

A**bolition**

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Among other fabulous items, our Silent Auction will feature some stunning glass art pieces made by Salli Burgin of SalliGlass

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

ANNUAL FISH FRY

We have lots of things to celebrate and people to honor this year, so please join us *Rain or Shine* for the Annual Fish Fry on

Friday, July 24th ■ 5:00-8:30 p.m.

in the lovely garden of Nancy Groszek, 2512 St. Elias Drive

Directions: West on NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD., RIGHT onto TURNAGAIN PKWY., RIGHT onto KNIK AVE., Turn LEFT onto ST. ELIAS DR., 6th house on the LEFT (park on left side of street). Lost? Special needs? Call Nancy at 248-5802.

As always, we will have celebrity judges, chefs and lots of things to celebrate this year. You are welcome to bring a dish or beverage along with your donation.

Items Needed:

We are still seeking Auction Items and Door Prizes for the Fish Fry.

If you have items to donate, please contact Sue at scjohnson@gci.net.

Do you know someone who can help us maintain our Website?

If so, please contact Sue at scjohnson@gci.net.



AADP Website

www.AADP.info/

AADP Board of Directors

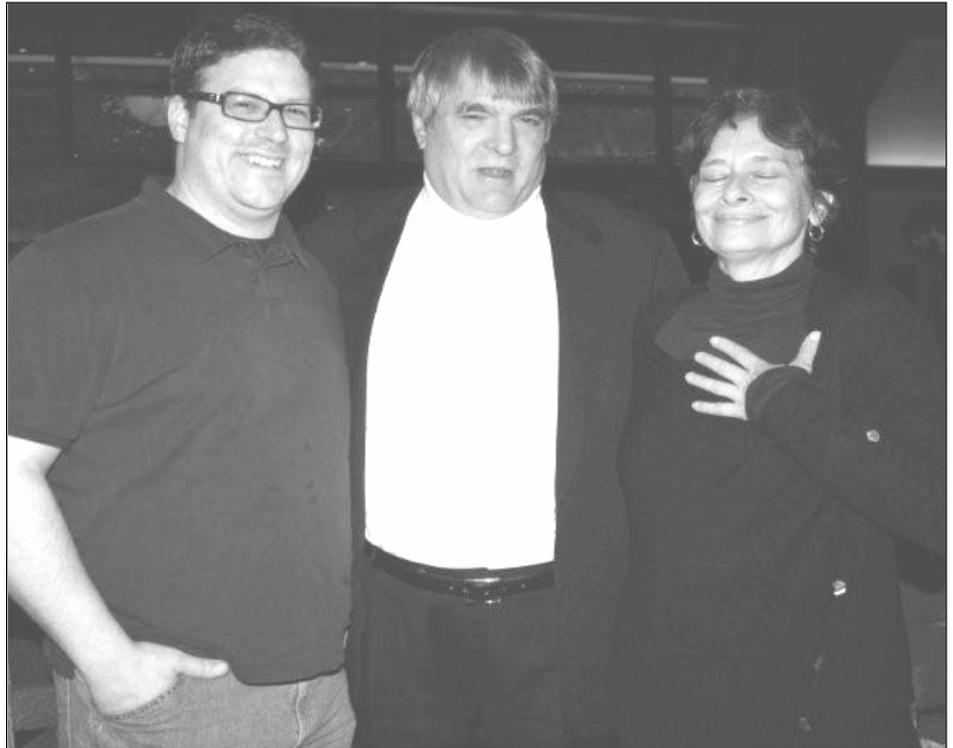
Hugh Fleischer
Kathy Harris
Cara McNamara
Jamie McGrady
Blanche Crandall
Bill Pelke
Rich Curtner
Erika Kahill
Sue C. Johnson,
Coordinator

We are always looking for new board members. Let Sue Johnson know if you are interested: scjohnson@gci.net.

Saving Trees & Time

We are working on sending newsletters out via e-mail. If you are interested in receiving your newsletter via e-mail, let Sue know at scjohnson@gci.net.

The AADP Annual Dinner Dance — *a Success!*



Eric Kross, Bill Pelke and Denny LeBoeuf at the AADP Dinner Dance.

April 9th, the AADP Annual Dinner Dance was held in Girdwood with our guest, Denny LeBoeuf. Denny is a capital defender with a private practice in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was the founding Director of the Capital Post-Conviction Project of Louisiana and is currently counsel to that defender organization. She was well received at the lawyer's conference and the AADP dinner event.

Reminder:

We have a number of IOUs to collect from the Dinner Dance Auction and other events. Please send your check to Kathy Harris at P.O. Box 202296, Anchorage, AK 99520. Your prompt payment will enable us to continue the practice.

House Bill 9 Has NOT Gone Away

Another Very Busy Legislative Session is Predicted Next Year

House Speaker Mike Chenault has sponsored House Bill 9, a bill to reinstate the death penalty in Alaska for the first time since statehood. The bill passed the House Judiciary Committee 4-3. *Please take the time to thank those three who voted with us:*

Rep. Gruenberg - Representative_Max_Gruenberg@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Lynn - Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Holmes - Representative_Lindsey_Holmes@legis.state.ak.us



The bill will be taken up in House Finance sometime after January 20th. The **Finance Committee** members are:



Sue will have voter lists available at Side Street Espresso and you are invited to come by and spend a few minutes to talk about how you can help in your district in defeating this bill.

Finance Committee Co-Chairs:

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

Rep. Bill Stoltz - *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_Farclough@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 Austerman - 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.

Huge congratulations to the residents of New Mexico for their repeal of the death penalty in their state!

We have invited Governor Richardson from New Mexico to come to Alaska during the upcoming legislative session.

We will keep you posted about his availability.

Vigil for Troy Davis Held in May

A vigil for Troy Davis was held on May 19 outside the Federal courthouse building in downtown Anchorage. Thanks to the Amnesty International folks who provided the T-shirts, buttons and materials and to all of you who participated!

Troy continues to be scheduled for execution in Atlanta in spite of the fact that witnesses have recanted their testimony and there is compelling evidence that Troy is innocent.

Lastest Update

We have learned that the U.S. Supreme Court will “conference” on Troy Davis’ most recent appeal on June 25th. NCADP will alert us on the outcome of that decision and next steps just as soon as possible. Meanwhile, our friends at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) have jumped into this case with both feet. NAACP Execu-



tive Director Benjamin Jealous recently met with Troy. The NAACP has posted an action on the case and issued a statement - check them out at <http://www.naacp.org/>

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

Speakers in the Queue

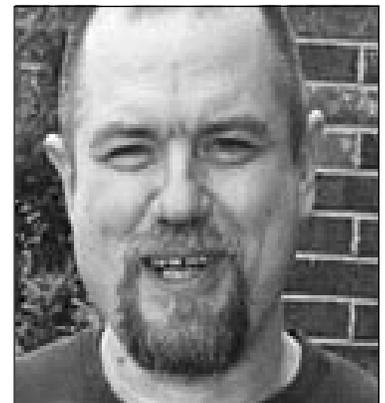
The following speakers are in the queue and interested in helping us fight HB 9. We will bring them to Alaska next year if needed and if we are able to raise necessary funds to do so.



Ron McAndrew (spoke at the NCADP Conference) 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 non-feasance — or — malfeasance in correctional settings. McAndrew is a career civil rights advocate and worked as an investigator for corrections.



Curtis Edward McCarty (at the NCADP Conference) 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.



Other Happenings...

Art Koeninger organized a showing of *At The Death House Door* in Homer. He raised \$170.00 to assist with our effort to fight HB 9. Thank you, Art, for all the work you have been doing on this effort.

On May 9th, Kathy Harris facilitated a workshop called, "The Role of the Church in the Death Penalty Debate." Members and leaders of The Episcopal Churches of Southcentral Alaska discussed the church's official position on the death penalty, how they might learn more about the issue, and recent developments within the Alaska Legislature. They were encouraged to take what they had learned and begin death penalty discussions in their own congregations and communities. Church representatives from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and the Kenai Peninsula participated.

Please follow the links for information about Bill Pelke's Journey of Hope in Indiana this year:

<http://www.mennoweekly.org/2009/3/23/after-murders-families-find-healing-path/?page=1>

http://www.tribstar.com/local/local_story_083235659.html

http://www.tribstar.com/local/local_story_081222541.html

Bill Pelke took the Journey of Hope...from Violence to Healing to Germany for events April 27-May 16. Ray Krone, the 100th person exonerated off of death row and Terri Steinburg, whose son Justin Wolfe, was sentenced to death for a crime that took place two days before his 20th birthday, accompanied Bill. The tour was organized by Susanne Cordona of the German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Amnesty International, Germany also sponsored about a dozen of the events. Thirty-six speaking opportunities in high schools, colleges and public gatherings took place all over Germany. Thousands of petitions were signed on behalf of death row inmates Troy Davis in Georgia and Justin in Virginia.

<http://thejourneyofhope.blogspot.com/2009/04/first-photos-from-german-journey-of.html>

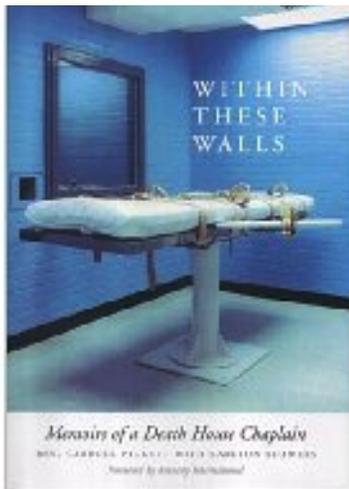
http://thejourneyofhope.blogspot.com/2009_05_01_archive.html

<http://thejourneyofhope.blogspot.com/2009/05/german-journey-of-hope-tour-events-on.html>

Additional Items of Interest...

The University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Justice Forum Vol. 25, No. 4, Winter 2009 publication addresses Capital Punishment and the Death Penalty in Alaska. Check it out at

www.justice.uaa.alaska.edu.



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

We wish to send our condolences to the family of Peggy Burgin, who passed away May 5. Peggy was a murder victim family member and long-time supporter of AADP. She will be sorely missed.

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

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

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Website: www.aadp.info/

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Many Thanks

AADP supporters **Katie Hurley** and **Vic Fischer** both participated in Alaska's Constitutional Convention in Fairbanks during the winter of 1955-56 — Katie as Chief Clerk and Vic as a delegate. Less noted historically, but of great interest to AADP, is the role each played in abolishing the death penalty in Alaska during territorial days. During a recent interview recounting their personal views against capital punishment and their efforts to end it prior to statehood, Katie and Vic hold a photo of Warren Taylor, the Fairbanks attorney, Constitutional Convention delegate, and territorial legislator who sponsored the bill to abolish the death penalty in Alaska in 1957. Vic, a territorial representative at the time, was the bill's sole co-sponsor, and Katie served as secretary of the territorial senate during the time it was considered. The bill passed, and two years later Alaska entered the union as an abolitionist state. Alaska has remained free of the death penalty during the 50 years since statehood, thanks in large part to the efforts of these early leaders and the high standard they set for justice and human rights.



AADP celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Alaska Statehood by recognizing Vic and Katie's lasting contributions, and by thanking them for their inspiration and foresight.