expecting great things from him, and he has a strong background having been a campaign manager for a U.S. Senate campaign, consultant to a statewide referendum, a campus organizer, training in 'political technology' for the Leadership Institute and also having been the former President of Students for Life of Americawhere he was a board member for nearly six years.

We're happy to have him and hope that you get to meet him soon!



New Outreach Director Ben Wetmore brings strong leadership skills to the position.



By using more effective tabling techniques you can recruit more people to the pro-life cause.

Basics of effective tabling

10 Major Rules

1. Talk to everyone who walks by - ask them one simple question.
2. No chairs at all and keep the handouts to a minimum.
3. Be sure you are in an area of high foot traffic.
4. Contact the people right away after you table, actually call them.
5. Stand in front of the table.
6. Don't let your friends distract you, don't talk to anyone longer than it takes for them to sign-up, it's a numbers game. Use one on one time later for philosophical discussions.
7. Verify information through Facebook.
8. Don't let opponents get you distracted, defuse big arguments
9. Note anyone who seems like a leader, try to recruit them to table with you on the spot.
10. It will be tough to get started, force yourself to talk to the first ten. It will quickly get easier.

Helen's Ultimate Bake Sale

The lowly bake sale is practically a license to print money

1) Choose a location and a date. Popular choices are Valentine's Day or Mother's Day. You could also choose a dull time, like the middle of January when there is little going on and people welcome an event.

2) List your bakers/help/schedule. One of the reasons this works so well is that it doesn't take a lot of time or effort. People drop off their baked goods going into mass or service and then man the table afterwards for 15 minutes.

3) Maximize "Profits" Think who and when do people like to eat sweets? (Remember, we can't actually sell items. We ask for a suggested donation.)

4) Some details

5) Afterwards

Church basements, gathering spaces, halls, etc. must be large enough to accommodate tables and people. Make sure the space you want is available.

Besides your chapter members, the church's pro-life group, friend's, etc. can be recruited to bake, set-up, or man the tables.

Does your church have a children's service or coffee after mass?

Buy raw ingredients on sale. If a store is selling quick bread mix at half price, they can be the backbone of your sale.

Ask an organization, such as the K of C, to donate cookie dough.

Cash box, change, schedule, shopping bags, paper plates, plastic wrap, tags and pens for marking items

Make sure area is cleaned up before you leave.

Large crowds mean large profits. Look for churches that have 4 or 5 masses or one very large service.

Large crowds mean a lot of baked goods are needed. Not everyone needs to be a talented pastry chef, you can buy baked items at a grocery store and repackage.

Chocolate! Craft stores or candy shops such as Lorraine's in Hanover have custom molds for lollipops or single chocolates for all sorts of events. Think roses for Mother's Day, hearts for Valentine's Day, first communions, graduations, etc.

Depending on the pastor, the money may be turned into the church and he will write a check to MCFL Or the chapter treasurer may deposit the money into the chapter's account and write the check.

A thank you note to the pastor. along with a small stipend is greatly appreciated.



Massachusetts Citizens for Life Convention
The Life You Save *Will* Be That of a Loved One

Saturday, March 28, 2009, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Boston College Law School

885 Centre Street, Newton, off exit 17, Mass Pike

Featuring: Burke Balch, J.D., Director, Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics

MCFL Convention Program

Confirmed Participants:	8:30 - 9:00:	Registration and Coffee
Daniel Avila, J.D.	9:00 - 9:15:	Welcome, Anne Fox, MCFL President
	9:15 - 10:30:	Burke Balch, "The Danger of Health Care Denied"
Professor Scott Fitzgibbon, J.D.	10:45 - 11:30:	Panel One, Part One "What constitutes proper, basic care that a patient deserves?" Peter Morin, M.D., Robin Loughman, R.N., Allison Ledoux, Certified Catholic Bioethicist, and three other health care professionals will each make short presentations
Allison Ledoux, Certified Catholic Bioethicist	11:30 - 12:45:	Lunch
Robin Loughman, R.N.	12:00 - 12:45:	Panel One, Part Two "What constitutes proper, basic care that a patient deserves?" The panel will be available in a question and answer format.
Henry Luthin, J.D.	1:00 - 1:30:	Oratory Contest Finals
Peter Morin, M.D.	1:30 - 2:45:	Burke Balch, "How Massachusetts and America Can Afford Health Care Without Rationing: A Positive Plan"
David Stormberg, M.D.	2:45 - 3:30	Breakout session with Burke Balch
Mike Barnett, Leadership Director, American Life League	2:45 - 3:30	Panel Two "National legal foundations that will help if someone is not receiving proper medical attention" Help and advice from the legal professionals "A positive response to serious prenatal diagnosis" "The proper use of 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders. Is it ever acceptable to refuse medical attention?"
Victor Pap, Executive Director Catholic Citizenship	3:30 - 3:50	"When is it simply depression, not a wish to die?" "Health Care Agent: Why you must have one, the best one to have, how to be sure it is honored, reviewing the MCC form in the convention packet"
	3:50 - 4:00	Closing Remarks
	4:30	Mass will be held at the Law School Chapel

Keynote Speaker: Burke Balch, J.D.

Director, Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics

The Danger of Health Care Denied (9:15 am)
How Massachusetts and America Can Afford Health Care Without Rationing: A Positive Plan (1:30 pm)

Burke J. Balch, a graduate of New York University School of Law and Williams College, now serves as Director of the Robert Powell Center for Medical Ethics which specializes in euthanasia-related issues and is associated with the National Right to Life Committee.



He has worked as Attorney-Advisor for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, helping to write a report on denial of life-saving medical treatment to children with disabilities ("Baby Doe" cases). He was Chief Staff Counsel for the National Legal Center for the Medically Dependent and Disabled, and worked as a lawyer for the Americans United for Life Legal Defense Fund.

A law review article he co-authored was repeatedly quoted by the United States Supreme Court in support of its 1997 decision that there is no federal constitutional right to assisted suicide. In addition, he has published articles on abortion, on ethical issues related to withholding and withdrawal of food, fluids, and life-saving medical treatment, and on advance directives.

He is a co-author of the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, and has spoken widely and published on topics related to parliamentary procedure.

He is married to National Right to Life Committee Director of State Legislation Mary Spaulding Balch. They have two living children: Bridget, 17, and James, 14.



BURKE BALCH - Keynote speaker for the MCFL Convention is a nationally recognized expert on a wide variety of issues that impact the right to life.

Chapter Workshops

Chapter workshops will cover a wide variety of topics from basic fundraising to political influence through lobbying. Whether it's learning how to hold a successful bake sale or recruiting candidates for political office, there's something for everyone from the beginner to the seasoned pro-lifer. Chapters may want to send as many members as possible to take advantage of all the workshops. We hope to videotape these presentations for chapter use in the future.

CHAPTER WORKSHOPS:

RECRUITMENT

ELECTIONS AND LOCAL CANDIDATES

WORKING WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS

RECRUITING YOUNG PEOPLE

BASIC FUNDRAISING

ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS

POLITICAL INFLUENCE: BASICS OF LOBBYING

Registration Form

The Life You Save Will Be That of a Loved One

Includes coffee and pastry, lunch, and materials

COST: \$25.00 per person through March 15, 2009

\$30.00 per person after March 15, 2009

Boston College Law Students are invited as our guests*

Other students may apply for scholarships*

I enclose \$ _____ for _____ participants

I enclose \$ _____ for _____ to help support the Convention/provide scholarships

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

I am a Boston College Law Student ____ Other student ____

Please send payment to:
Massachusetts Citizens for Life
Schrafft Center, 529 Main St.
Charlestown, MA 02129

Online registration at:
www.masscitizensforlife.org

* Registration must be received by March 25, 2009 to guarantee lunch.

At last! Remarkable breakthroughs for diseases and injuries: Adult stem cells

Effective treatments for an ever widening array of illnesses, scientists have discovered in just the last six months ¹

1 Brain injury

Four year old Maia Friedlander was unable to walk properly, chew food without choking or talk without struggling. Infusion with umbilical cord blood allowed neurogenesis, the ability to make new neurons essential for learning and memory, to heal her body. She now talks, plays and hugs her mother Jillian said. "She's had a second chance at life."

2 Windpipe reconstruction

A mother from Columbia was given a new windpipe covered with tissue grown from her own adult stem cells. Bone marrow cells were cultured to create enough cartilage and tissue cells to cover a donor windpipe. The windpipe was then successfully transplanted in June. She has resumed taking care of her children and does not need any immuno-spressive medication.

3 Pulmonary hypertension

Adult stem cells modified to produce nitric oxide and reintroduced back into the patient's body has enabled them to resume normal activities without shortness of breath.

4 Heart tissue regeneration

You may soon be able to grow your own heart bypass with your own adult stem cells. Congestive heart failure is being treated by putting some of the patient's own stem cells into the damaged muscle. Experimenting with a "scaffold" that may allow umbilical cord stem cells to differentiate enough build a new heart valve.

5 Digestive tract

Bone marrow stem cells when reinfused into children whose digestive tracts were destroyed by an overactive immune system have enabled these children to return to a normal life. Not only did the cells repair the damaged intestine, but they also corrected the initial immune system imbalance.

6 Cancer

Susan Fister has been cured of leukemia since an adult stem cell transplant of umbilical cord blood in 2004. Her immune system helped her recover quickly after a recent torn knee ligament as stem cells participate in the repair of all the organs in the body. Researchers are also studying delivery of anti-cancer drugs via stem cells loaded with nanoparticles to target breast cancer cells.

7 Stroke

Stroke victim Walter Blast recovered use of his right arm after a "teabag" of stem cell - filled capsules was placed in his brain. Genetically altered bone marrow stem cells produce a drug that protects the cells from dying, allowing cells to repair the damage caused by the stroke.

8 Cerebral palsy

Infusions of their own cord blood help rejuvenate the brains of children with cerebral palsy.

9 Autoimmune diseases

Bari Martz was only a year away from death caused by scleroderma. Scleroderma is a disease where the immune system attacks the connective tissues that support the skin and internal organs. After treatment with her own blood stem cells, Bari is able to flex her hands again and her lung function has improved to the point where she can even climb stairs.

10 Spinal cord injury

Olfactory ensheathing cells, specialized adult cells that surround nerves, can be safely transplanted from a patient's own nose into his damaged spinal cord.

11 Kidney damage

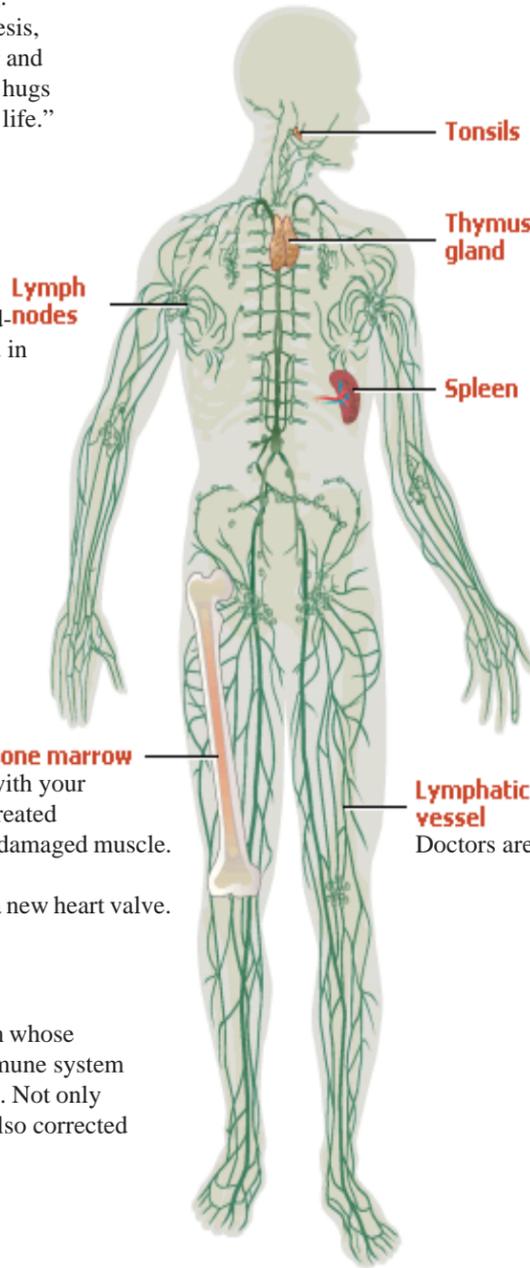
Kidney damage may be prevented or healed by the signaling mechanism of stem cells transplanted from a person's own bone marrow.

12 Bone healing

Stem cells harvested from a patient's bone marrow and multiplied in a lab can then be used to stimulate bone growth when reintroduced into the body at the site of the fracture.

13 Knee cartilage injury

Scientists can now repair common sports injuries to the knee through the use of a "living bandage" made of a stem cell coated collagen scaffold to repair tears to the meniscal cartilage.



ADULT STEM CELLS

More recent discoveries

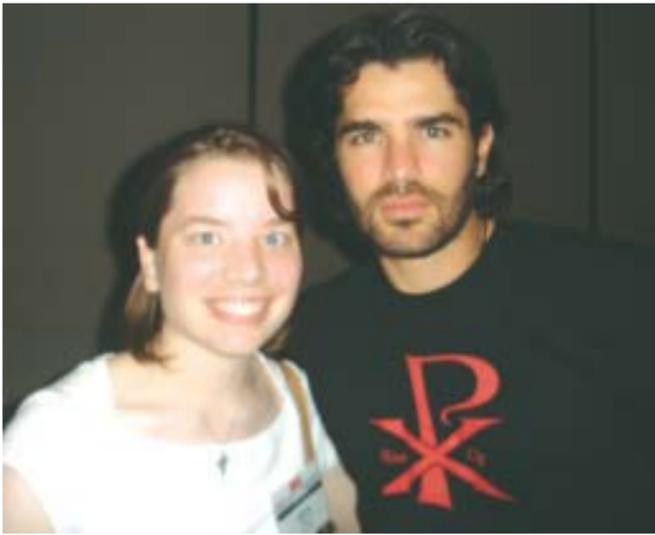
Stem cells from wisdom teeth

- 1) Wisdom teeth may one day replace embryos for sources of stem cells
- 2) A form of stem cell found in wisdom teeth was able to grow into other cell forms
- 3) Stem cells have the ability to grow into other human cells

Flexible stem cells

- 1) Flexible stem cells can now be grown from human testes cells
- 2) These cells have the same flexibility as embryonic stem cells
- 3) These cells have no ethical problems

¹ *Insight*, "Adult Stem Cell Success Stories - 2008 Update: July-December," David Prentice, PhD, William L. Saunders, JD, Jan Ledochowski, and Lukas Lucenic, Family Research Council



2007 Oratory Contest Winner Krysta Keough with *Bella* star Eduardo Verastgui at the National Right to Life Convention in Kansas City



Bella Producer Leo Servino at NRLC Convention. He was also a Brownback supporter.



Kansas Senator Sam Brownback (All photos courtesy of Priscilla Keough)



Oratory contest participants posing for posterity

MCFL proudly announces
**The Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest
 Pro-Life Scholarship for
 High School Juniors and Seniors
 2009**

The Massachusetts Citizens for Life Oratory Contest strives to promote the ability of high school juniors and seniors to share their pro-life views with others. Although speaking ability is important, this contest seeks to help teens organize and express their pro-life views. We also strive to give the contestants an opportunity to meet other pro-life teens.

Students who are currently juniors or seniors in high school are invited to take part in this contest. Contestants will research, write, and present an original pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. The speech is to be 5-7 minutes long.

There will be four regional contests to select contestants for the state contest: Pioneer Valley Region, Worcester or Central Mass. Region, and the Northern or Southern Greater Boston Regions. Students will participate in the regional contest closest to their home.

Applications are due March 17. The top three winners of the regional contest will go on to compete in the state contest to take place at the MCFL Convention, March 28.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three state winners: First place \$250 and a trip for the

winner and his/her guardian to the National Right to Life Committee Convention in Charlotte, NC, the weekend of June 19-21 to take place in the NRLC Oratory contest. Second place prize \$200, third place \$150.

For more information: students forlife@masscitizensforlife.org
 For application form see our website at: www.masscitizensforlife.org



ORATORY CONTEST



CONTEST APPLICATION FORM

Please print

STUDENT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: () _____ AGE: _____ GRADE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

Return this form by March 17 to: Mass Citizens for Life

Attn: Priscilla Keough

The Schrafft Center

529 Main Street

Boston, MA 02129

Contact: **Massachusetts Citizens For Life, Inc.** at (617) 242-4199

or studentsforlife@masscitizensforlife.org

website www.masscitizensforlife.org



SAFETY FIRST -Norwood Chief of Police, Bartley E. King, Jr. (left) and Fire Department Chief Michael J. Howard, pose outside of the Norwood Police/Fire Station with the Baby Safe Haven sign. (Photo by Elinor Rafferty)

Norwood's Chiefs take the lead in offering Baby Safe Haven site

by Elinor Rafferty

The Town of Norwood must be very proud of their Chief of Police, Bartley E. King, Jr. and Chief of the Fire Department, Michael J. Howard. These two compassionate men rose to the occasion when approached about offering the "Safe Haven" program for women and girls who, for one reason or another, choose not to keep their new born baby.

The program offers these women the opportunity to drop their new born off at either the Police or Fire Depart-

ment with no questions asked. The training procedures were given to every police officer and fire fighter because this could occur at any time of the day or night.

Once a baby is dropped off, the Department of Child and Family Services is notified and the baby is taken to the Norwood Hospital for an examination.

The sign may be displayed anywhere in the town; however, the two Chiefs opted to display the Safe Haven sign outside of the Police and Fire

Headquarters door as a convenience for the women.

We invite you to look around your town or city to see if one of these signs is displayed anywhere offering this life-saving program. Just think about the horror stories concerning someone finding the body of a recently delivered baby in the trash.

Congratulations to the Town of Norwood for having two exceptional men who do not hesitate to walk the extra mile for life. You must be very proud!

To report a sighting of a Baby Safe Haven sign, or if you would like more information about placement of these life-saving signs in your community write to: MCFL@masscitizensforlife.org

As doctor predicts Down Syndrome, woman pressured to abort

• TRAGIC CHOICES
Continued from Page 1

problems, not make new ones." Many women are put in a delicate situation trying to determine what to do with a child facing such significant problems. As prenatal testing has become more mainstream estimates vary on the rate of abortions for children in the womb saddled with a Down Syndrome diagnosis. One thing is clear, that the total number of children born with Down Syndrome had historically been about 5500 a year, and has already dropped to around 1000 a year. Of women who receive a prognosis of Down Syndrome, an estimated 90% choose abortion even though 41% of women self-identify as pro-life. The prenatal amniocentesis test as well, has an

estimated 10% error rate meaning that many of those children are lost to tragic choices based on faulty test results.

The popular conception of Life with Down Syndrome, shaped by television shows like "Life Goes On" and a variety of stereotypes, has been changing in recent years due to better care. The upper limit of what those with Down Syndrome can achieve has been increasing and some people have been enrolling in higher education and also becoming more mainstream. These advances, sadly, are coming as the technology to identify them in the womb is wiping away their future generations.

During the presidential campaign the Republicans chose Alaska

Governor Sarah Palin as the Vice Presidential nominee. Palin gave birth at age 42 in 2008 to her fifth child, a son named Trig, who was diagnosed with Down Syndrome. Many in the media gave a very hostile response to her choice to carry Trig to term.

Nicholas Provenzo, a writer, even went so far as to advocate the morality of aborting Trig, and similarly disabled children like him, as causing "too great an economic burden on society" while being only "marginally productive" in their lifetimes. Though not the mainstream of media reporting, Palin certainly went through a very rough relationship with the media due in no small part to her pro-life principles and also her personal pro-life choices.

Cleft palate also diagnosed through ultrasound

At the same time that Kathleen's doctor mistakenly told her that her baby had Down Syndrome, he did correctly diagnose Conrad's cleft palate.

Cleft lip and palate are easily correctible by surgery, but children with these conditions are often aborted.

Kathleen's insurance pays for abortions, but not dental repair surgery, calling it "cosmetic."



Baby Conrad's cleft lip and palate were corrected by surgery.

At the birth of Trig, Palin released a statement that summed up her feelings for her child, "Trig is beautiful and already adored by us. We knew through early testing he would face special challenges, and we feel privileged that God would entrust us with this gift and allow us unspeakable joy as he entered our lives. We have faith that every baby is created for good purpose and has potential to make this world a better place. We are truly blessed."

In 2004 there were a variety of articles about Down Syndrome abortions, with some pro-abortion stalwarts conflicted about whether this specific targeting of children in the womb was appropriate. Trying to quell this intellectual issue, Barbara Ehrenreich in the New York Times made a point in the article "Owning up to Abortion" that every reason was legitimate and to concede that any abortion was somehow illegitimate was to erode the "rights" to terminate a child no matter if its deformity was easily correctible like cleft palate, or non fatal like Down Syndrome or the sex-selective abortions seen in China and India.

"It took me a month to ask the doctor if Conrad had Down Syndrome, no one had mentioned it."

Conrad was born three years ago on January 24th, without Down Syndrome, the doctor and the prediction from the ultrasound had been wrong.

No one had bothered to tell Kathleen. Conrad had a cleft palate that would require some corrective surgery, but would not face the same difficulties as had been predicted and repeatedly suggested to Kathleen.

Sitting in their house in Dedham with the four foot waterline protecting the valuables from the young children, Kathleen noted that their Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance covered abortion, but not his dental repair as it was a 'cosmetic' surgery. Cleft is another deformity occurring in about 1/700 births that can be detected through prenatal screening, and though it is often an easy surgical correction, it has also led to a rise in abortions in pregnancies where it is identified and has led to calls for such abortions to be outlawed, specifically in Britain.

"Conrad's a really good kid. He's actually been through so

"It took me a month to ask if Conrad had Down Syndrome, nobody had mentioned it."

This abortion mindset that creates the false need to justify the existence of those with Down Syndrome also gave Kathleen pause, and reflection as she was giving birth to Conrad. Kathleen said she wrote a note to the doctors and hospital staff that "I wanted no one to be with me or my child unless absolutely necessary. I didn't want him to be a freak for them to look at, and I didn't want to deal with anyone except my husband. I just needed this time alone, just him and I. I didn't think it was too much to ask, for that kind of courtesy.

much speech therapy that he speaks better than his older brothers, and he's very... precocious. Even though most days he's wearing a Batman costume, he is still very mild-mannered, polite and a real charmer. He always asks if he looks nice and is handsome, which of course he is. His brothers are good about looking after him, but he's such a unique little boy, I often think about what he'll be like as a young man."

"The scary thing is that just in my immediate circle of friends, two others have also had a misdiagnosis of Down Syndrome."

MCFL Proudly Announces our 23rd
Annual Respect Life Walk to Aid Mothers and Children

Walk 2009 Presents

You Helped Me Choose Life
A Mother's Story

A celebration of the mothers who choose life
 for their children and themselves



MCFL announces the theme of this year's Annual Respect LifeWalk to Aid Mothers and Children: "You Helped Me Choose Life," featuring the stories of the women who were helped to choose life for their unborn children through the beneficiary organizations who receive financial support from the Walk.

Services such as pregnancy assistance, counseling, adoption referrals, shelters, and educational programs, treat women with the human dignity denied them by the abortion culture. Whether it's providing a safe, comfortable bed to sleep in, hot food on the table shared in the company of friends, top-notch medical care from

a family-friendly physician, or a caring voice on the telephone, these pro-life organizations are on the front lines daily. This year's Walk will feature speakers who will inspire you with their stories of perseverance and hope. A perspective on right to life that you won't get on the six o'clock news.

Save the Date!

This year's Walk kicks off from Boston Common's Parkman Bandstand, located at the corner of Tremont and Boylston Streets, on

**Sunday, October 4, 2009
 at 1:30 pm.**

It's That Time Again !

ENTER THE "2009 WALK BABY" CONTEST



Respect Life Walk
Sunday, October 4, 2009

The MCFL 2009 Walk Committee continues the tradition of featuring a baby as a highlight of the Respect Life Walk to Aid Mothers and Children. The winning photograph will be printed on our posters and sponsor pledge forms.

Now you can enter your baby, grandchild, niece, nephew, or a friend's baby.

This year's MCFL "Walk Baby Contest" starts immediately!
 The MCFL 2009 Walk Committee members make up the photo selection judges.
 Please submit photos that capture the message of the beauty of innocent human life

VOTE ONLINE

FOR THE BABY OF YOUR CHOICE!

When a number of baby photos have been received, they will be posted online at:

www.masscitizensforlife.org

For safety and fairness, babies will not be identified by name and you may vote one time only!
 The Walk Committee retains the right of the final selection.



VOTE!



The rules are simple, easy to follow, and require these criteria:

- 1) The baby must be between 6 months and 24 months of age and a current photo, **preferably shot by a professional studio.**
- 2) The photo must be at least 3"x 5" in size.
- 3) The photo must be submitted to the MCFL office and received no later than **May 20, 2009.**
- 4) You must complete the entry form in its entirety.
- 5) Your photo submission is non-returnable, becoming the property of MCFL, and gives permission to MCFL to use the photo in this contest.

ENTRY FORM

BABY'S NAME: _____

BABY'S GENDER: ___M___F BABY'S DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PARENT (S) TELEPHONE NUMBER, INC. AREA CODE: _____

I give MCFL permission to use the enclosed photo for the "2009 Walk Baby Contest" and understand that it becomes the property of MCFL upon submission and is non-returnable. MCFL reserves the right to edit, adapt, trademark, copyright, publish, and/or transfer to third parties all photos/submissions. I also understand and agree that the photo of the baby selected can be used for any and all promotion of the 2009 Walk. I understand and hereby give MCFL permission to us my child's name in any publication MCFL deems appropriate. All entries must be submitted for receipt by May 20, 2009 at MCFL. Please send to: MCFL, Attn: Walk Committee, The Schrafft Center, 529 Main Street, Boston, MA 02129-1100.

Parent (s) Signature: _____

www.masscitizensforlife.org - (617) 242-4199 - MCFL@masscitizensforlife.org

AIM: massprolife - Twitter: massprolife - blog.masscitizensforlife.org

Results of Colorado study report influence of estrogens in the environment

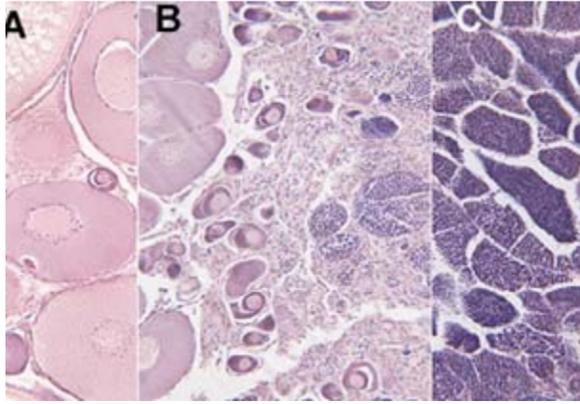
Dr. David Norris is a Professor of Integrative Physiology at the University of Colorado in Boulder. His research interests include the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals on amphibians and investigating reproductive problems in fish living downstream from waste water treatment plants.

Following up on reports that "feminized fishes" have been appearing in the water below treatment plants in industrialized countries, Dr. Norris collected and examined white suckers in Boulder Creek. He compared recently collected specimens with fish collected in 1950 and noticed significant changes including altered sex ratios (more males than females), production of female proteins by males, and the presence of intersex gonads (the production of sperm and eggs in the same reproductive organ).

Contraceptive-like effects observed in both males and females were not seen in suckers living upstream from the treatment plant.¹

¹University of Colorado Museum of Natural History: Research and Collections: Object of the Month, 1/27/2009 http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/Research/Objects/jun08_sucker.html

²"Birth control pills spark an environmental debate," Lisa Cupido, Columbia News Service, Feb. 19, 2008, <http://jscms.jrn.columbia.edu/cns/2008-02-19/cupido-birthcontrol>



(A) Normal fish ovary (B) Intersex reproductive organ showing production of both sperm and eggs in these microscopic sections (C) Normal fish testis

Dr. Norris concluded that the presence of both natural and synthetic estrogen containing chemicals in the wastewater is the cause of reproductive disruption in the white sucker population.

Concerned about the exposure of these hormones on human beings, Dr. Norris noted that fetuses and newborns are especially vulnerable. Numerous reports show that thyroid problems and adrena-

line imbalances can result from estrogen exposure. Thyroid inhibitors can affect the development of the nervous system and cause mental retardation.²

Plastics, animal waste, personal care products, foods, contribute to estrogen pollution. Dr. Norris's study showed that fish are about ten times more sensitive to the estrogen from birth control pills than they are from estradiol, a natural estrogen.



Is it safe? Is everyone on the pill whether they desire it or not?



Better wastewater treatment may be needed to safeguard water supplies.

Stealth Pro-Life Hero: Bernard Madoff

You may have heard that Bernard Madoff reportedly bilked investors out of nearly \$40 billion in the nation's largest

ponzi scheme. By paying dividends out of new investments, a large number of investors and foundations lost huge chunks of their portfolios. What you may not have heard is that Mr. Madoff is one of the smartest stealth profilers out there.

For one of the foundations bankrupted was the Picower Foundation out of Florida, which finances none other than the nation's largest abortionist: Planned

Parenthood. Picower gave out \$268 million since its 1989 founding off of assets of \$1 billion.

The lack of grants coming from Picower due to their bankruptcy has caused Planned Parenthood to lay off 30 staff members so far this year reportedly 20% of their staff, and has even extended to another radically pro-abortion organization, the American Civil Liberties Union has also had to lay off 10% of its staffers.

Thank you, Bernard Madoff, for helping to scale back these groups which will undoubtedly save more babies.



Blessing in disguise - Financier Bernard Madoff

Is the birth control pill wreaking havoc on the environment?

Federation document causing doubt and controversy in Europe

The birth control pill, widely considered indispensable for modern life, has been implicated as a source of environmental contamination.

A recent report by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC) has generated a range of reactions from the European media, surprise and concern from some, to doubt and derision from others.

"The pill has for some years had devastating effects on the environment by releasing tonnes of hormones into nature" through female urine, said Pedro Jose Maria Simon Castlevi, President of the Federation. "We have sufficient evidence to state that a non-negligible cause of male infertility in the West is the environmental pollution caused by the pill."¹

A Washington State study in 2003 and a 2005 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) team study have produced results showing reduced fertility in male fish. Fish were also discovered who contained both male and female characteristics. The cause was attributed to synthetic estrogen.²

The UK Environmental Agency identified the pill as a pollutant in 2002, after finding gender ambiguity in fish in British rivers. Similar findings have been reported from the University of Pittsburgh and the University of New Brunswick.³

There are many sources of synthetic estrogen in industrialized countries. Phenols and chlorinated hydrocarbons contain significant amounts of estrogen.⁴ These are contained in herbicides, pesticides, and industrial by-products. The public is in general more aware of industrial pollution than they are of pharmaceutical pollution.

Laurel Butler, a member of the Sierra Club, an environmental organization, said, "Why aren't women in this generation doing more to protect the environment? You've got a population screaming for instant, easy birth control and pharmaceutical companies answering to their demands."⁵

Planned Parenthood continues to market the pill to an ever wider and younger audience as the best means available to limit fertility. It seems ironic that the pill may be just as effective for men.

¹"Contraceptive pill is polluting environment: Vatican newspaper," APS News

²"Birth control pills spark an environmental debate," (cited left)

³"Dire effects of estrogen pollution," www.naturodoc.com

⁴Ibid

⁵"Birth control pills spark an environmental debate"

For more information on estrogens and health: Tulane University e.hormone.tulane.edu/ NIEHS National Institute of Environmental Health services

Feminists for Life President Serrin Foster to Speak in Boston

Feminists for Life President Serrin Foster will be in the Boston area for a series of lectures entitled:

The Feminist Case Against Abortion

Monday, March 9, 7 pm, Harvard Law School, Pound 201

Tuesday, March 10, 9 pm, Tufts University Cabot Auditorium - Cabot Intercultural Center

Wednesday, March 11, 12:30 pm, Boston College Law School East Wing - Room 115A

Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm, Boston College McGuinn 121

Book Review

Death As a Salesman What's Wrong With Assisted Suicide?

"The man who kills a man kills a man. The man who kills himself kills all men. As far as he is concerned, he wipes out the world."

G. K. Chesterton

Author Brian P. Johnston describes Hemlock Society founder Derek Humphrey as a "death salesman." A self-described "advocacy journalist," Humphrey became a master of using the media to mass market assisted suicide to our culture. Along with Jack Kevorkian, an aggressive euthanasia movement was able to persuade many people to discard 3,000 years of medical and social ethics and change laws that protect the ill, infirm, depressed and disabled.

Death as a Salesman examines the issues of assisted suicide and the emotional issues that surrounding it in a way accessible to the average person. Especially enlightening is the psychology of suicide.

Johnston takes the media to task for its promotion of assisted suicide.

He blames their sensational reporting approach for leading to more suicide and requests for suicide. The power of suggestion can produce "suicide clusters" whenever suicide is accepted as an answer to life's problems.

An aggressive euthanasia movement was able to persuade many people to discard 3,000 years of medical and social ethics.

Polls have shown a steady increase in social acceptance of assisted suicide and euthanasia since Kevorkian's appearance of Geraldo and other afternoon talk shows with his "death machine" and the publication of two best sellers by Humphrey, *Jean's Way* and *Final Exit*. Johnston shows how people conditioned by a consumer culture and who fear

death or a debilitating illness, could then see death as a legitimate option out of all the available choices.

One of the great features of the book are gray bordered pages which are designed for easy reference. "Dealing With

Pain" lists highlights of patient management, including the recommendation of a team approach involving patients, families and health care providers.

He discusses the best clinical approach to pain management along with barriers related to health care professionals, patients themselves or the health care system.

"Dealing with Fear" is also well

designed to address one of the most common motives for requesting assisted suicide, fear of the unknown. He discusses the different kinds of fears with helpful suggestions on how families can help their loved one cope.

Other chapters include hospice care, living wills vs. health care proxies, the historical record of societal rejection of assisted suicide, and how vulnerable populations, especially the elderly become at risk for manipulated suicide or euthanasia.

The book ends with an excellent question and answer format. Johnston emphasizes that the emotional foundation of assisted suicide must first be recognized and acknowledged before reasonable arguments can prevail.

"In the absence of traditional authority, advertising has become a kind of social guide. It depicts us in all the myriad situations possible to a life of free choice. It provides ideas about style, morality, behavior."

Ronal Berman

Advertising and Social Change.



1. Assisted suicide is being marketed to the general public in the same way that toothpaste is sold.

2. Promoters of death such as Jack Kevorkian and Derek Humphrey have used mass communication effectively to sway public opinion.

3. Assisted suicide is being marketed by preying on people's fears of pain and loss.

4. Society has historically rejected assisted suicide.

5. Abuse of assisted suicide laws is rampant in the Netherlands, where assisted suicide is legal.

6. Vulnerable people: the elderly, infirm, disabled, or depressed will be manipulated into suicide

7. Pain can be controlled

8. Untreated depression is the main reason assisted suicide is chosen.

New York Times article from 1933 Chilling reminder that times haven't changed

NEW YORK TIMES, OCTOBER 8, 1933

Nazis Plan to Kill Incurables to End Pain; German Religious Groups Oppose Move

By The Associated Press

BERLIN, OCT. 7 - The Ministry of Justice in a detailed memorandum explaining the Nazi aims regarding the German penal code announced its intention to authorize physicians to end the sufferings of incurable patients.

The memorandum, still lacking the force of law, proposed that "it shall be made possible for physicians to end the tortures of incurable patients, upon request in the interests of true humanity."

This proposed legal recognition of euthanasia—the act of providing a painless and peaceful death—raised a number of fundamental problems of a religious, scientific and legal nature.

The Catholic newspaper Germania hastened to observe:

"The Catholic faith binds the conscience of its followers not

to accept this method of shortening the sufferings of incurables who are tormented by pain."

In Lutheran circles, too, life is regarded as something that God alone can take.

A large section of the German people, it was expected in some interested circles, might ignore the provisions for euthanasia, which overnight has become a widely-discussed word in the Reich.

In medical circles the question was raised as to just when a man is incurable and when his life should be ended.

According to the present plans at the Ministry of Justice, incurability would be determined not only by the attending physician, but also by two official doctors who would

carefully trace the history of the case and personally examine the patient. In insisting that euthanasia shall be permissible only if the accredited attending physician is backed by two experts who so advise, the Ministry believes a guarantee is given that no life still valuable to the State will be wantonly destroyed.

The legal question of who may request the application of euthanasia has not been definitely solved. The Ministry merely has proposed that either the patient himself shall "expressly and earnestly" ask it, or "in case the patient no longer is able to express his desire, his nearer relatives, acting from motives that do not contravene morals, so request."

no life
still
valuable
to the
State
will
be
wantonly
destroyed

Enormous Crowds March for Life

Washington sees double the numbers from previous years
Estimates of 250,000 marchers attending



It was definitely a family affair for many in the crowd. This lucky youngster got to see something besides the wall of surrounding adults. (Photo by June Newman)

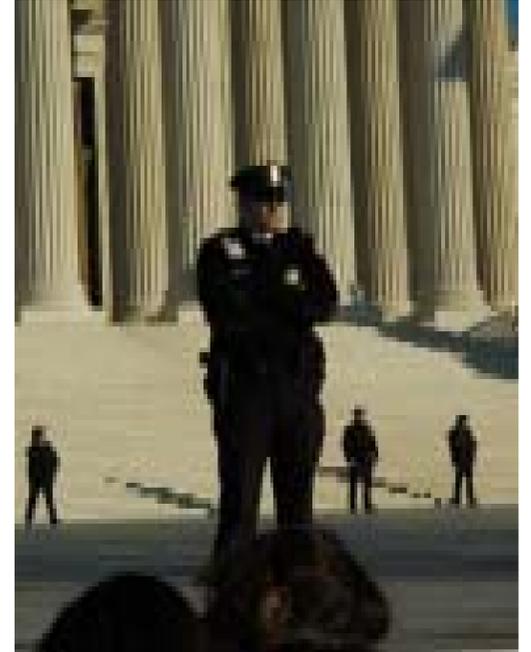


Creative expression through pro-life signs seemed the order of the day., many carried signs with text from President Obama's inauguration speech. (See below)

“For those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that **OUR spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; YOU CANNOT OUTLAST US, AND WE WILL DEFEAT YOU!”**



People were still waiting to start walking hours after the march began.



Policemen guarding the Capitol.

Photos by Ben Wetmore

(excluding top left and bottom left)



Elinor Rafferty, President Anne Fox, and June Newman model MCFL's "Blue Look" while awaiting the start.

For more photos of the March for Life Go to:

picasaweb.google.com/masscitizensforlife/



Passing by the Longworth Building on the way to the Supreme Court.

www.masscitizensforlife.org - (617) 242-4199 - MCFL@masscitizensforlife.org

AIM: massprolife - Twitter: massprolife - blog.masscitizensforlife.org