



# Compassion & Choices Arizona

Compassion in Dying - End of Life Choices

Previous Issues at: [www.choicesarizona.org](http://www.choicesarizona.org)

Issue #3 - 2008

Compassion & Choices Arizona (formerly known as Hemlock Society or End of Life Choices)

P. O. Box 12126, Tucson, AZ 85732 \* Toll Free 1-877-535-3600 \* Email: [info@choicesarizona.org](mailto:info@choicesarizona.org) \* Web: [www.choicesarizona.org](http://www.choicesarizona.org)

## Compassion & Choices Arizona invites you to join us at the “RALLY FOR END OF LIFE CHOICES”

Thursday, January 29, 2009 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

### ONCE AGAIN, WE PLAN TO RALLY AT THE STATE CAPITAL IN PHOENIX!

We will let the Arizona State Legislature know that Arizona residents are serious about passing an Oregon-type aid-in-dying bill.

In 2009, soon to be State Senator Linda Lopez (D), Legislative District 29, Tucson, plans to introduce Arizona's aid-in-dying bill. The bill, written and introduced by Senator Lopez for the past five years, has been written with the utmost care to protect both physicians and patients in this undertaking.

The bill asks for aid in dying and control of suffering for terminally ill patients.

If the participation is great enough in your area, we will provide FREE bus transportation. Bus routes identified on Page three (3) of this newsletter are tentative. We will also try to help with car pools.

We will do everything we can to provide transportation support.

We will let the legislators know that the residents of the state of Arizona demand an Oregon-type aid-in-dying bill.

COME, EVEN IF WALKING IS DIFFICULT; YOU CAN PARTICIPATE JUST BY SITTING AND HOLDING A “DEATH WITH DIGNITY” BALLOON. COME, EVEN WITH YOUR LAWN CHAIRS, WALKERS OR WHEELCHAIRS...JUST COME!!

*Irene Weitzman*

## BASHAS' SHOP & GIVE (PREVIOUSLY “THANKS A MILLION”) PROGRAM

RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION AT ABSOLUTELY NO COST TO YOU!

Here's How: Link your Bashas' Thank You Card to our Group ID Number (just once at the beginning of the program) at any checkout. **Our Group ID Number is 27735.**

From September 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009, be sure that your Thank You Card is scanned every time you shop at Bashas' or Food City.

Bashas' designates a portion of your purchase back to us at the end of the program. We can earn as much as \$5,000, at absolutely no cost to you!

Supporters who participated in last year's “Thanks a Million” program must re-link their Thank You Card, using our new Group ID Number, now that the program is in a new year.

# TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OR STATE LEADERSHIP

*This is Your State Organization - please let us know how you want to help! Questions or comments welcome.*

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

**Casa Grande - Francene Haskins**  
(520) 836-9272

**Cochise County - Billie Stockl**  
(520) 803-9285  
Email: bstockl@cox.net

**Flagstaff - *Need a Chapter Leader!***  
**Contact: C&C Arizona Toll Free 1-877-535-3600**

**Green Valley - Bill Haley**  
(520) 399-2130  
Email: karebil@live.com

**NW Valley (Carefree, El Mirage, Glendale, Morristown, Peoria, Sun City, Sun City West, Surprise, Wickenburg, Goodyear, and Youngtown)**  
**Irene Weitzman**  
(623) 214-6552  
Email: ireneweitz@aol.com

**Metro Phoenix Area - *Need a Chapter Leader!***  
**Contact: C&C Arizona Toll Free 1-877-535-3600**

**Prescott - *Need a Chapter Leader!***  
**Contact: Margot J. Champagne**  
(928) 776-3025  
Email: MJcesq100@aol.com

**Sedona - Deborah Darby**  
(928) 634-3237  
Email: peacefulpassing@msn.com

**Sun Lakes - Bob Wallace**  
(480) 802-4327  
Email: joyrobwall@wbhsi.net

**Tucson - Cherie Esser**  
(520) 825-2219  
Email: jcbesser825@yahoo.com

**Yuma - *Need a Chapter Leader!***  
**Contact: C&C Toll Free 1-877-535-3600**

## STATE LEADERSHIP

### Compassion & Choices Arizona Board

President: Billie Stockl, Sierra Vista  
Vice President: Open  
Secretary: Shirley Bellamy, Cochise County  
Treasurer: Stanley Steinberg, Tucson  
Bill Haley, Green Valley  
Bob Wallace, Sun Lakes  
Cherie Esser, Tucson  
David Brandt-Erichsen, Tucson  
Irene Weitzman, Sun City West  
Margot Champagne, Prescott

### Newsletter Editor

Deb Darby (send info: peacefulpassing@msn.com)

### Compassion & Choices Arizona

#### Medical Advisory Group

Dr. Robert H. Furman  
Dr. Harvey Turner

**What's so Funny  
about Death?**



# JOIN US AS WE RALLY FOR END OF LIFE CHOICES

Please stay in touch with your Compassion & Choices Chapter Leader/contact person!

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Contact your Local Chapter Leader as soon as possible, but no later than December 29th, to reserve a seat on the bus, or to voice your interest in bus transportation.
2. The bus schedule will be strictly adhered to; please be on time.
3. Bring water for the bus ride. Water fountains are available at the Capitol Building.
4. Bring your 'picnic' lunch. You can either eat on the bus or on the Capitol grounds.
5. Wear comfortable shoes
6. Bring a lawn chair. You can support our efforts by just being there!
7. Buses will DEPART the State Capitol PROMPTLY at 1:30 p.m.

## **NORTHWEST VALLEY:**

The Arrow Stage Line Bus (with bathroom) will DEPART Sun City West at the R.H. Johnson Recreational Center, Aisle 17, near the Maricopa County Activities Center (formerly the Sundome) at 10:15 a.m. The bus will then proceed to Sun City to the Bell Recreational Center, N. 99th Avenue near Hutton, the Bus Tour lane and Le Petit Café. The Arrow Stage Line Bus will DEPART this location no later than 10:45.

Reserve your seat by contacting Chapter Leader Irene Weitzman at (623) 214-6552 or ireneweitz@aol.com.

## **GREEN VALLEY AND TUCSON:**

The Gray Line Bus (with bathroom) will DEPART Green Valley at 8:30 am at the Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 S. Camino del Sol, in the SW corner of their lot. Directions: Take Exit 63 and turn west and then immediately turn south on Frontage Road for 1.7 miles to Camino Encanto. Turn right onto Camino Encanto and proceed 0.5 mile to stoplight at Camino del Sol. Turn right onto Camino del Sol and proceed 0.2 mile to the Valley Presbyterian Church. This bus will proceed to the following designated pick-up location in Tucson.

The bus originating in Green Valley will arrive in Tucson at approximately 9:15 and will DEPART Tucson promptly at 9:30 a.m. The designated meeting spot in Tucson is at the Park & Ride lot on the NW corner of Interstate 10 and Cortaro Road (Exit 246). Directions: Heading west on Cortaro Road from I-10, stay right and turn right immediately after McDonalds. Go 1 block to stop sign and turn right again at Hospitality. Go 1 block to the Park & Ride lot, which is located "behind" McDonalds between McDonalds and the I-10 frontage road. You can also access the Park & Ride lot from the McDonalds parking lot.

Reserve your seat by contacting Chapter Leader William (Bill) Haley at (520) 399-2130 or karebil@live.com.

## **OTHER CHAPTER LEADERS:**

Cochise County, Billie Stockl (520) 803-9285, bstockl@cox.net

Metro Phoenix Area, Billie Stockl 1-877-535-3600, bstockl@cox.net

Sedona, Deborah Darby (928) 634-3237, peacefulpassing@msn.com

Sun Lakes, Bob Wallace (480) 802-4327, joyrobwall@wbhsi.net

Tucson, Cherie Esser at (520) 825-2219 or jcbesser825@yahoo.com

Questions, please call Billie at 1-877-535-3600, or check our website <http://www.choicesarizona.org>.

Some stories on this page appeared previously in the Compassion & Choices e-newsletter: *In Thought and Action*

## “Right to Know”

### End-of-Life Options Act Passes California Senate

#### First in the Nation

Bill sets national precedent for discussions of end-of-life care

*Thanks to David Brandt-Erichsen for his update to this important article*

AB 2747, End-of-life care, passed the California legislature on September 3 and was sent to the Governor for signature on September 18.

This bill provides the following: When a health care provider makes a diagnosis that a patient has a terminal illness, the health care provider shall, upon the patient's request, provide the patient with comprehensive information and counseling regarding legal end-of-life care options.

The comprehensive information shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Hospice care at home or in a health care setting. (2) A prognosis with and without the continuation of disease-targeted treatment. (3) The patient's right to refusal of or withdrawal from life-sustaining treatment. (4) The patient's right to continue to pursue disease-targeted treatment, with or without concurrent palliative care. (5) The patient's right to comprehensive pain and symptom management at the end of life, including, but not limited to, adequate pain medication, treatment of nausea, palliative chemotherapy, relief of shortness of breath and fatigue, and other clinical treatments useful when a patient is actively dying. (6) The patient's right to provide written

health care instruction, such as an advance health care directive, and the patient's right to appoint a legally recognized health care decisionmaker.

Removed from the original bill were information on (7) palliative sedation and (8) voluntary stopping of eating and drinking.

**This bill was signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and will take effect next year.**

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## HOW TO GET THE WORD OUT!

1. I sent a newsletter to everyone I know in the state of Washington.
2. I sent a newsletter to everyone I knew who KNEW someone in the state of Washington.
3. I sent a newsletter to everyone I knew who MIGHT know someone in the state of Washington or HOPED to know someone in the state of Washington, or, or, or...

Well, you get the idea. Then I followed up with phone calls. Plan to contact them again just before election to be sure they go to the polls and VOTE.

**Margot Champagne**



# OPINION:

## One Member's Viewpoint

### *THE SEPARATION ISSUE*

by Margot Champagne, Prescott

I have come to the conclusion that the right-to-die issue is rooted in the same problem as scores of other conflicts going on around the United States. The questions of whether creationism should be taught in the public schools, whether women should have the right to terminate unwanted pregnancies, whether stem cell research should go forward using abandoned embryonic or fetal tissue, end-of-life-choices, and a host of others are largely based on religious belief. The continued fight over these issues illustrates the failure of the First Amendment guarantee of separation of church and state. If the separation clause were successful, these issues would remain strictly in the realm of private, personal decisions.

Legions of our members subscribe to religious beliefs that permit Oregon-style hastened death. The refusal of the State of Arizona to permit doctors to prescribe the medication that could bring a dignified death in applicable cases is a direct violation of the Constitution. Every member of the state legislature that blocks Representative Lopez's bill tramples on our Constitutional liberties. This seems very simple to me.

I would like to see C&C do more to emphasize the First Amendment angle. In fact, I would like to see a direct challenge to the state in United States District Court. That's on my wish list but not likely to happen any time soon. In the meantime, I'd like to urge chapters around the state to do what we did in Prescott two years ago. We

invited a group of clergy to sit on a panel, not to debate our end-of-life issue, but for each to simply present his church's views. The purpose was to illustrate graphically that different churches have different views and all are held in good faith. We had clergy from the Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, and Jewish religions as well as a representative of the Buddhist Temple. When posed right in his face, it is hard for one American to demand that the person sitting next to him must subscribe to his church's position. After all, we aren't like those in the Middle East who demand that you subscribe to their religious practices or have your head cut off. Most Americans, no matter how profoundly they subscribe to their religious views, understand that religious freedom is a foundational tenet here.

Our event drew about 50 people (and that was after the local newspaper refused to print a notice thereby crippling our publicity efforts). We made a point of not having it in our usual venue, the Unitarian Church but instead, in the Congregational Church. I'm a big fan of the Unitarian Church and they have been wonderful in extending their meeting space to us for years. But for years, there were people in Prescott who refused to set foot in the UU Church for a C&C event. They did, on the other hand, come to the Congregational Church. And many who would never otherwise come to a C&C event, came that time since they read in their church newsletter that their own pastor was going to be on the panel.

In short, in addition to illustrating that one's position on end-of-life-choices is so often based on one's religion whose differences should be respected, we drew in people we could never otherwise reach.

# Yes, I want to join Compassion & Choices!

I understand that this automatically includes national membership and state membership privileges in Compassion & Choices Arizona and membership in my local chapter as well. **Please make checks payable to Compassion & Choices.**

## Membership Options

- Individual Membership (one year): \$45       Life Membership for Individual: \$450  
 Couple Membership (one year): \$60       Life Membership for Couple: \$600



Remember! If you join for a year, the membership needs to be renewed annually.

- I want to support the cause. Here is an extra \$ \_\_\_\_\_ contribution. Keep up the good work!

## Please send my newsletters (national and state) to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send a check or money order along with this form to:  
Compassion & Choices  
P. O. Box 101810  
Denver, CO 80250

To join with Credit Card: Call 1-800-247-7421 (National Compassion & Choices)

To join online: <http://www.compassionandchoices.org/>

**Questions regarding membership must be directed to the National Office at 1-800-247-7427 (ask for "membership").**

If your Chapter would like to have Arizona State District 29 soon to be State Senator Linda Lopez, our Legislative Champion, speak to a public meeting in your area, please contact her assistant, Faye Parkin: [Fparkin@azleg.state.az.us](mailto:Fparkin@azleg.state.az.us)  
Faye handles all of her calendar appointments.

**Thank You  
Linda!**

**This is the sixth year in a row that Linda has submitted bills supporting the Right to Die. We appreciate her efforts and her willingness to share the information with our membership.**

# CHANGING THE LAW: UPDATE

**Thanks to David Groom,  
Policy Analyst for Compassion & Choices**

The following are the latest political initiatives regarding the right to die with dignity:

- Washington state initiative I-1000, which mirrors the successful Death with Dignity law in Oregon. This is on the November ballot.
- Baxter, et al v. State of Montana, a suit proceeding with the backing of Compassion & Choices, where plaintiff patients seek choice at the end of life, and plaintiff doctors seek a ruling to be free of criminal liability if they assist.
- California HB 2747, a bill that requires medical professionals to explain to a terminally ill patient all options, including personal autonomy at the end of life. The Governor has signed this bill.

**FOR HELP FROM  
OUR CLIENT SUPPORT PROGRAM,  
CALL 1-800-247-7421 AND ASK TO SPEAK  
TO SOMEONE IN "CLIENT SUPPORT"**

Our Compassion & Choices Arizona Chapter Leaders and members as well as our toll free number receive many inquiries from individuals wanting information on hastening one's death.

For such information, please call the National Compassion & Choices organization at 1-800-247-7421 and ask to speak to someone in Client Support. National has specially trained employees who will assess your needs and provide the appropriate guidance.

**Compassion & Choices Arizona members are neither trained nor qualified to provide such information, and can only refer you to our National organization for assistance.**

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### WHAT A GREAT EVENT!



**Deb Darby...  
Basking in the  
Glow of Success!**

Last month, the Sedona Community Center (SCC) hosted an all-day symposium on end of life issues. I was the event chair and spent dozens of hours in preparation as well as being "on" from 8AM to 4PM on the day of the event, but it was worth it!

Although it was a come-and-go event, we had as many as 65 people at one point (and more than 40 who stayed to the end). There were nursing students in their 20s and those who had attained more than 88 years!

We had more than a dozen speakers from all over the state, addressing everything from body donation to finding the money to continue living independently. We had lawyers, nurses, the director of a university program and every day (but passionate) speakers, like me.

The photo above shows how happy I was at the end of this very long day. (I was delirious, too, from fatigue!)

The Sedona Chapter's VP, Susan Barrington, and the rest of the team that put this event together (friends from a local hospice and a low-income housing option facility) all worked together to make this event a huge success. We even got two new members for Compassion & Choices during the event. And dozens of new people heard about us and the work we do! I urge you to find partners in your area and set up something similar.

Lots of work, yes! But a chance to talk to people about our cause. Every little bit helps!



Compassion & Choices Arizona  
P. O. Box 12126, Tucson, AZ 85732

Compassion in Dying \* End of Life Choices

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Compassion & Choices Arizona supports options for those who are terminally ill and mentally competent to determine their own life's end, including freedom from unnecessary pain and suffering during the last part of life.

Please make sure we have the information about your Chapter events at least six weeks in advance to assure that your event gets good coverage on the website, in the newsletter and with the screaming yellow cards we will prepare and mail to your constituency!

Send info to: [info@choicesarizona.org](mailto:info@choicesarizona.org)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS!

**NORTHWEST VALLEY CHAPTER MEETING: LEE ANN BLACK, PROFESSIONAL & CONSUMER EDUCATION DIRECTOR OF HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY, WILL DISCUSS “DISPELLING THE MYTH OF HOSPICE” IN SUN CITY WEST, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 1:30 PM** in the Coyote Quail room at the Foundation Center 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd, Sun City West AZ (located between 145th Avenue and Stardust Boulevard). **Refreshments will be served. Call Irene Weitzman for more information at 623-214-6552 or [IRENEWEITZ@aol.com](mailto:IRENEWEITZ@aol.com) or, [www.choicesarizona.org](http://www.choicesarizona.org)**

**SIERRA VISTA CHAPTER MEETING: *WHAT'S NEW IN ELDER LAW?* A PRESENTATION BY SPECIALIST IN ELDER LAW ELIZABETH C. SMITH, ATTORNEY AT LAW, WILL FOLLOW THE BUSINESS MEETING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, AT 11AM.** The Cochise County Chapter of Compassion & Choices Arizona will meet in the Mona Bishop Room of the Sierra Vista Public Library, 2600 E. Tacoma Street. Among topics to be discussed: How can the law protect your assets? This is not a sales pitch! Ms. Smith, a partner with Ralles Law Firm (Tucson) will address, in lay terms, changes in Elder Law with regard to asset protection as well as how Guardianship and Conservatorship work with the perspective of the “Alleged Incapacitated Person”. Smith is on the Board of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys who also volunteers her service with Pima Council on Aging K.A.R.E. Family Center. **For more info call Billie toll free at 1-877-535-3600, or local Sierra Vista phone number 520-803-9285.**

Next newsletter deadline: December 31.

Issues will be published approximately mid-month following the deadline.