

LIFE LINES

A Publication of

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

Spring 2016, Volume 3

Doctors: assisted suicide is not OK

On Wednesday, May 4, [the New York Alliance Against Assisted Suicide \(NYAAAS\)](#) welcomed doctors and allied health professionals to Albany to make the medical case against doctor-assisted death. The doctors held a press conference in the Legislative Office Building and visited several legislative offices.



Photo from: <http://albanyupdate.com/blog1/64-protecting-human-life/1161-gains-made-in-fight-against-assisted-suicide>

Two physicians spoke about the loss of trust between doctor and patient if the doctor is participating in assisted suicide.

Dr. Shari Falkenheimer, AAME member and ethicist, contends: “There are ethical concerns about the potential for the legal acceptance of suicide, even in limited areas, that makes the essence of this legislation problematic. This isn’t really about legally giving patients the ‘right to die’; this is really about legally enabling physicians to kill.”

www.noassistedsuicideny.org/medical-professionals-unite-in-opposition-to-assisted-suicide/

“Don’t go there.” Belgium’s Advice to Canada (and us)

Carine Brochier, coordinator for the European Institute for Bioethics in Brussels, warns about assisted suicide. She is warning Canada specifically, but it applies equally to the US. She says, “Don’t open the door because it is not controllable. The door is open. It will go more and more wide open. That’s what we experience here in Belgium.”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLem0m6XuSg

Prof Dr. Benoit Beuselinck MD, PhD, an oncologist in Belgium, would agree that safeguards are an illusion. He says, “You start with a law of euthanasia in patients who are suffering, terminally ill situation, and 12 years later you have conferences in homes of elderly people presenting them euthanasia even if they are not suffering from any disease and even if they did not think of it by themselves.”

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kja1CiuCAPE&feature=youtu.be

Birthday party for a child never born

“On our way to a sixteenth birthday celebration for a child who was never born. And that, my friends, is what abortion does to a woman's heart even 16 years after the fact. Thus, the woman hosting the event is your proverbial ‘abortion exception,’ having been raped and impregnated at age 13 and forced to abort by the adults in her life. Abortion didn't mend what happened to her, it just added an even greater degree of violence to an already violent circumstance and removed one thing that may have brought peace, joy and purpose to what had happened to her, and that is the life of a beautiful baby. Today we will celebrate the life that never was and what could have been.”

Sandy Arena's post on Facebook 4/3/2016, used with permission



“Victims and Victors”

Rape is an awful assault. The rapist intends to do something hateful to cause pain for his victim. Many women who become pregnant as a result and who carry through with the pregnancy feel that they, not the rapist, are the victors. The rapist intended them to be helpless victims, but out of the awful experience came a beautiful child to love.

As one woman, Mary Murray, said, "I thank God for the strength He gave me to go through the bad times and for all of the joy in the good times. I will never regret that I chose to give life to my daughter." (See book reference at right.)

Abortion claims two suicide victims

Two young women in the news recently killed themselves following their abortions. This is not unusual, but the fact that the media acknowledged the connection is.

Jade Rees, 21, had had the abortion after she broke up with the child's father. She had been struggling with eating disorders and depression, and killed herself.

Popular sentiment would recommend an abortion for someone already struggling with such issues, but this outcome reflects the more sobering data that says someone who already has issues is likely to have problems coping with after-effects of abortion.

India's Bollywood actress Pratyusha Banerjee made the news when she allegedly hanged herself in her home. She made the news again when interviews with her boyfriend indicated that she had aborted their child a few days before her death. Their relationship was said to be “troubled.”

www.metro.co.uk/2016/04/04/mum-played-ed-sheerans-small-bump-before-she-killed-herself-after-having-an-abortion-5793744/

www.indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pratyusha-banerjee-was-pregnant-and-had-abortion-days-before-her-death-say-doctors/1/646106.html

Authors Makimaa, Sobie, and Reardon have a lot to say in their study/book “Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions, and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault.”

www.amazon.com/Victims-Victors-Pregnancies-Abortions-Resulting/dp/0964895714

“When you buy suicide, you get involuntary euthanasia free”

At the pro-life Assisted Suicide Conference in February, one presenter, lawyer Burke Balch, said, “When you buy suicide, you get involuntary euthanasia free!” Translation: When you pass legislation for assisted suicide, court cases will push the issue the rest of the way.

On the topic of refusal of medical treatment, here's how the US went from voluntary (“I want”) to nonvoluntary (“I'm sure he wants”) to involuntary (“his wishes don't count”).

- **Voluntary:** It is acknowledged that a patient can legitimately refuse treatment.
- **Nonvoluntary:** The case of Karen Ann Quinlan allowed surrogates to refuse a ventilator for her.
- **Involuntary:** The case of Helga Wanglie, on a ventilator which the hospital, strenuously opposed by the family, sued to be allowed to turn off. The judge turned the decision over to a conservator, regardless of the objections of the family.

Balch pointed out that the same process has occurred for food and fluids and is in progress for assisted suicide and euthanasia. For instance, we could go from legal assisted suicide (the patient takes the lethal dose) to euthanasia (a doctor injects a lethal dose) in one court case in states that have legalized assisted suicide.

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

Assisted suicide bills in NYS

Two separate assisted suicide bills have now been combined into one called the “Medical Aid in Dying Act,” producing duplicate bills in the Assembly and Senate. The sponsors, Sen. Diane Savino and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, see this as progress towards action on the bill. The press conference they called was attended by assisted suicide supporters wearing yellow shirts; and their opposition, in the disability group, in fuchsia shirts that said “not dead yet.”

Members of the disability group carried signs saying “assisted suicide is disability discrimination.” Savino commented that the disabled “feel this is an effort to devalue them as humans,” which she says is not true. Those in the disability groups point to a long history of devaluing the disabled. Such devaluation may not be Savino’s intent, but it is likely to be a result of this legislation if it passes.

The bills are A10059 and S7579 in the Assembly and Senate, respectively.

www.capitalnewyork.com/article/albany/2016/05/8598801/lawmakers-announce-omnibus-aid-dying-bill
www.nystateofpolitics.com/2016/05/aid-in-dying-legislation-combined/

Advocacy for those in danger of assisted suicide

Our opponents are busy. They have been lobbying legislators and doing presentations to the public. For instance, there was a recent presentation at Harley School on end-of-life issues and legislation. Our side was not scheduled to be represented.

Please call/e-mail your legislators in Albany and let them know you want them to vote against assisted suicide. We know they have heard from the other side – let them hear from you, too. If you need help identifying your legislators, call Pat at the office (585) 621-4690 and she will help you.

Would your group like to become better informed on the assisted suicide issue in NY?

Video recordings were made of the pro-life Assisted Suicide Conference in February, organized by Judge Bill Polito, President of The St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild. Those recordings are now available for presentations to interested groups. For each presentation, there will be someone present who can answer questions on the issue after the video.

To schedule a presentation at your convenience, contact Judge Polito through RARTL by calling (585) 621-4690 and leaving your contact information.



Canada conflict in assisted death bill

The Canadian federal government needed to write regulations after the Supreme Court threw out the Canadian prohibition on assisted death. The Court defined the right to assisted death very, very liberally, to a chorus of pro-life and disability group objections.

The government has now written regulations that Provincial Health Minister Eric Hoskins and Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur call “a balanced approach,” one that they say has safeguards for the process.

However, the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons points out that these safeguards are stringent and will prevent many patients from availing themselves of the process.

Mark Pickup, living in a wheelchair because of long-term multiple sclerosis, has spoken often against assisted suicide. He recently said, “... It is actually regression to a Dark Age where life is expendable. I am one of the expendable. God help me if I despair. Suicide prevention will be withheld from me. Assisted suicide will be offered instead. I meet all the criteria to be euthanized if there's nobody to defend me at a point when I cannot defend myself.”

www.therecord.com/news-story/6547916-ontario-backs-assisted-death-bill-but-medical-regulatory-body-disagrees
www.humanlifematters.org/ Thursday, May 5, 2016 “I’m one of Canada’s expendable”

“... I am one of the expendable. God help me if I despair. Suicide prevention will be withheld from me. Assisted suicide will be offered instead. I meet all the criteria to be euthanized if there's nobody to defend me at a point when I cannot defend myself.”

Mark Pickup, Canadian, disabled by MS

Congratulations to Oratorical Contestants



The RARTL Oratorical Contest for high school juniors and seniors was held April 9 at the Irondequoit public library.

First, second, and third place winners, respectively were: Kimberly Hatfalvi, Nathanael Sniatecki, and Jonathan Giesy.

Two younger students, Eli Farwell and Deja Christina Simmons, gave their talks for practice. All the students gave excellent speeches. In addition, each student offered an original thought-provoking point of view or nugget of information, so we all learned something.

Thanks to the students who worked hard on their presentations, all the parents who helped the students to prepare, the judges, and the RARTL volunteers. Thanks also to the Irondequoit public library, which provided a wonderful space for the contest.

Britain's polite pro-lifers belie buffer zone "need"

Britain's abortion industry wants buffer zones like those in many locations in the US to theoretically prevent pro-lifers from harassing women and staff.

At a recent hearing, the Secretary of State for Health was asked how many complaints they had received from NHS staff about being harassed by protesters. The answer: none.

Pro-life organization SPUC has commented on the number of cases in which young women have committed suicide shortly after an abortion. SPUC notes that some of these women were surely being pressured into their "decision." SPUC wonders, too, if someone had been there that day to offer help, would those women and their children be alive today?

www.spuc.org.uk/news/news-stories/2016/april/health-minister-reveals-how-many-nhs-staff-have-complained-about-pro-life-protesters

Simon's Law – for parental empowerment



Simon's Law in Missouri is working its way through the legislature. Simon Crosier was a little boy who lived only 88 days. He was born with Trisomy 18, a condition that is always fatal but sometimes allows survival to a year or more. His family adored him. When he died, the family was heartbroken, but their heartache turned to anger when they discovered what the doctors had been doing.

The family said that the doctor put a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order on Simon's chart without the parents' permission or knowledge. Furthermore, although Sheryl, his mother, thought they were trying to build him up for possible brain surgery, they found out later that he had received only "comfort feedings" through a tube in his nose, so a build-up was not really planned.

According to a pharmacist friend, the administration of Adivan, which is "known to suppress breathing," probably did not help Simon's apnea.

All in all, the "Crosiers believe the doctor's orders expedited Simon's death." They intend to prevent this from happening to another child. Simon's Law would preserve parental rights, providing for parental permission or at least consultation in medical decisions that need to be made. Similar legislation has been introduced in Kansas.

www.lakeexpo.com/news/lake_news/doctors-issued-a-do-not-resuscitate-for-a-newborn-without/article_719914c0-dff4-11e5-ab08-8b21f9c41fe9.html

United Methodist Church withdraws from abortion advocate organization

The General Board of Church and Society and the United Methodist Women were members of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, a religious-based group that advocates for abortion consistently.

By a vote of 425 – 268, the United Methodist General Conference decided that their two entities who were members of RCRC were to withdraw, "stating that RCRC's advocacy often directly contradicts The United Methodist Church's Social Principles on abortion, but it still uses the UMC name."

www.unitedmethodistreporter.com/2016/05/19/general-conference-votes-to-withdraw-from-religious-coalition-for-reproductive-choice/

RARTL's HUGE

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GARAGE SALE



ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

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Rochester 14609**

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August 10 - 13

**Wednesday through Saturday
10-6 W Th F and 9-12 Sat.**

*We're inside,
so if it's raining come and shop anyway.*



Garage Sale Volunteer Schedule

Setup tasks will be done Monday and Tuesday, August 8 and 9. Hours will vary.

The sale opens Wednesday, August 10.

Sale hours:

10 AM – 6 PM Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

9 AM – **12 NOON** Saturday, August 13

Takedown and cleanup

12 noon – 3 PM Boxing, bagging, and carrying.

We will have tasks for people who can carry items and for people who need to sit a lot. Whatever you can do, there is a place for you. If you are available, even for just an hour or two, we would appreciate the gift of your time.

To volunteer, please call Pat Dawes
at the office at 621-4690

Clearing out the attic???

We would be most grateful for your gently-used donations for the garage sale. All donations are tax deductible. Please ask for a signed donation form.

Sorry, we can't take:

printers (they never sell),

big old TVs (do not sell / cost \$20 to recycle), and

cribs (too many regulations).

For the last two years there has been little demand for adult clothing, but a lot of demand for purses, shoes, and children's clothes.

If you have any questions, please call Marylee Wilk at 342-1177 or the Rochester Area Right to Life Education Fund Office at 621-4690.



RARTL just got these two lovely banners. They're 8 ft. wide and 4 ft. high, on tough plastic with grommets on the edges. Suitable for indoor or outdoor use, they are available for loan to any pro-life organization or individual that has a good use for them! Call Pat at 621-4690 for questions or to schedule.

NY religious entities nix abortion coverage, sue NY state

Several NY State religious entities including the First Bible Baptist Church in Rochester have brought suit against the New York Department of Financial Services and multiple insurance companies over deceptive language in policies. They say that the deceptive language disguised the fact that the policies paid for abortion.

The religious entities say that they are not required to pay for abortion and should not have been tricked into paying it in the past.

www.christiannews.net/2016/05/18/new-york-religious-groups-sue-over-requirement-to-provide-employee-abortion-coverage/

China aborts 13, no, it's 23 million babies per year

China reports 13 million abortions per year. However, recent news releases from China and a State Department report suggest that this number is unrealistically low. The 13 million represents only the abortions done in state-run facilities. The State Department estimates that an additional 10 million occur in nongovernmental facilities, which makes the total 23 million.

According to Reggie Littlejohn, president of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, "The population of the United States is about 320 million, with about 1 million abortions per year. The population of China is almost 1.4 billion, with about 23 million abortions per year. Therefore, with four times the population of the United States, China has 23 times the number of abortions."

China's coercive abortion policies have continued unabated.

www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-01/27/content_19412949.htm

www.womensrightswithoutfrontiers.org/blog/?p=2197

British March saves baby

In 2015, Sophie had an appointment for an abortion. But shortly before that day, she "happened to stumble across" the March for Life in Birmingham, England. She spent the rest of the day with the marchers, then went home and cancelled her appointment. This year she was back at the March, as one of the speakers, with baby Riley. She said, "'Riley is here because of all of you. Thank you so much!'"

www.spuc.org.uk/news/news-stories/2016/may/she-was-going-to-have-an-abortion-then-she-walked-right-into-the-march-for-life

Angry midwives in Britain

An extension of a chronic conflict of interest for many midwives has stirred up a membership backlash. Britain's Royal College of Midwives has recently advocated to extend abortion rights for any reason and up to birth. However, in a letter signed by 200 angry members, members are calling this "utterly unacceptable" and questioning why members were not consulted.

A partial answer may be that in 2014 Cathy Warwick, who is the RCM's Chief Executive and General Secretary, became the chair of the abortion provider British Pregnancy Advisory Service after having been on the BPAS board for five years. BPAS is one of Britain's largest abortion providers, according to SPUC.

In a 2014 court decision, two senior midwives were denied the right to refuse to participate in abortions. www.spuc.org.uk/news/news-stories/2016/may/horror-as-midwives-chief-announces-she-will-lobby-for-abortion-up-to-birth

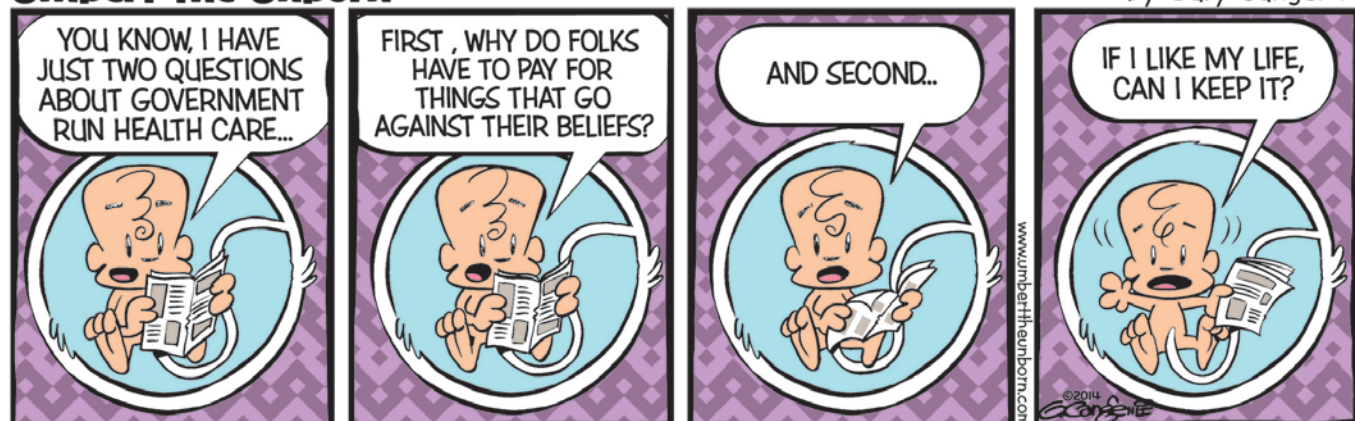
Reprieve for Little Sisters of the Poor

The Little Sisters did not win in the Supreme Court in their refusal to support contraception, but they did not lose, either. SCOTUS vacated the prior decisions and sent the case back to the lower courts for reconsideration of religious freedom and the government's role. The Sisters are protected at this point from the crushing fines the administration was attempting to impose on them.

An article by Eugene Volokh, in which he queried Stanford law professor Michael McConnell, favored the Sisters. Their opinion was that "the decision was basically a quiet, face-saving, non-precedent-setting defeat for the government."

www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2016/05/17/prof-michael-mcconnell-on-zubik-v-burwell-yesterdays-supreme-court-rfra-contraceptive-decision/

Umbert the Unborn



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:

May: That abortion will be revealed as the horror it is, so that eyes, especially of those in government, will be opened and our representatives will take action.

June: That God’s protection surrounds our persecuted brothers and sisters who live in nations that abhor Christianity and do not value life. May He open his loving arms to today’s martyrs.

July: That our state representatives, who champion life in all its seasons, stand firm against the assisted suicide bill. “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” Matthew 10:16

August: That parents have the courage to teach their children to respect all human life as God’s masterpiece of creation, so the next generation will be armed to carry on this battle.

In Memory



Anita Camardo
by Pat Dawes

Dr. John D'Souza

Patricia Li
by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Sweeney

In Prayer



Dcn. Tom Beck
Bob Dorscheid
Jim Garrity

Congratulations

Fred Amato named the William E. Selke Senior Citizen of the Year by the Greece Chamber of Commerce



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 (585-621-4690) or e-mail (RARTL@righttoliferoch.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.

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

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(occasion) _____

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City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Events of interest to pro-lifers

Thursday – Saturday, July 7 – 9 National Right to Life Convention, Herndon, VA

www.nrlconvention.com/

Wednesday – Saturday, August 10 – 13 RARTL’s garage sale. Details page 5.

Friday – Sunday, July 29 – 31 Camp Esther in Utica, NY. Weekend boot camp for committed pro-life teens. Help available with registration fees – inquire for details. Call New York State Right to Life at 518-434-1293 to register.

September 28 40 Days for Life fall campaign begins. Mark your calendar! (Ends Nov.6)

Monday, October 17 Kristan Hawkins of Students for Life of America, Roberts Wesleyan College, Hoyt Hall. For more info, call Kelly Fasoldt, 594-6113, Administrative Assistant, Fasoldt_Kelly@roberts.edu

Wednesday, October 19 RARTL Annual Meeting at Our Mother of Sorrows Church on Long Pond Rd. Supper and speaker – come one, come all!

Psssst!

Don’t forget to call your legislators in Albany to remind them that you oppose assisted suicide.

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Lands' End – clobbered from both sides

In their spring catalog, *Lands' End* featured a long, admiring interview with Gloria Steinem as a women's rights activist. They also offered a way for shoppers to make a contribution to the ERA Coalition Fund For Women's Equality. They were aghast when a tsunami of criticism, including threats never to shop there again, broke over their heads.

It had apparently not occurred to any of the planners that a career of promoting the killing of children in the womb could be regarded as a negative. In addition to letters and Facebook comments, some schools said they would no longer use *Lands' End* for their school uniforms.

Lands' End swiftly removed all mention of Steinem from their Facebook account and issued an apology, which then left the pro-abortion side infuriated. The company has now been clobbered by both sides, which could have been forestalled by a bit more thought at the beginning of their project.

www.fortune.com/2016/02/26/lands-end-apology-steinem

“Stop feeding him, stop watering him”

Jake Booth, 35, was in danger from multiple medical events that started with pneumonia and eventually went to a medically-induced coma, from which he was not waking up. Then he was in danger from the medical system, which wrote him off. Two neurologists said that even if he woke up, he wouldn't be able to recognize people and spoke of his probable poor quality of life.

Brother Jason Schwartz commented, "They said unplug him, stop feeding him, stop watering him." "[His wife] never gave up. She said, 'Absolutely not.'"

Wife Jasmine said she “wanted to give him a fighting chance.”

After 48 days in a coma, Jake woke up and announced that he wanted Taco Bell. Since then he has had occupational and physical therapy and is making progress. After not swallowing for the time he was in a coma, the doctors insisted on starting him off with custard and apple sauce. However, he did eventually get his Taco Bell order.

www.news-press.com/story/news/2016/04/22/medicine-and-miracles-jakes-awake/82791838

www.aol.com/article/2016/05/13/man-miraculously-wakes-up-from-48-day-coma-and-immediately-says/21377001

