

Life Matters



www.gartl.org

Newsletter of the Greater Austin Right to Life Committee

October 2001

Vol. 11 No. 4

Annual Banquet Promises Entertainment, Fellowship

by Katie Baumeister Stirton

Greater Austin Right to Life will hold its Ninth Annual Benefit Banquet, "Changing Hearts, Together," on Thursday, Oct. 18 at the recently opened Hilton Airport Hotel. This elegant venue will host both live and silent auctions, fine dining and inspiring guest speakers.

Renowned speaker Janet Folger of the Center for Reclaiming America will deliver the keynote address, focusing on an effective plan for success in the most important human rights movement of our time. Folger is known for her uplifting, inspiring speaking style and promises to be both informative

and entertaining. She will also be available to sign copies of her highly acclaimed book *True to Life*, which focuses on true stories of changed hearts and saved lives that have deeply impacted the pro-life movement in America.

Also speaking at the banquet, as well as giving the invocation, will be Austin's newly appointed Catholic bishop, the Most Rev. Gregory Aymond. Bishop Aymond will share his thoughts on the importance of the pro-life movement.

Patrons interested in sponsoring tables for eight may choose from three different categories. Individuals or groups may sponsor an Ace of Hearts

Table for \$2500, a King of Hearts Table for \$1000, or a Queen of Hearts Table for \$500. Benefactors of an Ace or King of Hearts Table are invited to a private pre-event gathering where they will meet the banquet speakers as well as other special guests.

Individual tickets may be purchased for \$50 prior to Oct. 12, and cost \$55 after that date. Clergy members receive tickets free of charge. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 477-1244.

Katie Baumeister Stirton is co-editor of Life Matters and a member of GARTL's Board of Directors. She currently stays at home with her young children.

Texas Supreme Court to Rule on Abortion Funding

by Joe Pojman, Ph.D.

In what may be the most significant abortion case it has ever considered, the Texas Supreme Court announced August 23 that it will decide whether the courts should force Texas taxpayers to fund elective abortions at the cost of millions of state tax dollars. Oral arguments are scheduled for November 28.

On December 7, 2000, the Texas Third Court of Appeals ruled that the State of Texas must fund elective abortions with state taxes. The plaintiffs who brought the suit are six Texas abortion providers – three doctors and three facilities – seeking reimbursement for performing elective abortions on Med-

icaid-eligible women. No Medicaid-eligible women are among the plaintiffs. Pro-life Attorney General John Cornyn is defending the state.

Texas' current policy limits Medicaid abortion funding to those required by the federal government under the Hyde Amendment – rare cases of rape, incest, and endangerment to the mother's life. There are fewer than two dozen such cases in Texas per year.

The abortion providers assert that they are asking only for funding for "medically necessary" abortions. While true, this is misleading. This legal term includes elective abortions, including those for birth control, gender selection, and illnesses not requiring abortion.

On August 3, 2001, Greater Austin Right to Life filed a scholarly 50-page *amicus curiae* ("friend-of-the-court") brief on behalf of 66 state senators and representatives. The brief represents the Legislators' view that the Texas Constitution permits the current funding limits. Funded in part by the Alliance Defense Fund, it was written by pro-life attorney Paul Linton with help from GARTL President Christopher Maska. For a copy of the brief and background information on the lawsuit, contact GARTL at (512) 477-1244 or gartl@gartl.org.

Joe Pojman holds a Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering and is executive director of GARTL.

Bush Demonstrates Pro-Life Commitment

by Joe Pojman, Ph.D.

After only half a year in office, President Bush has shown himself to be a strong supporter of the pro-life position. It is now worth asking, how does Bush compare to his presidential opponent, and what could we have expected under a Gore administration?



On January 22, 2001, only the second day after taking office, Bush presented these words at the March for Life, "The promises of the Declaration of Independence are not just for the strong, the independent, or the healthy. They are for everyone, including unborn children." He then announced an executive order to reinstate the Mexico City Policy, which bans overseas funds to agencies that perform or promote abortion, thereby undoing eight years of ongoing funding supported by Al Gore.

Bush stands in direct contrast to the former vice-president in many other ways as well. A few examples:

- Bush nominated staunchly pro-life Senator John Ashcroft to U.S. attorney general, thereby replacing Janet Reno, the former pro-abortion officeholder strongly supported by Gore.
- Bush has clearly articulated his opposition to physician-assisted suicide. During the presidential campaign, Gore expressed support for it.
- Bush is opposed to federal approval of the abortion pill RU 486. Gore supports FDA approval.
- Bush pledged to sign a bill to ban partial-birth abortions. Gore twice supported Clinton's vetoing of such a ban.
- Bush opposes any federal funding for the destruction of human embryos for research purposes. Gore supports federal funding for such research.
- Bush has nominated a number of pro-life notables, such as Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, to federal judicial seats. Gore campaigned on the pledge that he would require his nominees to support abortion.

To me, the difference is stark and clear. Bush has put us on the road to building a culture of life. Gore would have done his best to drive us further down the road to the culture of death.



Law students Mary Chesser and Scott Davison with some of the legislative research material they compiled during six-weeks interning with GARTL. Their internships were provided by the Blackstone Fellowship of the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund.

Volunteers Needed!

The following opportunities are available:

Graphic Artist needed for brochure design and newsletter layout. Familiarity with Pagemaker or similar program a must.

Office Worker to answer phones, stuff mailings, etc.

Jack of All Trades to run errands and do odd jobs.

Did you know that you can give to Greater Austin Right to Life through the United Way Workplace Campaign? You can, and **your contributions are tax-deductible**. All you have to do is designate us as a "write in." The campaign runs through November 22, 2001.

Ask your employer for a pledge form, or contact the United Way at www.uway-austin.org or (512) 472-6267. Fill out the form as follows:

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I want my gift to go to another United Way or the 501(c)(3) organization listed below:

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Making Sense of the Stem Cell Debate

by Christopher Maska, J.D.

Embryonic stem cell research has been the subject of much recent debate. The current controversy centers on the possible merits of two different types of stem cells – embryonic and non-embryonic ones.

One of the most common arguments for the necessity of embryonic stem cell research is that embryonic stem cells have the capability of becoming any type of cell (a claim which has yet to be borne out in research), whereas non-embryonic stem cells possess more limited capabilities. However, the National Institutes of Health state in the publication *Stem Cells: A Primer* that “it has been shown that some adult stem cells previously thought to be committed to the development of one line of specialized cells are able to develop into other specialized cells.” In other words, as yet there has been no final judgement on the capabilities of either embryonic or non-embryonic stem cells, and to say that one holds more possibilities than the other is premature.

Despite the media frenzy over embryonic stem cells, non embryonic stem cell research has to date shown far greater results at treating diseases. Non-embryonic stem cells are found in many parts of newborn and adult bodies, including umbilical cord blood, fat tissue, intestines, and bone marrow. Some research, including cutting-edge research conducted at the Texas Transplant Institute in San Antonio, has used these non-embryonic stem cells to successfully treat patients suffering from the effects of cancer and other maladies. Last session, Governor Perry signed a bill to create an umbilical cord blood bank for these purposes.

Regardless of which type of stem

cell research ultimately proves more scientifically useful, it must be remembered that the most important distinction between the two is that embryonic stem cell research, unlike non-embryonic stem cell research, involves the taking of a human life and using its body parts for science. Any type of embryonic stem cell research requires the destruction of a human embryo, a human being in the earliest stages of life. Clearly, the taking of these young lives and using their body parts for research can never be justified.

Unfortunately, many support embryonic stem cell research without limits. Before the Clinton/Gore Administration left office, rules were passed to allow federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. These rules place no significant limits on destroying human embryos. Last summer, Hollywood personalities such as Michael J. Fox, Mary Tyler Moore, and Christopher Reeve, along with much of the biotech industry, had done a thorough job of selling unrestricted stem cell research to the American public. Some polls showed Americans strongly favoring embryonic stem cell research. Worse, more than 60 senators and 200 representatives had gone on record supporting it.

Then, on August 9, President Bush gave his landmark speech outlining his policy regarding federal funding of stem cell research. His policy allows funding for research on non-embryonic stem cells to continue. He also opposed any funds whatsoever for research that involves the future killing of human embryos, which means no more killing of human embryos when federal funds are used. Research on existing embryonic stem cells can be funded.

Bush’s speech changed the political landscape. A strong majority of the

American people now supports Bush’s funding limits. Legislative initiatives in Congress to fund research that involves future killing of embryos have lost steam. The destructive Clinton/Gore policy is gone.

GARTL supports the President’s policy. While we would like to see an eventual end to all federal funding of research on embryonic stem cells, we are grateful to President Bush for standing up to Congress, the biotech lobby, and some in Hollywood who want no funding restrictions whatsoever. We support policies that save lives now and keep the door open for even greater protection in the future. In this regard Bush’s stem cell research policy is a significant victory.

This position is not new in the pro-life movement. For years, we have supported the Hyde Amendment, the policy that limits federal funding of abortion. The current version of the Hyde amendment allows funding in cases of rape and incest, but not in the vast majority of cases. While we believe that the killing of unborn children in cases of rape and incest is morally wrong and should not be funded, we recognize that the Hyde Amendment, even with this exception, has saved hundreds of thousands of lives and is worthy of our support.

The road ahead will likely be difficult for Bush and the pro-life movement, as many will fight to overturn his decision and push for federal funding for the destruction of human embryos in the name of science. It is now our task to support him as he supports us in the struggle to establish respect for life in all of its stages.

Christopher Maska is an administrative law judge and president of the GARTL Board of Directors.

Many Thanks to the Walkers, Churches, and In-Kind Donors from Walk 2001!



Top Individuals

Diamond Heart Category

John O'Sullivan \$6,510
 Msgr. Edward Jordan \$5,005

Gold Heart Category

Fr. Isidore Ndagizimana \$1,535
 Joe and Marilyn Williams \$1,530
 Carl Monnin \$1,250
 Fr. Bill Brooks \$1,212
 Maxine Shannahan \$1,204
 James Randall \$1,152
 Shirley Reeder \$1,040
 Pastor Barry Chinn \$1,030
 Fr. Len Giacalone \$1,020
 Oralia Garza \$1,015
 Fr. William Donahue \$1,001
 Pastor Mike Northen \$1,000

Silver Heart Category

Fr. Michael Mulvey \$885
 Shanna Wuensche \$855
 Rev. Bob & Belinda Gardner \$785
 Fr. Ray Clancy \$655
 Pastor Vic Schober \$605
 Ed & Elina Mullen \$590
 Fr. Don Sawyer \$570
 Msgr. Fred Bomar \$530
 Jan Galbraith \$521
 Fr. Patrick Johnson \$510
 Lesa Preece \$505
 Jayme Bennett \$505
 Muriel Bodin \$505
 Kathy Pendleton \$500

Bronze Heart Category

Yemi & Yinka Badmus \$455
 Wanda Henry \$435
 Fr. George Joseph \$435
 Ruth Shrader \$425
 Lucinda Bibee \$425
 Brandi Olin \$405
 Debbie Morse \$395
 Fr. Harold Essling \$392
 Joe and Bea Pojman \$380
 Joseph Thornton III \$375
 Rebecca & Stephen Musil \$372
 Fr. Billy Disch \$370
 Pastor Robin Wieber \$370
 Deacon Allen Desorcie \$365
 Dan Carter \$360
 Donald & Nancy Sanchez \$357
 Pastor Tony Carr \$355
 Lucy DeShay \$355
 Fr. Jim Evans \$350
 Lena Ward \$340
 Ed & Jean Cullen \$330
 Bernadette Davis \$328
 Erma & Vince Bonacci \$325
 Wes & Suanne Bierhalter \$325
 Pastor John Eastman \$320
 Denise McCaleb \$320
 Rocio Dillon \$310
 Helen & Jerome Hill \$306
 Rev. James McDonough \$299

Shawna Walsh \$295
 Mike Minuth \$295
 Thomas Klein \$295
 Jason & Vanessa Ferguson \$285
 Cynthia Balfour \$275
 The Owens Family \$270
 Victoria Aleman \$270
 Fr. Danny Garcia \$270
 Dr. Ann Marie Case \$265
 Msgr. Oliver Johnson \$265
 Jim Brannen \$265
 Maria Sanchez \$260
 Davida Stike \$260
 Frank & Roselle Nastars \$255
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 Patricia Howard \$230
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Top Groups

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 St. Louis Catholic Church \$7,490
 St. Helen's Catholic Church \$5,702
 Holy Cross Catholic Church \$3,470
 Shoreline Christian Center \$3,136
 Santa Cruz Catholic Church \$2,979
 Grace Christian Center \$2,355
 First Baptist Church of Pflugerville \$2,185
 Live Oak Community Church \$1,936
 Holy Family Catholic Church \$1,684
 St. Thomas More Catholic Church \$1,667
 St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church \$1,641
 St. Albert the Great Catholic Church \$1,522
 St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church \$1,295
 Woodlawn Baptist Church \$1,230
 Church of Glad Tidings \$1,216
 Crestview Baptist Church in Georgetown \$1,160
 San Jose Catholic Church \$1,074
 St. Francis Episcopal Church \$1,020
 Grace Covenant Church \$935
 St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church \$905
 St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Killeen \$895
 St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church \$885
 Emmaus Catholic Church \$874
 St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church \$860
 Manchaca Baptist Church \$805
 St. Austin's Catholic Church \$790
 Our Lady's Maronite Catholic Church \$715
 Trinity Evangelical Free Church \$666
 St. Mary's Cathedral \$632
 Grace Community Church \$520
 Hope Pregnancy Centers of Temple & Killeen, Inc. \$505
 St. James Catholic Church \$505
 St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church \$480
 St. Theresa's Catholic Church \$470
 St. Paul's Catholic Church \$450
 Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church \$431
 Hope Chapel \$425
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church \$370
 Church of Christ in Killeen \$360
 Breath of Life Maternity Support Service \$350
 Calvary Worship Center \$341
 First Evangelical Free Church \$309
 River Of Life Community Church \$265
 Holy Trinity Catholic Church \$264
 Hope Pregnancy Center of Killeen \$250
 Congress Avenue Baptist Church \$245
 Hill Country Bible Church \$240
 Central Baptist Church \$230
 Crestview Baptist Church \$205
 Austin Chinese Church \$200
 New Hope Baptist Church \$200

In-Kind Donations

Pizza Nizza: 50 large pizzas
 Krispy Kreme: 50 dozen donuts
 HEB on Burnet Rd.: 4 cases of drinks
 Randals on Balcones Dr.: 4 cases of drinks
 Whole Foods on N. Lamar Blvd.: 4 cases of drinks
 Lakeside Events: a sunset cruise on Lake Austin
 A Big Bus: a shuttle to and from Georgetown & Killeen
 Frank & Kathy McNamara: over 500 snow cones
 Rudy's BBQ: T-shirt, BBQ, and BBQ sauce
 McDonalds: coolers and orange drinks



The Pro-Life Movement: A Return to True Feminism

By Shannon Jaquette

Since the inception of the women's movement in the nineteenth century, mainstream society in the United States has often equated feminism with radicalism. In the mid-to-late 1800's, suffragists such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were indeed extreme, but in a positive, truly progressive way.

In more recent decades, however, feminism has become perverted and destructive. Modern feminists grossly deviate from the fundamental goal of the founding feminists: equality under the law for all members of society. Instead, they currently promote an agenda dominated by "reproductive rights," a euphemism for abortion on demand.

Modern feminists grossly deviate from the fundamental goal of the founding feminists: equality under the law for all members of society. Instead, they currently promote an agenda dominated by "reproductive rights," a euphemism for abortion on demand.

The derogatory term "Feminazi," coined by conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, became a part of the national lexicon in the 1990's. For some, it seems feminists are about as unsavory a group as fascists. After nearly thirty years of *Roe v. Wade*, the comparison of modern day feminists who are propagating the abortion holocaust to those who propagated the holocaust during World War II is perhaps not an unfair or inaccurate one. And it is noteworthy that in the United States, the former has resulted in the death of approximately four-and-a-half

times as many innocent human beings as the latter. About one hundred and fifty years of feminism have come and gone and one cannot help but wonder whether the advancement of women has been all for naught in the face of the ultimate exploitation of women and children that is abortion.

A common assumption among both those who are pro-life and those who are pro-abortion is that feminism from the very beginning had abortion rights on its agenda, or at the very least provided the foundation for the pro-abortion argument. Nothing, however, could be further from the truth, and it is a grave injustice to the founding feminists to categorize them with pro-abortion women such as Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, and Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood.

Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton galvanized a movement in which the primary focus was women's suffrage, but they were also extremely vocal about their opposition to abortion. Between 1868 and 1870, the two women founded and distributed a publication called *The Revolution* in which they and their feminist contemporaries authored many articles condemning abortion. In a July 8, 1869, article entitled "Marriage and Maternity," Anthony wrote, "I deplore the horrible crime of child-murder. We must reach the root of the evil, and destroy it" (*The Revolution* 4(1): 4). (She is not in this instance speaking of children already born, but of those unborn.) In 1873, Stanton poignantly wrote in a letter to a fellow crusader, "When we consider that women are treated as property, it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as



Susan B. Anthony

"Sweeter even than to have had the joy of caring for children of my own has it been to me to help bring about a better state of things for mothers generally, so their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them."

- Susan B. Anthony, 1889



Elizabeth Cady Stanton
with her daughter, Harriot

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we see fit." These courageous women knew abortion embodied the most insidious and malevolent form of the oppression of women.

Anthony and Stanton, as well as other nineteenth century feminists, desired authentic equality and respect for women. They were trying to help women combat everyday indignities that men, especially their husbands and boyfriends, thrust upon them. These offenses included, but were not limited to, physical and emotional abuse, rape (spousal and otherwise), and worst of all, abortion. Their words resonate with such strength and authority; present-day pro-lifers should use them to expose the lies and the glaring contradictions of modern feminism.

It should be noted that not all modern feminists subscribe to the bastardized feminism of NOW and Planned Parenthood. *Feminists for Life* and *The Susan B. Anthony List* are two outstanding organizations that promote the ideas promulgated by the founding feminists.

Being pro-life and being a feminist are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are intimately connected. Carol Everett, a well-known former abortion industry worker turned full time pro-life activist, once said at a speaking engagement that on days she is feeling really feisty, when someone asks her what she does for a living, she answers, "I work in the women's movement." Now that is radical feminism we can all be proud of.

Shannon Jaquette writes from her home in Austin. She is the mother of two and a member of GARTL's speakers bureau.

For more information on Feminists for Life, access www.feministsforlife.org. For more on The Susan B. Anthony List, see www.sba-list.org.

Life Matters

is the newsletter of the Greater Austin Right to Life Committee and the GARTL Educational Trust Fund. *Life Matters* is published quarterly and is free of charge. Donations are gladly accepted. Our circulation is 10,000 households and churches.

Greater Austin Right to Life is a nonpartisan, nonsectarian organization which exists to secure the right to life of all innocent human beings from conception until natural death. We oppose abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. We condone only legal, peaceful activities.

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Greater Austin Right To Life's Ninth Annual Benefit Banquet

Thursday,
October 18, 2001
Hilton Airport Hotel



Dinner
Live Auction
Silent Auction

featuring
Janet Folger
from the Center for Reclaiming America

Call (512) 477-1244 for reservations and information.

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