

# Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G • Troy, Michigan 48084

August 2014

*"An educational group for pro-life nurses"*

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact MNFL at 248-816-8489 or email [info@mnfl.org](mailto:info@mnfl.org).

## Michigan Nurses For Life 2014 Conference

# Procuring Organs "Over My Dead Body?"

Saturday, September 27, 2014  
8 AM – 12:30 PM

### "Brain Death, Organ Donation & Ethics"



Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D.  
Fr. Tad holds degrees in Philosophy, Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology and Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University. He is currently Director of Education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

### "Margaret Sanger: Her Legacy of Social Darwinism and Eugenics"



Mary Burkett, RN, MS, CNS, ANE-BC  
Mary is currently teaching nursing research and working on leadership courses at Capitol University, Columbus, Ohio. She plans to pursue a teaching career post-doctoral education, teaching research and leadership courses.

### "Donate Life! Give and Let Live"



Cyndy Kirschbaum, RN, BSN, CPTC  
Cyndy has been a donation coordinator with Gift of Life Michigan for the past ten years. Prior to working in the donation and transplantation field, she worked for 12 years in Intensive and Cardiac Units in the Metro Detroit Area.

Franco  
Communications Center  
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland  
44405 Woodward Ave.  
Pontiac, MI 48341  
248-858-3000

Contact Hours For Nurses:  
A Certificate of Attendance for 3 hours will be awarded.

Admission: \$30  
Students: \$15

Includes:  
Informational Packet  
Continental Breakfast

Registration / Information:  
Call: 248-816-8489  
Email: [info@mnfl.org](mailto:info@mnfl.org)

Register online:  
[mnfl.eventbrite.com](http://mnfl.eventbrite.com)

Printed registration form available online at:  
[www.mnfl.org](http://www.mnfl.org)

Please register no later than Monday, September 22, 2014

Presented by:  
Michigan Nurses For Life  
in cooperation with  
Educational Center For Life

# Michigan Nurses



## For Life

### Our Purpose:

...To raise the consciousness of the nursing profession to protect all human life from conception until natural death

...To form an educated core of nurses who can speak for their profession by acting as a community resource for life issues

...To promote public education and awareness about life issues on both ends of the spectrum, from abortion to euthanasia

...To uphold and defend human life in all stages and conditions of development

#### Michigan Nurses For Life

Coventry Place - Suite G  
1637 W. Big Beaver Road  
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

248-816-8489 - Office  
Email: [info@mnfl.org](mailto:info@mnfl.org)  
Web Site: [www.mnfl.org](http://www.mnfl.org)

#### Hours:

Monday through Friday  
10 AM - 3 PM

#### Officers:

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#### Editor and Layout:

Marge Bradley

## From the President

Dear Colleagues,

When I started my nursing career, there was a growing moral question that revolved around "pulling the plug" on comatose, non-responsive patients. There were really no universal standards in place and that decision was made pretty much on a case-by-case basis. I saw doctors, nurses and family members agonize over what to do, second guessing themselves, never being sure what action to take.



Then came the Harvard Criteria for death. We now had a standard against which to determine our patient's condition and an acceptable plan to follow.

But did we really? What we accepted in the '60s and '70s began to feel inadequate as medical knowledge and technology advanced. With the advent of successful organ transplants, things became even more complicated. The board members of MNFL did not fully realize how complicated things have become until we decided to offer our conference on brain death and organ transplants!

We have criteria in place, but how closely are they followed in each facility? Is our desire to do good by transplanting viable, healthy organs driving a trend to hasty declarations of death? When has our patient truly expired and how do we explain that to family members who see continued respirations and active ECG tracings on the monitors at their loved one's bedside.

These are some of the issues we will explore at our September conference. Join us! Love Life!

—Diane Trombley, President

### The Need for Uniform Criteria to Declare Death by Neurological Criteria

by Wesley J. Smith



at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and colleagues report in the medical journal *Neurology*.

Greer's team requested guidelines from hospitals named as having the top 50 neurology programs in the nation in 2006 by *US News and World Report*. Only 42 percent of the hospitals required that a neurologist or neurosurgeon perform the examination for brain death, results showed. Among the 71 percent that stipulated multiple examinations, the time required between examinations varied from 1 to 24 hours.

Furthermore, the authors point out, "It was surprising to find that the cause of brain death was not stipulated in a large number (37 percent) of guidelines."

This is a very serious matter. The trust of the American people depends on getting this most fundamental matter right.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/human-exceptionalism/327705/need-uniform-criteria-declare-death-neurological-criteria>

I have written several posts about the need to develop uniform standards of declaring death by neurological criteria—popularly known as "brain death." Now, there's some more information out about that problem.

Guidelines for determining brain death differ substantially between major U.S. hospitals, a national survey shows, and few stick to parameters established by the American Academy of Neurology.

"There are substantial differences in practice that may have consequences for the determination of death and initiation of transplant procedures," Dr. David M. Greer,

## The Supreme Court Hands Down Hobby Lobby Decision

On June 30, 2014, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of Hobby Lobby owners regarding insurance payment for abortion-causing drugs.

Writing for the 5-4 majority, Justice Samuel Alito handed down the decision for the high court, saying, "The Supreme Court holds government can't require closely held corporations with religious owners to provide contraception coverage."

The court ruled that the contraception mandate violated the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act, a 1993 law and it held that the mandate "substantially burdens the exercise of religion" and that HHS didn't use the "least restrictive means" to promote this government interest, tests required by RFRA.

"HHS's contraception mandate substantially burdens the exercise of religion," the decision reads, adding that the "decision concerns only the contraceptive mandate and should not be understood to mean all insurance mandates." The opinion said the "plain terms of Religious Freedom Restoration Act" are "perfectly clear."

"If the owners comply with the HHS mandate, they believe they will be facilitating abortions, and if they do not comply, they will pay a very heavy price—as much as \$1.3 million per day, or about \$475 million per year, in the case of one of the companies," the opinion reads. "If these consequences do not amount to a substantial burden, it is hard to see what would."

"There are other ways in which Congress or HHS could equally ensure that every woman has cost-free access to the particular contraceptives at issue here and, indeed, to all FDA-approved contraceptives," the opinion concluded. —Excerpted from LifeNews.com, June 30, 2014

## Women Leaders Blast Radical Senate Abortion Agenda

*Sen. Blumenthal's "Women's Health Protection Act" is Dangerous for Women and Children*

*Editor's note: This is a truly PRO-ABORTION measure. It would literally undo all pro-life laws protecting women and their babies passed over the last 20 years. Be sure to let your elected officials know how you feel about it.*

On July 15, 2014, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony concerning S.1696, the "Women's Health Protection Act of 2013," introduced by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT). SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser condemned the bill, which would override nearly all federal and state laws limiting abortion, including third-trimester bans on abortion, limits on abortion after five months of pregnancy, and laws against sex-selection abortion.

"Majority Leader Reid earns the label 'pro-abortion.' Not only will the Senate vote to force religious Americans to pay for the abortion drugs of others, the bill under consideration would invalidate hundreds of pro-life, pro-woman laws. The effect? "This would enshrine abortion on demand up until birth," said Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List.

"Rather than promoting a fringe abortion agenda, Majority Leader Reid ought to allow a hearing on the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act—an initiative actually supported by the majority of Americans. Voters have a choice: taxpayer-financed abortion on demand until birth or a common ground 5-month Pain-Capable bill. I think we know who wins that one."

Forty women legislators from across the nation, including members of the SBA List's National Pro-life Women's Caucus, have also sent a letter to Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy and Senator Chuck Grassley registering their opposition to the legislation. S.1696 would undo many of the laws these women have worked to pass in their home states.

The coalition wrote: "...we are profoundly alarmed by Congressional consideration of an extreme and unwarranted measure like S.1696. At one fell stroke this legislation would undo decades' worth of commonsense legislation that has passed muster with the people of our state, their elected representatives, and our courts. This radical bill will expose women and their unborn children to an ungovernable regime of abortion until the time of birth."

On July 14, 2014, the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the education and research arm of the SBA List, released a paper examining the profound impact the legislation would have on existing federal and state laws. The full text of the paper can be found online at <http://www.lozierinstitute.org/blumenthal/>

*The Susan B. Anthony List and its Political Action Committees, the SBA List Candidate Fund and Women Speak Out PAC, are dedicated to pursuing policies and electing candidates who will reduce and ultimately end abortion. To that end, the SBA List emphasizes the education, promotion, mobilization, and election of pro-life women. The SBA List is a network of more than 365,000 pro-life Americans nationwide. <http://www.sba-list.org/newsroom/press-releases/women-leaders-blast-radical-senate-abortion-agenda>*

# “Save The Storks” Launch Mobile Crisis Pregnancy Centers

The baby-killing abortion industry has been shrinking in America over the past few years, but until it has been completely driven into extinction, numerous pro-life ministries will continue to fight to save the lives of the precious unborn. A new and upcoming pro-life ministry has taken a novel approach to reach as many women as possible in an effort to prevent them from murdering their unborn children.

Save the Storks, started by Founder and President Joe Baker, started a couple years ago in Dallas with the Stork bus and the goal of saving the lives of 1,000 babies. Their target at the time was to service five different abortion clinics in the city. The ministry is now headquartered in Colorado Springs with plans on adding as many buses to their fleet as possible.

What is a Stork bus? According to their website: “It is a medical vehicle equipped with a counseling area and a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine, which allows pregnancy centers to counsel and minister to women and show them an image of their baby. At the end of the day, pregnancy centers will own and operate these vehicles, not Save The Storks, so that women can receive the follow-up support they need.”

Save The Storks wants to partner with as many crisis pregnancy centers as possible for the following reason:

“Our desire is to provide pregnancy resource centers with Stork Buses to be an extension of their ministry. This enables them to meet with women right at the door of an abortion clinic, instead of waiting for women to

come to them. It is our partnership with pregnancy resource centers that makes us a complete ministry. Abortion-minded women who decide to keep their children often need counseling, discipleship, a loving community, food, formula, clothing, diapers, and so much more—all provided through local pregnancy centers. If your pregnancy center is interested in getting a Stork Bus, please fill out our application.”

How successful are their Stork buses? According to their website: “The result of these efforts is that 3 out of 5 women who board a Stork Bus will choose life after seeing the ultrasound images of their child.”

If your heart cries for the blood of the innocent unborn and you've never done anything to help, then perhaps Saving The Storks ministry can provide you with a way to help save some of those innocent lives. Check them out and see how you can help save the innocent from being torn apart inside their mother's wombs.

<http://lastresistance.com/4868/save-storks-launch-mobile-crisis-pregnancy-centers/>



In our system of government, we have the opportunity to vote. This is not the case in many places around the world. Our vote is supposed to elect individuals who will represent our needs and desires and effect change where needed to maintain our freedoms and protections.

Sometimes we choose wisely, sometimes we are disappointed in our choice. The fact remains that the power of our vote is a renewable resource and we get to do it again at least every two and four years. That time is here.

Pleased or not with previous choices, be sure to use that resource and **vote on August 5th and again on November 4th**. Lives depend on it.

# This Isn't What I Wanted!

by Leesa Dybay

Those were my first thoughts as I held my six-pound baby in my arms, minutes after the nurse told me, with a sympathetic look, "We think she has Down Syndrome." My head was spinning: *this couldn't happen to me*, was all I thought. With the months that followed, I then heard all the typical clichés: "You were chosen for a reason," "She's a blessing," and, "She will change your life." I didn't care to hear any of it! All I knew was that I now had this baby who didn't know how to suck a bottle and had over 10 appointments every week with multiple specialists and therapies. I was overwhelmed and mad at the world!

I look back now, and think about that innocent baby, who endured 7 surgeries, who relied on me for every breath she took and every drop she swallowed, and I realize, I would never have wanted her to be "terminated," or go to another family. In four short years, Lyla has already changed my life in every way possible. I see everything in a different light now. I don't worry about petty things and I chuckle when I hear people complain of minor things with their children. I now look back at my initial thoughts of Lyla, and I never would have thought these words would come out of my mouth, but now, *I do believe I was chosen to have this child for a reason; she is truly a blessing and she has no doubt changed my life.* I feel privileged that God chose me for this role and, at times, I feel sad for others who can't experience this family that I have. I know God had this plan for me, and Lyla has helped me realize that sometimes, we can't control everything—and we are not meant to!

Sadly, far fewer parents will now experience the life lessons a child such as Lyla will teach you. Currently, 92% prenatal diagnoses of Down Syndrome end in termination. I was shocked to hear such a number! What is even more disturbing is that, with new non-invasive testing, such as The Triple Test or Quadruple test, the diagnosis of Down Syndrome can now be detected in the first trimester. With this non-invasive testing, mothers

who reject an invasive test (such as amniocentesis, due to risks to the baby) will now be more likely to test. Thus, there will be an even higher abortion rate of Down Syndrome babies.

Down Syndrome is the first genetic condition to be definitely diagnosed with this non-invasive testing; others will follow. What is next? Will we now abort based on having a baby without our preferred gender or hair and eye color? Where will people draw the line? All over the media and in our schools, we are all forced to accept every group of people, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, etc., as it's the right thing to do. But then, why is it OK to discriminate against disabilities?

It is not our place to decide who gets to live or die. I look at society and I think: so much effort is placed on animal rights and saving wildlife from extinction. Down Syndrome will soon become extinct! And yet the majority continue to support this right to kill an unborn child.

Every baby has a right to life! It is not our decision to end any life. Lyla may be different, but in the end, we are all different. She deserves and has the same rights that were bestowed upon us. We need to embrace these differences. Are these unborn babies so different from us that they are not worth protecting?

*The Author, Leesa Dubay, is an Occupational Therapist and mother of three children, Everett 6, Lyla 4 and Violet 2. Lyla attends preschool five times a week, loves to play with her siblings, and is*

*beginning to speak in full sentences now. She was part of an awareness campaign for International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association. Leesa is very thankful for all the wonderful people who have helped her family in this journey.*

*—Birthright, Spring 2014, reprinted with permission*



**My name is Lyla, and I was worth saving.**



# Right to Life - LIFESPAN

presents: *The 40 Film*  
at the  
Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

Saturday, September 13, 2014

For more information,  
call 734-524-0162

# 40

"A must see for all people, young and old."

Registration at 8:30 AM  
Program begins at 9:00 AM

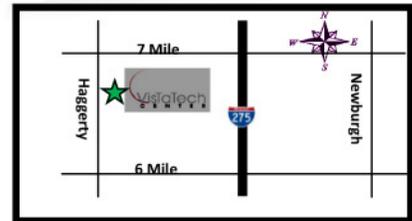
THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE OF OUR TIME

"A wake up call for America that investigates the aftermath of legalized abortion over the last 40 years."

Come and watch the compelling pro-life documentary, *The 40 Film*, on the large screen at VisTaTech Center located on Schoolcraft College campus and enjoy breakfast with fellow pro-lifers! Also, find out information about contacting your legislators and making a difference in the pro-life movement!

### Want to sit with specific people?

Send in your registration forms together or list out the names below. We will do our best to accommodate seating requests!



VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College,  
18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia, MI 48152

YES! I want to attend LIFESPAN's Pro-Life Breakfast! Reservations required by Friday, September 5th. ALL tickets will be held at the door.

\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$25 each (Current LIFESPAN Members)

**Make checks payable to: Right to Life-LIFESPAN and send to:  
32540 Schoolcraft Rd., Ste. 100, Livonia, MI 48150-4305**

\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$30 each (Non-Members, Free One Year LIFESPAN Membership Included!)

\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$15 each (students 21 or younger)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

***If you would like to sit with anyone specific***, please send in your registration forms together or list names here (we will do our best to accommodate seating requests): \_\_\_\_\_

Photos/video may be taken at this event by LIFESPAN and may be used by us on the web, in publications and/or other media.  
If you would prefer that your image not be included, please contact the Main Office: 734-524-0162.

## CEUs Online

According to their website, "Heartbeat International" works to inspire and equip Christian communities worldwide to rescue women and couples from abortion through the development of neighborhood pregnancy help centers, maternity homes, and adoption services. These ministries provide life-saving help in a truly life-changing way by assisting women who are at risk for abortion with life-affirming, practical support they need to choose life, then prepare them to parent or to place for adoption. Heartbeat serves as the leadership supply line for the "Pregnancy HELP Movement."

As part of their mission, Heartbeat International also supervises the Heartbeat International Academy which offers courses with Continuing Education Contact Hours for Nurses. An approved provider through the California Board of Registered Nursing (Provider Number CEP 16061), the academy offers courses between one and two hours of continuing education contact hours for the pro-life nurse. Each nurse seeking contact hours by this means should review his/her own state licensure requirements to be sure that online courses are acceptable. For more information on course offering, go to <http://www.heartbeatservices.org/academy/nursing-hours>.

You can also contact Susan Dammann, RN, Medical Specialist or Dawn Lunsford, E-Learning Specialist at Heartbeat International, 665 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, Suite 440, Columbus, OH 43229-7577, 888-550-7577.

This information goes with the caveat that if you want to use these CEUs for credit in your state, you will need to check beforehand to be sure that they will be recognized by your state nursing board. They are recognized in California and, from all appearances, California approvals are generally recognized.

## National Association of Pro-Life Nurses Scholarship



The 2015 National Association of Pro-Life Nurses' scholarship application will be available on their website soon at [www.nursesforlife.org](http://www.nursesforlife.org).

Any student currently enrolled in an accredited school of nursing in the fall, winter or spring of the 2013-2014 school year, including full or part-time, is eligible to participate.

Last year the scholarship was awarded to Abigail J. Scott of Dover, Arkansas. Abigail was enrolled in a local RN program. Congratulations, Abigail!

## Medicare Payment Policy

Under the current Medicare payment policy, in order for Medicare to cover skilled nursing facility (SNF) services, the beneficiary must have an **inpatient** hospital stay lasting at least three days.

Many beneficiaries are often unaware that the hospital has admitted them for **observation** rather than as an **inpatient**. Those admitted for **observation** who later receive SNF services are surprised to learn that **observation** days do not count toward the 3-day requirement and learn this only when they are billed for the services rather than the services being covered by Medicare.

—Diane Trombley, RN, BSN, President MNFL

## Michigan Nurses For Life Goes To College

This past winter MNFL was invited, as an exhibitor, to Macomb Community College's Celebrate Student Nurses Day and to Madonna University's Student Nurses Career Fair. It was a pleasure meeting a good number of young women and men as they continue their nursing classes and job search. They learned more about our professional organization's goal of protecting life from conception to natural death.

Our invitations became possible after our very successful attendance at the Michigan Nursing Students Conference in Troy in February where we were welcomed by both students and staff.

We hope to have more opportunities this coming year. It is because of YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT in dues that we are able to distribute pro-life resources and make our organization known to the medical community.

—Phyllis Sullivan, RN, BSN, Board Member, MNFL

# Michigan Nurses For Life



Coventry Place, Suite G  
1637 W. Big Beaver Rd.  
Troy, Michigan 48084

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Check out the great MNFL web site at:  
[www.mnfl.org](http://www.mnfl.org)

If you would like to add or delete a name from our mailing list,  
please contact Michigan Nurses For Life at 248-816-8489. Thanks!

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## SAVE THE DATES!

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### **RTL - LIFESPAN'S Annual Pro-Life Breakfast Saturday, September 13, 2014**

Registration: 8:30 AM – Program: 9:00 AM  
VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, Livonia  
Showing the Pro-Life documentary - The 40 Film  
For information, call: 734-524-0162

### **40 Days for Life September 24 – November 2, 2014**

To find a location near you, visit:  
[www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

### **MNFL Fall Conference Saturday, September 27, 2014**

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Pontiac  
Speakers: See front page  
For details, call: 248-816-8489

### **Life Chain Sunday October 5 – 2:00 – 3:30 PM**

Sponsored by RTL - LIFESPAN  
For a location near you,  
call: 248-816-8489 or 734-524-0162

### **Cider Walk Sunday, October 19, 2014**

Sponsored by RTL- LIFESPAN  
Time and location to be  
determined  
For information,  
call: 734-524-0162

### **General Election Tuesday, November 4, 2014**

Remember to vote!  
Your vote counts!!

### **Movement in Motion Bus Trip Youth Trip to Washington, DC, January 2015**

Sponsored by RTL- LIFESPAN  
Student Registration: Sept. 2 – Oct. 31, 2014  
or until all seats are filled  
For details, call Lynn: 248-816-1546

