

# Vine and Branches

The Monthly e-Newsletter of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries      January 2010

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*Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for emotional and spiritual healing after abortion are held internationally. Rachel's Vineyard welcomes women, men, couples, grandparents and former abortion providers. Our retreats are held in both Catholic and Interdenominational settings. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a resource for clinical training, education, and healing models.*

*Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible. We work in partnership with Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.*

*Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is available on the web at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org) and through our 24/7 help line 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.*

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"One resolution I have made, and try always to keep, is this: To rise above the little things."  
~John Burroughs  
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### **Paris, France Retreat a Success**

By Amanda Miner

This past month, on the weekend of December 4th, the first Rachel's Vineyard Retreat was held in Paris, France. There were 16 people at the retreat which was led by Anne Helene O'Malley of France and Jean Marc & Dianne Richards of Quebec, Canada.

The story behind this retreat is an interesting one. Anne Helene attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat in Denver, Colorado in 2005 while her husband was stationed in the United States. With joy over what she had received, Anne Helene knew that women and men back in her native country needed Rachel's Vineyard too, so she began working on translating the retreat into French. When Jean Marc and Dianne Richards wanted to start a French speaking Rachel's Vineyard retreat for Quebec, they joined forces to work on the French Manual together. All work for the translation came out of their generous gift of time and talents, pouring much effort and love into the process. The Quebec French speaking Retreat was launched, but Anne Helene still had to do a tremendous amount of work to get the retreat going in France

once she moved back to her country. Organizing a team was the first challenge. Anne Helene has four young children and she works full time, so this was a huge effort and sacrifice.

Anne Helene introduced those who had a heart for this subject to Rachel's Vineyard by bringing them to the Leadership Conference in Ireland two years ago. One of those attendees had first heard about Rachel's Vineyard at the World Youth Day Conferences in Cologne Germany, where Theresa Burke had given a presentation back in 2005.

Anne Helene also became the Silent No More coordinator in France but found it difficult to find any women who were willing to join her. She quickly realized that it was because they had never experienced any healing of their abortions and were still locked in the secrets and shame.

When Bishop Nicholas Browet heard Anne Helene speak, he said, "We need more women like you giving their testimonies." Finally, Anne Helene then had the opportunity to share with him about Rachel's Vineyard. If it had not been for the gift of her healing, she would never have the courage to speak and share her story with others. Bishop Browet requested that Anne Helene conduct a Rachel's Vineyard retreat which he was able to attend the whole weekend. The date was set for December 4th, 2009. Rachel's Vineyard was able to send Jean Marc and Dianne Richards from Canada to help facilitate, thanks to the support of Priests for Life. They mentored Anne Helene so she can run more retreats in the future.

Until the prayer vigil last summer, there has never been a Church organized pro-life effort in France. The culture and government in France do not question abortion. It is morally acceptable in French culture and is not debated. This Rachel's Vineyard Retreat was much needed to begin healing in the lives of many French women and men who have been wounded by abortion.

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"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man."

~Benjamin Franklin

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## **Silent No More Awareness Campaign**

Free Signs for the March for Life, Walk for Life and your local state rallies this January!  
The men and women of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign will again be participating in the March for Life and Walk for Life by walking at the front of the March for Life/Walk for Life and giving testimonies at the Supreme Court in DC and the Marina Green in S.F.

In order to spread the message of the Campaign we have brand new signs that are double sided, 2 feet by 2 feet, corrugated vinyl making them water & wind resistant. The message reads on side one: Women Do Regret Abortion and side two says: Men Regret Lost Fatherhood. We will ship these to you free of charge for your bus.

Please go to our website: [www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org/signs](http://www.SilentNoMoreAwareness.org/signs) and fill out the form to receive these signs. You must order by January 6th in order to guarantee delivery on time.

Also you may indicate to receive a free copy of the Campaign DVD to show on your bus ride. We are hoping to have many of you participating in these January events to help us spread the Campaign message. Listening to these testimonies makes it clear abortion is not medicine but in fact creates many more complications especially important in the current health care debate. Thank you for cooperating in this project.

Blessings for Life,  
Georgette Forney  
800-707-6635  
[Georgette@SilentNoMoreAwareness.org](mailto:Georgette@SilentNoMoreAwareness.org)

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# A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Friends,

The year 2010 will be the year of greatest progress so far for the pro-life movement and for the ministry of healing. I'm confident about that for many reasons, not the least of which is that more and more of the leaders whom we are mobilizing and training understand the profound meaning of the healing ministry.

First and foremost, of course, that meaning is rooted in our response of love and compassion to the human person who has been wounded. We stand in solidarity with the vulnerable child and equally with the child's parents and everyone else – and that solidarity is exercised both before and after an abortion experience.

Beyond that, the ministry of healing is also a ministry of bringing an end to the cause of the wound. As more people minister to the wounded, more people appreciate the need to prevent the wound in the first place. And as more people are healed from the wounds, more are strengthened to reach out to others to help them avoid the pain in the first place.

This year, Priests for Life will bring together leaders of many facets of the pro-life movement and the healing ministries. I look forward to working with you and many others to advance the blessings we have all experienced through Rachel's Vineyard.

Fr. Frank Pavone  
Pastoral Director and Chairman, Rachel's Vineyard  
National Director, Priests for Life

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## Addictions and Abortion- A Vital Link

By Amanda Miner

Peter Smith of Germantown, NY has been working with those suffering from addictions for quite some time. He is a NY State Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) licensed by NY State's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS). He is retired from full time counseling in a men's halfway house in Poughkeepsie, NY and currently a *per diem* counselor in a woman's halfway house in Fishkill, NY. "It was with the women's house that I first encountered women with addictions (eating disorders, drugs/alcohol, self-mutilation, etc.) and mental health issues stemming from abortions issues and other pregnancy losses," Pete shared.

"I found that I was hitting a stone wall with the addictions issue if at some point didn't address the pregnancy loss issue. Bare in mind I'm a 72 yr. old male working with a relatively younger female population and so was at a loss about how to approach such a trauma. I knew I needed education and fast because these problems were more widespread than I first believed."

Pete first discovered Rachel's Vineyard on the Internet. "I first contacted Susan Swander regarding her experiences with alcoholism and she in turn suggested I read "Forbidden Grief." That book was an eye opener and I saw where more study on addiction was needed. Oddly enough, either because of fear and political correctness there is virtually nothing of any great depth on this particular aspect of addiction counseling. Our primary source for addiction education, Hazelden in Center city, MN, and even our own OASAS doesn't have anything on this vital link."

Pete decided that he would attend the Malvern conference in July of 2009 for Rachel's Vineyard where he learned a lot about the subject that he had grown so interested in. "I now discover I can talk frankly with a bit more confidence to the women I counsel and without embarrassment."

Putting his newly found charism into action, Pete will be giving a talk on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 entitled "Pregnancy Loss and Addictions" which will also include a part about "Lost Child and Addiction" regarding men. "On the first Wednesday of each month Kingston Hospital's Bridge Back (where I work) hosts a breakfast where addictions professionals come to hear speakers and can receive a one (1) credit hour certificate granted by OASAS or CEU towards re-credentialing which all counselors must go

through every three years. Asked if I had a topic to present, I jumped at the chance to talk on post-abortion and addiction but as you can see modified it to pregnancy loss as also we have heroin users still medicating the loss of a child by SIDS, miscarriage and still birth.”

Pete credits Rachel’s Vineyard as being a large source of inspiration for him: “Of course Kevin, Theresa and Fr. Pavone, as well as everyone connected with RV and Priests for Life at that wonderful conference gave me not only great inspiration, but knowledge, recourses and confidence to further help both our missions. This first talk will be my first public venture into a field of which I am only partially equipped and so will keep it more a informational talk than actually having any cure-all for this problem- which of course I don't. Hopefully it will open-up a new aspect of counseling that most of us in this trade need to touch on. As far as I know, and based on feelers I put out to colleagues, it has never been touched on at all.”

We wish Pete the best of luck with his upcoming talk and congratulate him on all of the research and hard work that has gone into his work on the addiction/abortion link.

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“I think in terms of the day's resolutions, not the year's.”

~Henry Moore

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### **New Educational Series**

An Educational Series on the Psychological and Spiritual Impact of Abortion is now available through Rachel's Vineyard. The series is called *Abortion Loss and Unresolved Grief*.

The set includes a collection of professionally produced DVD's of many of our presentations that we use in our clinical and pastoral trainings along with a number of talks by Fr Frank Pavone including "The Parish-Home for Healing, Healing for the Abortionist, and Facing the Need for Healing."

A Course Guide has been developed to use with the DVD set that provides an outline of each talk to help facilitate discussion as well as a course syllabus and sample exams. This set was made possible by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor. It also includes suggested reading and discussion questions for each lesson.

Suggested Donation: \$60.00

[Click here](#) to order or for more information.

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### **A New Years Appeal**

The New Year is a wonderful opportunity for a fresh start. You can help to offer someone a fresh start after the pain caused by abortion through a donation to Rachel’s Vineyard. Your generosity could help make someone’s New Year brighter.

Rachel’s Vineyard Ministries is a non-profit organization. We are able to minister to those affected by abortion through your contributions and prayers.

Here’s how to make a donation:

Online: [www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org/donate)

By Phone: 610-354-0555

By Mail: P.O. Box 140130 Staten Island, NY 10314

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“The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul”

~GK Chesterton

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### **Rachel’s Vineyard Bumper Stickers**

Don’t forget to check out our new Rachel’s Vineyard bumper stickers! Our bumper stickers are a great way to spread the word about our healing ministry.

To order our bumper stickers please [Click here](#)

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## Rachel's Vineyard- A Year in Review

Read about all our news, new sites, trips and projects of 2009 in our "Year in Review" newsletter by clicking [here](#).

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"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."  
~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## Music Video— "This is My Now"

New Year's is a time for resolutions and hopes for the future. This month's music video, This is My Now by Jordan Sparks, provides a hopeful and uplifting message for anyone seeking healing after an abortion. Let 2010 be your now.

[Click here](#) to view this video:

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"So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."  
~2 Corinthians 5:17

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## Leadership Talks Now Available on CD

All of the talks from the Rachel's Vineyard Leadership conference in Malvern, PA were recorded live by Vincent & Barbara Sumoski (Love Tape/CD Ministry) and are available on CD for purchase. There were 45 excellent talks which may be purchased individually or by entire set. Each CD is a conference special price of only \$7.00 per disc and includes FREE shipping and handling. Other conference special incentives are available on the order form. Order forms may be obtained upon request at [rvcds@sumoski.com](mailto:rvcds@sumoski.com), 601-779-8989, or in your 2009 Leadership Conference book.

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"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away. The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true."  
~Revelation 21:4-5

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## OVERus~Supports Rachel's Vineyard

By Keith Miklas

OVERus is a certification mark—similar to kosher, fair trade, or organic—but it identifies brands that respect Christian values. The goal is to enable you to practice good stewardship when shopping: you can just look for our logo. OVERus is now supporting Rachel's Vineyard with a portion of its proceeds. Rachel's Vineyard encourages you to take a look at how your purchases can support Christian values.

For a list of certified brands, please see our Shopping Guide:

[Click here](#).

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## United in Prayer

*We pray for the following intentions:*

For **Anita Sonntag** of the Saskatchewan RV team who has just been diagnosed with breast cancer. May she place her trust in God and know his healing comfort.

For **Marilyn Williams** a counselor on the Saskatchewan team who has had surgery for ovarian cancer, and has recently had a valve replacement in her heart. May God bless her with strength and courage to persevere in faith during this difficult time in her life.

For **Joanne Hudac**, of the Saskatchewan RV team who has recently had surgery for ovarian cancer, and is now receiving treatment. May she come to know our healing God in a very personal way during this time.

For the repose of **Phil Kominski's** soul, brother-in-law of **Mary Kominski**. May their family find comfort and peace and be surrounded by love in this time of loss.

For the repose of **Sylvia Jensen's** soul. Sylvia was a very active member of Rachel's Vineyard Crookston, MN. We pray for her family and team members during this time of grieving. For service information or to leave condolences please [click here](#).

*We pray in thanksgiving for:*

Our new sites in, **Oklahoma City, OK, Spokane, WA, Lake Charles, LA, and Perth, Australia**. Please keep these site leaders and teams in your prayers as they begin Rachel's Vineyard retreats in these new locations.

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"We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential."  
~ Ellen Goodman

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**Book of the Month- Children of the Light**

Bob Violino's newest book, *Children of the Light* not only portrays many of Christ's servants in a beautiful light, but offers a variety of paths to those who wish to minister in some way or another. Violino adds a wonderful personal touch to the book by including the inspirations, heroes and life stories of each individual mentioned in the book. This aspect draws the reader in and makes them feel more connected to each story.

An entire chapter features Theresa Burke's story and focuses on Rachel's Vineyard. It is a beautifully written chapter and sheds a wonderful light on the ministry.

From foster parents to prison ministry to pro-life ministry this book entices the reader to want to get involved and truly offers something for everyone.

Copies are available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble

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**Upcoming Events and Trainings**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Life- Washington D.C.**

11:00 am Rally at the Washington Mall

1:00 pm March begins

Silent No More members will share their testimonies on the steps of the Supreme Court immediately following the March. You must be pre-registered to share your testimony.

Contact Georgette Forney at 800-707-6635 or [georgette@silentnomoreawareness.org](mailto:georgette@silentnomoreawareness.org)

**Saturday, January 23, 2010**  
**2010 Walk for Life - San Francisco, CA**

11:00 A.M Rally at Justin Herman Plaza on Market Street

The Walk officially begins at Noon.

The Walk will leave Justin Herman Plaza and proceed to Marina Green Park on Marina Boulevard, with an SNMAC gathering at the end of the Walk to begin at approximately 1:45 P.M. To participate in the SNMAC gathering or for more information contact Georgette Forney at 800-707-6635 or

[georgette@silentnomoreawareness.org](mailto:georgette@silentnomoreawareness.org)

### **March 5-6, 2010**

#### **Clinical/Regional Training-Spokane, WA**

Speaker(s): Theresa Burke, PhD and Kevin Burke, LSW

Contact info: Sherri Olsen 509-868-7207 [sheri@lifeservices.org](mailto:sheri@lifeservices.org)

Event details: CEUs available

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"A happy New Year! Grant that I May bring no tear to any eye

When this New Year in time shall end

Let it be said I've played the friend,

Have lived and loved and labored here,

And made of it a happy year."

~Edgar Guest

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### **Upcoming Retreats**

#### **January 8 - January 10, 2010 -- Ilkley / Leeds, England**

Contact: Marene 07505 904 656 [rachelsvineyard.leeds@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelsvineyard.leeds@hotmail.co.uk)

Retreat Location: Ilkley area of West Yorkshire

Website: [www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk)

#### **January 8 - January 10, 2010 -- Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota**

Contact: Nancy Blom 952-882-2072 [rvr-nancy@usfamily.net](mailto:rvr-nancy@usfamily.net)

#### **January 15 - January 17, 2010 -- Las Cruces, New Mexico**

Contact: Martha T. Beasley 575-523-6923 [bslmrvls@aol.com](mailto:bslmrvls@aol.com)

#### **January 15 - January 17, 2010 -- Linden, New Jersey**

Local Host: Archdiocese of Newark

Contact: Michelle Krystofik 732-388-8211 [arnewrespect@sjanj.net](mailto:arnewrespect@sjanj.net)

#### **January 15 - January 17, 2010 -- Miami, Florida**

Local Host: St. Kevin Catholic Church

Contact: Christy Acevedo 305-479-9230 [cloesq28@aol.com](mailto:cloesq28@aol.com)

#### **January 15 - January 17, 2010 -- Santa Rosa/St. Helena, California**

Contact: Valerie Johnson Fish 707-967-1101 [rachelsvineyard@gmail.com](mailto:rachelsvineyard@gmail.com)

Contact: Christine 415-260-4406 [christinew@firstresort.net](mailto:christinew@firstresort.net)

#### **January 22 - January 24, 2010 -- Bowling Green/Owensboro, Kentucky**

Contact: Debbie Ward 270-683-6933 [rv.bgky@yahoo.com](mailto:rv.bgky@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.hopeafterabortionky.com](http://www.hopeafterabortionky.com)

#### **January 22 - January 24, 2010 -- Fort Worth, Texas**

Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757 [forgiven@racheltx.org](mailto:forgiven@racheltx.org)

Contact: Macaria (espanol) 469-767-8669 [misericordia@racheltx.org](mailto:misericordia@racheltx.org)

Website: [www.racheltx.org](http://www.racheltx.org)

#### **January 22 - January 24, 2010 -- Savannah, Georgia**

Contact: Stephanie May 912-201-4059 [scmay@diosav.org](mailto:scmay@diosav.org)

**January 27 - January 29, 2010 -- Cache Creek, British Columbia Canada**

Contact: Nancy Hadden 250-267-5081 [rvkamloops@yahoo.ca](mailto:rvkamloops@yahoo.ca)

**January 29 - January 31, 2010 -- Charlotte, North Carolina**

Contact: Maggi Fitzpatrick Nadol 704-370-3229 [MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org](mailto:MNadol@CharlotteDiocese.org)

Contact: Deacon Tom Rasmussen 828-495-7234 [deacontom@charterinternet.com](mailto:deacontom@charterinternet.com)

**January 29 - January 31, 2010 -- Williamsburg, Virginia**

Contact: Linda Riva 757-887-3144 [lindajr2@yahoo.com](mailto:lindajr2@yahoo.com)

Retreat Location: Smithfield

Note: Hampton Roads/Virginia Beach Areas

**February 5 - February 7, 2010 -- Amarillo, Texas**

Contact: Christina Sasas 806-679-3370

Contact: Stephanie Frausto 806-678-4673 [ts\\_frausto@yahoo.com](mailto:ts_frausto@yahoo.com)

Note: Interdenominational Retreat

**February 5 - February 7, 2010 -- Denver, Colorado**

Contact: Edith Gutierrez 303-410-1710 [edieg2@aol.com](mailto:edieg2@aol.com)

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414 [lorgreg@msn.com](mailto:lorgreg@msn.com)

**February 5 - February 7, 2010 -- Hays, Kansas**

Contact: Donetta Robben 877-447-4383 [rachelsvineyard@salinadiocese.org](mailto:rachelsvineyard@salinadiocese.org)

**February 5 - February 7, 2010 -- Joliet / Romeoville, Illinois**

Contact: Kay 866-994-GIVE [corcoran-family@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corcoran-family@sbcglobal.net)

**February 5 - February 7, 2010 -- Saginaw, Michigan**

Contact: Sandy Buza 989-797-6652 [sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:sbuza@dioceseofsaginaw.org)

Contact: Sandy Buza 800-453-2081 x652

**February 19 - February 21, 2010 -- Phoenix (Español), Arizona**

Contact: Margarita Marquez 480-820-3593 [margarita1960@msn.com](mailto:margarita1960@msn.com)

Note: Español

**February 19 - February 21, 2010 -- Sacramento, California**

Contact: Debbie Anderson 916-733-0161 [projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org)

**February 26 - February 28, 2010 -- Allentown, Pennsylvania**

Contact: Maryann Dunn M.S. 866-372-2435 [mdunn@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:mdunn@allentowndiocese.org)

**February 26 - February 28, 2010 -- Cherry Hill, New Jersey**

Contact: Stephanie Claudy 866-4-RACHEL [sclaudy@camdendiocese.org](mailto:sclaudy@camdendiocese.org)

Contact: Spanish Retreats: Margarita 1-877-665-2974 [popejp2rc@verizon.net](mailto:popejp2rc@verizon.net)

**February 26 - February 28, 2010 -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Contact: Toni Jester 412-621-6953 [toniafj1@comcast.net](mailto:toniafj1@comcast.net)

Contact: Toni 412-352-5348

**February 26 - February 28, 2010 -- Rock Hill, South Carolina**

Contact: Christy 803-554-6088 [grace4healing@gmail.com](mailto:grace4healing@gmail.com)

Contact: Kathy 803-546-6010 [postabortionhealing@gmail.com](mailto:postabortionhealing@gmail.com)

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