

Chapter Fund Raiser Nets Over \$3,000

Message from Darby Mangan, President, SGV/Whittier NOW

SGV/Whittier Donates 10% to WINGS Women's Shelter

The yard sale was a huge success, netting more than \$3,000. Thanks to everyone who helped. Without you, our chapter wouldn't have the funds for the many actions we take every year. Once again, we have sent ten percent of the proceeds to WINGS, the West Covina shelter for women and children fleeing violence at home.

Special thanks go to **Jackie Riley** for the use of her home, garage and huge backyard — and all her hard work!

Clothing sold well at this last yard sale and helped us reach our goal; so, as you switch to your winter wardrobe, think of us and donate what you will not be using again.

You can deliver the items to Jackie in Glendora or call Darby at 626.918.0492 for pick up.

Chapter Helps with Clinic Terrorism Defense

"Operation Rescue" has targeted Dr.

Leroy Carhart, who assumed the mantle of Dr. George Tiller after he was murdered on May 31.

Dr. Carhart, who made the trip every Sunday from Omaha to Wichita to assist Dr. Tiller, has been targeted for years. He has been subjected to fire, threats and more. "We are at war," he said. The Nebraska Legislature is poised to harass Dr. Carhart as it did Dr. Tiller, bringing legal threats to his practice.

Carhart maintains medical licenses in seven states so that if another provider is "hurt, retired, or killed" he can step in. "Abortion is not a four letter word," he says, "I'm proud of what I do." He is determined to train more late-term-abortion providers,

so the practice won't die with him.

Radical "pro-lifers" promote or condone violence to prevent women from controlling their own bodies. Dr. Tiller is the 10th person in the U.S. to be murdered by anti-choice terrorists. Since 1996 there have been at least 17 attempted murders, 383 death threats, 153 incidents of assault or battery and three kidnappings committed against providers.

Anti-choice violence must end! SGV/W NOW is fighting back — using peaceful means.

- **Our chapter donates to the Feminist Majority**, one of the organizers of the recent clinic defense in Nebraska.
- **We continue to support Dr. Carhart** with donations to defray the costs of clinic defense.
- **We will write and call the Department of Justice** to insist on the reinstatement of Dr. Carhart's federal protection, which was withdrawn under pressure from extremist groups, such as the "Army of God," that openly support violence.

As a member of SGV/W NOW, you are already a reproductive rights supporter. But if you would also like to make a personal donation, you may send a check to *Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska*, % Dr. Carhart, 1002 W. Mission Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005.

SGV/W NOW Member at Clinic Defense Action

- Henry Howard, a member of our Executive Board, went to Nebraska this August to participate in the defense of

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exercising
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privileges
and
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bilities
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Darby (continued from page 1)

Dr. Carhart’s clinic. (Read Henry’s report on page 4.)

Our Chapter is part of a statewide committee focused on Family Court Reform. Assembly Bill 612, legislation outlawing unscientific “alienation” theories that have put children in the custody of their abusers, recently was approved by the Assembly’s Judiciary Committee. Supporting the measure at the hearing was award-winning actress Nancy Lee Grahn (General Hospital’s Alexis Davis). The state is planning an audit of family courts in Marin and Sacramento counties.

Locally, we are keeping the pressure on the D.A. to assure that Citrus Family Court attorneys are trained in handling domestic violence cases. We are also working with area police departments to bolster their resources to protect families. Last month we met with Councilwoman Monica Garcia and the police chief of Baldwin Park. As a result, Diane Franklin, Board member and Domestic Violence victim’s advocate at the West Covina Police Department, is now also in communication with the DV representative at the Baldwin Park P. D.

On the personal level, the Chapter continues to support Yesenia, a victim of domestic violence, and her three children — Mark, Jessica and Gabriel. We are happy to report that they now have an apartment, and the children are doing well in school despite the many ups and downs in their situation. Becoming self sufficient against high odds is difficult, but Yesenia keeps on striving. We are proud of her, and are continuing our support.

Let’s Stand without Apology for our Reproductive Rights
In this vitriolic health care debate, many who ordinarily support women’s rights are rushing to insist that abortion will not be included in any reform legislation. Republicans, who are not going to vote for reform anyway, have even introduced amendments that would prohibit private insurers from offering abortions. Don’t cave to the right!

Reproductive Rights News

South Dakota Appealing Overturned Provisions of Statute
South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley (R) is appealing a US District Court decision striking down two of three provisions of a 2005 state informed consent abortion law. In August US District Judge Karen Schreier upheld the law’s requirement that physicians tell women abortion “terminates the life of a whole, separate unique living human being.” However, she overturned the requirements that physicians inform women that they have a “legally protected relationship” with the fetus and that the procedure increases the risk of suicide, reports the National Partnership for Women and Families. Judge Schreier noted the lack of evidence supporting the idea that abortion increases suicide risk. (from Feminist Daily News, September 23)

Medical Abortion Pill Mifepristone Approved in Italy
Despite the vehement objections of the Vatican, the Italian Pharmaceuticals Agency has approved the use of Mifepristone (RU-486) for non-surgical abortions through the seventh week of pregnancy. The drug may not be sold over the counter, however, but must be administered by a doctor in a hospital setting.

Abortion Hotlines in Argentina and Chile
A hotline has been launched in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to give women information on how to terminate a pregnancy using the drug Misoprostol, which is used to prevent gastric ulcers in people taking NSAIDs. Chile established a similar hotline earlier this year.

Taiwan Proposing Liberalization of Abortion Laws
A committee of the Taiwanese legislature is recommending liberalization of its abor- tion laws, that women be allowed to obtain an abortion without spousal consent and that unmarried women aged 18 & 19 should not have to get parental consent.



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Regular: \$40 Reduced fee: \$10—\$29

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Mail to **SGV/W-NOW**
16065 Doublegrove St.
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Gay Marriage in Maine Up for Vote November 1

Opponents of marriage equality put Proposition 1 on the ballot after Maine legislators passed a marriage equality law in May. Passage of the measure would overturn the new law, as California's legalization of gay marriage was overturned by Prop. 8. Four other New England states have legalized gay marriage: Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Mixed Message from Washington

Obama has extended health care and some other benefits to same-sex partners of federal workers.

On September 18, the Justice Department filed a motion to dismiss the legal challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act, which allows states to deny recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states and, for federal purposes, defines marriage as between a man and woman.

Meet the New Leaders of National NOW

Terry O'Neil, President — Chief of staff to a county-level elected official in Maryland. Has served as Executive Director of the National Council of Women's Organizations and as Membership Vice President of national NOW. Attorney and tenured professor at Tulane Law School, former president of New Orleans NOW, Louisiana NOW and Maryland NOW.

Bonnie Grabenhofer, Executive Vice President — Principal in Partners in Learning, Inc. consulting firm. Master's in Adult and Continuing Education. Has served in many NOW leadership roles, including president of Illinois NOW, president of her local chapter, and Great Lakes Regional representative to NOW National Board.

Erin Matson, Action Vice President — Senior Copywriter specializing in online advertising. Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in Women's Studies and has published work in a University of Michigan textbook, the F-word Magazine, and the Minnesota Women's Press. Founding member of the National NOW Young Feminist Task Force, currently a Prairie States Regional representative to the National NOW Board as well as Minnesota NOW President.

Allendra Letsome, Membership Vice President — Grassroots organizer for Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Law degree from the University of Baltimore. Served as Maryland NOW Legislative Intern and Policy Legal Intern for Legal Momentum. Founding member of the National NOW Young Feminist Task Force.

Thank you, Senator Kennedy

This is a partial list of landmark legislation Senator Kennedy sponsored:

- Equal Rights Amendment Extension Act of 1978, extending time to pass the ERA;
- Minimum wage laws that impact women;
- Pregnancy Discrimination Act, prohibited discrimination against pregnant women;
- Civil Rights Restoration Act, restoring the full scope of Title IX;
- Voting Rights Act of 1965;
- Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, protecting reproductive care providers;
- Family Medical Leave Act, providing 12 weeks unpaid leave to workers;
- Civil Rights Act of 1991, giving women workers the right to collect damages in sex discrimination cases;
- Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, allowing women workers to sue for wage discrimination, reversing Roberts' Supreme Court decision, and
- numerous health care measures, including stem cell research, S-CHIP, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Mental Health Parity Act, and reproductive health funding.

NOW CALENDAR

- > **October 17 · 12:30 SGV/Whittier Executive Board Meeting · Marie Callender's, Covina**
- > **November 10-11 · CA NOW Board Meeting**
- > **Spring 2010 · Performing Arts California Conference**
- > **July 2 - 4, 2010 National NOW Conference, Boston**

Uruguay Liberalizes Gay Adoption Rights

Lesbian and gay couples may now legally adopt in Uruguay. In a first for Latin America, the Uruguayan legislature voted on August 27 to permit gay couples and unwed couples to adopt children. (Single gay adults were already allowed to adopt.)

Although gay marriage remains illegal, in 2007 Uruguay enacted a civil union law that grants rights similar to marriage.

Earlier this year, the government lifted a ban on gay people serving in the armed forces.

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- Chapter Member

VALLEY VOICE

The SGV/Whittier NOW

Chapter newsletter is published 3 or 4 times a year and is free to members. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$20/year.



Valley Voice
 SGV/WHITTIER NOW
 16065 Doublegrove Street
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This Clinic Stayed Open!

SGV NOW Board Member Henry Howard, reporting from Bellevue, Nebraska

Over one hundred of us — men and women from 16 states — met in the chilly pre-dawn darkness outside the Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska. We were responding to a call for help from Dr. Leroy Carhart, now one of only two late-term abortion providers in the nation.

For years, Dr. Carhart had flown to Wichita in secret twice weekly to assist Dr. George Tiller, the courageous physician slaughtered in his Kansas church this past May. After Scott Roeder, avowed White Supremacist and anti-abortion activist, murdered Dr. Tiller, Dr. Carhart publicly pledged to continue his vital work.

Early in August, Operation Rescue began posting plans for a sustained campaign of clinic protests and legal harassment to “peacefully and legally” shut down Dr. Carhart’s Bellevue clinic. They also announced a “Rally for Life” in Omaha, to be followed by a “Rescue Outreach” at Dr. Carhart’s clinic in Bellevue on August 28 and 29.

Knowing how high the stakes were, abortion-rights defenders from around the country swung into action. Led by **World Can’t Wait**, the **Feminist Majority Foundation** and **Kansas NOW** (which did an amazing job), supporters gathered in Bellevue for the first national clinic defense since the 2001 action at Dr. Tiller’s clinic.

Intimidated by the extraordinarily disciplined and well publicized response from reproductive rights activists, Operation Rescue’s protests virtually failed! Attendance at the Bellevue anti-choice protest was so poor that Troy Newman, Operation Rescue’s president, had to crash Kansas NOW’s press conference just to get his face on camera. On the morning of the much-ballyhooed “rescue outreach,” anti-choice demonstrators, (all apparently local people) were outnumbered more than 3 to 1 by clinic defenders. The so called “Rally for Life,” slated for August 28th in Omaha, evidently did not take place at all!

Easily drowning out the few Operation Rescue protesters at the Bellevue clinic, we 100 – 150 defenders reassured arriving patients, shouting “Welcome! Welcome! This clinic stays open!” And it did.

As the anti-choice protesters drifted away from the clinic, some of us defenders marched down the block, displaying banners: “Abortion providers save women’s lives!” and “Dr. Carhart is a hero,” and a warning sign, “We are all Dr. Tiller.”

Thousands of people, on their way to the famous Strategic Air Command air show, saw our pro-choice message. I would say **6 – 7 of every 10 cars were honking for us and Dr. Carhart!** At the end of the day, Dr. Carhart and some of the staff came out, met everyone and thanked them from a full heart. All of us signed a banner that now hangs in the reception room: **“Abortion Providers Save Women’s Lives.”**

It was a fantastically successful clinic defense, but make no mistake — this isn’t over. A thousand of us can defend Dr. Carhart’s clinic, but we cannot protect him from one bullet in the head. Only a pro-choice movement that refuses to back down, and makes clear that there can be **no** “common ground” with murderers, can succeed in keeping abortion safe, legal and accessible.

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