

# We're Here.



A publication of Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis) | Winter 2013

 **Planned Parenthood**<sup>®</sup>  
Care. No matter what.

## Chasing truth

Tennessee legislators are more concerned about regulating women's private parts than they are about regulating the sale of high-capacity weapons, and that's the truth.



Barry Chase, CEO

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence gives Tennessee a score of 8 out of 100 for its inadequate gun laws. Anyone of legal age can visit a gun show and buy a semi-automatic rifle or handgun with a high-capacity magazine without a background check. They just pay cash and walk out.

Meanwhile, access to legal abortion is highly restricted and available only in major metropolitan areas. In 2012, the Tennessee General Assembly considered the so-called "Defense of Life Act," with unreasonable and unnecessary requirements, including ordering the state health department to post detailed information about women who have abortions and the names of doctors who perform abortions. Those provisions were dropped in the face of public outrage—led by Planned Parenthood advocates. But the final bill that passed requires doctors who perform abortions have hospital admitting privileges. That  
*Continued page 2 >*

## More than 40 Mid-South Organizations Host Roe v. Wade Event on January 22nd

The 40th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision will be celebrated by a coalition of more than forty Mid-South organizations, churches and individuals, led by Planned Parenthood, the Center for Research on Women (CROW) at the University of Memphis and Choices: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health.

"Religion, Law and Reproductive Rights: The 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade," will take place at the University Center Theater at the University of Memphis beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22nd. The event is free and open to the public. After a short reception, the documentary "From Danger to Dignity: The Fight for Safe Abortion" will be shown, followed by a panel discussion. Betsy Mandel-Carley, a social worker who participated in the original case that became known as Roe v. Wade, will introduce the film.

"From Danger to Dignity: The Fight for Safe Abortion" tells the story of the movement to legalize abortion that

began long before the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. The documentary, released in 1995 by film maker Dorothy Fadiman, features interviews with many activists who worked to legalize abortion in the early 1960's. The movement was led by women, clergymen, physicians, and a few brave state representatives in a handful of states, who put their political careers on the line to propose liberalized abortion laws. Their personal stories of the struggle to ensure that women could access safe and legal abortion are especially poignant and timely in light of the current political climate, in which more than 600 abortion restrictions were introduced into state legislatures last year.

WKNO-TV host Mamie Shannon will serve as moderator of the discussion following the documentary screening. Serving on the panel are Tennessee state Representative Karen Camper, Brian Faughnan, an attorney on the Board of Directors of the ACLU-

*Continued page 2 >*

# Calendar

## Cervical Health Awareness Month

January

### Tennessee General Assembly Convenes

January 8

### Roe v. Wade 40th Anniversary

January 22

### “Religion, Law and Reproductive Rights: The 40th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade”

January 22, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the University Center Theater, University of Memphis  
Admission is free

### Sexpert Training for College Students

January 28 & 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please RSVP to Elokyn CaPece at [ecapece@ppgmr.org](mailto:ecapece@ppgmr.org) or 901-725-3033 (college students only)

### Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February

### National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

February 7

### The “Memphis Monologues”

February 7

Theater South at First Congregational Church  
1000 So. Cooper  
Please RSVP to [Vagmomemphis@gmail.com](mailto:Vagmomemphis@gmail.com)

### The “Vagina Monologues”

February 14, 15 and 16  
Circuit Playhouse  
51 So. Cooper

To purchase tickets, email [Vagmomemphis@gmail.com](mailto:Vagmomemphis@gmail.com)

### National Condom Day

February 14

### National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

March 10

### Planned Parenthood Lobby Day

March 12

## January 22 Roe v. Wade Event – continued from page 1 >

Tennessee; Dr. Rosalyn Nichols, the pastor of Freedom’s Chapel Christian Church; and Dr. Owen Phillips, an obstetrician-gynecologist and the Associate Dean of Students at UT Medical School.

Lynda Sagrestano, the Director of CROW and an associate professor of psychology at the University of Memphis said, “The Center for Research on Women is pleased to be sponsoring this event on behalf of an anonymous donation made to highlight the separation of church and state. The event is dedicated to the trailblazing women who struggled to

get federal support for public education in Tennessee and to achieve equal treatment and rights for women.”

Aimee Lewis, Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region’s Director of Development said, “We were overwhelmed by how enthusiastically organizations, individuals, and churches jumped on board as hosts and supporters. Almost every group we contacted wanted to support the event in some way. It’s very gratifying to see such widespread interest in and support for the Roe v. Wade decision in our community.”

Rebecca Terrell, the Executive Director of Choices agreed, “The number and array of local organizations that have stepped up to proudly and publicly support a woman’s right to control what happens to her own body sends the powerful message that reproductive freedom and justice are valued in Memphis. I am so proud of our community for standing up for women.”

Each organization that agreed to host the event gave at least \$100, used to offset the cost of the space and the reception. To see the full list of hosts and supporting organizations, please see this webpage: <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis/RoeHostOrgs>.



If birth control doesn’t happen, you’ve lost control of what does.

Services are free if you qualify. Ask us.  
(901) 725-1717 | 2430 Poplar Avenue  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis)

## Chasing Truth – continued from page 1 >

requirement caused one of Tennessee’s few abortion clinics, located in Knoxville, to close down. While there are gun dealers in virtually every county, there are now only eight abortion clinics left statewide. Our 2013 legislators are expected to continue to attack women’s rights by proposing a ban on abortions after 20 weeks and a ban on private insurance coverage of abortion.

Meanwhile, there have been no meaningful gun regulations passed at the state or federal level in many years.

As if “guns in bars” weren’t enough, our legislators are now pushing to allow guns in business parking lots and on school campuses—bills that are strongly opposed by leaders both in business and education.

Tennessee has wasted enough time regulating personal, private medical decisions that are best left to a woman, her family, her faith, and her physician. Please tell your state representatives to stop meddling in women’s private parts and start regulating weapons.

## World AIDS Day Testing Events

PPGMR took part in a number of World AIDS Day events this year. World AIDS Day, December 1st, is a worldwide health observance designed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and the importance of HIV testing. PPGMR provided HIV testing at Memphis City Hall on Friday, November 30th and at the Faith and AIDS Conference at Christ Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, December 1st.

The City Hall testing was sponsored by Mayor AC Wharton's office and state representative G. A. Hardaway, to highlight the importance of testing for everyone who has been sexually active. It's estimated that more than 20 percent of Americans who are HIV positive do not know it. The City Hall event featured a news conference and an opportunity for city employees to get free, confidential testing and prevention counseling.

Planned Parenthood was also pleased to provide free HIV testing at The Faith and AIDS Conference at Christ Missionary Baptist Church on December 1st. Faith and AIDS Conference organizer Nikia Grayson said, "We at Christ Missionary Baptist Church, are grateful for the partnership with Planned Parenthood and the role they played in helping us execute a successful conference on World AIDS Day 2012. Their commitment to helping address HIV/AIDS in the faith community in Memphis and Shelby County added professional credence to our effort. Their staff offered their

expertise, time and resources to the planning of this event as well as performed free HIV/AIDS testing for the day. Planned Parenthood's participation offered testing opportunities to those who may not have otherwise been tested, as well as showed them they had a trusted place where they could get connected with care. Their presence not only offered trusting and confidential testing, but education and advocacy for those who really needed it."

LeMoyné-Owen College Sexperts assisted at the Faith and AIDS Conference. Other Planned Parenthood-affiliated youth groups, including the Ole Miss Sexperts, the Rust College Sexperts and Rhodes College Vox, held World AIDS Day awareness activities on their campuses.



Left to right: Elokín CaPece, Millie Jackson, Robert Wilkins, Ashley Jones, Annie Ivory, Ayeisha Cole, Jennifer Warren, Chasity Otteridge.

## All New "Vagina Monologues" Cast Gears Up for February Shows

V-Day Memphis aims to break the record it set last year — to raise more than \$10,000 for women's health care during four performances this February. You won't want to miss this year's "Memphis Monologues" on February 7th and the "Vagina Monologues" February 14th, 15th and 16th!

V-Day Memphis is a group of local performers led by Elizabeth Cawein, a Memphis music promoter. Cawein serves as director and also performs in the production. She leads a talented cast of women of all ages, races and walks of life. They all share a passion for Ensler's inspiring monologues about women's private thoughts and feelings about sexuality. As last year, the "Vagina Monologues" performances will take place at Circuit Playhouse, 51 S. Cooper Street, with all performances starting at 7:30 p.m. This year's cast of 16 women is the largest ever. Also



Last year's "Vagina Monologues" cast, left to right – Front row: Jakatae Jessup, Colleen Johnston, Kimberly Hooper, Jessie Miller, Christine Davenport, Elizabeth Cawein; Back row: Catherine Montesi, Abby Schultz, Laura Goodman Bryan, Shayla Lawrence, Kaleigh Thacker, Cristin Laird, Krista Pennie Myers

new this year, a generous sponsor has agreed to cover the cost of providing a full-service bar at all performances, offering drink specials, with the proceeds going to benefit PPGMR.

V-Day Memphis is also presenting the highly-acclaimed "Memphis Monologues" at 7:30 p.m. on February 7th at TheaterSouth at First Congregational Church at 1000 S. Cooper. The "Memphis Monologues" brings together a diverse group of Memphis women and local celebrities to tell their own funny, sad and moving personal stories about love, life and sexuality. Admission is free, but donations to Planned Parenthood are encouraged.

"We're excited to be working with Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region again this year and raising money to help the women they serve," said Elizabeth Cawein. "I think women and teens in our community need resources, information, advocates — PPGMR provides all of those things. And as with our production every year, several of our cast members are now or have been PPGMR patients in the past. A play like the "Vagina Monologues" brings such huge visibility to such an important health care provider."

Tickets will be available at the door and online. Email [vagmomemphis.com](http://vagmomemphis.com) for information. Be sure to get your tickets early, as some performances completely sold out last year. Tickets are \$12 for students and \$15 for adults, but groups of ten or more can get their tickets for just \$10 each. Please email [vagmomemphis@gmail.com](mailto:vagmomemphis@gmail.com) to reserve group tickets at the special discounted rate.



Greater Memphis Region  
2430 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38112-3246

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MEMPHIS, TN  
PERMIT NO 4326



Support reproductive health care  
for the women of the Mid-South  
[www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/memphis)  
(901) 725-1717

**Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region (PPGMR)**, founded in 1938, is an affiliate of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

**Our mission** is to ensure broad public access to reproductive and related health care through health center services, education, advocacy, and community partnerships serving 42 counties in West Tennessee, North Mississippi and East Arkansas.