

LIFE LINES

A Publication of

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

Summer 2015, Volume 4

“Fire station baby” has had a “really good life”

Twelve years ago a couple drove up to a fire station door in Denver, handed a newborn baby to a firefighter, and then drove away.

Colorado has a Safe Haven law that allows a mother to drop her newborn baby off with a staff member in a designated “safe place,” no questions asked. The fire station was a safe place and the little girl was now safe.

Fast forward 12 years. Hallie Burke, adopted by Julie and John Burke, made a video.

She is hoping that her “tummy mommy” will see the video and contact her. Hallie “wants to ask her about her life and thank her,” because Hallie believes that she has had a “really good life.”

She says, “Because there’s a lot of women, people, who are afraid to have babies and when they do they make bad choices about it, but my tummy mommy made a really, really good choice.”

You can see the two-hanky video on the NRLC website, and you can buy Julie’s book “Fire Station Baby” if you want to know more.

www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2015/06/baby-saved-by-safe-haven-law-thanks-her-tummy-mommy-for-her-really-good-life/



Pope’s letter on the environment

Numerous news sources are lauding Pope Francis’ new encyclical *Laudato Si*. In it, he advocates for those ecological measures that will make the global environment better for mankind. His acceptance of man-caused global warming lends urgency to his plea.

However, he also stresses the value of human life, saying:

120. Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties? “If personal and social sensitivity towards the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away”. [97]

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html.

New York Times: overpopulation not a problem after all

Overpopulation, a concept popularized by Paul Erlich, has been accepted by the media as a true threat for many years, even in the face of data showing that under-population is a greater threat. Overpopulation has been the excuse to foist contraception and abortion on people who would prefer not to use them.

After years of advocating for population control, the NY Times has finally rejected the alarmist overpopulation idea, and put on their website a video explaining why there was no need for panic after all.

Unfortunately they do not mention the aggressive and frequently violent methods of population control currently in use today: forced abortion in China, mass sterilization in India and Uzbekistan, and the female abortion and infanticide that have produced gender imbalance in multiple countries. Nor do they discuss the hazards of a population deficit. However, this is a step in the direction of reality.

Although Paul Erlich has not changed his views, there are now more voices supporting an alternative analysis. Stephen Mosher of the Population Research Institute (www.pop.org) follows population trends around the world and demonstrates that we face a demographic winter of too few people, rather than too many.

www.nytimes.com/2015/06/01/us/the-unrealized-horrors-of-population-explosion.html? r=2

Belgian doctors “killing patients who have not asked to die”

According to the British *Daily Mail* about one in every 60 deaths in Belgium is the result of action by general practitioners on patients who did not request to die. The new report by Rafael Cohen-Almagor in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* says that two thirds of the patients, although in the hospital, were not suffering from a terminal disease.

The most disquieting fact in the report is that very often doctors did not discuss the matter with the patient or the families. They considered it “a medical decision to be made by themselves alone.”

In Belgium, euthanasia can be administered only to a patient who is competent and who has requested it. Therefore, those deaths are completely illegal, but they seem to be tolerated by the medical profession and the general public.

Cohen-Almagor concluded his report by asking: “If Belgium has been unable to control abuse—and does not seem to have tried very hard—what reason is there to believe it will be controlled in the future?”

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3120835/Belgian-GPs-killing-patients-not-asked-die-Report-says-thousands-killed-despite-not-asking-doctor.html
www.bioedge.org/bioethics/belgian-euthanasia-under-fire-again/11470

The Terri Schiavo of France

Frenchman Vincent Lambert, 39, suffered severe brain damage after a motorcycle accident. He breathes normally but receives food and water through a tube. His parents and some of his siblings say he responds to them and they believe he needs more and better treatments. Yet, his wife and some other siblings think he should be deprived of food and water.

On June 5, a court ruled in favor of such deprivation. A video shows Lambert’s response to the news and the intense attention he later focuses on a brother who is speaking to him. His friend, narrating the video, points out that there are 1,700 other patients like Vincent. He says “Vincent is not at the end of his life. It’s that, that we really must understand.”

He is called the Terri Schiavo of France. Terri’s brother Bobby Schindler agrees.

“This case parallels my sister Terri’s case in so many ways,” says Schindler. “Vincent’s family is fighting for his life, wanting to continue therapy. Since Terri’s death, there have been dramatic breakthroughs in treatment and promise of new technologies on the horizon. There are documented cases in which brain-injured patients become capable of moderate levels of consciousness and actually regain some level of functionality. There are also cases on record where such patients regain full functionality and today live active, independent lives.”

www.wnd.com/2015/06/human-rights-court-approves-killing-injured-patient/

www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33018506

video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5wBOz627wU&feature=youtu.be&t=1m6s

www.jesoutiensvincent.com/

and communication from the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network

Euthanasia by gun OK?

A fall at home left William Dresser’s wife permanently paralyzed. She was despondent and said she didn’t want to live. So William Dresser visited her in the hospital and shot her to death.

District Attorney Jason Woodbury dropped all charges, explaining, “I didn’t view there being any component of evil to his act of killing.”

As attorney Wesley J. Smith said, “To do nothing about a blatant homicide devalues the lives of paralyzed people and sends a loud message that homicides of the elderly, sick, and disabled to relieve suffering are of less serious societal concern than the killings of other citizens.

“But it does show that euthanasia is not really a ‘medical act’ if it is okay for a husband to carry out such a killing with a gun.”

www.rgj.com/story/news/2015/06/19/evil-act-da-seeks-drop-mercy-killing-murder-charge/29006263/

www.nationalreview.com/human-exceptionalism/420083/nevada-da-allows-mercy-killing-wesley-j-smith

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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.

Arise Sweet Sarah, the film

Arise Sweet Sarah is the film adaptation of the Life Ballet's live touring show, which many Rochester residents have seen and enjoyed. The film tells the true story of one woman's descent into reproductive "choice" and her subsequent recovery to joy. Sandy Arena produced and directed the first live show, which featured many of Sandy's own musical compositions. After many live performances, Sandy decided that the show should become a film and she made it happen.

She said, "This film is dedicated to all the children who never had the chance to dance."

The Rochester release will take place Saturday, September 12, at 4 PM at the Dryden Theater, George Eastman House, 900 East Ave. in Rochester. The film showing is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. Email info@thelifeballet.org to make your reservation.

To make a "Baby Dedication" of a child lost to abortion, send an email with the dedication to info@thelifeballet.org. The "Baby Dedications" will scroll during the film credits and they need to be sent in by the end of July. Those already on file can be viewed at: <http://www.arisesweetsarah.com/Film-Dedications.html>

You can also, or instead, memorialize your unborn baby on the website and share your story of regret. Visit: <http://www.arisesweetsarah.com/Abortion-Memorials.html>



A "Baby Dedication" to little Amara

(One of the Baby Dedications already received by the Life Ballet has touched all who have read it. May it touch you, too, and leave you more determined than ever to help these helpless little ones.)

To the Folks at The Life Ballet,

My sister Caitlyn would want her baby to be remembered if she were alive today. She committed suicide ten years ago after desperately telling our mom she had killed her child seven years before that. The lives that have

been lost, and those lives we loved, there are absolutely no words for the sorrow. I pray every day that God has forgiven her and taken her into His arms. It was after that devastating day I changed my mind about "choice" forever. Not only had my sister kept that despairing secret for years that she killed her baby, it ended up killing her. My parents lost their daughter and grandchild and I lost my sister and niece or nephew to this holocaust. God forgive us, and we wish we could say this gets easier or that it will ever make sense why there isn't more of an outcry against this evil. I have been spreading news of The Life Ballet and I pray you receive the widespread attention this film much deserves. My parents, and much of my family look forward to seeing it. There isn't a day that goes by where you don't think about abortion and its aftermath. We miss them.

Please remember my sister Caitlyn's baby
Amara Deidre Grace - 1998

Commodification of embryos

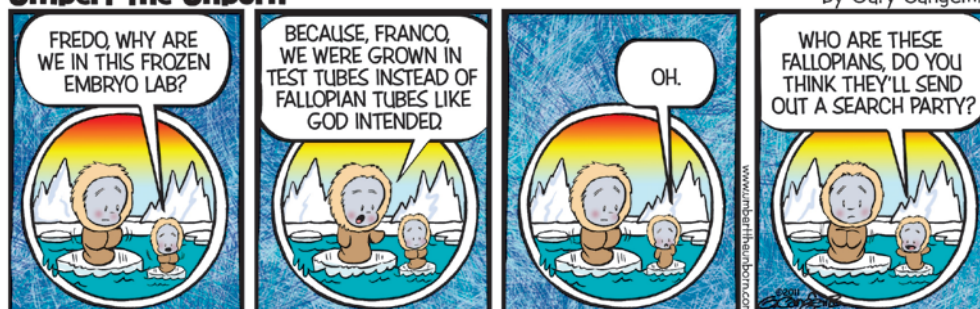
After many years of in vitro fertilization techniques including egg donations, many frozen embryos await some kind of disposal. If the parents are not planning more children, these embryos will not be implanted unless they are donated to someone else. There are several programs designed to match up available embryos with people who want them.

However, some of the programs eventually found that they did not have enough embryos to meet the demand. Dr. Ernest Zeringue instituted a program called California Conceptions. His clinic buys eggs and sperm from attractive people, then combines them to make embryos. His clinic charges a patient \$12,500 to use these embryos in an effort to become pregnant and it is understood that eggs and sperm will be used for more than one patient.

Critics of his program are concerned about producing embryos for whom there is no family waiting. Other critics call his program the Costco approach and say his process is the commodification of small humans. They also point out the danger of unsuspected genetic relationships between people who may later reproduce.

www.nytimes.com/2015/06/18/us/embryos-egg-donors-difficult-issues.html?ref=us&r=1

Umbert the Unborn

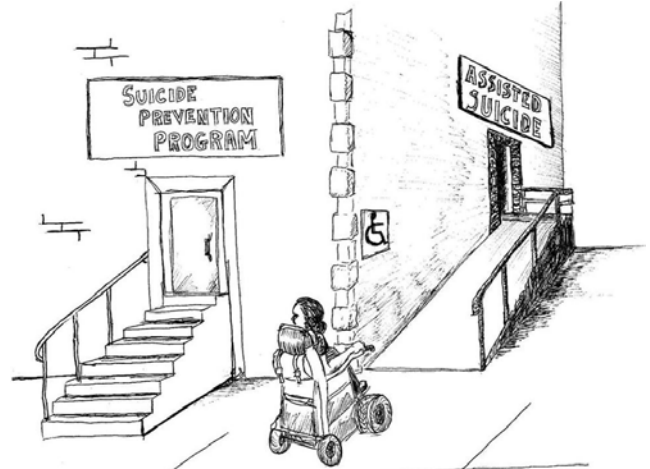


Albany: New York State Legislation

Assisted Suicide

Mercifully, there is currently no movement on any of the assisted suicide bills and the session is drawing to a close.

The cartoon at the right hits the nail on the head. Apparently suicide is a terrible choice unless you are defective in some way, in which case it's understandable and we need to help you do it.



(There's no identification on this cartoon, but the cartoonist hit the nail on the head.)

Denial of Treatment

There were several bills introduced in the New York State Senate that would have made it easier for a patient in New York to be labelled with a Do-Not-Resuscitate order without necessarily consulting the patient. Thankfully, these bills were all withdrawn by the sponsor, so at this time there is no concern about them.

Washington: Federal Legislation and Regulation

Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act

The Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act was introduced in the U.S. Senate on June 11 by Senator Lindsey Graham as S.1553. It has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. It has 45 cosponsors, all Republican.

The Act, as H.R. 36, had passed in the House of Representatives on May 13 by a vote of 242-184.

NRLC says, "This legislation would extend general protection to unborn children nationwide beginning at 20 weeks fetal age, based on congressional recognition that by this point in development, if not earlier, the unborn child is capable of experiencing pain. The legislation is based on model legislation developed by National Right to Life, already enacted in 11 states."

Abortion drones

Women on Waves, an organization designed to circumvent protective restrictions certain countries have placed on abortion, is now planning something new, based on what they see as a need in Poland. In Poland, abortion is restricted to cases where there is a serious health threat, cases of rape or incest, and serious fetal problem.

They plan to fly an abortion drone from Germany into Poland, carrying mifepristone and misoprostol, which are illegal in Poland. The drone will be unloaded and the contents distributed after it lands in Poland.

Women's health can't be the real need, since Poland's maternal mortality rate is better than the rate in the US. Poland is close to the top, with only 5 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. The US is listed as having 21 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. (2010 data)

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2223rank.html

www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11691081/Abortion-drone-to-drop-DIY-drugs-over-Poland-to-women.html

Planned Parenthood: abortions up, non-abortion services down

A new 41-page report by Americans United for Life points out that Planned Parenthood's (PP) mega-centers coincide with an increasing focus on abortion. Other AUL points:

- The number of abortions performed by Planned Parenthood has increased along with the addition of the mega-centers by more than 70,000 abortions annually.
- Planned Parenthood mega-centers strategy coincides with its increasing share of the abortion market: from performing 20 percent to at least 32 percent of all abortions in the United States.
- Many of Planned Parenthood's non-abortion services (including cancer screening and other preventive services) have simultaneously declined by more than 50 percent.

The report is available for printing on the AUL website.

www.aul.org/new-leviathan/

RARTL's HUGE

Weather-proof!

GARAGE SALE



ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

(St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish at Annunciation Church)

1754 Norton Street
Rochester 14609

(between Goodman and Waring Streets)



August 5 - 8

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



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



Donations???

Need to clear out in the attic or basement? Gently-used donations for the sale are gratefully accepted. All donations are tax deductible.

Sorry, we can't take:

printers (they never sell),
big old TVs (do not sell / cost \$20 to recycle), and
cribs (too many regulations).

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.

Help how-to!

A big, HUGE thank-you to all who helped at last year's garage sale. You:

- donated tons of gently-used treasures,
- helped transport the goods from members' garages to the church by loading the St. Vincent de Paul truck
- or by stuffing their cars full of the more delicate items and driving to Annunciation,
- unpacked boxes and bags and arranged the contents on tables,

When the sale opened, you:

- helped customers find specific items,
- boxed and bagged and made change,
- carried treasures to customers' cars,

And at the end, you:

- packaged trash for disposal,
- boxed and bagged leftovers,
- distributed some to various nonprofits around town,
- and loaded the remainder onto the St. Vincent de Paul truck.

You know who you are and you are heroes!



Obviously, we need the same help this year. Do you think you could help?

Schedule

Setup tasks will be done Monday and Tuesday, August 3 and 4. Hours will vary.

The sale opens Wednesday, August 5.

Sale hours:

10 AM – 6 PM Wednesday, August 5

10 AM – 6 PM Thursday, August 6

10 AM – 6 PM Friday, August 7

9 AM – **12 NOON** Saturday, August 8

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

Vietnam to drop birth restrictions

Vietnam has had a two-child policy for many decades, enforced by economic coercion and by sterilizing women after the birth of their second child. PRI comments that the birth restrictions were loosened in 2003 but reinstated in 2009. However, it appears that the restrictions will be eliminated. The shift in policy probably results from serious concern over the country's "precipitously falling birthrate."

This government measure may or may not solve their birthrate problem. Japan, for instance, encourages pregnancy by offering bonuses. It has not so far been a success.

www.pop.org/content/vietnam-poised-end-two-child-policy

Euthanasia donors

Belgian doctors reported on "Lung Transplantation with Grafts Recovered From Euthanasia Donors." Those euthanized had expressed a wish to donate organs. They were were killed in a room adjacent to the operating room

www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2015/06/worse-than-fiction-euthanasia-on-the-rise-2/

Maynard Howe not quite truthful about Gordie's stem cells

Gordie Howe went to Mexico for a stem cell treatment he hoped would help him recover from a stroke. Stemedica Cell Technologies said that he had been treated with adult stem cells. He was not. He was treated with cells derived from a 14-16-week fetus.

CEO Maynard Howe, no relation, had a chance to correct the record, to say that the stem cells did not come from "adult volunteers," but he failed to do so. He commented later, "We don't use the word 'fetal' too much. We just don't want to get people confused about what it is."

www.usatoday.com/story/sports/2015/05/18/fetal-stem-cells-gordie-howe-john-brodie-tijuana-stroke-stemedica/27501717/

Oratorical winners

Eleven students participated in RARTL's 2015 Oratorical Contest for high school juniors and seniors. Last year's winner won again, but the competition was keen and the top three scores were very, very close.

First place winner:

Jacob Brown, homeschool student

Second place:

Adrian Mazur, Northstar Christian Academy

Third place:

HaliAnn Helmer, Northstar Christian Academy

Congratulations to all the participants. Every presentation had something fascinating about it.

UN committee has a problem

The UN Human Rights Committee has for years worked to develop UN language to support abortion as a basic human right. The committee had asked for written contributions ahead of the discussion of the right to life to be held this summer.

C-FAM said, "Over 30 organizations from around the world urged the committee to recognize the right to life of unborn children, or at least not recognize a right to abortion." They add, "Of 55 interventions published on the committee's website, only two, from Amnesty International and the Center for Reproductive Rights, call for abortion to be recognized as a human right." What a surprise that must have been for the Committee!

One of the organizations, Autistic Minority International, noted the prenatal screening and subsequent abortion of children with handicaps and voiced their concern that such a process would be carried out in suspected prenatal autistic individuals.

www.c-fam.org/friday_fax/pro-life-groups-flood-un-committee-with-pleas-to-block-right-to-abortion/

New York State Right to Life Convention

Have you registered??? Join with pro-lifers from around the state for a time of education, fellowship, and activism! Learn from experts on issues such as abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and more!

Saturday, October 17, 2015

RIT Inn & Conference Center

8 AM Registration, 9:00 AM – 5 PM Convention

"ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS" - That's you! And all the rest of us! Join us to learn extraordinary things.

To register, go to www.nysrighttolife.org



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:

July: That God’s sons and daughters, who have had abortions, know that the Father is calling them to return home to his love.

August: That those experiencing a crisis pregnancy trust in our Sovereign God rather than human discernment.

September: That we all grow closer to God as we age, and, in our last days, experience the peace of His presence.

October: For healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries for troubled or challenged mothers and their infants.

In Memory

Gerry Oftedahl

- by Larry & Barb Ritzenthaler
- by Richard and Carol Crossed
- by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R.. Sweeney
- by NY Lambs of Christ by Mary Lou Reifsnnyder

Anne M. Tuttle

by Paul Tuttle

Gerald “Jed” Hanna

- by Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Riley
- by Mr. and Mrs. David Miller
- by Bonn, Dioguardi, Ray LLP
- by Hannibal Carbide Tool, Inc.
- by Dr. & Mrs. Joseph DiPoala
- by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Sweeney
- by Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bucci and Family
- by Mrs. Robert Heyer by Clare Pusateri
- by Thomas & Janet Byrnes by Betty A. Hurley
- by Mark & Tory Downey by Mary E. Dugan
- by Gregory & Laura Davies by Rena S. Flynn



Molly Szumiloski

by the RARTL Board

Patricia A. Amato

- by Hank and Marlene Beghini
- by Penny Keenan by Patricia Dawes
- by NY Lambs of Christ by Elizabeth Lamendola
- by John and Carol Leary by Wilda and Henry Liana



In Gratitude
to Barbara and Jan Fredericks

Congratulating
Poet Mary Lou Reifsnnyder

RTL MEMORIAL/HONOR TRIBUTE

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

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

Enclosed is gift of \$_____ in memory/honor

Of/for _____

(occasion) _____

My/our name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Please notify _____

Address _____

City _____ St. _____ Zip _____

Life-Lines Subscription

Would you like a subscription to Life-Lines? We can send it to you on paper or via e-mail. Please call (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.

Events of interest to pro-lifers

July 31 – August 2 – Camp Esther – pro-life boot camp for teens in Utica. Details at www.nysrighttolife.org/youth

August 5 - 8. RARTL’s Humongous GARAGE SALE! Please think of us during spring/summer cleaning!

July 9 – August 14 National Right to Life Academy - Five-week summer training course in Washington, DC, for pro-life college students. www.nrlc.org/academy

Saturday, October 17 NYS Right to Life Convention, this year in Rochester.

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Two Farewells

Barb and Jan gone to North Carolina



Many people would recognize Dr. Barbara Fredericks' name because of the letters to the editor that she would write to the *Democrat and Chronicle*. She had retired from active practice to raise children but retained her medical expertise, which helped her to expose the technical holes displayed in opposition articles and letters.

Barb and Jan were active in their parish and were always involved when Right to Life's display was visiting the parish for the weekend. Jan - pro-lifer, musician, and teacher - was always there, pitching in wherever he was needed.

Our loss is North Carolina's gain. Best of luck to you, Barb and Jan.

Pat Amato gone home

Pat Amato was RARTL's Executive Director for several years. During that time, she expanded our volunteer base and found public events where we could take our display booth. She also began scheduling the display booth at different Catholic parishes around the Rochester area.

A soft-voiced woman, she had a warm, welcoming presence. People liked being around her. However, the charming appearance camouflaged the soul of a pro-life warrior. She ably defended unborn children on any and all occasions.

With the participation of her husband, Fred, Pat was also active in Democrats for Life, Feminists for Life, and community efforts too numerous to count.

Pat went home to eternity on June 7, 2015. She will be greatly missed.

