My daughter, the ex-Girl Scout

by Ann Saladin

My daughter is the most special 11-year old in the world to me, although she’s a pretty typical tween. Nora hates her hair. Her brothers embarrass her simply by existing. And any activity is better with friends: ice skating, camping, even a Father-Daughter dance.

Sadly, these are the kinds of activities Nora now misses as she is no longer a Girl Scout. Not long ago, as a fourth generation Girl Scout, she too earned badges and sold cookies, until I discovered some things about the Girl Scouts that surprised me, given their promise not to take a position on the topics of sexuality, birth control, and abortion.

What was the biggest surprise? That Nora’s Girl Scout membership made her a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), an international organization that promotes an agenda of sexual and reproductive rights for adolescents.

WAGGGS advances this agenda through non-formal education programs, such as worldwide Girl Scout programs, and advocates on the global stage in the name of its 10 million girl members, urging governments and the United Nations to support unrestricted abortion and sexual rights for teens. For example, when WAGGGS sent delegates to the July 2012 RIO+20 UN conference on climate change, their delegates’ blog, posted on the WAGGGS’ website, noted that “WAGGGS did assist with pushing progressive messaging around reproductive rights.”

Most recently, WAGGGS, alongside pro-abortion organizations like the International Planned Parenthood Federation, was on the steering committee for the December 2012 International Conference on Population and Development Global Youth Forum, where WAGGGS’ delegates participated in and facilitated Forum workshops. WAGGGS now encourages members to download a copy of the Forum’s outcome statement (available on the WAGGGS’ website), which includes recommendations for unrestricted access to abortion, comprehensive sexuality education free of “religious intolerance,” and the decriminalization of sex work. WAGGGS not only promotes this outcome statement to its members, it also boasts that it will “advocate for it to become a reality.”

Think our Girl Scouts aren’t connected to these things? Think again. The Chair of the WAGGGS World Board blogged that “WAGGGS’ delegates at RIO+20 represented each one of our WAGGGS’ members: YOU – in this process.” A GSUSA member chosen to be a WAGGGS’ delegate at RIO+20 was quoted as saying WAGGGS’ delegates “are able to push their

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Former Planned Parenthood manager to be featured speaker at February 19th Pro-Life Action Day

At the Feb. 19th Pro-Life Action Day, Sue Thayer will be the featured speaker at the noon rally.

Sue worked for nearly 18 years as the center manager of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Around 2007, Planned Parenthood of Iowa formulated the webcam abortion scheme and mandated that all of its family planning clinics participate. Sue was aghast that she would be trained to do vaginal ultrasounds and would have the webcam apparatus in her clinic. This would force her to directly participate in abortion! Sue spoke up forcefully against this and was fired.

Sue has gone on to become a strong voice for life and has been instrumental in educating the public about the tragedy of abortion and specifically webcam abortion. Sue led Storm Lake’s first ever 40 Days for Life campaign at the very clinic she supervised for so many years. Shortly after completing the 40 day prayer vigil, the clinic closed it’s doors forever.

Sue’s passion for children has led her to be a foster parent to 130 children, spanning the past 25 years. Her own large family is a delightful blend of cultures, including 3 adopted children. She is a tireless advocate for children, with a special love for the unborn. Sue’s unique experiences give her a distinctive viewpoint on life issues.
Cont. - My daughter, the ex-Girl Scout

key messages in a positive way even in the face of adversity.” Moreover, GSUSA pays an annual quota to WAGGGS based on the number of registered GSUSA members. This amount is between $1 and 2 million every year – the more girls that register for GSUSA, the more money goes to WAGGGS.

Does WAGGGS’ curriculum reach our Girl Scouts? You bet. World Thinking Day, an annual event promoted by GSUSA on the inside cover of GSUSA curriculum books, is WAGGGS’ main fundraiser. Girls earn badges by joining this celebration of the WAGGGS’ sisterhood of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The heavily promoted event also strongly encourages the inclusion of monetary donations in the celebration. Clearly, this suggestion is well heeded, as GSUSA collects donations from every local council and contributes an annual minimum $100,000 donation to WAGGGS World Thinking Day Fund, in addition to the million dollar plus quota payment. For three years, I proudly sewed World Thinking Day patches onto Nora’s Brownie vest, and helped her with her monetary donation each of those years, never dreaming that the money she contributed was funding an organization that campaigns aggressively to expand comprehensive sexual and reproductive rights.

If the WAGGGS’ connection doesn’t give you pause, page through the Girl Scout’s Journeys curriculum. It highlights dozens of women, including Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan, and organizations, such as the Population Council and the ACLU, that advocate for abortion rights. Or visit the GSUSA website which links girls to WAGGGS’ website and publications such as The Huffington Post, iVillage, and others that consistently advertise for sexual and reproductive rights and contain graphic sexual content.

Once we became aware of Girl Scouts’ ties to the pro-choice agenda, we couldn’t be a part of the organization. I have no doubt that this is the right decision for our family and pulling out has been an opportunity for Nora to learn that her faith is not just a concept but a principle to stand on. There have certainly been difficult moments, such as when a teacher gathered all the girls in the class to dispute the pro-life objection to Girl Scouts that Nora had included in a writing assignment, or when her friends left for Girl Scout camp. When Nora told me she wished she could camp too, I asked if she wanted to be a Girl Scout again. She thought for a moment, then said unborn babies are more important to her than being a Girl Scout. Seems she’s pretty special after all!

What’s an alternative?

American Heritage Girls

American Heritage Girls is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. The organization offers badge programs, service projects, girl leadership opportunities, and outdoor experiences to its members. This program of character building has successfully served thousands of girls since its inception and will continue to do so long into the 21st century.

American Heritage Girls was founded in 1995 in West Chester, Ohio, by a group of parents wanting a wholesome program for their daughters. These parents were disillusioned with the increasing secular focus of existing organizations for girls. They wanted a Judeo-Christian focused organization for their daughters and believed that other parents were looking for the same for their daughters. This became the catalyst for the birth of the organization we have come to know as the American Heritage Girls.

American Heritage Girls began its first year of programming in the fall of 1995 with about 10 troops and roughly 100 members.

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE POLICY ON THE GIRL SCOUTS

Because Girl Scouts USA promotes, both directly and indirectly through other organizations, policies and behaviors clearly contradictory to the goals and purposes of Missouri Right to Life, Missouri Right to Life urges citizens to consider carefully whether to participate in Girl Scouts or support them in any way. (Adopted 1/12/2013)

At http://missourilife.org/policies/girlscouts.html, an explanation and cited references for this policy are available.
Some historical events are seared in our memories. Everyone in my generation knows exactly where they were when they heard that President Kennedy had been assassinated. I also remember where I was when I heard that the Supreme Court had legalized abortion-on-demand. I was bathing our infant son … our first child.

The radio announcer reported the story on that January day as though it was no more consequential than the other news items.

I was stunned! After so recently experiencing a life within me, it was hard to believe that the court could deny protection to that child.

I remember calling the pastor of our church and pleading with him to do something to stop this. He assured me that as soon as people learned what an abortion was, that the public outrage would force the decision to be repealed.

While we know what an abortion is - the poisoning or dismembering of a unique living human being - the resulting public outrage has not been sufficient to bring about that predicted repeal.

As I write, today is the 40th anniversary of that decision. My curly-haired baby boy is now a grown man with children of his own. In Biblical terms, 40 years is a generation, and an entire generation of other baby boys and girls have disappeared - close to 56 million - a number difficult to visualize.

Here’s what 56 million looks like. Here are the “Aborted States of America.” The population of these darkened states is almost equal to the reported abortions since 1973.

Today you and I mourn the loss of curly-haired, blonde baby boys and dimpled-cheeked baby girls, and little ones with sweet smiles, soft red hair, or mahogany skin and warm brown eyes. All fresh from the hand of God. We mourn all of these children whose lives were somehow not worthy of protection by the laws of our country.

We re-commit ourselves to never being silent, never being passive, to be active in the pro-life movement, to never stop defending life until all of these children are protected.

And you and I wait for the outrage.

Blessings,

Pam Fichter
Thought You’d Like To Know . . .

Western Missouri’s Sioux Chief Mfg. sues U.S. over health reform

Sioux Chief Manufacturing Co. Inc. is suing the federal government over “Obama-care.”

The Peculiar, MO company wants relief from provisions of the act that require it to cover abortion and contraception in its self-insured health plan, contrary to its owners’ Catholic beliefs.

“(The government’s) coercion tramples on the freedom of conscience of plaintiffs and millions of other Americans to abide by their religious convictions, to comply with moral imperatives they believe are decreed by God Himself through His Church, and to contribute to society through business in a way that is consistent with their religious ethics, deeply held religious beliefs, and the moral teachings of the Catholic Church,” the company stated in its lawsuit, filed in federal court in Kansas City.

According to the suit, Sioux Chief’s plan could not be grandfathered in because it had increased deductibles since 2010. The company seeks an injunction to avoid changes to its plan by an April 1 deadline.

The suit says Sioux Chief could face penalties of about $100 per employee per day for defying the mandate. The company has 370 employees.

Sioux Chief is represented by Lee’s Summit, MO lawyer Jonathan Whitehead and by Kevin Theriot, a Leawood, MO lawyer associated with the Alliance Defending Freedom which has filed similar lawsuits for companies throughout the country.

Kansas City Business Journal 1/18/13

Congressman: I was almost an abortion victim, adoption saved me

The year was 1962, and in Southern California, a pregnant teenager was facing a difficult decision. As a young, unwed girl, Mary Lynn Sheridan wasn’t sure she was ready for a child.

How would she tell her family? If she was going to keep the baby, how would she care for it?

She drove with two friends to an abortion clinic over the Mexican border.

However, while on the drive to the clinic, Mary Lynn had a change of heart. The young mother decided against the plan, and sometime later gave birth to a healthy baby boy at an unwed mother’s home in Los Angeles. She gave the baby up for adoption and 6 weeks later, a wonderful couple brought him home into a loving family.

Thirty-six years later, that boy found the contact information for his birth mother. After a family discussion, he sent a handwritten note to Mary Lynn Sheridan. After ten days, he received a joyful call from Mary Lynn.

She told him about the hope and pain she felt every year on his birthday and that she prayed for him daily.

I was that adopted boy and Mary Lynn Sheridan was my birth mother.

I am Congressman David Schweikert and I am here because of a young woman’s commitment to life in spite of overwhelming difficulties.

People often ask me why I am pro-life. I tell them my story and about the wonderful love I experienced from not only my adopted mother, but my birth mother as well. If anyone has a compelling reason to support life, it would be me.

Ronald Reagan made a great observation when he said, “Abortion is advocated only by persons who have themselves been born.”

My life hung in the balance on a car ride to an abortion clinic 49 years ago. I take very seriously my responsibility to defend the lives of those unborn children who may be in the same situation as I was. My fight is for those unborn and innocent babies who cannot yet defend themselves.

I am a firm believer that life begins at conception.

Any attempt to take a human life in the womb is morally unconscionable. Just like our Founding Fathers did, we must acknowledge that every American, born and unborn, has the God-given right to liberty, the pursuit of happiness and most importantly, the right to life.

Note: Rep. David Schweikert is a Republican congressman from Arizona.

LifeNews.com 1/18/13

Missouri Legislative Report

For several years, MRL has been working to pass a ban on webcam abortions. Planned Parenthood is moving to increase the number of chemical abortions such as RU 486. We believe Missouri pro-life legislators should be pro-active in addressing this imminent danger to innocent human lives.

Webcam abortions are done by a video conferencing system where the abortionist is at one location and uses a closed circuit TV to talk with a woman at another location. Planned Parenthood, as close as Iowa, has formulated a webcam abortion scheme and mandated that all of its family planning clinics participate.

In order to ensure that a vulnerable mother is not victimized, we are asking pro-life legislators to act now. Webcam abortions are a health risk for a woman and a death sentence for an unborn child.

Six states require by law the physician’s physical presence when dispensing chemical abortions, laws that are in effect and have not been challenged. North Dakota passed a similar law that is temporarily enjoined pending the outcome of litigation. However, its law does deal with multiple issues besides just a ban on webcam abortions.

MO Sen. Wayne Wallingford has filed this life-saving legislation in the Senate. MO Rep. Jeanie Riddle has graciously agreed to sponsor this legislation in the House and, at press time, is seeking co-sponsors.

There are multiple other issues MRL is working. Among them are protection of conscience rights for medical professionals, protection for pharmacy owners not to be forced to carry any drug or device such as RU 486. We are also seeking pro-life protections on any legislation that would open the door for business incubators to receive state funding or tax incentives for human cloning or embryonic stem cell research.

See you on Tuesday, February 19th at Pro-Life Action Day!
In memory of Mary Therese Ismert                Given by Jerry & Angela Maschler
In memory of Jane Ann Sumner  Given by James Sumner
In memory of Mary Jo Sumner             Given by James Sumner
In memory of James Richard Sumner       Given by James Sumner
In memory of Raymond Wagner, Sr.            Given by Jan Boyle
In honor of Jan Boyle                         Given by Stephen & Ann Saladin
In honor of Neil Venneman                     Given by Joseph & Kathy Venneman
In honor of Pam Fichter                        Given by Richard & Kathleen Baalmann, Dr. Bob & Marilyn Brangle, John & Ruth Connors, James & Maleen Corrigan, John & Martha Donnelly, Lily Duggan, Barbara Eberle, Vince & Janet Fausek, Jim & Mary Pat Glauber, David & Kate Hagan, Lee & Pat Hanley, Charlie & Mary Kay Harrison, John & Kathryn Hegeman, Catherin Hewett, Larry & Kathleen Hill, Ted & Susan Honich, Dr. Al & Dorothy Huggins, Phil & Penny Karst, Richard & Marion Kerckhoff, Pat Lang, John & Peg Lord, Jane Maull, Denis & Susan McCusker, Michael & Catherine McLeod, Steve & Judy Medler, Tom & Gay Noonan, Jerry & Jenny O’Neil, Barbara Owens, Mark & Sally Petty, Bill & Nancy Reed, Dr. Tom & Dette Reh, Dr. Jim & Tracey Rhea, Jerry & Maryann Rice, Buck & Audrey Rogers, Steve & JoAnn Rull, Mary Shuff, John & Mary Simon, Tim & Mary Sullivan, Matt & Gina Witte, Suzanne Wyrick, David & Carolyn Zwart

We need your participation!
- Plan now to come to Jefferson City on Tuesday, February 19, 2013, for Pro-Life Action Day to encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation.
- Registration begins 9:00 a.m., 1st Floor Rotunda,
- Lobby your legislators from 9:00 – noon. Then join the Noon Rally at the Capitol Rotunda.

Priority Legislation
- **Ban webcam conference abortions.** Ensure that a pregnant woman in a vulnerable situation will not be victimized. Web-cam abortions are a health risk for a woman and a death sentence for an unborn child. Banning web-cam abortions ensures that an abortionist does not push a button and deliver an abortion drug without even being in the same room with the woman.
- **Improve our conscience clauses** in Missouri for those in the medical profession.

**Noon Rally Featured Speaker Sue Thayer**
(See information on front page)

For information, contact Missouri Right to Life, 573-635-5110 or visit www.missourilife.org. Watch our website for contacts for transportation from your area.

**WEAR RED FOR LIFE!**
At times numbers are so monumental and tragedy so deep that you need to put them out of your mind to continue. Then you are pulled back to the reality of what you champion.

“Snipping” Spinal Cords: This is the Naked Evil of Abortion

by Eric Metaxas, LifeNews

Well, we hoped it would never come to this, but America is observing the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court case that legalized the taking of innocent human life in the womb for any reason – or for no reason at all.

The numbers related to abortion are almost anesthetizing to the conscience of America. Since 1973, more than 55 million unborn babies have had their lives snuffed out.

These numbers are so mind-numbing that perhaps we in the pro-life movement may be forgiven if we occasionally forget what those numbers actually mean.

That’s why we occasionally need a reality check -- such as a brand new documentary called “3801 Lancaster.” It’s available for free online, come to BreakPoint.org, click on this commentary, and we’ll link you to it. The title refers to the address of an abortion clinic in West Philadelphia that is the site of a scandal so horrific that it’s almost impossible to describe without tears.

The documentary, written and directed by David Altrogge, shows what happened at the so-called Women’s Medical Society over a period of twenty years. That clinic, run by a well-known doctor named Kermit Gosnell and situated in a rough neighborhood, catered to a mostly poor, minority clientele. The documentary shows how the facility, which looks run down on the outside, was a filthy house of horrors on the inside.

Yes, Dr. Gosnell specialized in late-term abortions, but that’s a rather antiseptic description compared with the grisly reality. Walls and beds were stained with blood. Jars were filled with what are gingerly called “fetal remains” -- arms, legs, you get the idea. It gets worse, and I hate to be so graphic.

But Gosnell specialized in what he called “snipping” -- which occurred when the baby Gosnell was trying to kill was nonetheless born alive. When that happened, the abortionist would “snip” the spine with a pair of scissors. Again, that sounds pretty clinical and straightforward, but the reality -- again, that word -- is far different.

“Snipping” a spine is not like “snipping” a piece of paper. It takes time and hard work. And it’s obviously painful to the baby. Gosnell is now in jail and awaiting trial for seven such “snippings,” although one of his “colleagues” may have performed up to a hundred of them.

Gosnell is also being charged with third-degree murder in connection with the death of a 41-year-old patient. One newspaper reported that “this was not a back-alley operation.” Gosnell and company, according to one Pennsylvania state senator, were allowed to “butcher babies, butcher women, and nobody did a [darn] thing about it.”

How, you might well ask, did authorities allow this carnage to go on for so many years? According to the grand jury report, the Pennsylvania state department of health, in order to remove “barriers” to abortion, had stopped inspecting abortion clinics. And no one cared anyway, because most of the women were poor and members of minority groups. In fact, “3801 Lancaster” makes it very clear that African-Americans and other minorities are specifically targeted by the abortion industry, making abortion one of the key civil rights issues of our time.

Fourth medical emergency since Thanksgiving at St. Louis abortion clinic

by the Editors, LifeSiteNews

Workers at an abortion clinic in Missouri were seen Saturday, Jan. 19th struggling to deploy white bed sheets in an effort to hide the fact that a patient was being rushed to an awaiting ambulance for transport.

Pro-life activists photographed the incident, which was the fourth medical emergency at the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in St. Louis since Thanksgiving 2012.

“Ambulances are rushing women to emergency rooms from this particular Planned Parenthood abortion clinic at the average rate of about one every two weeks. This is completely unacceptable,” said Cheryl Sullenger, Senior Policy Advisor for Operation Rescue. “We are evaluating our legal options concerning the next step in holding this out-of-control abortion mill accountable for these injuries.”

Mary Maschmeier, Executive Director for Defenders of the Unborn in St. Louis, told Operation Rescue that the Missouri Board of Healing Arts has rebuffed their efforts to persuade the oversight agency to investigate.

Maschmeier reports that the patient was a Hispanic woman who was loaded into the ambulance around 11:00 a.m. on January 19, 2013. Sidewalk counselors attempted to offer help to her male companion without success. He later followed the ambulance to the hospital. Her condition remains unknown.

Operation Rescue recently received a written 911 computer transcript of a previous medical emergency on December 26, 2012, at this same Planned Parenthood abortion clinic. That document indicated that a woman had fainted and was “not alert” by the time Planned Parenthood called 911. The pro-life group said that in their experience such faintings are commonly the result of blood loss after the abortion.

Other medical emergencies at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood took place on November 21 and December 1, 2012.

“We cannot sit idly by and watch Planned Parenthood continue to injure women. We plan to alert the authorities and bring public pressure to bear to encourage regulators in Missouri to do their duty and protect women from shoddy procedures that endanger their lives,” said Sullenger.
Members of the Lincoln County Chapter of Missouri Right to Life, supporters, and local home-schooled students witness the signing of a proclamation by the Lincoln County Commissioners declaring Jan. 22, 2013, a day of memoriam for more than 55 million unborn children lost since abortion was legalized.

Bob Simmons, Lincoln County Journal Editor

Missouri’s Abortion Memorial

My name is Catherine Thomas, and I am a home school graduate from rural Missouri. I have made a painful and shocking discovery.

Since the passage of Roe v. Wade, there have been 600,000 abortions in Missouri alone. This is more than the number of Americans killed in WWI, WWII, and Vietnam combined!

I have determined to collect 600,000 diaper/safety pins and display them as a memorial and visual representation of Missouri’s 600,000 victims of abortion. In the picture above, I am shown with the collection in December 2012.

Briefly stated, the purpose of this collection is to share Christ, remember abortion victims, defend life, promote charity, and encourage political activism.

Show Me 4 Life now has the resources for over 336,000 pins (56% of our goal). We would be happy to provide the collection to churches, schools, or pro-life groups who would like to have it displayed. Ultimately, the memorial will be donated as a resource for Missouri Right to Life.

It is my prayer that the Missouri Abortion Memorial will open the eyes of all to the prevalence of abortion in our land and convict us to actively fight for the life of the unborn, but do so in such a way that we set “...an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12, KJV)

Please consider wearing a safety pin on your shirt or coat in remembrance of the 600,000 babies that have been lost in Missouri. When people ask about your pin, tell them about the memorial and what we are hoping to accomplish.

For those who are able, donations of pins or money would be greatly appreciated. We have determined that $1,900 would be sufficient for purchasing the remaining pins. No contribution is too small! Even a few diaper/safety pins will be greatly appreciated.

Donations of pins or money may be mailed to: Show Me 4 Life, P.O. Box 881, Oak Grove, MO 64075. Please note, checks should be made payable to Show Me 4 Life.

Please visit showme4life.com for more information or to donate online. If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to emptytomb@showme4life.com or call 816-518-1380.

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter

Please be sure to return your membership for 2013! You know that we depend on you. If you haven’t yet done so, please return your recent membership mailing or use the envelope enclosed with this MRL News. Thank you so much for being part of our pro-life family ... for joining us in supporting LIFE!
Inside ~

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- Pro-Life Across Missouri

January 22, 1973 - January 22, 2013

We Remember ~ We Believe

Left - Standing in defense of unborn life, pro-life demonstrators witness at Reproductive Health Services in St. Louis on January 22, 1974, the first anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade decision. Peggy Bull, still active in the pro-life cause, is among the demonstrators, carrying the sign, “A Baptist Against Murder.” Right - The witness continues 40 years later as pro-life demonstrators stand as evidence outside the Federal Courthouse in Kansas City, MO on January 22, 2013. Across our country, across our state, in our nation’s capital, in big cities to small communities, pro-life citizens proclaim the sanctity of life. We remember, we believe ...

“We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.
Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” Elie Wiesel, Holocaust Survivor