

Wisconsin Update

Newsletter of Compassion & Choices of Wisconsin

Vol. 18, No. 2 Supporting the option of aid-in-dying for the terminally ill June 2008

Death With Dignity Initiative Will Be On the November Ballot in Washington

(From the March 1, 2008 edition of *The Olympian*, a newspaper published in Olympia, Washington)

Statement of subject: Initiative Measure No. 1000 concerns allowing certain terminally ill competent adults to obtain lethal prescriptions.

Concise description: This measure would permit terminally ill, competent, adult Washington residents, who are medically predicted to have six months or less to live, to request and self-administer lethal medication prescribed by a physician. Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes___ No___

Ballot summary: This measure would permit terminally ill, competent adult Washington residents medically predicted to die within six months, to request and self-administer medication prescribed by a physician. The measure requires two oral and one written request, two physicians to diagnose the patient and determine the patient is competent, a waiting period, and physician verification of an informed patient decision. Physicians, patients and others acting in good faith compliance would have criminal and civil immunity.

Will the YES! On I-1000 campaign be able to collect the 225,000 signatures on petitions for the initiative by the deadline of July 3, 2008?

According to Logan Kelly, the Puget Sound Organizer for the campaign, the effort to get the re-

quired number of signatures on petitions for the initiative is coming along on schedule.

She said the campaign has 3,000 volunteers collecting signatures and is in communications with them almost daily. The goal for the volunteers is 175,000 signatures and they have at last count collected 132,000. She said that the campaign has scheduled a number of major events in the last part of June and they expect many volunteers to be turning in their petitions in the next couple weeks.

In addition, the campaign has engaged paid signature gathers to obtain signatures and has set an overall goal of having 300,000 signatures on petitions, far in excess of the minimum requirement.

Donations can be sent to YES! On I-1000, P. O. Box 21984, Seattle, WA 98111. In addition, donations can be made on yeson1000.org.

Summer Service and Afternoon Program

Rev. Matthew Nelson, a C&C Board Member and an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, will speak on *The Personal and the Political: End of Life Choices* at the Unitarian Church North in Mequon on Sunday, August 10, 2008 at 9:30 A.M. In the afternoon at the church, C&C of WI will sponsor a panel discussion on end-of-life choices. See the announcement on page 5 for further detail. Come to the service and program and bring a friend.

Visit www.compassionandchoiceswisc.org for the latest information regarding end-of-life issues.

Two Hemlock Veterans Will Join Board

Anne Zimmerman, a former president of Hemlock of Wisconsin, has indicated an interest in re-joining the Board. Anne will be remembered for her enthusiasm for the cause of aid in dying for the terminally ill, for the articles she wrote for the newsletter and for her efforts to organize a community Hemlock group in Portage. Welcome back Anne.

In addition, Brian McCarthy has indicated his interest in joining the Board. Brian is a former Roman Catholic priest and Methodist minister. He has spoken at legislative hearings in favor of the Death with Dignity Bill and has been the speaker at one of our membership meetings, always with his Celtic charm and wit.

Frank Boyle, the Long Time Co-Sponsor of the Wisconsin Death with Dignity Bill, Is Retiring from the Assembly: He Endorses Nick Milroy for His Assembly Seat.

Frank has been a passionate advocate of physician aid in dying for the terminally ill for over 16 years. We hate to lose his foremost role in the movement. But alas, he has decided that the time has come to pass the torch. He will not seek re-election. We wish him well.

In a mailing to his supporters, Frank said, "I need your help once again to ensure that the progressive values we share have a strong voice from Northwestern Wisconsin. The person I am confident will carry on the strong progressive legacy is Nick Milroy. I ask you to support Nick in his bid to succeed me as State Representative of the 73rd Assembly District."

Boyle said, "Nick Milroy is the only true progressive Democrat running for my seat. He is serving his second term as a City Councilor for the City of Superior. He is a UW-Superior graduate, who now works as a fisheries biologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Most importantly, he has the same progressive values as we do."

If you would like to pay tribute to Frank's long fight for death with dignity, send a contribution to his choice of successor at Nick Milroy for Assembly, 2706 North 17th Street, Superior, WI 54880.

Wisconsin Democratic Party Supports Death with Dignity Legislation

On June 14, the Wisconsin Democratic Party at its convention in Stevens Point passed a resolution stating "the dying process can be long and painful for some persons with cancer and terminal illness" and that "all mentally competent, terminally ill people should have the right to choose a quicker and painless death", and that therefore "the Democratic Party of Wisconsin supports death with dignity legislation."

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Appearances and Events

On January 20, 2008, Jim Greenwald spoke at the Sunday service of the Prairie Lakes UU Fellowship in Ripon on *Death With Dignity*. Arrangements for his appearance were made by long time member Mary A. Brandt of Ripon.

May 14, 15 and 16, 2008, the National Association of Social Workers held its annual conference in Madison. Roland Halpern of the C&C Nat'l office in Denver arranged to have a C&C table with a C&C banner, display and literature. Warren Olsen, a C&C of WI board member, coordinated efforts in Madison. Members of C&C of WI who were present to discuss death with dignity with conference delegates included Jim Allen, Karen Deiro, Betty Dovenbarger, Jim Greenwald, Dick Grum, Warren Olsen, Dawn Stucki and Susan Wester

On May 21, Karen Deiro spoke at the UU Church West in Brookfield on End-of-Life Choices. Her appearance was one part of a series of programs on various topics related to death and dying.

On July 10th, C&C of WI will have its usual exhibitor's table at the annual convention of the Wisconsin Coalition of Aging Groups (CWAG). Dick Grum of Stoughton will man the table and greet conference delegates and Donna Trautman of Green Bay will assist him.



Roland Halpern of the C&C National Office in Denver minds the C&C exhibit at the National Association of Social Workers annual conference held at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison

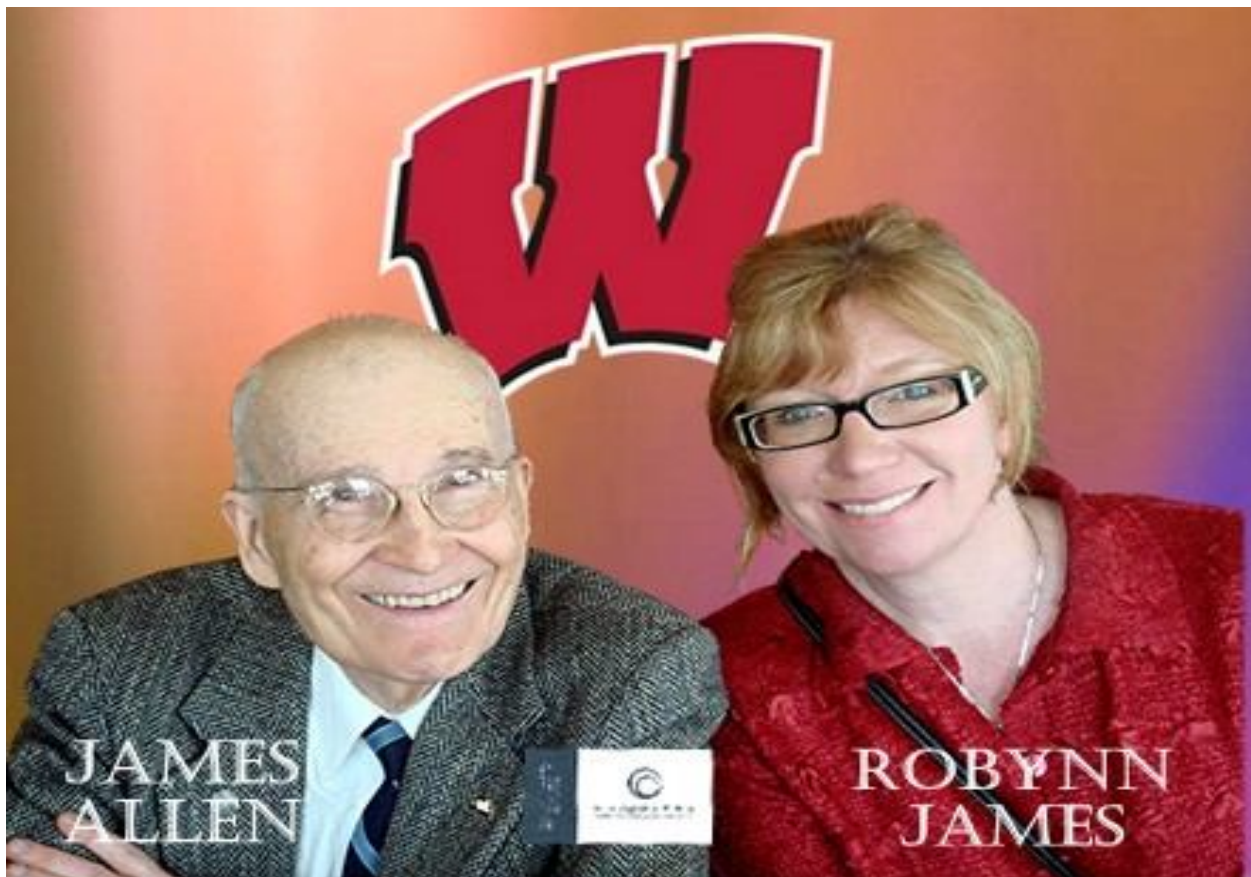
Report on the April Meeting: A Horror Story on Dying in America

Robynn James, a fund raiser for Compassion & Choices, spoke to the April meeting held at the Unitarian Church in Madison. She said in her travels around the country in connection with her job she hears horror stories over and over again.

“I hear nightmare situations,” James said. “Sloan-Kettering in New York City is a hospital that touts its preeminence in palliative care in advertising all over the nation. Nine years ago, one of its patients was beside himself in pain for 18 months and didn’t know what to do. He begged his wife to take him home. She checked him out of the hospital. A social worker with the hospital ran after them shouting, ‘You can’t do this; it’s illegal.’ The wife told the social worker to sue her,” James said.

In the ensuing week, doctors from the hospital called every day, not to inquire as to how the husband was, but to urge him to come back to the hospital for one more round of chemotherapy. He died 9 days after leaving the hospital, James said.

Her implicit message: give generously to Compassion & Choices so it can work to pass laws that make dying in America less horrendous.



Compassion & Choices of Wisconsin

Invites members, friends and the public to a church service and afternoon program on end of life choices featuring

Rev. Matthew Nelson

(Rev. Nelson is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and a member of the national board of directors of Compassion & Choices)

Topic: The Personal and the Political: End of Life Choices

Sunday, August 10, 2008 at 9:30 A.M.

Unitarian Church North

13800 N. Port Washington Road

Mequon, WI

At 2:00 P.M., C&C of WI will sponsor a panel discussion on end of life choices, which will also be held at the church. Panelists will include a doctor, a lawyer, a minister and a lay person.

Directions: From the west, take Interstate 94 East. Merge via Exit 310B onto Interstate 43 North toward Green Bay. Take Exit 89 toward Cedarburg/MATC/Concordia Univ. Turn left onto Pioneer Rd. Turn left onto N. Port Washington Rd. and proceed 8/10 of a mile to the church.

(For more information call Jim at (608) 233-7867 or Betty at (608) 833-2774)

Compassion & Choices Membership Form	Yes! I want to join Compassion & Choices * <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Couple <input type="checkbox"/> \$450 Life Member <input type="checkbox"/> \$600 Life Couple Member	
	<i>Please supply complete address:</i> Name/s _____ Address _____ City _____ State Zip _____ Telephone () _____ E-Mail _____	Make Checks Payable to and Send To: Compassion & Choices P.O. Box 101810 Denver, CO 80250-1810 Or Call: 1-800-247-7421 Visa or MasterCard accepted Dues are not tax deductible
	* The payment of dues includes your membership in Compassion & Choices of Wisconsin . You are invited to call 1-800-247-7421 if you cannot afford the \$45 membership. Every effort will be made to accommodate your circumstances.	

Letter from Donna Trautman

(On January 5, 2002, Donna Trautman of Green Bay, was sentenced to 2 years in prison after being convicted of assisting suicide. She smothered Raymond Krerowicz, also of Green Bay, who was dying of prostate cancer, after he pleaded with her repeatedly to help him die because of his increased pain. She served the full term of her sentence for her act of mercy. Her letter is dated May 21, 2008. Her mailing address is 400 N. Monroe Ave. Apt. 115, Green Bay, WI 54301.)

I just want to let you know I am doing just fine.

I am living back at 400 Monroe Plaza. I lived here for a long time before I moved to Badger Terrace by Raymond.

Everyone is treating me good. ...

It is strange: I was going through some boxes and ran across the letters from you and all the wonderful people that helped me so much while in prison. So I decided I would write and let you and everyone else know how I am doing. I have a complete connection with my mind and heart concerning my helping Raymond in his time of need. I was really having a hard time with that.

I just want to say one more time thank you for your visits at prison and thank you to you and all the wonderful people for their letters and cards. Thank you all and God Bless You All.

Donna Trautman

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See address label for your membership expiration date.

<http://www.endoflifetechnology.com>

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