



THE CONNECTING LINK

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MAY 2013

May 19 will be a very special day in the life of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church. As we do every year the weekend before Memorial Day weekend, we will celebrate Recognition Sunday. This is the day we celebrate and recognize our Christian Education ministries, our young people, and all of the teachers and other volunteers who make our Christian Education ministries possible. We honor our graduates and wish them well in future endeavors. Most of all, we celebrate and *recognize* the God who "gives us brains and expects us to use them", as my college chaplain used to (and probably still does) insist. We celebrate and recognize that it is God who has given us our capacity for learning, so that we can learn more about God, more about Jesus, more about the Bible, and more about the faith that we claim. And then we can take the knowledge we have learned, and use it to spread the Gospel and witness to those around us, inviting and drawing others into the body of Christ.

This Recognition Sunday, however, will be "especially special", for two reasons. First, on May 19, we are also receiving new members into our congregation. We are *recognizing* that discipleship – even the very beginning steps of discipleship – know no age boundaries. We are recognizing our part in the Great Commission, to "make disciples of all nations", as well as Jesus' charge to the disciples in Acts 1:8: "...[Y]ou will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We recognize that, even as we celebrate the new men and women, the new gifts, the new energy, the new commitment, to our congregation here in Hickory Hills; it is the making of *disciples* that is our charge, not just

filling our church pews. New and not-so-new members in our family help us to work toward this Kingdom goal.

Secondly, all of this recognition will take place on Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost has often been celebrated as the "birth of the church" (see Acts chapter 2). Pentecost was actually not originally a Christian holiday, but a Jewish festival. As you read Acts 2, you will read that the day when "...there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem" (Acts 2:4), was already called Pentecost (Acts 2:1). Pentecost marked the fiftieth day after the Sabbath of the Passover feast. This is why it was called the Feast of Weeks in Jewish tradition. On that Festival day, all Jewish males who were able were to come to Jerusalem to worship.

On that day in the year of our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection, the Holy Spirit did indeed come in power upon all of the disciples who were gathered for this festival (as Jesus had promised in Acts 1:8). Though there were Jews there from all over the world, speaking all different languages, and although Peter and the other disciples were Galileans, the disciples suddenly found themselves speaking in all different tongues, so that everyone present could understand what was being said. The Holy Spirit came visibly upon the disciples, in the form of tongues of flame which rested above each of their heads. This day and event is often thought of as "the birth of the church" based on Acts 2:41: "So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added."

Our goal, as Hickory Hills celebrates its own 60th birthday, is not another three thousand members, on Pentecost or Recognition Sunday or any other Sunday.

If that happens, I hope it is because we are filled with the Spirit and following God's purpose for our lives and our ministry here. Our goal, as always, is to SEEK God's Word, to SHARE and CELEBRATE God's love, and to SERVE Jesus Christ in the world. Our goal is to make disciples. Our goal is to spread the Gospel and enlarge the Kingdom. May our every act and every step, individually and as a congregation, be in line with this goal. See you in church Sunday!

In Joyful Anticipation,
Pastor Lara



HHPC PRAYER REQUESTS

Boston Marathon victims & families
Friends & family of Donna Bredlau on her husband,
Paul's passing
Ron Swindle for health concerns
Schlimmer family for strength
Adam Schwake & family on the loss of his brother
George DeJong & family on the loss of her father
Andrew
Darlene Krueger for health concerns & strength
David Krueger & family
Kyle Krueger, in Marine Corps
Baby Ila for healing & strength
Dave Barker's mom Blanche, for health concerns
Mark Maranto's mom, Cindy, for healing
Rohrbacher family (friends of the Orsic's)
Rich S. & Family for Strength & Hope with battle
of advanced cancer
Jim Kupka for health concerns
Dianne Flynn for healing
Dorothy Allen for health concerns
Jack Costello for health concerns
Katie's friend Karen for health concerns
Georgie-Porgie for health concerns
Enid & Dorothy Scholefield for health concerns
Jerry Panko for health concerns
Hollie Fox's friend, Emily Beazley (9 yrs old), who
has Stage III
T-Cell Lymphoblastic Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
Private Gregory Enokian, Tasha's friend, in the
service
Sandy Beal's mother for strength and healing

Sandy Beal's friend, Kathy Kellogg, for health
concerns
Kirk MacGregor's brother, Scotty, for health
concerns
Shirley Dragas' sister, Sheryl, for strength &
her husband Jerry Smith, for health concerns
Jimmie's uncle, John, for health concerns
Jean Somerstorfer for health concerns
DelPrete family for strength, faith, & hope during
Jen's battle



Prayer Group meets on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.
We encourage you to attend this
Vital Ministry of our church.
"PRAYER is the ENGINE of the CHURCH"

PADS UPDATE

The PADS kitchen door is closed. We shall open again come October, and resume our duties as master chefs and seasoned dish washers. Sue Orsic and her girl scouts were the hosts for the evening. They served a delicious chicken alfredo pasta dish. Of course "they" all came back for second servings. A special thanks for these wonderful scouts. We have high hopes they shall return again next year. May I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support this past season. Each month went smoothly, wonderful meals were made and people contributed to the cause to make it a reality. Grateful are we for "you." You make it happen! Thank you guests, you bring out the best in us as we serve you!

AMEN!

Regards,
C. Lou Pearson

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulders, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'" ISAIAH 9:6 (RSV)

Are we celebrating Christmas in April? Yesterday, April 13, I saw snow falling from the heavens. No matter the weather, no matter the date, our calendar tells us we are in Spring. And the above verse tells you how far we have studied Isaiah since January! We shall persevere until May 13 when we do lunch and break for the summer. Have a great summer, ladies, and thanks for inspiring me!

Love 'N' Hugs, Ar

PRAYER & CARE

"Jesus then said to the Jews, who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'"

JOHN 8:31,32 (RSV)

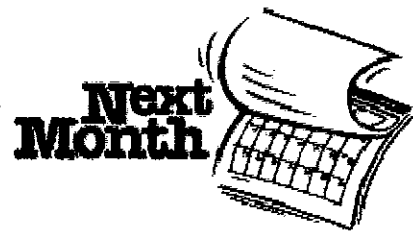
We have the freedom to pray in our heart, in our home, in our car, in our church, in our library, in our country.

To pray is the most commonly mentioned command in Scripture. We should be people of great prayer, using this ministry to its fullest capacity.

Join us on Thursday, May 2, in the Sanctuary, at Noon, for National Day of Prayer.

"...pray constantly." 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17 (RSV)

Love 'N' Hugs, Ar



We are having an

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Sunday, June 9 @ 6:30 PM

The theme is "Be Our Guest!"



Ice Cream Social

REV wants to know.....

What are you chasing?

We're all chasing after something. Something that we think will make us happy—comfort, success, a bigger house, or someone's approval. But if we are all honest, it feels like trying to catch the wind.

A man after God's own heart... As David's life weaves throughout the pages of Scripture, we see he was a man who spent his life chasing after God. *Chase* explores the events that defined David's life and the Psalms that flowed out of those experiences. Through David's example we'll discover what God really wants from us.

Join us at 5:00 Sunday evenings, as we follow Jennie Allen through 7 weeks of *Chase*, a DVD bible study centered on the scriptures of the life of David.

2013 Kentucky Mission Trip

July 13 to July 20

Registration Due by June 3, 2013

Cost for materials and food \$260

Lodging costs are extra,
Book motel on your own
(Suggest you not use the Super 8)
\$10 if staying at the church

If you plan to go:

- 1) Fill out registration forms
(They will be available soon)
- 2) Write check to HHPC for \$130
- 3) Write Kentucky Trip on the check
- 4) Get money and forms to Dave Delaney by sign up deadline

*HHPC is anticipating providing the rest of the cost for church members (If you sign up for the trip and cannot go, your money will be refunded)

We will work with the St Vincent Mission again this year

2013 HICKORY HILLS STREET FAIR

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church is participating in the Hickory Hills Street Fair on Sunday, June 30th

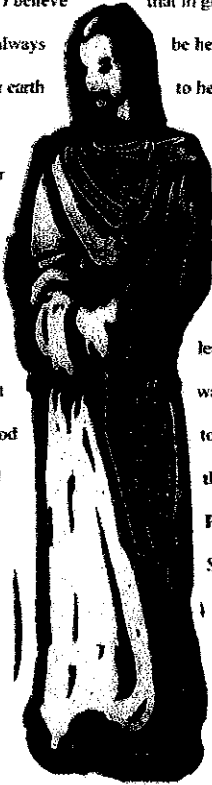
We need participants from the congregation to help support the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church Booth.

- ***Pass out church information and water***
- ***Run water containers from church to our booth***
- ***Help with setup at 8 AM***
- ***Help with take down at 7 PM***
- ***Signup sheets will be in the church basement***

Thanks for your participation

Confirmation Class 2013 Faith Statements

I believe in God who created the earth and whose son, Jesus Christ, came to be our savior. I believe that in good times, and in bad times the church will always be here for me. I also believe that we are put here on earth to help do and finish God's work. In Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verse 1 it states that "there is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven." This to me shows that although my time here in confirmation class is over, I will be able to continue using what I learned throughout the rest of my life. Jesus Christ was and is our savior. He was sent to earth by God to die for us. In this he freed us from our sins. I feel that by being confirmed to Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, with the help of the Holy Spirit, it will help me do God's work and stay on the right path.



In life and in death we belong to God,
And in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
We Trust in Jesus Christ. Fully human, fully God.
Jesus was crucified, suffering all of human pain
and giving His life for the sins in the world.
God raised Jesus from the dead, clearing his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God sent His only son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. God, to me, is the only one who knows what we are capable of doing with the gifts He gave to us. He set a path for us in life. We may drift off that path once in a while but then I think God sends the Holy Spirit to guide us back to that path. The church is the people who learn about God together and who show the world God's love. Even if we didn't have a physical building, the congregation still makes up the church. I don't exactly know what I am called to do in the church right now but I do enjoy helping out with younger children and I enjoy going on the Kentucky mission trip. I believe that doing God's work is part of the path He wants me to take.



I believe in God and that he is the creator of the heavens and Earth and everyone and thing on it. I believe God is our savior and loves us all very much. Jesus died for us to clear all of the sins we make. I believe that through the good and bad times he is there with me, and all I have to do is pray and I know he will answer me. It may not be right away but he will answer me and it also may not be the answer I want but it will be the answer he thinks is the best for me. It states in Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." This reassures me that with whatever he has planned for me in my life he will give me the strength to pull through it. No matter what happens and no matter what is planned for me it's for the best and that is what he wants for me. I believe that even after we get confirmed I will continue using what I learned throughout my everyday life and keep God close to me, always being the Christian that he has called me to be.

I believe that God is the father and that he made everything in the universe.

I believe that Jesus is the King of Kings. I also believe that he died on the cross to save us from sin. He is the Messiah.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the fruit of the spirit.

I believe that church is somewhere I can take everything off my mind and worship God.

I believe that the church is called to give the message about God.

KIDS CLUB

Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church
8426 West 95th Street, Hickory Hills, Illinois 60457
708/598-3100

Dianne Flynn, *Director*

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32

During the month of May we have many exciting activities planned and we hope you will be a part of this celebration. The lesson time for this month will center around:

Polaroid Olympics - Overcome insecurity as we follow Christ.
Team spirit - Followers of Christ seek unity with one another.

We celebrated Snicker Balance during the month of March giving the honor to three kids who were in attendance on this day. Congratulations to Jessica P., Lucia S., and Sara F.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Spring Family Night on April 19. We thank Jeremy from the "Traveling World of Reptiles" for presenting the program which was enjoyed by all in attendance. Even the most timid took the challenge to reach out and touch the alligator and other featured reptiles. The award for bravery on this evening goes to one of our student helpers, Ashley M. Did I hear someone call her the "Snake Lady"?

VBS 2013 is on its way and will be at H.H.P.C. June 10th - 14th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Our theme this year is "Colossal Coaster World - Facing Fear, Trusting God. During this week long adventure we will participate in Bible Stories, crafts, music, and games as we learn what it means to trust God. Tricia and Co. will again be the featured presenters for this week long summer time adventure. Registration forms are available at the church.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who have helped to make Kids Club possible for this year; Jared Ambrosat, Shannon Bastien, Shirley Dragus, Linda Lavaretto, Ashley Maranto, Brittany Maranto, Grace Muszynski, Nicole Oumet, Mike Swearingen, Sarah Swearingen, Debbie Zimmerman and Megan Zimmerman. Weekly they are here sharing their time and spiritual gifts. They do it for the kids. Again, thank you!

The last day of Kids Club for this school year is May 13. Our day has been planned as a celebration for all we have shared this year. We will resume on Monday, September 9th. On behalf of our staff I hope you have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you back in the fall.

Peace and Joy,
Dianne

KIDS ARE NUMBER 1 AT THE KIDS CLUB

Christian Education Meeting

†

Easter Breakfast! What a wonderful way to celebrate the splendid morning and the good news of Jesus' resurrection. A grateful thank you must be made for the cooks...Stan, Dan, and Scott. The food was delicious. More thank you's to those who set up the tables and took them down. Thank you to Jean, Mike, and Debbie. Thank you to the people who just came and did all that needed to be done...Sam, Kyle, Brittany, Sarah, Stacey, Gina, and Susan. It was a magnificent effort. Everyone who helped deserved a great big thank you. Thank you to the servers who worked so hard to be sure every table had plenty to eat.

The Family Night, held on Friday, April 19, was a great success. Thank you to the cooks, Jean and Dianne. The food was delicious. Thank you to the team directed by Debbie, who set up and took down the tables. The Traveling World of Reptiles was once again a great big hit with young and old alike. If you did not attend you most certainly missed a great Family Night.

Our annual **Cookie Monster Bake Sale** is coming on Sunday, May 12. It gives you an opportunity to share your favorite cookie recipe as well as purchase something new to try at home. Bakers should contact Dianne Flynn for information about your donation. Everyone is encouraged to purchase cookies in the fellowship room after worship on Sunday. The proceeds of this fund raiser will help children from the church and community attend the Camp at Saugatuck.

Everyone who has helped during the Christian Education events this year will be recognized for their service on

Sunday, May 19. Please try to attend the 10:30 AM service so the congregation can formally thank you for the work you have done. **Recognition Sunday** will also honor the graduates for 2013. Please make this Sunday attendance a priority.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 10-14 this year. Tricia and Co., will come to lead us in songs and lessons. Our theme this year is **Colossal Coaster World**, Facing Fear, Trusting God. VBS is recommended for children ages 4 years to grade 6. Children who wish to volunteer are asked to speak to Dianne Flynn for assignments. As usual, the fee for the entire week will be \$6 and a bag of cookies to share during the week as snacks. Call now to register. You do not want to miss this week of song, fun, learning and crafts. Bring a friend to share the fun and make new friends while you attend.

Stories and More has had an average of three children each week. We have enjoyed learning new songs like, Build 'em up and Knock 'em down. This Old Man, and My Aunt traveled to Alabama. The children are recognizing shapes. We play I Spy, Dominoes, Bingo, and Lotto. We celebrated Easter with a basket filled with toys and candy. We colored Easter eggs. We have discussed stories for shapes like *Mouse Shapes*, *Shape Farm*, and *Grandpa Grapes*. Our last meeting day will be Tuesday, May 15.

Children at the **Kids Club** have enjoyed the creative minds of Shirley Dragas and Grace Muszynski as they make colorful door hangings and decorations for Spring. They have been learning about sharing the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection. They reviewed the Easter story using the Resurrection Egg

set from *Benjamin's Box*. When the weather is cooperating, the children go across the street to the playground. The last meeting for Kid's Club will be on Monday, May 14.

Stampers have been meeting every other Thursday morning at 10 AM in the Jr High Classroom. We are a small group. Our last meeting we completed about a dozen cards. We are always eager to see new techniques and try new designs. Join us for an hour or more as we share fellowship, discuss world woes, and create some stunning cards. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 18, May 2, and May 16. Be sure to talk to Barb Brown to be sure we haven't changed the days. Hope to see you at Stampers.

Prayer Shawl Ministry is working hard to create prayer shawls as well as lap blankets. We meet in the room adjacent to the fellowship hall near the piano on Sunday Mornings around 11:45 AM. The group is small, only averaging 7. We are fortunate to have visitors once and awhile. Our last meeting will be on Sunday, May 19. Stop by to visit, learn a new skill or just to say Hello.

Visitors are always welcome.

As activities sponsored by the Christian Education Committee come to a close for the Summer, we wish to thank everyone who participated, led, or worked behind the scenes to make this 2012-2013 year a success. We look forward to new and exciting activities scheduled for the coming year and wish you will have a memorable summer. See you at Sunday Worship.

We Celebrate

May Birthdays

- 2 John Kemp
- 8 Noah Krueger
- 10 Pennelope Ruiz
- 11 Lily Niehelsen
- 17 Tom Krumpolt
- 19 Alyssa Munoz
- 20 GiGi Gianaca
- 30 Joshua Munoz



One Great Hour of Sharing

Fish Banks!

Thank you, thank you...

To all those who turned in their fish banks. By participating in this mission we raised \$172.21.

The money from this offering is used to help individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disasters, conflict or severe economic hardship.

Presbyterian Camps in Saugatuck



Register Today
Spaces are Limited

Mini Camp (completed grades 1 - 4)
June 30 - July 4

Mission Council 8 Camp Gray (completed grades 3 - 5)
July 28 - August 3

Mission Council 8 Camp Kema (completed grades 6 - 8)
July 28 - August 3

COOKIE MONSTER FUND RAISER



May 12
Immediately Following Worship Service

A fund raiser to benefit camp scholarships

- * Remember, it is also Mothers Day! Wouldn't it be nice to surprise her with a gift of homemade cookies?
- * Stop by on your way out of church and pick up some cookies to enjoy all week!! The money raised from this cookie sale will help to fund the week of summer camping at Camp Saugatuck.
- * If you are interested in making cookies for this event, please contact Dianne at the church office 598-3100

YARD SALE DONATIONS

It is time again for HHPC's Annual Rummage Sale to raise money for the Kentucky Mission Trip!!

We will be accepting donations on

Sunday, May 19 9am-1pm

DROPOFF ONLY-please place donations in
PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN classroom only!!

DROPOFF AND PRICING (we need helpers)

Monday, May 20th 10:00am to 7:00pm

Tuesday, May 21st 10:00am to 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 22nd 10:00am to 7:00 pm

ACTUAL SALE

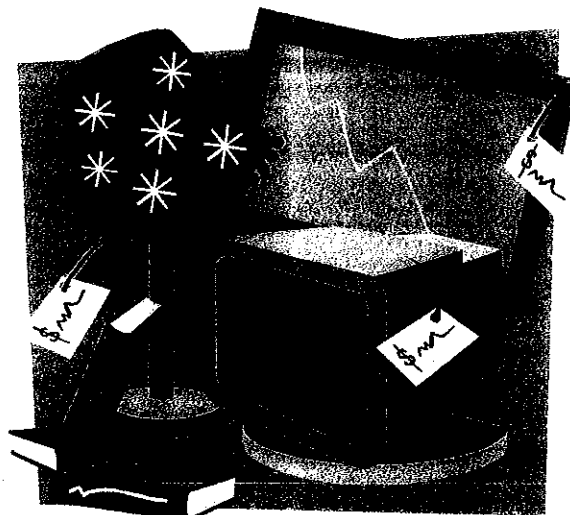
THURSDAY, MAY 23 9:00AM-7:00PM

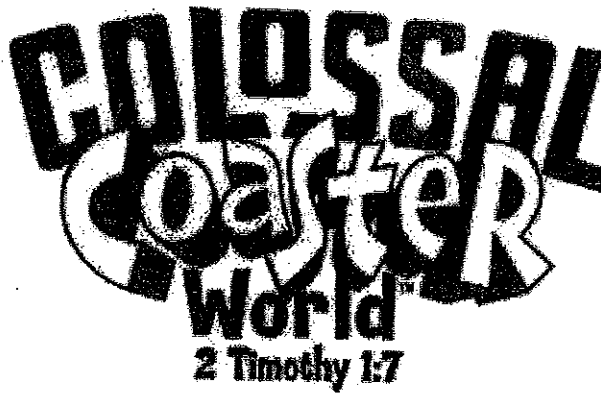
FRIDAY, MAY 24 9:00AM-7:00PM

SATURDAY, MAY 25 9:00AM-1:00PM

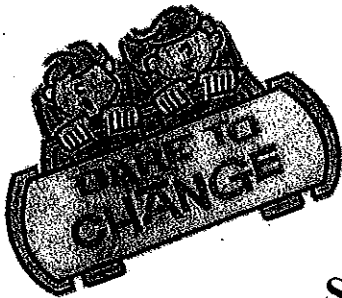
IN ADDITION TO DONATIONS, WE ALSO NEED
VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE SALE THE WEEK OF
MAY 20th THRU MAY 25th.

TOGETHER WE CAN HOST A WONDERFUL FUNDRAISER!!!!





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Monday through Friday
June 10 - 14
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Special Guests - Tricia and Company

TALK ABOUT ADVENTURE!!!

Mark your calendars
And tell your kids to invite their friends!!!

Vacation Bible School - A Week Not to be Missed!!

For a week kids from our church and community will join together for
"COLOSSAL COASTER WORLD - FACING FEAR, TRUSTING GOD"

Grab your tickets and head on over to Colossal Coaster World!" Here we will tap into God's promise to give you courage to face your fears by trusting Him. Your day at the park will include Bible stories about Paul and his journey to face his fears by trusting God. Come join us as we experience the thrill and excitement of a day at the park! As we explore the park, kids will visit Cotton Candy Café for snacks, Adrenaline Zone for recreation, Tune Town for music, Scissors and Stuff Emporium for crafts, and Coaster Alley for Bible study.

All of this takes place here at the Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, with special guests Tricia and Company. It will be an outstanding week. *This program is open to kids age 4 through grade 6.* Tell others about this week.

Cost for this week of fun is \$6.00 and 1 package of cookies for snack time. To register call the church office (598-3100) and ask for Dianne.

Medical Experts Offer New Theories About an Infant's Cause of Death

Federal judge weighing evidence in day care worker's murder case

SPOTLIGHT ON SHAKEN-BABY SYNDROME



The home of former day care owner GleeAnn Kehr of Romeoville, Ill. Kehr left Jennifer Del Prete in charge on Dec. 27, 2002, when 3 1/2-month-old Isabella Zielinski was rushed to the hospital. (Julie Kliegman/Medill)

By Christina Assi, Rebecca Cohen, Anika Dutta, Stephanie Fuerte and Alex Hampl
The Medill Justice Project
Published: March 19, 2013

At day care worker Jennifer Del Prete's murder trial, the infant she oversaw was known to have suffered from a chronic brain bleed. However, medical experts may have misunderstood when the child sustained the brain bleed, which could have been a critical error at trial. That and other medical issues were raised at a recent federal hearing, which brought to light the possibility that the infant died of natural causes.

Two days after Christmas in 2002, Del Prete was caring for 3 1/2-month-old Isabella Zielinski in a Romeoville, Ill., day care when the infant became unresponsive. Del Prete called 911, and the infant was rushed to Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, Ill. Soon after, Del Prete was accused of child abuse. Isabella died several months later. Since Del Prete's conviction about eight years ago, many experts have called into question whether the triad of shaken-baby syndrome symptoms alone—bleeding within the eyes, brain bleeding and brain swelling—can identify the cause of an infant's injuries or death. The infant in Del Prete's case showed no overt signs of abuse, such as bruising or injuries to the neck.

At Del Prete's 2004-2005 trial, Adrian Nica, an emergency room physician at St. Joseph, testified that Isabella's brain bleed—also known as a subdural hematoma—likely was up to a week old when she was brought to the hospital. Nica did not respond to requests for an interview for this article. Wayne Tucker, a family practitioner called as the defense's expert witness, testified then that the brain bleed was as many as 10 days old. Tucker has since passed away.

At Del Prete's recent hearing in U.S. District Court in Chicago, three experts for the defense and one for the prosecution agreed that the subdural hematoma was at least two to three weeks old—and possibly older—when Isabella was taken to the hospital. She began attending the day care on Dec. 6, 2002, 21 days before she became unresponsive on Dec. 27—the only day Isabella was alone with Del Prete without another adult caregiver, according to GleeAnn Kehr, the owner of the day care. The new understanding of the timing of the subdural hematoma means that Isabella's brain bleed may have started before Isabella was under Del Prete's care.

"Only two witnesses at the original trial discussed the chronic subdural, and both were wrong as to the timing of the subdural," said Patrick Blegen, Del Prete's attorney, in a post-hearing brief.

In an interview for this article, Blegen said he believes Del Prete was convicted because the experts who testified at the trial not only misdated Isabella's chronic subdural hematoma, but also because the prosecution's expert witness, Emalee Flaherty, said at trial the infant's eye damage could have only come from being violently shaken, although studies have shown in recent years there could be other causes.

The judge had bad information," Blegen said.

Flaherty, a nationally recognized child-abuse expert, declined to comment for this article. The Zielinskis also declined to comment.

At the federal hearing, which ran over several days in December and January, the defense brought in six experts. Some testified pro bono, others were paid, but only after Del Prete's family filed an affidavit in which her brother, Wesley, wrote, "At this point, Affiant's family have exhausted their financial resources, and do not have the means to retain experts to testify at an evidentiary hearing." The judge set aside funds to pay for the experts.

For a complete account of the hearing, The Medill Justice Project sought to gain access to the trial transcripts. Through their spokesperson, prosecutors declined to be interviewed, and the defense attorneys declined to make the transcripts available, which were not in the public court files, so The Medill Justice Project purchased the documents from the court reporter—more than 2,000 pages—at a cost of more than \$1,400. Judge Matthew Kennelly is now reviewing the case. Through an assistant, he declined to comment for this article.

At the hearing, Blegen, Del Prete's attorney, highlighted what he considered red flags in Isabella's pediatric files, which had not been raised by the defense at the trial more than eight years ago. The records show the infant had an abnormal increase in head size before she began attending the day care where Del Prete worked. Shaku Teas, a forensic pathologist who spoke for the defense, said that Isabella had rapid head growth; Teas said it grew four centimeters from birth until one month, when the average is between two and two and a half centimeters. At the recent hearing, experts for the defense and one for the prosecution agreed that an abnormal increase in head circumference may be a sign of a chronic subdural hematoma.



Jennifer Del Prete describes the day when 3 1/2-month-old Isabella Zielinski became unresponsive under her care in December 2002. (Stephanie Fuente/Medill)

Del Prete's attorney sought to show that new, or acute, subdural hematomas found in Isabella were naturally occurring, not a marker for shaken-baby syndrome. Prosecutors argued that Del Prete shook the infant violently, causing bridging veins to rupture, which, in turn, caused the brain bleeding and, eventually, Isabella's death. However, Patrick Barnes, a pediatric neuroradiologist who spoke for the defense, said bridging veins were not torn. "Bridging veins are large blood vessels in infants," he testified. "They carry a lot of blood at high rate. You would expect to see much more bleeding and a large amount of bleeding than what we see here."

Barnes said the acute subdural hematomas could have been caused by a re-bleed of the chronic subdural hematoma, even through normal handling. Jan Leestma, a forensic neuropathologist who spoke for the defense, supported this theory when he testified that his examination of Isabella's brain revealed there were several membrane layers formed by the subdural hematoma, which indicated that Isabella suffered multiple episodes of re-bleeding, continuing until her death. "It is part of the natural disease process of a subdural hematoma to re-bleed on its own," Leestma said.

Teas said the acute subdural hematoma could also have been the result of an intradural hemorrhage, or bleeding within the dura, the brain's outer covering.

One critical aspect of Del Prete's defense at the latest hearing was the possible presence of a cortical venous thrombosis, or CVT, an uncommon blood clot within a vein in the head. According to the American Stroke Association, a CVT is difficult to diagnose, and the possibility that Isabella had such a blood clot was not raised at Del Prete's trial in 2004-2005. However, three medical experts who testified on behalf of the defense in the recent hearing diagnosed Isabella with a CVT, based on radiological images, which they said showed a clotted vein in the space between her brain and skull. The experts also noted Isabella had several risk factors for CVT, including a condition known as thrombocytosis, or high platelet counts, an ear infection shortly before her collapse and the chronic subdural hematoma.

The prosecution countered that a CVT diagnosis is based on "ungrounded speculation." Barnes, the pediatric neuroradiologist, testified that a CVT could mimic some of the symptoms of shaken-baby syndrome. A CVT, for instance, could be responsible for bleeding in the eyes, one of the three conventional signs of shaken-baby syndrome.

According to defense expert Joseph Scheller, a pediatric neurologist, children can develop retinal hemorrhaging any time there is a problem with vein circulation, such as Isabella's clotted vein in her brain. Scheller also testified that hypoxic ischemia, a lack of oxygen to the brain, can also cause retinal hemorrhaging in children. Isabella's retinal hemorrhaging was one of the most damning pieces of evidence in Del Prete's 2004-05 trial because the prosecution's medical expert witness said at the time only child abuse could account for that pattern of eye damage.

According to the American Stroke Association, about 40% of patients with CVTs experience seizures, which may have been what Del Prete observed when she said she noticed Isabella's shaking and lips quivering on the day the infant collapsed. The hypoxic ischemia, which causes blood to leak out of veins, would have occurred after Isabella became unresponsive, according to Teas.

Medical experts now also say Isabella may have suffered from other underlying health issues that could explain why she became unresponsive in December 2002.

On Oct. 23, 2002, about two months before she was rushed to the hospital, Isabella developed a fever and was hospitalized and given IV antibiotics. Doctors discovered Isabella had an elevated platelet count, which means she may have been more prone to blood clotting. After her December hospitalization, doctors at Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center found that Isabella's platelet count was elevated once again.

Isabella required another hospitalization less than two months after her fever. Nine days before she was rushed to the hospital on Dec. 27, Isabella became sick with an ear infection on Dec. 18, and was prescribed the antibiotic amoxicillin. As in the case of high platelet counts, infections are also a risk factor for CVT.

This investigation was conducted by five undergraduate students at Medill as part of an investigative journalism class taught by Northwestern University Professor Alec Klein, director of The Medill Justice Project, which supported the class work. Alison Flowers, research associate at The Medill Justice Project, also contributed to this report.

Tagged with: Jennifer Del Prete • Medill Justice Project • Northwestern University • SBS • shaken-baby syndrome • The Medill Justice Project

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How a Murder Case Hinged on Expert Witnesses

Medill Justice Project investigation of shaken-baby syndrome case raises questions about the role of expert testimony

SPOTLIGHT ON SHAKEN-BABY SYNDROME



Jennifer Del Prete is serving a 20-year prison sentence for first-degree murder. (Stephanie Fuerte/Medill)

By Christina Assi, Rebecca Cohen, Anika Dutta, Stephanie Fuerte and Alex Hampl
The Medill Justice Project
Published: March 19, 2013

As Jennifer Del Prete, the accused, watched her expert witness testify in her murder trial, she began to panic. "What is going on?" she said she thought. "Who is this guy?"

Del Prete, a day care worker, sat in a Will County courthouse in early 2005, charged in the killing of an infant. She was accused of violently shaking 3 ½-month-old Isabella Zielinski at a Romeoville, Ill., day care, causing head injuries that led to Isabella's death nearly a year later.

On Dec. 27, 2002—the afternoon Isabella stopped breathing and was rushed by ambulance to a nearby hospital—Del Prete was the only adult present. That left her without an eyewitness to testify at trial. Instead, her case largely hinged on the testimony of an expert witness, a specialist who would testify based on his medical analysis of the evidence.

Del Prete's case is like those of other caregivers accused of this form of child abuse. Often, there is just a single adult present when an infant is found with the triad of symptoms associated with what is known as "shaken-baby syndrome" or, more recently, "abusive head trauma": brain bleeding, brain swelling and bleeding within the eyes. And so the question of innocence or guilt is uniquely circumscribed in many shaken-baby syndrome cases. Without eyewitnesses, the accused's fate largely comes down to a simple question: Who will the judge or jury believe—the medical expert witnesses for the defense or prosecution? In Del Prete's case, a trial decided by a judge, not a jury, it came down to one expert for each side.

Del Prete maintains that she never harmed Isabella. Since her conviction about eight years ago, many experts have called into question whether the triad of shaken-baby syndrome symptoms alone can identify the cause of an infant's injuries or death. The infant in Del Prete's case showed no overt signs of abuse, such as bruising or injuries to the neck. In interviews with The Medill Justice Project, Del Prete said she left Isabella on a couch for a moment to grab a diaper bag a few feet away and returned to find the infant unresponsive. When Isabella could not suck on the bottle Del Prete offered her, Del Prete said she called 911. The Zielinskis declined to comment for this article.

As a single mother of two who lived in Section 8 subsidized housing and received government food vouchers, Del Prete said she couldn't afford the hundreds of dollars an hour expert witnesses often charge for their testimony. GleeAnn Kehr, the owner of the day care where Del Prete worked, said she paid the \$5,000 retainer for Del Prete's lawyer, and members of Hickory Hills Presbyterian Church, where Del Prete volunteered and attended services, chipped in more than \$10,000 for her bail. "The whole church was involved in this, and that was all private donations," said Jim Beckering, the church's pastor then.

It wasn't enough. The bill for Del Prete's legal defense, which primarily included private attorneys, she said: about \$75,000 so far.

Common dilemma

Del Prete's legal dilemma is common. There are few state or federal rules that regulate the compensation of expert witnesses. When it comes to expert-witness compensation, both sides in a case must disclose how much they're being paid if asked in court. Fees vary from nothing to about \$1,000 an hour, which, in extended trials, could leave the final cost at hundreds of thousands of dollars. Defending a murder charge, such as Del Prete's, ranges anywhere from \$20,000 to \$200,000 if the defendant chooses to hire a private attorney in Illinois. Many have to sell their homes or file for bankruptcy as they seek to pay the legal fees.

Unless an opposing lawyer asks about it during cross-examination, the judge or jury may not find out what the expert is being paid. Jurors could be left to ponder contradictory testimony and sift through credentials, according to George Mason University School of Law Professor David Bernstein, a nationally-recognized expert on expert witnesses and admissibility of evidence. In theory, since the prosecution and defense can hire their own experts, the process should even itself out, legal experts say. In reality, however, the results could be unfairly skewed in the direction of the side with more resources.

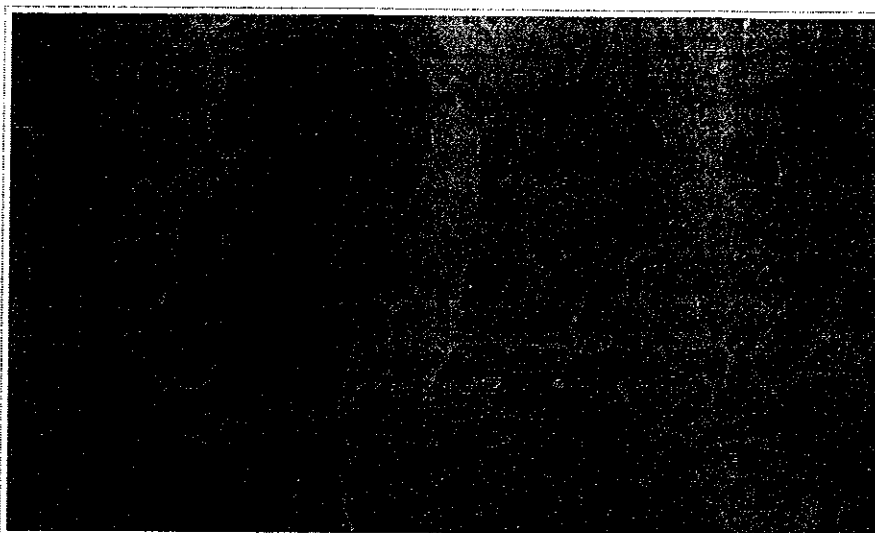
"In many of these cases, you need a neurologist, radiologists, oftentimes a biomechanical engineer," said Keith Findley, a lawyer who has represented a prisoner in a shaken-baby syndrome case and serves as president of the Innocence Network, an international group of organizations aiming to exonerate wrongfully convicted prisoners. "Most defendants don't have the resources to pay those kinds of experts."

Also contributing to this report were the following undergraduate students in the investigative journalism class last spring: Ryan Arrendell, Sarah Bowman, Kathleen Brennan, Nicholas Castele, Leezia Dhalla, Julie Kliegman, Jasmyne McDonald, Dan Tham and Yoonie Yang.

Patrick Reardon, first assistant public defender of Cook County, said his office handles about 23,000 felony cases a year and receives only about \$1 million annually from the state to fund expert witnesses. While many of these felony cases do not use expert testimony, many do, Reardon said.

Will County Public Defender Frank Astrella said his office would never refrain from using an expert because of financial constraints; his office sees at least 15 cases a year that require expert testimony. Astrella did not express concern about cost issues but did note that when the budget is exhausted, his office would petition the courts to cover the expert witness fees. It's at the judge's discretion, locally and federally, to decide when and how much to contribute to the cost of a defendant's expert witnesses.

A key assertion



Jennifer Del Prete's children in an old family photo. (Courtesy of Tia Del Prete)

Del Prete's family found a witness who would work for almost nothing. Wayne Tucker, a then retired Army doctor, had served with Erwin Obartuch, the brother of the second wife of Del Prete's father. Tucker offered to testify for only the cost of travel from Washington, Mich., where he lived.

Because Del Prete's lawyer, Chuck Bretz, decided that Tucker should testify, Del Prete assumed the doctor would be a competent expert, she said. "I went in there blind, deaf and dumb, and I guess I entrusted everything [to] Chuck," she said.

Bretz said it was Del Prete's decision to use Tucker.

Del Prete said she realized what a miscalculation this was when Tucker admitted under cross-examination that the last time he had treated a child had been in Saudi Arabia, about 14 years earlier.

Tucker, a retired family practitioner, testified he had not been board certified in pediatrics, nor had he worked in a pediatric family practice in 22 years.

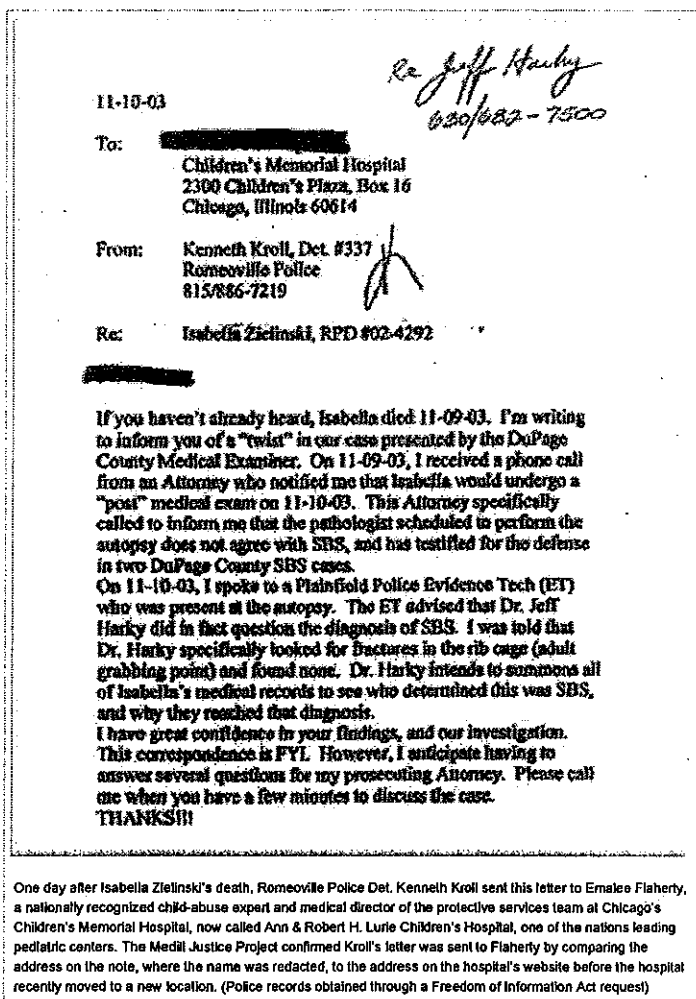
Prosecutors concluded by asking the judge to find Tucker unqualified as an expert witness. "His experience is simply lacking in his ability to give an opinion in that area," prosecuting attorney Sarah Jones told Judge Carla Alessio-Goode.

Bretz countered in testimony that Tucker had been practicing medicine for about 40 years, and in a recent interview for this article, he said, "Tucker was a very accomplished doctor, and the anatomy of a child hasn't changed in the 14 years since he examined a child."

Alessio-Goode allowed Tucker to testify. At trial, the judge said Tucker was sufficiently knowledgeable to be a witness. The judge did not respond to several requests for an interview for this article. Tucker died in 2009 at the age of 80.

At trial, Tucker testified that Isabella's injuries occurred 18 to 24 hours before "the event" when she was rushed to the hospital. He said she had a chronic subdural hematoma, and almost anything, including sneezing, coughing or gastro reflux, could have caused it to re-bleed. Tucker's calculation of the timing of the injuries was a key assertion that has since been undermined by medical experts for the defense and prosecution who now acknowledge Isabella's chronic brain bleed began two to three weeks—or perhaps even weeks earlier—before she became unresponsive. That means her injuries could have been sustained before she was under Del Prete's care.

'Relief' isn't the word



The prosecutors had their own expert witness: Emalee Flaherty, a nationally recognized child-abuse expert and medical director of the protective services team at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital, now called the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, one of the nation's leading pediatric centers. Flaherty, an associate professor in pediatrics-academic general pediatrics and primary care at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, has published numerous articles on child-abuse identification and prevention and testified in about 100 child abuse cases. She had also examined Isabella after the infant was transferred to Children's in January 2003 for surgery.

Romeoville Police Det. Ken Kroll, who was involved in the investigation that culminated in Del Prete's arrest, said in an interview for this article he had not been sure Jeff Harky, then a forensic pathologist in the DuPage County Coroner's Office who examined Isabella, would agree that Del Prete had shaken the infant, and he expressed that concern to Flaherty.

Through the Freedom of Information Act, The Medill Justice Project obtained a letter Kroll sent to Flaherty Nov. 10, 2003. It reads: "If you haven't already heard, Isabella died 11-09-03. I'm writing to inform you of a 'twist' in our case presented by the DuPage County Medical Examiner. On 11-09-03, I received a phone call from an attorney who notified me that Isabella would undergo a 'post' medical exam on 11-10-03. This Attorney [sic] specifically called to inform me that the pathologist scheduled to perform the autopsy does not agree with SBS [shaken-baby syndrome], and has testified for the defense in two DuPage County SBS cases.

"On 11-10-03, I spoke to a Plainfield Police Evidence Tech (ET) who was present at the autopsy. The ET advised that Dr. Jeff Harky [sic] did in fact question the diagnosis of SBS [shaken-baby syndrome]. I was told that Dr. Harky [sic] specifically looked for fractures in the rib cage (adult grabbing point) and found none. Dr. Harky [sic] intends to summons [sic] all of Isabella's medical records to see who determined this was SBS [shaken-baby syndrome], and why they reached that diagnosis.

"I have great confidence in your findings, and our investigation. This correspondence is FYI. However, I anticipate having to answer several questions for my prosecuting Attorney [sic]. Please call me when you have a few minutes to discuss the case.

"THANKS!!!"

The Medill Justice Project confirmed Kroll's letter was sent to Flaherty by comparing the address on the note, where the name was redacted, to the address on the hospital's website before the hospital recently moved to a new location. In addition, Kroll said in an interview, "I remember having some concerns that if the medical examiner doesn't believe in [shaken-baby syndrome], I should contact our medical expert."

Kroll said he doesn't recall whether Flaherty called him back. Harkey did not respond to requests for an interview for this article. But Flaherty's opinion that Isabella's injuries had been caused by abuse influenced Harkey, trial testimony shows. Harkey testified that he saw no evidence of acute head trauma when he examined the infant's body on Nov. 10, 2003, almost 11 months after the incident at the day care care—which wasn't surprising in light of the time that had passed. He said he relied heavily on Flaherty's report to determine that Isabella had died of multiple systemic organ failure due to anoxic-ischemic injuries, which he said were in turn due to abusive head trauma.

Kroll remembers his reaction when he heard the autopsy results. "Relief isn't the word," Kroll said, "but 'we have another medical expert.'"

Had Harkey reached a different conclusion about the cause of death, it could have led prosecutors to reduce Del Prete's charges.

Fabio Valentini, chief of the Cook County criminal prosecutions bureau, said that prosecutors generally rely on the medical examiners' findings. "If it's a first-degree murder charge you are pursuing, and you don't have the medical evidence to support the charge, I don't see how you could go forward," he said. Valentini also said he could not recall a single instance when Cook County pursued a murder prosecution without the medical examiner's support of that finding. "I can't think of a situation where we've ever done that," he said. "It seems like that would be crazy."

At trial, Flaherty testified that Isabella's injuries, particularly the infant's severe retinal hemorrhaging, could have been caused only by an adult's violent shaking, and the effects of such abuse would have been immediate. Studies in recent years have shown that such eye damage could be the result of other causes. Studies also have shown that children sometimes experience what is called a "lucid interval" before symptoms of head trauma become apparent.

As the only adult present when Isabella became unresponsive, Del Prete was implicated. Nearly nine months after her trial, the judge sentenced Del Prete to 20 years in prison on her first-degree murder conviction.

It is not known how much or whether Flaherty was paid to testify in Del Prete's case. Flaherty declined to comment for this article. During cross-examination, she said she had been an expert witness for the prosecution in all but one of the child abuse cases in which she had testified.

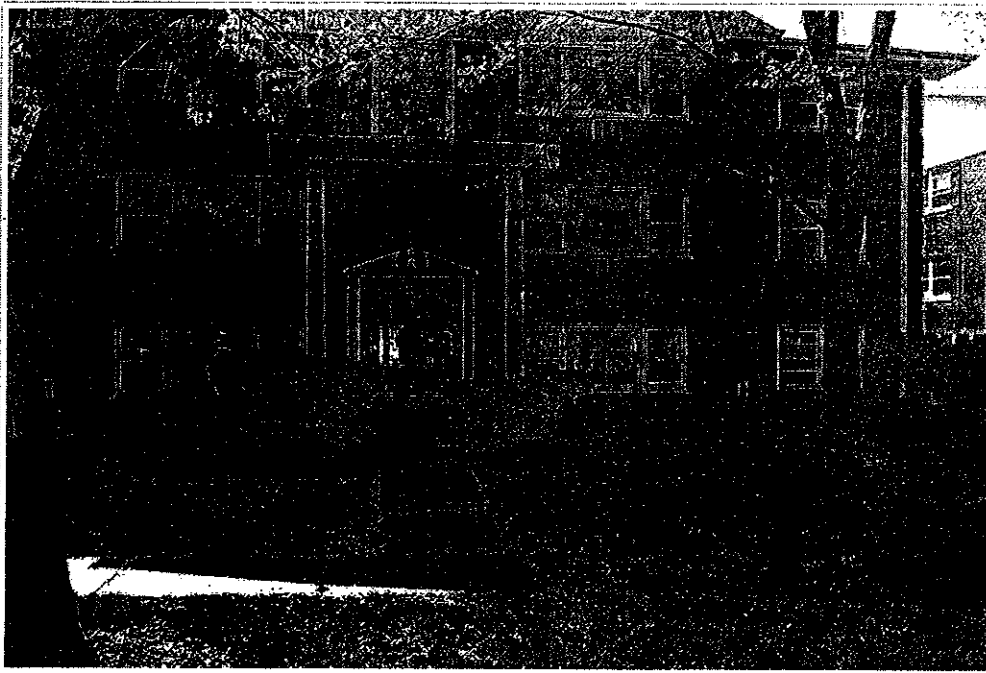
Diane Redleaf, executive director of Chicago's Family Defense Center, a nonprofit that advocates for families threatened with losing their children to foster care, said Flaherty can be too quick to identify child abuse. Flaherty's testimony has contributed to successful criminal prosecutions but Redleaf cited Flaherty's expert testimony in a 2000 Madison County, Ill., case as an example of what she considered Flaherty's aggressive diagnoses.

According to court records, a toddler had hit his head on the side of a sink. When his family took him to the hospital, doctors found fractures in his skull and tibia. Suspecting abuse, they had him placed in a foster home.

Flaherty testified the tibia fracture had likely been caused by a blow from a bat or club, and the amount of force necessary to fracture the toddler's skull would have been the equivalent of dropping him from a second-story window. But Christopher Sullivan, the director of pediatric orthopedics at the University of Chicago Children's Hospital, testified a tibia fracture is not uncommon in toddlers, and the skull fracture could have come from the accident the toddler's family described. In an interview for this article Sullivan said such fractures occur among children in what he called the "drunken-sailor" stage when they are apt to fall.

Judge Nelson Metz returned the toddler to his family. In his verdict, he said, "Dr. Flaherty was predisposed to finding abuse in [the toddler]'s case. It is extremely telling that Dr. Flaherty explained that her practice is limited to 'just evaluating children who are abused or neglected.'" In a recent interview with The Medill Justice Project, Metz, who has since retired, said, "One thing that stuck out to me: When asked what she did... she said, 'I investigate abused children.'" He said he had looked at the transcripts of other cases in which Flaherty testified, and he said there was one in which she used language similar to her assertions in the Madison County case. Metz's ruling was later overturned on appeal.

'Money was an issue'



Jennifer Del Prete lived in this Hickory Hills, Ill., apartment building until her 2005 conviction. (Jasmyne McDonald/Medill)

The system of paid expert testimony is vulnerable to bias, according to a 2008 Iowa Law Review article by Bernstein, the national expert on expert witnesses and admissibility of evidence. Bernstein observed the U.S. system of expert testimony is uniquely vulnerable to three types of adversarial biases. Conscious bias involves the expert skewing his or her opinion to advance the argument of the attorneys who hired him or her. Unconscious bias occurs when the expert, unaware, tries to please the party paying for his or her services. Selection bias means that whatever the argument of the counsel, there will always be an expert who is predisposed to agree with that argument.

Expert witnesses are the foundation of a thriving, multibillion-dollar industry, a largely opaque business involving closely-held firms. Lawyers looking for an expert to support their case can turn to search firms dedicated to connecting counsel to the appropriate witness, such as LexisNexis Expert Research On Demand. There are abundant websites and conferences, such as the Annual National Expert Witness Conference held by SEAK, a Falmouth, Mass., expert-witness training firm, that doles out advice on appearance, testimony mannerisms and keeping expert witness reports relevant. Offered are such seminars as "How to Excel at Your Expert Witness Deposition" or "How to Write a Bulletproof Expert Witness Report."

Expert witnesses who are experienced in testifying are typically the most sought-after by firms such as Pensacola, Fla.-based IMS ExpertServices, which helps connect attorneys with experts relevant to their cases. The average hourly fee for medical experts is \$555, according to a survey conducted by SEAK, which says it has trained more than 20,000 expert witnesses over the past decade. Some experts wind up quitting their field of expertise to work as expert witnesses full-time.

Heather Kirkwood, a Seattle-based attorney who examines shaken-baby syndrome cases, said the Del Pretes would have found it nearly impossible at the time of the trial to find a doctor to speak out against shaken-baby syndrome, which may explain why they opted for Tucker; those who spoke on behalf of defendants accused of harming children were often perceived as defending a heinous crime.

What's more, there was less research on shaken-baby syndrome in the early 2000s than there is now, and fewer doctors were willing to testify about it for either side, said Tina DePaul, a lawyer who worked under Bretz to defend Del Prete until November 2004. She helped him research expert witnesses who might testify on Del Prete's behalf. The Internet was less sophisticated when DePaul was conducting her research, she noted. To find potential experts, she visited the websites of hospitals across the country and tried to find CVs for the doctors.

"It comes down to availability sometimes," DePaul said. "Are they local? Are they in Southern California, and it's going to cost five grand to get them here?"

A second expert witness likely would have been out of Del Prete's price range, DePaul said. It can cost up to \$3,000 just to have an expert review medical records, she said.

Bretz acknowledged as much in a recent interview, saying, "Money was an issue" and, "A different expert would have produced different results. It wasn't that [Tucker] wasn't qualified, but he was an older gentleman... In hindsight, we should have tried to find a more

powerful expert with all the impressive credentials like the prosecution[’s witness, Flaherty].” Yet he stands by his decision to hire Tucker at the time, saying the doctor “had the qualifications. The judge just did not give his testimony enough weight.”

Nearly a decade later, Bretz still ponders the outcome of the trial. “I’ve won more murder cases than anyone else around here [Will County], and this wasn’t the first time I’ve been through it,” he said. “I have seven murder cases pending. I know when someone’s guilty and when someone’s not guilty. Jennifer is not guilty.”

This investigation was conducted by five undergraduate students at Medill as part of an investigative journalism class taught by Northwestern University Professor Alec Klein, director of The Medill Justice Project, which supported the class work. Alison Flowers, research associate at The Medill Justice Project, also contributed to this report.

Tagged with: expert witness • Jennifer Del Prete • Medill Justice Project • Northwestern University • shaken-baby syndrome

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2 COMMENTS ON “HOW A MURDER CASE HINGED ON EXPERT WITNESSES”



Kathy Vaughan Elkwood on March 19, 2013 at 8:46 pm said:

I applaud the Medill Justice Project for its investigations into Shaken Baby Syndrome, a term with which many Ohioans are familiar because of numerous cases. Your conscientious work will not only make life better for those whom you write about and assist when they are wrongly accused, but provides hope for many more unnamed victims of wrongful convictions or allegations who are imprisoned and/or had their children taken away from them. I thank you for your continued efforts and congratulate you on widening the scope of your work to include SBS, which has and will affect many families and caregivers with few resources to fight this uphill battle.

Reply ↓



Summer Neal on March 20, 2013 at 3:09 am said:

This was amazing. It had my heart racing throughout the entire article. It is so bold and honest and I am very impressed with all of the research and interviews that were conducted. Keep up the good work and my family cannot thank you enough. You are educating the public about so many important issues that are unknown to most.

With deepest gratitude,
Summer Neal
Jennifer Del Prete’s sister

Reply ↓

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Comment

Sacrament of Holy Communion- May 5, 2013

SUNDAY	USHERS	LAY READER
May 5, 2013	K. Dritz, C. Pilgrim	Dave Delaney
May 12, 2013	D. LaCognata	Rick Vogl
May 19, 2013	B. Ambrosat, F. Esparza, M. Maranto	Ken Dritz
May 26, 2013	D. Barker, D. Ciametti, T. Morrell	Kim Ambrosat
SUNDAY	COUNTERS	ACOLYTES
May 5, 2013	Susan Frangella	Danny Orsic, Jayden Kenealy
May 12, 2013	Susan Frangella, Karen Hoffman	Bobby DeVries, Jacob Morrell
May 19, 2013	Susan Frangella, Sandy Beal	Bobby DeVries, Danny Orsic
May 26, 2013	Susan Frangella, Shirley Brunell	Jacob Morrell, Jayden Kenealy

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3/3/13

Shirley Brunell,

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the bottom of my
heart. The help is
much needed. I would
be close to extinction
without it. Love.*

MAY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 a.m. Stammers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Jr. High	2 12:00 p.m. National Day of Prayer Worship Service 4:30 p.m. TOPS	3	4
5 Flower Sale Pick UP 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & C.E. 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Y.A. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group	6 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club	7 9:30 a.m. Cancer Sewing 1:00 p.m. Stories & More 7:00 p.m. CE Meeting	8 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Jr. High	9 4:30 p.m. TOPS	10	11 2:00 p.m. Building & Grounds
12 Mother's Day 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & C.E. 11:30 a.m. Cookie Monster Sale 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Y.A. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	13 12:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 3:30 p.m. Kid's Club 7:30 p.m. Session Meeting	14 1:00 p.m. Stories & More	15 9:00 a.m. Stammers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Jr. High	16 4:30 p.m. TOPS	17 7:30 p.m. REV Committee Meeting	18
June Newsletter Deadline 19 Recognition Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship & Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Worship & C.E. 11:45 a.m. Prayer Shawl Min. 12:00 p.m. Y.A. Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV 9-1 Yard Sale Drop Off/ Set Up	20 10-7 Yard Sale Drop Off/ Set Up 7:30 p.m. Outreach 7:30 p.m. Deacons	21 10-7 Yard Sale Drop Off/ Set Up	22 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 10-7 Yard Sale Drop Off/ Set Up 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	23 ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 4:30 p.m. TOPS	24 ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE 9 a.m.-7 p.m.	25 ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
26 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Praise Team 5:00 p.m. REV	27 Memorial Day	28	29 9:00 a.m. Stammers 9:30 a.m. Prayer & Care 4:00 p.m. Food Pantry	30 4:30 p.m. TOPS	31	

May Birthdays

May 3 – Courtney Freiberg
3 – Myrnalyn Delalamon
4 – Adam Schwake
5- Ken Dritz
6- Carol Sack
6 – Mildred Neil
6 – Kady Raschke
9 – Jennifer Ross
9 – Adam Fox
10 – Francine Costello
10 – Colleen Hall
11 – Wilda Duncan
11 – Michael Watson
13 – Kathleen Freeman
14 – Paulina Zharare
15 – Ginger Mercer
25 – Terry Brock
25- Pat Crowley
26 – Greg Majersky
27- Darlene Kibort
29 – Karen Golema

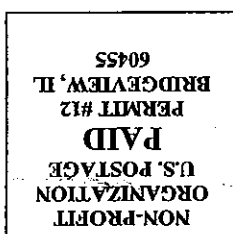
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