



Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Blair County Life News

Volume 9 Number 4

Presenting the Pro-Life Message to Blair County, Pennsylvania

Fall 2017



LIFE CHAIN

Sunday, October 1, 2017

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

17th St. and 9th Ave., Altoona
(at Station Mall Medical Center)

- ◆ Stand with thousands of pro-lifers throughout the USA, in memory of over 59 million babies who have lost their lives to abortion since 1973.
- ◆ You'll be a light in a darkened world as you help put an end to abortion through prayer!
 - ◆ Pray for those in crisis situations and for our nation.
 - ◆ Bring your whole family! Rain or shine!
 - ◆ Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas and strollers are welcome!
- ◆ Signs provided proclaim "Abortion Kills Children," "Adoption the Loving Option," "Jesus Forgives & Heals," "Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation," "Abortion Hurts Women," "Life – The First Inalienable Right," "Pray to End Abortion."
 - ◆ Stand 25-30 feet apart.
- ◆ See www.LifeChain.net for more details about Life Chains in over 1600 cities and towns across the United States and Canada.



LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for 60 minutes praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.



**Please, won't you stand with us? Join our Blair County Life Chain on October 1st.
For more information, call 814-946-0681.**



2018 STUDENT ORATORY CONTESTS REGIONAL ORATORY CONTEST

Written Copy Due: February 23, 2018
Regional Competition: March 4, 2018

The Citizens Concerned for Human Life Regional Oratory Contest is open to all 9th-12th grade students in **Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.**

Students must prepare a five to seven minute pro-life talk on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research. Speeches must be from a pro-life perspective and delivered as written, but need not be memorized. The student may use a podium and appropriate hand gestures but may not use props. A written copy of the speech must

be emailed by **February 23, 2018** to: **Janet Creighton, contact@webparish.com.** In the email, send the following: name, address, city, county, phone, email address, school, name of parent(s)/ guardian. Then call Jan, **814-623-1314**, to let her know that you emailed your entry.

Awards

Varsity (Grades 11 & 12) - 1st Place \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$75

Novice (Grades 9 & 10) - 1st Place \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50

All regional contestants may also be a contestant for the state competition. Being a contestant for the regional competition does not automatically enroll you in the state competition.

Pro-Life Dinner Invite—All regional contestants will be invited as our guests to the Bedford County Annual Pro-Life Dinner. The top two Varsity contestants will be invited to speak at the dinner.

PA STATE VIDEO/ORATORY CONTEST PENNSYLVANIA PRO-LIFE FEDERATION

Submit video/written entry by April 16, 2018

Speak Up for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves!

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation contest is open to high school juniors and seniors; a Novice Contest will be held for high school freshmen and sophomores. Students must write and give an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. Students must video record the speech and submit the video and written speech to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation by **April 16, 2018.** Cash prizes will be awarded. In addition, **the first-place winner of the Senior High Oratory Contest will receive an expense-paid trip for the National Oratory Contest** at the National Right to Life/Teens for Life Convention, June 28-30, 2018, in Overland Park, Kansas. For complete contest rules: www.paprolife.org or call **717-541-0034.**

2018 STUDENT ESSAY CONTESTS PENNSYLVANIA STATE ESSAY CONTEST

Written Copy Due: March 12, 2018

The 2018 Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation "Be a Voice for the Voiceless" Essay Contest is open to PA students in grades 7-12. Students must write a pro-life essay about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. There is a 500-word limit for essays submitted by students in grades 7-9 and a 750-word limit for students in grades 10-12. Each essay must include a cover page with the student's name, home address, home phone number, name of school (or the fact that the student is homeschooled) and grade. Winning essays will receive cash prizes. Deadline for entries is **March 12, 2018.** Essays can be e-mailed to lifelines@paprolife.org or mailed to the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation; 4800 Jonestown Rd., Suite 102; Harrisburg, PA 17109.



NY High Court Rejects Assisted Suicide Right

By Wesley J. Smith

There is no constitutional right to assisted suicide, so the courts keep ruling.

The Supreme Court of the United States rejected an assisted suicide *Roe v. Wade*, 9-0, in 1997. State supreme courts have rejected state constitutional claims in Florida, New Mexico and elsewhere. In fact, no high court in the U.S. has ever ruled that there is a constitutional right to assisted suicide (including Montana, which issued a muddled ruling that assisted suicide did not violate public policy).

Now, New York can be added to the growing list.

First, a little background: The zealots at Compassion and Choices—formerly the more honestly named Hemlock Society—want the courts to pretend that when a doctor prescribes a lethal overdose for use in self-killing, it isn't really suicide. This blatant word engineering attempt is rejected outright by the court.

From the *Meyers v. Schneiderman* decision:

Suicide has long been understood as "the act or an instance of taking one's own life voluntarily and intentionally."...Black's Law Dictionary defines "suicide" as "[t]he act of taking one's own life," and "assisted suicide" as "[t]he intentional act of providing a person with the medical means or the medical knowledge to commit suicide" (10th ed. 2014). Aid-in-dying falls squarely within the ordinary meaning of the statutory prohibition on assisting a suicide.

Duh.

The court proceeds to reject the constitutional claim to assisted suicide by a terminally ill person on several grounds. Here's one that bears noting: Refusing medical treatment when death is the likely outcome is not synonymous with a "right to die."

Contrary to plaintiffs' claim, we have never defined one's right to choose among medical treatments, or to refuse life-saving medical treatments, to include any broader "right to die" or still broader right to obtain assistance from another to end one's life...

We have consistently adopted the well-established distinction between refusing life-sustaining treatment and assisted suicide. The right to refuse medical intervention is at least partially rooted in notions of bodily integrity, as the right to refuse treatment is a consequence of a person's right to resist unwanted bodily invasions.

Yup.

The court also notes that there is a rational basis for the state's law against assisted suicide:

As to the right asserted here, the State pursues a legitimate purpose in guarding against the risks of mistake and abuse. The State may rationally seek to prevent the distribution of prescriptions for lethal dosages of drugs that could, upon fulfillment, be deliberately or accidentally misused.

This is very good. The last thing this country needs are courts imposing, extra-democratically, a radical social revolution against venerable values and mores, particu-

larly in the face of hundreds of legalization rejections by voters and legislatures throughout the United States over the last twenty years.

One more point: When a social movement feels the need to hide its actual agenda beneath a veneer of gooey euphemisms ("aid in dying," "death with dignity," etc.) there is something very subversive about the agenda.

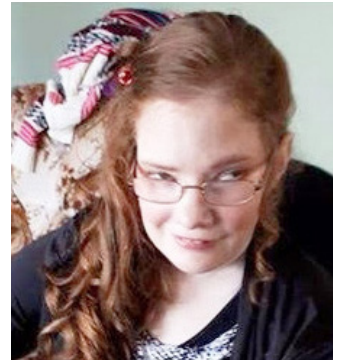
Wesley's column appears at National Review Online.

—National Right to Life News Today, September 7, 2017

Doctors pressured this woman to die by euthanasia—one year later she is better

By Alex Schadenberg

In July, Candice Lewis's mother, Sheila Elson, received a disappointing response from the local Newfoundland hospital after sending an official complaint that she'd been pressured by doctors to approve assisted suicide for her daughter, Candice, who has multiple disabilities.



As reported in a story written by Stephen Roberts, "Elson calls Labrador-Grenfell Health's response to her letter a joke."

However, a follow up article from Roberts published in the *Northern Pen* newspaper on August 28, explained that Candice is doing much better after receiving excellent care from a hospital in St. John's Newfoundland.

The article reported:

According to her mom, Sheila Elson, Candice hasn't been having any seizures, is now able to feed herself, walk with assistance, use her iPad, and is more alert, energetic and communicative since her stay in St. John's.

"She's back to about where she was five or six years ago," says Elson.

After a two-week hospital stay, Candice, along with her mother, walked her sister Glennis down the aisle at her wedding in Dildo in August. She's been able to do all this despite the fact that in 2016, doctors suggested that Candice might be dying.

In September of that year, a doctor at Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital in St. Anthony had also suggested to Elson that physician-assisted death could be an option for Candice.

What is satisfying her these days is her daughter's health. Since returning to St. Anthony earlier this month, Candice hasn't required a visit to the hospital. Elson believes Candice's condition has improved because she is now on fewer medications.

Legalizing Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) gives physicians the right in law to lethally inject their patients. The doctors' attitudes toward Candice's "quality of life" were based on negative and discriminatory attitudes towards the lives of people with disabilities. The doctors thought that Candice was better off dead.

Alex Schadenberg is Executive Director, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. —National Right to Life News Today, September 1, 2017

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President Donald Trump

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Legislative Update

With state legislators resuming work in Harrisburg, I wanted to give you an update on the status of pro-life and anti-life legislation in Pennsylvania:

1.) State Senator Scott Martin is introducing a **resolution which would condemn the abortion of babies who have been diagnosed with Down syndrome**. We are urging people to contact their state Senators and encourage them to support the resolution. The resolution does not have a bill number yet. A news conference promoting the legislation will have been held the morning of September 19th at the State Capitol.

2.) **Senate Bill 3** is under consideration in the PA House Health Committee. The bill, which passed the Senate earlier this year, would ban brutal dismemberment abortions and change the abortion limit in PA from six months' to five months' gestation to reflect advances in medical technology.

3.) **House Bill 111**, which would take away our right to vote for appellate judges in Pennsylvania, could be voted on by the full PA House at any time. As a result, we are encouraging people to call their state representatives and tell the lawmakers they don't want their right to vote for judges to be taken away by a so-called "merit selection" system.

4.) We are also encouraging people to contact their state Senators and urge them to oppose **Senate Bill 238**, which would eliminate our long-standing ban on assisted suicide in Pennsylvania.

—Maria V. Gallagher, Legislative Director
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation, www.paprolife.org

Pro-abortion EMILY's List targets pro-life PA lawmakers

By Maria Gallagher

Fresh from a stinging defeat in 2016, the pro-abortion political action committee known as EMILY's List is setting its sights on Pennsylvania next year. Pennsylvania was among the blue-turned-red states that helped propel pro-life President Donald Trump to the White House last year. The Keystone state is also home to strong pro-life majorities in the state House of Representatives and the state Senate.

Now EMILY's List is telling the news media it is working to flip both PA chambers to pro-abortion Democratic control. A published report says PA is being targeted by the pro-abortion group because of common sense legislation such as a bill which would ban the brutal practice of dismemberment abortion, in which a living preborn baby is torn limb by limb from a mother's womb. A statewide poll showed the ban actually has the support of a majority of Pennsylvanians, with the support higher among women than men.

Emily's List is also upset by bills which would defund the abortion giant Planned Parenthood and would allow doctors to exercise their conscience rights to avoid participation in anti-life activities. An official with Emily's List is quoted as saying, "That is why EMILY's List is recruiting an historic number of strong, pro-choice Democratic women leaders in 2018 to hold these Republican legislators accountable for their out-of-touch agenda and defeat them next year."

The nerve of those pro-life Pennsylvania lawmakers—trying to protect conscience rights and trying to bar funding from an organization headed by people who casually discuss the harvesting of baby body parts while eating salad and sipping wine! It should also be noted that a number of those pro-life legislators are women—strong women who believe in empowering other women to help them make life-affirming decisions for themselves and their families.

Of course, Emily's List and Planned Parenthood have a reliable ally in pro-abortion Governor Tom Wolf, who has vowed to veto any pro-life legislation that crosses his desk. The Governor also holds the distinction of once having served as a volunteer escort at a Planned Parenthood abortion facility.

Research indicates that, among voters who select abortion as their number-one issue, the pro-life side has an electoral advantage. That proved to be the case in Pennsylvania in 2016. There is little to indicate it won't be the case again in 2018.

—National Right to Life News Today, September 15, 2017

Years Later, Hollywood Legends Haunted by Their Abortions

By Maria Gallagher

Hollywood is filled with the sad aftermath of abortion, and it has been for a long time.

That was one of the surprising lessons I learned in the book "Oasis: Conversion Stories of Hollywood Legends" by Mary Claire Kendall.

I had picked up the book in order to discover more about the faith journeys of the cinematic stars of yesteryear. But what I came to realize is that many of these celebrities had been touched by the trauma and tragedy of abortion.

For instance, after screen legend Gary Cooper began an extra-marital affair with the actress Patricia Neal, Neal became pregnant. The book notes that the affair took an emotional toll on Cooper, his family, and Neal, "complicated by Neal's pregnancy, which, to her later regret, she terminated."

The actress Mary Astor, who starred in the movie "Meet Me in St. Louis" had an adulterous affair with a Fox executive and became pregnant. She chose to have an abortion and later remarked that the place she went to "committed such crimes under the fiction of 'therapeutic treatment'" and gave her a "new burden of guilt to carry." Years of painful substance abuse followed.

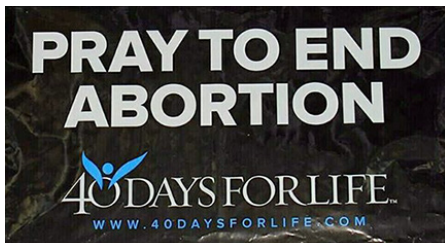
After the beautiful actress Lana Turner filed for divorce, she discovered she was pregnant. Her agent reminded her about MGM's policy against having a baby while unmarried. She reluctantly had an abortion, and she later wrote that the abortionist nearly killed her as he took the life of her baby. During a subsequent pregnancy, she was pressured again to have an abortion because of career considerations.

In the end, these post-abortive women found hope and healing—but it was a long, painful path to travel. The sadness associated with these abortions lingered for an extended period of time. No amount of Hollywood acclaim could fill the holes in hearts that had been cracked open by the loss of their aborted children.

Reading the pages of the book, I wondered what the lives of these legendary actresses would have been like if they had only received support for carrying their lost children to term. How much heartache they could have avoided, how their lives could have been enriched, by these precious babies. They could have been the true stars of these actresses' lives.

Hollywood has been promoting abortion for decades. But the American experience has taught us that abortion is not the solution to the problems that women face—problems such as lack of family support, coercion and difficult relationships. Abortion only creates additional problems that cannot be resolved in the length of a Hollywood movie. It can take years—decades even—for a woman to come to grips with the impact of her decision to abort her child. And that is a story few screenwriters are likely to tell.

—PA ProLife Federation, September 6, 2017



13,305 Lives Saved Since 2007!

The head of the 40 Days for Life pro-life prayer campaign says that 89 abortion clinics have closed after pro-life advocates have spent weeks praying outside of them. But that's not the only good news.

As Shawn Carney tells *LifeNews.com*, the largest-ever 40 Days for Life prayer campaign is starting in just a matter of weeks. Already the campaign plans to reach over 375 cities around the world with a prayerful, peaceful pro-life presence outside of local abortion facilities.

"[Recently], we announced great news about three more Planned Parenthood abortion centers closing their doors. This makes a total of 89 abortion facilities that have shut down permanently following a 40 Days for Life campaign," he said. "Praise God for these victories! These closures represent the growing trend that the abortion industry is struggling at the local level like never before." Carney says the kickoff to the next 40 Days for Life campaign is weeks away and he says the prayer campaign is an excellent way for frustrated pro-life people to take concrete action.

"There is frustration right now as the struggle to defund Planned Parenthood of their \$500 million in taxpayer money continues. But you can defund Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers—immediately—where you live. When we witness the love and joy of Christ and a mom turns away, we defund the abortion industry. And more than that ... we offer hope to a woman and life to her baby who came so close to losing it," Carney continued.

"May God bless you and your family as we prepare for a record-sized campaign from **September 27 to November 5.**"
(See www.40daysforlife.com for locations in Pennsylvania.)

—LifeNews, September 1, 2017

Planned Parenthood Killed Over 1 Million Babies in Abortions Worldwide in 2016

By Jonathan Abbamonte

One of the world's most extensive and prolific abortion networks has passed a tragic milestone. In 2016, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) reported aborting, for the first time in its history, more than one million unborn baby boys and girls in a single year.

The final death toll for 2016: 1,094,679 children lost through surgical or chemical abortion—roughly the equivalent of the population of Austin, Texas.

IPPF also performed an additional 3.6 million abortion-related activities including abortion counseling, consultation and diagnostic procedures.

IPPF, a London-based international pro-abortion organization, maintains a vast network of affiliates (Member Associations) across the globe that actively perform and/or advocate for abortion, "comprehensive sex education," abortifacient methods of contraception, and other "sexual and reproductive rights." IPPF maintains 142 Member Associations worldwide and is currently active in 171 countries. Planned Parenthood Federation of America is IPPF's Member Association in the United States.

Founded in 1952 by the International Committee on Planned Parenthood (ICPP), an international alliance of pro-birth control organizations founded and largely financed by Margaret Sanger, IPPF has long promoted abortion and contraception.

Annually, IPPF pours millions of dollars into its Member Associations and other like-minded organizations which operate on the country-level to provide abortion and/or contraceptive services and to lobby for ever more lenient abortion laws. In 2016, IPPF awarded \$68 million in grants to its Member Associations and other organizations, according to IPPF's Financial Statements 2016.

IPPF claims that its network has contributed to over 950 legislative or policy changes worldwide since 2005. Legislative and policy changes supported by IPPF have covered a wide range of issues including weakening or eliminating laws in defense of life, imposing explicit "comprehensive sex education" curriculum in schools, attacking parental notification and minimum-age consent laws and ensuring public funding for abortifacient methods of contraception.

On January 23, 2017, President Donald Trump signed a presidential memorandum reinstating the Mexico City Policy. A longstanding fixture of U.S. foreign policy under pro-life administrations, the Mexico City Policy prevents certain U.S. Government funding for foreign nongovernmental organizations that perform or promote abortion as a method of family planning.

Under the Mexico City Policy, IPPF and other foreign pro-abortion organizations that refuse to stop performing or funding abortion are largely ineligible to receive funding from the U.S. Government via global health assistance. (The newly reinstated Mexico City Policy has been renamed the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy.)

Other countries have attempted to bridge the funding gap left by the Mexico City Policy for pro-abortion organizations. A campaign spearheaded by the Government of the Netherlands called "She Decides" has raised over \$300 million for abortion, contraception and sexual and reproductive health programs.

Most recipients of U.S. Government global health assistance are required to abide by the Mexico City Policy. According to U.S. Government senior administration officials, the new policy applies to more than \$8.8 billion in U.S. foreign aid.

Jonathan Abbamonte writes for the Population Research Institute.

—Excerpted from LifeNews.com, September 6, 2017

Every PreBorn Baby Should Receive Royal Treatment

By Maria Gallagher



It was a question that popped up at computer terminals, coffee tables, and cafes—Did you hear that Kate is expecting another baby? Kate, of course, is the Duchess of Cambridge who, with her husband William, is now anticipating a third royal heir. Kate's other children, George and Charlotte, have graced many a magazine cover, so it is only fitting that their little brother or sister is being greeted with enthusiasm fit for a king or queen.

There is something about a pending royal birth that makes hearts dance like the cast of Downton Abbey at a birthday party. The anticipation brings excitement, fascination and joy.

Shouldn't all preborn babies be greeted this way? Despite the circumstances of their conception, their socio-economic status or their health concerns? Each baby is a prince or princess whose greatest need, at any given moment,

is love. Each demands our respect, and their parents, whether that status has been achieved by birth or by adoption, deserve our support. For each child is a priceless gift, worth more than all the wealth Buckingham Palace has to offer.

The more we recognize this—in our public policies, our court decisions and our laws--the more joyful our nation will be.

*—PA ProLife Federation, September 11, 2017
gallagher@paprolife.org*

CITIZENS
CONCERNED



BLAIR COUNTY
CHAPTER

Pro-Life Christmas Cards 2017

Celebrate the birth of Our Lord and the Giver of Life, and at the same time, help our fundraising efforts. Your purchase supports the pro-life work of the Blair County Chapter of Citizens Concerned for Human Life.

To place an order or for more information, call **Pat 814-946-0681** or **Dorothy 814-505-2886**.



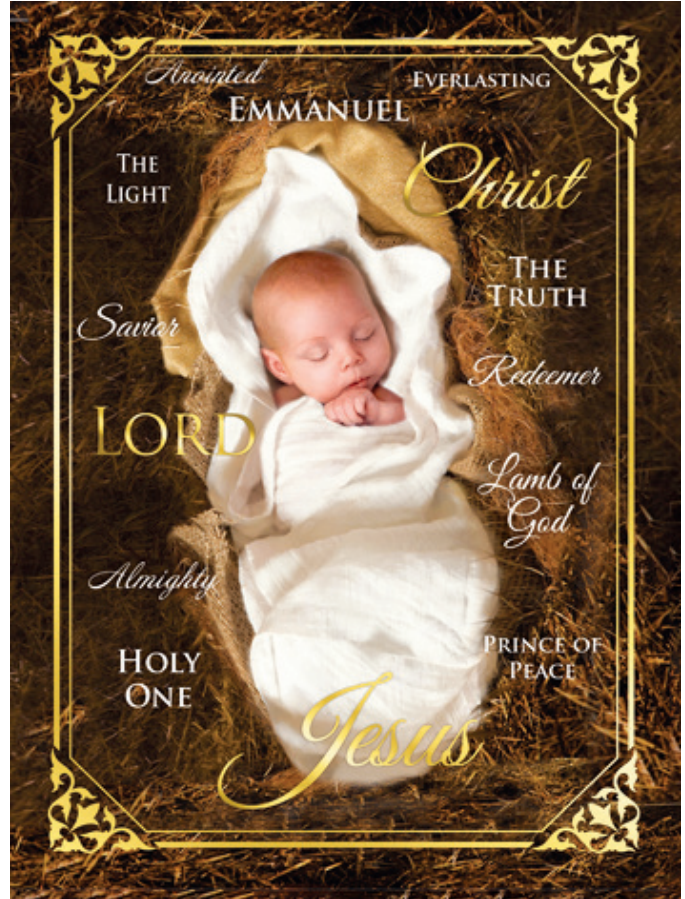
Madonna and Child

This selection captures the emotions of love and tenderness as Mary gently holds her Son, Jesus. The card is in brilliant colors with flat gold foil and gold-ink accents. White envelopes are included.

Actual size: 4^{1/2}" x 6^{1/8}" - \$7.00 per pkg. of 11

Verse:

*May the love of the Infant Jesus
in Whom all Life begins
be yours this Christmas and always*



Emmanuel, Prince of Peace

This card portrays the Infant Jesus in the manger, surrounded by His Holy Name and Titles. The card is in brilliant colors with flat gold-foil and gold-ink accents. White envelopes are included.

Actual size: 4^{1/2}" x 6^{1/8}" - \$7.00 per pkg. of 11

Verse:

*May all the blessings
of the Divine Savior
be yours at Christmas
and in the New Year*

*A limited number of card designs from previous years are also available.
All cards made in the U.S.A. ©Barton Cotton, All Rights Reserved.*

Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Blair County Chapter, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; blair@centralpaprolife.org

Inside an Abortion Survivor's Head on Her 40th Birthday

This ran on the blog of Melissa Ohden. Melissa is the survivor of a "failed" saline abortion in 1977. She speaks all over the world including at many National Right to Life Conventions.

By Melissa Ohden

If you've ever wondered what goes through an abortion survivor's head on their birthday, I'll give you a sneak peek into mine on my 40th birthday.

12:33 am: I'm woken up by our 3-year-old. I glance at the clock, realizing it's now the 29th. I say a prayer, thanking God for being alive and continue this prayer multiple times throughout the day.

6:30 am: I think about how I was delivered around this time in the final step of the abortion procedure. I'm saddened and horrified thinking about it, while at the same time, so thankful to have been born alive.

These thoughts automatically trigger my questions about who all was present at the time or shortly thereafter and the effect all of this might have had on them. My grandmother was there. Nurses were there. I worry about them. Yes, even my grandmother. Did this haunt them throughout their lives? When did the abortionist first find out the abortion had "failed"? When did he begin to panic? Was I his first botched abortion survivor?

I reflect on the panic that so many must have felt. This wasn't supposed to happen. And then to be told I needed to be left to die. To hear me, to see me, this suffering newborn gasping for breath. My heart breaks for them. I wonder, do they realize today is the 40th anniversary of that fateful day?

9:00 am: I wonder how long I had been in the NICU forty years ago today at this time. I wonder if my grandmother kept checking on me. I wonder if she was allowed anywhere near me? I wonder what that was like for her to have me there at the hospital she worked at, trained nurses at, for the next twenty one days. Was she ever thankful I was actually born alive, or was she simply angry that the abortion failed, and I was there like a black eye for all to see—the child born to her daughter out of wedlock?

1:00 pm: I can't remember what time my medical records state that the neonatologist visited me, but I think of him today. "Approximately 31 weeks gestation," he wrote in my records. I'm sure he assessed and directed care for many premature infants. I wonder what he thought of my circumstances?

3:00: The words "it is finished" keep rolling around in my head. Of course, it reminds me of Jesus on Good Friday, as He hung from the Cross, but the words have been echoing in my head all day. After four days of the abortion procedure, today was meant to be the day that it was finished. Except, much like Good Friday, God was not done. What looks like the end, could very well be just the beginning. Thank God, truly!

5:00 pm: I think about the nurses again. I wonder if that nurse who whisked me off to the NICU because she couldn't just leave me there to die is still alive today? If she remembers this day? If she does, I sure hope she knows how thankful I am for her.

And the NICU nurses... I think about them again, too. I wonder who's been tending to me throughout

the day. Have they been praying over me already? I bet they have, based on the conversation I was blessed to have with one of them earlier this year.

I wonder what the buzz is around the hospital, knowing it was so associated with my grandmother. Did people know 40 years ago around this time about what happened? I know how quickly news and gossip travel, and this one would have hit like a lightning bolt. What was this like for my grandmother? Did it anger her more that the abortion had failed and created all of this? Did it make her even angrier at my birthmother? What was it like for her continue to be there at the hospital in the days and weeks even after I was gone? That place had to have been forever changed for her.

8:30: As I'm rocking our overly tired three-year-old to sleep (so thankful that she asked me to do this), I think about my grandmother once again. If her plans had succeeded, I wouldn't be doing this right now. I wouldn't have become a mother. I wouldn't have lived. My daughters wouldn't have lived. And I choke back the tears that threaten to fall and wake Ava.

I wonder if she ever would have accepted me. I wonder if she ever could have loved me, despite how she worked so hard that I not live. I feel sorry for her that she never got to meet her great-granddaughters and see the impact of the decisions she made about my life and therefore, theirs. Maybe it would have affected her in a positive way? Maybe she could have recognized the damage she caused?

As I rock Ava, I think about how 40 years ago at this time, I was motherless. And I hate thinking about this. Taken from my birthmother, without her knowing I was alive, and not yet having my adoptive mom's arms to hold me, I was alone. I know the nurses provided me great care and love, but I was motherless. And my heart aches for my newborn self.

And for my birthmother. I wonder if she was still in the hospital, with me being just down the hallway, unbeknownst to her?



Melissa Ohden

continued on page 10

Pro-life activist fined \$200k after exposing Planned Parenthood for selling baby parts

By Rev. Mark Hodges

The lead investigator into Planned Parenthood's illegal sales of aborted babies body parts has been fined nearly \$200,000 by "a federal judge who helped open and run a Planned Parenthood clinic."

U.S. District Court Judge William Orrick fined David Daleiden and two of his attorneys for releasing undercover videos exposing Planned Parenthood's illegal activities, such as performing modified partial-birth abortions on viable babies. Orrick had forbidden the latest release of investigative videos, claiming they threaten the safety of abortion industry workers—a move Daleiden described as an unconstitutional gag order against free speech and a free press.

Orrick held Daleiden and lawyers Steve Cooley and Brentford Ferreira in contempt when a three-minute compilation video was posted on the internet. The video showed, among other things, Planned Parenthood officials conceding that abortion is murder.

"Let's just give them all the violence. It's a person. It's killing. Let's just give them all that," Planned Parenthood of Michigan's Lisa Harris is caught saying.

Cooley and Ferreira explained that they thought they weren't bound by the injunction because the video was already a part of the public record.

"Judge Orrick's contempt sanctions are an unconscionable attack on (Daleiden's) right to defend himself," the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) Facebook page commented.

"A federal judge who helped open and run a Planned Parenthood clinic is now holding David Daleiden and his attorneys in contempt just for trying to defend him with the same videos the (California) Attorney General is using in his prosecution."

The judge set the fine as compensation to the National Abortion Federation for lawyers, travel, employee time and "security costs."

"In setting this amount, I have considered the magnitude of 'the harm threatened by continued contumacy, and the probable effectiveness of any suggested sanction in bringing about the result desired,'" Orrick wrote.

"The decision is another step forward for us," Crystal Strait of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California said. She added that the decision allows "Planned Parenthood to focus on providing preventive and reproductive health care to close to one million Californians every year."

The CMP made a motion to disqualify Orrick for bias. Orrick is on the board of the National Abortion Federation, member of "Good Samaritan Family Resource Center," and his wife posted a picture of her husband with comments praising Planned Parenthood and denigrating the CMP.

An attorney for Cooley and Ferreira said they are appealing the contempt fine.



California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed 15 felony counts of illegal recording against Daleiden. The pro-life investigator countered that Becerra, like Judge Orrick, is biased. He noted that Becerra received large campaign donations from Planned Parenthood.

Similar charges against Daleiden in Texas were dismissed in 2016.

The CMP has filed an appeal and hopes the U.S. Supreme Court will hear their case.

Daleiden and fellow pro-life investigator Sandra Merritt secretly recorded conversations at abortion industry conventions to investigate criminal activity in the sale of aborted human body parts for profit.

The 2015 videos showed Planned Parenthood officials eager to make profits off the sale of baby parts, talking about illegally modifying abortion procedures to obtain "intact" babies, and the delay of procedures to obtain "fresh" specimens to pay for luxury cars for Planned Parenthood staff.

A firestorm of controversy erupted across the nation, and Congress began hearings in an attempt to defund the abortion giant.

Fetal tissue middleman StemExpress stopped dealing with Planned Parenthood once the CMP videos were made public.

After the National Abortion Federation successfully obtained an injunction banning the undercover videos, CMP filed an appeal. CMP reasoned that they used "standard (methods) for investigative reporting" and their "goal was not to obtain money, property, goods, or services but to gather information about illegal and unethical practices."

For the Ninth Circuit appeal, 14 Attorneys General filed a "friend of the court" brief arguing that as law enforcement they should be privy to any videos that show possible criminal activity.

Additionally, the U.S. Reporters' Committee filed a brief arguing that banning the CMP videos "has the potential to significantly affect the First Amendment rights of the news media and the public at large."

Planned Parenthood's only defense against the damning CMP videos was to deny wrongdoing and accuse the CMP of deceptively editing the videos. But several analyses con-

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Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation 2017 Celebrate Life Banquet

Featuring **Ryan Bomberger**
Author, Adoptee and
Founder of The Radiance Foundation

Thursday, September 28
Hotel Radisson Harrisburg

1150 Camp Hill Bypass
Camp Hill, PA
Banquet Tickets \$50 each
Check-in begins 5 p.m.
Doors open 5:30 p.m.
Banquet begins 6 p.m.



Ryan Bomberger's biological mother was raped yet chose to continue the pregnancy and he was adopted as a baby and grew up in a loving family. Ryan is an Emmy Award-winning Creative Professional who founded The Radiance Foundation. He is a broadcast media designer, columnist, and author of the book, *Not Equal: Civil Rights Gone Wrong*. Ryan is involved in national efforts to expose and defund Planned Parenthood by illuminating this human rights injustice. He has worked with organizations around the world to illuminate the truth about human dignity and was the keynote speaker at the 2017 March for Life Conference.

For registration information:
www.paprolife.org or call: 717-541-0034

Abortion Survivor

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9:00: I'll be honest. I've really done nothing today for myself. It's been a busy day. My own goal was to sit down and drink a cup of coffee while reading a magazine. I contemplate sitting down to at least read the magazine, but decide instead to tuck our nine-year-old, (who doesn't want or need tucked in that often these days), into bed.

I even brush her hair as I help her settle in. I reflect on how this simple thing, brushing her hair, is a gift. She may not allow me to do this much longer, and just being with her, caring for her, is a gift.

And as I settle her in, the final thoughts of the day settle in. It is finished. There's those words again. The horrors of that day still haunt me and my birthmother, as well as many extended family members and likely the medical professionals who cared for me, maybe even the abortionist, but the evils of that day are finished.

I'm alive. I've been united with my birthmom and many members of both sides of my biological family, despite all of the efforts to keep us apart. The secrets of what was done to me, of what was done to my birthmother, are secrets no more.

That cycle of secrecy, lies and suffering has ended. The fear that has silenced so many, including me over the years, has been overcome.

And I return again to my prayers of Thanksgiving.

—National Right to Life News Today, August 30, 2017

Pro-life leaders blast U.S. Congress for failing to defund Planned Parenthood

Pro-life leaders wrote a letter to members of Congress [recently], rebuking them for not keeping their campaign promises and imploring them to defund Planned Parenthood once and for all. Six leading women and four influential men among the nation's top pro-life activists reminded legislators that America gave them their positions in part because they promised to defund the nation's largest and most lucrative abortion conglomerate.

"This Republican Pro-life Congress made a promise to American voters to stop taxpayer funding for the largest abortion chain in the nation, Planned Parenthood," the pro-lifers stated. "It is now well past time to deliver on that promise."

"Rhetoric must be translated into law," they leaders wrote, and the Republican-controlled House and Senate "must" stop giving half a billion tax dollars to the abortion behemoth. "Doing anything less brings into question whether this Congress can truly be called the pro-life Congress."

They pointed out that Congress "has failed" to "redirect ...Planned Parenthood funding to alternative providers." They emphasize that their goal is not to take away tax dollars from women's healthcare but to subsidize genuine healthcare by non-aborting clinics, which outnumber abortion businesses 20-to-1.

The letter noted that Planned Parenthood, despite their half a billion dollars in tax subsidies annually, does 35 percent of the nation's abortions, yet only one percent of HIV tests and Pap smears.

"Planned Parenthood self-reports taking the innocent lives of 328,348 unborn children last year," the abortion foes reported. "That is 900 lives snuffed out before their first breath every single day by a single taxpayer-funded abortion chain. This tragedy is compounded every day that passes with (your) inaction," they went on. "The time for results is now. Lives depend on your leadership and action." —*Excerpted from LifeSiteNews.com, September 7, 2017*

Pro-Life Activist Fined

continued from page 9

cluded the videos were not deceptively edited. Even Fusion GPS, a Democrat-sponsored, Planned Parenthood-hired research firm, confirmed that comments recorded were spoken by the subjects depicted and admitted that their best "analysis did not reveal widespread evidence of substantive video manipulation."

—LifeSiteNews, September 6, 2017

Regional CCHL Chapter News

The Bedford Chapter will sponsor **Life Chain** on October 8 this year instead of October 1. October 8 coincides with the first Sunday of Bedford's Fall Foliage two weekends which provide us with more exposure to the many people who attend. Registration is 2:00-2:30 p.m. at Bedford Elementary School, Business Route 220, between downtown Bedford and the Turnpike entrance. For more information, call 623-6887.

From the President's Desk



Planned Parenthood: "We firmly believe that every person has the right to live."

The above headline from the September 7th report on *Life*

Site News caught my attention and the attention of many others.

Did Cecile Richards, the President of Planned Parenthood really mean what she said?

Was she talking about babies in the womb?

...those with 46 chromosomes containing the future imprint of who they are to become,

...those with a heart beat after three weeks of development,

...those with toes and fingers, who recognize their mother's voice before they are born,

...those who yawn and move inside their mommy's tummy and kick so their little brothers or sisters can start to get to know them,

...those who swallow, smile, urinate and suck their thumb to help prepare them for life outside the womb,

...those who listen to stories and music and enjoy both,

...those who can suffer damage from smoking and the consumption of alcohol,

...those who let out a "Silent Scream" and recoil at the intrusion into their inner sanctum of the abortionist's instrument of destruction?

Was she speaking of these?

Of course not, but let's say a prayer that someday she might have a conversion of heart similar to that which Abby Johnson, Dr. Bernard Nathanson and many others experienced and become a defender of all lives.

(Much of the detail regarding life in the womb came from the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children's website.)

—R. Thomas Forr, Jr., President
Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life

Donations have been made—

In Honor of:

Dr. Pinaki Das

Given by: The Levri Family

In Memory of:

Dorothy Young

Given by: Fred A. Petrunak

Donations may be made in memory of loved ones who have died or to honor someone special, and near and dear to you, for a particular occasion, or just because...


Blair County *Life News* will publish your name as well as the names of those you are honoring and/or remembering. Send donations to **Blair Co. CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601. Thank you!**

Crisis Numbers

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing a crisis pregnancy, help is available. Contact: **Precious Life, Inc., 1716 12th Ave., Altoona; 814-944-2669** or **Every Life Matters (ELM), 221 Hospital Dr., Ste. 5, Tyrone; 814-650-7899** or **Real Alternatives, Inc., 1-888-LIFE-AID; www.realalternatives.org.**

For post-abortion counseling, contact **Project Rachel, 814-884-8000; www.ProjectRachel@dioceseaj.org** or **Rachel's Vineyard, 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463); www.rachelsvineyard.org/**

Family Life, Diocese of Altoona/Johnstown, offers pastoral guidance, call **814-886-5551; email: familylife@dioceseaj.org.**



Blair County Life News
Blair County Chapter
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.
Fall 2017; Vol. 9, No. 4
President & Publisher: R. Thomas Forr, Jr.
Secretary/Editor: Marge Bradley
Legislative/Political Education Director: Beth Britz
Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-denominational organization dedicated to educating and upholding the truth about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem cell research. CCHL is composed of chapters made up of persons of all ages, sexes, races and cultural backgrounds. CCHL, Inc. is an affiliate of the PA Pro-Life Federation and the National Right to Life Committee. Donations are not tax-deductible.
2715 Third St., Altoona, PA 16601; phone: 814-946-0681
email: blair@centralpaprolife.org
website: www.blaircountyprolife.com

Blair County Chapter, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, Inc.

Blair County CCHL believes that human life has value in all stages of development from conception until natural death, and is committed to speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves — the unborn, the aged, the incapacitated. Won't you please help in our struggle to preserve respect for human life? A contribution brings you our quarterly newsletter.

_____ Annual Membership \$10.00 _____ In Memory of: _____

_____ Student/Senior Member \$ 5.00 _____ In Honor of: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Please complete this form and return with your donation to: **Blair County Chapter, CCHL, 2715 Third St., Altoona PA 16601.** For more information, call **814-946-0681.** Sorry, donations are not tax-deductible.



BLAIR COUNTY CHAPTER
CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR HUMAN LIFE, INC.
2715 Third St.
Altoona, PA 16601

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***Citizens Concerned for Human Life
Cambria/Somerset Chapter***
Invites you to its

2017 Annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, October 28 ♦ 9:00 a.m.

Immaculate Conception Church

Grove Church Hall ♦ New Germany, PA

Admission is \$10 ♦ All are welcome to attend!

For reservations and ticket information, call 814-472-8584

***The keynote speaker, Dr. Brian Kopp, will address
the prevalent issue of euthanasia in the United States***



Brian J. Kopp, DPM practiced Podiatry in Johnstown PA for 25 years, and has served as Chairman of the Pro-Life Healthcare Alliance, a program of Human Life Alliance, dedicated to fighting euthanasia and physician assisted suicide and other threats to those at risk. He has served as Faith Community Liaison for Catholic Hospice of Greensburg, PA, assisting in the spread of pro-life hospice care to the surrounding areas.

Dr. Kopp has written articles on a range of subjects, primarily the culture of life, medicine and ethics, that have been published in periodicals including the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, *New Oxford Review*, *The Wanderer National Catholic Weekly*, and websites including OnePeterFive and World Net Daily. He is a Board Member of The Polycarp Research Institute. Dr. Kopp has been a guest on several episodes of EWTN Catholic Radio's *The Good Fight* program, as well as Radio Maria's *Armed for Battle* program, addressing issues including end of life care and euthanasia, the Affordable Care Act and the HHS mandate.

A series of strokes in 2015 and 2016 forced him to take a hiatus from medicine and active pro-life work, but he is just beginning to re-enter the battle.

Benefits the life-saving work of Citizens Concerned for Human Life of Cambria/Somerset
P. O. Box 1588, Johnstown, PA 15907
814-472-8584
www.prolifecambriasomerset.org