

The SRV Implementation Project  
& Family Lives  
are pleased to present a three part lecture series  
to be held at the Family Lives Westborough office

## ***Ethical Topics in Medicine***

There is a growing climate of acceptance in society for medically-inflicted and/or hastened death. This trend particularly imperils the lives of the very sick, the very old, and those with impairments. Further, death brought about through surrogate decision-makers on the basis of "what he/she would have wanted" has become popular and legal. Over the past thirty years, a series of court decisions and changes in public opinion, influenced by leaders in the newly created 'bioethics' field, have brought major changes in the climate in which medical professionals operate. These redefinitions of the meaning of such concepts as personhood, humanness, futile care, medical treatment, death, and the end of life, have heightened dangers to people with impairments and others who are devalued.

For more information, contact Marc Tumeinski at [info@srvip.org](mailto:info@srvip.org) or 508.752.3670

### **Thursday, June 12, 2008 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**

STEVEN DRAKE is a person with "invisible" disabilities related to a brain injury he experienced at birth. He also feels lucky to have survived the opinion of the attending physician at the time of his birth - the physician told Drake's parents he'd be better off dead. In 1980, Drake started work as a teacher's aide in Littleton, Colorado which turned out to be the start of ten years as a support worker for children and adults with developmental disabilities in schools, group homes, and day treatment centers. He has been a frequent contributor to national newsletters on developmental disabilities. Due to his prolonged efforts in disability advocacy, Drake is a nationally acknowledged expert on media coverage of disability issues. In 2001, he was a recipient of a Positive Images Award from TASH, a national disability rights organization, for "Exemplary Achievement in Disability Media Coverage and Advancement."

Describing himself as a "recovering academic," Drake has published widely inside and outside of the disability community. He is the co-author of a 1998 article in the journal **Disability and Society**, titled "Disability, Eugenics and the Current Ideology of Segregation: A Modern Moral Tale:" In October 2003, an op-ed he authored on the Terri Schiavo case was published in over 20 newspapers, including the **Los Angeles Times**, **Tampa Tribune**, and **Newsday**. He has been actively involved in Not Dead Yet since 1996. In addition to his various publications, Drake appeared on 60 Minutes II as a representative of Not Dead Yet in their profile of bioethicist Peter Singer. He's also appeared on MSNBC, Democracy Now, and the News Hour with Jim Lehrer on related issues.

## **Thursday, September 18, 2008 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**

WESLEY J. SMITH is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute, an attorney for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, and a special consultant for the Center for Bioethics and Culture. In May 2004, because of his work in bioethics, he was named by the **National Journal** as one of the nation's top expert thinkers in bioengineering. Smith's **Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America**, a warning about the dangers of the modern bioethics movement, was named one of the Ten Outstanding Books of the Year and Best Health Book of the Year for 2001 (Independent Publisher Book Awards).

Smith's writing and opinion columns on assisted suicide, bioethics, the morality of human cloning, the dangers of animal liberation, legal ethics, and public affairs have appeared nationally and internationally, including in **Newsweek, New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Forbes, The Weekly Standard, National Review, First Things, The Age (Australia), Western Journal of Medicine**, and the **American Journal of Bioethics**. He has also been published repeatedly in regional publications including in the **San Francisco Chronicle, the Seattle Times, the Dallas Morning News, the Rocky Mountain News, the Detroit News, the Orange County Register, the New York Post**, and many other newspapers throughout the nation.

Throughout the course of his career in public advocacy, Smith has appeared on thousands of television and radio talk/interview programs, including on such national programs as ABC Nightline, Good Morning America, Larry King Live, CNN Crossfire, CNN World Report, the CBS Evening News, Coast to Coast, the Dennis Prager syndicated radio show, the Mike Gallagher syndicated radio show, the Tony Snow radio show, Afternoons with Al Kresta, EWTN, CSPAN-Book TV, Fox News, and CNN Talk Back Live. He has also appeared internationally on Voice of America, CNN International, and on programs originating in Great Britain (BBC), Australia (ABC), Canada (CBC), New Zealand, Germany, China, and Mexico. His radio commentary BioScience Views is heard in California and Nevada.

## **Date To Be Announced**

CATHY LUDLUM, author of **One Candle Power: Seven Principles that Enhance the Lives of People with Disabilities and their Communities**, will speak on the topic of demystifying tube feeding.