

Faith & Freedom

Spring 2008

Newsletter of the Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

IRCRC names honorees for 2008 awards

The IRCRC is thrilled to announce that its annual awards for service and advocacy will be presented to the following outstanding Hoosiers at the Faith & Freedom Dinner on May 3:

Rep. Philip Hoy—*Advocacy*

The 2008 Faith & Freedom Award for Advocacy will be presented to Rep. Phil Hoy for his courageous and dedicated work on behalf of reproductive rights in Indiana. During his four years in the state legislature representing Evansville's District 77, Rep. Hoy steadfastly worked to protect reproductive rights. Also, as a United Church of Christ minister, he has shown his commitment to pro-faith, pro-family, pro-choice values. ♦

Susan Tyler, RN—*Service*

The 2008 Dr. Stella Boyd Award for Service will be presented to Susan Tyler, RN, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner in Indianapolis. As a member of a Sexual Assault Response Team, Susan collects forensic evidence and testifies in court trials. Susan treats victims of rape and sexual assault with extraordinary compassion and ensures that they receive necessary and complete information. Susan also teaches comprehensive sex education to young people at her church and at an inner-city center. ♦

Come to the dinner and help honor these individuals. Learn more about their accomplishments!

2008 Faith & Freedom Dinner

Celebrating our commitment to reproductive rights and religious liberty

Saturday May 3, 2008

Radisson North
251 E Pennsylvania Parkway
Indianapolis 46280

5:45 PM Reception with silent auction and cash bar
Music by Ginny Womack, violin, and Doug Krantz, keyboard

6:30 PM Dinner and Program

“Pro Choice from an African American Perspective”

Rev. Carlton W. Veazey, President and CEO, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Washington DC

—and—

Music by “Sapponia,” ensemble of the Indianapolis Women's Chorus



\$40 individual. Table of eight \$295. Scholarships available.
*Reserve a whole table for your congregation, organization, or business.
We will place a sign on the table identifying your group!*

**Online reservations at www.ircrc.org
or call 877-441-5797**

Deadline for reservations: April 28

***Join in an evening of celebration, inspiration,
good food, and fellowship!***



News Briefs

Iowa rejects abstinence-only funding

In February, Iowa became the 17th state to withdraw from Title V funding, the federal government's abstinence-only block grant program. Abstinence-only programs have been shown to be ineffective in preventing unintended pregnancy and disease.

Indiana is not on the growing list of states that have rejected these programs. If you haven't yet done so, be sure and **sign the Get Real, Indiana petition at www.getrealindiana.org**. ♦

Study shows alarming STD rate in American teens

In April the federal Centers for Disease Control released a study showing that at least one in four teenage girls nationwide has a sexually transmitted disease, or more than 3 million teens. Nearly half of African American girls had at least one STD. These statistics should motivate all of us to work even harder to bring responsible, comprehensive sexuality education to young people.

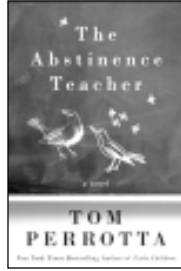
If you have not yet done so, be sure and sign up with RCRC's "**People for REAL (The Responsible Education About Life Act)**" at http://rcrc.org/issues/People_REAL.cfm. ♦



Outreach to congregations

IRCRC President Kaye McSpadden shared an exhibit at a Unitarian Universalist district meeting in April where she spoke with leaders of many different congregations. We'd love to visit your congregation or faith group meeting! Talk to us about sharing an exhibit, making a presentation, or leading a study group or film discussion. ♦

Check out these good reads!



The Abstinence Teacher by Tom Perrotta

(St. Martin's Press, 2007) is a highly entertaining novel in suburban America involving a high school health teacher and members of a

conservative Evangelical church. Ruth Ramsey teaches a high school sexuality class and becomes the target of a church's moral crusade when she answers a student's squeamish question about oral sex. Like all responsible sexuality educators, Ruth gives a frank answer describing oral sex as pleasurable for some while reviewing the preventative measures for sexual intercourse.

The Evangelical church is outraged that teen sexuality education involves ideas that teens are sexual and sexual behaviors can be pleasurable. The church confuses providing sexual education with promoting sexual activity for youth. Ruth finds herself in a "reform school" for outspoken sexuality educators and is forced by the school board to team with an abstinence only educator.

Ruth's problems continue when her daughter's soccer coach, a member of the same conservative church, leads the team in prayer after a team victory. A culture war between the soccer coach and the teacher ensues until each learns to listen.

—Carolyn Meagher



This Common Secret: My Journey as an Abortion Doctor by Susan Wicklund

(PublicAffairs, 2007) is the gripping, very personal story of the 20-year career of an abortion provider and the women she helped along the way.

Wicklund tells about how her own painful abortion experience led to a life-long commitment to providing compassionate, respectful, and supportive services for women.

The book offers a rare insider's look at what happens inside abortion clinics and how this work affects the lives of the dedicated medical professionals who work there. Wicklund's descriptions of the extreme measures she has had to take to protect her life and the life of her family are harrowing.

Throughout the years, Wicklund was afraid that her work must be adversely affecting her daughter during her growing-up years. However, in a poignant essay at the end of the book, her daughter, now a grownup, shares her reflections on her unusual childhood, and speaks of her pride, support, and love for her most courageous mother. If only there were more people like her mother in the world.

—Kaye McSpadden

Help keep the faith for choice in Indiana!

Grab an envelope and send in your dinner reservation or make a donation. Or, make your reservation or donation online at www.ircrc.org.



IRCRC brings the moral power of religious communities to ensure reproductive choice and health through education and advocacy. IRCRC is a state affiliate of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

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Annual Faith & Freedom Dinner • Saturday May 3, 2008

Yes, I would like to make a reservation for the Annual Faith & Freedom Dinner on May 3, 2008:

tickets

_____ individual (\$40)

_____ table of 8 (\$295) Group name for table sign: _____

_____ additional tax-deductible gift (Donors of \$50 or more will be listed as Sponsors in the printed program.)

_____ can't attend, but here's a donation to show my/our support!

_____ **Total amount enclosed**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel _____

E-mail (if applicable) _____

___ Check enclosed (Please make payable to IRCRC)

___ Credit card: Visa/MC

Card # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Scholarship requested

Vegetarian

Please seat me with: _____

Interested in Lafayette carpool

Please send to:

IRCRC
PO Box 723
Lafayette IN 47902

****Must be received by
April 28, 2008****

—OR—

**Make your
reservation online!**
Go to www.ircrc.org

Great music and other fun awaits you at the 2008 Faith & Freedom Dinner!



Audience members at the 2006 and 2007 Faith & Freedom Dinners were wowed by the exhilarating and inspiring music of Sapphonia, the 15-member ensemble of the Indianapolis Women's Chorus—we are thrilled that they will be with us again in 2008!

With a rich repertoire of lively, multicultural, and sacred music, Sapphonia is sure to once again leave us with toes tapping and spirits soaring. For more information about Sapphonia and the Indianapolis Women's Chorus go to www.indychoruses.org/iwc/

For complete details about the 2008 Faith & Freedom Dinner, see page 1

Silent auction to feature works of art, gift baskets, and other goodies

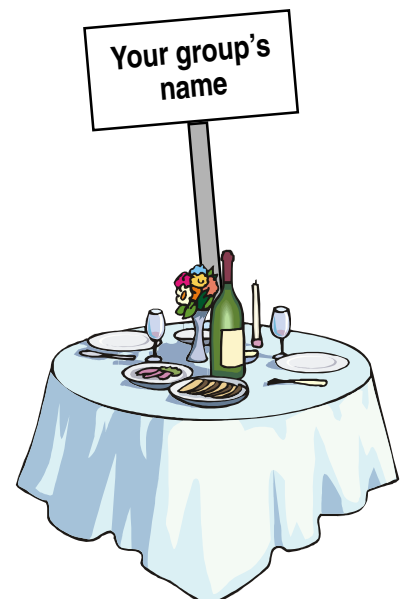
Be sure and bring your wallet, checkbook, or credit card and plan to bid on wonderful items donated by Indiana artists and merchants. Here are just a few of the items that will be available:

- Gift certificate for a 1-hour massage
- Basket of skin and hair care products and a gift card to a waxing spa
- Artwork by Sharon Owens, a glass artist in Lafayette
- Gift certificate to Arni's restaurant
- An antique 1st edition copy of James Whitcomb Riley poetry
- A 30-minute carriage ride in downtown Indianapolis
- Jewelry, gift baskets, and more!

Great music during the reception, too!

Enjoy music by Ginny Womack on violin and Doug Krantz on keyboard during the 5:45-6:30pm reception.

Show the support of
your congregation,
business, or group
and reserve a whole
table! You'll save
money *and* you'll get
recognition with
a table sign.



Spring 2008 Issue
Inside: 2008 Faith & Freedom Dinner!
Saturday, May 3, 2008, Indianapolis

Change Service Requested

Opportunities for action and learning



Let's "lift every voice" in the upcoming elections!

Learn where the candidates stand on important issues relating to reproductive health and religious freedom. Learn what questions you should ask *your* candidate! Join RCRC's "Lift Every Voice" campaign— go to http://rcrc.org/issues/election08_candidates.cfm

County fair booth news

This year, the Tiptecanoe County Fair booth will be planned and staffed by member organizations of HAPA (Health Access and Privacy Alliance), including IRCRC, Planned Parenthood, League of Women Voters, Indiana NOW, ACLU, and others. The purpose of the booth will be to educate people about Prevention First legislation, invite them to sign the Prevention First petition, and register new voters. The fair will be held **July 19-25** in Lafayette. Sign up now and get the shift you want! For more info contact IRCRC or go to www.ircrc.org. ♦

National Black Religious Summit on Sexuality:

"The Dawn of a New Day" July 9-11, 2008

Howard University, Washington DC

Join the dialogue on religion and sexuality, teen pregnancy prevention, defining sacred relationships, faith-based sexuality education, sexual ethics, sexual and domestic violence, HIV/AIDS/STDs, reproductive health, and much more.

Also: Teen Sexuality Education Leadership Institute for ages 13-18.

Adult registration \$75

Teen Leadership Institute \$40

Sponsored by the National Black Church Initiative of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

For more information:

www.bci-rcrc.org or 202-628-7700



Scholarship available!

Scholarship provides: registration fee + \$250 for travel and/or lodging for an interested Hoosier

To apply: write to IRCRC, PO Box 723, Lafayette IN 47902 or info@ircrc.org. Provide contact information and explain why you would like to attend the National Black Religious Summit on Sexuality. ♦