

Life

LINK

Right to Life of Central California

Fresno-Madera Chapter Vol. 22 No. 1 January-February

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SARAH'S LAW NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Join us from now through March 2008 in gathering signatures to qualify SARAH'S LAW for the November 2008 Election! Help California join the more than 30 states protecting minor daughters from sexual predators.

This important initiative is being promoted by Californians and organizations everywhere wishing to support families by reinforcing parental rights. RLCC strongly supports the *2008 California Child and Teen Safety and Stop Predators Act*, nicknamed "Sarah's Law" in memory of a 15 year old who died within a few days of having an abortion without her family knowing.

This year's initiative is similar to Prop. 85 from 2006. Family notification would allow an adult family member to be notified, such as an aunt or uncle, grandparent or adult sibling over 21, should there be a case of an abusive parent. Exceptions would be made for emergency medical procedures and by judicial bypass in extraordinary circumstances.

Family notification is a common sense measure from many aspects. Parents and families are already notified of any medical procedure a minor child is involved in. In California today a minor cannot receive an aspirin from a school nurse or attend a class field trip without parental permission. Yet a girl as young as 12 can be taken by anyone for a secret surgical abortion without a single parent even being notified!

For largely financial reasons January is the crucial month for volunteer signature gathering. Although we recognize it's short notice, would you please help us gather as many signatures as you can during the first weeks of January (which is also Sanctity of Life Month)? We've enclosed one petition inside to help you get started. For more extra petitions or more information, please contact us at (559) 229-2229. You can also visit the Parent's Right to Know website at www.PRKCA.org.



2ND ANNUAL YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST COMING SOON!



Contestant Mark Freed addresses the crowd at the 2007 Youth Speech Contest Finals.

Youth from across the Central Valley will again compete in RLCC's annual Pro-Life Youth Speech Contest. Top prizes at the Regional Finals include \$500 for first place, \$250 for second, and \$100 for third.

This year's contest asks "How should the next president of the United States approach the issue of stem cell research?" This vitally important issue will surely be an issue in the upcoming election. All young people ages 16-20 in Fresno and Madera counties have a chance to speak their mind and educate the public about the possible benefits and hazards of stem-cell research.

The Fresno qualifier will be held on Friday, February 15th at 7:00 PM. The regional finals and free spaghetti dinner will be held at the People's Church Ground Zero Café on Saturday, March 8th at 5:30 PM. For more information,, please call our office at 229-2229 or visit www.CALife.net.

21ST ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE COMING UP FEBRUARY 12TH

Please make plans to join us for a 21st anniversary open house at our 1742 East Griffith Way office in Fresno. Friends and supporters are invited to come and meet RLCC's staff, tour the facilities, and enjoy light refreshments.

All ages are welcome so feel free to bring the whole family. Doors will be open from 4:00-8:00 PM on Tuesday, February 12th. For more information, or to RSVP, please call 229-2229.

RLCC WELCOMES JOSH BRAHM AS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

RLCC is proud to introduce Josh Brahm, our new Director of Education and Public Relations. Josh comes to us after three years of service at Georgia Right to Life in a similar position. He and his wife Hannah have been married for almost two years.

Josh's primary goal in 2008 will be to educate our community on the Sanctity of Life. Through letters to the editor, newsletter columns, and press releases, he will make sure that RLCC's voice is heard in the media environment of the Central Valley.

Josh is an excellent public speaker and is immediately available for free educational presentations on a variety of pro-life topics. You can reach him at 229-229 or Josh@rtlcc.org for more information.



19TH CHRISTMAS AUCTION HONORS PATRICIA JOHNSON



Ed Hurlbutt with Honoree Patricia Johnson

Right to Life was privileged to honor our dear friend Patricia Johnson at the 19th annual Christmas Dinner and Auction. Pat is a retired social worker and has served as an RLCC board member and volunteer for many years. She is a consistent presence at RLCC functions and has been a generous donor of her time, talents, and treasure since RLCC's inception. Thank you Pat, for your unwavering support and service!

The Auction is consistently one of RLCC's most popular events of the year, and 2007 was no exception. Nearly 800 Central Valley pro-lifers packed the Fresno Convention Center's Valdez hall for a night of fun and festivity. Our wonderful volunteer auction committee put on a fantastic evening, with over 700 silent auction items, 21 live auction items, and 15 beautifully decorated Christmas trees.



Auctioneer Ed Croissant gets the bidding going for the Live Auction

Guests enjoyed music from the Fresno Pacific University String Quartet and a moving rendition of *God Bless America* by Judith Dickison Ryskamp. Auctioneer Ed Croissant then led a rousing live auction. Sally Caglia served as the mistress of ceremonies for the evening's festivities.

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2007 AUCTION COMMITTEE

We couldn't host this wonderful evening without our dedicated and generous auction committee. Thank you ladies!

- Marianne Angelillo,
- Linda Beltramo,
- Deborah Bone,
- Susan Crosno,
- Virginia Dalena,
- Judy DeBenedetto,
- Lisa DeBenedetto,
- Dottie DeMera,
- Jennifer Howard,
- Susie Larsen,
- Patti McCann,
- Jennifer O'Brien,
- Michelle Rontell,
- Laurie Smith,
- Therese Swinehart,
- Sissy Dalena Wood.



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Return Service Requested

Happy
 New
 Year!

Save The Date!



*RLCC will again join over 25,000 pro-lifers to march for life as part of the 4th annual Walk for Life West Coast on **Saturday, January 19th** in San Francisco. Notable guest speakers include Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., abortion survivor Gianna Jessen, Fr. Frank Pavone of Priests for Life, and Edward Verastigui of the recent pro-life film Bella.*

Buses will meet at St. John's Cathedral for a 6:00 AM mass and depart for San Francisco at 7:00 AM. We will plan to return to the Cathedral by 8:00 PM. Spots are still available but are going fast! If you are interested, please contact Victor Fierro at (559) 473-7520.

January 19th	West Coast Walk for Life (in San Francisco)	March 8th	Central Valley Regional Youth Oratory Contest
February 12th	21 st Anniversary RLCC Open House	April 12th	Fresno-Madera Walk for Life
February 15th	Fresno Area Youth Oratory Contest		(at Roeding Park)