

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

Abolition Alert

2014 July

Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser

August 1st

Guest Speaker

SueZann Bosler



Friday, August 1

5:30 - 8:00

2512 Saint Elias Drive

(Nancy's back yard)

Celebrity Judges and Chefs

On December 22, 1986, SueZann Bosler and her father, Rev. Billy Bosler, were attacked in the church parsonage by an intruder. Rev. Bosler was stabbed 24 times. SueZann, in an effort to help him, was herself stabbed in the back and head and left for dead.

While lying on the floor pretending to be dead, she heard the intruder ransack the house as she watched her father take his last breath. As a Brethren minister, Rev. Bosler had been an opponent of capital punishment, and had once told SueZann that if he was ever murdered he would not want his killer to receive the death penalty. <http://journeyofhopediary.blogspot.com/2014/04/suezann-bosler.html>.



SueZann



Lost? 248-5802

**Note: please park on the side of the street of the event
side dishes are welcome**

info contact: Sue Johnson 276-5753



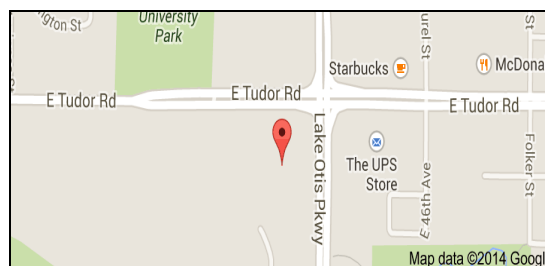
Mark your calendar
Annual Day of Faith in Action

October 5, 2014

St Mary's Episcopal Church - Waldron Hall



Speakers are Bill Pelke (pictured below) **and Averil Lerman** (photo not available)



Journey of Hope Update

by Bill Pelke

Hi, my name is [Bill Pelke](#) and I am a longtime member of Alaskans Against the Death Penalty and I serve on the board of directors. I am also the President and Cofounder of the Journey of Hope...from Violence to Healing. The Journey of Hope is an organization that is led by murder victim's family members who are opposed to the death penalty in all situations. We conduct speaking tours around this country and around the world sharing our stories of from violence to healing. We talk about how the death penalty has nothing to do with the healing that family members need when a loved one has been killed. The death penalty only continues the cycles of pain and violence.

On the Journey of Hope speaking tours we are joined by those directly affected by the death penalty.

On the top of that list are family members who have loved ones on death row. Terri Steinberg, who was a recent guest of AADP, shares her story of the terror and nightmare that the death penalty has inflicted on her family. They are trying to kill her son. Make no mistake about it; the death penalty is a cruel and unusual punishment. It is not only cruel and unusual but it also inhumane.

Family members who have lost loved ones to executions join us with their plea; "please don't do to any other family what you did to us. AADP has hosted Bill Babbitt and Randy Gardner. They talk about the execution of their brothers and how it affects their families even years after the state killing took place. Their stories are very compelling.

Death row exonerees join us on our Journeys. AADP has hosted exonerees Curtis McCarty, Ray Krone, Shujaa Graham, Randy Steidl, Sunny Jacobs and others. They share what it was like for them and their families to be on death row for crimes they did not commit. When it comes to the death penalty there is no room for mistakes. Over 140 people have been sentenced to death for crimes they did not commit right here in the USA.

The message of the Journey of Hope is "The answer is love and compassion for all of humanity". If you have love and compassion for all of humanity you will not want you see anybody put into the death chamber and their life taken. It is impossible. Murder victim family members on the Journey promote forgiveness as a way of healing and restorative justice as a way of life.

Last October the Journey of Hope celebrated its 20th anniversary by hosting the [World Day Against the Death Penalty Conference](http://www.worldcoalition.org/indiana-pelke-zitrin-journey-hope-victims.html) (http://www.worldcoalition.org/indiana-pelke-zitrin-journey-hope-victims.html) in Indianapolis, IN, the state where the Journey of Hope began in 1993. A large portion of the conference support came from our friends here in Alaska. Please check out the link. I know you will be proud of what your support enabled us to do.

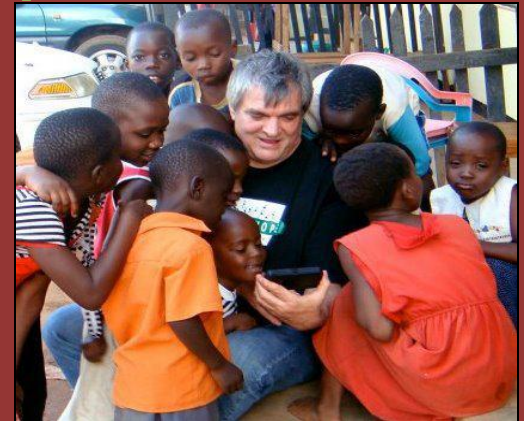
Our next major event will be the 2014 African Journey of Hope November 4-24 when we go to Kenya and Uganda.

Our purpose in going to Uganda is to help our friend [Edward Mpagi](#). Edward is a Ugandan death row exoneree. We are returning to Uganda to continue our commitment to help him in his lonely battle against the death penalty. We spread seeds of love and compassion on our inaugural trip in 2011 and we will be returning to nurture the fruits of our labor and spread more of the precious seeds of compassion.

While in Kampala we will also be returning to the men and women's death rows and also a tour of the general prison at the main prison complex in Kampala. This time we are seeking to take cameras with us and document some of the wonderful things we witnessed in 2011. Once again we will be speaking in schools, churches, at media events and with politicians. We will also visit Edwards's school/orphanage, a vision he conceived while he was on death row. Kathy Chism, founder of Dream One World has described Edward as the Mandela of Uganda. We will also spend 5 days in Kenya before the Ugandan Journey begins. We will end our tour in Uganda where we will host a conference in Kampala to help Edward launch UGANDANS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY.

When the Journey went to [Africa in 2011](#) there were four of us. This trip we are hoping to go with at least 15 from America. Including: Curtis McCarty, Bill Babbitt, SueZann Bosler, Terri Steinberg, Therese Bartholomew, Marietta Jaeger, Ronald Carlson and Randy Gardner. Please say a prayer for our success. I hope to give everyone an update before we go. If you would like to support the Journey please go to: <https://www.journeyofhope.org/> or mail the Journey at PO Box 210390 Anchorage AK 99521.

With Love and Compassion, Bill



Hugh Fleischer leaves a legacy of community care

By STEVE CLEARY November 5,

In early October, Anchorage lost a great humanitarian and selfless advocate for justice and equality. Hugh Fleischer was a great example of a life well-lived and I was privileged to work alongside him for many years at the Alaska Public Interest Research Group (AkPIRG).

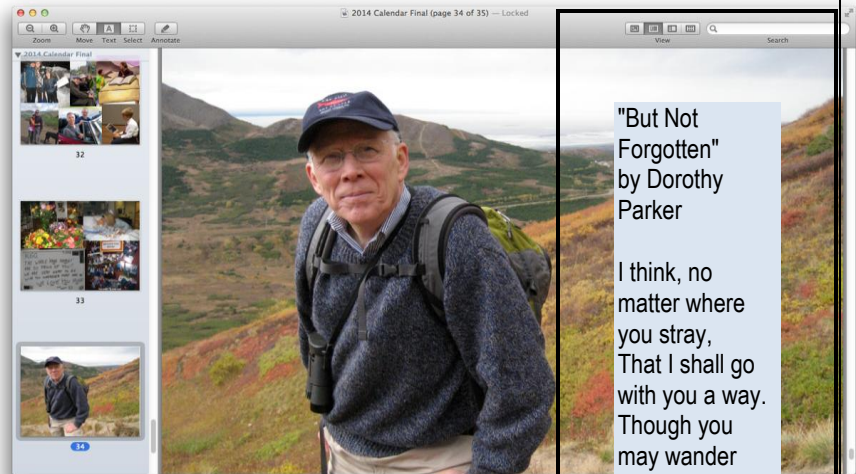
AkPIRG was just one of many organizations that Hugh supported through his hard-work and steadfast caring. He was a founding board member of AkPIRG and remained on the board, serving terms as president, for all of AkPIRG's 40 years in Alaska. In addition, Hugh was a founder of Alaskans Against the Death Penalty and on the boards of the Friends of the Library, Planned Parenthood, Out North, Alaska's Independent Blind, Cyrano's Theater, and the Board of Trustees for the Senior Activities Center.

Hugh was a compassionate lawyer who represented the disadvantaged and powerless, assuring they received the equal treatment the law guarantees. But he also had a big-heart for the small acts of making this world a better place. I remember when hurrying to yet another meeting downtown, I would see Hugh having lunch at the Sandwich Deck with his Compeer friend. Compeer is a program that matches adults with mentally challenged people for activities and friendship and Hugh, a busy lawyer, took the same man to lunch, almost every Friday, for more than ten years.

He always had time for a kind word or some wise advice that would keep me and often the organization going.

(read full obit at:

2013 <http://www.adn.com/2013/11/05/3160079/compass-hugh-fleischer-leaves.html>)



"But Not Forgotten"
by Dorothy Parker

I think, no matter where you stray,
That I shall go with you a way.
Though you may wander sweeter lands,
You will not soon forget my hands,
Nor yet the way I held my head,
Nor all the tremulous things I said.
You still will see me, small and white
And smiling, in the secret night,
And feel my arms about you when
The day comes fluttering back again.
I think, no matter where you be,
You'll hold me in your memory
And keep my image, there without me,
By telling later loves about me.



Lanie is working with the Park Foundation to set up a bench in Hugh's honor on the Anchorage Park Strip. If you are interested in donating to this effort, please send a check to: Lanie Fleischer 1401 West 11th Avenue, Anchorage AK 99501



Thanks to all those who donated to AADP in honor of Hugh. If you would like to donate, please send your check to AADP with Hugh Fleischer in the memo and mail to AADP, PO Box 210390 Anchorage AK 99521



AADP Annual Hugh Fleischer Memorial Chili Feed a Great Success

Thank you Lanie Fleischer for opening your home

Our featured speaker, Therese Bartholomew was an interesting and delightful guest. Thanks for coming, Therese. If you missed the event, please read her book *Coffee Shop God*. Therese is also on the Board of the Journey of Hope and plans to join them in Uganda this fall.

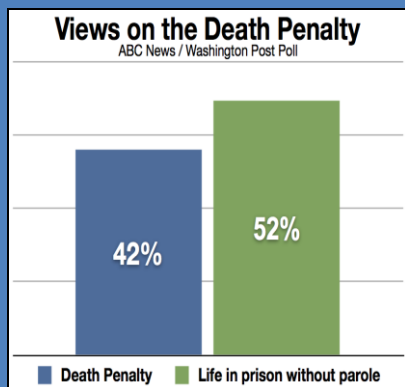
Therese Bartholomew

A former high school dropout and teen mother, Therese is now an inspirational speaker, social justice activist, author and filmmaker. Her writing has been published in Emrys Journal, Iodine, Main Street Rag, The Charlotte Observer, Raising Our Voices, Sun Journal, and Compassion. Her 2009 collection of essays, *Coffee*, offers a glimpse into the profound grief that arose when her younger brother was murdered. As a continuation of her journey to heal, she embarked on a mission to meet her brother's killer behind bars. The *Final Gift*, documentary, directed by Bartholomew, follows her path to that meeting. This compelling story has garnered the support of universities, faith-based groups, departments of correction, and victims' advocacy organizations and is fast becoming a catalyst for a national dialogue on restorative justice.





President Obama has ordered Attorney General Eric Holder to review the application of the death penalty in the U.S. following the [failed execution](#) of Clayton Lockett in **Oklahoma** on April 29. The President noted concerns about innocence and racial bias: "In the application of the death penalty in this country, we have seen significant problems — racial bias, uneven application of the death penalty, you know, situations in death penalty is being applied which there were individuals on death row who later on were discovered to have been innocent because of exculpatory evidence. And all these, I think, do raise significant questions about how the Department of Justice was already reviewing federal execution protocols. Brian Fallon, a spokesman for the Justice Department, said, "At the president's direction, the department will expand this review to include a survey of state-level protocols and related policy consciousness and apparently suffered before dying of a heart attack, "deeply disturbing."



A new poll by ABC News and the Washington Post finds that a majority of Americans prefer life without parole (52%) as punishment for convicted murderers, with just 42% preferring the death penalty. This is the first time that this poll has found higher support for life without parole than the death penalty (read more DPIC Updates [update@deathpenaltyinfo.org]).

Board Changes:



Jamie McGrady, Treasurer



Rich Curtner, Chair



Cara McNamara, Vice Chair



Brittany Goodnight, New Member



James Ferguson



Theda Pittman

Welcome Brittany! Thanks for serving Theda and James!

Visit our website



<http://www.aadp.info/>

Ohio Supreme Court to Hear Romell Broom Appeal



The Ohio Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal from [Romell Broom](#) (pictured), whose execution was halted in 2009 after correctional officers spent two hours trying to insert an IV for a lethal injection. Broom was pricked 18 times during the attempted execution. The court will decide whether further attempts to execute Broom would violate double-jeopardy rules or the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2014/06/romell-broom-ohio-execution>

NEW EXECUTION DATE!

(Mark Elliott, ED, Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty)

Gov. Scott has ordered the People of the State of Florida to kill Eddie Davis on Thursday, July 10 at 6pm ET.

This would be execution number 19 of well-secured, captive prisoners ordered by Richard Lynn Scott - a new record for a first term Florida governor.

Florida uses an almost identical lethal injection drug protocol to what Oklahoma used in the horribly botched execution of Clayton Lockett.

Florida continues the premeditated, unnecessary, and experimental killing of captive prisoners. Richard Lynn Scott is responsible for more executions (17) than any other first term governor in modern Florida history.

Please contact Gov. Rick Scott and ask him to suspend ALL executions.

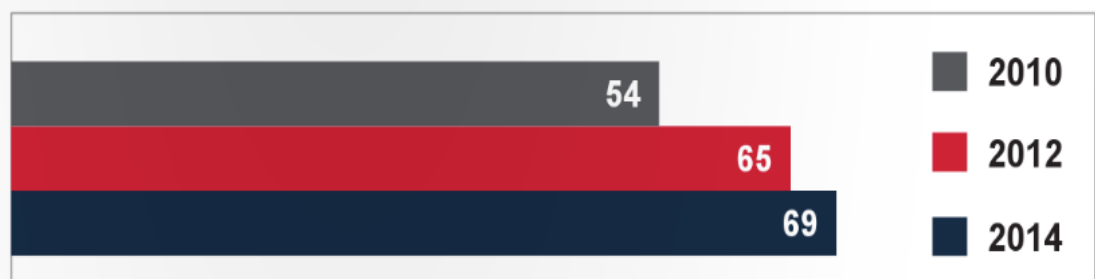
Gov. Rick Scott:
Phone (850) 488-7146
Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com

Florida Passes Bill to Compensate Exonerated Death Row Inmate



As the last act of its legislative session, the **Florida** Senate passed a bill allowing the state to compensate [James Richardson](#), who had been wrongfully sentenced to death and incarcerated for 21 years. In 1967, Richardson, who is black, was convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury for the murder of his seven children. Many years later, a former babysitter confessed to the crime, prompting an investigation that revealed that witnesses had been beaten to convince them to falsely testify against Richardson. In 1989, Richardson's conviction was thrown out and he was released. Richardson, now a frail old man, had not been able to receive compensation for this injustice because the evidence from his case had been lost or destroyed. Now he will be able to apply for compensation based on the special prosecutor's investigation and the order to release him from prison. Sen. Geraldine Thompson, a sponsor of the bill, said "This will allow him to have an opportunity to revisit some dreams that were deferred early in his very young life." Robert Barer, an attorney who has represented Richardson, said, "The Legislature did the right thing. To right an injustice for all those years that were taken away from him."

Support for Death Penalty Declines in Houston, Texas, As Population Diversifies SUPPORT AMONG HOUSTON RESIDENTS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO DEATH PENALTY





Kentucky Lethal Injection Protocol Under Scrutiny

Circuit Judge Philip Shepherd began a review of the state's lethal injection protocol. The state revised its protocol in 2012 to call for a one-drug method, with a two-drug method as a backup if specific drugs were not available. Now, that new protocol is also being scrutinized because it calls for the same drugs that caused the [botched execution of Dennis McGuire](#) in Ohio. Corrections officials say they don't know if any lethal injection drugs would be available, because the Department of Corrections is currently, "prohibited from taking any steps regarding execution -- and this would include the purchase of the drugs, so we don't know if they are available because we haven't tried to purchase.

Executions have been on hold in **Kentucky** since 2010, when Franklin



Photo by Michael S. Green

Sabrina Butler, Death Row Exoneree, Tells Her Story

[Sabrina Butler](#) (pictured, r.), the only woman among the 144 people exonerated from death row since 1973. Butler was just 17 when she went to check on her infant son and found he had stopped breathing. She attempted to resuscitate him and rushed him to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. The next day, a detective accused Butler of murdering her son. "I was alone with no lawyer or parent with me. I told him I tried to save my baby. He wrote down what I said and threw it in the garbage. He yelled at me for three hours. No matter what I said, he screamed over and over that I had killed my baby. I was terrified. I was put in jail and not allowed to attend Walter's funeral. " Butler describes how she was coerced into signing a false confession: "I was a teenager who, less than 24 hours before, had lost my precious baby boy. Ambitious men questioned, demoralized and intimidated me. In that state of mind, I signed the lies they wrote on a piece of paper. I signed my name in tiny letters in the margin to show some form of resistance to the power they had over me." She was convicted and sentenced to death, spending six years in prison before she was acquitted in a retrial where she presented evidence that her son had died of a hereditary kidney condition.

Recent Lethal Injection Developments in Texas, Missouri, and Indiana

As states continue to seek alternative drugs and drug sources for lethal injections, three significant developments occurred last week. **Indiana** announced recently that they would use Brevital, an anesthetic, as the first drug in its three-drug protocol. On May 27, Par Pharmaceutical, the producer of Brevital, released a statement announcing efforts to prevent the use of their product in executions. The statement said, "The state of Indiana's proposed use is contrary to our mission. Par is working with its distribution partners to establish distribution controls on Brevital® to preclude wholesalers from accepting orders from departments of correction." On May 29, **Missouri** Attorney General Chris Koster gave a speech in which he suggested that the state of Missouri begin producing execution drugs. Missouri has had difficulty obtaining lethal injection drugs and faced challenges to its lethal injection secrecy law. Koster said that state production of the drugs would increase transparency, adding, "As a matter of policy, Missouri should not be reliant on merchants whose identities must be shielded from public view or who can exercise unacceptable leverage over this profound state act." Missouri would be the first state to set up a state-operated lab for producing execution drugs. In **Texas**, Attorney General Greg Abbott issued an order defending secrecy for lethal injection drug sources. The statement represents a reversal for the Attorney General, who had previously rejected arguments from the Department of Criminal Justice that secrecy was necessary.

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty ΔΔ aadpcoordinator@gmail.com ΔΔ www.aadp.info/

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_____ **Expiration Date:** _____ **3-digit Security Code:** _____

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AADP c/o JoH, PO Box 210390, Anchorage AK 99521



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