



World Right-to-Die Newsletter

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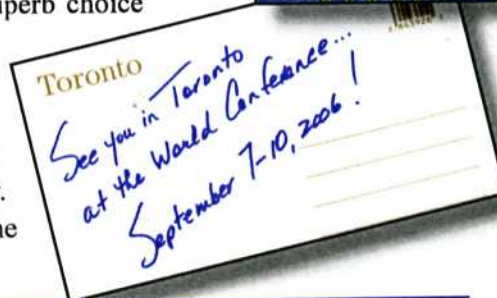
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See You in Toronto 2006: World Conference, Sept. 7-10

Canada Death with Dignity will host the 13th World Federation conference in the beautiful and engaging city of Toronto at the height of its fall season. It will be held at the Sheraton Centre right on the water. The organizers, who include Cathy and Cynthia St. John, promise provocative speakers, comfortable accommodations, superb choice of restaurants, and a chance to explore their outstanding city by foot, boat, or public transport. Plan to come early and stay later and explore the progressive and friendly country of Canada. It is the chance to visit with old friends and meet new movers and shakers in the death with dignity movement from all over the world. Make your travel plans now. Specific reservation information will be available in future issues of the newsletter.



Turin Conference Report



Emilio Covieri, organizer of the Europe RTD Conference in Turin, and his mother, one of the founders of Exit-Italia. **Read about the Conference on Page 2.**

Dignitas: A Force for Progress or Reaction?

by Faye Girsh

The Swiss penal code was amended in 1942 to permit assisted dying and has worked well, though the practice is strongly opposed by Swiss psychiatrists and religious groups.

Dignitas began in 1998 following a split in Exit Deutsche Suisse, the German-speaking part of the

Continued on page 3

Australian Censorship Law a Threat to All

The Suicide Related Material Offences bill, an amendment to the criminal code, goes into effect Jan. 6. It is clearly aimed at the activities of Philip Nitschke and Exit International. The Bill, now law, prohibits the transmission of information about methods of suicide by email, internet, fax or phone.

Continued on page 6



Ron Plummer, outgoing President of R.T.D. Europe and Elke Bazener, new President

Turino Meeting a Happy Success

More than 50 delegates comprising Right to Die Europe, plus the board of the World Federation, assembled in Turino on Oct. 5-6 to discuss developments in Europe and get to know each other. Emilio Covieri, head of Exit - Italia, was the official and most gracious host. Emilio made sure the delegates were well fed, Italian style, and educated about the outstanding Egyptology museum in Turin which provided tours. The city of Turin is polishing itself up for the 2007 Winter Olympics and is even more charming than usual. The World Federation is grateful to Emilio and his helpers for making this a memorable conference.

The new Danish Society, E.V.D. (En Vaerdid Dod), has offered to host the next biennial European conference in 2007 in Arhus Denmark.

European Newsletter

On a semi-annual basis volunteer Ann Beaton does an outstanding job compiling developments of interest in Europe. She works out of the V.E.S. office in London. If you are interested in subscribing by email contact annsbeaton@yahoo.co.uk.

New Leader for RTD Europe

Elke Baezner from Geneva was elected the new president of Right to Die Europe replacing Ron Plummer from Monaco who served a distinguished four year term. Two new board members were elected: Hugh Wynne and Karen Sanders.

Roving Ambassador Appointed

The board of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies at its recent meeting in Turin appointed Faye Girsh as its 'roving ambassador' to carry the message of the movement to distant parts of the universe.

Dr. Girsh, former executive director of the Hemlock Society, will be visiting Australia, India, Thailand and China during the next year, and plans to meet with individuals who might start right-to-die groups. She is also editor of the World Right-to-Die Newsletter.

Neither of these posts is salaried and Ms. Girsh travels at her own expense.

Forty-one of the 46 right-to-die groups in the world are members of the World Federation.

Denmark Society Newest WF member

In 2000 Flemming Schollaart, born in Holland, returned to his native country from Denmark for 8 months to care for his mother who had ovarian cancer. At the end she chose a peaceful death with euthanasia despite the objections of her second husband and with the cooperation of her physician. During his two month recovery from the ordeal, Flemming wrote a synopsis of his experience for a 4 hr TV program, which, although initially rejected, was later produced. Through the film he met Dr. Tom Olsner, a retired anesthesiologist who had founded an organization in 1992 which was able to get living will legislation passed in Denmark. Though there are only 300 members so far they have had TV and radio exposure and, in 2003, commissioned a survey of Danish GPs: forty-one percent of the responders said they had a patient who requested euthanasia. According to a survey by the Jutland Post, 68% of the population want euthanasia legalized in Denmark.



Fleming Schollaart (top) and Dr. Tom Olsner, founders of E.V.D. (En Vaerdid Dod), the Danish RTD organisation which is the newest member of the World Federation.

