

Subject: Final Corrected Copy for insertion in June Shalom

From: "Daniel Goldschmidt" <dan-gold@socket.net>

Date: Tue, 15 May 2007 10:31:04 -0500

To: "Cathie Brooks" <cbsoffice@tranquility.net>

A Congregant Speaks Out Against Third Tri Mester Abortion

Even though I as a practicing Jew understand the Jewish belief that a pregnancy is not a human being until the baby takes its first breath out of the womb my personal experiences have led me to not believe in abortion and in no circumstance in the third trimester procedures. I have three wonderful grown sons, bur each was a caesarean birth which was medically necessary and lead to some question in Jewish principles. (Looking in responza of the ccarnet.org web site for caesarean birth there were no references). In addition I had a personal experience that was meaningful to me. Eighteen years ago I was asked to intercede in the case of a woman called Sandy in her middle twenties who had come to Wichita on the advice of Mt Sinai Hospital from Philadelphia to have a third trimester abortion from our world renown Dr.Tiller. She had cash in hand but was troubled by her decision. I visited with her and discovered that she had recently lost a brother. I explained to her that in Judaism it was an honor for a child to be named after the departed and I was able to convince her not to proceed with the abortion. Today the child that was to be aborted is a freshman honors student at Columbia University. Presented here are my reasons for my beliefs.

What are my facts based on and how accurate are they?

The U.S. Center for disease control is a passive recipient of reports voluntarily sent to it by the states. Since all states don't report, and many report inaccurately, these totals are under-reported. The CDC does do a meticulous job of breaking down the categories, and so these are the percentages everyone uses.

How are third trimester abortions done and are they dangerous and ever necessary?

The most common method is the partial birth abortion, also called "brain suction" or "D&X" methods. These abortions are done after 4 or 5 months, with, 80% of the babies being normal, and most being viable. This is like a breech delivery. The entire infant is delivered except the head, a scissors is then jammed into the base of the skull, a tube is inserted into the skull, and the brain is sucked out. The now dead infant is pulled out. It is never the mother's only choice." There are no medical circumstances in which a partial-birth abortion is the only safe alternative. Many doctors take care of pregnant women who are very sick, and babies who are very sick, and never perform partial-birth abortions...There are plenty of alternatives... This is clearly a procedure no obstetrician needs to do." F. Boehm, Dr. OB, Vanderbilt U. Med. The Washington Times, May 6, 1966, p A1



Figure 1



Figure 2

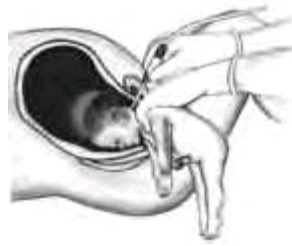


Figure 3

Aren't "third trimester" abortions rare? At what stage in pregnancy do partial-birth abortions occur? Are these babies "viable"?

It certainly is not rare, in fact 7230 (www.cdc.gov) were done in the last annual report dated November 3, 2006. It appears that the substantial majority of partial-birth abortions are performed late in the second trimester — that is, before the 27-week mark -- but usually after 20 weeks (4 ½ months). There is compelling evidence that the overwhelming majority of these pre- week- 27 partial-birth abortions are performed for purely "social" reasons. Currently, many babies are "viable" a full three weeks before the "third trimester." Therefore, most partial-birth abortions kill babies who are already "viable," or who are at most a few days or weeks short of viability (Even at 20 weeks, the baby is seven inches long on average, In a congressional hearing leading medical authorities testified that the baby by this point is very sensitive to painful stimuli.) One partial-birth abortion specialist, the late Dr. James McMahon, regularly performed the procedure even after 26 weeks—even into the ninth month. In 1995, Dr. McMahon submitted to the House Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee a graph and explanation that explicitly showed that he aborted **healthy** ("not flawed") babies **even in the third trimester** (after 26 weeks of pregnancy). Dr. McMahon's own graph showed, for example, that at 29 or 30 weeks, one- fourth of the aborted babies had no "flaw" however slight.

Do women who have abortions have post-abortion syndrome?

The negative reactions many woman experience after abortion, can be characterized as a form of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, according to an article published in the Fall 1992 issue of the Journal of Social Issues, by clinical researchers and psychologists Anne Speckhard and Vincent Rue, the authors identify PAS, as a combination of negative reactions to the abortion event, such as flashbacks, nightmares, grief and painful abortion recollections resulting in reduced responsiveness. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has been recognized by the American Psychiatric Association. PAS may result immediately following an abortion or it may be delayed. It may persist for many years and spontaneous recovery is not likely. Secondary symptoms of PAS include depression, substance abuse, sleep disorders and suicidal thoughts, and were not present prior to abortion. These include: difficulty concentrating; exaggerated startled responses to memories of the abortion experience; physiological reactions to events that symbolize or resemble an aspect of the abortion; self-devaluation; and the inability to forgive the abortion decision.

Isn't it wrong for the U.S. Supreme Court to be deciding the private right's of women.

On January 22, 1973 in *Roe v. Wade*, when the U.S. Supreme Court finally decided a very vexing question which had troubled the citizens of the United States for many years. In a landmark decision, the court ruled once and for all the unborn humans were not legal "persons" according to the U.S. Constitution. An unborn baby was the property of the owner (mother), and she could have the baby killed at her request because of her health (social distress). This could be done at any time until birth. The ruling was final. It was by the highest court in the land. The [United States Supreme Court](#) decisions on abortion, including *Roe v. Wade*, allow states to impose more restrictions on post-viability abortions than during the earlier stages of pregnancy. In addition, the Supreme Court in the case of *Gonzales v. Carhart* on April 18, 2007 ruled that Congress may ban certain late-term abortion techniques, "both previability and postviability.

Abortion already is so contaminated with legalism, why not turn the issue into one of simple democracy? Let

the people decide as they already have. As of April 2007, 36 states had bans on late-term abortions that were not facially unconstitutional (i.e. banning *all* abortions) or enjoined by court order. Let them work it out the way every thing else in the country is worked out by political argument and legislative accommodation. Thanks to Roe vs. Wade many abortion arguments are entangled with irrelevant issues of constitutionality.

What were the effects of the Roe vs.Wade decision of 1973?

In 1973, at the time of the U.S. Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decision half of all abortions in the U.S. were done in hospitals. Twenty years later it was down to 7%. Most are done in 440 large free-standing abortion chambers which did 70% of all abortions. The rest are done in doctors' offices or clinics that do less than half of their "business" in abortion. 5 Henshaw et al.,Ab. Service in U.S. Fam. Plan Persp., June '94

In 1973 there should have been a really sharp drop in women dying. The chart, however, shows that there was no such drop. The line didn't even blip. The previous rate of decline actually slowed, to flatten out in the late 70's and 80's. According to the U.S. vital statistics, as anyone can see, legalization of abortion did not save almost any woman's lives

A congregant's conclusion based on this information and the facts.

Although I don't condone any abortion I am particularly opposed to third tri-mester abortion. With the advent of more sophisticated pre natal testing such as 3-D sonograms it is now possible to determine sex, disabilities, and some other abnormalities of the unborn... In the near future it will be possible to determine intelligence, and specific physical characteristics of the unborn. Women will be able to abort any unborn that does not meet their specific criterion. I have an autistic grandson who I love very much and there is no way I wouldn't want him in my life. I am in hopes that by presenting this article on abortion that my fellow congregants will seriously give further study and consideration to the Jewish ethics of this issue.

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:4-5)

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG Free Edition.
Version: 7.5.467 / Virus Database: 269.7.1/805 - Release Date: 5/15/2007 10:47 AM

Part 1.2	Content-Description: "AVG certification"
	Content-Type: text/plain
	Content-Encoding: quoted-printable