

A**bolition**

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Mark Your Calendar!

Fun AADP Events Scheduled for ■ July 2011 ■

Featured Guest Speakers:

*AADP's Annual
Conference and
Dinner Dance
July 7th*

See page 2 for details

**David
Kaczynski**



Bill Babbitt

*2011 Annual
Fish Fry
July 22nd*

See page 2 for details

Ray Krone



**Read more
about our
guests on
pages 3-5**

**Message from
NCADP Board Chair
Rich Curtner**



Dear Alaska Abolitionists,

July 6th is the 35th anniversary of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. NCADP has played an important role in the recent abolition of capital punishment in New York, New Jersey, New Mexico and Illinois, and is actively involved in several other states that are close to abolition.

This July, we in Alaska are fortunate to have three good friends and comrades in the abolition movement visit us. David Kaczynski, Bill Babbitt and Ray Krone will be here to help celebrate our success, and to inspire our continued campaign to end capital punishment in America. I hope you can join us in this celebration on July 7th and July 22nd. I will be asking you to consider making a more generous contribution than normal at these events, to support AADP, NCADP on their anniversary, and all of our friends in the abolition movement.

Thank you all so much,

Rich

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty Annual
Conference and Dinner Dance

JULY 7th @ Maxine's



Reception 5:00 p.m. Business 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:15 p.m.

w/ Keynote Speakers:

David Kaczynski & Bill Babbitt

Ongoing Auction

Dancing till midnight

Maxine's Glacier City Bistro

301 Crow Creek Hwy.

Girdwood, AK 99587



Public Welcome. Tickets are \$75.00 per person.

Contact any Board Member or

Sue at scjohnson@gci.net.

*Alaskans Against the
Death Penalty*

ANNUAL FISH FRY

July 22nd ■ 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**To be held at Nancy Groszek's
magnificent garden —**

2512 St. Elias Dr.

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



Thank you, Randy, for a great visit to Alaska!

Randy Stiedl visited Anchorage, Homer and Juneau while in Alaska. He spoke at three schools and three churches during his Alaska trip. While in Juneau, he and Sue Johnson met with 23 members of the House of Representatives, six Senators, several lobbyists and other officials. Randy also spoke at a public event hosted by Representative Kerttula.

While in Homer, our local supporters arranged a dinner and Randy spoke at



two schools and a public event. And while in Anchorage, he helped make our Chili Feed the usual success. He also was a guest speaker for the Anchorage Innocence Project.



Thanks to all of you who helped make these events possible and a special thanks to **Hugh & Lanie Fleischer** for hosting the Chili Feed, to **Rep. Kerttula** for hosting the Juneau event, to **Rep. Gardner** for loaning her car, and to **Art Koeninger** for all he did to make Randy's trip to Homer so successful.

Randy and Celeste Hodge, AADP Board Member



About David Kaczynski

David is one of the featured guest speakers at the AADP Annual Conference and Dinner Dance July 7th

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.

It was Linda who first suspected David's brother as the Unabomber and Linda who pressed David to search for the truth after the Unabomber's "Manifesto" was published in the Washington Post. In the autumn of 1995, the couple undertook a careful comparison of language and ideas in the Manifesto with letters that David had received from his

brother over many years. In ethical and emotional partnership, David and Linda confronted their moral responsibility to stop the violence and ultimately shared their suspicions with the FBI, leading to Theodore's arrest on April 3, 1996. David and Linda discuss their ethical dilemma in an article "Family Responsibility for Stopping Violence," published in the anthology Ruminations on Violence, ed. Derek Pardue, Waveland Press.

Despite his diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia, Theodore was charged capitally and only avoided the death penalty after his family waged a two-year campaign to convince the U.S. Justice Department that Theodore's delusions had precipitated his violent behavior.

Subsequently, David formed close friendships with Gary Wright, who was nearly killed by one of his brother's bombs, and with Bill Babbitt, who saw his brother executed 18 years after he turned him in to the Sacramento police. A documentary film, An American Life: The

■ *Continued on page 4 ...*

About Bill Babbitt

Bill is one of the featured guest speakers at the AADP Annual Conference and Dinner Dance July 7th

Bill Babbitt was present at San Quentin prison when at one minute after midnight on May 4th, 1999, the state of California executed his brother, Manny Babbitt.

Manny, the recipient of a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam, was a paranoid schizophrenic who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. He had been tried and convicted for the murder of an elderly woman who had died of a heart attack after a break-in and beating.

When Bill realized that his brother could possibly be involved in the 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 felt certain that when confronted with the reality of Manny's mental illness, the justice system would hand down a fair sentence, but avoid death. He was wrong.

The Babbitt family was too poor to afford good counsel. Manny's first lawyer took their money and then dropped the case. The second, a court-appointed attorney, refused to allow blacks on the jury, drank heavily during the trial, and was later disbarred and sued for racism.

Today Bill speaks out regularly against the death penalty. He is often alongside David Kaczynski, who led federal investigators to his brother, Ted Kaczynski, known as the "Unabomber," in 1996. Kaczynski, the executive director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, has repeatedly said that if it were not for his family's financial ability to hire competent counsel, his brother, like Manny Babbitt, most likely would have received the death penalty. Instead, Ted Kaczynski received life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Bill and Manny's story has been told in the documentaries, "And Then One Night: The Making of Dead Man Walking" with Sister Helen Prejean and Mike Farrell and "A Question of Justice" with David Kaczynski, Bud

Welch, whose daughter was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing and Gary Wright, who himself was almost killed by Ted Kaczynski.

Bill has been interviewed on "Good Morning America," the "Today Show," ABC's "World News Tonight," the John Walsh show and the "Sally Jessy Raphael" show and on major radio stations in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Berkley. He has been profiled in publications including the *New York Times*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Jet*, and the *New York Times Magazine*. His story is in books including *Capital Consequences*, *Families tell their Stories* by Rachel King and *The Thirteenth Step* by Swedish author Carolina Koivisto. He has spoken on campuses across the country and at the Massachusetts statehouse on a bill to reinstate the death penalty.

For many years, Bill believed that being the family member of someone who was executed made him unwelcome in the abolition movement. But MVFHR changed his mind. "People like Renny Cushing extended that hand of mercy and brought me onboard the bus of the anti-Death Penalty movement. They told me that I need not take a seat in the back, for Manny's life was just as worthy as their murdered loved ones'," he says.



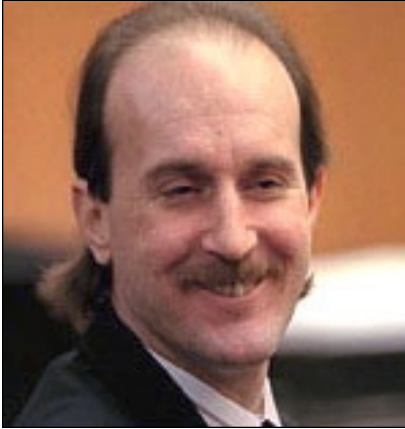
**Thanks to all of you
who called in to help
repeal the death
penalty in Illinois!!**

About David Kaczynski *continued . . .*

Journey from Violence to Hope, featuring the three friends and Bud Welch, whose daughter Julie was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, is currently under production.

After leading a successful statewide campaign to end New York's flawed and ineffective capital punishment system, David has focused NYADP's work on promoting community initiatives that address the root causes of violence and that provide meaningful assistance to those directly affected by violence.

Prior to joining NYADP, David was assistant director of the Equinox shelter for runaway and homeless youth in Albany, where he counseled and advocated for troubled, neglected and abused youth in the Capital District.



About Ray Krone

Ray is the featured guest speakers at the AADP 2011 Annual Fish Fry July 22nd

Ray Krone grew up near York, Pennsylvania, with a loving family and many friends. A former Boy Scout and high school athlete, he became an Air

Force sergeant and later a mail carrier before finding himself on Arizona's death row for a murder he did not commit.

His world was turned upside down in 1991 when Kim Ancona was murdered in a Phoenix bar where Ray was an occasional customer.

Ray refused to believe that our legal system would convict him. He told his parents not to worry. Given the choice to sell his house to cover lawyers' fees, Ray instead opted to be represented by a public defender, thinking "Why should I sell my house when they're going to know it's not me as soon as they investigate?"

But Ray was convicted. The case against him was based largely on circumstantial evidence and the testimony of a supposedly "expert" witness who claimed bite marks found on the victim matched Ray's teeth. In 1992, he was sentenced to death.

Yet Ray refused to give up and continued to fight through the appeals process. In 1994 he was granted a retrial, but was convicted again based on the same evidence. The judge knew the bite mark data was weak, and reduced Ray's life sentence to 46 years in prison. However, at the age of 35, this was essentially a life sentence. During Ray's two years and eight months on death row, the state of Arizona executed three other men.

Yet his appeals continued. In 2002, with the help of attorney Alan Simpson, he convinced an appeals court that DNA found at the murder scene indicated the guilt of another man, Kenneth Phillips. When prosecutors dropped the charges that April, Ray became the 100th person exonerated from death row in the United States since 1973. His life was put on hold during ten years and four months behind bars. He had never surfed the Internet, didn't know how to use a cell phone, and had never heard of gel deodorant.

Ironically enough, in some ways Ray was lucky. Unlike nearly every other prisoner on death row, he had financial support from his second cousin, Jim Rix. Jim personally spent more than \$100,000 to pay Ray's legal fees. Ray also had the benefit of DNA evidence, which is available in only about 15 percent of cases.

Today, Ray has to work to avoid bitterness regarding his experience. "I have the ability to be angry, but I've tried to avoid the anger," he says. "I sat in prison all that time, and I watched people who were so bitter and angry that they became victims. At some point, you've got to take control of your life and rise above things. I hope I won't ever get to the point where I am so overwhelmed with grief and tragedy that I would actually give in."

Now 51, Ray spends time with friends and family, and devotes his life to improving the criminal justice system that failed him. He has traveled throughout the United States and Europe, telling his story to audiences that invariably are profoundly moved by the ordeal he survived. Ray has spoken to hundreds of groups, including numerous universities and law schools across the country, as well as to state legislatures and governmental bodies in England, Sweden, Italy and France. He has been featured in numerous publications and on many radio and television programs, including *People* and *Parade* magazines, *USA Today*, the *Los Angeles Times* and *Good Morning America*.


"I would not trust the state to execute a person for committing a crime against another person," he says. "I know how the system works. I know what prison is like, I know what the judges are like, and I know what the prosecutors are like. It's not about justice or fairness or equality. It's absolutely wrong. Any chance I can, whether I start with one or two people or a whole auditorium filled with people, I'll tell them what happened to me. Because if it happened to me, it can happen to anyone."

Needed:



Air Miles — We need any number of air miles that you can donate. This will help a lot for our travelling guests.

Contact Rich Curtner at 242-1300.

 **Auction Items** — We have two major auctions coming up in July. Please ask your friends for donations of goods and services. We are bringing up several speakers this year and need you help.

Contact Sue Johnson at 907-301-5005 or scjohnson@gci.net.

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

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scjohnson@gci.net or 276-5753
Website: www.aadp.info/

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