

Life Line

Protecting the unborn, the elderly, and people with disabilities

Newsletter No. 14
March 2008

SEASON OF EVENTS

● **Pregnancy Helpline Banquet, Thursday, March 27, Radisson Hotel** on Odana.

Vickie Thorn's keynote talk is on "The Biochemistry of Sex", 5:30 cash bar, 6:30 dinner, and 7 p.m. speaker. Reservations by March 14 by emailing to pregnancyhelplinedirector@gmail.com or by mail to PO Box 5261, Madison, WI 53705.

● **2nd Annual Respect Life Dinner, Tuesday, April 8 at The Edgewater.** Richard Doerflinger, writer and educator, will discuss "What is the Stem Cell Debate Really About?", 5:30 social, 6:30 dinner followed by speaker. Contact Office of Justice and Pastoral Outreach, PO Box 44983, Madison, 53744 or call 608-821-3087.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Plan now to support life in Dane county through these important volunteer opportunities:

☑ **Mother's Day Rose Sale.**

This straightforward sale of roses in churches is ideal for one or a group to coordinate, or simply gather friends to sell in your church on Mother's Day.

☑ **Dane County Fair Booth** in mid-July. The display includes fetal models, pamphlets and is a wonderful way to be a warm outreach to our community.

For these and other opportunities, contact the WRTL-Dane Co. office at 212-3888.

Biochemistry of Sex

What makes us bond? Researchers and the media are reporting that mate selection and even fertility are far more chemically intricate than they previously thought. Current research shows the correlation between pheromones and chemical contraception.

"But we have been tinkering with things we shouldn't be tinkering with," said Vickie Thorn, researcher and founder of Project Rachel and Executive Director of the National office of post-Abortive Reconciliation and Healing.

A sought-after speaker, Thorn will present her provocative findings at the annual banquet to support Pregnancy Helpline on March 27 at 5:30, presentation at 7 pm at the Radisson Hotel on Odana Rd.

Thorn's cutting-edge research shows how humans fall in love and bond to each other. Her findings reveal how mothers are forever changed by a pregnancy just as fathers are hardwired for fatherhood. Other points today's media dismiss include how chemical birth control impacts hormonal influences on behavior.

Pregnancy Helpline has served Madison and Dane County women and families for over 20 years. In addition to a 24/7 crisis hotline, the organization hosts a Sharing Center where free maternity and baby clothing, diapers and formula are offered the first Saturday of each month. Other services include the crib sharing program, breastfeeding coaching and a layette program giving new moms vital supplies.



Vicki Thorn

Recharge at Wisconsin Right to Life State Convention

Held only an hour away in the Wisconsin Dells, the Wisconsin Right to Life/Teens for Life annual convention on Saturday, April 12, is an important get-away and a great way to recharge your energy for life issues.

The theme is "Life as American as Apple Pie". The convention will be held at Antiqua Bay - Howard Johnson Hotel & Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells.

Highlights of the convention speakers are on page 2. For more information call WRTL at toll-free 1-877-855-5007.

A scholarship for youth to the Teens for Life concurrent convention, as well as the Youth Summer Leadership Camps, is available from the Dane County chapter. Call Diana Brazell at 212-3888 to apply.

Speakers Highlight State Convention

Outstanding presentations will be featured at this year's convention. Speakers include:

— **Wesley J. Smith**, a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, is an attorney and consultant for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide. His recent book is *Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America*. He also is the author of *Forced Exit: the Slippery Slope from Assisted Suicide to Legalized Murder*.

— **Jason Jones** has been very active in politics and the media throughout his career. In his progression from soldier to student activist, to staffer, to department director, to personality, to producer and finally to founder of Whole Life America, he has maintained a laser focus on defending the value of human life. Most recently he was co-executive producer of the feature film *Bella*.

— **Suzanne Schindler-Vitadamo** works with her mother, father, and brother for the Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation which advocates for persons in danger of being killed because they have been deemed “unworthy of life”.

Summer Leadership Training Camps

Our 2008 Wisconsin Teens for Life Summer Leadership Training Conferences will be held June 15 – 20 (North) and July 20 – 25 (South). The state WRTL has more information. The Dane Co. chapter is offering a scholarship to area youth. Call 212-3888 for details.

Wisconsin Right to Life Annual Education

Fund Dinner and Auction, Thursday, April 24, Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee, the speaker is Fred Barnes of Fox News. Black tie optional. Dinner is \$65 per person, tables of 10 are \$600. Silent auction and hors d'oeuvres begin at 5:00 p.m. call Events Coordinator, Janna, at toll-free 1-877-855-5007.

Media Minded: Life refocused?

Could Hollywood and the media be gaining an appreciation for life? Recent movies, including Academy Award nominees, seem to indicate that.

Juno, nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture, is about a teen who gets pregnant and makes an adoption plan for the baby. While the screen writer says she's pro-abortion, her stated goal was to explore the relationship between the birth mother and adoptive couple. To get there, however, she had to show the complex decision a young woman in an unplanned pregnancy faces.

“It has fingernails!” screamed teenage Juno to her friend after she stormed out of an abortion clinic. Simple, but an eye-opening fact that resonated with Juno *and* hopefully many teens and adults attending this PG-13 movie. It's a great movie but the graphic language depicts an honest rawness common with many teens.

Other recent releases, including *Waitress* and *Knocked Up*, may also indicate Hollywood is avoiding controversy *or* art is reflecting a change in popular culture.

Book Review: *Life Issues, Medical Choices*

by Janet Smith and Christopher Kaczor (Servant Books, \$14.99) takes a Q&A approach to 57 pressing medical questions and includes a helpful resource index. An excellent tool for medical professionals.

Correction

In the December 2007 issue, the name of Madison's famed stem-cell researcher Dr. James Thomson was misspelled. We apologize for the error.

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ISSUES THAT MATTER.....

Wisconsin abortion update

The Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Ethics has taken no further action on Assembly Bill 710, which would change the current definition and penalties for partial-birth abortion to be in line with the recently upheld federal law, and it is unlikely to advance this late in the session.

Senate moves to repeal abortion ban

As February closed, the Wisconsin Senate held a public hearing on SB 398 to repeal Wisconsin's abortion ban. The law (s.940.04 making abortion illegal) remains on the books; but Federal law from *Roe v. Wade* supercedes our law. Sensing winds of change, abortion advocates want to quietly remove our current law.

State sees Euthanasia hot issue for '08

In a letter from WRTL, assisted suicide and euthanasia will be hot topics and they will closely track the issue around the country.

Tainted drugs at abortion drug maker

A state-run Chinese pharmaceutical plant was shut down in January due to contamination of its medicine produced for leukemia. Chinese cancer patients were reporting leg pain and paralysis. The manufacturer, Shanghai Hualian, also makes the United States' sole supply of RU-486, although at a separate facility, reports *The New York Times* (January 31, 2008). The drug is distributed in the U.S. by Danco Laboratories.

Pfizer, a major pharmaceutical company in the United States, does not use ingredients made by Shanghai Hualian because it does not meet quality standards, the newspaper reports.

Can a fetus feel pain?

The medical debate over whether a fetus can feel pain has evolved rapidly. Years ago, physicians and scientists thought nothing of the pre-term baby flinching at a scalpel.

The New York Times Magazine explored this issue in its Sunday, February 10, edition.

A pioneer in this field, Dr. Kanwaljeet Anand, questioned the poor recovery rate of newborns returning from surgery without being given any analgesia. Years ago doctors thought newborns' nervous systems were too immature to process pain and that the risk of giving analgesia to one so young outweighed the possible pain and its effects.

Anand's research showed that newborns given painkillers recovered far better and faster. Today surgery on pre-term infants, even those as young as 23 weeks gestational age, has become more common. Surgeons are taking a serious look at treating pain.

The ability to sense pain is one criteria we humans use to recognize life. The dichotomy between conducting surgery on a pre-term baby *and* administering pain-relief yet allowing a late-term abortion on a baby the same age is making many abortion advocates uncomfortable.

A face of euthanasia

The Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation is promoting **Terri's Day** on the anniversary of Terri's death (**March 31**) to remember her and other vulnerable people. This is an opportunity to educate our community about euthanasia, Terri's case, and how to help others in life-threatening situations.

Visit www.terrisfight.org

"The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government."
~ Thomas Jefferson ~

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WHAT'S IN A NAME & WHAT'S IN AN ENVELOPE?

Perhaps you have been wondering why you get mailings from more than one pro-life organization. Here is a short explanation.

Wisconsin Right to Life (statewide, based in Milwaukee) is the state affiliate of **The National Right to Life Committee, Inc.** (based in Washington, D. C.). **Wisconsin Right to Life-Dane County** covers all members of Wisconsin Right to Life who live in Dane County. If you are a member of **Wisconsin Right to Life-Dane County**, you are automatically a member of the parent organization – **Wisconsin Right to Life** and vice versa. All three organizations are committed to informing its members about issues relevant to life: abortion, stem cell, euthanasia, cloning, the dignity of persons with disabilities.

Both **Wisconsin Right to Life** (state) and **Wisconsin Right to Life-Dane County** (local) have Education Funds. Donations to the education funds are tax deductible. **Wisconsin Right to Life** (state) also has a Political Action Fund (PAC) to address legislative and governmental concerns. Donations to the PAC are not tax deductible. **Wisconsin Right to Life** (state) also has the **VERITAS SOCIETY**, which airs pro-life video on commercial television stations. Donations to the **Veritas Society** are tax deductible.

Being an election year, **Wisconsin Right to Life** (state) will be mailing compare/contrast information sheets that will cover pro-life issues and the positions of candidates on those issues.

As **Wisconsin Right to Life-Dane County**, we cooperate with other pro-life groups in our area such as Pregnancy Helpline and CareNet Pregnancy Center/Elizabeth House, among others. If you have any questions, you may call Joan Statz, 278-1986.