You are invited you to this important free program

Death with Dignity: THREE OPTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA

A LAW SUIT
Kathryn Tucker will discuss her law suit which would exempt doctors from criminal penalties if they helped someone die. She was Legal Director for C&C and is now Director of the Disability Rights Law Center which has filed a similar suit in New York.

LEGISLATION
George Eighmey, lawyer, former legislator and director of the Oregon C&C program, now working directly with the sponsors of SB128 in the CA Gen'l Assembly for DDNC (Death with Dignity National Center)

FINAL EXIT NETWORK
Dr. Sally Hall, San Diego psychiatrist and member of the Medical Advisory Board for Final Exit Network and Senior Exit Guide. She will discuss what the Network can do to help you achieve a peaceful death.

Sunday, May 17, 2015 1:30 - 3
Scottish Rite Event Center
1895 Camino del Rio South Mission Valley
For more information call 619-233-4418 or visit HemlockSocietySanDiego.org
Pioneers of the RTD Movement

On March 15 more than 120 people heard three speakers who made an impact in the struggle for a humane, self-chosen death. **Derek Humphry** founded the Hemlock Society in 1980 following his account, in Jean’s Way, of helping his cancer-stricken wife die. Striking a responsive chord among readers all over the world, sales from the book financed the new organization which had two goals: to change the law to permit assistance in dying and to provide information for a peaceful death. Derek wrote Final Exit, now in its 3rd edition and in 13 languages.

**Faye Girsh** succeeded Derek as President of Hemlock USA and started the Caring Friends program which trained Hemlock volunteers to work with Hemlock members suffering unbearably. It became the Final Exit Network when Hemlock merged with another organization in 2005. It is a non-medical model.

**Dr. Richard Mac Donald** was Hemlock’s Medical Director and took that role in the Caring Friends program. Though no physical assistance is provided, nor are the means provided, Dick was at more bedsides than Dr. Kevorkian providing information and support. He is now retired but speaking often and providing a liaison with the vibrant RTD organizations in Canada.

All three were involved with Hemlock USA, all were President of the World Federation of Right to Die Societies, and all are Senior Advisors to the Final Exit Network.

Thank you to our donors. We are grateful for all donations and list the names of those contributing $100 or more in the last two months in this Newsletter.

These contributions help us pay for the programs we bring you each month and to contribute to right-to-die efforts.

Ralph Anderson    Nancy Appleton    Lucy Khoury    Fang Lin    Arthur and Adena Metcalfe    Sara Raddetz    Barbara Severance

Neda Teichman    Kenneth Watson    James and Deborah Wenck

LEGACIES: We are now a 501C3 so you can include us in your Will or Living Trust or pension funds. Also in your Charitable Gift Account. Use these words:

HEMLOCK SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO
Address: PO Box 34237, San Diego CA 92163-4237

We continue to match funds sent to the Disability Rights Law Center (DRLC), the Death with Dignity National Center (DDNC) and for the Final Exit Network (FEN). Or, donate to HSSD so we can match the funds and continue our exciting monthly programs. Mail to the above address.

RTD FILM FESTIVAL REVIEW

GUZAARISH (Request): A beautiful woman, a handsome charming magician who is also a quadriplegic — in a beautiful house with wonderful music. But he wants to die — and the court denies him. A love story with a bittersweet ending. Half in English, but we got the drift. Shown April 19 to more than 50 people, all in tears and applause for the love and courage of this couple. Yay, Bollywood!
Subject: TWO DIFFERENT DOCTORS' OFFICES

Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The FIRST patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The SECOND sees his family doctor after waiting 3 weeks for an appointment, then waits 8 weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week and finally has his surgery scheduled for 6 months from then.

The doctor will provide the FIRST one with a peaceful death if there is great suffering. The SECOND one will just have to suffer before he dies.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The FIRST is a Golden Retriever.
The SECOND is a Senior Citizen. Next time take me to a vet!

GET THE NEWS
Derek Humphry has a free email list listserv) with the latest worldwide news
To subscribe go to http://lists.opn.org/mailman/listinfo/right-to-die_lists.opn.org
or, via email, send a message with subject or body 'help' to right-to-die-request@lists.opn.or

WE NEED BOARD MEMBERS. TECHNICAL, SPEAKING, ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS HELP BUT DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT ARE ESSENTIAL.
CONTACT US AT 619-233-4418 or hemlocksandiego@gmail.com

37: A Final Promise
A boy helps his brother die and makes a vow to himself to end his own life at 37 — until he falls in love with a woman with ALS who needs his help.
Sunday, June 14
2 - 4
La Jolla Library  7575 Draper St  La Jolla
HELIUM TODAY

Helium is in short supply and is needed for national security uses. The manufacturers of helium tanks are changing their formula so that they are now putting in only 80% pure helium instead of 100%. The other 20% is air which is not lethal. It will be labeled and is now appearing on the newer, large tanks. It is assumed it will be universal as soon as the small tanks are used up.

Around the world the “helium method” is being used to achieve a peaceful self-deliverance. But now we have a problem. Experts are trying to figure out a solution which would be: another gas, like Nitrogen, drugs that are accessible, mechanical means, etc. There are a lot of smart people in San Diego — engineers, chemists, physicists, divers, etc. If you have some ideas please contact me.

Remember: the means we recommend must cause a peaceful, non-violent, certain, quick, dignified end that loved ones would remember as a good death. Of course we are working to pass a law here, like the Oregon law, but that will take a while and it will apply to terminal patients. If Kathryn Tucker’s law suit is successful doctors will have more flexibility about whom they can help. Final Exit Network works directly with people in the home but has recommended the use of helium and will be looking for Plan B.

You can help by:
1. Supporting a Right to Die organization, this one preferably. In numbers and money there is strength.
2. Writing to the legislators considering SB128 when the bill comes before them. We will keep you on top of it by email.
3. HSSD will match checks to DRLC (Disability Rights Law Center) which is filing Kathryn Tucker’s law suit, to DDNC (Death with Dignity National Center) which is working on the legislation, and to FEN (Final Exit Network) which provides information and support to members suffering unbearably — in their own homes. Write the check to one of them, or to HSSD, and mail it to us so we can match it and send it on.
4. If you have technical skills that could help develop a new method of self-deliverance please contact fayegirsh@msn.com.

THANK YOU!!!

THE DEMENTIA DILEMMA

Many of us would not like to continue living if we had dementia and could not recognize loved ones, comprehend, speak coherently, or lose our independence. Even if the law changes it is doubtful we would be able to get help to die. Mostly what you can do to avoid this is to take measures to end your life while you are still mentally competent. Or, have an Advance Directive that will ensure you are not treated or encouraged to eat — AND a health care advocate who will make sure this happens.

This wording for your advance directive might help: If I can’t take care of myself because of dementia I do not want any infections or medical emergencies treated but want COMFORT CARE only, even if it should lead to my death. I do not want food or fluids put near my mouth but left next to me so I can help myself if I do choose to eat and drink.

(Check this with your doctor and let your loved ones AND health care agent know this is your wish.) Let us know if you have other ideas for not prolonging your life with dementia.