

A**bolition**

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Abolition Alert



AADP Annual Day of Faith in Action

To be held on World Communication Day on
Sunday, October 2nd, 2011

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Location: Town Square Park

Film & Discussion immediately following at 1st United Methodist Church, 725 West 9th Avenue

Everyone is welcome to attend. For information, contact
Reece Robert at akreece1@me.com or
Kathy Harris at kathyh@gci.net



Thanks for Your Help with Our Public Outreach and Education!

We often get feedback from people who attend our events about changing their minds about the death penalty (from supporting to abolishing). Donors like you help us get the message out through bringing speakers to Alaska, showing films, holding lectures and other public forums.

Effie Caldarola is a writer who attended a workshop given by **Bill Pelke** and **Kathy Harris** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church a couple of years ago. Effie published articles about our movement in the *Catholic Anchor* in Alaska. She has since moved to Nebraska, but has stayed with the cause. Please read her article that was published in the *Catholic Anchor* about her experiences.

<http://www.catholicanchor.org/wordpress/archives/4839>

Bill Pelke is taking his Journey of Hope to Uganda. See page 5 for more information and how you can support his "Violence to Healing" effort.

AADP Website

www.AADP.info/

AADP
Board of
Directors

Hugh Fleischer
Danee Pontious
Cara McNamara
Jamie McGrady
Blanche Crandall

Bill Pelke

Rich Curtner

Erika Kahill

Mary Ellen Ashton

Sue C. Johnson

Fred Dewey

Celeste Hodge

Theda Pittman

Coordinator

Reece Robert



Congratulations to Board Member Cara McNamara, who was married to Brenden Kelley in July!

In Memory of Mary Grisco



We lost our dear friend and former AADP Coordinator, Mary Grisco, to cervical cancer in June. Mary's death came relatively soon after her diagnosis. She had no medical insurance and was trying to raise funds to help pay some of her medical bills. She also started a blog while she was ill at <http://www.marygrisco.com/>

A memorial was held at Sue Johnson's home on September 7th. Mary was an outstanding advocate for human rights and the planet earth. She will be sorely missed. For more info, call Sue at 301-5005.

Len Marcus Killed in Motorcycle Accident

We lost another member of AADP this year.

Len Marcus was killed in a motorcycle accident in the Yukon Territory. He will also be sorely missed. Donations honoring Len's memory can be made to Life Center

Northwest, a nonprofit organ procurement organization. Their website is www.lcnw.org. Read more: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/adn/obituary.aspx?n=leonard-marcus&pid=152891431#ixzz1WeePTB00>



Sue Johnson Steps Down from Coordinator Position, But Joins the AADP Board

After serving as the ED for AADP for four years, **Sue Johnson** has decided to move some of her focus onto other things. She will continue on as a Board member for AADP, however. She has been a wonderful addition to the abolition movement and we are very pleased she will continue her involvement.



Mark Your Calendar!

AADP 11th Annual Chili Feed to Take Place...

March 2nd, 2012 @ 5:30 p.m.

at the home of **Huge & Lanie Fleischer**

1401 West 11th Avenue, Anchorage



Special Guest:

David Kaczynski

David Kaczynski is executive director of New Yorkers For Alternatives to the Death Penalty (NYADP), www.nyadp.org, and the brother of Theodore Kaczynski - the so-called Unabomber - who was arrested in 1996 after David and his wife, Linda Patrik, approached the FBI with their suspicions that Theodore might be involved in a series of bombings that caused three deaths and numerous injuries over 17 years.

*Bring friends —
Food and Beverages
will be provided.
Donations encouraged*

■
For Info, contact
Reece at
akreece1@me.com



Saving Trees & Time

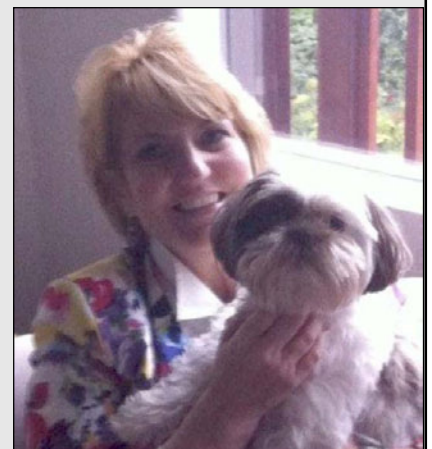
Would you be interested in receiving your newsletter via e-mail? If so, please tear off your address label, include your e-mail address, and send it to us.

We decided to send hard copy newsletters to everyone on the mailing list for this mailing, including the people who requested “email only,” because of the huge number of bounce backs from our list of email addresses. These returns were due to the attachments being too large, mailbox being full, address rejected, etc. We want to stay in touch with you, so if you have not been receiving our occasional email blasts or newsletters by email as you requested, please contact Reece at akreece1@me.com. Also, please keep us informed of your email (and all) address changes. You may also make your changes on our website at www.aadp.info/. Thanks!

Welcome New AADP Coordinator, Reece Robert

AADP welcomes **Reece Roberts** as its new Coordinator! Reece has worked as the Project Manager for Chugach Heritage Foundation, Legal Affairs/Risk Manager for Hawaiian Airlines, and as a Paralegal for the Law Office of Chancy Croft. She was most recently the business/case manager for the criminal defense firm, The Law Office of Leigh Ann Bauer.

She has been a volunteer or committee organizer for various groups, including but not limited to, Anchor International Prison Ministries, Bridge to Success, Violence Against Women Conference - Alaska Native Justice Center and GED Education Volunteer - Highland Mountain. She also volunteers her time with the Alaska Innocents Project.





2011 Annual Fish Fry a Success!

The 2011 AADP Annual Fish Fry was - yet again - a huge success!! A beautiful day, wonderful food, a large crowd and lots of fun!

Our thanks to all of you and especially to our Special Guests, **RAY KRONE**, his wife, **Cheryl Naill**, and our host, **NANCY GROSZEK!**

It was truly a pleasure to have Ray Krone return to Alaska and enjoy some of the finest days of our summer. He holds the distinction of being (as of November 2010) the 100th inmate exonerated from death row since the death sentence was reinstated in 1976. Read more about Ray at <http://www.truthinjustice.org/krone.htm>



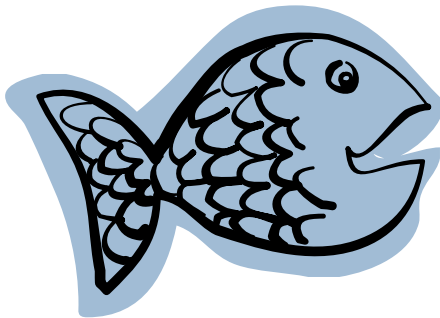
Ray Krone, Sue Johnson and Cheryl Naill



Barb Brink was the lucky bidder on the fresh corn Ray Krone brought for the Fish Fry.



Greg Bilberry generously serving the beverages.



Fabulous CELEBRITY FISH JUDGES: (l-r) Kay Brown, Vic Fischer, Sen. Betty Davis, Ray Krone, Assemblywoman Harriet Drummond and Macon Roberts.



Bill Pelke putting the finishing touches on his special deviled eggs at the Fish Fry. Yum!

Bill is taking the Journey of Hope to UGANDA!

Here is Bill's message:

Members of Alaskans Against the Death Penalty have always been very supportive of me and the Journey of Hope - *from Violence to Healing*. Once again, I am asking for your help to make a difference in the World. The Journey is going to **Uganda October 4-13th**. Edward Edmary Mpagi asked me to bring the Journey to his country and help him in his battle for abolition of the death penalty. Edward was sentenced to death and spent 20 years in a Ugandan prison. He was released and exonerated when it was proven that the purported victim had been alive many years after his supposed death. Edward is now building a school in Kampala for

children of death row inmates and other poor prisoners.

Edward joined the Texas Journey of Hope in 2007 when he visited the United States. Amnesty International, London, brought Edward to the United States to address the United Nations. Edward flew to Texas and joined the Journey in San Antonio following his talk at the UN. He journeyed with us on to Austin and Dallas. A bond with the Journey was formed. He now fights a lonely battle in Uganda.

The Journey does not have any money in the bank or budget for this trip but we are going. Bill Babbitt and I have our tickets. (Thank God for frequent flyer miles, credit cards and friends like Dirk Sisson). We still need to get tickets for Randy Gardner. Bill and Randy both had brothers executed by the state and are passionate about abolition.

I look forward to my role with them as we spread the message of love and compassion for all of humanity. Our days in Uganda were set to coincide with World Abolition Day October 10th. **We need your help for the following things:** We need the cost of Randy's ticket; we must hire a car to get around; rent speaking equipment; pay fuel & lodging; and help Edward with his incidental expenses.

We will be speaking in schools, public events, media events, visiting death row inmates, visiting their families and of course visit the work being done on Edwards School project. We want to bring an international credibility to Edward and support for all of his work in Uganda.

If you would like to help with the Uganda Journey and would like to donate - that would be wonderful. And if you would like to pray, I say "Amen and Amen."

This Journey to Uganda will truly exemplify what the Journey of Hope - from Violence to Healing is all about.

God does work in strange and miraculous ways.

Peace

Bill Pelke, President Journey of Hope - from Violence to Healing www.JourneyofHope.org

We Need Your Help for the Following Expenses:

- Randy Gardner's ticket to Uganda
- transportation in Uganda
- speaking equipment rental
- fuel & lodging
- Edward Edmary Mpagi's incidental expenses

You can make a donation online at:

<http://journeyofhope.org/donations.html>

Annual Dinner Dance with Special Guest Bill Babbitt a Success!



Bill Babbitt (aka 2 T's)

When Bill realized that his brother could possibly be involved in a woman's death, he contacted the police and helped them arrest his brother. In return, the police promised Bill that Manny would receive the psychological help that he needed and that they would help see that Manny would not receive the death penalty. Bill was present at San Quentin prison when at one minute after midnight on May 4th, 1999 the state of California executed his brother, Manny.

<http://www.willsworld.com/~mvfhr/bill.htm>



Thank you, Bill!
We hope you come back soon!



Bill holding a photo of his brother, Manny, who was executed.

Damien Echols Another Innocent Man Finally Removed from Death Row!

The West Memphis Three now must learn how to live as free men

Damien Echols, Jason Misskelley, and Jason Baldwin - the West Memphis Three have spent half their lives in prison. Now, they must learn how to reenter society as free men. Read more:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2011/0820/West-Memphis-Three-now-must-learn-how-to-live>
http://www.alternet.org/newsandviews/article/654167/west_memphis_three_freed_from_jail_18_years_after_being_convicted_amid_%E2%80%9Cwave_of_satamic_hysteria%E2%80%9D/#paragraph2e-as-free-men

Troy Davis Execution Set for September 21



An execution warrant [setting Troy Davis' execution](#) has been signed by a Chatham County judge. The execution date has now been set for [September 21st](#).

An execution is NOT inevitable. This merely sets the clemency process in motion. Before September 21, the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles will rule on whether Troy Davis' sentence should be commuted, or whether the execution should be carried out as scheduled. Previously, the Board stated that it would not allow an execution unless there was **"no doubt"** as to guilt.

Amnesty International will call an **International Day of Solidarity for Troy Davis** once a little bit more about the plans of the Parole Board are known.

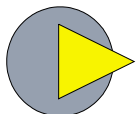
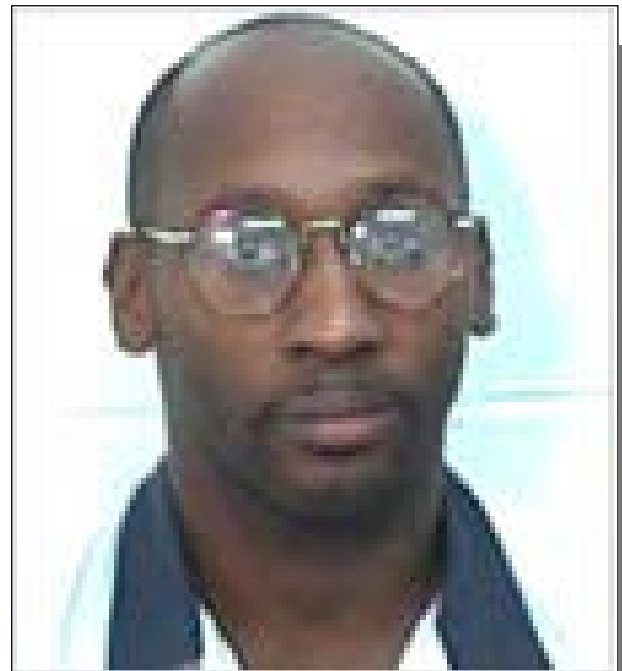
Too Much Doubt

Troy Davis was convicted of murdering a Georgia police officer in 1991. Nearly two decades later, Davis remains on death row — even though the case against him has fallen apart.

The case against him consisted entirely of witness testimony which contained inconsistencies even at the time of the trial. Since then, **all but two of the state's non-police witnesses from the trial have recanted or contradicted their testimony.**

Many of these witnesses have stated in sworn affidavits that they were pressured or coerced by police into testifying or signing statements against Troy Davis.

One of the two witnesses who has not recanted his testimony is Sylvester "Red" Coles - the principle alternative suspect, according to the defense, against whom there is new evidence implicating him as the gunman. **Nine individuals have signed affidavits implicating Sylvester Coles.**



Get started to organize for Troy now and check for updates at www.justicefortroy.org.

For more information:

<http://blog.amnestyusa.org/deathpenalty/troy-davis-execution-set-for-sept-21/>



Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

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Website: www.aadp.info/

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