



# Abolition

# Alert

## PBS Film Preview Screening: *No Tomorrow*



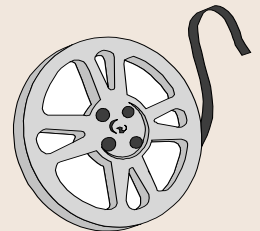
*Alaskans Against the Death Penalty* will join the *Journey of Hope* and host the preview screening of **NO TOMORROW**

**Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
at **Out North Theatre**, 3800 DeBarr Road, Anchorage  
from **5:30-8:30 p.m.**

There will be brief discussions before and after the film with food and beverages available for purchase.

*No Tomorrow* focuses on the murder of Risa Bejarano, the principal subject of AGING OUT, the recent film about teenagers leaving foster care.

**THIS EVENT IS FREE  
AND OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC  
SEATING IS LIMITED**



*No Tomorrow* explores how the film about Risa's last year of life unexpectedly became the centerpiece of a homicide investigation and a trial that would determine

whether the alleged killer would live or die. <http://www.pppdocs.com/>. For more information, go to our Website at [www.aadp.info/](http://www.aadp.info/) or contact Sue Johnson [scjohnson@gci.net](mailto:scjohnson@gci.net) or 276-5753.



## AADP Annual Day of Faith in Action Held Its Eighth Annual World Day Against the Death Penalty



Sally's Kitchen Singers

We are extremely grateful to our community and faith leaders for coming out on Sunday, October 10th, at the Town Square Park and supporting us through speaking, singing and reading the names of the federal death row inmates. Statements were given from various faith leaders, including Universalist Unitarians Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock; Episcopalians Rev. Michael Burke; Lutheran Rev. Daniel Bollerud; Catholic Blanche Crandall; Methodist Rev. Dale Kelley; and Menno-nite Rev. John David Thacker.

Celeste Hodge provided the legislative viewpoint for Sen. Bettye Davis and Jeff Kennedy read the closing "Abolition Prayer" written by Sr.

Helen Prejean. A very special thanks goes to the *Sally's Kitchen Singers*, who happily provided us with excellent entertainment. We showed a film at the First United Methodist Church called: *Juan Melendez 6446*. Juan was falsely accused of murder and shares his experiences in the film.

[http://nylatino.bside.com/2009/films/juanmelendez6446\\_nylatino2009](http://nylatino.bside.com/2009/films/juanmelendez6446_nylatino2009).



## AADP Website

**www.AADP.info/**

## AADP Board of Directors

**Hugh Fleischer**  
**Danee Pontious**  
**Kathy Harris**  
**Cara McNamara**  
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**Sue C. Johnson**  
*Coordinator*

## Saving Trees & Time



Would you be interested in receiving your newsletter via e-mail? If so, please tear off your address label, include your e-mail address, and send it to us.

## Surprise Birthday Party/Fundraiser Held for Bill Pelke



*For more information or to join the Texas journey, go to:*

<http://texasjourney2010.wordpress.com/>



AADP and NCADP Board member, **Bill Pelke**, celebrated a surprise birthday party at the home of Barb Hood and Dirk Sisson on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event was used to help Bill raise money for the *Journey of Hope*.

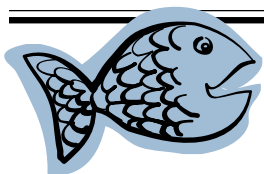
We appreciate all the good work Bill is doing and note he is currently orchestrating a Texas *Journey of Hope* to be held October 15-31, 2010. Speakers include: Sandrine Ageorges Skinner, Bill Babbitt, Ron Carlson, Shujaa Graham, David Kaczynski, Bess Klassen-Landis, Marietta Jaeger Lane, Curtis McCarty, Bill Pelke, Terri Steinberg, Bud Welch and George White.

## Kathy Harris Receives Award for Her Work in Racial and Social Justice

AADP's former Treasurer, **Kathy Harris**, received flowers from the AADP Board in recognition of her United Methodist Women's Award for her work in racial and social justice. Kathy has worked hard to promote justice for prisoners in our country. Her award was formally presented to her at a dinner on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Way to go, Kathy!



l. to r.: Dirk Sisson, Barb Hood, Bill Pelke, Kathy Harris and Rich Curtner



## AADP Celebrates Defeat of Death Penalty Bill at the Annual Fish Fry

*We thought we couldn't do it, but we broke yet another attendance record for our annual fish fry with over 300 people attending — thank you!*

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty celebrated the defeat earlier this year of HB 9, a bill that would have introduced the death penalty to Alaska for the first time since the territory became a U.S. state in

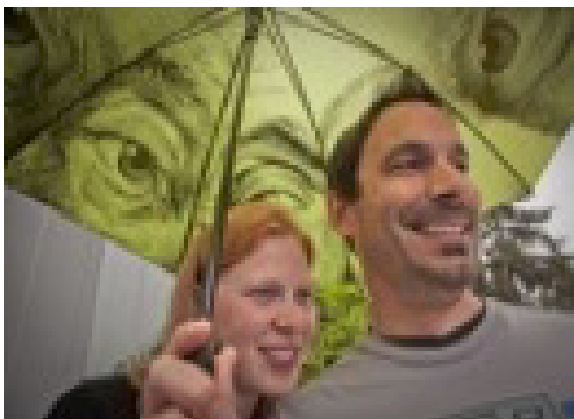
1953. Through grassroots organizing to turn out strong opposition to the bill, and well-developed relationships with key legislators, AADP once again rose to the challenge and kept Alaska death penalty free.



On July 23 in Anchorage, AADP celebrated with its annual Fish Fry fundraiser, with special guest **Curtis McCarty** (above left photo), who survived 21 years in prison, 19 of them on Oklahoma's death row, for a crime he did not commit.



Fish Fry friends enjoying the crowd, a few good laughs and delectable food and drinks!



Other friends at the event.

Vicky Oberly and Kathy Harris after the announcement that Kathy won the cooking competition. Go, Kathy!



Vic Fischer & "Golden Eyes"



Rich Curtner discussing the strategy of our fish judges Galen Paine, Rep. Les Gara, Matt Claman, Macon Roberts and Amy Miller. Not pictured are Curtis McCarty and Vic Fischer, who also participated in judging.



The following story was published in the NCADP *Abolition Agenda*

## Alaskans Against the Death Penalty: Defeating Death Penalty Reinstatement and Hosting Effective Fundraisers

By Sue C. Johnson, Executive Director, Alaskans Against the Death Penalty



Alaska is proud to say we have defeated yet another threat to bring the death penalty to our state. We could not be more pleased with this success. How did we do it?

Roughly every decade there is a bill introduced in our Legislature that would reinstate a death penalty (which we have not had since statehood). These bills come about for various reasons, but usually because there was an especially brutal crime committed or someone was posturing to make a run for statewide office. In this latest case, there was both a horrible crime and an upcoming election year, so the Speaker of the House — a legislator with considerable power — was anxious to make the death penalty an issue.

But Alaskans Against the Death Penalty (AADP) has friends in high places, too. We knew we had to stop this bill in committee. Although we knew we had allies in leadership who would stop the bill in the Senate, we did not want

it to come to the floor in the House. That's what ultimately happened — we essentially filibustered the House committee hearing, using Alaska's unique public hearings process, which allows video-conference testimony so citizens don't have to travel to the Capitol in Juneau. Dozens of anti-death penalty voices testified over the course of multiple hearing days.

AADP organized more than 15 years ago when a reinstatement bill was introduced in the Legislature, and has remained organized since that time. When there is not a bill to be concerned about, we

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continue with public education by bringing people like Marietta Jaeger, who lost her daughter to murder and rejects the death penalty, or death row survivors Curtis McCarty and Greg Wilhoit, to Alaska.

AADP has no trouble finding welcoming audiences for people

with such "Voices of Experience" from "Outside," and these audiences are typically quite willing to make contributions to AADP, which helps pay for travel and expenses, and supports our work as well. We also spent a grant provided by the TIDES Foundation during our struggle.

We believe the primary reason for our success is staying attentive, active and not becoming complacent. Another reason for our success is the commitment from a few people who are central to this cause. Alaska is blessed with some of the most talented attorneys in the country and several of

them are the base of AADP. Some of these attorneys have had experience with death penalty cases in other states, or are providing pro bono assistance to defend people who live in another state. Some are living in Alaska because there is no death penalty here.

It obviously takes its

toll on these professionals and motivates them to fight it.

Our Board consists of several committed people. We have an excellent mix of attorneys, families of murder victims, lobbyists, and community and church repre-

■ Continued on page 5 ...



## Join NCADP for their 2011 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL

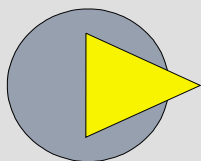
NCADP hopes you can join them at the premier gathering of civil and human rights leaders, citizen activist volunteers, families of murder victims and death row prisoners, attorneys, and law enforcement and crime prevention professionals who support repeal of the death penalty in the United States. Work together to build a common vision of abolishing the death penalty, and focus our movement in a united and strategic way!

NCADP's 2011 Annual Conference will provide the range and depth of peer conversations, training and networking you need to enhance your skills and expand your resource network.

- Learn from veteran anti-death penalty movement leaders
- Select from more than 35 program plenary and workshop sessions
- Acquire new tools, resources, approaches, and solutions to incorporate into your work immediately
- Get the latest policy developments on capital punishment and alternatives
- Network with colleagues and make new friends from communities coast to coast

In 2011, the event will be in downtown Chicago, at the undated Renaissance Chicago Hotel, with all that this central location has to offer. NCADP is proud to partner with the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty to make this their best conference ever.

For info., go to: <http://www.ncadp.org/>



We are looking to expand our activities throughout Alaska and have identified key people in Homer and Juneau.

If you are interested in becoming a key person in your area, please let Sue Johnson know at [scjohnson@gci.net](mailto:scjohnson@gci.net).

We would like to be able to share our video resources and whenever possible, share our out-of-state guest speakers.

■ *Continued from page 4 ...*

sentatives. These people are leaders and the community listens to them. Along with their verbal commitment, these individuals will give money when needed, travel to testify against reinstatement legislation, assist with organizing fundraisers, or serve on committees. Many of our allies are also politicians and/or candidates for office who are instrumental in carrying our message.

It is difficult to say what will happen during the next legislative session. We are keeping a close eye on our elections this year. Whatever happens, we'll be ready!

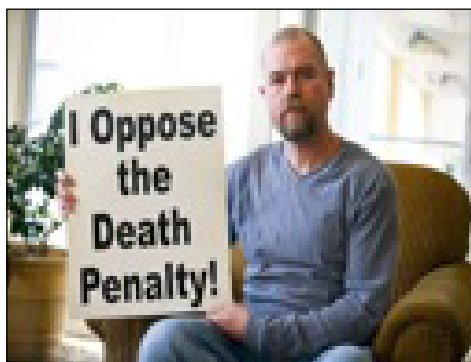
On behalf of the AADP Board, we want to again thank you for your ongoing support of our cause. Together we can keep Alaska free from the death penalty!

# **A**laskans Against the Death Penalty

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Curtis McCarty

Visit our  
Web site and  
Facebook pages  
[www.aadp.info/](http://www.aadp.info/)

## ***Mark Your Calendar!***

**Annual Chili Feed —  
*February or March 2011***

**Annual Fish Fry —  
*July 22, 2011***