



World Right-to-Die Newsletter

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Hotel Concorde la Fayette and the Paris Congress Center

PARIS CONFERENCE: For A Global Recognition of Our Final Freedom

 Ah *mes amis*, the charms of Paris and the stimulation of meeting and chatting with right-to-die enthusiasts around the world are soon upon us. *Merci* to the gracious hosting of ADMD-France we have some details *pour votre information*:

DATES: Thursday, October 30 through Sunday, November 2, the World Day for the Right to Die with Dignity

HEADQUARTERS: Hotel Concorde la Fayette at 3, Place du Général Koenig / 75017 Paris. It is located at Porte Maillot, close to the Arc de Triomphe and les Champs Elysées. *Ooh la la!* The hotel is easy to access from Charles de Gaulle airport, either by taxi or buses which go from the airport to Port Maillot.

There will be events in other areas (see Program). Information on alternative hotels can be obtained from **Continued on page 8**

Australian Politician Leaves \$5 Million to Euthanasia: *Last Wish for The Love of My Wife*

Brisbane's longest serving lord mayor left \$5 million in his will to fund a campaign for the legalization of euthanasia. Clem Jones died in December having never spoken publicly about the subject. The legacy was inspired by the ordeal he watched his beloved wife, of 49 years, endure before her death in 1999. Despite this, Queensland Premier Anna Bligh yesterday ruled out any review of her state's euthanasia laws.

Continued on page 6



Sylvia and Clem Jones on his 80th birthday

US, MEXICO AND CANADA

U.S. Online Poll Shows High Support for Doctor Assistance

An online poll released in May finds about 66 percent of the 1,100 people polled said they support legal assisted dying in their own state. More than 80 percent believe neither the government, the church nor a third party should decide when people should have a right to die.

A 2007 Harris Poll, conducted by phone, found only 39 percent supported “physician assisted suicide” with another 31 percent opposing it and 21 percent not sure of their position. Among those supporting assisted dying just 38 percent strongly support it while, among those who oppose it, 74 percent are strongly opposed. People between the ages of 31 and 61 were most likely to back assisted dying while those 18–30 were most likely to oppose it.



Many Mexicans Open to Legal Euthanasia

The majority of people in Mexico favor the basic principle of euthanasia, according to a poll by Parametr'a which found that 59% of respondents think doctors should have the legal right to end the life of a person suffering from an incurable illness upon a request by the patient and his or her relatives; 35 per cent disagree.

In April the Mexican Senate voted 70-0 to legalize passive euthanasia which allows doctors to withdraw life-sustaining medication from patients when the patient is in palliative care and has been given less than six months to live. The bill has not been ratified by the Chamber of Deputies, Mexico's lower house.



Quebec MP Fights for Right to Assisted Suicide

Her battle with malignant melanoma still ongoing, Quebecois MP Francine Lalonde, 67, is pushing ahead with plans to force the Canadian House of Commons to relaunch the debate on assisted suicide. “I am not worried about abuse,” she said.

“I am worried, however, about what is going on in Quebec. People are suffering and can't find help and they are putting moral pressure on people they know to help them die. I find that a slippery slope.”

Her bill would amend the Criminal Code to allow, under specific conditions, seriously ill people to end their lives. Lalonde says she is not bringing the assisted suicide debate back to the forefront because of her own experience, but because of events in Quebec over the last few years.



Francine Lalonde

UNITED KINGDOM



Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP) Opens Assisted Dying Debate

Margo MacDonald, the veteran MSP, is planning to research foreign suicide clinics which allow those with terminal illnesses to end their own lives.

The 64-year-old, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, recently told fellow MSPs that she should be allowed to bring about her own death if the condition deteriorates. She is now calling for a public debate on assisted suicide. “I feel a responsibility because I've spoken about the principle of the thing. I've got to get to know about the practicalities.”

Husband Spared Jail for Suffocating Sick Wife

Robert Cook, who helped his wife kill herself rather than watch her continue to suffer from a debilitating disease, was given a 12 month suspended sentence. Sentencing Cook, the judge said “Your wife, I am wholly satisfied, had reached the limits of her personal endurance and as her full-time carer, you had done all you could to care for her for so many years.”

Mrs Cook had a history of depression and previous suicide attempts and in 2003 she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Two notes in Mrs Cook's handwriting, expressing her wish to die, were found in the house. Mrs Cook's brother and sister supported Cook throughout the trial, calling his actions brave and unselfish.

Last year, Stephen Jobling, 52, was given a 12 month suspended prison sentence for aiding and abetting his wife's suicide. Four months earlier, Frank Lund, 58, was sentenced to life in prison after smothering his wife of 32 years with a pillow.

“Suicide Tourist” Shown by Fate

Friends at the End (FATE) will show the film, *Suicide Tourist*, in Glasgow and London in June. Craig Ewert, suffering from Motor Neuron Disease, decided he could no longer cope. He and his wife Mary went from England to Switzerland where Dignitas helped him to end his life. The film won Special Mention at the Vancouver International Film Festival in 2007. (See www.friends-at-the-end.org.uk)

Couple Kill Themselves Over Care Home Fears

A Monmouthshire couple who had been married for 60 years killed themselves rather than face the prospect of being sent to different care homes. The bodies of Tom Hughes, 82, a retired dentist, and his wife Nancie, 86, were discovered next to each other in their retirement apartment.

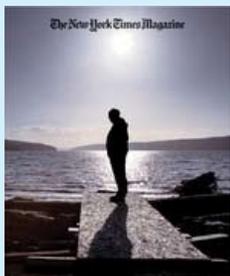


“Dr. Death” to Run for U.S. Congress

At age 79, having just been released from an 8 year prison term for second degree murder, Jack Kevorkian is collecting signatures to qualify to run as a candidate to Congress from a district in suburban Detroit. If elected he says his priority is promoting the 9th amendment which protects rights not explicitly specified in the U.S. Constitution. Kevorkian said he interprets it as protecting a person’s choice to die through assisted suicide.



Newspapers of Two Major States Endorse Washington DWD Act



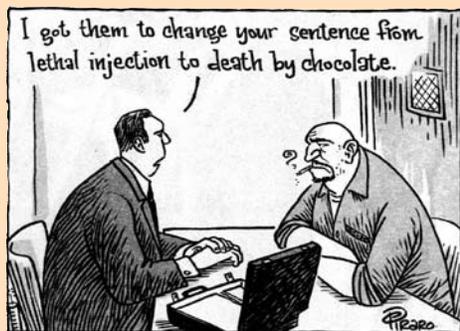
Former governor, Booth Gardner, suffering from Parkinson’s Disease, chairs the campaign.

In the 1994 and 1997 elections for the Oregon Death with Dignity Act the state’s major newspaper opposed the law. Now, more than 10 years later, the Oregonian has endorsed I-1000, the citizen’s initiative that would duplicate the Oregon law which will appear on the November ballot. It has also been endorsed the Seattle Post Intelligencer, Washington’s leading paper. (To donate: www.yeson1000.org)

Supreme Court Upholds Lethal Injection

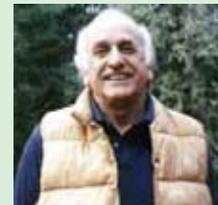
The Supreme Court, on a 7-2 vote, upheld the most common method of lethal injection for executions which is to use three drugs to sedate, paralyze and kill the prisoner. The argument against the three-drug protocol is that if the initial anesthetic does not take hold, the other two drugs can cause excruciating pain. One of those drugs, a paralytic, would render the prisoner unable to express his discomfort.

The case before the court came from Kentucky, where two death row inmates did not ask to be spared execution or death by injection. Instead, they wanted the court to order a switch to a single drug, a barbiturate, that causes no pain and can be given in a large enough dose to cause death. Chief Justice Roberts wrote that the one-drug method, frequently used in animal euthanasia, “has problems of its own, and has never been tried by a single state.” Physicians do not participate in the death penalty process since it is contrary to their ethical code.



When Is Sadness Not Depression?

Comment by Derek Humphry



Derek Humphrey

In the tenth year of Oregon’s physician-assisted suicide law, 49 terminally ill people took advantage of it to be helped to die. The previous year it was 46. Over its lifespan, the number of patients using it — the only such law in the USA — has been 341.

The most controversial point arising from these statistics is that almost no patient was sent for psychiatric examination before the lethal drugs were prescribed. In fact, in 2007 no patients were sent to a ‘shrink’ at all. The Death with Dignity Act says that it is up to the two doctors who are approving the hastened death whether or not they order a mental health evaluation. It is specifically against the Oregon law to prescribe for a dying patient who is also clinically depressed.

This situation caused Dr. Bill Toffler, national director of Physicians for Compassionate Care, which has always opposed the Oregon law, to state that “many people are becoming all too comfortable with assisted suicide as a final solution.” (The Nazis called the Jewish Holocaust their ‘final solution.’) Our opponents have always claimed that there is no such thing as ‘rational suicide.’

There are two reasons why none, or few, patients are sent for mental health check-ups. First, those Oregon doctors (47 in 2007) who cooperate with this particular law have become more experienced with assessing a patient who is asking for help to die. Plus, we don’t know how many patients are turned down — that action is not required to be recorded.

Secondly, since the patients who are given help to die are mostly enrolled in hospice, and have been under medical care for a considerable time as they fought their illness, the family and medical staff would have noticed serious depression or other mental problems, dealing with them appropriately. They learned to distinguish natural sadness at the thought of death from clinical depression.

Presidential Candidates Show Support for Aid in Dying

At this writing there are two Democratic presidential candidates both of whom have demonstrated support for choice at the end of life.

“The decision to end suffering by choosing aid in dying should be left to a terminally ill individual, that person’s physician and loved ones,” Sen. Barack Obama said during a forum sponsored by Compassion and Choices.

Sen. Hillary Clinton responded favorably to a question about Oregon’s aid-in-dying law, “The fact that Oregon is breaking new ground and providing valuable information as to what does and doesn’t work when it comes to end-of-life questions, I think, is very beneficial,” she told the Eugene Register-Guard. She expressed sympathy for those in difficult end-of-life situations and asserted it is important for Oregonians to have the choice.



From Compassion and Choices eNewsletter



Luxembourg Latest Country to Legalize Euthanasia

A WF member organization from one of the smallest countries succeeded, in February, in persuading the Luxembourg legislature, by a vote of 30 to 26, to legalize voluntary euthanasia. Voting took place without party political constraints, the representatives being free to vote according to their conscience rather than along the party lines.

Under the new law, doctors will have to consult with a colleague to confirm that the person is suffering from “... *an incurable condition with unbearable suffering*”. The patient must have made a clear statement about his wishes on treatment or nontreatment, aimed at prolonging or sustaining life in the event of advanced or malignant disease or severe and lasting injuries.

“This bill is not a license to kill.” said legislative co-sponsor Lydie Err *“It’s not a law for the parents or the doctors, but for the patient alone to decide if he wants to put an end to his suffering”*

(from www.admdl.lu)

ADMD-E’s secretary Marthy Putz adds “... *all hell broke loose with the adoption of our bill. Unfortunately, it is not all that smooth, and we are now in the throws of fighting opposition, because State Council insisted on a second reading, which entails certain adjustments, their justification being that there are certain incompatibilities between the euthanasia law and the one on palliative care.*

“So now doctors are coming together with an ethical commission and the opposing political party CSV. Catholic opponents have taken to the streets, have started a petition over e-mail, which has been countered with one put up by our people... and at the moment, we are beating them by 8900 to 6400. It shows that the people want it, just as they had declared in a country wide survey by 68% being for it.”



Dignitas: Nothing Illegal

Despite calls from three political parties to ban Dignitas, the Canton of Zurich declared in May that they had done nothing illegal and that no action would be taken. Dignitas simply exploited “the legal margin at its disposition.” Though there were outcries that Dignitas was using helium to help people die, the cantonal government said in its statement it had not been “scientifically proved” that this method was cruel. To accusations that the charges were excessive the Canton said the expenses received represented real costs.



Ludwig Minelli



The Right to Die in France

Comment by Jacqueline Jencquel



The simultaneous deaths of Hugo Claus in Belgium and Chantal Sébire in France are a demonstration that our goal is not the choice between life and death, but between different ways of dying.

Jacqueline Jencquel

Hugo Claus, the Flemish artist, poet, playwright and novelist, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and decided to leave on his own terms at the moment he chose and before losing his mind. He was lucid and serene at the moment of his death. His wife said, *“He himself picked the moment of his death and asked for euthanasia”* not wanting to extend his suffering. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt said, *“Because he left us as a great loving star, right on time. Just before he would have collapsed into a black hole.”*

Such a merciful death is possible in Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland and now Luxemburg.

But in France Chantal Sébire, a 52 year old teacher who suffered from an extremely painful disease that produced facial tumours, had to suffer and show her poor, bruised face to the world because she wanted to help change the law in France. She could have died peacefully and surrounded by her family instead of having all this media coverage at the end and suffering intolerable pain — physical and moral. Anyone who would have taken the time to imagine what it must have felt like to be in her condition would not have dared express the lack of empathy some of our ministers did.

Fortunately we have Bernard Kouchner, a doctor, who was Health Minister under François Mitterrand before he was asked to become Nicolas Sarkozy’s Foreign Minister. He made a very clear statement in favour of helping Chantal Sébire to leave this life with no further suffering.

Robert Badinter, a prominent French intellectual, who also was a minister and thanks to whom the death penalty was prohibited in France, also openly supports our cause.

Zurich Symposium: Legal/ Psychiatric Issues in Assisted Dying

German speaking people interested in legal and psychiatric questions around assisted suicide, are invited to attend an excellent symposium in Zurich on September 4th. Organized by Frank Petermann and the University of St.Gallen (in collaboration with the Swiss Medical Lawyers Association), it is the fourth year for this meeting with the very best Swiss, German and European speakers in this domain, including Prof. Sutorius and Dr. Pieter Admiraal from the Netherlands. Information is available at www.irp.unisg.ch and irp@unisg.ch, in German only.



Swiss Conference on “Tired of Living”

In January there was a meeting on the subject of providing assistance to older people who are tired of living hosted by Exit Deutsche Schweiz in Zurich. According to the European Human Rights Convention every person in full possession of his mental faculties has the right to decide when and how he will die. How can this right be acted upon without the help of a doctor? A doctor should not be obliged to write the prescription if it goes against his convictions, but a patient can also find another doctor.

The Swiss are considering this type of option made by a person who is lucid and competent. To quote Hans Wehrl, president of Exit Deutsche Schweiz:

“Somebody who used to be an international businessman does not want to be bedridden or dependent on other people for his everyday care. An Alzheimer patient does not want to lose his/her power of judgment and also become dependent on others. A paraplegic cannot imagine having to live another 40 years locked in a body which is already dead. Somebody with intolerable pain just can't bear living any longer.

“All these people have decided after having spoken to their family and doctors that their lives are not worth living anymore, they would rather die a dignified death.

It is about their own subjective and individual perception of their own dignity...

“A dignified death can only be assessed by the individual. Neither lawyers, nor doctors nor politicians have the moral right to decide for the individual, because it would be paternalistic and a violation of Human Rights.

A poll by a Dutch research agency showed 63 percent of the 1,000 people surveyed supported granting the right to die to the elderly, even if they were not ill, while 74 percent supported the controlled distribution of “suicide” pills to those who felt their lives were done. But changes to Dutch law look unlikely as the religious Christian Union is a junior partner in the ruling coalition.

Jacqueline Joncquel

Pickles by Brian Crane



OBITUARIES: Three Great Men

MEINRAD SCHÄR



Dr. Meinrad Schär, president of Exit Deutsche Schweiz from 1991–1998, died last November. He was ahead of his times in so many areas.

In the mid-seventies even before EXIT existed, he demanded decriminalization of physicians who helped their patients to die, although the subject was then taboo. From responsibility in life to self-determination in dying, he opened the way for EXIT. He had a policy of “little steps” which marked the policy of this association. Because of his personal integrity and his exceptional qualities as a human being he even managed to convince the opponents in the medical academy.

Dr. Schär educated and informed unrelentlessly, not only as president of EXIT but also as a member of the WF board. The RTD Movement misses his charisma, I miss him as a friend, a mentor, an example. He is the man who taught me the art of dying with dignity with an endless patience and all his enormous knowledge in the medical, pharmacological, social and human field. He is the man who was my “rector spirituel” soon after I had joined the movement.

Elke Baezner, President Right to Die Europe

DR. JEAN COHEN

Dr. Cohen had been president of ADMD-France from 2001

till 2005. He was a gynecologist and an obstetrician and he fought for the rights of women to terminate a pregnancy. He believed in freedom, self-determination, equality and dignity. He believed in helping at the beginning (birth) and at the end of life (dying). A humanist and a philosopher till the end.

Jacqueline Joncquel



Dr. Jean Cohen with Emilio Covieri

JACQUES POHIER

President of ADMD-France from 1992 till 1995 Pohier was a theologian and a philosopher. In his book, “La Mort Opportune,” he writes that euthanasia is not a choice between living or dying. It is a choice between two ways of dying. Those who help — whether they are physicians, friends or family — are not killers. To kill is to take somebody’s life against his will. They don’t kill; they help in the process of dying.



He wrote, “Euthanasia is not about what a doctor may or may not do... It is about what I or you or any human being may or may not do with his life and with his death.”

Jacqueline Jencquel, Editor Europe Right to Die Newsletter



Continued from page 1

Lord Mayor Leaves \$5 Million for Euthanasia

These are words from his will:

“I saw Sylvia suffer the most dreadful agony from disease and illness that destroyed her physically and mentally and caused her to suffer day after day not only the pain, but also the indignity of being something that could not truly be described as a human being.... But Sylvia was only one of millions of people who are committed to varying terms of torture by their fellows.”

“If we have a definition of living of any sort, it cannot include the existence of people simply artificially kept alive against their will and in circumstances that can only be described as totally inhuman or, indeed, barbaric.”

“I do not, of course, criticise the splendid endeavours that the medical fraternity make to preserve the quality of human life, but when that quality falls to a level where life is one of pain and suffering — or when one’s mind can no longer function — those self-same medical practitioners should have the right and the responsibility of releasing persons from that torture, misery and indignity.”

Former Northern Territories prime minister Marshall Perron, who was responsible for introducing the first voluntary euthanasia law in the world (The Rights of the Terminally Act, 1995, rescinded by the federal parliament in 1997), advised the committee on the status of Australian right-to-die organizations.

Dr Jones instructed that \$5 million be used in whatever way” his executors saw fit to help fine people” fighting to change the law so patients who chose to end their lives could be given ways and means to do so.



Angelika and John Elliott

Sydney University: New Voluntary Euthanasia Essay Prize

“Freedom and Choice at the End of Life” will be the theme of a new essay prize to be offered annually by the University of Sydney.

The award has been established as a result of a bequest for one hundred thousand dollars from Sydney doctor and cancer sufferer John Elliott. Dr Elliott traveled to Switzerland in January 2007 to make use of the Swiss assisted-suicide laws. The John Elliott Medal will be the second richest essay prize offered by Sydney University.

Details of the award were announced this week and published in the *Sydney Annual: The 2007-2008 Report on Achievement and Philanthropy*.

New Documentary on Australian Broadcasting



“Four Corners” a national Australian documentary TV program which has aired many RTD issues showed

Final Call — interviews with three active, healthy older Australians who lead rich and fulfilling lives about their plans for pre-emptive suicide. They intend to deliberately end their lives when they think the time is right, before they are overtaken by frailty, illness or dependence. Such a radical step, they claim, is a final act of self-determination and a human right. The overwhelming majority of Australians believe in the right of the terminally ill to seek and obtain medical assistance to end their lives.

Specialists Working With Dying Least Likely to Endorse Aid

A study published in the April issue of *The Medical Journal of Australia* found strong differences between medical specialties in their endorsement of help in dying based on interviews with 1400 Australian doctors:

- 22% of anesthetists said they would euthanize a patient with three months to live who had pain that could be adequately controlled but was extremely tired, short of breath and bedridden.
- 21% of obstetricians and gynecologists would help the suicide of a patient with two weeks to live.
- In comparison, only 1% of the 121 oncologists surveyed said they would assist suicide in that situation. Similarly, only 1-2% of the 120 geriatricians surveyed said they would assist suicide for patients in both cases.
- Palliative care workers were generally more religious and therefore less likely to assist suicide.
- Nearly 4% of the doctors surveyed would use drugs to hasten the death of a patient without their consent if the patient had three months to live and was extremely tired, short of breath and bedridden.

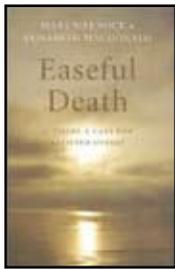
SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

ERGO news: right-to-die@lists.opn.org

EUTHENEWSIA: <http://www.euthaNEWSia.ca>

EXIT INTERNATIONAL: exit@euthanasia.net

Europe RTD Newsletter, Jacqueline Joncquel, Editor



EASEFUL DEATH: IS THERE A CASE FOR ASSISTED DYING?

Lady Mary Warnock and Elisabeth Macdonald MD, Oxford Univ Press 2008.

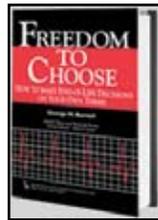
Philosopher Mary Warnock, a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on Euthanasia, and cancer specialist Dr. Elisabeth Macdonald provide a balanced and readable exploration of the arguments for a change in the law covering assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia.

There is a sensitively written chapter about practical ways of easing death. For example, self-denial of food and fluid is examined in detail: “this may be a lengthy process placing intolerable anguish on the family and professional carers.” They conclude this is a legal but inhumane way to circumnavigate an unintentionally inhumane law.

The last chapter looks at some ways in which attitude to death are changing, and why. ... We now stay alive so long and suffer so much for many years at the end of life that “we are forced to ask ourselves what all the extra years that people live are actually worth to the people that live them.”

Excerpted from a review by Nan Maitland, Friends at the End (FATE)

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE: HOW TO MAKE END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS ON YOUR OWN TERMS

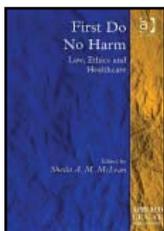


by George Burnell MD, Baywood Publishing 2008

The audience for this volume is everyone who needs information to make intelligent, informed, well-planned decisions about end-of-life care and to state these wishes to loved ones and in legal documents. This can prevent family conflicts and assist loved ones in finding needed resources.

Also noted: BREATHE by Gary Hyndman, Cotton & Cigars Publishing Inc 2005

A Unitarian minister tells of his involvement with a young quadriplegic man who struggles to make a life for himself but ultimately decides to die.

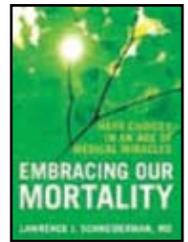


FIRST DO NO HARM: LAW, ETHICS, AND HEALTHCARE

Edited by Sheila Mclean, Ashgate, 2006

Professor Sheila McLean, the first holder of the International Bar Association Chair of Law and Ethics in Medicine at Glasgow University and Director of the Institute of Law and Ethics in Medicine at Glasgow University, is the editor of this collection of 37 chapters by 44 experts from Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, New Zealand and Norway. Euthanasia is one of the topics and one for which Dr. McLean has been a strong advocate. It is one of in a series of works from the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics in Canberra

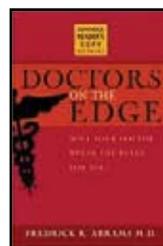
EMBRACING OUR MORTALITY: HARD CHOICES IN AN AGE OF MEDICAL MIRACLES



by Lawrence Schneiderman MD, Hardcover, Oxford University Press, USA, 2008

As medical advances and lifestyle changes carry more and more Americans beyond the age of 80, decisions about quality of life and manner of death grow increasingly unavoidable. Using many literary references and calling on philosophy as well as science, Schneiderman, professor of medical ethics and family medicine, argues that physicians need to work from an “ethic of care” that gives equal status to the relief of suffering and the restoration of health.

Excerpted from UCSD Newsletter



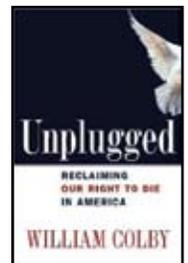
DOCTORS ON THE EDGE: WILL YOUR DOCTOR BREAK THE RULES

by Frederick Abrams MD

Dr. Abrams, an ethicist and gynecologist, raises the question of whether doctor should ever lie, bend the law, or betray a confidence to benefit their patients.

It is the true account of doctors who are faced with wrenching moral dilemmas, such as in the case of euthanasia and abortion.

UNPLUGGED: RECLAIMING OUR RIGHT TO DIE IN AMERICA



By William Colby Paperback AMACOM 2006

Prompted by the Terri Shiavo fiasco, Bill Colby, attorney for Nancy Cruzan and gripping writer, explores the complexity of medical intervention and the myths of the right-to-die debate which surrounded the Schiavo debate.



“JEAN’S WAY” NOW IN TWO MORE LANGUAGES

Thirty years after it first appeared in England, Derek Humphry’s memoir of helping his first wife to die— *Jean’s Way* — was published in translation in Turkey in March. This is possibly the first book concerning euthanasia/assisted suicide to be published in a Muslim country. It attracted wide attention in the Turkish press.

The same month, ‘Jean’s Way’ was published for the first time in Mexico under the title ‘Jean Murio a Su Manera’ by Demac of Mexico City.

Humphry’s publications can be found at www.finalexit.org/ergo-store. You can watch Derek Humphry’s video at www.youtube.com/user/TheFinalExit

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the Paris Tourist Office (<http://en.parisinfo.com/paris-hotels>).

Information and maps of the metro and bus routes plus shopping and dining tips will be available at registration; the Paris Tourist Office web site also has information.

COSTS: The registration fee for the Friday meeting is 100 €, to be paid directly to: ADMD-France / 50 rue de Cabrol / Paris 75010 / France.

The room fees are 200 € for a single, 210 € per couple, breakfast included. To make reservations contact the hotel directly: www.concorde-hotels.com or you can phone, from the U.S. or Canada call 1 800 261 73 83.

For two delegates for each paid-up member organization there is no charge for registration. Each member organization will need to inform ADMD-France and give them the names of those two delegates. Contact Sophie at s.grassano@admd.net. Delegates will have to book and pay for their own accommodations.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM:

Thursday, 30 October — Event to be confirmed

Cocktails: Around 6–7 PM

Location: Paris 7^{eme} arrondissement: Salons du

Conseil Regional

Opened to people who have registered for the Friday conference

Friday, 31 October

8:30 AM–5:30 PM: WFRtDS conference with ADMD-France

Speakers and topics to be announced.

Location: Hotel Concorde la Fayette

Late afternoon: Event to be confirmed.

Public meeting from 7PM

Location: Hotel de Ville de Paris

Saturday, 1 November

Board meetings are scheduled. Any changes will be posted on the WF website.

(Good day to explore Paris!)

Sunday, 2 November: World Day for the Right to Die with Dignity

10 AM Press Conference with Delegates and the WF Board

Location: To be confirmed

Around 11:30 AM Event to be confirmed

Location: The Trocadero or the Mur de la Paix (Wall of Peace) on the Champ de Mars

Not all details are available at this writing. Further details and confirmations will be found at www.worldrtd.net.

OTHER COUNTRIES

Israel Living Will Simplified



The law permitting terminally ill patients to avoid prolonging their lives was passed in the Knesset in 2005 and enacted in 2006. But the Ministry of Health — in charge of enactment — did not instruct physicians, or even advise them of their duties. Most obstructive was the Ministry's form for the advance directive, which is long and complicated, and it is almost impossible for an average individual to fill in.

After much effort we managed to obtain recognition by the Ministry of Health of Lilach's "Living Will" which accompanied by statements

by witnesses who are acquainted with the writer of the will, who confirm that they have been told personally that the writers do not wish for their lives to be prolonged by artificial means. More than 1000 new members joined Lilach last year. This year we have been working on two main issues:

1. A struggle to change the format of the government Living Will to a simpler and more comprehensible version.
2. The distribution of information on the law, and the possibilities it provides.

Bina Divon, Chairperson, Lilach

Century Club Contributors

It is with deep appreciation that we thank the members of the Century Club for the first six months of 2008.

Annelies Plaisant

Sidney and Joann Rosoff

Hemlock Society of San Diego

Michael Irwin

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Faye Girsh, Editor

7811 Eads Ave #108

La Jolla CA 92037 • USA

For email: fayegirsh@msn.com

Clint Kruger, Graphic Artist