

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Stars Shine at the Walk for Life West Coast 2016

by Charlotte Graham

It was inspiring enough to see thousands gathered, coming on buses from all over the West to attend this great rally promoting the sanctity of life. But the illustrious speakers galvanized me the most as they spoke to the major theme of the march: Abortion Hurts Women. I listened, amazed at the clear thinking and passion of these witnesses who light the way for us.

David Daleiden and Obianuju Ekeocha can, in my opinion, be considered true heroes, true leaders for the work they are doing and for their amazing courage. I listened along with the enrapt crowd to David Daleiden who is a citizen journalist with nearly a decade of experience in conducting research on the abortion industry. He started *The Center for Medical Progress* as a vehicle through which to pursue in-depth investigative journalism projects pertaining to bioethical issues. He has knocked Planned Parenthood on its ear with his exposure of their heinous abortion practices. David is utterly focused and prepared to face the ensuing battles in the courts with this goliath. He left no doubt of his intentions: victory.

Obianuju Ekeocha has taken up the banner in Africa as president of Culture of Life Africa. She spoke about how women in Africa are being told they should have easy and free access to abortion so as to free them for greater success in life. This false sense of freedom undermines the African values of the sanctity of life, the blessings of motherhood and the dignity of family life. Her voice is being heard around the world on many venues.

These inspired and inspiring speakers as well as the presence of the multitude of witnesses gathered at Civic Center filled me with hope. There were prayers, singing, chants, placards and banners held high with throngs of young people leading the way.

Check the website (<http://www.walkforlifewc.com/>) for more information as to how you can participate in the Walk for Life West Coast which is held every year close to the anniversary of Roe versus Wade.

We look forward to seeing you at the 13th Annual Walk for Life West Coast on January 21, 2017!

40-Days for Life – Spring 2016

As you read this newsletter, the Spring 40-Days for Life will have been in progress for several weeks. Have you joined your fellow pro-lifers in standing vigil outside the abortion mill in your area? For a listing of the 273 cities where there are 40-Days-for-Life locations visit: <https://40daysforlife.com/>

Every 40 Days for Life campaign, we stand in witness as God changes hearts ... and that happens on the sidewalks outside of abortion centers where faithful Christians pray. A few statistics as of the completion of the Fall 2015 campaign that we are aware of:

- 11,165 babies were spared from abortion
- 127 abortion workers had a change of heart and quit their jobs
- 64 abortion centers have closed their doors forever

**Do you know someone who might
be considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!
A LIFE depends on it...**

1-800-712-HELP (4357)

Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

by Cecelia Cody

Recently I had two close family members admitted to two different hospitals in the same week. Among the questions asked by the hospital admitting staff was if the patient had a Health Care Directive (“Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care”), and if so, would I please provide a copy to the hospital.

Do you have a health care directive? Would a person admitting you to the hospital know where it is and be able to provide a copy to the hospital? Is it current? (People move, phone numbers change, sadly there have been cases where the person listed as having durable power of attorney for health care had actually predeceased the patient! Make sure the information is current.)

Several excellent documents are available. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has created one that is also available on the Archdiocese of San Francisco’s website at: http://sfarchdiocese.org/docs/default-source/social-justice-and-life/advance_health_care_directive140%281%29.pdf?sfvrsn=2 (also available in Spanish.) If you do not have access to the Internet, contact our office and we will mail you a copy.

The Patients Rights Council has an excellent website, with lots of information including a section on Advanced Directives: <http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org/site/advance-directives/> A copy of the form they recommend can be obtained by calling 800-958-5678 or 740-282-3810 between 8:30am and 4:30pm (Eastern Time).

That said, we also caution you regarding which form you sign. Nurses for Ethical Standards has a pamphlet explaining the danger of the POLST form. Be careful of any form that asks you to check for “care you do not want.” (i.e. Do Not Resuscitate-DNR, no tubes, no machines etc.) The form you complete should designate a person or persons to be contacted to be your voice if you become voiceless; therefore, it is very important to have a discussion with the person you have designated to make sure they understand your desires and can speak for you if you become incapacitated. Contact our office 925-944-5351 for further information and literature on this very important document.

Readers Corner When Breath Becomes Air

by Paul Kalanith

Excerpted from a review by Christopher White, CBC
Director of Research and Education

A thirty-six year old physician is diagnosed with terminal cancer—and uses his final months of life to teach the world how to both live and die.

“What makes human life meaningful?” It is a question that has long been pondered by the ancient philosophers, present day psychoanalysts, and just about every single one of us as we attempt to reflect on why we are here on earth. But it is a question that takes on a new sense of urgency and magnitude when one is confronted with one’s own mortality. Paul Kalanithi, who at the age of thirty-six was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer while on the cusp of completing his training in neuroscience at Stanford University, was forced to reckon with such a question far sooner than he ever expected. His reflections, **When Breath Becomes Air**, published posthumously, offers the world a rich understanding of what makes both life—and death—meaningful.

In **When Breath Becomes Air** the world is offered a beautiful, though at times painstakingly brutal, look at how a doctor once tasked with the responsibility of informing patients of their grim prognoses is forced to accept his own.

The quest for meaning and purpose was one that motivated Paul long before his forays into medicine. He ruled out early on that the point of life was merely the pursuit of happiness—and used his college admissions essay to argue as much. From an early age, books—specifically literature—enlivened and informed his moral imagination. But it was also books that led him to study biology after feeling unsatisfied from reading a trashy novel recommended by his then high school girlfriend. As Paul reasons:

Though we have free will, we are also biological organisms—the brain was an organ, subject to all the laws of physics too! Literature provided a rich account of human meaning; the brain, then, was the machinery that somehow enabled it. It seemed like magic.

And thus began Paul’s journey from a Stanford undergraduate double majoring in literature and human

biology, to a Yale Medical School student, to a Stanford chief neuroscience resident receiving job offers from every major medical institution on the verge of beginning his dream career—to facing his own impending death.

Despite the unknown prospects for his future—did he have two months left, two years, or ten?—Paul, with his wife Lucy, resolved to go on living—together. In an op-ed for the New York Times that went viral, he wrote in early 2014:

I began to realize that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed both nothing and everything. Before my cancer was diagnosed, I knew that someday I would die, but I didn't know when. After the diagnosis, I knew that someday I would die, but I didn't know when. But now I knew it acutely. The problem wasn't really a scientific one. The fact of death is unsettling. Yet there is no other way to live.

He and Lucy proceeded to build their family, and as he saw the final months of his life waning, life was granted anew in the birth of their daughter Cady. In deciding whether or not to pursue parenthood despite his terminal condition, Lucy asked Paul, “Don't you think saying goodbye to your child will make your death more painful?” “Wouldn't it be great if it did?” Paul replied. This is the response of an individual who has learned that the point of life is not to avoid pain and suffering, but to relish in the richness of all that it is while there is still time.

Paul died on March 9, 2015—surrounded by his family, with his eight-month-old daughter by his side—a juxtaposition of life in both its nascent and final stages. In an era in which some insist that doctors should use the tools of medicine to assist in ending the lives of those dying, Paul used his medical profession to teach the world that there is meaning to be found—even in the pain, even at the very end.

In *When Breath Becomes Air*, Paul's two great loves of literature and medicine are married into one, and they offer a testament that in the face of mortality, meaning can and must be found. The legacy of Paul Kalanithi will not merely be of one who died too soon—but of one who left behind keys to discovering how to live along the way.

Requiescat in Pace Antonin Scalia 1936-2016

The passing of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is an incredible loss for his wonderful family - his wife Maureen, their nine children and 28 grandchildren, our nation and the Supreme Court. Born in Trenton, NJ, and growing up in Queens, Scalia loved his childhood, stickball, and New York. He was raised in the Catholic faith and was a brilliant student. He had a great sense of humor too. He once joked: “In a big family the first child is kind of like the first pancake. If it's not perfect, that's okay, there are a lot more coming along.”

Justice Scalia sparked a renaissance in Constitutional law. Before Scalia, the legal philosophy en vogue was viewing the Constitution as a “living breathing document” which could be adapted whenever judges saw fit. Scalia argued instead for “originalism,” a legal philosophy that judges must restrain themselves and interpret the Constitution by looking to what was actually written and intended, not what we want it to mean today. This understanding of the Constitution led to a renewed defense of our most cherished rights, judicial restraint, limited government, including religious liberty.

Justice Antonin Scalia was one of the strongest critics on the Court of the 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, as unconstitutional and illegitimate. And he voted with the majority of the Court in 1997 against a constitutional right to assisted suicide

He was a towering legal giant, and history will long remember him as tough but fair. His closest friend on the court was Justice Ginsburg who commented he is a “jurist of captivating brilliance and wit, with a rare talent to make even the most sober judge laugh.”

We pray he may be welcomed this day into the sweet mystery of *eternal* life.

Calendar of Events

It may not be too late...

Abortion Pill Reversal

**If you know someone who has taken the
Abortion Pill (Mifeprex or RU-486)**

Call (877) 558-0333

<http://www.abortionpillreversal.com>

*For the latest updates of events see
www.calendarforlife.org*

Parental Notification Initiative signature drive in progress. Deadline approaching soon! Visit <http://www.caparentalrights.org/resources.html> for more information. If you have any signed petitions – please put them in the mail immediately! Contact our office at 925-944-5351 with any questions.

40-DAYS FOR LIFE – February 10 – March 20. Over 300 cities participating, Where is the location near you? See: <http://40daysforlife.com/> for a location near you.



“Could you not watch with me one Hour?”

WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same “no-exceptions, no excuses” beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.

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