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8th Annual Day of Faith in Action Against the Death Penalty

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th

The day of Faith in Action is being planned for October 18th. We are planning to hold it indoors this year in hopes of more participation.

You will be notified when venue and program details are available.

Three Speakers Scheduled for 2010

Sam Millsap will be in Anchorage on February 6, 2010. He will also be meeting with various people in Juneau during the week of February 7th.

Sam received his undergraduate and legal education at the University of Texas and has practiced law in San Antonio, Texas, for 35 years. Millsap was elected Bexar County District Attorney in 1982 and served in that office until 1987. He was selected as San Antonio's "Politician of the Year" by both of San Antonio's major daily newspapers in 1983.

Among many notable prosecutions, Millsap prosecuted Ruben Cantu for capital murder; Cantu was executed in 1992. In December, 2005, as a result of investigative reporting by the *Houston Chronicle*, serious questions were raised concerning Cantu's guilt. Millsap, acknowledging that he made an error in judgment when he decided to seek the death penalty on the basis of the testimony of a single eyewitness, has assumed personal responsibility for Ruben Cantu's execution. Millsap is the only former elected major metropolitan prosecutor in America who has prosecuted capital murder cases and is now an opponent of the death penalty. Millsap has campaigned against the death penalty throughout the country and will speak at the United Nations in October.

In addition to many other awards, Millsap received the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty's "Courage Award" in February, 2006.

■ *Continued on page 2 ...*

Death Penalty Classes to be Held in November

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will hold a series of classes on the death penalty each Sunday during the month of November. At the end of the sessions, there will be a panel discussion about the death penalty. This event is being coordinated by our supporter, Eric Wohlforth, and more details will follow. Eric's son, Evans Wohlforth, has been working on the AADP strategic team for House Bill 9. Evans is with the Gibbons P.C. Law Office in New Jersey and is the Director of Business and Commercial Litigation and Intellectual Property.



Once he was in civil practice, Sam Millsap, with client Dan Morales (left), became skeptical about capital punishment, especially after numerous DNA exonerations. Sam will join us for events in Anchorage, Juneau and possibly Fairbanks in early February.

AADP Website

www.AADP.info/

New Webmaster

AADP has signed a contract with Chad Huhls of Professional Web Service to assist us with our Website and computer needs. Welcome, Chad!

AADP Board of Directors

Hugh Fleischer
Kathy Harris
Cara McNamara
Jamie McGrady
Blanche Crandall
Bill Pelke
Rich Curtner
Erika Kahill
Salli Burgin
Sue C. Johnson,
Coordinator

We welcome **Salli Burgin** as a new member of the AADP Board. Salli is a victim family member who lost her sister through a murder.

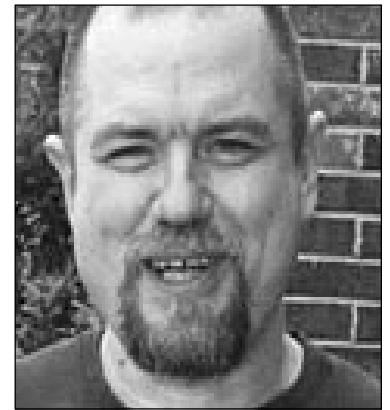
2010 Speakers continued . . .



Ron McAndrew (who spoke at the NCADP Conference) **will be in Anchorage on February 15th and will be meeting with people in Juneau during that week.**

McAndrew is a retired Interim Director of Orange County (Florida) Corrections and was warden at the three largest prisons in terms of budget, with overall responsibility and certainly most difficult of prisons in Florida. Climbing from the bottom rung of correctional officer to warden, he championed progressive change at Florida State Prison. His gut level experience challenges excuses for nonfeasance — or — malfeasance in correctional settings. McAndrew is a career civil rights advocate and worked as an investigator for corrections. Read more about Ron at http://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_6aab0efe-6359-5d58-81ec-3bb0b4a0a50c.html.

Curtis Edward McCarty (at the NCADP Conference) **will be AADP's special guest at the Annual Chili Feed, which will take place March 12, 2010, at the home of Hugh and Lanie Fleischer.** Curtis was exonerated in 2007 after serving 21 years – including 19 years on death row – for a 1982 Oklahoma City murder he didn't commit. McCarty was convicted twice and sentenced to death three times based on prosecutorial misconduct and testimony from forensic analyst Joyce Gilchrist, whose lab misconduct has contributed to at least two other convictions later overturned by DNA evidence.



*We were pleased and honored to be visited by **Abe Bonowitz**, from the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty, and Affiliate Director and NCADP Consultant **Sachin Chheda**. They were here to write a campaign plan for AADP.*



Help Us Prepare for the Finance Committee Hearings for House Bill 9

Another Very Busy Legislative Session is on the Horizon

House Finance will hear this bill sometime after January 20th. The Finance Committee members are:

Finance Committee Co-Chairs:

Rep. Mike Hawker - *Capital Budget* - Representative_Mike_Hawker@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Bill Stoltze - *Operating Budget* - Representative_Bill_Stoltz@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Bill Thomas - *Vice-Chair* - Representative_Bill_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Harry Crawford - Representative_Harry_Crawford@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Anna Fairclough - Representative_Anna_Fairclough@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Richard Foster - Representative_Richard_Foster@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Les Gara - Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Reggie Joule - Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Mike Kelly - Representative_Mike_Kelly@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Woodie Salmon - Representative_Woodie_Salmon@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Alan Austermand - Representative_Alان_Austermand@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Mike Chenault - *Alternate (also the Bill sponsor)*

AADP members and friends are encouraged to actively participate in all of the legislative activity on this bill, by testifying in person or in writing, by coming to the hearings and observing, and/or by writing e-mails, letters and letters to the editor. If you would like to help, but aren't sure what's needed, please contact Sue at scjohnson@gci.net.



Great News for Troy Davis!

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a surprise 6-2 ruling on August 17th, ordered a federal district court in Georgia to hold a new evidentiary hearing in the case of Troy Davis, a black death-row inmate convicted in the 1989 murder of white Police Officer Mark MacPhail. The hearing will “receive testimony and make findings of fact as to whether evidence that could not have been obtained at the time of trial clearly establishes his innocence.”

The dissenting justices were ultra-conservatives Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia. Scalia stated, “This court has never held that the Constitution forbids the execution of a convicted defendant who has had a full and fair trial but is later able to convince a habeas court that he is ‘actually’ innocent.”

Newly sworn-in Associate Justice Sonya Sotomayor did not rule on this case, and no reason was given for her absence. However, Justice John Paul Stevens stated, “The substantial risk of putting an innocent man to death clearly provides an adequate justification for holding an evidentiary hearing.”

No physical evidence links Davis to the crime and seven of the nine non-police witnesses have since recanted their testimony.

Read more: http://www.pslweb.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=12763&news_iv_ctrl=0

Annual Fish Fry an Unbelievable Success This Year!



Katie Herley was crowned and honored as the Abolition Queen at the Annual Fish Fry.



Rich Curtner (far right) introduces the Fish Fry Judges: (l. to r.) Macon Roberts, Katie Hurley, Rep. Les Gara, Rep. Bob Buch, Rep. Lindsey Holmes, and Abe Bonowitz (NCADP Affiliate Director)

We are still breaking attendance records for the annual fish fry. This year was special in that we were celebrating 50 years without the death penalty in Alaska.

We had many people to honor and thank at the event. Some of our special guests included: Ethan Berkowitz, Sen. Hollis French, Bob Poe, Katie Hurley, Rep. Lindsey Holmes, Rep. Les Gara, Rep. Bob Buch, Macon Roberts and Harriet Drummond, to name a few. Fun was had by all and the silent auction table was stupendous!

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Stay Connected

Don't lose us — please be sure we have your correct e-mail and other contact information, so we can keep you updated.

**Contact AADP Coordinator
Sue Johnson at scjohnson@gci.net.**

Bill Pelke Reports on German Journey of Hope Tour

Report from Board member Bill Pelke, dated June 10, 2009:

During the German Journey of Hope tour we had 32 events in 18 days. There were about 4,850 spectators (a very cautious estimate – it was probably a few hundred more) at the events. Plus, about 1.9 million people watched Ray and heard his story at the Kerner Show on TV. During the tour we had up to seven petitions with us at times. Taken all of the petitions together, we collected about 7,900 signatures. During the tour two documentaries were filmed; one of them is finished already. So taken everything together, this tour was a big success and talking from our experience over here, I can only recommend to every group to invite the speakers of the Journey of Hope to their community!



l. to r.: Terri Steinburg, Bill Pelke and Ray Krone. Terri's son, Justin, is on death row in Virginia. Ray, who has visited in Alaska for AADP, is Arizona's 100th exoneree from death row.

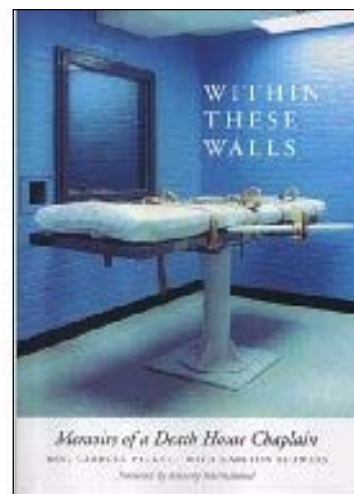
Bill is also consulting on an event at the Oakland Museum. Bill stated the following:

"The Oakland Museum is working on a major death penalty exhibit scheduled for 2011. There have been three organizing meetings of which I have had the privilege of being a consultant. The project is expected to cost \$750,000. It will deal with the pro and con of the death penalty in the country today. It is my take that it will be approximately 60% California orientated, 35 % national and 5% international. My interest is presenting the national and international voices opposing the death penalty, first from murder victims families perspective, death row family members and exonerated death row inmates, but also to include the religious community, abolition organizations and other compelling voices in the abolition movement."

Books of Interest...

■ ***The Crying Tree***
by Naseem Rakha

In Naseem Rakha's debut novel, *The Crying Tree*, a 15-year-old boy is killed and as his family unravels, the boy's mother lives only for the day that the murderer will be executed. Months turn into years, and a single action changes everything, which opens the possibility for forgiveness. This book is already a San Francisco Chronicle Best-Seller and a pick for the Barnes & Noble's autumn Discover Great New Writers program.



Within These Walls: Memoirs of a Death House Chaplain by Carroll Pickett is available for sale. Contact Sue, if you are interested.

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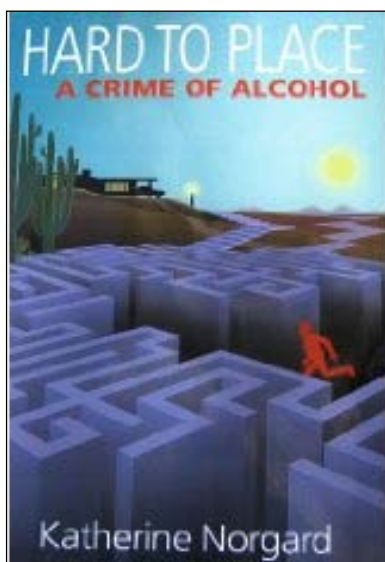
Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

**P.O. Box 202296
Anchorage, Alaska 99520**

Sue C. Johnson, Coordinator
scjohnson@gci.net or 276-5753
Website: www.aadp.info/

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■ **Books of Interest** *continued . . .*



Hard to Place: A Crime of Alcohol by Katherine Norgard

Katherine's latest book aptly shows the serious health problems and consequences of fetal alcohol syndrome that tragically affects victims and families alike. This book also illustrates in a vivid and compelling way the harrowing experience of a mother managing her life with a son convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

■ ***Change of Heart*** by Jodi Picoult

A decade after being convicted of the murder of young Elizabeth Nealon and her cop stepfather, a death row inmate seeds salvation by offering to become an organ donor for Elizabeth's sister.

■ ***The Ride*** by Brian MacQuarrie

A shocking murder and a bereaved father's journey from rage to redemption.

 **Note: Katherine will be visiting Alaska again this year and AADP hopes to hold an event featuring her in Alaska — probably Fairbanks — so stay tuned...**