

המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם



April 5, 2018

Letter to the Editor
Tampa Bay Newspapers

On Tuesday April 10, 2018, the Bryan Glazer Family JCC is hosting a luncheon fundraiser for Planned Parenthood of Southwest & Central Florida.

Many Jewish supporters of Planned Parenthood's abortion business remain unaware of the grim side of killing unborn children, harming mothers, and decimating families and communities. During abortion procedures unborn babies are starved, poisoned, burned, and dismembered without pain medication. It is well documented that PP shelters sexual predators and sex traffickers, routinely lies to and exploits women, and illegally harvests baby parts for profit. These business and medical practices run contrary to medical ethics and acceptable medical standards. Many post abortive women report that, immediately afterward or years afterward, the abortion experience left them feeling betrayed by the friends and family who recommended it, as well as grief-stricken, broken-hearted, emotionally and mentally unbalanced, physically compromised, and spiritually inconsolable. Abortion puts women at risk for breast cancer and infertility. We now know that women who complete their pregnancies have far better outcomes than those who terminate.

In Judaism, abortion is judged to be the unwarranted taking of a life within a life. It is prohibited, just as murder is prohibited. Originally, our rabbinic tradition correctly found one exception to the prohibition - that of breech birth which, if not remedied, would kill both mother and child. The Halackhic requirement to save the mother's life by taking the child's life was restricted to this grave imminent danger. Today, only 1% of abortion is used to save the life of the mother, and this percentage is dwindling as pre-term babies can be removed from the uterus and given life saving care. Jews who support the use of unrestricted abortion disregard the human life that hangs in the balance - innocent human life.

Jews are taught that "It's not alive until It's born", a corrupted, misleading reference to ancient rabbinical opinion on the status of the unborn. This is 2017, the age of ultra-sophisticated ultrasound that verifies instantly the humanity of the child in the mother's womb. Now, it is scientific proof that human life begins at conception. We know without a doubt that abortion kills an innocent living human being. Judaism prohibits killing an innocent person. Therefore, in Judaism elective abortion is wrong.

Judaism emphasizes the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, making it incumbent upon Jews to find alternative life saving ways to deal with unplanned and unwanted pregnancy. Adoption, marriage, and single parenthood are much better choices than the intentional killing of an innocent life. Indeed, Judaism insists that a Jew break all the Sabbath rules to save the life of an unborn child. Judaism prohibits desecrating the human body, but abortion destroys a human body, and the harvesting of baby parts for profit runs contrary to Jewish respect for the dead.

We urge the JCC to support the families of Tampa Bay next Tuesday. Cancel the event. Choose Life!

Cecily Routman
Founder Jewish Pro-Life Foundation