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LIFE

NEWSLETTER OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE OF NEW MEXICO

ANOTHER LIFE SAVER FOR LIFE HAS LEFT OUR RANKS

Margaret Rau was our original "computer" for the state office. Before we installed computers in 1985, Margaret would keep records of our membership on paper. She would give a weekly account of the members and donors and their current addresses. From these records, mailings were done. It was a very time-consuming job, and she did it very well. Once the computers replaced this activity that Margaret did out of her home, she continued to financially support The Right to Life Committee of New Mexico. She was called home at the age of 93, and her efforts left the world and our organization better off. Rest in Peace, Margaret.

THE RESCUING HUG

This is a picture from the article called "The Rescuing Hug". The article is about the first week of life of a set of twins, Kyle and Brielle.

Apparently, each was in their respective incubators, and one was not expected to live. A hospital nurse fought against the hospital rules and placed the babies in one incubator. When they were placed together, the healthier of the two threw her arm over her sister in an endearing embrace. The smaller baby's heart rate stabilized and her temperature rose to normal.

They both survived and are thriving. In fact, the two girls went home to share the same crib and still snuggle. The twins are happy kindergartners now. The hospital changed their policy after they saw the effect of putting the two girls together, and now bed multiples together.

Let us not forget to embrace those whom we love, and never underestimate the power of a hug. P.S. This is an example of what one person can do to save lives, change policies, and make life good for others. We must know we too have that power, if only we use it and become involved.



STEM CELL LEGISLATION

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act (S.5), which would mandate federal funding of the type that requires the killing of human embryos, passed by a vote of 247-176 on June 7, 2007. This had 210 Democrats and 37 Republicans in support of the bill. It was opposed by 16 Democrats and 160 Republicans.

ON JUNE 20, 2007 PRESIDENT BUSH VETOED THE BILL. Neither house of Congress has voted to override the veto.

Congresswoman Wilson and Congressman Udall voted for S. 5. Congressman Pearce voted against.



BORN TO RUN NOVEMBER 3, 2007

Up to this point we have been receiving donations from those who wish to be sponsors for **Born To Run**. Anyone can still be a sponsor, although those who give a larger donation will not have their name on the runner brochure that is enclosed in this newsletter.

NOW IT IS TIME FOR THE RUNNERS!!!

Whether you are a runner, walker, or stroller pusher, there is a place for you at this tax-deductible fundraising event for The Right to Life Educational Trust Fund. You can gather additional funds by getting people to support you with a financial pledge for your run be it one mile, five miles, or more (you can run the route more times). So now we need the people, YOU! Whatever your age or experience, please join us. Fill out the necessary information on the enclosed brochure and return it along with the registration fee to the address listed on the form.

Be a sponsor, be a runner, be a walker, be a supporter of a runner/walker, there is room for each and every one of us to be involved. The results will be a fun time at a pleasant location in beautiful fall weather for a good cause. Please help us in these efforts.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Recently YouTube made a video showing interviews with sidewalk protestors asking them what the penalty should be for a woman obtaining an illegal abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

This was discussed on KOB radio by Jim Villanucci and his cohort Richard Eads. They were surprised that people didn't have an answer to this question, or a few answered that there would not be any penalty.

Jim also had the executive director of NARAL or the equivalent of it in New Mexico who gave all kinds of misinformation.

I took this opportunity to call in and got on immediately. I first clarified the misinformation that was provided that *Roe v. Wade* abortions were legal only in the first three months of pregnancy. I referred to *Doe vs. Bolton* and its definition of "health" that was incorporated into *Roe*, thus making abortion legal for all nine months because the definition is so broad it covers every conceivable reason for having an abortion.

I then went on to explain that women were never put in jail for having an illegal abortion. The real perpetrator is the doctor who fully understands that he or she is killing (previously put as murdering before abortion was made legal) another human being and is putting the woman at great risk both physically and mentally.

The question that should have been asked is what will happen to the abortionist if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned?

(continued on page 4)

POLITICAL PROFILES

Starting in this edition of Viva Life, presidential candidates will be profiled (if they are still in the race). One from each party is randomly picked until all are covered on their views on pro-life issues. We hope this gives a clear picture as to each candidate's positions.

BARACH OBAMA

In an interview with CBN News, Obama claimed he has a strong Christian belief system. Despite the fact that he has a 0% pro-life voting record during his time as an Illinois senator, he maintained in the interview that he has "always been clear that my Christian faith has motivated me for 20 years, and I'm not ashamed to talk about it or the role that faith should play in our American life."

Obama appears to believe that Christians who are pro-life have it wrong on abortion. This includes the Catholic Church, Southern Baptists, and many other churches.

"Faith got hijacked, partly because of the so-called leaders of the Christian Right, all too eager to exploit what divides us," he told CBN news in the interview.

When he got into politics, he explained, "My intention was to contrast the heated partisan rhetoric of a distinct minority of Christian leaders with the vast majority of Evangelical Christians – conservatives included – who believe that hate has no place in our politics."

"When you have pastors and television pundits who appear to explicitly coordinate with one political party," he added, "then I think you're attempting to hijack the faith of those who follow you for your own personal or political ends."

David Brody, CBN Senior National correspondent wrote an editorial about the interview he conducted. "I know there are those of you who believe his views on abortion don't line up with the Bible" he said. "He realizes that too and let's face it – he's probably not going to win over the single-issue voter. But as we discussed before, there are some Evangelicals and social conservatives who have a broader view. He may win over some of these folks when he talks about a host of social issues like poverty, environmentalism, Darfur, etc." Brady observed.

Still, Brody said that if Obama wants to appeal to the majority of Christian voters who are pro-life should he be the nominee in 2008, he will have to learn to attract them without condemning them. "When he talks critically about those 'so-called leaders of the Christian Right,' it's important to understand that those leaders share the same values with millions of Evangelicals," Brody concluded.

Obama will have a hard time attracting pro-life voters, especially if he faces a pro-life Republican next November. While in the Senate, he has voted to spend taxpayer dollars to fund groups that perform or promote abortions in other countries and voted twice against parental notification and consent. He also voted to force taxpayers to pay for embryonic stem cell research, which involves the destruction of human life.

Obama has received a 100% rating from Illinois Planned Parenthood when he was a state legislator. In that position he voted against the Illinois Born Alive Infants Protection Act, which requires proper medical care and treatment for babies who are born alive after an abortion. He voted against a measure that would have prohibited taxpayer funding of abortion.

MIKE HUCKABEE

Mike Huckabee is a former Arkansas governor. He is known to conservative voters as a pro-life advocate but said at a campaign stop in Iowa that his pro-life views extend beyond abortion concerns.

"I think sometimes pro-life people have been criticized for being just anti-abortion, and it's a legitimate criticism," the former Baptist pastor told the newspaper. "What happens to people after they're born is no less important."

Huckabee said the same concerns that prompt him to give high regard to the welfare of unborn children motivate him to be concerned about issues such as education, crime, and protecting the environment.

Those values also compel him to place a high priority on the lives of senior citizens. "I'm equally concerned about people whether they're 8 or 80," he told the newspaper.

Huckabee has been strongly pro-life and signed bills that seek to limit the number of abortions. In 2005 Huckabee signed a bill into law that would require abortion facilities to obtain the approval of a parent or a legal guardian before an abortion can be scheduled for a teenager. In 2003 Huckabee also signed into law a bill authorizing the sale of Choose Life license plates. Twenty-five dollars from the sale of the plate goes to the Choose Life Adoption Assistance Program Fund, monies that are distributed to organizations that help pregnant women and promote adoption, such as pregnancy centers or adoption agencies.

In March 2003 Huckabee signed a ban on human cloning. Under the Arkansas law, human cloning would be considered a felony, punishable with prison sentences as long as ten years, and fines as high as \$10,000.

REPUBLICAN ACTIVISTS SAY THEY WILL KEEP GOP PRO-LIFE ON ABORTION

Hundreds of prominent GOP activists met in Washington early this August for their annual summer meeting. With a presidential race and a battle over the party's platform coming up next year, several of the partisans said they would work overtime to keep the Republican Party's official pro-life stance.

Delegates to the Republican convention in Minnesota next year will reconsider the party's 93-page platform that opposes abortion and supports President Bush's policy against sending tax dollars to fund embryonic stem cell research.

The current GOP position on abortion advocates a Human Life Amendment to the Constitution that would afford legal protection to unborn children throughout pregnancy.

"As a country, we must keep our pledge to the first guarantee of the Declaration of Independence. That is why we say the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life, which cannot be infringed," the platform reads. The Republican Party has supported a pro-life amendment to the Constitution since 1976, the first convention after the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.



BOOK REVIEW by Ed Wyckoff

Periodically, when space allows it, RTLNCM will be providing a book review on the various pro-life books available. We hope this encourages you to read and become a better informed pro-life supporter.

HAND OF GOD by Bernard Nathanson

Dr. Bernard Nathanson possesses a singular, if not unique, perspective on the abortion question. As one of the nation's first legal abortion doctors who subsequently

(continued on page 6)

UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE

by Dauneen Dolce, Editor

In the July issue of Viva Life we began addressing universal healthcare with an article on Single Payer-Healthcare and why we oppose it. In reviewing countries that have socialized medicine (Single Payer-Healthcare), the following are reasons why we oppose this type of healthcare:

1. There are long waits and reduced quality.
2. There is a funding crisis where this type of insurance exists (i.e. England and Canada)
3. It brings new inequalities.
4. It creates labor strikes and personnel shortages.
5. Such healthcare produces outdated facilities and medical equipment.
6. Healthcare becomes politicized, and there is a loss of liberty.
7. There is an underinvestment of healthcare
8. The wealthy get faster access to services
9. There is a lack of doctors to care for patients.

For the complete analysis that was given in July, go to www.info@rtlInm and click on the July Viva Life. You might wish to view a video on YouTube that gives a first-hand example of how medical care is handled in Canada. http://www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=X_Rf42zNI9U



SUMMARY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH INSURANCE

In 2006 Massachusetts enacted legislation to reorganize both the health insurance markets and a large portion of its healthcare subsidy system. Its approach differs from most previous state health reform efforts.

What is different?

1. This legislation created two new aspects in health care delivery. First it required all residents to obtain healthcare, and second it imposed assessments on employers not offering coverage.

2. A large part of the state's private insurance system has been reorganized into a "single market" structure with uniform rules and a central "clearinghouse" for administering coverage.

3. There has been a conversion of substantial public spending from a provider-subsidy system into a consumer-subsidy system for obtaining private coverage.

4. The state's health policy now has the objective of meeting the needs and interest of individuals as opposed to those of providers, employers, insurers, or government.

5. Insurance now provides workers with personal and portable coverage while retaining the rating, underwriting, and tax advantages for insurers or government.

6. The public-spending provisions redirect existing hospital subsidies for uncompensated care into premium-support payments to help low-income, uninsured workers and their dependents obtain the same private coverage.

7. The result of these changes is that the Massachusetts legislature may be seen as a shift from a "product-focused" to a more "system-focused" approach to health reform and coverage expansion.

8. This creates the state health insurance exchange, which acts as a "market organizer" and "payment aggregator" through which individuals and employer groups can obtain coverage. However, this is different from previous pool-arrangement adopted or association health plans. A state health insurance exchange is deliberately designed to eliminate long-standing regulatory distinction between separate individual and groups, particularly small-group insurance submarkets.

9. By creating this "single market," a state of health insurance exchange operates according to a new regulatory design that blends selected features from the existing individual and group markets. This would make the state of health insurance exchange work like a stock exchange or a farmers market; it would be a clearinghouse. It is neither a direct purchase nor a product regulator.

10. The mandate that imposes assessments on employers that do not offer coverage is given an out that previous "play or pay proposals" had. All an employer need do to avoid penalties is enroll its workers in the Connector and offer them a Section 125 plan. This relieves employers of the burden of obtaining and administering stand alone group coverage, while the use of Section 125 plans reduces to a mere accounting exercise the division of premium payments between employers and workers.

11. The Connector is designed to make coverage easier to obtain and to keep. It also expands and makes more transparent the financial incentives for obtaining coverage through increased tax sheltering of premium payments and the offer of premium support to low-income working families. This should induce more individuals to take up coverage, including those who are with superior risks.

12. Massachusetts included a provision requiring employers joining the Connector to also establish Section 125 Cafeteria plans. Under Section 125 of the federal tax code, workers may elect "voluntary salary reductions" to pay on a pretax basis for one or more of the benefits offered by the employer, including the worker's share of premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance. Thus, with a Section 125 plan also in place, 100% of the premiums paid by or for anyone participating in the exchange through an employer group becomes tax free. The advantage to the state is it indirectly taps another source of federal subsidy for more of its residents. In addition, such a requirement essentially makes moot the question of whether or not employers participating in the exchange should be required to contribute some amount toward coverage. Since employer's coverage contributions are simply a subset of total compensation, as long as both employer and employee payments receive the same tax treatment, it becomes irrelevant how employers and their workers decide to divide those payments for accounting purposes. The state's interest in encouraging individuals to purchase coverage is satisfied by the fact that workers declining the offered coverage would forgo a substantial tax benefit.

NOTE: This is a summary, not a critique. Once an analysis of how the plan is working is found, we will try to provide that information. This still does involve government and mandates and penalties, which concerns many people. However, it may reduce restrictions of service and may be funded in a manner that provides good health care.

This will need careful scrutiny to make sure there is no "rationing" within the policies being offered.

The truth of the matter is that would be decided by the people in each state through their state legislatures. They make the laws, and the people will need to relate their wishes to their lawmaker on the issue.

The Right to Life Committee of New Mexico will not promote a law to "punish" the mother. We will promote one that will have the abortionist charged and tried for murder. Those who council, aid, or abet should also pay a penalty.

Most women entering an abortion clinic don't want to be there, as reported by the Alan Guttenmacher Institute, the research arm for Planned Parenthood. Most women don't know the alternatives unless a state has passed a law requiring they be provided with some information if they ask for it. They are pressured by boyfriend, family, friends, husbands, and society in general. The vast majority of these women will have regrets later plus emotional scaring along with physical problems.

For those who have multiple abortions using it as a birth control method, they have many other problems aside from the pregnancies. These numbers are low, but they too have the problems of health and mental anguish at some point in their lives.

We in the pro-life movement DO care about women. We aren't here to punish them but to help them make better decisions. Those in the abortion industry who support it, those who make referrals, and those involved in providing the abortion are there for the money and much is being made from it.

We seek solutions for the babies, the women, the families, and for our society. This does not bring us money, but it does work toward having a better world with respect for life and love of mankind.

WINS AND LOSSES IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On June 21, 2007 the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly voted to undermine an important pro-life policy adopted by President Bush known as the "Mexico City Policy." The policy prevents organizations that actively promote abortion as a birth control method of family planning from receiving family-planning grants under the U.S. Foreign Aid program.

This policy was first established under President Reagan, and President Bush has supported its purpose. The pro-abortion legislators, such as Rep. Nita Lowey, used the Fiscal Year 2008 State-Foreign Operations Bill (H.R. 2764) to undermine this policy. Rep. Lowey offered language that would require the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide overseas organizations that promote abortions with certain U.S.-funded contraceptive supplies.

Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) offered an amendment to remove the pro-abortion language. This amendment failed in a roll-call vote 205-218 with those for: 180 Republicans and 25 Democrats. Against the amendment were 12 Republicans and 206 Democrats. H.R. 2764 was then passed.

The Senate has not yet acted on its version of the bill. President Bush has warned he will veto bills that weaken pro-life policies.

Congresswoman Wilson and Congressman Pearce voted for the pro-life amendment. Congressman Tom Udall voted against it.

In 2002 President Bush authorized a change in the SCHIP program that allowed states to assist pregnant women and their babies, and many states such as California, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Texas, Wisconsin, and Michigan have done so.

Pro-life people were thankful because the program provides help to vulnerable pregnant women who might have an abortion because of financial pressures.

But abortion advocacy groups decried the move because they don't see the unborn child as worthy of coverage under a federal program that provides healthcare insurance for children after birth.

With control of Congress, pro-abortion lawmakers have revised the program and dropped the Unborn Child Rule in favor of language saying that pregnant women can be covered but not their babies.

Sen. Wayne Allard, a Colorado Republican, attempted to include unborn children again, but this amendment was defeated by a 50-49 mostly party-line vote. Republicans voted in favor of the Allard amendment, including pro-life Democrats Bob Casey and Ben Nelson. Democrats Mary Landrieu and lawmakers John Kerry and Ted Kennedy voted for it and were joined by Republican Senators Susan Collins, Olympia Snow, Lisa Murkowski, Arlen Specter, and Ted Stevens.

STEM CELL RESEARCH – A TRUE STORY

The Right to Life Committee of New Mexico opposes embryonic stem cell research because it requires the killing of an embryo. We DO support adult stem cell research that covers the use of our own stem cells from our blood, teeth, hair, and our organs. Other cells come from placentas, umbilical cords, and amniotic fluid. Still more cells can come from other people and from animals such as pigs.

The following story was written by Liz Townsend, a writer for National RTL News, in the July 2007 issue. It gives positive proof of what can be done and shouldn't be done. No cell from embryos has been able to be used in a human being. But that is not true for adult stem cells.

As President Bush discussed his veto of an embryonic stem cell research bill and announced initiatives to encourage ethical research June 20, he was joined by people saved by adult stem cell treatments. These survivors know firsthand that stem cells obtained without harming human beings can and do successfully treat many diseases.

The veto was Bush's second for an embryonic stem cell research bill sent to him by Congress. "If Congress really cares about patients instead of patents and pleasing lobbying groups," survivor Carol Franz told NRL News, "it would focus on adult stem cell research. There is no reason to destroy life. No embryos had to die for me to get my life back again."

Franz suffered from multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer) when she received her first adult stem cell transplant in May 2003. The cancer attacked her bones so severely, they "looked like someone used them for target practice," Franz said.

Once chemotherapy destroyed her cancerous immune system, doctors at Syracuse Upstate Medical Hospital gave Franz cells obtained from her own blood. The cells traveled through her bloodstream into her bone marrow establishing a new, cancer-free immune system.

Franz remained free from the myeloma for three

(continued on page 5)

Stem Cell Research - A True Story...

(continued from pg 4)

years. When one of her frequent blood tests showed signs that the cancer might be returning, she received another treatment with adult stem cells in 2006.

Since the treatments, Franz said that she has been called to spread the truth about stem cells – that adult stem cells are saving thousands of lives right now and that human embryos do not have to die in order to advance medical science. As part of her mission, she spoke at the National Right to Life Convention and at other gatherings, has written many letters to newspapers, and has started a web site, www.carolfranz.com.

"The Lord allowed me to be an advocate and to speak up to help people to save their lives with adult stem cells," she said.

Franz wears t-shirts that proclaim, "Adult Stem Cell Survivor," and has given away many others that state "Adult Stem Cells Saved My Friend's Life." "I'm bringing one of the shirts to the White House to give to President Bush," she said.

Bush invited Franz to stand next to him during his speech. "I'm also up here with Carol Franz. She has whipped cancer twice by using adult stem cells," Bush said. "In other words, adult stem cells have saved her life. She's a determined woman who believes strongly that there are different alternatives available to use stem cells other than those which are created as the result of destruction of human life."

Other adult stem cell survivors also attended the speech in the East Room of the White House, including Doug Rice. When doctors told him in November 2006 that he would die of congestive heart failure in three months, Rice decided to travel to Thailand for an adult stem cell transplant.

In a procedure known as TheraVita, blood is drawn from the patient, shipped to a laboratory in Israel, and processed to obtain heart stem cells, and then sent back to Bangkok where the cells are injected back into the patient. The procedure is not yet available in the United States, although trials are currently underway.

Despite the enormous cost of a long plane ride, Rice made the trip in January 2006. Before the treatment, Rice's ejection fraction – which measures how well the heart pumps blood – stood at 11% (the normal rate is over 50%). Three weeks after he received the heart stem cells, his ejection fraction increased to 28%, Rice told NRL News. The fraction is now 40%, and the cells continue to grow in his body.

"I use to sleep sitting up and couldn't walk more than 60 feet," he said. "But now I walk all the time."

In addition, as the stem cells spread throughout his blood stream, they have improved the function of other organs. "My diabetes is getting better," Rice said. "My kidneys were in bad shape, but not anymore."

Rice's experience with adult stem cells has also inspired him to act, traveling to speak to various groups, and establishing a web site, www.douglastrice.org. He approaches the issue from a scientific basis. "Embryonic stem cells don't work, have never worked, and may never work," he said. "But adult stem cells work today. If I depended on embryonic stem cells, I'd be dead today."

Rice pointed to the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who have already been treated with adult stem cells. But because the media focuses so much on embryonic stem cells, many people who could be saved by adult stem cells are not even aware that such treatments are available.

"I care about over 500,000 people who die each year of heart failure." Rice said. He lost his sister, who couldn't afford to go all the way to Bangkok, and his mother to the disease. "We need to get people treated, and adult stem cells are what work."



PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN OHIO

The Ohio First District Court of Appeals ruled on August 24, 2007 against holding Planned Parenthood accountable for its pattern and practice of failing to report statutory rape and sexual abuse cases.

The victim is a minor impregnated when she was 14 by her 21-year old soccer coach and then taken to Planned Parenthood in Cincinnati where she received an abortion without her parent's notification or consent. She is appealing to the Ohio Supreme Court.

This decision reverses former Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Patrick Dinklacker's ruling in June 2006 to release patient records. Records are needed to determine whether Planned Parenthood has a pattern of cover-up regarding abortions performed on minors in cases of statutory rape and incest.

Planned Parenthood has denied access to records stating patient privacy reasons. However, no request for records seeks patient ID information – only information on the circumstances of abortions given to minors.

There are increasing reports nationwide of Planned Parenthood's pattern and practice of failing to report statutory rape and sexual abuse cases.

In 2002 Life Dynamics did a three year study of over 800 abortion centers in the U.S. A woman posing as a minor impregnated by an adult called Planned Parenthood centers, gave them this information, and in all cases was assisted in some way to be able to obtain an abortion. (<http://www.plannedparenthoodexposed.com>)

In April of this year, enforcement and Child Protection Services (CPS) in Kalamazoo, Michigan declined to investigate at least 10 cases of possible child-rape unreported by a local Planned Parenthood. Michigan has similar reporting requirements as Ohio.

In May a counselor at the UCLA Student Health Center advised a pregnant student to have an abortion. The woman in this case, a pro-life student posing as a pregnant teenager, says Planned Parenthood advised her to disguise the statutory rape. California also has similar reporting requirements as Ohio.

In August a kidnapping and sexual abuse case occurred in Connecticut where a 15-year-old teen was impregnated by a 41-year old man then taken to Planned Parenthood for an abortion. Planned Parenthood did not report the possibility of sexual abuse, yet according to police reports, DNA taken from the dead unborn child matches the man's. Connecticut has similar reporting requirements as Ohio.

Article from Pro-Life News, Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati, Aug. 28, 2007. See LifeNews.com for more information.

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BOOK REVIEW... (continued from pg. 2)

changed his mind, he has taken up residence on each side of the abortion divide. Furthermore, as a leading voice on both sides of the controversy – a founding father of NARAL on the one hand and the producer of the arresting film *The Silent Scream* on the other – he has pondered deeply all aspects of the abortion debate.

When Dr. Nathanson speaks of the medical profession, his insights are particularly trenchant. For instance, his lament for the emancipation of the Hippocratic Oath – whose 1948 rendering even included the statement “I will retain the utmost respect for Human Life from conception...” – comes from a physician who spoke those very words at his own graduation ceremony from McGill Medical School in 1949. And here is his chilling portrait of the abortionist (himself included): “icy, conscienceless, remorselessly perverting his medical skills, defiling his ethical charge, and helping, nay seducing with his clinical calm, his oh-so-comforting professionalism, women into the act that comes closest to self-slaughter.”

The recipe for *Hand of God* consists roughly of one part autobiography, two parts religious conversion experience, and three parts anti-abortion manifesto. The interweaving of these viewpoints adds drama and humanity to the narrative. Taken as a whole, *The Hand of God* is brutally honest and an unsparing account of Dr. Nathanson's own journey into and out of the “fulsome nihilism” that characterizes the abortion industry.

Dr. Nathanson's own trajectory into this world was launched in a Jewish household dominated by an autocratic physician-father, whose “contempt for ethical relations with women, indeed for women themselves” was seared into the boy's own mind and influenced, he believes, his later attitudes toward abortion. But Dr. Nathanson's introductory excursion into the satanic world of abortion was up close and personal when he impregnated a woman he was dating while a medical student. Their decision to

abort the baby was a wrenching one. There were, to be sure, no ethical qualms in making this choice but rather a sorrowful premonition that the procedure – handedly performed by a local doctor in Montreal – would end their relationship. (It did.)

When Dr. Nathanson completed his obstetrics and gynecological training, he again impregnated a woman, and this time found himself in the macabre position of offering to perform the abortion himself. But even in this situation a moral emptiness pervaded. “What is it like to terminate the life of your own child? It was aseptic and clinical,” he insists. “I swear to you that I had no feelings aside from the sense of accomplishment, the pride of expertise.”

He went on to abort the children of friends, colleagues, and others, but, he claims, “There was never a shred of self-doubt, never a wavering of the supreme confidence that I was doing a major service to those who sought me out.” He even reassured his patients that there would be no subsequent ill effects to the procedure, a stance he now derides as “massive hubris” given the later medical studies suggesting just the opposite.

Upon entering private practice in New York during the late 1950's, Dr. Nathanson came to understand that the majority of late-night patients streaming into his department at Women's Hospital were victims of botched illegal abortions. He felt compassion for the poorer patients, who sometimes died from such bungled care, while his wealthier patients could be referred to Puerto Rico and (after 1968) Great Britain for more competent treatment.

The book goes on to tell about his involvement with establishing NARAL and the desire to change the abortion laws. The innovation of ultrasound started him on the path of conversion on abortion and other pro-life issues.

Hand of God is available for purchase through www.amazon.com or www.bn.com (Barnes & Noble website).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I understand that the Right To Life Committee of New Mexico (RTLNCNM) is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to the right to life of all innocent human beings from fertilization to natural death; that this organization takes a stand only on those issues that are directly related to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

I support the goals of RTLNCNM, including a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and hereby make application for membership (renewal) as follows:

- Individual — \$20.00
- Corporate — \$40.00 - for business organizations
- Family — \$30.00
- NRL News Subscription (\$5.00 with paid membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Wish to: (check one)

- Register to vote
- Re-register

I am a registered: (check one)

- Republican Democrat
- Other

Signature Required

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